

The CQ Genie-ologist

**Journal
*of***

**Central
Queensland
Family History
Association Inc.**



ISSN 0818-5689
ISSN (online) 2209-9298

February 2024

Issue No. 148

Central Queensland Family History Association Inc.

ROCKHAMPTON QLD.

Club Rooms

16 Highway Street
PARK AVENUE QLD 4701

ABN 48 945 940 494

<https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>

Postal Address.

16 Highway Street
PARK AVENUE QLD 4701

Library Opening Hours (Ph 0448 105 755 – library hours only)

Tuesday, Saturday: 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Thursday, Friday: 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Members - free

Non-members \$10 per session

closed public holidays

president@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
secretary@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
treasurer@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
projects@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
journal@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
research@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
web@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
dna@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
library@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
committee@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

The Central Queensland Family History Association Inc. was formed on the 21st May 1986, as a non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit association to accommodate the growing demand for genealogical records in the C.Q. area.

Benefits of Membership

Members are invited to participate in monthly General Meetings held on the 1st Saturday of even months, commencing 10am - 12noon. Apart from normal procedures, meetings usually include an activity such as a guest speaker, presentation on the Association's resources, discussions relating to the past or matters of interest. Members may attend the library during advertised opening hours free of charge.

Publications

The association publishes a journal *The CQ Genie-ologist*, three times per year, which is issued free to members. We invite members to advertise for information on their own family histories, and to submit articles free of charge. C.Q.F.H.A. Inc. exchanges journals with other genealogical societies, both in Australia and overseas, thus giving our members first hand information on the particular area they may be researching.

Research

Country members will be provided with 5 hours of research with specific information from our library holdings. Additional research for members or research for NON MEMBERS by the Association, a fee of **\$25.00** per hour will be charged. **This minimum payment is required before commencement of research. This is Non Refundable.**

Library

A constantly growing library of research material, including an extensive microfiche, microfilm and CD collection is available for use by members and visitors at the club rooms. Members - free. Non-members \$10 per session.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Page by Page	2
by Kay Page	
What's been happening at CQFHA	3
New Members	5
Dawson Valley Land Selection - Baralaba and Kokotungo	6
by Gwen Petersen	
My Grandmother's Calendar	10
by Linda Marshall	
The Scouting History of Seonee Park Search	12
by Emily & Len Hill	
Neerkol Stories - Wherry - Samuel, Charles and Mary	13
by Kay Page	
Irishman Becomes Aussie Legend	17
by Jeanette Finlayson	
The Secret Wedding	20
by Sharon Parkinson	
Heirlooms - Canteen of Cutlery	21
by Narelle Fraser	
The Wedding Present	22
by Sharon Parkinson	
Tracking the Rockhampton Joss - A Journey!	24
by Dorothy Khoo	
Nursing Memories	31
by Sharon Parkinson	
Through the Journals	36
by Narelle Fraser	
Coming Events	40

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Central Queensland Family History Association Inc. does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed, statements made or material submitted by contributors to this journal.

Page by Page

by Kay Page



Welcome to 2024. It's sure to be a busy year and I hope it will be a fulfilling one for our members as your brick walls tumbling down.

The committee has been busy planning this year's events and working on sprucing up the library. The CQFHA website is also undergoing some improvements.

Physical cards for membership will no longer be issued. Instead, an email containing those details will be sent to members.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the selling of raffle tickets at the markets because of a lack of volunteers. This was regrettable and highlights our dwindling number of volunteers. However, we were very grateful for the fantastic response to our call for items for the Christmas hamper and to the members who bought and sold raffle tickets. This was worthwhile as \$715 was raised for our coffers.

The Anglican records' indexes will be available very shortly to assist members with their research. It has been decided to charge a nominal fee for 'lookups' from this valuable resource and these will be processed through our research officer. Thank you to all the volunteers who have made this possible. This project commenced with photographing the original diocese books. Many volunteer indexers have given massive hours to compiling, completing and checking the indexes. This has been a huge project and special thanks are due to Marion Hall for leading this team of volunteers.

If you can spare any time on Wednesday mornings between 9 and 12 to help index records, we'd love to see you at the library.

Please give consideration to taking on a committee position at the next AGM which is coming up in September. I will not be standing for the president's position so please see me if you are at all interested in this or any other committee position and I will happily go through what is involved.

I wish you all the best with your research goals for 2024.

Kay Page

Journal:

This issue has a focus on heirlooms, which is the theme for our March general meeting. The next issue's topic will be a military theme, so why don't you write a short story on your military ancestor or a military interest you have. We need your stories to continue our journal. As usual you can submit an article of your choosing. A thank-you to Nola Harvey for her dedication to our regular column *Through the Journals*, as Narelle Fraser has now taken on this role. Also after compiling the last journal an article from Banana shire theme was unfortunately missed and it has been included in this journal.

If anyone is interested in compiling the journal (Publisher program) and would like to be part of the Journal Team a vacancy for this will be coming up at the AGM. If you are interested and want to know more please send us an email.

Hope you enjoy,
CQFHA Journal Team

Articles for the June 2024 journal are **due 30th April.**
email: journal@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

What's been happening at CQFHA...

- October Meeting - We had Carmel Hayman (member) as our guest speaker. Carmel had recently travelled to Norfolk Island. Her talk included the history of Norfolk Island and her experience as a visitor to the island. She said the island was both beautiful and interesting with its islander culture, food, language and dance. More importantly the significance of Norfolk Island to her and her family history is that her 3 x great grandfather Patrick Doyle had been transported to Norfolk Island as a convict in March 1838. In the next journal you can read all about her ancestor Patrick Doyle's story. Thanks Carmel for your presentation.
- Keep bringing in those 10c containers. We have already raised \$52.60. It all helps.
- Grants - The remaining amount of our grant funding is being spent on an electrician to install power points to the Administration room for our main computer.

- Christmas Fundraising Raffle - A huge thank you to everyone from those who organised, donated and sold tickets. It was a successful fundraising venture with \$715 raised. The raffle was drawn at the December meeting and the lucky winners were all members and all men. They are as follows:



1st Prize (valued at \$250) - *Rod Page*

2nd Prize (valued at \$100) - *Craig Dunglison*

3rd Prize (valued at \$60) - *John Humphries*

***Raffle winners, Rod Page
& John Humphries***

- Christmas Party - After the December general meeting, members remained to partake in the Christmas party held at the clubrooms. Members came with their plate of food to share and their secret santa gift. We first had a lucky door prize which was won by Roseann Creagh. A couple of games were played, the secret santa game kept us guessing as we had to listen to a story about the Wright family. You had to pass your gift to the right when you heard right and pass to the left when you heard left. The other game we played in pairs and we had to list as many Christmas items we could think of in 3 minutes, Trisha Brannigan & Sharon Parkinson won this one. Thanks to everyone for coming and for those who organised it. Our patron Donna Kirkland also came and participated in our activities.
- Closure maintenance & continuous improvement works - Members of the committee have been busy during the break working on the following. The administration/photography room has had a makeover. It has been painted and the photography area made larger. This is a better use of the space and gives a more professional appearance. Also in this room the admin filing cabinets were assessed, items that are only required for reference purposes are going to be digitally scanned. In the main area the shelves have been removed from the back wall and the walls repainted this allows us the space to have dual screens for all our computers there. The garden shed had a clear out and clean. Items outdated and deteriorated were removed. The annual carpet cleaning was completed by members and Pest control done by a professional. More work is yet to be done as we continuously improve what we do so that our association is future proofed, stays relevant and reduces workload and time on its volunteers.

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to all new and rejoining members. Please make yourself at home and don't be afraid to ask for help. If we can't help you with a specific question, we will point you in the right direction. We pride ourselves on being a friendly group.

New members:

#1475 Michele Mortlock, #1476 Dorothy Khoo,
#1477 Chris Newsome.

As of March 2024 we will no longer be using a
PO BOX. All mail will need to be addressed to:
16 Highway street
PARK AVENUE QLD 4701



Beginners' Day CQFHA rooms

Sat 18 May
9.30am - 12pm

Members: Free

Non-members: \$30

Calling all members to come along and
socialise.

Get to know your fellow members in a
relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

At the Clubrooms, BYO

Saturday

March 16, 6 pm



Dawson Valley Land Selection - Baralaba and Kokotungo

by Gwen Petersen

Some years ago the Banana Shire Council introduced a new logo and slogan advertising Banana Shire as the *Shire of Opportunity*. What is classed as an opportunity in our times can be different to that in the past when there was certainly plenty on offer with Government land resumptions and ballots in the early 20th century. Land has never been so easy to acquire for so little cost with large swathes of resumed land being cut into smaller blocks and put up for public selection.

Newspapers throughout the country advertised *Crown Land for Selection – Perpetual Lease Prickly Pear Development Selection*, with the references being to the Dawson Valley, particularly Baralaba. Already well established as a coal-mining town on the eastern banks of the Dawson it was connected to Mt Morgan by rail in 1917, with a school, hospital, police station, hotel, general shops and an ambulance.

Now, imagine yourself back in 1934, a 28-year-old single male, working as a farm labourer at Grandchester, near Ipswich. That newspaper offer is for 24 portions in the parishes of Benleith and Fairview, sizes varying from 1600 to 2950 acres – all in the Baralaba area – resumed from the 40 square mile *Nulalbin* property. You have no idea of just where this is, but your employer is suggesting that you should *have a go* and put your name into the ballot. You fit the requirements of a *landless man* who will be able to take up immediate residence on a block if you win it.

Herbert Neville PETERSEN was that single male who found the initial £30 deposit and some bank finance for future expenses. On 4 May 1934 he won a 2,164 acre (875.74 hectares) block of land in the Parish of Benleith, County of Ferguson, Shire of Banana. The trip to Baralaba was over by Easter, 1935. His Model T Ford carried everything – overloaded



Herbert PETERSEN's Model T Ford

stretcher bed, sheets of corrugated iron and hessian bags, fruit cakes and jams. However it would be weeks before he could actually set foot on Portion 133 – *Woodlands*.

Camping near the Dawson River, he found his neighbour on block 134 who helped him locate the corner of his own land. From there he spent many days clearing trees and thick scrub, cutting a track then a living space. Unless it rained and the creek ran, water was carted from the river, three miles away. Meat was in abundance, with scrub turkeys, wallabies and *scrubber* cattle there for the taking.

With time his camp became a *humpy* using the sheets of iron and bags for walls. More time and hard work with axe and brush hook had his first 25 to 30 acres cleared then burnt in readiness for planting cotton seed in the ashes. This determination to succeed left few opportunities for a social life, but he met his future wife, Edna BRYSON, at a Baralaba dance.

All Benleith scrub blocks were eventually occupied, with owners having the same problems as Herb, needing to cut their way through that Benleith scrub to set up a living area. Most of them followed his pattern of cotton growing for a quick return, then dairying and pig farming, with some beef cattle increasing hard-won income.

Portion Number 27 of the Fairview ballot was won by Englishman, Frederick MOTT, a banana grower in northern New South Wales who seized the opportunity to own more land. His youth was spent crewing on ships between England and Australia, before settling in Australia in 1925, aged about 20. He appears to have been successful despite the fact that he already owned that banana farm. Other balloted blocks were won by wives and family members of those already owning local properties.

Fred remained single, supplementing his meagre farming efforts with work as the local mail delivery man, and cutting roadside grass for bagging and selling. Baralaba locals remember him as a strange but harmless eccentric, selling his block to live in Baralaba in seeming poverty until his death in 1968. Later information from relatives in England proved him to be a millionaire without a will!

Over at Kokotungo, a small siding on the Dawson Valley Railway line from Rannes to Baralaba, more land was advertised as being part of 98,000 acres of reclaimed prickly pear country. 32 portions were to extend 10 miles south and 18 miles north of the railway line, with applications opening on 4 Jan 1935. The size of each portion varied from 1910 to 3640 acres, advertised as being suitable for dairying

and grazing. As an added incentive to populating the area, there was to be a town of Kokotungo with blocks put up for auction on 4 Dec 1936.

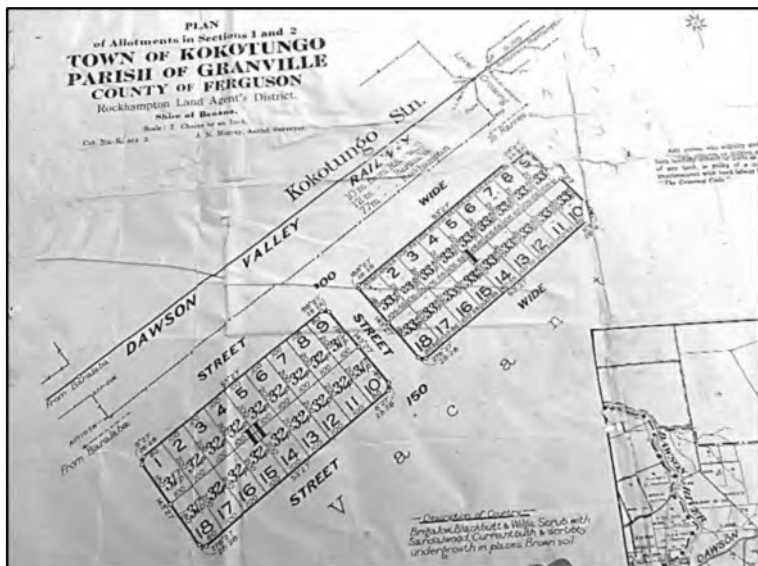
For young father of two children, Leslie MAJOR, managing a store in Boggabri, New South Wales, this looked like that chance of a lifetime. His wife, Gladys (nee LENNOX), was not so sure. In July 1935 notification came that he had won Portion 23 (3,578 acres) in the Parish of Olinda. Conforming with conditions of his win, he moved to *The Brigalows*. In 1937 his family followed, making the three-day shift from their comfortable home and family support in Boggabri to live in a tin shed in scrub country with a four-mile frontage to the Don River. But not for long, as Les had the finances to build a home and dairy – unlike many of the other selectors who lived for years in shacks with dirt floors and walls of either bark, bags, slabs or corrugated iron.



Cotton picking

The town of Kokotungo was already in the making when the first settlers arrived to take up their blocks. The railway siding and its regular coal and goods trains gave that much-needed connection to the outside world, a better option than the roads which were often nothing more than two-wheeled tracks. This particular little town helped counter the isolation and rawness of those properties in a way that established towns like Baralaba didn't. A mixed bag of people took the opportunity to create a community which met for dances in a family shed until sufficient funds were raised to build a hall. By 1940 the hall had been joined by a new building for the Post Office, a high-blocked school, a garage, CWA rooms, a general store, and a butcher shop. Tennis and cricket clubs were formed and Sports' Days held, encouraging visitors from other areas. A former resident's memories:

Saturdays in Kokotungo were busy. Mail would be collected and the 'down' train met. Oftentimes there would be a long wait till the train eventually arrived. The waiting time provided a great opportunity for a yarn. Yarns were a very important part of our lives. Saturday morning was a good time for the many different meetings, and getting the hall ready for any functions.



Kokotungo

Land in the outer reaches of Baralaba was still being put up for selection in the 1950s and 1960s. Similar areas were being opened up in other parts of the Banana Shire.

For an outlay as low as £1000, men like Colin WRIGHT, from Dubbo in New South Wales, again took the opportunity and ran with it. In October 1961 he took ownership of a 4,500 acre property – one half of the 9,000 acres resumed from *Wandoo* – Portion number 45, Parish of Fairview, which he named *Orana*. Complete with a tractor, utility, caravan and dog he started out with more than Herb PETERSEN had in 1935 but with similar problems of clearing and using land to make a living. He married Elinor REMFREY in 1963.

Coincidentally, Elinor was the daughter of a Benleith Scrub owner of Portion number 131, Harry REMFREY who with his brother, George, had purchased the property they named *Rembros*. The original selector sold for little profit after two years and left disenchanted and unwell. He had established only a small shed, yards and a dam after clearing very little of that thick scrub, so the REMFREYS moved onto a block only slightly changed from its original state.

Opportunities were wonderful in those years – we may never again see Governments behaving like Robin Hood and gifting land – but the effort needed to retain the properties often meant huge sacrific-

es for the people involved. Not everyone managed to survive the conditions and isolation, but the majority did. Those original selections have changed owners and been repurposed over the past 80 years; dairying, cotton and grain growing have generally given way to beef cattle production. Sadly, the little town of Kokotungo has not lasted into the 21st century and has now only a couple of road signs to indicate its position on the highway.



My Grandmother’s Calendar

by Linda Marshall

The treasures you have from the past can give you an insight into what was happening around your family in that period of time. I have a 1914 calendar from the company of Ruhno & Maher who had a business in Rosewood. The family story I was told was that my paternal grandmother worked there for a time. Her name was Florabel KEATES and she had grown up on a farm at Tallegalla, close to Rosewood.

The owners of the business on the calendar were William Frederick RUHNO, and E A MAHER. They ran a general store. Mr RUHNO had German/Danish heritage and had grown up in Dalby. His career in the business started as a manager for the former owner, Mr J L FREDERICH, first in his Marburg store, then moving possibly in 1888 to manage the Rosewood store.

William married Miss Euphemia GRAY in 1889, in Rosewood. My great grandparents, George and Emily KEATES had married in 1883 settling in the Rosewood area, near Emily's uncle, Richard EMBREY.

Emily had emigrated by herself a couple of years earlier, I suspect to escape a rather harsh stepmother. Possibly when she arrived she went to stay with her maternal uncle. Her uncle had emigrated in 1849 and had raised his family in Rosewood. By 1889 the KEATES first three children had arrived. My grandmother was the fourth, arriving the next year, 1890. My great grandparents in all likelihood shopped in Mr FREDERICH's store.

William RUHNO managed the store until 1907, when he bought the store from Mr FREDERICH. At some point in the next few years, he took E A MAHER on as a partner. Maybe he wanted to expand the business, so needed extra capital. This partnership lasted for about 10 years, being dissolved in 1922. Therefore it was somewhere in this timeline that my grandmother worked in the store. My grandmother had trained as a nurse at the Goodna Hospital, so I am not sure of the circumstances surrounding her working in the store. Her father had died in 1912 and she had a brother in a wheelchair (a childhood accident), so maybe she was recalled home to help out. It would be another three years before she married my grandfather, and came to live in Central Queensland. I presume being an employee she was given the calendar to take home.

Meanwhile William RUHNO worked hard for the citizens of Rosewood. He was involved with many community organisations and the Anglican Church, as well as keeping his business relevant to the needs of the community. He was also well travelled, going on several overseas trips. My great grandmother, Emily KEATES passed away in 1930, however four of her children remained living in the Rosewood area. William died 8 years later in 1938 at the age of 71 years.



My Grandmother's Calendar

Scouting History of Seeonee Park Search

by Emily & Len Hill

We are looking for information on Seeonee Park. The park belongs to Scouts - Central Queensland District. The location of the park is on the Rockhampton - Yeppoon Road and is shown on the map below.

We believe it was gifted to the Scouts by a Mr RUDD who lived across the road.

We know the park was owned by the Scouts in 1939. During World War 1 it is known the area was used as a training camp for American soldiers. Some improvements were made to Seeonee Park by these soldiers.

We are also looking for past scout groups and memorabilia such as photos and badges for a museum we are trying to set up at Seeonee Park.

Material collected may be dropped off at our house, or we could pick it up. We prefer if we could leave items with you after being placed in the catalogue. All items can be returned if you want.

We are cleaning and sorting items which can be taken to the Brown Hut. We are looking to get a grant to build a smaller hut near Yeppoon Road, making it more accessible. We would only open one day a month or anytime there is a camp. We need people to assist. You would need to join as an adult member and have a blue card and there is no expense.

Anyone who has any information could you please phone Emily or Len Hill on 49271429 or email patricia.hill888@bigpond.com



Address: 399 Yeppoon Rd, Limestone Creek QLD 4701

***Location of Seeonee Park on the
Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road***



Neerkol Stories

by Kay Page

WHERRY - Samuel, Charles and Mary

Samuel William WHERRY was born in the Devon/Cornwall area of England around 1860 to parents William WHERRY and Charity BENNETTS. He was an assisted immigrant who arrived in Rockhampton aboard the *Northern Monarch* on 4 Mar 1884. Samuel's occupation was a miner.

His future wife, Sarah NOONE born in 1863 at Castlereagh, Roscommon, Ireland came out on the *Nowshera* which had arrived earlier on 14 Sep 1883. Her parents were James NOONE and Mary WILSON. The couple were married on 18 Jul 1885.

In 1886 their first child William James was born. Subsequently, the three children who were to spend a short time in Neerkol were born: Samuel Patrick b 14 Mar 1888, Charles b 17 Apr 1890 and Mary Ellen b 14 Apr 1893. Francis who was born on 16 Oct 1892 died on 27 Aug 1893. Samuel and Sarah went on to have a further two children – Jane b 12 Dec 1897 in Mt Morgan and Hugh b 10 Jul 1900.

In Oct 1892 a Mrs HANNEN was charged with assaulting Sarah WHERRY who was at the time living in Lower Dawson Rd, Rockhampton and the two were acquainted with each other. Sarah was following Mrs HANNEN's son to pay him out for hitting her in the morning. Mrs HANNEN then beat Sarah until a Chinaman doctor stopped her.

Later in Dec 1892 Samuel reported finding payable alluvial gold near Mt Wheeler, Cawarral goldfield. Twelve claims had already been pegged out. The dirt went from 2dwts to 3dwts to a cradle of eight buckets.

Sarah came before the courts again in 1896 where she was arrested for drunkenness and was fined £1 or fourteen days. That did not appear to be a deterrent to mend her wayward lifestyle.

In September of 1896 it was reported in the 'Morning Bulletin': Minnie CARLIN and Sarah WHERRY were escorted by Constable LYONS from Mount Morgan, having each been sentenced to two months' imprisonment in Rockhampton gaol for larceny at that

place. This left a dilemma of what to do with their children now aged 10, 8, 6 and 3 years. Samuel still had to earn a living to support his growing family.

The only recourse seemed to be to take them to Neerkol. The notes on the file indicated that: Mother in gaol, father unable to look after. Samuel was to pay 15/- for the children's upkeep while they were staying at Neerkol.

The 'Return of Prisoners to be Discharged from Her Majesty's Prison, Rockhampton' gives a very good physical description of Sarah after her one month's hard labour time in jail. Born in Ireland, aged 32 years. Height 5 ft 11/4in, stout, fresh complexion, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. Vaccination mark on right arm.

It doesn't sound as if life was very happy in the WHERRY household. The children were returned to father Samuel when Sarah was released from gaol.

Samuel Patrick appears to have followed in the footsteps of his mother. He married Ada Windebank MORGAN on 3 Apr 1909. Their first child Thelma Mary was born on 9 Mar 1909 in Mt Morgan and died on 28 Sep of the same year. William Samuel Christopher came along on 11 Sep 1910, Violet May 12 Nov 1912 and Charles Jabeth Kitchener was born on 3 Feb 1916. Samuel Patrick served in World War I where his record shows that he was not a model soldier.

Samuel Patrick appears to have got a little carried away with celebrating the King's birthday in 1926.



Trove article - Samuel Patrick WHERRY

By 1933 he had amassed 31 convictions and forfeited bail. Because Samuel Patrick spent time in jail for non-payment of maintenance, there is a physical description of him.

In 1930, £116/5/7 would have been a huge sum of money. It seems his choice was to not assist financially from 1921 in the bringing up of his family.

In 1930 at the age of 45 Samuel Patrick was 5ft 5in tall, stout, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes and 10st. He had a flesh wart on his right upper arm and a scar just above the ankle on his left leg. His sentence was 6 months.

Samuel Patrick died on 25 Jun 1966 in Rockhampton and is buried in the North Rockhampton Cemetery.



Samuel Patrick WHERRY's headstone at the North Rockhampton Cemetery

Charles also fought in the war and was injured in France by a gunshot wound to the forearm. He spent 12 days in Dartford Hospital.



Charles WHERRY

Charles also managed to incur a charge of drunkenness against him while he was on leave in England. He was also charged with “using insubordinate language to an officer whilst in the execution of his duty, conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, refusing to obey an order of N.C.O., striking an N.C.O. in the execution of his duty.” Charles was 5ft 9in, 12st, dark complexion, grey eyes and had dark hair. His occupation was a labourer.

On 11 Mar 1927 he married Ivy Maud McCOLL. Their daughter Sylvia Maud was born on 22 Apr 1928 in Charters Towers but only lived for an hour. The couple were divorced in 1945.

Mary Ellen married a butcher, Hunter FINLAY, on 13 Jan 1912 and went on to have 4 boys and 3 girls. The couple lived in Kelly's Paddock, William St, Mt Morgan in 1915/17.

They then moved to James St, Mt Morgan around 1921. Hunter served in Egypt in WWI where he was dangerously ill with pneumonia towards the end of 1917. In 1918 he was medically discharged after a gunshot wound to the knee.

Their third child, Allan **Kyle** was born in Ayr in 1929. The family moved to Brisbane after 1936.

Mary died in Brisbane on 6 Jan 1964 and is buried in the South Brisbane Cemetery at Dutton Park.



Hunter & Mary Ellen FINLAY



*Mary Ellen FINLAY's
headstone at South
Brisbane Cemetery*

Sources: Qld bdm, Neerkol admission records 1885-1909, Ancestry, FindaGrave, Mt Morgan burial register, Fold3, NAA, Trove.

Irishman Becomes Aussie Legend

by Jeanette Finlayson

The theme for this journal is “Heirlooms”, but as I am not fortunate enough to have any worthwhile heirlooms, I have decided to write about someone I consider to be quite a remarkable character who is worthy of being remembered as a great Australian pioneer. His name is Samuel McCAUGHEY. Unfortunately I can’t claim him as a relative but I do have a very, very slight connection to him. He is a cousin of Hugh McCAUGHEY who married Margaretta JOHNSTON. Margaretta just happens to be my 1st cousin twice removed!

Both Samuel and Hugh were born in the Ballymena area of County Antrim, Ireland. Samuel was born in 1835 and Hugh was born in 1844. They probably didn’t have a great deal to do with each other, as Samuel arrived in Australia in 1856 when he was not quite 21 years old, and Hugh was only 11 and remained in Ballymena all his life.

Samuel’s father was Francis McCAUGHEY, listed as farmer and merchant, and his mother was Eliza WILSON. According to family stories, Samuel was persuaded by his Uncle, Charles WILSON, to come to Australia to try his luck at finding a good future for himself. His strict upbringing in the Presbyterian Church always had a strong influence on his life, also.

He arrived in Melbourne on the *Chamira* in 1856, and to save money, it is recorded that he walked 200 miles to his Uncle Charles WILSON’s property near Horsham. Obviously he didn’t bring a great deal of luggage with him, certainly not family heirlooms. His first job was general station hand but it didn’t take him long to make good progress. With the help of his relatives and sheer hard work and drive to succeed, he soon became a very wealthy land owner. He became heavily involved in sheep breeding, and spared no expense in using methods to improve the quality of his animals and his wool production. By 1883 “Coonong Stud” was known as one of the best in the Riverina, and for many years Samuel was vice president of NSW Sheep Breeder’s Association.

As an added bonus, Samuel had a flair for mechanical appliances, and even though he employed several blacksmiths, he did a lot of experimental work himself, and designed and improved many farm implements. In NSW he pioneered the use of heavy machinery for ploughing and soil excavation. He ended up owning many properties but made “Coonong” his home, and in 1876 he built a large homestead

with a garden and lake. It seems a shame that he didn't marry to share all this beauty with a wife and family of his own. What a catch he would have been for some lucky woman! One report said that his genial Irish humour and kindness won him many willing workmates and friends but I haven't yet found any records of lovers.

Another of the things that Samuel should be remembered for is that he was one of the first in Australia to see the advantages of water conservation and irrigation. He brought out Irish labourers who apparently didn't mind wet and boggy conditions. In 1900 he bought "North Yanco" where he and his Irish labourers constructed a complex irrigation system with 200 miles of channels and used two steam engines to pump water from the Murrumbidgee River. It has been said this activity was responsible for galvanising the Government into action to build the Burrinjuck Dam. The Dam was completed in 1927. On 6 April 2013, a statue was dedicated to Samuel McCAUGHEY in Leeton, for his work with irrigation, naming him "The Father of Irrigation". He was knighted in 1905 for his services to the community, so he became "Sir Samuel McCAUGHEY".

However, it hadn't all been plain sailing for Samuel McCAUGHEY. In 1898, he and his brother were sued in the Supreme Court by six downstream graziers. In the Case, Blackwood V McCaughey, the Jury awarded £2,000 damages to the plaintiff and limited the height of the dams. There were several other Court Cases which did not go in the McCAUGHEY favour and Samuel paid out at least £17,000 in Legal costs.

Thankfully Samuel McCAUGHEY and his rel-



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16974

Sir Samuel McCAUGHEY

atives accumulated great wealth through their successful farming ventures, and the buying and selling of properties. Samuel was known as a great philanthropist, always ready to help people in trouble on the land, and supporting charities such as Red Cross and Dr Bernardo's Homes for children.

When he died in July 1919 his probate was given as £1,600,000. Many organisations benefitted from his bequests. He left £10,000 to increase the stipends of Presbyterian clergy, £20,000 to Burnside Orphan Homes in Parramatta, £20,000 to Scot's College in Sydney to name a few. Half the residue of his estate went to the Universities of Sydney and Queensland; the other half went to relief of Members of Australian Military and Naval Expeditionary Forces and their widows and children.

On Wed, 6 Aug 1919 the following notice appeared in "The Northern Star", Lismore :-

LATE SIR SAMUEL MCCAUGHEY

Sydney, Monday – A Service in Memoriam of the late Sir Samuel McCaughey, held in St Stephen's Presbyterian Church yesterday, was crowded. The Congregation included the Governor-General (Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson) and representative citizens. Professor McIntyre said that the late Sir Samuel was one of the really great pioneers of Australia, and his name would go down to many generations associated with all that made for the relief of suffering and culture of mind and spirit.

Remember - Members' Interests

We have a very useful resource available to us on our website. All members are able to list their areas of research, which are in turn available for other researchers to, hopefully, find some common names.

You will find this resource in the members' area of the website, www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au on the left hand side of the page under: **"Members' Interests"**

The Secret Wedding

by Sharon Parkinson

It is June 1963. Mum is making me this really special royal blue satin dress, one like I have never had before. It is gathered at the waist, has a beautiful lace collar and swings when I swirl around. We go to Mathers and mum buys me a new pair of patent leather shoes. Then we head back to Myer for new socks trimmed with lace and a ring of pink roses for my hair. What's going on? Why these special new clothes?

Then I remember all the secrecy going on at home. Helen's bedroom is out of bounds to me. Why? That is where I sleep – we share the room. The door stays firmly shut.

Being the annoying little sister though, I stand in the hall, right outside the door. Maybe, just maybe when the door opens, I will see what is happening in there.

I've spotted something, yes, it looks like a wedding dress. It is white, there is tulle. My heart beats faster. Thoughts are running around in my head wildly. *Am I going to be a junior bridesmaid? Is that why I have new clothes? Is my sister really getting married? But why hasn't anyone told me?*

Saturday arrives. My thoughts are confirmed. I'm excited. Helen is getting married. I'm getting a brother-in-law – this afternoon!

We arrive at the chapel. I look at mum, she is crying. Why is she being so emotional at such a happy time? Helen looks radiant, she is happy, she is in love, she isn't crying.



(Oral history as seen and observed by me, an 8-year-old, at the time)

Publications for Sale

Prices are current as of this journal, but are subject to change without notice. No GST charged.

CQ Family History Association Inc.
16 Highway Street, Park Avenue Qld 4701
Email: treasurer@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

USBs - CDs - DVDs

Plus Postage - CD/DVD/USB Mailer

North & South Rockhampton Cemetery Headstone Photographs Over 11,000 photographs	(USB)	\$ 100
Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Weekly Returns May 1885 - January 1907	(CD)	\$ 50
Gogango Divisional Board - precursor to Livingstone S.C. Rates & Valuation Books 1880-1903 (index only) Plus Postage	(CD)	\$ 45
Burials Rockhampton Cemetery (Southside) by N. Woodhouse	(CD)	\$ 25
Headstone Photographs - 18 Cemeteries of North Qld	(DVD)	\$ 35
Miriam Vale & Bororen Cemetery	(CD)	\$ 10
South Burnett Cemetery Headstones	(DVD)	\$ 50
Bits & Pieces - Collection of mixed articles - Early CQ Newspapers Set of 5 Volumes (1 to 5)	(DVD)	\$ 100
Index to Historical Records of Rockhampton, Yeppoon & Mount Morgan Fire Brigades	(CD)	\$ 45
Mixed Indexes (continually updated)	(CD)	\$ 15
1. Rockhampton Fire Brigade Scrapbook		
2. CQ Newspaper Scrapbook		
3. Morning Bulletin - Births, Marriage, Deaths, Funeral Notices & In Memoriam.		

Order from <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>

BOOKS
Plus Postage

Rockhampton Crematorium Index 1948 - 1992 Vol 1 A-K, Vol 2 L-Z	(550g)	\$ 25
Headstone Inscriptions North Rockhampton Cemetery 2 Volumes	(1.5kg)	\$ 50
Collinsville Cemetery Burial Register Index	(90g)	\$ 15
Yeppoon and Emu Park Cemetery Index Part A Yeppoon 1882-2010, Part B Emu Park 1885-2012	(195g)	\$ 20
Bowen Cemetery Burial Index 1861 to 2005	(400g)	\$ 20
Proserpine Burials and Cremations	(200g)	\$ 20
Battlers Tales of Early Rockhampton by J. Grant Pattison	(250g)	\$ 15
On The Track by J. Grant Pattison	(700g)	\$ 25
Rockhampton in the Early Days by Fitzroy	(650g)	\$ 30
Reminiscences of Queensland 1862 - 1899 by W.H. Corfield	(300g)	\$ 25
The Rainbow Trail by Charles Grover	(1 kg)	\$ 30
The Development of Rockhampton & District by A.E.Hermann	(1.5kg)	\$ 40
The Rockhampton Fire Brigade –Their Fiery Past	(600g)	\$ 25
Central Qld Pioneer Register Set of 2 Volumes	(1.5kg)	\$ 60
Shipping - Index to Assisted Immigrants arriving Moreton Bay Qld.		
Period 1848-1859	(300g)	\$ 23
Period 1860-1869	(600g)	\$ 30
Period 1870-1879 (2 Volumes)	(1kg)	\$ 40
Period 1880-1899 (4 Volumes)	(2.5kg)	\$ 80
Full Set 1848-1899 (8 Volumes)	(5.3kg)	\$170
Bits & Pieces - Collection of mixed articles in Early CQ Newspapers		
Single Volume (1 to 10)	(700g)	\$ 30
Set of 5 Volumes (1 to 5, or 6 to 10)	(3kg / set)	\$100
Set of 10 Volumes (1 to 10)	(5kg / set)	\$200

BOOKS (Continued)

Index to Non Europeans in Queensland	(500g)	\$ 10
History of Rockhampton Orphanage (Birralee) 1866-1985	(30g)	\$ 10
The Great War-Stories from Home and Abroad	(1kg)	\$ 15
Mt Morgan & District School Admissions	(390g)	\$ 25

OTHER BOOKS

Published by members, covering the Rockhampton District -
available through our Association, all are plus postage.

By Any Criterion by Robert I J McFarlane	(2kg)	\$ 55
The McLaughlins by Tom McLaughlin Hard cover, A4, 353 pages (Only one copy of this book is remaining, then out of stock.)	(2.7kg)	\$ 65
The 1862 Voyage of the ship, Utopia to Queensland by Sylvia A.Conaghan & Nola Tom	(650g)	\$ 30

To purchase our publications you can come and visit us during opening hours at the clubrooms. Our opening hours and address are listed on the inside front cover of this journal. We accept the following payment types:

- Cash
- Cheque

OR

Order online:

Go to our website at <http://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>, and follow the directions. The online payments types we accept are:

- Direct Bank Transfer

MICROFICHE

Postage of microfiche included

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Weekly Return

Period: May 1885 - December 1900

5 fiche \$ 30

Period: January 1901 - 1907

3 fiche \$ 20

Index to Unclaimed Letters in Central Qld District

December 1864 - December 1869

3 fiche \$ 18

Index Deaths/Funerals/Cremations from Rockhampton

Morning Bulletin 1988 - 1997

2 fiche \$ 12

Headstone Inscriptions Nth Rockhampton Cemetery

5 fiche \$ 30

North Rockhampton Cemetery Burial Records

March 1879 - January 1998

5 fiche \$ 30

Headstone Inscriptions North Rockhampton

Cemetery and Burials North Rockhampton Cemetery

10 fiche \$ 55

***Featured
Publication***

\$100

***North & South
Rockhampton
Cemetery
Headstone
Photographs***

Over 11,000 photos

available on USB

Order from <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>

Heirlooms - Canteen of Cutlery

by Narelle Fraser

The heirloom we have in our home is a side table, full of cutlery. This came to us after the death of my mother-in-law, Joan TERRY.

Joan TERRY was born in 1934 in Merryland's, Sydney. Upon reaching the age of 21, in the year 1955, her mother, Myrtle May SHAW, gave her the canteen of cutlery as a gift. Over the years, she married and moved homes but the side table, canteen of cutlery came with her.

We inherited the side table with its canteen of cutlery. This needed a repair, as one leg was coming off and it needed a makeover, to give life to the table, a polish of the cutlery and a vacuum out of the case was required.

One of our friends offered to restore the table and repair it. We polished the cutlery and the below pictures are the finished product.



It now is a lovely piece of furniture to display.

The Wedding Present

by Sharon Parkinson

William (Bill as everyone called him) McLintock MILLER, had left his hometown of Rupanyup, Victoria to travel the world. However, he only got as far as Blackall in Queensland and fell in love with a golden haired nurse, Doris.

His love was reciprocated and on Thursday, 30 Nov 1916, Bill married Doris Emily PETTIT. The family story is that their marriage was a quiet affair. The ceremony was at the Manse, Bolsover Street, Rockhampton and here the pair exchanged their vows in front of the Presbyterian minister, James WALKER. The two witnesses were Alexander DUFF and Elizabeth Ann Richardson WALKER who, I presume, was the minister's wife. Were there any family members present? No-one knows.

Rev. James WALKER, the officiating minister, was the minister at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Bolsover Street. His pastorate in Rockhampton extended over six years, from 1914 to the latter part of 1919.

Rev. Alexander DUFF, one of the witnesses, was the assistant minister in 1916, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Why am I writing about Bill and Doris? They were my maternal grandparents. Bill was born in 1890 in the farming district of Rupanyup, Victoria, to William Eaton MILLER (1855-1934) and Jean Gillies nee McLINTOCK (1862-1904). Doris was born in Duckenfield NSW, to Robert Irwin PETTIT (1868-1943) and Emily Jane GUNTHORPE (1865-1957).

Grandma had a cabinet in which her "pretty" things were displayed. One of those "pretty" things was a very beautiful blue, hand blown glass jug and six matching glasses, a water set which she told me was given to her at the time of her marriage. By whom? I have no idea.

The glasses and the jug have dainty pink flowers painted on them and each little painted flower is unique (pictured on page 23). I used to look at these each time I would visit. I remember saying to grandma one day when I was still quite young, "Grandma, when you die, who is going to have that beautiful jug and glasses?" At that point she didn't plan on going anywhere for quite sometime and didn't until she was 96. When I was about 18, she gave me this water set and was I thrilled.

It travelled with me each time we moved inter and intrastate, staying well packed in a box until a couple of years ago. I then acquired a display cabinet and today it takes pride of place and each evening when I sit on the lounge I look at it and am quietly grateful to grandma for entrusting me to the care of this water set which is now definitely an heirloom. I tell my grandchildren where it came from and I hope that one day one of them will treasure it as I do.



Handblown jug & glasses set

You might be missing out!

If you are a member and we don't have an email address for you, then you may not be getting all the goodies.

If you aren't getting:

"CQFHA: Alerts & Updates" every Friday at 5:30pm

and

"CQFHA: It's Backup Day" on the 1st of every month

then you aren't getting the most from your association.

Email: web@cqfamilyhistory.org.au with your name and you will be added..

Also, a reminder that there are 100s of free resources on the 'Members' Only' section of our website.

Tracking the Rockhampton Joss - A Journey!

by Dorothy Khoo

Since 1981, when my husband Paul became involved with the Rockhampton Chinese Association (RCA), I have always wondered how the Joss in the Rockhampton Chinese Association Hall and Temple arrived in Australia and who brought it here. Such a beautifully carved piece of work was obviously not done locally and as time went by, I became intrigued by its background. Although I had collected stories about the Joss from the elders of the RCA, it became apparent that the collective memory may have been a little unsure about its origins and its journey to the current location.

Funerary records and memoirs of the early Temple Society (the Hung Sarn Tong) were lost over time and the RCA meeting notes only date from the 1980s. Some histories from the stories passed down by word of mouth were published within the community but no mention was made of the Joss's beginnings and who had brought it to Australia. Notes written by two of the past Elders have indicated that there was a temple on Canoona Road in the early settlement days of Rockhampton. It will be an interesting path to follow up in the future. A temple was built in the late 1800s on the land leased by Mr SUE YEK. In 1900, it was reported in a newspaper that a procession was held by the Chinese community parading a deity to rid the town of plague, and a temple may have been the meeting place for the community to discuss such action.

Between 1901 to 1902, during China's Qing Dynasty, the ornate Joss was imported into Australia from Canton and installed at the Pink Lily temple. Names of the donors were written in Chinese characters on the Joss.

The actual location of the temple at Pink Lily was difficult to trace. This year, 2023, I began the search for the documentation of the Joss and Temple sites in earnest!

This journey began by looking for the original site at Pink Lily. A photo given to the Rockhampton and District Historical Society by Erica KNOX, is of her father William GOLTZ which shows him sitting on the verandah of the original temple at Pink Lily (pictured on page 25). However, no one in the Chinese community was sure exactly where the building stood.

Marilyn Sue DOOLEY had found that Mr SUE YEK had leased land at Pink Lily, somewhere around the Lotus Lagoon. A

Google Earth search revealed very little in the way of a remaining structure so the next step was taken in May to look at the old maps held at the Rockhampton Regional Council Library History Centre.

These maps were certainly helpful to a point but it soon became obvious that further investigation would be needed to find exactly where SUE YEK was leasing or owning the land. In July, a visit by Marilyn Sue DOOLEY to Ray YOUNG was recorded and transcribed, as he detailed his father's life and his business in Rockhampton. This provided some insight into the location. Searching on the National Library of Australia site, Trove, there were newspaper reports of the temple, referred to as the Joss, in 1930 after a theft occurred.

A visit to Pink Lily to see Pat PEACH and Kev TEAL who grew up in the area and whose parents were in contact or worked with the local Chinese on farms, revealed a history of a considerable number of Chinese market gardens in the area. This population of gardeners and hawkers would have found the Temple in a very convenient location! Although they knew of the site, finding the exact location proved difficult as roads had changed and new bridges were built in the meantime.

A visit to the Queensland State Archives showed SUE YEK's name for several properties around the Rockhampton district and neighbouring shires, but no enlightenment regarding the exact Pink Lily site. The Gogango Divisional Board Rates Book (1882 to 1888) has SUE YEK's reserved land recorded as "not rateable" but no specific lot number was given. In 1909 in the Fitzroy Rates Book, two properties were listed for SUE YEK at Karkol and one being at Lion Creek. No lot number was given for the Lion Creek entry.

Returning to the local library to pinpoint the exact spot on the map proved a challenge until, with a few plot numbers in hand, a search was made in the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, (MoLMaS) a treasure trove of maps and titles, suggested by Kevin ROOTS.



Eric GOLTZ as a very young man on the verandah of the temple at Pink Lily, holding a plaque, which has since disappeared.

Eric wears a cymbal on his head that is in the current temple.

Title searches of the area were made and purchased from the MoLMaS in an attempt to find SUE YEK's parcel of land at Lion Creek to no avail.

A visit to the CQFHA on 10th October and signing in as a new member proved to be an invaluable resource. Some screen shots were taken after finding SUE YEK's name in the Gogango Divisional Board (GDB) valuations register. Information from newspaper items on Trove was also revealed regarding a Council meeting recording permission given and the many objections for SUE YEK to continue at Pink Lily (The Morning Bulletin, 3 Sep 1884, page 5). These objections continued for SUE YEK up until 1908, (The Morning Bulletin, 9 Sep 1908) when the land was offered at auction by the government and SUE YEK was not to receive priority over others for the land.

Marilyn Sue DOOLEY had also found information that the land was leased to Mr SUE YEK by the Queensland Government from 1884 to 1907.

When a journalist from The Morning Bulletin visited the Temple after a Joss Stand was stolen in a forced entrance at the temple in March 1930, he kindly gave directions as to how to reach the location. He advised that the Temple was 150 yards from the Pink Lily road. The next journalist to attend the site wrote in TMB, 22 Mar 1930, advising that it was *"something over a mile from the Wandal tram terminus, and is situated on a field near Lion Creek Road."*

This meant the next resource to investigate was the Purrey Steam Tram online archive researched kindly by Jamie HIBBERD (CQFHA). According to the maps held at the RRC library and the Online Purrey Tram Line Archive, there was a terminus next to a park on Wandal Road near Bracher and Naughton Streets. This information was passed on to the Map Museum again!

A quick trip was taken to Pink Lily at the end of October with Kevin ROOTS, husband of the RCA president, LI TAN, to uncover the remains of one of the old bridges that crossed Lion Creek before the present bridge was constructed. As there were private residences surrounding the area, it wasn't possible to explore further without permission from the tenants.

In the meantime, Jamie HIBBERD did a thorough search for more information and discovered on the Trove site, (The Morning Bulletin, 26 Mar 1930, page 7) a photo and description of the Pink Lily temple. It was a great find as the article had a misleading heading for curing back pain!

A former Pink Lily resident's surname was WUST, Jamie HIBBERD thoughtfully contacted CQFHA member Mavis WUST, whose husband Les WUST agreed to take an excursion to the area to try and uncover the site.

Les and Mavis WUST then arrived on 2 Nov 2023 to take a trip to Pink Lily where we found, after speaking to a resident outside a shed fixing a motor, that he knew of the site and called up the current land owner to admit us onto his property.

The landowner was very pleasant and recalled that when he bought the property, which is exactly beside the Lotus Lagoon, he recalled seeing the stumps of the building and knew it to be the remains of the temple. He showed us where he had built up the land with more fill soil so as to prevent flooding of his sheds that stood partly over the temple site. Now, no remains of the stumps can be seen but part of the old fence that was at the back of the Temple is still in place.

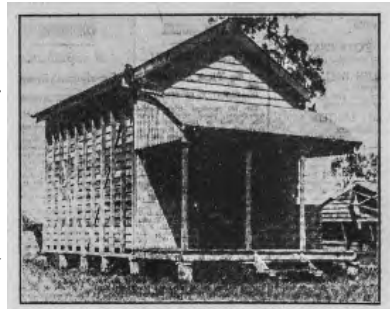


Photo of the Temple/ Joss at Pink Lily. The old fence at the rear of the hall still stands.



One of the many maps found to pinpoint the location of the temple at Pink Lily. This survey map has the temple clearly marked "Joss", and was available from the Museum of Maps, Lands and Surveying.

As we now had the exact location, it was a simple matter to ask the Museum of Land Mapping and Surveying on a visit to Brisbane to find the title holder in 1900 by showing them the exact site! The Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying found survey maps from 1907, with the word "Joss" clearly depicted in a garden and also recording that DWYER was now the owner of land beside the temple. At the Queensland State Archives, the Fitzroy Divisional Board rates book 1900, there is an entry for SUE YEK simply recorded as Lion Creek but the lot number is absent.

The Move to Rockhampton.

The Morning Bulletin, Sat, 4 Dec 1937, page 1 – *William YOUNG appeared before the Court with an application as trustee for the Chinese residents of Rockhampton, for the lease improvements by SUE YEK, formerly of Rockhampton, merchant, late of China deceased. The court vested William YOUNG, Ray YOUNG's father, with the proceeds arising from the conversion of the improvements made on the property. The land had been resumed by the Crown and taken by a new lessee.*

Sometime between 1930 and 1937, the Joss was moved into Rockhampton to a building erected on a vacant block of land in Alma Lane, near William YOUNG's business, trading as SUN TAI HOP, HOI KEE. Ray YOUNG remembers the temple from his childhood and found a little information in his father's documents. Unfortunately, these documents have been scrapped.

The site is now occupied by wheelie bins from a neighbouring business, but originally, homes and gardens occupied the larger area as well as several small businesses. In Ray YOUNG's photo album, a procession of the Chinese community in Alma Lane on decorated "floats" is celebrating an occasion which may have been a Victory parade at the end of WW2. The shed in the background in the photo, may or may not be the Temple.

A gambling den in a herbal shop operated over the lane from the temple and members would meet on Sunday afternoons to play Mah Jong, fan tan, dominoes and other Chinese games. They gave a percentage of their winnings for the maintenance of the temple. The trustees of the temple in Alma Lane at the time were Harold WONG HING, Charlie FONG and Alan BUEHOW.

Moving Again!

Early in the 1940s a decision was made to shift the temple to a different site. After deciding that a house and land next to the Dunmore Hotel in William Street was too expensive, the committee looked at land that had been purchased by the Temple Society in 1920. Land in North Rockhampton was bought on a site owned by Phillip John CODD. A market garden of two acres was situated beside a creek bed in Bedford/Bawden Streets behind the Berserker State School. There is a document of this estate transfer to Allan BUEHOW on 17 Jun 1940 which is then transferred to Trustees, Allan BUEHOW, Harold GUM SING, and George MING FONG on 6 Jul 1943.

Ray YOUNG's memoirs recall that a man called SHONG

KWONG had donated a large sum of £60 to assist with the purchase of the land and erection of a building. The community set to work to raise the funds which resulted in building a fibrolite house which eventually cost the community £450.

There was only one set of steps at the front, accessing the Joss upstairs. The Joss in the back room faced direct south. Ray YOUNG writes that upstairs was divided into two separate rooms, one in which the caretaker slept. In the evenings, he accessed this room by climbing a ladder from downstairs through a hole in the floor.



The temple at Bedford Street where now stands the Berserker State School oval. The caretaker lived downstairs.

Downstairs was his living and cooking area. He earned his income from farming the garden and with this arrangement, he paid the rates and looked after the temple.

As time went by and he grew older, various other caretakers were installed, but found it harder to make a living from the small plot and the building fell into disrepair. Small children broke into the unattended but locked premises and, using a water pipe, broke many of the delicate figures and smashed the honey-comb background of the altar.

As the rates for the land were no longer being paid and fell into arrears, the Society was faced with a new problem. It was decided to sell the land after an offer from the Queensland Department of Education, who were hoping to extend the school grounds. The land title document dated 4 Aug 1975 states that the lots were divided and were also dedicated for road purposes.

The Final Move!

Much fundraising was held to construct a new building on land close by at 152 Bedford Street, and the temple was eventually moved to a new Besser block building. The front of the building is a meeting hall facing Bedford Street, and at the back, a separate room houses the ornate Joss. Each time the Joss has been moved, the alignment has been that it faces direct south on the compass.

The Joss was moved to the current premises on 22 Jun 1977 and consecrated at midday. Harold WONG HING officially opened the building on 27 Nov 1977.

It has been my privilege to be part of the team that conserves and preserves this important artefact and part of local and national history.



The beautiful Joss/altar in the temple of Lie Sheng Gong at 152 Bedford St, Rockhampton.

My heartfelt thanks go to Marilyn Sue DOOLEY, Jamie HIBBERD (CQFHA), Ray YOUNG OAM, Kevin ROOTS, staff at the Museum of Land, Maps, and Surveying, staff at the Queensland State Archives and The State Library of Queensland, the staff of the Rockhampton Regional Council Library History Centre, and the Rockhampton and District Historical Society.

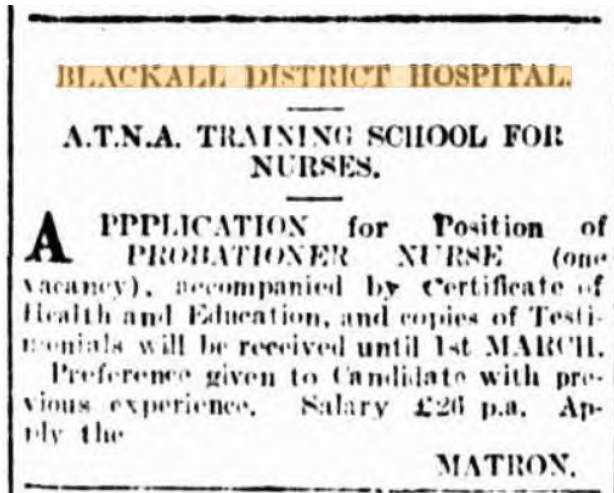
Nursing Memories

by Sharon Parkinson

The following is a piece written by my grandmother Doris PETTIT about her early nursing memories.

For me, March is always a month tinged with nostalgia. It was on March 13 in 1913, a couple of years before World War I started, that I commenced my nursing career. I have seen many aspects of nursing change in the intervening seven decades.

In answer to an advertisement in the Rockhampton Bulletin I applied for a position as a probationary nurse in the Blackall Hospital over 400 miles from my hometown.



Trove – Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld : 1878-1954) , Sat 28 Feb 1913, p.1

A telegram subsequently arrived informing me that my application had been successful.

The following is an excerpt from the monthly meeting of the Blackall Hospital in The Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton), Fri, 14 Mar 1913, page 7.

“A letter was received from Miss BURGESS tendering her resignation as probationer. Several applications for the vacant position were also received. The resignation was accepted with regret, and, after consideration Miss Doris PETTIT was appointed.”

I was agog with excitement and shed copious tears when my father said I could not go, but then, when he relented and gave permission for me to go, there were bitter, bitter tears at the thought of leaving my home and loved ones. Do young folk today feel the same sentimental attachment to their homes as we did?

Well, I eventually arrived at my destination after hours of tiring travel. No one was at the railway station to meet me of course, so I hired a horse drawn cab and was driven to the hospital which was about two miles out of town.

A wardsman carried my case to the Nurses' Quarters and later I was interviewed by the matron and told to report for duty at 6am the next day.

A word about the quarters. The building was connected to the hospital by a covered walkway and I was told that it had been, in the early stages of Queensland history, a lock hospital for aborigines. It had been used also for V.D. cases. Despite inquiries I have never been able to discover what really constituted a lock hospital. Greatly improved quarters were erected later as was a special ward for typhoid cases. The fever ward was necessitated by outbreaks of typhoid among railway construction gangs and station hands.

Next morning, punctually at 6am with other probationers, I reported for duty. After we had a cup of tea, a senior nurse showed me where to find the dishes and water jugs used when sponging patients. She escorted me to the men's medical ward and told me (with no previous tuition whatsoever) to wash an old man. I did my best. The day passed and somehow I had survived one day, anyhow.

Hours of work? We toiled from 6am till 2pm and then went off on alternate days until 5pm returning then to finish, supposedly at 8pm. Often it was later and there was no overtime pay. Some days we worked a shift straight through from 6am until 5pm. There were no days off for eighteen months. Naturally, there were tours of night duty when we often worked twelve hours straight.

Later, we were granted one half day off every week. Probationary nurses were coming and going frequently, the work was too hard, the hours too long. The salary was twenty-six pounds per year, which is equivalent to \$1.00 per week. I was the first nurse to complete her training in the Blackall Hospital.

It was not long after my arrival that I saw my first death, an experience that I found highly traumatic. A young man had been severely injured in a fall from a horse. To see him lying there, unconscious,

and his obviously pregnant wife praying and sprinkling holy water on him and round about was just too much for me emotionally. I wanted to resign immediately. The matron took me aside, counselled and talked with me and eventually I settled down and continued my training.

There were always contrasting things happening – such pathos and things in lighter vein. One night the Medical Superintendent gave these instructions by phone:

“Admit the old man I’m sending along. He’s not very sick. Give him a couple of aspirin and I’ll see him in the morning.”

When divesting the man of his coarse flannel shirt my eyes opened in astonishment when I saw some torchon lace on his shoulder. Further investigation revealed he was wearing a full set of female underwear lavishly trimmed with torchon lace. That was my first knowledge of transvestism; it certainly surprised me.

Food for the staff, and the patients, left much to be desired. Pumpkin and potatoes (occasionally beans) and mutton, mutton and mutton. It is well known that one tires of mutton more quickly than of beef but we had mutton *ad nauseam*. But Blackall is sheep country. The night nurses’ dinners were kept from the day meal, no cooking through the night, so it was usually a dried up concoction of pumpkin, potatoes, and mutton chops.

One time a Frenchman came as a locum. During his stay he advertised for some frogs – he planned to use them for skin grafting. During the day children were arriving with croaking frogs in bottles and tins and the frogs were transferred to an old tank containing water. Whether the children ever received payment for them I’ve forgotten, but the skin grafts did not eventuate for the locum left very hurriedly leaving the croaking frogs behind.

It was discovered that his certificate and diploma were forgeries. Despite that fact he performed quite an amount of surgery and not one of his cases was lost!

Later the handsome Frenchman married into a very prominent social family in one of the capital cities and finally committed suicide in a public park.

Other memories come flooding into my mind at this time of the year. I recall the heavy sound of horse drawn coaches passing the hospital before daybreak taking their passengers and mail to places across the lonely plains. I hear again the “sweet-pretty-creature” song of several little willie wagtails coming from the surrounding pepperina trees

telling us, when we were on night duty, that the long waking and working hours were almost ended and a new day was being born.

A NURSE'S APPOINTMENT.

The many friends of Miss Doris Pettit, daughter of Mr. G. Pettit, Staunton-street, Mount Morgan, will be pleased to learn of her **appointment** to the position of assistant matron at Hillcrest Private Hospital, Rockhampton. Miss Pettit was recently a charge nurse at the Blackall District Hospital.

Trove – Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld : 1878-1954) , Sat 7 Apr 1917, p.7

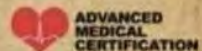


*Doris Pettit, front left
Blackall Hospital,
Qld. c. 1915*

I also found a copy of what the nursing job description in 1887 was like (read below). I think it is American but no doubt was similar here. How the duties have changed.

Nursing Job Description *from 1887*

1. Daily sweep and mop the floors of your ward, dust the patient's furniture and window sills.
2. Maintain an even temperature in your ward by bringing in a scuttle of coal for the day's business.
3. Light is important to observe the patient's condition. Therefore, each day fill kerosene lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks.
4. The nurse's notes are important in aiding your physician's work. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual taste.
5. Each nurse on day duty will report every day at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m., except on the Sabbath, on which day she will be off from 12 noon to 2 p.m.
6. Graduate nurses in good standing with the director of nurses will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if you go regularly to church.
7. Each nurse should lay aside from each payday a goodly sum of her earnings for her benefits during her declining years, so that she will not become a burden. For example, if you earn \$30 a month, you should set aside \$15.
8. Any nurse who smokes, uses liquor in any form, gets her hair done at a beauty shop or frequents dance halls will give the director of nurses good reason to suspect her worth, intentions and integrity.
9. The nurse who performs her labors & serves her patients and doctors faithfully and without fault for a period of 5 years will be given an increase by the hospital administration of 5 cents per day.



Through the Journals

by Narelle Fraser

Journal hard copies are available for loan at our clubroom. Electronic copies are available on our website in the 'Member's Only' section and also at our Clubroom on the computers in the program Calibre. All electronic journals received are listed weekly in the e-newsletter.



Below is a list of hard copy journals received since our October 2023 journal. Beneath the list are highlighted articles from some of them.

Links 'N' Chains (Liverpool GS)	No. 135, Oct 2023
Kith & Kin (Cape Banks FHS)	No. 150, Sep 2023
The Explorers' Tree (Blue Mountains FHS)	No. 122, Oct 2023

Links 'N' Chains, No. 135: *A Liverpool Enlistment*: The author of this article describes finding their Liverpool Soldier in a photograph, with someone else in it also. This discovery was while searching the net. As luck would have it there is a caption underneath from the National War Memorial and this sends the writer on a search for the history and story of the two soldiers in the photograph.

The Explorer's Tree, No. 122: *John Ross, Convict Labourer First Road Over the Blue Mountains in 1814*: The author of this article writes about her relative and their history. Linked to working as a Convict labourer on the first road over the Blue Mountains and their story.

Kith & Kin, No. 150: *The Woollahra Baby Farming Case*: This is about an inquest on a court case for a child that died in care and the findings. It makes for interesting reading, as this was the year 1889.

Electronic Journals

Below is a selection of highlighted articles from the electronic journals received since the October 2023 journal.

Forebear Journal (Maryborough District FHS), Nov 2023, Vol. 44, No. 2: *Cree & McCullough*: The author writes an interesting story on Cree & McCullough (plumbing business in Adelaide Street) Maryborough and poison in the wrong bottle!

The First Settlement City Gazette Newsletter (The Redcliffe & District FHG), Nov 2023: *Story of Mary Reibey nee Haydock:* There is a story about Mary Reibey nee Haydock (12 May 1777 – 30 May 1855). She is the lady with her face on the \$20 note.

Bremer Echoes (Ipswich Genealogical Society), Nov 2023, Vol. 43, No. 3: *Railway Stations west from Roma Street Brisbane:* This article contains a list of railway stations and when they opened and a short history of each is in the comments.

Lithgow Pioneer Press (Lithgow & District FHS), Oct 2023, Vol. 38, No. 2: In this journal we have three different stories by members on “**My Grandfather**” and their life story/history and memories. They are very different stories.

Kin Tracer (Genealogy Sunshine Coast (Nambour)), Spring Edition Sep 2023, Year 31, Issue 1: Online resources for “**Bounty Women**” female link in the early 1800s, how they reached Australia. List of over 7000 single girls and women from 1832 – 1837 and 1848 – 1885. A link to **Irish Famine Memorial (Irish Potato Famine)** and a link to **Tasmanian Libraries Index**.

The Gazette (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS), Nov 2023, Vol. 36, No. 3: *The Railway Coffee Place:* History of the Railway Coffee Place and how the beans were transported from America to England in the 17th Century. Coffee houses were created providing a place for men to read newspapers, (just introduced) and talk business and other subjects. Women frequented the tea gardens or tea shop, as coffee was considered a stimulant that women were not allowed to indulge in.

Family Ties (Bundaberg Genealogical Association), Dec 2023, Vol. 27, No. 2: *Newspaper Items:* Newspaper items and various small stories around 1950. Interesting how the articles on how news was reported in that era.

West Middlesex Family History, Dec 2023, Vol. 41, No. 4: *Introduction to DNA for Family Historians:* Introduction to DNA; Why use DNA to help your research; Types of DNA test; Basics of DNA inheritance: What we can learn from a DNA test; Example of DNA; Choosing your DNA test. Information and explanation of each.

Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS, Nov 2023, Journal 168: This journal, I cannot define the best or most interesting story. These stories are amazing. Take a look at these 2 articles **James Brue Pirie MM, The Aberdeen “Swimmin’ Mannie”** and **Pitfalls in Dating Photographs**. Interesting reading!

Journal of the Newcastle FHS, Dec 2023, No. 244: *Hollywood*: The writer tells the story of a town called “Hollywood” but not as we know it with the big sign in America. Another town called “Hollywood” in Lambton, a shanty town in the depression era.

Time Traveller (Shoalhaven FHS), Dec 2023, Issue 133: *Opening Address – Official Opening of the Empire Air Training Scheme Memorial*: There is an interesting story by a guest speaker on the official opening of the Empire Air Training Scheme Memorial and the history of this, from the Royal Australian Air Force.

Lancashire Journal, Nov 2023, Vol. 45, No. 4: *Reflections on 60 years of Family History*: The writer has an interesting story reflecting on 60 years of family history and changes in technology.

Fig Tree Journal (Manning, Wallamba FHS (Taree)), Dec 2023, Issue 168: *The Sailor – Passenger*: The author of this story tells of a sailor from Ireland who became a passenger and his adventures.

Botany Bay FHS, Dec 2023, No. 157: *Probate Granted 65 years after my Ancestor’s Death – What Happened*: The author finds that their great-great-grandmother’s probate was granted 65 years after her death and goes on a journey to see why?



DNA SUPPORT SESSIONS

Many of our members have had their DNA done and are interested in understanding this side of their research. We offer the following to cater for this area of interest.

DNA One-on-One Sessions

- . These will be held as required.
- . These sessions will be run by Kay Page.
- . You will need to book these sessions with Kay.
- . Priority will be given to those whose DNA results have just come in.
- . Assistance is also available by email.

For bookings or queries please contact: dna@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Other Rockhampton Repositories

In Central Queensland, we are very fortunate to have a number of other fine repositories for local history and genealogical research. For your convenience, we have included their opening hours below.

Please phone them as details may change.

Southside Library | 230 Bolsover Street, South Rockhampton

Monday – Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 3pm

Phone: 4936 8265



History Centre | 230 Bolsover Street, South Rockhampton

Monday – Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Phone: 4936 8040

The LDS Family History Centre

Talbot Street, North Rockhampton

Tuesday: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

closed all school and public holidays

Please contact Richard
on 0459 836 105 to book.

Please notify by 8am on the day if
you then can't make it.

Capricorn Coast Historical Society

The Bunker
(behind the Town Hall)
Yeppoon

opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.30 am - 12 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am - 12 pm

or by appointment contact:
Mary O'Brien 4933 0246

Capricornia CQ Collection

CQ University Library
University Campus,
Yaamba Road,
North Rockhampton

by appointment only:
tasac@cqu.edu.au

Rockhampton and District Historical Society

Borough Chambers, Stapleton Park,
North Rockhampton

opening hours:

Tuesday: 10 am - 2 pm

phone: 4927 8431 (opening hours only)

Coming Events

WEEKLY

Wed, 9am - Project Group - Members very welcome.

FEBRUARY

Sat Feb 3, 10am - Committee Meeting

Tue Feb 6, 1pm - **Library OPENS**

MARCH

Sat Mar 2, 10am - General Meeting- Topic: Heirlooms

Sat Mar 16, 6pm - Social BBQ at the Clubrooms, BYO

Fri Mar 29, Library Closed (Easter Friday)

Sat Mar 30, Library Closed (Easter Saturday)

APRIL

Sat Apr 6, 10am - Committee Meeting

Thu Apr 25, Library Closed

Tue Apr 30, June Journal Submission Deadline

MAY

Sat May 18, 10am - Beginners' Day

JUNE

Sat Jun 1, 10am - General Meeting

Please check Friday's newsletter for updates

Changes to General and Committee Meetings for 2024

General Meetings Saturdays 10am CQFHA rooms on the first Saturday of the following months: March, June, September (AGM) and December.

Committee Meetings Saturdays 10am CQFHA rooms on the first Saturday of the following months: February, April, July, and November.

A September meeting will be held 2 weeks after the AGM.

Interest Groups

Check the weekly e-newsletter for confirmation of times & venues.

Project Group - Wednesdays - 9am CQFHA rooms & 9am on Discord

Technology Sessions - as required

The following groups are no longer running:

Cuppa & Chat - Wednesdays - 9am on Discord

Informal DNA User Group - 3rd Saturday of month - 11am CQFHA rooms

DNA User Group - 3rd Saturday of month - 1pm on Discord

Family Historian User Group - last Saturday of month - 1pm on Discord

Financial Year - 1st July 2023 - 30th June 2024

Membership Fees:-Single \$45.00 + \$10 if journal posted

Family \$55.00 + \$10 if journal posted

Journal only :- \$30.00 posted in Australia

Overseas :- A\$45.00 includes e-journal

A\$75.00 membership and posted journal

Family Membership :- 2 members of a family living at the same address
(one journal)

Management Committee 2023/2024

Patron Councillor Donna Kirkland (RRC Div. 7)

President Kay Page 0414 551 237

Vice President Linda Marshall 4926 3371

Secretary Linda Marshall

Assistant Secretary Roseann Creagh

Treasurer Enid Bunt 0437 636 641

Email: treasurer@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Assistant Treasurer Sharon Parkinson

Library Co-ordinator Trisha Brannigan

Email: library@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Technology Co-ordinator Kay Page

Email: web@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Events Co-ordinator Nola Harvey

Volunteers 2023/2024

Library Assistants:

Tuesday: Sharon Wright, Jamie Hibberd

Thursday: Carmel Hayman, Enid Bunt

Friday: Nola Harvey, Denise Haynes, Trisha Brannigan

Saturday: Linda Marshall, Jeanette Finlayson, (alternate weeks)
John Humphries, Jamie Hibberd

On-call: Narelle Fraser, Kay Page

Research Officer: Carmel Hayman

Assistant Research Officer: Denise Haynes

Membership Secretary: Enid Bunt

Projects Officer: Kay Page

Education Officer: Vacant

Grants Officer: Enid Bunt

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Technology Assistant: Vacant

Facilities Team: Sharon Wright, Enid Bunt

Resources Team: Nola Harvey, John Humphries,
Ken McDonald

Journal Team : Linda Marshall, Jeanette Finlayson,
Trisha Brannigan & Narelle Fraser

Web Team: Kay Page, Chris Wright &
Roseann Creagh

Life Members

Toni Philipoom
Karl Makela

Margaret Larnar
Margaret Mason

Michael Warry
John Humphries