

Whitsunday Family History Group Inc

"BRANCHING OUT" November 2023



Proserpine Community Centre
36 Gardenia Street, Proserpine Qld 4800

Email: wfhg@qld.chariot.net.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Leah Davis	0438 451 880
Vice-President	Barbara Uhe	
Secretary	Pat Mengel	07 4945 1500
Minute Secretary	Barbara Barnett	
Treasurer	Howard Barnett	07 4947 1623
Librarian	Linda Thorogood	07 4945 4995
Journal Editor	Leah Davis	0438 451 880

LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm & Tuesday 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

MEETINGS

Discussion group at WFHG Library at Proserpine Community Centre, 2nd Saturday each month at 9.30 am

MEMBERSHIP FEES – per year

Joining Fee \$10, plus Basic Fee \$40 single, \$70 family. Upgrade to Gold \$35 for unlimited use of library and all printouts. Basic members to pay 50¢ per hour for use of library & 20¢ for A4 printouts and copies.

OBJECTIVES

1. To foster and promote the study, practice and preservation of genealogy, heraldry, topography, history, biography, heredity and of family and local history and allied subjects.
2. To foster a spirit of friendliness and co-operation and to give assistance to members through mutual sharing of information and techniques.

PUBLICATIONS

The Proserpine News WWII – a record of military personnel from Proserpine and districts.

From The President

Well here we are at the end of November 2023 already. It seems like we have just finished with our winter months and now it is shaping up to a long hot summer and Christmas just around the corner.

Our members have been busy researching their elusive families and finding new cousins along the way. Our November group meeting was very interesting with members bringing along a treasured family photo. Some of these were grandparents with their seven daughters, a Scottish grandfather taken in Melbourne in early 1900s, an eleven year old flowergirl from 70+ years ago, a family gathering at a home with adults and children, a recently discovered photo of a mother-in-law with co-workers taken in 1946, a four generation family photo from 1953. Of course there were some interesting stories to go with these photos.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch on 9th December at the
Prince of Wales Hotel.

There will not be a discussion group meeting in January, next will be in
February 2024.

Leah



ANNIE'S BIRTH WAS NEVER REGISTERED – HOW I FOUND HER RECORDS

My great grandmother, Annie Lakey, who was born in Plympton St. Mary, Devon, England, was 18 years old when she sailed from Plymouth on the QRMS (Queensland Royal Mail Steamer) 'Almora'. She travelled with her married sister Mary Jane Dyer, husband William and their infant daughter Mary, arriving at Rockhampton on 24th June 1883. The following year Annie married a Scotsman, David Allan, on 19th July 1884 at St. Lawrence, Queensland.

My mother's cousin, Annie Quantock, gave me a copy of Annie Lakey's marriage certificate which stated that her parents were Robert Lakey and Mary nee Mudge. I decided to purchase Robert and Mary's marriage certificate to go back another generation. I had problems as the information was incorrect – her father was Francis not Robert.

Out of interest, I decided to purchase my great grandmother Annie's birth certificate. Annie Quantock had given me Annie's birth date as 26th May 1864, and her baptism date, 10th July 1864. I ordered the birth certificate through GSQ, Brisbane and was told that her birth wasn't registered. Thinking this was a mistake I even paid a researcher in England, but with the same result. I wondered how I could prove these dates were correct.

The marriage of great grandmother Annie's parents took place on 13th July 1852 at the parish church Plympton St. Mary, Devon, England. In 1996 I sent a letter to the church asking them for help. I received a reply with details of Lakey family graves that were in the church yard, including those of Annie's parents Francis Lakey and Mary Roberts Lakey (nee Mudge). Francis died on 28th June 1869 aged 44 years and Mary was the same age when she died nearly 5 months later, on 14th November 1869. I was advised that the baptism records had been passed on to the West Devon Record Office. I wrote to them and my luck continued. Records showed Annie Lakey's baptism took place on 10th July 1864. Great! That was the baptism date confirmed, but I still needed proof of the birth date.

Annie Lakey's parents were quite young when they passed away and I wondered if Annie had more siblings and what had become of them all. I discovered that Francis and Mary Lakey had a total of 8 children: David Francis b. 1853; Elizabeth Ann b. 1855; Mary Jane b. 1858; Francis b. 1859; John Mudge b. 1861; William Henry b. 1863; Ann b. 1864 and Fanny b. 1865.

At this time, a relation living in Townsville, was delving into family history so I gave Michael all my new information. He found the three youngest Lakey children, William Henry, Annie and Fanny on the 1881 English Census. They were all living at the New Orphan Houses, Ashley Down, Bristol, Gloucestershire.

With this new lead I contacted the Gloucestershire Family History Society and they gave me the address of the Home. I sent a letter to the orphanage asking for help and could not believe, that after so many years, they still had the records of all three Lakey children. Their return envelope contained a wealth of information on my Mudge / Lakey families. There was a page of details concerning the children's parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and siblings, where they lived and their occupations. Obviously this was information collected in 1870 to determine if a relative was able to care for the children rather than admit them to the Home. There was a copy of the marriage certificate for Francis Lakey and Mary Mudge and both their death certificates. Also included were birth certificates for William Henry and Fanny and my great grandmother Annie's original baptism certificate. How lucky was I?

Unfortunately, there was no birth certificate for Annie. There was another document included in the envelope – a very important item. It was a statement made by Annie's grandmother, Elizabeth Mudge, that said she was present at the birth of Ann Lakey, daughter of Francis and Mary Lakey, on 26th May 1864

at Newnham cottage in the parish of Plympton St. Mary in the County of Devon. This was signed by Elizabeth Mudge in front of the Magistrate of Devon. Obviously the orphanage realized that her birth had not been registered and made an effort to rectify this oversight. Proof at last!

My quest to find out more about my great grandmother Annie Allan, began when my mother's cousin gave me a birth and baptism date but no proof. What an interesting journey it has been.

It is hard to imagine what life was like for Annie Lakey in her early years. At five years of age she lost both her parents and lived in an orphanage until she was 16. Then, when only 18 years old, she left England to start life in the new, young country of Queensland, Australia.

I have information on all Annie's siblings except John Mudge Lakey, born 1861 and Fanny Lakey, born 1865. I have had luck with the Mudge branch and I am in contact with a member of that family in England.

Numerous Australian Allan descendants are also on my records. I would love to hear from anyone who has a connection with any branch of my family.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 730116-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **PLYMPTON ST MARY**

1861 BIRTH in the Sub-district of **Plympton** in the Counties of Devon and Cornwall

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
1861	Newnham Cottage, Plympton St Mary	John Mudge	Boy	Francis Lakey	Mary Lakey formerly Mudge	Labourer	Mary Lakey Mother Old Newnham Cottage, Plympton St Mary	24th June 1861	Joshua Fittie Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of November 2008


BXCD 346067

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

HM7021 11450 FORM 2008/04, 01/2008

AJD



I, Elizabeth Mudge of the Parish of
Cornwood, in the County of Devon,
do solemnly and sincerely declare
that I was present at the Birth of
Annie Lakky, daughter of Frances &
Mary Lakky, and that she was born
on the 26th of May, 1864 at Newham
Cot. in the Parish of Plympton St Mary
in the County of Devon

Subscribed and ^{her} ~~Elizabeth~~ Mudge
Declared before me
at Cornwood, in
the County of Devon
on the 18th of December
1869.
W. T. Jones.
Magistrate for Devon.

[PAGE 145.]
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Plympton St Mary in the County of Devon
in the year 1864.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
July 16	Annie	Francess Mary	Lakky	Old Newham Cottage	Labourer	Geo Patey.

No. 1160.
The above is a true Extract from the Register Book of Baptisms of the Parish of Plympton St Mary
in the County of Devon made by me this 25th day of November 1869.
Edmund G. Hunt
P. M.

THE PROSERPINE GUARDIAN - ON THIS DAY - 1957

Friday, January 11 - Beach Amenities: The Cannon Valley Progress Association has a big improvement program planned for this popular seaside resort. This includes repairing all amenities and painting them in pastel shades, including the shelter sheds. More tables and seats are planned, together with a new water slippery slide.

Air Traffic: There has been heavy air traffic in and out of Proserpine over the holiday period. TAA despatched 90 outward passengers this week and two air liners, including a special, flew in today to take out more, making 130 for the week. Seats are hard to find and TAA is booked out for next Tuesday. It is expected the position will ease after January 20.

Airlie Palms: Eighty young palms have been planted at Horseshoe Bay, Airlie Beach, by local residents and another fifty will be planted later. In years to come this section of the beach should be very picturesque.

Friday, January 18 - Electricity Takeover: The Regional Electricity Board in Mackay will take over the Proserpine electricity undertaking on March 1. The takeover is a big task, although much of the work will not be on the technical side. Staff positions have to be clarified, particularly in the clerical section. The State Electricity Commission is to provide the new Board with funds required to carry on after the takeover.

Goorganga Sold: It is understood Goorganga Station, about 9 miles south of Proserpine, has been sold to Mr Les Cox, owner of Gainsford Station in the Ayr district. He also recently bought Emu Plains, in the Collinsville district. Goorganga, which has an area of about 52 square miles, including 930 acres freehold, was sold on a stocked basis. Originally known as 'Bromby Park' and owned by Bode and Dangar, Goorganga was one of the station properties encircling what now is Proserpine town area when this began in 1872. Bode and Dangar sold to A.J. Cotton, who later sold to a Mr. McCarthy, who sold to E.G. Lascelles in 1910. He died in 1938 and his son, Mr E.H. Lascelles took over, until this latest sale.

Fuljames Street: Wednesday night saw the formation of the Fuljames Street Progress Association. Among its first moves was a decision to draw the attention of divisional representatives, Crs. R. Staniland and G. Radley to the deplorable drainage situation which exists in the street.

Friday, February 1 - Jetty: Mr Bob Filby has been elected to represent the Proserpine and Whitsunday Tourist Development Association, at a conference being held by the Shire Council to discuss improvements at the Abell Point Jetty. Others to confer with the Council representatives will include island resort proprietors and Mr Herman Altmann.

Line A Waste: An electricity line from Mackay to Proserpine has been described by Senator Ian Wood as a complete waste of money and completely unnecessary. Senator Wood was speaking at a Mackay City Council meeting this week, claiming the Proserpine Sugar Mill could generate enough power to supply Proserpine and district. However the meeting accepted a tender from F.A. Ricketts & Son, for £43,375, to build the line from Pinnacle to Proserpine.

First Flood: Proserpine was hit with its first flood for 1957 this week when 12 inches and 72 points were registered at the Post Office. Eight inches fell on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning the river broke its banks and entered Taylor Street. Both road and rail traffic have been halted.

Shute Survey: The Proserpine Chamber of Commerce is to contact the Department of Harbours and Marine to ascertain if a survey of Shute Harbour had been completed. If so the Chamber would like to have a copy of same.

Friday, February 8 - Cyclone: A cyclone, said to be the worst for 39 years, has been raging off the north Queensland coast for the last four days, causing our heavy rain and strong winds. It is said to be 200 miles north east of Cairns, with flood rains developing from Cooktown south.

New Enrolments: Schools opened again on Monday with many new enrolments. The Proserpine State School reports 44 of these and another 15 began at St Catherine's Convent school. The High School reports 43 newcomers, 20 at Junior standard and 23 Sub-Junior. Total enrolments at the State Rural school are 352 – 187 boys and 165 girls, St Catherine's has a total of 118. Headmaster of the State School is Mr R. Seldon, while Sister Mary Lucy is in charge at the Convent school.

Water Supply: About fifty per cent of the water mains now have been laid in Proserpine in preparation for the town water supply and a contract has been let to Proserpine Plumbing and Hardware for the laying of service supply pipes from the main to the property alignment and beyond, to a distance of 10 inches. It is the responsibility of property owners to apply to the Shire Council for permission to connect to the water supply and they are reminded that licensed plumbers only are to do this work.

Friday, February 22 - Drome has great future: With the completion of a bitumen seal, Proserpine aerodrome could become a great air terminal. At a special meeting of the Shire Council on Tuesday Mr R.D. Collins, assistant to the managing director of Ansett Airways Pty Ltd confirmed the offer, made by telegram from Ansett Airways of a loan of £9,500 towards the cost of sealing the strip. Also that his firm would build a modern passenger terminal on the condition that Ansett were given exclusive operational rights to the airport for an agreed number of years. Mr Collins said TAA had been approached to contribute to the cost of sealing but had refused. Mr Collins added that Ansett intend to place 52 passenger Convair aircraft on the run from Brisbane in June, with DC3 feeder services to the north. The Shire Chairman, Cr W.A. Pepper and the Clerk, Mr T.H. Farr are to go to Brisbane to seek approval for the Ansett loan from the Department of Public Works and the Treasury.

Friday, March 1 - Polio Case: One positive case of poliomyelitis was treated at the hospital during January. Reporting this to the Shire Council the Health Inspector, Mr H.C.L. Driberg said necessary precautions were taken to control any spread of the disease. There also was a case of suspected poliomyelitis and another scarlet fever. All these patients since have been discharged.

Mill Payment: An additional 4/- per ton for the 1956 crop will be paid to cane farmers on March 11. This will bring the total payment to date to £3/8 per ton.

Beneficial Rain: Rain which is still falling will be most beneficial for this year's cane crop and prospects are good for a crushing of 350,000 tons. So far this year we have had more than 23 inches of rain and farmers now want a break of sunshine.

Correspondence: Editor, Sir: It appears our Council is ready and willing to surrender our aerodrome to Ansett so they can enjoy a monopoly for 10 years and prevent TAA planes from landing. This is blatant ingratitude to TAA, which was the only airline to support the drome. It is hoped the Labor government, which is now fighting the monopoly oil interests, will not allow this to happen. Yours, etc. "ANTI-MONOPOLY".

Friday, March 8 - Drome Finality: It is likely the Shire Council will agree today to terms for a 10-year lease of the airport to Ansett. Main points of the lease include the bitumen sealing of the airstrip by Ansett and the airline taking over all present debts on the aerodrome incurred by the Council.

Drome Protest: A protest against the monopoly takeover of the airport was decided on at last week's meeting of the Whitsunday Islands Tourist Development Association. The protest is aimed at the Commissioner of Transport and will ask for Trans Australia Airlines to be given the right to continue to service Proserpine.

Friday, March 15 - Airlie Blocks All Sold: The demand for land at Airlie Beach is evidenced by the fact that in recent months 32 blocks of leasehold land there have been sold. A condition of the sale is that £200 worth of improvements must be made on the land within the next two years. This means that Airlie should have a further 32 homes by 1959 – quite a sizeable coastal township within easy

striking distance of Proserpine. The last 14 blocks available were offered for auction by CPS, Mr W. Patching on Thursday last week, nine being sold then and the others taken up later at the upset price. There was spirited bidding for one block, which was knocked down to Mr W.S. Staniland for £425.

Polio Injections: Poliomyelitis injections were received by 920 school and pre-school children this week, with another 320 to receive theirs next week. These are first injections, with second injections to follow.

Friday, March 22 - Palm Bay Luxury Hotel: An ultra modern luxury hotel will be built at Palm Bay, Long Island, within four months. Details have been released by the proprietor of Palm Bay Tourist Resort, Mr R.E. Brooks. The hotel will be built of timber and fibro cement, which Mr Brooks says is just about perfect for the weather we have up here. Mr Brooks said after the hotel is built, more holiday shacks will be constructed, which will increase accommodation to at least 60. At present the Palm Bay quota for holiday makers is 43.

Friday, March 29 - Injections Continue: A further 250 children received polio injections at the Proserpine State School on Wednesday. This makes a total of 1,200 children of the district treated in recent weeks.

Airlie Trees: The Airlie Beach Progress Association has submitted to the Shire Council a list of 50 trees to be procured on its behalf, from the 'Save the Trees' campaign for planting at Airlie. The Council has allowed the association £5 to purchase the trees. With a like amount being set aside for trees for planting by the golf club.

Tramway Lights: The Shire Council is to draw the attention of Main Roads to tramway crossings in the Shire where there are no traffic lights. These are near the Riordanvale turn-off, Dunk's Hill, at Mt Julian (Myrtle Creek) and on Stanley's Hill. The Department has been asked to make the owners of the crossings comply with the law and install lights.

Jetty Timber: The Shire Council has accepted a tender of £820 from Mr A.G. Fox for the carting of 360 tons of timber from the railway station to Shingley Beach. The timber is for the erection of the jetty at South Molle Island.

Allotments: First class allotments for sale from £210 to £550 in Proserpine area. Also a Cannonvale block for £80. See Proserpine Agency.

Friday, April 5 - Unsatisfactory Year: According to the annual report from the cane growers executive chairman Mr Albert Holmes, 1956 was one of the most unsatisfactory years for the local cane growers. The record rainfall disrupted the crushing season and delayed the planting for this year's crop. In addition the sugar content of the crop was the lowest for 10 years.

Drome Improvements: Construction improvements have begun at the Proserpine airport. The work has entailed degrassing and drainage. An examination of the strip has been made with a view to its use by Viscount aircraft. It is hoped to have the drome ready for the landing of Convairs by July 1st.

Extra Cane: The increase in sugar peak for the mill will mean an extra 14,000 tons of cane to go into farm peaks. A tribunal is to be appointed to recommend how this is distributed among farmers. At this week's growers' annual meeting Mr E. Penhallurick said it was time to get away from new and increased assignments, maintaining the increase should be given to farmers who have grown their peak since the last distribution.

Cane Testing: Mr A. Holmes, cane growers chairman, told the annual meeting the mill favoured testing every sixth truck of cane this year, rather than testing on tonnage as last year. Mr R. Fisher said it would be difficult for a weighbridge clerk to work out what was every sixth truck. Mr Holmes said they should consider what is best for farmers, not what is best for the weighbridge clerk.

U3A GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

November 2023

MY AUNT MATILDA'S NOT MY AUNT (from Mike Lattimer)

This poem comes from an anthology called One Upon a Wessex by Norman Kemish.

I thought it summed up what we find out about our families!

My Aunt Matilda's not my aunt
And neither's Auntie Flo
Who only lives with Uncle George,
They're just good friends, you know.
And Cousin Fred can't really be,
If what they say is true.
He looks just like the milkman,
Not a bit like Uncle Lou.
I've got a great Aunt, Auntie Maud
We never see her, though.
She lives in Hemel Hempstead
And that's much too far to go.
There's Uncle Ben, the plumber,
He has trouble with his phlegm
And lives with that odd pimply boy.
Dad says he's 'one of them'.
Then Cousin Nell, the daughter
Of my mother's Cousin Jim,
Who's married to his brother's wife,
So we don't speak of him.
There's Harold who's the step-son
Of my father's Cousin Mat.
A second cousin really,
But he's only half of that.
Whether Fred is Cousin Ted's
Was never ever proved,
But if he is, then he must be
My cousin, once removed.
There's Jim and Bob and Uncle Claude,
A list that never ends.
I think I'll just forget the lot
And concentrate on friends.

Submitted by Lois Ross-Soden