



The Chronicle

JOURNAL of the LAKE MACQUARIE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.



We acknowledge the Awabakal people as the traditional custodians of this region we know as Lake Macquarie and pay respect to their Elders past and present.



Aerial photography of Lake Macquarie donated by Karen Myers adapted for use with her kind permission

October 2024

Volume 27 No. 2

ISSN 2653-4533

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Lake Macquarie Family History Group Inc.

Community Hall, 31b George St, Marmong Point 2284

25 Years of Researching and Recording Family Histories

2024-2025 Executive

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A Word From The President...

Dear Members

Welcome to this issue of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group journal *The Chronicle*. It has been a somewhat sad time for us as a group with the passing of Warren Oliver, our Secretary for many years. Warren was a good friend to us all and a mentor to many. He will be missed.

As I settle into my new role as President of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group, it is timely to reflect on the theme of this edition of *The Chronicle*, "Women who have made a difference". Over my lifetime, one of the predominant themes has been the growing recognition of the important difference that women can and do make in our world.

As we watch with interest whether the United States of America will finally have the courage to elect a female President, it is also important to recognise the unsung female heroes among us. In this edition you will find stories of outstanding women, many of whom would deny that they were outstanding – humility is often the hallmark of outstanding women.

So I trust you will enjoy reading the articles that Glynda, Jan and Linda have presented in the pages that follow. Thank you to those members who have contributed to this edition and I invite others to read and enjoy.

Regards

Patrick Bradbery

Welcome!

The Lake Macquarie Family History Group welcomes new member:



Barbara Jankowiak Member 322

We trust you will find your stay with us to be pleasant and rewarding!

As this is the final edition of *The Chronicle* for 2024 we take this opportunity to thank our contributors and readers for their support and encouragement and also to extend our best wishes for the coming festive season.

HO! HO! HO! IT'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TIME

We welcome donations of non-perishable goodies for our Christmas Raffle - to be drawn at our final meeting of the year

Saturday 14th DECEMBER 2023

Please support our Group by donating items and purchasing tickets.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024....

What a difficult Report to write for this our Annual General Meeting.

We began our year with President Anne Gleeson in the Chair taking our Group forward in different directions, that was until Anne's health deteriorated and offered her resignation; we, the Committee voted to give Anne 'Leave of Absence' in the hope she would be able to return to her position of President, unfortunately Anne wished to resign as she was unable to continue her role. With no offers to fill the position of President I managed to give my time to the Group during some difficult family times and would like to thank those who sat in the Chair when I was unavailable.

At our April, 2024 meeting we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a beautiful cake, tea and coffee, with members reminiscing on how far we had progressed, the achievements, the miles or maybe the kilometres we had travelled and the pride we had as representatives of LMFHG. There were many photos capturing special times enjoyed by our members over the years.

To your Committee, Thank You, for the time you have given to keep the wheels turning in the right direction. To Secretary Valda, with guidance from former Secretary Warren and committee, you have made it through the year taking the time to learn and understand the role you have taken on even though at times it became a little daunting, you kept at it and have done a wonderful job, thank you!

To Treasurer Karen, I compliment you on keeping our finances accounted for and budgeting for the year ahead, all of which takes time, added to this you run the Monday night Zoom Sessions that are appreciated by the members who join in discussing the many and varied topics raised. Please members if you are able, join in on Monday nights there is a commitment to share knowledge of research and records to help you. As Karen says, 'any question any time'. You as members support the Zoom session, in turn we support you with answers to any question you might have.

For over 22 years now, Members have volunteered their time on behalf of the Group helping those in the wider community with their genealogical research at LMCC Speers Point Library, thanks go to Unita Fleischer, Karen Eldridge, Jean Jones, Kerrie Dean, Jan Butcher and Linda Wallis for the hours you give to continue this service on behalf of LMFHG.

Our journal, The Chronicle, Glynda, Jan and Linda do an amazing amount of work to produce it every four months, you have set a standard and raised the bar. To the members who submit their stories to be published your writing is very much appreciated.

Earlier this year Karen, Jean, Glynda and I spent days at the University of Newcastle, Auchmuty Library GLAMx Lab digitising the Windsor Magistrates Bench Book and the original late 1890s Sulphide Corporation Wages books. It was a very interesting exercise in preserving history and learning to use their technology. Further thanks go to Robert Eldridge for his expertise in re-organising the files involved for members to be able to commence the indexing of the Bench Book.

As part of our September meeting, Glynda Nolan provided an interesting display of memorabilia and a power-point presentation commemorating the closure of the Sulphide/Pasminco plant at Cockle Creek. All of which is now part of Lake Macquarie's history. Thank you Glynda!

In March we held our very successful Open Day with three very interesting Guest Speakers, a day where all members were to be congratulated for their assistance and attendance. A day enjoyed by all with thanks to Dan Repacholi MP at very short notice, Anne and Jill, and not forgetting our wonderful kitchen ladies handling morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. A fantastic effort everyone!

The 2nd Tuesday Chat at Club Macquarie has proved to be another social and informative morning with members being asked to speak informally on a particular topic usually relating to family past and present. Numbers and faces vary from month to month. Jean Jones provides the topic for the day, this information is forwarded by the Secretary to everyone by email each month.

During the year members have travelled by bus, car and train in all weather conditions to many places throughout Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and Sydney: old stately homes, museums, State Archives and the Mitchell Library. It was pleasing to see members go to State Archives and the Mitchell Library for the very first time, a learning experience with a tour of both the archives and library as well as 'new finds' within their own family research. Thank you Jean for organising such outings and we look forward to many more during this coming year.

To Janne Light and Rosemary Tytherleigh, thank you for organising our interesting monthly Guest Speakers; this is by no means an easy task –finding suitable speakers, approaching, asking and confirming with follow-up all takes time, you have done exceptionally well this year!

In turn we thank Kerrie Dean for taking care of publicity for our events and meetings, added to that, being at our front table greeting members and visitors signing in.

Another enjoyable day was our Christmas luncheon outing at Cardiff Bowling Club with over 20 members present, good company, good food, good cheer and good laughs rounded out the day. The same could be said of our Christmas Meeting luncheon where the Group supplied beautiful fresh sandwiches and trays of fruit with members providing once again a great mixture of savoury and sweet treats. Following lunch a fun time was had drawing the Christmas raffle, again, thank you to all for the donations towards the prizes and to Jan and Ruth for presenting them all beautifully wrapped and embellished.

Although our library has had a re-organisation over the past year or two, Linda and Jean do an amazing job in accessioning more and more books to the collection. Recently we were offered and acquired a collection of books, films and microfiche from Hawkins Village Family History library, these are in the process of being sorted and accessioned. It will take more organising before the volume of films and the film and microfiche readers are able to be housed in our library. We thank Joyce Watt for the offer and delivery of items to LMFHG care of Robert and Karen's garage to house the collection until sorted.

Resulting from the library excess, Sue Folpp has been kept busy selling off numerous books to fill other's bookshelves on meeting days, this extra income helps in part to cover the cost of insuring our library collection. Thank you Sue!

Where would we be without our Refreshment ladies? Ann and Sue together with anyone they are able to co-opt to help out! Each meeting day, the Open Day and our Christmas luncheon, thanks for keeping the kettle boiling, tea and coffee are always appreciated with a biscuit!

Finally, to those who assist on the 1st Wednesday of the month opening, to each and every other member, thank you for assisting with all the little extras, setting up, packing up, supporting our monthly raffles and contributing wherever you are able I thank you.

To those members no longer able to attend meetings and those who have suffered health wise during this past year, you are remembered and wish all of you the best of health for the days ahead.

To the Incoming Committee, I wish you every success for the 2024-2025 year.

As I resign from the Position of Vice President, I thank you all for your support over many years.

Jenny Myers



Thank you Jenny



SECRETARY'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17TH AUGUST 2024

2023/24 has been my first year serving in the position of Secretary of the Group. I have found it to be both a busy and challenging time. My thanks go to all committee members for their support, assistance and encouragement whilst I have taken on this new role. My particular thanks go to Warren Oliver for his support and guidance as I have slowly taken over the duties that he has performed so capably over the past ten years.

Throughout the year I have been increasingly impressed by the number of members who quietly go about the jobs that are so essential for the smooth running of the Group. It is due to your combined efforts that the Group runs so efficiently as we enjoy excellent monthly speakers, discussion groups, an informative website, a well organised library, convenient kitchen facilities and much more. This year has seen a change in leadership as Anne Gleeson sadly had to resign her position as President due to ill health. Our sincere thanks must go to Jenny Myers for stepping in to the role during a time of challenge in her own life.

Committee Meetings have been held in the first week of each month. They have been well attended with good discussions and recommendations taking place. During the year we have met at the homes of Anne Gleeson, Robert and Karen Eldridge and lately at the Marmong Point Community Hall. The Hall continues to remain open on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month for research by members and visitors. Our continuing thanks must go to those members who are on hand at the hall every month to provide valuable assistance where needed.

The Group has recently received a large donation of resources previously held at Hawkins Masonic Village. This *Archives Resources Kit* was purchased by The Village with funds from a Federal Grant and consists of shipping records, cemetery records, pioneering family stories, census records and much more. After sorting and cataloguing these materials any that are surplus to our needs will be sold on the bookstall at our meetings or suitably disposed of.

One of the valuable sources of information available to Group members is in the form of journal exchange with other Family History and Historical Societies. We presently receive nine journals via Australia Post as hard copies which are entered into our library and twenty-eight journals as digital copies that are regularly emailed to Group Members.

An important, ongoing project being co-ordinated by Jenny Myers is the digitising and indexing of the Windsor Magistrates Bench Books, 1849 to 1871. Jenny and Karen Eldridge used the digital scanning facilities of Newcastle University Library to make digital copies of these proceedings. A number of Group members are helping with indexing the copied material.

Numerous interesting outings have taken place throughout the year. These outings have been well supported by the members and have included a trip on Sydney Harbour and visit to Goat Island, visits to the State Library of NSW, the NSW State Archives, the Lucy-Nightingale Museum and Grossman House. Thank you to Jean Jones for her efficient organisation of so many worthwhile activities. Thanks also go to Jean for her organisation of the Group Chat held at Club Macquarie on the second Tuesday of the month.

Our 25th Anniversary was celebrated at the April General Meeting this year with coffee and cake. It was a great pleasure to be able to celebrate with some of our founding members in attendance. I hope we can look forward to another exciting year of family history research and continuing camaraderie and enjoyment of the meetings.

Valda Owen

Well done Valda - we really appreciate your efforts.

Vale Warren James Oliver - 1937-2024

Members of The Lake Macquarie Family History Group were saddened to hear of the death of Warren Oliver, our past secretary, in hospital on 9th September, 2024.



Warren James Oliver was born on June 24, 1937 in Sydney, New South Wales. From an early age, Warren showed a love for his home and community. He spent his childhood and teenage years in the Sydney suburb of Northbridge, where he played water polo and rugby and formed friendships that lasted a lifetime.

In 1958, when living in Laguna Road, Northbridge, Warren began his career as a cadet engineer. His ambition and dedication to engineering led him to North Sydney Technical College, where he completed his training. In 1963 he added to his qualifications when he graduated from the University of New South Wales with a degree in engineering, officially launching a successful career that would span decades.

Warren's personal life blossomed alongside his professional achievements. In 1962, he met the love of his life, Louise Maria Taylor, on a blind date. A year later, in 1963, they were married in Sydney, and set up their first home in Stafford Road, Artarmon, marking the beginning of a lifelong partnership filled with love, support, and adventure.

In 1965, Warren and his young family moved to Cobar, in western New South Wales, where he accepted a position as Shire Engineer, overseeing a vast area of 44,000 square kilometres. He served in this role for an impressive 29 years, dedicating himself to the community and its development. While living in Cobar, an isolated area, Warren's passion for flying grew, and he earned his pilot's license, even owning his own plane.

When Warren retired from his role as Shire Engineer, he and Louise relocated to the serene shores of Lake Macquarie at Bolton Point. Even in retirement, Warren couldn't resist working, often taking on consultative engineering jobs in Western New South Wales. His strong sense of duty extended beyond his work life; he was actively involved in several community organizations and continued his service to others.

One of Warren's lifelong hobbies was stamp collecting, a passion that began in his youth and grew throughout his life. He became a dedicated member of the Newcastle Philatelic Society where he won the 2014 Annual Award in the experienced section for his entry "The New South Wales Sydney Views" a display covering the 1d, 2d and 3d stamp issues. His stamp collection was a testament to his meticulous nature and deep interest in history and culture.

Warren was also a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Toronto, where he exemplified the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Whether selling raffle tickets in the main street of Toronto or organizing charity events, he always found ways to give back to the community. As a member of the Fellowship of Flying Rotarians, he even helped organise and flew in a circumnavigation of Australia to raise funds for the eradication of polio.

In addition to his engineering and community work, Warren was deeply engaged in various hobbies. He was an avid walker. As a leader of a local walking group Warren organised walks and distributed detailed brochures of Group programs for fellow members. His extensive knowledge of walking tracks around the Hunter Region and Sydney earned him widespread respect among fellow walkers.

He was also involved in the Lake Macquarie Family History Group, Warren Oliver joined Group on 18 November 2000 and became a keen and valued member of the group. Warren took on the role of Hon Secretary in 2004, a role he held until 2023.

While fulfilling the demanding role of Secretary, Warren has also helped in other areas of organisation such as Group Outings, setting up and helping with the Group's table display at historical society seminar days and group functions. He conscientiously communicated with members sending notices and forwarding eJournals from other societies. He regularly attended general meetings and research days helping many members and visitors with the difficult task of understanding their Irish Heritage.

Warren has assisted with researching, transcribing, entering and proof-reading data for our publications, including, Pioneers and Settlers of Lake Macquarie, St Matthews Church of England Windsor Parish Registers (4 volumes), Whitebridge and Belmont Cemeteries, and R.M. Evans and Sons Funeral Directors.

His dedication to local history and genealogy was recognised with a prestigious Certificate of Achievement from the Royal Australian Historical Society in 2021. Warren was also the recipient of a Community Award in 2022.

Warren and Louise shared a love of travel, both within Australia and internationally, exploring new places together throughout their retirement. Louise passed away in 2016, but Warren continued to live in their home at Bolton Point, maintaining close ties to his community and family. The couple had two children, a daughter and a son, and four grandchildren, all of whom were a source of pride and joy in Warren's life.

A man of quiet leadership, Warren preferred to serve rather than lead from the front. He was a problem solver, dedicated to his community, family, and the pursuit of knowledge. His love for reading and learning never waned, and his contributions to his local family history group, Rotary, philatelic society, and other organisations were invaluable.

Warren passed away in hospital on September 9, 2024, just a few months after celebrating his 87th birthday. He leaves behind a legacy of service, friendship, family, and community that will be cherished by all who knew him.

At his funeral service, held on September 23, 2024 at the Toronto Uniting Church, the large congregation and tributes from family members and local groups were a testament to the impact Warren had on his community. It was a celebration of a life lived in the spirit of service above self.

Our thanks to Jill Ball for allowing us to include this obituary that she originally published on the Group's blog on September 24th 2024. (<https://lakemacfhg.blogspot.com/>)



Seemed like a good idea at the time.....

William Kemmler, who is the first person in New York to be executed by electricity, says he fears such a death a hundred times more than a death by rope.

If murderers generally have such dread of the mysterious death by electric shock, life may be safer when such punishment is in general practice. (Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners Advocate: 23 August 1889 page 3, Trove, NLA)

Please forgive the rather light-hearted title of this story about my maternal grandmother, Alice Mary Noon, nee Howe. As the tale unfolds you will see the very real impact that death and dying has had on her life. Fortunately, there were many joyous events as well. This is a brief outline of her life as a necessarily resilient woman.

Alice Mary Howe was born in Leichhardt a suburb of Sydney in October 1885. She was the second child of George Thomas Howe, an English immigrant from London and Jane Mary Byrnes an immigrant from County Limerick in Ireland. Jane was accompanied on the journey by her parents Joseph and Katherine. George and Jane married in June 1883 in Sydney. Alice's elder brother, Thomas Henry (known as Tom) was born in July 1884.

Toddler Alice may have been delighted when her sister Katherine was born in June 1887, although she was only twenty months old. She more likely celebrated the birth of her brother George in February 1891, when she was five years old. But the joy was short-lived as Katherine became ill and died the following June, just before her fourth birthday. Sadly, George's death was soon to follow in February 1892.

Happily, there was some respite from the tragedies of the two infant deaths with the birth of four more sisters for Alice. Matilda Charlotte (known as Tilly) was born in January 1893, Georgina Florence (known as Flo) was born in February 1895, Charlotte May (known as May) was born in April 1897 and Grace was born in October 1900. Finally, another brother provided a male bookend to match Thomas when a second George was born in August 1902.

By this time Alice was sixteen years of age and had gone into service as a lady's maid for the Yabsley family at Haberfield. Eventually she became a governess for young Sylvia Yabsley and they established a friendship that continued on well beyond her employment.

In 1908, when Alice was twenty-two, her paternal grandfather Thomas passed away in England at the age of seventy-seven. Another occasion for grieving, no doubt, although tempered by remoteness and his advanced age. Some time after his death, his widow Agatha (nee Harvey) emigrated from England and settled in Petersham, a suburb of Sydney. Although this was a welcome event, Alice was more concerned with the relationship she had developed with builders' labourer John Noon (known as Jack) from Paddington.

In 1911 there were two weddings for Alice to celebrate. Because Alice was a Catholic and Jack was a C of E, they kept both families happy by having two wedding ceremonies. One was held in the Catholic church in Petersham and the other in the C of E in Woollahra. Alice was twenty-five years of age and Jack was thirty-one.

Come 1914 and the commencement of the Great War in Europe, a portent of tragedies to come. In the following year Alice's older brother Tom married Eliza Ann Batting at Petersham prior to being shipped over to Gallipoli.

Three years after their marriage Alice and Jack's first son Cyril Francis was born in April 1915 on what was to become Anzac Day. They also moved into their family residence in Lidcombe where they would raise their children. The happy times were short-lived. In August of that year, her brother Tom died of wounds sustained in the battle with the Ottoman army in Gallipoli. In June of the following year, Jack's older brother, Thomas Woodburn Noon was also killed at Gallipoli, leaving behind a widow, two daughters and a son.

It was also in that year that Alice and Jack had the joy of another birth. Doreen Alice was born in April. But the joy was not to last long, as Jack's mother Letitia died in November of the same year, perhaps of a broken heart. Two years later, in April again, my mother Jeanne May was born. But once again, death came upon the scene, with the passing of Alice's maternal grandmother Katherine Byrnes (nee Keilly) in Newcastle NSW in 1919 aged in her sixties, probably as a consequence of the so-called Spanish influenza

epidemic. Once again, the good times returned for Alice and Jack when John Thomas (known as Jacky) was born in January 1920.

But inexorably death did not stay at bay for very long. In August 1923 Alice's maternal grandfather Joseph Byrnes also succumbed to influenza at the age of seventy-two. He was living in Ashfield at the time. Following this grieving period, Alice at last could focus on raising her four children. Her widowed paternal grandmother Agatha Howe (nee Harvey) was able to assist her in this task.

One of the highlights of this time for Alice was a return trip to England with her father George Thomas. They were on a quest to try to extricate the Howe family fortune, which was held in Chancery because of there being no proven heirs. Unfortunately, the trip was in vain. They were unable to demonstrate their right to inherit.

Then of course 1929 arrived and with it the start of the great depression, which caused some further challenges for Alice and her family. But 1929 also brought back the Grim Reaper. Alice's father George died in Redfern in June of that year at the age of sixty-eight. With intermittent work as a builders' labourer Jack was able to provide for his family through the depression years.

The 1930s were also times for a more joyful kind of grieving for Alice and Jack as three of their children married and left home. First Cyril married his childhood sweetheart Myrtle Elizabeth Brown in 1936 at St John's church in Auburn. Then Jeanne married Walter Thomas Bradbery in December 1937 in the crypt at St Mary's Cathedral (he was C of E, so wasn't allowed to be married in the Cathedral proper). Two years later Doreen married John Joseph Callaghan (known as Jack) at St Joachim's church in Lidcombe.

Alas, once more these joyful events were marred by death. Alice's mother Jane, in July of 1938, was clearing the backyard of her home at Merrylands of grass using fire. Unfortunately, she decided to use some petrol to speed up the process. The fire spread to her clothing and she was badly burnt. She died a few days later in Parramatta hospital at the age of seventy-six. In the following year, 1939, Jeanne gave birth to a daughter named Denise May in January. Later in the year, Alice's daughter-in-law Myrtle produced a still born child and of course September saw the beginning of World War II, which would prove devastating for Alice and Jack.

In the following year, Myrtle gave birth to a daughter Janice Fay, but sadly Myrtle died of birth complications. Meanwhile, son-in-law Walter enlisted in the army in July of 1940. Also in the same year, Alice's grandmother Agatha died in Petersham at the ripe old age of 110. In October, daughter Jeanne gave birth to a son named Barry Thomas on the day after Alice's fifty-fifth birthday. The combination of these events led to some logistic challenges. Following Walter's enlistment, then pregnant Jeanne and her child had moved in with Alice and Jack in Lidcombe. When Myrtle died, Cyril was left with a young baby, and he needed support. So, Jeanne and her two children moved in with her sister Doreen in Auburn, and Cyril and Janice moved in with Alice and Jack. These arrangements continued until Cyril remarried in 1943 to Lolah Millie Pollock a divorcee with two young sons, Jacky and Freddy. Jeanne and her two then returned to Alice and Jack's home in Lidcombe.

Meanwhile, youngest son Jacky enlisted in the Citizens Military Forces in February of 1941. Son-in-law Walter embarked on a ship bound for the Middle East theatre in that same month. To Alice and Jack's relief this meant that Jacky stayed at home and spent much of his time ferrying armaments to and from the underground bunkers at Ermington and the naval base at Garden Island. Later in that year, daughter Doreen gave birth to her first child, a son named Michael. Then, in August of that year son Jacky made a fateful decision. Frustrated by the escalation of the war, he resigned from the CMF and joined the Australian Imperial Forces. This proved to be a fateful decision.

In October Jacky, now in the 8th Laundry and Decontamination Unit, embarked on a ship bound for Singapore. The journey took nearly a month, presumably because the ship was stopping at other ports along the way. He had a few months to "enjoy" the delights of Singapore before the Japanese arrived the following February. He spent a couple of months hiding from the enemy, and during those two months Alice and Jack received the terrible news that he was missing, presumed dead.

That however was not the reality and he was eventually discovered by the Japanese and shipped to British North Borneo as a prisoner-of-war to help construct an air strip at Sandakan.

The following month, Walter returned from the Middle East, unscathed and promoted to Sergeant. He spent most of the next three years in various training locations in Australia, including Puckapunyal, Kapooka, Enoggera and the Atherton Tablelands as a trainer.

Alice's story now skips along to March 1944, when two contrasting events took place. One was the birth of a second son to Doreen and Jack, who was given his father's name of John Joseph. The other was the collision of daughter Jeanne with a truck while she was cycling home from her job at Michael Nairn and Co in Silverwater. Jeanne was critically injured and took some time to recover. However, a hidden blessing, some say a curse, was that Walter was granted compassionate leave and my conception took place.

My birth in February 1945 was a joyful event, I presume, but apart from the end of the war later that year and Walter's consequent demobilisation, real tragedy was to manifest for Alice and Jack. In May 1945, son Jacky died as a result of severe dysentery in the prison camp at Sandakan. However, because of the confusion caused by the "death march" conducted by the Japanese, he was listed as missing, and once again the notification came: missing presumed dead. It would be many years before his death was confirmed and throughout those years Alice resolutely hoped for him to walk through her front door.

The years immediately after the war saw the Angel of Death give some respite to Alice and Jack. Instead, they welcomed additions to their family. Diane Elizabeth, another daughter for Jeanne was born in September 1946. Pamela, a first daughter for Doreen was born in June 1947. But in 1948, tragedy struck again with the death of Jack's only sister, Mary. This at least provided some relief for Alice and Jack because Walter and Jeanne and their four children were able to rent Mary's residence in Auburn and move out of the rather cramped house at Lidcombe.

Along came 1952, another year of mixed blessings. In July of that year, Jeanne gave birth to another son, Raymond John. In December, Alice had to say goodbye to her beloved Jack, who passed away as a consequence of lead poisoning, probably contracted as a spray painter at the Ford motor vehicle factory at Homebush, which was his last employment.

This event began a rather unsettled period for Alice, as the family home was sold and she began a period of "bouncing" among her three surviving children. This came to an end in 1954, when she moved in with Jeanne's family and helped to welcome another daughter for Jeanne, Karen Joy. Once again Alice had to cope with death in 1955, when her step-grandson Frederick took his own life. More joy was to follow in 1956 with the birth of Kerry Anne and again in 1959 with the birth of Sharonne Maree. Death had one last sting for Alice, with the passing of her brother-in-law Frank in 1961, before she too died in October 1962, shortly after her seventy-seventh birthday.

Eighteen periods of mourning for my grandmother Alice in her lifetime, and these are only those closely related to her. It is little wonder that I admire her resilience.



Queen Victoria went into deep mourning following the death of her husband Prince Albert in 1861. She dressed in full mourning clothes for three years and continued to wear black in some form as an expression of her grief for the remainder of her life. For much of that time a black mourning dress became a must have item in an upper to middle-class woman's wardrobe.

The people of Australia have settled upon no prescribed periods for the wearing of mourning. Some wear them long after their hearts have ceased to mourn. Where there is profound grief, no rules are needed, but where the sorrow is not so great, there is need of observance of fixed periods for wearing mourning. (*Australian Etiquette or the Rules and Usages of the Best Society in the Australasian Colonies; People's Publishing Co., Melbourne, 1886*)

In the early 1870s, Winifred WELLINGS and her husband, Carl Christian Andreas Haaber TRONIER, moved from Camden, New South Wales, via Sydney, to the mining towns of Wellingrove and Red Range, near Glen Innes in the New England region. They sought opportunities in this developing area. While these communities were shaped by mining, local businesses, and service industries, it was also a place where hardship and health challenges could occur. Winifred took on the responsibility of managing the local post office, becoming an integral part of the town's communication hub, while Carl worked to establish their family's new roots - first as a wheelwright and later as a miner.

It was into this setting, that their first child, Ethel Alexandria TRONIER, born in 1872 in Woolloomooloo, was brought. Her arrival marked the beginning of what should have been a growing family. However, the next 20 years were marked by loss rather than expansion. Between 1872 and 1907, Winifred and Carl welcomed eight children, but only Ethel survived past infancy. Their second child, a son named Arthur Christian TRONIER, was born in 1874 at Wellingrove, New South Wales, and died just two days later. The remaining six children were unnamed, each dying shortly after birth. This information was provided by Carl on Winifred's death certificate date 1907.

TROVE - Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser
10 October 1874- Death Notices

TRONIER—Sept. 27, Glen Innes. Arthur Christian, infant son of Carl and Winifred Tronier, aged 2 days.

NSW DEATH REGISTRATION TRANSCRIPTION		REF NO 1907/1213
NAME	WINIFRED TRONIER	
DATE OF DEATH	16 MAR 1907	
PLACE	HOSPITAL GLEN INNES	
OCCUPATION	POST MISTRESS	
SEX	FEMALE	
AGE	57	
CONJUGAL STATUS		
PLACE OF BIRTH	CAMDEN NSW	
TIME IN AUST COLONIES	SINCE BIRTH	
FATHER	JOHN WELLINGS	
OCCUPATION	FARMER	
MOTHER	ELIZABETH PEARSON	
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	CAMDEN NSW	
AGE AT MARRIAGE	22	
NAME OF SPOUSE	CARL CHRISTIAN ANDREAS HAABERT TRONIER	
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE	ETHEL 35, LIVING; 3 MALES, 4 FEMALES DECEASED	
INFORMANT	M HAIN, MATRON, HOSPITAL, GLEN INNES	
CAUSE OF DEATH	CARCINOMA MAMMAE	
LENGTH OF ILLNESS	3 YEARS	
MEDICAL ATTENDANT	J MacKENZIE	
DATE LAST SEEN	16 MAR 1907	
DATE OF BURIAL	17 MAR 1907	
PLACE OF BURIAL	CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY GLEN INNES	
MINISTER & RELIGION	ARTHUR JOHNSTONE, CHURCH OF ENGLAND	
UNDERTAKER	ALFRED H LANE	
WITNESSES	W TWEDDELL, C J RODGERS	
CREMATION DATE		
CREMATION PLACE		
CREMATION INFORMANT		
CREMATION RELIGION		
CREMATION WITNESSES		
REGISTERED	17 MAR 1907 - GLEN INNES	
NOTES		

Ref No 10561988

Printed 28 September 2024

At first glance, the loss of so many children might seem to reflect the harsh realities of life in rural Australia during the late 19th century. High infant mortality rates were not uncommon in Australia, particularly in rural and mining communities like Red Range. Poor living conditions, malnutrition, and lack of medical care contributed to these losses. Overcrowded housing, poor sanitation, and open drains created breeding grounds for disease in rural mining areas, further exacerbating the challenges families faced. However, the pattern of loss in the Tronier family suggests there may have been more than just environmental factors at play.

Interestingly, Winifred and Carl's losses followed a distinct pattern, hinting at a possible medical explanation beyond the typical hardships of the era. Ethel, the firstborn, survived, and their second child lived briefly, but the rest died soon after birth. This pattern aligns with what we now know as haemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN), caused by Rh incompatibility. The Rh factor is a protein found on red blood cells, and complications arise when an Rh-negative mother carries an Rh-positive child. Winifred may have been Rh-negative, and after her first pregnancy with Ethel, her body could have become sensitised to the Rh-positive blood of her subsequent children. Without medical intervention, her immune system would have attacked the red blood cells of these pregnancies, leading to the tragic loss of her remaining children.

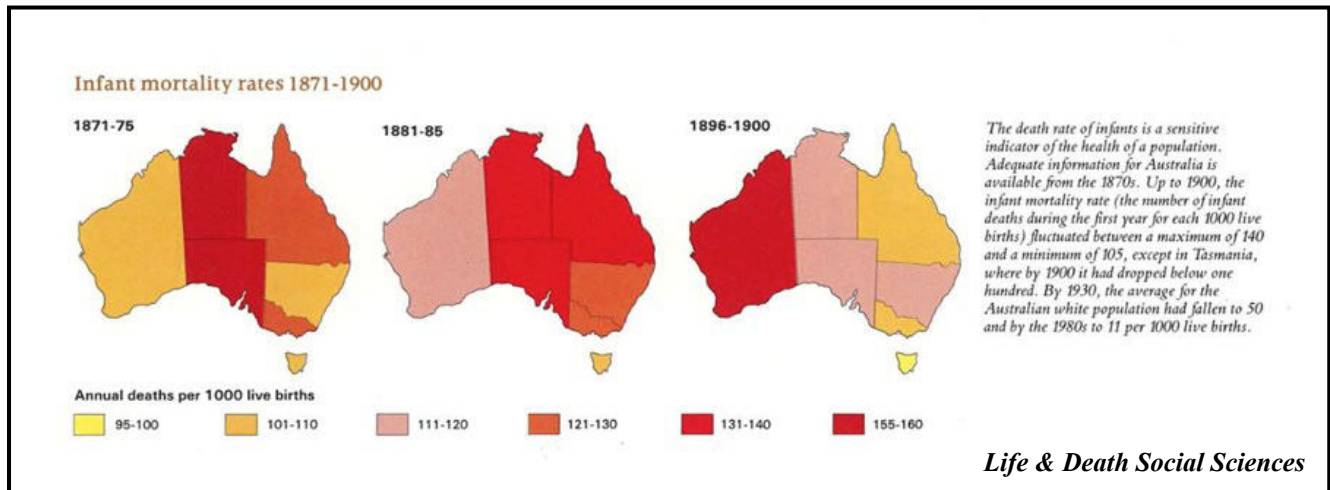
The understanding of Rh disease did not emerge until long after Winifred's time. In the early 20th century, scientists began to recognise the role the Rh factor played in pregnancy complications. The Rh factor was first identified by Karl Landsteiner and Alexander Wiener in 1940, but it wasn't until the 1950s that doctors like John Gorman, Vincent Freda, and William Pollock developed an intervention—Rh immunoglobulin (RhoGAM®) - to prevent this disease. This treatment revolutionised prenatal care by preventing the mother's immune system from attacking the red blood cells of Rh-positive foetuses. Unfortunately, in the 19th century, Winifred and Carl had no access to such life-saving interventions.

Despite their losses, Winifred and Carl continued to be active members of their community. Winifred's role as postmistress connected her to the larger world beyond Red Range, likely helping other families stay in touch with distant loved ones. Her resilience, after enduring the loss of so many children, speaks to the strength of women in that era, especially those in remote, rural areas where support was scarce.

The story of Winifred Wellings and Carl Tronier's family is one of both tragedy and resilience. Their losses reflect the broader challenges faced by families during this period. Winifred's strength in the face of such adversity, her role in the community, and the legacy she left through her surviving daughter, Ethel, highlight the lasting impact women like her had on their families and communities. Today, with a deeper understanding of Rh disease and the medical advances made since then, we can look back at Winifred's life with greater insight. It is clear that Winifred Wellings was certainly a woman who deeply influenced our family's history.



Winifred Wellings b 1849 on left holding Marion Winifred Allen b 1900, with son-in-law John Birnie Allen b 1852, daughter Ethel Tronier b 1872 and grandson Cecil Birnie Allen b 1902



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Life and Death: Chapter 8

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BBC History Magazine's top 20 women who changed the world:

- **Marie Curie**, physicist
- **Rosa Parks**, activist
- **Emmeline Pankhurst**, activist
- **Ada Lovelace**, inventor
- **Rosalind Franklin**, scientist
- **Margaret Thatcher**, first female British Prime Minister
- **Angela Burdett-Coutts**, philanthropist
- **Mary Wollstonecraft**, writer and philosopher
- **Florence Nightingale**, humanitarian
- **Marie Stopes**, birth control advocate
- **Eleanor of Aquitaine**, Queen of England and France
- **Virgin Mary**, mother of Jesus
- **Jane Austen**, author
- **Boudicca**, Queen of the Iceni tribe
- **Diana, Princess of Wales**
- **Amelia Earhart**, aviator
- **Queen Victoria**
- **Josephine Butler**, activist
- **Mary Seacole**, Crimean War nurse
- **Mother Teresa**, humanitarian

(<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/worlds-most-influential-women-in-history>)

I never met my great-grand Aunt Janie as she died before I was born. There was a little recorded family information about Aunt Janie's life and several members of the family recently updated it for the 150th anniversary of her birth.

Aunt Janie was an unsung family hero.

Margaret Jane Wilson was born in Gum Creek, South Australia in 1874. Within 10 years the family was living in Petersburg where her father was farmer and eventually became the local agent for the Farmers Union. Janie and her sisters were mainly home-schooled with a governess.

Janie was known to have worked in a shop, possibly drapery, as well as undertake mending, possibly for a nursing home. Daughters of her brother Will reported that Janie was a bit of a party girl who enjoyed going to local dances.

When Janie was 25, she suffered badly from enteric fever (typhoid) and nearly died. There are also suggestions that she suffered from rheumatic fever and neuralgia. Janie's younger sister Carrie contracted typhoid soon after Janie, as did their mother and father. Their mother succumbed to the disease on 1st April 1900, with their father being too ill at the time to be told.

We are unsure where Janie undertook her basic nursing training, but in 1912 a M.J. Wilson was a trainee at the Queens Home in Adelaide, and in December 1912 a Margaret Wilson passed her obstetrics nursing examination. Janie's ATNA Obstetrics badge/medal is dated February 1913. Janie was also an obstetrics nurse at St Margaret's hospital in Sydney.

Janie's older sister Bessie and husband Ern Springbett moved to Delungra, NSW circa 1908. Janie visited multiple times and was there in 1915 when Bessie died of complications following the birth of their only son, Wilbur. Janie's younger sister Carrie, a war nurse who had retreated from Antwerp in October 1914, was now at the American Hospital in Paris, and had written to Bessie and Ern including hope their fifth child was a son.

The family knew "Janie has a dislike of living in country places" and she took the two youngest, infant Irene and baby Wilbur, to Adelaide. Janie was known to be thrifty, reportedly renting out a house she owned to use the rent to live in a smaller place. At times Janie took Wilbur in a pram and Irene walked with her to see family living ~10km away. She often used to walk as she kept missing trains but "the tall thin lady was determined".

While Janie cared for the two youngest, their three elder sisters resided with other Wilson and Springbett relatives when they attended high school in Adelaide. In early 1923, after the death of her father, Janie bought a house in Unley where she lived with Irene and Wilbur. At the end of 1923, Irene returned to the Delungra farm, and in 1929, Carrie married Ern Springbett and also moved to Delungra. When niece Roma was diagnosed with a brain tumour, Carrie took her to Janie's place in Adelaide. When Roma died shortly afterwards, Carrie wrote to Ern saying, "Janie had left no stone unturned that would add to Roma's comfort or happiness, but knowing her devotion through all these years to Wilbur, you will of course realise that."

Janie was approaching 60 years old when Wilbur moved to the farm in Delungra in 1933. Janie moved closer to niece Irene and husband Harry in Sydney in 1941, selling the Unley property in 1942. In 1945 Janie attended nephew Wilbur's wedding in Newcastle.

Carrie persuaded Janie (then aged 75) to live with her in Normanhurst, NSW after Ern Springbett died in 1949. Although they had similar nutritional views, Carrie and Janie generally did not get on well with each other. In 1950 Janie moved to a bed sitter flat and was frequently visited by the Springbett nieces, still spoiling and fussing over her young charges.

In 1955 Janie attended a family wedding at Orroroo, SA and another in 1958 at Camden, NSW. In Camden, the bride's brother ripped his trousers bought for the wedding. Janie did a remarkable invisible mending job on his trousers.

Janie was increasingly frail and suffering from dementia in 1956 and was eventually persuaded to move in again with Carrie. Janie remained living with Carrie until her death in 1960 (aged 86).

Her grand-nieces remember Aunt Janie fondly as a kind, warm, sensitive and helpful person. They believe she gave up her nursing career to care for niece Irene and nephew Wilbur, and was a much loved and widely respected "Aunt".

A life of commitment to family.

A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

Marlene Allen Member 236

Don't get me wrong, I loved both my Grandmothers as well as my mother to pieces. They also taught me so much. However, the female who made a distinctive impression on me was the author – Eleanor H. Porter.

She was the author of 'The Pollyanna Books' writing the first three books in the series. Harriet Lumins Smith wrote the next four books, and Elizabeth Borton wrote another seven books. Fourteen in total, I still have thirteen, the first one is missing.

My uncle's wife, Betty, started to give me the books - one for birthdays and one for Christmas beginning when I was about the age of 10 or 11. She gave my sister the 'Ann of Green Gable' Series. We both looked forward to receiving these every time.

The object of 'The Glad Game' seemed to impress me at that age and I still try to live by this even now.

If you wonder what 'The Glad Game' is about – Pollyanna was a minister's daughter and as you are aware the funds were never enough. They had a Church Fair and the only thing left over was a pair of crutches. Pollyanna was told to be grateful that she did not need them. However, she later had an accident and she did need them. So, she was glad to have them when she did need them at this time.

This is a short synopsis of the stories. I may not have remembered all the details but the main thing is 'The Glad Game'.

[Pollyanna, a 1913 novel by American author Eleanor H. Porter, is considered a classic of children's literature. The book's success led to Porter soon writing a sequel, Pollyanna Grows Up (1915). Eleven more Pollyanna sequels, known as "Glad Books", were later published.]

Further sequels followed, including Pollyanna Plays the Game by Colleen L. Reece, published in 1997.

Due to the book's fame, "Pollyanna" has become a byword for someone who, like the title character, has an unfailingly optimistic outlook. Despite the current common use of the term to mean "excessively cheerful", Pollyanna and her father played the glad game as a method of coping with the real difficulties and sorrows that, along with luck and joy, shape every life.

Pollyanna has been adapted for film several times. Some of the best known are the 1920 version starring Mary Pickford, and Disney's 1960 version starring child actress Hayley Mills.]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollyanna>

Image: <https://www.ebay.com.au/>



The matriarch of my paternal line when I was growing up was my Nanna Curry, a gentle lady with snowy white hair that she wore in a bun. She seemed terribly old to me when she was about the age I am now.

Nanna, Mary Tierney, was born on 18th May 1887 in the town of Dungog to John D'Arcy Tierney, a carpenter, builder and sometime undertaker, and his Irish wife, Mary Kealy. Nanna had two sisters, Jane and Eliza, and a brother, Patrick.

Mary suffered from asthma and when a young woman, on medical advice, moved to Canowindra with a climate more suitable for her chest problems. She worked there as a dressmaker; I remember trying to learn to sew on her Singer treadle sewing machine. She met Thomas William Curry, a farmer there in his home town of Canowindra.

In 1918 Tom and Mary had a quiet wedding in Sydney and returned to Canowindra where they brought up their family of three boys and two girls. My Dad, Allan John, was their first-born. These siblings are now all deceased so, as the eldest granddaughter, I am the matriarch of the family. Our Curry surname has daughtered-out as the Curry boys had no male offspring.

Papa Curry managed two local properties, Fairview and Benevento, in Canowindra and the family grew up on the farms and in town. After my grandfather retired the family moved to Brighton-le-sands in Sydney and that is where my memories kick in. I can't remember my grandfather as he died when I was an infant but I have many recollections of my Nanna Curry.

Mary was a devout Catholic who was proud of her Irish heritage. I remember kneeling beside her bed and reciting my prayers with her when I went to stay with her. We would always include this prayer:

There are four corners on my bed,
There are four angels at my head.
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
Bless the bed I lay upon.

A generous soul, Mary regularly corresponded with her Kealy relatives in Kilkenny. She often included gifts of money in these letters "home to Ireland". Mary was quite musical; she regularly played the organ in the Catholic Church in Dungog. She tried to teach me Irish songs like The Rose of Tralee, I'll take you home again Kathleen and Danny Boy; although I remember the words I did not inherit Nanna's sweet singing voice.

Before my Aunts left home I would sleep with Nanna in her high double bed with her statue of Our Lady looking down on me. I was pleased to find out recently that Our Lady is now residing in a glass-fronted cabinet in my cousin's home.

Nanna loved feeding me egg flips that she believed to be very healthy, these drinks were made from milk, a raw egg and vanilla essence and after a shake and stir of the ingredients nutmeg was sprinkled on top. I remember them as quite sweet and delicious. Nanna used to often give me sweets to take home, they were always the same caramels. I sometimes wished for a bit of variety.

Before we had a car we used to visit Nanna's home by train and bus every Sunday for lunch. Nanna would cook us a baked dinner or corned beef and vegetables for Sunday lunch. I don't know how the extended family all squeezed around her table that was just 4 feet in diameter. Sometimes, after Uncle Kevin bought a television set, we would stay on to watch Leave it to Beaver before making our way home. I remember watching Princess Margaret's wedding on that TV in 1960.

Uncle Kevin had a car, one of the early Holdens (FJ or FX), so after lunch all the family might pile in to go for a drive to watch the planes taking off at the nearby Kingsford Smith (Sydney) airport or down south across the Taren Point Car Ferry towards Cronulla Beach. As we lived in a flat with no backyard

my dinky, scooter and bicycle with training wheels lived at Nanna's. I spent many happy Sundays tootling up and down the garden path and the footpath in my vehicles.

Our trip to Brighton was made easier when Dad got his first car. Uncle Kevin was relieved of his chauffeuring duties but we continued our drives to visit Auntie Lil and Uncle Tom at Sans Souci and Auntie Mary and Uncle Ed at Mortdale. In summer we would sometimes go the Ramsgate Baths for a swim or we would swim in the baths on the beach at Brighton.

When I married my visits to Brighton-le sands became less frequent. Nanna, who lived to the ripe old age of 89 spent the last few years of her life in a nursing home. My eldest child has memories of visiting her there and singing nursery rhymes together. Mary passed away peacefully in 1977. I was fortunate to have two grandmothers who had long lives with me for so long.

I only have fond and pleasant memories of Mary Tierney who had an enormous impact on my life.



Mary Tierney 1887



Jill and Mary Curry nee Tierney



WHEN WOMEN SPEAK.....

We are here, not because we are lawbreakers; we are here in our efforts to be law-makers. Emmeline Pankhurst

Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Marie Curie

Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground. Rosa Parks

It's not about being perfect. It's not about where you get yourself in the end. There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. Michelle Obama

Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world. Eleanor Roosevelt

When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you till it seems as if you couldn't hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that's just the place and time that the tide'll turn. Harriet Beecher Stowe

REVEALING MY FAMILY'S ADOPTION SECRET: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Arthur Radford Member 58

I first had a hint of my mother's possible adoption during a chance conversation with a near neighbour at his house at Fishing Point in March 1993. It came as a bit of a shock as I had been diligently researching my family tree for many years. He had been a close friend perhaps even a boyfriend when they were in their teens. At age 45 I had stumbled upon the family secret. At a later visit he handed me photos of my mother as a teenager.

I had been led to believe the Grandparents I grew up near were the natural parents of my mother. Subsequently, I discovered that my mother was adopted and her birth mother, aged in her 90's, was living in Nowra not that far from my mother. The upshot of this led to a reunion of mother and daughter and for me meeting for the first time my birth grandmother. It also meant a few surprises and a meeting of extended family on both sides. Both my mother and birth grandmother had come from an age and society where these things were not talked about. Nan as we came to know her died only a few short years later.

Mum was born at Marrickville NSW in 1925 in a Salvation Army home for unmarried mothers. At that time it was unusual for an unmarried young mother to keep her baby and the father's name was almost always left off the birth certificate. This was the case when my mother's original birth certificate was obtained.

Using my skills as a family researcher I was able to slowly put together a family tree and trace the family of my birth grandmother - an ancestry her family was unaware of. She had married and had 3 children after the birth of my mother.

However, finding out who was my birth grandfather was not on the cards and I resigned to never knowing this part of my family. I was happy to have more interesting family to uncover for many years.

With the advent of DNA, it never occurred to me that it was a research tool that would be in any way helpful to me. I had accepted that there was one part of me that I would never know and never gave it a thought.

In 2017 I received a DNA Christmas present from my wife and as I spat into a tube and posted it I still wasn't aware that it would make any difference to my knowledge of family.

When the results came back, and I looked at my ethnicity and realised there was no surprises there. Some English some Irish and Scottish. Well, I knew that.

As I looked at the list of matches there was one second cousin whose name I recognised but didn't know she was interested in tracing her family. We have since met up and shared our knowledge of family.

There was also another with whom I matched, a second cousin, but it was unclear to me who she was. Emails were sent back and forth sharing what we knew of each other's family but there was no match. As I learnt more and more of her family, I realised that her family were from the same area in Sydney and the men were nearly all Engineers as my birth mother's father had been in the 1920's.

A second cousin of hers appeared in my list of DNA matches and from that time it became clear that there was a definite connection between me and their family. With other evidence we were able to pinpoint who my birth grandfather would be. This time there was a number of researchers who had put together a tree that was not only extensive but traced a family back over many generations. That was a little disappointing for me, but I have been able correct some minor mistakes as I check through previous research.

So, I have now found that I have ancestors who lived in the convict era in Newcastle taking me back into earlier Australian white settlement and I have six grandparents in my tree.



It is always a challenge to trace your family tree back as far as possible, especially when ensuring it is supported by reliable records. But can we go back 7,000 years, 14,500 years, or even 25,000 years in search of “Eve”? Who is this Mitochondrial Eve, she is the woman to whom every living person today can trace their maternal line back to. She is believed to have lived in eastern Africa about 180,000 years ago. Eve is definitely a ‘woman who influenced our family’s history.’

Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) is one of a group of genetic tests that can be used to determine or confirm your family origins. The most common DNA test is the autosomal DNA test, which can be taken by both males and females. Over thirty million people have tested their autosomal DNA at just one testing company alone. Additionally, X-DNA is an analysed part of the autosomal DNA test, but only 23andMe and Family Tree DNA report these results. Both males and females inherit this X chromosome so either can be tested to determine their maternal group. Women hand down a recombined X chromosome to their children while fathers hand down a non-recombined X to daughters and a Y chromosome to sons. Y-DNA is another useful DNA test, as it examines the Y chromosome that is passed down from father to son over generations and can be helpful in determining a paternal line. Only males have this Y chromosome.

Who Gets What?

Figure 1: Who Inherits What (Roberta Estes)

	Males	Females
Inherit an X chromosome from mother	Yes	Yes
Inherit an X chromosome from father	No	Yes
Contribute an X chromosome to male Children	No	Yes
Contribute an X chromosome to female children	Yes	Yes
Inherit mtDNA from mother	Yes	Yes
Contribute mtDNA to male children	No	Yes
Contribute mtDNA to female children	No	Yes
Inherit Y chromosome from father	Yes	No
Inherit Y chromosome from mother	No	No
Contribute Y chromosome to male children	Yes	No
Contribute Y chromosome to female children	No	No

MtDNA is useful in researching the matrilineal line in a family tree because it is a very stable form of DNA, with very few changes, or mutations, occurring over time. Unlike autosomal DNA, it does not recombine and is transmitted unchanged to the next generations. The mitochondria are parts of each cell, separate from the nucleus, and this circular piece of DNA acts as the powerhouse for many cells in the human body. Only women pass it on to all their offsprings, daughters pass it on to their children, but men do not pass it on.

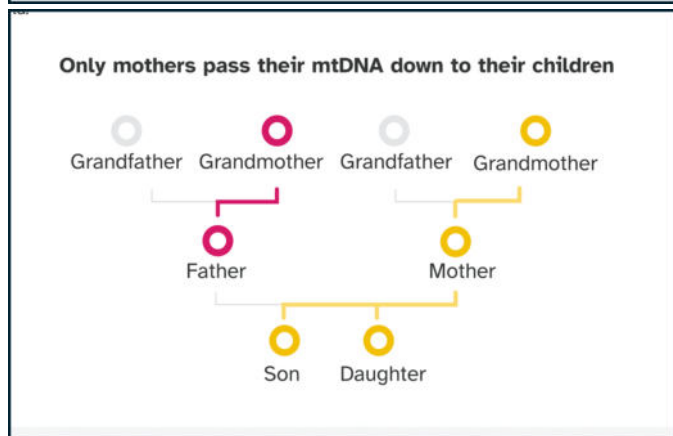


Figure 2: MtDNA inheritance path (FTDNA)

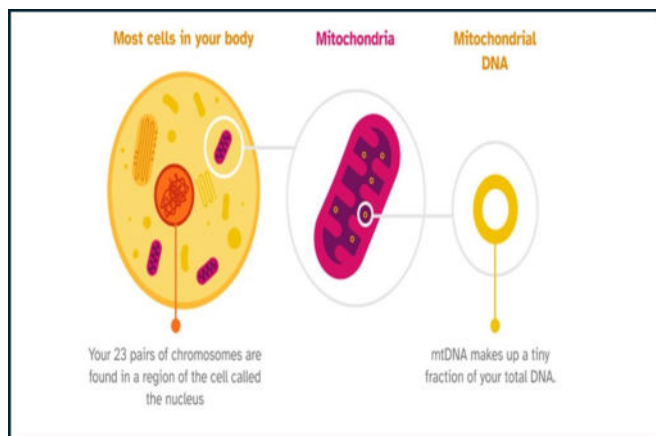
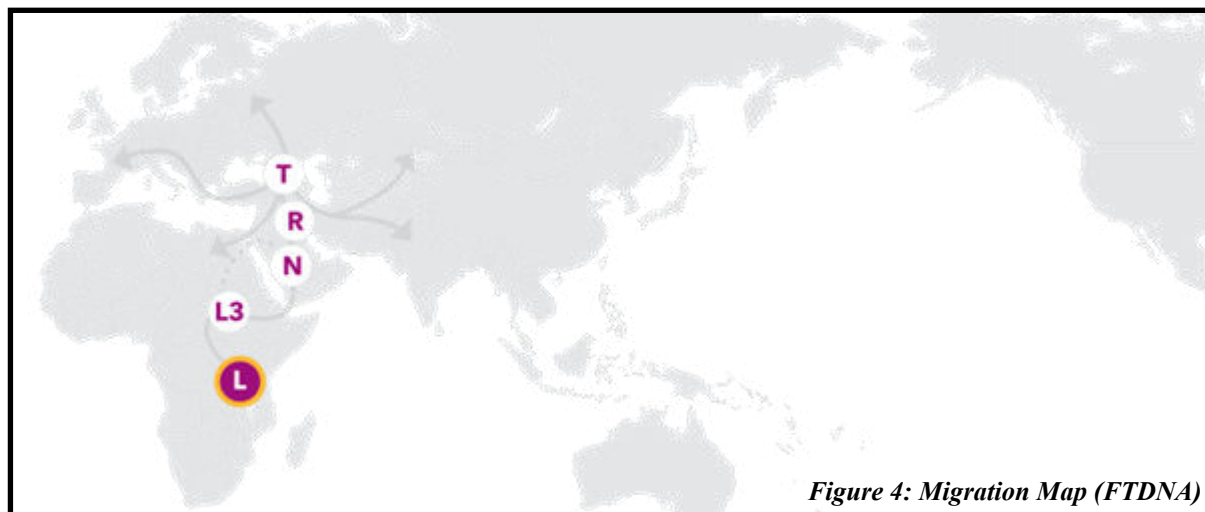


Figure 3: Understanding Cell structure (FTDNA)

The mutations that have occurred in MtDNA are grouped into categories called haplogroups, and each haplogroup shares a common ancestor. There are currently 26 known MtDNA haplogroups. These maternal haplogroups are designated by a sequence of letters and numbers that reflect the structure of the genetic tree and how the branches relate to one another. Haplogroup L, which originated in Eastern Africa about 180,000 years ago, is the earliest known group. A branch of Haplogroup L, called L3, arose from a woman around 65,000 years ago. While many of her descendants remained in Africa, a small group ventured across the Red Sea into the tip of the Arabian Peninsula. About 15,000 years later, a new group had spread across Eurasia, giving rise to new branches from Portugal to Polynesia in Haplogroup N. Around 57,000 years ago, one of these branches, Haplogroup R, emerged. The woman associated with Haplogroup R likely lived in southwest Asia, and her descendants lived and migrated alongside members of Haplogroup N.



25,000 years ago, some members of Haplogroup R remained in the Middle East area for thousands of years and from this group, the new Haplogroup T arose. The present-day geographical distribution of Haplogroup T has been strongly influenced by multiple migrations out of the Middle East into Europe, India, and eastern Africa over the last 15,000 years.

Through testing I discovered my MtDNA Haplogroup is T1a1, at 23 & Me who do not test the full sequence and T1a5 at FTDNA. These branches of T are not recognised as a very common group. According to 23& Me about 1 person in 75 fall into that haplogroup. This branch stems from Haplogroup T1 and its sub-branch, T1a. Members of T1a trace their maternal lines to migrations into the far reaches of the Middle East, North Africa, including locations like Morocco, and to the Scandinavian areas of the Baltic.

Although Haplogroup T1 is relatively rare in Europe today, accounting for only about 2% of the population, it appears to have been present in approximately 23% of the population based on data extracted from skeletons buried in the 10th century CE. However, it was completely absent in test results from skeletons buried in the British Isles in the 5th and 6th centuries. It is therefore suggested that this variant arrived in England around 793 CE, brought to Britain by Viking invaders.



Figure 5: MtDNA Haplo Tree (FTDNA)

These haplogroups provide a broad framework for understanding the migration and evolution of human populations across different continents. The time estimates are approximate and based on genetic and archaeological evidence, which continues to be refined as new data becomes available.

Can I trace my tree back to Eve? Well not quite but it did make me look at how far I had gone on that line. MtDNA results link you to other people and geographic locations but lots of work needs to be done first on a paper trail. This DNA test might not give you names of your ancestors but if you are listed as zero steps away from your match then you have a chance of finding a name in common or even a place depending on your group's location areas in the last 500 years. At least you will know exactly which part of your tree to look in to find where you and your match have that common ancestor. MtDNA is also genetically a bit like a time capsule carrying a piece of history from my ancient grandmothers to me.

What an honour it is to know that my most distant ancestor Janet BRYCE born 1707 in Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland has handed down to me this little bit of history. She has passed this through eight generations of my known ancestors on my mother's, mother's, mother's line. And even though I really don't know Eve, I know I have passed on her DNA legacy to my daughter and she to her daughters so at least we know Eve's little bit of DNA continues into the future.



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FTDNA

23& Me

X Matching and Mitochondrial DNA is Not the Same Thing - Roberta Estes

THE WOMEN IN OUR LIBRARY - Compiled by Jill Ball Member 257

Found among the 2,500 titles in our Group's Library are several biographies and memoirs of women. Perhaps one of those titles may whet your appetite.

Following is a list of some of those titles that you can borrow when you visit our rooms at Marmoning Point. Our volunteers can help you locate suitable titles.

Ball, Shirley *Muma's boarding house* BIO067A

Bardsley, Jane *Jane Bardsley's outback letterbook across the years 1896-1936* BIO200

Barwick, Evelyn *The Diary of Evelyn Barwick* BIO169

Baxter, Carol J *An irresistible temptation: the true story of Jane New and a colonial scandal* BIO074

Browne, Waveney *A woman of distinction: the honourable Dame Annabelle Rankin D.B.E.* BIO072

Busby, Anna Urda *Wherever You Need Me: The Anna Urda Busby Story* BIO173

Ellis, Jessie *Belated applause! : a biography of Marie Kramer Ellis* BIO086

Forster, Margaret *Good wives? : Mary, Fanny, Jennie & me 1845-2001* BIO037

Gleghorn, Shirley Miles *Recalling the early days of Orange and beyond, 1825-1920's* BIO192

Henning, Rachel *The letters of Rachel Henning* BIO103

Hodges-Linton, Betty *Pit-tops and prams* BIO184

Holden, Edith *The country diary of an Edwardian lady* BIO011

Larkins, John *Sheilas: a tribute to Australian women* BIO009

Marks, Muriel *Cooyal stories: "memories of Cooyal & of earlier times"* BIO201

McCrae, Georgiana *Georgiana's journal: Melbourne 1841-1865* BIO002

Miller, Winsome *As I remember those early years* BIO034

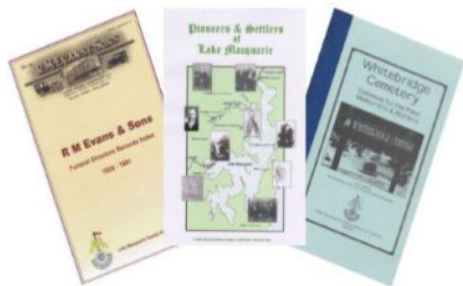
Reeson, Margaret *Currency lass* BIO004

Salter, Elizabeth *Daisy Bates: "the great white queen of the never never"* BIO052

Stapleton, Eugenie *Sarah Maria Suttor, farmer George's wife* BIO066A

Tyler, Mary *The adventurous memoirs of a gold diggeress 1841-1909* BIO114

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Pioneers & Settlers of Lake Macquarie - PDF file on CD Rom
\$20 + \$5 postage* or \$20 by direct download

Whitebridge Cemetery - \$20 + \$5 postage*

*Postage & handling within Australia.

For overseas postage please enquire.

Please refer to our website for details <http://www.lmfhg.org.au>

Remember: Our bookstall is manned each meeting by Sue and is stocked with books, magazines and journals that have been donated and or are surplus to our requirements. Items are very reasonably priced and we are expecting added stock in the coming months.

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Image: <https://changemakersrotary.org/stories/new-club-structure-this-upcoming-year>

LAKE MACQUARIE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

CONDUCTS IT'S MEETINGS ON THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
(WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHRISTMAS MEETING WHICH IS HELD
ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN DECEMBER) AT THE
COMMUNITY HALL, 31B GEORGE STREET, MARMONG POINT.

DOORS OPEN AT 10 A.M.

The Group also opens the hall on the first Wednesday each month from 1pm to 5pm.

Research experienced members are at hand to help with your enquiries.

The Group follows Government Health Guidelines and asks visitors not to attend if unwell.

All correspondence should be addressed to:- The Secretary
Lake Macquarie Family History Group Inc
PO Box 639
Toronto 2283
Email: secretary@lmfhg.org.au

THEME FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF *THE CHRONICLE*



We are asking you to write about things you remember from the past.

If you are short on ideas please refer to the flyer prepared by Jan and distributed at the October meeting or members can email the editors at chronicle@lmfhg.org.au and a copy will be forwarded as a pdf.

Remember we always appreciate items, large or small on any topic!

Submissions close 15th February 2025 but are always welcome sooner!

Members: Following changes made to our Legal Deposit agreement if any member wishes to have a submission published without including their name their membership number will suffice.

We acknowledge support from our Website hosting provider:

<https://webcentral.au/>



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Grandma Climbed The Family Tree

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed as of late
She's always reading history, or jotting down some date.
She's tracing back the family, we all have pedigrees.
Grandma's got a hobby, she's climbing Family Trees...

Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he states,
He even has to wash the cups and the dinner plates.
Well, Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee,
Compiling genealogy for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby sit, the curtains are a fright.
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,
The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed with our kith and kin,
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee,
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more.
She learns the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept - and now for you and me,
They live again, in spirit, around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished, and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we all suppose.
Grandma will cook and sew, serve biscuits with our tea.
We'll have her back, just as before that wretched Family Tree...

