

# Ancestor

Quarterly Journal of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc



## Getting it write

Creating a sense of tension, integrating conflict  
or struggle in a story

## Research Corner

Understanding Victoria's Legal System  
for Genealogists

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Walter Hon, Beekeeper of  
Seventy Foot Diggings

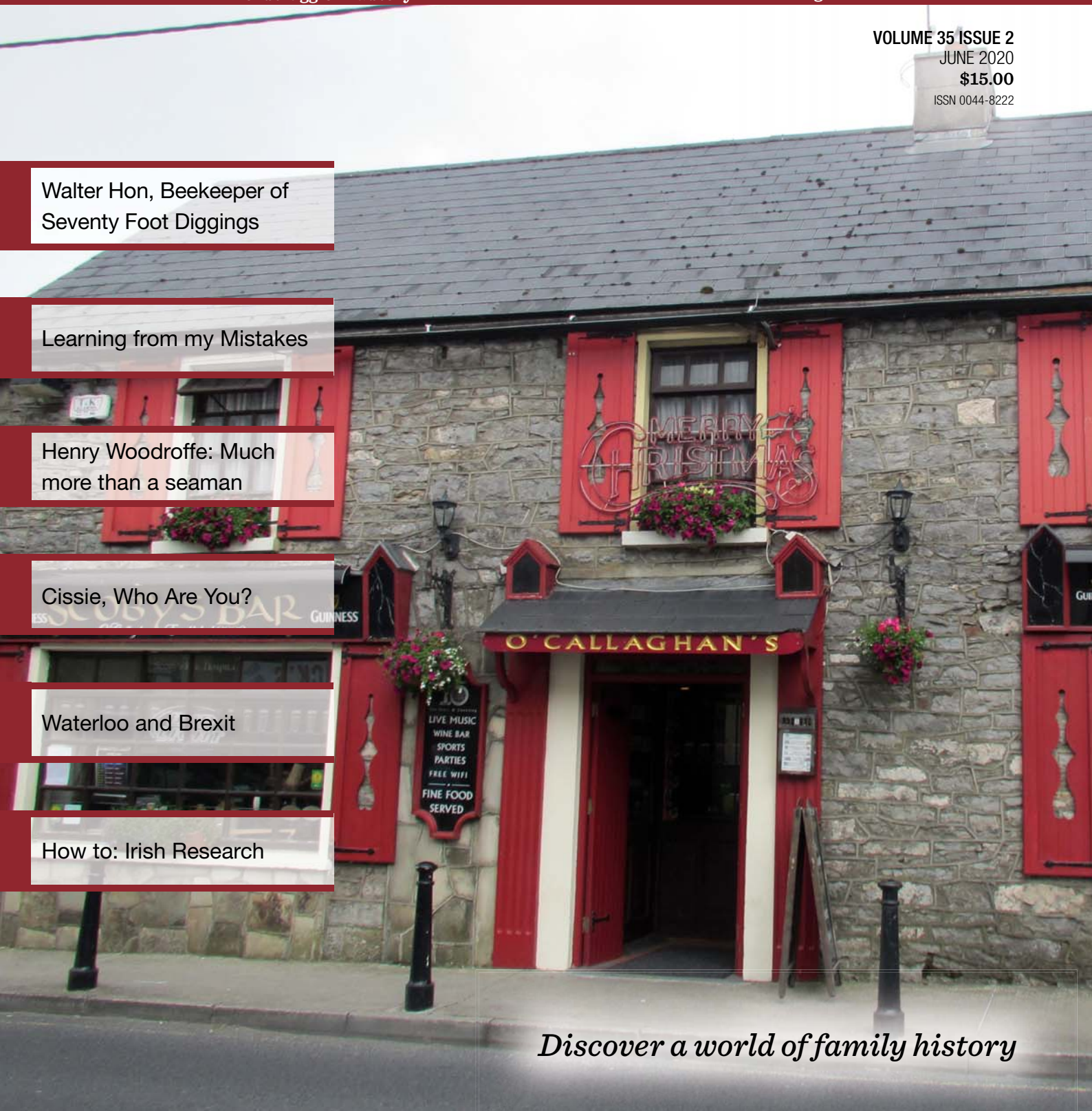
Learning from my Mistakes

Henry Woodroffe: Much  
more than a seaman

Cissie, Who Are You?

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- **TheGenealogist** Access for 20 minutes and please remember to log out.

**Ancestry** (world library edition) is now available via the State Library of Victoria (SLV) using your SLV login.

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**Ancestor Journal** – past copies are available as pdfs on the GSV website, and

**GSV Library Catalogue and databases** Quick links to the best websites are available through the GSV catalogue. Log in as a member to see them and include 'internet' (without the quotation marks) in the format field. As they are 'live links' you can click on them to go straight to the website.

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## DEADLINES

Regular contributors must submit  
material by 1 January, 1 April, 1 July  
and 1 October for publication in the  
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issues respectively. However articles  
for consideration for publication are  
received at any time. Space constraints  
mean that edited articles have to  
sometimes be held over until a later issue.

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# Ancestor

Quarterly Journal of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.  
**Volume 35 Issue 2 / June 2020**

Many of us are reading our June magazine in a different format from usual. You may have already noticed that the sections 'Around the Groups', 'Around the Circles' and 'What's On' are not included. This is because of the uncertainty of planning for when we will be able to attend activities at the GSV again.

On a more positive note, the additional space created has enabled us to include more readers' stories than usual. Julie Conroy's story tells of the life of her great uncle Walter Hon, the son of a Chinese immigrant drawn to Victoria by the lure of gold. Emma Hegarty's amusing article 'Learning from my Mistakes' takes us on some of the mistaken paths that she followed, before finding the right information. I'm sure most of us can relate to that! Geoff Brown thought he had found out all he could about his seaman ancestor Henry Woodroffe, but following up a lead revealed that Henry had given evidence about shipwrecks and seamen's working conditions at two House of Commons Select Committee enquiries. 'Cissie, Who Are You?' by Brian Reid is a fascinating detective story of how Brian eventually found proof of his grandmother's real identity. The article demonstrates in abundance the value of persistent research over the decades, and some fortuitous lateral thinking. Justin Corfield draws interesting parallels and connections between the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and the recent 'Brexit'. Thelma Ragas gives us a brief outline of the history of white settlement of the Wannon valley area, and relates her family connection to it.

In our series of 'How to' articles, Margaret Vines takes us through the resources available to those tracing their Irish ancestors, from beginners to the more experienced. Maureen Trotter In 'DNA News and Notes' explains the use of clustering to make sense of DNA matches. This will be of great interest for readers who are wondering how to interpret the results of a DNA test.

I hope you are taking advantage of the period of lockdown to write up your family stories. The editorial team is looking forward to receiving them!

Barbara Beaumont  
Ancestor Editorial Team

Our cover: *Scoby's Bar in Hospital, County Limerick. Photograph by Margaret Vines.*





# Pen of the President



Jenny Redman

Just two months after the devastating bushfires, I am again writing to you at a time of extraordinary community disruption, with the Covid-19 virus pandemic continuing to challenge our lives and livelihoods. As with many organisations, especially those with our age profile, we have had to make many changes in the way we operate. We are still providing our members with as many services we can, and plan to extend these services during the coming months.

The Covid-19 pandemic is the second major challenge for the GSV this year. As you know, in February 2017 we downsized and moved from Collins to Queen Street on a three year lease. The lease agreement included the option of a one year extension. Late last year our landlord informed us that the one year option would involve a 9.6% rental increase, much greater than the expected yearly rental increase. As a result, in February this year, the Council decided to seek less expensive premises later in 2020 and we planned extra revenue raising events to help fund the relocation.

In March, following the Government's health advice, it was decided to postpone or cancel all scheduled and future events and activities until further notice. Initially members were able to come in to do their research independently. However, attending the Centre eventually became untenable for volunteers and staff using public transport and as the government imposed more stringent closures, we closed the GSV Centre on 23 March.

Obviously the closure prevents us from improving our financial position as we had planned. We are seeking support from government at all levels but anticipate any such financial support will be limited. The position with our major expense (the rent) is uncertain, as the landlord is waiting to see the Victorian government's legislation on rental matters/relief and will then seek instructions from the building owner before considering any rent relief for tenants.

We appreciate the loyalty of our members. Your ongoing support through membership renewals is assisting us greatly. However,

the closure of the GSV Centre has seriously impacted our education activities, research, book sales and donations and we are currently losing income of about \$2000 a month and will continue to do so until it is safe for members to again come into the Centre.

It is incumbent on Council to protect GSV's viability and financial position by saving costs where we can. We are addressing the rental issue with the landlord, but as noted above, the position there is still uncertain. Our remaining major costs are staff salaries and the printing and mailing of the *Ancestor* journal. Our staff are crucial to our functioning through this closure period and all three staff continue to support us while working from home.

In April, Council decided it would be financially prudent to reduce the costs associated with the publication of *Ancestor*. Therefore the June issue will be provided to most members on-line, as a pdf or a 'flipping book', with a very reduced print run. We do acknowledge the well documented appreciation by many members of our printed journal, however in the current circumstances we need to focus on cost savings.

The proposed change to an on-line version of *Ancestor* for June will start to align us with Council's decision in recent years to progress towards becoming a more digital Society, providing more online access and resources to our members. Members are very appreciative of the current digital access to databases from home. We can only continue to provide and expand such resources if we are financially secure.

To reiterate, the GSV is funded almost entirely by members fees, income from events and donations. For almost 80 years we have provided services to help people discover their family histories. We provide a staffed office, events, a library, research centre and meeting space located in Melbourne's CBD, research services, unique databases, an award-winning journal and lively blog.

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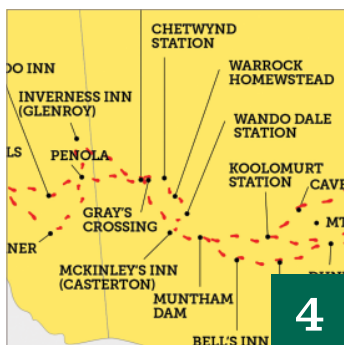
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**Please Note: With the current situation, meetings and events cannot be planned with any certainty. We have therefore not included 'Around the Groups', 'Around the Circles' and 'What's On' in this issue. Please check the website and blog for the latest news regarding our plans.**

# Walter Hon, Beekeeper of Seventy Foot Diggings

by Julie Conroy

Julie can be contacted at  
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It was a hot summer's day in 1925 when Walter, aged 43, drove his Chevy truck up to Hateley's paddock not far from Stawell. The gum trees were in flower and the bees had been working hard. He parked in the shade and grabbed his old tattered hat with veil to protect his face.

He lit the smoker. As the smoke filled the air the bees became calm and drowsy. Taking the lid off the hive, he puffed more smoke around the hive so that he could sort through the frames that needed extraction. Checking through the six hives he noticed that there were eight frames missing. Theft had been a problem in the district with other beekeepers having equipment and frames stolen. About two years earlier, frames had been stolen from his hives. After that he branded them with the letter 'H' to help with identification. He would report this matter to the police.<sup>1</sup>

He placed the honey-laden combs into a box for extraction. Other hives needed to be checked in another paddock before he would make his way home. As the air became cloudy with smoke, Walter started to reminisce about his childhood. He missed his family, particularly his father with whom he had lived with until he was 29, when his father died. Since then he had lived alone in the cottage. His sisters had moved away from the area and he didn't hear from them that often. They had busy lives with their families.

His father, Ah On, had often told stories of his childhood in China, where he had been a farmer, and how he had travelled by boat from Guangzhou (Canton), China to South Australia in 1863.<sup>2</sup> He had been 26 when he arrived and hoped to make his fortune. Life in China at this time was harsh. There was political uncertainty with the Taiping Rebellion which resulted in much fighting, as well as the Opium Wars between China and Britain. This made the discovery of the 'New Golden Mountain' in Victoria an attractive place for Chinese men to come and make their fortune, the

intention being that they would return home with their riches to help their family.

To avoid the £10 poll tax at major Australian ports, many Chinese were dropped off at Guichen Bay near Robe, South Australia and walked to the goldfields in Victoria to try their luck.<sup>3</sup> It was a long journey of over 400 miles and would have taken more than three weeks by foot. The route that he probably took was to Ararat and then Stawell, which was 19 miles northwest of Ararat.

The Chinese arrived in large numbers, were well organised and often found gold that others had missed. Some gambled and smoked opium. And they looked different. They were seen as a threat.

After the long journey walking across country, Ah On had eventually settled at Seventy Foot diggings (now known as Illawarra) near Stawell in 1870. Unfortunately, he had missed the most prosperous discoveries of the gold diggings. Many miners and fossickers had moved further away to more profitable fields and diggings. The deep mines were mostly closed in Stawell at this time. He continued to fossick for gold throughout his life, but made his living as a gardener in the district.<sup>4</sup>

The Ah Sing family lived close by at the Seventy Foot Diggings.<sup>5</sup> Ah On married Mary Ann Ah Sing on 11 December 1878 at Stawell.<sup>6</sup> Ah On was aged 39 and Mary Ann was sixteen. Married with her mother's consent, Mary Ann came from a large family and was of an age where she would need to marry soon. Despite her Chinese surname, Mary Ann was of Italian and Irish heritage. Her Italian father Antonio Leopold died at 31 years of age and her Irish mother Ellen Boyne, then married a Chinese man Wong Ah Sing. Ellen and her children then took on her new husband's surname, Ah Sing.

On a winter's day in 1882, Walter was born at Seventy Foot Diggings, near Stawell,<sup>7</sup> the third





▲ Image 1: *Chinese Treks to the Goldfields*. Courtesy City of Ballarat, copyright Sam Brown and Cash Brown.

of eight children born to Ah and Mary Ann On. Due to the primitive facilities and lack of medical supplies, only four of the children survived into adulthood. Minnie, Elizabeth and James died in infancy between 1880 and 1897.<sup>8</sup> Albert drowned at six years of age in a dam not far from their cottage.<sup>9</sup> This left Emma, born 1880, Walter, born 1882, Ada May (my grandmother), born 1886 and Margaret, born 1888.

Walter attended the Illawarra State School No. 1681 from the age of four and a half, from mid-1887 up to January 1895, and was well educated for a person of that time. There was a mixture of nationalities at the school including the Ah Sings. His siblings, Emma, Ada, Margaret, and Albert attended the school. At the age of thirteen he finished school to help his father with the market garden.

During the 1890s Victoria was in a state of economic depression and there was a prolonged drought. This made living conditions hard, but the local community worked together to make life easier. Throughout this era the Chinese were not well-liked in the community and eventually in 1901 the Immigration Restriction Act came into force, reducing the number of non-white immigrants. It was predominately aimed at Asians.

Walter's mother, Mary Ann, was not happy with her lot in life. She had married at sixteen to a much older man, and half of her children were dead. Times were tough and she longed for a more exciting, comfortable life. There may have been a couple of indiscretions during the marriage which

resulted in two children who looked distinctly European.<sup>10</sup> Ada recounted later in life that as a young child she was encouraged to rub onion into her skin to make it look yellow.<sup>11</sup> ➡

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\*comScore, 2011

Mary Ann met John Bath, a much younger man who was a hawker. She left her family and married him in Bendigo in 1902.<sup>12</sup> She was not divorced. They continued to live in Bendigo. Little is known of Mary Ann other than newspaper articles of February 1905.<sup>13</sup>

A case was heard at the Bendigo Supreme Court, stating that on the evening of 20 February 1905 she was robbed by three young men taking two purses containing six pawn tickets and her gold wedding ring. They had knocked her down in Bridge Street, Bendigo. During the hearing Mary Ann declared that she was sober at the time, however her friend Mrs Ellen Crossly who had accompanied her, gave contradicting accounts of what had transpired during the evening. They had both been refused alcohol at the Bendigo Hotel by the publican due to their drunken state. Unfortunately for Mary Ann, even though she may have been robbed, the case was dismissed as the judge questioned the reliability of their testimonies due to their condition.

Mary Ann's marriage to John Bath was short-lived. She died aged 41 in May 1905 at the Bendigo Hospital from heart disease.

With Mary Ann gone, Ah On was left with four children aged sixteen to 22. Ada was sent to Ballarat to stay with her grandmother for some time. Margaret stayed in Stawell until she married William Thomas Pridmore in 1912. In 1909 Ada returned from Ballarat and married Arthur John Conroy, and Emma travelled to Sydney and was married to George Hung Young in 1911. She became a Methodist missionary and travelled to China to teach. Walter continued to live with his father.

Ah Hon died on 17 March 1909 at Illawarra, aged 72, the last person in Stawell to have a miner's licence. A notice was placed in the local paper by his children.<sup>14</sup> They admired their father for working hard and providing for his family after their mother had deserted them. Ada enjoyed writing poetry and wrote on her siblings' behalf.

The death of his father meant that Walter, aged 27, took over the garden to sell produce. He was no stranger to the work having helped his father over many years. At some stage he began to keep bees to supplement his income.



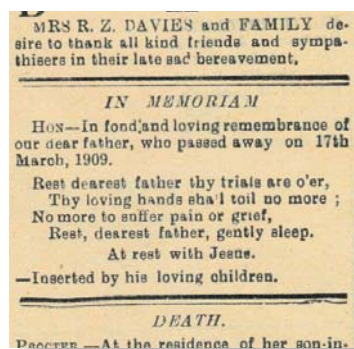
▲ Image 3: *Walter with Illawarra Tennis group on a social outing in the 1930s. With permission, Stawell Historical Society*

In 1912, Walter obtained a job as a crane driver at the Mt. Difficult Quarry later known as the Heatherlie Quarry. The stone was highly sought after because of its durability and was used to replace buildings in Stawell after a large fire in the main street in the 1870s. Later the stone was used in Melbourne in buildings such as Parliament House, Melbourne Town Hall, the State Library and the Regent Theatre. Unfortunately, his work there finished when he was involved in an accident:

Stawell, Sunday – While working at the large crane at the Grampians quarries on Thursday, a young man named Walter Ah Hon had his leg broken in two places below the knee. The accident occurred through the pin holding the crane handle becoming displaced. He was taken to the Stawell hospital by trolley and attended to by Dr. Davies.<sup>15</sup>

After the accident Walter left the quarry but continued gardening and bee-keeping. With his sisters gone and his father deceased, Walter lived alone. He remained single, although he had hoped to marry the girl who lived next door, however her parents did not approve of their daughter marrying a Chinese man.<sup>16</sup>

Nevertheless, Walter enjoyed company and had an active community life. In the district he was known to play the violin at the monthly local dances. Tennis was one of his passions. He was a member of the Illawarra Tennis club for many years and played into his seventies, being quite fit. He was known to beat other tennis players half his age. This was a great social and physical activity where he got to travel and keep in contact with many people throughout the district. He invited other players on outings to see the countryside using his Chevy truck to drive to the Grampians and the surroundings areas. He was fondly remembered by people in the district:



▲ Image 2: *Ah Hon In Memoriam, Stawell News and Pleasant Creek Chronicle 19 March 1910*





▲ Images 4 & 5: *Hons Road, Illawarra, Victoria* (above) and (right) *the Grave of Joseph and Walter Hon, Stawell cemetery*. Author's photos

There was a Chinese family who attended the school in the early days. One of them was Walter Hon and he took part in all activities. Later he bought a nice big truck (he was a bee farmer) and took us girls on many lovely outings to different places. He was a real gentleman, and highly revered in the community.<sup>17</sup>

In 1938 Walter received the sad news that his older sister Emma had been killed in the Rape of Nanking in China. Japanese soldiers invaded Nanjing in a six-week period, murdering or raping over 200,000 people, predominantly civilians.

The Second World War saw Walter gardening and bee-keeping, making his contribution to the local

community. He enjoyed a simple life and wasn't one for new technology but in the early 1970s decided to have the electricity connected. Being in his late 80s he was finding everyday tasks more challenging. He spent all of his life in Illawarra. Walter died at the Stawell hospital aged 93 in 1976. He was buried with his father in the Stawell cemetery. The tombstone names Walter's father as Joseph. It is unknown when he adopted this name.

After humble beginnings and adversity, Walter strove to assimilate and became a well-regarded member of his community. As a sign of his contribution to the local community the Shire of the Northern Grampians named 'Hons Road' after Walter Hon in the late 1990s.■

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my cousin, Dr Marguerite Wells, my brother Robert Conroy and the Stawell Historical Society for their generous help.

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## Surnames

Ah Sing, Bath, Boyne, Conroy, Crossly, Hon, On, Pridmore, Young

# Learning from my Mistakes

by Emma Hegarty

It is easy to make mistakes in family history research. Beware family trees posted on the internet – they are frequently riddled with errors arising from coincidence and assumptions. As your research becomes deep and broad, you learn to interrogate the evidence, and mistakes can provide valuable lessons. Here are some of my family history muddles that led to a lot of misspent time and excitement (and a little misspent money), but also made me a better researcher.

## Blade

My ancestor John Blade was born in Ballymacward, County Galway in about 1818. He and his brother Laurence arrived in Sydney as Bounty migrants in January 1842. They travelled inland by steamer to their jobs in the Maitland district. There John married Ellen Brennan and they had several children. He later married Mary Doyle and had more children.

In the days before online indexes, I was using the *Digger* databases, where searching births and deaths by mother's maiden name can be very productive. By this method I found all the children born to Ellen Brennan and Mary Doyle between the 1840s and the 1870s, and noticed a curious pattern. Many of the children had a father named John Blade. And many of them had a father named Friedrich Knittel. Had I stumbled upon a double life? And why would an Irish farm boy choose such an exotic alias?

After amassing a confusing collection of certificates, I had to accept that it was a coincidence. John Blade and Friedrich Knittel were two different men, married first to two different Ellen Brennans, and then to two different Mary Doyles, in the same time period.

## Scott

The last of my ancestors to arrive in Australia was Jeannie Smith Scott, from Hobkirk, Roxburghshire. Her parents were Adam Scott and Jane Dalgliesh. Jeannie and her sister Maggie Turnbull Scott arrived in 1887, joining extended family on their mother's side. Six of Jane Dalgliesh's siblings had come to Australia since

the 1830s and most were settled near Learmonth, 22km northwest of Ballarat, where both Jeannie and Maggie were to spend the rest of their lives (as Mrs Dowler and Mrs Parker respectively). The Scott side of the family is more of a mystery.

I have never made much progress with Scottish research, but I thought I'd struck gold when I came across a notice in a Ballarat newspaper. It was the announcement of the birth of a daughter to Mrs and Mrs Adam Scott of Ballarat in 1868. Adam Scott was described as:

son of Mr Robert Scott, late Color-Sergeant of the 84th Regiment of Foot, and who is still living in Roxburghshire, Hawick, Scotland, at the advanced age of 90 years, having served throughout the Peninsular War.<sup>1</sup>

Hawick is the name of the immediate region that includes Hobkirk. A later obituary for Robert Scott revealed that four of his children had settled in Ballarat.<sup>2</sup> I delved into these Scotts and advanced my family tree considerably before finding evidence that it was not my Adam Scott. If I had paused to look at the dates, I would have noticed that Jeannie and Maggie were small girls in Scotland when their supposed father was having another daughter in Ballarat. I later found another Adam Scott from Hawick dying after a fall from a horse in Dromana in 1882.<sup>3</sup> His wife's name was not Dalgliesh, and he arrived in Australia before Jeannie. Hawick is a small district, where the same few surnames and given names appear frequently in every generation. It seems that there were at least three men named Adam Scott in the Hawick region of the right age to be Jeannie's father. Quite possibly they were cousins.

Recently I delved back into this mystery online. By using a combination of *Family Search*, *Scotland's People* and *Findmypast*, I discovered that when Jeannie and Maggie were small, Adam moved his family to join his brother in a small village in Ayrshire in western Scotland, and there he died in 1915. Thanks to the improvement of official records in Adam Scott's lifetime, I will be able to discover more about him and his world.

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greatmayhem@gmail.com



## Hidden jewels

My ancestor Maria Purcell was the daughter of John Purcell and Catherine Forde. She was born in 1834 in Tuam, County Galway. The names of local families come up repeatedly in the Tuam church records, but Maria was the only Purcell recorded there over many years. By the time of her marriage in 1851 she was living in the Galway village of Dunmore. In 1854, Maria, her husband John Walshe, two babies and her cousin John Howard were sponsored to come to Australia by a Mr Tye of Collingwood. The passenger list states that he met them at the port and took them all home with him.

For decades this man's identity and connection to the family was a mystery. Then, using *Trove*, I found a curious court case. At Christmas 1854, Peter Tighe was charged with assaulting John Walshe in a family dispute.<sup>4</sup> I began searching the spelling Tighe and found two astonishing links. Peter Tighe had married Catherine Forde in Dural NSW in 1844. In 1855 Catherine died, and her death certificate listed her husband as Peter Tighe, and her parents as Mary Howard and Francis Forde of Dunmore, Galway. Catherine Tighe was, without doubt, Maria Purcell's mother. Somehow, Catherine had come to Australia, leaving her young daughter behind, remarried, and later paid for Maria to follow her, only to die less than a year after their reunion. Why did she leave a small child behind in Ireland? What happened to her first husband, John Purcell? And it did seem a little odd that in her second marriage she used her maiden name.

In the shipping records I found one couple who were a strong match. John and Catherine Purcell, of exactly the right ages, had arrived in Melbourne in 1841 as Bounty migrants on the ship *Agricola*. They were from Clare, which I hoped was a clue to the origins of the Purcell family; it could have meant County Clare, or the Galway parish of Clare, which includes the town of Tuam where Maria was born. I soon became something of an expert on that voyage. I found, for instance, that the *Agricola* was fired upon by a British naval vessel; that the ship's doctor, a married man, had seduced and then abandoned a naïve young passenger; and that an outbreak of typhus caused a quarantine camp to be set up at Williamstown for 60 *Agricola* passengers.

Unfortunately, the *Agricola* arrived at the beginning of a recession. There was no work in Melbourne, and the *Agricola* emigrants had to disperse. I examined Australian records for every mention of John Purcell, alive or dead, in the early

1840s. The only one who matched was a 25-year-old who died in a carting accident in Sydney in July 1843. I could not account for Catherine, alone in NSW, until her marriage to Peter Tighe in Dural in 1844, and the birth of their first child that year.

After that, Catherine's life was quite well documented. The Tighes soon moved to Port Phillip, where Peter worked as a chief constable in the Western District, as assistant superintendent at the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, in the Ballarat gold escort, as a Crown Land ranger, and as a gold rush publican. During these years of struggle and excitement, knowing that family at home in Ireland were living through a famine, the Tighes eventually saved enough money to reunite Catherine with the girl she'd left behind.

It was a rollicking great story that I investigated in detail. Putting in some final touches, I noticed that Catherine's brief time in NSW was not well covered. Aware that the name Tighe is often misheard or misspelt, I went back to *Trove* and searched in the period 1841 to 1845 for 'Peter Tye'. This impulsive check produced an article that brought years of research undone:

Catherine Purcell, wife of Mr. Peter Tye, of Duro, in the Windsor District, was charged by Constable Lang with absconding from the service of Mr. Holmes, butcher, of George-street, Sydney, about three years ago. The prisoner, who was a very decent, good-looking young woman, admitted having absconded from the service of Mr. Holmes, in the month of March 1841, having then been one year in the colony, in pursuance of a sentence of transportation of 15 years, and being the wife of Mr. Peter Tye, of Duro, in the Windsor district. She was remanded to the Factory for the evidence of her former master, if he had any charge to prefer against her.<sup>5</sup>



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Within minutes I had found her trial on the Old Bailey website.<sup>6</sup> Catherine Purcell, a 19-year-old widow from Dunmore, County Galway, a servant, had stolen a box of jewels from her employers. She smuggled a small fortune from London back to Dunmore, where her parents were caring for her child. What's more, she stood up in court and accused her master of attempting to seduce her with false promises, and accused his wife of adultery.<sup>7</sup> The gutter press loved it; the establishment did not, and she was dispatched on the last shipment of female convicts to NSW.

My extensive research on the *Agricola* will not be wasted. I am working on a research article about the extraordinary voyage of 1841. It was a major distraction, but I don't mind, because my family has now claimed our one and only convict – an international jewel thief and escaped convict with a pretty face and a sassy attitude. ■

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Blade, Brennan, Dalgliesh, Dowler, Doyle, Forde, Holmes, Howard, Knittel, Lang, Parker, Purcell, Scott, Tighe, Walshe

# VALE

## Beryl Anne O'Gorman

### 1941-2020



It was with much sadness that Council and members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria learned of the passing of Beryl O'Gorman in February 2020. We remember Beryl's contribution to the Society and to the Irish Ancestry Group in particular with great respect.

Beryl joined the GSV together with her late husband Brian in August 1992 and they were active members from that time. Their long and loyal service included being joint editors of the IAG newsletter *Blarney* from 1997. Beryl continued as editor after Brian's death in 2012. The newsletter was her signature achievement and always worth reading. She sourced articles and information from her many personal and online contacts and always made the newsletter an interesting and engaging read.

Always willing to assist family historians in the sometimes difficult and complex task of Irish genealogy, Beryl reached out to many of us as members of the IAG. She chaired the

group from 2011 and was described as a clear-thinking researcher.

Her commitment to Irish family history research was exemplified by her willingness to give talks and presentations, not only within IAG and GSV, but also to many outside groups. The Yarra Plenty Libraries, VAFHO, the Dead Persons Society and country groups were just some of those who regularly called upon her expertise in a range of topics to present at seminars and conferences. Beryl was also an active member of various Irish and Australian family and local history groups. She compiled and authored a number of publications on various topics as well as her own Holmes family history, 'On and on the river runs: 150 years of our Holmes family in Australia'.

Beryl's positive attitude to life, even through her illness, and her wide range of interests and skills were characteristics of a formidable woman who will be missed by her fellow members, colleagues and associates within the GSV. ■



# Henry Woodroffe: *much more than a seaman*

by Geoff Brown

On the 6 June 1825 my three times great grandfather Henry Woodroffe was asked the question, 'What are you?' He replied, 'A seaman.'<sup>1</sup> Thus began his appearance before the House of Commons Select Committee on Combination Laws, when, on that day and the next, he answered over 330 questions regarding a seamen's welfare association. His evidence comprised fourteen pages of the committee's report.

This was not his only appearance before a House of Commons Select Committee, as he also appeared before the House of Commons Select Committee into the Causes of Shipwrecks on 5, 8 and 12 July 1836. This time the initial question asked of him was 'What is your occupation?' His reply was more expansive:

I have been a seaman from my childhood, and have filled all the situations in the merchants' service, from a cabin boy to a captain; I also served in the navy as a seaman and a petty officer, and at present I am secretary to the Seaman's Society at South Shields.<sup>2</sup>

Overall, he answered more than 200 questions regarding the shipping industry at South Shields, Durham and nearby ports. His evidence totalled seventeen pages of the committee's final report.

Although I knew nothing about him when I started researching my family, his surname had been kept alive and given to my mother as her middle name, albeit spelt Woodruffe. As my research progressed, I discovered that there were several variations in the spelling of the surname, Woodruff, Woodruffe, Woodroff and Woodroffe.

The facts regarding Henry Woodroffe's early years remain elusive. The first recorded evidence of him is the baptism of two of his daughters, Jane (1825-1910) and Elizabeth Ann (1825-1900), who were both baptised at St Hilda's, South Shields, Durham, on 21 August, 1825.<sup>3</sup> His eldest daughter, Jane, was my great great grandmother and was the only member of the family to come to Australia, arriving in Victoria in the early 1850s, with her husband John Mould. Henry and his first

wife, Elizabeth Wilkinson, had a further three daughters, Hannah Alice (1827-1835), Ann (1828-1859) and Mary (1832-1903).

Elizabeth Woodroffe died on 23 July 1836, in Fowler Street, South Shields and according to her death notice was the wife of Henry Woodroffe, secretary of the Loyal Standard Association.<sup>4</sup> It appears that Henry married again, shortly after Elizabeth's death, but no details have been located, the evidence being the death of a second Elizabeth Woodroffe, on 9 August 1838, at Fowler Street, Westoe, aged 42 years, the wife of Henry Woodroffe, agent.<sup>5</sup> As a Master Mariner he married for a third time, on 18 December 1838, to Mary Cockburn, at Jarrow, Durham.<sup>6</sup> His father was recorded as John Woodroffe, farmer. He had one child from this marriage, Isabella (1842-1846).

In 1838, as Henry Woodroff, Agent, South Shields, he became a shareholder of The Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland Union Joint Stock-Banking Company.<sup>7</sup> It appears the investment was not successful, as in 1847 he is listed as a shareholder of Suspended Joint Stock Banks of the above-mentioned company.<sup>8</sup>

Henry died of bronchitis and asthma on 1 March 1848, at home in Winchester Street, Westoe, Durham, aged 52 years. He was recorded as being a mariner.<sup>9</sup> He was buried at St Hilda's, South Shields, on 5 March 1848.<sup>10</sup>

When he died Henry Woodroffe left a detailed will, the beneficiaries being his wife, Mary, and daughters. If none of them survived his estate was to be divided amongst the children of his only sister Ann Blakemore, wife of John Blakemore, coach spring maker, of 4 Golden Place, Kennington Cross, near London.<sup>11</sup> These details of his sister raised my hopes that I might be able to locate more about Henry's beginnings. The 1851 Census revealed that Ann had been born in the City, Middlesex.<sup>12</sup> The only likely baptism for her was on 23 May 1802, at St Brides, Fleet Street, London,<sup>13</sup> her parents being recorded as

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John and Jane Woodroffe, of 33 Wilderness Lane. This suggested that Henry may have been born in London, but this is yet to be confirmed.

By this stage I thought that I had found about as much as possible about Henry, however there was one intriguing clue to follow up: 'Loyal Standard Association.' Henry Woodroffe's death notice stated that he was much respected and for many years the secretary of the South Shields Loyal Standard Association. Loyal Standard Association had also appeared in the death notice of his first wife. In his will Henry stated that he was a mariner and Secretary to the South Shields Seamen's Loyal Standard Association.<sup>14</sup> Little did I know that the three words would reveal a wealth of information regarding Henry and his activities, and allow me to read a verbatim transcript of two important conversations in which he had participated.

A further search on the words Loyal Standard Association and Woodroffe led to the House of Commons Select Committees and details of the evidence Henry provided. His answers to the questions put to him at the Select Committee on Combination Laws, 1825, revealed some details regarding his activities up to that point. They established that he was a seaman residing in South Shields and a member of the Loyal Standards Association deputed to answer charges made against the association. He gave evidence on seaman's wages and working conditions, mainly in South Shields, and conditions under which benefits would be paid to members and their families.

His next appearance before a House of Commons Select Committee was on the Causes of Shipwrecks, on the 5, 8 and 12 July 1836. Some of his responses to the questions put to him make harrowing reading. In response to question 292 on shipping losses he replies:

I speak from the present loss of shipping within the last four years, they amount to 270 odd sail belonging to the port of Tyne, out of about 1000.

293. That is about 25 percent of the whole number? – Yes.

306. Chairman.] Have any considerations occurred to you as to the defective construction of ships? Do they build them as strongly as they did? – We have many instances of new ships failing in the first voyage.

307. How failing? – There was the *Princess Victoria*, in 1833, on her first voyage from Archangel, returning laden, through the White Sea, with grain, coming down on a very fine day, carrying royals, the ship absolutely burst to pieces; the mate and the boy

were drowned, and the remaining part of the crew with great difficulty saved themselves.

322. You stated, that in four years there were 270 ships lost, as I understand you? – Yes.

323. What number of lives were lost out of these? – On looking over the society's books, of which I am secretary, for 10 years ending December last, by shipwrecks, drowning & c., they are as 11 is to 16 in all other cases of death; but during the last four years, ending March last, on looking over the books and taking the account of seamen of the port, they are as 17 to 16 of all other cases, and the cholera has been raging heavily.

428. Chairman.] During the time to which your answers extend, over which is spread the loss of so many ships as 270 in four years, and 143 in two years, what number of ships have been broken up as unseaworthy, having fairly run out of their time? – I have made most strict inquiries from all sides, and from old men, and by the best information I can find five sail of vessels broken up within the last 70 years in the port of Tyne; they are never allowed to be broken up, they do not think of breaking them up.

429. Do you mean by that they sail them till they are lost? – Undoubtedly.

430. Is it your opinion that they sail them long beyond the period when they ought to be broken up? – I know it is a matter of fact, it is looked for as a matter of course; a gale of wind comes on, and then it is usual on such a night to say that she will undoubtedly go, and we very seldom get wrong in our calculation. I know an instance of a ship that was lost in 1833; I spoke to the master, a valued friend of mine, and I said to him, as he was going away, 'Christopher, I really would not go in that ship.' He said, 'I have been ill, my wife is ill, and I have a small family; it is summer time, and I will venture this voyage and no more, if God spares me;' she went to sea, and was lost and all hands perished.<sup>15</sup>

The outcome of the Select Committee, and other similar reports, was the passing of legislation for the regulation of merchant shipping, stowage and carriage of goods at sea, the implementation of a register for merchant seamen, and the examination of masters and chief mates of merchant vessels to ensure they were fit for their roles.

Interestingly, Henry is not my only ancestor to give evidence to parliamentary committees. His grandson, Henry Woodruffe Mould (1852-1922), the eldest son of Henry's daughter Jane, gave evidence to the Tariff Commission enquiry into Iron Founding and Axles on 18 May 1882, in Melbourne, where he answered about 230 questions.<sup>16</sup>



Henry primarily saw himself as a master mariner, as this is how he described himself when his daughters were baptised, when he married for the third time, and when he wrote his will. At times he also identified as an agent, when he became a bank shareholder in 1838, and on the 1841 Census.<sup>17</sup> It appears that for the last twenty years of his life he was heavily involved with the Seaman's Society, South Shields and could more accurately be described as either a union official, or a friendly society officer.

Although Henry Woodroffe is little known today, he was a person of some standing and influence during his lifetime. In particular in union and benevolent activities regarding seaman, as witness his appearances at two House of Commons Select Committees. He also met or corresponded with others who were active in similar areas, including Francis Place (1771-1854), an English social reformer,<sup>18</sup> whom Henry

met about 20 times prior to the 1825 Select Committee; Gustave d'Eichthal (1804-1886), a French writer and publicist,<sup>19</sup> who visited him in South Shields; and Sir Jahleel Brenton (1770-1844), a British admiral.<sup>20</sup> Another of his contacts was the local M.P. for South Shields, Robert Ingham (1793-1875),<sup>21</sup> who was one of three trustees for the South Shields Seamen's Loyal Standard Association.<sup>22</sup>

There is still much to find out about Henry Woodroffe; his birthplace, Royal Naval service, merchant marine service and other facets of his life. As a descendant it is a privilege to be able to read about his work in his words, the details of his work and influence to improve the working conditions within his industry, and to alleviate the financial stress of seamen and their family members adversely impacted by the poor conditions. ■

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Blakemore, Brenton, Cockburn, d'Eichthal, Ingham, Mould, Place, Wilkinson, Woodroff, Woodroffe, Woodruff, Woodruffe

# Cissie, Who Are You?

by Brian Reid

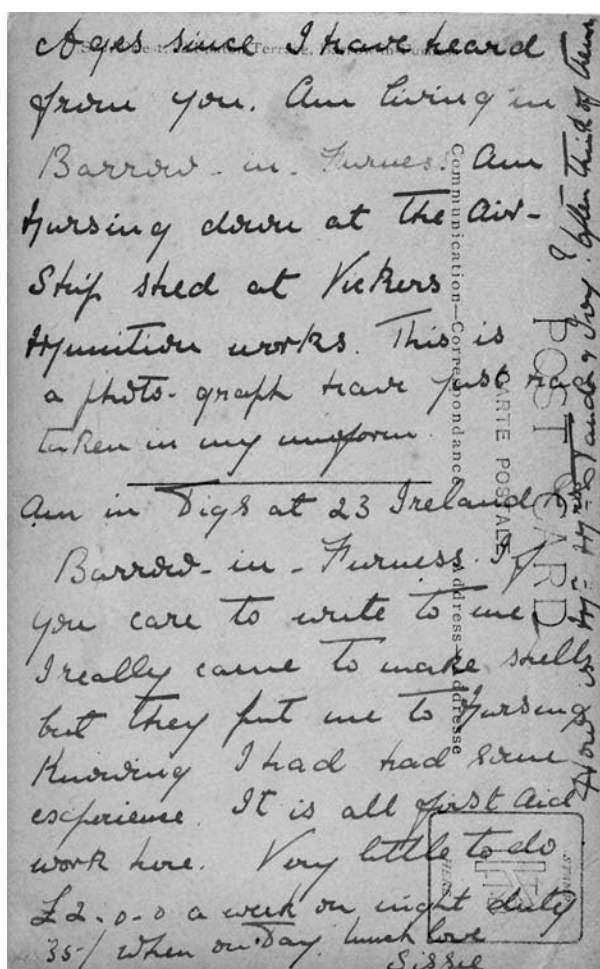
Brian can be contacted at  
reidbrianj@gmail.com

For as long as I can remember I knew the name of my dad's mother, Cissie Wilson, and that Dad had been adopted at birth. However I thought of my paternal grandparents as John Reid and Mary (Dand) Reid – 'Gran Reid'. The adoption was never a family secret, but we didn't talk about it much either. Dad discovered that the couple he'd thought of, for the first 29 years of his life, as his real parents – weren't. In August 1942, after Dad received the news of the death of his 'father' he rushed to his family home in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, to be with and help his 'mother'. When he arrived she told him 'it's got nothing to do with you, he wasn't your father – and I'm not your mother.' Dad repeated this comment to my mum, when she arrived a little later with me, a two month old baby. Mum told me he was devastated, he'd had no idea. I have the

birth certificate Dad applied for a few days later. It shows his mother Cissie Wilson, no father listed and that he had been born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1913.

One of the three photos Dad was subsequently given of his birth mother had a message on the back which was signed 'Sissie' and mentioned 'Mr & Mrs Tand & Ivy' (sic). Aged 66, Dad died in 1979 without ever having learned any of this story. So this is for Dad.

Mum later told me that Dad had been given the name of the solicitor who had arranged his adoption: J. Ingram Dawson from Barnard Castle. She said that Dad wrote to the solicitor and that he replied saying 'Let sleeping dogs lie, you'll never find out.' Unfortunately, the letter hasn't



▲ Images 1 & 2: Cissie on a postcard in 1914-15 (top), and letter from Cissie on the back of the card

survived – but the comment is seared in my memory, for its casual callousness.

Ten years later I took my first steps to look for his real mum. Nothing I found gave me any confidence I'd identified the 'right' person. I talked to Mum about anything she remembered Gran Reid telling her about Dad's real mother – Cissie Wilson. Mum had an almost faultless memory, and early in my search she committed to writing '... just a resume of some information which was given to me by Mrs Reid in 1942.' Later, I realised I could use Mum's notes to test any 'candidate' for the identity of my paternal grandmother.

Mum's notes told me: 'Cissie Wilson' was the only name Mum ever heard Mrs Reid call her, and her father was Dr Wilson. Cissie had at least one brother. Her brother had a bad accident and hit his head. They lived somewhere near Barnard Castle. They had a big house and were wealthy. After Cissie became pregnant, she was sent to live with Mrs Reid's sister, Ivy Dand living at Goldspink Lane in Newcastle upon Tyne, where she stayed for some time. It is unclear if Dr Wilson disowned his daughter. Mum knew that Mary Dand was paid a lump sum when Cyril was born. The child may have been legally adopted. A solicitor called Dawson was involved and he may have been Dr Wilson's solicitor. They used the name 'Cissie' on Cyril's birth certificate on the likely advice of the solicitor probably to make her origins harder to track. In 1942, Cyril wrote to Dawson to ask if he could help, but Dawson replied: 'let sleeping dogs lie'. Mum thought Cissie would have been about twenty when Cyril was born.

I also contacted a number of Dand 'relatives' in England. I hoped they might know who this elusive Cissie Wilson was. It turned out that while one or two remembered her and others recalled stories about her, they had no idea of her real identity. In fact, one of them told me he'd always assumed 'Mary gave one favour too many' and that Dad was Gran Reid's child. Their letters gave me the 'colour' – the sense of who my grandmother was and who the supporting characters were. These requests for information and their responses were timely. Within a few years all these sources had died. That is where my research sat for several more years.

### The Concentrated Search

In 2012, I found time to concentrate on researching my family. I remembered something one of Gran Reid's cousins had said in one of his letters years earlier – could Dawson, the solicitor have been the father? Initially I decided not to pursue that avenue of research, but I did turn my attention to the solicitor and it proved to be pivotal. He had dismissed Dad's call for help and



▲ Image 3: *Borrenthwaite Hall, Stainmore, Westmorland, home of the Ewbankes since the 1500s*

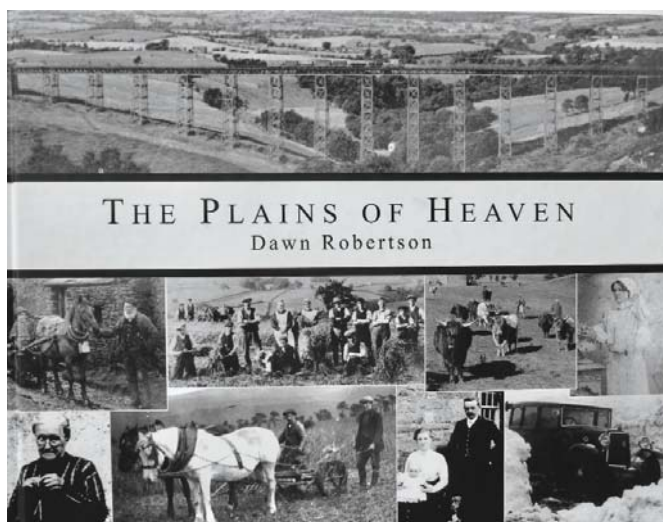
arrogantly asserted that he would never find out! I was determined to prove him wrong. He had in fact made a bad mistake. Also, of course, he could not have foreseen the internet!

### So who was the solicitor?

John Ingram Dawson practised law in and around Barnard Castle in County Durham in the north of England between the late 1800s and 1950. In 1949 his autobiography – *Reminiscences of a Rascally Lawyer* – was published. It portrayed a humourless man convinced of his own importance. I hoped, independently of his implied admission in his response to Dad, that I could connect him with the adoption. In the letters I received from the Dands in reply to my requests for information in the late 1980s were references to Dawson as 'Uncle Dawson'. In 1907 Dawson had married Hannah Tulip. She had a sister in Newcastle, Alice (Tulip) Dand. Alice Dand and her husband had several children, one of whom was Mary Dand – 'Gran Reid' – who took on the responsibility of bringing up Dad. She later became known as Mary Reid after she met and started to live with John Reid, a young Customs and Excise officer, recently arrived in Newcastle from Fife, Scotland. They never married, but she may have changed her name to Reid by deed poll.

So, Dawson's 'mistake', or perhaps even professional incompetence, was in not using an agent in a distant town to place his client's daughter, but instead asking his wife to help him. But for this mistake, I would never have been able to find the elusive 'Cissie'. I thought that maybe Dawson had helped out a friend. But I decided that it was more likely that he'd acted for a client. So I set about finding as many of Dawson's clients as I could – on the internet. I was amazed how many there were, from the 1880s onward. I'm sure Dawson would have been horrified to know that after more than a century anyone would be able to find this information. »





▲ Image 4: Cissie shown on middle row, right of front cover of 'The Plains of Heaven' by Dawn Robertson



▲ Image 5: Cissie on p48 of the book 'The Plains of Heaven' by Dawn Robertson

### Hidden Secrets Revealed

I found a reference to a meeting attended by Dawson showing that he was one of five trustees of a Marriage Settlement of a Mary Ann Annas Ravensworth Ewbanke. Intrigued, I looked into it. I read that a Marriage Settlement 'was a means of ensuring the proper use of a dowry provided by a bride's father to be used for his daughter's financial support throughout her married life and into her widowhood.' I went back to this client, Mary Ann Annas Ravensworth Ewbanke, and found that Dawson had also been an executor/trustee of her estate following her death in 1948 – nearly 60 years later. I looked at the 1891 census records. I found that she had been married to a physician and surgeon, George W Dalston-Ewbanke. The anecdotal information Mum had given me had suggested that Cissie's father had been a doctor. Then I saw in the 1901 census that there was a daughter, Constance Annie Dalston-Ewbanke and an older son George Michael and that they didn't have a street address but lived at what appeared to be a large house – Borrenthwaite Hall, Stainmore, Westmorland.

From the 1871 census, I found Mary Ann Annas Ravensworth Ewbanke's father was Matthew Robinson Ewbanke. I then found a site which recorded that in fact he had been Matthew Robinson Wilson who had changed his name by deed poll to Ewbanke in 1866 – as a pre-marriage requirement. Could this have been the reason the surname Wilson had been used on Dad's birth certificate? I found it interesting that Dr George William Dalston-Ewbanke who had been a Dalston, had also been required to change his name – in this case by adding Ewbanke after his surname.

### Help from New Research Friends

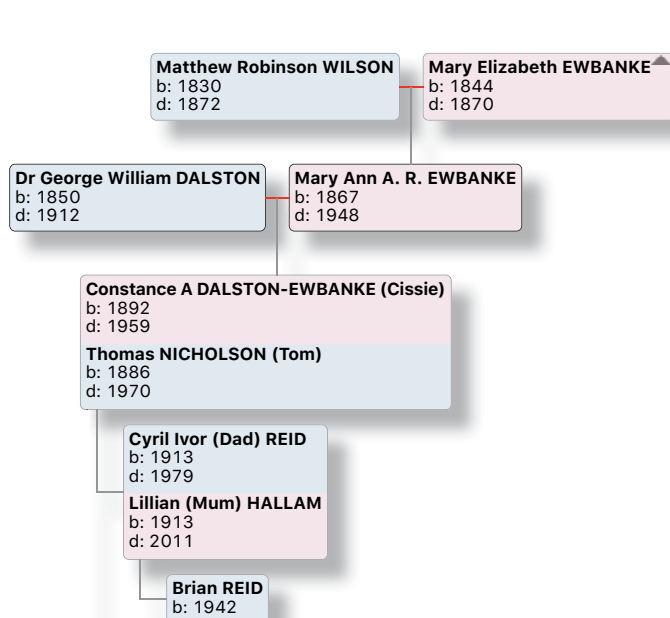
In September 2012 I placed an enquiry in the *Westmorland Rootsweb List* website seeking

information. Almost immediately I received a reply from 'Barb, Ontario, Canada'. She sent me seven pages of papers from 'Terry', who also lived in Ontario (in Toronto). The seven pages contained a handwritten comment believed to have come from another Ewbanke researcher and a Ewbank herself, Margo Murray in Marazion, Cornwall. One comment was that Constance was known as 'Sis'. But much more importantly, in a copy of a 1912 newspaper report of the funeral of Constance's father George William Dalston-Ewbanke, was a reference to the wreath from Constance and her brother George Michael signed 'George and Sis'. Barb also sent a handwritten note saying 'Sis ... left home because mother didn't allow her to marry a local lad she fancied.' But that's another story – the beginning of my journey to find my grandfather! I believed I'd found 'Cissie Wilson' my paternal grandmother – whom I then knew was Constance Annie Dalston-Ewbanke. Circumstantial? Probable? But not yet certain.

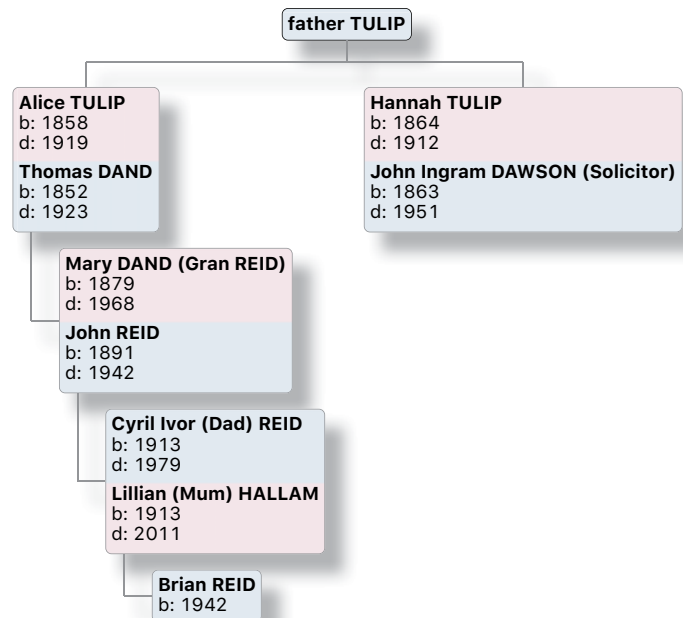
### The Final Breakthrough

Then I heard again from Terry in Toronto – the source of my first Ewbanke information – about a book by Dawn Robertson in which Terry told me that there was a photo of a car belonging to Cissie's brother, George. On the front cover was a montage containing several photos from the inside pages. They included a copy of the same photo my Dad had been given after he was told he had been adopted (middle row on right)!!

Inside the book the caption to that photo reads, 'Pictured above, Constance Annie Dalston-Ewbank (sic), in 1915, aged eighteen. Constance worked as a nurse during the war and was the daughter of Dr and Mrs Dalston-Ewbank (sic) of Borrenthwaite Hall. Her brother George served in the First World War.' This was the proof I'd been seeking that Cissie Wilson and Constance Annie Dalston-Ewbanke were the same person – my



▲ Chart 1: Brian's biological family.



▲ Chart 2: Shows Brian's relationship, through his adopted grandparents to the solicitor, John Ingram Dawson

grandmother. I had two independently sourced prints from the same negative – one was the photo given to my Dad by his adoptive mother (with a message linking the photo to the Dand family) and the other with a caption showing her to be Constance Annie Dalston-Ewbanke.

### Conclusion – or Just the Interval?

My grandmother, Constance, was born on 14 November 1892 at Borrenthwaite Hall into a privileged and wealthy family in one of the most isolated parts of England – Stainmore, Westmorland, and east of the Lake District. Her mother, Mary Ann Annas Ravensworth Ewbanke, had been brought up by her grandmother and after her wedding was referred as having ‘... a tenantry rent-roll which would have constituted a handsome fortune for one of the barons of old.’ The older man she had married was the local doctor and he became a noted breeder and successful winning driver of hackney horses and carriages. The family owned at least twenty farms in the Stainmore and Shap areas and an inn – the Butchers Arms in Crosby Ravensworth, Westmorland.

It seems that after Constance's mother denied her the opportunity to marry the 'local lad', my grandfather, she left home never to return during the lifetime of her mother. She did, however, receive an income from several farms – and the inn! Constance married twice. Her first husband, to whom she was married for sixteen years, was John Thompson – whom she met while working as a nurse during WWI at the Barrow-in-Furness Airship Sheds. Her divorce was finalised just before she married a second time to a postmaster, William O.E.C. Evans. Because of his job they lived in a number of places around England before they retired to Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, near Blackpool. She died on 23 November 1959

of a coronary thrombosis. She was buried back in St Michael's, Church Brough, in the same grave as her brother who had never married, two other siblings who died as infants, her parents, grandparents, great grandparents and great great grandparents.

### The Local Lad

In 2013, one hundred years after Dad's birth, I travelled to Church Brough. There someone suggested that I meet a Stainmore local, John Coates, who it was believed knew who my grandfather was. John told me that the name of my biological grandfather was Tom Nicholson (1886-1970) – the 'local lad' from the farm 'next door'. A Y-chromosome DNA test with the grandson of Tom's older brother proved conclusively that this Tom Nicholson was my grandfather. The Y-chromosome test using 17 markers was conducted on the author and another descendant (Ian George Nicholson) by Anglia DNA Services, Norwich, England. A comparison of the haplotypes identified for the two individuals tested showed a match at 17 of the 17 loci tested. The result was consistent with them sharing a common paternal ancestor.

The saddest thing perhaps is that in 1954 Dad, Mum, my two younger brothers and I spent Christmas in Penrith. To get there we crossed Stainmore on the old Roman road, the A66. It passes within about two hundred yards of Borrenthwaite – and also within feet of the home of one of Dad's uncles, Robert Nicholson, and his daughter Vera, dad's first cousin – whom he never knew. Vera is alive and well and she and her family are now joys of my life.

It had been thought that this Ewbanke line had died out in 1963. But one remains – me!! ■ ➡





◀ Image 6: Graves of more than twenty Ewbanks buried at St Michael's Church, Church Brough

## References

Details of the references for this article can be obtained from the author on request. They include details of birth, marriage and death certificates, census records, wills, newspaper articles, archival records, books and legal references. Photographs are held in the author's collection. Images 4 and 5 were taken from the book: Robertson, Dawn *The Plains of Heaven*, Hayloft Publishing Limited, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria. 2012. with permission of D. Robertson

## Surnames

Coates, Dalston, Dalston-Ewbanke, Dand, Dawson, Evans, Ewbanke, Murray, Nicholson, Reid, Robinson, Thompson, Tulip, Wilson

# VALE Marjorie Morgan OAM, FGSV



Marjorie Morgan, who died on 26 March 2020, joined the GSV on 8 April 1963. She was a member for well over 50 years. A kindergarten teacher who began by researching her own family history, she credited the GSV with giving her rigorous research skills, and an understanding of the way broader historical events affect the history of families. She became involved in helping others as a volunteer, gave many talks at the GSV, and became a Councillor and a Vice-President.

In 1982 she published her best known work, *The Old Melbourne Cemetery 1837-1922*. This explored the old Melbourne Cemetery which had disappeared under the Victoria Market, and documented those who had been buried there, before their remains and gravestones were moved to the Old Pioneers section

at Fawkner. It was a most valuable contribution to the history of early Melbourne, and to family historians.

Marjorie had a wide range of research interests, from the shipwreck of the *Cataraqui*, and the early hulks in Port Philip, to the history of Box Hill and Impressionist Artists and the Heidelberg School. She was a sought-after speaker.

She was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1994 for services to the Victorian School for Deaf Children and Community History.

In their Obituary for Marjorie Morgan in *The Age* 2 April 2020 Andrew Lemon and Judith Cordingley passed on this wry and encouraging quote from her: 'Don't put yourself down. There are plenty of others who will do that for you.' ■



# Waterloo and Brexit

by Justin Corfield

June in Western Europe can be hot. For economies based on farming, it is well before harvest time and therefore perfect for military campaigns. In a few days, the fortunes of governments and countries can change. On a Thursday in June 1815, the French army under Napoleon invaded what was then the southern part of the Netherlands to strike at the British and the Prussians. On the following day, Friday, the French fought the British at Quatre Bras, and two days later were defeated at Waterloo. Some 201 years later, on a Thursday in June 2016, the Brexit Referendum was held, with the results announced on the Friday.



Napoleon's invasion of the Netherlands on 15 June 1815 took his enemies by surprise. The Anglo-Dutch forces under the Duke of Wellington were south of Brussels – the Duke himself being famously at the Duchess of Richmond's Ball. His Prussian allies under Marshal Blucher were to the east. Napoleon's plan was simple: to march his forces between those of his enemies, and attack and destroy each of them in separate engagements. His hope was that Wellington would withdraw west to the Channel ports, and Blucher's forces would flee towards Prussia. Wellington quickly recognised that this was Napoleon's plan and he instructed some of his forces to hold the crossroads of Quatre Bras while he prepared most of the remainder at Waterloo.

Amongst those at the Duchess of Richmond's Ball were James Hay, Lord Hay, and Hon Sir William Ponsonby. As news of the French advance arrived, the Ball ended early with Hay sent to join the 1st Foot Guards at Quatre Bras; and Ponsonby rushed off to take command of the Union Brigade formed by three regiments of Dragoons – the 1st (or Royals), the 2nd (Scots Greys), and the 6th (Inniskillings), respectively from England, Scotland and Ireland, hence its name.

The film *Waterloo* (1970) includes many of the famous events of the battle. The actor Peter Davies played James Hay who, after

accompanying Wellington during much of the fighting, is in an infantry square crying out, 'Think of England' when he is struck in the head by a bullet and killed. He was certainly killed, probably in a similar fashion, although his heroic last words were attributed to him by the scriptwriters. However he did not die at Waterloo, he died two days earlier at Quatre Bras.

One of the other unforgettable scenes from the film is the charge of the Union Brigade which blunted Napoleon's infantry advance, temporarily silencing the French artillery, but was ultimately disastrous as they were cut to pieces by the Polish lancers.

A soldier in the Union Brigade was Private Richard Ferridge. Aged 31 or 33, he was born in the village of Swallowfield, Berkshire, west of London. With a population of around 300 (396 residents in 1841), it was dominated by the mansion Swallowfield Park. In the late seventeenth century the house was owned by Edward Hyde, 3rd Earl of Clarendon, who had famously defected from James II to support William III in 1688.

Richard's exact date of birth has not been ascertained. In the 1841 census, his age was listed as 59 suggesting he was born in 1781-82. In the 1851 census, his age was given as 67, pointing to 1783-84. When he died in 1861, his age was given as 79, again indicating 1781-82. The parish register for All Saints' Church, Swallowfield, has records going back to 1636 but no baptism of any Richard Ferridge in the 1780s. Not all children were baptised and errors were made by vicars. A local couple, George and Mary Ferridge, are noted to have had eight children baptised: Mary (1771), George (1773), Fanny (1775), John (1776), William (1779), Sarah (1781), another John (1783), and Solomon (1787). If a child died in infancy, a later child might be given the same Christian name. However the first-mentioned John Ferridge lived until 1844. The only evidence for the existence of the second John Ferridge is a parish register entry noting him being baptised on 29 October 1783. This was around the date of birth of Richard Ferridge, so perhaps it was an

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▲ Image 1: *Quatre Bras*, by Vereker M. Hamilton. *Cassell's History of England* (1901), vol. 5, opposite p97

error in the Christian name made by the vicar when he entered the baptism.

There is not just a query over Richard's birth/baptism, but there is also a debate over the origins of his surname. Several earlier generations of Ferridges can be traced through the Swallowfield parish registers. George (III) Ferridge was baptised in 1743 in Swallowfield. His parents, George (II) Ferridge and Ann (née Sims) were married in 1738 in Swallowfield. George (II), was baptised in 1713, the son of George (I) Ferridge and Mary (née Cowdry) – the two marrying on 23 February 1706 at Swallowfield. But before that, no trace of them. Indeed no trace of the surname Ferridge.

There was a tradition in the family that George (I) was the son of Georgius Ferauge, a Huguenot who fled France. There is a record of a Bernard Georges Ferauge, born on 10 March 1681 in Fumay, the son of Pierre Ferauge and Anne Marie (née Longuet). The Wars of Religion in France had lasted from 1562-98, ending with Henry IV becoming King of France and issuing the Edict of Nantes in 1598 which guaranteed toleration of Huguenots. Many Catholics did not like this and in 1685 Louis XIV issued the Edict of Fontainebleau (better known as the 'Revocation of the Edict of Nantes'). Religious persecution against Huguenots started again and many fled

to Britain and other countries.<sup>1</sup> Many Huguenots were artisans who found work in cities and towns. Most Huguenots were Calvinist and had some disdain for the Church of England, and large numbers, obviously, could not speak English. So why would a Huguenot settle in Swallowfield?

As already mentioned, life in Swallowfield was dominated by Swallowfield Park, and the owners, the Hydes, were refurbishing it and would have been in need of craftsmen. In 1687 King James II wanted Parliament to repeal the Test Act whereby civil and military figures had to denounce some Catholic practices and receive the Eucharist under the auspices of the Church of England. In advance of this, the King started appointing Catholics to important positions, and Henry Hyde, the owner of Swallowfield Park (and, incidentally the brother of James II's first wife), lost his position as Lord Privy Seal to a Catholic. He and his son supported the 'Glorious Revolution' which saw William III and Mary becoming joint rulers – Mary, after all, was Hyde's niece. A letter he wrote to King James II in March 1686, critical of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, survives. Hyde would have been receptive to hiring a Huguenot.

So we have Richard Ferridge, probably from a farming community, enlisting in the 1st Royal Dragoons during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1809,



the Royal Dragoons served under Viscount Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington) in Spain/Portugal. They covered the retreat of the Anglo-Portuguese forces to the Lines of Torres Vedras around Lisbon, the Portuguese capital. It is not known when Richard Ferridge joined the unit but he was certainly there at the Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo on 7 to 20 January 1812 which allowed the British to invade Spain. Over the next year, the British and their Spanish allies pushed the French out of much of Spain.

On 21 June 1813, a mainly British force faced the retreating French at Vitoria. The British outnumbered the French. The Royal Dragoons were initially in reserve, following behind the soldiers deployed to attack Vitoria from the north. It was the task of the British infantry to force a passage over the river. Then, with the French in retreat, the cavalry would ride them down.

Most of the fighting was to the west of Vitoria, and there the battle was decided. The French fled. This was the perfect moment for the Royal Dragoons and other cavalry units from the north to cut off the French line of retreat. Instead the Royal Dragoons and other British soldiers headed for the 'Great French Convoy' with the wagons loaded with silks, rare books, paintings, and also chests of jewellery looted from Spain as well as millions of French francs sent by Napoleon to pay the soldiers. The infantry were only able to hold what they could carry, but the cavalry had their mounts to carry away bags of coins and other loot. The French army melted away into the night. Wellington was furious when he heard of this, and that was why he called his cavalry the 'scum of the earth.' It is not known whether Richard Ferridge took part in the looting but his unit was certainly on the scene at the right time.

The battle was a clear British victory but their failure to destroy the French army meant that there was still much more fighting as Wellington entered France. In 1814, Napoleon abdicated and left for Elba, only to return in the following year and risk everything on the Waterloo Campaign.

The charge of the Union Brigade at Waterloo is best remembered by Lady Butler's painting, 'Scotland Forever!', although only a third of the cavalry in that charge were Scottish. When they were driven back by the Polish Lancers, Richard Ferridge was amongst those who made their way back to the British lines, undoubtedly exhausted. Their retreat was made possible by the committing of the 12th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons which also sustained many casualties.<sup>2</sup>

The surviving members of the Union Brigade had to watch as the battle unfolded – seeing the French driving back Wellington's forces, and then being destroyed as the Prussians arrived on the battlefield. On 23 April 1816, the *London Gazette* announced that the Prince Regent was 'graciously pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty' to confer The Waterloo Medal on every soldier in the British Army who had fought at Ligny, Quatre Bras, and/or Waterloo. Some 38,500 were issued and Richard Ferridge received his medal.

Britain in late 1815 was in political turmoil. The cost of the war had strained the economy. The introduction of machines in the textile industry and elsewhere threatened the livelihood of large numbers of people. Many people in the country were no longer content with the political situation dominated by grandees using patronage to dominate election campaigns.

Richard Ferridge settled in Reading, near Swallowfield. On 21 November 1818 at St Lawrence's Church, Reading, he married Caroline Row, a year younger than him. There are only a few details of their lives which survive. They had a son, William Ferridge, born in 1819, and baptised on 14 January 1821 at St Giles, Reading<sup>3</sup>. He died two years later, and was buried on 6 September 1821. By that time Richard and Caroline had another son, Richard jnr, baptised on 26 August 1821 at St Giles. Soon after that, the family moved to Lambeth, then in Surrey (now London). There, their daughter, Susan, was born in 1822 or early 1823.

The first record of the family unit is in the 1841 Census when Richard, Caroline and Susan Ferridge were living at Crown Lane, Fulham, with Richard being an agricultural labourer. Richard jnr was a soldier with the 9th Lancers. At some stage during the 1840s, the Ferridges moved to Eversley, Hampshire, four miles from Swallowfield. In 1848, Susan married Mark Holloway, an agricultural labourer from Eversley, and the 1851 Census records Richard and Caroline in Eversley, with Susan, her husband, and their first two children living nearby. Richard jnr was now a farm labourer in Swallowfield, then re-enlisted serving as a private in the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade until 1857 when he was invalided out and examined as a Chelsea Pensioner. Richard and Caroline Ferridge lived at Farley Hill. Caroline died in Wokingham, aged 72, and was buried on 1 January 1857 at Swallowfield. Richard ended up in the Wokingham Union House, and was buried on 30 October 1861 at Swallowfield. ►



Richard Ferridge's (presumed) uncle, Daniel Ferridge also left Swallowfield, in his case for Mitcham, Surrey. Daniel's oldest son, Edward, was born in Merton, and baptised as Edward Ferridge at Mitcham. He was still recorded as Edward Ferridge when he married in 1804 in Croydon; and his oldest son, Edward, was baptised in 1807 in Mitcham as Edward Ferridge. By the time of the 1841 Census, family members were using the surname Farage and the second Edward's great-great-grandson is Nigel Farage, who led the campaign for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.

And what of James Hay, Lord Hay, who died at Quatre Bras? He was the oldest son of William Hay, 17th Earl of Erroll who died in 1819 with the Earldom passing to the second son, William Hay. William, 18th Earl of Erroll was the father of Lady Agnes Duff who married Alfred Cooper. Their daughter, Stephanie Cooper, married Arthur Levita, and their daughter, Enid Levita, married Ewen Cameron, whose grandson is David Cameron, the British Prime Minister who called the Brexit Referendum and resigned in the wake of it. ■

### References

1. Another Huguenot who following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes was an ancestor of Stephen De Lancey whose son died of wounds received at the Battle of Waterloo.
2. Private John Pym, 12th Light Dragoons, was killed at Waterloo. His older brother, Francis Pym, was the great x2 grandfather of Francis Pym, British cabinet minister under Margaret Thatcher. Pym's predecessor as foreign secretary was Peter, Lord Carrington, whose great x2 grandfather, Sir Charles Colville, also served at Waterloo.
3. At this same church on 16 June 1955, Rev Hubert Brasier married Zaidee Mary Barnes. Their only child was Theresa Brasier who, as Theresa May, became the British Prime Minister in 2016.

### Surnames

Barnes, Blucher, Brasier, Cameron, Colville, Cooper, Cowdry, Davies, De Lancey, Duff, Farage, Ferauge, Ferridge, Hay, Holloway, Hyde, Levita, Longuet, May, Ponsonby, Pym, Row, Sims, Thatcher, Wellesley

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*In accordance with the Rules of the Society and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, members are advised that the*

## Annual General Meeting

**of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Incorporated**

will be held in the GSV premises,

Level 6, 85 Queen Street

**at 2.00pm Saturday, 3 October 2020**

**In view of possible coronavirus restrictions in October, the meeting may be held as a virtual digital conference or deferred. Any changes will be notified on our webpage [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au) in September.**

The Rules of the Society provide for a Council consisting of no more than **sixteen (16) members**, comprising Office Bearers and Councillors, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, save that any casual vacancy occurring may be filled by the Council and the members so appointed to such vacancy shall hold the position until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Nominations for any unfilled positions will be accepted at the AGM.

All nominations close at

**4.00pm Friday 28 August 2020,**

when nomination forms must be lodged with the

**Secretary,**

**The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc**

Level 6, 85 Queen Street,

Melbourne VIC 3000

All nominations must be made on the appropriate form which can be

- downloaded by logging into the **Members' area** of our web site at [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au),
- collected from the **GSV office**, or
- requested by phoning the GSV on **03 9662 4455**.

**Nominations are called for the following:**

<b>President</b>	One position
<b>Vice-President</b>	One position
<b>Treasurer</b>	One position
<b>Councillors</b>	Five positions for two-year terms and three positions for one-year terms

# The Mason Family at Tahara

by Thelma Ragas

Major Mitchell called this far South Western area of Victoria *Australia Felix* on his third expedition in 1836. Mitchell thought there would be a productive future for newcomers to this land. Unexpectedly meeting with the Hentys at Portland Bay, Mitchell told them of his discovery of an *Eden* not too far distant from the coast.<sup>1</sup> Very soon Stephen Henty located the wide valley of the Wannon; he said, 'This is Paradise.'<sup>2</sup> Within the year Henty would take up land there, calling it Merino Downs after the unusual breed of his sheep.

Writing much later, in 1857, James Bonwick, Inspector of Schools in the developing Victorian Colony growing rich on the gold of Ballarat and Bendigo commented:

I had heard that, after Mr Henty of Portland had heard from the Major (Mitchell) about the place, called '*Eden*' and had come and seen it, he rode exultingly from Down to Down, striving in vain to compass the '*Eden*', until his horse fell exhausted on the earth. I wondered not that the Portland whaling Squatters drove their flocks Northward to the Wannon, and that Merino Downs became their home.

Bonwick decided to see this for himself. His thoughts were 'Again and again in my descent into the valley did I stop to admire the wonder I beheld before me.'<sup>3</sup>

The momentous news soon travelled. Van Diemen's Land could not meet the demand for pastoral land: the new or discontented looked to the Port Phillip District. Those stories of *Australia Felix* were a powerful draw card.

Samuel Pratt Winter had been sent out to Tasmania from Ireland by his guardian, the Reverend Francis Winter, to William Bryan, where he managed his pastoral runs. His cultural interests were many. Samuel's brothers, Trevor and George, and his sister, Arbella, joined him. The next day Arbella married Cecil Pybus Cooke. Francis sent out funds which enabled them to cross to Victoria and set up the pastoral stations Murndal and Tahara in the Wannon valley in 1838. Samuel began a tour to Europe in 1850. Many squatters were selling out when he came back. This was the time to buy freehold.

Samuel commissioned artist Thomas Clark to paint two scenes: *Murndal in the early days 1860* and *Wannon Falls*. The details and composition of the first painting suggests its indigenous owners, the Waneedet gundidj, and Samuel had some understanding of each other. The stations were named after springs on their land.

Murndal was a well-established replica of an Anglo-Irish manorial seat. The writer Ada Cambridge was the wife of Anglican Minister Reverend George Cross, appointed to Coleraine in 1877. They lived at the Parsonage near Tahara Bridge on the Wannon. She commented, 'Our first welcome was to one of the "mansions" in its neighborhood – the seat as it might be called, the men and maid servants ... to wait on [us] at every turn.'<sup>3</sup>

My Mason connection to Murndal began with fourteen-year-old William James Mason. He had not been working very long on Murndal when a tragedy happened on 7 January 1882. William was with two men, James Gallagher, a labourer and Robert Ferguson a boundary rider, all thistle cutting. William, holding a bucket and hoe, rode Ferguson's horse without permission. He was thrown by the probably nervous animal and dragged along the ground. Ferguson tried to revive him but within eight minutes William was dead. The *Proceedings of Inquiry* was held upon the body of William James Mason at Murndal.<sup>4</sup> A finding of accidental death was given.

William had last seen his family at their home in Heywood near Portland on the 20 December. News of this accident must have shattered the Mason family. Sometime after this, younger brother John quietly packed a swag and began the 50 mile (80km) walk from Drumborg near Heywood to Murndal, without asking his father's permission. Perhaps John did this to show he was capable and old enough to fill the place of his brother William. Around three days later John arrived at his destination. Foot sore and tired, fourteen-year-old John asked for a job at Murndal. The manager said he would give young John a position because of his courage, grit and belief in himself. This story has been passed down in the family. ➤

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▲ Image 1: Farms in the rich Wannon valley, foreseen by Major Mitchell. Photograph by John Ragas.

John's first job was to take turns with another to watch through the night the potato bed; otherwise the indigenous people would clear out the potatoes. They may have believed, since the land had always been theirs, that they had the ownership of what grew in it. Overall 'Few took as much trouble as the Winter brothers and the Cooke family did to maintain friendly relations with them.'<sup>5</sup>

In April 1894, whilst working on Murndal, my grandfather John Mason, looking to the future, had at age 21, purchased the township allotment close to the general store in Tahara on 5 August 1894.<sup>6</sup> Around 1896 John met an appealing young lady called Agnes Docherty who was visiting relations in Tahara. They married at the Hamilton Catholic church on the 22 June 1897. John was the publican of the Tahara Waterloo Inn for a year. Then he ran a butcher's service in the township and environs, later a blacksmith's.

In 1903 John purchased farmland which had previously been part of the Murndal pastoral run. This land was 400 metres down the Condah Coleraine road and here he and Agnes built a home to be known as High View on top of the hill overlooking *Australia Felix*. This was in contrast to the original purchaser, John Cunningham, who had chosen to build his family's three-roomed house of slabs and shingle roof between the folds of two hills. An oak tree that they planted near their home still stands today. One advantage of this site was the constant supply of fresh water from springs in two creek beds. No doubt they would have been known and used by the Waneedet gundidj people for centuries.

Through the acquisition of their own holdings, the relationship between former employees such as John Mason and the pastoral stations would

change. The ties of paternalism and connection that were particularly strong in the Western District would loosen; a more egalitarian era was evolving.

Agnes and John had eight children, Leonard, Gladys, Ronald, Howard, Samuel, Bernard, Agnes and Monica. Baby Monica died at three months.

Although he had carpentry skills, John left the building of the Masons' new home to carpenter Jock McPherson from Branhholme. Bullock teams from the timber mills around Myamyn in the Portland area hauled the timber to the site. What an exciting time for the children, seeing their new home of High View take shape! The children went to the Tahara State School 1378. It was weatherboard, originally only 24 feet by 15 feet, expanded in 1892.

The Murndal gatehouse on the Hamilton Coleraine road was separated by Tinker's paddock, as my grandfather called it, from St Peter's Church. As mentioned in the article in the March 2020 issue of *Ancestor*, the seven surviving Mason children, from their hill, always watched the Sunday parade with interest as the horse carriage from Murndal travelled across Tinker's paddock, slowing as they climbed up the steep hill to the church.

Around 1913 Grandfather John Mason had money enough to start the much-improved dairy farm, supplying cream for the new Coleraine Butter Factory. He was very strict with his children. All the older boys had to help with the work on the dairy farm before school and with milking the cows after school. The cows would go dry in the summer in the far south-west, in places like Tahara without green grass. There were the great Clydesdale horses for the heavy work, and a couple of riding horses. All the equipment had to be washed in the dairy. Grandmother Agnes



Mason taught the daughters cooking, as well as turning cream into butter by turning the handle on the wooden churn. The girls would have helped in the growing garden, fruit orchard and keeping the fowl safe from the foxes digging out the dirt around the wire fence. If the children behaved, they could go to the yearly Gymkhana with novelty contests. There were yearly horse races all over the Western District. Grandfather would always attend. There were tennis teams, cricket teams and table tennis in the 1950s and dances in the hall. Sadly all of this has gone.

Yellow gorse along fence lines, the insistent prickly Scottish thistle and split rail fencing were reminders of earlier occupation when High View became my family's home in 1950. John Mason had decided in 1948 he would give my father Ronald the possibility of owning High View. My father, a country man at heart, accepted the dairy farm, for a price, of course. My two older sisters stayed in Melbourne. We three younger ones, Ronald (jnr), Lorraine and I were excited to be living at High View. Our mother had different thoughts on leaving all her Isbister family and friends.

Sometimes my father would call me to help him on the weekend. He was going to Coleraine to dig out sand from Bryans Creek. Hot work. Dad told six-year-old me to go and get a bottle of lemonade from the Chinese man's shop. I was scared but I did it. The Chinese had been coming to the Victorian gold fields via South Australia from the mid-1800s into the Western District. Some stayed for good.

A school bus to Merino State School had already started. It was an hour trip picking up the children from the dairy farms, and the more remote sheep runs. I remember the first day clearly. The bell went, seven-year-old me had no idea what to do. All the other children stood in their right age level. A teacher finally came to help me. I soon fitted into Grade 3. In Grade 6 I moved to the newer Consolidated School. All State primary schools in the south-west had come together creating this new type of school with more facilities. I was very happy with my teachers, friends and new school.

I loved the Percheron horse and Timor pony that Dad later came home with. I collected the mail on Lady, the pony, from the mail office that had been a large shop, with the owners' living space at the back.

We visited Coleraine recently. Sadly the Chinese man's 1872 shop was ready to fall over. As we walked along the main street we talked about Helena Rubinstein, who visited her shopkeeper uncle in 1896. This was the beginning of a world cosmetic empire, based on the use of lanolin, produced by district merino sheep. I have enjoyed going over our times at Coleraine for this article. It is one of my favourite places in the far west. ■



▲ Image 2: Grandparents Agnes Docherty and John Mason. Elizabeth Masons Photographs, Hamilton.

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6. *Certificate of title*, Victoria Crown allotment 8 Section 2, Township of Tahara Parish of Tahara. Parent Title, Volume 01161 Folio 063

## Surnames

Bryan, Cambridge, Clark, Cross, Cunningham, Docherty, Ferguson, Gallagher, Henty, Isbister, McPherson, Mitchell, Pratt Winter, Pybus Cooke, Tinker

# *Tips for Writing an Article*

by the *Ancestor* Editorial Team

You want to write an article for a magazine or a competition. That's great! Former CAE writing tutor Barry Watts had a mantra: 'Make it easy for the editor [or the judges] to say yes'. Here are some tips on writing good stories or articles that have been taken from judges' comments, from our own and other writing competitions, and from published advice on writing.

Writing up your family history is a worthwhile activity, whether for your family members, for publication in a magazine, or to enter a competition. You don't have to start big – many small family history societies welcome articles for their magazine or newsletter.

Magazines and competitions have guidelines for authors. Look carefully at these, and make sure that what you submit fits these criteria. If your story is the wrong word length, or if it is not on the appropriate topic, it will not even be considered.

There's a lot of difference between publishing a book about your family history, and submitting an article to a magazine or competition. Think of it as being like the difference between a novel and a short story. An article needs to have a clear focus, usually on an individual, family or theme.

Stories can be complicated. Think carefully about what needs to be in the story, and what is not relevant. You cannot include your whole family history in an article. You may need to précis parts of your story to allow you to fully develop more important aspects. Make sure your paragraphs are ordered in such a way that is easy for the reader to follow the story.

A catalogue of facts, however well researched, does not make a story. You need to connect and interpret what you have found out about your family to make the reader want to know about your chosen topic. Consider what makes your story different – exciting, or tragic or amusing – and aim to involve the emotions of your reader.

Writing courses often advise you to read your work aloud. This is a really good idea. It will give a sense of whether your sentences work, and your piece has good flow. If you stumble over it, or have to reread a sentence, so will your reader.

Overly long sentences can be difficult to follow; too many short ones give a staccato effect. Several sentences starting in the same way is boring for the reader and shows lack of attention to proofreading. Vary the length of your sentences, and use a short sentence to emphasise the most important action or idea.

You also need to have your work read by someone else – not your nearest and dearest, who will almost certainly be complimentary – but a 'critical friend', better still more than one. Sometimes we have been working with our research for so long that we can't see the wood for the trees. We may leave out important ideas, or make assumptions. Choose readers who will be prepared to give you honest feedback and who are not familiar with your family history, as they will be able to assess whether your story is coming across clearly.

Did you notice the well-worn image in the last paragraph (can't see the wood for the trees)? Think carefully about the use of such phrases, and definitely avoid clichés and mixed metaphors.

Spell checkers are great, but they don't pick up every error. They may use American rather than Australian English, and may also fail to determine whether a correctly spelled word is also grammatically correct. Make sure you proofread carefully, for spelling and punctuation, or again enlist the help of someone else.

Titles are important. They are usually brief, no more than five words, although there may be a subtitle too. The title should catch the reader's attention but at the same time give some indication of what the story is about. It is often important to include the family name or the main character's name as this helps readers and retrieval services find an article. Spend time thinking about alternative titles before making a final choice.

Beginnings and endings are likewise important. The first paragraph should pull the reader into the story and the final paragraph should relate back to the beginning, drawing a conclusion and leaving the reader with a sense of completeness.

Provide some social and historical context for your family members, keeping in mind that their reactions and emotions may be different from your own. But don't overdo it – make sure what you include is relevant to your story.

Beware of writing too much about your own research journey, unless you have used some unusual resource. It is not of much interest to tell people that you used the well-known and popular family history databases.

Don't shy away from difficult subjects. Not all our ancestors were paragons of virtue! It's better to deal frankly with the facts. If you think it might be hurtful to living persons, think carefully about whether you should submit it for publication.

Writers should acknowledge information presented in the text which is derived from another source by using a reference. References are necessary to authenticate your work, and to enable readers to find the source of information for themselves; they should in general contain the name of the author, the title of the work, details of publication, and the page number quoted. References are normally done by using a superscript number in the text which links to details about the source at the foot of the page (footnotes) or at the end of the article (endnotes). Authors should make use of the capacity of word processing packages to insert the superscript number and automatically switch between it and the note to which it refers, rather than insert these manually.

Avoid the tendency to reduce your word count by putting a lot of material into your footnote or endnote that should be in your story. If it's something the reader needs to know, as opposed to just might be interested in, put it in the story, not the note.

If a bibliography is required, it should list the works you consulted in the process of researching your topic, whether they are directly quoted or not. Some writers may wish to include an acknowledgements section in which they list people, or local or family history societies, which have helped them with their research. However, note that a bibliography is not required for *Ancestor* and for the GSV Writing Prize. Should you choose to include one, be aware that it becomes part of the word count.

Appropriate images are usually encouraged by magazines. Again, check the guidelines of your chosen publication. Send the images in separate jpg or tif files as attachments, rather than embed

them in the text. Images should be high resolution, at least 300 dpi. Number your images, and give each one a caption. Indicate in the text of the article where you would like the image placed.

If you are not the owner of the image, you need the permission of the person who is, and you must check carefully the copyright status of the image. It is likely that an image published on the internet will be copyright to the person or organisation that posted it, and it will almost certainly be of low resolution and unsuitable for printing. Many organisations are willing to allow publication of their material in non-profit publications, provided permission is acknowledged in the caption.

The GSV Writers Circle appraises two pieces of members' writing every second month. If you can attend the Writers Circle, submitting a story for appraisal is a great way to get feedback from your peers. If you are unable to attend due to distance, or because the time is not suitable, you also have the option of participating through email.

Don't forget that there are 'Getting it Write' articles on a variety of writing topics in back issues of *Ancestor*, which members can access on the GSV website. ■

## GSV 2020 Writing Prize

You have three months to enter the

### GSV 2020 Writing Prize

For the winner: an *Ancestry* DNA Kit  
with an *Ancestry* World Subscription

Entries should:

- be between 1200 and 2400 words
- be the author's own original work
- not have been previously published in any format
- have a family history / genealogy theme
- contain appropriate citations to documents and other works

Members of the GSV and of GSV Member Societies are eligible to enter. For further details see [gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize](https://gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize)

**Closing Date: 4 pm on 28 August 2020**



# DNA News and Notes

## Clustering – a great way of making sense of your DNA match list

by Maureen Trotter

### Did you click 'View DNA Matches' and find a list of almost totally unfamiliar names?

I know I did. Even though I knew to expect lots of surnames, it was still a bit disconcerting to find none of the four expected family names amongst my closest few hundred matches. Pecking away at individuals can yield a few clues, but really doesn't work for hundreds of matches.

### What is needed is some way of organising and making sense of the whole list.

Fortunately for us, a few years ago Dana Leeds came up with a very simple method that uses coloured pencils and paper or a spreadsheet to group together DNA matches that are related in some way and probably descend from one or more common ancestors.

### The Leeds Method

Draw a table with five columns (see Table 1).

List your second and third cousins in the first column:

Match	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Tim				
Jan				
Sally				
Jim				
Greg				
Ida				
Nola				
Sue				
Rex				
OJ				
Lillian				
Cora				
Fiona				
Victor				
Jan				
Larry				

▲ Table 1: Leeds Method chart for my second and third cousins (names changed)

- Group 1 – Choose a colour for your top match, go back to *Ancestry* to find that person's 'Shared Matches' and then colour each of them in the same colour in the Group 1 column.
- Group 2 – Find the first person who does not have a colour and give them one in the next column. Colour all their shared matches the same colour.
- Groups 3 & 4 – Repeat until everyone in your list has at least one colour.

### How does this help?

If your matches divide into four distinct columns, each group is likely to be descended from one of your grandparents.

If you only get three columns, it is likely that no close relatives on that grandparent's side have tested yet.

### Using *Ancestry's* Coloured Dots

If you prefer to work online, *Ancestry* have provided 24 coloured dots which can be used to sort your matches into groups. The Larry Jones video listed at the end goes through this method in detail.

Again, start with your second and third cousins (those who match you with between 90 and 400 cM).

For your first match, select 'Add to group' and then 'Create custom group'. Call this Group 1 and choose a colour.

Now add all their 'Shared Matches' above 90 cM by selecting 'Add to group' and 'Group 1.'

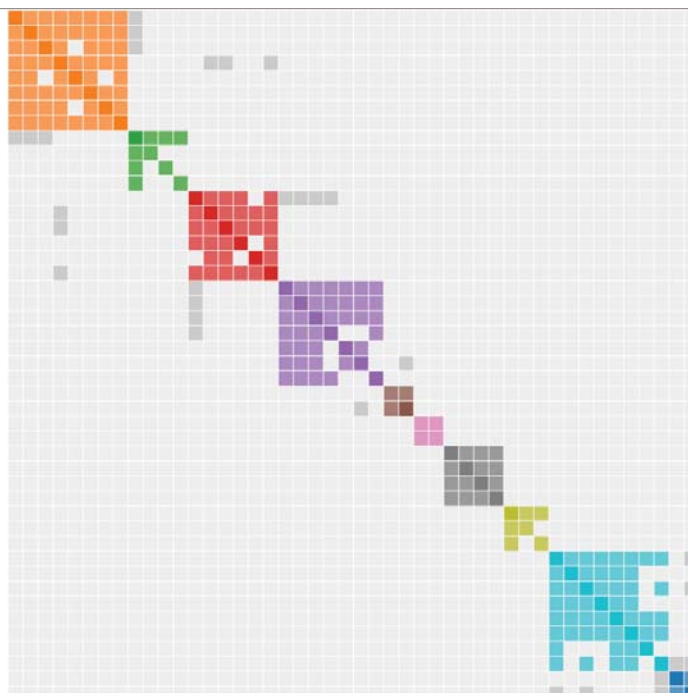
Keep repeating this process by finding the first remaining person without a colour, choosing a colour and adding their matches.

Now try to identify which grandparent each colour relates to, and rename each group appropriately.

Maureen can be contacted at  
maureen.trotter@gmail.com

### Table Legend

Orange	maternal-maternal
Green	maternal-paternal
Red	paternal-maternal-maternal
Purple	paternal-maternal-paternal
Brown	paternal-maternal-paternal
Pink	unknown
Grey	unknown
Olive	paternal-maternal-paternal
Teal	paternal-paternal
Blue	paternal-paternal



▲ Table 2: Autocluster of my matches (names omitted)

### Autoclusters

There are some automated ways of clustering now. These save lots of time because, instead of having to manually insert names and colours, the process is done directly from your DNA matches list.

The one I have used is *Genetic Affairs* which was created by Evert-Jan Blom. Users get 200 credits free and can get up to eight analyses for this. After that a small payment is required. It is a bit tricky to navigate around the website, but the default Autocluster analysis is definitely worth it. The results, which get sent via email, consist of an html file which gives a mesmerising display of all your matches clustering into groups and a csv file that can be opened in *Microsoft Excel*, or numbers to reveal lists of your matches and many details, including any notes you have made about each person.

The visual display that *Genetic Affairs* provides lists names of your matches along the left side and at the top of a pattern of coloured boxes arranged along the diagonal. Each separate colour shows a cluster of your DNA matches who, as well as matching you, also match others in the group and hence are likely to be related in some way. Each different colour is likely to represent a different branch or sub-branch of your family tree.

Small pale grey squares are often a clue that two or more of your coloured clusters are related in some way. In Table 2 above, for example, it is clear that my teal and dark blue groups are connected. Lots of pale grey squares can indicate endogamy in a family's background.

### What Next?

Our next step for each cluster, no matter which method we have used, is to check for common names and locations in the trees provided by our matches (after extending them if necessary), in order to hypothesize how they might be related to ourselves and any common ancestors.

### More information:

#### Dana Leeds

<https://www.danaleeds.com/dna-color-clustering-the-leeds-method-for-easily-visualizing-matches/>

<https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method-with-dots/>

#### Larry Jones

How to Cluster your DNA matches With *Ancestry's* New DNA Matches Beta

<https://youtu.be/UBh9X4qi7Xw>

Auto Clustering and Auto Tree Basics

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybGGov\\_DmyE&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybGGov_DmyE&t=4s)

#### Genetic Affairs

<https://geneticaffairs.com>

# Additions to the Library

Compiled by Linley Hooper

See the library catalogue for full details, exact format, and location of material within the library - available online at [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au) or in the library.

All listed LDS microfilms are held in the LDS Long Term Loans Cabinets. Request by film number at the Information Desk. Thank you to all donors to the library collection.

## Abbreviation used:

SAG = Scottish Ancestry Group

@ = Society Purchase

(...) = Donor's name, if not the author

## AUSTRALIA

*Our soldier sons: a short history of the Mitta Valley and our veterans 1914-1919.* Mitta Valley Heritage Society. [GSV: 994.55 MITT MIT]

## FAMILY HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY

*Harkin family history: a history of our Harkin family in Australia.* From County Clare, Ireland in 1851 to Australia. Harkin, Gavan. [GSV: 929.2 HARK HAR]

*Bruce Joseph Mitchell's life and family.* Mitchell, Bruce Joseph. [GSV: 929.2 MITC MIT]

*Henry Snowden Saville: a life in colonial Victoria.* McCrae, Barry.

This is primarily the life story of the author's great-great grandfather. Henry Saville was born in Yorkshire in 1829, emigrated to Victoria in 1855 and died in Melbourne in 1900. His time in Victoria spanned all but 5 years of the 49 and a half years of the Colony's existence and was one of variety, enterprise and ingenuity. On arrival from England he became a Mounted Constable in the Victoria Police Force around the Geelong district, including at Winchelsea and Inverleigh, and at Streatham west of Ballarat. When he resigned after 21 years' service, he selected land near Pyramid Hill in northern Victoria where for the next 13 years he struggled to make good his dream of becoming a 'gentleman pastoralist'. Along the way he formed brass bands wherever he settled and was the first bandmaster of the Kerang Brass Band. He was an active proponent of the temperance cause, a devoted churchman responsible for establishing churches in Streatham and Pyramid Hill, and a Justice of the Peace for midland Victoria. Unfortunately, Henry had to abandon his selections at Pyramid Hill on being declared insolvent in 1890 and spent his last 10 years remote from his family in Melbourne. He married three times, was widowed once but was never divorced, and had a fourth companion for the last few years of his life. He had a total of 12 children, nine of whom survived infancy, the last one at age 68. [GSV: 929.2 SAVI MCC]

## ENGLAND

*Methodist contribution: historical background for genealogists.* Gribben, Robert W.

The life and times of the founders, John & Charles Wesley Methodism's unique characteristics, practices and institutions. [Webcast - available to members via web menu item]

## DEVON

*Devon parish taxpayers 1500-1650: v. 2* Bere Ferrers to Chudleigh. Devon and Cornwall Record Society. New series; v. 59. Includes: Bere Ferrers, Berrynarbor, Berry Pomeroy, Bicton, Bigbury, Bishopsteignton, Blackawton, Black Torrington, Bovey Tracey, Bow otherwise known as Nymet Tracey, Bradninch, Bradworthy, Bramford Speke, Bratton Clovelly, Bratton Fleming, Braunton, Bridestowe, Bridgerule, Broadclyst, Broadwoodkelly, Buckfastleigh, Buckland Brewer, Buckland Filleigh, Burlescombe, Cadeleigh, Challacombe, Charles, Charleton, Chawleigh, Cheldon, Cheriton Bishop, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Chivelstone, Chudleigh. 'These 63 church rates, 1 Easter books, 1 clerk rate, 6 military rates and 46 poor rates show the diversity of taxation in this period but also how differently they were organised in different parishes.' Index of names @ [GSV: 942.35 DEV DEV]

## LINCOLNSHIRE

*Lincolnshire Poor Law index: Lincolnshire bastardy documents from 182 Lincolnshire parishes and Petty Sessions 1632-1901.* Lincolnshire Family History Society. Includes Examinations and Information & Complaints extracted from six books of Kesteven Petty Sessions (Sleaford) files for the years 1829-1835, Sleaford Petty Sessions Bastardy Order Book for the years 1824-1839, also including Bourne Petty Sessions from 1833 (full transcription). Lindsey Petty Sessions Applications for Summonses 1849-1901, Lindsey Petty Sessions Examinations 1822-1844. [Digital copy @ GSV]

## SCOTLAND

*Reports on the state of certain parishes in Scotland, made to His Majesty's Commissioners for plantation of kirks, &c., in pursuance of their ordinance dated April XII. M.DC.XXVII [1627]* McDonald, Alexander. Maitland Club, 34. 49 surviving parishes from Berwickshire, Clackmannanshire, Dumfriesshire, Edinburghshire, Kirkcudbright, Perthshire, Renfrewshire, Roxburghshire

(Ednam, Stitches & Hume), Stirlingshire (Logie), Wigtonshire (Kirkcowane, Kirkinner & Longcastell), Zetland (Nesting) [Internet]

## Additions to our Databases

While we haven't received many new books, our indexers have been working hard with many additions and updates to our online databases:

*Brimpaen (Vic) cemetery register and headstones 1887-1987*

*Miners in the memories of the Stanley Morning: List of names of many of the miners who worked on the Stanley and Hurdle Flat goldfields between the period of late 1855 to 1868.* The names were extracted from the Stanley Mining Claims registers, held at the Archives of the Burke Museum, Beechworth.

*Baptisms 1869 to 1900 at Bendigo St Paul's Church of England*

*Maryborough cemetery register 1874-1982*

*Carlisle (Rutherglen) cemetery (to 1982)*

*Kingower and Inglewood districts: burial records* [registered with Charles Archibald Campbell, registrar]. Includes Inglewood Old & New, The Loddon (Bridgewater)

*Pakenham cemetery, Victoria: index register and headstones 1865-1995*

We have also added detailed name indexes from some new family histories. Our databases include a large collection of indexed hospital records.

There are 10,889 records indexed from *Melbourne Hospital admissions discharges register 1857 to 1860*. 49,552 + and extra 37,746 records indexed from *Patients in the Melbourne Hospital 1855-1909* and index of the surviving medical ward books case notes.

Plus entries from our *Index to Victorian Goldfield Hospital admissions*

which includes: Amherst Hospital 1869-1888, Ballarat Hospital 1856-1913, Castlemaine Hospital 1855-1920, Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum 1860-1922, Creswick Hospital 1863-1882, Creswick Hospital outpatients 1873-1877, Creswick Hospital 1883-1894, Dunolly Hospital 1860-1900, Kyneton Hospital Admissions Register 1862-1885, Kyneton Hospital Family Record 1869-1884, Maldon Hospital 1864-1905 and Maryborough Hospital 1855-1907. Note that some hospital records include the date of arrival in the colony and the name of the ship. Some of these records were sold on the GSV's CDRom publication but not all. ■



# Members Queries

✉ Email Address ✉ Mailing Address ☎ Phone

## BOX, DELANEY, LEE, MURPHY, NELSON, RYAN, SCOTT

### BOX

Seeking desc/relatives Arthur Vincent Kingston (King) BOX (par: Arthur Walter BOX & Dagmar Marie NELSON) b 8 January 1905 died 1976 Lakes Entrance m1 1931 Amy SCOTT, dau Barbara Anne m2 Mabel Dorothea LEE; Sis Marie Dagmar BOX. 'King' was a Rat of Tobruk: research on Rats of Tobruk for commemoration in 2021 of the 80th anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk.

L. Mitchell

✉ lynmitch@netspace.net.au

### RYAN/DELANEY / MURPHY

Seeking info Mary RYAN m 1867 Melb VIC Ambrose DELANEY; her sis Elizabeth RYAN m 1858 DUB IRL Andrew MURPHY. Delany/Delaney & Ryans ex TIP. The sisters and husbands settled in the Ballarat Goldfields area & Geelong.

L. Elliss

✉ tunari@bigpond.com

### Abbreviations:

anc	ancestors	d	died	gg-grandpar	great-great-grandparents
arr	arrived	dau/s	daughter/daughters	m	married
b&d	born and died	desc	descendants	mo	mother
b	born	fa	father	m1	first marriage
bap	baptised	fr	from	m2	second marriage
bro/s	brother/brothers	g-gf	great-grandfather	par	parents
bur	buried	g-gm	great-grandmother	sis	sister/sisters
c1803	circa 1803	g-grandpar	great-grandparents	unk	unknown
chn	children				

### Submissions:

- Provide your membership number and **contact details** including first name, surname, postal address, phone number and email address.
- In order to protect your privacy, your initial, surname and one or two elements of your contact details will be published ie: email address, phone number or address. Please indicate which one(s) you would like us to use.
- **Print** all surnames, given names and place names relating to your search.
- **80 words allowed for a free entry** (includes heading).
- List heading surnames in order of importance as, owing to space constraint names may be limited to one line.
- Entries can be emailed to: **ancestor@gsv.org.au**

# *Irish Research: a Beginner's Guide with updates for the more experienced*

by Margaret Vines

Irish family history research used to be considered rather difficult. Much was made of the loss of records when the Irish Public Record Office was destroyed in the shelling of the Four Courts building during the Irish Civil War in 1922. Nearly 1000 years of archives were destroyed. While lamenting this, it will be seen in this article that sufficient records have survived to give you an extremely good prospect of tracing your family in Ireland.

## **First steps**

The first step is to find out all you can from research here in Australia. Focus on finding the place your family came from – not just a county but a parish and even better a townland. Note that a townland is not a town but the smallest administrative division of land, and many townlands can make up a parish.

Check the **GSV website** for guides to Irish research. On the Members' page under: 'Databases, British Isles, Click to View', clicking on the map of Ireland will take you to the relevant page. Start with the 'Brief outline of the Irish research process'. Refer back to it from time to time to see what your next step might be. Perhaps print it for easy reference. Check the GSV Library catalogue for family and place names.

Join the Special Interest Group, **GSV Irish Ancestry Group (IAG)**, for expert help. IAG's quarterly newsletter *Blarney*, will help you keep up to date on the latest material available. Quarterly meetings usually begin with a discussion and a Q and A session with a focus on a different county each meeting. This is followed by a speaker of interest. They also have an experienced member to advise you in the GSV library, usually on the fourth Wednesday of each month – check the GSV website for dates.

## **Key references**

John Grenham, *Tracing your Irish ancestors*, 5th revised edition, Dublin 2019, is on the

Reference shelf in the GSV library (GSV R929.1414GRE) along with other Irish resources. Consider buying your own copy of Grenham.

Claire Santry's ***Irish Genealogy Toolkit***

**[www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com](http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com)** is a good introduction with loads of material including advice on getting started, explanation of the main record categories, up to date references to what is on the internet now and updates on new records becoming available. There are useful tips e.g. look under Names for the Irish naming pattern and meanings of names and surnames and Irish variations, keeping in mind that church registers are written in Latin.

## **Births Marriages and Deaths IrishGenealogy.ie**

Start with this free Irish Government website **[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)**. It has the Civil Register BDMs and includes downloadable images of birth, marriage and death certificates.

You will need to sign in, but only your name. The Irish Civil BDM indexes start from 1864 and the images are good quality. Combine civil register information with a search of the relevant church records as you should find additional information.

Current image dates: Births 1864 to 1919; Marriage register records 1845 to 1944 & Death register records 1878 to 1969, but these are being added to.

N.B. if looking for Northern Ireland records, remember that Ireland was a united country pre 1921 so records before that will be in Dublin as well as Belfast, and certificates will be cheaper from Dublin.

Other records available at **[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)** include indexes and many images for parish registers for Carlow, Kerry, the west of Cork and Dublin city, a calendar of wills, and many links to other sites.

Margaret can be contacted at  
[margtvines@gmail.com](mailto:margtvines@gmail.com)

## Roman Catholic parish registers

Indexes are available on both *Ancestry* and *Findmypast (FMP)*, and also on the Irish Family History Foundation website at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

This **RootsIreland** site is linked with the Heritage Centres and is a pay website but worth looking at if you can't find people on the other indexes – they worked from the original records not transcripts. They hold over 21 million records and are still adding to their database of records, downloadable for subscriptions - for one day, one month, six months or one year.

The indexers had a difficult task so indexes are not always accurate or complete. You may need to browse through the original register to find a name, especially with the confusion from Latin eg a Johanna, a mother of five, was indexed at baptism as John by an indexer unfamiliar with the different Latin endings for masculine and feminine.

The **National Library of Ireland** has long held the microfilms of 80% of the parish registers of Roman Catholic churches. These are now digitized and free on the National Library of Ireland website at [registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.ie)

Make use of the map provided to identify not only your own parish but those nearby, where family members may have married or moved. Click on the map to go to the microfilm of the parish and then click to open the individual Parish Register for the time you are searching. Remember that 'sp' on a RC baptism refers to the sponsors or Godparents of the child.

## Church of England/Church of Ireland records

Not all Church of England registers have survived, as two thirds were in the Public Office destroyed in 1922. Copies of some have since been recovered. Download this comprehensive *List of Parish Registers* pdf recently updated and colour-coded to indicate their fate and current access points: [www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf)

Some originals are held at the Representative Church Body Library, Churchtown, Dublin 14. Some are held at the National Archives of Ireland, others remain in local custody while many were lost in 1922. There is some online coverage including at *RootsIreland*, *IrishGenealogy.ie* and *Findmypast*.

Surviving records for Northern Ireland parishes plus Leitrim and Louth are held at PRONI as originals or on microfilm. See PRONI below.

**Quaker records** see *Findmypast*, which also has some other **Non-conformist records**.



▲ Image1: View from the Rock of Cashel over Counties Tipperary and Limerick, where so many Australian Irish came from. Author's collection

## National Archives of Ireland

[www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) and [genealogy.nationalarchives.ie](http://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie)

### Online

**Census Records.** Look under Genealogy for the Censuses of 1901 and 1911. These are the only ones surviving fully, though there are fragments of earlier ones also available on this website.

Don't forget to look at the 'Additional Pages' of the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. They give lists of the neighbours, descriptions of the houses and land and outbuildings, and in 1911 the signature of the householder.

**Visiting the Archives:** Situated reasonably centrally in Bishop Street, Dublin, this is a typical archives. To use the archives, you will need to apply for a reader's card in person. Before you go, download and fill in the application form and take this with photo ID and an official document with your current address eg a Drivers Licence or utility bill. Be prepared to place your possessions in a locker and to use only pencil. Photography, non-flash, is permitted. The online catalogue does not contain all their holdings, so you may need to also consult the hard copy catalogues available in the Reading Room. Allow sufficient time for documents you have ordered to arrive – you may need to come back the next day if they are stored off site. Since the Archives are undergoing a redevelopment project, this is very possible.

For family historians, the main resources are court records, the records of government departments and wills which survived the Four Courts burning, mainly those after 1922. Among the archives of the British administration in Ireland from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the largest collection is the Registered Papers of the Chief Secretary's Office. [www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/our-genealogy-website](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/our-genealogy-website) ►



## Land records

**Griffiths Valuation** is the main resource. The Government aimed to record, value and map all the landholdings in Ireland for taxation, county by county between 1847 and 1864. Only names of householders ie tenants and landowners are recorded.

**Ask about Ireland** is a very useful free site. On the maps you can toggle between the Griffiths map of c1850 and the modern *Google* map to find your family's landholding. Explore *Google street view*. If you note the modern co-ordinates you can insert this into the GPS on your car when visiting Ireland, to find the location of the former family home.

You can follow the changes in the tenancy of this land in the ensuing years via the **Valuation Books**, or **Cancelled Land Books**. These can be very useful in tracing a family – not only events like emigration and death but also eventual purchase of the land by the tenant under the new *Land Acts* in the early 20th century. There is a guide to this resource at [www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/revision-books.html](http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/revision-books.html)

In the Republic of Ireland the original books, called variously the *Valuation Books*, or the *Cancelled Land Books* and the *Current Land Books*, are in the Valuation Office at the Irish Life Centre in Lower Abbey Street, Dublin, and can be viewed in person here. They are slowly being digitized for free online access but are not online yet. The LDS has long held microfilm copies and these are available at LDS Family History Centres. See their *FamilySearch* website.

For Northern Ireland the originals to 1993, called here *Revision Books*, are now in PRONI and are available on their website up to the 1930s.

Combine these results with the information on the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Also check *Landowners in Ireland 1876*, a survey of those owning at least one acre for the Local Government Board of Ireland at [www.failteromhat.com/lo1876.php](http://www.failteromhat.com/lo1876.php)

For earlier land records from the 1830s – see the **Tithe Applotment Books** compiled between 1823 and 1838. Aiming to collect Church of England tithes, they are not comprehensive, assessing only agricultural land. See the National Archives of Ireland genealogy site for all parishes [titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp](http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp). Also, *Findmypast* has an indexed transcription of *The 1831 Tithe Defaulters*

## Estate Records

Land ownership records may be found under Court Records especially in the **Encumbered Estates** records. This Court was set up to facilitate the sale of estates encumbered with debt and legal

disputes, so there are many records for the period after the Great Famine and continuing for the 19th and early 20th centuries. For tenant families, changes of landlord could be crucial. The records may contain names of tenants and their rents and leases as well as the names and financial difficulties of the landlords. See *Findmypast* under *Landed Estates Court Rentals*. Many tenants held land by 3 lives leases (explained at [www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com/article/lease-of-lives](http://www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com/article/lease-of-lives)). They may list the names and ages of the 'lives' when the lease was signed, pre-dating other surviving records. The records are indexed and imaged on *Findmypast* and often contain maps showing each portion of land for sale. They are effectively sales catalogues.

See below for the *Registry of Deeds under Wills*, and for County Archives which may have records of local estates.

At the National University Ireland, Galway, the Moore Institute has a database with details of the major estates and families in the western half of Ireland.

See the Connacht and Munster landed estates database at [landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/](http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/)

## Crime and Prisons

*Findmypast* has several other excellent Irish sources: *Petty Sessions Court Registers*, *Irish Prison Registers 1790-1924*, and even *Dog Licence Registers*. The Petty Sessions are for minor misdemeanours, e.g. straying cattle, drunken brawls.

For Irish Convicts see *Ireland-Australia transportation database* at the National Archives of Ireland, with a warning Irish records are incomplete for the earlier period (before 1820).

## Poor Law Union records

The Irish Poor Law of 1838 set up Poor Law Unions with workhouses in the main town of each district. During the Famine these became the focus of misery and death and remained places of dread ever after. The Poor Law Union became the administrative division for recording civil births, deaths and marriages, so it is important to know which Union your family were living in.

See *Ask about Ireland* for information on Poor Law Unions and their Records. [www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/poor-law-union](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/poor-law-union)

County Archives hold these records, often digitized and online eg Limerick Archives has a large online collection of *Minute Books*. *Findmypast* has begun developing an indexed collection.

## Directories

Begin with Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, London 1837. This is available as a digital copy at the GSV or at [www.libraryireland.com/topog](http://www.libraryireland.com/topog)

Directories can be a census substitute, at least for the head of the household. See *FamilySearch* for a list of directories and who has them

[www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland\\_Directories](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Directories)

Both *Ancestry* and *Findmypast* have directories and so do many County Libraries eg Clare and Cork. For Dublin, the series *Thom's Directory, 1844-1900* is especially worthwhile. eg *Thom's Official Directory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the year 1884*.

## Newspapers and Journals

Search not only the family names but the village or townland your family lived in.

*British Newspaper Archive (BNA)* and *FMP* have digitised newspapers from the British library. Both have the leading Dublin paper, *Freemans Journal*, and other Dublin papers, Belfast papers and regional papers for a good coverage of other Irish counties and towns. The GSV has a subscription to the *British Newspaper Archive*, so you can search the website at home, tag records of interest, then view the full article when you visit the Society – however you need your own login. Records are added daily to *BNA* whereas *FMP* catches up periodically.

There is also free access via the State Library of Victoria to other newspaper databases, which include some Irish newspapers. See the SLV website to enroll for a member's card (Victorian residents only) and use it to log in to their databases and online resources: the *Gale Newsvault*, *Proquest Historical Newspapers* and *The Times Digital Archive*.

For current (to date) and past issues of journals search the GSV catalogue with 'Ireland' in the 'Topic' field and 'Journal' in the 'Format' field. Journals held include *Irish Roots*, *The Irish Genealogist* and *Familia* from Ulster.

## Wills and Deeds

For Irish Wills pre 1922, three resources have survived. They are online at the National Archives of Ireland:

- Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858-1922
- Will Registers 1858-1900
- Prerogative and diocesan copies of some wills and indexes to others, 1596-1858

Post 1922 they have original Wills, which can be inspected onsite with a reader's card.

Check the *Probate Calendars of England and Wales*, and *England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858*, for wealthier families, those who worked in other parts of the United Kingdom and those with relatives, income or possessions outside Ireland.

Also look at Nick Reddan's website [nickreddan.net](http://nickreddan.net) especially the *Registry of Deeds Index Project* [irishdeedsindex.net/index.php](http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.php). The Registry of Deeds in Dublin is the repository of records of wills, land transactions and other deeds beginning from 1709. Reddan's three part index includes marriage and other settlements useful for family historians, and provides a guide for those visiting the Registry in Henrietta Street, Dublin. The Deeds have been microfilmed by *FamilySearch*.

## Northern Ireland (PRONI)

Public Records Office of Northern Ireland is the archives for the six northern counties ie Armagh, Antrim, Derry/Londonderry, Down, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)

To visit PRONI at 2 Titanic Boulevard Belfast, and view original records, you will need to register for a Visitors Pass – bring photo ID. See their website to arrange for this before you arrive. [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/preparing-visit-and-registration](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/preparing-visit-and-registration)

Their collection includes both public records and private papers: everything from maps to church, land and estate, poor law, school, hospital, and business records.

They have a copying and search service for a fee – see their website for information, prices and an enquiry form. Online guides to their records at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/guides-proni-records](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/guides-proni-records) and their historical maps at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer) are useful starting points. They also have an interesting image collection on *flickr*.

## County Archives and Libraries

These are worth visiting both online and in person. Archives for genealogy may be found with the central County Library, as with County Clare. Or the Archives and Library Local Studies may be separate collections in separate places as for County Limerick. Look for town ratebooks, school records, local directories, Poor Law records, cemeteries, and lots of local historical information. Many have digitized their much used material and uploaded it to their websites. Associated local museums may also have useful websites.

*Happy researching!*

## Understanding Victoria's Legal System for Genealogists

Our legal system developed the moment Captain Cook landed in Australia. It is largely based on the British legal system and comprises both the parliamentary and the adversarial (two sided) court systems. An adversarial court system involves trial by jury and the principle of innocent until proven guilty. The Government is responsible for the administration of justice so the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV) now holds many records in its courts collection. Knowing the Victorian court system structure may assist genealogists in tracking down these records.

When trying to locate records of an ancestor who may have interacted in the Victorian courts the Public Record Office of Victoria recommends that you will need to know any of the following information before you start: the name of the person accused, the type of crime the person was accused of, an approximate year that the case took place, the locality of the court in which the case was heard.

Places that can assist in tracking down court records:

1. **Newspapers** often list court reports and proceedings, so search through *Trove's* newspapers.
2. **Victoria Police Gazette** – available at the GSV, including a consolidated index covering 1859-1868
3. Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), **Genealogical Names Index** (GIN) includes
  - many of the Marion Button indexes focused on people involved in the courts. Marion compiled these indexes from Victorian newspapers and PROV documents.
  - indexes from Victoria Parliamentary Papers from the Police and Penal Departments.
4. The **GSV library collection** holds a number of published indexes relating to the courts that may also be of assistance, so check the catalogue.
5. The **PROV** also has a number of court and prisoner indexes, so check their website.
6. **Law reports** – bearing in mind the limitation that these are the published records of judicial decisions that are cited by lawyers and judges

for their use as precedent in subsequent cases. The website of the Australasian Legal Information Institute, [[austlii.edu.au](http://austlii.edu.au)] has many full text law reports. For Victoria there are some reports such as the *Victorian Law Reports 1874-1956* and the *Victorian Law Times and Legal Observer 1856-1857* and others.

7. **Ancestry** has some resources from PROV: *Divorce Case Files, 1860-1940* VPRS 283 (Supreme Court of Victoria Divorce Files) and VPRS 552 (Ballarat Divorce Case Files); *Coroner Inquest Deposition Files, 1840-1925* VPRS 24; and *Selected Trial Brief and Correspondence Registers and Other Images, 1837-1993*. This has not been indexed but contains a variety of records so make sure you browse this collection as it includes: *Bourke Court of Petty Sessions Deposition book*; *Castlemaine Prison Police Magistrate's register* and *Criminal Trail Brief register 1855-1901*.
8. **Findmypast** also has some resources from PROV: Court of Petty Sessions. The registers for the years 1854 to 1985 (more than three million records) from courts from Alberton to Yarrawonga; *Victoria Prison Registers 1855-1960* (includes both men and women); *Victoria Register of Prisoners Under Sentence of Hard Labour 1847-1853*.

This overview of the court system in Victoria may also assist you in tracking down further information. Bear in mind that records relating to legal matters are closed for 75 years for adults and 99 years for children. Many records only focus on the government's case not necessarily the defence case or court proceedings.

### The Supreme Court of Victoria

'This is the highest court of Victoria and has jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters which have not been excluded by statute.' The Supreme Court has records from 1852 when Victoria became a state. Cases were heard prior to this in the Supreme Court of New South Wales for the District of Port Phillip 1841-1852 (records are held at PROV). Before 1841 criminal cases and civil litigation of any importance had to be heard in New South Wales.



Types of cases heard before this court include:

- murder
- manslaughter and other criminal matters
- civil actions involving large claims
- appeals against decisions of the lower courts
- equity (including complex land ownership and financial arrangements plus cases where the plaintiff was a minor)
- lunacy (including supervising the estates of committed lunatics)
- divorce
- insolvency
- probate and wills

Some of these cases passed to the Commonwealth at or after federation in 1901, for example, insolvency and bankruptcy in 1928 and divorce in 1976. Federal laws regarding divorce and marriage were passed in 1959, 1961 and 2013 respectively and these laws superseded State law. Appeals against the decisions of the Supreme Court may be heard in the High Court of Australia. Prior to the passing of the Australia Act 1986 (Cwlth), appeals could also be heard by the Privy Council (UK), although in the later decades such appeals became increasingly rare.

## The County Court

The County Court was first established in 1852 and was based on the English county court model. Courts operated in various locations throughout Victoria. It is a lower general court exercising civil, criminal and special jurisdictions. It also sits as an Appeal Court, without a jury, on appeals from the Magistrates' Court.

From 1852 to 1968 there were separate local County Courts which assumed the functions of the Courts of Request. In 1968 the local County Courts were abolished and one County Court for the whole of Victoria was established. In the same year, Courts of General Sessions, which exercised a purely criminal jurisdiction were abolished and their jurisdiction was vested in the County Court.

The County Court sits continuously at Melbourne and now visits seven circuit towns as well as the ten towns also visited by the Supreme Court. Records of the local County Courts are grouped by geographical location.

## Court of Petty Sessions / Magistrates' Court

In 1971 the Court of Petty Sessions name changed to the Magistrates' Court. This court hears both civil and criminal cases and now sits in 51 locations around Victoria. The Magistrates' Court hears and decides charges of minor offences where the punishment is a relatively small fine

or short term of imprisonment. It also conducts committal proceedings for trials in higher courts. The Court also used to hear matters of family law, such as child support and maintenance, and from 1928 to 1958 adoptions. These court records are grouped by geographical location.

The charges which are heard and decided by a magistrate include traffic offences, minor assaults, property damage and offensive behaviour. Some 'indictable offences' (more serious charges that may be heard by a judge and jury of a higher court) may also be heard and decided by a magistrate if the accused agrees. These offences include burglary and theft.

Civil cases involve disputes in commercial and building matters and claims for damages, for example medical negligence, serious injury, and defamation. Civil cases also include matters under specific statute laws, for example in the areas of property, wills and estates, and adoption.

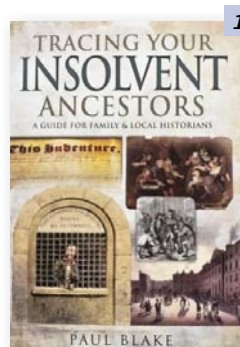
This has been an introduction to the basic court system, so just be aware there are other courts that you may need to check. I have drawn heavily from the book *Private lives public records* and the PROV website as this topic is complicated, and I encourage you to check these sources for further information.

## References

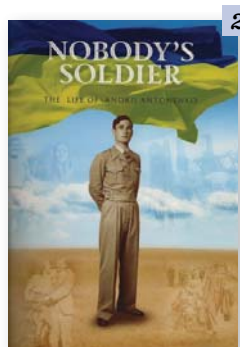
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# Book Reviews

Reviews by Patsy Daly, Stephen Hawke, and Margaret Vines



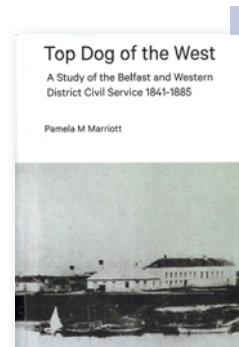
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## 1. Tracing your insolvent ancestors: a guide for family and local historians

Author: Paul Blake 224pp ISBN 9781526738653  
Pub: Pen and Sword, Barnsley UK, 2019 [Available in GSV Library](#)

During the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries, currency shortages necessitated much of English society living on credit. Many people had repayment problems: over 10,000 people per year found themselves in Court proceedings for debt collection. There is a strong probability that your ancestors were caught up in this malaise as either debtors or creditors and this book will help you unravel the records and newspaper reports of these events.

You must read the Preface. Here the division of non-payers into insolvent debtors and bankrupts is made clear. This is very important as each had very different consequences. Insolvent debtors were those who couldn't take the benefit of bankruptcy law and were often left to languish in the notorious debtors prisons. The author follows an insolvent debtor through the system, covering legal and Court proceedings, sponging houses and debtors prisons, and the array of records available, where to find them and how to interpret them.

Bankruptcy was for the fortunate individuals who could claim they were traders. Supposed to cover the likes of skilled tradesmen, the definition 'trader' was loose and much abused. If your ancestor claimed to be a 'dealer and chapman', then they were probably trying to fall within a definition of 'trader' so they could take the benefit of bankruptcy. The major benefit of bankruptcy was that the proceedings were short and sharp, generally an avoidance of prison, or at least a quick discharge. Bankrupts assigned all their property to a trustee, who sold it and paid the proceeds (often only a fraction of the total debts) to the creditors – and the bankrupt was generally then free to get on with life. No languishing in prison at the mercy of creditors. Paul Blake helps you find the bankruptcy reports and records and make sense of them and the reports, advertisements and law notices in the newspapers. *SH*

## 2 Nobody's soldier: the life of Andrii Antonenko

Author: Peter Antonenko (as told to) 269 pp ISBN 9781925230604  
Pub: Glen Waverley, Victoria 2019 [Available in GSV Library](#)

Peter Antonenko records, in his father's words, Andrii's extraordinary life. When Andrii was born in 1922 his family were 'kulaks', small farmers in the Ukraine. In 1929 Stalin introduced collective farms. They resisted, lost their home and were extradited to a forest labour camp in northern Russia.

Andrii comes across as an adventurous survivor, beginning as travelling street urchin, escaping a punitive brother-in-law and children's homes to cross Ukraine and southern Russia from Baku to Yalta. In World War Two he is conscripted into the Soviet army, but with the German occupation of Ukraine, he ends up with the German army in Italy. Fearing to be returned to Stalin's Soviet Union, he is finally evacuated to England with the British Polish forces. After migrating in 1959, his story ends in Melbourne with his English wife, two sons and his grandchildren – as his son Peter adds in an Epilogue. It's an amazing story, a tribute to Andrii's spirit and his memory. It would be interesting to know how the account was put together – did Peter repeatedly interview his father, did his father jot memories down, or was Peter recording the stories his father had told him since he was a child? Together they have created a detailed personal picture of the Ukraine and Russia under Stalin, of World War Two from a Ukrainian point of view and of Britain after the war.

Amid the plethora of English, Scottish and Irish families being researched and written about, it's good to see family history from such a different part of the world being recorded and published. *MV*

## 3. Two Armstrong Uncles: letters of Arthur William Armstrong (WW1) & Oliver John Armstrong (WW2)

Transcribed with biographies by: Heather R Mathew 208pp  
Pub: Parkville, Victoria 2018 [hmathew@bigpond.com](mailto:hmathew@bigpond.com)  
ISBN 9781925 467031 [Available in GSV Library](#)

The Armstrong uncles are two contrasting personalities from two different wars. Their letters are transcribed and illustrated, and the author has added brief biographies for each man, with an explanation of the wars they were involved in.

Arthur is a lively correspondent. His letters begin from Broadmeadows army camp in 1915, follow his journey to Egypt and then to the Somme and end with his death at Pozieres. Critical of army inefficiency in Australia, he becomes an NCO, and writes interesting descriptions of camp life in Australia and in Egypt. He mentions many fellow Gippslander soldiers so an index might have been useful.

The younger brother Oliver, known as Jack, enlisted as a sapper in June 1940. He was a tough chap who thought nothing of walking all night from Orbost to Delegate to see his sister before he left for war. Sent to Singapore and then Malaya, he battled malaria in the jungle, waiting for the Japanese invasion. His letters are not as lively as Arthur's – perhaps a combination of military security and a more taciturn correspondent – but do convey a fascinating soldier's view of the war in the jungle and the British retreat to Singapore. The author's background descriptions and explanations are particularly valuable here.

This is a most worthwhile project, preserving family letters, explaining them and making them publicly available. *MV*

## 4. Top Dog of the West: a Study of the Belfast and Western District Civil service 1841-1885

Author: Pamela M Marriott 480pp ISBN 978 0 646 97877 2  
Pub: Melbourne: The author, 2017 [Available in GSV Library](#)

This book was justly awarded a commendation in the 2018 Local History Project Awards. It is the final of Pam Marriott's three books about Port Fairy through the prism of the Merrijig Inn. It covers the time the Police used the Merrijig as their south western Victoria base and concentrates on the administration of the Courts and of the Police. It includes an extensive bibliography of material from the Public Record Office of Victoria and the Victorian Police Museum.

The book covers much of interest to researchers of the area, particularly the police themselves: from Superintendents Lydiard and Sturt to the constables who did their bidding; and from Superintendent Gray who bought Jezebel's orphan colt to the mounted constables the colt eluded on his way to his new career as a police mount in Port Fairy. Marriott records Police names found on reports for inquests, land selection and in many other reports.

There are comments here and phrases there that make me think that there are more individual stories yet to be found in the original source material and these records can also be used to critique or substantiate existing stories. One here I'd like to correct is the story of Macknight's two young sons Conway and Charlie getting into the arsenic when Macknight was four hours away in Port Fairy. It took him less than an hour and a half to ride home! Impossible surely. Farms were as dangerous and as isolated then as they are now. *PD* ■

# GSV Member Societies

Further information on our Member Societies  
can be found on the GSV website at

[www.gsv.org.au/activities/member-societies-list](http://www.gsv.org.au/activities/member-societies-list)

Website or email address Mailing Address Phone

## Anglesea & District History Society Inc

PO Box 98, Anglesea VIC 3230  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~angen>

## Ararat Genealogical Society

PO Box 103, Ararat VIC 3377  
Marion McAdie 03 5352 4199  
[araratbooks@gmail.com](mailto:araratbooks@gmail.com)

## Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre VIC 3354  
Carol Armstrong 03 5335 7630  
[www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)

## Barham/Koondrook Genealogical Group

PO Box 48, Barham NSW 2732  
Helen Hall 03 5453 2091

## Benalla Family Research Group Inc

PO Box 268, Benalla VIC 3671  
Wendy Webster 0427 664 271  
[www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

## Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 1049, Bendigo VIC 3552  
<https://brgsbendigo.weebly.com>

## Clan MacMillan Society of Australia

[oreillykaye@gmail.com](mailto:oreillykaye@gmail.com)  
[www.clanmacmillanaustralia.com.au](http://www.clanmacmillanaustralia.com.au)

## Clan MacNicol Society of Victoria Inc

PO Box 386, Fairfield VIC 3078  
Beth Bell 03 9497 2934

## Cobram Genealogical Group Inc

PO Box 75, Cobram VIC 3644  
Liz Diamond 0438 652 201

## Colac & District Family History Group Inc

PO Box 219, Colac VIC 3250  
Colac History Centre 03 5231 5736  
[www.colacfamhistory.org.au](http://www.colacfamhistory.org.au)

## Deniliquin Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 144, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Val Hardman 03 5881 3980  
<http://members.bordernet.com.au/denifhg>

## Descendants of Convicts Group Inc

PO Box 229, Coldstream VIC 3770  
Yvonne Bethell 03 9739 1427  
[www.docs.org.au](http://www.docs.org.au)

## East Gippsland Family History Group Inc

PO Box 1104, Bairnsdale VIC 3875  
Tony Meade 03 5152 1111  
[www.egfhg.org.au](http://www.egfhg.org.au)

## Echuca/Moama Family History Group Inc

PO Box 707, Echuca VIC 3564  
Barbara Goldsmith 0467 066 593  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~emhist>

## Footscray Historical Society Inc

66 Napier Street, Footscray VIC 3011  
03 9689 3820  
[foothist@bigpond.com](mailto:foothist@bigpond.com)

## Geelong Family History Group Inc

PO Box 1187, Geelong VIC 3220  
Susie Zada 0414 666 017  
[www.geelongfhg.com](http://www.geelongfhg.com)

## Gisborne Genealogical Group Inc

PO Box 818, Gisborne VIC 3437  
Tricia McLay 0408 054 537  
[www.ggg.org.au](http://www.ggg.org.au)

## Hamilton History Centre Inc

PO Box 816, Hamilton VIC 3300  
History Centre 03 5572 4933  
[www.hamiltonhistorycentre.org.au](http://www.hamiltonhistorycentre.org.au)

## Heyfield Family History Group

PO Box 201 Heyfield VIC 3858  
03 5148 2100  
[familyhistory@heyfield.net](mailto:familyhistory@heyfield.net)

## Hotham History Project Inc

C/- North Melbourne Library  
66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
Mary Kehoe 03 9329 5814  
[www.hothamhistory.org.au](http://www.hothamhistory.org.au)

## Huguenot Society (Victorian Chapter)

2/2B St Georges Road Toorak VIC 3142  
Sue A'Beckett 0408 201 422

## Jamieson & District Historical Society Inc

PO Box 26, Jamieson VIC 3723  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~jdhs>  
[jamiesonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jamiesonmuseum@gmail.com)

## Kerang & District Family History Group Inc

PO Box 325, Kerang VIC 3579  
Bev Nethercote 0447 304 667  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~kerangfh>

## Kyabram Regional Genealogical Society Inc

34 Saunders Street, Kyabram VIC 3620  
Jennifer Cole 03 5860 6694  
[jcole65@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jcole65@optusnet.com.au)

## Lakes Entrance Family History Resource Ctr Inc

PO Box 674, Lakes Entrance VIC 3909  
03 5155 3843

## Mansfield Family History Group Inc

Sheena Daykin 03 5775 1659  
[mansfieldfamilyhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:mansfieldfamilyhistorygroup@gmail.com)

## Maryborough Family History Group Inc

PO Box 59, Maryborough VIC 3465  
Helen Ritchie 0409 611 170  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausmfhg2](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausmfhg2)

## Melton Family History Group Inc

PO Box 2094, Melton South VIC 3338  
Deb Slattery 0409 306 640  
<http://meltonfamilyhistory.org>

## Mid-Gippsland Family History Society Inc

PO Box 767, Morwell VIC 3840  
[mgfhs.inc@gmail.com](mailto:mgfhs.inc@gmail.com)  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs>

## Mildura & District Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 2895, Mildura VIC 3502  
Kaylene Charles [kckcpiscs3@gmail.com](mailto:kckcpiscs3@gmail.com)  
[www.milduragenealogy.com.au](http://www.milduragenealogy.com.au)

## Narre Warren & District Family History Grp Inc

1/65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road,  
Cranbourne VIC 3977  
Eileen Durdin 0439 720 557  
[www.nwfhg.org.au](http://www.nwfhg.org.au)

## Nathalia Genealogical Group Inc

PO Box 116, Nathalia VIC 3638  
Lyn Franklin 03 5866 2543  
[lfranklin@bigpond.com](mailto:lfranklin@bigpond.com)

## Ouyen District History & Genealogical Ctr

Box 131, Ouyen VIC 3490  
<http://ouyen.vic.au/history>

## Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 821, Cowes VIC 3922  
Bob Hayes 0419 582 175  
[piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)

## Port Fairy Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 253, Port Fairy VIC 3284  
Ian Perry 0447 265 759  
[pfgenealogy@hotmail.com](mailto:pfgenealogy@hotmail.com)

## Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc

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[www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au](http://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au)

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## Prahan Mechanics Institute

39 St Edmonds Rd, Prahran VIC 3181  
03 9510 3393  
[www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au)

## Queenscliffe Historical Museum Inc

PO Box 135, Queenscliffe VIC 3225  
Historical Museum 03 5258 2511  
[www.queenscliffe-history.org](http://www.queenscliffe-history.org)

## Richmond & Burnley Historical Society Inc

3/415 Church Street, Richmond VIC 3121  
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## Sale & District Family History Group Inc

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Heather Pocknall 0428 411 603

## Shepparton Family History Group Inc

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Garry Wallden 03 5828 3236  
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## South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc

PO Box 395, Leongatha VIC 3953  
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## Yarrowonga Family History Group Inc

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## Creating a sense of tension, integrating conflict or struggle in a story

By Louise Wilson and  
Jean Dart, from the GSV  
Writers Discussion Circle  
meeting 4 March 2020.

How do we turn our family history into a page turner, full of story 'tension', so that our readers wonder what will come next?

We may enjoy reading family sagas by authors such as Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, or watching dramas about families, such as *Poldark* or *Downton Abbey*. But do we ever pick up a book with 'family history' in the title and expect to sit up until midnight reading it? Do we eagerly look forward to the arrival of *Ancestor* magazine and its stories about other people's families?

Among all the writing genres, family history is one of the most challenging. It's never listed among the popular genres, where romance and erotica is twice as popular among the reading public as crime and mystery, with religious/inspirational, sci-fi, fantasy and horror trailing along behind. Those genre names in themselves offer a tip for successful writing; they all convey the idea of passion.

Passion is what we should bring to our writing as family historians but the demands of genealogy often kill our passion. By the time we've worked through the maze of names, dates and places we are exhausted, left with too many stories about too many people. We need to select one with obvious personal meaning for us, sparking our 'light bulb' moment as we trawled our family's history, such as our First Fleeter, or the multiple marriages of our great-grandmother, or the well-kept secrets of our grandparents or the generations of amazing women in our family.

Once we have focused on a story, we need to stay engaged and inspired as the writer because we must engage a reader who does not necessarily share our passion and has to be somehow persuaded to keep reading. As writers, we can adopt some 'tricks of the trade'.

In preparation for the Writers Circle meeting on 4 March, members of the group were asked to peruse the Table of Contents pages of three or four back issues of *Ancestor* and select several articles which engaged their interest as a reader. The ensuing discussion showed that creating story 'tension' begins with the writer's choice of title.

A 'family history' title often attracts readers with a particular interest, such as a shared period of history or a place where the reader's family also had roots. For example one person chose 'Erin go Bragh' by Michael Considine (*Ancestor*, March 2020) which uses a well-known phrase expressing allegiance to Ireland. Another person chose 'Kate Considine: never a mother, always a carer', by Claire Dunlop (*Ancestor*, June 2018), which resonated personally, being about women who are often overlooked.

Story titles which created a sense of mystery such as 'Just a lump of metal?' by Chris Elmore (*Ancestor*, June 2019) attracted readers but not titles such as 'Who was ??' which may convey meaning for family members but not general readers. Broad titles like 'Hardened criminals, ordinary people' by Alison Alexander (*Ancestor*, May 2012) hold a more general appeal.

The cover picture or first picture used in the story needs to create a spark but actual writing techniques are far more important in creating tension. Does the opening paragraph encourage further reading? As journalists know, you need to grab the reader's attention instantly as most people decide in the first 250 words whether or not to read further. Use chapter headings, beginnings and endings of paragraphs, and opening and closing paragraphs in chapters to 'energise' the story. Does the content of the closing paragraph connect to the ideas in the opening

paragraph, drawing some kind of conclusion? Members noted on 4 March that this outcome is not always easy for family history writers who sometimes wander off track.

Sentences and paragraphs make up a story but beyond the start and finish, is the story a good one? Does it leave the reader satisfied and why? A 'good story' implies a tight structure which successfully incorporates story 'tension' but it's hard to write a good story if you're not a reader and haven't subconsciously absorbed successful writing techniques. As Melanie Ann Phillips says in 'Story Weaving - Story Structure for Passionate Writers' (at [www.writersstore.com](http://www.writersstore.com)), structure, when created properly, is invisible, silently delivering the passion to readers, but when structure is flawed, readers do not 'hear' the author's message.

We can learn from the classic three-stage pattern used, for example, in *Goldilocks* and in *The Three Little Pigs*. The model often used in narrative fiction divides a story into three parts: the Setup (Introduction), the Confrontation (Story Arc) and the Resolution (Conclusion).

In the middle section we need to find the essential 'driver' of our story, its turning points. One way to extract the main story from our morass of family history detail is to tell our story aloud to someone else. The resulting questions, feedback and show of interest or boredom from the listener will help us generate story pace, purpose and relevance.

We need to look for the story's source of conflict and build our story to highlight it. Typically, the conflicts or tensions in life revolve around an individual's struggles with another person, often a family member, or with nature, or with his or her own self-doubts, or with society generally, with the supernatural, or with technological change. We might think some of those conflicts don't apply to our personal family history. We can be sure, though, that one of these areas did subtly attract us in the first place to try to tell our chosen story.

Successful films and books are a good guide to the kind of story we might wish to tell. Did our forebear overcome adversity and oppression? Was it a 'rags to riches' story? A quest? A comedy full of black humour? A tragedy? Did our forebear's story convey personal development? We need to give 'weight' in the story to a major life event, rather

than rushing on to the next 'fact', but remember, we family historians can't make things up. Just as professional journalists are trained never to write something known to be untrue, we can make honest mistakes with our family stories but we can't tell lies.

The actual craft of writing our chosen story can be learned from those who succeed as writers in other genres. In 'How to Weave Threads of Tension Through Your Story' (at [www.well-storied.com](http://www.well-storied.com)), Kristen Kieffer says 'the art of building narrative tension begins by creating dissonance between a character and an object of their desire'. She says 'Tension doesn't work unless stakes do. What does the character risk by taking action or speaking up? What do they risk if they don't?' She emphasises that tension with no emotional impact on a character won't impact readers either, so every bit of action in the story needs a reaction from the character concerned. Of course, unless we are blessed with diaries, the emotions felt by our subjects will be hard to verify, even if they can be imagined. She encourages writers to 'work to build uncertainty in readers' so that they can't easily anticipate what is coming next.

'Finding Shakespeare in Family Research' by Kath McKay (*Ancestor*, Dec 2013) included mystery, feelings and passions, incorporating conflict over race and religion, and colonial and aboriginal conflict. The middle section of 'Finding Johanna' by Victoria Spicer (*Ancestor*, March 2020) includes many of the elements which attract a modern reader and is a great example of integrating conflict or struggle in a story to create story tension. Did her introduction and conclusion work as well?

It takes a long time to develop as a writer but plenty of sources of guidance swirl around the internet. Writing advice also abounds in past 'Getting it Write' articles, all available to GSV members online. Read and analyse the prize winning articles in *Ancestor*. Indeed every story in *Ancestor* has something to offer and the standard of recent writing is high.

Our challenge as family historians is to aim higher than simply writing a non-boring family history. Practise some of the suggestions made here. Our goal should be to write a fascinating truthful story, irresistible to our readers. ■

# Jottings... and library news

Linley Hooper, FGSV

**Northern Ireland Tithe Applotment Books** have now been digitized which completes the project for all Ireland. These records were compiled between 1823 and 1837. We held the microfilms at the GSV library but they were cumbersome to use. And although indexed on Ancestry the standard is not high. So, if you know your parish, it is relatively easy now to check the original.

*Tithe Applotment Books*. National Archives of Ireland. 13 rolls. Dublin, Ireland. They state: *The Tithe Applotment Books* are not comprehensive, and some parts of the country were not surveyed. It should not be assumed that these 'exceptions' from the tithe survey were due to parishes being overlooked since there are usually explanations as to why they were tithe-free. In some cases, there are no tithe books because a certain parish did not exist, or was part of another parish, at the time of the survey. There were also some parishes outside parochial jurisdiction, such as granges, while glebe lands and all towns were also exempt.

Don't overlook the **Directory of Irish Family History Research** published by the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild. It not only lists members' research interests but includes some excellent articles. In the current issue 42 (2019) – if you are lucky enough to have 'Plantation' interests, 'Carew's report on the Voluntary Works in Ulster 1611: a transcription and notes' is very detailed. If you have a Scottish name in Ulster pre-1850, there is a strong chance that you may descend from a 'Planter' or one of the 'clansmen' he brought over to work on his estates. There is emphasis on the Chichester, Hamilton and Montgomery estates.

**Familia: Ulster genealogical review** 35 (2019) contains one of the best articles on Ireland I've ever read: 'A narrow sea: charting the movements of peoples over millennia across the North Channel' by Jonathan Bardon. It is complemented by 'Crossing the narrow sea: the Ulster-Scots influence on family identity' by Arthur Bell. Another article: 'Irish emigration: new sources, new approaches, new results' among other things, discusses the records of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank in New York. These records for 1850-1883 are available on the World edition of *Ancestry*. The Emigrant Savings Bank was established in 1850 by members of the Irish Emigrant Society. The bank ended up serving thousands of Irish immigrants who fled to America following the Potato Famine. This database is an index to these records providing the given name and surname of the depositor, their account number, account date, and year and place of birth, if given. In addition, each indexed individual is linked to the image on which they appear where more information may be available. While the majority of the emigrants found in this collection will be Irish, you may occasionally find emigrants of other nationalities. This provides many excellent examples of chain migration.

**The Tay Valley historian** 115 (Feb 2020) includes an interesting article: 'My grannie was an enemy alien (a thumb print can tell a story)' which is an account of one Italian family who settled in Scotland in 1901 and how they were treated during WWII. It is estimated that by 1905 there were 5000 Italian immigrants in Glasgow. Italian communities were also found in the Grassmarket in Edinburgh.

'The British and the Chinese Treaty ports' by Robert Bickers, in the **Genealogists' magazine** 33:4 (Mar 2020) provides sources for tracing the many British who worked in China from the 1840s.

**Derbyshire FHS** 170 (Sep 2019) lists information about 'Chatsworth Estate families 1750-1900'. The village of Edensor was relocated by the Duke of Devonshire to improve his views and there is a website: Chatsworth Servants database. This issue also includes an anonymous diary of the voyage to Melbourne on the *Kent* in 1879. Understanding English church hierarchies covering churches, chapels and courts can be daunting, but Derbyshire is well explained in this edition. Another useful article covers 'Derby County Gaol personnel'.

**Herefordiensis** 14:5 (Apr 2020) has articles on the Greatorex family, the Powell cycling champions and continues its abstracts of the Acts of Office in the 17th century which cover probate, illegitimacy, fornication, etc in Herefordshire.

**The Yorkshire family historian** 45:3 (Winter 2019) has notes from a talk on 'Your cotton and wool mill ancestors' by Adele Emm. 'Your average ancestor' – a talk by Ian Waller provides a list of over 100 records in which your ancestors may be recorded – although with an English focus, many of these records would also apply in Australia.

**The Nottinghamshire FHS journal** 16:5 (Jan 2020) includes 'Nottinghamshire emigrants to the New World in the 19th century' by Jo Peet, and contains extracts from letters, etc of emigrants found in the Nottinghamshire Archives. Another interesting article is 'The Clergyman, the widow and the milkman' on slum landlords of Edwardian Nottingham. 'W F Wallett: the Queen's jester' is another interesting story, if you are interested in the circus.

**The Castlemaine Historical Society** 35:1 (Jan 2020) published 'The population of the gold fields according to John Bull' for the local area in 1846.

Working from home allows me to index some journals we receive electronically. Many of our new magazines come in pdf format, but the backlog for indexing is huge. When life returns to normal, do remember that you can request a digital copy of an article using our free Quick Look-up service for members.. ■



# Blogging with Meg

Meg Bate

## ***Building the face of our new catalogue***

by Geoffrey, Priyanka, Kaho and Nithya  
(Front-end development team at the State Library of New South Wales)

**[www.sl.nsw.gov.au/blogs/building-face-our-new-catalogue](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/blogs/building-face-our-new-catalogue)**

The State Library of New South Wales is developing a new catalogue to improve access and the user experience. This post is part of a series bringing behind-the-scenes information. Also check out their eight steps to building a better digital library experience.

## ***'Pyjama Girl' killer's prison record among files opened***

**1 Jan 2020** by Tara Oldfield

**[prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/pyjama-girl-killers-prison-record-among-files-opened-1-jan-2020](http://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/pyjama-girl-killers-prison-record-among-files-opened-1-jan-2020)**

Here Tara provides us with an overview of the state archive that became public on 1 January. This is specified under Section 9 of the Public Record Act 1973 relating to files of a personal or private nature. Some of the files in the open records highlighted by Tara include: *Central register of male prisoners 1943-1944*, *Registers of military patients Oct 1915-Nov 1944*, *Register of charges heard before the governor Sept 1907-Nov 1944 (aka Prisoners offence book)*, and *Bound circulated photographs and criminal offences of convicted persons Apr 1943-Aug 1944*. Then she lists 65 other records that could be of interest to genealogists. It is worth noting that some of these records may not be available to order via their online catalogue until mid-2020.

## ***What I love most about WikiTree***

by Ryan Ross

**[www.anceremovedblog.com/2020/02/what-i-love-most-about-wikitree.html](http://www.anceremovedblog.com/2020/02/what-i-love-most-about-wikitree.html)**

*WikiTree* often displays in results when searching for ancestors via *Google*, so it's great to get some background information on why Ryan likes to use it. *WikiTree* combines basic family tree functionality with wiki-style data entry. Basically he likes to be able to write everything out in an unencumbered manner and then he can easily link very detailed source citations to multiply facets and include biographical information for each person. Even though he prefers it to *FamilySearch's* family tree, he does mention that their tree will probably be around longer.

## ***RootsTech 2020 Innovation and Technology Forum summary***

by Randy Seaver

**<https://www.geneamusings.com/2020/02/rootstech-2020-innovation-and.html>**

As I have an interest in technology, I found Randy's summary of this RootsTech 2020 forum very interesting. This session was chaired by Josh Taylor (past President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies) and consisted of lightning presentations by industry leaders

such as *Ancestry* and *Findmypast*, as well as new up-and-coming players. These presenters showcased their latest technology and innovations. For example *Ancestry* introduced a 'Story Scout'; *Treasure Key*; *WieWasWie* the Dutch family tree site, has used machine learning to create family groups from civil records; *FamilySearch.org* improves access to records; *Filae.com* making French records online from official civil records, census records and historical archives; *TimeMachine.eu* where they are building a large scale simulator mapping 2000 years of European history. I would have liked more details but it should be worth watching these developers so you can enjoy these improvements.

## ***A reading list to stay at home with***

by Kitty Cooper

**<https://blog.kittycooper.com/2020/03/a-reading-list-to-stay-at-home-with>**

Kitty, a *Kindle* app user, recommends some DNA focused reading in this era of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. She suggests *The lost family*, *A brief history of everyone who ever lived*, *She has her mother's laugh*, *Genome: the autobiography of a species in 23 chapters* plus a reading list relevant to pandemics: *The great influenza* and of course the 2011 movie *Contagion*. For each of these publications she provides details to garner your interest.

## ***Tracing your female ancestors***

by Pauline Williams

**<https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/tracing-your-female-ancestors>**

Pauline writes on the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. blog *Enriching family history*. Here she looks at the challenges to discovering a female ancestor's individual identity in the 18th and 19th centuries. Then she provides us with some strategies of how to source this information. With this information you can provide a fuller picture of your family.

## ***7 steps to perfect family tree document placement***

by DiAnn Iamarino

**<https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2019/12/perfect-documents.html>**

DiAnn starts with the mantra 'Do it right the first time and you'll never need to come back and fix it' – who could disagree? She then leads us through the seven steps required when adding a document to your family tree. Basically the seven steps are 1. Save a copy of the document image to the proper folder on your computer, 2. Rename the file appropriately, 3. Crop and enhance the image, 4. Add metadata to the image file, 5. Drag the image into *Family Tree Maker*, 6. Enter individual facts in *Family Tree Maker* (These last steps are applicable to most family tree software), and 7. Add an entry in your document tracker. ■



# Public Record Office Victoria

## News from Public Record Office Victoria

From Tara Oldfield

For further information visit [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au).

## Update from Public Record Office Victoria

Please note: this was written in March during a time of great uncertainty. At the time of writing the Victorian Archives Centre is temporarily closed, as are regional archive offices across Victoria.

During closures, our catalogue is still available to search at [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au) with digitised collection items available online. Staff will continue to answer research questions submitted through our website and on social media.

For updates on these closures visit our website.

### Online resources

Some of the online resources we have available, in addition to our digitised collections, are: Curated online exhibitions ranging from histories of the Streets of Melbourne, fashions and hair, the West Gate Bridge, soldier settlement and, of course, Ned Kelly, just to name a few. We also have a blog featuring an array of stories from the collection, and there's back issues of *Provenance* online to delve into.

### Victorian Community History Awards

Have you recently completed a history project, book, exhibition, oral history or article? Entries are now open for the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards presented by PROV in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Award categories include the Victorian Premier's History Award, History Publication Award, Digital Storytelling Award, Community Diversity Award and Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria, among others. Prizes range from \$500 to \$5000.

Visit our website for details: [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au)



▲ Image: Victorian Archives Centre square (PROV collection)



# Royal Historical Society of Victoria

For more information, visit [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

From Cheryl Griffin, RHSV volunteer

## Melbourne Women's Walking Club and the RHSV Collection

There are a number of resources relating to Victoria's bushwalking clubs in the RHSV collection.

The Melbourne Women's Walking Club is just one example. It was founded in Melbourne in 1922 when interested women walkers were told they could not join the Men's Walking Club. To begin with they tackled short, local walks, but at Christmas 1928 seven of its members set off on an extended walk on the Bogong High Plains.

You can see the seven women walkers in the accompanying photograph. They're standing outside the Tawonga Hut on Mount Bogong. One member later wrote in the 1972/73 issue of their journal *Wayfaring* that 'correct walking attire in those days was long leather boots laced up to the knees, riding breeches, long-sleeved shirt and tie', although a few years later they were allowed to wear shorts if they chose. It was also noted that the weather on this walk was hot, but when thunderstorms brought heavy rain the walkers were marooned for several days before finding their way through fog to the Tawonga Hut. Ever resourceful, as darkness descended they made their way down to the hut by the light of gum-leaf torches.

In this photograph you see our intrepid walkers. There's Gladys Knight (later Gladys Banner). Next to her is Annie Creaton, known as 'Shadder', the Club's Secretary until her death in 1934. Then there's Merle Griffin, who was still a Club member in 1983, followed by Alma Meddows (later Broad), considered one of the Club's fastest walkers. Alice (Pat) Paterson is next. A practical, efficient woman, she was the leader of this expedition. Next to her is Gretchen Fordyce, a 'true, tireless bushwoman' who hosted many Club outings at her cottage at Toolangi just near C.J. Dennis's home 'Arden'. And finally we come to Mollie Hill, who was also a member of the Ski Club of Victoria and who met her death four years later in a skiing accident on Mount Feathertop.

There is so much more that could be said about the women, this and other walks, the Club, and about the lives of adventurous women like these. And there is much to discover in the RHSV collection. As well as images, we have journals, a published history (*From Uphill after lunch, Melbourne Women's Walking Club 1922-1985*, Amy Eastwood,



▲ Image: Seven Melbourne Women's Walking Club members outside Tawonga Hut, Mount Bogong, Christmas 1928. Image GS-AAE-67, RHSV collection.

Isabel Eastwood, Hazel Merlo, Melbourne Women's Walking Club, Melbourne, no date [1985?]) and interviews with Club members (MS Collection. MS 1465-1476. Box 270-2. Interviews and memoirs of members 1920-1980. Included are Jean Aird, Elsie Albury, Isobel Eastwood, Isobel Fielding, Merle Griffin, Freda Hollis, Mollie Levy, Lorna Trengrove and Pat Wadsworth)

The Club journal, *Wayfaring*, is of particular interest. Found in the RHSV Periodicals – PER 087, we have an incomplete run. (1950 then 1965-67, 1970/71, 1972/73) Even so, this is a fascinating resource, giving accounts of excursions and travel stories within Australia and overseas, amongst other things. One of the gems is the work of Amy Stewart (writing as Roma Round) who was born in the 1890s and was a teenager when the San Francisco earthquake 'shocked the world'. Her autobiographical and historical articles relate to events that took place during her lifetime and her evocative depiction of her Cousin Ted (in Issue 40, 1969/70) is well worth reading. Every aspiring writer of family and local history will find something to inspire in Roma Round's writing! ■





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# About the GSV

## Why become a member of the GSV?

Tracing your family tree is one of the world's most popular pastimes. **The Genealogical Society of Victoria** is a leading Australian family history society and exists to assist members in tracing their ancestors and to promote the study of genealogy.

At our centrally located **Research & Education Centre** in Melbourne you can work with our experienced volunteer research assistants. With their guidance, you can efficiently organise and record the family information you already hold. Then you can investigate our many resources and background information to confirm the facts and fill in the gaps.

Enjoy socialising with people who have like-minded interest in the people and circumstances in the past.

## Membership Benefits include:

- **Access to research assistants** – friendly volunteers trained to help with library resources
- **Access to our comprehensive library collection** of family history records not available in commercial databases. It includes indexes, books, family histories, digital resources and unpublished material. Members may also bring a friend for one visit a year
- **Access to commercial databases** within our library: *Ancestry, findmypast, TheGenealogist, British Newspaper Archive, MyHeritage, Biographical Database of Australia*
- **Login from home** and access to parts of our collection, including the library catalogue, the Genealogical Index of Names (GIN), cemeteries database and guided research
- **Our quarterly award-winning journal, *Ancestor***
- **Regular online blog** 'Family History matters', *Facebook* and social media groups
- **Discounted or free events:** orientation, training courses and classes, seminars, library research days and talks
- **Special Interest Groups and Discussion Circles**
- **Online Forum 'members help members'** for sharing research queries and experience with other members
- **Members Queries** – published in *Ancestor* (one per year)
- **Over 170 webcasts** on subjects of interest to genealogists, viewable from home
- **Quick Lookups** – free for members
- **Discounts** on extended research services and education events
- **Free annual research query** (up to 2 hours) for distant members (over 100km from Melbourne)
- **Reciprocal rights** with other major societies in Australia and New Zealand
- **Save \$108 on *findmypast*** annual world subscription

## Membership Options

A\$

Joining fee (Australia/international) 20.00/20.00

### Annual Membership

One person (Australia/international) 105.00/125.00  
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Three, same address (Australia/international) 210.00/230.00  
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### Ancestor only

Australia (no joining fee) 70.00  
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### Member Societies

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### Day Visitor

Full day with free Library access \*30.00

\* Fee rebatable against membership fee, within 14 days.

## Library Hours

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Tuesday 10.00am – 7.00pm  
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## Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm  
Saturday Closed

*Closed public holidays and Easter Saturday*

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The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC  
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Assistant Library Manager	Meg Bate
Office Administrator	Linda Farrow

# Research Services

## Free Quick Lookup

There is a free eResearch service for a library lookup or research advice taking **up to 30 minutes** for members who cannot visit the library. Replies are by email but if prints are required a cost estimate will be given. Members may send in one eResearch query at a time. Another may be submitted after receipt of results.

To submit a request by email, see the Research & Resources page online at [www.gsv.org.au/research/research-services.html](http://www.gsv.org.au/research/research-services.html).

To submit a request by mail, download and complete the Postal Research Request Form located on the website, or collect one from the GSV. Submit with a SSAE. Prints are \$0.25 per A4 page – a quotation can be provided on request if an additional SSAE is provided.

## Extended Research

The Research Team at the GSV can spend time researching a family or topic of your choice.

**Per hour: Members \$30.00** / Non-members \$50.00 pre paid. Includes limited copying and postal charges.

Members residing more than 100 km from Melbourne are offered one annual session of complimentary research taking up to two hours.

## Getting Started Consultations

Members may book a **free** half hour 'getting started' consultation. Please email Linley Hooper, our Library Manager, at [libraryadmin@gsv.org.au](mailto:libraryadmin@gsv.org.au) with a preferred time and date.

## Consultations

Stuck with your research? Arrange a consultation in our library with a member of the research team.

Consultations are for one hour.

**Members \$30.00** / Non-members \$50.00

## Transcriptions and Latin Translations

Early documents such as wills, deeds and marriage licences can be transcribed.

**Per hour: Members \$30.00** / Non-members \$50.00

## Victorian Probate Papers post 1925

Researchers will obtain copies from Public Records Office Victoria (PROV).

**Members: \$50.00** / Non-members: \$75.00

## Other Public Records

Researchers will obtain copies from Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) where specific reference [VPRS/Unit etc] is provided.

**Per hour: Members: \$60.00** / Non-members \$85.00

*Further information about our Research services will be found on our website [www.gsv.org.au/research/research-services](http://www.gsv.org.au/research/research-services). Contact [research@gsv.org.au](mailto:research@gsv.org.au) if you need specific guidance.*

# Self Help Guide

## General Register Office (GRO) certificates

England and Wales birth, death and marriage certificates, births and deaths at sea and events registered with UK Consuls and armed services personnel may be purchased online: [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificate](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificate)

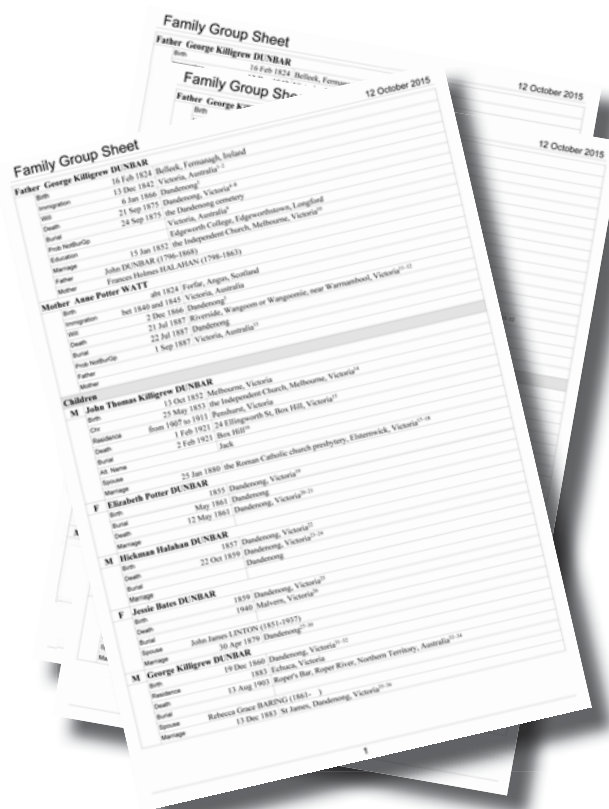
## Scottish birth, death and marriage certificates

Images of Statutory (civil) registrations may be purchased online. Church registers, census records, divorce records and wills are also available: [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) To learn more you may like to attend the **monthly class on ScotlandsPeople**. Check the 'What's On' pages in future issues of *Ancestor*.

## England and Wales Wills and Probate

Wills and probate may be searched and ordered for people who died in or after 1858 to current times. A 'grant of representation' gives someone the legal right to deal with a deceased person's estate but not all grants of representation contain a will: [www.gov.uk/search-will-probate](http://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate)

*If you have any queries or need some help in using these websites ask for some assistance in the library.*



# News

## Annual General Meeting of the GSV

See page 22 in this issue for notice of the AGM of the GSV. Now is the time for considering standing for the GSV Council in October.

## Find and Connect

**[www.findandconnect.gov.au](http://www.findandconnect.gov.au)**

This site contains historical resources relating to institutional 'care' in Australia. It contains only information that is already published and/or in the public domain, or information that stakeholders have agreed to place in the public domain to help those who experienced out-of-home 'care' access records. This website was developed to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants understand more about their past and about the historical context of child welfare. For many people who grew up in 'care', the search for records and information – so vital to identity and to the process of reconnecting with family – can be very difficult. We hope to publish a full article on this group's work in a coming issue of *Ancestor*.

## Geneanet DNA

Geneanet has launched a new service which allows you to match your autosomal DNA data to that of other members of Geneanet free. You export your DNA data from another website, upload it onto Geneanet and match it. It helps you find new relatives. You will be alerted when new results become available.

## HCV Board Chair Changes

The Board of the History Council of Victoria has appointed Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM FAHA FASSA as its new Chair. He is a specialist in the history of modern France. His predecessor, Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison resigned recently as Chair but has agreed to remain on the Board for a year or two. The Board expressed regret at his decision and thanked Graeme for his good leadership. The appointment of two new Board members was also announced. They are Dr Annette Shiel (representing the National Trust of Australia) and Sarah Morris (representing the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Vic)).

## Sands and McDougall Directories

The complete Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directories from 1857 to 1880 are freely available online at:

**<https://omeka.cloud.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne-history/exhibits/show/melbournedirectories/browsemelbournedirectories>**

This little gem of information was found in a recent VicGUM newsletter, contributed by Ken McInnes.

## FAHS advice on keeping in touch

The FAHS newsletter provided a useful summary on videos for meetings and on uploading audios. Useful information for anyone organising meetings large or small.

Video (or audio only) chats, seminars and meetings are possible with many applications, such as *Facebook Messenger*, *WhatsApp*, *Zoom*, *Jitsi Meet*, *Face Time* and *Skype*. See *Be Connected's* guide, <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au>, to getting set up for video chats.

Societies can post audio recordings of talks and seminars on *SoundCloud*. The following is a general guide to uploading requirements: <https://help.soundcloud.com/hc/en-us/articles/115003452847-Uploading-requirements>. Three hours of any type of audio can be uploaded free. Uploading is done through the *SoundCloud* website <https://soundcloud.com/upload>.

## Get writing!

The Editorial Team are seeking submissions of articles up to 2400 words in length. So start writing. Plenty of help is available from the Editorial Team. Send articles to [ancestor@gsv.org.au](mailto:ancestor@gsv.org.au)

Also, don't forget the **2020 GSV Writing Prize** is accepting entries up until 28 August 2020. Prize winners to be announced at the AGM in October. See, the GSV website, the inside back cover and page 27 of this issue for more information. ■

## Pen of the President

*Continued from page 2*

This year we have added an online Forum for members and expanded our range of discussion circles and focus groups for members. And, please don't forget that for the duration of the shutdown we now have access to more databases for you to use from home. Details are on the inside front cover. However there are significant financial risks for the GSV at the moment and we need your help.

From June 1 we are asking for donations to continue providing this high level of service. Our goal is to at least replace our lost monthly revenue with a target of \$10,000 by October. Contributions can be made via the website (see Donate button at the bottom of GSV's homepage), by email at [gsv@gsv.org.au](mailto:gsv@gsv.org.au) or by mail, using Paypal, by bank transfer or by cheque.

It is not possible to predict what the next months will bring. On behalf of the Council I hope you, your families and loved ones remain safe and well. We thank you for your ongoing support and your words of encouragement. It is really appreciated. Working together, the GSV will successfully survive this crisis. ■



# GSV 2020 Writing Prize

You have three months to enter the

## GSV 2020 Writing Prize

The prize this year is an  
*Ancestry* 12 month Worldwide subscription  
and an *Ancestry* DNA Kit

Entries should:

- be between 1200 and 2400 words
- be the author's own original work
- not have been previously published in any format
- have a family history / genealogy theme
- contain appropriate citations to documents and other works
- up to 4 images may be included

Members of the GSV and of GSV Member Societies are eligible to enter.

For further details see [gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize](https://gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize)

**Closing Date: 4 pm on 28 August 2020**

## Notice to All Family Historians Call for Articles

Don't miss this opportunity to preserve your research findings for posterity (and your family)! The *Ancestor* editorial team is currently inviting you to submit articles for publication in *Ancestor*. Articles can be brief (one page or 750 words), or can range up to full articles of 2400 words plus several images. Shorter articles can often be published more quickly. There's lots of advice on writing available at the GSV – see 'Tips on Writing an Article' (p 26-27 of this issue), read the very useful series of 'Getting it Write' articles which appear in every issue of the journal, and join in the Writers Discussion Circle for guidance in improving your article. This Discussion Circle normally meets monthly. For a style guide, details about citations, and images, see the GSV website.

Once you submit an article to *Ancestor* at [ancestor@gsv.org.au](mailto:ancestor@gsv.org.au), it is allocated an editor to work with you to finalise your article and to set it up for publication. Most people find it a very useful and enjoyable exercise in which to take part, and are often thrilled to see their work in print. Articles can be submitted at any time of the year.

Some writers may prefer to enter the annual GSV Writing Prize. Entries close this year on 28 August. Details are shown above on this page. *Ancestor* publishes the winning entry in its December issue, and may also publish in subsequent issues some of the short-listed entries, by agreement with the authors.

Get writing!

# *Finding a Home for Unclaimed WW2 Certificates*

by Ann Kerin, Wodonga Family History Society

The Wodonga Family History Society have several certificates that were issued to service men and women who enlisted from Wodonga and not collected in 1946.

The certificate for Gerald Dyson Nelder (1926–2019) was claimed by his family in 2019. Gerry Nelder was born in Shepparton in 1926 where his parents, Les and May grew tobacco on their farm Nellem Bert.

The family moved to Wodonga in 1935. Gerry undertook a motor mechanic apprenticeship at Toolles Garage. At fifteen years, Gerry was a 'well-built young man for his age and a 'well-wisher' sent him a white feather. He quickly enlisted in the army only to be removed after much effort by his mother, May. He enlisted in the RAAF (156647) as a mechanic and served in the Pacific.

Gerry's brother Linton also served in the RAAF (10889).

Their sister Jane Evol (1923–2019) joined the Australian Navy (WR/958) and served as a teletype operator at *HMAS Cerberus* and *HMAS Lonsdale* 1943-1946. Evol was presented with her certificate in 1997.

Certificates remain for:

Elvin R Dow born in June 1915 in Wynyard, Tasmania to David Henry Dow and Margaret McGuire. Elvin was working as a butcher's assistant in Wodonga when he enlisted in the Australian Army on 20 October 1939 (VX6409).



Elvin passed away in Yarrawonga in 1977.

Walter Robert Craig born 4 September 1913 in Holbrook, NSW and enlisted on 13 March 1941 (V325324). Walter's next of kin was Elizabeth Young.

James Gordon Hunt was born on 19 November 1921 at Wodonga and enlisted on 23 July 1942 (VX81350). James' next of kin was Albert Hunt. He died in 1950 aged 29 and is buried in the Wodonga Cemetery.

E.S. Butt, Maurice Parker, Ethel Joyce, H J Thomas, Edward Woods, A F Sedgwick.

If any of these people are related to you and you would like to claim their certificate, please contact the Wodonga Family History Society  
Tel: 02 60 563 220

Email: [secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org](mailto:secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org). ■

Ann can be contacted at [kerinann007@gmail.com](mailto:kerinann007@gmail.com)

Surnames: Butt, Craig, Dow, Hunt, Joyce, McGuire, Nelder, Parker, Sedgwick, Thomas, Woods, Young

▲ Image: Jane 'Evol' Nelder who served in the RAN  
(by permission of the owner).