



# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



Family History ACT

Vol. 47 No. 2 June 2024

# FAMILY HISTORY ACT

***Family History ACT is a business name of  
The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. founded in 1964***

*Member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations;*

*NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies;*

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**Front Cover:** *Ellen Corcoran (nee Hennessy) (1790-1781), author's collection (see story p. 94)*

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# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER

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*\*Family History ACT is a business name of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.*

# *From the President*

## *Michele Rainger*

Hello to all our readers, and welcome to this edition of The Ancestral Searcher.

2024 is proving to be the busy year that we expected as the Society celebrates our 60th anniversary. Those who have visited our Library recently will have seen the changes happening every week as we work to refresh our facilities. By the time you read this, work will have begun (and may even be finished) to install our new kitchenette, and new furniture and equipment will be arriving for our research areas and new members' lounge. If you haven't visited for a while, do come and have a look!

Work is also well underway on our Commemorative Book that will trace the Society's first 60 years. If members have any photos, memorabilia or ephemera that they can share please let me know very soon. This book will be launched as part of our birthday weekend on 19 and 20 October 2024.

The 2024 edition of our annual E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition is closing soon on 15 July 2024. More information about the competition and how to enter is available via the Family History ACT website. The next edition of Every Family has a Story – the stories from the 2023 iteration of this competition, is also currently being finalised ready for publication in the coming months.

In this edition of The Ancestral Searcher you will also see an advertisement for our Mini-Conference Family History - Community History that will be held on Saturday 10 August 2024. This event will offer three very different speakers, each talking about various aspects of how to integrate family, local and community history to learn more about our ancestors, and to enrich the stories that we can tell about them. You will be able to join us in person or via Zoom which makes this a wonderful opportunity no matter where in Australia, or the world, you are.



# *From the Editor's Desk*

*Clare McGuinness*

It has been a busy quarter for me as I practice my InDesign learnings on the fourth volume of our series "Every Family has a Story". Ultimately 98 stories are included, varying in style, fictionalisation, referencing and every formatting variation the authors could devise. Each story needed to be corralled into a consistent format and look. Thanks to the current team behind the E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition - Barbara Broad, Judy Loy, Ann Peut and Gina Tooke, and thanks to proofreaders Jenny Barnes, Diana Heins and Kelly Paxman.

Our journal is our record to ourselves, and our voice to the public, including other family history societies. While the Council deals with big picture, Society-focused matters, our journal is the place for **individual** members to announce their research and publication successes, and a place to ask for support from each other. I hear some of the talks you give, and often think that so many other members (and the public) would also enjoy your work.

So if you have given a presentation, or written a post on your blog, or are aware of a family reunion, or want to write a book review, or talk about a website you stumbled across - or any reflection of your life as a family historian - it is highly likely that our members will enjoy reading about it. I look forward to submissions of any length.

In my time as Editor so far, articles have arrived irregularly. In hopes of stimulating members to contribute I would like to run with the concept of themes for the three editions a year that require contributions. The first, and only theme for this year, will be DNA. By far our largest Special Interest Group, and the newest and ever expanding field of family history, I know there will be stories out there worth sharing. Feel free to contact me even about an idea.

Articles in this edition are about several interesting relatives, my mitochondrial story and an article on AI by well-known genealogy tech-guru Thomas MacEntee, used with permission. Some include a creative angle. Thanks to all contributors.

Happy reading

# Ulster Day in Canberra

*Sue Pillans*



The poster is green with white and orange text. At the top left is a small illustration of a sailing ship. The main title 'UNCOVERING YOUR IRISH ANCESTRY-ULSTER ROOTS' is in large, bold, white and orange letters. Below it, the date and time are listed: 'Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm in the Cook Community Centre or via Zoom'. On the right, under 'Our speakers:', are four names with their topics: Richard Reid (Tales of Gweedore, Dromore, and the Belfast Workhouse), Perry McIntyre (Researching Orphan Girls in Ulster Workhouses), Fintan Mullan (The Ulster Plantation and Sources for Finding Seventeenth-Century Families in Ireland (not just Ulster) and Using Irish Wills and Testamentary Records), and Gillian Hunt (The Great Famine in Ireland). At the bottom right are four small portrait photos of the speakers.

**UNCOVERING  
YOUR IRISH  
ANCESTRY-  
ULSTER ROOTS**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
9.30 am - 4.30 pm in the Cook  
Community Centre or via Zoom

Our speakers:

**Richard Reid** - Tales of Gweedore, Dromore, and the Belfast Workhouse  
**Perry McIntyre** - Researching Orphan Girls in Ulster Workhouses  
**Fintan Mullan** - The Ulster Plantation and Sources for Finding Seventeenth-Century Families in Ireland (not just Ulster)  
and Using Irish Wills and Testamentary Records  
**Gillian Hunt** - The Great Famine in Ireland

As our world emerges from the shadows of the pandemic, there's joy in rediscovering the simple pleasures of human connection. A day of lectures by visiting experts followed by an evening dinner, a ritual forgotten since the onset of the pandemic. But now our modern twist - the Zoom option - is a nod to the digital evolution that's become an inseparable part of our lives and is here to stay.

Fintan MULLEN and Gillian HUNT from the Ulster Historical Foundation, based in Belfast, were brave enough to embark on an extensive Australian and New Zealand lecture tour, which included Canberra for the first time. They gave private consultations and excellent lectures in their soft brogue.

Richard REID, our beloved historian, once again gave an erudite, well-researched lecture. Perry McINTYRE, who drove down from Sydney for the day and recently returned from Belfast, filled us in with her latest research findings.

A wonderful day finished with a cheerful dinner at The Irish Club (pizzas, of course).

Hopefully, conferences and get-togethers will once again be marked on our calendars.



*Perry McIntyre, Gillian Hunt, Finbar Mullen and Richard Reid outside the Irish Club - before they'd sampled their meal.*



*Back row: Perry McIntyre, Sue Pillans, Jill Beer, Fintan Mullen, Floss Aitchison, Peter Beer, Richard Reid. Front row: Chery Bollard, Michele Rainger, Gillian Hunt, Barbara Moore and Dorothy Brownrigg.*



Saturday 10 August 2024

# **Family History – Community History**

**Half-day mini-conference  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 9am to 1pm**

**Hosted by Family History ACT**

This seminar is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the connections between family and local and community history, and how to share their stories.

You can attend via Zoom or in person at the Family History ACT (FHACT) Library in Canberra (note places are capped for in-person attendance so book early).

For more information and to register please visit:

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

Cost: FHACT members - \$28

Non-members - \$50





## Our Presenters

### **Writing the Past: History and Historical Imagination – Adjunct Professor Paul Ashton**

Paul Ashton is professor of public history and co-founder of the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology Sydney. Paul will draw on some of his work to illustrate how he develops a narrative.



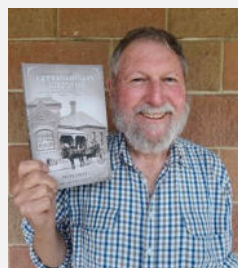
### **In the Service of Dr Gaunt – Ms Jo Callaghan**

Jo is a graduate of the Diploma of Family Historical Studies (SAG), and Convenor of the Writers Special Interest Group at Family History ACT. Jo explored the lives of 30 convicts assigned to Dr Gaunt, hoping to solve a mystery - did these 30 men build the historic Tasmanian church?



### **You've done your research, so it's now time to write it up, publish it, and share it with others – Mr Peter Lacey**

Peter Lacey, President of the South Coast History Society, has been editing a 20-page South Coast history magazine for the past 8 years. Peter has lots of stories to tell and advice he can share – the highs and lows, of writing, publishing and selling local history and genealogy.



# Every family has a story – write yours now!

## 2024 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

*The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher*

- 1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme.
- Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story, \$500 for runner up (sponsored by UTAS), and a bonus \$100 prize for FHACT members.
- Open to individuals over 18 years.
- Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHACT members and \$30.00 for non-members.
- No limit on the number of entries.
- Terms & Conditions and Entry Form available at [familyhistoryact.org.au](http://familyhistoryact.org.au) or by email from [writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au)



**Competition closes 15th July 2024**

<p><b>2024 Judges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Associate Professor Emmett Stinson:</b> Emmett is Head of the School of Humanities in the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. He is a literary scholar, a creative writer, and an expert on the global publishing industry.</li><li>• <b>Therese Lynch:</b> Therese is a retired senior public servant who now works as a professional genealogist. Therese is a FHACT member and Education Officer for the Association of Professional Genealogists (Australia and New Zealand Chapter).</li><li>• <b>Beverley Richardson:</b> Beverley's love of writing commenced at an early age and was a major focus of her former career as an English teacher. A member of FHACT, Beverley was shortlisted in the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition and took out the award in 2022.</li></ul>	<p><b>Contact Details</b></p> <p>Family History ACT 41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT PO Box 152, Jamison Centre ACT 2614</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://familyhistoryact.org.au">familyhistoryact.org.au</a></p> <p>Telephone: 02 6251 7004 <a href="mailto:secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au">secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au</a></p> <p>Writing Competition Committee <a href="mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au">writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au</a></p>
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UNIVERSITY of  
**TASMANIA**

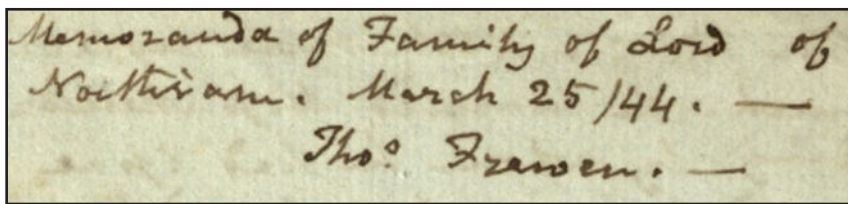


Proudly supported by the Family History  
program at the University of Tasmania

# Adventures in Chancery.....down the rabbit hole and into the warren

*Nina Johnson*

The FREWEN family associated with the village of Northiam have blessed the East Sussex Record Office with a large collection of family ephemera such as letters, marriage settlements, estate accounts, diaries and will copies. Thomas FREWEN (1811-1870) had a particular interest in family history. In 1844, he wrote a brief account of the LORD family of Northiam. As a descendant of both the FREWENS and LORDs this was compulsory reading.



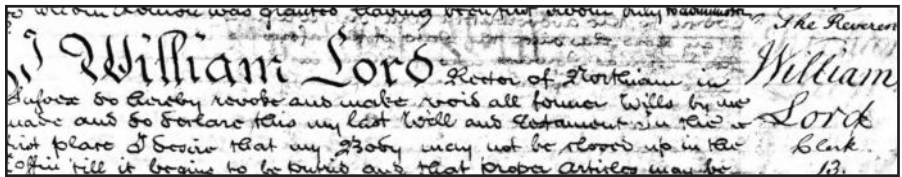
It was full of wonderful gossip. My 3rd Great-grandmother, Elizabeth STONHAM turned out to be a maidservant in Rev William LORD's household before the parson's brother George (my 3rd Great-grandfather) got her pregnant. Thomas FREWEN wrote quite disparagingly of this generation of distant LORD relatives. William 'made himself a special nuisance to the whole parish', Charles was 'crazy', Henry 'a little more respectable but not much', while my ancestor George LORD he fortunately considered 'a worthy man, the last of a worthless pack.'

Another quote which caught my attention was:

*"Old Mrs Lord (heretofore Miss Frewen) used to say...of her sons 'these boys used to fight each other in their very cradles' and they went on to the last for they tore each other to pieces with law & lawsuits & spent no end of property including the share of the Church House property which they inherited thro' their mother."*

Here was a family history story worth researching. I needed to follow the money, property and lawsuit trails. Firstly, there were plenty of Frewen and Lord wills available to examine as the families favoured the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for probate. Real estates and personal estates were listed with varying degrees

of detail. What I'd never really considered was how to know if the will of the deceased had actually been executed. That lay ahead.



Secondly, there were tax records. Family Search has images of Northiam's land tax records from 1706 to 1802. Here were Frewens and Lords aplenty. Thomas FREWEN Esquire had to be distinguished from contemporaneous Mr Thomas FREWEN. Changes of land ownership and changes of tenants could be tracked. The resulting spreadsheet didn't make much sense until the third step of finding relevant lawsuits was completed.

Tho. Frewen Esq	41	8	4
more	9	1	16
more by Dan Fryer	3	0	12
more by R. Bryant	21	4	4
Mr. Thomas Frewen	13	2	12
more by Crocker	15	3	7
more for Rent by Jn. Hooker	14	2	16
more for Silvers	14	2	16
more by R. C. C. C.	6	1	1
Tho. Rev. M. Lord Rector	68	13	12
more for J. Groatyford	6	1	1
Doc. Frewen his house and Land	12	2	8

1760 Northiam Land Tax showing three different Frewens and Rev William Lord, the elder.

Chancery Equity Court is where family feuds of this era were fought. The National Archives (TNA) Discovery catalogue includes many Chancery documents but they aren't easy to extract from the huge total number of Frewen and Lord entries. Unfortunately, somebody with the surname LORD gets confused by the catalogue with aristocratic Lord somebody who is no relation to my ancestors. Making my way through multiple Lord somebodies in the catalogue, I eventually had a list of promising document titles with short descriptions e.g. Reference:

C 13/2077/10. 1805, revived Hilary 1830. Lord v Lord, document type: Bill and Answer. Plaintiffs: Charles LORD and another. Defendants: William LORD, Charles WATKINS and wife, Henry LORD, Eleanora LORD and Thomas DOWN and wife.

What did that all mean? I knew the background genealogy to sort out who was who, but the mysteries of Bills and Answers in Chancery beckoned. It was time to start spending my kids' inheritance on digital copies of documents.

The Lord v Lord example above was good value as it included both the Bill of Complaint of Charles and George LORD who were the plaintiffs, and the 1806 Answer of two defendants, their siblings William and Eleanora LORD. The Bill of Complaint document that arrived from TNA was reasonably legible but time consuming to transcribe.

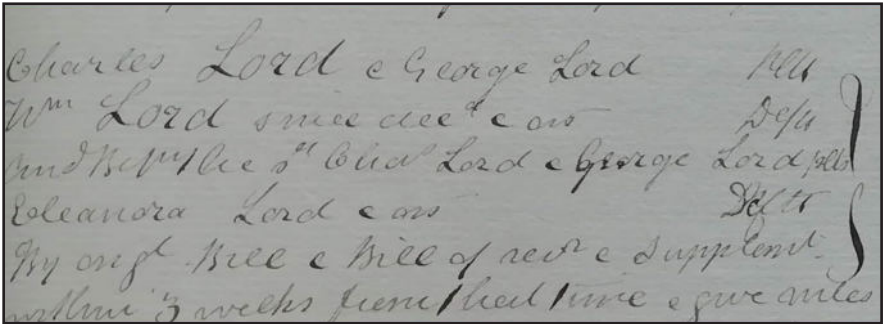
Charles LORD, who had trained as a lawyer, was a master of the ambit-claim. His 1805 Bill included claims to his father's personal estate and the advowson of St Mary's in Northiam, plus an interest in his deceased brothers Thomas' and James' estates. He accused his siblings of collusion and secreting of evidence. Charles was evidently casting a wide net for sources of income.

TNA's catalogue listed the Answers of the other defendants in 1807 and 1808. Then no entries until 1830 when the case was revived. What had happened in between?

I discovered that these 'pleadings' documents, Bills of Complaint and Answers, were only the tip of the iceberg in a legal suit. Evidence (depositions, affidavits and exhibits), decrees and orders, Chancery Masters' records and final decrees and appeals against them may all be held by the TNA but do not necessarily appear in the online catalogue. To follow the progress of the suit required access to at least some of that information. Concentrating on the decrees and orders of the 1805 Lord v Lord case seemed promising. These are indexed, not on the TNA Discovery catalogue, but in 'entry books' of decrees and orders at the TNA. The entry books are themselves indexed in 'contemporary annual indexes' at the TNA. Oh – My – Goodness. It was time for the assistance of a professional genealogist who could find their way round these books!

Emails went back and forth to England. A research plan was agreed upon, looking for Lord v Lord Chancery orders around 1810 and 1830, and a deposit sent. Digital copies of orders started to arrive, not all as legible as the original Bill and Answers. It was most confusing. Charles LORD was sometimes listed as a plaintiff and sometimes a defendant. My ancestor George LORD was always a plaintiff. His sister Mary and her husband Thomas DOWN changed from defendants to plaintiffs. Eventually the penny dropped. There were two Lord v

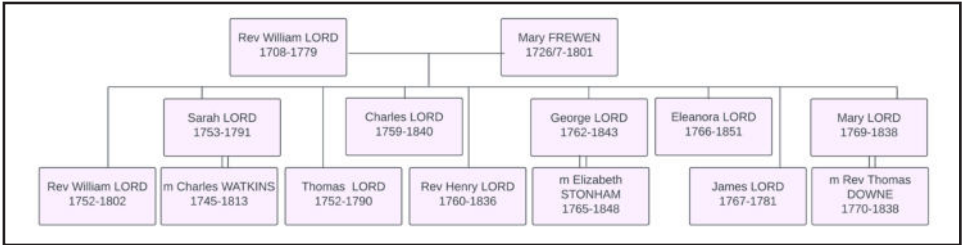
Lord cases running in parallel through Chancery. They were only distinguishable by the list of plaintiffs and defendants written at the top of an order. In 1805, Charles and George had taken brother William (and all their other siblings) to Chancery over their father's will. In 1809, George and Mary took brother Charles (and all their other siblings) to Chancery over execution of their mother's will. My rabbit hole was definitely now a labyrinthine warren.



Extract from 1832 Chancery order showing list of plaintiffs and defendants.

Back to the genealogist. She could broaden her search, looking for the Bill of Complaint for the second case (never found) and the related orders and decrees. She found over fifty! These could be just a few lines regarding requests for time extension, allocation of costs or ordering the Sheriff to serve an order of contempt. The most useful were multiple pages summarising the contents of the wills and the progress of the case, revealing the back and forth argy-bargy of those involved.

So far, the numerous twists and turns in the two Lord v Lord cases unveiled by finding the orders and decrees have defeated my attempts to corral them into a short narrative. Hence this story is more about the process than the findings. Thomas FREWENs summary of the Lords, that “they tore each other to pieces with law & lawsuits”, is an accurate enough summary to stand for the present!







*Northiam Village, Sussex; Vinatge postcard, author's possession.*

Ed: Remember that images online can be enlarged by clicking on them.

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*Are you good at spotting errors and inconsistencies?*

*And do you have a red pen?*

Have you ever considered offering to proofread our TAS? Only four times a year. Several people are needed, as we all see things differently.

If interested, contact me at  
[editor@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:editor@familyhistoryact.org.au)





# Mrs Garnett's War

*Jo Callaghan*

On Anzac Day we pause as a nation to honour millions of Australians who have served our country since Australian military service began. During commemorative events, we focus our lens onto the men and women who served in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during the First World War. They are the reason that we call it Anzac Day.

This year I have re-focused my lens, opting to honour the many millions of spouses and sweethearts, children, parents, and siblings who were at home waiting, wondering, worrying and grieving. Ironically, I'm doing that by shining a spotlight onto one woman, who for me represents the home front.

Her name was Annie. She doesn't need a maiden name, a birth date, or a death date. For now, simply *Annie* is enough.

It was during the early 1900s that my 'cousin' Henry James GARNETT, a shortish man with brown eyes, dark hair, and a barber-shop-quartet moustache, became the most important person in Annie's life. I will call him Harry because that is the name by which Annie loved him.

Mr and Mrs GARNETT lived in Holt Street in Surry Hills; the suburban heart of Sydney.<sup>1</sup> Each day, Harry went to work on the New South Wales White Bay railway line, while Annie presumably stayed at home, keeping their house tidy and having supper ready for Harry's return at the end of his working day.

Outside the bubble of their peaceful domestic existence, the world was sharpening a pin. A war like no other was brewing and when the call came, our young nation went willingly. Along with his two brothers and countless friends, Harry might have gone eagerly to the adventure. Perhaps like many others, they naively thought the war wouldn't last long, that they would all be home again by Christmas.

On 2 December 1915, like thousands of men and boys before him and the hundreds of thousands who would follow, Harry signed the Oath.

*I, Henry James GARNETT, swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 2nd December 1915 until the end of the war, and a further period of four months thereafter, unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will*

*in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.*

*SO HELP ME GOD.<sup>2</sup>*



*Harry Garnett. Image courtesy of Professor Kenneth J Meldrum (dec).*

But Harry wasn't home by Christmas, nor the following Christmas. Harry was in the thick of a muddy, bloody war in Europe. In May 1917, he was caught up in a second attempt to take the village of Bullecourt.

At 3:20 on the morning of 3 May, Harry's Battalion got into position. Machine guns in the railway cutting opened fire at 3:45, followed by artillery fire twenty seconds later. The German barrage that followed wreaked havoc. Lieutenant TIMMINS reported to headquarters at 5:15, saying the road was filled with men and he would reorganise them and take them forward. At 8 o'clock he sent back a message saying, "only twelve men left shall I hang on"? Three hours later he returned with eight men, a message to hang on had never reached him. When the Battalion's known casualties for the day were recorded, they numbered "17 killed, 147 wounded, 123 missing."<sup>3</sup> The full extent of Australian casualties at Bullecourt was a staggering 7,482.<sup>4</sup>

When the distressing news that Harry was among the missing finally found its way to Annie in July, she wrote to the Base Records Office, asking them to kindly tell her if her husband was still alive. They replied that she would be advised if any news was received. Months passed without news, and the silence must have been unbearable. Just before Christmas Annie wrote again, asking whether there was any information.

A few weeks after Christmas, Annie received a package that must have come as a terrible shock. Inside the package was a pair of goggles in a case, a Testament, a razor strap, a knife, five badges and two buttons. The enclosed inventory said they were Harry's personal effects and, in brackets, that he was categorized as 'reported missing'. A separate letter asked Annie to confirm receipt of the package. The letter said, 'Forwarded herewith, per separate post, is one package containing the personal effects of the late 4429 Private H.J. GARNETT'.

Neither Annie, nor Harry's mother wanted to believe he was gone. For the next two years, their family notices included Harry as if he were still 'on active service'. By 1920, they both had to accept that Harry would never again be home for Christmas.

**IN MEMORIAM.**

**GARNETT.**—In loving but sad memory of my dear Husband, No. 4429 Private Henry James Garnett, of 36 Holt-street, Surry Hills, killed in action, in France, 3rd May, 1917. I think of you, my darling, with loving thoughts so true, although my heart is breaking, Harry, dear, I'm proud of you. Now distance does us sever, and we are far apart, you always arise within my memory, and you are buried deep down in my heart. Oh, sweet be the sleep in the grave, my dear loving Harry, for ever, for ever! Oh, no, let no man be a slave, his hopes from existence to sever; though cold be the clay, thou pillowest thy head in the dark, silent mansions of sorrow. The spring shall return to thy low narrow bed, like the beam of the day star of to-morrow. Oh, still I behold thee, all lovely in death, when 'he tears trickled bright with a soft stifled breath, that told how dear we were to each other. My Harry dear, thou art gone to the home of rest, where suffering no longer can harm you; where the song of the good, where the hymns of the blest, through an endless existence shall charm thee. You are not forgotten by all who loved you, dear. You proved a hero on the field, and a hero in my heart. Inserted by his sad and lonely wife, Annie G., and little niece Muriel Smith.

*Monday 3 May 1920, The Sun, National Library of  
Australia, Trove.*

In October 1916 the British Government set up a committee to produce a commemorative memorial plaque for the families of those who died during the war. The following year, the committee decided to issue a commemorative scroll in addition to the plaque. It was several years before the committee settled on designs and it took until 1922 for the items to be issued to Australian families. The scroll and plaque were supposed to provide comfort, but a piece of paper and a 'dead man's penny' was scant replacement for a living, breathing loved one.

Just as the items began being distributed, Annie wrote a long, desperate plea for compassion. Her fractured English filled two pages, her words flowing around corners and into every available space.

*Dear sir*

*I beg to be excused for writing to you... And ask the greatest favor in this world and I pray to god that you kind gentman will grant it to me for the true love and the honer of my poor Dear Dead husband Henry James GARNETT that you not put that i was not his married wife has the world know me has his married wife Dear sir for near 15 years I have lived and is known as Annie GARNETT... under the mercy of our maker we ware the true and devoted man and wife althoe not by law before God and man woman and child we ware true and faithful man and wife but not by law so I ask you not put that I was his unmarried wife... no one know ho I miss every hair of my harry head... he was all I had in this wide world I am a lone... he died thinking the world would never know I shall die as his wido I live as it...*

On the back of a page ripped from a desk calendar dated 29 January, someone wrote "Better return her letter and reassure her no unmarried widow". The Officer in Charge of the Base Records Office replied to Annie's letter.

*I have to state that the late No. 4429 Private H. J. GARNETT, 20th Battalion, on enlistment recorded you as his wife and next-of-kin, and you may rest assured that the information disclosed in your letter will be treated as confidential and that no endorsement will be made on the records to the effect that you are not his lawful widow.*

Annie was issued with Harry's British War Medal and Victory Medal. She also received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Annie was invited to submit some words for Harry's memorial, and then was respectfully asked to abbreviate the inscription or choose a shorter verse or text. She had written:

*In sad but loving memory  
Of my Dear husband  
Private Henry James GARNETT  
No 4429 killed in action who gave  
His life for his king and country  
And those he loved dear  
sad was the Day When you and I parted  
I still love Dear All those I left all alone broken hearted  
Enserbed by his loving wife  
Annie GARNETT*

She was only allowed 60 characters, including the spaces between words. Her words were struck out in red pencil by an unknown hand, until all that was left was:

*My Dear husband Private Henry James GARNETT No 4429*

In Australia, Harry is memorialised on the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways roll of honour and the Honour Roll at the Australian War Memorial. His name also appears on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

Like many of Australia's First World War soldiers, Harry's body has never been recovered. Harry has no known grave. And at this stage of my research, nor does Annie.

Lest We Forget



## References:

1. Sands Sydney Street Directory, ancestry.com.
2. National Archives of Australia, Service Record of 4429 Henry James Garnett.
3. Australian War Memorial, 'Australian Imperial Force Unit war diaries, 1914 – 1918, Infantry, Item Number: 23/37/22, 20th Infantry Battalion, May 1917.'
4. Australian War Memorial website, Second Battle of Bullecourt.
5. First World War medal images - Department of Defence, Directorate of Honours and Awards.

### NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies 2024 Annual Conference Dig Deeper in 2024

A virtual one-day conference on **14 September 2024**  
Visit the conference website to view the program and reserve your seat

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#### Speakers include:

Clive Smith on Colonial Secretary's Records on Ancestry  
Andrew Redfern on AI and Family History  
Nick Reddan on The Register of Deeds, Dublin  
Ruth Graham on a Framework for Multidimensional Research



# AI and Genealogy

*Thomas MacEntee*

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While AI (artificial intelligence) might be the current “hot” buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years. The AI industry is at a crossroads and within the next five years, it will permeate almost every aspect of business and society. Learn how AI is currently being used to improve the genealogy experience, and whether or not you should seek out other uses of artificial intelligence for your own genealogy research.

## **What is Artificial Intelligence and Why Should I Be Concerned?**

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and represents computer-based systems that can “mimic” human intelligence. The goal is to have these systems perform human tasks.

A task could be as simple as entering a customer service-related question on a company’s website and having AI generate a response. It might appear simple - a lookup of a response posted to the chat panel. However, AI-based systems might prompt you with more questions in order to generate the most helpful answer. The system could capture your questions and “learn” more about the way you use the product in order to better respond in the future.

Another example: you could ask ChatGPT - one of more popular AI platforms - to compose a poem about genealogy. And taking it one step further, you could add “in the style of” Shakespeare, Keats, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, etc.

The most discussed features of artificial intelligence are “deep learning” and “generative AI.” Deep learning mimics the human brain in that it looks for patterns using vast amounts of information to interpret photos, audio, and text. Generative AI actually “generates” new photos, audio, and text, based on information provided by the user, and again, uses its own database of “training data” to understand patterns and generate output that matches the user’s query.



## AI Platforms

While genealogy vendors such as MyHeritage are incorporating artificial intelligence into the features they provide to users, there are some popular AI platforms open to the public that you might want to consider using.

- ChatGPT: Meaning “Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer,” ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) is the most popular publicly-accessible artificial intelligence platform.
- Gemini: Developed by Google, Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>) formerly known as Bard, describes itself as “a family of AI models developed by Google’s AI research labs DeepMind and Google Research. Gemini is Google’s largest and most flexible AI model, able to run on data centers and mobile devices.”
- Perplexity: A relative newcomer in the world of AI platforms, Perplexity (<https://www.perplexity.ai/>) presents a curated list of sources when answering user queries.

## AI and Genealogy

### ***Current uses of AI by Genealogy Vendors and others***

Believe it or not, genealogists have already benefited from artificial intelligence whether it is just spelling and grammar check in Microsoft Word when writing a family story or genealogical report ... to ... searching for family in the 1950 United States Census which was indexed using artificial intelligence’s ability to decipher handwriting.

- Family photos: MyHeritage has been offering a variety of photo enhancement tools over the past three years including ways to colorize images and make them clearer. In addition there are tools that can “animate” an ancestor based on a photo and even help determine the date of an image based on characteristics such as fashion styles, hair styles, and more. The new Reimagine tool announced recently offers all these tools in an easy-to-use app.
- Transcription: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in conjunction with Ancestry and FamilySearch used artificial intelligence to index the 1950 US Census population schedules released in April 2022. Entries made by enumerators were scanned and transcribed then released for use at a much faster rate than what was accomplished with manual indexing performed for the 1940 US Census release in 2012. For the 1950 US Census, users were encouraged to review the transcriptions and

submit corrections as part of a community effort by genealogists and other researchers.

- Suggesting records: Ancestry and other genealogy platforms have been listing “related” or “suggested” records in the sidebar of the webpage when a user is viewing a record as part of a search. In addition “hints” will often pop up suggesting records and family trees that a researcher might want to review due to similarities in data.
- DNA matches: With over 30 million people having used personal DNA testing kits, 23andMe, AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, and MyHeritage all leverage AI to find connections between testers based on shared DNA data. Given the sheer amount of information involved, these match results are only possible with artificial intelligence.

**Examples**

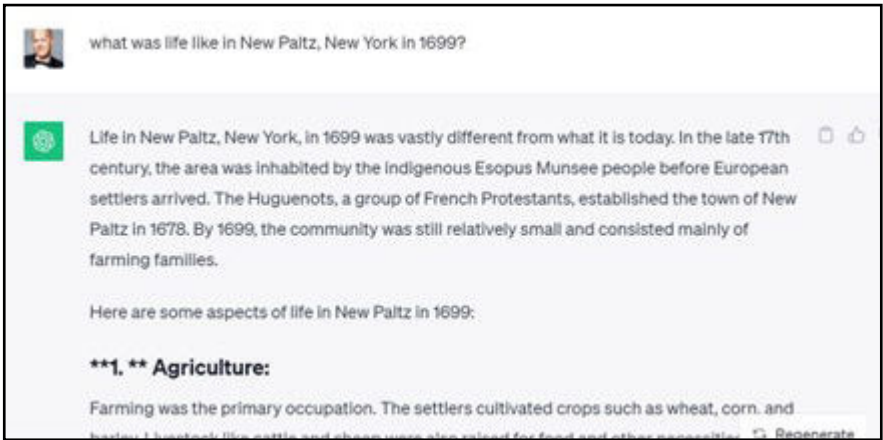
Here are a few examples of how you can use the major AI platforms when searching for ancestors.

**Social history**

Hugo FREER, my 9th great-grandfather, settled in New Paltz, New York along with other Huguenot settlers about 1675. His house - the Freer-Low House - built in 1699 is still standing. Wanting to know more about how Freer lived, I used this query at ChatGPT: **What was life like in New Paltz, New York in 1699?**

The results:

Source: “What was life like in New Paltz, New York in 1699?” prompt. ChatGPT,



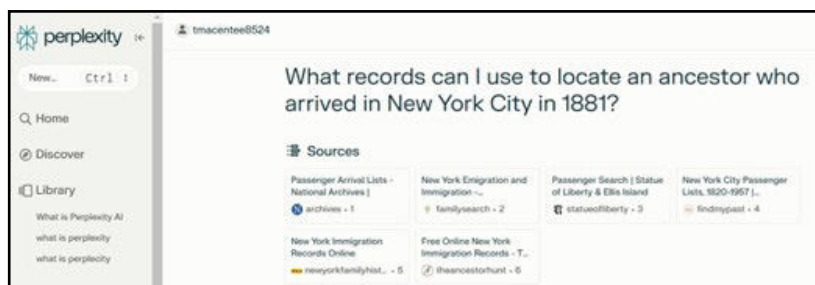
ChatGPT 3.5 version, OpenAI, 1 October 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

The information provided is extensive but also rather generic for any location on the East Coast of the United States. In addition, the section on housing states the use of wooden buildings with thatched roofs, when in fact New Paltz was known for its early homes built using stones excavated from the fields.

### **Record sets**

My 3rd great-grandfather Gustave HENNEBERG arrived in New York from Germany about 1881. I posed the following query at Perplexity in order to determine which records I should use for research purposes: **What records can I use to locate an ancestor who arrived in New York City in 1881?**

The results:



Source: "What records can I use to locate an ancestor who arrived in New York City in 1881?" prompt. Perplexity, version 1.0.21, Perplexity, 13 October 2023, <https://www.perplexity.ai/>.

Perplexity bills itself as different from ChatGPT and Gemini in that it curates sources which are presented at the top of the generated content.

### **Transcription**

Robert AUSTIN was the brother of my great-grandfather John Ralph AUSTIN (1896-1976). Robert drowned in 1924 at Long Beach, New York while trying to rescue a child. I uploaded a newspaper article about the incident to Gemini

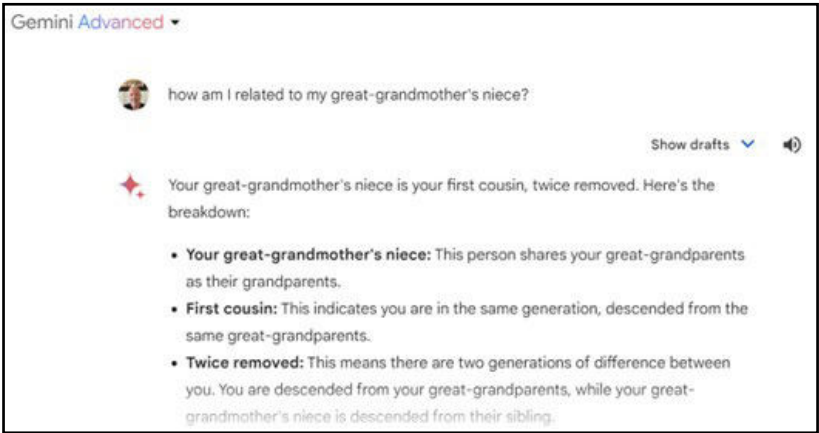
and in the query prompt entered: **Transcribe**  
The results:



Source: Uploaded article “Drowned at Long Beach” with the query “Transcribe verbatim”. Gemini, Gemini Advanced version, Google, 8 Feb 2024, <https://gemini.google.com/>. Gemini Advanced did a great job despite the article image having some clarity issues!

**Relationships**

During my genealogy research, I've located a person to whom I'm related via a maternal great-grandmother. The document I am using for research states that the person was my great-grandmother's niece. Using Gemini Advanced, I want to determine how I am related to this person.



## How am I related to my great-grandmother's niece?

The results: See box on preceding page.

Source: "How am I related to my great-grandmother's niece?". Gemini, Gemini Advanced version, Google, 8 February 2024, <https://gemini.google.com/>.

## Copyright and AI

There are several issues involving artificial intelligence and intellectual property that should concern you. Some of these issues have already been discussed and decided by agencies and courts. Many of them, however, have not been resolved.

The two main issues are:

- **AI-generated content:** Can content that is created by artificial intelligence based on your query be copyrighted? What if you ask Gemini to generate an image of what your 5th great-grandfather who fought in the Revolutionary War might look like? And the query was based on your research information as to his physical description taken from letters or diaries? Who owns the resulting image?

Currently, lower courts have stated that AI-generated content cannot be copyrighted since there is no human author. Much like the case of the "Macaque monkey selfie" where a monkey took a selfie photograph using equipment set up by a British photographer, there is no "consent" involved. Animals cannot give consent or enter into a legal agreement so it was determined that the resulting image was copyright free. The courts are using the same method to determine who owns that ancestor photo you generated using artificial intelligence.

- **Source or reference content:** Which leads to the next copyright issue of how AI platforms are gathering their reference information used to generate content. When asking ChatGPT to generate a sonnet about genealogy in the style of Shakespeare, the algorithm must have Shakespeare's sonnets in order to understand his writing style and create the genealogy sonnet.

In this case, all of Shakespeare's works are in the public domain according to United States copyright laws. But what about an author such as Tom Clancy or Stephen King whose works are still under copyright? And what about AI-generated images or even recordings based on a celebrity's image and voice?

Most platforms are not transparent as to what reference content is being used and how it was acquired. This becomes an ethical issue and only furthers general fears about artificial intelligence.

## **AI and Source Citations**

Those new to genealogy and family history soon learn the importance of source citations in proving relationships as well as facts about an ancestor. Usually source citations document how we find and use records such as census population schedules, death certificates, and even letters or diaries.

For the most part, you won't find records when making queries on an AI platform. But you may find information that serves as a clue for further research or, more likely, as social history about how an ancestor lived. In these situations, a method of citing AI-generated content is needed.

Citing sources need not be intimidating or time consuming. Stick to the basics: the information found, how it was found, information about where it was found, and locator data so another researcher can find the information.

For artificial intelligence content, here's the formula you might consider using as proposed by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA):

“[QUERY]” prompt. [NAME OF AI PLATFORM], [DATE OR VERSION OF PLATFORM], [NAME OF AI COMPANY], [DATE OF QUERY], [PLATFORM URL]

So, if I asked ChatGPT to determine the value of my great-grandfather's home in the 1930 US Census listed as \$80,000 in 2024 dollars, here is the source citation I would use:

“Value of home in the 1930 US Census listed as \$80,000 in 2024 dollars” prompt. ChatGPT, ChatGPT 3.5 version, OpenAI, 1 October 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

## **Future Uses of AI for Genealogy**

The concern over artificial intelligence in general, and specifically in family history research, is similar to the concern over social media almost 15 years ago. Remember when genealogists were worried about Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter)?

We are experiencing the “First Phase” of using artificial intelligence when it comes to genealogy and family history research. Five years from now we

should be in “Second Phase” mode. What does this mean?

Remember when Netscape was THE BROWSER everyone used when the Internet became popular in the early 1990s? And MYSPACE was THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM? Well, the second phase apps - Google and Facebook respectively - are now the most popular. The second phase of a new technology usually brings vast improvements in terms of functionality, ease-of-use, and value.

Here’s a short list of what you can expect to see in the next five years:

- DNA triangulation tools that will quickly determine relationships on family trees.
- Conversion of handwriting into searchable text including older forms of English and German handwriting.
- Creation of source citations for a variety of records using specific formats such as MLA, Evidence Explained, and AP style.
- Discovering connections between F.A.N. club members using digitized historical newspapers content and other records.
- Identification of ancestors in old family photos based on “traits” such as facial features including connecting family members based on similar traits.
- Suggesting records for expanding genealogical searches including those records not yet digitized.

## **AI: The Good and the Bad**

With all the “hype” about artificial intelligence, it can be difficult to figure out not only what is true about this technology, but also the benefits and drawbacks. Here is an explanation of the elements of AI that have impacted or will impact how we search for ancestors.

### ***The Good***

There seem to be endless possibilities for using artificial intelligence when searching for ancestors. This makes for an exciting time to be doing genealogy.

- **Analyzing vast amounts of data:** Yes there is a lot of information available online for genealogy research, but humans cannot possibly analyze that information as quickly as artificial intelligence. This allows for discovering new connections between data points and better understanding migration patterns and motivations, F.A.N. club relationships, the impact of social history on our ancestors, and more. What is not obvious immediately to our human minds



can be quickly determined by using artificial intelligence.

- **Block chaining:** I've long been an advocate of using block chaining for genealogy data, especially DNA data. Block chaining involves tagging data with specific information including ownership, and tracking its use by others. The chain of use is kept in a public "ledger" and the owner can better understand who is using that data and why.

- **Translation and transcription:** As already demonstrated with the release of the 1950 US Census images, AI promises to make the transcription and translation of record images faster and easier. I recently uploaded a newspaper clipping from a historical newspaper that has not yet been digitized, and the AI platform did an amazing job in transcribing the content.

- **Timelines and mapping:** For those genealogists who want to fill in the "dash" between an ancestor's birth date and death date, artificial intelligence can help build complex timelines as well as "map" event dates to locations for a better understanding of how our ancestors lived.

### ***The Bad***

While many see artificial intelligence as a panacea that can cure many problems that come with genealogical research, AI can also be a Pandora's box filled with its own set of problems.

- **Lack of transparency:** One of the biggest issues for users of AI is the inability of the user to determine the source of the reference material used when generating content. Another issue: recognizing AI-generated content. Most users are not adding source citations to AI-generated content or watermarks to AI-generated images.

- **Bias:** Studies have proven that many AI platforms can be biased, especially since content used as reference material is supplied by humans. The same biases we see in terms of race, gender, and age are easily replicated by artificial intelligence. Recent examples have included a bias towards generating white or caucasian faces rather than people of color when asked to create certain types of images.

- **Copyright:** Many copyright and intellectual property issues related to AI have popped up in the past year. US courts have ruled that content created by artificial intelligence cannot be copyrighted. In addition, several content creators including authors and performers have sued major AI platforms such as ChatGPT and Gemini for scraping copyright protected content from the internet to help create AI-generated content.

- **False information:** As platforms using AI gather information, who or what is

determining what is true and what is false? A recent example of a law firm submitting a legal filing created by artificial intelligence - resulting in a list of fictitious court cases to support legal arguments - demonstrates the problem. This is another reason that “human review” is often required before relying upon AI-generated content.

- **Privacy violations:** Artificial intelligence can quickly collect data entered at genealogy platforms when performing research and creating family trees. In addition, users are tracked as to searches performed and this data is analyzed to create new features and products. More importantly, DNA data is captured and despite privacy policies that ensure the use of only metadata, recent computer hacks at vendors such as 23andMe have caused a steep decline in the number of people using personal DNA test kits.
- **High costs:** While not often discussed, deploying artificial intelligence can be expensive for vendors, resulting in higher prices for the genealogy consumer. The machines and servers used for AI processes require more powerful chips as well as simply just more power to run. Besides an increase in costs, there are environmental and climate impact costs through the need for more energy to power AI computers.

## Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is seen as powerful but also as something to be feared. It isn't much different than how our earliest ancestors reacted to the discovery of fire. That new technology had great benefits and advanced progress in many areas of human life. But fire also brought new dangers and uses that might not have been anticipated.

The best way to cut through the current hype and misinformation around AI is to stay informed. Learn from other genealogists how they are using artificial intelligence to improve their genealogy research.

Whether you decide to take a full plunge or just dip your toe in the AI pond, you'll discover amazing possibilities and ways to take your search for your roots to the next level.

## Resources:

- AI & Genealogy: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Family History Research - MyHeritage Knowledgebase

<https://education.myheritage.com/article/ai-genealogy-harnessing-the-power-of->

artificial-intelligence-for-family-history-research/?lcpt=article

- BanyanDNA

<https://www.banyandna.com>

- ChatGPT

<https://chat.openai.com/>

- Gemini

<https://gemini.google.com/>

- Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1255245945084761>

- How do I cite generative AI in MLA style? - Modern Language Association of America

<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>

- Perplexity

<https://www.perplexity.ai/>

Ed - have you found AI useful? Let us know in a letter or short article. Another useful resource is SAG's Andrew Redfern's videos on either the SAG website or Legacy Webinars (both subscription sites). You may have noted Andrew is speaking on this topic of the NSW/ACT Annual Conference (see Page 74).

A video available on youtube featuring Blaine Bettinger on use of AI in family history can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbRXzd2SmNM>

Please ignore the accompanying chitchat, as his opinions are always worth hearing.

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# Discovering more about the relative of a relative of a relative

*Elaine Gifford*

The story so far... [see the March issue of The Ancestral Searcher, Vol.47 No. 1, p29]

*A few years ago while doing research for my second cousin Lorna, I came across a puzzling 1887 newspaper item about a Lady BRASSEY having breakfast with Lorna's great-grandfather Herbert WOODGATE in South Australia's 'mid north'. Further research revealed that Annie BRASSEY was Herbert's second cousin from England. But each discovery seemed to raise more questions. Why were she and her family being entertained by the Governor of South Australia? Who was Lord BRASSEY, and what was the sailing vessel named Sunbeam which featured in their story?*

## **Lord BRASSEY**

Thomas BRASSEY was easy to find online, and is also included in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. The wealthy son of an English railway magnate, he grew up with a great love of the sea, and started sailing during his school years. As well as studying law and later becoming a member of parliament, he gained a master mariner's certificate. His privileged life enabled him to cruise extensively in his own yachts, including in the Mediterranean and to Canada. He and his wife Annie lived in his constituency of Hastings in the south-east of England. Here their five children were born between 1863 and 1875.

In 1881 Thomas was knighted for his work in establishing volunteer naval reserves. Five years later he became a peer as Baron Brassey of Bulkeley. So this was how Herbert WOODGATE's cousin Annie ALLNUTT became Lady BRASSEY.

## **Life with the Brasseys**

Annie and Thomas seem to have been well matched. He went to sea whenever other duties permitted. And Annie? Why be confined to home, even in one's child-bearing years. With the assistance of nurses and governesses, she took every opportunity to accompany her husband on his cruises. While at sea her

custom was to rise early to write, initially in the form of letters to her father, about their experiences as they travelled. In the nineteenth century equivalent of a travel blog, she then published these stories privately.

Advancing to steam-assisted vessels, Thomas commissioned his third yacht, the *Sunbeam*, launched in 1874. Two years later, their youngest child only about fifteen months old, they embarked on this luxury vessel to journey around the world, possibly the first circumnavigation by a private yacht. There is no need to imagine Annie assisting with compass or with sail, for the complement of forty or more included crew, household staff and even some pets.

We can learn a great deal about this extended journey because on their return to England Annie published an account of the cruise. The book was called *In The Trades, The Tropics, & The Roaring Forties, or A Voyage in the Sunbeam: Our Home on the Ocean For Eleven Months*. Readers marvelled at the exotic experiences which wealth could enable. The appetite for this early example of travel writing led to many further editions, and translation into other languages followed.



*The family onboard Sunbeam with visitor Abu Bakar.<sup>1</sup>*

At last I was finding out why Lady BRASSEY's name was known in far away South Australia.

### **Nineteenth century world travel, Brassey style**

Despite having grown up in South Australia (though not in the 1800s) I had never heard of the names Brassey or Sunbeam. Now I found that even in 2022 the book was not unknown. As part of my general search for Brassey references, I came across a cover photo on ebay promoting 'one of the great books of 19<sup>th</sup> century travel, written by one of England's most wealthy women as she voyaged around the world in sumptuous style'. The blurb was informative:

*First published in 1878, A Voyage in the Sunbeam is a journal detailing the Brassey family's voyage around the world. Annie Brassey delights in the mild Tahitian and Hawaiian breezes, shivers in the Japanese cold, and swelters in the Arabian heat. She struggles to keep down her breakfast sailing through the Straits of Magellan, and boldly marches her children up to the caldera of an active Hawaiian volcano. She suffers many hardships, but Brassey is undaunted, retaining a childlike wonder in the sights she sees.*

*Their travels took them from England to Madeira, Cape Verde, across the Atlantic to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, across the Pacific to Tahiti and Hawaii, and eventually to Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Egypt and back to England.<sup>2</sup>*

What travellers they were! As well as sightseeing and collecting memorabilia, social contacts were important to the couple. Their genuine interest in faraway places and people was appreciated along the way. A comment I saw repeated, particularly of Lady BRASSEY, was that everywhere she went, 'she met royalty and was treaty like royalty'.

### **Life at home**

It seems that the adventurous Lady BRASSEY was never content simply to be a privileged 'lady'. She was known for her charitable work especially for the St John Ambulance Association. Many cultural and natural history objects brought back from their travels were organised and displayed in their home museum. In addition, she was an accomplished photographer who exhibited her work and collated albums, a number of which are still in existence.

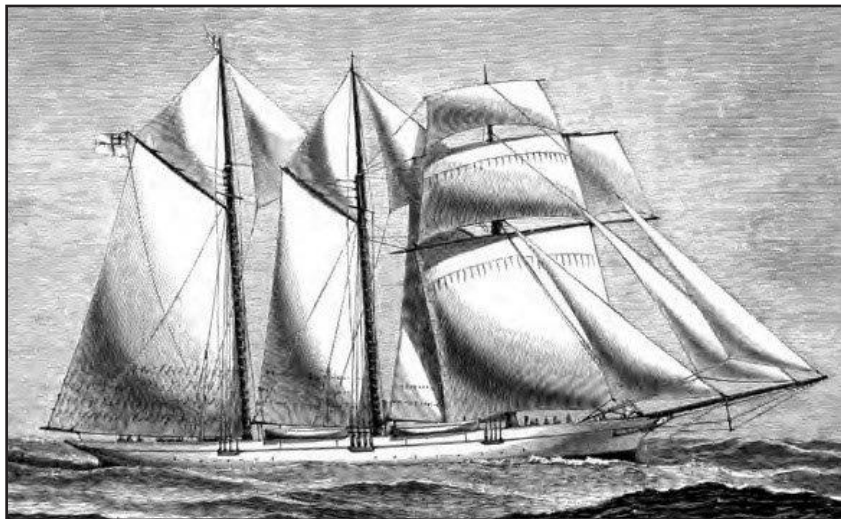
An obituary would later lament: 'The bazaars Lady Brassey has opened, the stones of new buildings she has laid, the distributions of prizes she has

conducted, and the many gatherings she has graced with her presence, will all recur to the minds of the inhabitants of English towns ... admired by all, and beloved by many of the people of Hastings'.<sup>3</sup>

### The final voyage

It may have been when Lord BRASSEY lost his seat in parliament in 1886 that the decision was made to take all the family on another long voyage for the sake of Lady BRASSEY's health. She had suffered from a form of bronchitis from childhood, though it seems that she rarely curtailed her activities because of it. This would be the voyage which included the Australian colonies.

Because of the popular interest earlier books had generated and with improving world communication, this new journey was widely reported. For example, The Port Augusta Dispatch, though distant from the proposed route, rather unkindly reported that 'Lady BRASSEY is out on the cruise once more with her husband in tow. The *Sunbeam*, with the historiennne of her voyages, "dear Tom", and the children on board, left Burmah in March for Singapore, Fremantle, Adelaide and Melbourne'.<sup>4</sup>



*Lord Brassey's Sunbeam, a steam-assisted three-masted topsail-yard schooner.*<sup>5</sup>



## **‘Consigned to a watery grave’**

After the *Sunbeam*’s visits to Adelaide and Melbourne, they continued past the Barrier Reef and around to Port Darwin. Sadly, they had not yet reached Mauritius when Lady BRASSEY, struggling with ill health on these seas, died of malaria, and was buried at sea.

There was a huge outpouring of grief at her passing. Even the nine hundred residents of Terowie in South Australia were favoured (thanks to Herbert WOODGATE’s English links and the Terowie Enterprise) with most of an effusive obituary from a Hastings newspaper. Adding local interest, the long article recalled ‘as but yesterday, Lady Brassey sitting at breakfast at Terowie in a less pretentious cabin than that in which her whole life seemed to be so much devoted, and before daybreak we find her showing the same motherly affection to children of her relatives as she did in years now past and gone.’<sup>3</sup>

## **An Australian Brassey**

One child in that Terowie household, Hamilton Ernest Brassey Joseph WOODGATE, who was about to turn four, may have been particularly smitten by the pre-dawn visitors. I wonder if this was when family usage settled on ‘Brassey’ as his main name? He would grow up to become my cousin Lorna’s much beloved grandfather, known as Brassey H WOODGATE.

So thank you, Lorna, for setting me off on this fascinating journey of discovery, a hundred and thirty-four years after Lady BRASSEY’s final voyage in the *Sunbeam*.

## **References:**

1. The Brassey family on board the Sunbeam with Abu Bakar, Sultan of Johor, 1887. Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, East Sussex; Reference Collection, Hastings Library, East Sussex County Council. (The glass plate negative for this photo still exists.)
2. A Voyage in the Sunbeam – ebay, 25 February 2022.
3. Death of Lady Brassey. 25 November 1887, *The Terowie Enterprise*, (SA: 1884 - 1891), p. 3. Accessed February 1, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210504997>.
4. Grape Shot. [Miscellany] May 3 1887, *The Port Augusta Dispatch, Newcastle and Flinders Chronicle* (SA : 1885 - 1916), p. 3. Accessed February 1, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article196751663>.
5. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steam\\_Yacht\\_Sunbeam.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steam_Yacht_Sunbeam.jpg).

# A Peep at Brassey House, Canberra

*Elaine Gifford*



*Brassey Hotel (photographed 2011<sup>1</sup>), was named Brassey House in 1927*

Canberra, May 1927

Canberra was abuzz. The Duke and Duchess of York were in Australia ready for the long-awaited opening of the (provisional) Parliament House on 9 May. There was frenzied activity in the new city – five new public buildings, 70 business premises in process, more housing, hostels, infrastructure. High officials of parliament arriving (and boarding-houses cleared of current residents) ... camps set up for 3000 military personnel ... space for tourists to camp ... ‘traction engines, road rollers, tractors, motor vans, and smaller vehicles hurtle over the roads in constant procession’ ... building work ‘attacked with feverish energy’ ... public expectations aired and managed ... flagpoles and decorations ... cleaning up, final fit-outs.

## The Brassey

One announcement among many: three new boarding-houses will shortly be completed. Of these, Brassey House in Acton will be named after Lord Brassey

who was Governor of Victoria at the time of Federation, and Beauchamp House at Telopea will commemorate Lord Beauchamp, who was Governor of New South Wales at the same time. (Both the buildings and the 'suburbs' would change names in subsequent years.)

So began the life of this American colonial style building. Initially it offered accommodation for dignitaries, members of parliament and public servants, but later became available for tourists. By now, renamed the Brassey Hotel in Barton, it is advertised as having 'old world charm with all the comforts of a quality property', set among manicured gardens and lawns and in easy reach of Canberra's attractions.

I wonder if 2027 will see any acknowledgment of the centenary of Brassey House?

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1. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Australia license. Attribution: Bidgee. Accessed February 2024. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brassey\\_Hotel\\_in\\_Barton.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brassey_Hotel_in_Barton.jpg)

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A sneak preview of the new kitchen. Along with a new members' meeting area it is hoped that these improvements will encourage greater visitation and enjoyment of our members.

# Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN

## - A prodigious man!

*Frances Corcoran*

*Teacher, writer, enthusiastic sponsor of Irish emigrants, journalist and newspaper editor, publican, Justice of the Peace and magistrate.*

Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN was born in 1817 to Thomas and Ellen (nee HENNESSY) CORCORAN. He received an education in Ireland and was appointed as a pupil teacher in the Clonoulty parish school at the age of 14 years. Intending teachers started training as a pupil-teacher. After completing this training, Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN became the schoolmaster at the Clonoulty National School, which was adjacent to the Clonoulty Catholic Church.

Thomas CORCORAN married Mary RYAN on 2 February 1857 at Anacarty, County Tipperary. Born in August 1836, Mary was almost 20 years younger than Thomas.



*Thomas Hennessy Corcoran  
(1817-1904)*



*Mary Corcoran (nee Ryan)  
(1836-1919)*

On 11 March 1858, Mary's brother James RYAN sponsored Thomas and Mary, Thomas's widowed mother, Ellen CORCORAN, and his sister, Honora

CORCORAN, as migrants to Australia using the New South Wales Government's immigrant nomination scheme. Two years after their marriage, Thomas and Mary and the other family members migrated to Australia on the *Queen of England* arriving in New South Wales on 8 July 1859.

When they arrived in New South Wales, the family group travelled directly to Boorowa, where Thomas resumed his teaching career. Thomas CORCORAN taught for a year in Boorowa before he (temporarily) retired from teaching and took up journalism.

Thomas CORCORAN was an enthusiastic sponsor of fellow Irish men and women's migration to Australia. No sooner had Thomas and Mary CORCORAN settled in Boorowa than Thomas commenced sponsoring other Clonoulty residents to migrate to Australia. Richard REID notes that "in early November 1859, just four months after his arrival, Thomas [CORCORAN] nominated ten single emigrants from his home parish of Clonoulty at a cost of £40". Dr REID suggests that Thomas was likely to have brought this money with him on his journey to Australia, since he had made the deposit within months of his arrival in Australia and that "as a National School teacher he would have been well known to most people in the parish and was someone to whom these young, prospective emigrants could entrust their money."

On 30 June 1860 Thomas CORCORAN sponsored Edmond and Mary DWYER and their children Patrick, Johanna and William. Thomas also sponsored Stephen STAPLETON who was living in Ballagh—the site of the infamous riot and demolition of the inn, which caused the eventual transportation of Thomas's uncle Roger CORCORAN and others. Thomas also sponsored his brother and sister-in-law Mathew and Helen CORCORAN's migration to New South Wales in 1861.

During the years from 1860 to 1869 Thomas worked as a journalist, during which time he:

*... ably pleased the cause of the district, and had attention drawn to the many requirements of the town and district, notably so the establishment of the Post Office and Show Association at Burrowa.*

Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN was the proprietor of the first newspaper in Burrowa, The Burrangong and Burrowa Times, which was printed first at Young and then at Burrowa. He later edited and published a weekly newspaper, The

Burrowa Telegraph, a twice-weekly publication, which he initiated in August 1866. The introduction of the telegraph to Burrowa was a catalyst for this latest enterprise.

For many years Thomas was correspondent for the Freeman's Journal. Through his newspaper columns he fiercely advocated for those issues about which he felt passionate. He was instrumental in progressing the township of Burrowa through the early introduction not only of the post office and the Show Association of Burrowa but also of the telegraph, a District Court and at his "instigation ... the Bank of NSW [which was] opened in Burrowa on 16 May 1866".

In his early days in Boorowa, Thomas ran a twice-weekly coach service to Lambing Flat (Young), New South Wales, in response to the discovery of gold there. Additionally, he held the licence for the Queens Arms Hotel, in Brial Street, Boorowa. Thomas also held the licence for The Carpenters Arms, which he took over in late 1860. In 1862, the hotel comprised 11 rooms, an eight-stall stable, a well of water, a blacksmith forge and a four-roomed cottage with a verandah. He changed the name of the hotel to the Telegraph Hotel shortly before he transferred his licence from the Telegraph Hotel to a two-storey terrace house across the street, from where he conducted both the hotel and his newspaper. He subsequently took over the licence of the Court House Hotel in the mid-1860s. His cousin William CORCORAN and William's sons, John and James, later held the Court House Hotel licence.

Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN was also a Justice of the Peace and a magistrate.

Financial troubles appear to have forced him out of journalism and, evidently, the hotel business. Thomas's newspapers were sold by arbitration in November 1867, so his ownership of the Burrowa Telegraph was short-lived. His wife, Mary CORCORAN, gave the printing plant to John Nagle RYAN, son of Ned RYAN, in lieu of payment of a debt of over £172—which RYAN had lent to her husband and for which he sued for recovery in February 1874.

Thomas CORCORAN resumed his teaching career in 1869. During this time he taught at Tumut, Adelong, Milton and Boorowa, all in New South Wales. He continued teaching until 1889, when he retired to Boorowa and built "a very commodious cottage", Grianane, in Marsden Street, in which to retire. On his return to Boorowa, a newspaper correspondent wrote:

*"... all are delighted at his return, and gratified to find him and family in the enjoyment of good health. This gentleman, while a resident here before did much to advance the town. It is to his energy and perseverance we owe the early introduction of the telegraph, district court and many other advantages we enjoy."*

Thomas CORCORAN lived in Grianane for about 15 years before succumbing to bronchitis and dying on 11 July 1904. The funeral service was held at St Patrick's Church, Boorowa, where the Reverend Father FOGARTY celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass. Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN'S remains were interred in the Catholic portion of the Boorowa cemetery.



*Grianane, Marsden St, Boorowa, 1889*

Upon Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN's death The Burrowa News was gushing in its praise of the late Boorowa resident:

*"We would be obliged to write, or rather to print, more than our space would afford, to give anything like an adequate account of Thomas Hennessy CORCORAN'S fearless outspoken defence of whatever he considered right and just. A lover of the dear old land of his birth, a law-abiding citizen of the land of his adoption, and an unshaken adherent to the Church of his forefathers, ever ready to defend her doctrines, and to show in the practice of his own life that he not only believed in faith, but also in good*



*works. In this matter he was no day dreamer; his pen and his purse were ever to the fore when the honour of the dear old land of his birth, or the religion of which he was a clear exponent, and a faithful adherent to, were in question. Both in the country and metropolitan press, his able letters written in the cause of justice, honour and truth were eagerly looked for by the reading public”.*

Mary CORCORAN survived her husband, Thomas Hennessey CORCORAN, by some 15 years. She died on 3 June 1919 at Whareora, the residence of her daughter Nellie and son-in-law Jerry CORCORAN. She was remembered as a most highly respected and revered pioneer of the Boorowa district and was renowned for her hospitality and charity.



*Grianane, Marsden St, Boorowa 2000s*

Ed - An image of Ellen Corcoran (nee Hennessey) (1790-1871) is featured on our cover this month.

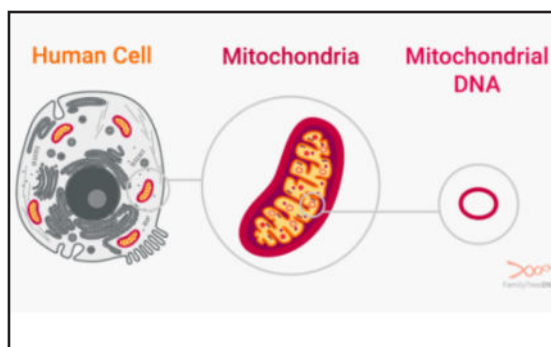
# The Might of Mitochondrial DNA

*Clare McGuinness*

My brother and I were each other's only mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) match in 2023. The sole representatives of maternal haplogroup U5a2a1d in the world – who had tested a full sequence mtDNA, of course! I only tested myself because he had no matches for a while, and I wondered if there had been an error in his test's processing. Fortunately, we were an exact match. For many genealogists, mtDNA has not provided the breakthroughs suggested by the advertising. This is the story about how using the readily available tools at AncestryDNA and a bit of curiosity might just have broken through one of my Irish brickwalls. For when I really carefully and methodically examined a group of matches, I realised that in the family of my matrilineal line, there was a distant female cousin who was similarly the end of her matrilineal line who had tested at AncestryDNA, and I could 'target test' her.

## Mitochondrial DNA?

Do you remember from high-school biology that mitochondrial DNA is the powerhouse of our cells? It is ring shaped DNA, rather than the better-known double-helix of our nuclear DNA. It is also small, with the whole organelle being just 16,569 base pairs.<sup>1</sup> It was also the first DNA that could be reliably tested in the late 1990s. It was clarified that while mtDNA passed from a mother to all her children, only her daughters were able to pass on the mtDNA as the male mitochondrial DNA is exhausted by the propulsion of sperm cells.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, Autosomal DNA (atDNA) consists of 3 billion base pairs, and the test samples over 700,000 positions of the DNA strand to 'describe' it for matching purposes. YDNA is sampled at just over 700 positions on the Y chromosome and is the most expensive version of the test.



Initially researchers sampled what were called Hyper-Variable Regions (HVR) 1 and 2, where it was thought that most variation in the DNA might occur. Being such a small but abundant DNA, eventually the only company now providing any test of mtDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, decided to do only Full Sequence testing in 2006.<sup>1</sup> The HVRs could not give enough

discrimination to be used for genealogical matching, as the likely common ancestor was tens of thousands of years ago. In 2014, when my brother tested, I knew I was a descendant of Ursula, one of the posited “Seven Daughters of Eve” by early researcher Bryan SYKES in Oxford.<sup>3</sup> A great read.

When very early testing of mtDNA began in the 1990s, mostly European based samples could be ‘distilled’ to just seven successful female lineages that had not died out over millenia.<sup>3</sup> Ursula’s lineage was traced back to the Greek region about 35,000 years ago. My U5a2 haplogroup dates to between 14,000 and 22,000 years ago. Members of this group were among the first people to repopulate Europe and West Asia. However Neolithic farmers and herders from West Asia crowded out the U52a lineage as they entered western Eurasia. It is now only about 1.5% of population throughout Europe with the greatest frequency in northern Europe and Russia.<sup>4</sup> It’s theoretical, mathematical and scientific, but also very exciting!

In a Full Sequence test it is recommended to only consider matches who are an exact match (0 genetic distance) or have a Genetic Distance of 1. The latter means that a single change (mutation) has occurred on one position of the entire mtDNA. Would my target tester fulfill this criterion? Time to introduce her and tell you how I found her. Her name is Eleanor, she is in her 80s and lives in Perth, Western Australia.

### **Looking at atDNA carefully**

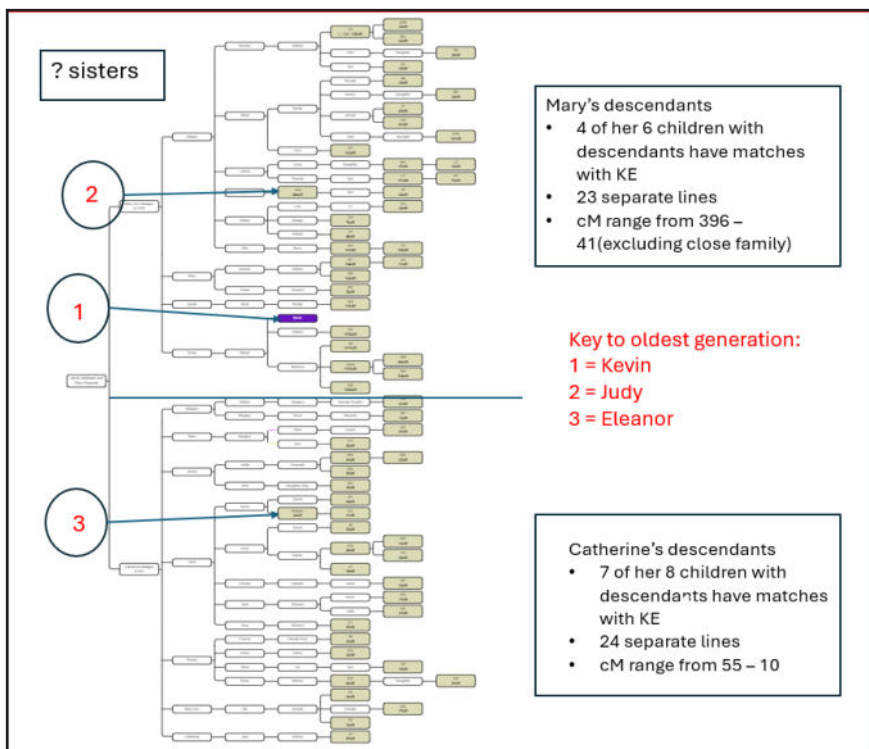
Are you a bit of a ‘dipper-here-and-there’ when you look at your atDNA results? I was until I had a real research question to tackle. All the companies forever send you notifications of ‘new matches’ and they don’t know which family or research question you are focused on, so distractions can be frequent. Be strong, working with DNA takes focus. While learning about an analysis tool called What Are The Odds (WATO) on DNA Painter, I began to chart matches descending from a single ancestral couple, as a way of visualising the extent of the sampling of their DNA, ie more matches = more sampling.

I charted matches descended from my x2 great-grandparents William HUTCHINS and Mary MADIGAN, a convict couple. They wed in 1851 in Launceston and had ten children, of whom six had mostly large families of their own. Such an abundant number of descendants certainly increased the chances of identifying matches.

The chart below shows the matches of my maternal uncle Kevin, with the principle in DNA analysis being that the oldest generation available to test has the most DNA of the ancestors you are researching. Well, that is the theory. My

uncle matched Eleanor at 52cM (unweighted). I match Eleanor at 53cM, and my siblings at 43, 61 and 62cM. Our mother, my uncle's sister, received more of the Hutchins+Madigan DNA from her mother than my uncle did; how else could she pass it onto us? That is the luck of random inheritance of DNA, and why it is always robust to test multiple family members, both close and as distant as you can. But I am ahead of the story – Eleanor has not yet been found.

The chart helped me see that of the six children who had families, only three other children of William and Mary have descendants who have tested at Ancestry who match my uncle. There are other descendants of this couple in the Ancestry database but they don't match Kevin as he only inherited about 6.25% of the DNA of each of the couple. You can see that four different generations of descendants have tested, the four columns where the boxes are beige. My uncle (identified by the purple box below) and Judy are the closest generation to William and Mary. Sharing great-grandparents, they are second cousins (2C). You identify matches through a process called Clustering or Grouping. Since Kevin and Judy have theoretically the largest amount of DNA from this ancestral couple, the first step is to look at shared matches between them.



Kevin and Judy share 396cM, a very healthy amount of DNA for 2C, where the average is 230cM, but the range is 41-592cM.<sup>5</sup> They share 18 segments of DNA, with the largest being 59cM. The eighteen segments are scattered across the 23 chromosomes. These segments must have been inherited from William and Mary. But in deeper truth, they must have been inherited from either William's or Mary's families, since William and Mary are themselves compilations of their own parents' DNA.

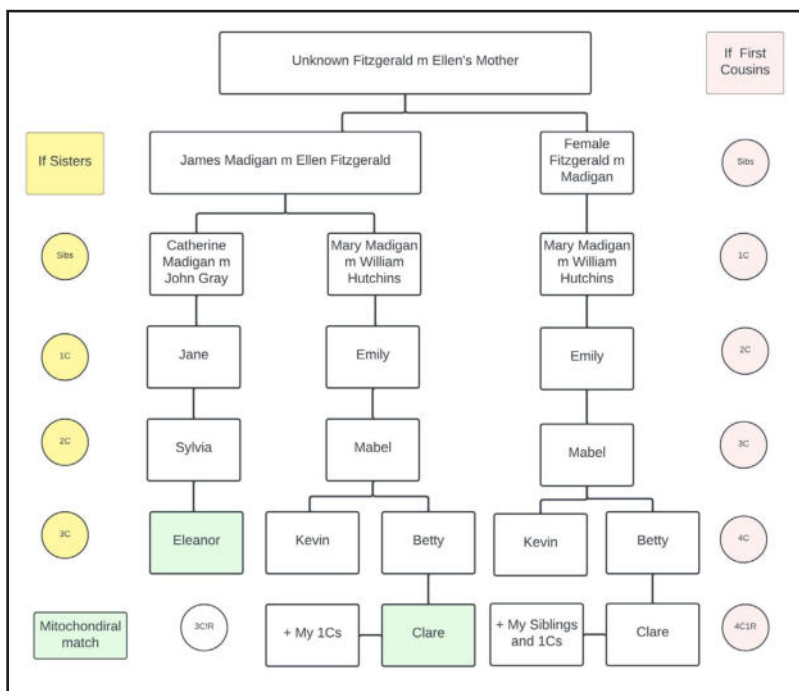
It follows that some number [n] of segments were inherited from William and another number [18-n] were inherited from Mary. Ancestry does not give segment details, and Judy's results have not been uploaded to a site that does provide this detail (such as MyHeritage, LivingDNA and Gedmatch). For Clustering I have available an abundant 396cM of DNA that might be found in other descendants of William and Mary, ie their shared matches. Generally closer relatives have more segments, while more distant relatives have fewer but must have at least one shared segment. If there is **just one** shared segment, then it tells us that the segment came from only William or only Mary. Interesting isn't it? The practical step on AncestryDNA to take is to mark all these shared matches (and Kevin and Judy), with a coloured dot, to form a group of matches I called Hutchins+Madigan.

I was pleased with the chart above, but I chanced really to look at the matches who I could not find a link to William and Mary. Several years ago I found two matches whose ancestor had the name Madigan and who belong to this Cluster. Both matches were descendants of Catherine MADIGAN, an Irish lass, and John GRAY, who married in 1856 in Victoria and had a fertile family of nine children. Looking at every shared match between Kevin and Judy exceptionally carefully, and building out their sometimes-tiny trees, I found 29 matches who descended from Catherine and John Gray (more even than from Mary and William). The matches range from 20-55cM. AncestryDNA has a cut-off for reporting shared matches at 20cM; **both** Kevin and Judy had to match some-one at 20cM or higher to be reported as a 'Shared Match.' Undoubtedly there are more descendants of this couple in the database. In addition to my uncle's DNA results I have my three siblings' and two first cousins' results to try to find them.

Among this group were three women who are in the matrilineal line from Catherine MADIGAN. As Eleanor was of the older generation, ie the same generation as Kevin and Judy, I chose her for target testing. Thank you Eleanor for your interest in the Madigan question and willingness to be coached at length about the Ancestry site over the phone. I felt her pain as she juggled passwords for her husband's test as well as her own. Her oral history is strong about Catherine who is her great-grandmother. It says Catherine came out in 1844 from County

Clare, that is before my Mary. Against this arrival date is a lack of passenger record, and that in 1844 Catherine would have been a child, and most likely would have come with family. Another Catherine MADIGAN arrived in 1853 which fits better with her marriage in 1856. However, the latter arrival came from Limerick!

Let me propose that my Mary MADIGAN and Eleanor's Catherine MADIGAN are sisters. Catherine's parents are named on her marriage and death certificates as James MADIGAN and Ellen FITZGERALD and that she was from "Killofin, County Clare", but that location is not clearly written, and Killofin is nowhere near the border with County Clare. Her estimated years of birth are 1834 (MC) and 1836 (DC). Her father James was a labourer. Her descent from Catherine and mine from Mary is shown in the chart below.



## Who was my Mary MADIGAN?

Mary's convict record is not as specific as others. She was recorded as a 19 year old nursery maid in 1848, whose crime was 'arson for the purpose of transportation'.<sup>6</sup> She was a native of County Clare, her place of trial was Ennis, County Clare, and she had 'brothers John and Patrick and a sister Catherine'.<sup>7</sup> Her 1851 marriage record does not include any parental information, and her 1900 death certificate, informed by her husband, states that she was

born in Limerick and that her unnamed father was a Baker. You'd think he'd remember his father-in-law's first name.

Before records were easily found online, I found (on FamilySearch) a family of Madigans in Limerick, who had a Mary born 1828, a Catherine born 1832, a Patrick born 1834 and a John born 1835 with parents Patrick MADIGAN and Ann TAYLOR. This family hailed from Rathkeale, south of Limerick City. Emboldened by the fact that other children of this family who were dead by 1848 were not listed on Mary's prison record, and as I did not find an alternative marriage for this Mary, I claimed her as mine and posted this online. Why she went to County Clare and was tried in 1848, at the height of the Great Famine, I could not know. Beyond my supposing, there is no other link between my Mary and the Limerick family - other than her husband reported she was born in Limerick!

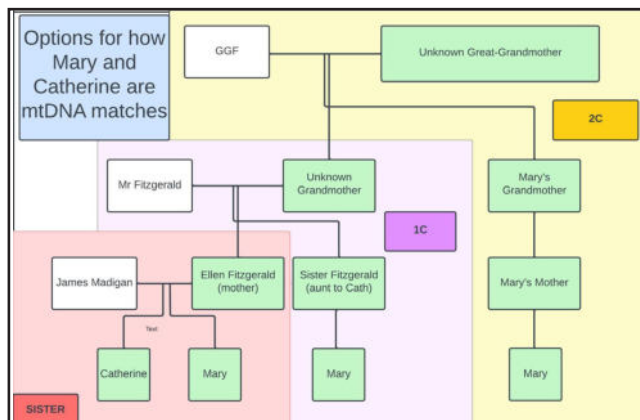
So now I have a Mary who may have been born in Limerick or Clare, with a baker-father, and a sister named Catherine. And I have a Catherine born about the same time in Clare, whose father James Madigan was a labourer, not a baker and whose other family members are unknown. The irony of my early research is that when I have tried to inform my known Hutchins relatives about the new mtDNA results one person has told me "That can't be right, her parents were Patrick and Ann in Limerick". My likely error has solidified into fact.

Eleanor was a Madigan match, somehow, according to Clustering atAncestryDNA. Then mtDNA testing confirmed that she is also a Full Sequence mtDNA match to me and my brother at a Genetic Distance of 1, an acceptable result for a time frame of nearly 200 years. Mary and Catherine MADIGAN share a common female ancestor, but was their shared ancestor their mother? Documentary evidence of different fathers' occupations is not a wholly compelling sticking point.

In fact, the common female ancestor could be a grandmother, where granddaughters both married men named Madigan; by the same logic a great-grandmother whose female great-granddaughters married men named Madigan, and so on. But there is a limit because unlike mtDNA, atDNA peters out by 6-7 generations at the amounts AncestryDNA provides. See the diagram below.

Can atDNA help? Perhaps. The following table looks at the likely cM relationships for the different relationships and cM values resulting from considering who might be Mary and Catherine's shared common female ancestor.<sup>5</sup>





In fact, Kevin shares 52cM and Judy shares 58cM with Eleanor. The next generation down is my generation, being therefore 3C1R if Mary and Catherine were sisters, my three siblings and two 1Cs share an average of 44.8cM with Eleanor with a range of 0-66cM. The average cM for 3C1R is 48 with a range of 0-192.

Relationship-of-Mary-and-Catherine	Cousinship-of-Kevin-and-Eleanor	Shared-ancestors-of-Kevin-and-Eleanor	Average-cM	Range-of-cM
Sisters	3C	x2-GGP	75	0-234
1C	4C	x3-GGP	35	0-139
2C	5C	x4-GGP	25	0-117
3C	6C	x5-GGP	18	0-71

If Catherine and Mary were first cousins, so James in County Clare and Patrick in County Limerick could be related Madigans or un-related Madigans, one a labourer and one a baker. When shifting down a generation so that Kevin and Eleanor are now 4C and I am a 4C1R to Eleanor, the cM values of 4C (average 35, range 0-139) and 4C1R (average 28, range 0-128) are equally possible. Is one generation enough time to allow women to move in 1830s Ireland between counties, so that one is in Limerick and the other Clare, with neither location being on the border? The wives of Patrick and James would need to be sisters or female cousins for us to all share the same mitochondrial haplogroup. The connection between the two families is through the female line, despite them sharing the same (paternal) surname. By Occam's Razor, ie the simplest explanation, Catherine and Mary would be sisters.

## Conclusion

mtDNA compliments atDNA by confirming that an atDNA match is on the matrilineal line of both test takers. I do not know exactly where the link exists yet, although atDNA tells me it is not in the far distance, perhaps between 3-6 cousin range. It gives me a family from County Clare to further build a tree, and to look for matches from within it. The Irish documentary record of this period, pre-1830 is very patchy, while the DNA record from this time should persist for 6-7 generations, dependant on a wealth of fertile children. You can see that relying on just one or two test takers to draw conclusions at these lower cM levels is fraught, but I have ten test results to examine, and analysis of DNA is improving all the time!

I need to look for records of the Madigans of Killofen and the Madigans of Rathkeale, and follow any identified children forward in time to either rule them in or out as possibly my family. I need to search on other DNA databases for any descendants of either family to repeat the analysis done above.

The DNA SIG has just had a meeting all about mtDNA and I was not able to attend. This story is to share my 'mito' success.

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# Don't get me started!

Rosemary McKenzie

*Ed - For old and new members alike, this reprint of an article published in 2009 in TAS is a tribute to a friend and colleague who gave so much to our Society. Many will recall hearing Rosemary telling this same story, and for those who were not lucky enough to hear her, I trust you will hear echoes of your own stops and starts on the path of family history. **We are forever grateful that something 'got her started'.***

Some days I wish I'd not started genealogy. I'd have more space in my house and garage for starters! But I don't think it often and anyhow - it's too late.

My father was a bookbinder by trade working for a publishing company, and it still is his main hobby. My father had a "hobby room" where he did his after hours bookbinding. This was in amongst wall-to-wall boxes, bookcases full of books and magazines, and kits and models of trains, planes and boats (sorry "ships"). There was just enough space between all this collection for a narrow walkway in a small area to stand at a worktable. For a child it was an Aladdin's cave; For my mother it was a nightmare!

One time while I was "caving" in Dad's hobby room, with him working, I came across a booklet called "The Tyack Family Tree". It was written by Carrie CALDWELL for a TYACK family reunion in Yalka South on the weekend of 13 April 1966 (Yalka South is about 50 kilometres north of Shepperton, Victoria). Even though Dad was interested, with four young children, we were unable to go to the reunion. Dad had purchased a copy of the booklet and it had been stashed in amongst his collections.

I was immediately fascinated by the ancestor photos in the middle pages. Of course the first matter of importance was finding my name in the family tree list, and there, on the last page, I had been preserved for posterity. The brief history at the front told the story of three TYACK brothers who had migrated to Victoria early in the 1950s. This booklet had the family tree of one of the brothers, Carrie's and my ancestor, William Ruse TYACK who had settled in the Numurkah area of Victoria. There were seven children who between them had 25 grandchildren, and by the time the booklet was put together there were a considerable number of great grandchildren. While my father was not the

youngest, of the youngest, he nearly was - hence the last page entry.

I immediately noted some deficiencies. The spouses who married into the family were only identified by a first initial and surname; my brother who was born in 1966 wasn't there, and also my younger cousins. There were only first names for descendants, no middle names, dates, places, etc. I got to and started updating my immediate family, from my grandfather down. The single page suddenly became five pages and I understood why all the extra detail had been left out of the initial publication.

Oops it had started. The thin edge of the wedge. My first research goal was to update the whole booklet with the additional information. Surely it couldn't be that hard! Famous last words.

Dad said that Carrie and a relative had driven around collecting the information for the book and had visited us before the reunion. At the time visiting and corresponding was the only way to do genealogy. Dad had her address somewhere and I started corresponding with Carrie. There was so much information and in the end we decided a visit was going to be easier rather than writing a lot more letters.

In February 1981 Dad took me on my very first research trip! We drove up to Numurkah and stayed with church friends. I then preceded to do the same as Carrie had done those years previously. I visited the families in the booklet, in that area, collecting the additional information, collecting addresses of families that had moved away, and the best part, poring over family bibles and birthday books, photos and family ephemera. It was there I found another gap in the original booklet - children under 10 years who had died had not been included. There were a lot in the late 1800s.

This trip was followed closely by my second genealogy trip to the Geelong TYACKs - my father's cousins. I had my licence and a car by then and here I stayed with my Grandmother's cousin Alva and Neil HUTTON. Again I visited families collecting more and more information, and finding more and more descendant trails to follow. I started to have an inkling of "The answer to one problem leads to two more".

In December we did our annual Christmas trip to my mother's mother in Brisbane. While there we unfolded a large printed supermarket paper bag (back when groceries came in big paper bags) and on the white blank inside Mum documented the ancestry of her family and their known descendants. My trails to follow had just doubled! I also went through my Grandmother's photo

album and selected a small set of photos which we took to a photographer in Brisbane to have copied.

Already it had started to cost me real money. Just as well I was working part time since Mum and Dad couldn't finance my new hobby. While we were in Brisbane we went to the Registry of BDM and I applied for my grandparent's marriage and birth certificates. Within the week, they came in the post to Grandma's house while we were still there on holidays.

Since the very beginning my Mum had been concerned about the "skeletons" I might uncover as I continued to ask questions about my relatives. Each time I mentioned genealogy "skeletons" were raised as an issue. It was on this trip I found the first one! It was closer to home than Mum would have liked. I discussed it with my grandmother; and she wasn't concerned if people knew. Once this "real skeleton" was aired nothing of skeletons were ever mentioned again.

By 1984 I'd move to Lake Cargelligo (140 kilometres north of Griffith) and found a whole nest of TYACKs in Tullibigeal - about 40 kilometres away. Of the original seven children in the Numurkah area one brother had moved to Tullibigeal. I now had a new branch of Carrie's family tree to flesh out with dates, places, names, marriages and babies. I'd finally move somewhere where they knew how to spell my surname and I got married! As if I didn't have enough to research I'd just doubled it again. I also had my children's father's side to do.

A couple of years later, with two children in tow, I met Dorothy FELLOWES (good friend and member of the Wagga Wagga Society) who introduced me to microfiche, microfilm, genealogy societies and the GRD. While I hadn't completed my original goal, my new goal was to collect my ancestor information back to when they came out to Australia. We also started a small group of people in Lake Cargelligo (before the days of incorporation and legalese) and organised research days where some of the Griffith Society members would bring over research materials for us to use.

Then for three years I went back to university full time. Everything went on hold. By the time I picked up the family tree again the whole genealogical world had changed. While a few previous contacts had dropped off the family tree, the 'genie' pool had grown bigger, the research pool was significantly deeper, and while there was no gnome writing new historical records, there were definitely people writing new indexes to those records, and genealogically related internet sites were proliferating exponentially by the week.

I was drowning! Not only was there all the information I had collected but there

was now all this information I could collect if I just had the time to do it. There were so many possible directions and so many people researching related lines.

I sometimes wonder what if there hadn't been a booklet called "The Tyack Family Tree" in my father's collection. But I can't stop, I'm addicted! Surely there must be a finish line somewhere.

Don't get me started? Too late now - I just need to find the finish line.

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# Lindsays in Europe

## *Christopher John Lindesay*

As a long-term member of the Clan Lindsay Society (CLS) in Scotland, and with my life-long engagement with Lindsay genealogy and heraldry, I often find my interest piqued by CLS social media discussions concerning possible Lindsay ancestry. In 2023 Lars ERIKSSON, from Finland, asked how his 17<sup>th</sup> century Lintz (Lindsay) ancestor might have been related to the Lindsays in Scotland. Intrigued by this unusual Scandinavian link to the Scottish lowland family, I began investigating how one might verify the connection.

While pursuing my Lindsay research in the last 15 years or so I have found the most fruitful lines of inquiry to be (a) locating genealogical evidence; (b) finding confirmatory DNA evidence via present-day descendants; and (c) investigating heraldic evidence. This article explores the findings arising from following each of these three approaches in the case of Lars Eriksson's LINTZ/LINDSAY ancestry.

As I pursued this investigation, I came across a second European family descended from Scottish Lindsays; following the same methods in this second case produced a rather different outcome. Together these explorations led down a number of fascinating byways, and although the findings are not conclusive – as is often the case with genealogical research – they are intriguing!

### ***The Finnish family of Jacob LINTZ***

Lars ERIKSSON, who contacted the CLS in 2023, traces his line of descent back to Jacob LINTZ who, then known as James LINDSAY, joined Fredrick VON ROSEN's Swedish infantry in 1630. The Swedish army was at that time involved in the Thirty Years War, supporting the Protestant Bohemian states against the Holy Roman Empire in an alliance with other European nation states. In April 1632 the Swedish army occupied Augsburg, Bavaria which became one of the principal military bases for the Swedish army. In 1637 Jacob LINTZ joined the Karelia Cavalry regiment. In 1655 he was appointed adjutant in Lt-Col. James LUNDIE's squadron, and took part in the Second Northern War (1655-60) between Sweden and various European adversaries. His final post was as a squadron commander with the rank of Major in the Karelia Cavalry. He died on 2 February 1667 at his manor



'Alapihlaja' near Virolahti, then in south-east Sweden but now in Finland.<sup>1</sup>

### ***The genealogical approach***

Although the 17<sup>th</sup> century genealogy of James LINDSAY/Jacob LINTZ's descendants is known, finding his Scottish ancestry proved challenging. In an attempt to identify his parents, I investigated Scottish baptisms of males named James LINDSAY, recorded in ScotlandsPeople<sup>2</sup> in the period 1590-1615, and found possibilities including the following (given as baptism date, district, parents):

13.01.1606 North Berwick father Jhone LINDSAY

07.10.1610 Kelso parents James LINDSAY and Jean HAMILTON

02.01.1612 Aberdeen parents David LINDSAY and Mariorie DUNCAN

20.06.1613 Glasgow parents Robert LINDSAY and Margaret WILSON.

As all four options are viable candidates for James's birth, it proved impossible to define Jacob LINTZ's lineage in Scotland from these records.

### ***The DNA approach***

I then considered whether DNA testing could be useful in this case. Jacob LINTZ had married Helena HUFVUDSKIOLD (who died in 1666). They had one son, Erik, and at least two daughters, Katarina and Helena, who survived into adulthood; their other children died young. Their three adult offspring spelled their surname as LINTZE.<sup>3</sup> Jacob LINTZ's son, Erik LINTZE, served with the Royal Kronoberg Regiment from 1671, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by 1705. He had married, but died that year with no male heirs. The absence of known direct male descendants of Jacob LINTZ eliminates the possibility of a present-day descendant taking a Y-chromosome DNA test to establish which of the 30 distinct groups identified via the LINDSAY International DNA Project<sup>4</sup> represents his ancestry.

With both the genealogical and DNA approaches leading to dead ends, the only other possibility was to investigate any heraldry associated with Jacob LINTZ.

### ***The heraldry approach***

Shortly before his death in 1667, Jacob LINTZ had remarried. His second wife, Johanna LESLIE,<sup>5</sup> arranged for his coat of arms to be displayed in the church at Virolahti in 1669, two years after his death. His coat of arms (Figure 1) has a striking design of three trefoils on both the shield and the crest, the latter in the form of a bird's wing. The colours in the design are counter-changed (reversed from

one part of the design to another), resulting in a uniquely distinctive coat of arms.

This coat of arms bears no resemblance to any other LINDSAY arms, which are typically red with a horizontal chequered band in silver and blue across the middle of the shield. Jacob LINTZ's Swedish arms clearly contain no reference to his Scottish connections. With the heraldry avenue also exhausted, the ancestry of Major James LINDSAY aka Jacob LINTZ remains a mystery.



**Figure 1:** The coat of arms of Jacob LINTZ (aka James LINDSAY), 1669, in Virolahti Church, Finland (left) (courtesy The Heraldry Society, London, image T-1293). The illustration on the right shows the arms in their assumed colours (drawn by Chris LINDSAY).<sup>6</sup> Note: the original arms are coloured black and an unknown contrasting colour, which has worn away to expose the wooden substrate; in keeping with the laws of heraldry this would have been either gold or silver.

The design of Jacob LINTZ's coat of arms is so striking and unusual, however, that I was intrigued by its possible origins. Why did LINTZ choose a design that is so unlike any other Lindsay coat of arms of that period? What might have been the inspiration for the three-trefoil motif and counter-changed colours that together give the design its visual strength?

While thinking about these questions, I chanced upon a book on early European heraldry and found the image in Figure 2 (below); the similarity between the coat of arms in this illustration and that of Jacob LINTZ was immediately apparent. The illustration depicts the printers mark of Sigmund GRIMM and Marx WIRSUNG, dated 1521, which combines their personal coats of arms into a single symbol (such 'marks' were used as trademarks by early printers, starting in the 15<sup>th</sup> century). Grimm and

Wirsung were printers in Augsburg, Bavaria in the period 1517-1526.<sup>7</sup>

A close comparison of the Lintz and Wirsung coats of arms highlights the similarities between the two. Both arms show three trefoils counter-changed (although the arrangement of the trefoils differs between the two designs). Both crests display the same design as on the shield, and both crests are in the shape of a bird's wing. A final, most telling link between the two is an anomalous feature of Jacob LINTZ's coat of arms. At the base of his crest there is a triple-humped hillock, just above the helm (see Figure 1). This tri-mount is not shown on his shield, so should not appear in his crest. Where did it come from? Close examination of the Wirsung arms shows the tri-mount as part of the design on both the shield and the crest. It seems likely that it was carried over from the Wirsung crest to the Lintz crest (but not into the design of his shield) in error.



**Figure 2:** *The Printers Mark of Grimm & Wirsung, Augsburg, Bavaria, 1521. Their arms show on the left a wild man for Grimm (which means wild), and on the right a design of three trefoils with roots for Wirsung (after Eve, 1907). Siebmacher's Armorial, indicates the tinctures of the Wirsung arms are gold and black.<sup>8</sup> If the Lintz arms used as their basis both the design and colours of Wirsung, then it is likely the arms of Jacob LINTZ were also gold and black.*

I believe that Jacob LINTZ was familiar with the printers mark in a book published by Grimm & Wirsung, and used it as the basis for the design of his own coat of arms. It is plausible that he came across such a book while he was stationed at the barracks in Augsburg, the location of Grimm & Wirsung's printing business. Why he chose not to include any reference to his Scottish Lindsay ancestry in the design remains open to speculation. Perhaps he had no direct connection to the armigerous Lindsay families in Scotland at that time, and would not have thought to incorporate aspects of Lindsay heraldry

into his own coat of arms. He is not recorded among the ennobled in Sweden.<sup>9</sup>

While these investigations into the design of Jacob LINTZ's coat of arms were fascinating, particularly within the historical context of his life, they did not yield any understanding of his Scottish ancestral origins. In his case there is unfortunately insufficient genealogical, genetic and heraldic evidence available to solve this particular mystery.

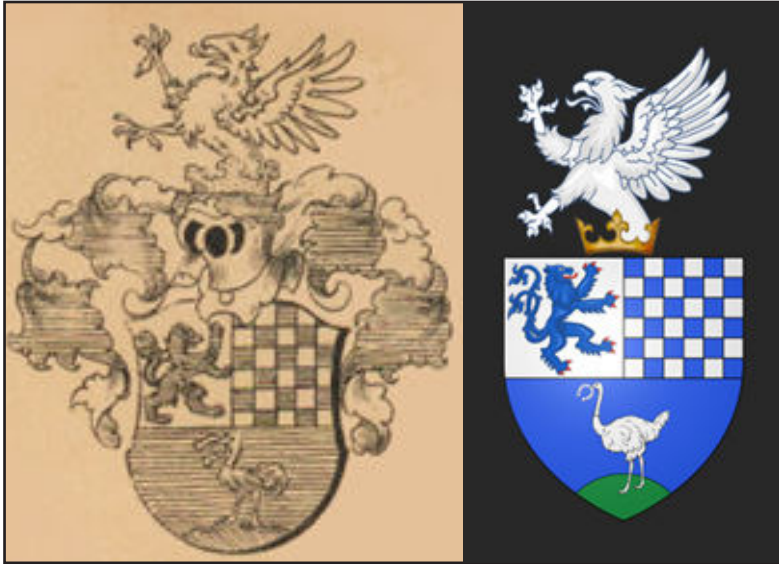
The usefulness of incorporating heraldry into genealogical investigations is, however, illustrated by a different line of Lindsays in Europe that I discovered while researching the James LINDSAY/Jacob LINTZ ancestral story. The only other Lindsay I was able to identify with a European coat of arms during this period was Greiff VON LINDSAY, who lived in Bohemia and later Prussia in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***The Prussian family of Gottfried Greiff VON LINDSAY***

A Bohemian knighthood was bestowed on Gottfried Greiff VON LINDSAY on 7 April 1711. This was notified on 19 June 1711 by Rescript (official edict) of the chief Oberamt in Breslau in the duchies of Glogau, Münsterberg and Wohlau. While his earlier ancestry in Bohemia is unknown, Gottfried Greiff VON LINDSAY's son, Johann Carl Greiff VON LINDSAY, is recorded as having died in Prussia in 1790. The coat of arms of Greiff VON LINDSAY (Figure 3) is recorded in Siebmacher's Armorial as among those of the extinct nobility of the Prussian province of Silesia.

These arms comprise three quarterings. The top left shows a lion with two tails, similar to the design of the Kingdom of Bohemia coat of arms. The top right shows rows of alternating blue and silver checks, reflecting the blue and white chequered pattern seen in all Scottish Lindsay coats of arms. Finally, standing upon a grassy mount in the base of the shield is a silver-coloured ostrich holding a horseshoe in its beak, against a blue background.<sup>11</sup>

The Von Lindsay crest shows a demi-Griffin (torso and head only), for the name Greiff (meaning Griffin). The Griffin is shown within an antique ducal coronet, of the same design as that which appears in the crests of the Lindsay Earls of Crawford.



**Figure 3:** The coat of arms of Gottfried Greiff VON LINDSAY, 1711 (original illustration on left after Siebmacher, 1890). The illustration on the right shows these arms in colour (drawn by Chris Lindesay).

The ostrich holding a horseshoe is further evidence of a Lindsay link, as this was one of the crests used by David LINDSAY the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford (1547-1607) as shown in the 1592 Dublin Armorial<sup>12</sup> and the 1601 Crawford Armorial.<sup>13</sup> Before and after that time the earls used other crest designs incorporating a swan. As there is no record of Lindsay heraldic use of the ostrich holding a horseshoe prior to 1592, I suspect that this von Lindsay line began when a Lindsay moved from Scotland to Europe around that date. The family may have lived in Bohemia for approximately a century before relocating to Prussia. It may be relevant that David, the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl received safe conduct from Queen Elizabeth to pass through England on his way to France in 1590.<sup>14</sup> And it is possible – although not proven – that his younger son James accompanied him to Europe and decided to remain there, where he could have become the ancestor of the von Lindsay lineage, the ‘von’ denoting his noble patrilineality.

The coat of arms granted to Gottfried Greiff VON LINDSAY thus contains useful information about his ancestry (in contrast to that of Jacob LINTZ), alluding to both his settlement in Bohemia and his Scottish Lindsay forebears. The first quarter states, “I am from Bohemia”; the second states, “I am a Lindsay”; and

the third specifically states, "I descend from the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford".

The von Lindsay family line is extinct, so there is no possibility of DNA testing to further elucidate where the line may have fitted among the Scottish Lindsay lines. Earlier provable von Lindsay genealogy is unknown. But perhaps the coat of arms provides sufficient indication of the ancestry of this family, viz Scottish Lindsays descended from the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford, who became resident in Bohemia.

## **Conclusion**

The Lintz family in Finland, and the von Lindsay family in Bohemia/Prussia, provide contrasting examples of the usefulness of examining their heraldry in an attempt to provide insights into their ancestry, particularly where traditional genealogical evidence is lacking and DNA analysis impossible. In the case of the Finnish Lindsays, even the heraldry provided no useful clues as to their origins in Scotland. But the heraldry of the Prussian von Lindsays provides sufficient evidence to allow informed supposition as to their likely Scottish ancestry.

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1. Murdoch, Steve & Alexia Grosjean (2024). Lindsay, James. In, Institute of Scottish Historical Research. University of St Andrews. URL <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=2962>, accessed 22 Sep 2023.
2. ScotlandsPeople (2023). Old Parish Registers Birth and Baptisms. URL <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, accessed 26 Dec 2023.
3. Murdoch, Steve & Alexia Grosjean (2024). Institute of Scottish Historical Research. Katarina Lintze is recorded at URL <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=7192>; Helena Lintze is recorded at URL <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=7193>; Lt.-Col Erik Lintze is recorded at URL <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=2956>, all accessed 22 Sep 2023.
4. Lindsay International DNA Project (2024). URL <https://lindsay.one-name.net>, accessed 22 May 2024.
5. Murdoch, Steve & Alexia Grosjean (2024). Leslie, Johanna. In, Institute of Scottish Historical Research. University of St Andrews. URL <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=7194>, accessed 22 Sep 2023.
6. The blazon or description of the arms, if the unknown tincture is gold, would be: Parted per pale and per chapé Or and Sable, three Trefoils double-slipped all counterchanged. The crest is drawn with the same design but includes the tri-mount in base (erroneously included in the Lintz carving). Note that the two upper trefoils in the crest are poorly



carved so the colours are not properly counterchanged, thus showing gold on gold and black on black. The blazon of the original carving would be: On a Swan's Wing parted per pale and per chapé Or and Sable, palewise three Trefoils double-slipped per pale Sable and Or (1, 2) and Or and Sable (3) in base a Tri-mount Or the central hillock Sable.

7. Eve, George William (1907). *Heraldry as Art*. Batsford, London, page 94.

8. These arms were granted to Georg Wirsung in 1474, when he received Letters Patent from King Friedrich III. The arms are described in Siebmacher's *großes und allgemeines Wappenbuch*, Bd.5 (*Bürgerliche Geschlechter Deutschlands und der Schweiz*), 4.Abt.:Zweitausend bürgerliche Wappen, Nürnberg, 1890, page 49, and illustrated in figure 58.Georg's son Marx Wirsung was the printer in partnership with Sigmund Grimm. For details of Marx Wirsung's arms see Siebmacher's *großes und allgemeines Wappenbuch*, Bd. 6 (*Abgestorbene, erloschene Geschlechter*), 1. Abt., T. 3: *Abgestorbener Bayerischer Adel*, 3. Teil, Nürnberg 1911, page 144, and illustrated in figure 99. Marx's grandson Hieronymus Wirsung was ennobled in 1555 by King Karl V. Copies of all volumes of Siebmacher's *Armorial* in the public domain available at URL [https://data.cerl.org/siebmacher/\\_search](https://data.cerl.org/siebmacher/_search) 'Wirsung'.

9. Riddarhusets vapenskölar (2024). URL <https://www.riddarhuset.se>, sighted 25 Jan 2024.

10.Siebmacher's *großes und allgemeines Wappenbuch*, Bd. 6 (*Abgestorbene, erloschene Geschlechter*), 8. Abt., T. 2: *Der abgestorbene Adel der Preußischen Provinz Schlesien*, 2. Teil, Nürnberg 1890, page 42, and illustrated in figure 28. URL [https://data.cerl.org/siebmacher/\\_search](https://data.cerl.org/siebmacher/_search) 'Lindsay'.

11. The blazon or description of the arms is given in Siebmacher (1890) as: Wappen: halb gespalten und getheilt. 1. In Silber links gekehrter blauer Löwe, doppeltgeschweift; 2. von Blau und Silber in sechs Reihen geschacht; 3. in Blau auf grünem Hügel rechts gekehrter silberner Strauss, im Schnabel ein Hufeisen haltend. Kleinod: rechts gekehrter silberner Greif aus der Krone wachsend. Decken: blau-silbern.

12. Hodgson, Leslie (Ed), (2006). *The Dublin Armorial of Scottish Nobility*. The Heraldry Society of Scotland, Edinburgh, folio 10.

13. Findlater, Alex Maxwell (Ed), (2008). *Lord Crawford's Armorial*. Formerly known as the *Armorial of Sir David Lyndsay of the Mount Secundus*. The Heraldry Society of Scotland, Edinburgh, folio 27.

14. Douglas, Sir Robert, (1764). *The peerage of Scotland: containing an historical and genealogical account of the nobility of that kingdom, collected from the public records, and ancient chartularies of this nation.*, R Fleming, Edinburgh, page 159. See also Hodgson (2006) *op sit*, page 54.



# The Song of Stormy Petrel

## George Asquith 1849-1945

*Beverley Richardson*

### November 1915

The men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1st Division, began their march in Hannell Street Wickham, an inner suburb of Newcastle. Assuming his position at the head of the column, the commander stood behind the military band and the flag bearers who held aloft the Union Jack and the green silk flag of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion.<sup>1</sup>



Wearing their slouch hats and the khaki uniform of the Australian Imperial Forces, they began their march, four abreast, passing the Victorian towers of the red brick primary school, and the fishing trawlers asleep at their berths. They marched past the pubs and the banks, the inns and the grocers, past the saddleries and the oyster bars, the haberdashers, the boot makers and the apothecaries, on and on through the unpaved thoroughfares of the town.<sup>2</sup> Carrying their folded overcoats and white kit bags (their destiny was The Western Front: wintertime Belgium and France), their boots kept time to the

rhythm of popular war time songs. Mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, young wives, friends and sweethearts stood in the streets to cheer their lads on: others clapped and waved from the deep first floor verandahs that provided shade for the crowds below. Finally the soldiers halted at the railway station, from where, beyond a line of Norfolk Pine trees, they could glimpse the Pacific Ocean. Alderman MARONEY, Mayor of Newcastle, mounted the dais and delivered a speech of platitudes on the greatest war that history had ever known. He did not convince some women who sobbed into their white embroidered handkerchiefs.

Nor was Alderman George ASQUITH entirely convinced. He was among the 200 well wishers who had gathered near the station to capture one last memory. With a lump in his throat he shook his son's hand and wished him God's blessing, good luck and a safe return. Herbert Benjamin was 19 years old. His mop of brown hair had been cut short: physically, he was in the prime of life, having already proved his fitness in the Royal Naval Reserve. The 5<sup>th</sup> born of George's 8 children, he understood his father's expectations that he would fight bravely and bring honour to his country and to his family.

George's children gathered around him. He loved them so much! Beside him stood Grace, his pride and joy. Winner of academic prizes, she had become a teacher and relocated to Port Macquarie, where she had married the owner of the local newspaper.<sup>3</sup> Elegant in her new outfit, a lilac sailor blouse with a satin tie which she had knotted and tucked into her ankle length skirt, her long dark hair was swept up under a straw sailors hat. George liked the austerity fashions that reminded everyone of the war, except for the new colour, sulphur yellow.<sup>4</sup> And he liked the idea of educating his daughters.



This leave taking made him uneasy: his son was setting out into an uncertain future, independent of the family for the first time. Thinking patriotically, George had signed the consent form, releasing his boy from filial control. Each day, in The Newcastle Herald, he read the Soldiers' Letters column, testimonials to the slaughter on the battlefields written by young men from Stockton already fighting overseas: "My wound is healing fast and I should be able to get about perhaps by the end of the week...I have up to now seen practically nothing since leaving Fleurbaix, France, the scene of that frightful massacre I so luckily escaped from: and from where all

but about 19 or 20 out of the 200 odd in our company were either wounded or killed."□

George envied their experiences, fighting the Bosch. Like many of the fathers he knew, he lived Herbert's experiences vicariously: on the train his son would drink beer, smoke cigarettes, sing patriotic songs and play cards. Then, in Sydney, at Woolloomoo Wharf, with over 2,000 men and around 20 horses, he would board a transport ship named the *Euripides*, bound for Tel-el-Kabir, a preparation and staging zone in the Egyptian desert. Here he would undergo intensive training so that he could better face the enemy.

George and his family boarded the timber punt that took them home. He thought the river its most beautiful at this time of day, when the sun was setting and the waves of the ocean wore spangles of gold.□ At the entrance to the harbour, beyond Nobby's Lighthouse, he could see the fog bell on Big Ben Reef. As a young man, he had begun work as a moulder at the foundry and engineering firm, Morrison and Bearby on an island in the river called Onebygamba.<sup>7</sup> Later, he had become a member of the Federated Moulders (Metal) Union of Australia and served as its representative. Then, in 1878, he had been chosen for the team that cast the tin and copper bell.

His mind drifted to a poem that he would write, a hymn to the place he loved:

*Over the ocean, near and far,  
Over the river and over the bar:  
The light on Nobby's flickers and flashes,  
and flushes the cliffs where breakers dash.  
Oh! Lighthouse flash your shards of light  
To cheer the wanderers thro' the night,  
With dawn your duty done- oh, then,  
I'll away o'er the road of life again.*

As the punt neared the Stockton Ferry Wharf, George looked out over the township that he had helped create; its neat arrangement of streets running vertically northward down the peninsular which he thought looked like the tail of a giant whale.

Stockton was his Utopia. He loved its convenient arrangement of cross streets offering his house protection from the gales that raged throughout Winter. In Council meetings, he had supported the construction of safe roads with a solid base of slag offloaded from foreign sailing ships that berthed at The Dolphin wharves.<sup>8</sup> Promoting a Socialist<sup>9</sup> agenda of safety, order and cleanliness for all ratepayers, he had successfully moved a motion that ferry waiting rooms be well lit and clean, the costs being born by those who profited financially

from the service. He had insisted that streets be kept clear of grass fires and of rubbish transported over the river, stating that Sleepy Old Stockton did not come second to the larger city across river.<sup>10</sup>

He had railed against dangerous potholes, gutters that weren't level, unsafe wells, neglected sanitary pans and louts who behaved badly at Stockton Beach. In charge of sanitary services, he understood that a community's health and well-being depended on the efficient and safe disposal of its waste. Always on the side of a fair deal, he had organised insurance and an acceptable rate of pay for the two contractors who served the Stockton area, and for a weeks paid annual holiday, taken turn and turn about so that they could spend time with their families.

A skilled orator and strategist, George had been known to park the sanitary truck within the grounds of council chambers to better persuade fellow aldermen to his point of view.<sup>11</sup> He was known, on at least one occasion, to have incited, "racing around tables and backyard bashings" and the "brandishing of chairs for dumbbells."<sup>12</sup> Using the chambers as a battleground, he had defended the interests of his beloved working class in the face of Stockton's rising number of entrepreneurs. He did not take opposition or criticism easily: in meetings, he had been the origin of, "considerable cross-firing," and "quibbling."<sup>13</sup>

George enjoyed his regime of agitation against the Captains of Industry, whom he saw as self-serving: men like Stockton's popular shipping providore, Mayor Timothy GRIFFITHS. At times his behaviour spilled over into physical assault and stopped the effective running of council. Moreover, he refused to apologise for his disruptive tactics. "I am not in a frame of mind to say anything now. I have a sore tooth," he had once asserted. His anger was fuelled by the example of his father, Jonathan ASQUITH, who, at the hands of the capitalist class, had been forcibly evicted from his birthplace in Leeds, West Yorkshire. He had worn chains in the early years as a Government Man in the colony of New South Wales. The spirit of Old Jaunty lived on in his well read, largely self educated son.

Determined that his voice be heard, George embedded his ideas in a stream of letters and poetry sent to the local print media. Dubbed the Stormy Petrel by the editor of The Newcastle Sun, he was ironically characterised as a "biting orator"<sup>14</sup> at council meetings, whose verses from an "inky pen" at times "startled"<sup>15</sup> readers. Post WW1, after his son had returned home broken and shell shocked, the light disappeared from George's words. In 1921, in a poem called The Passing Show<sup>16</sup> he wrote of an imaginary street parade, different to those organised to farewell WW1 soldiers, a parade where mankind, in solidarity, marched out of the darkness of WW1 towards a Utopian future, achieved through united action. His hope was for the establishment of a

Communist society, symbolised by the “banners red:”

*Fades the golden sunlight, stormy  
clouds o'er head  
In the closing darkness looms  
the Banners red:  
Marching to Utopia, aching hearts are torn,  
While in countless thousands, man is  
Made to mourn.*

## **April 1945**

George ASQUITH was a larrikin who, in the early days of Stockton did his best, through local government channels, to keep the emerging leaders of his society honest. In contrast to his brothers, William, Benjamin and Jeremiah, who followed their father and stepfathers into the fishing and maritime industries, George's feet remained firmly on the land. He admired learning and had a broad general knowledge which gave him an advantage in oratory and debate. His Socialist politics, learned on the workshop floor at Morrison and Bearby's, were aligned to a growing working class movement in Australia which led, ultimately, to the establishment of the Australian Labour Party.<sup>17</sup>

Traumatised by *his* experience in WW1, as the father of a boy who, instead of returning to the family, spent the rest of his life in hospitals for the insane,<sup>18</sup> George's vision darkened. His voice gradually disappeared from the public domain. As was the custom mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, he lived with one of his children for the last stage of life; in George's case, this was in the Hamilton home of his youngest son, Thomas ASQUITH and wife Ada. In his final days, diagnosed with prostate cancer, medical authorities advised that he would be confined for the remainder of his life to a wheelchair. According to Asquith family lore, George turned his head and said, “Exit George ASQUITH,” thereafter refusing all food and drink until he died.<sup>19</sup>

## **References:**

1. Australian War Memorial website. Regimental Colour: 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF REL39960.001.
2. The list of early Hunter Street businesses was taken from website *The History of Hunter Street (H1)* - Sound World. Spero Davias.
3. Grace Asquith won a bursary to Maitland High School. She is reported in the Newcastle Herald as having won prizes in French and Latin.
4. 'Fashions of the Day' *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Saturday

6 March, 1920, page 10.

5. 'Soldiers' Letters: from Beautiful Kent,' written by 5 Corporal Arthur Evans, 23rd, (late ist) Battalion, AIF, to his sister, Mrs C, Greenham. Wednesday 13 September, 1916, page 10.

6. Allusion to George's poem Sleepy Old Stockton.

7. Onebygamba was later named Bullock Island and is now known as the Newcastle suburb of Carrington.

8. Small wharves where ships waiting for coal were moored.

9. George was a member of the Brother of Court Hunter No 4583 Ancient Order of Forresters, a benevolent society that supported workers in times of sickness and need.

10. Peter Callan, of Peter Callan Shipyard and Timber Merchant, held the contract for the removal of Newcastle's rubbish. On one occasion he dumped it on the Stockton waterfront, an act which incurred the ire of Alderman Asquith.

11. Stockton Council Minutes, 1895-1912. Available upon request at Newcastle Regional Library.

12. 'O 'Empra! O Mores! *The Newcastle Sun*, Monday 24th June, 1922, page 6.

13. 'Peace at Stockton, Ald Asquith Apologises, "Doing The Honourable", *The Newcastle Sun*, 16 November 1921, page 3.

14. 'Alderman Asquith, Orator and Poet, A Belated Inspiration', *The Newcastle Sun*, Wednesday, August 31, page 3.

15. 'Seasonable Topic', Let's Have It All Again" Alderman's Lilt.15, *The Newcastle Sun*, Wednesday, January 4, 1922, page 6.

16. *The Newcastle Sun*, Tuesday, November 22nd November, 1921, page 3.

17. Gollan, Robin, *Radical and Working Class Politics. A Study of Eastern Australia, 1850-1910*. Melbourne University Press 1960.

18. Herbert's medical report states that his mental depression came on when returning on boat to Australia. "Tried to throw himself overboard. Admits again having tried suicide or had the idea, 'Down at McLeod.'"

19. Anecdote courtesy of family historian, Christine O'Sullivan.

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# The Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry (AFFHO) Conference 2025 & 5th Queensland History State Conference Hosted by Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

## Important dates:

- 30 June 2024:** Speaker Proposals close. The speaker submission form is available at <https://www.connections2025.org.au/callforspeakers>
- 3 November 2024:** Early Bird Registration closes
- 21-23 March 2025:** Conference Dates
- 24 March 2025:** Conference Tour

[www.connections2025.org.au](http://www.connections2025.org.au)

Brisbane's Bicentennial Year





# *From Our Contemporaries*

*Pauline Bygraves*

The items selected for this column are taken from some of the many overseas journals received by the Society – they usually mention Australia in some form or may be of general interest to Australian researchers. If you have an interest in a particular country or location, there will often be other relevant material – recently received journals are on display at the front of the Library.

E-journals are accessible on the computers in the main room. Open the FCER icon on the desktop and click on the link to “Electronic Journals” under “Electronic Resources”. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email the editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

## AUSTRALASIA

\* Kerry Joy COOPER (nee RATCLIFFE) undertook a DNA test to confirm the identity of her paternal grandfather Arthur Francis McEwan RATCLIFFE's father. She then found anomalies with the father (Alan Ashton HUMPHRIES) named on her mother's birth certificate. She knew her grandmother's family grew up in rural Victoria and, through DNA matches, has identified Leslie Edward COOPER, whose family lived in Horsham, as her maternal grandfather. Devon Family Historian Nov 2023 n188 p26 (NDev9/60/01).

\* Frank DAWSON, eldest child of Willie DAWSON and Mary Rebecca (nee HARGREAVES), migrated to Australia in 1925 on the *SS Balranald*. For a while he corresponded regularly with his family but then nothing. Years later it emerged that Frank's marriage had broken down and he was awarded sole custody of his two sons whom he had to put into care during the Depression while he travelled looking for work. He later remarried and had another three children. Airedale and Wharfedale Journal Mar 2024 n21 p16 (electronic journal).

\* George DORLING, son of William DORLING and Mary (nee LONGHURST), was convicted of stealing 'apparel' and transported for life in 1833. He arrived in VDL on the *Augusta Jessie* in 1835. He may have married Elizabeth DORAN at Brighton in 1843. Three children were baptised together at Hobart in 1852: Jessie (b. 1845), Alfred (b. 1849) and Isabella Agnes (b. 1852). Charlotte was born in 1855. George died at Hobart in 1892 and Elizabeth in 1900. Suffolk Roots Mar 2024 v49 n4 p351 (electronic journal).

\* William, George and Samuel DORLING, sons of Thomas DORLING and Ann (nee COLLINS), migrated separately to South Australia between 1848 and 1851. William travelled with his wife Caroline (nee SMITH) and two daughters

in 1848. A third daughter was born during the voyage. George died in 1857 and Samuel had moved to Geelong by 1859. William and Caroline celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1904, with several newspapers reporting the occasion. Letters sent from Australia have been transcribed and are on-line in the Digital Collection of the State Library of South Australia. Suffolk Roots Mar 2024 v49 n4 p323 (electronic journal).

\* Mary EADES/EADS arrived in NSW with her parents Joseph and Catherine and siblings Ann and Joseph on the convict ship *Surprize* in 1790. Her father was a Private in the NSW Corps. In 1796 he drowned in Sydney Harbour. Catherine then married Private James BRACKENREG, but died in 1804. In 1806 Mary gave birth to Eliza[beth] Eleanora O'CONNER, who was fathered by Mary's employer Bryan O'CONNOR MD. Mary died aged 22 in 1807. It is likely her daughter was fostered by her maternal aunts. The Midland Ancestor (Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry) Mar 2024 v20 n5 p295 (electronic journal).

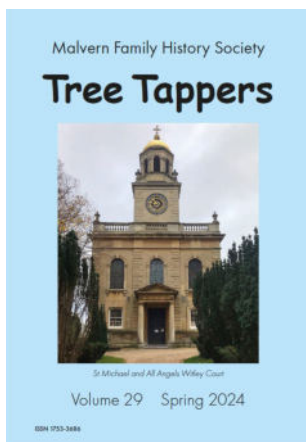
\* Edward HAYWARD, a wealthy Australian businessman, was on honeymoon with his wife Ursula in 1935 when the contents of Beaudesert Hall were auctioned. Edward bought a complete staircase, some doors, windows and wood panelling to be shipped back and installed in his house being built on the outskirts of Adelaide. Following his death, the house at Carrick Hill was gifted to the nation. Burntwood FHG Jan-Mar 2024 v32 n1 p7 (NST9/60/01).

\* Gladys Mary MEEK, daughter of George Edwin MEEK and Mary Ann (nee DALLEY), was born in 1896 in Worcestershire. She arrived in Australia with her family on board the *Pakeha* in 1912. After the death of her mother, Gladys and her father returned to England in 1930. When her sister died, Gladys travelled back to Australia in 1946 to look after the family. She married her late sister's

husband Oswald Stewart ADAM soon after. Gladys died in 1981 at Cessnock. Tree Tappers (Malvern FHS) Spring 2024 v29 p24 (electronic journal).

\* Ellen SUTER came from a poor family in Portsmouth and migrated (aged 19) to Australia. She married James READ of Ipswich in 1843 at Melbourne. Ellen wrote many letters over a 12-year period to her niece Edith providing insights into life in Australia at the time. The last letter was in 1875. Root and Branch (West Surrey FHS) Mar 2024 v50 n4 p180 (NSur9/60/02).

\* Hugh SYKES, an Australian bomb disposal expert, successfully defused a bomb that failed to



ignite outside the Council House in Smethwick in 1940. Burntwood FHG Jan-Mar 2024 v32 n1 p17 (NST9/60/01).

\* Sgt Archibald URIE served in the Australian Army and was listed as missing during the First World War. The Australian Red Cross sent letters and made enquiries to find out what happened to him. These records are available on their website. Sgt URIE's dead man's penny and a Distinguished Conduct Medal are valued family heirlooms. Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Mar 2024 n129 p5 (electronic journal).

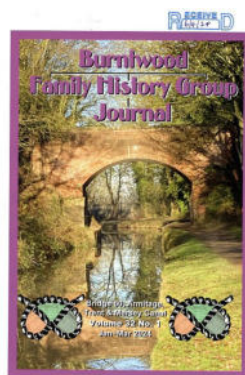
\* William Walter and David Barrett WORTH, sons of William WORTH and Ellen (nee BARRETT), left England in 1851 on board the *Torrens* bound for South Australia. William was known as Walter. His wife Emma and step-son arrived the following year on the *John Elder*. David set up as a professional artist but left South Australia in 1854, after a falling-out with his brother. He changed his name to Harold Vindale WORTH, and moved to New Zealand where he married Rose GRAHAM, from Sydney, in 1895. Harold died suddenly at Wellington in 1899, aged 48. Walter died at Adelaide in 1933. The Manchester Genealogist 2024 v60 n1 p54 (electronic journal).

## ENGLAND

\* William H BAILEY was one of about 150 migrants stranded on the *Jane Greene* bound for Australia in 1854. The ship's departure was delayed for several weeks, with the passengers becoming increasingly distressed when no subsistence was provided. Legal proceedings were commenced against the shipbroker and emigration agents for violating the Passengers Act. As a result of the publicity, a fund was set up to help those on board. William and his wife Eliza finally arrived at Portland, Victoria on the ship *Victoria* in Sep 1854. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS Spring 2024 v48 n1 p39 (electronic journal).

\* Charles BROWN, aged 20, and George JACKSON, aged 21, were charged and convicted of murdering William CHARLESWORTH at Abbots Bromley in May 1857. Both were sentenced to death, but BROWN's sentence was commuted to transportation for life. He arrived at Fremantle in 1863 on the *Merchantman*. Burntwood FHG Jan-Mar 2024 v32 n1 p3 (NST9/60/01).

\* Joseph COX and Sarah (nee ANELAY) of Ossett were the parents of 14 children, born between



The Society & Genealogy  
Library - 100, 100, 100

1858 and 1877. Gertrude who was born in 1867 married William Himsworth GIGGLE in 1893. On the 1916 Canadian census, they were shown as living in Saskatchewan. William died in 1922, after which Gertrude travelled to Australia. She died in 1930 at Lakemba, with a funeral notice appearing in the Sydney Morning Herald. It seems her eldest brother Frederic was also living in Sydney. The Wakefield Kinsman Feb 2024 v27 n3 p15 (NYo9/60/08).

\* James EVANS died at Brisbane in 1922, aged 66 years. He was formerly a draper at Knighton. His death notice appeared in the Hereford Journal on 15 April 1922. Herefordiensis (Herefordshire FHS) Apr 2024 vXV n9 p261 (electronic journal).

\* James Steer FARLEY, son of Samuel FARLEY and Ann (nee STEER), was born in 1854. Samuel was a baker and, after he died, Ann carried on the bakery business which flourished with the introduction of a new product called Farley's Rusks, a nutritious biscuit for children. James also became a baker and arrived in Australia in about 1882. He died at Liverpool, NSW in 1917. Devon Family Historian Nov 2023 n188 p41 (NDev9/60/01).

\* Henry Laurence HORSINGTON, illegitimate son of Mary, was baptised at Worle in 1804. He was apprenticed to John FLETCHER, a shoemaker at Banwell, in 1817. After the deaths of his wife and daughter, he married Ann WAYGOOD in 1828. Their eldest son James migrated in 1851, sailing on the *Statesman* which arrived at Geelong. The next year Henry and his family followed on the ill-fated *Ticonderoga*, with 100 passengers, including Henry, dying on the voyage. Ann and the surviving family settled in Victoria. She died in 1891. Buckets & Spades (Weston-super-Mare & District FHS) Nov 2023 n111 p13 (electronic journal).

\* Rowland JENNINGS, son of Francis JENNINGS and Rachel (nee WILLIAMS) was born in 1899 in Herefordshire. He gained his plumbing certificate before serving as a Private in the First World War. After discharge he was expected to take over the family business from his mother, but in 1923 he applied for assisted passage to Australia where he settled in Melbourne. He married Alma Marie MILLER in 1930. Both were severely injured in a car crash in 1966, with Rowland dying in 1968 and Alma in 1969. Burntwood FHG Oct-Dec 2023 v31 n4 p21 (NSt9/60/01).

\* Fred Hubert KITSON married Frances E CREESE at London in 1920. Later that year he sailed to Sydney. He became the Chief Medical Officer at

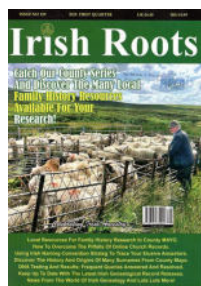


the British Phosphate Commission Hospital on Ocean Island, in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. He died there in 1924, aged 35. After his death, his wife returned to England. The Yorkshire Family Historian Summer 2023 v49 n2 p33 (electronic journal).

\* Edward RICHARDSON was a migration agent in the 1870s. In Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire he was very active in extolling the virtues of moving to Queensland, something agricultural labourers without regular contracts and incomes found appealing. One meeting at Aylesbury attracted 3000 people. He became known as the “Aylesbury Agitator” and farmers tried to persuade the clergy not to let him use their church halls for meetings. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Spring 2024 v48 n1 p20 (electronic journal).

\* Maria WALKER, daughter of William WALKER and Mary Ann TURLEY, was born at Dumbleton, Gloucester in 1850. Her eldest brother Charles migrated to Australia in the late 1850s. Maria later came to Australia to be governess to his children. She married Alfred Hart LLOYD. Tree Tappers (Malvern FHS) Spring 2024 v29 p13 (electronic journal).

\* Marion WILBERFORCE (nee OGILVIE-FORBES), born in Aberdeenshire in 1902, became involved in the work of the Fairbridge Farm Schools which were first set up in Australia and then Canada by Kingsley FAIRBRIDGE and his wife Ruby to teach orphan children farming practices. Marion learnt to fly in 1930, joined the British Air Transport Auxiliary, which was formed in 1939, and by the end of 1941 she was flying military aircraft including Spitfires and Hurricanes. The Essex Family Historian Mar 2024 n181 p14 (electronic journal).



## IRELAND

\* Jennifer HARRISON: “Australian Irish Connections - Irish in the North End”. Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2024 n129 p26 (R9/60/04).

\* Nicola MORRIS: “The Pitfalls of Online Church Records”. Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2024 n129 p30 (R9/60/04).

\* James G RYAN: “Local Resources for Family History Research - County Mayo”. Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2024 n129 p10 (R9/60/04).

## SCOTLAND

\* John FIDDLER, his wife Jane “Jean” (nee SABESTON) and their three daughters arrived in Victoria on the *Garland* in 1852. Also on board was John Rae BROWN whose wife Mary died during the voyage. He married Jean “Jane” FIDDLER, daughter of John and Jean, in 1853, with the marriage producing five children. The two families moved to the Mornington Peninsula, where John

Rae BROWN became involved in establishing the local fishing industry. SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Spring 2024 n109 p19 (electronic journal).

\* John KNOX wrote letters in 1889 and 1890 from Australia to his two adopted sons in Scotland, which led to questions about the circumstances of his departure. A clue in one letter related to a comment about having to hurry away and leaving a pipe for repair which led to being able to identify the ship on which he arrived in Brisbane and the reason for his hasty exodus. Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Mar 2024 n129 p23 (electronic journal).

\* Kay FRANCIS (Australia) is researching her ancestor Joseph LITTLE born about 1789 at Kirkbean, Kirkcudbrightshire. His son Robert died at Casino, NSW in 1888, with his death certificate naming his father as Joseph Samuel LITTLE. Robert had been working for Robert WILKIN, nephew of Jeany LITTLE (nee CORRIE), at Ettrick Station, Richmond River. Dumfries and Galloway FHS Mar 2024 n108 p17 (electronic journal). (See also issue for Jul 2017 n89 p20.)

\* James McKENZIE migrated to Australia in about 1849 before moving to New Zealand where he was jailed for sheep-stealing, twice escaping before being pardoned after serious flaws were found in his prosecution. He sailed for Australia in 1856. Highland FHS Feb 2024 v42 n2 p20 (electronic journal).

#### SOUTH AFRICA

\* William James ROBUS was born in Adelaide, Australia in 1840 and migrated to the Cape of Good Hope with his parents, Charles ROBUS and Elizabeth Susannah (nee GREGORY) and siblings in about 1849. Familia (Genealogical Society of South Africa) 2022 v59 n4 p16 (W9/60/02). (See also issue for 2021 v58 n4 p3.)

# *New Collection Items in the Library in Brief*

*Barbara Moore*

A selection of those items which have been received recently and are available for use in the Society's Library. More details on the items can be checked via the catalogue on the HAGSOC Internet website. Our thanks go to those members who have provided donations.

## AUSTRALIA

*ANZAC girls: the extraordinary story of our World War I nurses* - Peter Rees - A7/81/14

*Bridging the past and future: speakers' handouts for the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Sydney* - Society of Australian Genealogists - A2/10 CD1610

*A Concise History of Australia* - Stuart Macintyre - A7/01/30

*The Long Farewell: the perilous voyages of settlers under sail in the great migrations to Australia* - Don Charlwood - A7/18/24

*Lost Boys of Anzac* - Peter Stanley - A7/70/02

*Preserving the past for the future: 12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Auckland* - A2/10/48

*To Foster an Irish spirit: The Irish National Association of Australasia 1915-2015* - Richard Reid - A7/19/19

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

*Marriages in the Parish of St John the Baptist, Canberra 1845-1939* - Alan Wilson - AA5/12 CD1612, AA5/12 CD1611

## NEW SOUTH WALES

*A New priest for the bush: a history of the Anglican Parish of Thuddungr/*



*Bribbaree* - Judith Langfield - AN8.594/85/01

## QUEENSLAND

*Brisbane: Schemes and Dreams nineteenth century arrivals* - AQ7/18/04

## TASMANIA

*Van Diemen's Land* - James Boyce - AT7/01/08

## VICTORIA

*A History of the Port Phillip District, Victoria before separation* - A G Shaw  
-AV7/01/09

*Preserving the past and the present for the future: papers from the sixth Victorian family history State conference* - AV2/10/06

## INTERNATIONAL

*Genealogical Standards* - Ancestry (publisher) - L2/21/08

*Mastering Genealogical Proof* - Thomas W Jones - L2/21/09

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom: the art of one-name studies* - Guild of One-Name Studies - L2/10/53

## ENGLISH COUNTIES

### CHESHIRE

*Marriage index of Cheshire* - NCHi/01 CD0037

### SOMERSET

*Wells Convocation acts books 1589-1665: Part 2: 1629-44, 1662-62* - Somerset Record Society - NSO7/68/01b

## SCOTLAND

*Scotland's Clans and Tartans* - James D Scarlett - P7/01/25

## IRELAND

*Monumental inscriptions in Irvinestown Cemetery (or Lowtherstown), Co Fermanagh* - RUI5/16/30

*Monumental Inscriptions in Church of Ireland Cemetery, Slavin, Co Fermanagh* - RUI5/16/29

## WALES

*Bethesda Chapel (Bwlchgwyn), Wrenham, monumental inscriptions* -

QDen5/16/22

## GERMANY

*German maps and facts for genealogy* - Wendy K Encapher - SGe9/14/01

## FAMILY HISTORIES

*Bearing Witness* - Peter Rees - A4/BEA/01

*Cavan and Beyond: a history of the Moore, Courtney and Brown families* -  
Phillip Courtney Moore - R4/MOO/01

*The Drummonds of Hawthornden* - Rica Erickson- A4/DRU/02

*Gold from Clover* - John Richards - A4/PIG/01

*The Life of a 1798 Wexford rebel in Sydney* - Vivienne Keely - A4/HAY/04

*A Worldwide Wheeler family* - Rupert Wheeler - M4/WHE/01

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# *Obscure Resources in our Library*

*Pauline Ramamge*

While looking for Immigrants arriving in Queensland, I stumbled across a collection of fiche in the Queensland Drawer of our collection of Microfiche. They take up the full length of the drawer and are all in alphabetical order. What a find!

We have many treasures in our library that are not on the internet, so have a look at our catalogue, just enter a name of the area you require and see what we have available.

Have you checked out all the fiche we have on Convicts, Early Settlers, Probate Indexes and Blue books of the Colony, just to name a few; as well as the wonderful Overseas Collections?

We all use Family Search online, but do you know that the site originally began as editions of IGI ( International Genealogical Indexes). This is collection of microfiche which had been collected and filmed world wide by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and stored in Granite Mountain, Utah, America. It was supplied free to church members and also to family history researchers.

It is advisable, if unable to find someone in today's version, (because names have been deleted from current lists), to come and check the fiche we have.

We do have two editions:

International Genealogical Index 1988 Y2/L1/1+

International Genealogical Index 1992 Y2/L6b/!+

We also have a large collection of Microfilm and Microfiche, just search our catalogue under the Location tab to see what is available. You will be pleasantly surprised.

If you are unsure how to use Microfilm and Microfiche readers, come along to Library Practice, held monthly, where Jeanette Hahn will be able to help you. You will need to register. As well, Pauline's Parlour is held twice a month, where Pauline and the merry helpers, are available to help with any of your research problems.

# Society Education and Activities

Meetings are held via Zoom, face-to-face in the Education Room, or “hybrid” via both methods. Refer to the website [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au) for additional information or to register for the meetings. Contact the convenor if you have any questions.

**Education Sessions** – Registration is required for all paid Courses or Events. Information is on the website [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au) or in the newsletters. Contact [events@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:events@familyhistoryact.org.au) for any questions about education events.

## Calendar for regular Groups

### Australia SIG

2pm the fourth Sunday of  
odd-numbered months

### Coffee and Chat

10am the third Friday of each month

### Convict SIG

7.30pm the second Wednesday of  
even-numbered months

### DNA SIG

1pm first Saturday of February,  
second Saturday of March, May, July,  
September, November

### English and Welsh SIG

7.30pm the third Thursday of  
odd-numbered months

### Family Tree Maker SUG

10am the second Thursday of each  
month except January

### Heraldry SIG

8pm the third Thursday of even-  
numbered months except December

### India SIG

10am the first Saturday of  
even-numbered months.

### Irish SIG

9.30am the second Saturday  
of February, March, May, July,  
September and November.

### Legacy SUG

10am the third Thursday of each  
month except December

### Morning Coffee and Chat

10am the third Friday of each month

### Pauline's Parlour

10am the last Tuesday of each  
month except December

11am the third Sunday of each  
month except December

### Practical Procedures

10am the fourth Monday of each  
month except December

### Reunion & Mac Support SUG

9.30am the first Friday of each  
month, except January and  
December

### Scottish SIG

7.30pm the first Thursday of each  
even-numbered month

### TMG Down Under SUG

2pm the second Saturday of even-  
numbered months except December  
7.30pm the second Wednesday  
of odd-numbered months except  
January (awaiting convenor)

### Writers SIG

10am the third Saturday of each  
month February to November (dates  
around Easter may change)

## July 2024

- 2 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:**
- 5 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill  
ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *The Sources Workspace*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *A look at the Irish in the British Army during the 19th century*; convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *Member Queries*; convenor Cathy Day dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 14 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *The Romani in Australia Part 2*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse  
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *Trades and Occupations*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Writers Circle*. convenor Jo Callaghan writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 2.00 pm **Australia SIG:** *History of Nursing in Australia*; convenor Pauline Ramage australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 30 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

## AUGUST 2024

- 2 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill,  
ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 3 10:00 am **India SIG:** *Informal session*; convenor Prof. Peter Stanley  
india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 6 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:**
- 8 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Media Workspace or New Version of FTM if ready*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 8 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** *TBA*, scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 9:00 am - 1:00 pm **Family History - Community History** see website
- 10 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under:** *Neil Bradley: TMG Flags and Filters*;  
convenor Lyndsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 14 7:30 pm **Convict SIG:** *Convicts in WA and Fremantle*; convenor Michele Rainger convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *Explore 15th Cent. armorial by John Rows of Warwick*. convenor Chris Lindesay, heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Brilliant Biographies & finding the story in facts*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 10:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 30 11:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 25 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

## SEPTEMBER 2024

- 3 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:**
- 6 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Reviewing the People and Places Workspaces in FTM*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 14 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *Researching the manuscripts from the Genealogical Office in Dublin-Nick Reddan*; convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 14 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *TBA*, convenor Cathy Day dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *Employee records of the British Royal Households-There Lynch*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Writers Circle*; convenor Jo Callaghan writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 22 19 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 22 2.00 pm **Australia SIG:** *Photography and dating with fashions*; convenor Pauline Ramage australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

# Services for Members

## **Photocopies**

A4 25c

## **Microform Prints**

A4 45c

## **GRO Certificate and PDF Service**

Members \$24 certificate, \$16 PDF

Non-members \$27 certificate \$17 PDF

## **Translation Service**

Translations available for the following languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the material is non-refundable. Prices vary according to language and are charged per 100 words or part thereof.

Further details in Library or from the secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

## **LDS Film Viewing**

The FHACT library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the FHACT library access to the approximately 25% of digital records held by LDS that have restricted access imposed by copyright holders.

## **Discounts**

Financial members receive a 10% discount when purchasing FHACT publications. Further details in Library

## **Research Advice**

The service providing free research to members, for those facing a "brick wall" in their research, is currently suspended.

## **Research Service**

Contact Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339.

## **Readers' queries**

Members may submit queries for inclusion in *The Ancestral Searcher* free of charge. Please no more than 200 words per query. Non-members \$27.50. Contact: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au (all prices include GST)

# Notice to Contributors

The copy deadline for contributions to *The Ancestral Searcher* is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to publication. The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters, news and items of interest on any subject pertaining to family and local history.

Please send text files in either MS Word or plain text. Articles should be no more than 2000 words, with one or two quality images. Please limit footnotes to 3-4 per 500 words.

Digital images should be a high resolution and tiff or jpeg images.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

Authors can assist by; formatting dates to '1 July 1899'; months to be spelled out; no ordinals on numbers (no st/nd/rd/th); ship names should be italicised; all quotes to be in "double quotes"; and all family names should be formatted as CAPITALS. (But not in captions or end notes.) Submissions and questions to: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.



## LIBRARY

**Unit 7, 41 Templeton Street, Cook – 02 6251 7004**

Opening hours:	Tuesday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Wednesday	10.00	am	–	3.30	pm
	Thursday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Saturday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm
	Sunday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm

**The Library is CLOSED on all Public Holidays**

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

**Reader's Access Ticket** for non-members: \$10 for one day, \$20 one week, \$30 one month. Monthly general meetings are held beginning at 7.00pm in the FHACT Education Room, Templeton Street, Cook, ACT on the first Tuesday of each month, except January. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of November. Notices of special meetings, and social gatherings are advertised in this journal as appropriate.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership begins from the date the member joins and will expire either one or two years later at the end of the month in which the member joined. New members, or members who have lapsed for more than 12 months, are required to pay a joining fee. Joint membership is available for additional members at the same address. A concession membership is available to Australian residents please check with our Membership Co-ordinator. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 84.00*	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
Joint	\$ 128.00*	Journal Only – Australia	\$ 35.00
Individual – Concession	\$ 79.00*	Journal Only – Overseas	\$ 45.00*
Joint – Concession	\$ 118.00*	* GST free other prices include GST	

*Membership forms are available on the website, at the FHACT Library or can be posted on request.*

**The Ancestral Searcher** is the official journal of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The journal is published quarterly and available without charge to financial members of the Society and affiliated bodies. Kindred Societies can receive the journal on an exchange basis. Back copies are available for current year and previous two years at \$5.00 each. Earlier issues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for a yearly bundle of 4 issues (excluding postage).

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## ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for advertising and contributions is required by the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising in the journal:

- Full page for four consecutive issues \$330; half page for four consecutive issues \$175;
- Full page for one issue \$110; half page for one issue \$60.

Advertising in non-consecutive issues is charged at the single issue rate. 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society.

Advertising flyers can be included with the journal posting. These are to be supplied by the advertiser folded to A5 or smaller in size, cost for A5 20c, A4 30c and A3 or larger 50c per insert. Readers' Queries up to 60 words: members, no charge; non-members \$35.00.

*Payment is required at the time of submission.*

*All prices include GST*

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*The objectives of the Society are:  
To promote and encourage the study and preservation  
of family history, genealogy, heraldry and allied  
subjects, and to assist members and others  
in research in these areas.*