

THE Cedar Log

34th Year of Publication
Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.
Ballina NSW Australia



First printed in 1780 this much older, well loved tune may have been closely tied with religious teachings.
The song lists a number of animals, occupations and objects including wild and domestic birds that brightened life during a time of political upheaval and revolution.
Our centrefold explores each day's gift from an historic perspective.

The 12 Days of Christmas decoded: published 16 December 2016
© courtesy of Ten Eye Witness News.



Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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The Marie Hart Library: Opening hours Monday & Wednesday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm; the first Saturday of the month closed; other Saturdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed on all public holidays. For more information about MH Library and our research facilities see inside back cover.

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FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

The 12 Days of Christmas decoded © Ten Eye Witness News

THIS PAGE PHOTOGRAPH:

12 Days of Christmas – Meaning Behind the Birds © Christine Henrichs



Editor’s Message by Carol Donaghey

Your December edition of the *Cedar Log* has a variety of articles that we hope you enjoy reading over the Christmas break. Kerrie Alexander’s item on DNA follows on from her presentation last August and breaks down a subject that is often hard to understand into a readable and enjoyable story. Jacqui Brock has submitted her first story for our journal and we are very happy to have it. Thank you again to those who have contributed stories over the past year. We hope you will continue as we have thoroughly enjoyed reading about your discoveries and research journeys.

Christmas brings back so many recollections of excitement and expectation. What are your memories? Mine include my six year old son looking out of his bedroom window at 2am on Christmas morning so excited because he thought he saw Santa flying across the sky. Jeff is 51 now and still insists he saw ‘something’ that night. The child is still in all of us. I hope you wake like a child on Christmas morning.

It’s been a good year for the Society. There were great presentations by members and guest speakers and our volunteers worked hard to keep us functioning well. Many thanks to Jenny Craddock for taking care of our afternoon tea over the past two years. Jenny is retiring from her role which will be taken over by one of our newer members, Joann Clapham, who will step into that position in February.

Congratulations to member Yvonne Hammond who turned 95 at the end of October. Yvonne is an inspiration who often submits some of her wonderful stories for the journal (see page 2 for her latest one).

Meryl and John Broadley flew to Sydney in October for the launch at Parliament House of the Seniors Card book *Seniors’ Stories Volume 3*. Meryl’s story ‘Seachange’ was selected to be included in the latest volume which is now available at all local libraries across NSW.

Membership renewals are now due for 2018. A renewal form is included in this issue for your convenience.

The Editorial Team wishes each and every member a very happy Christmas and New Year!

Whatever you choose to do to celebrate the season we wish you and your family peace and joy and may your New Year resolutions include finalising at least one section of your family history research.

Life in the Twenties



by Yvonne Hammond

We often visited Dad's older brother Ern during the 1920's. School holidays on my uncle's farm at Menangle are unforgettable. Ern lived and worked (a tenant dairy farmer) on Macarthur Onslow's Model Dairy No 1, the first of five to be built in 1926 by Camden Park over the next decade. Eventually the dairies were numbered 1-9. Uncle Ern and his sons moved to No 2 the Home Farm which is now Heritage listed. Called Belgenney Farm it is still in existence, a working farm and open to the public on the Camden Park Estate.

This dairy was part of the Camden Park Estate situated across the road and paddock from the milk depot, officially known as The Creamery.

Eventually Uncle Ern, Aunt Ruby and their family moved to No 9 Dairy. Their four boys, Ern jnr, Bill, George and Sid worked with their father on various farms on Camden Park Estate and as they grew up and married each one took over a dairy independently. They are recorded in the booklet, *They Worked at Camden Park*, a publication printed by the Camden Historical Society.



Laurel Butter Packaging
'Camden News' 19 August 1948

Milk was taken from all the dairies to the Depot at Menangle, some of which was carried in cans to various outlets by train from the adjacent siding; the remainder was separated and the cream used for making butter which later on was packaged and sold with the brand name 'Laurel'.

The cream was churned in huge vats resulting in delicious creamy butter. Dad purchased this in bulk, not neatly wrapped in blocks, but formed between two large wooden rectangular hand pats into a rough shape before weighing. A billy-can containing cream and a much larger can of milk finalised his purchase on

most weekends. This 'special' milk that became available during 1926, suitable for invalids and babies, was called *Camden Vale Milk* and later sold in gold foil topped bottles. In 1939 the Camden Vale Inn (now called Camden Valley Inn) was built to sell 'special' milk to travellers.



'Special' Milk
Belgenney Farm

Mum had what she called a preserving pan; a large round black enamel shallow dish which was filled with milk and put on the fuel range to scald. Afterward, as the milk cooled, the clotted cream rose to the surface and was skimmed off. Thick, yellow, rich and delicious, it was served in ample dollops on the hand-picked blackberries. Mum made whole fruit conserves from the berries and other fruit in season which was cooked in the same preserving pan.

Years later (in the early fifties) the Milk Depot became the *Rotolactor* – a circular platform where cows were attached to a machine that milked and fed them in one seven-minute complete circuit, milking up to 2,500 cows twice daily. The best producers wore a chain necklace and given the most feed, middle producers received less and wore a white cord necklace, lower producers wore a green necklace and given the least food.

Alongside the depot was a piggery, built at the same time as the depot for the express purpose of using the skimmed milk. This milk was fed to the pigs, as there was no other use for it then. Pigs were reared specifically to consume waste products.



The 'Rotolactor' courtesy of Belgenney Farm
www.belgenneyfarm.com.au

A real no-no today would be the open half pipe sluices, into which the baker tipped stale bread, veggies from the produce market mixed with

the milk and any other left-over foodstuff from shops. All this formed a sloppy mess that the pigs really seemed to enjoy. Although I laughed a lot at their funny antics while they ate, I visualise now with distaste, the grunting ruction that ensued while competing for the *delicacies* found in this disgusting looking grub. Pushing and shovelling their hairy pink snouts through the grotesque muddle, *eating like pigs*, I can see how the saying originated. Pigs do have funny personalities and their reputation back then was *'they'll eat anything'*. Dad's brother Roy often amused us when he related a story about his pigs who drank, by accident or design, I'm not sure which – beer slops from his Burragorang Valley Hotel bar. The resulting capers of those drunk pigs, mimicked by Uncle Roy never failed to have us all in stitches.

The pub, accessed by a steep road zigzagging down the mountainside, had initially been a bridle track made by horses following the explorer's trail and later became a road for bullock wagons. In due course a substantial road was built to take the constant wear and tear of the numerous coal trucks. These heavily laden vehicles travelled over it daily when coal mining became part of valley life. Narellan also suffered from the black dust as tons of coal was dumped at the station and transported in open trucks to Campbelltown by Pansy the Camden Tram.

Holidays spent with my sister and four female cousins in this valley paradise were idyllic, but of course we didn't fully realise it when swimming in the cold, swift streams that ran crystal clear over satin smooth stones and coloured pebbles. Brightly flushed underwater patterns were made by the moving sun and shadows of clouds and trees.

Valley farms grew acres of corn; tall and green, ornamented with an abundance of golden tasselled cobs. I have vivid memories of cobs dripping with butter, roasted in the night-time camp fire coals, the lingering smell hanging thickly in the clear night air of the fertile valley. Before coal mining long ribbons of quiet calm days saturated with living colour are recurring memories of magical times past, unique and distinctive to every valley family.

Viewing the graceful landscape and stunning scene of Lake Burragorang now, one can hardly realise how much beauty lies hidden and rotting as gushing water has spread across the land and flooded the valley floor. Warragamba Dam was a necessary action I suppose, but sad for all the residents who became alienated from the sounds and images of their particular world. All of us who had enjoyed the Valley's simple life style are now left with only deep impressions and unique images of times

gone forever. Memories of the bubbling tributaries of many rivers whispering to overhanging she-oaks meandering over smooth pebbles, moving resolutely toward new horizons, swallowed eventually by the waters of the dam.



*Burragorang Valley 1930 - before the Dam
National Library of Australia*



*Burragorang Valley - after the Dam
Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum*

The passage of years has perhaps dimmed those memories, but will never remove them entirely from the recesses of the minds of those who lived and visited there, appearing and disappearing like vanishing smoke into the mists of time beneath the waters of what is now known as Lake Burragorang.

Apology from Editor

In the September *Cedar Log* article 'Research Workshop at Nambour' I had mistyped the website for searching Irish place names.

My apologies but the actual website is placenamesni.org I hope it didn't inconvenience anyone.

Do give it a try. When you enter a town it will also give you the barony, parish, county and maps plus much more.

The General Strike of August 1917

by Dawn Lotty



My mother in law, Jean would proudly point out that she was an Aubrey and that her ancestors accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066.

The Aubrey's, for their service to William, obtained large tracts of land in Wales and over the generations could number amongst their kin royal advisors, academics, professionals, lords and antiquarians. Another mark of pride was that Jean's family were Welsh free settlers, not common English or Irish, or heaven forbid, convicts like the rest of us.

But there was one topic that brought this idyllic family history down to earth. Jean's father Francis, or Frank as he was called, had worked as a strike breaker during the General Strike in August 1917. Jean, up to her death in 1973, passionately defended her father's actions saying he was patriotic and a man of principal but for the rest of his life he was a 'scab' to other members of the family.

Jean's grandfather David Aubrey came to Penrith, NSW in 1878 as a Railway Engineer along with his wife Elizabeth and seven children of their final family of ten children. Elizabeth set about ensuring the family held a prominent and respectable place in the local community and in time two of their sons, Henry and Frank, also joined the railways.

By 1917, it was clear to many Australian working people that the war had gone on much longer than anticipated and their agreement to refrain from wage increases during this time had led to a drastic fall of approximately 30% in real wages. With inflation running rampant as a result of increased commodity prices, the weekly pay packet no longer stretched to cover life's basic necessities. At the same time, workers in a range of industries were expected to work longer and harder.

As so often happens with strikes it takes just one unrelated incident to instigate unrest. In this case it was the NSW Department of Tramways and Railways move to introduce a 'time and motion' study. Unwilling to be regimented like mindless automatons, workers at Randwick and Eveleigh workshops voted to down tools in early August. By mid-month, more than 10,000 public transport workers had voted to go on strike.

The government, hoping to halt the strike action, called upon the men's patriotism by telling them that they were putting the lives of our fighting men at risk and the newspapers labelled them 'the friends of the Kaiser'.

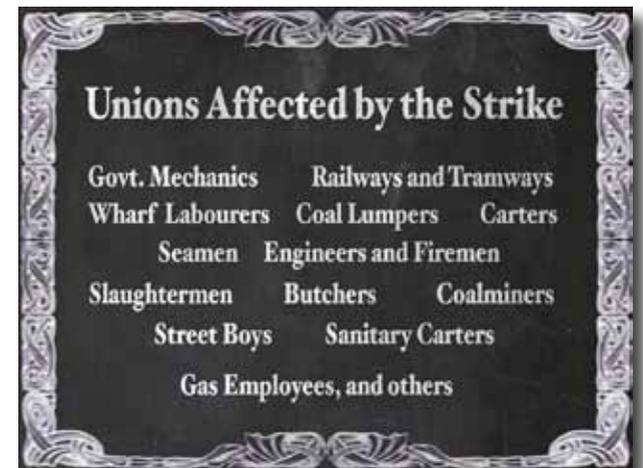
Henry, by this time Secretary of the Engineering, Drivers, Firemen and Signals Association, was closely allied to the decision to strike while Frank and approximately one third of the rank and file train drivers decided to heed the government call and continued to work. Their individual actions led to an acrimonious rift in the Aubrey family that never healed even after both men had died in 1952 and 1953 respectively.

The strike rapidly spread to coal mines, the waterfront workers and seamen in NSW and workers in other states soon followed. The respective governments began organising strike breakers on a mass scale. Men from rural areas, university students, upper forms and masters from private schools were prominent among the 'volunteers' who, with very little training, were sent to work in coal mines, on the railways and the waterside.

Sugar refinery, timber, meat and gas workers refused to work with goods handled by the 'volunteers' and in Melbourne and Sydney daily rallies of up to 150,000 supported the men on strike.

Jean would emotionally recall this time. Along with her father, her mother Alice, brother David and sister Gwen the family was isolated in an openly hostile community, receiving threats of violence and they often had police protection.

While at school she was taunted and harassed. By the end of the strike the family was forced to relocate from the small south coast town of Scarborough to the anonymity of the Sydney suburb of Auburn with Frank moving from driving goods trains to driving passenger trains.



Many unions joined the Strike to support the Randwick and Eveleigh Railway Unions - image courtesy of Documentary Australia Foundation

On 14 August 1917 the Government dismissed the striking rail and tramways workers for misconduct. On the personal history cards this act is referred to as “*Dismissed by Proclamation. Left work on Strike.*”

On 9 September 1917 union officials based in the NSW Trades and Labour Council, declared the strike over on terms which amounted to a complete capitulation. The decision was denounced by the men on strike as a sell out in a series of furious mass meetings and, when it was clear that hundreds would be victimised, many groups of railway workers resumed strike action. But without official support, the strikers drifted back to work and, after two weeks, the railway strike had ended.

The return to work was just as disorganised as the initial exodus. When the members of those unions who had decided on a resumption reported for duty they found they were expected to fill in a form headed, “*Form of Application for Re-employment of Men who left Duty on Strike.*” As a concession to the mass protest which greeted this the words, ‘*who left Duty on Strike*’ were deleted. Even so hundreds refused to fill in these forms. Figures published by the Commissioner on 12 September, claim that 9,849 of the men who reported for duty were prepared to fill in the forms whereas 10,652 refused. However, when it became obvious that no unanimity existed the men began signing the amended forms at the rate of 1,000 a day.



*Women supporters of the strikers converge on NSW State Parliament
Courtesy of National Library of Australia*

About 2,000 workers were refused re-engagement. Many strikers found themselves in subordinate positions while so called ‘loyalists’ were given seniority and some strikers lost their accumulated superannuation.

There was a long-lasting feeling of bitterness and hatred in the railways. The railwaymen had to wait until 1925 for the NSW Labor Premier, John T. Lang, to restore seniority and lost rights to the striking workers and then only on the condition that ‘loyalists’ displaced should not suffer loss of wages.

The miners and waterside workers, the two groups most affected by strike breakers remained on strike until November, in a vain attempt to remove the ‘scabs’ from the workplace but it took until 1919 before they were successful and the strike breakers were finally driven out of the coal mines and off the Melbourne waterfront.

Note: The State Records Authority of New South Wales holds the personal history cards of two well-known politicians, which record their involvement and participation in the strike: Ben Chifley, who would become Prime Minister of Australia in 1945, had worked on the railroads since 1903, and was a train driver at the time of the strike. Following his participation and subsequent dismissal, Chifley was rehired as a driver and fireman, but with reduced wages and seniority.

Joseph Cahill, who would become Premier of New South Wales in 1952, worked at Eveleigh Workshops at the time, and was an active trade unionist. Cahill’s card was marked as an “agitator”, and he had great difficulty finding regular work after his participation in the strike.

Gravestones of Tasmania by Carol Donaghey

Whether you have ancestors who died in Tasmania or not this is a fascinating website. It not only deals with headstones and family genealogy but also Tasmanian gaols with detailed information about some of the prisoners.

The data includes cemeteries broken up into north, south, east and west areas of the State. Behind many of the names listed are photographs of the relevant headstones. The Isle of the Dead button has a record of headstones and details of the people interred on the island.

Check out the list of Tasmanian towns with present and past names. There is also a Did You Know button giving little known facts about Tasmania.

You really must try this website - gravesoftas.com.au – I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Don Howell who found this little gem in the Ormskirk (Scotland) e-journal.

A Christmas Quiz



Compiled by your Christmas Quiz Master:
Frank Harvey

At some time during the summer holidays our local Ballina Shire readers may like to try answering the following ten questions – based on events occurring in Ballina at some period during its history. The answers are found elsewhere in this Journal, but please don't look until you've made a genuine attempt to answer correctly. You may learn something from the answers!

1. In what year did Capt. (later Admiral) Henry Rous discover the Richmond River?
2. In what year was Ballina first gazetted as a Township?
3. On what exact date was the 100th Anniversary of Capt. Rous' discovery celebrated in Ballina?
4. On what date did a famous pilot and his navigator make landfall over Ballina (before heading to Brisbane) after the first trans-pacific flight from San Francisco, California, via Hawaii and Fiji?
5. Which location in Ballina did he fly over?
6. What was the name of that Pilot?
7. What locations in Ballina are specifically named in honour of this event?
8. On what date did the second *La Balsa Expedition* (3 Rafts) first arrive on the Richmond River at Ballina?
9. How many Ballina locations can you name, where you can find/see a reference to '*La Balsa*'?
10. When and where was the '*Peace Loan*' Aeroplane displayed on its visit to Ballina?



Crowds gather to see the first official landing of a plane, the '*Peace Loan*' Aeroplane, in Chinchilla, Qld, 1920
From the Bonzle Collection, QldPics



Albert GIBSON (1876–1924)

by Jacqui Brock

It is impossible to imagine what Albert Gibson's thoughts were as he stood outside No. 4 Australian General Hospital at Randwick on that day in 1918. Abandoned by his mother at the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children in 1886, he returned there in its new guise as a returned soldier suffering gas poisoning, and had now been ordered to report there again to stand before the Permanent Medical Referee Board. During the Great War of 1914–1918, Albert enlisted not once, but twice, and had travelled from Randwick via England, France, and the Battle of Messines, and back to Randwick, or as some might say – to hell, and back.

Albert was born in Binalong, New South Wales, on 12 June 1876, to parents James and Harriett Randall nee Gibson. At nine years of age under the name William Albert, his mother deposited him, along with three of his younger siblings at the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children. The admission register states '*Father dead. Mother cannot support*'. Albert stayed there for three years before he was discharged into his mother's care in January 1889.



Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children
by Samuel Thomas Gill

Young Albert's home life appears to be somewhat dysfunctional in the years that followed, as not only did he have some trouble with the law, but several members of his close family including his mother, spent time in jail. In 1913, he was working as a butcher and living with his mother and step-father at 62 Junior Street, Leichhardt, New South Wales. There appears to be no record of him ever being married.

When Britain declared war against Germany on 4 August 1914, the Australian Government pledged their full support leading to the raising of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). In the weeks that followed, Albert's home town of Sydney was transformed. Men in khaki uniforms were seen in every street. Almost every car, cab and delivery van had a Union Jack attached to its bonnet, theatres started each performance with the National Anthem, and troops marched through the city to the troopships. The number of street corner newspaper sellers doubled, and people eagerly awaited the 12.30pm "War Edition" of the newspaper each day. It would have been difficult not to be caught up in the 'excitement' and patriotism in the City.



"Universal Calamity Impending: The World's Greatest War" was the news headline in *The Daily Advertiser* from 4 August 1914.

On 15 April 1915, Albert enlisted in the AIF as William Albert Gibson. It is uncertain whether Albert asked to be re-examined after his initial medical examination or whether the paperwork was 'altered' to enable him to enlist. However, Albert's papers state that he was 35, when he was in fact 39. The details 'chest measurement 30-31.5' and 'chest unfit' were crossed out, and written next to them '33-35.5, re-examined, pronounced fit'. Pte W.A. Gibson, Service Number 1511, was assigned to the 1st Reinforcements, 20th Battalion, 5th Brigade.

The 20th Battalion embarked *HMAT Berrima* (A35) on 25 June 1915, bound for Egypt for training, before being deployed to Gallipoli in late August. However, Albert was not with them when they left Australia. After going absent without leave from 2pm 23 June, until Reveille on 25 June 1915 (the day he was due to embark), he was discharged for

misconduct. He had served just 73 days. Albert had been confined to barracks for two days, previously for being drunk, resisting the MPs, and using threatening language, so it is difficult to know whether he was having second thoughts about going to war, having difficulty with the discipline and authorities, or whether he was just playing up a bit before he went. Regardless of why he did it, the fact that he returned on the morning he was due to embark leads one to believe his intentions were good. The men he had grown to know over the past 73 days, had gone without him.

Not to be put off, Albert enlisted again less than a year later on 19 May 1916, this time as Albert Gibson. One week later he was sent to the Cootamundra Military Camp, a depot for newly enlisted soldiers before they were despatched to training camps. One soldier described his time at 'Coota' as a 'jolly good life', with plenty of amusements, music and reading material. Albert would have celebrated his 40th birthday here.

By early 1916, it was obvious that the war was not going to be as short as anticipated, and the Australian Government made a decision to not only maintain a steady flow of reinforcements to the fighting troops, but to form a new division – The Third. It was to this new Division that Albert was assigned, and after completing training in Goulburn and Liverpool, he sailed out of Sydney on *HMAT Benalla* (A24) with the 5th Reinforcements, 39th Battalion. The voyage took two months and arrived in Devonport, England, on 9 November 1916.

The arrival of the 3rd Australian Division in England, saw the establishment of large Australian camps, such as Larkhill, Bulford and Tidworth. Albert trained with the 10th Training Battalion at Larkhill, on the Salisbury Plain, just a few miles from historic Stonehenge, from 10 January until 20 April 1917. During this time, his records show he was sick for a short period – no other details were provided. Of the Australians who trained at Larkhill, many had arrived with flu or chest infections, 141 died in training – 80% of those died of bronchopneumonia.

Albert, along with his unit, proceeded to France on 20 April 1917. Albert's medical records show 'At the base in France, pneumonia in April. Went straight back to line and gassed at Messines in June'. On the night of 6/7 June, as the 39th were making their way to the trenches through Ploegsteert Wood, the German Artillery shelled the wood with phosgene gas mixed with high explosive. The night had been dark and calm, causing the gas to form a heavy fog. Men stumbled and lost their masks, and it was impossible for officers to wear their masks while giving directions. Phosgene gas burns the skin on contact and if inhaled

limits the victim's ability to breathe. It can cause suffocation or heart failure. At least 500 men were incapacitated by gas in Ploegsteert Wood that night.



*Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery - Belgium
Courtesy of New Zealand War Graves Project*

On 16 June 1917, Albert was admitted to the 40th Stationary Hospital in Harfleur, France and over the next few months was transferred through several hospitals and convalescent depots in France, until in October 1917, the Medical Board declared him to be permanently unfit for both general service and home service. His disabilities listed at the time included over age, bronchitis and valvular disease of the heart (VDH). After arriving in Littlemoor, England, a medical examination noted 'Age 47 [sic], over age, gas poison, uraemia and neurosis'. Albert was shipped home to Australia arriving in January 1918. There is no doubt that Albert had been wounded both mentally and physically. In total, more than 152,000 Australian soldiers were wounded in World War 1. Australia had not been prepared for such a large number of soldiers to return with 'shattered health' and 'broken bodies'.

On arrival back home, Albert was admitted to the No. 4 Australian General Hospital. Previously known as the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, its buildings and grounds had been requisitioned in 1915 by the Commonwealth Military Authorities for use as a Military Hospital. Albert had lived at there for three years as a child, and was now destined to spend several months there as a returned soldier. He really had been to hell and back. One will never know if his feelings were that of comfort of being in familiar surroundings, or if his childhood memories somehow added to his trauma. In July 1918, Private Albert Gibson, stood before the Permanent Medical Referee Board, and was granted a medical discharge and pension. For his participation in the War, he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Albert continued to live in Junior Street, Leichardt until his death in 1924.

William Albert Gibson was buried in the Rookwood Cemetery Anglican Section (Zone C, Section H, grave 4529).

Note: Albert's maternal grandfather was named William which may explain why Albert used William as his own name occasionally. Albert Gibson is Jacqui's 2 x great uncle.



Snippets from Don

by Carol Donaghey

Really Useful Australasian Information Leaflet 2017

The following article was printed in the Northamptonshire UK November journal and is reprinted here for the benefit of our members.

To celebrate National Family History Month in Australasia, the Federation of Family History Societies has updated Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet.

The FFHS has produced the leaflet in association with the Society of Australian Genealogists and Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. It focuses on how to research your ancestors, and is a very useful resource if you live in Australasia.

It is also a great resource for UK family historians who may have had ancestors who went to Australasia, either because of forced transportation or due to emigration.

The leaflet gives a long list of websites and has a how-to guide. It also lists family history societies that can help with your research.

You can download the leaflet for free, at

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/RUL-Aus-2017-0829.pdf>

You may also find the link to the FFHS website

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/guides.php>

Have a look at this wide-ranging leaflet which is a very useful guide to UK residents researching their ancestors who went to Australia and New Zealand as well as providing contacts for Australians exploring their UK ancestry.

It has an extensive list of Australian and New Zealand websites and FAQs; a list of AFFHO member societies in Australasia (unfortunately our Society is not listed); and a comprehensive list of alphabetical family history societies in the United Kingdom.

Note: Thank you to Don Howell who is very skilful in locating these productive websites.

On the First Day of Christmas ...

**My true love gave to me -
A Derailed Locomotive**



Two Stranded Fire Commissioners

Five Top Hat Gents



Six Hansom Cabbies



Seven Lads a Sawing

Three Prisoners Posing



Four Boys a Singing



Twelve Blue Bells Dancing



Eight Men a Milking

Eleven Ratters Cleansing



Ten Road Safety Scholars



Nine Budding Builders



The 12 Working Days before Xmas images from 'Archives Outside', permission to use obtained from State Archives NSW

Diary of a War



by Carol Donaghey

Timeline of important events during the First World War

This quarter begins the events of 1918, the final year of the war. This year saw the German military high command attempt one final large-scale offensive on the Western Front. A near success, *Operation Michael's* ultimate failure led to an increasingly sweeping series of successes by the Allies from the summer of 1918.

The entry of the United States and the withdrawal of Russia allowed both sides to bring reinforcements to the Western Front. The US troops were fresh and the German troops were exhausted from fighting on the Eastern Front. The war had dragged on for over three and a half years and both sides were looking at ways to end the slaughter.

This Quarter's World War I Diary: 1917–1918

December 1917 – Australia held a second referendum to commence conscription which was defeated by a slim margin.

A truce between Russia and Central Powers came into operation officially on 8 December. All hostilities on the Eastern front were suspended. Jerusalem surrendered to British forces ending four centuries of its control by the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire.

Soviet Russia signed an armistice with Germany. With Russia's departure from the Eastern Front, forty-four German divisions became available to be redeployed to the Western Front in time for Ludendorff's Spring Offensive.

January 1918 – U.S. President Woodrow Wilson outlined an elaborate peace plan to the U.S. Congress containing *Fourteen Points* as the basis of its establishment.

Finland, Latvia and Estonia declared independence.

T.E. Lawrence led Arab guerrillas in a successful campaign against Turkish positions in Arabia and Palestine.

February – British SS *Tuscania* carrying US troops was sunk by a German submarine off the Irish coast.

References: historyplace.com, *Australians in the First World War*

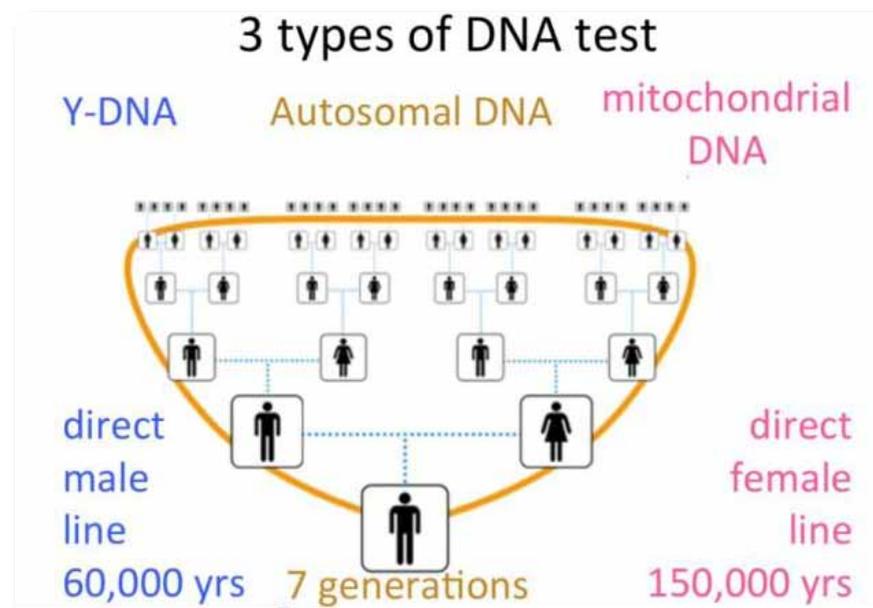
DNA



by Kerrie Alexander

The birth place of my great grandfather John Craig has been my major brick wall for over 40 years. All of the records I had found pertaining to John's early life indicated he was a Presbyterian, born c 1835 in county Tyrone, Ireland. I knew from his marriage and death certificates that he was the son of James and Mary Craig so I decided to research all the James Craig's living in Tyrone in the mid 1800s.

Circumstantial evidence pointed me to the parish of Ardstraw and I engaged a researcher in Belfast who extracted many Craig entries from the parish records but the earliest surviving registers were not early enough to locate John's birth. I gave this Irish research to the County Tyrone Rootsweb website and there it lay for about five years until earlier this year when I was contacted by six Craig researchers who are descendants of the Ardstraw Craig families. They had found my research online and were mostly in contact with each other through the results of their autosomal DNA tests.



Dr Maurice Gleeson's presentation 'Back to our Past'

It suddenly dawned on me that if I had my DNA tested and it matched with these new contacts then it would prove that I also was descended from the Ardstraw Craigs. Luckily Ancestry.com soon announced a special on their DNA tests and after a seven week wait for my results, an email popped into my inbox one morning. My results were ready.

The middle section of the page was the important part – at the time it stated I had 135 4th cousins or closer – I now have over 200. I clicked on “View all DNA Matches” and it gave me a list of names or aliases to people I was a match with. After scrolling down the page I saw three names I knew to be my new Craig contacts. I could now prove I also descended from the Ardstraw Craigs through my DNA results. I could barely contain my excitement that after 47 years of research I had finally proved where John Craig was born.

I went back to the first two matches, my 2nd cousins and had a look at them – I knew of Peter Orchard – my grandmother’s maiden name was Orchard so I knew that was right. But Vilma James was a mystery.

When I clicked onto her page I saw that her mother was my mum’s cousin so that was the connection but something made me type her paternal grandfather’s name Alfred William Wilson into my family tree programme. I’m related on her mother’s side but up popped her paternal grandfather in my tree. His mother was a Buckland and I knew then where the connection was. Amazingly Vilma, as well as being my 2nd cousin is also my husband’s 5th cousin through the Buckland family.

I continued to scroll down the list of matches checking their family trees where I could find them. Many of my matches have no family trees attached to them. I then came to Brian Day and as he had uploaded a large family tree I had a look in the hope of recognising a common family name.

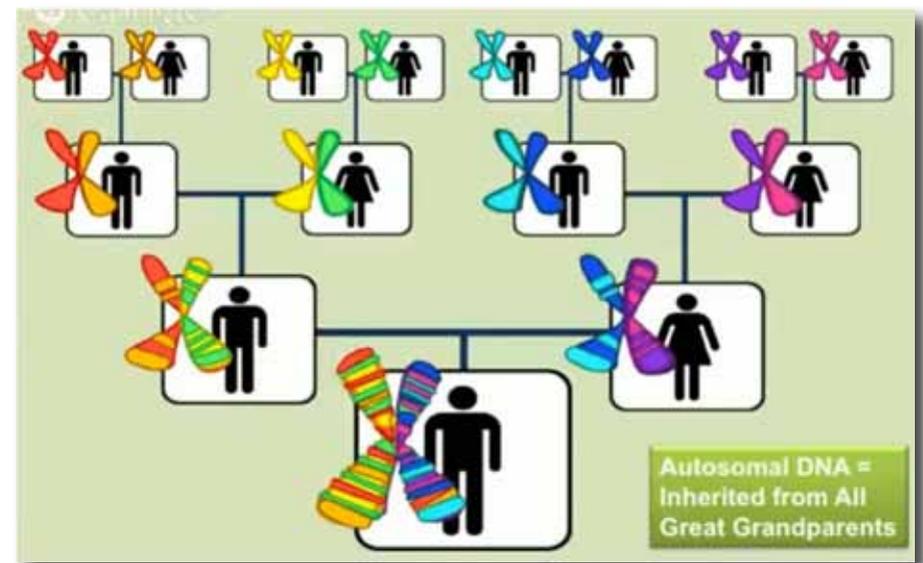
Brian has a 3rd great grandmother who was Frances Boxwell. The name Boxwell is relatively uncommon and my 2nd great grandmother was an Esther Boxwell so I was sure that this family was our connection. I emailed Brian but all he could tell me was that Frances was born in Maine, USA in 1852 and married in 1872. My Esther was born in Gloucestershire, England in 1786. How could I bridge the gap?

In *Findmypast* the USA census from 1870 back revealed that Frances was the daughter of a John Boxwell born in Maine in 1816 but when I got back to the 1850 census – I had my breakthrough. Also listed with John and his family was a Thomas Boxwell aged 80 (born c1780) in England.

He had to be the link. When I checked my family tree Esther Boxwell had a brother Thomas born in 1784. I don’t think the four years difference in the birth years is a problem and I’m sure Thomas is Esther’s brother.

Esther only had the one sibling and I’d never been able to find out what happened to Thomas, but now I know he went to Maine in the early 1800s, married in 1809, had nine children and was a pioneer of the Whiting area of Maine. The clincher came when I discovered he’d named one of his daughters Esther. Even though he hadn’t seen his sister for probably 20 years he still cared enough about her to give his second daughter her name.

What else have these results done for me? Well, Harriett Ralph is my illegitimate great grandmother. Certificates and other documents held many lies and distortions of the truth when I researched her mother’s family. I spent years in the pre-internet days tracing Ralph families living in NSW. I was 98% sure I had found the right Ralph clan but a number of DNA matches to her uncle’s family have proved that I was on the right track.



Autosomal DNA from 'Pleasant Views on Family History'

Were the DNA results worth the expense – for me I would have to say yes. For others who do not have the research problems I did, maybe it would be a waste of money. But I’ve certainly had a lot of fun with it and it has knocked down a massive brick wall of many years standing.

All in the Family



News From Within the Society by Marie Hart

December is said to mark the official beginning of Summer, though in September this year we had 30 degree days in the Northern Rivers, so anything can happen. Novelist Henry James said ‘*Summer afternoon – to me those have always been the most beautiful words in the English language*’ and in *Country Life* of 7 June cheeky Australian writer Cathy Lette said ‘*I love the British Summer, it’s my favourite day of the year*’! In any case, it is time to find a comfy spot with a cup of tea or a cool drink as you enjoy this December issue of *The Cedar Log*.

It is also time to congratulate ourselves on reaching our Society’s 34th birthday. It was on Saturday 17 December 1983 that five ladies gathered in my home to suggest we start a group to help ourselves and others discover ways to explore our family histories – and we are still doing just that! Volunteers carry out all the tasks that keep us functioning so well and your support and ideas are always appreciated.

While I imagined family historians would have little time to also be gardeners, I was wrong! Frank Harvey’s request that we bring potted plants to the September meeting to sell for \$1 each resulted in a flurry of activity and a profit of \$103 towards the purchase of new equipment. Thank you Frank and Eunice and our green thumbbed members!

Christine Reeves has had several successful trips to the UK hot on the trail of ancestors and Patricia Lovegrove attended the Elliott Gathering in Newcastleton before touring Scotland. We look forward to hearing more of their adventures and perhaps some useful ideas for others who may be planning similar expeditions. Travelling just for fun were Leigh and Bev Wilson who visited Japan and Jan Ousby to USA to celebrate fifty years since beginning nursing at St George Hospital in Sydney.

Lyle Proudfoot and Maurie Lewis have been unwell and Maurie is relocating to Brisbane to be near family. We were so sorry that Yvonne Hammond has been in hospital again and our best wishes go to her. We were also very sad that a foundation member, Jack Waldron, died on 4 October 2017. He was a stalwart of our Society from its earliest days and was known as our ‘hammer and nails man’ for he willingly carried out carpentry and handyman duties with enthusiasm and skill.

You may be dreaming of a white Christmas, but instead we will surely have a tropical one which we will celebrate together on 2 December with a special luncheon at the *Summerland House Farm* again arranged for us by Gwen and Eric Clark. The President and Committee wish all members a very happy festive season and a New Year with good health and many genealogical successes. One minute we are making New Year resolutions and then before too long we are wondering where the year has gone!

Happy days everyone!

Quiz Answers

1. 1828
2. 1856
3. 1 January 1929
4. At dawn on 9 June 1928
5. Keith Hall in South Ballina before Black Head in Ballina
6. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith
7. Kingsford Smith Drive
8. Kingsford Smith Park (Owen Street, Ballina) – previously an aircraft landing area.
9. Southern Cross School (Chickiba Drive, Ballina) - opened in 1931
[Note: Numerous other businesses bear the name ‘Southern Cross’ but they may not be named in honour of the plane – more likely the star constellation!]
10. 21 November 1973
11. Amalgamation of two surviving rafts in the Naval Museum
12. Large model of ‘La Balsa’ Raft in the Artivals Hall at Ballina Airport
13. La Balsa Plaza, Ballina
14. The ‘La Balsa’ block of Units at 33 Tamar Street, Ballina
15. A Mural in the dining area of the Ballina Hotel
16. Thursday 26 August 1920. As part of a year-long tour of Australia the ‘Peace Loan’ Aeroplane landed on a patch of land behind the current Shipway Hotel, before taxi-ing into River Street in the evening, where a public meeting was held to help raise funds for the Repatriation of wounded WWI Servicemen. Afterwards the aviators were feted at the Australian Hotel.

In the Loop

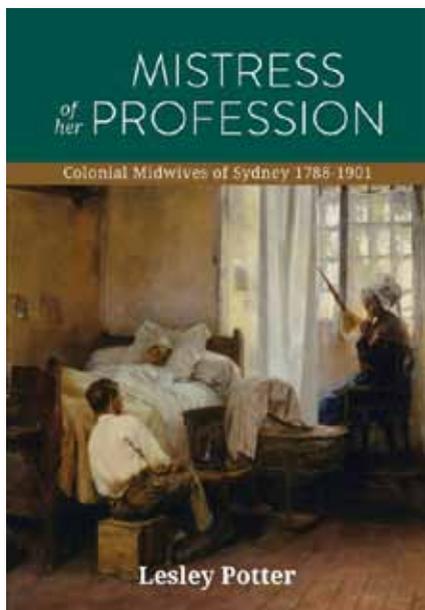


From the Media... by Marie Hart

Let's start with some Australian happenings and references. If you are likely to be in Melbourne before 20 December you could visit the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's exhibition *Standing on the Corner: Remembering Melbourne 1850–1960*. It will be open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday and until 3pm on Fridays at 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000 (*Ancestor* Sept 2017).

In *Ghostbuster* from Campbelltown District FHS for July 2017 there is a splendid article on the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat, Victoria. It is always heartwarming to read in many journals of armed personnel in many conflicts so lovingly remembered by today's families.

Also in *Ghostbuster* are references for aboriginal history on page 22, while the State Library of Queensland runs workshops and beginners' sessions on researching indigenous family history. Descendants of indigenous members of the Australian Light Horse regiments who took part in the Battle of Beersheba and the Sinai-Palestine campaign are being sought for an oral history project info@ronatranby.org.au (*The Senior News* May 2017).



Front Cover 'Mistress of her Profession'
Courtesy of Anchor Books

Mistress of Her Profession: Colonial Midwives of Sydney 1788-1901 by Lesley Potter was reviewed in *The Weekend Australian* of 16-17 September 2017 and described as a 'fascinating, valuable work that is securely grounded on evidence and definitely worth reading'.

Digitisation of *The Cedar Log* is expected to be completed by the end of the year and Don Howell has informed us that Suffolk FHS

has agreed to an electronic exchange of journals which you will be able to read on your home computer. *TheGenealogist* is now available in the MHL with operating instructions in the green folder along with *Findmypast* instructions.

The Ancestral Searcher for September from The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra announces its 50th anniversary for which we congratulate them and an article by Jennifer Barnes explains all you need to know about copyright.

In the *Cambridgeshire FHS* July 2017 journal was a vivid description of a young nurse's life during the early years at Addenbrooke's Hospital which this year will celebrate its 250th anniversary. Present day nurses who are similarly 'run off their feet' might still gasp at the demands and strictness of their profession those many years ago.

Your Orkney ancestors would never have imagined the arrival of 141 cruise vessels in the summer of 2017 and a predicted 126,000 visitors which is six times their population (*Country Life* 24 May 2017).

Cleveland FHS journal for July 2017 told of life in the 'big house' of Victorian times, including the duties of 'lesser servants' who emptied chamber pots. The urine was left for three weeks and then used to help whiten the washing! Now that's an idea ...

An interesting explanation appeared in *WDYTYA* of February 2017 about registration of BDMs being introduced in 1837. However, it wasn't compulsory by law until 1874 after which you were fined for not registering within six weeks. It stated that 'between those dates it's not rare for events, particularly births, to be missed' which may explain why you have had trouble being sure about such information.

If your interests are in Norfolk you may be surprised to know that 659 of the 1000 originally built medieval churches is the highest concentration in the world. Built by donations from wealthy merchants, they are still known as 'wool churches' (*Country Life* 26 April 2017).

In *Pioneer*, Newsletter of the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society for September, is a glowing report on the late Richmond Stuart Manyweathers OAM who died in 2017.



Wymondham Abbey, 'wool church'
from 'Visit Norfolk website'

Journal Gleanings

Australian

These journals are on the shelves in our Library and may be borrowed so you can read them at your leisure. You may well pick up some clues that are unlikely to be found in other places.

Townsville's Scottish Pioneers	<i>Relatively Speaking July 17</i>
Aboriginal Family History	<i>Ghostbuster July 17</i>
Paracensus of Australia 1788–1828	<i>Qld Family Historian Aug 17</i>
Australians Decorated by Serbia in WW1	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Sep 17</i>
Maltese Ancestors	<i>The Endeavour Sep 17</i>
Tracing Caribbean Ancestors	<i>The Ancestral Searcher Sep 17</i>
Tracing British Indian Ancestors	<i>The Ancestral Searcher Sep 17</i>
Richmond MANYWEATHERS	<i>Pioneer Sep 17</i>

Overseas

GOLDIE, Port Fairy, Victoria 1860s	<i>Gallus No 109 Jun 17</i>
Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel	<i>Gallus No 109 Jun 17</i>
Jersey Parish Registers Go Digital	<i>WDYTYA Mar 17</i>
Focus on Gypsy Ancestors	<i>WDYTYA Mar 17</i>
Kent Online	<i>WDYTYA Mar 17</i>
Maps Through the Ages	<i>WDYTYA Apr 17</i>
Great Britain to Melbourne & Sydney 1852	<i>WDYTYA Apr 17</i>
DNA Testing Kits	<i>WDYTYA May 17</i>
Scottish Medical Records	<i>WDYTYA May 17</i>
Irish Crafts Linen & Lace in 19th Century	<i>Irish Roots Issue 103</i>
Connecting DNA & Your Irish Roots	<i>Irish Roots Issue 103</i>
Brookwood Cemetery Surrey	<i>Woolwich & Dist FHS Aug 17</i>

eJournals by Jackie Chalmers

The following eJournals may be read on the computer in the Marie Hart Library..

Australian

Resources Online by Noeleen Ridgway	<i>Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, The Genealogist, Sep 17</i>
Early Post & Telegraph Services – Bundanoon compiled by Philip Morton	<i>Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Jun 17</i>
Boxvale Railway and Walking Track compiled by Philip Morton	<i>Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Jul, 17</i>

Mittagong During the 1930s by John McColgan	<i>Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Aug 17</i>
Have a Smile at This One by Val Messer	<i>Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Sep 17</i>
A Musical Heirloom by Heather Yates	<i>Central Coast & District FHS Inc., E-Muster, Aug 17</i>
The Origin of Common Nicknames by Leonie Baker	<i>Coffs Harbour & District FHS, Genie Allergy, Sep 17</i>
Findmypast Irish Records from https://blog.findmypast.com	<i>Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Jul–Aug 17</i>
The Hell Ship from The World's News, Sydney 19 Jan 1952	<i>Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Sep–Oct 17</i>
Dixon Family Reunion	<i>Dubbo and District FHS, Newsletter, Jul–Aug 17</i>
Nancye Fletcher – Research Officer for over Thirty Years	<i>Dubbo and District FHS, Newsletter, Sep–Oct 17</i>
James Bloodworth and Sarah Bellamy by Christopher Rowe	<i>Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders, Aug–Sep 17</i>
James Squire's First Transportation by James Donohoe	<i>Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders, Oct–Nov 17</i>
Walter Holder by Kay Wilkinson	<i>Gwydir FHS, Insearch, Aug 17</i>
The Late John Schofield by Michelle Nichols	<i>Hawkesbury FHS, The Hawkesbury Crier, Sep 17</i>
Convict Sites in Australia by Rebecca Turnbull	<i>Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Newsletter, Sep 17</i>
Golden Fleece – Bundi Shearing Shed by Rick Burns & Jill Williams	<i>Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group, Newsletter, Sep 17</i>
Centenary of ANZAC Soil Collection Project	<i>Hill End History, Newsletter, Jun 17</i>
Contact and Conflict on the Eastern Shore by Stephany Fehre	<i>Hobart Town First Settlers Assoc. Inc., Newsletter, Sep 17</i>
Spot on the Lake – Cockle Creek by Glynda Nolan	<i>Lake Macquarie FHG, The Chronicle, Aug 17</i>
The Recipe Book of Eliza Agnes Sawyer (Stevens) by George Sawyer	<i>Manning Wallamba FHS, The Figtree, Aug 17</i>

An Italian's Tribute from The Northern Star, Lismore, May 1911
Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter, Aug 17

Gaol Photographs Exhibition - Captured Portraits of Crime 1870–1930
Newcastle FHS, Journal, Sep 17

Around the Camp Fire - Townsville Daily Bulletin Tuesday 7 December 1954
GS of Northern Territory, Progenitor, Jun 17

The Territory's First and Only Gallipoli Prisoner by Judy Boland
GS of Northern Territory, Progenitor, Sep 17

Walter – the Man Who Saved the Life of a Foal and Risked His Own on Ophir
 Gold Fields by Robert Sloan *Orange FHG, Newsletter*, Aug 17

Sister Lt. Elizabeth Stella Cromarty WWII
Port Stephens FHS, Lemon Tree, Autumn 17

Genealogical Learning Centres by Leon Daly
FHS of Rockingham & District, Between the Lines, Sep 17

My Grandfather Lived Next Door to Australia's Most Notorious Serial Baby
 Killers by Christine Talbot (nee Peters)
Shoalhaven FHS, Time Traveller, Aug 17

DNA and Family Research by Paul Bech
South Gippsland GS, Newsletter, Sep 17

Dreadnought Scheme – Part I by Judith Whale
Genealogy Sunshine Coast, Kin Tracer, Sep 17

Woollen Shrouds by Sandra Wilson
Tenterfield FHG, Tenterfield Generations, Oct 17

The Cigarette Tin by Denise Born
Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS, The Gazette, Nov 17

Why the Little Dutch Boy Never Put His Finger in the Dike by Yvette Hoitink
Whitsunday FHG, Branching Out, Jul 17

HMAT Kanowna: a Journey of Discovery by Helen Johnson-Lord
Wyong FHG, Tree of Life, Aug 17

Overseas

Sylvester's Chain by Maggie Bennett
Barnsley FHS, Domus Historiae, Jul 17

Medals Awarded to Soldiers Who Fought in the Great War by Maggie Bennett
Barnsley FHS, Domus Historiae, Oct 17

The Mystery of the Hanging Bobbin by Mary Wooldridge
Bedfordshire FHS, Journal, Sep 17

Daniel Archer – 'Transported for 15 Years' by Caz
Cambridgeshire FHS, The Journal, August 17

Net That Serf compiled by Jeff Johnson
FH Society of Cheshire, Cheshire Ancestor, Sep 17

Early Asylum Life by David Scrimgeour
Chesterfield & District FHS, Chesterfield Magazine, Jun 17

The Ghost of Annie Kirk by Liz Newbery
Chesterfield & District FHS, Chesterfield Magazine, Sep 17

A Talk – the Battle of Britain by John Symons
Hillingdon FHS, Journal, Sep 17

Adding Flesh to the Bare Bones of Family History by Ruth Washbrook
Lanarkshire FHS, Journal, Oct 17

The Baronial Home of a 'Wool King'
Family History Society of New Zealand, New Zealand Family Tree, Aug 17

Criminal Transportation by Ian Waller
Northamptonshire FHS, Footprints, Aug 17

Spotlight On ... Manorial Records by Angela Malin
Northamptonshire FHS, Footprints, Aug 17

Proof is a Fundamental Concept from Cross Browser
Suffolk FHS, Suffolk Roots, Mar 17

Peter and Rosemary's Story by Charmian Thompson
Suffolk FHS, Suffolk Roots, Jun 17

The War Correspondent by Paul Lambie
Troon & Ayrshire FHS, Journal, Sep 17

Milestones in the History of Adoption by Linda Balmforth
Wharfedale FHS, Journal, Sep 17

Recent Accessions into the Marie Hart Library by Eldon Wright

Old Canberra & the Search for a Capital: L. F. Fitzhardinge (Hact-001)

From Ballina With Love – Up Up and Away: Gary Faulks (Hz-314)

From Cables to Commemoration – The Gold Coast Home Front 1914-1918:
 Queensland Government (Hqld-069)

Our Backyard Vol 3 – Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery: Toowoomba &
 Darling Downs Family History (Hqld-070)

Now and Then - A Gold Coast Journey from Past to the Present: Queensland
 Government (Hqld-071)

Vale Jack Waldron



by Carol Donaghey

It was with sadness we learned that long time member Jack Waldron passed away 4 October 2017 at the age of 94 years.

A strong supporter of the Society Jack joined in 1984 as Member No 50 – just a few months after the formation of the Society was initiated by Marie Hart.

Jack lived at Goonellabah with his wife Thelma to whom he was devoted.

Following his retirement Jack volunteered for years teaching woodwork to stroke victims.

A carpenter of ‘the old school’ he did everything properly. He was always willing to do repairs and install shelving and undertake other carpentry jobs when needed. Jack also built the desks that we still use in the Marie Hart Library.

He also contributed a story for *The Cedar Log* which, as he didn’t type at the time, he told Marie over the phone. Titled *Little Girl Lost* it was printed in edition No 8 for June 1986.

He eventually taught himself how to use a computer and presented each of his six children with a book he had prepared about their family.



Jack Waldron with wife, Thelma,
at RTFHS 30th Birthday Luncheon

Jack maintained his membership until 2014 and that same year attended our 30th Birthday Luncheon in March.

Jack was a committed and loyal member and many early members will have fond memories of him.

Monthly Speakers



by Carol Donaghey

For those members who were unable to attend meetings over the last three months this is a summary of the topics presented by our guest speakers.

September

Frank Harvey’s innovative idea of a Giant Spring Plant Sale was a great success raising some funds for the Society. A great many varied plants were brought in for sale and some members went home loaded with new plants to pot or grow in the garden. It was different and a winner with members. Many thanks to Frank and Eunice for organising and setting it all up.

Leigh Wilson’s talk ‘*What an assortment: activities of some family members as the Northern Territory evolved*’ was based on his years in the far north of Australia. Early in the 1970’s Leigh went to Darwin to work for three years, but his stay there lasted thirty-three years. He really saw first-hand the growth of Darwin and lived through Cyclone Tracey in 1974. Leigh didn’t realise that some members of his family tree had preceded him into the NT. Through his family history research he discovered ancestors who were involved in the NTs evolution. A thoroughly fascinating story.

October

Four members gave presentations on *A Moment of Fame in the Family*. What a variety of famous and infamous ancestors!

Carol Brown’s uncle, Aubrey Chapman, in the 1920s was gaoled for forgery. He was then charged with murder but found not guilty. Immediately on leaving the court he was re-arrested for issuing valueless cheques. In the 1930s he was charged with the abduction of a child, then charged with disobeying an order for support of his wife and children. Quite a character!

Kerrie Alexander’s first cousin four times removed, Mary Ann Orchard, became a royal nurse when she was employed to nurse Queen Victoria’s young grandchildren at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The book *From Cradle to Crown* about British Nannies and Governesses has references to Mary Ann who went on to become nurse to Victoria’s granddaughter,



The clockface of Kerrie Alexander’s Alarm Clock
displayed after her presentation

Empress Alexandra of Russia's own children following her marriage to Tsar Nicholas II. This was a fascinating presentation ending in the death of the Russian Royal family by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Mary Ann died in England in 1906 at the age of 76. Her headstone was erected by the Royal children she nursed. A very moving story.

Dawn Lotty's presentation featured her mother in law Jean Aubrey's Welsh ancestor Sir Thomas Aubrey (1565–1641) and his association with historic Llantrithyd Place in Glamorgan. The Aubrey's are recorded as accompanying William the Conqueror to England in 1066 and over the generations the family have included wealthy land owners, lords, royal advisors, academics and professionals.

There was also a potential Royal connection with John Grono, Robyn Hilan's 3rd great grandfather. The Grono name goes back to the Tudors in Wales with links to Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. Moments of fame with John are fairly obscure especially around mention of his naval career. He did become a shipbuilder and eventually a marine captain; there is evidence he named many of New Zealand's south island's features including Milford Sound. He was also the first European to explore some of New Zealand's famous landmarks. Robyn is pleased that in this her research did produce an authentic moment of fame!

November

Leonie Oliver returned from her trip to Russia filled with tales of her two 'finds' while she was there – the first being a discovery that one of her ancestors was a prisoner of war in Russia; and while she was travelling on the Trans-Siberian railway in a party of twelve she met a previously undiscovered cousin from Victoria. Only Leonie could unearth such wonderful information while on a vacation.

The innovative Podcast session lasted one hour and was supplemented with hand out notes. Our Secretary will email the notes to those members on the email list. The American presenter, Sunny Morton, was clear and descriptive of the core content on the four major genealogy websites: Ancestry; FamilySearch; Findmypast and MyHeritage.

Sunny advised that all these sites share overlapping content and some similar tools, but each site also offers unique elements. No single website has everything you might need or want but you may use as many sites as you can access in a bid to find the information you are looking for.

FamilySearch is the only one that is free to use but the local library has free access to Ancestry and you may use the Findmypast website in the Marie Hart Library.

Congratulations to the Committee for trialling this new way of imparting information to members. It certainly demonstrates how varied are the means of researching and at the same time teaches us more about today's technology.

The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. was established in 1983 to serve the family history needs of researchers initially with a special interest in Northern New South Wales, Australia in the area bounded by the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, often referred to as the Northern Rivers.

The Marie Hart Library holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery Records, Burial Records and Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers.

Over the years the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers, cemetery books etc. and journals including those from other English speaking countries. Access to Microfiche, CDs and a computer connected to the genealogical website *Findmypast* is also available. Contact Carol Brown on 02 6687 8443 if you need assistance.

The Society is able to do small family history searches for a fee of \$15 per hour. Please include a 22 x 11 cm SAE and research fees where applicable.



Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.
Published March, June, September & December

The Editor, Carol Donaghey, would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally they should be sent by email to Carol at carold2478@gmail.com but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 12 point; single spacing.

Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss with you any editing, abridgement or deferral to a future date of any material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright. Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author.

Your input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading for our members as well as to the other readers of our journal throughout Australia and overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor, so get those fingers typing.

The society does not accept responsibility for opinions and statements published by individual contributors. Original material in this journal may be reproduced with written permission from the society



SOCIETY EVENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 2 December: Christmas luncheon/meeting at Summerland House Farm. Set meal: two courses including tea/coffee and bread roll with alternate service menu. Raffles and Trivia Competition. 11.30 am arrival for 12 o'clock start.

Christmas/New Year Closure of the Marie Hart Library: The Marie Hart Library will close after Saturday 16 December 2017 for the Holiday Season. It will re-open on Monday 15 January 2018.

Saturday 3 February: Subject: 'Researching your Nonconformist Ancestors'. Members to contribute. Coordinated by Robyn Hilan.

Tuesday 6 February: The RTFHS Writers' Group meets on the first TUESDAY of each month – at 1.00 pm – at the Marie Hart Library. Phone Group Leader Joan Fraser (6686 9664) for further details.

Saturday 3 March: Subjects: 'Repatriation Files' and 'War Brides'.
Speaker: Greg Cope from the Brisbane office of the National Archives Australia.

Saturday 7 April: Subject: 'The Vanished Hotels of Ballina'. Speaker: Frank Harvey.
Starting time: 1.00 pm

Saturday 5 May: tba.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for the year 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 are \$35 Individual/\$45 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only.

The Society meets at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina – unless otherwise advised. Society meetings are held every month except January. The Society meets at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of each month except for April and July when it meets at 1.00 pm.