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QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORIAN

Journal of the Queensland Family History Society Inc.



QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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An Association for Genealogical Studies – Founded 1979

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: *To bring together those people who are interested in the study of genealogy, heraldry, family and local history, and to assist and encourage members in their studies. To encourage the preservation of historical records, to acquire and maintain a reference and research library and to collect and preserve material bearing on the families of the people of Queensland.*

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of Country and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to the people, their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.



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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Stamps issued by Serbia in 2024 celebrating Australian Medical Volunteers in World War I in 1914. Top left to right are individual commemorative stamps of Dr James Blair Donaldson, Nursing Sister Ethel Gillingham and Dr Thomas Alexander Benbow. Bottom row, left to right, are individual commemorative stamps of Orderly Miles Franklin, Ambulance driver Olive King and Dr Mary de Garis. Photograph provided by Bojan Pajic. See story on p.124 for further details.

SERBIAN STAMPS CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS IN WORLD WAR I

By Bojan Pajic

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Australians had been considered as British during the First World War and therefore Serbian histories had not mentioned the presence of Australians and New Zealanders who had served with the Serbs. Similarly, the Australian official history of the War and all subsequent histories omitted to mention the service of over 1,500 Australians and New Zealanders who had served alongside the Serbs in World War One.

When my book, *Australians with Serbs in World War One*, was translated into Serbian by the Australian Embassy to Serbia and published jointly with the Institute for Recent History of Serbia in 2023, it attracted considerable media attention.¹

After consultation with Serbian historians, I then proposed through the Australian Embassy in Belgrade that the Serbian Post Office consider publishing commemorative stamps about these Anzacs. To my delight, the Serbian Post Office agreed to publish several stamps in November 2024 on the 110th anniversary of the arrival of Australian medical volunteers in Serbia in November 1914. I believe that this issue of Serbian commemorative stamps is the first time that another country has featured Australians who had served in that country and alongside its own people, as allies in a war.

Design of the stamps

The Serbian Post Office decided to publish six stamps of six Australian individuals who would represent all those who had served with the Serbs throughout the war. They chose the six individuals from lists of those described in my books and decided to design portraits stamps and two First Day Cover envelopes with three franked stamps for each of the Australians. At the back of the envelopes were short biographies of each featured Australian.

The six Australians chosen to be commemorated on the stamps were all medical volunteers and the stamps were issued on the occasion of the 110th

anniversary of the arrival of the first Australian medical volunteers to Serbia in November 1914.

The war service of Australian medical volunteers with the Serbs

Australian and New Zealand medical volunteers commenced arriving in Serbia in November 1914 and they and those that followed them served with the Serbs throughout the war. We know from their letters and memoirs that they joined the war effort to do their bit and were inspired to go to Serbia by the dogged resistance that the Serbs were putting up against repeated invasions by the Austro-Hungarian Empire and then by the combined armies of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

They joined voluntary organisations sending staff and hospitals to allied Serbia such as the Red Cross, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, the Wounded Allies Relief, the Royal Free Hospital and the First British Field Hospital. They knew that they were going to a country facing repeated invasions and that atrocities had been committed by the invading armies on the civilian population and wounded and captured Serbian soldiers.

The hospitals that came to Serbia in 1914 and 1915 were organized to help treat the wounded from the battles, but soon in 1915 they were also dealing with a typhus epidemic that spread from Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war that the Serbs had captured.

The combined invasion of Serbia in late 1915 by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria forced the Serbian King, Government and Army (accompanied by civilian refugees) to conduct a fighting withdrawal southward towards the expected arrival of allied French and British troops sent to help the Serbs via the port of Salonika. Australian soldiers were involved in that Allied advance into Serbia.

However, the French and British forces were forced to withdraw back into the port of Salonika and the Serbian Army then trekked

continued

along snow-covered mountain paths in an epic march to the Adriatic coast from where it joined the Allied forces in Salonika. From Salonika the three Allied armies – French, British and Serbian – advanced to the border of now-occupied Serbia and continued the fight there until Serbia was liberated in September-October 1918. Australian and New Zealand soldiers, air force personnel and six Australian River class destroyers participated in that campaign.

Australian medical staff continued to serve with the Serbs or alongside the Serbs from 1916 until 1918 – and some followed the Serbs back into their own liberated country after the war's end. Some served with the voluntary units that came to Serbia in 1914, others with British hospitals and several hundred with the Australian Army Nursing Service contingents sent to staff British hospitals. The French and British armies provided 1,000 beds each for wounded and sick Serbian soldiers to augment the Serbs' own hospitals on the Front.

Examples of Queensland medical staff serving with the Serbs

Nursing Sister **Doris Sexton**, from Toowoomba, served on hospital ships and in British hospitals caring for Serbian wounded. Dr **Reginald Power** served as medical officer in a Field Ambulance and a General Hospital near Salonika. Dr **Lillian Cooper**, Ms **Mary Josephine Bedford** and Nursing Sister **Agnes Kerr** served with a Scottish Women's Hospital in support of the Serbian Army. Nursing Sister **Edith MacKay** served in Corsica looking after Serbian civilians evacuated there and then in Serbia immediately after the war. Orderly **Helen "Nell" Malone** served in Serbia. **Linda Gertrude Andrews**, from Southport, **Edith Sabine Wells**, from Cooktown, **Margaret Elizabeth Jones**, from Gladstone, and others from Queensland served with the Australian Army Nursing Service in British General Hospitals on the Serbian (or "Macedonian" or "Salonika" or "Eastern") Front.

A display of Serbian medals as awarded to some of these Queenslanders is at the

Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum. The Serbian Order of St Sava medal awarded to Dr Lillian Cooper is kept at St Mary's Church of England at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. Other Serbian medals awarded to Australians are at the Australian War Memorial.

The stamps launch in Belgrade on 8 November 2024

A delegation from Australia travelled to Belgrade for the stamps launch and Armistice Day 2024 ceremonies. The delegation comprised **Ruth Stephens** and **Cathy Bromilow** (granddaughters of Nursing Sister **Ethel Gillingham**, who had served in Serbian in 1915-1916), **Kathy Hancock** and **Ava Hancock**, great-niece and great-great-niece of Dr **Mary de Garis** (who had served with a hospital of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in support of the Serbian Army in 1917-1918), Dr **Robert Webster OAM**, Victorian State president of the RSL, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) **Michael Buckridge RFD**, President of Military History and Heritage Victoria and my wife **Robyn** and myself. We visited memorials to the medical volunteers in two towns where Australians had served.

The Serbian commemorative stamps of Australian medical volunteers were launched at the Serbian Post Office Museum in Belgrade on 8 November 2024 in front of a large media presence.²

Presentation of the Serbian commemorative stamps to the families of the six Australians at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, on 23 November 2024

The Serbian stamps were presented to the Australian public at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, on 23 November 2024. HE Mr **Rade Stefanovic**, Serbian Ambassador to Australia, presented a folder of the stamps and First Day Cover envelopes to a representative of each of the six families of the commemorated Australians.

At this presentation, a trailer of the documentary film *By Far Kaymakchalan*, which tells the story of the service of

SERBIAN STAMPS CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS (Cont.)

Australians and New Zealanders in the Serbian Campaign of World War One, was premiered. The documentary is planned to be launched in 2025. A booklet *Serving with the Serbs – Australian volunteers of the Great War*, which describes the service of the six Australians featured on the Serbian stamps as well as two Australian soldiers who served in Serbia and are featured in the documentary *By Far Kaymakchalan*, was launched.³

Honoured Australians on Serbian commemorative stamps

These short biographies are based on the book *Our Forgotten Volunteers – Australians and New Zealanders with Serbs in World War One*.

De Garis, Mary Clementina (1881 – 1963)

Medical Officer, Scottish Women's Hospitals, French Red Cross, Order of St Sava, Class III, British World War One medals

War service

Mary travelled to England in 1916 and worked in London at the Manor Hospital for almost half a year, but following her fiancé's death in France, Mary joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals 'America' Unit and went to Ostrovo, near the Front, supporting the Serbian Army. Mary first served as one of the medical officers of the unit, carrying out operations both at the base location and at advanced dressing stations. She was promoted to be the Chief Medical Officer in 1917, after the departure of Dr **Agnes Bennet**, the unit's first commander. Mary led the unit from February 1917 to October 1918. She was described as a strong but strict leader, who was meticulous in looking after both patients and staff. The Serbian Government awarded her the Order of St Sava, Class III for her services in support of the Serbian Army.

Curriculum vitae

Mary was born in Charlton, Victoria and attended Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne, and in 1907, Mary became the second woman in Victoria to receive a Doctorate of Medicine. She worked briefly in

Melbourne and spent over a year working in a hospital in Queensland before travelling to Europe and America to undertake postgraduate courses. She returned to Australia in 1910 and became Resident Surgeon at the Tibooburra Hospital in New South Wales. After the war, Mary became the first female medical practitioner in Geelong. She worked closely with mothers and babies and conducted medical research and kept records of thousands of deliveries. She published work in medical journals in Australia and internationally. Mary worked as a practitioner until her late seventies and died in Geelong in 1963.

Donaldson, James Blair (1888 – 1971)

Medical Officer, Wounded Allies Relief, British World War One medals

War service

James, 'Blair' was living in London when World War One commenced. He joined the Allies War Relief organisation and was sent to Kragujevac in Serbia in 1915. There he was put in charge of an X-ray unit dealing with wounded and sick Serbian soldiers and civilians. At some point during 1915, Blair moved south to Gevgelija, then in southern Serbia near the Greek border. There, between October and December 1915, he was attached to a French Army field hospital, Hospital d'Evacuation, No.2, Secteur 503. French and British forces had advanced into Serbia at that time in order to link up with the Serbian Army fighting the invading Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians. He performed some surgery whilst awaiting the arrival of his X-ray equipment. Later, Blair worked in France again using X-ray equipment.

Curriculum vitae

James was born in 1888 in Rokeby, Victoria, the son of Dr James Blair Donaldson. He studied medicine at the University of Melbourne but undertook further study and graduated from Edinburgh University in 1913. Upon his return to Australia in 1920 with his wife and child, he continued to practice as a doctor. James died in 1971 in Victoria and was cremated at Springvale Cemetery.

continued

Benbow, Thomas Alexander Palmer (1886-1971)

Medical Officer, British Red Cross, Awarded the Serbian Order of St Sava, Class IV

War service

Thomas "Alec" Benbow served with the British Red Cross Number One Unit and was in Serbia from late October 1914 to June 1915. Alec served in the Serbian Fourth Reserve Hospital at Skopje, treating wounded and typhus patients. He and his colleagues were overwhelmed by the number of wounded arriving day and night for urgent care. He contracted typhus and diphtheria whilst on service.

Curriculum vitae

Thomas Benbow was born in Ararat, Victoria and graduated at the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in June 1914 winning the prize of most worthy graduate.

After his WWI service overseas, he returned to Australia, where he practiced in Potts Point, Sydney and took an interest in forensic science. Becoming something of an amateur detective, he proposed a solution to the 'Pyjama girl' case. He also worked on international cruise ships. Alec died in Sydney in 1971.

Gillingham, Ethel May (1884 – 1952)

Nursing Sister, British Red Cross Society, Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), Awarded the Serbian Cross of Mercy, British First World War medals

War service

Ethel enlisted as a Nursing Sister with the British Red Cross Society in October 1914 and served with the 3rd Southern General Auxiliary Hospital, Milton Hill, Steventon, Berkshire, in the period October 1914 – April 1915. She then joined the Second British Red Cross Serbian Mission at Vrnjačka Banja in Serbia and served with that unit in the period May 1915 – February 1916. In November 1915 Ethel became a prisoner of war following the invasion of Serbia by German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian forces. Ethel's departure from Serbia was facilitated

by the American Red Cross. She was part of a group of medical volunteers who were repatriated to England via Zurich and France in February 1916. Ethel wrote descriptively in a long letter of her exit from Serbia '*Poor little Serbia! How my heart aches for her and her brave people. I really worked hard during those first weeks of the invasion and my eyes were seldom dry.*' Aspects of her account were published in Australian newspapers. Ethel then served at a Red Cross Hospital in Egypt from June 1916 until December 1917 and finally at Millbay V.A.D. Hospital, Plymouth from July to October 1918.

Curriculum vitae

Ethel May Gillingham was born and raised in Geelong, Victoria. She completed three years of nursing training at the Colac Hospital plus an additional year at Wangaratta Hospital for 'surgical experience.' Later, Ethel resumed nursing in Cairo Egypt, where on a blind date she met and became engaged in less than 24 hours to Australian Imperial Force Captain **Theophilus Richard Evans** in September 1917 (Theo, an officer in the Australian Army Pay Corps based in Cairo, spent time on the Salonika Front in August 1917). After the War, Ethel and Theo (known as Dick) Evans created a family with three children.

Franklin, Stella Maria Sarah Miles (1879-1954)

Orderly, Scottish Women's Hospitals, King George V Jubilee Medal (1935), Queen's Coronation Medal (1953)

War service

In 1917, Miles volunteered to serve with the Scottish Women's Hospitals 'America' Unit at Lake Ostrovo in Macedonia. She enlisted as a camp cook and served under the Australian Chief Medical Officers, Dr Agnes Bennett and Dr Mary de Garis. Apart from cooking duties Miles was also involved in store-keeping for the unit. Miles kept a diary and wrote about her war service experience: a memoir called *Ne Mari Ništa: Six Months with the Serbs* and a play *By Far Kaimacktchalan: A Play of the Balkan Front Today*. She suffered from various ailments

SERBIAN STAMPS CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS (Cont.)

and was looked after by Mary de Garis. She returned to London with poor health in early 1918.

Curriculum vitae

Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin was born in 1879 in country NSW, Australia. She was an author, feminist, advocate for workers' rights and a great supporter of the arts in Australia. When she was a teenager, she wrote her semi-autobiographical story, *My Brilliant Career* and submitted it under the pen name Miles Franklin. It was published in London, 1901 and became an instant success. Miles moved to America in 1906 seeking to publish new works. She worked with the National Women's Trade Union League of America and became a secretary to the president of that organisation. She then moved to London late in 1915 where she mixed in feminist circles and worked in a restaurant. After the war Miles stayed in London for a few years and worked for the National Housing and Town Planning Council. She returned to Australia in 1932 and devoted the rest of her life to Australian literature. She died in 1954 in NSW.

King, Olive May (Kelso) (1885 – 1958)

Ambulance Driver, Sergeant, Serbian Army, Scottish Women's Hospitals. Awarded: Order of St Sava, Class V, Serbian Bravery Medal, Silver, Serbian Medal for Zealous Service, Serbian Cross of Mercy; King George V Silver Jubilee Medal (1935), King George VI Coronation Medal (1937).

War service

In 1915 Olive first volunteered for war duty with her own ambulance and went briefly to Belgium with a private organisation trying to help the medical services. In May 1915 Olive joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service as an ambulance driver and was sent to France with the 'Girton and Newnham' Unit. This unit was then sent to Serbia in late 1915 accompanying units of the French Army sent to link up with the Serbian Army then fighting an invasion from Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. The French and British troops as well as Olive's unit were forced to withdraw to

Salonika in late 1915. In 1916 Olive joined the Serbian Army as an ambulance driver for the headquarters of the Serbian Army Medical Service. She was decorated with the Medal for Zealous Service and with the Medal for Bravery, Silver, for her actions during the great fire in Salonika in 1917. Olive founded the Serbian Canteens in 1918 with funds raised in Australia and London by a committee established by her businessman father; Olive organised stores and staff for several canteens in newly-liberated Serbia and nearby places in the period 1918-1920. She established a trust to fund research at the University in Belgrade. She was personally thanked by Crown Prince Aleksandar for her work and, after his coronation, was invited to his wedding in 1922. Olive was decorated with the Serbian Cross of Mercy for her ambulance work and with the Order of St Sava, Class V for her humanitarian service with the Serbian Canteens.

Curriculum vitae

Olive was born in Sydney in a wealthy family. As a young woman she was already a free spirit and, as some sources record, an 'unconventional woman with a flair for languages and a desire to travel'. She was educated at home and later at Sydney Church of England Grammar School for Girls, as well as in Germany. In 1910 she climbed Mount Popocatepetl in Mexico with a group of friends. She also developed an interest in motoring, including mechanics and rally-driving. She was in England when the war started and decided to volunteer as an ambulance driver. After the war, Olive returned to Australia and was very active in the Girl Guides' Association for a long time. She later received the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal (1935) and King George VI Coronation Medal (1937). During World War II Olive completed a course in inspection at a Commonwealth Government aircraft school and worked as an examiner at de Havilland Aircraft Pty Ltd from 1942 to 1944.

continued

Description of Stamps on Front Cover

Top left to right are individual commemorative stamps of **Dr James Blair Donaldson**, **Nursing Sister Ethel Gillingham** and **Dr Thomas Alexander Benbow**. Behind the figure of Donaldson is a graphic from a photograph of a Serbian hospital in Kragujevac, where he was stationed in 1915 operating an X-Ray machine. Behind Gillingham is a graphic of a photograph of her in a nurse uniform from the war. Behind Benbow is a graphic from a photograph of a wounded Serbian soldier being evacuated as the enemy was approaching.

In the middle, top, left to right, are graphics of a photograph of Sister Ethel Gillingham in a group (she is in the top middle position) a scene from an operating theatre in Kragujevac where Donaldson served and bottom, left to right, are graphics of a photograph of Miles Franklin with Serbian orderlies and of the Australian nurse writing “Kangas only” on a petrol tin.

In the middle are graphics of photographs of two Serbian medals from my collection that were awarded to Australian medical volunteers. Left to right, the Serbian Cross of Mercy (with the inscription “For Care of Wounded and Sick, 1912), awarded to Ethel Gillingham and others, and the Serbian Order of St Sava (Serbia’s patron saint), awarded to Benbow, King and de Garis and others.

On the bottom, left to right, are individual commemorative stamps of Orderly **Miles Franklin** (the Australian author after whom is named Australia’s most prestigious literary prize), Ambulance driver **Olive King** (who joined the Serbian Army) and **Dr Mary de Garis** (who commanded a tented field hospital in support of the Serbian Army). Behind Franklin is graphic from a photograph of an Australian nurse writing “Kangas only” on a petrol tin. Behind King is a graphic of a full figure photograph of her in Serbian uniform. Behind de Garis is a graphic of a photograph of her with a Serbian officer at her field hospital.



SERBIAN STAMPS CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS (Cont.)



Envelope 1: Dr James Blair Donaldson, Nursing Sister Ethel Gillingham and Dr Thomas Alexander Benbow, with a photograph of an operation at the Serbian hospital in Kragujevac.

Envelope 2: Orderley Miles Franklin, Ambulance driver Olive King and Dr Mary de Garis with an ambulance driven by Olive King.

The set of stamps and the two First day Cover envelopes are available to purchase from the Serbian Post Office or through Australians with Serbs Association Inc., from which is also available the booklet *Serving with the Serbs* (in English) with details of these six Australians and two Australian soldiers who served in Serbia and also feature in the documentary *By Far Kaymakchalan*, which tells the story of Australians in the Serbian campaign of World War I. If anyone is interested in purchasing copies, please contact me at bjpiris@austserb.com.



Australian delegation at the Church of St Sava, Belgrade



Penelope Layton Caisley, relative of Miles Franklin, receiving a set of stamps from the Serbian Ambassador in Melbourne

continued



Ruth Stephens, granddaughter of Sister Ethel Gillingham at the launch in Belgrade

References:

¹ Bojan Pajic, *Our Forgotten Volunteers - Australians and New Zealanders with Serbs in World War One* and *Australians with Serbs in World War One*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2018 available on https://scholarly.info/article/book_author/bojan-pajic/.

² A video of the stamps launch in Serbia can be found on this link: https://youtu.be/eBXypy-X_U?si=fl8XhxafiX6o3RbJ.



Kathy Hancock, great niece of Dr Mary de Garis at the launch in Belgrade with (left to right) Serbian Minister Miličević, Serbian Post Office Director Andjelković and Bojan Pajić, President of the Australians with Serbs Association Inc.

³ A video of the presentation of the stamps, in Australia, the premiere of the documentary trailer and the launch of the booklet *Serving with the Serbs – Australian volunteers in the Great War* is available on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3CmnztxC1s>.

(Photographs provided by the author) ■

THE QFHS INC BOOK AWARD AUTHORS' DISCUSSION



On stage from left: Avis-Ann Ballard & Pene Greet, authors of *May The Cane Prosper - A Queensland story*; Jennifer Vivian Smith author of *Substance and Shadows*; Anne Hetherington author of *Playing a Poor Hand Well - A Family Story Across Several Generations*; Catherine Smith author of *Queensland's Sugar King*, *The Zammit Legacy (speaking)* and *Clem Ditton*.

The QFHS Inc Family History Book Award Author's Discussion on 6 August 2025 was a great success. The five authors each spoke about their book, how they approached writing their story, how they chose their titles, and how they published their books. ■

FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

We conducted a successful Open Day on 30 August. Ward Councillor Danita Parry performed a brief opening celebration to commence Open day activities. She spent an hour with us which we appreciated as ours was one of five engagements for her that day and evening. Thank you to our members for your assistance on the Open Day. Interesting displays presented by our SIGS, tours of the centre, mapping enquiries and a number of other activities made for a full day. Our event was attended by about 50 visitors at our centre during the day. A pleasant atmosphere prevailed all day and members and guests appeared to enjoy the day. Consideration is being given to pencilling it into our calendar as a repeat event in August 2026. 17 of the visitors joined as members and 3 past members rejoined.

Our treasurer reports that our finances continue to operate at a comfortable level.

We were awarded a Safer Suburbs grant by Brisbane City Council for improvements to our security lighting of our building. Recently we were successful in being awarded a grant by our local federal member Anika Wells. We are in the process of acquiring a new server to take our IT platform into the future. We are also investigating other grants this year with a view to upgrading our IT hardware. Our TAG team has been busy preparing ideas for these projects. I would like to acknowledge the work of Peter Gehrke who manages our grant applications and whose efforts have provided valuable funding for us.

On the property front we lodged our application for the external site sign in late July. The BCC has now contacted us to advise that it could not locate our lodgement number file for that matter and same was relodged on 16/9/25. A work application to BCC for the installation of our new front door and the weather awning (portico) was lodged on 10/9/25.

On September 3rd Lyndal and I attended a dinner at the invitation of Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland in support of 200 years of Brisbane. It was a pleasant and informative evening. We took the opportunity

to renew acquaintances with our Patron, Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD. Earlier that day Kevin Haley represented QFHS at the national flag day celebrations in King George Square at the invitation of our Lord Mayor. Kevin reported that it was well attended with school children conducting a section of the ceremony.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our society and we are always seeking additional assistance to conduct our centre effectively. Our volunteer Coordinator is working to fill our vacancies with some success. One new member from the Open Day has indicated interest in assisting in a volunteer role. Should a member consider that they are prepared to assist even for a few hours, all assistance benefits our Society.

The constitution subcommittee has reformed and will get into full swing later in October to complete its work on drafting a new constitution for members' consideration. There will be opportunities to provide feedback in the coming months and members are urged to be involved with this process. Our current constitution is out of date and does not comply with recent changes in the law and legislation in some areas hence the need for a redraft to update our constitution. The subcommittee intend to allow time for feedback and as such it is their plan to present the draft document to the general meeting in March 2026 for consideration.

The work to develop our new web site continues and we thank Debra Ricks and her team for their efforts in this regard.

We held our annual book award in early August at Hornets Football club. Clem chaired the event which was well received. Four books were presented, and an entertaining and informative discussion was the order of the day. The winner was Catherine Smith with her entry entitled *The Sugar King*. Several of the entries this year were centred around FNQ sugar farming pioneers. Thanks Clem and your judging team for another sterling effort with this annual event.

Graeme Drew, President ■

QFHS INC. FAMILY HISTORY BOOK AWARD 2025

The QFHS Family History Book Award has now been running for 33 years. Well over two hundred books have been added to the Society's library because of this competition. Those books are all available for lending and some are on our website in digital form.

This year's entries, in alphabetical order, were:

- *May The Cane Prosper – A Queensland Story* by Pene Greet & Avis-Ann Ballard
- *Playing a Poor Hand Well - A Family Story Across Several Generations* by Anne Hetherington
- *Queensland's Sugar King - The Zammit Legacy* by Catherine Smith
- *Substance and Shadows* by Jennifer Vivian-Smith

Our judges, Janice Cooper, Kirsten Perris and Alexandra Daw diligently considered the four entries and decided the award on points. Each entry brought its own strengths to the competition. To do well, the author needs to tell an engaging story with a large Queensland component and pay particular attention to things like layout, citations, index, bibliography, privacy and copyright. Readability, English expression, clarity, accuracy, maps, charts and pleasing images round out the desirable attributes.

May The Cane Prosper is a beautifully crafted book which resulted from a trans-Tasman collaboration on documenting the many family photographs that NZ based Pene had accumulated over her lifetime. Avis-Ann brought her research skills to the project and was able to identify photo subjects and provide back stories. Pene's words tied the stories to the pictures. With the aid of a graphic designer friend, Tim, they produced a result which would be the envy of any family. I would urge anyone contemplating designing their own book to examine this one particularly for layout ideas. However, best to add an index and a bibliography which this book was missing.

Playing a Poor Hand Well is an engaging, fluent and accessible set of stories of Anne's ancestors. The title is a nod to her ancestors' modest origins abroad and the success and prosperity that eventually came with effort.

Anne's book follows eight lines from Ireland, Scotland, England and Germany and includes memoir elements for later families.

Substance and Shadows contains stories of Jennifer's ancestors arriving in Victoria and Tasmania during the nineteenth century. Jennifer's Queensland component is mostly memoir. Jennifer has a conversational style and she blends aspects of her ancestors' lives with her research journey.

Queensland's Sugar King is a book that we encountered at our inaugural 'Meet the Authors' event last year at Aspley Hornets. It was the success of that event that confirmed that we should move our award presentation from our AGM to a separate event that showcased family history writing. Catherine's well researched story tells us of the initial desperate struggle and then snowballing success that Paul Zammit and his wife Pauline, both from Malta, had in the tropical north with their cane farming enterprise in the early twentieth century. The expanding family displayed musical talent that helped cement family ties. The story is set against the background of racism, political adversity and the ever-present Catholic Church.



Catherine Smith receiving her award from Clem Ditton



Queensland's Sugar King - The Zammit Legacy by Catherine Smith

Clem Ditton (Convenor) ■

QFHS OPEN DAY 2025

QFHS held its first Open Day since August 2019, in our new premises at Chermside. Our local BCC Councillor, Danita Parry, officially opened the proceedings at 11 am, and provided a lovely gift basket to raffle, and many visitors spoke to the convenors of our various Special Interest groups throughout the day.



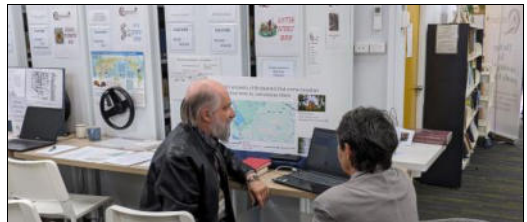
President Graeme Drew welcoming local BCC Councillor Danita Parry



English West Counties Interests Group Convenor Jenny Davidson speaking to Stephen Khan



BCC Councillor Danita Parry officially opening QFHS Open Day 2025



Scottish Interest Group convenor Chris Schuetz helping a visitor with her research



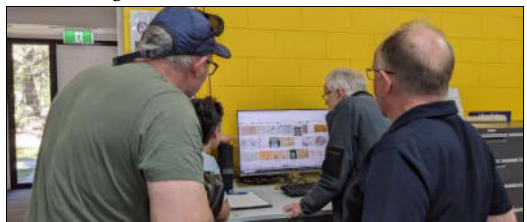
BCC Councillor Danita Parry speaking to members and visitors



Family Tree Maker User Group Convenors Geoff Morgan and Debra Ricks with visitors



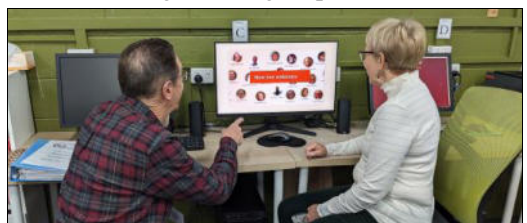
General view of Research Centre with visitors and guests



Mapping Convenors Doug Eager and Chris Gibbs showing the many maps available



Central European Group Convenor Eric Kopittke speaking with Margaret Krause



Charlotte Sale and Laurie Lee watching MyHeritage New Live Webinars video

continued



Irish Research Group Convenor Dale Fogarty with Paul Ryan



Maureen Finnane providing Irish surname lookups



Denniston Furey at the Welsh table



The Master Genealogist User Group Convenor Kevin Haley speaking with Margaret Krause and friend



Many were interested in our available data



A huge thank you to the donors of raffle prizes.
The winners were:



Councillor Danita Parry's Gift Basket:
Winner: Lorelle Allardice



Ancestry DNA Kits donated by Dette
Glenday and Clem Ditton:

Winner: Kevin Haley

Winner: Diane Hart



Gift Certificate – PhotoPlan – 1 year plan

Winner: Doug Eager

Gift Certificate - Old News - 1 year plan

Winner: Alistair Henderson



AU\$50 Genealogy e-books vouchers

Winner A: Lisa Holt

Winner B: Lesley Boshammer



Gift Certificates - 1 Year membership:

Winner: John Knott

Winner: Carmel Bell

QFHS Queensland Founding Families
bound volumes 1 & 2:

Winner: Michele Dwyer



Gift certificates - 1 year free membership at
FamilyTreeWebinars.com as Door Prizes:

Winner: Chris Gibbs

Winner: Charlotte Sale

*(photographs provided by Lyndal Cosgrove,
Laurie Lee and Helen Johnson) ■*

THE STORY OF MY GRANDMA MORAGH AND HER ROLE IN WARTIME

By Moragh Shields

C/- Editor@qfhs.org.au

Family history has always been of great interest to me. I have been lucky enough to have spent time with a number of my cousins and have visited Scotland several times. I have asked questions and listened to family members who enjoyed talking about our family's past. This is the first time I have put my stories down on paper.

Resilience was certainly one word to describe my Grandma Moragh, after whom I was named. From the stories I've heard that have filtered down through my family, she definitely seemed a very determined, strong-minded woman, showing immeasurable strength.

Moragh Anderson was born on 25 August 1898 at Aird, Parish of Sleat, Isle of Skye, Scotland. She was the sixth of eight children of **Neil Anderson**, a crofter, and **Catherine (née Macdonald)**.

Her name was registered as Marion, that being the anglicised version of the Gaelic name Moragh. She went by the name Moragh to her family and friends but for government records she used Marion. This was very common at the time.

The website www.auchindrain.org.uk addressed this situation when they wrote "The practice of the law and official systems refusing to recognise the existence of Gaelic went back two centuries." They were not clear on the date on which the law was changed to allow Gaelic names, but they believed it was well into the 1960s.

In the records of the census in 1911, Moragh was recorded as aged twelve years old and visitor at a relative's home, that of **Malcolm Macpherson**. She was recorded as attending school and spoke both Gaelic and English.

I imagine that girls in Scotland probably began their nursing training at around age sixteen. So, she may have been doing her nursing training from about 1915 for probably three years. I was told that Grandma Moragh had studied at The

Victoria infirmary which was a teaching hospital situated at Langside/Battlefield in the south-east of Glasgow from 1880 until 2015.

An interesting note about the hospital on one website detailing the history of Scottish hospitals, noted that at Victoria Infirmary "the system of heating and ventilation in the infirmary was designed by one of the early governors, William Key. His design of a wet-screen which acted as an air filter attracted wide attention including ... in the long running question of the ventilation of the House of Commons." He must have been a man with a good deal of common sense who tried to keep the air in the hospital as free of "germs" as possible in that day and age.



Moragh nursing

It can be imagined that Moragh, during her training and afterwards, would have nursed soldiers recovering from, or dying from, all

continued

sorts of injuries inflicted by the war in Europe, 1914 - 1918.

At the time of the 1921 census in Scotland, Moragh was one of many young women, Mental Health Nurses, living and working at the Murray Royal Infirmary in Perth. The Murray Royal was an even older hospital than the Victoria Infirmary. It opened in 1827 and only closed its doors about 2012 when a new hospital was opened. The main building is still waiting on approval for restoration and reuse. Family photographs show Moragh in sporting teams representing the hospital, so she appears to have enjoyed the comradery and friendships at the hospital.

In 1926, Moragh married **Alexander Jack King**, in Anderston, a suburb of Glasgow. Alexander was born and had grown up in Perthshire. His family had lived in an area called Leslie for a number of generations. Alexander was a British Army veteran, and piper, of the Seaforth Highlanders. He had seen action in France during WWI and following that had been sent on service to India for a few years. I still have Alexander's handwritten books of Seaforth Highlander pipe music which was signed by him in 1921 in Meetrut, India.

The year after their marriage, in 1927, my mother, **Catherine MacDonald King**, was born.

During the Great Depression work was difficult to find, so my grandparents decided to leave Scotland and travel to Canada, believing they had a better chance over there. In 1929, my grandfather left ahead of my grandmother in order to secure a job. Travelling on the S.S *Metagama*, he arrived in Quebec, Canada on 26 June 1929. Soon after arriving, Grandpa obtained a job at the Kanogami paper mill. I believe it is about 200km north of Quebec City, somewhere near Saguenay and Kanogami Lake.

Once accommodation was found he sent for her and Catherine to join him. They arrived in Canada in the October of 1929 after travelling on the *Minnedosa*, a ship of the Canadian Pacific Railway shipping line.

It wasn't long before another child was born in Kanogami. Their son **David** was born in January 1931. The family joined in community activities in their area. Alexander played in the local pipe band.

Catherine began to show symptoms of hip problems during their time in Kanogami. The French speaking surgeons in Quebec placed her leg in plaster, and were insisting on operating. However, not being confident with the skills of these doctors and not being fluent in French, Grandma chose to remove Catherine from the hospital. She felt more confident taking her back to the hospital in Glasgow where she had trained.

Booking a ticket for Catherine, David and herself, she farewelled her husband and boarded the S.S *Anthenia* in 1934. Catherine's leg was in a full cast which would have made the trip a less than easy one.

Returning to Glasgow in September 1934, they stayed with family members temporarily, before moving into a tenement. Eventually, Grandma purchased a house in Freuchie, not very far from Alexander's family home in Leslie. Her house was surrounded by quite a bit of land, with a stream, known as a burn, running through the property. Beautiful wild flowers grew either side of it. According to family stories, the property was too big for her to handle on her own so she took in some young men who had learning difficulties, offering them board and lodgings in return for general maintenance work around the property.

After finishing his work at the paper mill in Kanogami, Grandpa finally returned home to Glasgow, reuniting with his family in 1935.

At the beginning of WWII, Grandma enlisted in the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) as an Air Raid Warden. I'm not sure, but assume that was in an area around her home. The ARP committee of the Home Office was created in 1935 and in 1937 The Air Raid Wardens Service was created. Over the period of the war, 1,400,000 people served as ARO Wardens in the UK.

According to the BBC webpage, *WW2 People's War*, an archive of World War Two

THE STORY OF MY GRANDMA MORAGH AND HER ROLE IN WARTIME (Cont.)

memories written by the public, an ARP Warden's key duties during World War II included: enforcing the blackout by ensuring no lights were visible from the air, shouting phrases like "Put that light out" to alert those inside the building, guiding civilians to air raid shelters during air raids, distributing gas masks, reporting bomb damage, providing first aid, extinguishing small fires, and coordinating emergency responses in their designated area; essentially acting as the "eyes and ears" of civil defence on the ground.

At the beginning of the war, ARP Wardens had no uniform, but wore their own clothes, with the addition of a steel helmet, Wellington boots and an armband. In May 1941 full-time and regular part-time Wardens were issued with blue serge uniforms.

A number of objects used by Wardens during the war can be found on the website for the Imperial War Museum, London.



Grandma Moragh in her ARP coat

Grandma Moragh and her family were very proud of her wartime service. Grandma kept her whistle which I have kept in her honour.

Within those first war years, Grandma began to become ill, developing symptoms indicating serious lung issues. In 1943 she was placed in palliative care at the Victoria Infirmary, where she had trained. According to her death certificate, she died of heart and kidney failure.

During one of her daughter Catherine's last visits to see her mother, Grandma asked her, "When passing the local shops, would you mind purchasing a handkerchief for me". Reaching for her purse, she gave her a handful of coins.

After selecting the prettiest handkerchief she thought her mother would like, Catherine returned to the hospital. Presenting it to her, her mother just smiled, informing her it was a gift for her. Shortly after that visit, on 1 October 1943, Grandma passed away. My mother cherished that handkerchief, keeping it in a special box along with all her other little trinkets, right up until the day she herself passed away.

Many thanks to Anne Mackay and Fran Niquet for assisting me in writing down my first family history story.



Nursing badge

(photographs provided by the author) ■



Finding your family: the fundamentals of research

**A six-week course offered by
Queensland Family History Society Inc.**

- Commences:** Monday, 9 February 2026
- Time:** 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm AEST (No daylight saving)
- Location:** Online via Zoom
- Cost:** Members \$70, non-members \$105
Maximum 10 participants, minimum 4 participants
- Includes:** The book, *Where do I start?: a brief guide to researching your family in Australia and New Zealand* by Shauna Hicks (rrp\$25)
Non-members, complimentary use of the QFHS Family History Research Centre
- Content:** Home sources, planning and doing, certificates, archives, libraries, newspapers, overseas research, AI, DNA and much more
- More details:** <https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/learn-qfhs>

HOW WILTSHIRE IS YOUR SURNAME?

A comprehensive new study from UK family history website [Findmypast](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) uses millions of digitised local census and parish records dating back to the 1500s. The study reveals which surnames have the deepest historical roots, which are now rarely seen, and offers insights into jobs and movement over time. Some surnames go back centuries and appear frequently in parish records from as early as the time of Henry VIII. *Smyth*, *Whatley*, *Pinchine* (or *Pinchin*) and *Marchant* are some of the surnames that have strong links to our county. Wiltshire's ancient trades are etched into its names. In the 1500s, surnames like *Stone*, *Baker*, *Carter*, and *Cooper* reflected occupations that built the region — from masonry and agriculture to food and barrel-making. By the 19th and 20th centuries, names like *Jones*, *Williams*, *Thomas*, and *Davis* surged into Wiltshire's top rankings. These are classic Welsh surnames, and their increasing presence points to migration from Wales and the border counties — likely drawn by opportunities in railway works, agriculture, and the cloth industry. *Jones*, for example, moved from 16th in rank in the 1500s to 2nd most popular by 1911. Some surnames, such as *Tucker*, *Tompson*, *Stephens* (or *Stevens*) are sadly in decline, however, due to migration and marriage patterns over time, with more localised names eroding as generations move away to find work. Yet some surnames have increased in popularity over time in Wiltshire. One striking example of this is *Webb* — which rose in rank from 19th most popular in the 1500s to become its eighth most prevalent by 1911 and further to 6th by 1921.

To see how your surname ranks across time, or where it first appears, visit www.findmypast.co.uk/surname. Simply type in your surname and explore billions of historical records in an instant. ■

STUCK ON A BRANCH? OUT ON A LIMB?

Our Family History Research Centre is a treasure trove of resources and information.

Do you live too far away?

Have you hit that famous brick-wall?

Do you know that members who live further than 50 km from the Brisbane GPO are entitled to 2 hours of free research per year?

A free Look-up Service for all members is also available.

Not a QFHS member? We can still help

Request help now by downloading a request form from

www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/research-service/extended-research

QFHS members - \$40 per hour (incl. GST)

Non-members - \$60 per hour (incl. GST)

Queensland Family History Society Inc.

P O Box 78, Geebung Qld 4034

Email: research@qfhs.org.au



VicGUM is a not for profit organisation which provides technical support to its members with their use of family history software.

VicGUM members receive a monthly newsletter, connection to Gumnet (which is a members' only web-based chat site), and ongoing technical support.

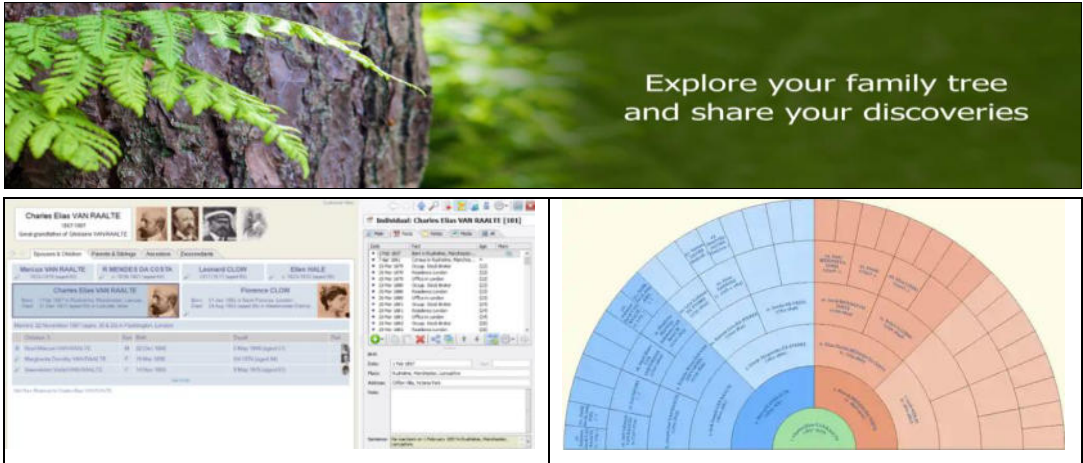
Our regular user group meetings for FTM and Reunion are held using Zoom. This allows any interested member to log in. Monthly events are also shared with members using Zoom. They will be recorded and will be viewable by members through the members' section of the website.

For details of member benefits visit the website

www.vicgum.asn.au and join on line.

email: info@vicaum.asn.au

FAMILY HISTORIAN



A family history program is an ideal companion to help family historians keep their research organised, at whatever stage of the genealogy they're at, newbie to old hand. Such software is designed to help you:

- build your family tree;
- keep thorough and accurate research notes;
- include documents and photos;
- create lists;
- and generate an extensive range family tree charts and research reports.

UK software, *Family Historian* excels in all these aspects.

Read the full article at <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/family-historian-a-guide-to-family-history-software/>.

Join our Special Interest Group on the 1st Sunday of each month where we help each other to utilise family history tools to improve our genealogical research, organisation and recording.

For more information, contact Malcolm or Chris at familyhistorian@qfhs.org.au. ■

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C U S T O M

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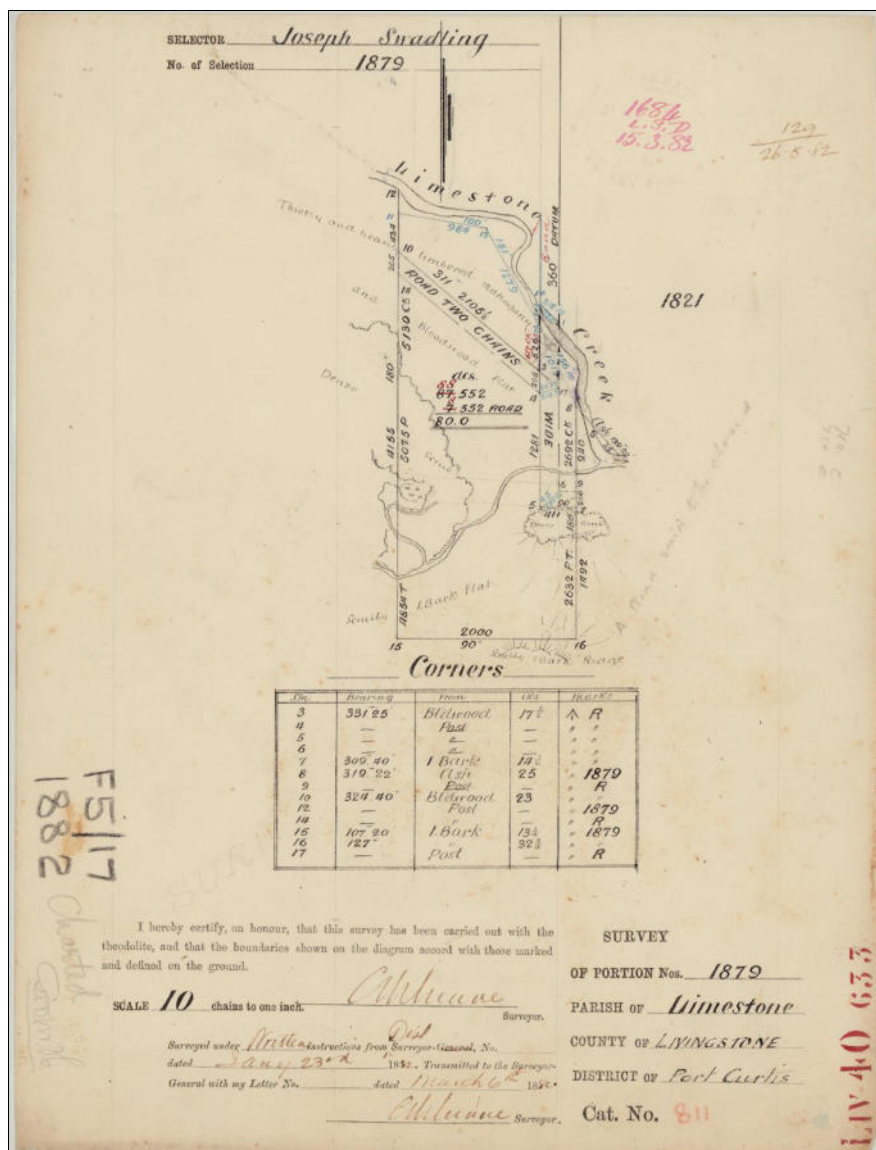
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www.acornfamilytrees.com.au

THE SEARCH FOR PORTION 1879

By Ken Swadling

kenswadling@yahoo.com.au



This is the original survey of Portion 1879 (also known as Liv 40.633) in the Parish of Limestone, County of Livingstone, Central Queensland, which my great grandparents, **Joseph¹** and **Bessie² Swadling** selected in 1882.³

It's stating the obvious, but in order to own land, you must know where it is. You also have to know where it begins and ends, and where its boundaries are. Its size and shape needs to be marked with unerring precision

and the direction of all its edges need to be known. Most of that information is shown on the survey and Joseph, Bessie and their children would have known exactly where they were.

Unfortunately, over a hundred and forty or so years and four generations later, the survey is of little use to their descendants in identifying the exact location of the selection because all the compass bearings on the map are based on impermanent objects (bloodwood post,

continued

ironbark post, etc) rather than fixed geographical features; and latitudes and longitudes aren't shown.

From time to time over some thirty years I had made sporadic attempts to find the property's location, which is at Dalma, about 30 kms northwest of Rockhampton. My father's cousin, **Ralph Wilfred Swadling**⁴, had given me a large black and white cadastral map based on an original 1875 version. He had pencilled in an outline of where he thought the property is and unfortunately that sent me down the wrong track for a long time.

Typical of cadastral maps, it identified properties by number and sometimes by the name of the owner. It showed property boundaries but I could never find what I was looking for. In 2015, using a magnifying glass, I scanned Ralph's map from the top left-hand corner to the bottom right-hand corner and eventually found a sliver of the property's northern boundary in very small print right on the bottom edge of the map. Ralph's pencilled area was miles away.

The map was of no use to me and I donated it to the Rockhampton Historical Society. I needed the next map south of that one. Then followed a run-around through government departments to find the right map. The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines referred me to the National Archives in Canberra. They referred me to the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Finally, in desperation I emailed my old fall-back position, the Queensland State Archives, the only government department – federal, state or local - I have ever dealt with in my life which has unfailingly provided exemplary service. They rose to the occasion yet again: I received a phone call from a nice bloke called Keith. He said, "Ken, Narelle's not here at the moment. She's the one who handles maps, but she'll be back on Monday. In the meantime, tell me more about your problem."

Of course, I had never met Keith or Narelle but I explained what I was after and the following Tuesday, which was the day after

Narelle came back to work, Keith called me again. He described what they'd found, which was exactly what I was looking for. He offered to send me a digital copy of the map but warned me I'd have to pay a fee. After all this time, I didn't care what it cost – I was almost prepared to mortgage the house - and I paid for it over the internet by credit card. It cost \$3.65.

That wasn't the first time I had spoken to Keith. On two previous occasions he had phoned me to clarify requests I had made. Both times he was unable to satisfy my requirements and he returned my cheques uncashed. Recently, one of Keith's colleagues also phoned me helpfully. Keith wouldn't have remembered me but I asked her to pass on my regards to him. The customer service standards of the Queensland State Archives are wonders to behold.

But I digress.

I discovered that it was possible to identify the current owners of properties. So, in October 2016 I contacted the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines, paid the appropriate fee, and obtained the name and address of Eric, the present owner of Portion 1879. I won't reveal Eric's and his wife Kerry's surname – or the location of their home – for privacy reasons.

My wife Denise and I were on our way north from Melbourne, towing our caravan to Rockhampton and I wrote to Eric, asking permission to enter his property. I told him I had no claim on the land; I merely hoped to find and photograph the original homestead or, if it no longer exists, its foundations or, if they no longer exist, any stand of exotic trees at the homestead site. (Joseph and Bessie were English and they may have planted elms or oaks or maples to remind them of home, a common practice among British pioneers).

Failing that, I at least hoped to stand on the land my great grandparents farmed over 130 years ago. I promised to disturb nothing, take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints. The original homestead, a rough bush hut, was unlikely to be still standing.

THE SEARCH FOR PORTION 1879 (Cont.)

In due course I received a phone call from Eric at 7.30 one morning. Obviously, anyone who phones at that time of day must be a farmer and we arranged the visit. My nephew Gary and his wife Leann came with us.



The cadastral map immediately south of Ralph's map. Portion 1879 is to the right of centre. Joseph also selected Portions 2041, 1730, 2011 and 1756 which I only discovered after finding 1879.

Eric and Kerry gave us a typical country welcome. We sat around their kitchen table and chatted over cups of tea and cakes and biscuits before Eric took us on a tour of the property.

Eric and Kerry also loaned us their copy of the local school's 1889-1989 centenary booklet, which contains mention of Joseph and his family; the four youngest Swadling children **Bob, Joe, Ralph and Doris** all attended the Dalma school, and four of Joe Jnr's children, as did Eric's ancestors. Leann copied it and later returned it to Kerry.

Eric dumped half a tonne of bits and pieces from his truck cabin to make room for me and we drove off, with the others following in Gary's vehicle. Eric showed us the boundaries of the property and the three creeks which flowed through it: Limestone, Middle and Bonley which are all small and not very deep but capable of wide flooding.

He told us some of the history of the area.

Apparently, Joseph had been well-known and one of the leading citizens in the community. Eric's mother remembered the Swadling family and used to tell stories about them. She would have been too young to know Joseph and Bessie but she would have known their children, since the property remained in family hands until the 1920s.

Eric explained the nature of farming in the area. To us non-farmers the soil looked poor: away from the creek beds it seems to consist mainly of hard dry clay and very stoney ground and I can understand why Joseph was eventually bankrupted. Most of the soldier settlement blocks in the area also failed after World War 1.

Joseph had ringbarked 100 acres (40.47 hectares) on the total landholding, which was about one square mile (259 hectares) in area. In those days, of course, the only way to clear the land was by axe and cross-cut saw (if you were lucky enough to have a partner on the other end of the saw). Hard yakka doesn't begin to describe it.

According to Eric, in order to be a farmer you have to be either very dumb or very smart. Eric's family must breed smart farmers because they've farmed in that area for more than 140 years. Eric had previously grown sorghum on his land but has now changed to raising Droughtmaster cattle, which he has trained to be very docile. The land is in good hands.

We visited on a dry, warm spring day and it was easy to imagine how oppressive the summer climate would be. The area was originally called Dalmah Scrub, because of the nature of the flora. While some of the area was forested, the rest was covered in small scrubby bushes, an indication of its lack of fertility. Joseph's successful lobbying to change the name and spelling to Dalma made it sound a little less down-market.

Eric gained permission to take us to the old school site, which was on someone else's property. He identified the site easily, but there's nothing left of the school building but some rotting posts lying on the ground, next

continued

to a large fig tree. The age of the tree isn't known.

He then took us to where the original family homestead had stood. We had to drive across Limestone Creek, which was very shallow and shaded by trees along its banks. There's no trace left of the old homestead but Eric was certain of the site, which stood on the western, higher bank of the creek. The roads in the area have all changed since Joseph's day but the original creek crossing is just below the homestead site and faint traces of the track are still visible.

Eric and Gary and I trudged down the old track and crossed the creek on stones without getting our feet wet. This rough old crossing may be the last trace of any mark Joseph left on the land as "a man of practical ability in the making of roads and bridges and such like kindred works". Gary later went back and established the latitude and longitude of the site.

Eric was concerned that possums, once plentiful, have disappeared from the area. I offered to put him in touch with hundreds of people in Melbourne who would gladly let him have the possums that are destroying their gardens.

It was a satisfying and worthwhile visit and I'm grateful to Eric and Kerry for their

kindness. I hadn't really expected to find any trace of Joseph's and Bessie's occupation of the land and I certainly felt no spiritual connection to it. But in some small way I can appreciate the hardships they must have endured. I couldn't help wondering how Bessie would have felt about living in a rough bush hut as compared to her comfortable upbringing in Berkshire.

Now I know the area and I'm able to envisage my great grandparents in their environment. Another blank space in our family history has been filled.

References:

¹ Joseph Swadling b. 2/7/1850, Birth Indexes of England and Wales, September 1850, Sup Registrar's District 320 Wycombe, Vol 6 p.420.

² Sarah Elizabeth Stubbs, b. 10/7/1849, English birth certificate, Year of Registration 1849, Quarter of Registration Jul-Aug-Sep, District Cookham, County Berks, Vol 6, p.160, entry number 196. According to Ralph Wilfred Swadling, Joseph and Bessie's grandson, she was always called Bessie within the family.

³ Use of survey plan Liv 40.633 "QSA ID 1081711" was approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland, Australia in 2014.

⁴ Ralph Wilfred Swadling b. 27/7/1910, Queensland certificate #25445/010375.

(Maps provided by the author). ■

DATE CLAIMERS - UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Nov 6	How to... <i>MS Word Intermediate</i>	(Research Centre)
	Nov 19	Presenting... <i>Muslims in Queensland</i>	(Hybrid)
	Nov 25	Social - <i>Visit to Queensland Holocaust Museum</i>	
	Nov 26	Talking About - <i>Queensland in 1925</i>	(Online)
	Dec 8	QFHS Volunteers' thank you morning tea, Presentation of QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History, and Announcement of the Journal Article of the Year awards	
	2026		
	Jan 8/9	LA/Volunteers Consultation & Training Sessions	(Research Centre)
	Feb 13	Learn@QFHS – <i>Are you interested in a One Place Study?</i>	(Online)
	Feb 18	Presenting... <i>Gone but not Forgotten. Steam Tug Forceful. Its Life and Times</i>	(Hybrid)
	Feb 23	Book Club - <i>Dirrayawadha</i> by Anita Heiss	(Online)

Please refer to Dates to Remember (p.156) for further details and register to attend at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/> or through the calendar. ■

HIS OWN MAN: THE INCONVENIENT LIFE OF LEE HING JACGUNG

One of our members, Jon Kehrer, has recently received two awards for his book published last year by *Pinba Press*.

For his efforts, Jon has been awarded the *Don Grant Award for 2024* from the *Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies* (aka *Family History Connection*) in Melbourne Victoria for “the best Australian family historical biography with a family history focus”. He has also been awarded the *Collection Certificate for 2024* from the *Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Library* of Zhongshan City in Guangdong, China.

His book has been favourably reviewed in *The Bulletin* (*Traralgon and District Historical Society*) vol. 56(1): 13-14, February 2025, and received various mentions this and last year in the *Midland Express*, *Castlemaine Mail*, *Chewton Chat* and *Harcourt News*.

Copies can be obtained from the publisher at PinbaPress@gmail.com for \$45 plus \$13 postage, if postage is required.



The back cover tells the tale:

“*His Own Man: The Inconvenient Life of Lee Hing Jacgung* by Jon Kehrer is a 326 A4-page biography of Lee Hing Jacgung (1832-1913), who was no ordinary man living in 19th century China, California and Victoria.

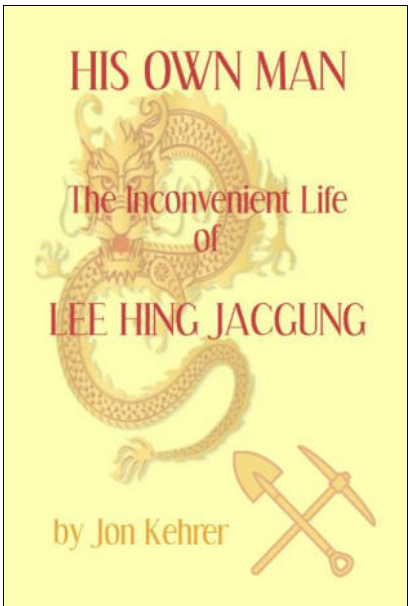
“He was a refugee from war and revolution, and a medical apprentice and landsman, who sailed the world and rescued the shipwrecked. He dug for gold in California and Victoria, and sued Queen Victoria and won, while working as a Chinese headman and translator for the courts and police, on the Mount Alexander Goldfields around Castlemaine, Fryerstown and Vaughan, and preaching in the local Wesleyan churches. As the gold ran out, he reinvented himself as a pioneer, selector and farmer at Jeeralang in the mountains of Gippsland.

continued

“He was a brilliant success and an abject failure, who found his love in wife, family, friends and God, and his fear in venial public officials, corrupt merchants and secret societies.”



Lee Hing Jacgung



CONGRATULATIONS JON ■

CIVIC RECEPTION BY LORD MAYOR ADRIAN SCHRINNER FOR RECIPIENTS OF BETTER SUBURBS AND SAFER SUBURBS GRANT



The President and Secretary were invited to a Civic Reception at City Hall on 6 August 2025 to acknowledge volunteer groups. Councillor Danita Parry is standing to the right of the photograph.

WEB LINKS

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY LIBRARY ARCHIVES LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF *THRESHOLD*

A new digital archive of *Threshold*, one of Northern Ireland's longest-running literary periodicals of the 20th century, has been digitised and made available online from University of Galway Library Archives. First published in 1957, this includes more than 3,000 pages of all published issues of the journal, including special themed issues on topics ranging from W.B. Yeats to Irish-America to literature during the Troubles. The archive also includes a selection of wider letters, pamphlets and advertisements from the journal's archive. Its final issue was published in 1990. It can be viewed at <https://digital.library.universityofgalway.ie/p/ms/categories?collection=629>.

ANCESTRY ADDS 5.8 MILLION CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE RECORDS

Ancestry has published 2,731,356 1538-1812 baptism, marriage and burial records; 1,091,738 1754-1940 banns and marriage records; and 413,911 1813-1996 burial records. A set of 1,544,406 1813-1924 baptism records will be added in the near future. The records are taken from *Cambridgeshire* Libraries and Archives and also cover the historical county of *Huntingdonshire*. The records include the baptism record of Oliver Cromwell. Read more at <https://eoqn.com/page-18080/13521770>.

540 MILLION HISTORICAL RECORDS PUBLISHED

MyHeritage has added 540 million historical records across 16 collections from the U.S., U.K., Germany, Finland, Sweden, and Spain, including tax records, passenger lists, marriages and deaths, and newspaper extracts — many with images. Read more at <https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/06/myheritage-adds-540-million-historical-records-in-may-2025/>

IRELAND REACHING OUT

<https://r.mail.irelandxo.com/mk/mr/sh/7nVTPdZCTJDXOxeRIIXT4qRkIWkcjP2/LXgKpdgeiVIO>.

175,000 NEW HISTORICAL RECORDS RELEASED BY VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND

175,000 new historical records are now freely available online in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland to mark the 103rd anniversary of the Four Courts blaze that destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland, and with it seven centuries of Irish history. Launched three years ago, the *Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland* (VRTI) is now home to over 350,000 records and 250 million words of searchable Irish history. Among new treasures freely available online are 60,000 names from the 19th-century census destroyed in 1922. Painstakingly compiled from transcriptions preserved in National Archives of Ireland and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, these recovered transcripts of census returns reveal ordinary lives across the island of Ireland in the decades before and after the Great Famine. New records include

- [Population Portal](#): *genealogical riches include 60,000 names from the 19th-century census destroyed in 1922. (NAI, PRONI, Trinity).*
- [The Age of Revolution Portal](#): documents illustrate the drama of the 1798 Rebellion and Ireland's links to the American Revolution. (PRONI, NAI, Library of Congress, TNA).
- [The Age of Conquest Portal](#): five million words of Anglo-Norman (1170-1500) Irish history translated into English. (TNA, IMC, NAI, Trinity).
- [State Papers Ireland](#): (1660–1720) over 10 million words on governing Ireland in the dramatic years following Cromwell's death. (TNA).
- [Knowledge Graph Explorer](#): a powerful new tool for identifying people and places, and the links between them, in the records. (ADAPT Research Ireland Centre).
Read more at <https://eoqn.com/page-18080/13517696>.

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE'S

101 BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITES OF 2025

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

continued

HISTORIC ENGLAND LAUNCHES LOCAL HERITAGE HUB TO UNLOCK HIDDEN HISTORIES

Historic England has launched a new *Local Heritage Hub*. With nearly 400 locations, every county, city, district, major town, and national park in England now has a dedicated digital page that uncovers its rich and layered history, offering a wide range of content, from fascinating aerial photographs showing towns and villages through time, to curated selections of listed buildings, videos, blogs, and podcasts. The new service - which will continue to expand with new places, information, and sections added over time - will make local heritage and histories more relevant, relatable, and engaging to more people's everyday lives, inspiring conversations, unlocking memories, and sparking new interests. Refer to <https://historicengland.org.uk/local>.

NEW FREE HISTORICAL RECORDS FROM 25 COUNTRIES ON FAMILYSEARCH

Recently, FamilySearch expanded its free online archives with over 95 million new records from 25 different countries. Some exciting additions include records from Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Brazil. Other countries with significant record additions include Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Ireland, Philippines, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Zambia. Follow the links below to browse new records to expand your family tree. Jump to [Africa](#), [Asia and Middle East](#), [Canada and United States of America](#), [Europe](#) (Continental Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, etc.), [Latin America](#) (South America, Brazil, Central America, Caribbean, Mexico, etc.), and [Pacific and Oceania](#) (Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, etc.). For other helpful genealogy content, watch free, on-demand sessions from [RootsTech](#).

350M+ DANISH & SWEDISH RECORDS ON MYHERITAGE

Anyone with Scandinavian roots can trace their family's story through rich collections dating back centuries. The [Danish records](#) include 31 collections with church books,

censuses, newspapers, and more, covering vital events and everyday life since 1787; and the [Swedish collections](#) span from the 1600s onward, featuring household examination rolls, birth and death records, military lists, and also a collection of Swedish passenger lists documenting the names, birthplaces, residences, and destinations of Swedes who left the country between 1869 and 1951. You can read more at <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13507223>.

THEGENEALOGIST LAUNCHES NEW COLLECTION OF OVER 100,000 OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS, INCLUDING WORKING LIVES OF SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND APPRENTICES THROUGH RARE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

TheGenealogist has announced the release of over 100,000 new names in its expanding collection of occupational records. This new addition includes a rich series of publications that offer a unique glimpse into the careers and associations of individuals from the 19th and 20th centuries, many of whom played key roles in Britain's scientific and industrial history. These resources offer insights into the professional lives of ancestors who may have worked in the fields of science, industry and engineering. Whether your ancestor presented a paper, attended meetings, or trained as an apprentice at a major engineering firm in the 1930s, this collection could provide the key to uncovering their career history. For further information and the complete list of the new occupational records refer to <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13504040>.

RAILWAY ANCESTORS - NEW DATA RELEASE

The 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project has just released a new free dataset, featuring details of around 69,000 English and Welsh railway workers who had accidents between 1855 and 1929. The project looks at accidents to railway staff before 1939, transcribing and summarising details from railway records. The whole database now covers c.117,000 individuals. Refer to <https://www.eogn.com/page-18080/13507961> and www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk. ■

QFHS NOTICES

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES



We extend our deepest sympathy on the following bereavements:

Rosemary Rayner, life member #633, late of Toowoomba, who passed away on 31 July 2022, aged 88 years. (We have only recently been advised of her passing.)

Rhonda Duchateau, member #6555, late of Calamvale, who passed away on 6 May 2025, aged 54 years.

John Rhule, member #5651A, late of Bridgeman Downs, who passed away on 7 July 2025, aged 87 years.

Expressions of sympathy have been conveyed to their families on behalf of the President and members of the Society.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

You are invited to contribute to the Christmas Hamper which will be placed in the Reception Area of our Research Centre and at our Volunteers' Morning Tea.

During the Christmas break, the hamper will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution. Any non-perishable goods, soft toys, etc, will be very welcome.



Thank you, we very much appreciate your generosity.

ROOTSTECH 2026 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

March 5-7, 2006 both online and in person in Salt Lake City. Read more at <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13545803>.

EDUCATION@QFHS

Further sessions will be held as follows:

Topic: **Talking About - Queensland in 1925**

Date: WED 26 November 2025 (free)

Time: 10.00 am to 12 noon (online)

Facilitator: Nancy Edwards
(Limit 25 people)

Topic: **Learn@ - Are you interested in a One Place Study?**

Date: FRI 13 February 2026

Time: 10.00 – 11.30 am (online)

Presenter: Pauleen Cass
(Limit 50 people)

“Follow” QFHS and be advised as soon as new events are listed with

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/queensland-family-history-society-inc

Cost per presentation:

\$20 members (QFHS and GSQ) and
\$30 non-members

International speakers:

\$35 members (QFHS and GSQ) and
\$45 non-members

Cost per Talking About - free

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENTS

Bookings are required – you are invited to register to secure your place for these events through www.qfhs.org.au/events/learn-qfhs/.

HOW TO...

A new series of hands-on sessions are being held at the Research Centre:

Topic: **MS Word Intermediate**

Date: THURS 6 November 2025 (free)

Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Presenter: Debra Ricks
(Limit 8 people)

Please bring your own laptop with MS Word installed.

This session will be for members who know the basic MS Word program.

Register for these interesting workshops through

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/how-to/>.

continued

GSQ EDUCATION EVENTS

Topic:	Leveraging AI in Family History
Date:	Sat 1 November 2025
Time:	9.00 - 11.00 am
Presenter:	Andrew Redfern
Topic:	The experience of one AIF Prisoner of War in Europe, WWII
Date:	Sat 8 November 2025
Time:	9.00 - 11.00 am
Presenter:	Pauleen Cass
Topic:	Researching the Emigrant: Ship of Death
Date:	Sat 22 November 2025
Time:	9.00 - 11.00 am
Presenter:	Jane Smith
Topic:	Deciphering Old Handwriting
Date:	Sat 6 December 2025
Time:	9.00 - 11.00 am
Presenter:	Tricia Smout (Free for GSQ/QFHS members)
Topic:	The Mary O'Toole Casestudy
Date:	Sat 14 February 2026
Time:	9.00 - 11.00 am
Presenter:	Greg Carlill

Cost per presentation:

\$21 members (QFHS and GSQ) and
\$31 non-members

International speakers:

\$31 members (QFHS and GSQ) and
\$41 non-members

Our society and the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) have a reciprocal arrangement re Education events. Each society makes their own member pricing for Education events available to members of the other society. QFHS members will need to input their member number when booking to obtain the GSQ discounted member pricing.

Details of events and registration is available at <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/>. You can find the GSQ discount code on the QFHS Members Portal page at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/members-portal/gsq-code/>. The code does not change for different events and generally provides a \$10 discount.

**QFHS INC. FAMILY HISTORY BOOK AWARD 2026**

The Society invites entries for this Award which will be presented at a special meeting in August 2026 to the person or persons producing the best family history with a Queensland content published in book form within the past five years.

Full guidelines, conditions of entry and entry form are available on the website at <http://www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/awards/>.

Please check the guidelines. In brief, these include:

- It must be the story of a family or families with a family history focus rather than just one individual, and have significant Queensland content, and placement of family in its historical setting
- It should have an index
- Desirable features include illustrations such as photographs, maps, diagrams and tables, and a list of source materials.

Further information is available from:

Hon Secretary
QFHS Inc
P O Box 78,
Geebung Qld 4034

or

Clem Ditton
fhaward@qfhs.org.au.



Entries close **30 November 2025**.

The Award is open to members of the Society and to the general public. For further information email fhaward@qfhs.org.au.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

When your Membership is due for Renewal you will receive an email reminder. If you're not sure, please contact our Membership Secretary, email at membership@qfhs.org.au, before making payment. Also don't forget to let us know if any of your contact details change so that we can update our records.

QFHS NOTICES (Cont.)

Irish Research Day



Researching Irish ancestors?

The next Irish Research Day is

Thursday, 13 November 2025
10.00 am to 3.00 pm

at

QFHS Family History Research Centre,
 46 Delaware Street, Chermside.

(at intersection of Delaware St & Waring St)

A great opportunity to spend the day on your Irish family history research. Come and work alongside others and help each other as required. Bring your lunch or food to share.

To get the most out of your time, we recommend you prepare by:

- Reviewing your current research and bringing what you need with you
- Try to specify clear research questions or goals to focus your work

There will be friendly, helpful and experienced people available to assist each other.

Please register early as places are limited.

Contact Dale Fogarty, Irish Research Group at irish@qfhs.org.au with your QFHS membership number.

WRITING AWARDS AVAILABLE

The Don Grant Award

Presented for the *best Australian family historical biography with a family history focus* submitted that year. Strong emphasis is placed on a pre-Australian component. The closing date is **30 November** each year. For further detail refer to www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au/index.php/awards/64-don-grant-award.

Alexander Henderson Award

Presented for the *best Australian family history* submitted that year. Strong emphasis is placed on a pre-Australian component. The closing date is **30 November** each year. Refer to www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au/index.php/awards/65-alexander-henderson-award.

Lilian Watson Family History Award

This award is for a book with a significant *Tasmanian content*. Entries close on **1 December** each year. For details email secretary@tasfhs.org or refer to www.thra.org.au/newsletter-event-blog/2017/4/10/lilian-watson-family-history-award.

GSV Writing Prize

This must contain between 1200 - 2400 words. Closing date is **30 August** each year. Refer www.gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize-2024.

JOURNAL ARTICLE OF THE YEAR:

Members' Choice Award 2025

We will be asking you to vote for your favourite journal article of 2025 after the publication of this November issue.

Awards will be presented at the Morning Tea on 8 December 2025.

Please vote and encourage our authors.

continued

QFHS VOLUNTEERS' THANK YOU MORNING TEA

Monday 8 December 2025
10.00 am – 12.00 noon



Sky Lounge
Kedron-Wavell Services Club,
21 Kittyhawk Dr, Chermshire, Q

Do Come Along For A Friendly
Get-Together And Meet Other
Volunteers

also

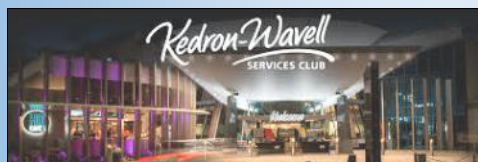
Presentation of the QFHS Inc.
Award For Services To Family
History 2025

and

Announcement of the
Journal Article of the Year
2025 Award

Please register your attendance
through Eventbrite at

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/volunteers-thank-you-morning-tea-2025-tickets-1297575446089?aff=oddtcreator>



LIBRARY ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS CONSULTATION AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Thursday 8 January 2026
and
Friday 9 January 2026
10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Family History Research
Centre, Chermshire/Online

To be held as hybrid meetings, using our state-of-the-art Meeting Owl.

This is an opportunity for Library Assistants and all Volunteers to keep up to date with all the latest developments at QFHS's Family History Research Centre, contribute to the strategic plan for our service in the future, as well as learning about operational updates and opportunities for upskilling.



Come along to a general get-together/update kind of day.

Come early for a cuppa before we start.

All volunteers are very welcome.

25-26 June 2026 - Save The Date!

A 2-day Academic Conference

GENEALOGY TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN GLASGOW,
SCOTLAND IN JUNE 2026

Join Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS) for a two-day academic conference on 25-26 June 2026; Beyond the Family Tree: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on AI, DNA, Education and Community in Genealogy. The conference will be preceded by a one-day Professional Genealogy Symposium on 24 June 2026, hosted by the Association of Professional Genealogists in partnership with SIGS. Both events will be held at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow UK. Most sessions will be available online. Get the latest updates by registering your interest on their website at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/beyondfamilytreeconference2026/>. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER, INCL. MEMBERS LOUNGE

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TIME
NOVEMBER 2025			
Saturday	1 Family Tree Maker User Group (<i>See p.156</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 - 11.30 am
Sunday	2 Family Historian Software User Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	1.00 – 3.00 pm
Thursday	6 How to...MS Word Intermediate (<i>See p.150</i>)	Research Centre	10.00 – noon
Saturday	8 Scottish Interest Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 – noon
Thursday	13 IRISH RESEARCH DAY (<i>See p. </i>)	Research Centre	10.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday	15 Family History Writing Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	9.00 - noon
Sunday	16 Welsh Interest Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Monday	17 The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Wednesday	Presenting...Muslims in Queensland 19 Speaker: Janeth Deen OAM (<i>See Back Page</i>) <i>Christmas meeting – please bring a plate to celebrate</i>	Hybrid	1.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday	22 DNA Interest Group (<i>See p.157</i>) <i>Beginners</i>	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Sunday	23 New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (<i>See p.155</i>)	Research Centre	9.30 – 12.30 pm
Tuesday	25 Members Lounge – Visit to Queensland Holocaust Museum, St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct	168 Charlotte St., Brisbane	10.00 - noon
Wednesday	26 Talking About - <i>Queensland in 1925</i>	Online	10.00 – noon
Thursday	27 English West Country Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	noon - 2.00 pm
Saturday	30 CLOSING DATE QFHS Family History Book Award 2026		
DECEMBER 2025			
Friday	5 Family Tree Maker User Group (<i>See p.74</i>)	Online	10.00 - 11.30 am
Saturday	6 Central European Group (<i>See p. </i>)	Hybrid	10.00 – noon
Sunday	7 Family Historian Software User Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	1.00 – 3.00 pm
Monday	8 QFHS Volunteers' thank you morning tea, Presentation of QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History, and Announcement of the Journal Article of the Year awards	Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Saturday	13 Pre-Separation Group (<i>See p.115</i>)	Online	1.30 – 3.30 pm
Saturday	13 Irish Research Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	10.30 - 12.30 pm
Saturday	13 RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSING FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK		4.00 pm
Sunday	14 Colonial India and The Far East Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	10.00 – 12 noon
JANUARY 2026			
Sunday	4 Family Historian Software User Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	1.00 – 3.00 pm
Thursday	8 LA CONSULTATION & TRAINING SESSION	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Friday	9 VOLUNTEERS TRAINING SESSION – Volunteers' Fire and Evacuation Training	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Tuesday	13 RESEARCH CENTRE RE-OPENS	Research Centre	10.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday	17 Family History Writing Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	9.00 – noon
Sunday	18 Welsh Interest Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Monday	19 The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (<i>See p.155</i>)	Online	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Thursday	22 English West Country Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	noon - 2.00 pm
Saturday	24 DNA Interest Group (<i>See p.157</i>) <i>Beginners</i>	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Sunday	25 New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (<i>See p.158</i>)	Research Centre	9.30 – 12.30 pm
Monday	26 AUSTRALIA DAY – RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSED		
FEBRUARY 2026			
Sunday	1 Family Historian Software User Group (<i>See p.157</i>)	Online	1.00 - 3.00 pm
Friday	6 Family Tree Maker User Group (<i>See p.156</i>)	Online	10.00 - 11.30 am

continued

Saturday	7	Central European Group (<i>See p. </i>)	Hybrid	10.00 – noon
Sunday	8	Colonial India and The Far East Group (<i>See p.157</i>)	Online	10.00 – 12 noon
Monday	9	Finding Your Family course Week 1 (<i>See p.152</i>)	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Friday	13	Learn@QFHS: <i>Are you interested in a One Place Study?</i> Speaker: Pauleen Cass (<i>See p. </i>)	Online	10.00 - 11.30 am
Saturday	14	Irish Research Group (<i>See p.156</i>)	Online	10.30 - 12.30 pm
Monday	16	The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (<i>See p.</i>)	Online	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Monday	16	Finding Your Family course Week 2 (<i>See p.152</i>)	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Wednesday	18	Presenting...Gone but not Forgotten. Steam Tug Forceful. Its Life and Times Speaker: Keith Boulton OAM, Queensland Maritime Museum	Hybrid	1.00 – 3.00 pm
Saturday	21	New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (<i>See p.155</i>)	Research Centre	9.30 – 12.30 pm
Monday	23	Book Club - Dirrayawadha by Anita Heiss	Online	10.00 - 11.30 am
Monday	23	Finding Your Family course Week 3 (<i>See p.152</i>)	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Saturday	28	DNA Interest Group (<i>See p.157</i>) <i>Experienced</i>	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
MARCH 2026				
Sunday	1	Family Historian Software User Group (<i>See p.157</i>)	Online	1.00 - 3.00 pm
Monday	2	Finding Your Family course Week 4 (<i>See p.152</i>)	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Saturday	7	Family Tree Maker User Group (<i>See p.156</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 - 11.30 am
Monday	9	Finding Your Family course Week 5 (<i>See p.152</i>)	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Thursday	12	IRISH RESEARCH DAY (<i>See p. </i>)	Research Centre	10.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday	14	Scottish Interest Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 – noon
Saturday	14	Pre-Separation Group (<i>See p.115</i>)	Online	1.30 – 3.30 pm
Sunday	15	Welsh Interest Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
Monday	16	The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (<i>See p.</i>)	Online	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Monday	16	Finding Your Family course Week 6 (<i>See p.152</i>) final	Online	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Wednesday	18	Presenting... Sir Augustus Charles Gregory KCMG, MLA, FRGS, DistGM, an icon Australian explorer, exemplary citizen and notable freemason Speaker: Dr Gary Bacon AM, PGM (<i>See Back Page</i>)	Hybrid	1.00 - 3.00 pm
Saturday	21	Family History Writing Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	9.00 - noon
Sunday	22	New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (<i>See p.158</i>)	Online	9.30 – 12.30 pm
Sunday	22	Members Lounge – Visit to Meigunyah Museum	35 Jordan Tce, Bowen Hills, Q	1.00 – 4.00 pm
Tuesday	24	Bi-annual General Meeting	Online	7.30 – 9.00 pm
Thursday	26	English West Country Group (<i>See p.154</i>)	Online	noon - 2.00 pm
Saturday	28	DNA Interest Group (<i>See p.157</i>) <i>Beginners</i>	Hybrid	10.00 - noon
APRIL 2026				
Fri-Mon	3-6.	EASTER - RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSED		

Management Committee meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm online on Zoom or in person at the Research Centre. If you would like to attend, please contact the Secretary.

Dates and participation methods are correct at the time of printing. Always check the QFHS calendar.



Book Club

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/book-club/>



Talking About...

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/talking-about/>



Presenting...

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/presenting-monthly-guest-speakers/>



Socials

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/members-lounge-socials/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP



This group meets online via Zoom on the **third Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months at **9.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

15 November 2025 17 January 2026

If you are interested in joining us, please email fhwriters@gfhs.org.au.

Sue Reid
(Convenor)

IRISH RESEARCH GROUP



The Irish Research Group meets online via Zoom usually on the **second Saturday** of **even-numbered** months from **10.30 am** until **12.30 pm**. The next meeting dates are:

13 December 2025 14 February 2026

For further information, please email irish@gfhs.org.au.

Dale Fogarty
(Convenor)

ENGLISH WEST COUNTRY GROUP



This group researches the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. The Group meets online via Zoom on the

fourth Thursday of **odd-numbered** months at **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

27 November 2025 22 January 2026

For further information, please email englishwestcountry@gfhs.org.au.

Jenny Davidson
(Convenor)

SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP



This group meets online via Zoom and in our new Family History Research Centre (hybrid) on the **second Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months (except January) at **10.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

8 November 2025 14 March 2026

If you are interested in joining this group, please email Chris on scottish@gfhs.org.au.

Chris Schuetz
(Convenor)

WELSH INTEREST GROUP



The Welsh Interest Group meets online via Zoom (or in our new Family History Research Centre) on the **third Sunday** of **odd-numbered** months from **10.00 am** until **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

16 November 2025 18 January 2026

For further information please email welsh@gfhs.org.au.

Charlotte Sale
(Convenor)

CENTRAL EUROPEAN GROUP



This group aims to encourage, educate and assist members in their family history research in the Central European area. The Group meets online via Zoom (or in our new Family History Research Centre) on the **first Saturday** of **even-numbered** months from **10.00 am** to **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

6 December 2025 7 February 2026

A \$2 donation goes towards purchasing relevant records.

For further information email Eric at kopittke@tpg.com.au.

Eric Kopittke & Noel Bergman
(Convenors)

FAMILY TREE MAKER USER GROUP

If you are using the Family Tree Maker™ program, or just want to learn more about it, this enthusiastic group is for you.

The group meets online via Zoom on the **first Friday** of **even-numbered** months and by hybrid meetings on the **first Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months (not January) at **10.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

Sat 1 November 2025
Fri 5 December 2025
Fri 6 February 2026
Sat 7 March 2026



For further information, please contact Geoff Morgan on email familytree@gfhs.org.au.

Geoff Morgan & Debra Ricks
(Convenors)

continued

DNA INTEREST GROUP

This group seeks to share information on aspects of genetic family history. The group meets on the **fourth Saturday** of **each** month (except December) online via Zoom and in our new Family History Research Centre at **10.00 am** to **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

22 November 2025 **Beginners**
24 January 2026 **Beginners**
28 February 2026 **Experienced**
28 March 2026 **Beginners**

For further information contact Chris Schuetz or Ann Swain on email dna@gfhs.org.au.

Chris Schuetz & Ann Swain
 (Convenors)

COLONIAL INDIA AND THE FAR EAST GROUP

We welcome you into our friendly, collaborative group to explore the ever-increasing resources available to research Colonial India and the Far East. Our meetings share information, ideas and short presentations about this fascinating time and place. The group meets online via Zoom at **10.00 am** on the **second Sunday** of **even-numbered** months. The next meetings will be held on:

14 December 2025 **8 February 2026**

For further information please email indiafe@gfhs.org.au.

Detle Glenday & Wendy Angliss
 (Convenors)

FAMILY HISTORIAN USER GROUP

Family Historian - simplicity for the newer user, but still the ultimate 'power tool' for experienced family historians. To find out more, join our group's meetings via Zoom on the **first Sunday** of **each** month at **1:00 pm** for approximately 2 hours. The next meeting dates are:

2 November 2025
7 December 2025
4 January 2026
1 February 2026

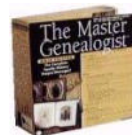
For further information please email familyhistorian@gfhs.org.au.

Malcolm Kingston & Chris Wright
 (Convenors)

THE MASTER GENEALOGIST (TMG) USER GROUP

The group caters to the needs of all users, from novice to advanced, and meets online via Zoom on the **third Monday** of **most** months (except December) at **7.00 pm**. The next meeting dates are:

17 November 2025
19 January 2026
16 February 2026
16 March 2026



For further information contact Kevin Haley or Peter Frederick at tmg@gfhs.org.au.

Kevin Haley & Peter Frederick
 (Convenors)

QLD PRE-SEPARATION GROUP

Did any of your ancestors arrive in Queensland prior to separation from New South Wales on 10 December 1859? If so, you may become a certificate member of this group. The group also welcomes anyone interested in pre-separation families and history to its periodic meetings and activities. Meetings are held quarterly online via Zoom mostly on the **second Saturdays** of **March, June, September and December** at **1.30 pm**. The next meeting will be held on:

Sat 13 December 2025

For further information please email presep@gfhs.org.au.

Ann Swain & Jenny Davidson
 (Convenors) ■

QLD PRE-SEPARATION GROUP
on Saturday 13 Dec 2025 by Zoom
SITES OF PRE-SEPARATION
BRISBANE

The Proclamation of the State of Queensland was read from this verandah of Adelaide House, in Adelaide Street on 10 December 1859



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS of QFHS INC.

Membership numbers 6842-6882 including members who joined up to 30/9/25:

ALEXANDER Jill, Wanaka, NZ
 ALLARDICE Lorelle, Sandgate, QLD
 BLACKMAN Debra & Greg, Bald Hills, QLD
 BLOMBERG Elizabeth, Kippa-Ring, QLD
 BOLTON Susan, Gordon Park, QLD
 BRABY Tim, Aspley, QLD
 CAHILL Louise, Stafford Heights, QLD
 CASEY Leanne, Brisbane, QLD
 CASH Christine, Sunshine Acres, QLD
 CORNISH Dylan, Caboolture, QLD
 CROOK Kerry, Yeppoon, QLD
 DUNSHEA Amber, New Farm, QLD
 DUNSTAN Marion, Woolloowin, QLD
 FARQUHAR Jennifer, Kedron, QLD
 GOUGH Dale, East Ipswich, QLD
 GUTHRIE Patricia, Aspley, QLD
 HEROLD Oliver, Nundah, QLD
 HEYDON Darren, Yarrabilba, QLD
 HOLT Lisa, Kallangur, QLD
 JAMIESON Lyndsey, Chermside, QLD
 KEMP Margaret, Murrumba Downs, QLD
 KENNEDY Keith, Sunrise Beach, QLD
 KHAN Steve, Victoria Point, QLD
 KING Alice, Cable Beach, WA
 LIDDELL Patricia, Ainslie, ACT
 MASON Pamela, Kangaroo Point, QLD
 MATHESON Kaye, Townsville, QLD.
 MOORE William, Sandgate, QLD
 MOREN Steve, Scarborough, QLD
 NELSON Robyn, Wavell Heights, QLD
 OLSEN Alison, Clayfield, QLD
 STRANGE John, Paeroa, NZ
 SWIFT Scott, Norman Park, QLD
 SZABLEWSKI Christina, Regency Downs, QLD
 TAYLOR Elle, Bungalow, QLD
 TILBY Victoria, Aspley, QLD
 TOWERS Caroline, Mitchem, VIC
 TRENNERY Bruce, Kedron, QLD
 TURNER John, Arana Hills, QLD
 ZILM Carly, Kingaroy, QLD

Welcome back to the following members who are rejoining:

GRIFFIN Keith, Carina, QLD
 REVELL Desley, Taigum, QLD
 BARROW Valerie, Zillmere, QLD
 BARNES David, Sandstone Point, QLD

Journal Subscription only:

LANGE Kylene, The Palms, QLD ■

NEW MEMBERS' WELCOME & ORIENTATION SESSIONS

New Members' Welcome and Orientation Sessions are to be held on the **third Saturday** of **even-numbered** months and **fourth Sunday** of **odd-numbered** months, all from **9.30 am – 12.30 pm** (not December). The next meeting dates will be:

2025

Sun 23 November at Research Centre

2026

Sun 25 January at Research Centre

Sat 21 February at Research Centre

Sun 22 March Online

Enjoy an overview of research material and facilities available in the Family History Research Centre. We invite you to attend a New Members' Welcome and Orientation session when you join the Society or at any time you would like a refresher.

BOOKINGS: *Essential*

Numbers have to be limited in each session to ensure that everyone is able to participate fully in the program. Sessions are usually fully booked, with a waiting list, so please advise the organisers as soon as possible if you book and find you are unable to attend.

Ann Swain & Anne Long
Convenors

welcome@qfhs.org.au. ■

QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION GROUP APPROVAL

The following member has been approved to become a member of the QFHS Inc. Queensland Pre-Separation Group:

#357 Catherine Cuddihy (QFHS Member 6408) is descended from **John Souter**, his wife **Mary Souter (née Sutherland)** and their son **James Alexander Souter** who was aged 9 years when they arrived in Sydney on the *Scotia* on 11/7/1849; the family arrived in Moreton Bay around 1850. ■

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Please refer to our website for the most current information.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members may:

- Have free access to the Society's Family History Research Centre, Subscription Websites, useful weblinks, and journals from Australian and overseas FH Societies;
- Receive our *Queensland Family Historian* either by mail or email, and our e-newsletter *Snippets*;
- Submit two free *Help Wanted* queries in the journal per year; and a list of research interests for publication in the *Queensland Family Historian* and on our website;
- Use our AskQFHS, Look Up and Extended Research services available to members and non-members at www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/research-service/;
- Country members (living more than 50 km from Brisbane GPO) can use the Research service, see www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/country-members/;
- See other benefits of membership at www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/benefits-of-membership/.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS JOURNAL

The Society is pleased to accept articles of interest to members for publication in this journal – family stories, stories relevant to family history, articles about historical social conditions, research tips, lists, certificate prices and availability, etc. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide whether articles are suitable and when they will be published, apart from *Help Wanted* and *Members' Interests* which normally will appear in the journal following their receipt. Alterations in *Help Wanted* or *Members' Interests* will not normally be made without prior consultation with the contributor. Articles for publication should be submitted by email as an attachment. Scanned photographs and images should be attached as high quality *.jpg or *.tif files. Receipt of articles will be acknowledged by email, and any photographs posted to support the text will be returned. Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines. The Journal is produced using Microsoft Office (for Windows). The preferred formats for files submitted are MSWord (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text (*.rtf). The closing dates for the Journals are **15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December**. The Editor reserves the right to make alterations in submitted text in regards to grammar, spelling, clarity and length. **It is imperative that contributors supply in writing all necessary authorisation obtained in respect to copyright for use of photographs, attachments, etc.**

MEMBERSHIP FEES/SUBSCRIPTIONS (incl. GST)

Joining Fee (for new and lapsed members)	\$10
Single Membership (p.a.)	\$80
Joint/Dual Membership (p.a.)	\$120
Associate Membership (p.a.)	\$120
Single Life Membership	\$1,200
Joint/Dual Life Membership	\$1,800
Journal Only Subscription (incl. postage) (p.a.)	\$40
Journal Only Overseas Subscription (p.a.)	\$40
(incl. postage; no GST payable)	

Renewal subscriptions for existing members as at 1 April 2016 and who maintain continuous membership are due on 1 July each year. From 1 April 2016 new memberships are for 12 months from the first day of the month of a member's admission to the Society.

Joint/Dual members are two members with one registered address. Joint/Dual members receive one journal only, sent to the registered address, and have one vote only at General Meetings.

Associate members are family history societies and allied groups. At any time, two members of a current Associate Group may use the resources and facilities of the Society free of charge.

Journal only subscribers receive the Society's quarterly journal, the *Queensland Family Historian*, but no other benefits or entitlements.

VISITORS'/RESEARCH CENTRE USAGE FEES

Members:	Free
Non-members:	\$20.00 per day (incl. GST)
credited towards joining fee if joining within two weeks.	

INFORMATION FOR ADVERTISERS AND PUBLISHERS

Authors and editors of other publications are requested to quote only the full name of our Society and our mailing address and phone number. Do not quote fees for membership or services, or Research Centre hours, but direct readers to telephone the Research Centre or email the Secretary or the Editor. If authors or editors consider further information is necessary they should submit a copy of their intended script to the Editor for approval before publishing.

ADVERTISING RATES

Non-members may submit *Help Wanted* advertisements (100 words) for \$8.80. The advertising rate for 1/10 page (approx. 5 lines in 1 column) is \$18.00. For larger advertisements, please contact the Editor regarding rates and also space availability. Please remit in Australian dollars, either by cheque, Visa, MasterCard, or direct credit to the Society's account, see Inside Front Cover. All fees quoted include GST.

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed by contributors in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee or of the QFHS Inc. Management Committee. ■



MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Each month, February to November, a Guest Speaker is invited to address topics of interest to family and local history researchers in Queensland and beyond. Presentations are generally arranged for the **third Wednesday of the month** at 1.00 pm to allow as many members and visitors as possible to attend, either in person at the Family History Research Centre, 46 Delaware St, Chermside, or via Zoom. Those unable to attend in person but unfamiliar with Zoom may contact the Secretary at secretary@qfhs.org.au for assistance. Bookings are essential and may be made via the QFHS website and Eventbrite. For the dates of the meetings of the different *Special Interest Groups*, please refer to p.156 or *Dates to Remember* on p.154 of this issue.

Presenting...MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKERS

2025

NOVEMBER 19 (1.00 pm) HYBRID

Presenting...*Muslims in Queensland*

Janeth Deen OAM will chat about the cameleers' and hawkers' early history in bringing Islam to Australia. She will also tell us about the early history of the first mosque in the east coast of Australia and the oldest continuous mosque in Australia, in Brisbane.

2026

FEBRUARY 18 (1.00 pm) HYBRID –

Presenting...*Steam Tug Forceful. It's Life and Times. Gone but not Forgotten!*

Join Keith Boulton OAM, Queensland Maritime Museum Hon/Life Member and Volunteer, as he relates the history of the last coal fired Brisbane River Tugboat including: Rescues - WWII Involvement - Returning to normal work - The hand over - Retirement life at QMM - Towards the end, and Keeping the Memory Alive. The presentation is supported by many rare and historical photos.

MARCH 18 (1.00 pm) HYBRID (Brought forward from August 2025)

Presenting...*Sir Augustus Charles Gregory KCMG, MLA, FRGS, DistGM, an icon Australian explorer, exemplary citizen and notable freemason*

Presented by Dr Gary Bacon AM, PGM. The life of this extraordinary man (Birth: 1 August 1819; Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, England; Death: 25 June 1905; Brisbane, Queensland, Australia) will be covered in three tranches, viz.: Explorer on the Australian Plateau, Early Queensland State Administrator and Community Leader, Patriarch of Queensland Freemasonry.

He has been referred to as the 'Bradman of Australian Explorers' but few today have heard of him. He was also Queensland's first Surveyor General and Land Commissioner in 1859.

APRIL 15 (1.00 pm) HYBRID

Presenting...*Stories of service: Australians in the Second World War*

Eve Terry will speak about The National Archives collection of over 1 million records documenting the service of Australian men and women during World War II. These include service records for the Army, the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy. Last year the National Archives completed a five year project to digitise our collection of WWII service records, making more than 1 million files available for viewing online. This seminar will uncover the fascinating stories of service found within the records.

Your Society has for sale an extensive range of publications of interest to the family historian, our own publications, those from other societies and authors, books, charts and forms. As new publications become available they will be advertised on our website. All *QFHS Inc. CDs*, *Archive CD Books Australia*, and *Unlock the Past guidebooks* are available for sale on the Society's website at www.qfhs.org.au/shop/shop-catalogue.

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