

Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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FRONT COVER IMAGE:



Citation: 'Journey Home'
Stolen Generations
memorial plaque,
Kalinga Park, Nundah,
Qld.

*An initiative of Lord Mayor Jim
Sorley In 1998, commemorative
Sorry Day plaques were
installed by Council in Brisbane*

*parks as a mark of respect, apology, remembrance
and recognition of the children and families of the
Stolen Generations.*

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Generation

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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 (2026) are listed below:

Single 1 year \$95 – 3 year \$253
Family 1 year \$169 – 3 year \$455
Affiliate 1 year \$190
Corporate 1 year \$380
Life Enduring \$1540

DONATIONS

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

RESEARCH

For those that live **outside the Greater Brisbane Region** (Brisbane City, Ipswich City, Logan City, Moreton Bay and Redland City) or if you have an impairment that prevents you from attending in person you are entitled to up to 5 hours per year to be used for **Look Up** services only.

Research at GSQ's Research Centre is \$50 per hour for members and \$70 per hour for non-members.

GSQ can provide transcriptions of Funeral Director's records or Catholic Parish Registers for a fee of \$10.

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...

Genealogy is all about making connections. The title of last year's GSQ's Conference – Connections: Past, Present, Future – is a neat summary of what genealogists and family historians are trying to do.

Connections with our ancestors and other members of our extended family can include finding out about where people lived and worked, how they spent their time, and the communities in which they lived. We may visit places to experience a more visceral sense of the landscape in which these ancestors lived, perhaps of the church in which they were baptised, married, or the churchyard or cemetery in which they are buried. We use many resources which give us access to a variety of information about the past. We preserve this information about our forebears now, so it will be available for future generations.

The long feature article in this edition was presented at the 2025 Connections conference. We also feature several short stories written on the topic of 'Memorials'. The Wednesday Morning Zoom Group meets every fortnight, and this topic was a challenge for members at the end of 2025. There was a variety of responses ranging from family and individual memorials (such as headstones) in cemeteries to those that commemorate something of a broader nature. Some of the memorial stories were about individuals and some included more than one person from a family. Memorials to disasters, such as mining accidents and to lost children (with significance to a whole community) are included as well as those with wider significance (the execution of political prisoners). The memorials and the events that led to their creation were described and illustrated. Coffin rests, for example, were a part of Irish culture allowing easier access to the churchyard for those carrying a coffin and are retained as a memorial to past practices. These seven stories on memorials illustrate the individual ways in which the authors, members of GSQ, have approached the same topic – the commemoration of a person, or of an event with significance to a small community such as Daylesford or to a wider community.

Regular features are continued in this edition of *Generation*. We focus on the relatively new Chinese Research Interest Group, in the Queensland Town segment visit Calliope, and read a book review. New accessions to the library are listed, along with a plea for physical copies of the earliest editions of *Generation* (which were printed nearly 50 years ago). Some years ago, *Generation* featured segments on interesting happenings from Queensland's past – this edition visits Queensland 200, 150, 100, and 50 years ago.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Generation*. Remember to send in your stories so we can continue to produce a quality journal.

Janice, (acting Editor)

Presidential Lines...



Welcome to 2026 and your new year of family history research. At this time of year, we tend to be enthused by the latest releases of new records by the various archives around the world and offerings from our online suppliers. Family historians are ever hopeful that we will find that elusive record that helps us to break down some brick wall in our research. But how we conduct that research today is far different from that in the early days of GSQ nearly fifty years ago.

A recent statement by one of the technology company leaders interested me to learn what changes are coming in the future and to reflect on how much change we have seen in our lives. Technology for me growing up in regional Queensland meant a valve radio and a telephone, both of which appear to be headed for extinction in the modern world. As historical researchers, we have progressed from delving into paper records in distant archives through to instant access to a huge range of information delivered on to our personal computers. We can, as I am doing now, sit at home to use these personal computers to compose our stories, generate our family trees, and communicate with the world at large.

We should always be careful with predictions, but the suggestion that in the future we will no longer have personal computers but will only be connected to the offerings of the technology companies to decide what we may research, leaves me very uneasy. While the recent growth of artificial intelligence has been of benefit to many in our field, it also has a darker side that needs careful analysis and regulation. With such changes coming, will there even be a need for us as Society leaders in fifty years from now?

On the subject of change, here at GSQ we are in the midst of a major change and update to our web site. Our web co-ordinators, membership officer, blogs

editor, and archivist have been working intensively with the contractor to bring you a fresh new web site in the near future. The aim of this new site is to make it easier to interact with GSQ for your membership, events, and research, while also having increased security and easier administration. To enable the migration of our information across to the new site, many things that needed updating have been frozen, so be patient while this important change is carried out.

One thing that will not change is the contribution made to GSQ by our volunteers in so many different ways. Our opportunity to recognise them this year will be during our Volunteers Morning Tea on Saturday 23 May. At this event we present our Margaret Coleman Award to the Volunteer of the Year, an award in memory of the late Margaret Coleman who was an extremely active member of GSQ until her early death in 2020. We thank everybody who gives their time to the Society in many ways.

Also now active is the GSQ annual Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition with the closing date in June every year. Look out for the details elsewhere in this issue and start thinking about a story you could write. The prize is worthwhile and the experience of writing and publishing is something that all family historians should enjoy.

Happy researching

Alistair Henderson
President



*'The Journey Home' memorial plaque
Sherwood Arboretum,
Sherwood Qld. For the
Stolen Generations.*

'The Journey Home' memorial plaques in Brisbane.

In 1997, Council, churches and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities began a series of events to recognise the Stolen Generations. In 1998, commemorative plaques were installed by Council in Brisbane parks as a mark of respect, apology, remembrance and recognition of the children and families of the Stolen Generations. Each plaque site was chosen due to cultural and historical significance, including proximity to properties involved in the policy of Separation. The sites are also the Lord Mayor of Brisbane's response to the 'Bringing Them Home' report, the final report of the 'National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.' A practice that heavily impacted Queensland between 1908 and 1971. Community events are held on or near National Sorry Day, 26 May.

There are six key memorial sites in the Brisbane area: CBD, King George Square (City Hall); Orleigh Park (West End/Hill End); Pandanus Point, Wynnum Foreshore (Breakwater Park); Teralba Park (Pullen Rd, Everton Park); Sherwood Arboretum, Sherwood; Kalinga Park (Nundah) <https://yoursay.brisbane.qld.gov.au/98201/widgets/453587/documents/300785>

Welcome to New and Re-joined Members

Alistair Henderson, GSQ President.

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

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

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

Your feedback is always welcome.



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New* Member, monthly event. Introduction to GSQ and the Resource Centre



For New Members (*and older members wanting a refresher)

An introduction to GSQ and the facilities at the Wishart Resource Centre.

Understand what resources are available at GSQ, how to use the Library Catalogue and how to operate the scanners and other equipment to make your research more productive.

Held on the first Friday of every month at 10:30 am. The next sessions will be held on 6 March, 10 April [delayed because of Easter], 8 May, and 5 June at the GSQ Resource Centre, Stackpole Street, Wishart.

Email president@gsq.org.au to confirm you are coming and so that we know numbers for catering.

28 March
9:00am - 1:00pm
AEST
via ZOOM



From Europe to Australia: tracing the roots of migrant ancestors

Program

Many of us will have European ancestors that came to Australia or even New Zealand in our history. Come & join five fantastic presenters in a mini seminar to learn what life was like before & after they arrived in Australia; what & where to find records and how to make advancement in tracing the roots of your migrant ancestors.

- Dave Obee - *Eastern European Family History Online*
- Charlotte Sale - *Italian Family History*
- Eric Kopittake - *My ancestors were German: can I research my family history*
- Eve Terry - *Diaspora: the Greek migrant experience in Queensland*
- MyHeritage - *A 30 minute presentation on what European records are available on MyHeritage*

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

Bookings & payment

Cost:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$45

Non-members \$55

Book online at: www.gsq.org.au/events/

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07 3349 6072 or at GSQ)

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REVEALING A CHINESE ENIGMA

Who, What, Where, When, Why, How, & Serendipity¹

Linda Coonan

Although it is not apparent, my 2nd Great Grandfather YOU Lye was Chinese. I began searching for him eight years ago, and since then my research has expanded into identifying nearly 250 of the men who arrived here under similar circumstances.

YOU Lye is the example I am using to show that understanding the cultural and political history of a specific era not only offers a deeper perspective on ancestors' identities but also gives an insight into the influences that shaped their values, and the factors that drove their decisions and actions. Based on a common stereotype, I first assumed he arrived in Australia after 1851 to join the gold rush in Victoria or New South Wales. Eventually it became clear he hadn't come as a gold seeker and that he was part of an almost unknown chapter in Australia's history. An ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances, YOU Lye was among the first non-Indigenous inhabitants on the northernmost frontier of 'white' settlement.

At the outset, I knew only a few basic details: that he had lived near the small town of Calliope in Queensland, who he married, and how I was descended from them. I also had a handful of family anecdotes – some proving to be wildly fanciful and inaccurate – and, crucially, his 1876 Application for Naturalisation. This document, which granted him British citizenship, also gave him the right to apply for Crown land. It proved instrumental in piecing together his story.

The application revealed that YOU Lye was from a place called Amoy and had worked as a Shepherd for a William YOUNG on a property called *Mount Larcombe*, near the town of Gladstone in Queensland.

I had many questions:

- Where and what was Amoy?
- Why, when, and how did YOU Lye leave?

- What were his reasons for leaving?
- How and why was a Chinese teenager working in far northern New South Wales (which later became Queensland)?
- What was YOU Lye's story before and after he settled near the town of Calliope in 1872?
- What was life in Calliope like?

To find the answers, I put on my sleuthing hat and learnt some geography and history.

Also pivotal was a serendipitous meeting with Ray Poon another Chinese-Australian descendant, who directed me to a thesis by the Historian Maxine Darnell, about the Chinese indenture scheme that ran between 1848 and 1853. After reading her work, I realized that YOU Lye was one of more than three thousand Chinese labourers, mostly from Amoy, who were brought to Australia under five-year contracts. This exploitative system was largely supported by the squatters, who, having lost access to convict labour, needed cheap workers for their isolated and often dangerous sheep stations.

Where and what was Amoy



Amoy Map 1843



Amoy (now Xiamen) is a small island off the eastern coast of China in Fujian Province, with Taiwan about 260 kilometres to the east. Long known for its sheltered deep-water harbour, Amoy was a major port, participating in extensive trade with India, Arabia, and Western Asia, exporting goods such as silk, sugar, and spices.

Built during the Ming dynasty around 1394, the city of Amoy was located on the southwestern tip of the island.

The port was closed to foreigners in 1757 when Western trade was restricted to Canton (Guangzhou), but it reopened in 1842 after the First Opium War, when China was forced to concede it as a treaty port to the British. The island has a land area of approximately 137 square kilometres and in the 1840s was home to an estimated 130,000 to 200,000 people living in Amoy City, with 136 villages across the island. Some villages had over a thousand inhabitants, while others were small hamlets with just a few dozen residents. By comparison, it is about half the size of North Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay Queensland. In 1841 the total population of NSW was 130,856, with the population of Sydney being 29,973. A much smaller island, Kulangsu, lies just 500 metres from the city to the southwest. With three villages and population of around 5,000, it was home to many wealthy Chinese.

The island's rugged granite topography featured massive boulders and hills and vegetation was sparse, limited mainly to banyan trees and bamboo. Farms were concentrated in the north, occupying small patches of land in the valleys, or on man-made irrigated terraces on the hillsides. To protect against pirates and Japanese raiders, Amoy had a highly fortified inner city containing the major fortress of the island which the British called 'the Citadel.' The fortress was encircled by a massive granite wall. The city's main streets were

paved with coarse granite, and many were narrow, winding corridors that followed the contours of the land. The narrow streets served a protective function, helping residents to defend themselves against gangs of thieves. Gates along the streets were closed each night, and many villages had small watchtowers manned by lookout guards.



Amoy City Houses

Except for a few pawnshops and those along the wharves, most houses were one-storey buildings extending from one street to another. These houses were tightly packed, often nestled against rocks or trees to escape the harsh effects of weather, particularly typhoons. Nearly every house doubled as a shop or workshop, as high rents prevented many from living in private residences. The large population and the close living conditions of YOU Lye's home would be a stark contrast to his new life in Australia.

During the 19th century Qing Dynasty, China was a highly bureaucratised state ruled by the northern Manchu people, who maintained power through a strict social hierarchy and laws. Society was rigidly stratified, with the gentry class, consisting of nine levels of public officials called Mandarins at the top, followed by merchants, clerks, teachers, peasant farmers, and artisans. At the bottom were labourers and marginalized groups. It is likely that YOU Lye came from a lower social class, as his father's occupation was recorded as 'Gardener'. Social mobility was limited, making it nearly impossible for those of lower status to rise in the hierarchy.

While overseas trade was the main business of Amoy, fishing was a major livelihood, with roughly twice as many fishermen as farmers. Land



Amoy Harbour 1847



ownership was concentrated in the hands of a small elite, and tenant farming was widespread. To maintain an orderly society the people were subject to the 'Sixteen Instructions' on virtuous behaviour which charged them to show respect and obedience to the state and their elders, and to practise harmony, thrift, industry, scholarship, good manners, prompt payment of taxes, and mutual security.



Journeyman Tradesmen

Tradesmen often set up shop along the streets. In these images a soup maker is seen next to a public scribe writing letters for clients, followed by an itinerant barber who shaved heads, trimmed eyebrows, and maintained the Manchu-mandated queue hairstyle – a long braid, with the rest of the head shaved. The penalty for cutting it off was death. The last figures on the right are a Wood Turner and his customer.

Poverty was rampant in Amoy, with many destitute people resorting to begging or stealing, and starvation was common. An early missionary reported that finding a corpse in the street was a near-daily occurrence.

In 1841, when YOU Lye was six years old, British warships attacked Amoy City and Kulangsu during the First Opium War. This conflict was fuelled by the Chinese government's attempts to suppress the illegal importation of opium by Western traders. Although Chinese products were in high demand in Europe, there was little interest in China for European raw materials or manufactured goods, forcing Western traders to send ships to China without a full cargo. This created a significant trade imbalance and loss of profit.

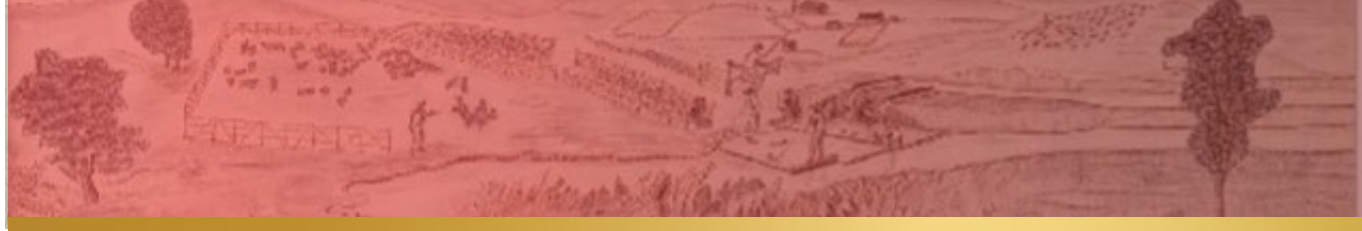
In an effort to rectify the disparity, British traders began smuggling opium from British-controlled



People – Poor to Powerful

India into China, which resulted in widespread addiction and severe social and economic disruption. In 1839 the Qing government responded by ordering traders to surrender all stocks and sign agreements to cease future opium trade. More than 20,000 chests of opium were handed over and destroyed, giving the British Government a pretext for war. The British launched an aggressive naval campaign, moving northward from Canton, attacking ports along the Chinese coast.

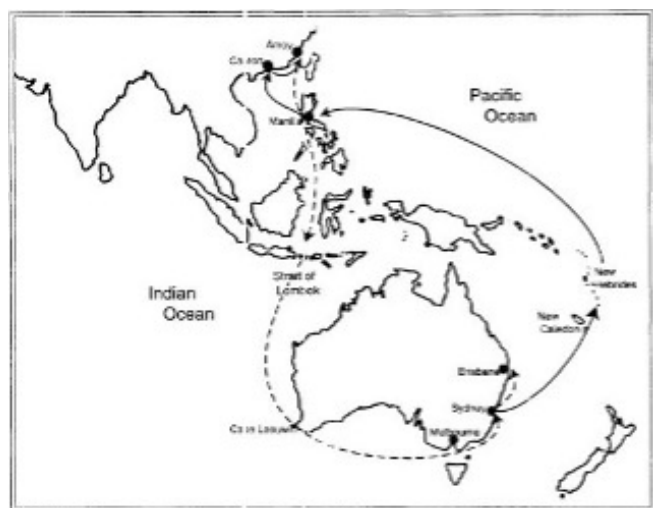
Before the British fleet arrived at Amoy, the Chinese made considerable preparations to defend the city. In anticipation of the battle, many of the inhabitants fled to the mainland or to the north of the island. After a bombardment that lasted four hours, the British, using superior firepower and well-coordinated ground tactics, quickly overwhelmed the Chinese defences. The war officially ended on 29 August 1842, with the signing of the Treaty of Nanking. China was forced



to open five key ports – Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningbo, and Shanghai – to consular representation and British traders.

The Treaty of Nanking not only opened China to European opium traders but also spurred the growth of the illegal trade in Chinese indentured, or 'coolie' labour. Chinese agents working for Western traders, ruthlessly conscripted labourers. To these agents and the Western shipping companies, the men represented human cargo for profit, while to employers in Australia, they provided an extremely cheap source of labour. Some Australian employers and overseers viewed the Chinese labourers as belonging to the lowest social stratum, often subjecting them to brutal treatment.

Many of the ships used for this trade had previously transported cargo and were only minimally equipped for carrying passengers. Robert Town's ship, the *Royal Saxon*, which YOU Lye most likely travelled on in 1852, had formerly transported horses and coal. Inhumane treatment by the crew, inadequate living spaces, poor provisions, insufficient clean water, and unsanitary conditions led to the rapid spread of diseases such as scurvy and dysentery, as well as instances of suicide, and mutiny.



Passage Routes of the Chinese Labour Trade²

During the middle of the 19th century conditions in China were generally chaotic. Foreign exploitation, land shortages, natural disasters, and famine further exacerbated the dire circumstances faced by an increasingly impoverished rural population in China. Heavy taxation, inflation, and the greed of corrupt local officials compounded these issues. At the same time, the government neglected public works and military needs, leading to declining

bureaucratic efficiency and allowing landowners, secret societies, military strongmen, and dissident groups to assume control of local affairs.

Amoy and Kulangsu were plagued by a range of deadly tropical diseases, including cholera, malaria, yellow fever, and dysentery. According to the British Consul in 1851, mortality rates in Amoy reached alarming levels, with death rates of up to twenty-five percent of the population during the previous year. For those living in hard circumstances, the attraction of overseas opportunities could have motivated them to leave. However, not all of these men were willing participants. YOU Lye may have been a victim of unethical recruitment practices, which included deception or even abduction. According to family lore YOU Lye said that he didn't want to come here, but he took pride in the fact that he remained.

In leaving home YOU Lye lost everything that was predictable and familiar. He broke crucial ties with family and religious practices, as well as social support, local customs, and a way of life shaped by centuries of tradition. Additionally, he had to navigate the challenge of learning a new language and adapting to a completely alien and potentially life-threatening way of life. The indenture scheme ultimately ended in response to public pressure within Australia and violent anti-immigration protests by the inhabitants of Amoy, who clashed with foreign immigration agents in November 1852.

After landing in Sydney, YOU Lye was sent by ship to Maryborough and then through the bush to Gayndah, a town on the Burnett River. Gayndah was established in 1849 after squatters had arrived in the region in search of new land for sheep farming during a time when wool was a major export for the colony. As I researched his employer William YOUNG, more of YOU Lye's story began to unfold.

YOUNG relocated in early 1855 to a new 40.5-hectare station which he named *Mt Larcombe*, situated about 50 kilometres from the newly founded town of Gladstone. The town was less than a year old, and the northernmost European settlement in New South Wales. Upon arrival, YOUNG's flock of 6,000 sheep was divided and sent out to various outstations with shepherds. YOU Lye faced vulnerable and harsh living conditions. Until more durable huts could be constructed, shepherds slept in gunyahs – makeshift shelters built from timber and saplings, covered with sheets of bark.



A Gunyah

As a shepherd, YOU Lye was contracted to receive a wage of £7/4/- (seven pounds four shillings) per year, plus basic rations. This was a stark contrast to the annual wages of £20 to £25 paid to European shepherds. Delivered once a week, the standard rations were a meagre diet which lacked essential nutrients, increasing the risk of contracting scurvy – from vitamin C deficiency. Shepherds could also suffer from dysentery drinking creek water contaminated by sheep.

Isolation was an overwhelming part of YOU Lye's life. He may have been alone or paired with a non-English speaking shepherd. In the surrounding area of Gladstone, there were only two other squatter runs, and according to the 1856 Census, only three Chinese-born males were recorded, with no Chinese women in the district. This left YOU Lye with limited opportunities to speak his language, Hokkien, or to learn English quickly.

The alien insects, flora, and fauna posed various threats, some having the potential for illness or death. However, the gravest danger came from the Indigenous inhabitants defending their land and way of life, a situation that was tragically manifested just months after *Mt. Larcombe* was established. On 26 December 1855, Aboriginal men attacked the head station, resulting in the murder of a married couple, an Aboriginal man brought from Gayndah, and two other male workers. The victims were living in what was described as gunyahs and deceived by a seemingly friendly approach from several individuals in the early morning, they were swiftly overwhelmed by a larger group hidden in the scrub. The element of surprise was so complete that none of the victims managed to fire their weapons.

YOU Lye avoided two more attacks at *Mt. Larcombe*: one in 1857, when two Chinese shepherds were killed in their sleep at an outstation, and another in 1858, when two Irishmen and an Italian man were murdered at a lambing hut. These incidents indicate a growing resistance from the Aboriginal people against the encroachment of colonisers on their lands.

It is easy to imagine that isolation, loneliness, fear, and anxiety would have taken a toll on him. Many shepherds of the time were considered 'mad as Hatters,' and instances of suicide were tragically common. Moreover, shepherds were often exposed to toxic chemicals used in treating the diseases and parasites of sheep. Mercuric chloride, a potent neurotoxin, was commonly used for scab treatment, and dips for scab and footrot contained arsenic.



Sheep Washing 1854

In 1867, after nearly 12 years of working in the Port Curtis district, 32-year-old YOU Lye married in Gladstone to 22-year-old Irishwoman Annie Gillan, who was already the mother of two small children. Census statistics indicate that many single European men, including her fellow Irish countrymen, were available for Annie to marry. However, there were no Chinese women for YOU Lye to consider.

Shortly after their marriage, they travelled further west to *Prairie Station* (now Biloela), where Annie's second child Mary Ann, died from 'teething'. The couple did not stay long and returned to work at *Mt. Larcombe* Station until they relocated to the settlement on the Calliope Goldfield in 1872, just before the opening of a much-needed community-funded school. First established as a mining camp, the town of Calliope was surveyed in 1871 and lots put up for sale, with homestead acreage becoming available six years later. By this time, they had four children together, with an additional six to be born in the Calliope area. They also took in four more children, including a neighbour's two



young granddaughters whose mother died from childbirth complications.



YOU Lye Family

The young girl is my Great Grandmother Harriet standing next to her mother Annie about 1890; the next image is Annie in Irish style dress; and the last image is YOU Lye and Annie's son Edward with his wife Edith and their first child William.

Ironically, although YOU Lye did not initially come to Australia as a gold miner, he settled on land with gold almost at his doorstep. Their property at Oakey Creek was located where the first gold was discovered on the Calliope Goldfield in 1861. Crown Land in Gladstone town became available for sale in 1855, and the surrounding area was dominated by large pastoral runs focused on horse and sheep rearing. In the 1860s, the new Queensland Colonial Government enacted legislation that allowed the government to reclaim half of the squatters' land. This resumed land was then subdivided into smaller blocks to promote closer settlement, and to address the growing need for agricultural land. YOU Lye became a naturalised British citizen in 1876, which entitled him to select Crown Land. On 9 October 1877, William Ulie, paid £8 for the first year's rent and £5 16s. for the survey fee for a 160-acre (64.7 hectare) selection in the Calliope Homestead Area.



Typical Slab House 1870s



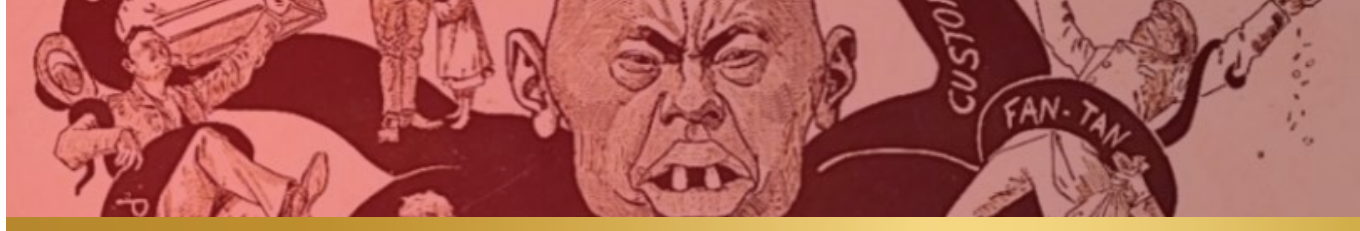
Slab House Interior 1849

Nine years later, before issuing the Deed of Ownership, an inspection report described YOU Lye's house as 7.6 by 5.5 metres, slab construction with four rooms, a slab chimney, a verandah, and no floor. Common for the time, it was constructed from nearby trees using basic bush carpentry techniques. The family cultivated three gardens totalling 1.2 hectares, filled with vegetables and orange trees. They kept dairy cows, and the milk and produce from their gardens fed the family, with any surplus sold for additional income. After fulfilling his obligations to improve the property, YOU Lye achieved something that would have been impossible in his homeland – he became a landowner.

YOU Lye died of 'Senile Decay' in April 1897, aged about 62. Several years before, at the Gladstone Police Station, YOU Lye accused his wife Annie of attempting to poison him and claimed that she, 'walks around looking for a young man'. These statements suggest a troubled mental state which could have been affected by his past exposure to poisons. Preying on his mind could also have been the realisation that at his death he would not be buried in his ancestral home, and his soul receive the important propitiatory offerings of later generations. Of some comfort may have been that a neighbour, TAN Watt, lived next to the cemetery and performed traditional Chinese burial rites.

Life in Calliope

In order to learn more about the YOU Lye family's way of life, I researched the families of children on the school's early enrolment lists, which provided valuable insights. Including several families of other Chinese indentured labourers, Calliope's community was a dynamic blend of languages and cultures, reflecting the disparate backgrounds of immigrants who benefitted from



the Queensland government's initiative to boost the state's population by offering free passages. Many of them were leaving behind problems in their homelands. However, they shared common ground in their pursuit of new lives, unburdened by the constraints of an entrenched social hierarchy. It is reasonable to assume that many embraced an attitude of tolerance, mutual acceptance, and coexistence with their neighbours.

No written evidence of prejudice within the Calliope community was found until uncovering a newspaper article of April 1910, titled 'Chink-Cursed Calliope, Saffron-Tinted Teachesters: A Queer Corner in Queensland'. Written anonymously by someone calling himself 'White Australia,' the piece stated, 'Calliope is an old diggings, and surely the white people ought to be able to run the show and put these almond-eyed bounders in their proper place, which is outside'. This writer, in his ignorance, failed to recognize that the 'slant-eyed descendants of Confucius' and 'saffron-tinted half-Chow damsels' he disparaged were actually descendants of some of the first non-Indigenous settlers in the area.



The Mongolian Octopus in the Bulletin 1886

Prejudice & Stereotypes

YOU Lye's existence was often shrouded in silence and viewed with shame by some descendants, who were undoubtedly protecting themselves from attracting bigotry. Chinese immigrants were commonly deemed an inferior race, fuelling discrimination inflamed by news media and political agendas. During the gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s, resentment arose as Chinese miners' diligence and success provoked hostility and violent outbursts. Poll taxes and quotas were imposed to curtail their migration. The first Prime

Minister of Australia Edmund Barton, speaking in support of the Immigration Restriction Bill of 1901, otherwise known as the White Australia Policy, stated that 'The doctrine of the equality of man was never intended to apply to the equality of the Englishman and the Chinaman'.

Despite claims that Chinese workers threatened opportunities for Europeans, they predominantly took on roles such as shepherding, gardening, and cooking – jobs many Europeans avoided. It is important to be wary of stereotypes such as those that persistently denigrated Chinese gambling and use of opium. Ironically, British traders delivered the blight of opium to China, but alcohol and gambling on horse racing was a part of life for European Australians since the early days of settlement. Rum served as currency in the convict years, due to the lack of coins. Alcohol has a long history of excesses by Europeans and was often administered for medical relief, as when YOU Lye's son was given brandy by his Irish employer to ease the pain of a fatal burst appendix in 1895.

Opium, while not illegal, was widely accessible. Europeans favoured drinking opiate-laced patent medicines, which claimed to treat a broad range of ailments, while the Chinese typically smoked it, releasing lower concentrations of opiates. Tragic misuse of remedies like Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup for teething babies containing Alcohol and Morphine, highlighted the dangers of unregulated substances.

Summary

The pursuit of his story has been one of fascinating discoveries – not only about my ancestor's life but also of the broader historical circumstances in which he lived, revealing Australia's rich, multicultural heritage. I have a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and Chinese labourers in 19th-century Australia, and have found many 'ordinary' people whose lives were most often overshadowed by the officially recorded histories of early settlers. Their stories are just as courageous, and more relatable. The contribution of indentured labourers in sustaining the pastoral industry's viability and profitability has gone largely unrecognized, and unappreciated. In Queensland, their uniqueness was obscured by the later influx of mostly Cantonese miners to the goldfields, from Gympie to the Palmer River.

I have pieced together a narrative for YOU Lye that demonstrates the importance of context in historical research. He is part of a larger, untold history that deserves to be known and celebrated.



By sharing what I have found, I hope to inspire others to delve into their own family histories and contribute to the preservation of these hidden stories.

A full list of resources used in Linda's presentation and story can be sourced by emailing the Chinese Interest Group on chinesereseaarchgroup@gsq.org.au.

Sources:

¹This article is a printed version of the presentation given by Linda Coonan during Connections: Past, Present, Future (the 17th Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Congress and the 5th History Queensland Conference) which was held at Eight Miles Plains, Brisbane in March 2025.

²*The Chinese labour trade to New South Wales 1783-1853: An exposition of motives and outcomes.* Maxine L. Darnell (Doctor of Philosophy Thesis), University of New England, 1998.



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 INTEREST GROUPS CHINESE RESEARCH



The Chinese Research Interest Group is a relatively new group formed by GSQ members interested in researching their Chinese ancestry in Australia, as well as others with a research or academic interest in the history of the Chinese in Queensland or Australia more generally.

Queensland has a fascinating story of Chinese migration, starting with about 900 indentured labourers who came to Moreton Bay from the port city of Amoy in Fujian province between 1848 and 1853. They were followed by thousands of mainly Cantonese Chinese who came in response to the Queensland gold rushes, including at Gympie in 1867 and at the Palmer River in 1873.

Further afield, many Queenslanders are descended from Chinese ancestors who ventured to the Victorian and New South Wales goldfields during the 1850s, whether taking up mining or setting up businesses such as stores and market gardens to support the mining community.

Regular participants in the Chinese Research Interest Group include descendants of Amoy and Cantonese Chinese migrants, as well as historians Hilda Maclean and Jan Richardson who share their research on Chinese communities and individuals in Queensland.

Participants also share their family history and Chinese connections; discoveries and successes; tips and techniques for researching Chinese ancestry; and try to help each other with brick walls.

Guest speakers in 2025 included Natalie Fong on her research on Chinese merchants in the Northern Territory and Janis Hanley on the Chinese temple ruins and sites of old Chinese market gardens in Croydon in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Meetings are also an excellent way for members to keep up to date with publications, events, and conferences relevant to Chinese-Australian history and genealogy, including the regular Dragon Tails and CHINA Inc. conferences for Chinese descendants and researchers.

The Chinese Research Interest Group meets on the third (3rd) Sunday of odd-numbered months — January, March, May, July, September and November — from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Due to the diverse locations of members and guest speakers, the meeting is conducted online via Zoom. To contact the Chinese Research Interest Group and to receive the Zoom link for meetings please email chinesereseaarchgroup@gsq.org.au.

GSQ Interest Groups

@NEWS

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

For information on the activities of all our Interest Groups, see the GSQ's monthly newsletter, E-news at:

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





Do you have an interesting family story that you would like to share with GSQ members and the wider genealogy community? GSQ's Writing Group co-sponsors an annual short story competition, named in honour of Joan Reese. Long standing members of the Colonial and Convict Interest Group, and its forerunner the Convict Connections Group, would have benefitted from the significant contribution that Joan Reese made in transcribing NSW Colonial records before these were digitised and made available online.

Entry to the competition is open to all those who have a story that they would like to share that fits the topic for the year. The maximum length is 2500 words. The winner, who is announced in August each year, receives a cash prize of \$200 as well as an annual single membership subscription to GSQ. Existing GSQ members can add this to their current membership subscription. The winning entry is published in the September issue of *Generation*. The winner's name is also inscribed on a plaque displayed at GSQ. As well, all other entries are published in subsequent issues of *Generation*.

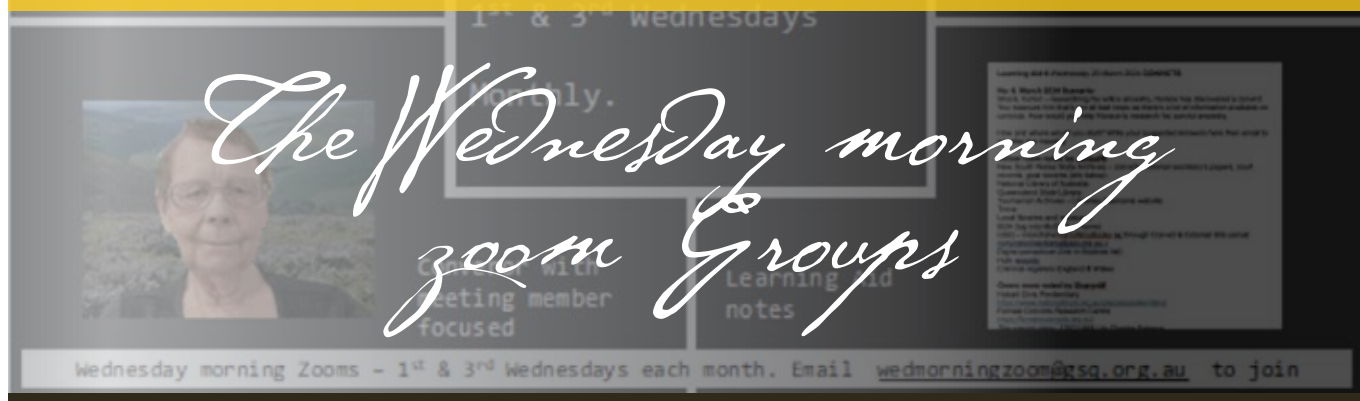
Our 2025 winner told a fascinating story about how she solved the mystery of her Danish ancestor. Previous winners have written stories about an ancestor's life in Western Queensland,

another described a journey, yet another the story of a house. The topic for the 2026 competition **"A Short Story from Family History Research you have undertaken"**, is broad and gives scope for a wide range of stories. Yours may relate to how an ancestor arrived in Australia, how you solved a mystery or brickwall, or how you solved a difficult research question. Sharing your story can help others in their research journey and may even help you to further your own research by connecting with fellow researchers.

As far as the format for entries is concerned, the judging criteria are available on GSQ's website. The panel particularly welcomes images or photos that add to the story. Sources of information are to be appropriately and consistently referenced or cited. Advice on an appropriate referencing system can be found in the *Australian Government Style Manual*, which is available online.

In 2026 the closing date for entries is 25 May. Anyone looking for inspiration is encouraged to read the stories that have appeared in past issues of *Generation*. Entrants requiring further information are invited to contact the Secretary at secretary@gsq.org.au.

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO MEMORIAL ARTICLES: WITH A FOCUS ON ONE OF OUR GSQ ZOOM GROUP



This edition of *Generation* contains several articles written by members about memorials. These stories are a result of a challenge set for the Wednesday Morning Zoom participants, who were asked to write about a memorial that they had encountered in their research. As you will see, there is no one right way to tackle such a task, just as there is no one right way to write about your ancestors. But it is important to tell the stories of your ancestors, and the stories of their lives, their activities, where they lived, the times they lived in, and of the memorials that commemorate their lives.

Focus on Wednesday Morning Zoom Group.

This members-only group meets via Zoom at 11 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (from February to early December).

Bobbie Edes has been running this group since the advent of Covid which kept us in our homes for many months. For each mid-month meeting Bobbie prepares a Learning Aid session which sets us a task involving one aspect of genealogical research. We break into small groups and more experienced members help those who are less experienced in that area. If group members have a brick wall, assisting to solve that problem becomes the challenge of the day.

The first meeting of the month is a presentation by one of the group's members or by Bobbie. These presentations are on a wide variety of family history topics, a few in the 2026 Wednesday Morning Zoom calendar will include:

- The Earl Grey Scheme,
- Women on Norfolk Island 1825 to 1839,
- TNA - using the Discovery search engine, and
- a talk focusing on explaining the structure of various Military forces.

If you would like to join this group and expand your knowledge of family history and genealogy, please email Bobbie at wedmorningzoom@gsq.org.au. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



THE PROCLAMATION SCULPTURE, DUBLIN

Maureen Cavanagh

In 2014 I spent a week in Dublin staying with a cousin. When she discovered that I had only the scantiest knowledge about the 1916 Easter Rebellion, she strongly advised that as a descendant of combatants in the 1916 Easter Rebellion, I needed to visit Kilmainham Gaol Museum to bring myself up to speed.

That tour introduced me to the history of the 1916 Easter Rebellion, a short, violent campaign in Ireland, mainly fought in Dublin, where the Irish Nationalists proclaimed their intention to be free of British rule.

Following the tour, I noticed the group of bronze figures outside of the Kilmainham Gaol entry. It was labelled The Proclamation.



The Proclamation sculpture by Rowan Gillespie was installed in 2007, directly opposite the Kilmainham Gaol entrance, and consists of 14 abstract statues and a central table with the text of the Proclamation engraved on it.



The bronze sculpture was originally commissioned to have seven figures, representing the seven signatories to the Irish Proclamation of Independence. It was later added to by the sculptor with another seven figures to include all the leaders who were involved.

The Proclamation is dedicated to the rebels who were tried by Court Martial and sentenced to death by shooting. The figures have execution verdicts at their base, and bullet patterns on their torsos to represent their fate, but not their names.

The 1916 Easter Rebellion commenced with The Proclamation of Irish Independence being read out by Patrick PEARSE on the steps of the General Post Office, on Easter Monday 24 April 1916. A short and violent war then followed, lasting only six days. The Rebels surrendered and with Dublin under Martial Law, the leaders were located and arrested.

Kilmainham Gaol is the building where the Leaders of the 1916 Easter Rebellion had been imprisoned, tried by Court Martial, executed, and buried all between 3 and 12 May 1916.

There had been several Risings by the Irish over the 800 years of British Rule but due to the rush to execution, public opinion worldwide was in favour of the Rebels. The matter of Irish Independence gained prominence and support over following years, leading to the 1922 Irish Civil War and the Republic of Ireland forming in 1924.



BESSIE THOMPSON

Rosemary Meadows

One word describes my great aunt Bessie - indomitable.

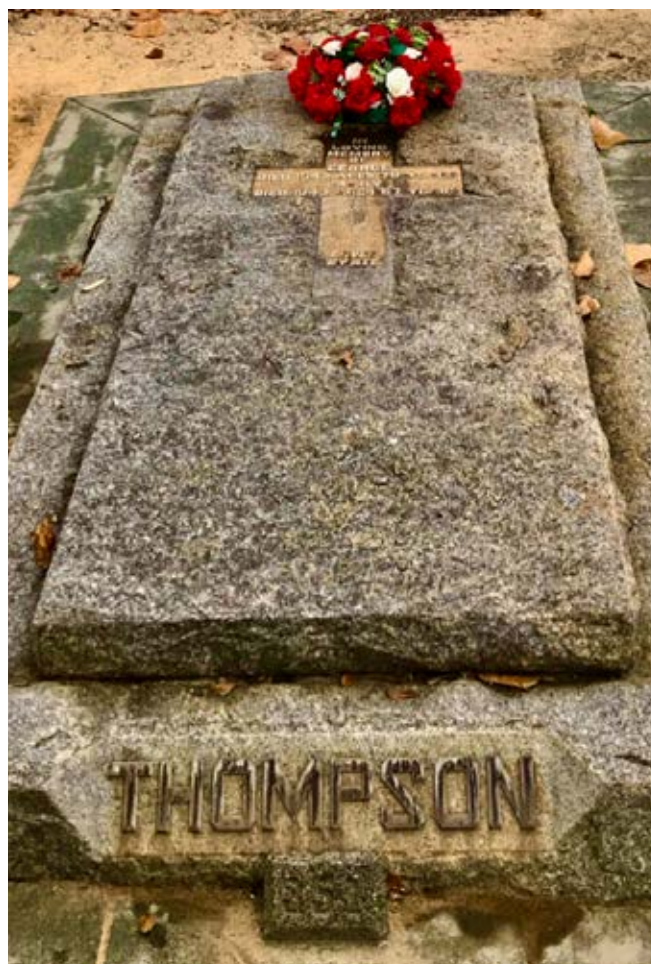
Memorials shown here attest to much sadness in Bessie's life, yet she remained resolute and influential in the lives of numerous nieces and nephews.

The youngest of her three sons lived only a few months. Her husband James died in Coolgardie leaving her to raise two sons aged 4 and 2 years old. Both sons were killed in action in WW1. Her small consolation was a Military Cross awarded posthumously to her son, Murray.

In 1919 her beloved sister died so Bessie stepped in to raise her niece, also named Bessie. Sady, that beloved niece was murdered in the 1942 Banka massacre. Proof of Bessie's spirit was travelling to England in wartime to visit her sons, a tiny bag her only luggage.

A great niece wrote, 'I think she was the most remarkable human being I have ever known. Life had certainly hit her over the head with catastrophe upon catastrophe, but I can't ever remember hearing her complain. She was extremely self-effacing but if she didn't like you ... watch out. A real Thompson character.'

Bessie died in 1961 aged 92 and shares a grave with her younger brother George THOMPSON. A quite remarkable woman.



Bessie Wilmott Memorial Tablet.



Bessie Thompson (Aitken) with brother Alfred.



Frank Aitken in UK with Mother

CORNISH MINING DISASTER REMEMBERED

Margaret Dunn



My 2nd great grandfather, John POLGLASE was a copper miner in the Breage/Germoe area in Cornwall in the 1840s. While researching mining in Cornwall in that era I came across the story of a mining disaster a little further north at East Wheal Rose Mine in St Newlyn East. Lead was first found in this area in 1812 and the working opened in 1814 as Wheal Rose. In 1834 new workings began nearby at East Wheal Rose. The north shaft was 160 fathoms or 960 feet deep (almost 300 metres). Mine output was recorded as 48,200 tons Lead, 212,700 ounces Silver, 280 tons Zinc, and 160 tons Copper.

In 1846 East Wheal Rose employed over 1,200 men, women, and children. Flooding was always a risk as the mine was in a natural bowl. On 9 July 1846 between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., a dreadful thunderstorm broke nearby, and the topography meant floodwaters had nowhere to go except into the mine. The surface of the mine was awash within minutes, and water rushed down the slope and into the mine itself, breaking the shafts and rushing down into lower levels, loosening and breaking the timbers beneath, resulting in some parts of the mine falling in.

Three hundred men were organised to pile up earth around the collars of the shafts, but the volume of water was so great it resulted in torrents pouring down the shafts, creating a wind that extinguished the candles, leaving the workers below in complete darkness when the water hit them.

One timber-man went down into the mine and lay across a manhole to divert the flow of water – this heroic act saved 18 lives. Beam engineers worked to raise men to the surface, clinging to the kibbles and chains 'like strings of onions', saving a further 143 lives. By evening, 43 men and boys were missing, but four were found alive the next morning.

Lower levels of the mine were completely flooded but by four months later the mine was in full production again. The mine closed in 1881, with several unsuccessful attempts to reopen it at later dates.

Memorial

175 years later a slate carving by sculptor Benjamin Dearnley was erected at the site as a memorial to the 39 men and boys who lost their lives in the disaster at East Wheal Rose Mine on 9 July 1846.



THE LOST CHILDREN OF DAYLESFORD

Wallis Vinson

Some things you do as a tourist can stay with you for many years after the actual holiday. I don't just mean the wonderful sights and experiences at the time, but the tragedy and sadness that you unexpectedly come across. Then sometime in the future, the memory pops up, bringing back those emotions.

In 2010, our family had a holiday in Victoria, and a day visit to Daylesford was a given. We were looking forward to a leisurely morning tea at a quaint café, checking out the amazing range of boutique shops, and perhaps a walk around the lake.

Our first stop though was the Lost Children's Monument on Wheelers Hill Road. Driving through the farming landscape, I could admire the agriculture of present day, however I didn't know enough about this story at the time to even try and imagine what the landscape would have been like in 1867. The area around the Monument was quiet, a little eerie but peaceful with the sounds of nature. It felt like somewhere you needed to whisper or keep voices low. After reading the story on the information sign, I realised this was



*The Story as displayed at the Memorial site on Wheelers Hill Road, Musk.
Photo taken by Wallis Vinson in 2010.*

not a place of gloom or anguish, but a place for reflection. The site has become a key part of Daylesford's local heritage and the story continues to resonate today, capturing the interest of both residents and visitors.

Gold was discovered in Daylesford in 1851, with underground mining and quartz crushing developing in the early 1860s. Chinese families worked the local fields and market gardens. Teams of horses pulled laden wagons of timber out of the nearby forest.

Two families and the whole small town were going to be thrown into the saddest of times. This is a touching and indeed heartbreaking story. It was winter of 1867 when three young boys wandered into the bush and weren't seen alive again. Two brothers, William GRAHAM (aged 7), Thomas (aged 4), and their friend Alfred BURMAN (aged 5) went for an adventure on the outskirts of Daylesford and were lost in the bush and perished from the cold. Their disappearance and the town's subsequent search created headlines around the world. None of the searches were successful, even though some searchers were within 50 metres of the spot where they were eventually found.

Some months later, a settler's dog returned with a small boot in its mouth and in the boot was a child's foot. A search was organised and the bodies of the two smaller boys were found huddled together in the hollow of a tree. The remains and clothing of the older boy were found nearby. The tree remained a shrine until it blew over in a storm in 1950.



*Photo of Memorial taken at Wheelers Hill Road, Musk, by Wallis Vinson
in 2010*



The tree where the bodies were found. Phot courtesy of Daylesford and District Historical Society.

A large funeral was held, and the boys were buried together in the Daylesford Cemetery. A large monument was later constructed over the boys' communal grave. There is a 30 kilometre return walking trail, called the Three Lost Children Walk, located on the outskirts of Daylesford. The walk follows the approximate route of the three boys. In 1889, Mr Graham, the father of two of the lost boys, established a scholarship to be presented each year to the best boy and girl pupils at Daylesford State School.

Further reading and information:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/196634135> THE THREE LOST CHILDREN. (1867, July 6). Leader (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 - 1918, 1935), p. 21.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/196633290?searchTerm=lost%20children%20of%20daylesford> – graphic detail and Inquest details = THE LOST CHILDREN. (1867, September 21). Leader (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 - 1918, 1935), p. 28.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60819751/6137028> - "THE LOST CHILDREN OF DAYLESFORD." Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers (Melbourne, Vic. : 1867 - 1875) 19 October 1867:

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7779463/the-lost-boys-of-daylesford-a-calamity-in-the-colony/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EUoRFBd9b3ZFf1xFpt0BDJpcg7F-1aYb/view?pli=1> – Forests Notes December 2010 leaflet

<https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/644/three-lost-children-memorial-park/&lang=en>

The Weekly Times article by Chris McLennan

<https://www.talesfromthegrave.org/post/sad-ending-for-missing-children-from-daylesford>

<https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/daylesford-three-lost-children-walk>

<https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/374/missing-childrens-memorial-message-tree-and-resident-wombats/>

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/history-culture/2022/11/the-lost-children-of-daylesford/>



Some of the signs on The Lost Children Walk.

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THE COFFIN REST

Kerry Beaton



Coffin Rest at Kiltullagh Graveyard, Co Galway, Ireland – author's photo, 15 June 2024

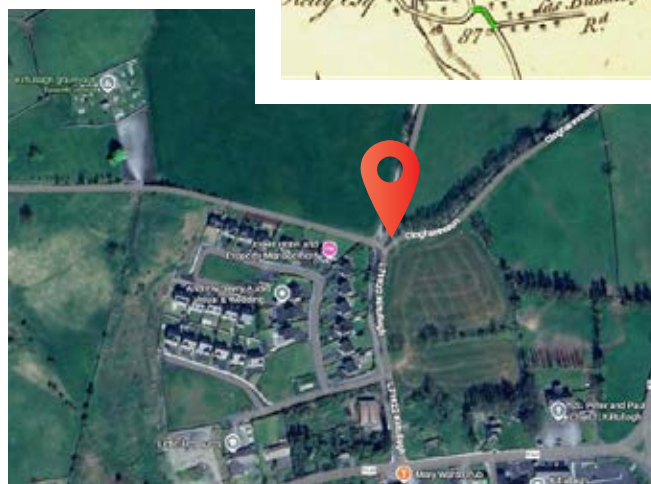
At Kiltullagh Graveyard, in Co. Galway, there is a stone structure 'on the road roughly halfway between the church and the graveyard'. It is a rather unusual Cruciform design of coffin rests, and originally a large iron gate was hung from it. In the 1980s under the direction of Father MCNAMARA, it was tastefully restored. Approximately a year ago, a petition was raised to object to the declaration of a road as a public road in Kiltullagh. This road, which remains virtually intact, has local and national importance as the only remaining section of the old Dublin to Galway Road, which was surveyed in 1777. It is also part of the 'Rot na Ri' (or Road of the Kings) ancient route.

According to the Heritage Council, traditionally coffin rests were incorporated into the graveyard wall. They were used in the 18th and 19th centuries. They feature a double opening to allow the coffin bearers easy access to the graveyard. The coffin is rested on the 'bed', before the remains were brought into the graveyard for

burial. The pallbearers either pass through the gaps in the columns, or another group of pallbearers takes over for the final leg. In parts of Ireland the mourners engaged in prayer, wailing, or dancing at the coffin rest.

In some places in Ireland, cairns of small stones or pebbles are found along the route, as there was a tradition of carrying a handful of stones to deposit each time the funeral procession stopped.

My father's ashes were buried in Kiltullagh Graveyard in 1982, with his maternal grandmother Catherine KENDREAGAN formerly MONAHAN, nee KELLY. He is now back 'home'.



A MEMORIAL IN HELSTON

Tricia Smout

This monument commemorates the lives of my paternal great grandparents Mary and Thomas JAMES and some of their children. The JAMES grave is at the back of the Chapel of Helston in Cornwall, England.

One of my DNA matches, Sue KING, lives in Helston, and offered to photograph it for me.



The words on the front of the memorial read:

In loving memory of Thomas JAMES who died at Queensland Sept 18 1905, aged 76 years.

Also Mary Ann, his wife died Nov 17 1887 aged 57 years.

And Eliza Ann, their daughter died Aug 10 1882 aged 28 years.

The words on right side of the memorial read:

Also five of their infant children.

I haven't yet found any specific details about these five infant deaths.

This tombstone was obviously erected sometime after 1905.

I would love to know who erected it and their relationship to my ancestors.

It is interesting to notice that the information on it begins with the most recent events in the family story, and progresses backwards!

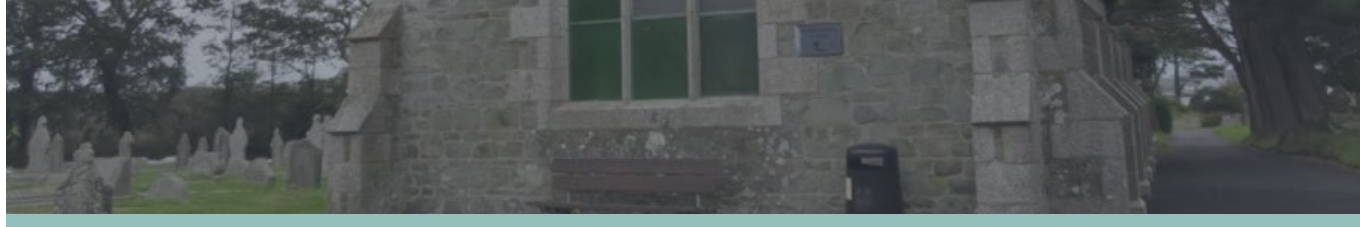


The back of Helston Chapel showing location of the memorial and front view of the memorial



Some information about the family:

Mary WEARNE (a servant, baptised 14 March 1830) and Thomas JAMES (a carpenter, born 9 February 1829) were married in this Chapel of Helston on 2 April 1853.



"The West Briton" newspaper 21 NOVEMBER 1887, Monday

SUDDEN DEATH AT HELSTON - A remarkable case of sudden death occurred at Helston on Thursday evening. Mr. Thomas JAMES, of Wendron-street, with his wife and family, were partaking of tea, and Mrs. James, having finished her meal, left the table, remarking that she had something to do upstairs. She went out of the room, and within two minutes called her son, who found her in her bedroom vomiting blood. Mr. James went to his wife's assistance, and while he held her remarked that she was dying, and instantly expired. Mr. BULLIMORE, surgeon, was sent for, but was too late to see Mrs James alive.

Some information about the family:

Mary WEARNE (a servant, baptised 14 March 1830) and Thomas JAMES (a carpenter, born 9 February 1829) were married in this Chapel of Helston on 2 April 1853.

On 17 November 1887, Mary died suddenly, as reported in the local newspaper.

The inquest concluded that she died of natural causes.

Two of Thomas' older children (William and Daniel) were already living in Australia, and after the death of his wife, Thomas emigrated to Australia on the Lelunga in 1892 with his three youngest children (Thomas jnr aged 22, Julia aged 20, and my grandfather Philip aged 18).

Thomas (who is mentioned on the memorial in Cornwall) died in Brisbane on 19 November 1905 (18th on the memorial in Helston, and 9th on Find a Grave) and is buried in Nundah Cemetery.



SNIPPETS – NEWS AND INFORMATION



180 STORIES 180 YEARS

The Friends of Nundah Historic Cemetery recently held an official launch of their 180th Anniversary project - a book called 180 Stories 180 Years.

The title of the book refers to the 180 years since the first recorded burial in Nundah Historical Cemetery, which is Queensland's oldest surviving

cemetery. Each story in the book records the life, character, or contribution of someone who is buried in the cemetery. Some GSQ members' stories are included in this book, a copy of which will soon be in GSQ's library. A version of Tricia Smout's memorial story 'A Memorial in Helston' is included in 180 Stories 180 Years.

How to book



Calendar of events

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

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

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

Payment types

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

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

Cash: In person at GSQ.

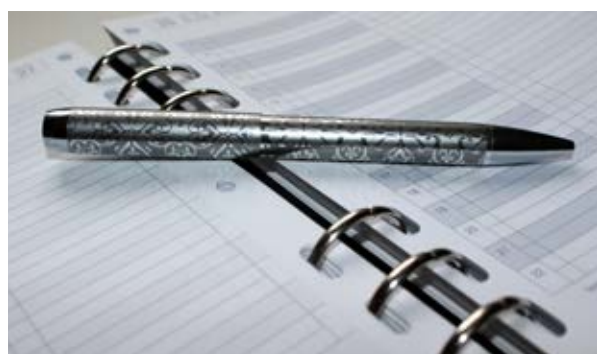
Once payment has been confirmed, a ticket will be emailed to you. If you do not have an email address, it can be posted or provided to you on the day of the event.

Remember

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

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

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



Date	Day	Event + Special Interest Groups [SIG]	Time
March 2026			
1	Sun	Scottish Group	9:30am-2pm
8	Sun	Family History Technology Group	2pm-4pm
14	Sat	Presentation: Banished Women: convict hardship in colonial NSW	9am-11am
15	Sun	Chinese Research Group	10am-12pm
15	Sun	Scandinavian Group	12:30pm-2:30pm
28	Sat	GSQ Mini Seminar: From Europe to Australia: Tracing the roots of migrant ancestors	9am-1pm
29	Sun	German Research Group	10am-2:30pm
29	Sun	Military Group	10am-12pm
April 2026			
11	Sat	Presentation: Diving into Ancestry DNA	9am-11am
12	Sun	Colonists & Convicts Group	12:30pm-2:30pm
12	Sun	English/Irish/Welsh Group	1pm-3pm
16	Sun	WeAre.xyz Group	6:30pm-8:30pm
19	Sun	Writing Group	10am-12pm
26	Sun	DNA Group	9:30am-1:30pm
May 2026			
3	Sun	Scottish Group	9:30am-2pm
9	Sat	Presentation: Becoming a fan of FANS: Let your family's friends, associates, and neighbours reveal more of your family's history	9am-11am
10	Sun	Family History Technology Group	2pm-4pm
16	Sat	Presentation: The Manorial System in England and Wales	9am-11am
16	Sat	GSQ: Volunteer Morning Tea	10am-12pm



- **Events and Interest Group meetings are held via Zoom or as Hybrid (combined in person/zoom) meetings.**
GSQ address: 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld.

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



Education Program 2026

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

March • April • May • June

Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 14 March @ 9am–11am AEST
Banished Women: convict hardship in colonial NSW	PRESENTER: Sue Bell COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members
GSQ Mini Seminar (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 28 March @ 9am–1pm AEST
From Europe to Australia: tracing the roots of migrant ancestors	PRESENTER/s: Dave Obee; Charlotte Sale; Eric Kopittke; Eve Terry; Myheritage COST: \$45 for members; \$55 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 11 April @ 9am–11am AEST
Diving into Ancestry DNA	PRESENTER/s: Helen Smith COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 9 May @ 9am–11am AEST
Becoming a fan of FANS: Let your family's friends, associates, and neighbours reveal more of your family's history	PRESENTER/s: Pauline Cass COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 16 May @ 9am–11am AEST
The Manorial System in England and Wales	PRESENTER/s: Geoff Barber COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members
GSQ Resource Centre	WHEN: Sat 16 May @ 10am–12pm AEST
GSQ Volunteers Morning Tea	PRESENTER/s: GSQ committee COST: Free for Volunteer members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 13 June @ 9am–11am AEST
Making sense of the English Censuses and 1939 Register	PRESENTER/s: Helen Smith COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 27 June @ 9am–11am AEST
AI and Family History: The 2026 Update	PRESENTER/s: Andrew Redfern COST: \$21 for members; \$31 for non-members

DNA Virtual Clinics

The clinic one-on-one help sessions are available to all GSQ members only. The clinics are held on the fifth Wednesday of the month. The DNA clinic dates for 2026 are Wednesday 29 April, 29 July and 30 September, please see GSQ eNews for any changes. To make an appointment, please email dna@gsq.org.au by the

Wednesday prior to the session, stating you would like an appointment and set out your DNA problem.

Wednesday evening between the times of 7pm–8:30pm.

Interest Groups Meeting Dates 2026

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



Please NOTE : Changes to a few session times have occurred temporarily - some due to the Easter Holiday period.

Colonists & Convicts Group • 9:30am–2:30pm



12 April (**12:30pm start**), 14 June, 9 August, 11 October, 13 December
 • Second Sunday, even numbered months
 • Hybrid meetings (combined in person/ Zoom)

DNA Group • 9:30am–1:30pm



26 April, 28 June, 23 August, 25 October
 • Fourth Sunday, even numbered months
 • Zoom only

English/Irish/Welsh Group • 9:30am–2:30pm



12 April (**1-3pm**), 7 June, 2 August, 4 October, 6 December
 • First Sunday, even numbered months
 • Hybrid meetings (combined in person/ Zoom)

Writing Group • 10am–12pm



19 April, 21 June, 16 August, 18 October
 • Third Sunday, even numbered months
 • Zoom only

Chinese Research Group • 10am–12pm



15 March, 17 May, 19 July, 20 September, 15 November
 • Third Sunday, odd numbered months
 • Zoom only

Military Group • 10am–12pm



29 March; **further meetings will be planned depending on interest from members.**
 • Last Sunday, odd numbered months
 • Zoom only

WeAre.xyz Group • 6:30pm–8:30pm



16 April, 18 June, 20 August, 15 October
 • Third Thursday evening, even numbered months
 • Zoom only

German Research Group • 10am–2:30pm



29 March, 31 May, 26 July, 27 September, 29 November
 • Last Sunday, odd numbered months
 • Hybrid meetings (combined in person/ Zoom)

Scandinavian Group • 12:30am–2:30pm



15 March, 17 May (**2:30pm start**), 19 July, 20 September, 15 November
 • Third Sunday, odd numbered months
 • In person only

Scottish Group • 9:30am–2pm



1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September, 1 November
 • First Sunday, odd numbered months
 • Hybrid meetings (combined in person/ Zoom)

Family History Technology Group • 10am –12pm



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



GSQ MEETINGS

GSQ has instituted virtual meetings using Zoom. These meetings provide support for members' research, and discussion about resources available and interesting topics. For details of how to join Zoom sessions please email the convenor of the group (see GSQ website for further details).

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

SPOTLIGHT ON RESOURCES

Are you making full use of your GSQ membership?

Janice Wellard

Early Europeans in NSW database:

Several databases and collections are available through the GSQ members only area. A recent addition are three databases created by Dr Craig James Smee. These databases are focused on the early settlement period in New South Wales up to 1840.

Dr Smee began researching in the 1970s and over many years has accumulated a wealth of information about the early European settlers of New South Wales. He has kindly made these databases available to GSQ members. The GSQ library holds paper copies of the three volumes of 'Born in the English Colony of New South Wales' from 1788 until 1820 at NSW/809/001. Some of Dr Smee's other records can be found in the GSQ library at NSW/515/001 and NSW/883/001. Although copyrighted to Dr Smee, the information contained in them is available for private research. They just may help you locate that elusive ancestor who arrived in the early years of settlement.

Dr Smee's three separate digital databases are:

1. Births & baptisms, Marriages & De Facto Relationships, Deaths & Burials in the Colony of New South Wales: 1788 – 1830
2. Born in the English Colony of New South Wales: 1788 – 1820
3. Female Convicts Transported to the Colony of New South Wales: 1788 - 1840



Founding of the settlement of Port Jackson at Botany Bay in New South Wales in 1788, by Thomas Gosse

familytree
MAGAZINE

101 BEST WEBSITES

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:

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>



BOOK REVIEW



CODE OF SILENCE *How Australian Women Helped Win the War* by Diana Thorp

Marg Doherty

Diana Thorp's first book is described on the cover as 'How Australian Women Helped Win the War', highlighting their vital contributions during World War 2. This sets the stage for readers interested in Australian women's wartime roles and encourages further exploration.

The book commences with a prologue that discusses the role of Australian women in the military services at the start of the Second World War and how those roles evolved over the course of the war. This is a helpful background.

The first chapter highlights Florence McKenzie (Mrs Mac) as Australia's first female electrical engineer and her foresight in training Australians in Morse code, which aims to inspire admiration and curiosity about her pioneering role in the war effort.

Those Australians with this skill, developed by Mrs Mac, were taken up by the Australian Army, Navy, and Air Force, with women finally accepted into the services. Chapters detail secret locations such as the 'garage' in Brisbane's northern suburbs, mansions, Rottnest Island, a bunker in Townsville, a girls' school in Western Australia, and Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne, illustrating the covert scope of their work.

A chapter near the end of the book discusses an Australian woman who worked at Bletchley Park in England, highlighting the international scope

of women's contributions. The rest of the book focuses on Australian women's contributions, mainly in Australia, with some later posted overseas, particularly to New Guinea, emphasising their global impact.

I read the book from start to finish, and it was interesting. I am interested in this topic, so this may have helped me enjoy the book. At the beginning of each chapter, there is a photo of one of the subjects, which I found fascinating. The uniforms were not the most fashionable, and I know material was in short supply and rationed, so I suppose that was the reason, although uniforms were not meant to be the height of fashion, particularly when people were worried about a possible invasion.

I felt the writing's flow was slightly forced, with paragraphs often ending with an off-topic sentence that allowed the following paragraph to flow. I found this somewhat off-putting.

An omission from the book was an index. While there were a bibliography and endnotes, along with a list of the main people in the book, I believe an index is necessary to allow readers to return to earlier comments about various people or subjects.

Overall, I enjoyed 'Code of Silence'. As I have already stated, I am interested in women in war and in Bletchley Park and similar centres during the Second World War.

Generation

QUEENSLAND HISTORY

200, 150, 100, and 50 years ago

Janice Wellard

A few years ago, *Generation* featured a section showing highlights from Queensland history at different times in the past. In this issue that section is revived, this time featuring events that occurred in Brisbane and Queensland 200, 150, 100, and 50 years ago.

200 years ago – Moreton Bay convict settlement, 1826.

It was 200 years ago in March 1826 that Captain Patrick Logan arrived in what is now Queensland to take charge of the Moreton Bay penal settlement. Logan was a soldier in the 57th Regiment during the Peninsula wars fought by Britain against Napoleon. Later he served in Ireland where he married in 1823. Logan arrived in New South Wales in April 1825 with his regiment and in November was appointed to the command of the convict establishment at Moreton Bay by Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane.

A letter written by Logan's predecessor Captain Peter Bishop to the Colonial Secretary in Sydney in March 1826 notes that the settlement was on good terms with the local aboriginals who captured two convicts and were rewarded with tomahawks and blankets. Bishop said that the settlement needed bullocks and cows, but pigs didn't thrive there. Prisoners were rewarded for extra work, but the settlement needed tea, sugar, and flour and a gardener, as well as seed potatoes, onions, and cabbage seeds.

Logan's first letters from Moreton Bay to the Colonial Secretary dated 29 March 1826 reported his arrival there and made observations about the settlement. Logan thought the country was suitable for the cultivation of sugar, tobacco, lighter grains, and cotton, but the area had only a limited capacity to produce grain. He included plans for a proposed gaol and hospital to be erected there. Logan was given permission to proceed with building a stone or brick hospital (the plan was returned to him).

Information from:

Louis R. Cranfield, 'Logan, Patrick (1791–1830)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/logan-patrick-2367/text3107>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 19 January 2026.

Contents of Letters Relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland received 1822–1860. State Library of Queensland (SLQ), A2 Series, Reel A2.1, pp. 21–23; 61–63, 67–70. Accessed online through the SLQ website www.slq.qld.gov.au.



Aerial view of Brisbane, 1876.¹

150 years ago: Aerial view of Brisbane, 1876

Although described as an aerial view of Brisbane taken in 1876, it was taken not taken from a plane but from one of the hilltops around the city (probably Wickham Terrace, or Green Hills, as it was known). The river can be seen in the background, with the Queensland Parliament building and Old Government House to the left of the image.

The image was donated to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) as part of the Robert Augustus Henry L'Estrange collection and is used with the permission of QUT.

100 years ago – sale of land in Carina, 1926

About this time 100 years ago land was offered for sale in Carina (an inner Brisbane suburb) by public auction. Perhaps you, or a family member or ancestor lived in one of these streets, which were close to Mayfield Railway Station (part of the Belmont Tramway) and to Cleveland Road (now Old Cleveland Road).



Real estate map for Mayfield Railway Station Estate, 1926.²

The real estate map showing the location of the 200 blocks of land was followed by publicity in Brisbane newspapers. These advertisements noted '200 Magnificent Residential Sites' with an easterly aspect near the terminus of the tram. The auctioneers provided a free Motor 'Bus to carry potential buyers from the post office in Queen Street to the auction site 'on the ground' in Carina. A deposit of one pound, and repayments of ten shillings a month were all that were needed to secure a block of land in this development with interest available at six percent per annum. Twenty-six of the blocks sold ranging in price from 30 to 37 pounds at the initial auction.

50 years ago, 1976

During the 1960s and 1970s a Brisbane couple, Frank and Eunice Corley drove around the suburban streets of Queensland, from Bundaberg to Beenleigh, in a pink Cadillac. Whilst doing so they took photos of many houses with the view to selling them to homeowners, who it is thought bought about two thirds of the over 250,000 photos thought to have been taken by the couple. If you or your family lived in the south-east part of Queensland, you may have one of the Corley's photos in your possession.

Auctioneers' Notices

THIS AFTERNOON
FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON THE GROUND AT 3 O'CLOCK.

Coorparoo Extended
MAYFIELD RAILWAY STATION ESTATE

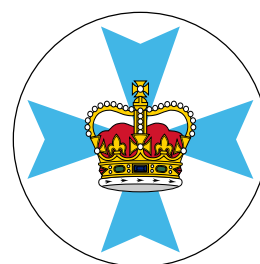
Comprising 200 MAGNIFICENT RESIDENTIAL SITES, Easterly aspect.
Within Easy Reach of Tram Terminus.

TERMS: £1 per allotment deposit, balance at the rate of 10/ per month, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.
Free Motor 'Bus leaves the Post Office, Queen-street, at 1.45 p.m.
CALL FOR PLANS.

CAMERON BROS., AUCTIONEERS.

Auctioneer's Notice, April 1926.³

A database of more than 61,000 photographs taken by the Corleys, including 705 houses in Carina, can be searched and viewed online at <https://explorer.corley.slq.qld.gov.au/#!#!%2F>. These photos were donated to the Queensland State Library in 1995 and are the images that didn't sell to householders at the time. Enjoy searching this database.



The badge of Queensland: Fry1989, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Sources:

¹ Robert Augustus Henry L'Estrange collection at QUT, <https://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/5207/>.

² John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/mayfield-railway-station-estate-carina-1926-map-week>.

³ *Daily Mail*, 17 April 1926, p. 24. Advertisement.

QUEENSLAND TOWNS

CALLIOPE

WHERE OUR FAMILIES LIVED

Fleur Creed

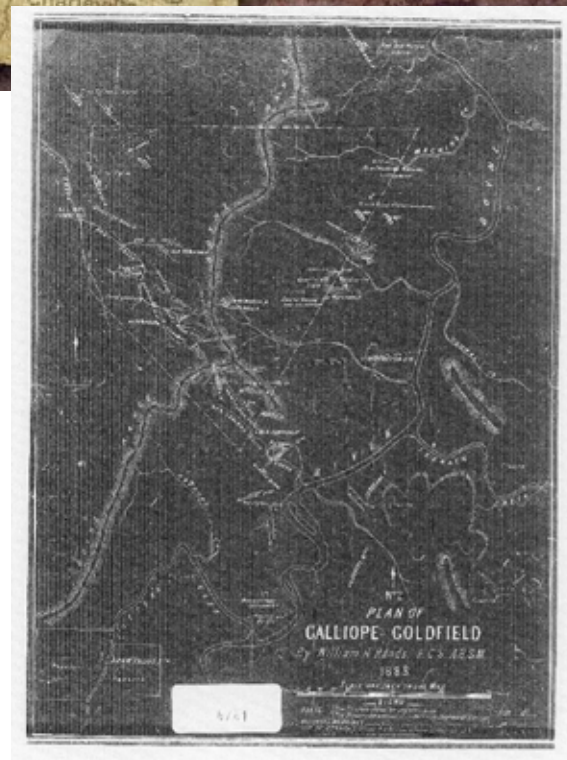
Calliope, which is where YOU Lye eventually settled (see main story 'Revealing a Chinese Enigma'), lies 20 kilometres south southwest of Gladstone.¹ In 1854 Charles Augustus FitzRoy, the Governor of New South Wales sailed on the *Calliope* from Sydney to Port Curtis (later renamed Gladstone). After exploring the local river, he named it Calliope River after the ship. The town built on its banks was named Calliope after the river. At that time the current state of Queensland was still part of the colony of New South Wales.

Calliope is a small rural township surrounded by native bush and national parks. The layout of the town reflects its early transport and farming roots, and historical homesteads are an attraction for visitors to the area.²

After gold was discovered in the area in 1862, alluvial gold was mined there for several years. Settlement quickly followed this discovery with a Post Office opening at Calliope in 1864, the same year the Governor proclaimed the gold field.³ By this time the area had 400 miners, four stores, and three hotels.⁴ A state school opened in 1872, but the population had dropped to 59 by 1881. By 1885 little gold was left and only about 20 miners remained.

Around Calliope goldmining was replaced by cattle farming, and timber. The discovery of copper ore at Many Peaks 60 kilometres south of Calliope, and construction of a railway through the town to the mine in 1910 helped boost the town's population. The railway also carried dairy produce to the dairy factory in Gladstone.

Another railway line was constructed through Calliope from the Moura coalfield to Gladstone in 1968. The Calliope Council celebrated its centenary in 1979. The population of Calliope increased from 302 in 1901 to over 5,200 in 2021.⁷ This population is sustained by heavy industry (aluminium, coal, and LPG), shipping, and tourism.



Map of Calliope Goldfield, 1885.⁵



View of Calliope, c.1914.⁶

Sources:

¹Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calliope,_Queensland

²Calliope, Queensland, <https://www.queensland.com.au/en/places-to-see/destination-information/p-56b25da4d5f1565045da0105-calliope>.

³*Pugh's Queensland Almanac, Directory, and Law Calendar for 1864*, Brisbane, 1864.

⁴Queensland Places, Calliope, <https://queenslandplaces.com.au/calliope>.

⁵Alluvial workings, reefs, William H Rands. CALLIOPE Goldfield_4741, <https://geoscience.data.qld.gov.au/data/map-collection/mr008919>.

⁶Black & white photograph of Calliope, c.1914, State Library of Queensland. <https://collections.slq.qld.gov.au/viewer/IE325283>.

⁷Queensland Places, Calliope, <https://queenslandplaces.com.au/calliope>.



Bobbie Edes

GSQ Archivist Deb Houlahan and myself, Bobbie Edes, are thrilled to advise that the new Blogs site is now up and running on <https://www.gsq-blogs.org.au/>.

We are still fixing some problems that came across from the old GSQ WordPress site and this will continue for some time while we twig the site, enhance the search facility, etc.

The blogs for 2026 began in late January and will continue to be released each Monday morning

and are also shared to our GSQ Facebook Page and GSQ Facebook Group. Our GSQ Bloggers for the month of February are Catherine Thompson, Bobbie Edes, Yvonne Tunny and Stephanie Ryan. These stories cover a variety of topics from the Irish orphan girls' scheme, to visiting ancestral homelands to a look at the story behind a burial at Nundah Cemetery to information about the early days of Moreton Bay, now known as Brisbane.

The blogs have been going since July 2014 and contain a great collection of interesting articles, short stories of a particular family, and many 'how to' topics to help you in your genealogical journey.



Seeking your stories

Share your cherished family stories and research discoveries with us.



The Editorial Team of *Generation*, the quarterly journal of GSQ, rely on contributions from members and others to fill its pages. These contributions can come in many formats – longer stories (up to about 2,000 words), short stories, even a paragraph or two. These contributions should have a family history and or genealogy theme. They can be something you have learnt or discovered during your research, an interesting place, name, event, etc., a story about your ancestor/s and the places they lived, historical events, and so on. The stories in each edition also demonstrate the variety of ways in which you can portray the stories of previous generations of your family. Writing an article for *Generation* can also be a way to begin sharing the stories of your ancestors with a wider audience.

Articles on any topic are very welcome at any time. Your story may help another member find a piece of their genealogical puzzle or break down a brick wall in their research. Send them to editor@gsq.org.au for inclusion.

Ideally, we would like to receive your contributions by the beginning of the month before we intend to publish *Generation* (that is by 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November). This gives us plenty of time to organise the layout of articles. Articles received after these dates may be held over for the next, or subsequent, publication.

The Editorial Team – Janice (acting Editor), Sharyn, Cynthia and Tina



BLOG BEAT

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

Jan - Feb - March 2026

26 January 2026 – Bobbie Eades

Accentuate the Positive

In the first blog for the year, Bobbie again reveals her responses to GeniAus Jill Ball's yearly challenge, now in its eighth year. She treasured family time, shared concerns about GSQ blogs following the new website launch, finally travelled to Western Australia again, and learnt at the March Connections 2025 Conference. She also changed her Zoom group format, received an Honorary Life Membership to GSQ, conquered a family mystery, found a diary, taught lessons, cried over Bondi, felt proud, and read 110 stories.

2 February 2026 – Catherine Thompson

Bridget Connor: My Irish Orphan 2nd Great Grandmother

Catherine recounts the story of her second great grandmother, Bridget Connare, who survived the Great Irish Famine and later became one of 4,114 Irish Orphan Girls who emigrated to Australia under the Earl Grey Scheme. She endured a crowded Irish steamboat journey, followed by a harsh 98 day sea voyage aboard the *Thomas Arbuthnot*, under the care of Surgeon Superintendent Charles Edward Strutt. Arriving in Sydney in 1850, she was indentured to naturalist Frederick Strange in Brisbane. She later married George Evans, and together they raised ten children. She died in 1908, leaving many descendants.

9 February 2026 – Bobbie Eades

DNA Bonshaw Visit

Bobbie's 2019 DNA presentation and later seminar inspired her to visit Bonshaw Tower in Scotland, the ancestral home of the Irwin/Irvine/Irving clan. Travelling alone to the UK, she missed meeting a cousin but reached the tower, where Clan Laird Chris Irving guided her through its history, some of which Bobbie outlines. Her brother's Y DNA confirmed their origins, and she later met James M. Irvine from the clan's DNA project.

16 February 2026 – Jennifer Harrison

Tell Me a Story of the Olden Days

Jennifer brings the early days of the Moreton Bay penal settlement vividly to life using a documentary fiction approach grounded in historical records. Her story follows Lewis Lazarus, a 14 year old Londoner transported for life in 1818, whose first person reflections reveal a compelling glimpse into daily life at the settlement and gain a sense of the harsh living conditions and key moments from the early history and exploration of Moreton Bay.

23 February 2026 – Yvonne Tunny

A Brief Life Remembered in Stone

Yvonne reflects on the brief life of infant Phillip Harley Baker, buried at Nundah, and how his broken gravestone opens the story of his mother, Betty Marie Franz. Through loss and migration as a wartime bride, Betty's life reveals resilience shaped by tragedy, love, and endurance across two countries.

2 March 2026 – Stephanie Ryan

From Gaol to 'the Smarter End of Queen Street': The Changing Face of Brisbane

Stephanie describes how the face of Brisbane changed after the Moreton Bay convict settlement moved from Humpybong, Redcliffe, to Brisbane in 1825. The stone prison barracks, designed by Andrew Petrie and built between 1827 and 1830 on Queen Street, dominated early life. The building later served as shops, an immigration depot, a place of worship, and a court. It housed the new parliament when Moreton Bay separated from New South Wales in 1859 until the parliamentary building in George Street was completed in 1868. Demolished in 1880, its site remains significant, symbolising Brisbane's transformation from punishment to governance.



**Brisbane
City Council**

Council Library Talks

Throughout the year, GSQ provides talks on a variety of topics for the Brisbane City Council. These are offered at libraries across the Council area. These presentations are free but you need to book at the library. The Council pays GSQ a fee for presentations so tell your friends about them as Council monitors the popularity of the presentations and decides how many will be offered. Talks are free but booking is essential. Please phone and book your place and check the council library website for further information.

Confirmed topics and locations 2026:

Dating Old Photographs

Saturday 28 February 2026 10:00 to 12 noon

Banyo Library - Contact: 07 3403 2200

Using Newspapers for Family History

Thursday 12 March 2026 11:00am to 1:00pm

Zillmere Library - Contact: 07 3403 1455

Beginners Guide to DNA for Genealogy

Saturday 28 March 2026 10:30am to 11:30am

Carina Library - Contact: 07 3407 1873

Exploring Ancestry.com

Wednesday 15 April 2026 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Corinda Library - Contact: 07 3407 7701

Queensland Family History Online

Saturday 9 May 2026 10:00am to 12:00pm

Wynnum Library - Contact: 07 3403 2199

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 NOVEMBER 2025 TO JANUARY 2026

BOOK Titles	Author	CALL No.
An Anzac's story	Kyle, Roy	535/KYL/001
Anzacs : the pain and the glory of Gallipoli	Bowers, Peter	AUS/610/019
Aspley heritage : a short history	Teague, D R	QLD/205/034/TEA
At home : a short history of private life	Bryson, Bill	WW/105/010
Beenleigh State School : 125th anniversary, 1871-1996	Scott, Reg	QLD/210/207
Bethersden, Biddenden, High Halden & Smarden	Hasted, Edward	KEN/205/014
City in masks	Wengert, Matthew	QLD/205/001/WEN
Down the Thargo track : Thargomindah State School : the first 100 years, 1884-1984	Connor, Jeff	QLD/210/492/CON
In search of Scotland	Menzies, Gordon	SCT/105/019
Kelso Church and the pioneers of the west	Oakes, G S	NSW/220/795/OAK
Kelvin Grove Boys' State School : jubilee brochure, 1887-1937		QLD/210/059
London's cemeteries	Beach, Darren	LND/221/004
Member firms list, 1993		AUS/620/023
Salisbury Cathedral	Smethurst, A F	WIL/220/001
Smarden : a pictorial history	Rodger, Jenni	KEN/205/015
Smarden : a Wealden tapestry	Wheatley, Margaret	KEN/205/016
South Australian Police Gazette index, 1869-1955		
St Mary's Eastry by Sandwich, Kent : church guide	Coulson, Charles	KEN/220/003
The Anzac book : written and illustrated in Gallipoli by the men of Anzac : for the benefit of patriotic funds connected with the A. & N.Z.A.C		535/ANZ/001
The battle of Britain : August - October 1940 : an Air ministry account of the great days from 8th August- 31st October 1940		UK/611/001
The early history of East Brisbane	Roberts, Beryl	QLD/205/169/ROB
The life and adventures of Mr George Robertson Nicoll, 1824-1901	Cree, Vivienne E	530/NIC/002
The people's history of Glasgow : an encyclopedic record of the city from the prehistoric period to the present day	M'Dowall, John K	LKS/205/001
JOURNAL Titles	Date	CALL No.
Coontin kin : the quarterly journal of the Shetland Family History Society	Vol 135 (Sep 2025)	SHI/425/001
Coontin kin : the quarterly journal of the Shetland Family History Society	Vol 136 (Dec 2025)	SHI/425/001
Eagle eye : Cowra Family History Group Inc.	Vol 43, No 1 (Jun 2025)	NSW/425/014
Germanic genealogy journal	Vol 28, No 3, 4 (Fall-Winter 2025)	GER/425/013
Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society journal	No 133 (Jun 2025)	LKS/425/001
Te Reo : newsletter	Vol 32, No 4 (Nov 2025)	NZ/425/002.1
The Midland ancestor : journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry	Vol 20, No 12 (Dec 2025)	WAR/425/001
Western ancestor : journal of Family History WA	Vol 16, No 2 (Jul 2025)	WA/425/001



LIBRARY CORNER



Do you have any old GSQ GENERATION journals?

During a recent audit of our own GSQ Generation magazine holdings, we have identified that we are missing the physical copies of some early issues. If you have any of the following issues and are willing to donate them to GSQ Library, we would be most appreciative as we are keen to ensure we hold a full hard copy collection.

- Vol. 1 No. 1 Mar 1979
- Vol. 2 No. 1-4 Aug 1979 - Jun 1980
- Vol. 3 No. 1-4 Sep 1980 - Jun 1981
- Vol. 4 No. 1-4 Sep 1981 - Jun 1982
- Vol. 11 No. 3 Mar 1989

- Vol. 31 No. 3-4 Mar 2009 - Jun 2009
- Vol. 32 No. 1 Sep 2009
- Vol. 40 No. 1-2 Sep 2016 - Dec 2016

AND don't forget to continually search the library catalogue (<https://catalogue.gsq.org.au>). We are regularly updating all records as we continue our way through the collection. More information is being added as we go (sometimes including family names and places as well as Table of Contents). Articles of relevance in new journals are also catalogued. You just never know when you might discover we hold at GSQ something that pertains to your line of research.

THE LAST WORD. [GSQ • THE EDITOR]



I would like to encourage each one of you to make a contribution towards the many tasks that keep GSQ functioning. By writing the stories of your ancestors (and wider family) and sharing them for publication in *Generation*, as a Blog, or entering the Joan Reese Writing Competition (see details elsewhere in *Generation*) you may connect with others who share your family history interest. Researching, then sharing these stories is most important – if they remain on our own computers or storage device, they may be lost when we are no longer here to maintain or interpret our files (whether paper based or digital). Publishing in any format – video, power point, blog, online database, poetry, or story – makes your research visible to others.

Also, I encourage you to visit the GSQ Resource Centre. Despite the recent great advances in technology, not everything is online. Discussing their research, members have discovered shared branches of their families. Similarly, by attending

the three separate Zoom groups you learn more about family history research in general, and perhaps even your own ancestors. Take advantage of the regular education courses offered by GSQ as they can help deepen your knowledge and focus your research.

But most importantly, remember to send your stories to editor@gsq.org.au. The editorial team is also available should you require assistance with formatting or footnotes and are happy to answer any queries you may have. Even if you decided not to publish your stories make sure you do write them and save them in a format that is accessible to others.

Again, we encourage you to send the stories of your ancestors to editor@gsq.org.au, so that we can continue to produce an interesting journal for our members to read.

Janice Wellard



Get the most out of your

GSQ MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Other member benefits include:

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

GSQ members have Access to MyGSQ

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

- Discounts on GSQ products such as genealogical books, magazines, etc
- Limited free research for members who reside outside of the Greater Brisbane Region or if you have an impairment that prevents you from attending in person
- Free publication of research interests in MyGSQ section of website
- Reciprocal visiting rights to other family history societies – see full list at: <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/reciprocal-arrangements/>

Member's interest areas:

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

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

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

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

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