

## CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH INC.

Patrons: Mark McArdle & Judy McArdle

**COMMITTEE 2022-2023** 

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The A.V.Team Pauline Cass, Colleen Jones & Roz Kuss

The objects of **CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH INC.** are to establish, encourage and assist members in their research of Genealogy and Family History.

#### ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

PO Box 968 Caloundra Qld 4551

Email: hello@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au Web Address: www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au Find us at: Enter Gate 2, 208 Pierce Avenue, Meridan Plains 4551

MEMBERSHIP for 2022/2023 (Fees discounted for a limited time)

Fees (Incl GST) due and payable 1st July 2022: Single \$62 Family \$91 Joining Fee \$10 Single, \$15 Family.

#### LIBRARY/RESEARCH HOURS

Thurs 9.30am to 4pm (3rd Thurs 9.30am to 12.00pm)
Sat 9.30am to 12.30pm (3rd Sat 9.30am to 4pm)

Mobile Phone Number 0492 128 499 —Library hours only. No text messages.

#### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

General Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except Dec) at 1.30pm
At PREMISES and via Zoom: Corbould Park Racecourse, enter Gate 2,
Guest Speakers as advised in the Clipper. Visitors are welcome to attend.

#### **RESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

We are able to carry out research, within the resources we hold, for members and non-members. Cost to be calculated by Research Team. Post or email your enquiry to above address.

#### **CALOUNDRA CLIPPER**

The Journal is produced quarterly. Printed copies available for collection by members at Library Open Days and is emailed as a PDF file to other members.

ADVERTISING COSTS incl. GST: (4 issues) full page \$66, half page \$33, 1/4 page \$16.50 DEADLINE for CLIPPER is the General Meeting before each quarterly publication.

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## **NEWS ITEMS**

#### 2023 GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

MAR: ANN SWAIN APR: TRISHA HYDE MAY: NO SPEAKER

ZOOM....



ZOOM.....

INTO

GENERAL MEETINGS

AND GROUP MEETINGS

Details on pages 10 to13

#### **MONDAY MARCH 13**

QFHS car pool to their new rooms at Chermside.

#### FRIDAY APRIL 14

Heritage trip visit Cooroy-Noosa Group & Eumundi Museum THURSDAY MAY 18

30th Anniversary Celebrations and History Book Launch in rooms

**SATURDAY MAY 27** 

**Hosting History Queensland AGM** 



CFHRI ABN 9025938516

**CFHRI BANK DETAILS DIRECT DEBIT:** 

Bank: Bendigo Bank, Caloundra

BSB No: 633 - 000

Account No: 146865399

#### Hello Members,

In this Clipper you will find stories about the help Joe received by attending the Interest Groups that CFHRI provide, the patience of Kay who finally reaped the rewards of her research, Kate's discovery in a Probate Packet and Paul's account of his nearly 100 year old father Len and his war service. Why not write your own family war service story for Anzac Day 2023. See photos of members enjoying local Heritage outings and finally, keep up-to-date on future outings in 'Dates for the Diary' and on our website.

Sue Brownjohn, CFHRI Editor



# <u>PRESIDENT'S</u> REPORT

Our first Clipper for 2023! Let's hope that this year will be one of exciting discoveries for our researchers. But above all else, I sincerely hope we start and end the year healthy and happy.

Covid is still around but like most folks, we are just getting on with the job. As usual we will try to keep everyone safe with the practices we have put in order, but if anyone is not well, I would ask that you stay home and keep it to yourself but wish you a speedy recovery.

Our Christmas lunch at the Champagne Gardens situated at the **Sunshine Coast Turf Club** was again a top notch event. Sadly, the Turf Club has increased the cost per person too much so we can no longer return to this lovely venue.



Christmas Raffle Winners: Pattie, Valerie, Gaynor, Anne, Paul, Robin and Kerry

For the month of January our guest speaker was Helen Smith whose topic was "Lost in London". Helen explained what London was like from the 1700s to the 1900s and how the population exploded from one century to the next. She included a number of recommended websites which could just be what the doctor ordered to break down those brickwalls. For February, the guest speaker was our very own Shauna Hicks and her topic was "Australian Public Curators: Guardians of Family History Treasure". Who would have thought such a topic could be so riveting. We learnt so much. I can't thank these ladies enough for giving of their time and effort in presenting such wonderful topics.

We have enjoyed some fantastic social outings in the first few months of this year. The only disappointing question is "why don't more of our members partake in these socials?" They are so much fun and offer the opportunities of learning more about the area we live in whilst at the same time, allow us to meet and get to know other members. Roz Kuss certainly outdid herself organising the following:

Our first outing was a **self-guided walk around Buderim**. This "village" has much to offer visitors or locals alike. The day was unfortunately super hot, but the lunch at Buderim Tavern was a delightful relief.

We welcomed **Ann and Tony Swain** who walked many of us through **The Trout Game**. This activity is always fun but at the same time, opens many doors to allow us to research somewhere we may not have thought about before. I understand no-one got all the way back to the 1500s but it was still a worthwhile and fun activity.

Our last outing on 11 February was indeed one of fun. A number of us with partners in tow visited **Pomona** for a delightful brunch followed by the highlight of a **silent movie at the 100+ year old Majestic Theatre**. The organist had just

turned 90 years young but he was absolutely brilliant, especially in keeping the music following the theme of the story as it unfolded. **Photo on Page 35.** 

Our **Training Officer**, **Trisha Hyde** has been very busy organising more training courses for our members. We urge members to book for these courses, as they will certainly help you organise your research. The first ones for the year involved **Word and Excel** both basic and more advanced. I thought I knew all about these programmes but I can honestly say I learnt heaps. I urge everyone to keep a lookout for future courses.

Our name is out there as we have been contacted by a number of other Clubs asking us to provide a **guest speaker** at their meetings. We just love talking to others about family history so these invitations are gratefully received. All those who have given the talk all say that their audience is very enthused and really interested in our topic. If anyone would like to join us as a guest speaker, you only have to ask once. The PowerPoint presentation is already set up but you are welcome to share some of your own stories as well.

The Bulcock Street and Beach walks are available when anyone asks us. We did a beach one just on dusk recently and it was such a pleasant time of day. We had nearly 30 participants from Rotary so had to divide into two groups but everyone was very happy with what they learnt about this lovely stretch of land. Afterwards we adjoined to a local fish and chip café and enjoyed a delicious meal with our new friends. Again, we welcome anyone who would like to learn to be tour guides. It is fun, informative and you get to meet such lovely people.

The Group's History Book is progressing slowly. There is a lot to research but I have to say I am finding out things about our Group that I never knew. Due to a power outage in



CF Members Pattie Wilson, Peter Hovey and June Blackburn taking a local Rotary group on a Bulcock Street & Beach Walk.

which I lost use of the home computer, Valerie Thornton and Pattie Wilson have generously volunteered to help me with this research. The book will be launched on 18 May at our general meeting, which is also our **30**<sup>th</sup> **anniversary**. I can tell you now, we have advanced so much since our group was first formed and that is down to those who went before us and had such foresight in establishing such a group as ours.

We have had one **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** this year and another is planned in a couple of weeks. This type of fundraising is essential for us to be able to continue buying more resources, update technology and make our rooms more welcoming to members and visitors. We recently bought a Square Terminal which allows us now to take credit/debit card payments. These days when cash is not used as much, being able to take payments electronically is fantastic. I have to thank Cathy Meyer for organising these events and keeping us under control!!

The Sunshine Coast Council has invited our group to participate in "Harmony Week". This is all about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our role will be under the heading "Who Are You?" We will be advising participants how to trace their ancestral heritage, understanding family trees and what resources are out there to enable people to research their ancestors. We have been tasked with giving a presentation on four consecutive days at Maleny Library, Bankfoot House, Caloundra Library and Kawana Library. We have also offered to research one lucky participant's family at each venue. A surprise phone call from Council has me now being interviewed on ABC Radio in connection with Harmony Week. So keep an ear out for my dulcet tones.

We threw our hat into the ring and were nominated for a **community group Australia Day Award**. We did not win but congratulate the group that did win as they were very deserving. But it did get our name out there which was certainly a plus.

Don't forget we are always looking for members to help us out in the many projects we have on the go. If you have skills you think could be useful, don't keep them to yourself. We welcome all help.

So come on members, start putting your name down for training and social events and anything else we throw at you. It is all good fun and I know you won't regret participating.

June Blackburn, CFHRI PRESIDENT.

Harmony Week - Everyone Belongs on the Sunshine Coast



# CALL OUT TO PAST MEMBERS

The Caloundra Family History Research group is currently embarking on a project to record the group's history. It is our **30th anniversary in May 2023** and it is desired that we finish this project to be tabled on this auspicious occasion. To achieve our goal, we are asking members of the public to contact us if they were previous members of the group. Also, if they know of family who were members and maybe have information that will help us reach our goal, we would love to hear from you. We are happy to conduct interviews or accept typed accounts of their memories of our group.

We have a rich history encompassing our growth, activities, research stories, library collection, special interest groups and guest speakers. Stories from past members would greatly enrich our 30th Anniversary history book.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING**

Caloundra Family History Research Inc. is very grateful to the Sunshine Coast Council for the grant under the Community Partnership Funding Program to provide funding of \$4,000 for three years to go towards our rent costs.

This funding will allow us to use more of our own money to provide training programs and resources for members and the Sunshine Coast community in a range of family history research areas.

Sunshine Coast...

Proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

# DATES FOR THE DIARY MARCH 2023 to MAY 2023



Please check website regularly for any changes to dates and Covid Policy.

MARCH Research, Interest Groups, General Meetings, Training, Outings & Other

Wed 1 Zoom FamilyTreemaker group 2-4pm

Thur 2 Research 9.30am-4.00pm + Hybrid Germany group 1-3pm

Close off date PowerPoint training course

Book on website/e: Trisha training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Close off date QFHS car pool to Chermside for research

Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Sat 4 Research 9.30am-12.30pm Sun 5 Bunnings sausage sizzle

Wed 8 Training in meeting room with cuppa on arrival

PowerPoint registration 9.15am class 9.30am-12.30pm

Bring your own laptop with PowerPoint program loaded or use CFHRI laptop [only a few available]

Presenter, AV & Host – Equipment Officer Ralph Gray

Book on website/e Trisha training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Thur 9 Research 9.30am to 4.00pm

+ Hybrid groups Scotland 12-2pm & Ireland 2-4pm

Sat 11 Research 9.30am-12.30pm

Mon 13 QFHS car pool to new rooms at 46 Delaware St Chermside for a day of research. Meet at rooms 8.45a.m. Departing the rooms at 9.00am.

Book on website/e Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Wed 15 Easter raffle tickets will be sent to all members

Thur 16 Research 9.30am to 12.00pm

Hybrid General Meeting 1.30pm to 4pm Guest Speaker: Ann Swain

Profile: After graduating from UQ, majoring in Genetics and Botany, Ann taught senior biology for 38 years. She is a Fellow of QFHS; has held the positions of Secretary for 3 yrs in the early 1980's and President for 3 yrs in the late 1980's. She was also Secretary of AFFHO from 2004-2009 and is still actively involved in QFHS as convenor of 2 interest the New Members Orientation sessions groups and conducts Topic: "Biographical Database of Australia: How to use.

#### CHECK CFH'S WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO DATES

CFHRI -	Caloundra	Clipper
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<u>MARCH</u>	Research, Interest Groups, General Meetings, Training, Outings & Other
Fri 17	Hybrid DNA group 10-12pm
Sat 18	Research 9.30am-4pm + in Rooms the Resources group 12-2pm
Mon 20	Hybrid FamilySearch group 10am-12.00pm
Tues 21	Harmony Week talk Maleny Library Presenter Jan Swift
Wed 22	Harmony Week talk Bankfoot House Presenter Trisha Hyde
Thur 23	Research 9.30am-4.00pm + Hybrid England & Wales group 1-3pm Harmony Week talk Caloundra Library Presenter Kate Bowman
Fri 24	Harmony Week talk Kawana Library Presenter June Blackburn
Sat 25	Research 9.30am-12.30pm
Thur 30	Research 9.30am-4.00pm
<u>APRIL</u>	
Sat 1	Research 9.30am-12.30pm
Wed 5	Zoom FamilyTreemaker group 2-4pm Easter Raffle drawn
Thur 6	Research 9.30am-4.00pm + Hybrid Germany group 1-3pm
	Close off date Eumundi Museum trip
	Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Sat 8	No research Easter Saturday
Mon 10	Heritage Month commences and ends 14 May. Theme Shared Stories
Thur 13	Research 9.30am to 4.00pm
	Hybrid groups Scotland 12-2pm & Ireland 2-4pm
Fri 14	Heritage trip Cooroy-Noosa Group 17 Emerald St., Cooroy Reciprocal AM Visit & Eumundi Museum 73 Memorial Dr, Eumundi –Free Entry PM Visit Buy or Bring your lunch.
Sat 15	Research 9.30am to 4.00pm
	Bulcock Beach Walk 9.30-10.15am + Bulcock Beach Walk 2-2.45pm. Registered with the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.
Mon 17	Hybrid FamilySearch group 10am-12.00pm
Wed 19	Combined Raffle-Mothers' Day/History Book Launch/
	History Queensland AGM raffle tickets will be sent to all members
No date	AED & CPR training in meeting room 1.30pm-3.30pm by Patricia Barry. TO BE CONFIRMED. CHECK WEBSITE

SEE PAGE 38 FOR INTEREST GROUP TIMES AND CONTACTS

# DATES FOR THE DIARY MAR 2023 to MAY 2023 (Cont'd)



APRIL Research, Interest Groups, General Meetings, Training, Outings & Other

Thur 20 Research 9.30am to 12.00pm

Hybrid General Meeting 1.30pm to 4pm Guest speaker: Trisha Hyde

Profile: CFHRI Training Officer, Trisha's background is in Database Administration and years of experience researching her own family history. Since retiring she has added a Diploma of Family History from the University of Tasmania to now combine with her areas of expertise.

Topic: "Case Studies at the Australian War Museum"

Fri 21 Hybrid DNA group 10-12pm

Close off date Buddy Course in the meeting room. Book on website/e: Trisha training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Sat 22 Research 9.30am-12.30pm + in Rooms the Resources group 12-2pm

Bulcock Street Walk 9.30-10.15am + Bulcock Beach Walk 2-2.45pm-Registered with the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.

Thur 27 Research 9.30am-4.00pm +Hybrid England & Wales group 1-3pm

Sat 29 Research 9.30am-12.30pm

SEPT. Redlands Genealogy Group Return Visit to Caloundra NOW IN SEPTEMBER. CHECK WEBSITE

MAY

Wed 3 Zoom FamilyTreemaker group 2-4pm

Thur 4 Research 9.30am-4.00pm + Hybrid Germany group 1-3pm

Close off Zoom Demonstration with Joe Smith

Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Close off 30th Anniversary/Book Launch/catering requirements

Book on website/e: June president@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Fri 5 Buddy Course in meeting room with cuppa on arrival Registration 9.45am class 10am-12pm

Book on website/e: Trisha training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Sat 6 No research SCTC day race meeting [Metro]

Research, Interest Groups, General Meetings, Training, Outings & Other Zoom Demo "Researching Family History Cheaply" by CFHRI member Joe Smith 10am to 12pm. Joe migrated to Australia from England and has been researching his family for 3 years.
Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Research 9.30am to 4.00pm
Hybrid groups Scotland 12-2pm & Ireland 2-4pm Research 9.30am-12.30pm Mothers' Day - Heritage month ends Hybrid FamilySearch group 10am-12.00pm
Research 9.30am to 12.00pm
30th Anniversary Celebrations and History Book Launch in rooms
Book on website/e: June <a href="mailto:president@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au">president@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au</a> General meeting only in rooms 1.30 to 4pm No Guest Speaker
Close off History Queensland AGM – catering requirements
Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Hybrid DNA group 10-12pm
Research 9.30am-4pm + in Rooms the Resources group 12-2pm
Research 9.30am-4pm + Hybrid England & Wales group 1-3pm
Close off Writing Course in Rooms Fri 2 June 9.30am-12pm
Book on website/e: Trisha training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Research 9.30am-12.30pm History QLD AGM in Meeting room-catered Speakers: Ralph Gray & Roz Kuss CFHRI members Topic- Wm Landsborough & the Bulcock Family Book on website/e: Roz vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Combined Raffle - Mothers Day/Book Launch/HQ drawn

# LIBRARY VOLUNTEER ROSTER LIST NOW FOUND ON CFHRI WEBSITE

OPENING HOURS THURSDAYS 9.30am — 4pm SATURDAYS 9.30am — 12.30pm except 3rd THURSDAY 9.30am—12 noon & 3rd SATURDAY 9.30am—4pm PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 20 MINUTES BEFORE STARTING YOUR SHIFT



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# "Finding Their (Foreign) Families"

I'd like to share what I think is my success story, which happened in a very short time, within 3 months.

I was born in Sunderland Durham England, but we migrated to Australia, just before my 2nd birthday. I joined Caloundra Family History Research Inc. in September 2022 and participated via Zoom (due to covid restrictions) in the first meetings of the following **interest groups**, soon after joining: **England and Wales**, **Scotland**, **Ireland and DNA**.

Nelson Family in 1871 Census at Sunderland
Thomas Nelson 34 Angle Iron Smith Born Scotland
Mary Nelson 32 Married Born Ireland
John 13, Mary 11, Frances 10, Catherine 7 Born Birkenhead, Cheshire
James 5 Born Gainsbro, Lincolnshire

The England and Wales group helped me find what I believe to be, the GRO UK reference for my great granduncle James Nelson (born in England). He was the only one that I could not find with his mother's maiden name; Mary Ann McGrath (from Ireland). His father, Thomas Nelson, was born in Scotland. That's a nice mix!

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What the Interest Group members found matched, except the mother's maiden name was recorded as **Wires**. I ordered his certificate, which came as a pdf within about a week. The

GRO reference and the certificate matched in all relevant details. I pondered on this strange situation of the Wires surname, when it should have been McGrath. Her marriage certificate Mustin shows Mary could not write.

It hit me: "ah maybe Mary went to register the Miles birth, as the husband was working. So, she, with

her Irish accent and not being able to write, took the baby in to register the birth. The registrar may have thought she was a housemaid or something and asked her "what's the name of the mother (meaning: of the baby)?", but Mary thought they were asking for her own mother's name "what's the name of your mother?" That would explain it!

I asked the members of the Irish group what they thought and they decided to help me investigate the possibility. A member pointed out that the marriage certificate shows she could not write. So, she could not check if they had recorded her name correctly. It was pointed out that Wires would probably not be an Irish name. So, we looked at the original and considered other possible readings. Could the W be an M, N, H....? Then someone said Dwyer(s). There was common consensus that that was the most likely Irish name.

We searched for a marriage of Michael McGrath (a stone mason, from Mary's marriage certificate) and a Dwyers in the relevant time period and found a very likely match! Hopefully in the future I'll see some evidence that the Michael McGrath we found was a stone mason. We then looked for other possible siblings and found some.

After the meeting I built the family tree and got copies of the relevant documents from Ancestry and I attached them to the relevant people's profiles. I use familysearch.org to record my research. So, I put the originals there. Anyone with a free account, can have a look at the family via my 2nd great grandfather, Thomas Nelson here:

https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LVP3-3QJ.

#### **Death Certificate of JAMES NELSON**

3rd quarter at 25 Farringdon Row, Sunderland, Durham (Same address as his family in 1881 Census)

Name: James Nelson Age: 6 Estimated Birth Year: 1865
Registration Quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep Death Registration
Place: Sunderland, Durham, United Kingdom

Death Date: Sep 1871

Inferred Death Place: Durham, United Kingdom Volume: 10a Page: 376

The other part of my success story is via the suggestions of my Buddy, Jan Swift. She said to focus on the gap between Thomas being born in Scotland and working in Liverpool, England. I now had his father's name, James and his occupation of shoemaker, from Thomas' marriage certificate. So, I thought that I should look for the family in the 1851 Census. In the 1861 Census, he was living in Birkenhead, Cheshire, just a few kilometres over the bridge over the Mersey River, from Liverpool.

I found a James Nelson, a shoemaker in Glasgow Scotland. I had suspected that Thomas would have come from Glasgow, as it was on the West coast, as was Liverpool and it would have been quite easy to travel by ship. The other thing is that Glasgow had a ship building industry, which Thomas worked in. Thirdly my DNA test said North-western Scotland.

Someone had already done some work on the family, as the oldest son was there: Francis Murray Nelson. When I had a look at Francis' profile... guess what? In the 1861 Census, he was living in Birkenhead, Cheshire and was the foreman in a ship building yard. If the location was not enough, both suspected siblings lived in the same suburb, Francis was a foreman in a ship building yard and my Thomas was a ship plater in a ship building yard! Looks to me like the older son, got the younger son, a job in the ship building yard in which he was a foreman.

So, I'm fairly confident that I have found Thomas' family also. In the Irish group we went to have a look at the original Scottish 1851 Census, just to check details and it was then I noticed that the father and the step-mother of Thomas, were both from Ireland. After more research, I found the likely mother of Thomas, **Jane Dolan**, who was from, guess where....? Yes, Ireland!

So, I have more Irish in me than I thought and I have started learning Irish Gaelic, as I would like to go over there some day and I like languages.

## By Joe Smith CFHRI Member #1029

CFHRI INTEREST GROUPS ARE A GROUP OF MEMBERS WHO SHARE
THEIR RESEARCH SKILLS TO HELP MEMBERS
RESEARCH DIFFICULT ANCESTORS.
THEY ALSO SHARE THEIR RECENT DISCOVERIES.
JOIN IN ON ZOOM OR AT CF MEETING ROOM.
SEE PAGE 38 FOR INTEREST GROUP TIMES AND CONTACTS

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# Keys Unlock The Past

Unlocking my past took on a whole new meaning in 2018. In my possession, some old photos and a handwritten sermon. I knew there were missionaries generations back in the family and these objects became the catalyst to find out more about who belonged to them?

One of the sermons was titled "Shakespeare and the Bible" and a poor quality photo was of a rather stylish looking couple. With more questions than answers as to whether I should be looking for history in Stratford upon Avon, in England or the Middle East? I established after many sessions on the computer searching through websites, Family Search, Find My Past and Ancestry, of strong connections to Australia, India, and the United Kingdom. I discovered some extraordinary history and it led me to visit Edinburgh in Scotland.

With the assistance of the Friends of The Grange Cemetery Association in Edinburgh. I located where some of my ancestors are buried and one of the cemetery volunteer guides met me to find the grave of my Great Great Aunt Margaret Miller and husband Tabor Davies, who were the couple in my photo. Wandering through this vast graveyard, I wasn't prepared for the sheer size of a huge vault with a reinforced iron gate. The solid locks were impenetrable and the vault was called a Catacomb. Peering inside this dark labyrinth of tunnelled arches, it was hard to distinguish any inscriptions and the leaf litter debris was piled up high against the walls. Access had been denied long ago to secure these internments, mainly due to the threat of grave robbers and no one seemed to know what had happened to the keys to this vault?

I was pleased to have at last put some pieces of their life story together and left the volunteer of the cemetery with the thought said out loud. "If you ever find the keys to this

Catacomb, would you take photos of the inscriptions inside of my ancestors and send them to me". On reflection this seemed an absurd request and unlikely task. It seemed the vault had not been opened for nearly a century and where had the keys gone?

Returning home to Australia I continued to dig deeper into the lives of my many Miller ancestors and revealed their status in Edinburgh. Great Great Aunt Margaret was the eldest daughter, born in Bengal, India in 1852 to a P & O Captain John Miller 1821-1879 and his wife Adelaide Strettell. Margaret had lived most of her life overseas and she married the Baptist missionary evangelist Tabor in 1893 in Minnesota in the United States of America and travelled the World with him

Margaret's siblings had also travelled widely to India, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. Her brother William, was a medical doctor in Edinburgh, who unfortunately died suddenly from a fever aged thirty five. His obituary was published in a British medical journal and printed in the New Zealand Herald Newspaper of the 14th October 1889. William studied in Dunedin in New Zealand for a few years, before returning to Edinburgh to enter University. He was remembered for his prize winning work on the effects climate can have on the body, in particular the muscles with hot and cold temperatures.

Another sibling, John Charles Strettell Miller, held the title for a time, as a Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland. He used the initials WS after his name as a Writer of the Signet. He studied law at the Madras College of St Andrews and he was recognised for his contribution to Scotland and support of Whig politicians.

Margaret's sister Annette married into a noble family of the Netherlands with her marriage to Jacob Del Court Van

Krimpen. He was a historian and photographer and became a British citizen, unfortunately she died young only a few years after their marriage.

In 2022, an email with several attachments arrived in my inbox on my computer to reveal the most profound and exciting news. The volunteer I met at The Grange Cemetery in Edinburgh, sent six photos and explained that the keys to the Catacomb, where my ancestors are buried, were recently discovered.

It was one of those moments when you pinch yourself and you get goose bumps at the realisation of what seemed utterly impossible, is now screened before your eyes.



The piles of debris had been removed out of the vault and the inscriptions readable. I was seeing three tiers of plaques, in solid masonry walls of a recessed arched Catacomb. Out of all the darkness, their names etched to celebrate achievements of remarkable Edinburgh Miller



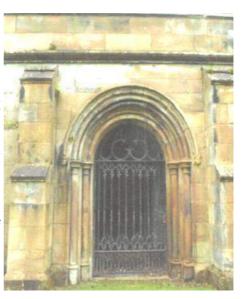
ancestors. In memory of Margaret and her husband Tabor, John and William, Adelaide and John Snr.

To think, the last opening of the black iron gate was probably in the 1920's after the funeral of Margaret who lived in Bristol, as a widow at the time of her death. Her body was later transported some distance to be laid to rest near her husband and family in Edinburgh.

It was explained to me by the volunteer, these six interments were expensive for their time, equating to one hundred and

fifty pounds and the reason why the Catacombs only have a small amount of burials. Hopefully I might find out further details about the vault purchased back in 1879.

Mγ ancestors have light shone on them again and their lives are no longer a mystery to me. Tours of the cemetery will begin soon and significant include their histories. Near the front gate of The Grange Cemetery are more Miller burials. Edinburgh cousin, who I met, Charles D Waterston, wrote a book about Hugh Miller, the geologist and stonemason of the Highlands of Scotland. My connections to Edinburgh seem to be widening further.



I never expected so many doors would open, especially a gate in an arched doorway of a Catacomb burial vault. It seems every lock has a key and every problem a solution. Needed the most is patience, especially finding out the history of my ancestors.

#### By Kay Middlemiss CHRI Member #935

#### Acknowledgements

The Friends of the Grange Cemetery Association
National Library of Scotland
Family Search, Find My Past, Ancestry
British Medical Journal and Papers Past NZ
My own family history information and Charles D Waterston-Geologist and Author

# Fascinating Finds in a Probate Packet

An experienced family history researcher once advised me to always access a Probate packet if one exists for any ancestor. It seemed wise and useful advice to follow. It was soon found, however, that the contents of Probate packets can vary widely. Sometimes they contain basic legal documents and add nothing new to family history research, other times a Will, death certificates, real estate and financial details found in the packet are very beneficial inclusions, and sometimes a Probate packet just happens to be real treasure and a gold mine of family information.

Before commencing family history research, the only knowledge our family had about my maternal great grandfather, William great Curling Wickes. was his little surname. Little bv brought to research light previously unknown details about William and his family and it became possible to compile a biography on many aspects of his life. Some key points in his biography are: that William aged 44 years sailed in 1874 with his seven children from Gravesend England very soon after the death of his first wife Amelia Lester: that William and his



William Curling Wickes 11 March 1830 – 3 March 1908

children settled in New Zealand before moving to South Australia, then Broken Hill NSW; how his occupation changed from a painter and paperhanger to a herbalist; and that William had a second marriage to Jane Olsen when he

was aged 69. While details such as these about William and his family were wonderful to learn and added enormously to our family history knowledge, it was accessing William's Probate packet<sup>1</sup> that added the golden touch to his story.

An interesting item was found in Trove regarding the granting of Probate for his estate. This grant of Probate was remarkable because the date was 1932. William died in March 1908, quite a discrepancy. The Probate packet once obtained from NSW State Records provided an explanation for this discrepancy.

Included among numerous documents in the Probate packet was a copy of William's Will written in February 1906 which clearly gave all his household furniture and money to his second wife Jane, with the condition that these were to be "my wife's so long as she lives or remains a widow". He continues, "at her marriage or decease my freehold property and any other of my estate remaining shall be converted into cash and the proceeds equally divided between my children William Charles Wickes, Frederick James Wickes, Stephen Wickes, Walter Wickes, Sarah Sayers, Annie Bevan and Mary Ann Fitzsimmons." If any of those children were to predecease William their share was to be divided between the surviving children.

Probate for this Will was granted on 24 October 1908 to the two Executors named, Jane Wickes and Thomas Hall, and William's estate was sworn at £392.16.0. It seems Jane did not marry again but her death in Bendigo, Victoria, on 23 June 1923, meant William Curling Wickes's children could collect their inheritance. This did not happen, however, till about nine years later. Things became complicated because Thomas Hall, the other Executor of William's Will, died in August 1926, about three years after Jane's death, and had not finalised William's Will. Then to complicate things even more the Executor for Thomas Hall died in 1929 and he also

had not completed the intentions of the Will. Hence, by the early 1930s numerous legal advertisements had to appear in newspapers and legal proceedings completed before Frederick James Wickes, William's eldest surviving son, was finally granted Probate on 5 October 1932. Two sons did predecease William, William Charles and Walter both died in 1906. Their death certificates, along with Jane's death certificate, were included in the Probate packet. When Probate was granted to Frederick James Wickes in 1932 the value of William's estate was sworn at under £176.0.0 and there were two houses in Broken Hill.

It seems that Frederick James Wickes who lived in Glenelg in South Australia in 1932 was aware of the conditions of his father's Will. Perhaps, if Frederick and his siblings were expecting some inheritance when their father died back in 1908 and managed to see a copy of the Will, they were fully aware that Jane had limited use of the properties and purposefully kept track of Jane when she moved from Broken Hill NSW to Bendigo Victoria so that they could one day obtain their belated inheritance. In the light of Jane's unpopular reputation in the family it seems highly unlikely that any friendly visits or affable correspondence occurred between Jane and William's children.

These details about the Will, such as, the married names of William's daughters, the amount of money he had, and the two houses he owned in Broken Hill were unknown aspects of the family and very rewarding to learn, but it was five handwritten letters also included in the Probate packet that were the best, most fascinating and unexpected documents found in the Probate packet. As mentioned previously the delay in finalising William's Will necessitated placing several advertisements in a variety of newspapers and as was intended these attracted the attention of hopeful heirs. One such hopeful heir was Olive McGuire who over a 10-month period from October 1931 to July 1932 wrote five letters

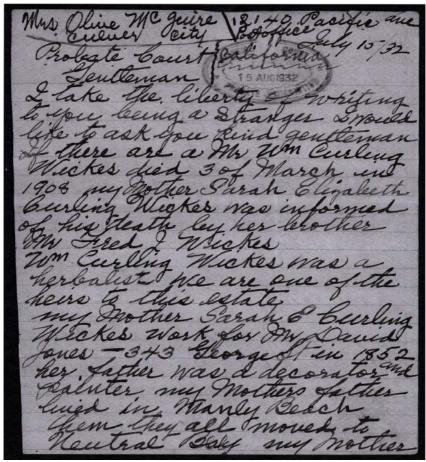
comprising a total of 24 handwritten pages trying to prove she should receive a share of the estate. All of Olive's letters came from the same address, that is, 12140 Pacific Ave, Culver City Post Office, California, America. It seems relatives living in Botany Bay NSW had notified Olive of the newspaper advertisements.

Olive claimed to be the daughter of William Curling Wickes's sister Sarah Elizabeth Wickes and Olive went to long rambling lengths to try to prove she had a claim on the estate. Her first letter even included a photograph of her mother Sarah Elizabeth Wickes which she said was taken in 1849. In trying to stake her claim on the estate Olive's letters provided a treasure trove of information about William's parents, siblings, interstate moves, home addresses and cemetery burials, that confirmed family details already discovered, provided excellent leads for pursuing new research, and best of all added a truly personal, real-person dimension to long-ago deceased family members.

One example of the wonderful snippets Olive included in her letters was that her mother, Sarah Elizabeth Wickes, and her mother's sister, Annie, both worked at "Mr David Jones Dry Goods Store at 343 George Street, Sydney," in about 1852, and that Sarah had charge of the Millinery Department. An attempt has begun to verify this with the archives of David Jones.

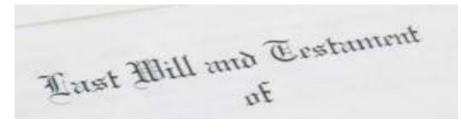
Olive said this is a photo of her mother Sarah Elizabeth Wickes taken in 1849. Sarah was born 1832 Rochester Kent England and died in 1913 in Los Angeles.





This is an example of a page from Olive's fifth letter. There were five letters with a total of 24 pages.

It seems poor Olive, whose letters unwittingly contributed enormously to our family history, only received one disappointing letter in return. The Probate packet included a copy of a letter the Registrar of Probates sent to Olive on 22 August 1932 stating that as William Curling Wickes bequeathed his whole estate to his widow and children it did not appear she was entitled to benefit in the estate. She could view a copy of the Will at the cost of 5/-.



While Olive's gold-digging attempts did not achieve her hoped for outcome, they certainly provided a pure gold reward for our family history research. If a Probate packet exists for your ancestor, it is indeed very good advice to access it just in case it also holds hidden treasure.

## By Kate Bowman CFHRI Member #1018

Source: <sup>1</sup>NSW State Archives & Records NRS-13660-14-1320-Series 4\_183958

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# LEONARD 'Len' SETO (1923 – 2023)

#### A Hundred Years of Life.

As many family historians know it can often feel like an insurmountable task to write a balanced story of an ancestor's life, especially if any available documentation and resources are either non-existent, random or fragmentary.

I have the extra-ordinary task, quite literally, of trying to give 'a flavour of a man', my own father, who is still living and active and telling stories from his life at 100 years of age!

**Leonard 'Len' Seto** was born on 11 April 1923, at Bridge Street, Lutwyche, Brisbane, as the third son of **Ikutaro SETO** and his Irish wife **Elizabeth McDONNELL**.

His schooling was at Holy Cross primary school at nearby Wooloowin and later at St. Columban's College for boys at Albion Heights. After school he worked as a silver service waiter in various hotel dining rooms around his 'St. Clair' flat at 135 James Street, New Farm.

On 10 December 1941, three days after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour, Leonard 'Len' SETO, enlisted at Water Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. He was aged eighteen years and seven months and was later given the service number: QX 39496.

The 'X' part of the prefix means that the person was a Volunteer. A fact that Dad has been very proud of all his life. This volunteer status was visible on all their army unit uniform patches which had a surrounding grey border.

In June 1942 Len arrived in Townsville in the Signals section attached to 17th Field Regiment (24 guns of the 25 pounder field guns) as part of 'Yorkforce'. Townsville was bombed in July 1942.

Later Len arrived in Darwin in June 1943 as part of the Signals section attached to the 5th Field Regiment. 'We were placed right in the town area, on the cliffs overlooking the harbour, just in case of an invasion.' The enemy did come.

In the midst of all that terror, one of his favourite memories is of the Catalina flying boats being moored at the base of the cliffs. Such graceful aircraft as they did gliding landings on and take-offs from the peaceful harbour waters. If the Squadron received an incoming air raid warning, the Catalinas would take off and hide further down the harbour. The ships moored in the open harbour were not so nimble during the many months of frequent enemy bombing raids.

On 15 September 1944, Len, as a member of the Signals Section attached to 2/11 Australian Field Regiment, left Darwin on H.M.A.T. 'Katoomba', for life, or death, in parts unknown in the new hell of intense jungle war-fighting.

The war service of Signalman QX 39496 consisted of 1,522 days, with 568 days being outside Australia in various active battle zones including Lae, Markam Valley (PNG), Torokina, Bougainville, (Solomons) and then later at Rabaul on New Britain to guard Japanese Prisoners of War and supervising their repatriation back to Japan. He was eventually discharged back in Brisbane on 15 May 1946.

Len then took up one of the repatriation opportunities that were offered to ex-servicemen as part of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. He chose to qualify as a Tradesman Signwriter serving his apprenticeship with Frank Foxcroft signwriters and qualifying in October 1950.

He then had a long career as a professional signwriter and later as a T.A.F.E. teacher for the technical course on signwriting (and screen-printing) courses which he first had to write

As a trained ballroom dancer the now-destroyed magnificent 'Cloudland Ballroom' at Bowen Hills played a significant and pleasurable place in his weekly life. It was also there he met his future wife, **Hazel Rose HAIR (1930-2021).** They went on to marry on 28th April 1951 at Holy Spirit R. C. church, in Villiers Street, New Farm and had four surviving children.

One of the exemplary qualities that Len and his wife Hazel had was the commitment 'to give our children a better education and more opportunities than we had.'

To achieve those goals meant that each of them had to work long hours in several jobs. For Len, as well as working full-time at Dulux Paints at Rocklea, where he designed and signwrote their various shop displays, he also did weekend work such as signwriting the Tip Top Bakery trucks.

In the 1960s Caloundra was the place for working-class families to take their holidays, especially in the many caravan parks, many of which have been sold-off or bull-dozed by the local Council, as ongoing 'developments'.



Len and his four children enjoying Tooway Creek, Christmas 1964. (The author is the young boy on the left).

Len has had a lifelong passion for the multi-coloured and many varied croton plants and his extensive gardens at Yeronga and Dicky Beach did display some magnificent decades-large specimens before having to be culled back.

The 1974 floods in Brisbane bought major losses to many a family. For the Seto family it meant their Yeronga family house was flooded almost up to the roofline. They lost virtually everything, being taken out of the high-stumped house by boat with just the clothes on their back. They all had to begin again.

After his retirement in 1980 Len and Hazel built a new brick house on flood-proof elevated vacant land at Dicky Beach.

For several decades, with sincere and humble faith, Len served the community by volunteering in his church and their outreach programmes, including visiting the 'old people' in care homes, many of whom were younger than he was.

Masters Squash. Len played and coached competition squash for decades even winning a silver medal in his age division at the World Masters Games when they were held in Brisbane

At his home there are five sheds of tools, some of which are older than his children. The guiding motto is 'Right Tool; Right Outcome'. He used to wake up every day with a list of projects and then worked all day to make them happen.

In 2015 he was selected as one of the seven WW2 veterans who formed the Australian government's 70th Anniversary Victory mission to PNG and Pacific Islands. 'We were treated like heroes everywhere we went.'

Always one to set himself new challenges, Len began creative artistic painting, frequently using a technique or medium or subject which he has not tried before. The result?

A long display wall of artworks extending the whole length of his home.



Len Seto and cake for his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday with some of his artistic paintings in the background.

After seventy years of marriage, and following on from his wife Hazel's death in 2021, Len has gradually slowed down.

Len's activities now consist of enthusiastically enjoying his meals and doing newspaper crosswords and word puzzles which 'have helped me keep all my marbles.'

On 11 April 2023 Len will be 100 years of age, and is still in generally good health living in his own home, being cared for mainly by his youngest daughter.

He is still a proud 'self-propelled' walking war veteran with sharp observation and hearing skills, even though his hearing is impaired by being around big loud guns for some years. He says that the 'selective hearing' option can prove to be very useful at times.

By Paul T. Seto, CFHRI member #732.

#### **Research and Reference Sources:**

Private files, papers and photos.

Australian War Museum, Canberra.

National Archives of Australia, Canberra.

National Library of Australia, 'Trove' historical newspapers.

'Interview with Len Seto, PNG Commemorative Mission', on YouTube, from the Department of Defence on the 2015 Commemorative Mission to PNG and Pacific Islands.







## **NEW MEMBERS**

The Committee would like to welcome the following

## New Members:

Jan Scram, Marj Boland, Kerry White, Judy Wilkie, Therese Gittins and Celie Knottenbeld.

CFHRI MEMBERSHIP: 115



# LIBRARY FROM THE PRINTED JOURNALS



Thanks to **Sue Schott** for reading the incoming printed journals for this report and thanks also to **Assistant Secretary, Robyn Delaney** who forwards the e-journals to CFHRI members by email.

So much great information and tips can be found in journals.

**Irish Roots 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr:** County Wexford ancestors; Visiting the National Archives of Ireland; Irish born ancestors in the 1950's US Census

**Family Tree Oct:** 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower-Masterclass; Chelsworth's secret; Dear Paul (for a bit of humour!); DNA workshop – African DNA; Genealogy without borders

**Family Tree Nov**: Seeking evidence – British seafarers of Black & Asian ancestry; Who's the Daddy – proving paternity; Confronting the past – ethics of FH; The form relatives didn't want to fill in

Family Tree Dec: Photo-genealogy Step 5; Name lists

**Timespan Dec:** Pioneers of Bathurst Pt 2; Missabotti Public school reunion

**Tasmanian Ancestry Dec:** Branch reports; Who is the large man in the large chair? The reinvention of John Byron; Dangerous Person – George Seabourne; Who is Susannah Haythorne? When the going gets tough

**The Genealogist Spring:** Letter from England (Always worth a read); Press-ganged; British India Records; Black Douglas; the Man & the Myth

**The Genealogist Summer:** Writing "Rosie's People"; Researching a Family History – from Microfiche to the Internet; Letter from England; Directors of Melbourne Royal

Botanic Gardens; On board the Melanope Oct 1881 – Jan 1882; Working on Brick Walls

**Links 'n' Chains Feb:** How Liverpool school grew up; Edward Dudley Cruwys; Not quite a bushranger in the family; Beginner's Corner – German Research

**Family Tree Feb:** Paupers in Workhouses – new collection; Scotland 1921 Census released; Family History Revolution; Tracing Holocaust ancestors; Steps to getting started in Family History; DNA workshop

**Family History Handbook 2023:** Family History societies & Websites directory; Photo dating; FH in 20 Records; Longforgotten Words

**The World Nov – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** History of Charters Towers; Early burials in the courts; A week in the World; Early churches

**Ancestor Dec:** James Thomson Macminn from Edinburgh to Fitzroy Vic; Finding biological fathers & aboriginality; A guide to researching your Scottish ancestors; Missing deaths & Victorian BDM records

**Traces Ed 21:** A ship of death; Remembering Rabaul; The Railwaymen; Irish pioneers in India & Australia

**Family Tree Jan:** A pictorial quiz; Who would be King or Queen; The York fever hospital; Double-take – my ancestor's alias; A big birth cover-up exposed, 139 years later; Tracing

THESE JOURNALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM THE LIBRARY.

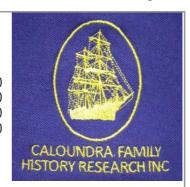
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#### Various Genealogy Forms are available

— please see the Librarian Assistant or one of the Volunteers on roster.

#### **CFHRI INTEREST GROUPS**

#### FAMILY TREE MAKER 2PM TO 4PM

1st Wednesday of month

Contact - Chris Richardson cj\_richardson1@bigpond.com



#### FAMILY SEARCH 10AM TO 12 NOON

**3rd Monday of month** Contact - Ralph Gray

ralphgray@hotmail.com



# GERMANY 1PM TO 3PM 1st Thursday of month

Contact - Sue Schott gands.schott@gmail.com



#### <u>DNA</u> 10AM TO 12 NOON Friday after 3rd Thursday of month

Contact - Sue Brownjohn brownjohn@bigpond.com



# SCOTLAND 12 NOON TO 2PM 2nd Thursday of month

Contact – Sue Brownjohn brownjohn@bigpond.com



#### **ENGLAND & WALES 1PM TO 3PM**

4th Thursday of month Contact - Geoff Kelly gandikelly@bigpond.com



#### IRELAND 2PM TO 4PM 2nd Thursday of month Contact - Geoff Kelly

Contact -Geoff Kelly gandikelly@bigpond.com



#### **CFH RESOURCES** 12 NOON TO 2 PM

4th Saturday of month Contact - Fran Kitto fran@travelgenee.com



#### **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Members are encouraged to **submit their interests** as these will be included on our website. If you have not filled in your interests, forms are available on the Website under Resources-Surname Interests. OR Additions/Deletions to the Members' Interest list, email the details to Phyllis Gerhardt pgerhard@bigpond.net.au **INFORMATION NEEDED:** Surname, Year you are searching, Parish/Town, County/State and Country.

#### PEDIGREE CHARTS

Members are encouraged to submit their Pedigree Charts to the Library. The Blank Charts are included under RESOURCES:KNOWLEDGE BASE on our Website. Please give your completed Chart to the Librarian. It is a good way to discover if other Members are researching the same lines. These appear on our Website in RESOURCES:SURNAME INTEREST LIST.

#### QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

In accordance with our Country Membership of this Society, two members at a time may conduct research in their **QFHS** Research Rooms moving shortly to 46 Delaware Street, Chermside The Membership Card is held by the Secretary. Please see the QFHS magazine for opening times.

#### **GENEALOGY SUNSHINE COAST**

We now have reciprocal membership with **GSC** at Petrie Park, Nambour. Our members can visit their rooms and are entitled to full use of their facilities for \$2 per session—your current CFHRI membership card is needed. Please see their magazine *Kin Tracer* for opening times.

#### HISTORY QUEENSLAND Inc.

We are proud to be a member of **HQ Inc.** Look for their Newsletters held in our Library. www.historyqueensland.org.au

#### AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS INC.

We are a member of **AFFHO** which is the umbrella organisation for family history societies in the region. AFFHO was established in 1978 to co-ordinate & assist the work of Aust. & NZ groups with interests in family history, genealogy, heraldry & related subjects. **http://www.affho.org/index.php** 

#### SHIPPING RECORDS

Our index to Shipping Information Records is growing. If any members would like to make copies of their research available, this would help other members. Such information may include passenger Lists, Newspaper Articles and Photographs, etc. Please give them to the Librarian.

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#### PRINTING OF THE CLIPPER

CFHRI thanks **Jarrod Bleijie**, our State Government Member for Kawana, **and his staff** for their assistance with printing this quarterly journal.



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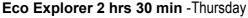
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