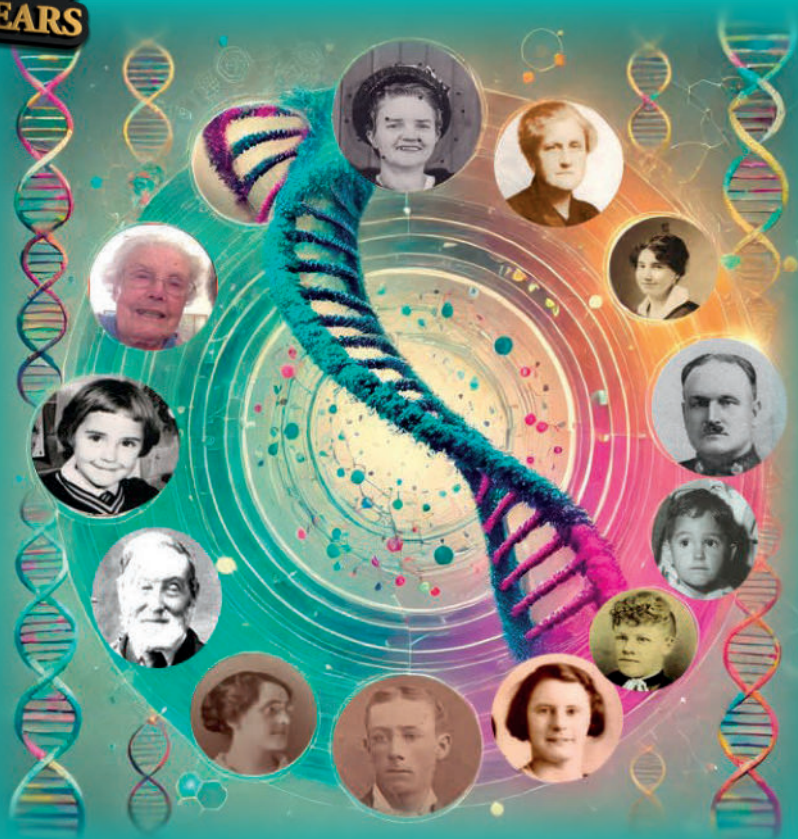




THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER

CELEBRATING
60
YEARS



Family History ACT

Vol. 47 No. 3 September 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;

Associate Member of Scottish Federation of Family History Societies; Family History Federation.

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From the President

Michele Rainger

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

2024 continues to be a very busy year as we celebrate our Society's 60th anniversary: and it's not finished yet.

The refresh of our facilities is all but complete with just a final bit of organising and labelling of shelving to occur. And what a difference replacing and rearranging some of the furniture has made to our Library. Our new kitchenette and members' lounge have also been welcome additions, with this area being used more often now.

On Tuesday 1 October 2024 our Monthly Members' Meeting will be a joint gathering with the members of the Canberra & District Historical Society. In the early years of what was then called the Canberra Genealogy and Heraldry Group, we had a number of joint meetings, and our 60th birthday seems like the perfect opportunity to resurrect this practice. We will have members from both organisations speaking about how Canberra has changed over the years and about the resources available in our two libraries to help people researching family connections in the national capital.

The winners of this year's annual E.M.Fletcher Writing Competition will be announced at a special event to be held on Saturday 12 October 2024. We have been very pleased with the number of entries this year, and once again the stories submitted have shown how diverse family history can be, and how many different ways our ancestors' stories can be told.

The commemorative book that celebrates our society's 60th anniversary will be launched on Saturday 19 October 2024 by Society Patron Professor Peter Stanley. This book invites readers on a journey through six decades of history, recounting the remarkable achievements of Family History ACT and the tireless contributions of its members. Copies will be available for sale soon.

Our society's very first meeting was held on 20 October 1964, and on 20 October 2024 we will be hosting a birthday party for current and former members. By the time this edition of The Ancestral Searcher is published more details of these events will be available and you can register to attend via our society website - <https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/>

Happy Birthday Family History ACT

From the Editor's Desk

Clare McGuinness

DNA – you either love it or wonder what all the fuss is about.

The National Board for Certification of Genealogists says that DNA is now part of the exhaustive search required for adequate genealogical proof. Documents and DNA results work together and understanding DNA is impossible without comprehensive exhaustive documentary research. DNA is the great leveller but also rocket launcher. We all have DNA, and it can enhance our family history no matter what our circumstances – adoption, mysteries revealed, deep ancestry and connection to others.

Jenny Burgess reminds us that DNA can throw out our precious documentation and sense of self. We have to start again as both Neville and Jo discovered. Grahame searches for a missing great-grandfather, emphasising the need to marry traditional research and DNA. Jenny H searches for Swedish ancestry, while Andrew's search is Norwegian. Margaret is just starting off.

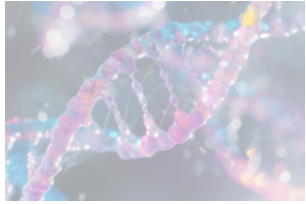
Some members are searching way, way back in what professional genealogists call 'the weeds'. Finding proof by bringing together tiny bits of DNA, called segments, as Jenny does in her search into her early colonial ancestry. Chris's story is an entertaining way to tell the story from the other side - the ancestor - that also goes into these weeds searching for distant ancestors.

DNA is exploding – with approximately 40 million autosomal tests, overwhelmingly at Ancestry so no wonder we often seem to focus on it. Behind that number there are only 2 million Y-DNA and only 1 million mitochondrial tests. We have several Y-DNA stories; Neville's addressing a new mystery, and Sue's connecting her Hamiltons to relatives in USA and Scotland. Although there is no mitochondrial story in this edition, readers will find my own in our last edition.

Communicating with matches is a major key to success. Kelly entertains with the benefits of meeting your matches, while Cheryl talks about how AI already powers genealogy and will do so into the future.

These stories illustrate how DNA is being used in our society. For those new to DNA, I have taken editorial privilege to provide an overview of how to work with DNA. The techniques are many and varied. Why not join our DNA SIG!

I have offered authors the chance to provide their email address to encourage feedback to themselves. They are waiting to hear from you. Otherwise please direct any queries to me at editor@familyhistoryact.org.au to be passed on.



DNA ... but first a warning!

Jenny Burgess

If you intend to have a DNA test, you need to be prepared for the unexpected, as the stories in this edition show. Many people test their DNA to check their ethnicity, health or traits and serious researchers want to prove their paper trail. Pew Research <https://www.pewresearch.org/search/dna> 6 Aug 2019, surveyed mail-in DNA testers (in the USA) from major testing companies (Ancestry, 23andMe and MyHeritage). People's test results mostly lined up with what was expected, but 38% were surprised by their ethnicity result and 27% learnt about close relatives they didn't know about previously.

Finding your father isn't your father, or your mother had an extra-marital relationship can be an emotional experience to an estimated 1% of testers. It may be your grandfather, grandmother or further back. A person taking a DNA tests needs to understand that their results may be a surprise.

Family History groups, like our own society have DNA specialists to help with your results. There are excellent Facebook groups such as:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UsingDNAforGenealogyAustraliaNewZealand)

UsingDNAforGenealogyAustraliaNewZealand, and

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectivesDownUnder>, ready to help members understand this new experience.

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

<https://digdeeper24.org/index.php>

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



Using DNA

Margaret Nichols

I received my results from Ancestry in 2018.

I cajoled a maternal first cousin, a paternal second cousin, a sister, a son and a grandson to make a test (which I supplied using FamilyTreeDNA). These I loaded onto MyHeritage and GEDmatch along with my AncestryDNA results.

I had two aims for testing my DNA:

1. Find cousins who may have photographs of common ancestors and share these with each other. I had inherited two photograph albums of mainly nineteenth century family photos. As lovely as they are, there are no names associated with the photos.
2. Confirm 30 years 'manual' research.

The first aim was only partially realised. I did make contact with several people who were willing to share photographs. This was a bonus allowing me to match several names in my tree with their photograph. The rate of response to my queries was extremely low, at 5–10%. This remains a real problem with connecting with cousins.

The second aim was a great success. DNA showed that my paper research was as accurate as possible. There are no close inexplicable matches.

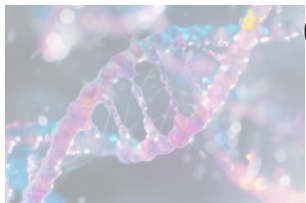
A comment on my matches. I seem to have a more 'DNA interested' maternal family as there are more matches on this side. Why is this I wonder? These families have their Australian roots from the Second Fleet of 1790 to 1852. My paternal side has its Australian roots from 1788 to 1852 but with less interest from their modern descendants.

What's next for me?

Keep working on the matches. The DNA software is changing faster than I can work so new features and opportunities are always available.

Go to SIGs, do the hard work and answer all queries from cousins.

Margaret Nichols #1349 (mnichols@netspeed.com.au)



Cutting through a web of untruths

Jenny Hawkins

When my grandfather John Maximillian LIONS married my grandmother in Coolgardie in 1898 he declared that his parents were Brita LEYOSKJOLD and John LIONS, engineer. In other documents he declared that he had been born in Sundsvall, in Sweden, on 1 October 1870. There were sundry other details in the story which he passed on to his family, about leaving home at a young age and joining a brother in the United States, about an apprenticeship at the Pennsylvania Railroad and naval service in the US, and about a voyage on the *SS Ruahine* before he ended up on the goldfields of Western Australia.

Many were the hours that I searched for records for LEYOSKJOLD or the like (this is a very rare noble name in Sweden); for someone called Maximillian (not a usual Swedish name); for births in Sundsvall in 1870 or thereabouts; for a father who had died before the birth of his son; a father who had been a Scottish engineer; or for evidence of an exit document from Sweden heading for the United States. All in vain.

So finally I turned to DNA to see if this grandfather could be identified, using both Ancestry and MyHeritage. The best matches were on MyHeritage, reflecting a better coverage of Scandinavian testers.

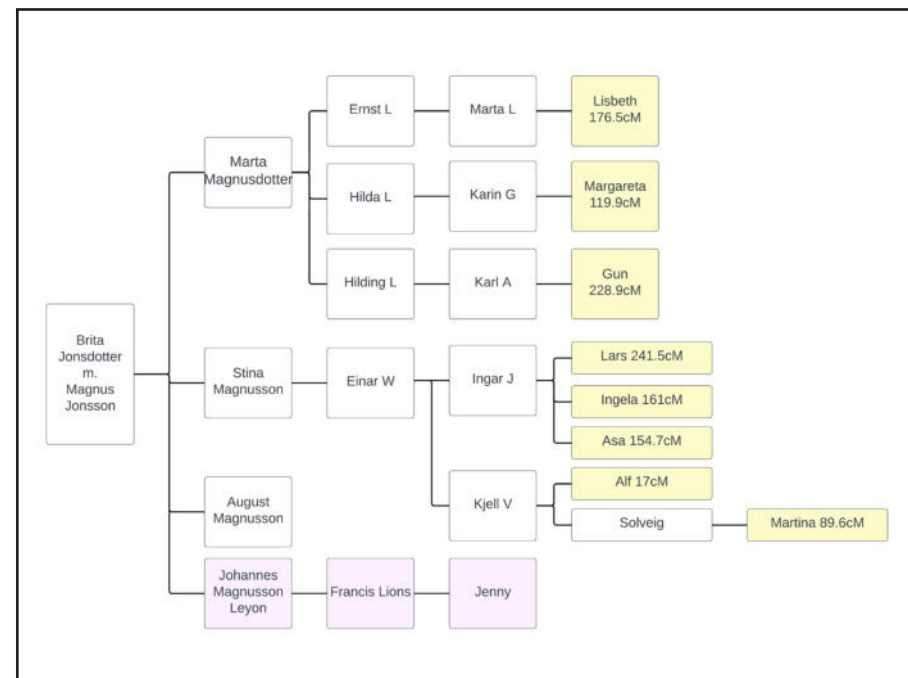
As a complete novice in the area, and not sure what to do next, I enlisted the help of a researcher in Sweden. She showed me that by tracing back the family trees of the four best matches it was possible to see links to two daughters of one family in the parish of Gunnarskog, near the border with Norway. And the youngest member of the family was a Johannes MAGNUSSON. Further work showed that Johannes, who had been born on 1 October 1870 to a mother Brita, adopted the name LEYON (Swedish for Lion) when he was about twenty. He (fortunately for me) had served a short term in prison at this age and he is described as being 1.71m tall and having blue eyes, both confirmed when he had to register as an alien in New South Wales during World War I.

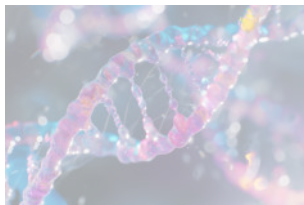
Subsequently some further strong matches have also led back to the same family and I have numerous matches which link to the antecedents of Brita JONSDOTTER, the mother of Johannes. Magnus JONSSON, his father, is somewhat of a mystery. He and Brita never married though they were at

least once described as “engaged”. His occupation was given as a vagabond and nothing is known of him after Johannes’ birth. I’ve not identified any DNA matches with his antecedents and one wonders if in fact he really was Johannes’ father.

Johannes must have had some contact with his family from Australia, since in the Household Record books of his parish, Gunnarskog, there is a final entry in the volume for 1896-1900 which states that he “was dead in Australia at the Boer War”.

Why did he lie about his family details? This is a question to which we will never have an answer. One possibility is that he had jumped ship when he went to the Western Australian goldfields, but the deception had already started when he signed on to the *Ruahine* in 1893 as J LYONS from Sundsvall.





How do you solve a problem like Maria?

Jo Callaghan

I have a gaping hole in my paternal family lore.

There are no fabulous sepia portraits of previous generations and there are no family stories to pass down to the next generations. The only solution is to combine traditional genealogical research and contemporary DNA research to figure out who I come from. Decades ago, as a novice family historian, I added 3x great-grandparents - Maria WOOD and Frederick MATHEWS - to my family tree.

More recently, something didn't look quite right as far as my DNA was concerned. I had a lot of DNA matches connected to 2x great-grandfather Robert DEAN, but almost no DNA matches were connected to Maria and Frederick. Which left me wondering - were Maria and Frederick really my ancestors?

It was time to properly examine the lives of my MATHEWS/WOOD ancestors, starting with Maria WOOD, to see what I could learn.

Maria's Paper Trail

The births of Maria's ten children, including my 2x great-grandmother Eliza MATHEWS, were recorded in New South Wales. Maria's information consistently said that her maiden name was 'WOOD'. Sometimes she said her middle name was 'Ann' or 'Anna'. Based on the age that she gave on each of those records, Maria was born about 1832. Any record that listed her birthplace consistently stated Parramatta, or Paddington or just plain Sydney.

After numerous searches through the New South Wales historic indexes, Maria's birth record remained elusive. Maria and Frederick's marriage record was incorrectly indexed and was eventually found in the New South Wales Presbyterian Marriages Register, Volume 80.

On 14 April 1851, the spinster Maria 'Fanny' WOOD married the bachelor Frederick William MATHEWS. They each declared that they were a member of or held Communion with the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Having finally located their marriage, disappointment swiftly followed. Prior to 1856, couples getting married in NSW did not always record where they were

born or who their parents were. The marriage record gave me no clues about her origins.

Next, I took a closer look at the marriage records of Maria's ten children and discovered something very interesting. They all seemed to think that their mother's maiden name was MCNEISH and not WOOD at all!

That strange new piece of the puzzle made me go back over records that I had already seen, looking for traces of the name MCNEISH. Quite surprisingly, I found it in two places. First, I found the name in Maria's marriage record – the same one I'd thought gave me no clues. A person named Eliza MACNISH (not MCNEISH, but very close) had been a witness to her 1851 marriage to Frederick. Next, I found the name in the newspaper. When her husband Frederick MATHEWS died in 1870, Maria used a lawyer named MACNISH to handle his estate.

Not expecting much, I then searched on Ancestry.com for Maria MACNISH instead of Maria WOOD and I almost fell off my chair when I found a cluster of family trees that included a person named Maria WOODS (MACNISH).

This Maria WOODS was born in Ireland in 1829, to parents Lambert WOODS and Eliza CANNY but the trees showed nothing further about her. By comparison, my Maria WOOD got married in Sydney in 1851 but I hadn't been able to verify anything about her before that date.

Two questions immediately came to mind - was my Maria WOOD and this Maria WOODS (MACNISH) the same person? Could I prove or disprove it?

With my genealogist hat planted firmly on my head, I dived down a rabbit hole to explore the life of Maria WOODS (MACNISH), starting with her mother Eliza CANNY.

The Irishwoman Eliza CANNY

In November 1827 in Ennis, Ireland, Eliza CANNY married Lambert WOODS. *The Clare Journal and Ennis Advertiser* announced the marriage, describing Eliza as the daughter of the late Mr Michael CANNY. Her first child was a son, Henry WOODS. He was born in 1828 and he died the same year. She next gave birth to a daughter, Maria WOODS in 1829. Her husband Lambert died the same year, leaving Eliza (now Mrs WOODS) a widow and the single parent of a baby girl - and all of that by about the age of 17.

In 1835, a housekeeper and needlewoman named 'Elizabeth' WOODS, and her daughter Maria WOODS, boarded the ship *James Pattison* which arrived

in Sydney in February 1836. Eliza was to be 'engaged by' her brother, Henry CANNY. Passengers disembarked from the *James Pattison* at the King's Wharf and from there they went to Government House, where Elizabeth and Maria waited for a whole week before Henry collected them.

Henry CANNY was a convict who became a government employee. In 1836 he was employed at Parramatta Hospital. In later years he would become the Clerk of the Legislative Council and his story is fabulous, but one for another day. The important part of this story, as far as Henry is concerned, is that he lived in Parramatta.

On 16 December of the same year, the widow Eliza (nee CANNY) WOODS and William MACNISH participated in two ceremonies in two different churches on the same day. One ceremony took place at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and the other at St Andrew's Scot's Church. The bridal couple each declared their religion; Eliza declared hers at the Roman Catholic church and William declared his at the Presbyterian church.

Eliza CANNY was no longer Mrs WOODS but was now Mrs William MACNISH. And he lived in Paddington.

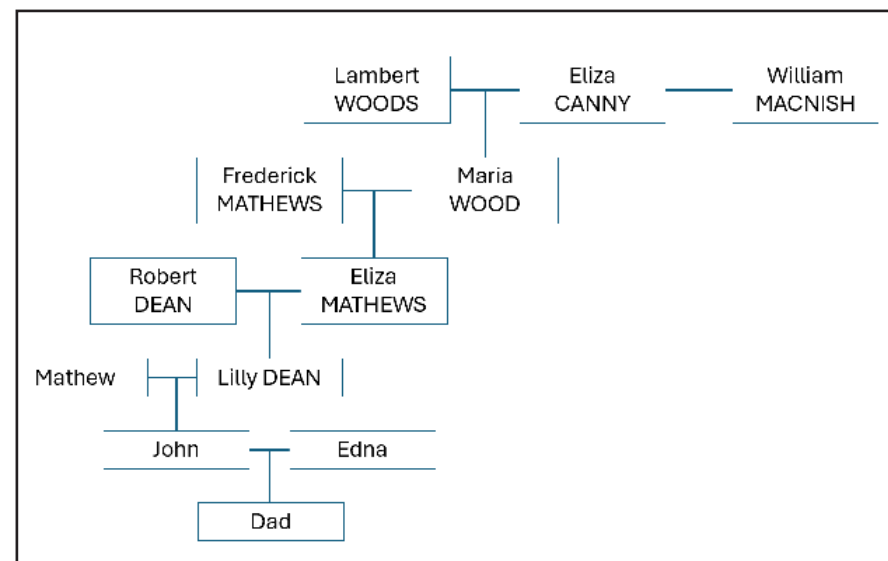
Analysing the paper evidence

Did the paper evidence prove or disprove that Maria WOODS born in Ireland is the same person as Maria WOOD who married Frederick MATHEWS in New South Wales?

Small pieces of information began connecting like puzzle pieces, slowly forming a picture. When I considered all the information, it was starting to look like the two Marias might be the same person.

1. The young child Maria WOODS lived with her mother in both Parramatta and Paddington, the places where my Maria WOOD claimed to have been born.
2. If the two Marias were the same person, then it was her mother Eliza MACNISH who was a witness to her marriage to Frederick MATHEWS, and it was her stepfather William MACNISH who took care of legal matters when Frederick died.
3. If the two Marias were the same person, then based on the birth records of her ten children, Maria named two of her sons after her father Lambert, one of her sons after her brother Henry, one of her sons after her stepfather William and one of her daughters after her mother Eliza.

But I found the most compelling evidence in the later records of Eliza (nee CANNY, then WOODS) MACNISH. During the later stages of her life, Eliza MACNISH was an inmate at the Newington Infirmary. The people that were listed as her relatives in her infirmary records were her grandson Henry MATHEWS and her granddaughter, Mrs DEAN. My Maria WOOD had children named Henry MATHEWS and Eliza (nee MATHEWS) DEAN. It was the addresses given for Eliza MACNISH's grandchildren that gave me the certainty I was seeking. The addresses were the same as the two identically named people in my family tree. Amazingly, 'Mrs DEAN' was both Eliza's grandchild and my 2x great-grandmother.



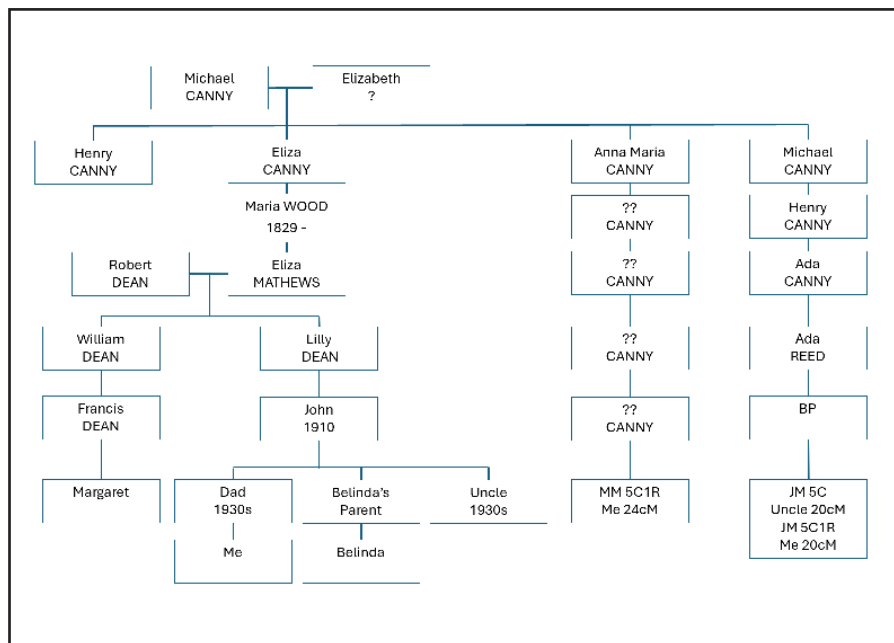
Analysing the DNA evidence

On paper the two Marias were the same person, but could I support this with DNA evidence?

The results of my ancestry DNA test are grouped to each of my 2x great-grandparents. My first cousin Belinda took a DNA test. We connected her results to my family tree and then grouped her matches.

We each had five matches that all shared MATHEWS DNA. The first and best match was with each other, no surprise there.

The second match was with Margaret, our 2nd cousin 1x removed. Margaret descends through Eliza MATHEWS' son, William DEAN.



Margaret shared her DNA test results with me. Having access to both Belinda's and Margaret's test results lets me consider different perspectives. I'm always fascinated by the randomness of DNA. Even though Belinda and I are related to Margaret in the same way, I only share 22cMs across one segment of DNA with Margaret, while Belinda shares 166cMs across 10 segments of DNA with Margaret.

Belinda's and my other three matches were Margaret's first cousin, and that person's two children. They can't be contacted for a range of reasons, so Margaret, Belinda and I forged ahead without them.

With our analysis of Maria WOODS' paper trail completed, Margaret and I both added Eliza CANNY and Lambert WOODS to our family trees.

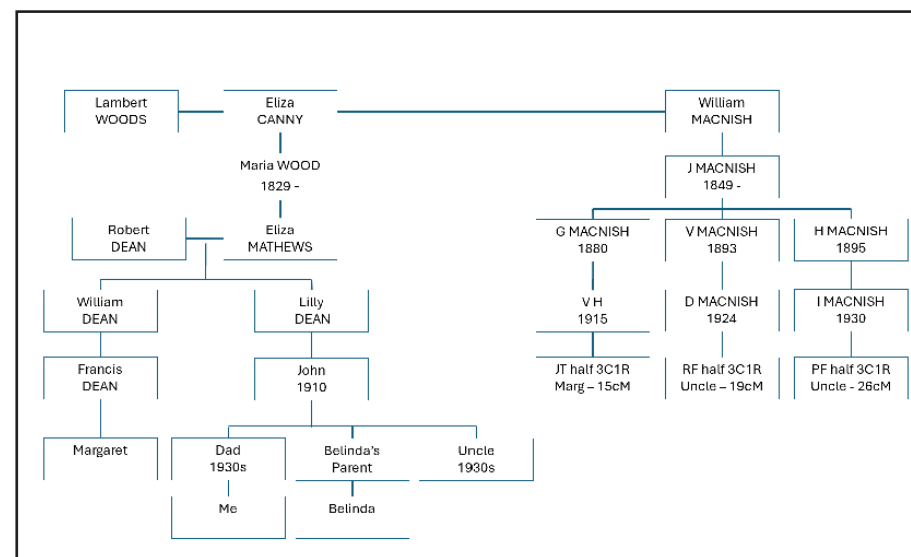
There is a tool in Ancestry.com called ThruLines. It's a clever tool that shows you how you might be related to your DNA matches through ancestors that you might share. ThruLines are suggestions, not proof, and like everything

in genealogy, they must not be relied on by themselves. Verification through careful analysis is an absolute must.

We waited patiently to see whether the addition of Eliza and Lambert to our trees caused anything to change in our ThruLines suggestions. After two weeks of waiting, nothing changed in Belinda's or my ThruLines.

But after only 24 hours, Margaret got a surprise. A single new ThruLine appeared - a small match with a descendant of James Henry MACNISH; one of Maria's half-siblings. And that's when it dawned on me. Maria had no surviving full siblings, no other lines for her parents' DNA to pass down to descendants.

Wouldn't that impact our DNA inheritance?



Margaret is a generation closer to Maria than Belinda and me. If she was only getting low value matches, then the likelihood of any reliable DNA coming to us from Eliza CANNY was looking quite remote.

At least that's what I thought until I woke up one morning to a very small match with a descendant of Anna Maria CANNY, a sibling of Eliza CANNY. Margaret also had this match, but my cousin Belinda did not.

And then our uncle took a DNA test.

Our uncle is at the same generational level as Margaret, and his results were very helpful. He had some small matches with descendants of James MACNISH, and one small match with a descendant of another of Eliza CANNY's brothers, Michael CANNY. Our matches were small, but they were down multiple descendant lines. Perhaps all was not lost.

Conclusions

Where did that leave us and what had we learned?

On paper, Maria WOODS, her mother Eliza CANNY and her grandfather Michael CANNY are our ancestors. (Note to self and others - don't forget that the witnesses to a marriage are sometimes as important as the bridal couple!) When it comes to DNA evidence, it's too soon to tell but things are looking promising. Margaret, Belinda, our uncle, and I have some interesting DNA matches to explore. Hopefully, in time, other MATHEWS, WOODS and CANNY descendants will take DNA tests to strengthen our research.

And, as always, there's still loads of traditional research yet to be done, lots of puzzle pieces yet to collect and plenty of rabbit holes yet to fall into.

18th (and last) Genealogy Cruise

There is still time to join the very last Unlock the Past Genealogy Cruise sailing the southern coast of Australia from Sydney to Adelaide via Hobart and Melbourne from 1-10 December 2024. The focus of the cruise is Scottish and Irish research with some presenters shown below. Find more information at <https://www.gould.com.au/18th-cruise-southern-australia/>



The Byrne link

Grahame Thom

Or how DNA may have helped me resolve the name of my great-grandfather.

My grandmother Margaret Adeline BULLIVANT (known as Maggie) married my grandfather Robert John William THOM (known as Bill) on 21 May 1912 in Redfern, Sydney. Maggie was born 20 July 1890 in Sydney. Their son Robert Alexander THOM born in 1916 in Sydney is my father.

Now this is where it gets interesting. Maggie's mother is Adeline Margaret BULLIVANT, born 1869 and aged 21 at her daughter's birth. On Maggie's birth, death and two marriage certificates issued by the NSW Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDMs), the name of her father is not given. I started research in 1968 and when I found this out I thought I would not be able to find out the name of my great-grandfather.

Then in the late 1970s I was researching in the Mitchell Library, Sydney with a cousin and we were looking at the Methodist Church BDM registers for LANE relatives on my Mum's side. I had finished checking and was looking through a bound volume of the registers and found I was looking at the Redfern marriage register and behold there was my grandmother's marriage entry and it revealed the father's name as Sydney WARDLE.

I was keen to obtain additional proof as to Sydney being my great-grandfather. It took some years. Maggie was born at the Benevolent Asylum in Sydney. I contacted them but they would not allow me access to their records. Then some years later in the 1990s the Asylum Society allowed access through two prominent SAG members. I asked them to check and the admission records states her father was Sydney WARDLE. I thought this additional "proof" was reasonable and from then on claimed Sydney as my great-grandfather. Although I have always wondered just how strong was this connection because of the circumstances of Maggie's mother's death, and two pregnancies out of wedlock. This to me raised the question as to whether Maggie's mother was a prostitute.

My great-grandmother Adeline Margaret BULLIVANT never married. She had another child, son Norman BULLIVANT, on 25 November 1895 at Chandos Street, North Sydney. Norman's birth certificate does not name the father. Then Adeline died on 1 June 1897 in Sydney. She died in a "cab" on the way to

hospital. The cause of death was eclampsia, associated with being pregnant, and syncope.

Along came DNA. I first tested with FamilyTreeDNA (all three tests), then LivingDNA, and then early in 2021 with AncestryDNA. None of these tests had a match to a WARDLE person or a LITTLE person (Sydney's wife). It was not until I had my autosomal test with AncestryDNA did the name BYRNE come up in several strong matches. So I started to explore the BYRNE family, getting BDM certificates.

I now consider that John BYRNE (died 1883) and his wife Margaret LATTIN (died 1914) are my 2x great-grandparents. This John BYRNE had died before the 1889 conception and therefore cannot be Maggie's father. But which of their four sons is my great-grandfather? They are James (c1866-1909), John (1870-1925), Michael (1873-1925) and Patrick (born circa 1876). My BULLIVANT ancestors, for many generations, lived in the North Sydney (St Leonards) area. And at the right time so did the BYRNE family.

My grandmother Maggie was conceived in about October 1889. Because of their young age at that time, I considered that Patrick and Michael are unlikely to be my great-grandfather. That leaves James and John. So what do my BYRNE matches reveal?

My strongest BYRNE matches on AncestryDNA are shown in the following table, along with my sister's and my highest BYRNE match MB. There are also 22 matches that are classified at the 4th to 6th cousinship level. There could be more BYRNE matches to me on AncestryDNA to people who have not created a tree on Ancestry.

In August 2021 I decided to contact the first match above by messaging through Ancestry. Soon after I received a favourable response from cousin MB who now lives in Victoria, having spent his early years in Lane Cove, Sydney. Since then we exchanged emails about our BYRNE connection.

From this comparison of our matches below, it is quite reasonable to conclude I am related to MB and that our common ancestors are John BYRNE and Margaret LATTIN. I used the DNA online tool "DNA Painter" to check our relationship. By inserting my cM match result with MB of 349 cM, this tool indicated a 53% probability that I am a half first cousin to MB and a 44% probability that I am a half first cousin once removed to MB. There is a 3% probability that I am a half second cousin to MB. My full sister's results are

relevant as she shares the same relationships with all my matches.

Match	Ancestry Estimate	Grahame	Sister	MB	Byrne sibling
MB	1st-2nd cousin	349	432	-	Michael
GB	2nd-3rd cousin	178	189	780	Michael
GE	2nd-3rd cousin	153	155	412	Michael
JH	2nd-3rd cousin	141	186	841	Michael
Deb	2nd-3rd cousin	123	147	110	Patrick
SF	2nd-3rd cousin	106	39	318	Michael
JL	2nd-3rd cousin	97	100	186	Patrick
DS	2nd-3rd cousin	64	141	161	Patrick
WB	2nd-3rd cousin	57	45	216	Patrick
SC	2nd-3rd cousin	53	107	514	Michael
SH	4th-6th cousin	42	27	103	Maria
GH1	4th-6th cousin	42	53	236	Elizabeth
MaB	4th-6th cousin	37	94	185	Patrick
LE	4th-6th cousin	34	63	172	Michael
GH2	4th-6th cousin	28	27	159	Elizabeth
CD	4th-6th cousin	8	41	232	James

MB's grandfather is Michael BYRNE, the brother of James, John and Patrick. The eldest brother, James, was born in Hobart in 1866. The family moved to Sydney in about December 1882 or January 1883, and took up residence in North Sydney. James married Mary COTTON in 1885 in Sydney and they had the following children as revealed by searching the official online NSW birth index. I also obtained the birth certificates for Margaret and Winifred so as to know their dates of birth:

Arthur born 1886 at St Leonards

Margaret born 16 September 1888 at Rookwood

[conception took place in about October 1889 for Maggie born 20 July 1890]

Winifred born 28 September 1890 at Glebe

Elizabeth M born 1897 at St Leonards.

In view of the places where James lived, and his married life above, he is unlikely to be Maggie's father. Although I cannot prove it, I think it's likely Maggie's mother was living in the North Sydney area in the late 1880s. She was born in Neutral Bay and her parents appear to have lived there until they died.

That leaves Michael aged 16 years and John aged 19 years, both bachelors in

Michael was born in Hobart in August 1873. He probably, as a 9 year old, moved with his parents to Sydney around 1882/83 and resided in the St Leonards/ North Sydney area. Otherwise nothing is known about his early life. Michael, a plasterer, married Edith JAMES in February 1898 at St Mary's Church, North Sydney. They had twelve children.

The 1913 Commonwealth electoral roll for Ryde includes :

John BYRNE, Parramatta Road, Ryde, labourer,

There is one items in the Sydney papers between 1880 and 1920 relating to members of the BYRNE family, when his mother Margaret died. In the Sydney Morning Herald of 15 April 1914, page 11, there is a funeral notice that makes mention of Mr and Mrs John BYRNE. The funeral left the home of son-in-law James RYAN, 6 Church Street, North Sydney.

In conclusion it is reasonable to conclude that Maggie's father was either John or Michael BYRNE, and therefore it is not possible to be certain who was her father.

Grahame Thom FHAGSOC.

Editor's comment: This story demonstrates the value of getting a 'second opinion' on the possibilities for Margaret BULLIVANT'S father. By adding his sister's results into the analysis further clarity was gained. Becoming more confident in the findings will always benefit from more BYRNE family members testing. Grahame may just have to wait.



Neville Morrison

Seven white hills in Bendigo, Victoria were unsurprisingly named “The White Hills” for the colour of the clay exposed by gold miners at the Bendigo diggings in the 1850s. The Bendigo Creek, the site of the area’s first gold find, runs through them. My paternal great-grandfather, Joseph Pascoe MORRISON was born on 7 December 1860 at 7th White Hills. The details of his birth, shown on the birth registration below, were provided by the father: “parents Charles MORRISON and Phillippa MORRISON formerly PASCOE who married in 1857 in Plymouth”.

SCHEDULE A.						of Victoria.	
BIRTHS in the District of <i>White Hills</i> in the Colony							
CHILD.			PARENTS.			INFORMANT.	
No.	When and where born.	Name, and whether present or not.	Sex.	FATHER. <small>(1) Name and Christian Name, or of Profession of the Father. 20 Age. And (2) Birth place.</small>	MOTHER. <small>(1) Name and Christian Name, or of the Mother. 20 Age. And (2) Birth- place.</small>	<small>Signature, Description, and Address of Informant.</small>	
<i>1877</i>	<i>December 7, 1876</i>	<i>Joseph Isaac</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Charles Morrison</i> <i>Laboune</i> <i>do</i>	<i>Robert Morrison</i> <i>2-1877</i> <i>Pyramide</i>	<i>Philippa Morrison</i> <i>formerly</i> <i>Isaac</i> <i>21</i> <i>Conwall</i>	<i>Charles Morrison</i> <i>Laboune</i> <i>7th White Hill</i> <i>Partner</i>

Joseph married Elizabeth Jane DAVEY on the 28 January 1882 at the Methodist Manse in Kadina, South Australia. Elizabeth was born in Cornwall, England on 9 June 1863, and arrived in Port Adelaide, South Australia on 23 December 1865 aboard the *Gosforth*. They had seven children between 1883 and 1892, including my grandfather Thomas Henry Percy MORRISON born in 1889 at Matta Flat, South Australia.

Phillippa PASCOE

Phillippa was born in September 1834 in Constantine, Cornwall, England. She was there with her family in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, till her father Joseph PASCOE died in May 1857. After leaving Plymouth, Devon on 6 August 1858 aboard the *Confiance*, she arrived in Port Adelaide on 27 November 1858. She was actually 26, not 21, when she gave birth to my ancestor Joseph Pascoe MORRISON in 1860. Five years later, on 14 April 1865, she gave birth to William James PASCOE, who was registered as illegitimate, with Phillippa “unmarried”. Phillippa probably named her second son after her brothers William and James. Baby William PASCOE died at fourteen months of Marasmus (severe malnutrition), and his death certificate recorded his father as John PASCOE, shoemaker.



*Joseph, Elizabeth, and their first two children
Phillippa and Joseph Morrison, c1885*

On 5 January 1867 Phillippa married James GOLSWORTHY at Ballaarat with the marriage registration stating that neither of them had any children. James aged 38 was from Dawlish, Devonshire, England and worked as a tailor. The 1861 English Census showed that James had a wife and two children, who were still alive at the time of this marriage *and* his 1868 marriage in Hamilton,

Victoria to a widow Charlotte CORNISH. Phillippa started a relationship with Thomas ROGERS in April 1867 and gave birth to their child Thomas ROGERS at Ballaarat on 4 August 1868. According to the Coroner's report this baby died fourteen months later of “shock to his nervous system from scalds caused by having accidentally pulled a tea pot of hot tea off a table”. Thomas was buried in the same grave as his half-brother William. Phillippa later married Thomas ROGERS on 26 January 1885 at the Bible Christian Manse in Adelaide, South Australia, claiming she was a widow named GOLSWORTHY, despite James GOLSWORTHY not dying till 1895. Phillippa herself died on 28 May 1924 at Mile End, South Australia, and was buried in the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide with her son and daughter-in-law. Her headstone lists her age as 89 which is correct – for the first time on any of her official records in this country!



Phillippa Pascoe, c1885

Charles MORRISON

The father Charles does not appear on any further documents relating to Joseph or Phillippa. When Joseph married, he stated his father was Joseph MORRISON not Charles. On Joseph's birth registration Charles listed his birthplace as Yorkshire with an implied date of birth of 1824. There are a few possible people who match these criteria but there is not enough information to determine if any of these potential people were the person I was looking for.

DNA

We had DNA matches to several of Phillippa's siblings. A review of the trees associated with these matches show them to be valid. I concluded that Joseph Pascoe MORRISON was Phillippa's biological child. The only close match named MORRISON, was DL – Joseph's daughter Phillippa MORRISON's great-granddaughter, as was expected.

The regions of our DNA results tallied with our knowledge of my 2x great-grandparents' origins and helped to focus the search for Charles MORRISON. Unfortunately, there were only a few other 4-6th Cousin matches including the surname MORRISON, a common enough name, but their family trees showed no relevant matches to my family tree.

Y-DNA

As I was trying to trace the direct paternal line, Y-DNA was the next genealogy tool to try. Y-DNA is passed from father to son largely unchanged and can therefore identify a distant direct paternal ancestral line. It accounts for illegitimacy or where the expected father, according to official records, was not in fact the actual father, a situation termed NPE, being Not Parent Expected. In the past I have done Y-37 and Y-111 tests, but the results showed a lot of different surnames which was not much help. These early Y-DNA tests sampled a small number of markers on Y-DNA and reflect common ancestry thousands of years ago. In 2022, I decided to do a Big Y-700 test and the results (shown in the following block tree) were a big surprise. The block tree is a visualisation of matches according to key mutations amongst closely related matches. It showed a clustering around the name DEVLIN. My Y-haplogroup R-FT177237 included a match named DEVLIN, and there were multiple DEVLIN matches in the closely related haplogroups under the upstream haplogroup R-FTC17116. The person in my haplogroup was James T DEVLIN whose earliest known paternal ancestor was John DEVLIN, born 1858 in County Down, Northern

SNPs ... > R-DF49 > R-Z2980 > R-Z2976 > R-DF23 > R-Z2961 > R-Z2956 > R-Z2965 > R-M222 > R-Z2959 > R-S658 > R-DF104 > R-DF105 > R-S588 > R-

15

10

5

R-FTC17116

R-A10531
A7969
FT89100

R-FTB5388
FTB5389

R-FTB9134
BY157044
FTB9602

R-BY137051
Private Variants
Average: 3

Private Variants
Average: 3

Private Variants
Average: 8

R-FTA98139
FT91948
FTA98319
FTA9873
FTA9020
FTA9058
FTA9945
FTA9946
FTA9792
FTA9912
FTB5347
FTB5411
FTD57641
Average: 1

R-FT177237
FT172678
FT172718
FT172824
FT175329
FT431468

Private Variants
Average: 4

R-BY137051

Countries 2

1 1

DNA Matches 2

William M. Devlin
Jean-Pierre Desgagne

R-FTB9134

Countries 1

1

DNA Matches 1

richard DEVLIN

R-FTB5388

Countries 1

1

DNA Matches 1

James F. Devlin

R-FTA98139

Countries 1

2

DNA Matches 2

Jerry Dowling
Dean E. Dowling

R-A10531

Countries 0

DNA Matches 0

R-FT177237

Countries 2

1 1

DNA Matches 1

James T. Devlin

R-FTC17116

Countries 0

DNA Matches 0

Your branch

Layout based on the Bio Tree by Alexander R. Williamson

DNA – find the DEVLINs

On Ancestry it is possible to search for surnames in your match's trees. All four of my immediate family's Ancestry autosomal tests showed matches to the name DEVLIN at the estimated 4-6th and 5-8th cousin levels. I reviewed all the matches to produce a list of family trees with potentially helpful information. BM is a generation closer to Joseph Pascoe MORRISON than myself and my siblings, hence his cM (centimorgan) values are generally higher. On the following list only BM's results are shown.

Tree 1 LindaP	Sarah DEVLIN, South Australia	60/3
Tree 2 Steven H	John J DEVLIN, USA	48/2
Tree 3 PegF	Jane DEVLIN, NI and USA	47/2
Tree 4 JacquelielC	Bernard DEVLIN, Ayrshire	27/2
Tree 5 MaryAnnL	Charles DEVLIN, Ireland-Ayrshire	27/1
Tree 6 Marie A	John DEVLIN, Ireland-Ayrshire	0

Tree 7 MichaelL John DEVLIN, Ireland-Ayrshire 9/1

With all my South Australian ancestors, Tree 1 with Sarah DEVLIN born in South Australia was the obvious place to start looking. LindaP had not listed Sarah's father but had listed Sarah's husband, being John HONAN (1854 Northern Ireland – 1907 Koorunga, South Australia). Sarah's birth registration listed William DEVLIN as her father. William arrived in Port Adelaide, South Australia on the 6 December 1858 aboard the *Melbourne* with his wife Catherine (nee BALLANTINE) and one year old daughter Jane.

Searching for John HONAN in our matches' trees found two more trees that were missing Sarah DEVLIN, although she was actually the home person's great-grandmother. Tree 7 has a 9 cM match with BM which is normally not very significant. However, match MichaelL had created a fascinating tree as his mother was a DEVLIN, and he had determined his DEVLIN ancestors back to a family born in Ayrshire, Scotland with parents John and Sarah born in Ireland.

There are records for eleven children of John DEVLIN and Sarah CRANNEY with year of birth from ScotlandsPeople indexes; an * indicates no issue:

- Thomas (1821 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1892 Ayrshire, Scotland)
- William (1825 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1914 Koorunga, South Australia)
- Bernard (1827 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1907 Lanarkshire, Scotland)
- Mary (1829 Ayrshire, Scotland – before 1841 Ayrshire, Scotland)*
- James (1831 Ayrshire, Scotland – before 1841 Ayrshire, Scotland)*
- Henry (1832 Ayrshire, Scotland – after 1861)
- Mary (1834 Ayrshire, Scotland – after 1891, England)
- James (1836 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1892 Angus, Scotland)
- Hugh (1838 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1892 Lanarkshire, Scotland)
- Martha (1841 Ayrshire, Scotland – before 1851 Ayrshire, Scotland)*
- John (1843 Ayrshire, Scotland – 1893 Ayrshire, Scotland)

With this new information and the two extra trees, my updated list now shows a potential solution. I was able to link six trees to this family. Tree 7 linked to Thomas, trees 1, 8 and 9 linked to William, tree 4 linked to Bernard and tree 6 linked to John. Doing a 'what if analysis' using Family Tree Maker and Charting Companion showed that the relationships in this cluster of trees was valid.

The following table includes the corrected relationships between the matches and my immediate relatives.

Match #	Username	Match Rel(1)	Earliest ancestor(2)	Lifespan(3)	Location
1	LindaP	2nd GGF	William	1825-1914	Ayrshire-Sth Aust
		GGM	Sarah	1863-1919	Sth Aust
2	StevenH	GGF	John Joseph	1881-1959	USA
3	PegF	GGM	Jane	1868-1939	Ireland-USA
4	Jacqueline	3rd GGF	Bernard	1829-1907	Ayrshire
5	MaryAnnL	2nd GGF	Charles	1861-1941	Ireland-Ayreshire
6	MarieA	3rd GGF	John	1801-?	Ireland
		2nd GGF	John	1846-1893	Ayreshire
7	MichaelL	3rd GGF	Thomas	1821-1892	Ayrshire
8	Michael#	GGM	Sarah	1863-1919	Sth Aust
9	ThomasH	GGM	Sarah	1863-1919	Sth Aust

Matches chart Part 1 - Genealogical relationships

(1) Relationship of tester to Devlin ancestor, (2) Match's earliest ancestor, (3) Lifespan according to Ancestry tree

		BM	NM		TH	HM
Match #	Username	Est/Act Rel(4)	cM(5)	Re.ship	cM(5)	cM(5)
1	LindaP	Half		Half		
		2C1R	60/3	3C	17/1	39/3
2	StevenH	4th-6th	48/2	5th-8th	0	19/2
3	PegF	4th-6th	37/2	5th-8th	9/1	29/2
4	JacquelineC	3C1R	27/2	4C	16/2	0
5	MaryAnnL	4th-6th	27/1	4C	0	26/1
6	MarieA					
		4th-6th	0	4C	15/1	0
7	MichaelL	3C2R	9/1	4C1R	0	0
8	Michael#	Half 2C1R	106/5	Half 3C	17/1	33/3
9	ThomasH	Half 2C1R	60/3	Half 3C	32/2	24/2

Matches chart Part 2 - Genetic relationships

(4) Estimated cousinship provided by Ancestry or Actual Relationship, (5) cM/number of segments

Conclusions

All the DEVLIN males in John and Sarah's family lived in Scotland except William. William arrived in South Australia with his wife and child on 6 December 1858, only nine days after Phillippa PASCOE arrived in South Australia. This short gap made the potential for William and Phillippa being aware of each other very high.

Phillippa seems to have adapted her surname and age to suit the circumstances she found herself in during her early years in South Australia and Victoria. It had been a mystery as to what caused her to go to Ballaarat where she gave birth to Joseph, who was clearly named after her father, two years after she arrived in Port Adelaide, as a single woman. It is likely that her interaction with William DEVLIN, whether non-consensual or consensual, caused her to move to Victoria. Maybe she convinced Charles MORRISON he was the father, or he offered to give her child protection by being her husband. Whichever scenario it was, Charles clearly did not stay in Phillippa's and Joseph's life for long.

After many years, my brick wall was smashed. I had concentrated on documentary evidence in the early years of my research with some trails going nowhere. Only with a DNA approach was progress made, especially with the Big Y-700 test. Once these results along with location information and documentary evidence could I breathe a sigh of relief that my journey had ended. My other emotion was laughter as I had no blood link to my surname while my wife has a 3x great-grandmother who was a biological MORRISON.

My biological paternal 2x great-grandfather was William DEVLIN.



Y-DNA: A journey through generations

Sue Pillans



*James, eldest son William John and Margaret Ann
taken in Larne in 1862*

For over 25 years, I've been on a quest to uncover the origins of James HAMILTON, my 3x great-grandfather, who lived in Ballygowan near Ballynure in County Antrim, Ireland. Tracing the lineage of his wife Margaret Ann GILBERT has been much easier. Her family history extends back three generations, and her brother's move to Canada left behind a trail of useful records.

Unfortunately, the only document I have for James is his marriage certificate, which names his father as William. By 1851, James was already farming in Ballygowan, but there's no indication that any HAMILTON lived there before him. My paternal grandparents were both born in Northern Ireland, so it wasn't

surprising that my AncestryDNA results showed I'm 50% Scottish (Northern Ireland and Southwest Scotland group) and 33% Irish. My remaining ancestry includes England, Northwest Europe and 3% Norway.

It wasn't until my eldest living male HAMILTON relative, John, agreed to take a Y-DNA test that I began to hope for more solid answers about James's ancestry.

When John's Y-67 results came back, I was initially disappointed. There were only eight matches on FamilyTreeDNA, and just four carried the HAMILTON name. These HAMILTONs had a genetic distance of 8 to 10, meaning they were distant connections, and none had a family tree on the site. John's haplogroup, R-M269, is common in Europe, but his specific Y-haplogroup, R-S691, is quite rare. Interestingly, he matched a group from Blestergrenda, Oppland, Norway, indicating a shared paternal ancestor from the Viking Age, sometime between 800 and 1100 CE.

I enrolled John's Y-DNA in three projects: the Hamilton Project, the Ulster Heritage Project, and the North of Ireland Project. Unfortunately, none of the Ulster or North of Ireland projects produced close matches, likely due to the still limited number of participants. Since James HAMILTON's sons all left Ireland, it's possible there are no close descendants left there.

The Hamilton Project, however, provided a fascinating connection. John matched a group of sixteen Americans, mostly with a genetic distance of 10, who descend from John HAMILTON, a Scottish soldier captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. Some of these American HAMILTONs believe they descend from Walter de HAMILTON of Cambuskeith and Grange in Ayrshire, the second son of Sir David de HAMILTON, Lord of Cadzow, although no evidence has been presented.

The Battle of Dunbar, fought on 3 September 1650, was a significant defeat for the Scots against Oliver CROMWELL's English New Model Army. Thousands of Scots were killed, and many survivors were taken prisoner. John HAMILTON was one of these prisoners, transported to James City, Virginia, aboard the ship *Unity* in 1651. He was indentured to Robert HOLT, and by 1658, he owned land in Charleston, South Carolina, alongside other Dunbar survivors. He later settled in Concord, Massachusetts, where he married Christian EDWARDS and had two sons, John and Joseph, who had many descendants.

So, who is the most recent common ancestor between this John HAMILTON and my HAMILTON line?

To get closer to this answer, I plan to upgrade John's Y-DNA 67 to the Big Y-700 test. Y-DNA test results are often analysed based on how many "markers" are tested. At the Y-DNA 37 level, mutations occur approximately every 7 to 10 generations. As more markers are tested—such as in Y-DNA 67 and Y-DNA 111—the frequency of detectable mutations increases. With the most advanced test, Big Y-700, genealogists can explore much deeper ancestral connections, as mutations can be detected every 1 to 2 generations, offering insights into lineage splits going back thousands of years.

Despite all the progress, James HAMILTON's origins remain a mystery. With the Big Y-700 upgrade I hope to connect with more members of the Hamilton Project who have also taken this test. Ideally, this will help trace our line further back into Scotland and perhaps even prove descent from Sir David de HAMILTON, Lord of Cadzow.

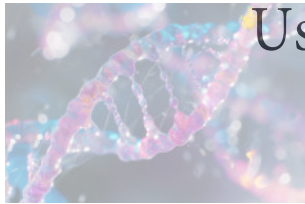
Contact Sue at pillanssusan@gmail.com

References

Family Tree DNA Group projects and Help pages

North of Ireland Family History Society; DNA@NIFHS on Facebook





Using DNA in the search for the origin of Charles Normand

Andrew Eliason

Introduction

I have been using DNA to find the origin of my 2x great-grandfather Charles NORMAND (c.1828-1901).

My father's cousin¹ told him that Charles NORMAND, their great grandfather, was Norwegian. I was sceptical because I thought she might have confused Charles with his son-in-law, their grandfather Oliver Matthew ELIASON (1847-1934), who certainly was Norwegian. He was born near Stavanger in the county of Rogaland to parents who resided there for a few years before they returned to their home county of Vest-Agder in the 1850s.

Charles NORMAND and my 2x great-grandmother Emma DOEL (1837-1921) were married at Balmain, NSW, in 1854.² She was then a teenager who had come from Wiltshire to Sydney in 1852 with her eldest brother and his family.³ In 1858 both families moved to Victoria where the men got jobs working on the building of the Melbourne to Bendigo railway. By the 1860s the NORMANDs lived at White Hills near Bendigo and in 1872 Charles made the first of several land selections at Sandy Creek in the nearby parish of Wellsford. The couple had nine children, the first was born in New South Wales and the rest in Victoria.⁴ Both Charles and Emma died at Sandy Creek.

Information about Charles' background is sparse and doubtful. His marriage provides his earliest known record but it doesn't hold any explicit information about his past. There is little in the birth records of their children. Most of them say that he was 'born at sea', but two say he was 'born at Sea in the English Channel'.⁵ Calculating his birth year from the ages given at the time of each birth I get a range from 1826 to 1830. His death certificate states that his parentage is 'Not known + no further particulars can be obtained'.⁶

On one birth certificate the child's mother's surname is given as SERVILE, not DOEL.⁷ Charles was the informant, so I wonder whether he supplied his own mother's surname instead of the child's. Then a son named James Morris NORMAND⁸ is later referred to as James Mariot NORMAND.⁹ Mariot was one of the names given to a grandson, a brother of my grandfather.¹⁰

There is a story passed down in the family of Charles' and Emma's youngest son that he came from a place called Smedland. That is interesting because it is the name of a farm in Vest-Agder where some of Oliver Matthew ELIASON's ancestors resided in the eighteenth century.

DNA tests

I took the Ancestry autosomal test in 2019. In the results I noticed that my Scandinavian 'ethnicity' was much higher than it deserved to be if my most recent such ancestor had just been my great-grandfather. Later, I asked my cousin, a great grandson of Charles who descends in the male line, to take a Y-DNA test at FamilyTreeDNA.

The autosomal test

I made many false starts. This is what I should have done, and eventually did. My aim was to identify descendants of Charles NORMAND's immediate ancestors (parents, grandparents etc.) who are not also Charles' descendants. They would be fourth cousins to me or more remote.

1. I identified the descendants of Charles NORMAND and Emma DOEL. Descendants of five of their children appeared among the matches. I recognised a few by their names, I used Ancestry's tool Thru-Lines, and I contacted several of them to clarify their relationship to me. I then listed all their shared matches.
2. I deleted the descendants of Oliver Matthew ELIASON in order to remove any possible confusion of his and Charles' ancestries.
3. I reviewed this list for those with Norwegian ethnicity. I assumed that those that did not have any belonged to the DOEL family.
4. I collected in a spreadsheet the details of all DNA matches that I share with the NORMAND descendants: name or tag, cM shared, segments shared, percentage of Norwegian ethnicity, whether the match had posted a family tree and how extensive it is and its accessibility.

I then had a list of DNA cousins who were at least 4C as we share at least 3x great-grandparents. Practically all of them seem to be in the USA.

In the next stage:

1. I copied their trees by hand. I could have copied them by other means, but that is how I preferred to do it.
2. I extended any short family trees, but in the end I extended almost all the trees. I often did this by quick and dirty research, by getting in touch with the DNA cousin, or by looking at all related family trees on Ancestry.com (the poster may not even have been a DNA cousin).

The Leeds Method

I have used the Leeds Method for grouping DNA cousins by grandparent but here I used the range 20 cM to 53 cM where these NORMAND fourth cousins sit.

The resulting spreadsheet showed that many of these cousins belong to more than one group. It suggested to me that most of them are interrelated. My guess is that either some of their ancestors were already related before leaving Norway, or that they became related after migrating and settling together in their new communities in the USA.

Extending trees

The longest part of the process was extending the posted family trees of the DNA cousins. Most of the work involved Norwegian records. That is not as daunting as it may seem, but it does demand persistence and some knowledge of the language and of handwriting styles.

The Norwegian authorities have made the job much easier. Firstly, many of the records have been scanned and indexed and are freely available online both as images and as transcripts in Digitalarkivet (The Digital Archive).¹¹ The archive provides an English language web interface. The most important of them are church records and censuses. Secondly, the Norwegians have a tradition of compiling rural history books called bydgebøker 'settlement books' about the history of farms and the families that lived at them. There is usually one for every rural parish. They usually begin with the earliest records and continue to the twentieth century.

The books that I needed have been digitised by Nasjonalbiblioteket (National Library of Norway) (NLN)¹² which makes them available online to readers within the country. I noticed recently that the NLN has introduced a free service for foreign readers to get access for a short time. However, I got used to gaining access by using a VPN service, which makes it seem that I am in Norway, and I have continued to use that for the sake of convenience.

Most recent common ancestors

The purpose of all this work was to find the most recent common ancestors of the DNA cousins. This work is on-going.

I didn't find any DNA cousins who have the surname Normand (or variant spellings of it) and I have not found this name in their family trees. It suggests to me that Normand, as I suspected, is an assumed name. Norwegians have pointed out to me that Normand was a normal spelling of a word that means 'a Norwegian' (the modern spelling is normann).¹³ However, the censuses show

that Normand has been used as a surname by some Norwegians, most often in families who lived on the west coast.

So far as I can tell the most recent common ancestors are a couple named Reier TORGRIMSON (1783-1880) and his second wife Mallene ANDERSDATTER (c.1800-c.1870) who lived on a farm called Røysland Nordre in the parish of Bjerkreim in Rogaland, the southwestern county of which Stavanger is the largest city.

Notably, Reier was the father of 23 children, ten by his first wife Berte PEDERSDATTER (1789-1823), twelve by his second wife Mallene, and one daughter out of wedlock by a girl from a nearby farm. Many of the children died young.

Charles NORMAND would have been born about the same time as Reier's last children but there is no Charles (or Carl) among them and only Anders (b.1827) is unaccounted for. Some of the children of Reier and Mallene emigrated to the USA where they adopted the surnames Ryerson and Gilbertson. For those DNA cousins still unconnected to this couple their lines creep towards Bjerkreim.

There seems to be no doubt that these Ryersons and Gilbertsons of the USA are among the descendants of Charles NORMAND's closest Norwegian relatives. Next I should trace the extended families of Reier TORGRIMSON and Mallene ANDERSDATTER.

The origins of the names Serville and Morris/Mariot have not been resolved. Concerning the Smedland story, I did find a family migration that took several generations to go from Smedsland [sic] in Vest-Agder through Bjerkreim and eventually to Stavanger. However, I have not yet been able to connect any of its members to the Bjerkreim folk of Reier TORGRIMSON and Mallene.

The YDNA test

The Y-DNA test opens a different route to identify my 2x great-grandfather's origins. I ordered a test kit of 37 markers for my cousin to take, and upgraded it several times to get to the Big-Y 700 test.

My cousin has no exact matches for 111 markers, but there are several where the difference is small. The closest Y-DNA cousin, who is 2 steps [mutations] different, reported that his earliest known ancestor is a man from the county of Telemark who lived in the early seventeenth century. I have not been able to trace from him a male lineage that comes to Rogaland.

The Big-Y test determined my cousin's haplogroup as R-FT159755. FamilyTreeDNA reported that 'The most recent common ancestor of this line is estimated to have been born around 1500CE.'¹⁴ There is just one other person

in this group: his earliest known ancestor is Arne Bjørnson NOMELAND (c. 1500-1560) from Valle in the county of Aust-Agder.¹⁵ There is a 7-step difference between his results and my cousin's. A hopeful observation is that his ancestors resided in the parish of Forsand, north of Stavanger, during the time when my Charles was born and brought up.

It occurred to me that I might look among the autosomal test takers for candidates to take the Y-DNA test. But this would amount to another huge and perhaps costly project.

Conclusion

As a result of DNA testing I can say that Charles NORMAND was a Norwegian and that his origin probably lies in the parish of Bjerkreim in the county of Rogaland. Some of his relatives migrated to the USA and used the surnames Ryerson and Gilbertson. One day perhaps I will be able to put names to Charles' parents.

Contact me at ace@pcug.org.au

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6. Death certificate of Charles Norman, d. 13 January 1901 Epsom. The informant was Peter Fizelle, an authorised agent, not a family member.
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DNA in family history

Clare McGuiness

The use of DNA in family history depends on whether you already think you know your ancestry or you have a known mystery. The most common DNA test is autosomal DNA, a test that we all can do, and that offers insights into all of our most recent ancestors, perhaps up to 4-5x great-grandparents, but most reliably only up to 3x great-grandparents at this time. Many people are finding that their pedigree is wrong, whether that be at the level of parent, grandparent or one of the greats. And it is mostly fathers, but testers can learn they were adopted through this technology, and be suddenly faced with both a missing father and mother. Clearly the implications can be devastating.

The search by adoptees for a parent is relatively straightforward. The speed of success depends on how 'high' your closest matches are. Centimorgan values (cM) increase with generational closeness (see in the table below), and correspondingly there are fewer genealogical possibilities with higher values.

These figures are from the chart detailing all the possibilities called The Shared cM Project tool, found at <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>. It is possible to use results of two people who have the same genealogical relationship to the tester in an enhanced tool on the same site. Such charts are used to help people predict their **genealogical** relationship from this **genetic** relationship (i.e. the **cM value**).

Genealogical Relationship	Average cM	Range	Half (Range)	Once Removed (Range)
Child/Parent	3,485	2,376-3,720	-	-
Sibling	2,613	1,613-3,488	1,759 (1,160-2,436)	-
Aunt/Uncle	1,741	1,201-2,282	871 (492-1,315)	-
Nibling	1,740	1,201-2,282	871 (492-1,315)	-
First Cousin	866	396-1,397	449 (156-979)	433 (102-980)
Second Cousin	229	41-592	120 (10-325)	122 (14-353)
Third Cousin	73	0-234	48 (0-168)	48 (0-192)
Fourth Cousin	35	0-139	Not available	28 (0-126)

The steps to using DNA are:

1. Examine the cM value as above. In addition to estimators like the Shared cM Project tool, you use any information provided by the match to 'guess' their age and whether you are likely to be on the same generational level back to your shared common ancestor, or whether you might be 'removed'. If you are aged 90 and your match is aged about 20, the match is likely to be several times 'removed'. How do you guess age? MyHeritage often gives the decile age of the tester, but most commonly it is done by looking at any tree information about the age of their parents or grandparents. A generation is generally calculated at 25-30 years to do this, but it is an estimate. We all know that there can be a 20-year spread of sibling dates of birth, and that parents can 'begin' early or late in life.
2. Examine who you and the match **ALSO** match, variously called 'shared matches' at Ancestry and MyHeritage, 'in common with' at FamilyTreeDNA and 'relatives in common' at 23andMe. The presumption is that you have a shared ancestor or two (i.e. a couple) if you share more than 20cM with these two matches. Ancestry will only show you matches at least 20cM in size, whereas the other companies extend match lists, somewhat meaninglessly in your early analyses, down to 8cM.
3. Examine how your shared matches are connected to each other. You will likely descend from the same family. Such groups of matches are called 'clusters' or 'genetic networks'.
4. Use known or recognized matches, such as your second cousin or third cousin whom you see on your match list, to create a DNA 'signature' or 'family code'. The DNA you share with a second cousin has come from your common great-grandparents. When you begin to do this, you may struggle to find such signatures for all your family lines, but over time it is possible to do so. You can then indicate these groups on Ancestry and MyHeritage match lists by coloured dots or squares. When seeing an important new match, clicking on their shared matches will eventually present you with a pattern of coloured dots that allows you to slot the match into the correct family.

Interpreting clusters

What do you do if you are adopted, with no known surnames, or perhaps no known paternal names? Clusters can be found without any knowledge of expected surnames. The starting point is usually the Leeds analysis. Note that this analysis is done outside the testing company on either a spreadsheet or on paper. You firstly create a list of your matches from 400 to 90cM. Start with the first match under 400cM, (thus unlikely to be a first cousin, half first cousin or first cousin once removed), you allocate a colour to this match. Then you go to the shared matches of this first match under 400cM, and give them all the

same colour, thus creating a cluster of matches who have shared DNA.

Returning to the list, select the next match under 400cM who does **NOT** already have the first colour, and give it a different colour. Complete allocating a colour to everyone on the list. People will end up with more than one colour, and that means they are a closer relative to you than second cousin, or have multiple relationships with you. This analysis is designed to cluster to at least four grandparent lines, and will often reveal up to eight great-grandparent lines. An adoptee does not know the surnames of these groups, but like any cluster, you can then look at how people in each cluster are connected to each other in order to find your likely ancestors. See <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>
So when a hole in your pedigree appears, or you have already known about it, the way to find your ancestor is to narrow down your entire match list to those people who are connected to the ancestor being sought.

We used to determine which matches were paternal and which were maternal by finding known cousins from the relevant side, and coding all their shared matches as that side. This works well unless there was intermarriage across your paternal and maternal sides and that is not uncommon. When there is a lot of intermarriage DNA grouping is not possible, this occurs with endogamy and isolated communities. Recently Ancestry has determined a scientific way to split match lists into Parent 1 and Parent 2, which we can then correctly allocate to each parent based on our knowledge of our matches.

The next step is to allocate matches to your four grandparent family groups. You again need to use a known second cousin (i.e. generally under 400cM) to do this. Doing a Leeds analysis can help you see where these four family groups are in your match list. Using third cousins will identify your 2x great-grandparents families, fourth cousins will help you identify your 3x great-grandparent families, and so on.

Using DNA successfully is an iterative process. The more you code, leave notes on matches' profile pages and connect your matches, the easier it will be to interpret any given match. Any work with DNA will be enhanced hugely by a large, correct tree that has traced as many descendants of your ancestors as you can. Who did all the women in your tree marry, and what are their new surnames? Most of your matches will have surnames you have never heard of, but their trees may have a name that you recognise as someone who married into your family.

How do you determine how a cluster of matches are related to each other?

Starting with those matches who have provided trees, often using a table or spreadsheet, you collate all the surnames and locations mentioned on the trees. Are there common surnames, and are they in the same locations, or at least

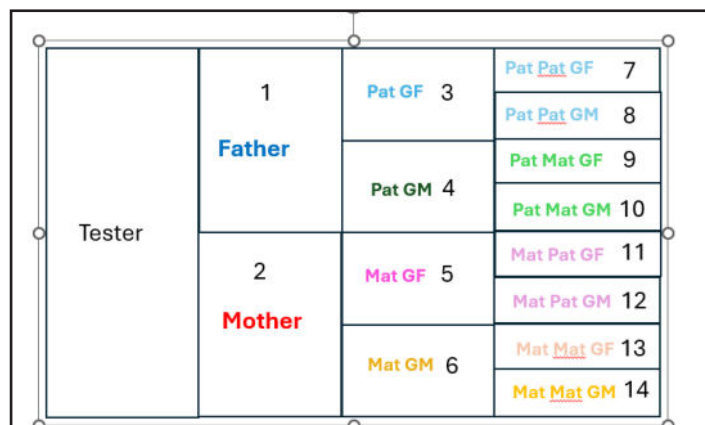
countries? Migrations occurred often after 1800 so a location in USA should not put you off. The adoptee or unknown father search will devolve to trying to work out how 10 or more identified families have all combined to devolve down to the one individual ancestor. Here it becomes critical to focus on the closest matches, i.e. with the highest cM values. If they are a second cousin or closer the task is much easier. However, if the closest match is a type of third cousin, there are just so many descendant families to review in those identified family groups that it can take many months. Ultimately, success will depend on the quality of available matches - enough of them, and high enough in cMs to limit the scale of the investigation.

This same approach is used when looking for a missing 2x great-grandparent. This may be due to an illegitimate birth when no father was named, or to the possibly more common situation further back in time when a mother is recorded only by a given name, if at all. However, first you need to narrow the match list down to those matches who represent the unidentified ancestor. There are two main methods: the Elimination method and Splitting networks.

1. Elimination method

This method aims to narrow down to the relevant matches by 'discarding' unwanted matches. If a paternal mystery, discard all maternal matches. If a paternal grandfather mystery, then discard all paternal maternal matches. If a paternal great-grandfather mystery, then discard all paternal great-grandmother matches. A number of target groups are identified in the following diagram.

Each numbered group needs to be sought rationally. Firstly, identify matches as paternal or maternal, then by finding descendants of the '7 and 8' couple, apart from '3', to represent the '7 and 8' couple. Similarly descendants of '13 and 14' apart from '6' will identify matches belonging to the family of '13 and 14'.



(a) Missing father's paternal GF - discard 2, 4, 8 = leaves 7

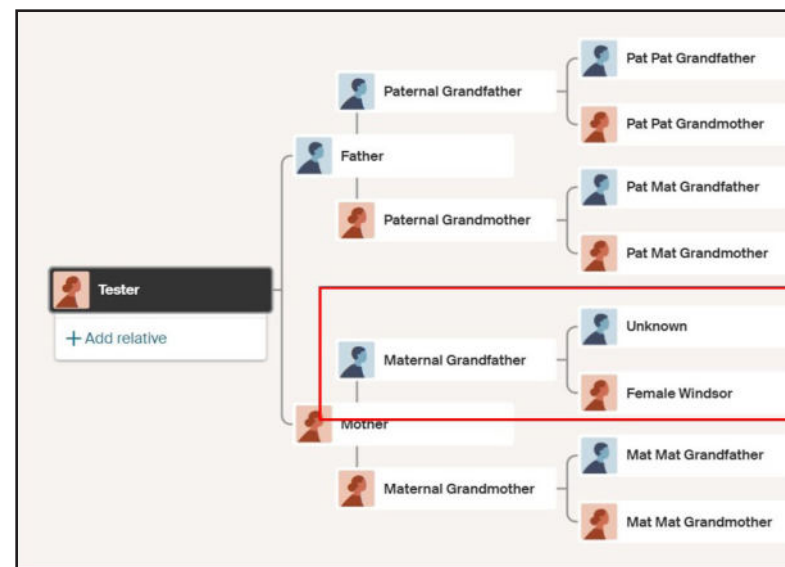
(b) Missing mother's maternal GF - discard 1, 6, 12 = leaves 11

(c) Missing maternal GF - discard 1, 6 leaves 5

The matches not discarded should represent the family of the missing ancestor.

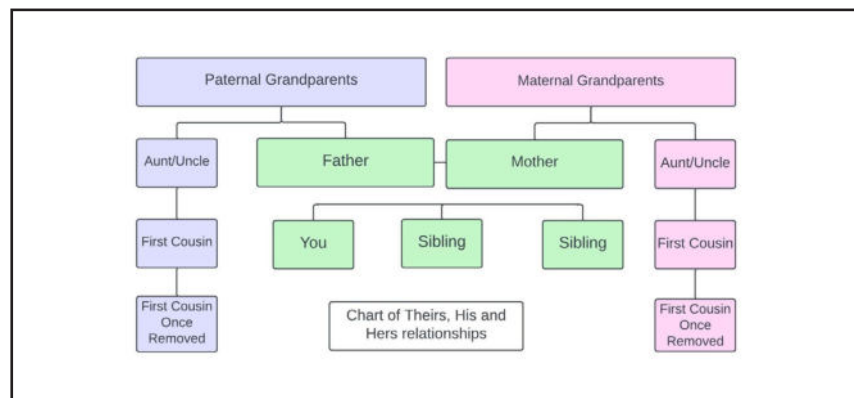
2. Splitting networks

Within every network are two families - biologically that must be so, and if those two families are not intertwined, it is possible to split them into their two component parts. So if you are looking for a maternal great-grandfather, first identify maternal matches, then find matches who are connected genetically to the maternal side where the missing ancestor sits. This is best explained with a pedigree chart. In the chart below the maternal great-grandfather is missing. You collect descendants of the couple that includes the missing person (or couple) into a cluster. The people who carry Unknown's DNA will be his descendants, i.e. the descendants of the Maternal Grandfather and all of his siblings. A cluster is built by gathering shared matches of these known matches. However, this group includes two 'unwanted ancestors' DNA - the Maternal Grandmother's family and the Female Windsor's family. We need to 'split' these clusters away, in order to find matches who are related only to Unknown Great-Grandfather.



Within any cluster or network, where there is not endogamy, there are three types of matches: **theirs** = descendants of the couple, **his** = descendants of the father's ancestors and **hers** = descendants of the mother's ancestors. (Terminology coined by Dana Leeds). Depending on which parent is the mystery, try to 'split' the cluster into its two components, i.e. his and hers. You may have known matches to one side, in which case identify these with a coloured dot, e.g. purple if it is on the paternal side of the cluster in the graphic below. The matches without that coloured dot represent the family of the unknown parent.

Perhaps you do not know any parent. Start with the highest match and code all their shared matches with a new coloured dot. Like the Leeds analysis, go to the cluster list to find the highest match who does **NOT** yet have the new dot, and give them a different coloured dot. Ideally, you want the cluster to 'split' into two discrete groups. And then the task is once again to determine how people in each sub-cluster are connected to each other.



Comments on testing companies

Ancestry has advantages over other testing companies because of its huge base of testers, but also because of its huge base of family trees, even if some trees are incorrect in places. It has created an amazing array of tools to use the power of those trees, even if some trees are inaccurate. These are:

1. Thrulines looking for common names in your match's trees, drawing from all trees to bridge gaps between your match's tree and your tree.
2. Filters to matches with trees, common ancestors, notes, groups and different cM values.
3. Ability to search for surnames and locations within your match lists.
4. The ability to mark your match on your tree (once they are on it).

5. Mapping tools in terms of your match's current location and ethnicity.
6. Genetic communities which group, across the database of 25 million testers, people who match you who have a common location within the last 200-250 years.
7. Other integration tools between your tree and your match list.

MyHeritage is the other go-to testing company because of its useful filters that include location and ethnicity. Its version of Thrulines, called Theory of Family Relativity, which uses their own databases and trees to find connections between matches is, to my mind, far less accurate than Ancestry's, and does not have the same visual clarity.

Chromosome data

The vast number of autosomal queries up to 3x great-grandparents can usually be solved without chromosomal data. This is data about **where** on the chromosome you and your match actually do match. To explore more distant relationships, knowledge of precise locations is very useful, leading to triangulation, and this is a very advanced technique. A more accessible use of chromosomal data is to create chromosome maps. The most popular tool is again on dnainter.com. It allows you to 'paint' both your paternal and maternal chromosomes according to the parts of the chromosome which you share with known cousins. Unknown matches can be compared to these painted sections of your chromosomes to see where they fit, and possibly use this information to expand your tree.

Any DNA test can be uploaded to GEDmatch for free to get chromosomal data, even Ancestry tests. However, other testing companies MyHeritage, Living DNA, 23andMe and FamilyTreeDNA already provide these data. MyHeritage has some easy-to-use comparison tools for segments and chromosome browsers. All these companies except 23andMe and Ancestry allow you to upload your existing DNA results to their Testing base and potentially find new matches for free. Several allow access to their particular tools for a relatively small one-off fee of about \$50AUD.

Y-DNA to find your direct paternal line

Y-DNA is DNA on the 'male sex' or '23rd' chromosome. It is passed largely unchanged from father to son over very many generations. The direct paternal line is your father's father's line, and we all have one. However, only males can take this test. Women received an X chromosome from their father and so have two X chromosomes as the pair of 23rd chromosomes. This DNA test is highly correlated with surname research, since in most European cultures the child bears the father's surname. Early tests reflected ancestry thousands

of years ago, but as more men take this test, now over two million of them, it has become possible to determine when mutations to this chromosome have happened in more recent times. Now the Big-Y test, testing over 700 marker sites on the chromosome, is the most useful for family history.

Mitochondrial DNA to find your direct maternal line

See my article in June 2024, Vol. 44, p. 99 for more explanation of this quite different DNA which sits outside the nucleus of our cells (while the double-helix autosomal DNA is found inside the nucleus). Mitochondria are the powerhouse of our bodies, and of course we all have it and we can all test for it. Importantly, our mitochondrial DNA always comes from our mothers, and also does not change over many thousands of years. Every now and then there is a mutation just like in Y-DNA, which enables scientists to determine who we are most closely related to on our direct mother's mother's line. The full sequence test is now the only test available, and it too will shortly be upgraded to give a better estimate of when mutations occurred and thus when our shared direct maternal line ancestor existed.

Only FamilyTreeDNA tests Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA. They also offer autosomal DNA tests and matching between you and others. 23andMe and LivingDNA have some markers for both of these DNA on their 'testing chip' allowing them to provide a presumptive haplogroup. This term refers to the broad groupings of humanity for Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA. However, they do not offer significant matching, which, as science advances, is becoming more and more useful to genealogists. Of our 32 3x great-grandparents, these two tests only examine two of our family lines, and it is not surprising that the vast majority of genealogists and non-genealogists are more interested in being able to look at all 32 lines using autosomal DNA.

Is this an accessible technique for both new and experienced genealogists? Of course. The science and the tools are improving constantly. Using autosomal DNA allows you to verify your pedigree, as no plethora of documents about a non-expected-parentage could ever do. If all lines are verified, as mine are to 3x great-grandparents, then there are opportunities to try to push back into more distant generations to when people of similar names, or absence of records, has led inevitably to our brick walls.

Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA work beautifully with autosomal DNA. The whole endeavour is exciting, ever-expanding and never, never dull. Inevitably you will find yourself helping your matches, who are your relatives, to better understand their own results. And isn't that what family is all about?



Who Really Was My Mother?

Chris Oxley

Hi Folks,

My Arrival in Australia

James DANIEL here! Some of you may recall hearing about me during a talk to your Society's DNA SIG on 10 March 2018; a presentation to your Convict SIG on 9 June 2021; and during a series of short talks to your Convict SIG on 12 June 2024, regarding convicts arriving in Australia under unusual circumstances. I arrived in Sydney on 24 May 1822, on the *Medway*, from Calcutta, India. There were only two other convicts with me, and we were all in India when we were tried, convicted and sentenced to transportation. I was part of this trio because, while I was a Colour Sergeant in the British Army in India, I was unfortunately involved in a non-military skirmish and subsequently tried and sentenced to death in July 1821.¹ Luckily, in August 1821, my sentence was commuted to transportation to Australia for life.

My Australian Family

My Australian wife was Mary RILEY (alias Mary HANRATTY). Mary was born about 1808-09. The County Down Museum in Northern Ireland has claimed her as one of their own.² After some pickpocketing, Mary was convicted and sentenced, in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, to seven years transportation.³ Mary arrived in Sydney on 26 April 1829, on the *Edward*, from Cork, Ireland.

Mary and I married on 18 October 1830 in St Matthew's Church in Windsor, NSW.⁴ We had 13 children and our third child, Lucy Emma DANIEL (1834, Macdonald River, NSW – 1918, Ulmarra, NSW), is the direct line ancestor of one of my third great-grandsons Chris OXLEY (Chris), who is a member of your Society. Mary and I passed away in Central Macdonald, NSW. Mary's death was on 10 April 1892.⁵ My death was on 10 December 1880, with my mother recorded in the registration as "Elizabeth" Her last name and my paternal details were not recorded.⁶ There is an 800+ page book, covering

my Australian family, in the National Library of Australia.⁷

My Early Mothers

I am keen to let you know how DNA and genealogical research was used to identify my “real” mother. My mother was not Elizabeth BALL, Elizabeth BENTON or Elizabeth SIMPSON, the wife of Thomas DANIEL, as shown in hundreds of online family trees and probably in hundreds of offline family trees as well. These family trees generally state that I was baptised on 5 April 1795 in Burslem, Staffordshire (Staffs).

The Path to Finding My Real Mother

The first official record of my life is the August 1811 Muster Roll, of the 80th Regiment of Foot (Staffordshire Volunteers). I enlisted on 1 May 1811, and I joined the Regiment in India on 30 July 1811. A record of my baptism has still not been found. Australian convict records indicate I was born around 1794 and my home county was Staffs.⁸

On 19 September 2017, Paul (a pseudonym) who is a half 3x great-grandnephew of mine, sent an email from England to Chris. The subject of the email was “Family Finder 3-5 cousin match (Daniel surname)”. The email’s text included “I believe we have a DNA match (surname Daniel) from Stafford, England. My mother’s ancestry (in particular my pure maternal mtDNA ancestry back to Elizabeth GEORGE, Stafford) derives from an Elizabeth DANIEL b.1774; can you please check against your own tree to see if there’s some commonality”. Paul had identified his genealogical connection with Chris because they shared DNA in FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA).

Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) is Paul’s 4x great-grandmother. Elizabeth married Robert HORNE on 22 April 1799 in St Mary’s Church, Stafford, Staffs.⁹ Elizabeth’s younger sister Ann DANIEL (b.1778) married Francis WYNN on the same day in the same church (consecutive parish register entries).¹⁰ Elizabeth and Ann’s younger sister Jane DANIEL (b.1783) married Charles PYATT (PYOTT) in the same church but on 16 November 1804 (Ann and Francis WYNN were the witnesses).¹¹

Paul and Chris exchanged many emails sharing their various genealogical and DNA researches, with a view to determining who were their Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCAs) and hence their relationship to me. Paul and Chris conducted their DNA research in FTDNA, GEDmatch and MyHeritage. Paul’s DNA was not in AncestryDNA (AncDNA) during this research. The DNA

segments, greater than 6.9cM, that Paul and Chris share in GEDmatch are:

1. Chromosome # 4: 25.0 - 37.5 with segment size 14.7 cM;
2. Chromosome # 6: 164.4 - 170.9 with segment size 14.2 cM; and
3. Chromosome # 7: 115.5 - 127.9 with segment size 7.0 cM.

Paul and Chris shared some common DNA matches in FTDNA and MyHeritage. However, the key to identifying the genealogical connection between Paul and Chris, was that some descendants of the sisters Elizabeth DANIEL and Ann DANIEL, who married in Stafford in 1799, were appearing in Chris’s AncDNA match list. Therefore, DNA matches indicated that I was the illegitimate son of Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) before she married Robert HORNE in 1799. With respect to my father, Chris is collaborating with Kate (a pseudonym) who lives in Dorset, with a view to confirming that my father was one of three brothers who were baptized (1770-1775) in Cheadle, Staffs. Of great interest is that the Christian name of one of these brothers is James.

On 1 September 2020 Chris sent an email to Paul. The subject of Chris’s email was “Ancestral Lines & Clusters & Elizabeth DANIEL (1774-1854) appears to be my James DANIEL’s Mother”. The email’s text included “I cannot find any evidence to refute the idea that Elizabeth DANIEL (1774-1854), who married Robert HORNE in 1799, was my James DANIEL’s mother. So I am now treating that relationship as factual. The name of James’s father is still unknown. The evidence to support Elizabeth and James being mother/son is that:

1. I now have six (including you) DNA matches with ancestral lines going back to Elizabeth DANIEL and Robert HORNE through three of their children [Charles (one DNA match), Elizabeth (one DNA match) and James (four DNA matches)]; and
2. In the last week or so I inadvertently found an AncDNA match who has Ann DANIEL/Francis WYNN(E) in her tree. The information in this woman’s online tree clearly indicates it is the Ann DANIEL who married in St Mary’s Parish on the same day as our Elizabeth DANIEL married my James’s stepfather/your direct ancestor Robert HORNE. The parish register (as per the image in Findmypast) shows Ann and Elizabeth’s weddings as consecutive entries”.

My Indian Family

Just to digress slightly, during my service with the British Army in India, I had three daughters with my Anglo/Indian wife Hannah. They were Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1814), Anne DANIEL (b.1817) and Jane Catherine DANIEL

(b.1820). Elizabeth married William BUTTERFIELD in 1834 in India. Anne married William GOOD in 1835 in India and she later married Samuel LEE in India in 1849. I do not know what happened to Jane after she was baptised. Was it a coincidence that my three daughters were baptised Elizabeth, Anne and Jane Catherine in that order, when compared to the outcome of Paul and Chris's research that Elizabeth was my mother's Christian name and I had an Aunt Ann and an Aunt Jane? After my transportation to Sydney, my wife Hannah remained in India where she passed away in 1864.¹²

Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) was my Real Mother

My death registration records my mother as "Elizabeth".¹³ My first daughter was christened "Elizabeth DANIEL". Chris has DNA matches with people whose ancestors include sisters Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) and Ann DANIEL (b.1778). All attempts to refute the hypothesis that Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) was not my mother were unsuccessful. Therefore, Paul and Chris share Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) as their MRCA, and they are fifth cousins.

Recent Research Since September 2020

Follow-on research, including the use of AncDNA's new ProTools, means Chris now has fourteen DNA matches whose ancestors include sisters Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1774) and Ann DANIEL (b.1778). But what about my Indian family? Well, Chris has twelve DNA matches whose ancestors include my daughter Elizabeth DANIEL (b.1814).

Thank you for reading this article, folks. I hope to return soon with another article titled "Who Really Was My Father?".

Cheerio for now,

James DANIEL (abt 1794-1880)

July 2024

Contact Chris at chris_oxley@optusnet.com.au

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An Aha Moment!

Elaine Gifford

Among the list of young women on an 1863 Bounty Immigrant ship to Sydney was Paulina, aged 13, to be met by an aunt from Braidwood.

Wanting to know more about her somewhat elusive family, I noted that she came from 'Racksaw, Somersetshire', as did her father. But I could find no evidence of such a town name in Somerset. Nor could I find either her or her parents in the 1861 census. But searching that census for a boy I suspected was her brother, I found him, aged 15, a servant at an inn. Where? In Wraxall, a village name I had seen in passing in the 1841 census.

As the name Wraxall sat in my head, suddenly I said: Wraxall – Racksaw – Wraxall – Racksaw. And remembered seeing that Paulina could neither read nor write, so would not have observed what was written about her. Bingo! She was from Wraxall, where I subsequently found three younger siblings boarding with another family. Still no parents appearing anywhere, but that's another challenge.



Smith, Ward or Bailey? *Jenny Burgess*

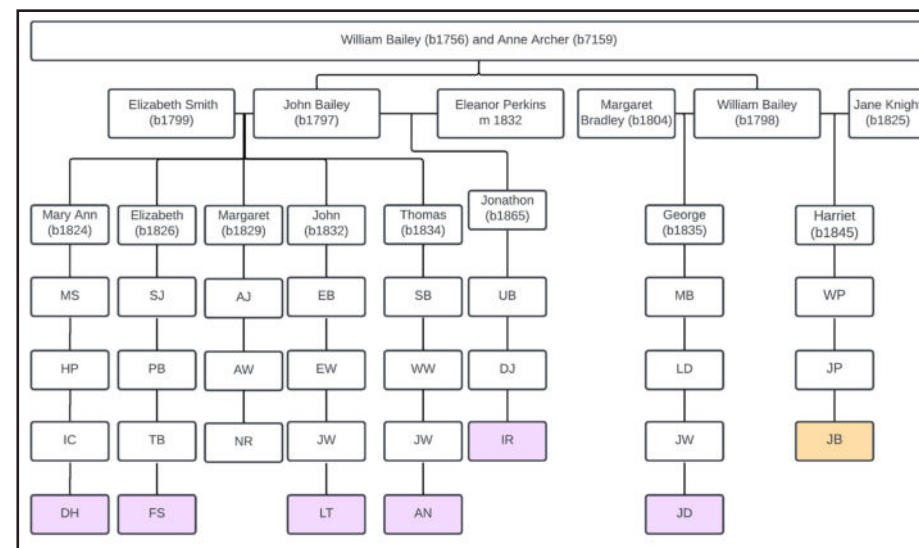
The origins of Elizabeth SMITH have eluded me over many years. She was born in the colony in 1799 according to birth information from the 1823-1825 muster. Many possibilities have been explored through oral tradition and patchy records, including that she may have had an indigenous mother. Mitochondrial testing disproved this option, and in fact her direct maternal line is Romani from England. Then I uncovered multiple autosomal matches between her descendants and descendants of a woman called Sarah WARD. Sarah is the sister of Captain Thunderbolt, the infamous bushranger, and this connection has made interest in understanding how these women are related more compelling than only a search for Elizabeth's origins.

Elizabeth married John BAILEY, and I descend from his brother, William BAILEY. The BAILEY brothers were born about 1797 and 1798 to convicts William BAILEY, *Matilda* arrived in 1795, and Ann ARCHER, *Indispensable* arrived in 1796. However, the parents separated by 1805. Sarah was born in Windsor about 1816, but from her death age this could be 1820, and raised within the family of Michael Hanley WARD and Sophia COLSTON. Her parents arrived independently only the year before in 1815: convict Michael on *Indefatigable* in 1814, and Sophia on *Northampton* in 1815, and they 'had' Sarah in 1816. Her mother Sophia already had a daughter born circa 1808 named Sophia Jane. Not such an uncommon progression of family-building in early New South Wales, so it is not impossible that she was a foundling, or that Michael Hanley WARD was not her biological father. Two further children were born into the WARD family before 1822.

Elizabeth had five children with John BAILEY who lived to adulthood, and there descendants have undertaken DNA testing at Ancestry, (see the diagram below). Similarly, descendants of Michael and Sophia WARD have tested. The bushranger connection has enhanced testing interest in the family. With so many half relationships within these families, again not at all uncommon in colonial Australia, DNA can be particularly useful to sift through potential biological relationships. Sarah WARD herself had children with several

partners. The results were illuminating.

First, the BAILEY descendants do not match any of the other Ward descendants, **only those of Sarah**. Second, I found that I also match Sarah's descendants, which suggested that the connection to Sarah was not through Elizabeth (where I began this study) but **through her husband John BAILEY**. This conclusion was then confirmed when I found connections between a descendant of William BAILEY with **his first wife** Margaret BRADLEY and several of Sarah's descendants.

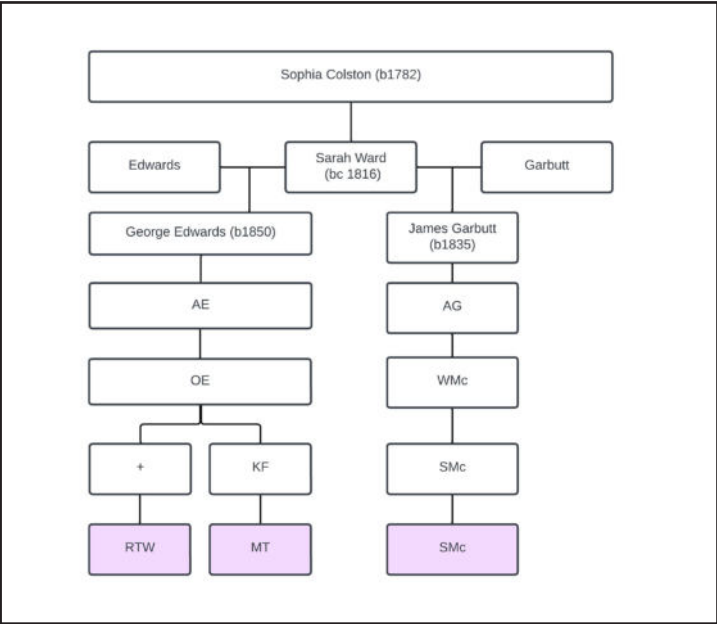


Could the connection be between the BAILEYs and Sarah WARD's husband? This was a reasonable suggestion, and one that WARD descendants seemed to favour as it did not threaten the existing Ward/Thunderbolt narrative. Once again, the existence of half-siblings from Sarah's two marriages was crucial. The BAILEY descendants matched Sarah's descendants from **both** of her relationships.

I had messaged many of the WARD matches who share autosomal DNA matches with the BAILEY descendants; those who responded had no idea how they connected to the Bailey family and many blocked me.

In the following chart are the descendants of Sarah WARD who have tested at Ancestry. These WARD descendants importantly **do match** descendants of Sarah's siblings, proving that Sarah COLSTON is the mother of all four

children, albeit in all likelihood to three men: one in England, a BAILEY and Michael Hanley WARD.



Let me summarise the autosomal match findings. A surprising set of matches was found between the descendants of multiple marriages of BAILEY men and multiple marriages of Sarah WARD.

I discussed my findings at a Family History ACT Drop-In-Clinic meeting. The consensus was that Sarah WARD was probably ‘a BAILEY’ to account for BAILEY DNA appearing in Sarah’s descendants to both of her partners. This degree of consistency of matching is generally enough to reach the conclusion that Sarah’s father was probably one of the BAILEY men. However, her father might have been the convict William BAILEY or either of his two sons, John or William. At this stretch of time of over 200 years the cM values are too small to discriminate between the father and sons. The 1820 NSW muster confirmed that Michael Hanley WARD and William, John and William BAILEY were all living in Wilberforce, Windsor, and I believe they were probably also there about the time Sarah WARD was conceived.

AncestryDNA does not provide the data on exactly where two people share a common bit of DNA, called a segment. So all that that can be said about matching is that two people share a common segment anywhere on their 22

chromosomes, i.e. excluding the sex chromosomes. When we find multiple matches from different relationships like the above results, the location on the chromosome where the match occurs can vary for each individual pairing of the two families’ descendants. Although not invalidating my conclusion, it is hypothetically possible that each match is through an unrecognised connection or even random chance. There is, however, a more conclusive analytical tool available called **chromosomal segment triangulation**.

Segment data are available through the testing companies MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, Living DNA and (previously) 23andMe. But many people do not have their DNA on these sites despite generous low, or no, cost options to transfer DNA results from other sites (most commonly from Ancestry). Another site called GEDmatch is where people from any testing company can transfer their results, maximising comparisons. GEDmatch also offers exceptional tools for very specific analyses.

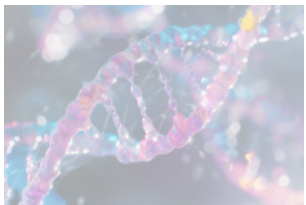
Fortunately, SMc (W) from Sarah’s marriage to GARBUTT shared his relatives’ GEDmatch kit numbers with me, as did MT (W) from Sarah’s marriage to EDWARDS. The WARD family tree above shows that RTW (W) also descends from the EDWARDS relationship. RTW is not on GEDmatch but does match me on autosomal DNA.

Matches who descend through at least three independent lines, who share the exact same segment of a chromosome are said to “triangulate” and this is then solid gold, absolute proof of common ancestry. In the case below, two descendants of Sarah WARD (W) being SMc and MT, triangulate with two BAILEY (B) descendants being FS and LT. The table below shows these four matches on chromosome 10, but indeed there are several such clusters between the families on chromosomes 10, 18 and 20. This triangulation proves that the BAILEY descendants and Sara WARD’s descendants share a common ancestor.

FS (B) triangulations on Chromosome 10:

Name 1	Name 2	Start (of segment)	Finish (of segment)
SMc (W)	LT (B)	119683609	129385588
SMc (W)	MT (W)	119683609	129385588
MT (W)	LT (B)	119683609	129420087

Piecing together the biology of early colonial Australia has a growing research base. This is just one of my families in the period but is one I have devoted a lot of time to. Sarah WARD had multiple partners and lived a colourful life like her brother Thunderbolt. These results open a new chapter for WARD descendants and have given me a new half-relative to add to my family tree.



Follow me in your car!

- Meeting matches

Kelly Paxman

Imagine this: You're visiting another country and you're in the capital city. It's mid-morning and you're sitting in a café looking expectantly towards the door. You've arranged to meet with a total stranger. Why? Not because you've been trying out online dating (you haven't). It's because that stranger has appeared on your list of DNA matches, and you're taking the massive leap to meet him in person!

That was me in May 2024. I was in Dublin, Ireland on a road trip which was part holiday, and part family history odyssey visiting the places my ancestors had left in the 1800s for the Australian colonies. What follows is an account of how I connected with two DNA cousins in Ireland, the family history discoveries I made, and how doing so enriched my family history journey and enhanced my travel experience.

So back to that café in Dublin, and Irish DNA cousin number one. I'd never met Damien, but the truth is he wasn't a complete stranger. From Australia I'd contacted him through Ancestry messaging, saying: Hi, looks like we're related, I'm going to be in Ireland so would you like to meet up? Of course I used more words, but that was the gist. Happily, Damien responded, we exchanged friendly messages and made arrangements to meet. By this stage we had shifted to WhatsApp messaging which was much more efficient.

On that spring day in that Dublin café Damien came through that door, we shook hands and proceeded to have a great chat. Although we were DNA-matched it wasn't a huge match. With less than one percent shared DNA and only 19 centimorgans we were only distantly related. Nevertheless, we had worked out how we were connected.

My great-grandfather and Damien's great-grandfather were brothers, from a large TWOHILL family of County Cork in the south of Ireland. My great-grandfather had emigrated to New South Wales in 1883, and Damien's had stayed in Ireland. Damien and I were third cousins.

Damien brought me a photocopy of a multi-page family history of his line of the family, researched and written forty years ago by a distant cousin of the

previous generation. This was a great find, and having it has subsequently proved very useful to me in joining some dots and fleshing out my broader family tree. An even better outcome from that meeting was Damien putting me onto another lead. "You must talk to cousin Donal" he said. "Donal's in County Cork and knows a lot more than me."

So we said our goodbyes, and armed with Donal's details I set off the next day for the south of Ireland. I'd already planned to go to County Cork, and now I had someone to visit. Someone related to me, but how I did not know. I messaged Donal, introduced myself and we arranged to meet. I should mention here I had a couple of travelling companions with me on the road trip, who would prove to be useful (and encouraging) allies along the way.

After a busy day exploring backroads south of Dublin and travelling many kilometres, we arrived in the late afternoon at Donal's house near the village of Castlelyons. Donal and his wife Ita are dairy farmers we found out, and late afternoon is a busy time on a dairy farm. Nevertheless, Donal was warm and welcoming and invited us inside. It turned out the farm had been in the TWOHILL family for at least five generations, and what's more, there was a further TWOHILL house nearby that we absolutely had to see, insisted Donal. "Follow me in your car" he said, so of course we hopped in and set off behind his car in convoy.



Author in ruins of ancestral home in County Cork, Parish of Castlelyons, Townland of Kill-Saint-Anne North.

At a brisk pace he led us through the village and along winding roads and lanes through the very green Irish countryside. On stopping we followed Donal on foot off the road to a crumbling stone cottage in ruins, heavily overgrown with vines and shrubs. This, it turned out, was the home my great-grandfather had left when he emigrated, 160 years ago. What a discovery! I'd never have known about this place without Donal, let alone found it down the rural lane behind the dense greenery. Many photos were taken!

But the surprises did not end there. We then followed Donal down more roads and lanes to one graveyard, then another, and at both Donal took us to the headstones of various TWOHILLS. Some had that name, others were TWOHILL women who'd married and were buried with different names.

Amazingly I found myself standing inside the low fences of the actual TWOHILL family plot, looking at the headstones of my 3x great-grandfather, and my 5x great-grandfather. What an adventure! Thankfully my companions kept their cool as I was taking it all in, and calmly transcribed the weather-beaten but just legible inscriptions.

Weeks later, back home in Canberra, I worked out exactly how Donal and I were related. He had not DNA-tested, so I relied on marshalling information from various records, including a book Donal and others in the district had put together documenting the family histories of the homes of Castlelyons. What a fabulous project that would have been! Photos I'd taken from this book during our visit, and of the many headstones we'd seen, helped me determine that Donal and I are fifth cousins. I've since been able to build a detailed multi-layered tree of family connections which has been a very satisfying endeavour. From that tree, as well as from tales told by Donal and Damien, I've been able to add a lot more flesh to the bones of my family story.

But back to Ireland, and to the story of meeting Irish DNA cousin number two - John. My DNA match with John was bigger than with Damien, but also small, at 31 centimorgans. On Ancestry his tree didn't provide any useful clues as to how we were related but, intriguingly his profile said he lived in the village of Feakle, County Clare. My interest was immediately sparked, because Feakle is the parish my McNAMARA ancestors had come from. My 3x great-grandfather McNAMARA had left Feakle Parish for New South Wales in 1850 as an assisted immigrant. Maybe he had a sibling who had stayed in Ireland and John (ethnicity 100 percent Ireland) was a descendant?

I messaged John through Ancestry ahead of the trip, and once again I was delighted to receive a response. Over a few exchanges we arranged a date and

time to meet, and John suggested a spot outside the church on the street running through Feakle village. During a long conversation sitting in afternoon sunshine John told me about the district, his family, and the amazing story of how in the 1940s his late father had found a hoard of Bronze Age gold treasure buried in a field when working the soil and clearing it of rocks. John had mentioned this previously in our messages, which prompted me to visit the archaeological museum in Dublin the week before to see the gold objects on display. The story of these gold collars and other body adornments and why they were buried thousands of years ago was incredible. I was so pleased to learn about this and the many Bronze Age hoards discovered in Ireland – a part of Irish history I wouldn't have known about if I hadn't contacted John.



*Bronze Age hoard of gold objects discovered at Gorteenreagh, County Clare.
On display at National Museum of Ireland, Dublin*

But how were John and I related? Unfortunately we were not able to work this out. He did have cousins who were McNAMARAs he said, but there was no link we could identify, and they were from different townlands to the one from which my ancestor hailed. Plus he cautioned against drawing quick conclusions about McNAMARA linkages, given the surname was extremely common in the area and in County Clare generally. In the future I will have to expand my DNA

analysis skills. Some detailed DNA exploration might provide some answers.

Meanwhile, I gained a lot from meeting John. He had some interesting tales about the history of the area, as well as some insight into current affairs in Ireland. That day he asked if we'd like to see the field where the gold hoard was found, and also see the 150-year-old house in which he'd been raised. "Yes we would!" was our immediate response. "Follow me in your car" he said. So of course we hopped in and off we went!

Yet another adventure speeding along narrow country lanes, and another rewarding experience. The now-legendary field of discovery was lush and green, surrounded by low fences and overgrown hedges, and John was clearly proud of his father and the story of unearthing treasure.

Then on we went to the old house, no longer occupied, and it became apparent John was undertaking a major renovation there. As he took us through the building (dodging power tools and stacks of timber) we marvelled at the colossal fireplace and massively thick stone walls. It was late in the day when we waved goodbye.

So what are the lessons I learned from my experience of connecting with DNA matches? Contacting Damien (and through him Donal) resulted in significant finds and opened up whole new avenues of research. Although connecting with John didn't lead to any family history finds, it did expose me to a side of Ireland I'd otherwise have missed if I'd followed the regular tourist trail. In both cases I met really friendly and likeable people, who were only too happy to talk and to help me. I haven't yet mentioned the lovely afternoon tea we had in the sunny living room of Rose, Damien's mother. "You must drop in and visit Mam when you're in Cork City, she'd love to see you" he had said, and of course we did!

I've realised I should be more proactive about connecting with DNA matches closer to home. There are people on my match-list living within only a few hours drive of me, who would be good to meet and might share useful information. What's more, visiting them would be more accessible and more affordable. I recognise I was very fortunate to be able to travel overseas and connect with matches there.

If you're reading this and haven't DNA-tested, or you have but haven't yet contacted any matches, my recommendation is to give it some serious thought. It might be you sitting in a café waiting to meet a stranger, and you might meet some lovely people and make some wonderful discoveries.

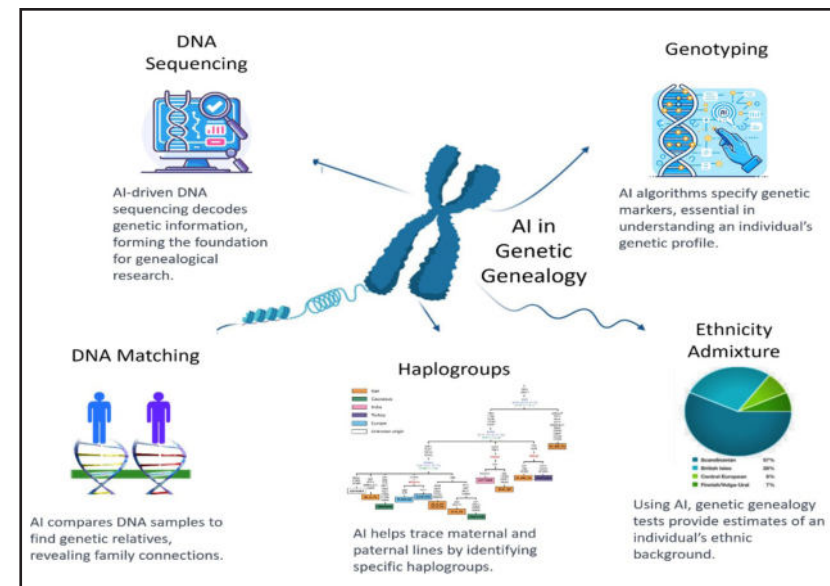


The Role of AI in Genetic Genealogy

Cheryl Bollard

DNA analysis has revolutionised genealogy, reshaping our understanding of family connections. This transformation is driven by AI's ability to process complex genetic data swiftly and accurately.

AI's proficiency lies in handling the vast, intricate datasets typical of genetic research, bringing precision to interpreting genetic data, and aiding in significant breakthroughs. For example, AI has enabled researchers to quickly identify and confirm relationships that might have taken years to discover using traditional methods. AI's contribution ranges from analysing SNP microarrays to facilitating advanced genetic testing and enhancing the understanding of ancestry and family connections (see graphic below¹). The large influx of data from Next-Generation Sequencing tests, which can provide new insights into



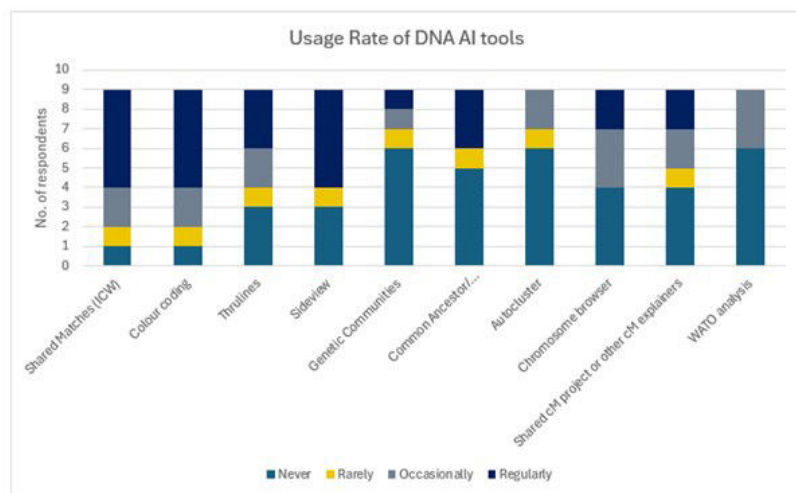
mtDNA and Y-DNA lineages, relies on the analytical power of AI.

Benefits of AI-enhanced Genetic Genealogy

While some genealogists find no significant change in their research approach, others highlight DNA testing as a valuable tool in their research toolkit, noting that it either confirms their traditional research or provides new insights. As with all research, having a clear objective is crucial to guide the process, and DNA testing will form one part of a research plan. Genealogists reported that DNA testing helped them find new family members, solve long-standing brick walls and confirm research hypotheses, as the objective nature of DNA makes it a uniquely reliable source of verification.

For instance, one genealogist discovered a long-lost branch of their family tree thanks to AI-powered DNA analysis. The researcher had hit a brick wall in their research for years, unable to identify a great-grandparent. By using AI tools that cross-referenced their matches with those of others, they identified a distant cousin match that held the key to unlocking that part of their family history.

AI also plays an important role in analysing DNA results, especially in identifying cousin matches. AI's machine-learning algorithms analyse DNA segments and identify genetic relatives from extensive databases and are one of the most effective tools for expanding genealogical research. The role of AI tools is central to this integration, facilitating the interpretation and incorporation of genetic data into family histories. The DNA analysis sites constantly provide new AI-enhanced tools to help genealogists analyse their results. The figure below from my study² details the usage of DNA tools by genealogists.



The findings indicate that although there are powerful tools for interpreting

genetic data, genealogists don't always use these tools regularly, including fundamental ones like shared matches and cM explainers. AI-enabled DNA analysis tools are becoming increasingly sophisticated, with MyHeritage predicting the development of a DNA triangulation tool that will rapidly determine relationships between family trees within the next five years. Although this would benefit genealogical research, poor use of the tool could exacerbate inaccurate research. Education programs and resources are needed to ensure genealogists can integrate these advanced technologies more effectively.

Challenges of AI-enhanced Genetic Genealogy

The main concerns about AI in genetic genealogy often revolve around privacy, ethical use, and discrimination - issues that have been well-documented in the literature. Accuracy is especially important in genetic genealogy, given that unexpected discoveries can have a huge impact on people's lives. The use of results should be combined with human expertise, ethical considerations and a strong commitment to privacy and accuracy, aligning with the principles outlined in the Genetic Genealogy Standards and the ISOGG Code of Practice.

Using generative AI tools like ChatGPT to analyse DNA matches should be undertaken with extreme caution. While they can generate insights, they are not designed for accurate genetic analysis, which can lead to potential errors or misinformation. Privacy concerns also arise, as sensitive genetic data could be mishandled or exposed without strong safeguards.

Conclusion

AI has already made significant contributions to the field of genetic genealogy, enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of data analysis and interpretation. However, challenges related to privacy, ethical use, and the complexity of AI tools must be fully addressed to fully realise its potential. By focusing on education, the development of user-friendly tools, and robust ethical frameworks, the field can continue to make the most of AI's capabilities while safeguarding ethical standards and promoting broader adoption among genealogists.

To make the most of these advancements, genealogists are encouraged to stay informed about the latest AI developments and seek out educational resources that can responsibly help integrate these powerful tools into their research.

Contact me at cbollard@ssbcorp.com.au

References

1. Chart showing the use of AI systems in genetic genealogy. Cheryl Bollard, author. January 2024.
2. Bollard, Cheryl. (2024) Can AI Empower Genealogists?
3. MyHeritage. AI & Genealogy: Harnessing The Power Of Artificial Intelligence For Family or Family History Research, <https://education.myheritage.com/article/ai-genealogy-harnessing-the-power-of-artificial-intelligence-for-family-history-research/> accessed 22 May 2024.

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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

* Hugh CAMERON, son of Alexander CAMERON and Catherine FRASER, was born at Strathglass, Invernes-shire. He migrated to Australia where he married Honorah REYNOLDS from County Clare at Melbourne in 1858. By 1864 they were living in New Zealand. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Jun 2024 v55 n401 p56 (electronic journal).

* William COOMBS migrated from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire to New Zealand and became a significant landowner. He married Alice SMITH in New Zealand in 1887. Ten years later he was sued by his first wife, Mary DONNOVAN, for divorce. Mary was living in Sydney and, having unsuccessfully tried to locate her before his second marriage, William had assumed she was dead. He married Alice a second time in 1897. In his will, William ensured children born in the bigamous marriage with Alice were treated the same as his other children. He also left a bequest to his brother Josiah who was living in Tenterfield, NSW. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Mar 2024 v55 n400 p9 (electronic journal).

* James DieHL was sentenced to seven years transportation and arrived at Moreton Bay on the *Mountstuart Elphinstone* in 1849. His ticket of leave was cancelled in 1852 because he had left the district. Was there any connection between him and a Conrad DieHL who arrived in Melbourne bound for the goldfields three months later? *The New Zealand Genealogist* Mar 2024 v55 n400 p26 (electronic journal).

* Thomas HANNA (1805-1887), along with his siblings James (1806-1890) and Catherine (1809-1858) migrated with their families to NSW in the 1830s and 1840s. Their brother Robert, his wife Susan and son William, settled in Canada. William later moved to New Zealand, probably from the Victorian

gold fields. The HANNA family were originally from Dunnamona, Fintona in Tyrone, Ireland. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Jun 2024 v55 n401 p60 (electronic journal).

* Bojan PAJIĆ: "Visit to Serbia for ANZAC Day 2023" – 28 Australian and 15 New Zealand servicemen are buried in the British war cemetery section of the New Cemetery in Belgrade. Their ranks, names and ages at death are listed. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Mar 2024 v55 n400 p37 (electronic journal).

* John Joseph PETTIT, son of William Joseph PETTIT and Ann OLIVER, was born in 1823 at Alderney, Guernsey. He travelled to Australia with his parents in 1828 on the *Wave*. In 1849 he married Margaret HART at Auckland. John died in 1891 at his son's residence at Merewether, NSW. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Mar 2024 v55 n400 p12 (electronic journal)

ENGLAND

* William Edward BAYLDON married Mrs Eliza KELLY at Adelaide, Australia in 1840. William GARRETT, born at Middlesbrough and husband of Ellen, died at Brisbane in 1924. Jane and Robert GREENBURY died in 1905 and 1907 respectively at Toowoomba. Elizabeth, wife of William Weldon CARTER, died at Melbourne in 1853. These are among a selection of people, who originally came from the North Riding of Yorkshire and South Durham, listed under the heading

"Born, Married or Died Elsewhere". *Cleveland FHS* Apr 2024 v15 n10 p50 (NYo9/60/14).

* Peter COXON, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, Parish Clerk, died in 1905. His daughter, Sarah Ellen (wife of William BERGMANN) living in Australia was named a beneficiary in his will. In the 1881 England census, she was listed under her maiden name as a servant in Great Bowden, Leicestershire. *The New Zealand Genealogist* Mar 2024 v55 n400 p14 (electronic journal).

* Tom DALE, son of William DALE and Hellen MOSES, was born in 1872 and lived at Helmsley, North Yorkshire. He married Jane Anne WILSON in



1901. A daughter Hellen Alexandra was born in 1902 and a son Thomas Edward in 1904. Before his marriage, Tom had served in the Boer War. After his return, he became responsible for the Earl of Feversham's prize-winning cattle. When some were sold to a wealthy land-owner in Chile, Tom and his family went there to look after them. Not liking what he found when he returned to England, Tom and his family travelled to Australia on board the *SS Orantes* in 1909. He set up a general store at Bellingen where they stayed until the outbreak of war in 1914 when the family returned to England. *Ryedale Roots* Jul 2024 n76 p35 (electronic journal).

* Mrs JOHNSTON, widow of Commander Robert JOHNSTON RN, was the daughter of J. WELLER, of Amersham. She had travelled to Australia with Commander JOHNSTON and their two sons. Her death was reported in the *Queensland Times* on 27 Jun 1896. *Origins* (Buckinghamshire FHS) Summer 2024 p96 (electronic journal).

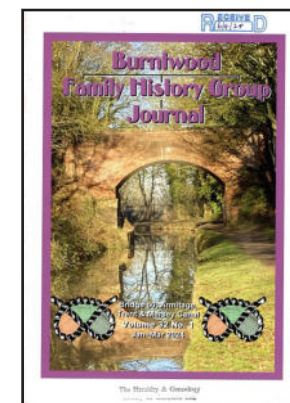
* Larna MALONE's grandfather (surname FieLD) was born in Yorkshire and arrived in Australia aged 12 with his parents when they migrated in 1911. The family brought with them a photograph of doctors and nurses from the Doncaster Infirmary Hospital taken circa 1900, but the connection is unclear. Further information, including some names of the photo subjects, has now been obtained. William Henry FieLD volunteered for the Army Medical Corps during WWI and Herbert Booker FieLD served in both WWI and WW2. *The Doncaster Ancestor* Summer 2024 v34 n2 p11 (electronic journal). See also *The Wakefield Kinsman* Aug 2014 v18 n1 p23 (NYo9/60/08).

* Diane PENBERTHY (Western Australia) is researching Margaret FURNACE born in 1680 at Bridekirk near Cockermouth (father Robert). Margaret and Bryan LEIGH's son, John, was born in 1698. *Furness Families* Winter 2024 n145 p6 (electronic journal).

* Wilks WREN travelled to Australia prior to the 1861 England Census, leaving his wife Alice (nee WARD) and their six children behind at Whitby. He is believed to have gone to the Ballarat goldfields. In 1873 his name appeared in the Missing Friends List in the Victorian Police Gazette, which included a physical description of Wilks. He died in an asylum for destitute men in 1889. *Cleveland FHS* Apr 2024 v15 n10 p33 (NYo9/60/14).

GENERAL

* Peter TANDY: "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and their



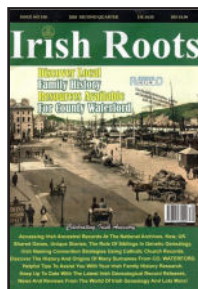
Archives”, talk given by Sarah Moody, Regional Public Engagement Coordinator. Shropshire FHS Jun 2024 v45 n2 p66 (electronic journal).

IRELAND

* Cornelius GRALTON, son of Cornelius and Ann GRALTON, migrated to Australia with his daughter Ann (aged 4) on the *Herald of the Morning*. Cornelius’s passenger list record shows he was born at Creeve, County Roscommon and that his wife Honoria was in Sydney. *The Septs* (International Genealogical Society International) Apr 2023 v45 n2 p45 (electronic journal).

* Jennifer HARRISON: “Australian Irish Connections - Establishing Settlements”. *Irish Roots* 2nd Qtr 2024 n130 p26 (R9/60/04).

* James G RYAN: “Local Resources for Family History Research - County Waterford”. *Irish Roots* 2nd Qtr 2024 n130 p10 (R9/60/04).



SCOTLAND

* Jean BENZIE, who came from Aberdeenshire, migrated to Australia with her family. Her daughter Jane married Thomas CURNOW. They were detained by the Kelly Gang in Melbourne when the gang was planning to derail a train. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS* Feb 2024 n 169 p17 (electronic journal).

* William CROMARTY was born in South Ronaldsay in 1788. He was a well-established mariner, serving on the convict ship *Tyne* in 1818 and the brig *Fame* bound for NSW in 1822. He settled in Port Stephens with his wife and family. In 1838 he, his son William and assigned convict James CATON drowned while trying to retrieve the stern boat lost overboard from the steamer *King William*. *SIB Folk News* (Orkney FHS) Summer 2024 n110 p14 (electronic journal). See also issues for Mar 2018 n85 p23, Winter 2022 n104 p18 and Summer 2023 n106 p12.

* Hugh KENNEDY, son of Alexander KENNEDY and Ann MacLEOD, migrated to Australia on the *Aloe* in 1857. He is buried in the Wollongong Cemetery. Donald Angus KENNEDY migrated to Australia on the Earl of Durham in 1837 and died at Melbourne in 1864. He was a prosperous farmer who served on the Victorian Legislative Council. On the same ship was another Donald KENNEDY, son of Kenneth KENNEDY, who married Mary CAMERON. They had nine children (not named). *Highland FHS* May 2024 v42 n3 p22 (electronic journal).

* William MacGREGOR, son of John MacGREGOR and Agnes SMITH, was born in 1846. Harry KELLAS, son of Alexander KELLAS and Ann FINDLAY,

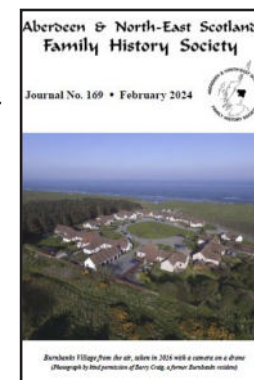
was born in 1839. They attended the same school at Tillyduke, in the parish of Strathdon. William became a medical practitioner and administrator, working in several British colonies before being appointed Governor of Queensland in 1909. Harry’s life was not so illustrious: he followed his son James and family to Queensland where he died in 1920. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS* Nov 2023 n168 p36 (electronic journal).

* Mary MEAD (from Australia) has provided a group photo, possibly taken around 1895. She would like to know the location which could be Blairshinnoch Farm, Banffshire or perhaps the Mill of Durn. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS* Feb 2024 n169 p34 (electronic journal).

* James OGILVIE, born at Banff in 1796, was a wine merchant. He married Eliza FORDYCE at Edinburgh in 1819. In 1821, James, Eliza and their son Thomas set off on HMS *Britomart* for Van Diemens Land. After his death in 1828, his widow married James THOMSON, a convict. Thomas became a master mariner, while his two sisters Eliza Ann and Mary Grant married William H WINDSOR, Under-Treasurer of Tasmania and James Goodall FRANCIS who became Premier of Victoria. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS* May 2024 n170 p26 (electronic journal).

* George PEGLER was an enterprising and successful merchant in Aberdeen. He married twice and had a large number of children. His son Henry migrated to Australia in 1887 where he married before moving to New Zealand. Another son George also migrated to Australia where his name appears on several shipping passenger lists between 1914 and 1918. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS* Feb 2024 n169 p27 (electronic journal).

* Kim POLLEY (Australia) has written a book about his ancestor Colin CHISHOLM tracing his roots in Scotland to his life in Australia. *Highland FHS* May 2024 v42 n3 p26 (electronic journal).



Obscure Resources in our Library

Pauline Ramage

We now have a new scanner, which enables us to search our great Microfilm Collection. Listed are a few of our available microfilm reels.

Shipping

1. Master's Office: Passengers arriving Jan 1854 – 1900
2. Immigration: persons on bounty ships arriving at Port Phillip 1839-41
3. Immigration: persons on bounty ships (Agents' immigrant lists) 1838-1896 - Sydney
4. Ships musters 1816-1825
5. Master's Office: index to vessels arrived 1837-1900

Birth Death and Marriages, Parish Registers

1. Registers of baptisms, marriages, burials 1787-1899 [NSW]. These are the original first Parish registers
2. Registers
3. Pre 1900 Death birth marriage Parish Registers for Tasmania
4. Thomas Davies Mutch card index 1787-ca1957 [comprises: First Fleet, Convict Indents 1790-1806, Musters, Census, BDM's 1787-c1957, Misc.].

Land Records

1792-1825, Tasmania 1803-1820, Norfolk Is. 1792-1814, Pitcairn Is.

If you need to learn how to use the new scanner, there is an Instruction folder. But have you ever considered going along to Library Practice - Practical Procedures in the Library? It is an in-person member only training session to explore the FHACT Library and make the best use of its resources. Registration is required, and the session is limited to four people. Please see the website for session dates, which are always on the last Monday of the month, excluding December. These sessions are for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge

and make the most of our own really fabulous resources.

Parkhurst Apprentices

The boys were juvenile offenders in England who were placed in Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight. They were transported to Australia and New Zealand between 1842 and 1861. Under the scheme the boys were granted pardons on condition, such as permanent exile from Britain. In the case of younger boys they were given apprenticeships.

There were 1499 boys exiled. Check their names in the book.

1. Convict assignment in Western Australia: the Parkhurst 'Apprentices' 1842-1851 by Andrew Gill AW5/50/02
2. Forced labour for the West: Parkhurst convicts 'apprenticed' in Western Australia 1842-1851 by Andrew Gill AW7/14/01
3. Index to 1851 Census Volume 57 Newport, Parkhurst Barracks, Parkhurst Prison, House of Industry, St Nicholas NHa5/20/57



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 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 or in the newsletters. Contact 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)

OCTOBER 2024

- 1 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:**
- 3 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** TBA, convenors Mae Mulheran and Clare McGuiness scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 4 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 10:00 am **India SIG:** *Tracing Indian Origins - Sean Kelly*; convenor Prof. Peter Stanley india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 9 7:30pm **Convict SIG:** *Convict Departures*; convenor Michelle Rainger convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Questions and Answers*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under:** *Going mobile: travelling with TMG+ on your phone*; convenor Lyndsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *Creation of the Australian Heraldic Register*; convenor Chris Lindesay, heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Writers Circle*. convenor Jo Callaghan writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 10:00 am **Practical Procedures:** Learn to use our Library and other resources; Jeanette Hahn
- 29 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

NOVEMBER 2024

- 1 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *Annual General Meeting*
- 9 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *Have you a brick wall to solve or a success to tell?*; convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 9 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *Member Queries and Successes*; convenors Cathy Day and Clare McGuiness dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 7:30 pm **TMG Down Under:** *Neil Bradley: TMG Flags and Filters*; convenor Lyndsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 14 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Publish Workspace*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 11:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *"If you could chat with a long-deceased relative..."*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 24 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *Old Photos and dating fashions in the colony*; convenor Pauline Ramage australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 25 10:00 am **Practical Procedures:** Learn to use our Library and other resources; Jeanette Hahn
- 26 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

DECEMBER 2024

- 3 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *It's Christmas - A Party (TBC)*
- 6 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 7 Lunch **India SIG:** *"Dining Out Stories"*, an in-person event
- 11 7:30pm **Convict SIG:** *Sharing and End of Year*; convenor Michelle Rainger convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Show and tell*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au



Wishing all a safe, happy and productive festive season

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.*