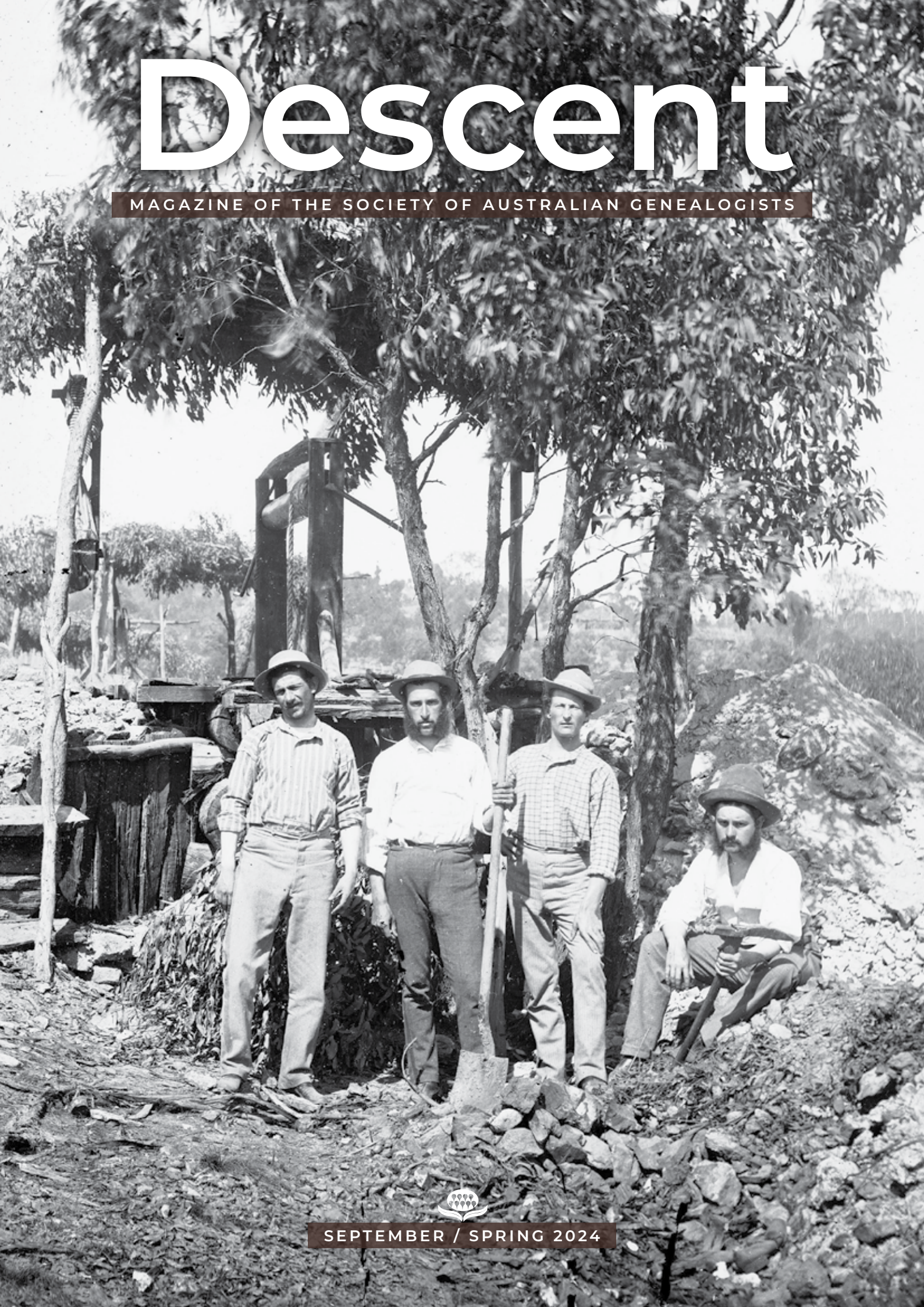


Descent

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS



SEPTEMBER / SPRING 2024

In This Issue

President's message	75
Biography	76
Croker Prize for Biography 2024	77
Croker Prize Winner: Clara's Story	78
In Search Of ... Researching Your Gold Rush Ancestors	80
Josiah Strickland and the Gold Rush on the Lachlan River <i>Bob Wright</i>	82
The Gold Miners of the Upper Clarence <i>Margaret Neyle</i>	85
The Allure of the 79 th Element <i>Ken Webber</i>	86
Exploring the Legacy of Chinese Merchants in Australia <i>Darryl Low Choy</i>	88
California Bound! <i>Sandy Pullen</i>	90
Feeding the Goldfields <i>Carolyn Ball</i>	92
Rather than Goldminers – Thomas Pengilley <i>CJ Eddington</i>	94
On the Record	96
Our SAG Community	98
Obituary – Alan Arthur Day (Fellow)	99
Congratulations – Heather Garnsey	100
Education@SAG	103
DNA Corner	104
Library News	106
Library Updates	108
About us	110

Descent

September / Spring 2024 [Volume 54 Part 3]

ISSN 0084 9731

Editorial Committee

Danielle Tebb, Ruth Graham, Pauline Weeks,
Danielle Lautrec, Viv Cunningham-Smith, Linda Waters,
Sandra Dexter, Heather Garnsey

Editor

Danielle Tebb
editor@sag.org.au

Design

Tracey Grady
www.traceygrady.com

Cover Image

Gold minehead and miners, Hill End
Digital Collections, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.
<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/1LjmqdD9>

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples and we pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. The Society acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which Richmond Villa stands.

Copyright and Disclaimer

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of items published in this magazine. It cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that are included, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract entered into with an advertiser. All articles and items in this magazine are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Society. This magazine cannot be redistributed, either electronically or in print, without the express permission of the Society.



President's Message

PHILIPPA SHELLEY JONES

It is with a great sense of honour and enthusiasm that I step into the role of President of the Society of Australian Genealogists, as appointed by the board of directors in June. First and foremost, I extend my sincere thanks to Melissa Hulbert for her dedicated leadership over the past five years, and I am pleased that Melissa continues to serve the Society as Vice-President, a role also held by Janette Pelosi. Melissa's passion and commitment have set a strong foundation for our society and we are grateful for her tireless efforts in advancing our mission.

Secondly, I would like to express my gratitude to each of you, our members, for your continued dedication and support. It is your enthusiasm and engagement that have brought us to where we are today, and it is with your collective strength that we will forge ahead to a bright and successful future. Many of you contribute enormously to the smooth running of the Society, by not only volunteering hours of your time, but also by making one-off or regular monetary donations – both are forms of support we could not do without and I would not want you to think your contributions go unnoticed or unappreciated.

I look forward to working closely with our seemingly inexhaustible Ruth Graham and her team; as CEO, Ruth consistently works above and beyond to energise the dedicated staff and all of our wonderful volunteers. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to Dr Alexandra Mountain for her invaluable contributions during her time as Archives Manager. Alex's dedication and expertise have greatly enriched our archival resources and set a high standard for future work. Although Alex has left full-time employment with the Society for a role in the public sector, we expect to see her periodically for some project work in the coming months.

The road ahead

The directors have a busy time ahead to solidify and, ideally, grow the Society in a rapidly changing family history landscape. We have a cohesive and dedicated board, with each member contributing robust discussion and commitment to the issues impacting the Society's future – I feel a great sense of positivity moving forward.

One of our immediate priorities is to complete the revision of our now out-of-date constitution. This task is not merely an administrative necessity; it is an opportunity to enhance governance practices and align our foundational document with the evolving goals of our community. Together, we will work to ensure that our constitution reflects inclusivity, transparency and adaptability. This will provide a robust framework for our operations and decision-making processes, empowering us to navigate the complexities of our environment with confidence and clarity. Your input in this process is invaluable and I encourage all members to participate actively in the months ahead. We have listened to members who told us that the initial draft was too rushed and complicated; we are now working to pull together a more simplified version for the next round of member feedback.

Also on the horizon is the development of a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide our actions in the coming

years. The plan will be a collaborative and member-driven effort, drawing on the insights and feedback of our diverse membership. Board director Darryl Low Choy has already started the ball rolling with a member survey and a timeline for the process; his expertise will be instrumental as we chart our course for the future, ensuring we continue to innovate and adapt to the evolving landscape of family history societies. The plan will set clear objectives, define actionable steps, and establish measurable outcomes.

Our financial stability and growth is another area that demands our focused attention on an ongoing basis. While we, like many charitable organisations, face certain financial challenges, reassessing our financial strategies will form a large and necessary component of the strategic planning process as we identify new avenues for growth. By doing so, we will secure the resources necessary to support our mission and expand our impact.

In every challenge, there is an opportunity for growth and innovation. As we undertake these initiatives, I encourage each of you to bring your ideas, perspectives, and energy to the table. In July, the board had the first of its online Member Forum sessions, which are both an opportunity for members to engage with the directors and also an occasion to provide feedback about the forum topic. By the time this goes to print, the second of our forums, covering Finances, will have been held. These sessions are vital in shaping the direction of our society and ensuring that our activities align with your interests and needs.

This edition

The theme of this issue is **gold rushes**. The impact of these rushes, both in colonial Australia and across the globe in the 19th century, shaped not only economies but also societies and family histories. It is a fascinating exploration of how these historical events continue to influence our genealogical research today.

Congratulations to the students recognised in this issue of *Descent* for their achievements in completing the Certificate of Genealogical Research. Your hard work and dedication to the requirements of the program is commendable and we are proud to celebrate your accomplishments.

It is also my pleasure as convenor of the Croker Prize for Biography committee to provide information in the following pages about the 2024 submissions and to announce the winner.

Also in this edition is a tribute to our very deserving Heather Garnsey following the award to her of an Australian honour in this year's King's Birthday Honours.

I appreciate your steadfast support and commitment to the Society of Australian Genealogists. I am enthusiastic about the path we will continue to explore together.

Philippa Shelley Jones
President, Society of Australian Genealogists

Barnes, James: (1854–1914)

DAVID BEDWELL

James Barnes (1854–1914), farmer, prospector and policeman, was born on 31 March 1854 at 'Garnett House' in Burneside, Cumbria, England. He was the second child of Anthony Barnes, farmer, and his wife Margaret Elwood, both families having the same occupation from the same region for multiple generations before them.

James worked beside his father as a farmer in his formative years, and in his late teens or early twenties he embarked on a journey that took him from England to New Zealand and eventually to Australia in 1880. In Sydney Australia, he joined the New South Wales Police force as probationary constable.

On 25 August 1880, James was posted to Temora, a town recently proclaimed as a goldfield during the second generation of gold rushes.

There he would police the miners and hopefuls that had flocked to the area. Notably, he was charged and acquitted of assault of another officer. However, his fortunes changed when he struck gold himself.

With his new found wealth, James resigned from the police and briefly returned to England. The cold climate of England compelled him to return to NSW on the very same ship that had carried him away.

Back in Sydney, he re-enlisted in the police and was posted to Deniliquin, marking the beginning of a series of postings across various western regions of the state.

His postings included a stint in the 1880s as a constable at Silverton, during a time when the town surpassed Broken Hill in size. Later, as a Constable in Hay, James would be called back to the Broken Hill region with 300 other troopers to support the 1892 strike breakers.

In April 1891 James was presented with a gold pocket watch from the town of Hay in gratitude for his services such as escorting both gold and criminals. He was subsequently transferred further west to Wentworth, where he met and married Emily Borrman in 1892. Emily was the daughter of German immigrants and the couple later had five children including identical twins. They lived at the police constable's residence and lockup next to the courthouse on Darling Street and James dealt with cases such as 'keeping a brothel'.

This period of his life is marked by his personal trials with his own attempted suicide and the tragic illness and subsequent death of one of his twin daughters.

In 1906 he was briefly stationed in Cowra before being promoted and assuming the role of Constable First Class at the newly constructed Kelso lockup and residence just outside of

Bathurst. It was here two years later where sadly Emily passed away from consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis) in 1908. Her sister, Lavinia, who had been living with the family and caring for Emily since 1902, became James' second wife in 1910.

Local recollections and reports describe James as a very large and formidable man at 18 stone (114kg) and standing between 6'1" and 6'3" tall (185-190cm) – "not a finer built man in the district". And although quiet in temperament, his children knew him as a "mighty pen man" – very thorough and strict with the children's lessons, overseeing homework and their chores. James was also a devout Protestant.

James retired from the police force in April 1914 only two months before his death from acute cholangitis at the age of 60 in his home at the Kelso lockup on 22 June 1914. He was laid to rest alongside his first wife, Emily, in the Church of England section of Holy Trinity Church at Kelso.

Multiple references to his father, 'Constable Barnes' in son Cecil's job applications, appear to have facilitated Cecil's future career with the railways. These, along with reports of James' retirement and passing, suggest that he was a well-respected member of the community, whose life in the antipodes was far removed from his ancestors locale in England. James witnessed and experienced significant events and faithfully carried out his duties for the betterment of his communities and the progress of regional NSW.



*Barnes family c1903
Seated: James, Ivy and Constance Barnes
Standing: Emily Barnes (nee Borrman)*

SAG runs a **Certificate in Genealogical Research** to assist members to hone their research skills and explore areas of study they may not be familiar with. The course also functions as a prerequisite to our Diploma in Family Historical Studies. One exercise is to write a biography of an ancestor in the style of an Australian Dictionary of Biography entry. In each issue of *Descent*, we feature one such biography.



Croker Prize for Biography 2024

PHILIPPA SHELLEY JONES

CONVENOR OF THE CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

The annual Croker Prize for Biography was set up eleven years ago to publicly recognise the society's generous benefactors Colin and Loas Croker. Submissions must be centred around the entrant's relative and tackle the annual theme, this year's being *A Special Family Connection*. All of the biographies for 2024 can be viewed on the society's website and entries from the previous two years are also available.

The last few years have seen an impressive number of entries submitted, but this year outstripped them all, with 42 entrants vying for the honour and the \$1000 prize on offer. Although the majority of the entries were from NSW members, it was pleasing to again see some geographical diversity, with entrants from QLD, WA, the ACT, VIC and SA. Encouraging was that nine of the entries were from members new to the society since the beginning of 2023.

The entries were for the most part well written and thoroughly researched, with impressive use of an array of sources. Many of the entrants had attended the 'Let's Talk About' session on the Croker Prize for Biography on 25 March, which may account for the drop in disqualifications this year for breaches of the competition conditions around word count, image inclusion and references.

Entries that score well tend to have an introduction and conclusion which are strongly linked to the annual theme; are engagingly written, well-structured, grammatically correct and thoroughly proofread; clearly state the relationship between the one biographical subject and the author; and demonstrate thorough genealogical research, evidenced by properly formatted source citations.

The theme this year was a broad one, allowing scope to explore the various definitions and interpretations of the word 'connection' – an emotional bond, a DNA discovery, a meaningful artefact or object, a generational skill or talent, a connection to a social movement or event, or even a mystical 'feeling' about an ancestor.

Unfortunately, there were a number of entries where 'a special family connection' was never mentioned, it being left to the reader to assume that the writer's ancestral link to the subject of the biography was enough of a connection in itself.

The competition judges were taken on journeys of sentimentality, intrigue, doubt, reflection, validation and detailed ancestral examination, as entrants followed the trails of breadcrumbs left behind by long-deceased family members. There were twists and turns, pride and satisfaction, and the discovery of a few contradictions and secrets. Whilst we would love to provide highlights of all the entries, room only permits a selection to be showcased. These give some insight into the high standard of the biographies and the depth of individual research:

Sunshine is the biography of Rupert Watson, who at age 15 was one of 44 people killed in a little-known train crash at Sunshine, a suburb of Melbourne, in 1908. The family's more recent

experience with a railway accident has led the author to feel a special connection to Rupert and what his life may have been if not so tragically cut short.

Charles Goldsmith immigrated to Australia in 1922, bringing with him a tobacco jar, later used as **The (Button) Jar**. For the author, the jar was a "consistent part of my childhood", with links to life and ancestors in England, Charles's WWI service, immigration and family life in Sydney. When holding the jar, the author feels a special connection to Charles, a grandfather never known.

The Flemings is a fascinating and well-written piece. The author's grandfather, Roland Wood, was "a man of intriguing contradictions, unusual traits and skills, and physical curiosities." Brought up in orphanages in the American mid-west, Roland was fostered by the Flemings in 1895 and taught "manners, social values and an ethic for hard work", as well as the meaning of family. Roland moved on, leading an exciting life that finally brought him to Australia, but the special connection between the Fleming and Wood families continues to this day.

Charles Mallen was **The Brewer of Mitcham**, in Adelaide. Unknowingly, for years the author shopped where the brewery once stood, lunched at the café located in what was his family home and passed by the cemetery where Charles was buried. Thorough genealogical research revealed that Charles was a four times great uncle, creating a special family connection of place.

In **Lavinia's Legacy** the author explores the special connection with great-great grandmother Lavinia Lum Tin through their shared "sense of social justice, in our distaste for the unethical and in our desire to tackle life's challenges head-on." In Lavinia's life, this manifested itself through a lifetime of defending her Chinese husband and children amidst rampant racism in late 19th century colonial Australia. Her courage to take on the mainstream press in rural NSW even led to one editor in Sydney advising his columnists to refrain from careless reporting.

The reader of **Plumb Loco about Josephine** is taken on a journey, as the author's great-grandfather Frederick Gatwood assists with the transport of two locomotives by ship from Bristol, England, to Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1872. Following a move to Australia where he plied a number of trades including engineering, loco driver, commission agent, hotelier, and totalisator operator, Frederick married Mary Anne Burness, fathered four children and died at just 42 years of age. The writer wonders that "as one of the best known men in the city", Fred left not a single photograph; though a handsome gravestone and a hotel in York, WA are extant. The special relationship in this story is revealed by the beautifully restored locomotive, *Josephine*, in the Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin, visited by the writer and her siblings – Fred's great-grandchildren.

Bullecourt is a small village in France and the site of a disastrous battle in 1917, where 3000 Australian soldiers were slaughtered in a dreadfully planned assault on the German army. We read **In Uncle Harry's footsteps: Bullecourt revisited** the writer's account of paternal uncle Harry Smith's participation in the battle where he received horrible, life-threatening injuries. Ten months later he was declared permanently unfit for duty, returning home in June 1918. His health issues continued and he eventually succumbed in 1922 at just 31 years of age. Eager to explore this

special relationship, the author visited the battlefield at Bullecourt. “It was quiet and still, but the landscape bears the scars of the trenches and, as I walked, the thick mud underfoot was just as unforgiving as it must have been in 1917. It was a small but grim reminder of what he had endured.”

Although choosing a winning entry from an impressive array of contenders was always going to be a challenge, the committee found a standout winner in **Clara’s Story**, written by a deserving Maxine Elder from Goulburn in New South Wales. Maxine’s entry, which can be found on the following pages, was a well-researched and beautifully written account of Maxine’s special connection to her grandmother through a buttonhook and a brooch. Congratulations Maxine!

We hope you enjoy reading all the biographies and perhaps pick up some research ideas in the process. The theme for next year’s competition will be announced in the March/Autumn issue of *Descent*. We look forward to another absorbing group of entries which entertain, demonstrate sound genealogical techniques and showcase effective writing.

Thank you to the members of the committee for their hard work and generosity with their time. Marking so many entries is no small feat for the judging panel. It continues to be a pleasure to be involved and I look forward to seeing what the 2025 competition brings.



Croker Prize for Biography 2024 WINNER

CLARA’S STORY
MAXINE ELDER

An old-fashioned buttonhook and an old-fashioned brooch are the only items in my possession connecting me to my maternal grandmother. The hook buttoned her ‘best’ shoes and the brooch was pinned at the neck of her ‘best’ blouse on special occasions. These two items have no monetary value, but they and the memories that they invoke are my special connection to a very special lady.

My grandmother was 72 years old when I was born, and in my early memories was just ‘Nannie’ whom I took for granted. Delving into her life as a family historian, I realised that it had been shaped by several significant events: an illegitimate birth, a prison sentence, emigration and an adoption. My mother and her siblings never knew the full extent of these, but now Clara’s story deserves to be told.

Clara Hester GLOSTER was born on Wednesday 28 July 1869 at home, 21 Victoria Street in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.¹ She was the second of five children born to ironmonger Daniel GLOSTER and his wife Mary Jane ALLEN, and was only five when her 33 year old father and infant brother died.² Two years later her mother remarried and several more children were born, producing a blended household of nine siblings.

Information in the 1891 Welsh Census indicated that Clara had “gone into service” in Swansea; in the household of railway engineer Thomas Houghton WRIGHT, his wife Emma and son Frank Alfred, a railway clerk.³ However, by 1901, Clara was listed in a household in Inverness, Scotland.⁴ Why so far from home?

This, I think, was the answer: In 1893, Clara gave birth to a daughter, registered and baptised Gladys Edith Wright GLOSTER. The father’s name is absent from the birth record, but in the baptism register the parents are listed as “Frank Alfred and Clara Hester GLOSTER”. Clara’s residence at the time, Wick, was a small village north-east of Bristol – some distance from Swansea and from Clara’s family.⁵ Banished for the birth, was she then forced to relinquish her daughter to one of the many orphanages or workhouses operating throughout Victorian England, or offer her for ‘adoption’? I can find no mention of her child in any marriage, census, or death record thereafter.⁶

Sometime in the next few years, Clara was fortunate to find employment in the household of Captain Francis SCOTT-KERR

of the Cameron Highlanders Regiment. During service with his regiment in southern England, Scott-Kerr had married, and his two sons were born.⁷ Clara joined this household as the children’s nurse and travelled with them to Scotland.⁸

There she met a native of Inverness, Peter FRASER, whom she married in July 1901.⁹ Four children followed: a son in 1902, and daughters in 1904, 1907 and 1908.¹⁰ Peter had many unblemished years of service with the Post Office, and Clara’s life in Inverness should have been settled.

But ... my records showed that Clara’s youngest child had died in Bristol, Gloucestershire, in June 1910; yet my mother was born across the world, in Sebastopol, Victoria, in June 1911. More questions arose.¹¹

A sad discovery was finding Clara’s name in the Poor Law & Poor Lists of Scotland. In August 1909, she was granted relief of ten shillings per week “until her husband is liberated from prison”. Fraser had been charged and found guilty of removing sums of money from letters. After serving 28 years in the Post Office with “absolutely irreproachable character”, he was stripped of his position and his pension.¹² Was Peter a weak man, or was he desperate for funds to care for an ailing child? With no position and no prospects, the family fled south to Bristol, and a decision was made to emigrate. A fresh start in a new country beckoned.

Clara, five months pregnant, along with Peter and their three children, departed London on 31 January 1911 on SS *Commonwealth*, bound for Melbourne, Australia.¹³ They were able to take advantage of a scheme established the previous year, when Agents-General of Victoria and New South Wales had entered into an agreement with shipping company P&O to carry third class immigrant passengers on their Branch Service via the Cape; a scheme heavily subsidised by those States “to ensure the holding of this country by a white race”.¹⁴

Arriving in Melbourne on 20 March, Clara and Peter moved inland to Sebastopol where Peter found work as a tram conductor, and their fifth child (my mother) was born. But there was to be yet another move. By 1914 they had settled at Burrinjuck – a small township on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, in southern New South Wales – where Peter found employment with the newly established “Water Commission” as a labourer.¹⁵

Then in 1920 Clara travelled alone to Sydney, returning with a baby girl, a child she had “adopted – to help a friend who could not raise her”. This story was accepted by all her family, with only one at that time knowing the whole truth: Clara’s son, then a young naval rating, had fathered the baby. Raising this child as her own perhaps atoned for the one she had forsaken all those years before.¹⁶

Clara was widowed in 1927. Supporting her family must have been a constant struggle, her only possible income a small

widow’s pension and child endowment.¹⁷ Her home was a tiny cottage two miles’ walk east of Burrinjuck township. Nevertheless, Clara made her mark on the town. In 1949, the *Yass Tribune-Courier* reported that “the Community Hall, at Burrinjuck, was crowded to capacity” to fete its much loved and respected resident, as “The Grand Old Lady of Burrinjuck” celebrated her 80th birthday.¹⁸

Although separated by distance, Clara was a constant in my life until my early teens. In October 1955, after being bedridden for several months, my grandmother died at my parents’ home, leaving little but her buttonhook and her brooch, reminders of a strong and courageous lady. These remain my link to her, my treasured possessions for almost seventy years.¹⁹

Vale Clara.



Maxine’s photo of Clara’s buttonhook and brooch

Maxine Elder is a retired mathematics teacher. For the past 17 years she has enjoyed applying her problem solving skills to genealogical research and family history. She was awarded the SAG Diploma in Family Historical Studies in 2014 for a thesis based on her husband’s family, and is currently working on a companion project featuring her own ancestors.



1. England, General Register Office (GRO), Birth Certificate of Clara Hester Gloster (Bristol, Q3 1869, Vol 6a Page 31).
2. GRO, Marriage Certificate of Daniel Jacob Gloster and Mary Jane Allen (Bristol, Q4 1866, Vol 6a Page 228).
GRO, Death Certificate of Daniel Jacob Gloster (Bristol, Q1 1875, Vol 6a Page 25).
GRO, Death certificate of Charles Henry Gloster (Bristol, Q1 1875, Vol 6a Page 29).
3. Ancestry.com. 1891 Wales Census. Original data: Census Returns of England and Wales 1891, the National Archives of the UK (TNA), Public Record Office. 1891 Census Record for Clara Hester Gloster, Swansea, Wales. TNA RG12/4478 Folio 28 p52. Accessed online: <https://www.ancestry.com.au/search>.
4. The National Records of Scotland (NRS). 1901 Scotland Census. Original data. 1901 Record for Clara Gloster. NRS, Census 1901:098/00 001/00 006. Accessed online: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.
5. GRO, Birth certificate of Gladys Edith Wright Gloster (Chipping Sodbury, Q3 1893, Vol 6a Page 205); FamilySearch.org. England, Bristol Parish Registers 1538-1900. Clara Hester Gloster in entry for Gladys Edith Wright Gloster, 1893. Accessed online: <https://www.familysearch.org>
6. Online search for Children’s Homes and Institutions England (Gloucestershire). Mother and Baby Homes – Gloucestershire-Kent: <https://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/list/MB3.shtml> and Magdalen Homes – Gloucestershire-Kent: <https://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/list/MH3.shtml>.
Dr Daniel Grey, review of *A Child for Keeps: The History of Adoption in England, 1918-45*, (review no. 806) <https://reviews.history.ac.uk/review/806>.
7. GRO, Marriage Certificate of Francis Louis Scott-Kerr and Sybil Julia Cockerell (Elham [Kent], Q2 1892, Vol 2a Page 1611).
Findmypast. British Army Service Records for F L Scott-Kerr, TNA, Archive reference WO 374/61045. Transcript accessed online: <https://www.findmypast.com.au>.
8. See 4.
9. NRS, Statutory Registers, Marriages in Inverness in 1901, Marriage Certificate of Peter Fraser and Clara Hester Gloster (098/126). Accessed online: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.
10. NRS, Statutory Registers, Births in Inverness in 1902:098/506; 1904:098/5; 1907:098/111; 1908:098/272. Accessed online: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.
11. GRO, Death Certificate of Frances Elizabeth M Fraser (Bristol, Q2 1910, Vol 6a Page 10).
Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Birth Certificate of Annie Frances Elizabeth Fraser (1911 No.15014).
12. Findmypast. Scotland, Poor Law & Poor Lists, Inverness, Inverness-shire, Scotland. Transcription of record for Clara Hester (sic) Gloster or Fraser in 1909. Accessed online: <https://www.findmypast.com.au>.
“THEFT OF LETTERS: Inverness Postman Sent to Prison”, *Inverness Courier* (Inverness, Scotland), 16 July 1909, 6.
13. Findmypast. Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890-1960. TNA, London, England. Transcript of record for Clara Fraser accessed online: <https://www.findmypast.com.au>, and Public Record Office Victoria. Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923. Accessed online: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/unassisted-passenger-lists>.
Passengers arriving per *Commonwealth* 1911.
14. “The Old Peninsula & Oriental Steamship Company c.1835-1972: The Branch Line”. Accessed online: https://www.pandosnco.co.uk/branch_line.html.
“Assisted Immigrants, The Present System”, *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill), 14 February 1910, 2.
15. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (NSW BDM), Death Certificate of Peter Fraser (1927 No. 5783).
“Death of Mr Peter Fraser”, *Yass Courier*, 30 June 1927, 5. “(He) had resided for Burrinjuck for 14 years, being in the employ of the Water Commission.” The Water (Conservation & Irrigation Commission of NSW), was responsible for both Burrinjuck Dam and the Goondah-Burrinjuck Tramway.
16. Private family information. Formal adoption in Australia commenced after the passing of the Child Welfare Act (NSW) 1923.
17. *History of Pensions and Other Benefits in Australia*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Year Book Australia, 1988, Chapter 8 Social Security and Welfare, 379. Accessed online: [https://www.abs.gov.au/Searchfor\[Archived\]1301.0](https://www.abs.gov.au/Searchfor[Archived]1301.0).
18. “GRAND OLD LADY OF BURRINJUCK: Mrs Clara Fraser Entertained at 80th Birthday Party”, *Yass Tribune-Courier*, 4 July 1949, 1.
19. NSW BDM, Death Certificate of Clara Hester Fraser (1955 No. 33722).

In Search Of ...

RESEARCHING YOUR GOLD RUSH ANCESTORS

by Vanessa Cassin
SAG Education Manager

Goldmine and seven miners, Gulgong 1871-1875,
American & Australasian Photographic Company
Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, File identifier yRb5yJ4e7L2g3

Many of us have ancestors who were involved in the mining industry around the world at some point in time. Natural resources such as coal, copper, uranium, diamonds and gold have been mined for their beauty and other uses for thousands of years. This article focuses on following our ancestors who pursued one very precious metal during a specific time in history, the mid to late 19th century.

This period of history has become famous for the numerous gold rushes that occurred in many parts of the world. The term gold rush is a noun that is used in a chiefly historical capacity and refers to any period of feverish migration into an area in which gold has been discovered.¹ The Oxford English Dictionary website states that the term originates in the 1840s, with the earliest evidence of its use in the *Oregon Spectator* (an American newspaper) in 1848.²

This period of intense gold rushes began with the discovery of gold in California on 24 January 1848, and is generally considered to have ended with the Yukon (north-west Canada) gold rush in the period 1896-1899, although some rushes persisted into the early 20th Century. Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, for instance, lays claim to being the location of the last Australian gold rush, in 1932.

While there were gold rushes before and after the period from 1848-1899, this article focuses on researching ancestors who followed the gold within this 50-year period. The timeline at the bottom of the page outlines the date when gold discoveries were first publicly announced in each location.

Each gold rush led to an explosion in migration to the area surrounding the gold field. For example, an estimated 300,000 went to California during the period 1848-1852.³ People travelled from around the world, from the West Coast of America, China and Australia, to join those seeking riches on the Californian goldfields and, when the gold finds diminished, many just as quickly moved on to the next rush location. Consider the following example from the 1855 *Government Gazette* from Victoria, where information is being sought on a relative who had travelled from England to America and then onto the Victorian goldfields.

Monaghan.—O.8138.
EDWIN BILLING, formerly of Chalgrove, Oxfordshire, who left England for America, and afterwards came to this Colony, and was last heard of by a letter from D. W. Campbell, reporting his death at the Bendigo Gold Fields, on the 8th of May, 1854.—O.10914.

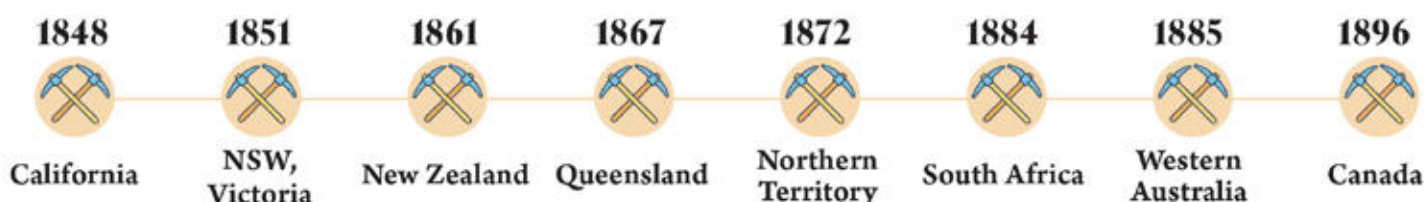
Victorian Government Gazette, 1855

Source: Australia, Victoria, Government Gazettes 1851-1907, Ancestry.com [database on-line]

This brings us to the question: how do we know if our ancestor followed the gold rushes?

For the observant family historian there are many clues. The first port of call would be to examine the documents already collected as part of the research process: items like birth, death and marriage certificates. Does a name indicate a connection to a goldfield? In my own family history, I have individuals named Rebecca Araluen Bates and John Grenfell Anderson. Do the occupations listed on the certificates mention mining-related terms? Did the person die of a mining related illness (such as phthisis) or an accident that could be attributed to mining? Did the event happen in an area that was on or near a known gold field?

While many of the gold rush locations are known to us, such as Hill End, Lambing Flat, Araluen and Sofala in New South Wales, there were many smaller goldfields we may not have heard of. An extensive list of locations can be found on Wikipedia, such as this link which lists over 30 locations in New South Wales: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales_gold_rush, providing an excellent starting point for identifying if your ancestor was living in a gold rush location.



Timelines are an excellent way to track your ancestor's movements through the goldfields. The table below documents the path of my three times great grandparents over a period of nearly 40 years, based entirely on birth, baptism, marriage and death certificates. The dates and places strongly correlate with known gold rushes.

While documents that specifically state your ancestor was a gold miner (such as mining leases) do exist, their survival is varied. It is also possible your ancestor worked for another miner or mining company, particularly in places like the Witwatersrand in South Africa, and therefore would not have held a mining licence. To research the stories of our gold mining ancestors it is necessary to think more laterally and explore a wide variety of resources. The following list may provide inspiration:

- State and National Archives – licences, maps, wills and probate, colonial secretary, insolvencies, criminal/court records
- Local museums, family history groups, historical societies
- TROVE, Papers Past, Newspapers.com, etc
- Local History collections in libraries
- Specialist libraries like the SAG which hold items that may not be online, such as books, microfilms and microfiche
- Police and Government Gazettes; pay specific attention to sections on missing friends, deserted wives/children, ships deserters

- Immigration records
- The Internet Archive and Project Gutenberg
- Academic journals, papers and research

It is also important to remember that not everyone drawn to the gold fields was there to mine for gold. Many made their living providing provisions and services to those who were seeking gold. Consider the following list of occupations that may be associated with a gold field (not exhaustive!) and then think about where you might find records for these occupations.

Publicans	Butchers/Bakers
Storekeepers/Merchants	Timber getters
Doctors/Nurses/Midwives	Teachers
Ministers/Priests	Government Officials
Police	Prostitutes
Transport Workers: Railways, Bullock Drivers, Coach Drivers, Mail Delivery	

Good luck locating your gold rush ancestors. Remember Google is your friend BUT not everything is online, and local resources can be a further goldmine!

1. https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/gold_rush
2. https://www.oed.com/dictionary/gold-rush_n?tl=true
3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/California-Gold-Rush>

Name	Event	Year	Location
Mathew Logan and Catherine McGrath	Marriage	1845	Parramatta
Bridget	Birth	1846	Sydney
Matthew jnr	Birth	1851	unknown
Catherine jnr	Birth	1854	Mudgee
William	Birth	1855	Mudgee
Elizabeth	Birth	1858	Blayney
Patrick	Birth	1859	Windeyer
John	Birth	1861	Chance Gully, Burrangong
Michael	Birth	1864	Young (Lambing Flat)
Bridget	Marriage	1867	Young
Catherine snr	Death	1868	Young
Bridget first child	Birth	1868	Chance Gully
Bridget second child	Birth	1869	Young
Bridget eleven more children	Birth	1871-1888	Grenfell
Mathew snr	Death	1882	Grenfell

The path of Vanessa's 3x great grandparents, Mathew Logan and Catherine McGrath and their family aligns with documented gold rushes in NSW.



Bakery, Home Rule gold fields, NSW, c1872, American & Australasian Photographic Company. State Library of NSW File identifier NE3dwB6Jv6QM2

JOSIAH STRICKLAND AND THE GOLD RUSH ON THE LACHLAN RIVER

by Bob Wright

Josiah Strickland, my great great great grandfather, was an early pioneer on the Lachlan River whose business acumen had already made him a successful squatter by the 1850s. When the gold rush began on the Lachlan in 1861 it had a huge impact on his life, utterly transforming the district, and providing him with the opportunity to further increase his wealth and enhance his status and reputation.

Josiah was born at Castlereagh on the River Nepean on 28 January 1813, the second of three sons to Philip Strickland, a convict, and Maria Collits.¹ Philip, a convict constable,² was shot and killed by a bushranger whilst carrying out his duties in 1816,³ when Josiah was not quite four years old. Josiah's mother remarried the following year,⁴ and Josiah received a rudimentary education in the little school run by the local clergyman.⁵

In 1829, when he was 16 years old, Josiah's mother also died,⁶ and he petitioned Governor Darling for a land grant of his own, but it was refused on the basis that he was under age.⁷ Frustrated in his attempt to obtain a farm of his own, he went west to live with his grandparents, Pierce and Mary Collits, who ran an inn just on the other side of the Blue Mountains, near Hartley.

Several years later, in 1833, he got in trouble with the law when he was charged with cattle stealing.⁸ In order to escape the charge, Josiah absconded to Van Diemen's Land, where he remained for a few years until the heat was off.⁹ In 1837 he returned to the Hartley district in New South Wales,¹⁰ and once again applied, unsuccessfully, for a land grant.¹¹

Stymied in his attempts to obtain property both legally and illegally, Josiah moved west the following year to the Lachlan River to work for his uncle James Collits, who held the lease on a run known as Bundaburra.¹² James left Josiah to manage the property as station superintendent.¹³ In 1841 Josiah married James's 15-year-old step-daughter Mary Ann Higgins.¹⁴ Over the years Josiah and Mary Ann raised a large family of five sons and five daughters.¹⁵

In 1842 a terrible drought in New South Wales caused the swamps, billabongs and creeks to dry up and the rivers to slow to a trickle. Stock feed became scarce, and hundreds of squatters tried to sell their stock, causing a glut in the market. The price of bullocks fell from six pounds to six shillings, and the general slump became the first big depression in Australia's history. Hundreds of squatters abandoned their runs and scores went bankrupt. The Bank of Australia collapsed.¹⁶

Squatters like Josiah with river-frontage stations were in an advantageous position.¹⁷ As stock was driven to these stations, he was able to buy a number of horses and 500 head of cattle at a knock-down price, laying the foundations for his future wealth.¹⁸

Josiah built a homestead for his family on the eastern bank of Bundaburra Creek, consisting originally of two small rooms.¹⁹ Being hard working and thrifty, within a few years he had been able to save a little money.²⁰



Josiah and Mary Ann Strickland

He began expanding the Bundaburra homestead, building additional rooms out of adzed local pine and bringing window panes across the Blue Mountains. Eventually the homestead became a large rambling building of many rooms and extensions, a beautiful edifice of pit-sawn hardwood, with rooms lined and ceiled with boards of Western pine. Surrounded by a lovely garden and orchard, it was the most substantial and comfortable homestead in the west.²¹

Friendly relations were established with the local Aborigines, who used to camp across the creek from the homestead, feeding on roast possum and snake, and sometimes undertaking paid work on the station.²² Themselves peaceful, they were sometimes attacked by Aboriginal tribes from the Murrumbidgee and Bogan Rivers, on which occasions the air would ring with the savage war cries of the attackers, and these fierce tribesmen would kidnap and carry off the local Aboriginal women.²³

By 1853 Josiah was in a position to buy the leases for Bundaburra and another run, Weelong, from his uncle James Collits.²⁴ These comprised 76,400 acres²⁵ and 77,200 acres,²⁶ respectively. But the quiet pastoral scene on the Lachlan was about to change.

Gold had been discovered in Kiandra in 1859, attracting miners from other goldfields in New South Wales and Victoria. When it was discovered at Lambing Flat in 1860, miners flocked there to escape the cold of Kiandra and get the first pickings.²⁷

In June 1861, Josiah's brother Pierce Strickland, together with a prospector known as 'German Harry' Stephan, discovered gold on a property adjoining Bundaburra.²⁸ When news of this find was published, the gold rush began on the Lachlan.

Bundaburra was right on the track from Lambing Flat to the new goldfield at Black Ridge, and was one of the last camping places from the field, which was about ten miles away. By this time Josiah had erected wire fences on his station, making it one of the first on the Lachlan to have them, and so hundreds of miners' horses were placed there for safety at two shillings and sixpence a head.²⁹

Thousands continued to crowd in from the Murrumbidgee, from Victoria, and even from New Zealand, and by December 1861 the population of the Lachlan goldfields was 8,000. All needed something to eat, and Bundaburra found a ready market for its meat, dairy products, and other foodstuffs.³⁰ Hundreds of

weary, way-worn travellers could testify to the hospitality of Bundaburra, and Josiah and Mary Ann were renowned for their hospitality and charitable deeds.³¹

Postal services to the diggings were initially handled by postmasters at Bundaburra, but as the population increased and the volume of mail likewise, the miners petitioned for a post office at the goldfields. Their request was granted, and the *Government Gazette* of 2 November 1861 announced that the post office at the Lachlan goldfields would be known by the name of Forbes.³²

The name naturally extended to the gold rush town that grew up around the diggings, and by June 1862 the population had reached a peak of 28,000,³³ with 235,944 ounces of gold being sent under escort to Sydney by the end of that year.³⁴

As society began to be organised and the various institutions of a populous town were springing into existence at Forbes, Josiah and Mary Ann took a leading role in many movements for the welfare and advancement of the people of this community. Both interested themselves in the building of a parsonage and a timber church at Bareenong, some twelve miles down the river from the town.³⁵

The gold rush had brought some lawlessness, and bushrangers roamed the district, sticking up stations and travellers on the road. Most spectacularly, Frank Gardiner's gang stuck up the gold escort at Eugowra, on the road from Forbes to Sydney, in June 1862.³⁶ Order had to be maintained in the new town, and on 4 September 1862, Josiah was appointed a Justice of the Peace in the colony of New South Wales.³⁷

Gold fever didn't last long, mainly because of difficulties caused by seepage from the Lachlan River flooding the mine shafts. Numbers on the goldfield declined, and by 1863 the gold rush was all but over, and the population had dwindled to 3,500.³⁸ Only 50,810 ounces of gold were sent under escort to Sydney during the first six months of that year.³⁹

The rush had lasted long enough to make Josiah a very wealthy man, and he was able to purchase the Boyd and Battery Hill runs from Henry Hamilton for £10,000.⁴⁰ He also became the owner of Bareenong, Utah, Yeera Yeera and Marajong,⁴¹ and was the owner of the first buggy ever seen in Forbes.⁴² On 25 November 1864 it was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the community was getting up a petition requesting him to become a candidate for the representation of the local constituency.⁴³

In the early months of 1865, the bushranger Ben Hall visited Josiah at Bundaburra. Though they had stuck up all the surrounding stations, neither Ben Hall nor his gang had ever robbed Bundaburra, because Hall never forgot Mary Ann's kindness to him when she had set his broken leg some years before after he had been kicked by a horse.⁴⁴ On the occasion of this visit he was hard pressed by the police, and he sought Josiah's advice. He asked him if he gave himself up could he escape being hanged. Josiah told Hall he was certain to be hanged, and advised him to flee the country.⁴⁵

A few weeks later, in May 1865, Ben Hall was shot dead by the police near a hut belonging to Josiah's nephew, John Strickland.⁴⁶ The man who was believed to have given information to the police leading to Hall's shooting was Michael Connelly, who was married to John Strickland's sister Mary.⁴⁷ Michael and Mary Connelly occupied the hut on John Strickland's property, which adjoined Bundaburra, and may have previously been harbourers of the famous bushranger.⁴⁸

New industries, sheep grazing and wheat growing, were now taking root in the Lachlan valley, and Josiah Strickland became the foundation President of the Forbes Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Association when it was formed in 1871.⁴⁹ The first Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural show was held in Forbes the following year, with a feature being Australia's first sheep dog trials.⁵⁰ In the 1874 show Josiah won numerous prizes for his stock.⁵¹

By 1874 too, as the old wooden church at Bareenong was in a bad state of disrepair, construction began of a new stone church at Forbes. Josiah, a trustee of the new church,⁵² donated the land on which it was built, gave £500 towards the building fund and, in 1876, paid for the installation of a stained glass window.⁵³ St John's Anglican Church was completed in January 1877.

Josiah also went into town virtually every day to attend to his magisterial duties, and his demeanor on the bench gained him many friends. He was a clear-headed and strictly impartial magistrate who was quick to see into the merits of a case, and his decisions were rarely cavilled at. He took a great interest in all local public matters, and his geniality, liberality, charity, hospitality and kind-heartedness won him the goodwill and esteem of all who came in contact with him. His name had long been a household word throughout the whole of the Lachlan River district.⁵⁴

St Johns Church, Forbes



By the mid-1870s Josiah had developed diabetes and was frequently laid up with his sufferings. His visits to the town of Forbes, where his face and figure were well known, and where he was one of the oldest magistrates on the Forbes bench, became less frequent.⁵⁵ In February 1880 he was taken seriously ill, and travelled to Sydney for medical treatment, but with no perceptible benefit, returned to Bundaburra. By September he was worse and was confined to his bed.⁵⁶ The hot weather tried him greatly, with bushfires raging throughout the district,⁵⁷ and on 3 January 1881 the good old squire of Bundaburra passed away, aged 67,⁵⁸ mourned by his extensive family and the entire community.

Mary Ann survived him by 38 years, dying at Bundaburra at the age of 93 on 1 October 1918,⁵⁹ having lived there for 77 years. The impressive monument to Josiah and Mary Ann may still be seen in the Forbes cemetery, and the pretty St. John's Anglican Church stands as a permanent monument to their enormous contribution to the development of the town of Forbes during and after the gold rush.




Grave Monument for Josiah and Mary Ann Strickland



Bob Wright is a lawyer and creative writer living in Sydney. He has been researching and writing about his family history for 30 years, and has contributed several articles to *Descent*. He is currently working on a novel set in colonial Australia and inspired by his family history.

1. Birth Certificate, Josiah Strickland, 28 January, 1813, No. 3368, issued by NSW RBDM on 18 February 1992.
2. Lorna Hawkins, *Our Innkeeper*, (Orange NSW, Lorna Hawkins, 1995), 64.
3. SRNSW, Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, [4/3516] Reel 6016, 384.
4. Marriage Certificate, Edward Field & Maria Strickland, 6 October 1817, No. 2102, issued by NSW RBDM on 18 March 1993.
5. James T. Ryan, *Reminiscences of Australia*, (Parramatta, Nepean Family History Society, 1982), 196.
6. Death Certificate, Maria Field, 23 September 1829, No. 1220, issued by NSW RBDM on 21 April 1993.
7. SRNSW, Colonial Secretary's Letters Received Relating to Land Matters 1826-1860, [2/7978] Reel 1186.
8. 'Cattle Stealing' *The Sydney Herald*, 28 January 1833.
9. 'In Memoriam: Josiah Strickland' *The Forbes and Parkes Gazette*, 7 January 1881.
10. Ibid.
11. SRNSW, Colonial Secretary; Letters relating to Land, 1838, [2/7984], Reel 1187.
12. Frank Clune, *Rolling Down the Lachlan*, (Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1983), 135.
13. Letter from Lorna Hawkins of Orange to Bob Wright, 10 May 1993.
14. Marriage Certificate, Josiah Strickland & Mary Ann Higgins, 26 April 1841, No. 1013, issued by NSW RBDM on 26 November 1992.
15. Colin G. Field, *Mildred Churchill & Lorraine Jones, From a Distant Field*, (Canberra, Colin G. Field, 3rd edition, 1995), 72-73.
16. Frank Clune, *Wild Colonial Boys*, (Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1982), 102-3.
17. Ibid.
18. 'In Memoriam: Josiah Strickland' *The Forbes and Parkes Gazette*, 7 January 1881.
19. Walter J. Waugh, 'The Strickland Family, of Bundaburra', (Grenfell Historical Society, May 1970), 2.
20. 'In Memoriam: Josiah Strickland' *The Forbes and Parkes Gazette*, 7 January 1881.
21. Clune, *Wild Colonial Boys*, 176.
22. 'Bundaburra, Historic Forbes Homestead. Some Early Reminiscences', *Forbes Advocate*, 12 December 1919.
23. Ibid.
24. 'The Late Mr Josiah Strickland, of Bundaburra', *Forbes Times*, 8 January 1881.
25. Pastoral Lease No. 1 Folio 80, entered in the General Registry Office, Sydney, 16 November 1868.
26. Pastoral Lease No. 1 Folio 81, entered in the General Registry Office, Sydney, 16 November 1868.
27. Clune, *Wild Colonial Boys*, 191.
28. 'Country News', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 July 1861.
29. Waugh, 5.
30. Ibid., 4.
31. 'Death of Mrs M.A. Strickland: Oldest Woman on the Lachlan', *The Forbes Times*, 4 October 1918.
32. Clune, *Wild Colonial Boys*, 252.
33. Alec H. Chisholm (ed.), *Australian Encyclopaedia*, Vol. IV, (Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1963), 151.
34. *Forbes Advocate*, 24 March 1961.
35. 'Death of Mrs M.A. Strickland: Oldest Woman on the Lachlan', *The Forbes Times*, 4 October 1918.
36. Alec Morrison, *Frank Gardiner: Bushranger to Businessman 1830 - 1904*, (QLD, Wiley, 2003), 76-8.
37. 'The Government Gazette', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 September 1862.
38. K.R. Cutler, *The Anglican Parish of St John Forbes NSW*, (Anglican Parish of St John Forbes, NSW, 1977), 9.
39. *Forbes Advocate*, 24 March 1961.
40. 'The Late Mr Josiah Strickland, of Bundaburra', *Forbes Times*, 8 January 1881.
41. 'The Stricklands: A Name that has "Made Good"', *Immigration and Land Settlement*, October 1922, 15.
42. 'Oldest Forbes Native's Death - Philip Strickland', *Forbes Advocate*, 22 May 1925.
43. 'Telegraphic Messages - Forbes' *The Sydney Herald*, 25 November 1864.
44. Clune, *Rolling Down the Lachlan*, 137-8.
45. Ibid.
46. Edgar Penzig, *Ben Hall: The Definitive Illustrated History*, (Katoomba, Tranter Enterprises, 1996), 382.
47. Ibid., 492.
48. Ibid., 493-6.
49. Waugh, 5.
50. Ibid.
51. 'Forbes P. A. and H. Association Show', *Empire*, 5 September 1874.
52. 'Government Gazette', *Empire*, 19 March 1873.
53. Terri Lawrence, *Forbes and Parkes Sketchbook*, (Sydney, Rigby, 1978), 38.
54. 'The Late Mr Josiah Strickland, of Bundaburra', *Forbes Times*, 8 January 1881.
55. Ibid.
56. 'In Memoriam: Josiah Strickland' *The Forbes and Parkes Gazette*, 7 January 1881.
57. 'Latest Intelligence - Forbes', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 January 1881.
58. Death Certificate, Josiah Strickland, 3 January 1881, No. 6872, issued by NSW RBDM on 18 February 1992.
59. Death Certificate, Mary Ann Strickland, 1 October 1918, No. 18848, issued by NSW RBDM on 25 February 1993.



In Search Of ... Gold Rushes

THE GOLD MINERS OF THE UPPER CLARENCE

by Margaret Neyle

White Rock Gold Mine, Tramway – Drake, NSW, c1895.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, File identifier PpIK4DpZlryDe

If you happen to drive from Glen Innes to Grafton along the nice sealed road, and if you are in the passenger seat, close your eyes and imagine what the passing countryside would have looked like 260 years ago when the original Glen Innes Road would pass through mining towns. Each one a bustling hive of activity with houses, pubs, schools and, of course, cemeteries. Some mines were alluvial, which were usually undertaken by single miners, frequently Chinese, others were deep shaft mining, which often done by small companies.

Today, only ruins are left, as well as snakes and leeches. Although there are still some hardy souls who go out prospecting, their stories are usually of snakes: black, brown and tiger; and leeches.

Along the original Glen Innes Road, you would pass the following:

The Timbarra fields opened up around 1853, but as it wasn't declared an official gold field for another six years, technically the mining was illegal. Once it was declared a gold field in 1859, it was extensively worked until 1886.

The Solferino and Lionsville mining areas opened up in the 1870s. This was reef mining, and many miners joined together to form companies. There was a strong Italian presence in the mining community, and some mines, like Garabaldi, had an Italian name.

Drake was the name of both the town and gold mining area which, in 1859, had a population of 4,000 people, eight banks, numerous hotels, a police station, a theatre and, of course, a cemetery.

The Lunatic reef was also in this area. This spot still retains many ruins, but be careful of snakes if you go and have a look around. There was a report of a gold find in 2024. Lunatic reef did not receive the name because prospectors lost their minds looking for gold, but rather for the property that existed before the gold was discovered. The property owner had a horse called 'Lunatic' which kept escaping but was always found in the same valley, which the locals then called Lunatic Valley. When gold was discovered, the Lunatic reef was named after the valley.

Coming down the Glen Innes Road from the mountains, you will pass through a little place called Jackadgery. On the opposite side of the road is the turn-off to Cangai. On 16 July 1873, shares in the John Bull Gold Mine were advertised. Cangai was different to the other gold fields mentioned, as it was predominantly underground mining and the leases were taken out by companies. Sometimes the company was only two men, in which case they were only allowed a small amount of land as a lease, perhaps just four or six acres; but if the company had a number of shareholders, the Mines Department granted them a

much bigger lease. Sometimes the shareholders were women, or some were grocers, as you didn't have to work the mine to be a shareholder.

One of the most productive mines was the Sir Walter Scott Reef which started off with only 10 acres. Then, the Mines Department granted another six acres, then one of the shareholders was granted an adjoining four acres, and another shareholder was also granted four acres, giving the mine a total of 24 acres by 1876.

By 1896, however, things were not going so well for gold mining in Cangai. Enquiries into malpractice at the mine meant that serious gold mining was coming to an end in Cangai.

It wasn't the end of Cangai, as copper mining soon took over, but that is a tale for another day.

The mines didn't just produce riches in gold: remember that little Italian gold mine, Garabaldi? In 1912 a miner hit a wall of rock which sounded hollow. When he broke through, he found an Aladdin's cave, filled with crystal. People came out from Grafton to see the wonder, but when World War I broke out, people quickly forgot the crystal cave. All but my late husband's great grandfather, who had been involved in the Cangai mines. After the war finished, he remembered the crystal cave and as the lease had lapsed long before, he took out a new lease on the mine. He arranged for a crystal sample to be analysed and it was found to be Icelandic Feldspar, the purest form of crystal. He brought an expert out from Germany to oversee the cutting of the crystal into slabs and it was all sent to Zeiss in Germany.

Sadly, it was used for range finders by the Germans in World War II.

So, you never know what riches may come out of a gold mine.



My ancestors came to Australia in 1802 as free settlers. On the same ship (*Perseus*) was my husband's convict ancestor. With a background like that, I was always fascinated by family history. When my husband asked me to write about his German great grandfather, who was involved in gold and copper mining in an area west of Grafton, I became interested in the community and the mining development in the area. I feel it is an area neglected by many people who have researched mining in the late 1800s and I ended up writing a book: *A Dream Called Cangai*.

THE ALLURE OF THE 79TH ELEMENT

by Ken Webber

My great grandfather, John Mobbs Pile, did what many young men in Australia did in the 1860s. He headed for the latest gold discovery in the hope of striking it rich.

John was born in Bermondsey, Surrey in 1844.¹ His father Joseph, a master mariner, was unfortunately killed in an accident on board his ship off Africa in 1848 when John was a young boy.² In 1854, his mother Eliza made the decision to take John and younger brother William to Tasmania in search of a better life. She was encouraged by her late husband's brother David Pile and sponsored by family friend George Miles of Peppermint Bay near Hobart.^{3,4} They arrived in Hobart in March 1855 on board the *Ocean Chief*, the first of the Black Ball line clippers despatched by James Bain and Co under the Bounty system.⁵

At about 20 years of age, John departed Tasmania for the mainland, finally arriving in Rockhampton in about 1865. An adventurous life ensued.

Taking after his father, he was the master of a local trading schooner plying both north and south of Rockhampton. It is reported that he was the first person to take a vessel over the bar on Burnett River at Bundaberg, delivering a load of machinery for Sam Johnston's sawmill.⁶

However, gold was being discovered in Queensland. The Canoona Rush, northwest of Rockhampton on the Fitzroy River, was one of the first in 1858 and set the scene for "gold fever". John gave away the seafaring life and was one of the first miners at the Crocodile Creek diggings in 1866.⁷ This field was proclaimed in September 1866 and was situated about 24km from Rockhampton. By Christmas of that year, the population was estimated at over 3,000. The field didn't last for very long, however, with the gold yield and population falling away after about a year.⁸

In 1867, John moved onto the Raglan diggings.⁹ This field was discovered in 1867 and was situated northwest of Gladstone in Queensland. In August that year a large nugget was found weighing 14kg. At the time there were about 300 gold diggers active on the goldfields.¹⁰

Later, in 1867 and into 1868, John and a few others set up a claim in the Gympie goldfields. The goldfield was officially proclaimed on 30 October 1867 and by early 1868 a settlement known as Nashville was established with many thousands of people.¹¹ John and his party occupied a claim next to the one where Curtis or Valentine Brigg unearthed their famous nugget in February 1868.¹² The nugget weighed about 30kg and was the largest nugget found in Queensland. The Curtis nugget and John's next door claim were in the upper Sailors gully area, roughly where Pollock and Alma Streets meet today in Gympie.¹³

It is reported that, "They themselves struck it rich and when Mr Pile rode off the field sometime later he carried away in his belt what he thought was good enough to give him a life of ease for the rest of his days."¹⁴

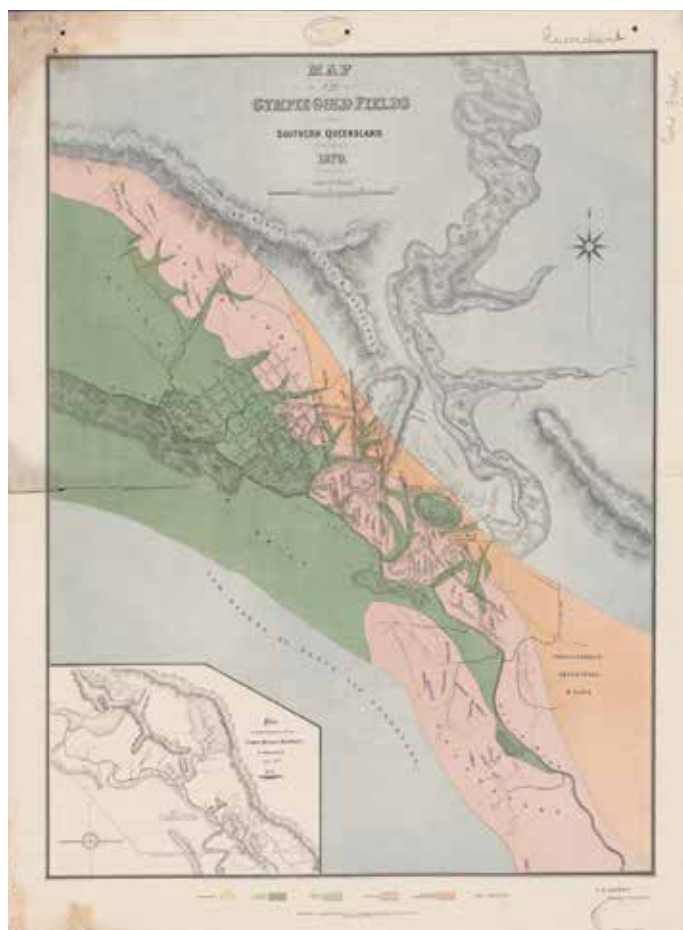
His newfound wealth was either misreported or short-lived as, in a letter he wrote to his brother William on 2 March 1870 he states:

*friends although I have had no cause to complain for I have a few friends in Rockhampton that would not see me short."*¹⁵

A few months later John got some work with the government on a steam dredge on the Fitzroy River. In 1874 he married Josephine Hollingsworth in Rockhampton,¹⁶ but the allure of gold had not gone away and in the same year he and three others headed off overland to the Palmer goldfields.¹⁷ One of his companions was possibly his father-in-law, Thompson (Tom) Hollingsworth. The Palmer River is in far north Queensland and the goldfield was proclaimed in 1873. It was a large and important goldfield that lasted approximately three years, after which gold production and the population declined.¹⁸

The trip was long, arduous and dangerous. In January 1875, John wrote to his brother from Ravenswood, North Queensland saying:

*"Dear Bill, the first part of our journey from Rockhampton to here was very bad all the creeks was up, so we had to travel sometimes for half a day at a time belly deep in waters and some of the creeks we crossed we had to almost swim the horses ... The route we came from Rockhampton to Ravenswood is 550 miles the last eleven and a half days we travelled 350 miles, some days going 30 miles a day."*¹⁹



Map of the Gympie gold fields, Southern Queensland / engraving & lithography by W. Knight ; T.R. Hackett, mining surveyor, Brisbane: Engraved & printed by the Government Engraving & Lithographic Branch, 1870. National Library of Australia

They still had 530 miles to go to get to the Palmer goldfields. After recovering from a severe fever, John wrote again to his brother from Mitchell Falls (Edwards Town) west of the Palmer in May 1875, stating:

"I would leave this place at once for this is a miserable hole we are at present on the Mitchell Falls 80 miles from the Palmer and 200 from Cooktown. We have done nothing since we [have] been here but earn our food and we have had to work hard to do that as provisions is a fearful price up here, 1/6 per pound for flour and rotten at that, 1/- a pound for beef, 2/6 a pound for sugar, 2/6 a pound for salt, 10/- a pound for tobacco, 4/6 for tea, nine pence for a small box of matches and everything else as dear in proportion". He goes on: *"It is our intention to come home, dear Bill, the Palmer is not half the place the newspapers make it out to be it is a weathered miserable place diggings all over the place. Some of them 40 and 50 and some 100 miles apart."*²⁰

It is not known if he and his party found any gold. As he was newly married, he wanted to settle down and get a reliable job. On returning from the goldfields, he first worked for the railways on the main western line and then, in 1877, he joined the Customs department in Rockhampton. An accident in the bond store in 1884 saw him lose his leg. This did not stop him, and he worked for the department until retiring in 1910. Some 33 years in total.²¹

John had eight children with Josephine between 1877 and 1893: four girls and four boys.²²

His interest in gold was still evident in later years. Although he did not go to the field himself, he purchased 100 shares in the Mount Morgan Prospecting Company in 1907.²³ Mount Morgan was a very profitable gold mine, but unfortunately the company in which John held shares went into liquidation in 1927. He didn't live to see this, however, as he died at his home in Kent Street, Rockhampton, on 26 November 1918.²⁴

John Mobbs Pile had a full and adventure-filled life chasing the 79th element, gold.

Ken Webber has been interested in his family history for over 50 years. He joined the Society in the late 1970s and in 2022 completed the SAC Certificate in Genealogical Research. He volunteers in the library each fortnight and has a keen interest in genetic genealogy having only fairly recently discovered the true identity of his paternal great grandfather using DNA research tools.

1. Ancestry.com.au, London England births and baptisms, 1813-1906.
2. Letter: from Messer's Tobin and Sons, employer confirming death of J Pile dated 12 Mar 1852, held privately.
3. Letter: from David Pile to Eliza Pile, dated 21 Oct 1854, held privately/ Ancestry: Tasmania, Australia, Immigrant lists, 1841-1884.
4. Ancestry: Tasmania, Australia, Immigrant lists, 1841-1884.
5. *The Hobart Town Daily Courier*: 27 Mar 1855, 2.
6. *Bundaberg Mail*: 29 Nov 1918, 5.
7. Ibid.
8. CQ Family History Association Inc: 1868 Post Office Directory, Crocodile Creek.
9. Wikipedia: Raglan, Queensland, History, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raglan, Queensland.
10. Wikipedia: Australian Gold Rushes, 1867-1870: Gympie and other finds in Queensland.
11. *Bundaberg Mail*: 29 Nov 1918, 5.
12. Ferguson, J. E. and Dugdale, J.S., 'The nugget from Nashville (Gympie) 1868' *Journal of Australian Mining History*, Vol 18 (October 2020), 49-64.
13. *Bundaberg Mail*: 29 Nov 1918, 5.
14. Letter: from John Pile to William Pile, dated 2 March 1870, held privately.
15. Ibid.
16. Queensland: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Marriage Certificate A58476.
17. *Brisbane Mail*: 29 Nov 1918, 5.
18. Mate, G. *Queensland Historical Atlas: histories, cultures landscapes, gold* <https://www.qhatlas.com.au/content/gold>
19. Letter: from John Pile to William Pile, dated 3 January 1875, held privately.
20. Letter: from John Pile to William Pile, dated 24 May 1875, held privately.
21. *Bundaberg Mail*: 29 Nov 1918, 5. *Morning Bulletin Rockhampton*: 8 Dec 1910, 5.
22. Queensland: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Birth Indexes 1829-1924/ *Morning Bulletin Rockhampton*: 29 Nov 1918, 7.
23. Share Certificate: dated 17 December 1907, 318, held privately.
24. Queensland: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Death Certificate 56791.

Join us for...

FAMILY HISTORY CONNECT

MEMBERS
ONLY
SERIES

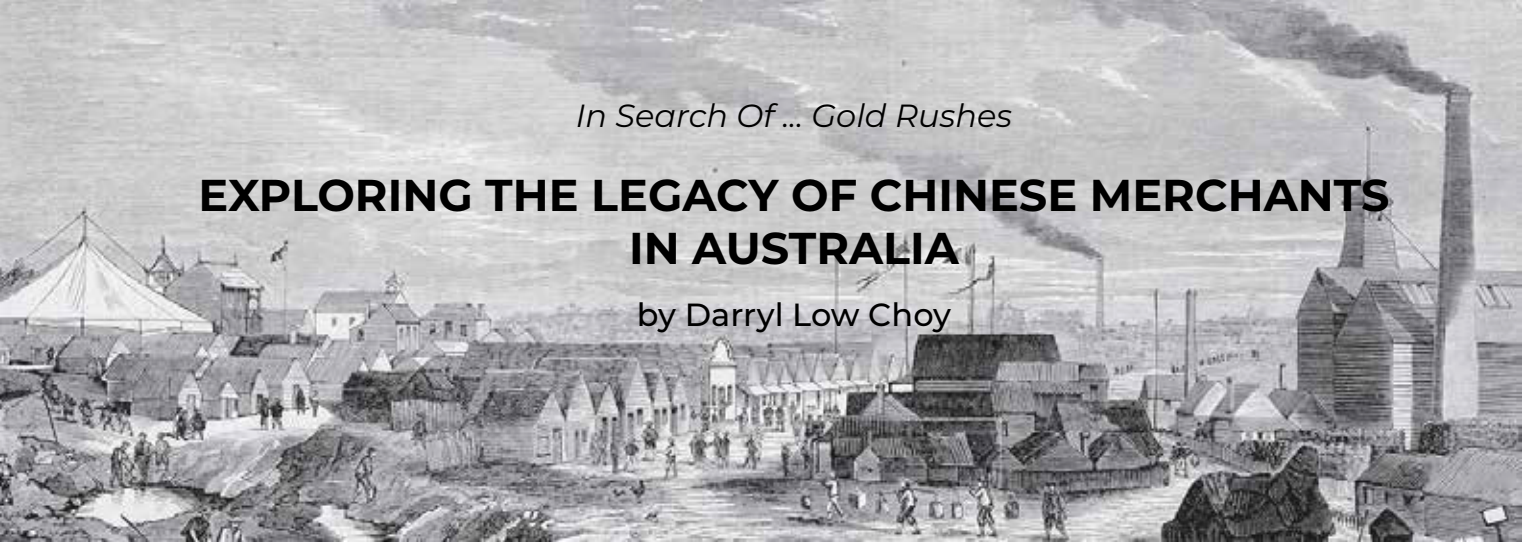
We're seeking proposals from members who would like to facilitate one of our Family History Connect sessions in 2025. Family History Connect sessions are small in-person, themed sessions, focusing on a particular area of genealogy research. Sessions are normally held on Tuesdays.

People interested in providing small consultations on specific topics in our Family History Research Centre & Library (2/379 Kent Street, Sydney) are invited to contact us to discuss. If you can only offer an online session, please do get in touch anyway to discuss.

Please email admin@sag.org.au for further information and see www.sag.org.au/FHC

EXPLORING THE LEGACY OF CHINESE MERCHANTS IN AUSTRALIA

by Darryl Low Choy



Chinese Quarter, Ballarat, Cooke, A.C. artist, Ebenezer and David Syme, Melbourne, 1868, State Library of Victoria

In the intricate tapestry of Australia's history, the contributions of Chinese merchants often go unnoticed. Along with the recent presentation at the *In Search of ... the Gold Rushes* virtual conference, this article sheds light on the sophisticated network in which they operated and the pivotal role they had in shaping both their own communities and Australian society. Darryl's presentation drew on his family history research into his merchant ancestors which has been published in a number of peer reviewed journal articles, listed at the end of this article.

Contrary to the simplistic portrayal of storekeepers on Australian goldfields, Chinese merchants were integral to a complex and well-organised network. Rather than the secretive societies often imagined, the 'tongs' were associations of native place societies aimed at community welfare. These groups helped repatriate the remains of deceased individuals back to China and engaged in philanthropic work.

For instance, a prominent merchant group, the Lin Yuk Tong, functioned much like a Chamber of Commerce, protecting the interests of merchants, and supporting various charitable activities. Their philanthropy extended well beyond their own community and into the broader Australian society. Their endeavours were central to numerous charitable activities, including substantial donations to local hospitals like Prince Albert Hospital, which cared for elderly Chinese individuals; the Tung Wah Hospital in Hong Kong, a key institution for repatriating Chinese remains; as well as raising funds for international crises such as the 1888 Yellow River flood, the 1878 Chinese famine and even the 1880 Irish Distress Relief Fund.

The merchants' commitment to philanthropy was not merely an act of charity but a strategic move to acquire social status and demonstrate leadership. Their contributions bridged cultural gaps, allowing them to relate to and influence the broader community, facilitating political activity and agency. Notably, six major Chinese merchants, including the author's ancestor, the influential Sun Kum Tiy, unsuccessfully petitioned Sir Henry Parkes and other colonial leaders at the 1888 Inter-Colonial Conference on the Chinese Question. Their goal was to address the restrictive policies on Chinese migration and residency, which eventually contributed to the formulation of the 'White Australia Policy'.

Chinese merchants operated within a highly sophisticated network. They were often the first traders at Australian goldfields, dominating trade in cities like Sydney and Melbourne. Their business models were advanced, involving complex branch operations and trading practices that set them apart from their European counterparts. Unlike many European traders who served exclusively European clients, Chinese

merchants catered to both Chinese and non-Chinese clientele. Their global trading reach and their adoption of emerging transport technologies allowed them to efficiently manage extensive networks of shops, customers, and suppliers

Their legacy is a testament to their resilience and adaptability; their ability to navigate and thrive in a foreign environment, despite facing significant racial and political challenges, speaks to their strategic acumen and perseverance. Their role in integrating into and influencing Australian society highlights the broader contributions of Chinese Australians that often remain underappreciated.

Historically, many accounts of Chinese merchants in colonial Australia paint a simplistic picture: small shopkeepers in goldfield towns with unremarkable roles. However, this portrayal is far from complete: the names found in European records frequently do not reflect the true identities of these merchants, likewise the business names displayed on their stores often masked their real names, leading to widespread misinformation. This discrepancy stems from a lack of understanding of Chinese business practices and social structures at the time.

Chinese merchant communities were not homogenous, rather, they were organized into a structured hierarchy. At the top were the wealthy and influential leading merchants, followed by other classes of merchants, and finally, a range of occupational categories including artisans and labourers etc. These merchants formed a tightly knit network, crucial in supporting both the gold miners and the broader communities they were part of. Contrary to the common perception that most Chinese immigrants were solely miners, many were involved in diverse roles that supported the goldfields' infrastructure, including agriculture, retail, accommodation and supply industries.

One of the most revealing aspects of this network is the Credit Ticket System, which was central to the economic structure for many Chinese immigrants. Merchants would advance money to labourers for their passage to Australia, binding them to work exclusively for the creditor until the debt was repaid. This system extended to various contracts where immigrants were required to work for a set period to repay their passage money. During this repayment period, they were provided with accommodation and provisions by the merchant.

This system created a self-contained economic environment where Chinese immigrants were largely independent of



Darryl Low Choy's maternal Great grandfather: Tam Gee Kee, a merchant in Cooktown / Palmer River Goldfield. Photo taken in 1909 in the gown of a ninth-grade civil official of the Qing administration – an honour often purchased by wealthy merchants of that era.

allowing the branch storekeeper to either continue sending remittances or gradually acquire a stake in the larger firm.

The history of Chinese merchants on Australian gold fields is far more complex and influential than previously understood. They were not just minor players but key figures in shaping the economic and social fabric of their time. Their contributions went beyond commerce, impacting community development, infrastructure, and international trade.

References:

Low Choy, D.C., 2019: "Lost Opportunities: The Case of a Chinese Merchant of Late Colonial Sydney", in *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, Vol 8, pp 102 – 128.

Low Choy, Darryl. "Sustaining the frontier: a Chinese merchant on the settlement frontier of colonial Far North Queensland." *History of Retailing and Consumption* 9, no. 3 (2023), 231-254. DOI: 10.1080/2373518X.2023.2295666, 24p.

Low Choy, Darryl. "Cultivating a future: Chinese at the north Queensland agricultural frontier." *Queensland History Journal* 25, no. 6 (2023), 447-463.

European infrastructure. They had their own services, including agriculture, doctors, interpreters, and well as other essential professionals.

Chinese merchants played multiple roles beyond traditional commerce. They were integral as shipping agents, labour agents, banking agents, communication facilitators, financiers, and community leaders. They managed the financial aspects of gold mining, including shipping gold dust and monies back to China through various channels, not in burial urns or hidden in remains as some myths suggest, instead utilising established remittance systems, sending gold to Hong Kong or other financial centres to support families back home and contribute to their villages' development. They also resolved disputes, hosted dignitaries, and managed the flow of resources between China and Australia. Their influence extended to liaising with local colonial governments and representing the Chinese community's interests.

As gold mining expanded into new regions, Chinese merchant firms established branch stores to meet the growing demand. A prominent firm like Sun Kum Tiy would allocate stock and capital to a relative or trusted associate in these new locations. These branch stores operated on a cash-only basis, with profits returned to the main merchant firm. As the branch store's financial obligations were met, it could become independent,



Darryl Low Choy is a member of the Society's Board of Directors as well as a qualified town planner, a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia, and a Fellow of the Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand. He has been a tertiary educator and researcher for 35 years, retiring in 2017 as Head of Planning at Griffith University. He is now Professor Emeritus (Environmental and Landscape Planning) at Griffith University. Darryl's parallel military career commenced as an Army school cadet before enlisting as a Private and rising to the rank of Major General in the Reserves. He retired in 2007 after 43 years of service. As a fifth generation Australian with Chinese and English heritage, Darryl has developed a strong interest in genealogy. His family history research for his and his wife's families has embraced research in China, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, and Australia.

Trying to tackle those difficult research problems?



SAG has a fantastic range of online, volunteer led research interest groups, bringing together members with common focus areas. Whether you're interested in a particular software package, a geographic area, genetic genealogy or writing, peruse the groups page on our website to discover what groups we have and when they meet:

www.sag.org.au/Research-and-Software-Groups

CALIFORNIA BOUND!

by Sandy Pullen

Richard Croxon was from Great Marlow, Buckinghamshire and, like his father, was a bargeman on the River Thames. After several brushes with the law for petty theft, he was transported to New South Wales. On release, Richard became one of the first Australian 49ers¹ and would have witnessed the population explosion as San Francisco transformed from the small settlement of Yerba Buena into a bustling city. He was also one of many Australians to 'mine the miners' by running a saloon and boarding house in the heart of the city.

In 1833, Richard Croxon, aged 21, was charged with stealing two black cloth coats from a shop in Newbury, England. He was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.² After three months on the hulk *Justitia* in Woolwich, Richard and 375 other male convicts departed on the *Fairlie* for New South Wales, arriving in Sydney on 15 February 1834. Richard was described as five feet one and a quarter inches tall, ruddy and pock-pitted complexion, with brown hair and brown eyes. On arrival, he was assigned to Patrick Connolly in Sydney, and remained there for his entire sentence. In 1839, Richard Croxon applied for permission to marry Mary Ann Bowman. The application was approved on the condition that Richard's assignee agreed to employ both parties, and this arrangement continued until 1840 when he earned his Certificate of Freedom.

In December 1848, newspaper articles in Australia announced the discovery of gold in California. Enterprising businessmen laid on boats to San Francisco, hoping to make money from passengers and shipping, as the need for supplies in California had been widely reported. One such businessman, Robert Towns, had set up his own private wharf at Millers Point. In January 1849, Towns began advertising in the Sydney press for passengers to San Francisco, and was loading his ship, the 480-ton barque *Eleanor Lancaster*, with bricks and other goods.

Richard and Mary Ann set about selling up their possessions. Advertised for sale in the *Sydney Morning Herald* were household furniture, horses, a gig and harness.³ The fare on the *Eleanor Lancaster* was £30 for cabin class and £10 for steerage, with a charge of five pounds per ton for freight. At the various wharves in Sydney, there were now six ships readying for California, loading rum, tobacco, building materials, clothing, and the like.⁴ The *Eleanor Lancaster* was not the first to depart, finally sailing on 21 January 1849, with 52 passengers on board, including Richard and Mary Ann in cabin class. They took on board "1 case hardware, 12 packages groceries, 2 carts, 99 cheeses, 3 casks of provisions, 1 ton of flour, 5 cwt [hundredweight] of biscuit". Towns considered some of the passengers, "even those travelling cabin class", to be the "worst rascals in Sydney", and one wonders whether he included Richard Croxon in this assessment. Of the 93 passengers in total, aboard all six ships departing, there were only six women and four children.⁵

After 71 days at sea, the California coast came into view for the passengers of the *Eleanor Lancaster*; they sailed through the Golden Gate and into San Francisco Bay, having beaten the other five ships to be the first of the vessels from Australia to arrive in San Francisco. What lay before them was a miserable collection of rough dwellings, tents and shanties, and barely seaworthy ships, with some aground lying on their sides. As with many other vessels, the crew of the *Eleanor Lancaster* deserted on arrival in San Francisco; the captain was forced to anchor at the mouth of the Sacramento River, using the ship's boats to ferry passengers and goods across the river, or upriver to the gold fields. In November 1849 it was reported that the *Eleanor Lancaster* had been 'dismasted and converted to a store'. By September 1850 there were 700 ships in the harbour. The Croxons were amongst the first of the 49ers from Australia. A total of 1,840 people emigrated from Sydney in 1849. Just one year later, it is estimated

that about 11,000 had made the journey from Australia, with the vast majority (7,500) being from Sydney.⁶

Richard ran a boarding house named Albion House, in partnership with William Ward, on Lot 198 Broadway (between Sansome and Montgomery Streets) which was in the heart of Sydney Town.⁷ Australians living in Sydney Town were known as 'Sydney Ducks', a group tagged with a reputation for gambling and criminal activities, even though many were honest and hard working.⁸ On Christmas Eve, 1849, a fire broke out in the heart of San Francisco, destroying buildings around Portsmouth Square. Further fires over the next few months destroyed vast sections of the city, but the area of Broadway where Albion House was located escaped the inferno each time. Some have suggested that the Sydney Ducks responsible for the arson only lit the fires when the wind was blowing away from Sydney Town. There were six great fires in San Francisco between December 1849 and June 1851, where between 25 and 50 percent of the city was destroyed each time, and then rebuilt.

Living in San Francisco in the 1850s was no easy task. Heavy winter rains turned the streets to mud. Poor living conditions and sanitation contributed to poor health, with dysentery rife throughout the community. Long piers were extended into the Bay area past the mud flats visible at low tide, and many of the abandoned ships tied to old piers were turned into dwellings and shops. At the same time, many cultural icons had their beginnings in this period of Californian history. Levi Strauss began making trousers from the canvas sails of deserted ships in the harbour; Isidore Boudin began the iconic Boudin sourdough bakery; and Domenico Ghirardelli sailed to California, opening a store on Broadway in 1850, and then his famous chocolate company in 1852. The 1852 *San Francisco City Directory* describes the misery of living in San Francisco in those early days.

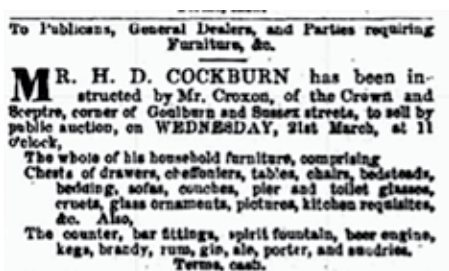
The winter of 1849-50 was one of extraordinary rain. The rains commenced on the 2nd November and continued almost daily for some time. On the night of the 6th November, it is said 12 inches fell: but this is almost incredible. The streets, however, became next to impassable. Montgomery street, from Jackson to California, was a perfect quagmire. The incidents of that winter are vividly recorded in the minds of those who then dwelt in the city. As the streets grew more and more swampy, they were paved with brushwood, and whatever rubbish and waste merchandise could be had. But layer after layer of these materials disappeared, and still the mud was unfathomable.⁹

In December 1850, the Croxons and William Ward embarked on a round trip to Sydney where they stocked up on supplies. The ship's manifest showed that they returned with 16 cases of drapery, 50 hogsheads of beer, 11 casks of glass, eight crates of earthenware, and nine bales of cord. Richard and Mary Ann were to spend another two years in a rapidly growing and changing San Francisco, before returning home to Sydney, arriving on 8 October 1853.¹⁰ The Britannia Arms on the corner of George and Goulburn Streets was offered for sale at the end of October and by early December the publican's license had been transferred to Richard Croxon.¹¹

Tragedy struck in June 1854, less than a year after their return from California, when the death of Mary Ann was ruled as a “Melancholy case of suicide” owing to an overdose of laudanum. Richard admitted he had kept a small bottle of laudanum in the bedroom, which he had brought from California. The jury returned the verdict of “Died from the effects of an overdose of opium, being ignorant of its effects”, and the Coroner’s record shows “accidental poisoning”.^{12 13} Mary Ann was buried at Camperdown Cemetery.

On 12 April 1855, Richard married Ellen Elizabeth Shepherd in St Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney.¹⁴ Ellen was the eldest daughter of William Shepherd, of Chippendale, and she was 19 at the time of the marriage. Richard was 44. He continued as the publican of the Britannia Arms until mid-1856, when he abandoned the premises and his license was revoked.^{15 16}

Richard and Ellen had three daughters, with the eldest, Ann Elizabeth, born in Goulburn in 1857. The second daughter, Emma Shepherd Croxon, was born in Sydney in 1859 where Richard was the licensee of the Crown and Sceptre.¹⁷ The youngest daughter, Eliza, was born near Bathurst in 1865. Both Emma and Eliza died as infants, with Emma’s cause of death noted as “marasmus”, a form of severe malnutrition. Emma was buried in the grave of Richard’s first wife, Mary Ann Bowman, in Camperdown Cemetery



on 29 August 1861. Their lives were punctuated by obtaining and relinquishing licensed premises, and the selling of all their possessions as they prepared to move on.¹⁸

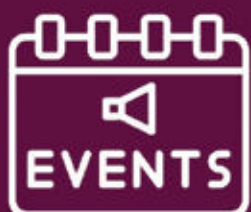
The Melbourne General Cemetery in North Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria, contains the gravestone of Ellen Croxon, wife of Richard Croxon, who died on 7 September 1869. However, the circumstances of her move to Melbourne remain a mystery. Richard Croxon died on 9 January 1872, at the age of 60, and he was buried in Camperdown Cemetery next to the grave of his first wife, and daughter.¹⁹



Sandy Pullen was born and raised in Western Australia. She has spent many years researching her family history, beginning when helping to organise a family reunion in 1995. Sandy has completed the University of Tasmania Diploma of Family History, the SAG Certificate in Genealogical Research, and has recently completed the SAG Diploma in Family Historical Studies, exploring the lives of three Croxon brothers in her thesis. Sandy is one of the leads in the AI & IT Special Interest Group.

1. Bateson, Charles. *Gold Fleet for California : Forty-niners from Australia and New Zealand* (Sydney: Ure Smith, 1964).
2. *Berkshire Chronicle* (UK), 25 May 1833, 1.
3. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 11 January 1849, 2.
4. Johnston, Clinton. *Dockside: Sydney's Working Harbour 1840-1875* (Sydney: State Library of NSW). https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2008/dockside/docs/dockside_guide_web.pdf.
5. *Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* (NSW), 27 January 1849, 24.
6. Monaghan, James. *Australians and the Gold Rush: California and Down Under, 1849-1854*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966).
7. Kimball, Charles. *The San Francisco City Directory* (San Francisco: Journal of Commerce Press, 1850).
8. Ricards, Sherman L., and Blackburn, George M. 'The Sydney Ducks: A Demographic Analysis', *Pacific Historical Review* 42, no. 1 (1973): 20-31.
9. Parker, James M. *The San Francisco City Directory* (San Francisco: James M. Parker, 1852).
10. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 31 October 1853, 5.
11. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 7 December 1853, 4.
12. *Empire* (Sydney, NSW), 12 June 1854, 2.
13. *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* (NSW), 17 June 1854, 4.
14. *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* (NSW), 14 April 1855, 3.
15. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 8 May 1856, 5.
16. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 8 April 1856, 2.
17. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 7 September 1859, 5.
18. *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 19 March 1860, 7.
19. Society of Australian Genealogists, Camperdown Cemetery — burial butts: Dec. 1867-Mar. 1901.

Free SAG Events



SAG offers a range of free events for members. Our 'Friday Hangouts' remain a popular fixture, and on the last Monday of each month we present 'Let's Talk About...' featuring a panel of speakers discussing a specific topic. Additionally, we run a variety of 'Meet the Author' and 'Book Club' sessions throughout the year.

FEEDING THE GOLDFIELDS

How a currency lad became Australia's first millionaire

by Carolyn Ball

When Victoria's population began increasing as a result of the 1850s goldrush, one young currency lad, with help from his brothers, used his initiative to feed the expanding population. James Tyson's entrepreneurial skills created wealth to comfortably establish himself and his family for generations to follow.

James and his elder brothers William and Charles, younger brothers John and Peter, and their six sisters were born in Campbelltown to William and Isabella (nee Coulston) Tyson, from Newcastle, Northumberland, England.¹ Isabella was transported in February 1809 after receiving a seven-year sentence for theft; husband, William and son, William, accompanied her on the *Indispensible*.² A government land grant from Governor Lachlan Macquarie enabled the Tysons to establish themselves as farmers at Minto-Campbelltown in 1812, before moving to East Bargo.³ William senior's death in mid-January 1827 prompted Isabella's marriage to Thomas Clements in 1829.⁴ Second-born Tyson son, Charles, died in 1834, aged 21 years.⁵

During their youth the Tyson boys were contracted by neighbours, including Major Thomas Mitchell and John Buckland, to drive cattle to Victoria's north-eastern border. In 1846, older brothers William and James ventured to back-country NSW, intent on taking up land and forming stations including *Corrong*, *Deniliquin*, *Conamble*, and *Tarwong* along the Lachlan River's northern bank.⁶

Five years later gold discoveries attracted rising populations to Victoria, enticing James Tyson to commence cattle-droving to Bendigo and, in partnership with brother William, establish a wholesale and retail butchering business in 1851. The Tyson brothers' butchering venture proved profitable, enabling their pastoral business re-entry in 1855, via purchase of NSW stations including *Tupra*, *Bringhurst*, *Mannor* and *Goondibline*, as well as Gippsland's 14,000-acre *Heyfield Estate*, several Queensland properties in the Darling Downs and Warrego districts, and further north including *Felton Estate*, *Meteor Downs*, *Carnarvon*, *Baliolara*, *Glenormiston*, and *Tinnenboora*.^{7 8}

Although James Tyson never married, his accumulating pastoral properties provided work for his siblings and their families. His younger brother, John, died in 1860 in Deniliquin, leaving no children to take up land. However, James' nephews, sons from older brother William's first marriage to Margaret Cantillon, William T., James and Charles Tyson, settled and raised families around Hay. From 1862, William senior and his second wife, Emma Lacey, resided with their children at *Geramy Station*, Oxley, near Hay. William died in May 1875 at *Gordon Sheet Station*, near Cunnamulla, Warrego, Queensland, after leaving *Geramy Station* in November 1874 with a large mob of breeding cattle for his new station, an out-station of his brother James' *Tinnenboora Station*.⁹

James Tyson's youngest brother, Peter, married Margaret (nee Shiel) in early April 1852.¹⁰ Margaret was a currency lass, one of 11 children born to convict Dennis Shiel and free settler Mary Bradbury. She relocated from Appin, joining her husband on the Hay Plains in NSW, where she gave birth to ten children between early January 1854 and 1870. Her mother's convict father, William Bradbury, was transported on the *Guildford* with her father, Dennis Shiel.¹¹ Peter and Margaret's eldest daughters were baptised on 5 December 1855 at 'Tysons, Lower Darling' [sic] by the Reverend Edward Synge, a Church of England minister providing religious ordinance to remote residents along the Lachlan River, as part of his 2000-mile horseback 'tour of inquiry'.^{12 13 14 15} Sadly, two infants died in 1860 and 1862, then one nine-year-old twin daughter in 1864, before Margaret's death aged 45 in early September 1877 at Corrong Station, Hay.^{16 17 18 19}

With four children aged seven to 14 years in his care, widowed Peter Tyson married hotel housekeeper Blakely Crawford (nee Robson) in Hay in December 1878.²⁰ Unfortunately, 53-year-old Peter died in St Kilda, Victoria, in late-March 1879, and was buried in a family vault in St Kilda Cemetery, which also commemorates his first wife, Margaret, and their children.²¹ Peter's ability to shine when difficulties surmounted was well-known, as were his distinguishing characteristics of self-reliance, and fairness in well-paying his employees.²² Probate was granted to executors, brother, James Tyson, of *Juanbung*, and James Tyson, the younger, of *Tupra Station*.²³

James Tyson's younger sister, Barbara, married William Diogenes Herring in 1838 in Campbelltown.²⁴ Following the birth of three daughters and the death of one between 1839 and 1842, they journeyed to the Hay Plains, where their fourth daughter was born at *Tupra Station* in November 1845. Births in September 1847 and July 1849 in Queanbeyan, infant deaths in Campbelltown in January 1851 and Queanbeyan in February 1851, a birth in Campbelltown in July 1852, before their youngest daughter's birth in mid-December 1857 at *Brackenbuttal*, *Tupra Station*, highlight travel between Hay and Campbelltown during this period. *Brackenbuttal* was one of two additional blocks James Tyson added to his *Tarwong* and *Germany* holding in 1855.²⁵ It is thought that their youngest child was named Barbara Amelia after her mother, Barbara (nee Tyson) Herring, who died during childbirth; however, thorough searches fail to locate either a death registration or burial for Barbara Herring. Likewise, no death registration or burial confirms 13-year-old daughter Mary Ann's death in 1858 at *Brackenbuttal*, *Tupra Station*.

The fourth Herring daughter, Frances, married John Tyson Doneley (son of older Tyson sister, Isabella) on New Year's Day 1868 at Hay.²⁶ Known as Tyson, he left Sydney foundry work for country life, driving bullocks for his Uncle James from *Bogan* to *Juanbung Station*, Hay. He became his uncle's first stockman, overseer on *Tarwong*, and manager at Mt Russell and *Wynbra Stations* in Queensland. From 1882 Tyson independently acquired *Brookstead Station*, Pittsworth, and Goondiwindi pastoral properties including *Tandawanna* and *Tallwood* runs, then *Devon Park*, Oakey, and Tyson Manor, Toowoomba in 1902, (Downlands College from 1930).²⁷ Frances died in August 1892 at *Brookstead Station*, followed by their 16-month-old son, Felton Tallwood Doneley in late October 1892.^{28 29} Tyson Doneley next married Mary Walter in November 1893, adding four children to his family before his death in August 1915 at *Tyson Manor*, Toowoomba.^{30 31}

Eliza, the seventh Herring daughter, married John Magill, James Tyson's employee, in 1872 at Albury. Youngest daughter Barbara Amelia Herring married David Hill in 1877 at Balranald.^{32 33} After John's death in 1891, from suspected blood poisoning caused by handling rabbit poison, Eliza married James Hill, (brother of Barbara's first husband, David), at Hay in 1896.^{34 35} After David Hill died in 1893, Barbara wed John Zymack in 1895 at Oxley; both were esteemed local residents.³⁶ The sisters relocated to Sydney before their deaths in the early 1920s, impacting Herring family's strong links with the Hay Plains district.^{37 38}

Before 1893's financial crisis, the total wealth of the last surviving Tyson brother, James, was estimated at £9 million, earning him regard as Australia's first self-made millionaire, an incredible

achievement for a reserved bachelor who disliked publicity and was renowned as parsimonious in personal expenditure but capable of generous public expenditure.³⁹ James notably offered Queensland's government a loan during the 1890s depression, and became a non-prominent member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly in 1893.⁴⁰

James Tyson died intestate in early December 1898 at *Felton Station*, Darling Downs, Queensland.⁴¹ Surviving relatives entitled to share his estate included children of his late brother, William: James Tyson, Hay grazier; Mary Scanlon, Bendigo, widow; and Peter Tyson, *Corrong*, Hay, grazier; children of his late sister, Barbara Herring: Susan Tyson, Hay, widow; Eliza Hill, Hay, married woman; Barbara Ziymack, *Tupra*, married woman, Hay; and children of his late brother, Peter: Emily Woods, Fitzroy, married woman; Alice Tyson, *Evensey Station*, Hay, married woman; Susan A. Matthews, *Beaumont*, Yea, married woman; Walter Tyson, *Evensey Station*, Hay, grazier; Albert P. E. Tyson, Yea, grazier; and Arthur C. D. Tyson, Yea, grazier.⁴²

In February 1901, key pastoral properties, totalling 364,812 acres freehold and leasehold including 43,000 sheep, 600 cattle, and 77 horses, from James Tyson's estate including *Tupra Station*, Hay and *Juanbung*, near Oxley on the Lachlan River were sold at Melbourne auction for an undisclosed cash amount to Mr A. T. Creswick, who also bought an adjoining property, *Duckshot*.⁴³ A previous auction in November 1900 received no offers for *Tupra*, with *Juanbung* passed in at £40,000, *Duckshot* £19,000, and *Central Tupra* £35,000.⁴⁴

Despite convict links, growing up in Minto-Campbelltown appears to have instilled Tyson family members and descendants with resilience and canny business skills. Fortitude enabled the Tyson brothers to extend skills learnt in their early years on the land and apply them to meet essential needs of the Victorian goldfield's

population by supplying them with fresh meat. Success in their Victorian goldfields venture provided a foundation for significant contributions to Australia's development, continuing through future generations, ensuring the Tyson name has left its mark, not only firmly on the Hay Plains district, but also up and down eastern Australia throughout NSW, Queensland and Victoria.



A SAG Certificate and Diploma holder, Carolyn's enthusiasm for family history and genealogy spans over forty years. Blessed to grow up with four grandparents and a great uncle and aunt who were all avid storytellers from days of old, family gatherings were always a place of learning about places and people when the yarns started flowing. Curious to know more about these people and places from long ago, Carolyn spent many years following up with the research to verify these stories, whilst undertaking professional work far away from her family. Her interest helped maintain a connection to those dear to her, as well as creating a solid understanding of her own unique background, and providing an incentive for national and overseas travel. These days, the research undertaken provides an excellent well to draw upon for writing short stories and articles, as a means of sharing the discoveries and insights with family members and other interested people.
Contact: E: kulkynegrrl@hotmail.com M: 0407 888 071

1. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Baptism Transcription of Peter Tyson (1825 No. 10424).
2. Convicts Index, 1791-1873, 4/4423; Reel 601; No. 102/3726. Isabella Tyson.
<https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/permalink/f/1ebnd1/INDEX348766>
3. New South Wales, Australia, Register of Land Grants and Leases, 1792-1867, William Tyson, 1812.
4. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Isabella Tyson and Thomas Clements (1829 No. 4593).
5. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Charles Tyson (1834 No. 2132).
6. C MacAlister, *Old Pioneering Days in the Sunny South*, Goulburn: Chas MacAlister Book Publication Committee, 1907, pp239-30.
7. C MacAlister, pp239-30.
8. J Drake, *The Wild West in Australia and America*, Boolarong Press, Australia, 2012, p117.
9. 'STOCK MOVEMENTS', *Wagga Wagga Advertiser and Riverine Reporter* (Wagga Wagga, NSW), 11 Nov 1874, p3.
10. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Margaret Shiel and Peter Tyson (1852 No. 460).
11. Convicts Index, 1791-1873, 4/4427, Reel 601, p416, Dennis Shield.
<https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/permalink/f/1ebnd1/INDEX334297>
12. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Baptism Transcription of Emily Isabella Tyson (1855 No. 349).
13. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Baptism Transcription of Harriet Tyson (1855 No. 351).
14. 'THE CHURCH SOCIETY, PROVISIONAL REPORT', *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW), 17 Apr 1856, p3.
15. E Symonds, *The Story of the Australian Church*, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, 1898.
16. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Henry Francis Tyson (1860 No. 3114).
17. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Sarah Louisa Tyson (1862 No. 2322).
18. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Harriet Mary Tyson (1864 No. 2719).
19. St Kilda Cemetery, St Kilda, Port Phillip City, Victoria, Australia, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180923083/margaret_ann-tyson
20. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Peter Tyson and Blakely Crawford (1878 No. 3426).
21. Victoria Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Peter Tyson (1879 No. 3175).
22. 'THE LATE PETER TYSON', *Kyneton Guardian* (Vic), 9 Apr 1879, p3.
23. 'ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION', *New South Wales Government Gazette*, (Sydney, NSW), 1 Apr 1879, p1498.
24. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Barbara Tyson and William Diogenes Herring (1838 No. 1865).
25. J Drake, p117.
26. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Frances Herring and John Tyson Doneley (1868 No. 1574).
27. 'LATE MR J T DONELEY', *Darling Downs Gazette*, (QLD), 28 Aug 1915, pp8-9.
28. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Frances [nee Herring] Doneley (1892 No. 1147).
29. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Felton Tallwood Doneley (1892 No. 25456).
30. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of John Tyson Doneley and Mary Helena Walter (1893 No. 16530).
31. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of John Tyson Doneley (1915 No. 3783).
32. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Barbara Herring and David Hill (1877 No. 2068).
33. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Eliza Herring and John Magill (1872 No. 1393).
34. 'Death Notice', *Riverine Grazier* (Hay, NSW), 30 Oct 1891, p1.
35. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Transcription of Eliza [nee Herring] Magill and James Hill (1896 No. 1189).
36. 'Oxley', *Riverine Grazier*, (Hay, NSW), 21 Jun 1895, p3.
37. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Eliza [nee Herring] Hill (1920 No. 5678).
38. New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of Barbara Ziymack (1922 No. 7351).
39. Obituary, James Tyson (1819-1898), <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/tyson-james-985>
40. Wikipedia, James Tyson, <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=396552024>
41. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Transcription of James Tyson (1898 No. 1257).
42. 'THE TYSON ESTATE', *Barrier Miner*, (Broken Hill, NSW), 19 Apr 1900, p3.
43. 'THE LATE MR JAMES TYSON'S STATION', *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* (NSW), 7 Feb 1901, p4.
44. 'LATE JAMES TYSON'S ESTATE', *Wagga Wagga Express* (NSW), 8 Nov 1900, p2.

The gold rush attracted thousands of people to Victoria and Thomas was one of 64,000 people who arrived in 1854.¹⁶ That is over 1,000 people a week¹⁷ swarming into Victoria, all needing housing, food, clothing – and Thomas and his friend Alfred Child seized this business opportunity. In 1855, Thomas and Alf formed a partnership as storekeepers.¹⁸ Thomas wisely calculated that he would make more money selling goods to gold miners than being one. By 1858, Pengilley and Child owned and paid rates on a two-roomed property in Latrobe Terrace, Geelong.¹⁹ This is in the centre of Geelong and an excellent site for a shop. As well as this successful business in Geelong they also had businesses on the gold fields at Morrisons and Steiglitz. Later, Thomas went his own way as a hotelkeeper at Sebastopol, near Ballarat.

In 1858, while still in Geelong, he met and subsequently married Mary Ann Shipley, an English lass from Nottingham who migrated with her family to Adelaide. There are no details on how they met, except that while he was courting Mary Ann, Thomas wrote from Geelong to her at her home in Adelaide.

In February 1859, 18 months after their marriage, Thomas and Mary Ann (Polly) had a daughter Mary Ellen, who sadly died in October. Thomas and Polly went on to have another six children – and 20 grandchildren.

Their last child, Laura Adelaide, was born in Sebastopol in 1873. By 1875 Thomas and Polly were licensees at the Royal Mail Hotel, Birregurra,²⁰ but in March on the following year, Laura Adelaide died.²¹

It is widely believed in the family that Laura's death pushed Thomas over the edge. He had lost both parents before he was six, his brother George when he was only 21, and his first-born daughter as a baby.

His obituary in the *Geelong Advertiser* of 5 February 1880 says that Thomas "... has for more than two years shown symptoms of insanity." And as a consequence, "... the licence for the hotel had to be taken out in his wife's name."

It is clear he was drinking too much and at one stage had acted "... in an unfriendly manner towards Mrs Pengilley." As a result, he was placed in a cell in Geelong Gaol where he hanged himself.²² He died 3 February 1880.²³

From his diary of 1852, Thomas appeared to be an affable, happy and content 20-year-old. He enjoyed standing on deck watching the sea life, squiring various ladies around the deck for an hour in the evening, playing chess and dancing, but the final loss led to a fatal despair.

He was 47 years old.



Carolyn was born in Tasmania but raised in Western Australia. Her ancestors migrated from Britain in the days of sailing ships, and building on her parents' research using internet resources has uncovered a bigamist, a traitor and several publicans. She has completed the University of Tasmania Diploma of Family History to better equip herself, particularly with convict records. Using DNA has both confirmed her documented family tree and found new branches for it. This year she wrote the stories of her 22 migrant ancestors and published them on her blog fromoaktogumtree.wordpress.com

- Pengilley, Thomas. *T. Pengilley's logbook*. (1852). Transcribed by Laura A. Pengilley (n.d) Copy held by CJ Eddington, Perth, Australia.
- Pengilley, T, transcript, 8
- Bill Lindsey (2024), *Bottle finishes and closures* <https://sha.org/bottle/closures.htm#Canning%20Jars> [accessed 7 Jun 2024]
- The *Syria* was rated to carry 137 passengers but only had 72 on board – so it sounds like a fairly comfortable trip.
- Baptism of Thomas Pengailley, baptised on 15 July 1832, Sunninghill Berkshire, in Berkshire Baptism 1813-1836, Bishop's transcripts, Berkshire Archives, (index only; no image currently available), Findmypast, [accessed 19 May 2023.]
- Jon Stobart, (2013) *The Shopping Streets of Provincial England, 1650-1840*, <https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/618492/3/2%20Stobart%20Chapter%20final%202013%20%281%29.pdf> [accessed 1 Mar 2024]
- Shannon Selin, (2021) *Imagining the bounds of history, How did people shop in the early 1800s?* <https://shannonselein.com/2021/12/how-did-people-shop-early-1800s/> [accessed 1 Mar 2024]
- A. Hann (2005), 'Industrialisation and the Service Economy' in J. Stobart and N. Raven (eds) *Towns, Regions and Industries. Urban and Industrial Change in the Midlands, c. 1700-1840* (Manchester: Manchester U.P.), pp. 51-2, 61; D. Alexander (1970), *Retailing in England during the Industrial Revolution* (London: The Athlone Press) pp. 90-7.
- Photograph of The Duke, Sunninghill, Berkshire, 2022, digital image taken by CJ Eddington, Perth, Australia.
- BK ... this and that. *A potted history of Sunninghill*. <https://bkthisandthat.org.uk/potted-history-of-sunninghill-and-ascot/#turnpikes> [accessed 22 May 2023]
- Public Record Office: Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923 Series: VPRS 7666; Series Title: Inward Overseas Passenger Lists (British Ports) [Microfiche Copy of VPRS 947] Ancestry, *Syria* passenger list, departing Gravesend 25 Aug 1852.
- Census record for Thomas Pengilley, age 18, Middlesex, Westminster, St. James, Golden Square, 1851 England and Wales census, The National Archives (UK), HO107/114/1485/399/45/20, in UK Census Collection, Ancestry.co.uk, [accessed 20 May 2023].
- Census record for George Pengilley age 20, Sunninghill, Berkshire, 1851 England and Wales census, The National Archives (UK), HO107/100/1695/52/21, in UK Census Collection, Ancestry.co.uk, [accessed 20 May 2023].
- 'Great exhibition of 1851', Historic UK website, n.d., <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Great-Exhibition-of-1851/> [accessed 20 May 2023].
- Eureka! The rush for Gold. Discover Collections. https://web.archive.org/web/20140127025147/http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/gold/index.html State Library of New South Wales 2011. [online accessed 25 March 2022].
- Historical Population <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/historical-population/latest-release> 2019. Excel spreadsheet [accessed 25 Mar 2022].
- By 1860 the Victoria gold rush was over with only 1,000 arrivals for the year.
- 'Suicide in the gaol', *Geelong Advertiser*, 5 Feb 1880, p3. Photocopy held by CJ Eddington.
- Pengilley, Laura. *Time table* – 1858. n.d. A dated list of events 1770-1880 for the Cullen/Pengilley families. [Copy held by CJ Eddington, Perth, Australia].
- Pengilley, L. *Time table* – 1875.
- Pengilley, L. *Time table* – 1876.
- 'Suicide in the gaol', *Geelong Advertiser*, 6 Feb 1880, p3, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/150413981?searchTerm=pengilley> [accessed 20 May 2023].
- Death certificate of Thomas Pengilly, 3 Feb 1880, The Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, original held by CJ Eddington Perth, Australia.

Wages Paid to Orphans

Collections on Tour 2024

To celebrate National Family History Month in August, representatives from the State Archives Collection travelled to Bathurst, Yass, Goulburn and the Central Coast to share stories about some of the 4,100 young Irish women who came to Australia between 1848 and 1850 as part of Earl Grey's Famine Orphan Scheme. Recruited from workhouses in Ireland, these women became an integral part of the workforce in their adopted country.

On display was our NRS-5274 Wages paid to orphans (1849–1851) and our NRS-5276 Orphan account book (1850–1854), two key sources in researching the stories of many Irish girls and women who arrived in NSW under the scheme.

The program was greeted with exceptional enthusiasm from these regional areas, with sessions booked out weeks in advance. We were overwhelmed by the warmth and passion of the attendees, many of whom were the direct descents of these women, as they explored the display and learned more about how these women impacted their local communities.

Wages Paid to Orphans Index

Museums of History New South Wales recently partnered with Ancestry to index and digitise key 19th century immigration records held in the NSW State Archives Collection, including our series NRS-5274 Wages paid to orphans and NRS-5276 Orphan account book.

Information in these records include the name of the orphan, ship of arrival, amount due to orphan from master or employer, amount paid by master or employer into orphan's account, and amount withdrawn from account and paid to orphan.

Search our Wages paid to orphans index (<https://mhnsw.au/indexes/child-care-and-protection/wages-paid-to-orphans/>) to find and access the digitised records online.



A Passion for Postcards: The Postcard Collection of Miss Vera Bell

Caroline Simpson Library exhibition, 16 July – 25 October 2024

The first decade of the 20th century was the golden age of the postcard. Mass-produced and widely available, postcards became a quick and inexpensive means of informal communication between family members and friends – the 'text message' of their time. With postal deliveries made up to three times daily, a postcard could be sent in the morning to arrange plans for later the same day.

Postcards featured an almost infinite array of subjects: celebrities, holiday destinations, transport innovations, significant events, even small regional towns. With so many postcards in circulation, collecting became a popular and affordable hobby. Postcard albums were produced by a variety of retailers, and friends competed to acquire the largest collection.

Today, these collections present us with a snapshot of an era, as well as a window into the personal lives of those whose correspondence they capture – their interests, tastes, travels, and sense of humour. The postcards on display are a selection from the more than 1,000 collected by Miss Vera Bell of Marrickville when she was in her teens and early twenties.

Find out more at <https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/exhibitions/passion-for-postcards-collection-miss-vera-bell/>



Electricity Commission photographs

The digitised images in this State Archives Collection series (NRS-20347) include black-and-white photographs as well as colour negatives and transparencies produced by the Electricity Commission of NSW from 1950 to 1994.

The images were created to record the power generation and transmission assets of the organisation and to document the working conditions and social events of its employees. Each image is part of a project or group.

Because the images often include employees, they may be of interest to the families of people who were employed by the Electricity Commission during the period. The series can also be useful for local history research, as the images often capture areas of towns that were not usually photographed for tourism purposes or as part of family occasions.



Archives for Everyone

Small Debts Registers

This year Museums of History New South Wales has partnered with 14 local historical and community groups to digitise and index Small Debts registers held in the State Archives Collection.

These registers were created by NSW Courts of Petty Sessions throughout NSW. From 1846, these courts had the authority to recover debts up to the value of £10. A variety of debts could be recovered through these courts including those relating to goods sold, lodging, wages due, money lent, and assault or injury to the person.

The DigiVol platform (<https://volunteer.ala.org.au>) is being used to index the volumes using images created internally or by the volunteer societies themselves who are digitising on site at the Western Sydney Records Centre.

To date the project has seen over 150 volumes imaged and uploaded to DigiVol. Over the coming months, as volumes are completed the index data and digital images, will be progressively added to the Small Debts Register index on the MHNSW website at <https://mhnsw.au/indexes/courts-lower/small-debts-registers-index/>

While this is a pilot project, it is hoped this model could be replicated in the future for other record sets within the State Archives Collection. Learn more about the Archives for Everyone project:

<https://mhnsw.au/news/community-partnership-indexing-digitisation-projects>

Webinar program

Oyster culture leases files

The abundance of wild oysters on Australia's coasts sharply declined in the 19th century with their popularity as a food item and a source of the lime used in cement.

The government started to encourage oyster fisheries from 1868 and later introduced oyster leases. This webinar focuses on our series of NRS-1302 Oyster cultures leases files, which tell the stories of the people who held these leases between 1920 and 1978. Watch the recording at:

<https://mhnsw.au/webinars/oyster-culture-leases-files/>

Upcoming webinars

Register on our website for our upcoming webinars: <https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/?tag=Webinar>

- 27 September Tracing NSW Goal Inmates: Researching criminal offenders in the State Archives Collection
- 25 October Raising the Farmer: Glass negatives taken for the Agricultural Gazette of NSW, 1890-1914
- 22 November The records of Liverpool Asylum

Missed one of our webinars?

Watch the recordings of our recent webinars:

Public Works photographs: an unsung treasure

<https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/events/webinar-public-works-photographs-an-unsung-treasure/>

Norfolk Island <https://mhnsw.au/webinars/norfolk-island/>

or search our many webinars for a topic that interests you via our Subject A-Z.

<https://mhnsw.au/archive/subjects/?filter=webinars>

Subscribe online to Collection eNews

Join our mailing list to be the first to find out about our latest news, exhibitions, events and special offers.

To stay up to date with the NSW State Archives Collection, Caroline Simpson Library Collection and Museums Collection at Museums of History NSW simply select Collections as one of the options you'd like to hear about.

<https://pages.wordfly.com/sydneylivingmuseums/pages/Subscribe/>



OUR SAG COMMUNITY



Launch of Our Family Cookbook

by Danielle Tebb



On Friday, 7 June we held the launch of the long-awaited SAG Family Cookbook at our Library and Research Centre, 2/379 Kent Street. The idea for the cookbook emerged from a regular Friday Hang Out back in July 2022, with a member call-out for contributions the following month. The original project lead was Lee McKerracher, who also presented at the event; while time and other commitments forced her to take a step back, we certainly appreciate the enthusiasm and knowledge she brought to the project.

Our then Archives Manager, Alexandra Mountain, took over as project lead.

Although the initial plan was for the

cookbook to form part of our 90th Birthday celebrations, numerous set-backs and hold-ups, not to mention a complete overhaul of the project, meant that time-frame was not possible. The book was finally completed at the end of May, coinciding with the departure of Alex, the project lead. Seven contributors were able to join SAG staff: Library Manager Gemma Beswick, Education Manager Vanessa Cassin, Archives Manager Alexandra Mountain, Administration Manager Jess Page and myself for a relaxed morning, reminiscing about our family recipes and the memories they bring to mind, with special thanks to Christine Woodlands for driving and maintaining the flow of conversation.

Our Family Cookbook is available through our Bookshop for \$40 + p/h.



*Back row: Gemma Beswick, Christine Woodlands, Cathy Shashkof, Suzette Poole, Alex Mountain, Dianne Switzer
Front row: Megan Nielson, Anne Cutler, Marilyn Tebb, Janet Cooksey.*

We congratulate the following members of the Society who completed the Certificate of Genealogical Studies in August 2024:

Lesley Ashcroft, SA
Barbara Bagot, NSW
Kylie Baker, NSW
Melyssa Belladonna, WA
Susan Brown, NSW
Lisa Burke, QLD
Helen Collins, SA
Patrice Connelly, QLD
Carrie Coogan, WA
Fleur Creed, QLD
Alan Crooks, NSW
Caroline Dennis, SA
Ilene Dyer, VIC
Leonora Elliott, SA
Janet Houtzaager, NSW
Deborah Jolley, VIC
Dennis Lanham, TAS
Brendan Lea, CANADA
Deborah Mary Martin, NSW
Coleen McCray, QLD
Evelia Ysabel Medina-Taylor, NSW
Rebecca Murray, ACT
Lisa Rosenberg, WA
Joanne Schmuch, NSW
Rory Browne McDonald Steele, NSW
Carolyn Taylor, WA
Zoë Taylor, NSW
Thomas Wodzinski, ACT

If you would like to enrol in our February 2025 or August 2025 intake for the Certificate of Genealogical Research, or if you want to find out more about our other online and in-person courses, visit:
sag.org.au/StudyOnlineWithUs

Deaths

The following deaths of members and former members were notified to the Society between May 2024 and July 2024.

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of them all.

Alan Day, FSAG
Ashfield, formerly Lindfield
27 June 2024

Susan Elizabeth Harrison
Maianbar
31 August 2023

Anthony Peter Joseph*
Birmingham, UK
16 July 2024

Kevin Arthur Long
Seaforth
8 May 2024

*Anthony joined the SAG back in 1964, taking out a life membership and maintaining a strong interest in our activities over the years, often sending in comments and queries on articles he had read in *Descent*. He was enthusiastic when contacted to contribute a short piece for our anniversary issue in June 2022.



Obituary

Alan Arthur Day (Fellow)

28 December 1930–27 June 2024

When a group of Society members gathered at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 4 July to farewell SAG Fellow and volunteer Alan Day, we talked about how so often it is not until their funeral that you learn interesting facts about someone that you thought you knew quite well.

At his service, eulogies delivered by two of his four children detailed how Alan had been educated at Sydney Grammar before earning a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University. He then won a scholarship to Trinity College Cambridge, where he completed a PhD in 1956. His areas of expertise – Geophysics, Oceanography and Seismology – saw him travel the world, including time on a submarine mapping underwater trenches while a Research Geophysicist at the University of California. He returned home to work as a lecturer in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Sydney University in 1957 where he remained until his retirement in 1990. We agreed we knew almost none of this about Alan, even though he'd been volunteering at the SAG since 1996!

The Alan Day we remembered was simply 'Mr Maps', as he catalogued, indexed and rehoused the Society's collection of 2,400 maps and plans, giving specific attention to those relating to NSW cemeteries and parishes. He quietly undertook other projects too, such as indexing the burial butts of Camperdown Cemetery, Sydney's main Anglican burial place from 1847. The results of this work will be found in the MIDAS catalogue, but as is so often the case with 'behind the scenes' volunteers, there is no specific attribution to him for it. He assisted with cataloguing a vast donation of NSW Postal Histories and wrote about this in *Descent* (Vol 32, Pt 3, September 2002, 138-146); delivered a wonderful presentation on interpreting parish maps at a 'Lost in Land' seminar and shared his considerable knowledge with members as a library volunteer over many years. He was a regular fixture at Richmond Villa every Monday, often taking over every available flat surface, including the kitchen table, while he sorted maps.

Alan's methodical and practical handyman skills were fully utilised when we moved into 379 Kent Street in 2006. Along with (the late) Graham Wilson, Peter Kettle and Chris Morton, he donated many hours to installing shelving and fitting out Level 2 as our new library.

Alan became a member of the Society in January 1987, joining his wife Judith who had become a member in 1980. His extensive service to the Society was acknowledged with a Certificate of Merit in 2005 and he was elected a Fellow in 2013. He remained an active volunteer until 2020 when in his 90th year and donated many maps, pamphlets and books to the Society.

Most of all we remember Alan as a gentleman in the very true sense of the word. He died peacefully at Ashfield at the age of 93 and our condolences go to his wife of 65 years Judy, his four children, three grandchildren and wider family.

Five SAG members represented the Society at Alan's funeral: former Executive Officer Heather Garnsey; former Librarian Lorraine Brothers; former Vice-President and Fellow Alison Wolf; former archives volunteer Jenny Frost and Membership Officer Danielle Tebb.

(with thanks to Virginia Bentick, nee Day, for permission to use details from her eulogy)

Heather Garnsey

OUR SAG COMMUNITY

Congratulations: HEATHER GARNSEY OAM

by Philippa Shelley Jones

It was a thrill to see announced on 10 June that the Society's former Executive Officer, Heather Garnsey, had been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's King's Birthday Honours List for services to genealogy. Heather's OAM is a significant recognition of her valuable contributions to the field of genealogy, not only during her time in service to the Society, but in her volunteer work more broadly across the sector in Australia and internationally.

I was proud to prepare Heather's nomination on behalf of the Society's directors, even if it did take over two years from the date of the submission of the nomination to the award of the honour – good things take time! There is probably no better way to illustrate why Heather was considered a worthy recipient of the Australian honour than to replicate the section of the nomination calling for details of her service:

Having been an avid family historian since the early 1970s, Heather Garnsey has been instrumental in the rise in popularity of family history and a leader of the growing organised family history movement in Australia.

Heather has for many years until her retirement been one of the public faces of genealogy in New South Wales, if not Australia, and has dedicated over 40 years of service to helping raise the profile of family history in Australia from its reputation as a hobbyist's pursuit to one meriting serious attention as a field of study.

She has advocated for the interests of genealogists at Federal and State Government levels and has participated in countless television, radio and online interviews and appearances in support of the genealogy sector.

Heather was the Executive Officer of the Society of Australian Genealogists from 1988 to 2020, having worked for the Society since 1984. She was responsible for leading a team of staff and managing the Society on a day-to-day basis. In this capacity, she led the Society through a period of growth and immense change as the challenges and opportunities of new technologies impacted the family history world. Heather was instrumental in every initiative the Society introduced, whether it was a retrieval service for UK birth, death, marriage and probate records, the successful education and activities program, or the active publication program. She edited a number of publications for the Society and led it to become a welcoming place for members to research and seek guidance.

Heather managed and collaborated on significant projects and new initiatives as part of her job, which required many hours of voluntary work beyond the expectations of her role. These included:

- collaborating with a former Society librarian to produce the Society's annual Showcase event over a number of years, one of the Society's most important fundraising events in the 2000s
- significant involvement with the Society's hosting, in 1988,

of the triennial Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, despite having only been appointed the Society's Executive Officer earlier that year

- co-organising and hosting the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, which took place in March 2018.
- co-leading the Society's family history member tours of London in 2003 and 2004
- introducing online services to the library, such as access to major family history subscription websites Ancestry and FindMyPast
- expanding the Society's education program, including the introduction of full weekend seminars and a webinar program, the first such initiative by a family history society in Australia
- introducing a members-only area of the Society's website and a new membership system
- overseeing the refurbishment and move by the Society into its newly purchased premises in Kent Street

Heather's service to family history through her employment is eclipsed by her achievements in a voluntary capacity. She became a volunteer at the Society soon after becoming a member in 1979, including as a headstone transcriber for the Rookwood Cemetery project. She has made an extraordinary contribution to the field over the last 35 years, including:

- President of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies from 1989 to 1994 and also served as Treasurer and Committee member of the Association
- Vice President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) from 1991 to 1995, a period of significant revitalisation for AFFHO
- Foundation Member of the State Archives Customer Council, later Advisory Group, from the 1990s until 2019. She played a key role in this stakeholder body and, as the representative of genealogists and family historians, offered invaluable advice and feedback on State Archives' initiatives and services. She was an authoritative expert on developments in the genealogical community which were invaluable for NSW State Archives in planning services targeting family historians
- Becoming a recognisable face of family history in Australia and overseas through her numerous public speaking engagements and lectures including:



- countless presentations in the form of weekend seminars and conferences to family history societies throughout Australia and overseas
- participating in radio and television interviews, including as a regular guest on ABC Radio
- a regular after-dinner speaker for community and charity groups
- several appearances on the highly successful television program, *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Heather's speaking highlights include:

- 6th, 7th, 8th and 14th Australasian Congresses on Genealogy and Heraldry
- National Genealogical Society Conference in Florida, USA in 1992
- Inaugural Victorian Family History State Conference in 1995
- John Crowe Memorial Address at the 1995 and 2005 NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference (co-presented)
- 30th Anniversary Conference of the Federation of Family History Societies (Loughborough, UK)
- Society of Genealogists' Family History Fair, London in 2009

Heather has shown tireless dedication not only to the study of family history but also to supporting the local family community and those undertaking their own family history journey. Since her retirement she has continued to share her knowledge and expertise in a voluntary capacity.

PUBLICATIONS

Heather was co-editor of the Society's quarterly journal *Descent* from September 1989 to March 2000. She also edited a number of other publications for the Society including:

- *Compiling Your Family History* (editions between 1988 and 1996)
- *Tracing Your Family History Online for Dummies*
- Index to the microform collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists as at 31 January 1990 (co-edited)

- The Irish holdings of the Society of Australian Genealogists in the overseas library and primary records collection (co-edited)

She wrote a monthly family history column for *Netguide Magazine* for several years commencing in 2003 and subsequently *Australian PC User Magazine*. Heather contributed extensively to the Society's CD and electronic publication initiatives which has seen data from major Sydney cemeteries made available electronically and online.

During her years at AFFHO, Heather co-edited:

- *Cemeteries in Australia – A Register of Transcripts* (3rd edition)
- *AFFHO Directory of Genealogical Organisations in Australasia*
- *AFFHO Directory of Member Organisations*.

Between 1997 and 2010, Heather co-compiled an index to inmates of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum, 1857-1900 (some 78,000 entries). This index, now available as a free online database, has vastly improved the accessibility of these vital records of Australia's oldest continuous social welfare organisation. The resulting Index to Admissions and Discharges, 1857-1900, records the names of those admitted to the Asylum. It was compiled from records held at the Mitchell Library and, as far as possible, is a "listing of all Asylum inmates between 1857 and 1900", making it an invaluable resource for family historians.

Heather's contribution to family history has previously been recognised. She has received the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History. She is an Honorary Member and Fellow of the Society of Australian Genealogists, an Associate Fellow of the Society of Genealogists (London) and an Honorary Fellow of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra (Family History ACT). Heather is also Patron of the Dubbo and District Family History Society.

Congratulations Heather. Well deserved.

Visit the SAG Family History Research Centre & Library!



Our library is full of many great resources and wonderful volunteers waiting to help you on your family history journey.

Our library is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10.00am - 4.00pm
1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10.00am - 4.00pm

See www.sag.org.au/VisitUs for more information.

2/379 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

DESCENT GUIDELINES



The Society welcomes articles for publication in *Descent*. Preference is given to articles which demonstrate methods, sources and tactics which will help others with their research, particularly those on the nominated topic.

Please submit text as Microsoft Word or RTF file and keep formatting to a minimum. Submit both text and images in digital format, either by email or through the mail on a memory stick. Our designer(s) will lay out your article, but feel free to send a document with embedded images for use as a *guide* to image placement if you wish, or simply mark with <<>> in the text.

- Use a simple, active voice to engage the reader. For uncommon or technical words, explain them.
- Use single not double spaces between words and spaces.
- Italicise ship's names, book titles, periodical titles, works of art and technical terms in a foreign language. Italics may also be used for emphasis.
- Use the long form for dates e.g. 28 August 1932.
- Either Twentieth century or 20th century may be used, but please be consistent within the article.
- Set Spellcheck to English (Australian), NOT the US default, e.g. *ise* not *ize*.
- Write numbers up to ten in full and use Arabic numbering for higher numbers, e.g. the list went from one to 56.
- Use a comma to separate 1,000s.
- Measurement units are singular and lower case, e.g. cm, kg
- If a footnote is at the end of a sentence, please place the number after the full stop.
- Please provide a concise biography, a contact email address and a portrait photograph. Please note your biography may be edited.
- Please ensure you have spell-checked your document before submission.

Length

2-3 page articles: 1,000 – 2,000 words, although longer articles will be considered.

1 page articles: 700-900 words.

Filler short articles: 100-400 words.

Citations

Source citations as footnotes or endnotes must be included and set by your word processor program where possible. We encourage the use of citing sources as this will assist other researchers to follow your research leads. Footnotes will be converted to endnotes to conform to our house style.

Photographs and Illustrations

These are encouraged and should be referenced in the text and numbered consecutively so we can match text, image and caption. Please send them as separate (not embedded) 300 dpi resolution JPEG files. If you cannot supply an image electronically, good quality copies are accepted for scanning. Original documents and

photographs should not be sent as we cannot guarantee their safe return. Sources and captions should be given, as well as any photo credits. Contributors are responsible for obtaining photos, for permission to reproduce them and for reproduction fees.

References

Please use the following formats:

Books: Lionel Gilbert, *A Grave Look at History: Glimpses of a Vanishing Form of Folk Art* (Sydney: John Ferguson, 1980), 20.

Articles: Ruth Graham "The Irony of Fashionable Fabrics", *Descent*, 52/1 (2022): 8.

Document/manuscript: Handwritten letter to W M Lucas, North West Bay VDL, 3 October 1855 from Elizabeth Richards of Lesmahagow, Scotland Item 03/000101, Manuscript & Image Collection, Society of Australian Genealogists.

BDM Certificates: New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Birth Transcription of Henry Beard 1862 No. 2005.

Newspapers: "Death of an Old Resident", *Northern Times* (Newcastle, NSW), 28 November 1916, 6.

Datasets: The National Archives UK, Kew, Surrey, England, Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers. Will of Samuel Beard of Saint Leonard Shoreditch, Middlesex, 7 August 1832, PROB 11/1803/312, <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Websites: State Records NSW. Miscellaneous Immigrants Index, 1828-43, <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-immigration-and-shipping-records/index-to-miscellaneous-assisted-immigrants> John Brown per *Portland*, 1837

For further information, please see our Referencing Guide at <https://www.sag.org.au/resources/Documents/Resources/Referencing%20guidelines%202023.pdf>

Copyright Clearance

Copyright clearance is your responsibility and you must ensure that written and illustrative material does not breach copyright and all sources are correctly acknowledged.

Copyright

The submission for *Descent* grants the Society the right to publish and the Society holds the copyright in all articles published. A release form will be sent to you if your article is selected for publication. You retain the copyright to your submitted text. If you publish it elsewhere, please acknowledge *Descent* as the original publication.

Deadlines

Articles can be submitted at any time by emailing editor@sag.org.au. Time sensitive items need to be received by 1st February, 1st May, 1st August and 1st November for the March/Autumn, June/Winter, September/Spring and December/Summer issues respectively.

Please note SAG does not pay author fees.

The final theme for 2024 is: Wills and Probate/end of life records

Submissions are due 15 October 2024 for the December issue of *Descent*, with a Conference scheduled for 23 November.

Look out for our 2025 themes in the next issue of *Descent*.



EDUCATION@SAG

BY VANESSA CASSIN

As I write this column, we are heading into the final week of National Family History Month for 2024 and what an action packed month it has been! The members, volunteers and staff of the SAG, together with many other societies around Australia, have been kept busy showcasing some of the amazing stories we have uncovered while researching our family histories.

It has been wonderful to witness the amazing research skills and talents of our members, not just in Family History Month, but throughout the year to date. At the end of this column you will see a new section where I can acknowledge all those people and organisations that have presented at an event in the last quarter (the vast majority on a voluntary basis). Please take a moment to join me in thanking them for their contribution to the ongoing success of the Society.

As we head into Spring and leave the colder months behind, the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors beckons. In September and October, SAG and Friends of Rookwood volunteer Geoff Bovard will lead more of his popular tours of Rookwood Cemetery for SAG members. A proportion of the tour price is paid to the Friends of Rookwood to support the wonderful work they do in this historic cemetery. If you are interested in finding out more about the work of Historical Societies and Friends Groups in numerous Sydney Cemeteries, we will be joined by some of

those connected to cemeteries managed by the Metropolitan Memorial Parks for a webinar on 24 September discussing just this topic. We hope to organise tours for SAG members at locations other than Rookwood soon.

Since the last issue of *Descent*, two wonderfully informative virtual conferences have been presented to SAG members. The first, *Enhancing your Family History with Artificial Intelligence*, featured a number of internationally known presenters demystifying the new frontiers of technology, whilst the second, *In Search of ... Gold Rushes*, showcased a range of local presenters who have done some amazing research into this fascinating era. Don't miss our final virtual conference for the year on 23 November. The theme is *In Search of ... the Inheritance: understanding wills, probate and related records for family history*. I would welcome any proposals from members who are interested in presenting at this conference.

Finally, while we remain committed to delivering as many programs as possible online to meet the needs of members outside of Sydney, we also know many of our members miss the opportunities to catch up with their genie colleagues in person. In light of this I am delighted to announce that the SAG is participating in two in-person events in the coming months. These events also have associated

sessions hosted by various family history societies in other selected capital cities for those unable to visit Sydney.

Firstly we will be hosting *A Day with Family Tree Maker and Family Book Creator* at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Saturday 12 October. Our special international guest presenters are Duff Wilson, Executive Director of Family Tree Maker, and Stefan Harms, developer of Family Book Creator. You can find out more about this event at www.sag.org.au/event-5819949. Duff and Stefan are in Australia for one week only, to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the VicGUM organisation. We congratulate VicGUM on reaching this milestone and thank them for inviting SAG to collaborate on this tour.

Secondly, the SAG is one of the sponsors of an *Unlock the Past* conference featuring international speakers Chris Paton and Mia Bennet on 28 and 29 November at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club. You can view the program and further information at www.gould.com.au/chris-paton-mia-bennett-down-under-sydney/. The Society will have a table at this event so please stop by and say hello.

You can find more details about these events and more by visiting the Events page of our website at www.sag.org.au/events. Please check back frequently as new events are added every week.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the SAG Education program from June – August 2024. Any omissions from this list are purely accidental. Names are in no particular order.

Event	Names
<i>Presenters: Webinars, Book Club, Let's Talk About</i>	Jill Ball, Lee Boehm, Sarah Burn (The Benevolent Society), Christopher Cheng, Kate Davies, Melanie Dunstan, Michael Flynn (Biographical Database of Australia), Kathleen Hackett, Vicki Hails, Matthew Johnson & Sach Killam (Metropolitan Memorial Parks), Professor Grace Karskens, Christine Hingerty, Melissa Hulbert, Danielle Lautrec, Kathryn Le Gay Brereton, Darryl Low Choy, Sarah Luke, Lilian Magill, Yvonne Masters, Thomas Nelson (FamilySearch), Andrew Redfern, Jason Reeve (Ancestry), Philippa Shelley Jones, Dr Ruth Slatter, Tessa Suzuki-Morris, Veronica Williams, Tom Wodzinski, Christine Woodlands, Anne Young
<i>Presenters: Conferences</i>	Greg Carlill, Matthew Cunneen, Shauna Hicks, Sandy Hollis, Daniel Horowitz (MyHeritage), Peter Johnson, Dana Leeds, Darryl Low Choy, Steve Little, Glenn Martin, Narelle Milligan, Andrew Redfern, Florian Staunder (Transkribus)
<i>Presenters and Assistants: Courses</i>	Kathryn Barrett, Leisa Byrne, Jennie Fairs, Vicki Hails, Danielle Lautrec, Dr Betty O'Neill, Andrew Redfern, Dianne Snowden, Veronica Williams, Christine Woodlands
<i>Presenters: Family History Connect</i>	Patrice Connelly, Christine Woodlands
<i>Presenters and Leads: Groups</i>	Thistle Anderson, Elizabeth Capelin, Ed Carr, Deborah Carter (Ancestry), Larry Czarnik, Dale Fogarty, Dr Natalie Fong, Anthea Gupta, Kathleen Hackett, Lynn Hudson-Williamson, Melissa Hulbert, Suzanne Hyde, Alan Jones, Dr Juanita Kwok, Stephen Lally, Douglas Lam, Danielle Lautrec, Kam Louie, Lorraine Luks, Lilian Magill, Yvonne Masters, Louise Miller-Hoffman, Kristine Newton, Danny O'Neill, Michelle Patient, Aidan Phelan, Sandy Pullen, Emily Purser, Andrew Redfern, Sharon Shelley, Sally Skulte, Maureen Trotter, Sharon Watson, Veronica Williams, Christine Woodlands

DNA CORNER

BY CHRISTINE WOODLANDS

Over the last few months, we've seen many changes at AncestryDNA including the introduction of AncestryDNA Plus and Ancestry Pro Tools.

Testers without a membership

While most DNA enthusiasts have an Ancestry family history membership, we need to bear in mind that most of our 'DNA cousins' appearing on our match list don't have a membership. These cousins can see their ethnicity estimates, DNA communities, DNA matches and three traits. However, the recent changes:

- limit the number of shared matches the tester can see with a match to the three largest matches they share with the match, and;
- allow the tester to see if a match has a tree, the size of the tree and whether it's public or private.

Let's look at an example. Tester Robert doesn't have a membership. His three largest matches are his brother, nephew and maternal first cousin who are all known to him. So when he views an unknown match on his maternal side, these are likely to be the three shared matches shown. The option for Robert is to share his AncestryDNA match list with someone who has an Ancestry membership. This is easy to do by following this link:

https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Sharing-AncestryDNA-Results?language=en_US

The access can be removed at any time.

AncestryDNA Plus

This membership has been introduced recently at a cost of \$39.99 for six months. It's automatically renewed unless the membership is cancelled. AncestryDNA Plus gives the tester access

to the same AncestryDNA features as testers with an Ancestry family history membership including:

- shared matches where both the tester and match share DNA of 20cM or more with the shared match,
- access to matches' public trees and trees that the tester's invited to view,
- common ancestors and ThruLines and
- matches by parent.

Read more about Ancestry memberships and subscriptions via this link:

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/offers/join?feature=thrulines>

Ancestry Pro Tools

Testers with an Ancestry family history membership can now pay a monthly membership of \$14.99 for Ancestry Pro Tools. It's automatically renewed, but can be cancelled at any time and taken out again later. You should also keep an eye out for special offers. Members get access to enhanced DNA and family history tools. I've had great success using the tools over the last couple of months.

Currently, there are two DNA enhancements which are shown in the table. We're seeing many more shared matches for each of our matches, along with the DNA they share. This feature is also available at MyHeritageDNA, but most Australian testers have 5-10 times more matches where shared DNA is over 20cM at AncestryDNA. DNA enthusiasts are exploring these enhancements with great success, as the following examples show.

Ancestry membership comparison table

Without Ancestry Pro Tools

Shared matches report where **both tester and match are close matches** with the shared match

Shared matches show **DNA shared with the tester** and how they might be related

Generally, 20cM of shared DNA is the cut off between close and distant matches. However, with rounding, some 20cM matches are categorised as distant.

With Ancestry Pro Tools

Shared matches report where the **match is a close match** with the shared match regardless of the amount of shared DNA with the tester

Shared matches show **DNA shared with the tester AND match** and how they might be related

Example 1: Who is my grandfather?

Marie tested at AncestryDNA back in 2018 with the aim of finding the identity of her maternal grandfather. She shares 273cM and 201cM of DNA with her two largest unknown matches on her maternal grandfather line – Match 1 and Match 2. Both had public trees attached to their DNA test, but there were no common names in the trees.

Match 2 had common names with many of the lower matches, allowing Marie to work out the grandparents of her mystery grandfather but, without knowing the relationship between Match 1 and Match 2, the search stalled.

It seemed likely that Match 1's tree was not his genetic tree and that either his biological father or grandfather was not the man documented in the tree. Given the potential sensitivity for Match 1, Marie decided not to contact either match to see how much DNA they shared with each other.

With her Ancestry Pro Tools membership, Marie can now see that Match 1 and Match 2 are first cousins sharing 983cM of DNA and that Match 1's documented father is not his biological father.

This has allowed Marie to go one step further in her search by working out the parents of her maternal grandfather. This couple had eight sons. The shared DNA between Marie and Match 2 eliminated one son as Marie's maternal grandfather. The other seven sons were likely candidates as Marie's grandfather. Four didn't marry. Two married but had no children. The eighth son married and had one child who has no known living descendants. So the search has again stalled and, at this point, it's unlikely that Marie will work out which of these seven men is her grandfather.



Example 2: How are all these Duns related?

Collaborating with cousins near and far has always been invaluable for family historians. However, DNA testing has taken this to a whole new level when looking at small segments of DNA you share with matches, providing clues to the unknown families of your ancestors.

In April 1855, my second great-grandmother, Eliza Dunn, arrived in Sydney as a newly-wed from her home in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Details on her parents and siblings were scarce, although her son had recorded the names of her parents as Laurence and Johanna Dunn on her death certificate.

When the results of my AncestryDNA test came through in 2017, my first contact was from Bob in New York. He'd been researching the Dunn family from Johnswell, County Kilkenny for years. He'd been there, examined the church records and had many transcripts which he generously shared with me.

His interest was sparked by the match that I had with his uncle, 'Match' Dunn, who'd died the previous year. We only shared 12cM of DNA and had no shared matches back then.

In 1817, 'Match' Dunn's great grandparents, Thomas Dunn and Mary Egan, had married in Johnswell. Mary was widowed when she arrived in Canada in 1850 with her younger children to join her older children who'd already settled in Canada and the United States.

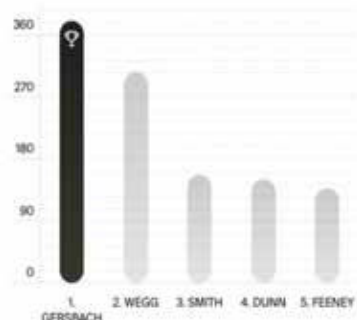
In spite of all his research, Bob hadn't been able to find the details of either Thomas Dunn's birth or death. He was keen to find the connection between Eliza Dunn and the children of Thomas Dunn. He set to work and quickly found the baptismal and marriage records of Eliza and her parents, Laurence Dunn and Johanna Ryan.

With evidence to hand, our working hypothesis was that Thomas Dunn (Mary's husband) and Laurence Dunn (Eliza's father) were brothers, but could we use DNA to add more evidence? With only a handful of matches at sites with a chromosome browser, our research stalled within a couple of months. Sadly, Bob died two years ago, but my search continued.

As the testers at AncestryDNA started to grow, more shared matches appeared for descendants of Eliza Dunn and four of the nine children of Thomas Dunn. Prior to subscribing to Ancestry Pro Tools, we had four shared matches reporting. With Ancestry Pro Tools, my test reports 26 shared matches with 'Tester' Dunn. The additional 22 are our shared matches where 'Tester' Dunn is a close match but I'm a distant match. Further updates will be provided as this project continues to grow.

Most common surnames in your tree

The top 5 most common surnames in your tree



GERSBACH Name Meaning



Swiss German: habitation name from a place so named northeast of Lörrach in Baden. [View more](#)

Other features of Ancestry Pro Tools

There are five other tools provided that can be used with your trees or trees that you can edit at Ancestry - Tree checker, Smart filters, Charts and reports, Tree mapper and Tree insights. You can read more about these features by following this link: https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Ancestry-Pro-Tools-Membership?language=en_US

There's a lot to explore with these tools. At this point, I've found the Tree checker most useful to identify duplicated profiles and those with evidence missing. Your tree is also rated out of 10. Using Tree insights, within a few seconds I found Dunn was the fourth most common surname in my tree with 151 people. With my current research project, the number of Duns in my tree will grow in the coming weeks!

So if you have an Ancestry membership and have plenty of time on your hands, you might like to subscribe to Ancestry Pro Tools for a month, but remember you can cancel it at any time without impacting your membership.

You can follow this link to compare the features you get on an AncestryDNA test with different membership levels:

<https://support.ancestry.com.au/s/article/AncestryDNA-and-Memberships>

And don't forget to check our DNA offerings on the SAG website:

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

LIBRARY NEWS

BY GEMMA BESWICK

Retro Research...that never goes out of style!

Unexpected finds in the Library collection...

The 19th-century gold rushes in Australia reshaped society economically and socially. Migrants from diverse backgrounds arrived seeking gold, bringing with them skills and cultures that enriched not only individual mining towns, but our society as a whole. The rapid population growth in regional areas put pressure on infrastructure to meet their needs, such as hospitals and cemeteries, solemn reminders of the risks and sacrifices inherent in both mining life and life at the time.

Explore the library collection for those hidden gems relating to the gold rushes, and to the burgeoning migration and infrastructure developments at the time to find out more about your ancestors and their stories.

The beginnings of multicultural Australia...

- *The new gold mountain: the Chinese in Australia, 1901-1921* by C. F. Yong. A3/20/11 (Book)
- *Blood and gold: Hungarians in Australia* by Egon F. Kunz. A3/20/66 (Book)
- *The diggers from China: the story of Chinese on the goldfields* by Jean Gittins. A3/20/96 (Book)
- *Gold! Gold! diary of Claus Gronn: a Dane on the Diggings* edited by Cora McDougall; translated by Gullevi Ubbersen. A6/GRO/3 (Book)
- *The Pedemont and Menghini families: Italian immigrants on the Turon River Goldfields during the 1860's* by Catherine Tisdell. A6/PED/3 (Book)
- *Golden threads: the Chinese in regional New South Wales 1850-1950* by Janis Wilton. B3/30/17 (Book)
- *Red tape, gold scissors: the story of Sydney's Chinese* by Shirley Fitzgerald. B4.000/1/27 (Book)
- *They were more than just gold diggers: the Chinese of Murrumburrah and surrounding districts 1860s-1960s* by Robyn Atherton. B4.587/1/1 (Book)
- *From goldrush to Federation: the story of the first wave of Italian pioneers in Victoria, 1850-1900* by Charles D'Aprano. C3/20/2 (Book)
- *Vermilion and gold: vignettes of Chinese life in Ballarat* by Lionel Welsh. C4.350/1/5 (Book)
- *The Chinese on the Goldfields*, researched and written by Bev and John Shay. H3/27/Pam.1 (Pamphlet)





Women in the goldfields

- *A woman on the goldfields: recollections of Emily Skinner, 1854-1878*, edited by Edward Duyker. A6/SKI/3 (Book)
- *Aunt Spencer's diary (1854): a visit to Bontharambo and the north-east Victorian goldfields*, A6/SPE/3 (Book)
- *The adventurous memoirs of a gold diggeress, 1841-1909* Mary Ann Tyler (nee Brooksbank), compiled by Kate Gibbs. A6/TYL/Pam.1 (Pamphlet)
- *Hill End heroines & Tambaroora treasures: the women of the goldfields, their lives and stories* by Daphne Shead & Members of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group; edited & compiled by Lorraine Purcell. B4.850/35/1 (Book)

Resources you might not have thought to check

New South Wales

- *Treasury index to Gold Receipts per Escorts and Deliveries: 1852-1856* compiled by Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. B2/45/CD.1a (Electronic Resources)
- *Index to miscellaneous records relating to the goldfields of NSW: Volumes 1-5* compiled by Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. B8/12/CD.2p (Electronic Resources)

Victoria

- *Digging for gold: a guide to researching family & local history in Victoria's Central goldfields* by Helen Doxford Harris. C2/10/3 (Book)
- *Victorian goldfield hospital records ... an under utilized genealogical tool* compiled by Elisabeth Allan. Thesis/C2/10/CD.3 (Electronic Resources)
- *Genealogical records in a Victorian goldfields town*. C2/10/Pam.15 (Pamphlet)
- *Grave reflections: an alphabetical listing of burial sites in the Central Goldfields area of Victoria, with a selection of tombstones of interest, Vol. 1* by Jan Davidson and Helen Doxford. C7/11/6a (Book)
- *Where they lie: early burials on the Bendigo goldfields* by Annette O'Donohue and Bev Hanson. C7/11/12 (Book)
- *Lonely graves of the Gippsland goldfields and Greater Gippsland* by J. G. Rogers and Nelly Helyar. C7/11/13 (Book)
- *Beechworth Gold Mining Leases 1859-1866 Part 1* by Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. C8/12/CD.1 (Electronic Resources)
- *Beechworth Gold Mining Leases 1864-1869. Part 2: from Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7842 1864-1869* compiled by Teapot Genealogy; Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. C8/12/CD.2 (Electronic Resources)

Victoria (cont.)

- *Gold Mining Leases 1868-1883: Part 3: from Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7842 1868-1883* compiled by Teapot Genealogy; Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. C8/12/CD.3 (Electronic Resources)
- *Gold Mining Leases in the Colony of Victoria 1884-1891: extracts from the annual reports of the secretary of mines* compiled by Dave Evans. C8/12/4a (Book)
- *Gold mining leases on private property in the colony of Victoria: Mineral leases (other than gold), Water-right licences; distribution of prospecting vote labour covenants granted 1884 to 1891* compiled by Dave Evans. C8/12/4b (Book)
- *Bendigo Goldfields Petition 1852: 1852 goldfields petition of Bendigo diggers 10 July 1852*. VIC-HS:6 (Microfiche)
- *Bendigo Goldfields Hospital, admission register, 1856-1866*. VIC-IST:17 (Microfiche)

Queensland

- *Queensland goldfields miner's rights and business licences 1870-72* compiled by Kay Johansen-Clarke. QLD-DIR-OCC:12 (Microfiche)

Northern Territory

- *Applications for mineral lands 1889-1890, 1901-1903; Gold mining leases; pastoral leases granted 1886-1903; Owners and crew, Port Darwin, Pearling luggers 1903-1919*. NT-REC:21 (Microfiche)

LIBRARY UPDATES

BY KARLIE FRELINGOS

This is a selection of books, pamphlets and other format items accessioned from May to July 2024.

The information provided is the title of the record, library classification number, format and donor's name.

All items are in our Research Centre & Library at 2/379 Kent Street unless otherwise noted. Consult the Library Catalogue at www.sag.org.au and click on the 'Using our Collections' button to locate full details of the items included in this list.

AUSTRALIA

The Bennett family – part 1 by Chris J Wattle. (2024)
A6/BEN/12a (Book) [Donated by the author]

The Bennett family – part 2 by Chris J Wattle. (2024)
A6/BEN/12b (Book) [Donated by the author]

The diary of Thomas Betts a man of integrity by Jan Saundercock. (2023) A6/BET/2 (Book) [Donated by the author]

A Bountiful Harvest: The Story of William and Rose Donaldson and their Descendants by Cheryl Elliot. (2024)
A6/DON/3 (Book) [Donated by Vernon Wingley]

Venezuela: behind every romantic story is the reality!
by Gisela Fischer with Siegfried and Lieselotte Fischer. (2023) A6/FIS/2 (Book) [Donated by the author]

Timber rolled out and money rolled in: the story of James Foster by Pam Hesse and Janet Lee. (2021)
A6/FOS/Pam.2 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the authors]

The family of Mary Ann Green 1829-1916: from the Cotswolds to Sydney's North Shore by Carolyn Irvine. (2021) A6/GRE/Pam.9 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

Thomas & Eliza Little: Irish pioneers in India and Western Australia 1797-1877 by Stephen Lally. (2022) A6/LIT/3. (Book) [Donated by Kathleen Hackett & Stephen Lally]

No gold in Melbourne: a Scottish family in Australia by Glenn Martin. (2021) A6/MAC/15 (Book) [Donated by the author]

A modest quest by Glenn Martin. (2017) A6/MAR/38a (Book) [Donated by the author]

They went to Australia by Glenn Martin. (2019)
A6/MAR/38b (Book) [Donated by the author]

The search for Edward Lewis by Glenn Martin. (2018)
A6/MAR/38c (Book) [Donated by the author]

All the rivers come together: tracing family by Glenn Martin. (2022) A6/MAR/39 (Book) [Donated by the author]

More about us – volume 4: Sarah Ann Thompson & Price Morris III by Lee N. Morris. (2023) A6/MOR/28a (Book) [Donated by the author]

More than we tell – volume 5: Ada Catherine Morris & Charles Martin Sattle by Lee N. Morris. (2023)
A6/MOR/28b (Book) [Donated by the author]

Morris dancing – volume 6: Phyllis Agnes Morris & Thomas James Morris by Lee N. Morris. (2023) A6/MOR/28c (Book) [Donated by the author]

George Rickett; of Helensburgh, master builder by Janet Lee. (2021) A6/RIC/Pam.6 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

The Rohrmann families in Australia and their German heritage by Chris J Wattle. (2024) A6/ROH/5 (Book) [Donated by the author]

Traegers in Australia, 1–Carl's story: the story of Carl Gottlieb Traeger, Marie Rosine nee Ruprecht and Johanne Eleonore nee Ruprecht, and their descendants, 1848-2010 by Elva Summerville, et al. (2010) A6/TRA/5a (Book) [Donated by Mignonne Jaunay]

Traegers in Australia, 2–Gottfried's story: the story of Johann Gottfried Traeger, Johanne Helene nee Heinrich, and their descendants, 1856-2013 by Elva Summerville, et al. (2013) A6/TRA/5b (Book) [Donated by Mignonne Jaunay]

Traegers in Australia, 3–Ernst's story: the story of Ernst Wilhelm Traeger and Johanne Dorothea nee Lissmann, and their descendants, 1856-2018 by Elva Summerville, et al. (2019) A6/TRA/5c (Book) [Donated by Mignonne Jaunay]

Traegers in Australia, 4–Gottlob's story: the story of Johann Gottlob Traeger and Johanna Dorothea Hulbert and their descendants, 1848-2005 by Elva Summerville, et al. (2005) A6/TRA/5d (Book) [Donated by Mignonne Jaunay]



Traegers in Australia, 5 – Wilhelm's story: the story of Carl Wilhelm Traeger and Maria Dorothea nee Werner and their descendants, 1856-2007 by Elva Summerville. (2008) A6/TRA/5e. [Donated by Mignonne Jaunay]

A collection of articles from newspapers and other sources about St Patrick's parish, Lochinvar by Marie Hughes. (2005) B4.321/92/Pam.2 (Pamphlet)

Helensburgh snippets by Janet Lee. (2023) B4.508/1/Pam.3 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

Historic Helensburgh New South Wales by Janet Lee. (2023) B4.508/11/Pam.1 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

Helensburgh N.S.W. and the 1919 influenza epidemic by Lorraine Jones & Janet Lee (2019) B4.508/29/Pam.1 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

Civilian life during World War II: in Helensburgh, Otford, Stanwell Park, Coalcliff, Stanwell Tops and Darkes Forest, NSW by Lorraine Jones & Janet Lee. (2020) B4.508/70/Pam.3 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

St Patrick's parish Lochinvar 1905-2005: commemorative booklet by Marie Hughes. (2005) B4.321/92/Pam.1 (Pamphlet)

The decade after World War II: in Helensburgh, Otford, Stanwell Park, Stanwell Tops, Coalcliff, and Darkes Forest, NSW by Lorraine Jones & Janet Lee. (2021) B4.508/70/Pam.2 (Pamphlet) [Donated by the author]

ENGLAND

The worst street in London by Fiona Rule. (2018) N4.23/24/2 (Book)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Trades and professions of the Harrison family – volume 1 by Polly Lynn. (2023) U6/HAR/1a (Book) [Donated by the author]

Trades and professions of the Harrison family – volume 2 by Polly Lynn. (2023) U6/HAR/1b (Book) [Donated by the author]

Trades and professions of the Harrison family – volume 3 by Polly Lynn. (2023) U6/HAR/1c (Book) [Donated by the author]

12 NEW BDA DATASETS now online: www.bda-online.org.au

Try a **FREE SEARCH** to view & explore index entries, sources & datasets with **ADVANCED SEARCH**

For full results & unlimited searching subscribe for one year for just \$39 (no auto-renew)

BDA has 2m+ transcribed records of convicts, immigrants & Australian born people c1788-1910

This **non-profit project** is transcribing original records, linking & cross-indexing them to create a biographical timeline profile with accurate references to archival & published sources

Do you have a genealogical brick wall?

Use **Biographical Database of Australia** to distinguish persons of the same common name, verify, update & correct errors on family trees, trace birthplaces & family networks including siblings & cousins of ancestors & explore local history

Datasets include **full transcripts of Catholic & Protestant parish registers including marriage witnesses & godparents**, muster & census records, land, free settler, convict, assisted & unassisted immigrant, military, court & inquest records, extensive source notes & descriptions

The **Advanced Search** function allows subscribers to track individuals through time & place, trace UK, Irish & other origins, research local history, women, land use, social history, diverse ethnicities, class & occupations

Click **View Sample** to see what we do on www.bda-online.org.au



ABOUT US



Society of Australian Genealogists

ACN 000 049 678

Richmond Villa
120 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(02) 9247 3953
sag.org.au

Library

Level 2/379 Kent Street, SYDNEY
Tuesday, Thursday and 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
10.00am–4.00pm
During library hours: (02) 9299 5151

Manuscripts & Library Stack

Richmond Villa
120 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Currently closed

Contact Directory

General enquiries: info@sag.org.au

Chief Executive Officer

Ruth Graham
ceo@sag.org.au

Library Services Manager

Gemma Beswick
library@sag.org.au

Collections – Library

Karlie Frelingos
librarian@sag.org.au

Education Manager

Vanessa Cassin
education@sag.org.au

Membership Officer/Descent

Danielle Tebb
membership@sag.org.au

Administration Officer

Jess Page
adminofficer@sag.org.au

Voluntary Research Officers

Sue Comrie-Thomson (Fellow)
Judy Meyer
research@sag.org.au

Office Bearers

Patron

The Honourable **Margaret Beazley** AO KC,
Governor of New South Wales

Vice-Patrons

Richard d'Apice, AM, KCSG, LLB, AIH (Fellow)
Keith Johnson, AM, FRAHS, FSG, FIGRS (Fellow)
Martyn Killion, BA, Grad. Dip. App. Sci. Info., Dip. FHS (Fellow)
Malcolm Sainty, AM, FSG (Fellow)

Honorary Members

Evan Best, OAM, MA (Syd), BA (Hons) (Tas), Dip. FHS (Fellow)
Anthony Camp, MBE, BA, FSG (Hon)
Heather Garnsey, OAM, M.Litt, BA, Dip. FHS, FSG (Assoc.)
Hon FHGSC, (Fellow)
Perry McIntyre, AM, M.Litt, B.Sc., Ph.D, Dip. Ed., G/Dip.
LAH, Dip. FHS (Fellow)
Angela Phippen, BA (Hons), Grad. Dip. Lib. Sci.
Jan Worthington, NZRN, Dip. FHS (Fellow)

Honorary Solicitors

Makinson d'Apice

Board of Directors

President and Secretary

Philippa Shelley Jones, BA/LLB, Grad Dip. Ed.

Honorary Treasurer

Cheryl Wright, B.Econ, FCPA, Dip. (Fam Hist)

Vice-Presidents

Melissa Hulbert, B.Sc. (Hons)
Janette Pelosi, BA (Hons) (Syd), Dip. IM Lib, Dip. IM
ArchivAdmin, MInfoStud (Lship), ASAAP, MPHA (Fellow)

Directors

Kerry Farmer, B.Sc., BA (Fellow)
Helen Hickson, PhD BSocWk MProfPrac GradCertMgt
GradCertHealth
Darryl Low Choy, AM, MBE, RFD, KSJ (retd), PhD, MBIt
Env (City & Reg Plan), Grad Dip Urb & Reg Plan, BA, GCert
Higher Ed, RPIA (Fellow), FEIANZ

Andrew Redfern

Sonya Russell, BSA, MMilDef, psc(j)

Dianne Snowden, AM PhD (History, BA (Hons), Dip. Ed. Dip.
FHS MAAGRA



<https://www.facebook.com/SocAustGen/>



[@SocAustGen](https://www.instagram.com/SocAustGen)



[@SocAustGen](https://twitter.com/SocAustGen)
[@archive_SAG](https://twitter.com/archive_SAG)

ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

Turtle Consolidated Services

Helping with your family history research

- NSW Birth, Death and Marriage certificate transcription
- NSW State Archives including probate, deceased estate, insolvency, naturalisation, divorce, immigration, psychiatric, convict, gaol records, plus many more....
- English, Scottish, South Australian and Tasmanian Birth, Death and Marriage certificates

Laurence Turtle is an authorised transcription agent for NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages, holds a Diploma in Family History Studies and has completed the Archives Course at NSW State Archives.

Lorraine Turtle has conducted courses in family history for U3A and regularly visits NSW State Archives for research.

Both Lorraine and Laurie were teachers in "former lives" and are available for talks to family history groups.

Turtle Consolidated Services

(61) 2 4573 1559

colpitts1788@gmail.com

www.turtleconsolidatedservices.com.au

PO Box 144, Kurrajong, NSW 2758



SEARCHING for your FAMILY in GERMANY?

Family history is not just grey in different shades ...
... but colorful and lively!



Sven Grewel – Family Research in Germany

I support you to bring color into your family history!
Just contact me for a consultation, of course free of charge.
I look forward to hearing from you!



Have a look on my website using the QR code on the left or go to:
www.svengrewel.com

contact@svengrewel.com



**How we can help to preserve
your personal heritage:**

- organise and curate your research and records
- input your family research findings into our genealogy software
- generate family tree charts, reports and customised stories
- write or edit personal life stories, memoirs and family histories

Contact:

Philippa Shelley Jones

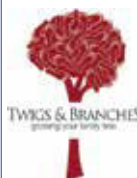
recordmypast@gmail.com

Ph: 0414 874 347

www.recordmypast.com.au

Professional Genealogist & Family Historian

Vicki Eldridge Dip FHS FSAG



RESEARCH or CONSULTATION

- looking for a tree, a branch or a twig

FAMILY TREE CHARTS

- cater to the individual family structure

BOOKS

- tell the stories and mark the memories

Twigs & Branches Pty. Limited

PO Box 327 Five Dock NSW 2046 AUSTRALIA

Ph: (02) 9716 8987 enquiries@twigsandbranches.com.au

ADVERTISE HERE

If you are interested in advertising with us,
please contact the
Editorial team via email

editor@sag.org.au

Looking to undertake some formal training or gain recognition of your family history abilities?



**Consider the next intake for our popular
Certificate in Genealogical Research!**

Consolidate your knowledge and expand your skill set with exercises covering: Preparing a research plan, Census records, Palaeography, DNA, Charting and more!

100% online with group Zoom sessions to support your journey.

Don't wait - BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!
www.sag.org.au/StudyOnlineWithUs



Image: SAC 06/000522

