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# Cairns Family History Newsletter



## September 2024



have given presentations.

I, Jon, am happy to help you out as your President this year, my first in a society which is somewhat challenging to negotiate, let alone assist with. I have had a lifelong interest in family history and served as President in several family history societies similar to our own here in Cairns.

I currently belong to the Cumbria Family History Society (UK) and the Fellowship of the Society for Genealogical Research. I continue to provide useful updates to extend my familial knowledge.

Your newly elected Committee has a wealth of knowledge and it is a pleasure to rely on their expertise and work together for you all.

For our families, past, present and still to come.

Jon Fearon

President

Thank you to all members of the Society and especially those who have given my wife, Karys, and me a warm welcome. We have already met many of you at the Saturday morning presentations.



Shadows from the Past has again been a resounding success with all tickets sold within 3 weeks of their being available. Terry from Box Jelly Theatre Company was again the artistic director and in her own inimitable way made the show the

However, many others are involved in getting the production off the ground. Thanks go to all the volunteers who have provided a rich background. Also, thanks go to Dell Deed and Cynthia Edwards. Without their many, many hours of painstaking research details (ie births, deaths, marriages, ship arrivals and newspaper articles, etc) to send to the actors. The actors' performances are based on these facts.

help choose the 'residents' that would be suitable. While there is information on all the 'residents' of the McLeod Str much more information than others.

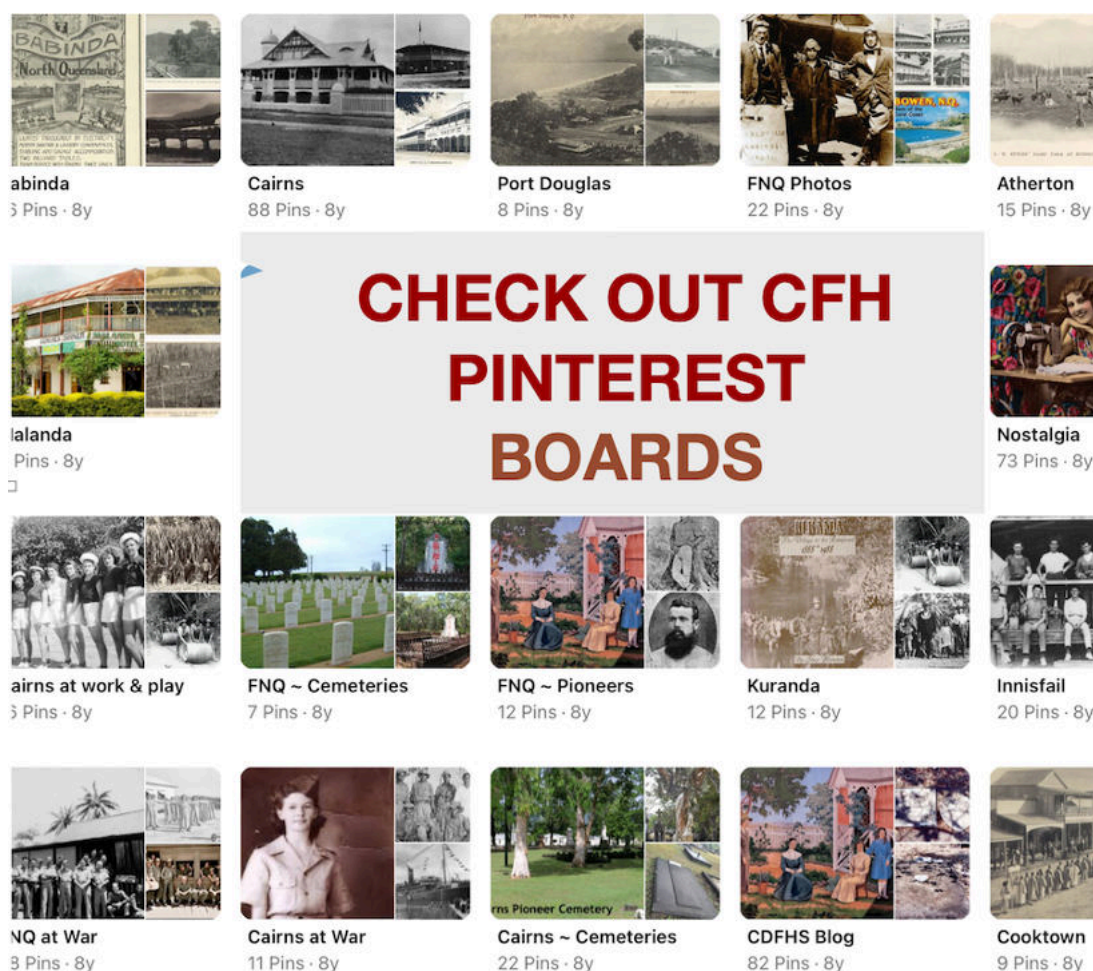
The work would involve reading the information that is available and then getting together to choose the appropriate 'r Please contact me at the Rooms on a Thursday or email me at [secretary@cdfhs.org](mailto:secretary@cdfhs.org)

Rosemary Holroyd

## Did you know CFH is on Pinterest?

Pinterest is a database of visual content. Cairns Family History (CFH) has created a visual reference library of historical photog locations. The CFH Pinterest boards also contain images relevant to genealogy research topics and C

Here are a few of the photographic boards on CFH's Pinterest site.



CFH's link <https://au.pinterest.com/CairnsFHS/>

## British Ceylon Records in the Dutch National Archives

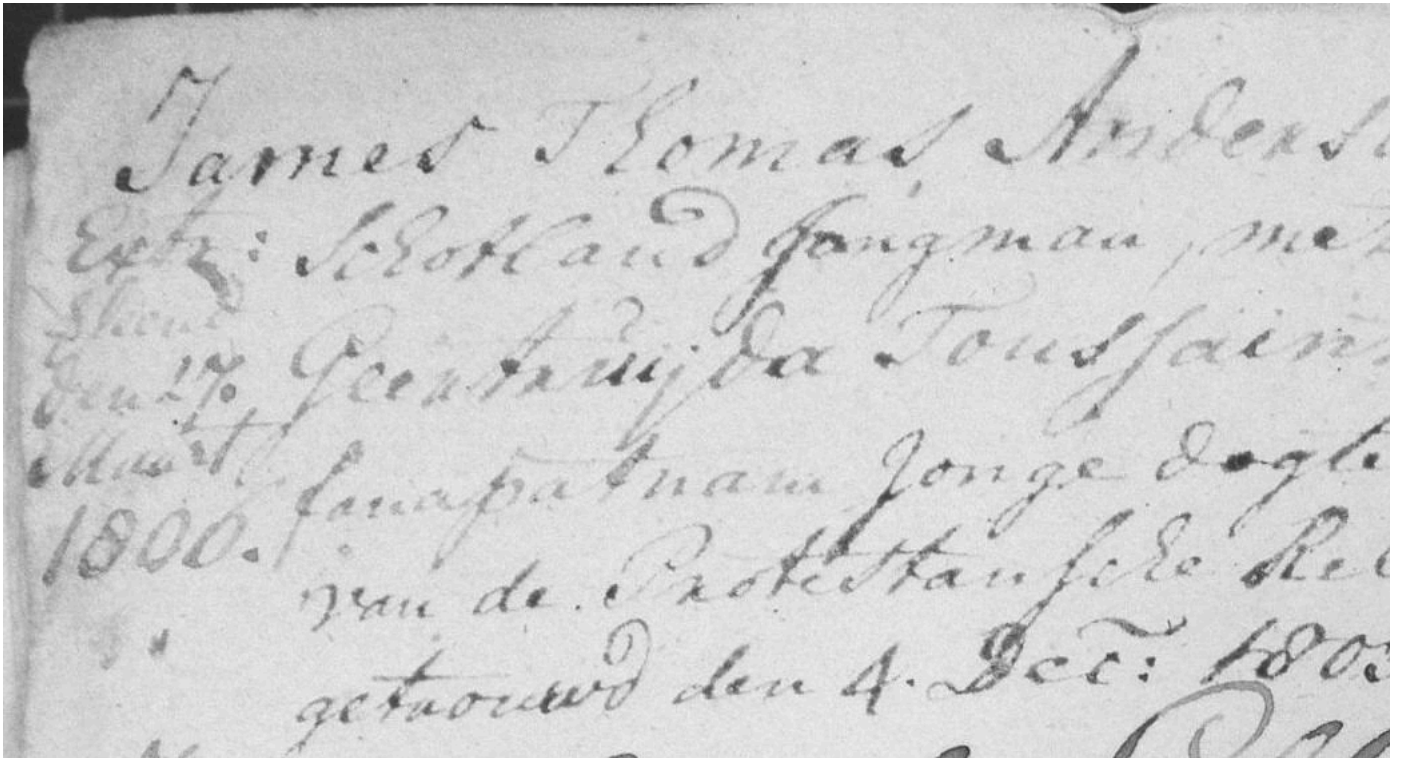
Story provided Larry Andreson

A Dutch Burgher Gentleman "borrowed" the Jaffna Dutch Reformed Church books in the early 1900s to research his family in British Ceylon Families of European descent he immigrated with his family to England and died there. His family found a large books, including three Jaffna Dutch Reformed Church books of births and marriages from 1744 to 1834 in his Estate. As they we

The records were rediscovered in 2006. Included in the Jaffna Church book is the marriage of James Thomas Anderson and  
December 1803. James Thomas Anderson was a Sea Captain who married into a local Dutch Burgher Family named Touss:  
Toussaint are my wife Coreens' Grandparents 4 times removed. I have handled and photographed the entries for the Andersc  
1803, and the baptism of the first two of their six children.

An index to the records in two of the books was published in a Dutch Genealogical magazine, De Indische Navorscher in 2008

The third book is in very poor condition and has not been transcribed.



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## HOW TO

### Interview Elderly Relatives

If you are collecting your family history, the first source must always be the family.

But you don't know when or how to start?

The time to start is now. Don't postpone it until you have more time. Auntie Nellie may not be able to remember everything you are ready. Do it now and store it away until you have time.

Add warmth and character to your story. Listen carefully to Auntie's story. Record it and her voice and share it with later generations of how her life was lived.

Di Clark and Pat Clark, Cairns Family History Members, will show you the **how**. They are holding a Workshop for the Cairns City Council on how to get started on your journey of recording your family's Oral History.





## — HOW TO... Interview — Elderly Relatives

Want to know more about your family history? Learn how to plan and conduct a successful oral history interview. Practice your skills with willing volunteers who are there to help you learn. Make history come alive and strengthen relationships with planned interview techniques.

Tuesday 29 October  
Gordonvale Library  
10am



### Library News

The Society is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Genealogical Society (GSQ) of Qld, we have more subscription websites for use of our members on our computers in our Research Centre.

These websites are The Genealogist UK, Fold3 (Ancestry military records), My Heritage, Newspapers.com and Biographical Database of Australia.

The Genealogist UK and My Heritage have some different records to Ancestry.

Fold3 and Newspapers.com are extensions to Ancestry.

As we are sharing the subscriptions with GSQ we are limited to two computers and have been requested to research.

We will manage this by taking bookings between 10am and 2pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Saturday of the month.

Please make your booking by email to [research@cdfhs.org](mailto:research@cdfhs.org) nominating suitable times and we will confirm

GSQ has also requested that we distribute to all our members a copy of their newsletters so that we can all benefit genealogical journeys.

Each month we will forward to our members the link to the GSQ newsletter.

You can also save the following link <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/news/> you may also wish to visit the History

To access the History Queensland newsletter for September 2024 click on the following link:

<https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HQ-Newsletter-Vol-11-number-3-September-2024>.

## PTE ROBERT HARRIS, THE DAUGHTERS YOU NEVER KNEW.



JUANITA



JEAN

At our Society meeting on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, I had the privilege of revealing the solution to a 110-y presentation entitled *Mum, Were you Adopted? DNA to the Rescue*.

The girls were born in Sydney, nine days apart, in February 1916. Jean is my mother. Those of you who missed this picture and share the excitement I and my newly found half-cousin, Denease, had when we recently received photos of our mothers, half-sisters Juanita and Jean. Neither knew anything about each other, nor of their DNA was Robert Harris of Toorak in Victoria. He died on the Somme in 1917.

*Jon Fearon*

## THE CYCLING PASTOR



**Frederic Charles Hall** (1878-1926) was born in the family home above a door on Queen Street, Woollahra, 26 February 1878. His parents were Thomas Alfred Hall and Ellen Matilda nee Walker, a local butcher in Woollahra, Sydney, son of convict John Hall, and Mary Chilvers, daughter of convicts; he was sentenced to 1834 for the theft of a silk handkerchief. Thomas Alfred was well respected in the community with a park named Hall Lane, Woollahra.

His education was in Burwood with the Misses Way and St Luke's Concord-Burwood Church of England. On 26th October 1892. Frederic involved himself in the Church of England Boys' Brigade activities, wrote poetry, a talented musician. As a student at the new St Andrew's Choir School in Sydney in late 1880s, he became a pianist, musician and dramatist.

He attended services in St Andrew's Cathedral and heard stories of mission work in China and met Miss Moore who sparked an interest in Chinese culture, including attendance at the Chinese School and choir and learning calligraphy. An unrecorded health issue apparently prevented the Mission Society giving him clearance to go to China. In 1900 he heard a visiting preacher, Bishop Gilbert White, the Bishop of Australia with Chinese on Thursday Island in Torres Strait. With Frederic's interest in Chinese, the Bishop invited him to finish his training for the Church of England ministry where he would have the opportunity to work amongst the Chinese. In mid-1901 he travelled north by ship to Gulf of Carpentaria and then Thursday Island to continue his studies. In December 1903 with a high standard including the Greek language.

Early in 1904 Frederic was commissioned as a Deacon being listed in the Sydney Diocese Year Book as Curate of the Anglican Church of Queensland. He proceeded to be fully ordained 24 June 1906 as priest and advanced then to Curate of an extensive parish which covered Burketown, Normanton, Croydon, Golden Gate and smaller settlements in the north. One of his tenures is found in the book *Cross Over Carpentaria* which states 'he was the rector of Croydon when

are testament to his technical skill and dedication to documenting the lives of the people he served. He used a tripod made by J. Lancaster and Sons, Birmingham and quarter-plate Austral No.3 made by the Australian Photo Co. mounted on Glass negatives from Ilford and Australia; developing was done by the photographer and printer. Amongst his collection, now the F C Hall Collection at James Cook University, were photos of the unique life of the area and special events such as weddings, funerals, Sunday School picnics and Aboriginal life.

Rev Frederic Charles Hall returned in 1909 to the Sydney Diocese and his marriage to Edyth Matilda Seal known, was born in Tottenham, London 7 July 1875 and had emigrated as a 10-year-old to Australia with her mother in 1885 with her family. F C Hall's first Sydney appointment was in 1920 as Rector of St Thomas' Mulgoa at great distances. For this he received an annual stipend of £170.00, and a £15.00 allowance for horse feed because of no cart. In March of the following year Frederic Hall was appointed Locum Tenens of the large parish of Penrith.

In December 1924 he was relocated to St Mark's Picton including extensive out-centres. This new rigorous work was just getting under way in its first year when sadly his health began to fail. He was given medical leave in January 1926 and during this period a brain tumour of some years' duration was diagnosed. Reverend F C Hall died in February 1926 and is buried in the family grave at Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, NSW.

**Life Summary (details)** Name: Frederic Charles Hall (47) Occupation: Ordained Clergyman; experience from Feb 1878 Place: Queen St, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW Parents: Thomas Alfred Hall and Ellen Matilda Voynich Andrew's, Choir School, Sydney, NSW Married: 1 June 1909 St Luke's, Concord/Burwood, NSW Children: Hilary Wensley 15 Nov 1912, Gwyneth 27 Nov 1914 Place in Australian History: Missionary to Indigenous Australians. Humble, kind, looked out for others, a caring Pastor, loving husband and father Physical Description: Tall, dark hair and moustache Denomination: Christian Portrait: attached Death: 7 Feb, 1926 Cause: Cerebral Tumour Buried: Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney

Cross Over Carpentaria: Being a History of the Church of England in Northern Australia from 1865-1965  
John Bayton Smith & Paterson, 1965 - Carpentaria (Diocese) - 223 pages  
NSW BDM marriage reference <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search/result?11>  
NSW BDM death reference <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search/result?8>  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126939599/mary-hall>  
<https://nqheritage.jcu.edu.au/view/collections/rfc-5fhpc.html>  
Hall Family archives and oral history.  
The Carpenter and the Mantua Maker - a PDF recorded history of the Hall and Chilvers Families.

Story by Karys Fearon - this work was an assignment for the Society of Genealogy course in 2023 follow Biography - ADB.

## PAST EVENTS SUCCESS

### SHADOWS FROM THE PAST

As stated earlier a great success - thanks also to Rosemary for her organisational skills in managing Shadows from the Past.

### Carnival on Collins

Thanks to Shirley Arrowsmith for arranging this stall at the Carnival and to her helpers. CDFHS was set up as an information point for all the local organisations. There was a steady stream of enquires and DNA raffle tickets sold.

## "Have Your Say"

Help us to help you! The CDFHS Committee needs to hear what members would like and how you would like to be involved - more zoom education? - more sessions at the research centre?

A short question sheet is being finalised and will be emailed to members soon for your input. If you are unable to attend, worry you can provide your feedback directly to Debbie Jolley at [vicepresident@cdfhs.org](mailto:vicepresident@cdfhs.org)

Newsletter input also being sought - if you would like to write an article or story for the newsletter then write for the newsletter. If there are particular topics you would like to see more of please tell us.

The newsletters are distributed 4 times throughout the year March, June, September and Nov (Dec).

All feedback, questions and articles can be sent to Debbie Jolley at [vicepresident@cdfhs.org](mailto:vicepresident@cdfhs.org)

## Genealogy Hints and Tips

With so many different types of records required to verify our family history it can all become quite confusing. Search has a Resource Checklist that could help you.

Check it out!!

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Resource\\_Checklist](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Resource_Checklist)

Have you heard about the Ironclad Sisterhood - Convict Women in Australia - awesome book. Check it out!!

<https://ironcladsisterhood.sag.org.au>

## Volunteers

If you enjoy being with people being organised, doing odd jobs, supporting research or even have IT skills - then we want you.

If you would even like to be on the Committee then the Cairns & District Family History Society is keen to hear from you.

If you have some time or skill to offer please contact either:

Rosemary Holroyd, Secretary at [secretary@cdfhs.org](mailto:secretary@cdfhs.org)

Debbie Jolley, Vice President at [vicepresident@cdfhs.org](mailto:vicepresident@cdfhs.org)

## DONATIONS

Cairns & District Family History Research Centre welcomes any donations that can assist us with a helping hand to support our research.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To donate please go to [www.cdfhs.org](http://www.cdfhs.org) scroll all the way to the bottom of the first page where you will see the Donate button



Cairns & District Family History Inc  
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[cdfhs.org](http://cdfhs.org)

P.O. Box 502

Manunda, Cairns 4870

Opening Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10am-3pm

Second Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Public Holidays

## Cairns Family History Society Committee

President: Jon Fearon - [president@cdfhs.org](mailto:president@cdfhs.org)

Vice-President: Deborah Jolley - [vicepresident@cdfhs.org](mailto:vicepresident@cdfhs.org)

Secretary: Rosemary Holroyd - [secretary@cdfhs.org](mailto:secretary@cdfhs.org)

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture

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