



The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc

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Ancestor

Quarterly Journal of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc



Getting it write
Structuring a family history book

Research Corner
FamilyResearch VIP Symposium

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Robert Nash 3rd Fleet convict:
fact and fiction

Audrey Burleigh –
a tragic story

The talented Mr Sherry

A fashionable family connection
with Elizabeth Judd

A brush with the law

How to: Researching
Ticino ancestors

Discover a world of family history

Grave Matters:

Using Victoria's Cemeteries as a Research Tool



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- **Dr. Cheryl Griffin** – Social Historian
- **Rod Armstrong** – Family History Researcher
- **Friends of Cemetery Groups** – Insights from passionate cemetery preservationists
- **Representatives from the GSV and RHSV** – Details of our extensive resources

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- Knowledge about the resources from the GSV, RHSV and other sources
- An opportunity to ask questions

Details:

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- **Where:** Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
- **Cost:** \$65 for RHSV and GSV Members and \$85 for Non-Members
- **Inclusions:** Light lunch, tea and coffee

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



Combined GSV and RHSV event

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Regular contributors must submit
material by 1 January, 1 April, 1 July
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issues respectively. However, articles
for consideration for publication are
received at any time. Space constraints
mean that edited articles have to
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Ancestor

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Volume 37 Issue 3 / September 2024

Who amongst us has not on occasion come up against misleading information in researching family history? In this edition, Jill Watson shares her experience in attempting to correct the written record in her article 'Robert Nash, 3rd fleet convict: fact and fiction'.

Exploring his family history with cousins in the United States, Peter Collins came across a shocking tale. Pulling together a range of sources, he tells us about the life and death of his relative Audrey Burleigh. Closer to home, Jillian Brewer uncovers the highs and lows in the life of her ancestor Thomas Sherry. Beginning as a burglar with an unusual technique, he was sent to Australia as a convict, but established a family and career before more problems arose.

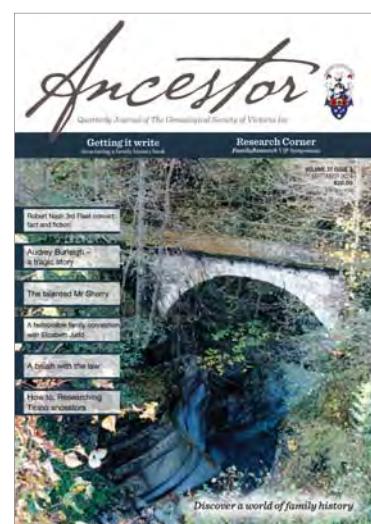
Dianne Lewis tells the story of her great-great-aunt Elizabeth Judd, and of her muff chain and photographs she has inherited. 'A brush with the law' sees journeyman brush maker, James Deakes, transported to Tasmania for stealing from his master. Supposedly crime does not pay, but in this instance, it enabled Stuart Hamilton's 3x great-grandfather to eventually set up his own brush manufactory in Hobart.

Our regular columns feature a wealth of tips, resources and updates. In Research Corner, Meg Bate reports on current discussions about how generative artificial intelligence can support family history researchers. Based on a presentation and discussion at the GSV Writers Circle in May, Victoria Spicer explores aspects of structuring a family story that you may wish to consider before you get started. Cathy Carman reports on the annual meeting of the GSV Member Societies. Australia and New Zealand have a proud diaspora of people with ancestors from the Italian speaking regions of Switzerland. As part of that community, I am sharing my tips on how to research your Ticino ancestry in this edition's 'How to' section.

Emma Hegarty
Editorial Team

Our cover: *A bridge over the Legiüna creek, Valle di Pontirone, Canton of Ticino, Switzerland, the focus of our 'How To' article this issue. Photograph courtesy of Emma Hegarty.*

Stop Press: As we were going to press, we received news that the *Ancestor* had been awarded the **AFFHO 2024 Nick Vine Hall Award**. Congratulations all!



Pen of the President



Stephen Hawke

Reinvigorate your research

Has it been a while since you've been in to GSV to use our resources in your research? Or perhaps you've forgotten what is available in our online resources and/or how to access them? If so, we do have a couple of online classes which run on a regular basis and they will provide you with an update or refresher to reinvigorate your research. These classes run for 90 minutes, are free, for members only and you participate via *Zoom* from the comfort of home. *New and Existing Member Orientation: Discovering the GSV and our Resources* is targeted at informing our new members, but it also provides a great refresher for existing members on the resources held by GSV and how to access them from home and on-site at GSV. *Researching Your Family History* takes participants through a methodology and planned approach to keep your research on track and avoid pitfalls. The class covers key resources (hardcopy and electronic) at GSV and elsewhere. The classes are run by GSV's very experienced researchers and presenters who will demonstrate how to access the resources discussed and answer your questions.

GSV regularly adds new resources to the collection and these classes may well help you unlock new insights into your ancestors' lives.

For those of you wanting something more, our team of volunteer Research Assistants in the Library are there to help you make the most of your visit to GSV. And if you're really stuck or just want help, click on the Research tab on the GSV website to find out more about GSV's range of research services for members and others.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM is being held on Saturday, 5 October at 2pm. This will be a hybrid meeting, with those involved in AGM matters attending in person at the GSV premises and other members by *Zoom*. You will be able to register for the *Zoom* link through the GSV Events page or by calling the GSV office. We have at least two Councillors retiring this year and I expect there will be some vacancies on Council. We encourage members' active participation in the Society and

if interested, you can nominate for Council in advance of the AGM. Our Council is very much a working body, with Councillors' responsibilities including oversight or participation in the broad range of the Society's services and activities. If you are keen to be involved and think you could assist the Society as a Councillor, please contact me (president@gsv.org.au) as soon as you can.

Council is proposing that a couple of our long serving volunteers be appointed as Fellows of the Society and we will hear more on this honour, and their great service, at the AGM.

GSV's Annual and Financial Reports are presented at the AGM and they provide details on the Society's activities and financial results over the last year. The Reports will be available for review on the GSV website (in the GSV Council section of the Members Area) later in September, following completion of the annual audit. I really encourage you to read the Annual Report as it highlights the GSV's diverse range of activities and new services provided for our members.

Thank you

My three-year term as President is coming to an end at the upcoming AGM, so this is my final contribution of 'Pen of the President'. It has been a great honour to serve as President and I couldn't have done it without the support and advice provided by GSV's Councillors and staff, for which I am enormously grateful. I remain in awe of the generosity and dedication of our GSV volunteers and staff, who do so much to support and enhance the capabilities and services of GSV for the benefit of our fellow members and others who use and value those services. We have a great family history community at GSV and I intend to remain an active participant, as a Councillor for the next 12 months and as a GSV volunteer on various activities into the future. I look forward to working with our next President and I'm sure your ongoing support of the next President will be much appreciated. ■

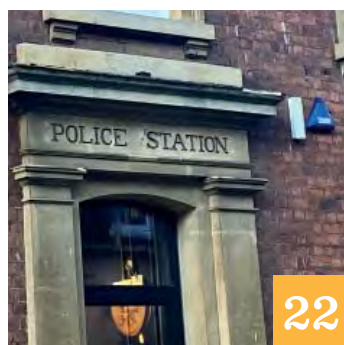
Contents

Articles

Robert Nash 3rd Fleet convict: fact and fiction	4
<i>Jill Watson</i>	
Audrey Burleigh – a tragic story	8
<i>Peter Collins</i>	
The talented Mr Sherry	13
<i>Jillian Brewer</i>	
A fashionable family connection with Elizabeth Judd	18
<i>Dianne Lewis</i>	
A brush with the law	22
<i>Stuart Hamilton</i>	
Annual Member Societies Meeting	25
How to: Researching Ticino ancestors	30
<i>Emma Hegarty</i>	
Victorian GUM Inc	Back cover

Regular features

Editorial	1
Pen of the President	2
Book Reviews	27
Around the groups and circles	28
Additions to the Library	35
Research Corner	38
Getting it write	40
Jottings from the Journals	42
Blogging with Meg	43
News from Public Record Office Victoria	44
News from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria	45
About the GSV	46
Research Services and Self Help Guide	47
News	48



Correction: *The Contents page of the June 2024 Ancestor incorrectly listed the author of the article 'The convict's daughter' as John MJ Fitzgerald. It should have been John MJ Fitzpatrick. Our sincere apologies to John.*

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Genealogical Society of Victoria currently stands, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders past and present, and those young people destined to become leaders.

Robert Nash

3rd Fleet convict: fact and fiction

by Jill Watson

How does one correct a mistake in the historical record? Resources such as *Ancestry* have been a boon to genealogists, but the 'tree hints' such programs offer are too often accepted unquestioningly by dabblers, who save them to their own trees, resulting in errors spreading like a virus through the online community.

Obviously, we should check and assess such information to ensure the dates and locations fit plausibly into our family's story. Going back to primary sources is essential. If we are lucky, we might come across a diary or memoir written by an ancestor that sheds a new and rich light on the past. But what if the author of that memoir has written an account that either deliberately, or unwittingly, conceals the truth? If that unreliable account is used as a source by respected reference

books, it risks being shared by further researchers, so that fiction becomes accepted as fact.

I have come across such a situation with my husband's 4x great-grandfather, Robert Nash, and am struggling to correct it.

On 24 April 1790, Robert Nash was found guilty of the theft of boots and shoes from a shop in London. His death sentence was commuted to transportation for life.¹ He arrived in Port Jackson aboard the *Albemarle* in October 1791, and within a month was sent to the first convict colony on Norfolk Island.² There, he married 2nd Fleet convict Ann Hannaway, although I have not found any surviving documentation of the event. It may have been one of the large number of marriages celebrated on the island by the Reverend Johnson in November 1791.³ In 1808, in preparation for the abandonment of the first Norfolk Island colony in 1814, the Nash family was removed to Hobart.⁴ There, Nash proved himself of great value to the colony by building its first water-powered flour mill on the Hobart Rivulet. Later, he built a windmill at Sorell. He died in 1819 at the age of 47.⁵ His name is commemorated in Nash Street, Sorell.

There is an abundance of primary material telling Nash's story including court records from the Old Bailey, convict indents, land grants, compensation for buildings and stock left on Norfolk Island, and procuring materials for his mill.⁶

All of this has become readily available online as documents are digitised, but unfortunately this was not the case back in 1948 when Nash's 2x great-grandson Roy Bridges decided to write his own family history, based on stories he had

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▲ Image 1: The site of Robert Nash's mill on Hobart Rivulet, above Molle Street. Courtesy of Bruce Watson 2011



▲ Image 2: Windmill at Sorell, Tas., [Picture], 1926, A. C. Dreier postcard collection, State Library of Victoria Pictures Collection, Accession No. H22250. This is believed to be the mill built by Robert Nash in 1818.

been told by his mother, Laura Wood, who had, in her turn, listened to the anecdotes of her grandmother, Robert Nash's daughter, Sarah (aka Sally).

Bridges, a journalist and author, lovingly compiled all these tales into a book titled *That Yesterday was Home*. It's an entertaining read – if a bit overly sentimental in style. It contains many fascinating anecdotes that are strange enough to be true, such as an evening when Robert Nash was out drinking with friends who took it into their heads to cut off their pigtails (which were popular in those days), and, staggering drunkenly back home, surprised Nash's wife by tossing the severed plaits in through the door.⁷

However, Bridges appears blissfully unaware of his ancestors' convict past and tells romantic tales of how the Nash family arrived as free settlers and set up a lovely home with crates of chinaware and furniture sent from the old country. He and his mother were likely never told the truth because, in their day, it was shameful to admit to convict origins. Furthermore, emancipated prisoners from Norfolk Island took pride in calling themselves 'free settlers' when they arrived in Hobart.

This is where the trouble sets in. At some point, Bridges paid a visit to England in search of his origins, but without the benefit of the online resources we enjoy today, he had no idea where to begin, and decided, in a moment of romantic fantasy, that it would be nice if Robert Nash had been born in the Kent village of Edenbridge:

[Sally Nash] was the daughter of Robert Nash, miller, of Norfolk Island. She was proud that her father had landed in Sydney as a free man, and that he came of good English stock – prosperous millers and mill-wrights, with one house in London and another down in Kent. My mother, telling Gran's stories to us when we were children, did not know

where in Kent, and I have no other notion than Edenbridge, for while in England in 1926 I spent several weeks there with my friend Charles Rodda at Painter's Cottage. Headstones in the churchyard showed Nash names for generations. *I care to fancy* [my italics] that this village in Kent, as I saw it green and golden in June, was the home of the boy Robert Nash.⁸ ➤

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▲ Image 3: St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, where Robert Nash was baptised. Courtesy of Jill Watson

Knowing no better than this, I, like many others, entered Edenbridge as Nash's birthplace in my tree, and with some stretching of the imagination, accepted the popular belief among the genealogy community, that his parents must have been a certain Robert Nash and Ann Warr who married in Tonbridge in 1769 – Tonbridge not being implausibly far from Edenbridge. However, in 2019 I visited Edenbridge myself and was overwhelmed with scepticism. Visiting the church, and enquiring with the local historical information sources, the Nash name drew a

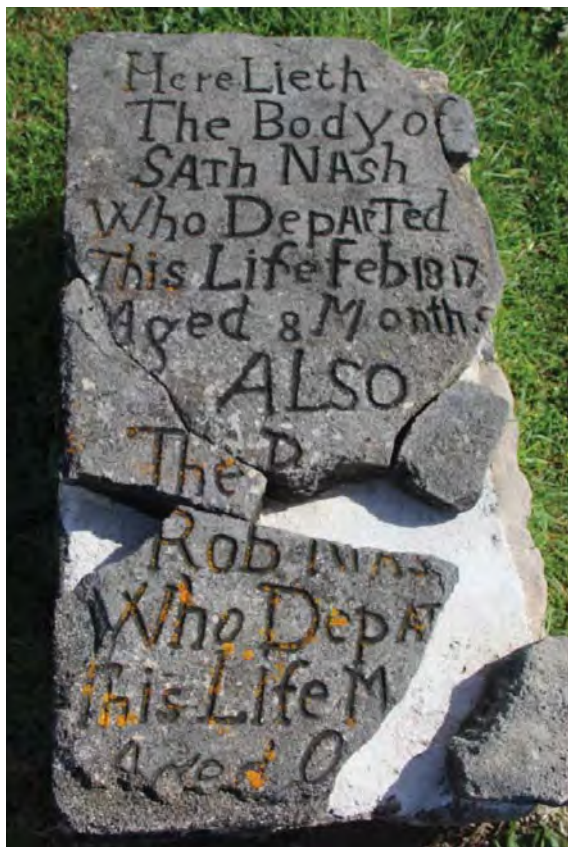
complete blank. Edenbridge is nearly 30 miles (48 km) south of London, in the heart of rural Kent. It didn't sit well with what I knew, from transcripts at *Old Bailey Online*, of Nash as a young man of eighteen, walking the streets of London and stealing boots from a shop just a stone's throw from Trafalgar Square.

Enlightenment came thanks to an *Ancestry* contributor sharing an image of a page from a bible belonging to the family of Robert Nash's daughter Elizabeth and her husband

Bartholomew Reardon. Here were the words: 'Robert Nash born July 17th 1771'. It didn't take me, and others, long to find a baptism record for a Robert Nash, born 17 July 1771 and baptised on 4 August 1771 at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey to a Robert Nash (who was a cooper by trade, not a millwright, as claimed by Bridges) and Susanna Sarah Gray.⁹ This was just a two-mile walk from the scene of the crime, and sat more comfortably with the overall picture of Nash's life.

But Roy Bridges's Edenbridge fantasy about Nash's birthplace had lodged itself into accepted fact. It is there, in print, in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2, and in countless other records, including many public family trees, which are all too often a hotbed of unsourced misinformation.

Exploring the parents behind that Bermondsey baptism record reveals an interesting back story. Susanna Sarah (after whom Robert Nash named three of his daughters) was born to a London Quaker family with earlier origins in Guildford. She was baptised in the Church of England on 16 December 1761, just two weeks before her marriage, by licence, to Robert Nash senior, at the church of St Sepulchre, Holborn.¹⁰ The Marriage Act of 1753 required marriages to be conducted in an Anglican church to be legally binding, which would explain Susanna's decision to join that church.¹¹ Her father signed a Marriage Bonds and Allegations document consenting to her marriage as a minor, as she was only eighteen at the time. I would love to have been a fly on the wall listening to the conversations in that particular family in the period leading up to this marriage!



▲ Image 4: Norfolk Island gravestone of infants Sarah and Rob Nash. Courtesy of Bruce Watson

It's sad and frustrating to see so many people being led astray by such a deeply unreliable source as Bridges's *That Yesterday was Home*, especially knowing that it conceals a rich and fascinating history. But with this misinformation becoming increasingly set in stone, how can the record be corrected?

Also, quite literally 'set in stone' is some erroneous history derived from the much-restored gravestone of Robert Nash's infant children in the Norfolk Island cemetery. Eight-month-old Sarah appears to have died there in February 1817, which would have been impossible, as no one was living on the island at the time. Closer inspection of the stone on site, and in earlier photos, reveals the remains of a '9' whose indentation has not been painted in, thus the death most likely occurred

18 February 179[-] (probably 1796, given dates of other family events).

I attempted sending a carefully annotated correction through the contact portal of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* but received no response. The original book was written in 1967 and published online in 2006, so any attempt to have it corrected could prove problematic.

For want of a more effective way of bridging the gap between fact and fiction in the commonly accepted Bridges account, I am attempting to make direct contact with people still clinging to the Edenbridge version, and, through publishing articles such as this one, I hope to be of some help to others. ■

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Surnames

Bridges, Gray, Hannaway, Johnson, Nash, Reardon, Rodda, Warr, Wood



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Audrey Burleigh – a tragic story

by Peter Collins

Peter can be contacted at:
pchcollins1@gmail.com

Audrey Burleigh was born in Liverpool, England but from a very young age she was raised in Memphis, Tennessee, USA after her family emigrated. In the early 1920s, her family moved to the Philippines with the US Army. It was in the Philippines that fate stepped in for the beautiful 17-year-old Audrey. This is her story.

Audrey's parents were Robert Burleigh (1858–1927) from Scotland and Frances nee Creer (1880–1956) from the Isle of Man. Frances and her younger sister Lilian (1886–1972) were the daughters of my great-grandmother Mary Garrett (1856–1931) from her relationship with Thomas Creer (1865–1916).

My father and his siblings were aware of Frances and Lilian but never knew of their whereabouts. I only learned of their story about five years ago when I discovered Mary's relationship with Thomas Creer. Mary later married John Hennessey and they had a daughter, Gertrude, my grandmother and the half-sister of Frances and Lilian. Through my grandmother, Audrey is my half first cousin once removed.

Although there is no record of them being married, Frances and Robert had three children. Their eldest, Robert Cyril (Cyril), was born in June 1904 on the Isle of Man. Audrey was born on 4 December 1907 in Liverpool.¹

Robert, Frances, and Cyril emigrated to the United States in late 1909, settling in Memphis, Tennessee, where their descendants still live. Audrey, aged 18 months, sailed nine days later with her aunt Lilian.² It is unclear why Audrey travelled separately from her parents, but the family was soon reunited.³ Youngest child Stanley was born in the United States in March 1911. Frances and Robert eventually separated and little more is known of Robert, except that he later returned to England and died in Liverpool aged 69.

On 6 July 1918, Frances married Army doctor Hamilton Pope Calmes of the US Medical Corps. In 1920, Frances and Hamilton were living in San Antonio, Texas with her two sons; however, Audrey (then 12) was still in Memphis with her aunt Lilian.⁴



▲ Image 1: Frances & Hamilton (left) with friends, courtesy Burleigh/Sengel family

A few years later, Captain Calmes was posted to the Philippines and stationed at Fort William McKinley, six miles from Manila, where he and the family initially lived. Life there for US Army personnel and families was comfortable and there was plenty of opportunity for socialising within their community. Audrey was considered one of the most beautiful girls in the American colony. At the start of 1925, she had just turned 17 and was enjoying the social life of other young



▲ Image 2: Sisters Lilian & Frances later in life, courtesy Burleigh/Sengel family

people in the community, dining out and dancing. By all accounts, she was quite popular, despite (or perhaps because of) her youth, and seemed to have had a wide circle of friends. She was a good tennis player and equestrian and was also involved in amateur dramatics.⁵

John Sewell Thompson was born in 1899 in Pernassus, Pennsylvania. His father was the Rev Dr J Milton Thompson, a prominent and influential Presbyterian minister from Far Rockaway, Long Island, New York.⁶

Thompson joined the US Army as an enlisted man in 1917 but later gained a cadetship at West Point from where he graduated in 1924. The significance of his earlier enlistment would be felt later. In November that year, 25-year-old Second Lieutenant John Sewell Thompson of the US Army Signal Corps was assigned to Fort McKinley in the Philippines.⁷

In the Army of the 1920s, a young unmarried officer's life outside work revolved around parties, dinners and dancing. The Army and Navy Club in Manila and the Manila Hotel were the popular places for socialising. Shortly after arriving in the Philippines, Thompson met Audrey. In a letter to his mother, Thompson wrote that he had first seen Audrey at a barge party. She had 'black, bobbed hair' and 'pretty, bewitching eyes'.⁸

► Image 3: Cavalry and Infantry barracks, Fort McKinley, Manila, 1926, courtesy of United States National Archives

Thompson certainly found Audrey attractive, and by February 1925, he was infatuated with her, and they became inseparable. Allegedly they became engaged.

However, by early April 1925, Thompson became greatly concerned about his pay entitlement as the US Congress had recently changed the rules on pay for Army officers with prior enlisted service. Thompson was informed that his years of service prior to West Point would not count towards a pay increase. He now believed that he could not afford to marry Audrey.

Additionally, it seems that Audrey's mother Frances was becoming uncomfortable with her young daughter's relationship and had decided that Audrey should return to the US with her at the end of April. Although Audrey had apparently promised to remain faithful to Thompson, he was convinced that her leaving would see the end of their relationship and the possibility of marriage. He was in despair.

Thompson decided that there was only one way out of this predicament. In the early morning of 5 April 1925, he hired a taxi to take him to the Army and Navy Club, where he found Audrey, who had been dancing at an amateur entertainment event.⁹ He invited her for a short drive but, much to her concern, they headed off towards the old Spanish Fort Sac Antonio Abad, a few miles to the south.

According to the Filipino driver, Thompson was very upset with Audrey for dancing with other men, and clearly jealous. When she protested to him that 'it was part of the stage play',





▲ Image 4: Audrey Burleigh, equestrian, courtesy Burleigh/Sengel family



▲ Image 5: Audrey Burleigh, actress, courtesy Burleigh/Sengel family

he remained silent and told the driver to keep going. She was panicked and demanded to be let out of the taxi. A scuffle broke out and in the next moment, five successive shots rang out. The driver immediately stopped the taxi and looked around to find Audrey's body, all bloodied, resting against the rear door. He feared for his life and attempted to leave, but was ordered by Thompson to drive them to Fort McKinley. Upon their arrival half an hour later, Thompson strode to the guardhouse and returned with the army corporal in charge. He then admitted that he had killed Audrey and was immediately placed under arrest and detained in the lock-up.¹⁰

Thompson's trial by general court-martial opened in Manila on 4 May 1925, only a month after the murder.¹¹ This timing allowed some witnesses, who were soon to leave the Philippines, to

testify. Thompson faced a single charge of first-degree murder:

In that Second Lieutenant John S Thompson, Signal Corps, did, at Manila, Philippine Islands, on or about the 5th day of April, 1925, with malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, feloniously, unlawfully, and with premeditation kill one, Audrey Burleigh, a human being, by shooting her with a pistol.¹²

Although Thompson had admitted that he had killed Audrey, a plea of not guilty was entered. His defence counsel sought to prove absence of malice or premeditation and obtained a continuance to introduce depositions that Thompson was of unsound mind.¹³

The prosecution produced several physicians who, after a detailed review, declared that they believed that Thompson 'did not at any time suffer from any mental derangement, either temporary or permanent, and is not suffering now'. They all agreed that he had been sane at the time of the crime. The same physicians reconvened in July to consider further depositions from the defence team, but their verdict remained unchanged. They further concluded that, at the time of the murder, Thompson was able to appreciate 'right or wrong' and that he was now able to understand the nature of the trial proceedings and cooperate in his own defence.¹⁴

When the court martial re-assembled on 3 August, the prosecution read a signed confession by Thompson:

He was asked: 'Why did you decide to shoot Miss Burleigh?'

Thompson replied: 'First and most important because of the Pay Act of June 10th 1922, which deprives me, but not others of those commissioned, of credit for longevity pay for enlisted services while a cadet at West Point, which, if granted would be a big increase in salary, which is necessary for a Second Lieutenant to marry.

Second, fear of loneliness to which I would be subjected during the next two years without her, and a doubt as to whether things could be quite the same'.¹⁵

Thompson forbade his counsel to raise the defence of insanity, threatening to dismiss them if they persisted.¹⁶ A memorandum in the court-martial record indicates that he believed that it would be dishonourable to claim insanity when he believed himself to be sane. Thompson also thought that an insanity plea would bring shame and embarrassment to his family.

But while refusing to plead insanity, Thompson did raise a new defence: 'that he could not be convicted of premeditated murder because he lacked the requisite malice'. The defence now contended that the accused could not be found guilty as charged because he had killed Audrey Burleigh while 'in the grip of and because of passion or fear aroused by the thought of losing her'.¹⁷ This would mean he was guilty of manslaughter, not murder.

It was a novel defence but one without much chance of success. Disappointment over a reduction in military pay and fear of losing the love of a 17-year-old girl simply was not going to wash, as a matter of law.

The jury of eight serving Army officers concluded that as Thompson was able to distinguish right from wrong, he was guilty of premeditated murder. On 2 September 1925, Brigadier-General Charles Symmonds, the presiding president of the general court-martial handed down the sentence which ended the trial:

We find the accused, Lieutenant John S Thompson, guilty of murder and sentence to be hanged by the neck until dead.

As the verdict was read, a smile broke out on Thompson's face and his hand came up to his forehead in the snappiest of West Point salutes. Executing an about face, he picked up his raincoat and walked out of the courtroom, escorted by a heavy guard. Thompson was far less affected by the verdict than were the spectators, many of whom turned pale as General Symmonds read the words that meant death, unless the President of the United States granted clemency, and President Coolidge was said to disapprove of the death penalty.¹⁸

Under the US military criminal law of the 1920s, there was no appellate court that could hear an appeal from Thompson. Instead, a Board of Review, consisting of three Army judge advocates, examined Thompson's trial for any irregularities. Additionally, because Thompson had been condemned to death, the President had to personally approve this sentence. This rule still applies today for any US soldier, sailor, airman, or marine sentenced to death.¹⁹ The Board of Review upheld the decision of the court martial.

Thompson's family was naturally devastated by the guilty sentence and immediately took measures to obtain a reprieve from the President. Thompson's parents arranged to meet a New York senator to plead for their young son's life. Other supporters of the Thompson family wrote



▲ Image 6: 2nd Lt John S Thompson from his West Point graduation book, courtesy US Military Academy.

letters requesting clemency. Affidavits executed by some of Thompson's classmates at West Point attested to the fact that the young Thompson was mentally unbalanced. The crux of the family's argument was that while Thompson had shot and killed Audrey Burleigh, this murder was the direct result of an 'uncontrollable impulse' arising out of 'an adolescent complex'. The 'abnormal' aspects of this shocking murder must indicate that Thompson was insane and there could be no other explanation.²⁰

Realising that Thompson's mental state was the key to the outcome, Major General John Hull, Judge Advocate General of the Army, asked for the files to be reviewed by an expert panel to assess the accused's sanity and mental responsibility. The review determined that Thompson exhibited 'antisocial behaviour' and 'excessive jealousy', and that he sought 'gratification of personal desires without regard to the rights of others'. This did not mean that Thompson was insane, at least as a matter of law.

Thompson's family was aware of an earlier case in Manila where a Private William Johnson had been hanged for murdering a fellow soldier. Johnson, a lonely private, had killed the other soldier after a quarrel. Reverend Thompson wrote to President Coolidge imploring him



to distinguish between the two cases. He also explained that his son's behaviour towards girls was not normal. His son would fall violently in love with a girl, and then attempt to control her in every way. In his view, many such episodes were very similar to the situation in Manila. He also told the President that when his son was a teenager, he had threatened to shoot a girlfriend whom he had asked to marry; she had fortunately got away unharmed.

Ultimately, these desperate last-minute pleas came to nothing. Thompson's father received a letter from the President's secretary, Everett Sanders, stating that President Coolidge did not see his way clear to reopen the case with a view to granting clemency. Accordingly, the President had approved the sentence of execution.²¹

On 18 March 1926, John Sewell Thompson went to the gallows inside a warehouse at Fort McKinley. He faced his fate gallantly, not showing

any fear, and had no last words. One officer and eight enlisted men witnessed the hanging. He was the first American officer to be executed in peacetime, and remains the only graduate of West Point to have been hanged.²² Thompson's body was returned to his family in Far Rockaway.²³

Audrey's family returned with her body to Memphis, a journey of some 8,000 miles by sea and train. It must have been a very long and sad homecoming. She is buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Memphis.²⁴ Her mother Frances died in 1956 aged 76. Her step-father, Hamilton Calmes, had died earlier in 1932, aged 41.

I am indebted to my American half-cousin Cynthia Sengel who gave me this sad story which I knew nothing of until a few years ago. She is the granddaughter of Stanley Burleigh, Frances' youngest child, and Audrey's great niece. ■

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Burleigh, Calmes, Coolidge, Creer, Garrett, Hennessey, Hull, Johnson, Sanders, Sengel, Symmonds, Thompson

The talented Mr Sherry

by Jillian Brewer

In late 1844, police in London began to receive reports of burglaries committed in the well-to-do residences around Bloomsbury and Bedford Squares. A 'dapper' young man of about twenty would knock on a door and hand over a parcel, which he said was for the cook of the house. While the housemaid who answered the call took the parcel downstairs, the young man would make off with whatever he could lay his hands on.¹

His luck ran out on 10 January 1845, when Lucy Anne Martin, a cook in the employ of Mr Gregory, solicitor, opened a note that began 'My dear Jane'. Lucy realised immediately what was going on and summoned household staff to apprehend the burglar and send for the police.²

When arrested, the young man gave the name Charles Thompson, but the police knew that was not his real name. He later told the authorities his name was James Shirley. It was not until he found himself in Newgate Prison, destined to be transported for 10 years, that he finally revealed his real name. He was Thomas Sherry, who lived with his mother and younger brother at 28 Poppins Court off Fleet Street, and he was pleading to be allowed to stay in England.³

Thomas Sherry was born in London on 26 May 1818. He was the second of six children born to William Sherry, a painter and glazier, and Charlotte King. He and his siblings were all baptised at St George's Catholic Church (later Cathedral) in Southwark.⁴ He had an older brother, William, and younger siblings Charlotte, Elizabeth (who died as a baby), Henry and John (who also appears to have died as a child).

The 1841 census shows Thomas Sherry at 28 Poppins Court with his mother and younger brother Henry. His mother, a widow, is recorded as a laundress and Thomas as a porter.⁵ He was not always a porter; like many, Thomas found work where he could. None of the Sherry sons became painters or glaziers like their father. Fleet Street was full of publishing houses and newspapers, and the Sherry brothers all worked as printers or compositors. His sister Charlotte married a printer.

Printing work was sporadic, and unreliable. At the end of 1844 Thomas was unemployed. He had been working as a waiter in 'respectable establishments', but with no job he took to spending time in a coffee house, where he would scan the newspapers for positions.⁶ He found none, and so it was here he decided to embark on a new career in burglary.

Thomas Sherry was no smash-and-grab thief. His crimes were well planned and executed. He assembled parcels of books, as well as 'Court Guides, novels, and French and German works', and attached 'notes tastefully written'. One note read out in court said:

20, Charles Street.

Dear Sister – With this note I send you books that you have long desired to peruse, and I think they will pay you with profit tenfold for your trouble. James has gone to Southampton and told me to say that he could not possibly call on you before he started. Call as early as you can possibly make it convenient. Eliza wishes to see you very much. She tells me that you have not called on her for a month past.

Meanwhile, I am your affectionate brother,
J.T. Chambers.⁷

He was daring and rather cheeky. The occupant of 20 Charles Street, in fashionable and expensive Mayfair, was the 5th Earl Stanhope, a Tory politician. Perhaps Thomas had been one of his many servants at some point.

By early January 1845, Thomas had burgled at least twenty houses. His mistakes were to keep using the same method and to cast his net too narrowly. All his victims were from around Bedford and Bloomsbury squares, and many were barristers and solicitors practising at Lincoln's Inn. They'd clearly been talking to each other and to their staff. Lucy, the cook who brought Thomas undone, worked for the partner of another solicitor whose house Thomas had burgled a week or so before.

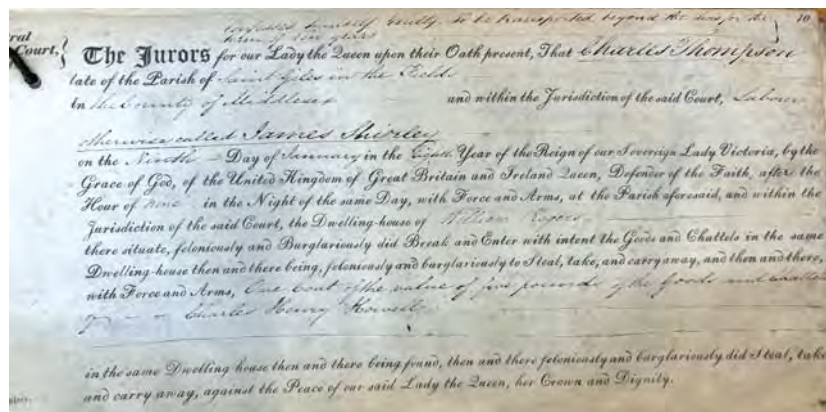
It was winter, and Thomas never ventured far beyond the front door, so his takings included

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many coats (including a particularly fine beaver coat belonging to barrister William Rogers) and other wearing apparel. Hobart Archdeacon Fitzherbert Adams Marriott, (soon-to-be Superintendent of Convict Chaplains), in London to raise money for colonial parish schools, never saw his Spanish cloak again, after Thomas called at the house where he was staying.⁸

Thomas was brought before Mr Justice Greenwood at Clerkenwell for a preliminary examination into the charges. Sergeant Dodd, the officer in charge of the case, had assembled as evidence, 'as many books as would furnish a small circulating library of every description'. There were so many houses burgled, so many parcels of books, and so many items stolen, that Greenwood told Sergeant Dodd to choose three of the strongest cases to take to trial, to save court time.⁹



▲ Image 1: Record of conviction and sentencing of Charles Thompson alias James Shirley, National Archives (UK), Central Criminal Court Indictments, 3 February 1845, CRIM 4/267/10

Thomas's brother William, using the name William Shirley, arranged character referees to try to persuade the court to go easy on Thomas.¹⁰ The referees were mainly family members – William's father-in-law, John Johnson, Thomas's aunt Lucy Mitchell, and William himself.¹¹ Family character referees are of limited value, but with such a string of offences, even the best references were very unlikely to prevent Thomas being committed for trial and it would have been no surprise that he was remanded and sent to Newgate prison.

On 3 February 1845, Thomas appeared in the Old Bailey as Charles Thompson, alias James Shirley, charged with five burglaries. Unaware that his mother had engaged a barrister to represent him, he entered a guilty plea and was immediately sentenced to ten years' transportation.¹² By the time his barrister arrived at court, it was too late for any defence.

From the dock of the Old Bailey, Thomas was transferred back to Newgate. While he waited to be told where he would go next, Thomas

petitioned for clemency. He was sorry, he said, and had been lured into crime by two individuals he met in the coffee shop (and moreover, were still free). If he had known his mother had engaged a barrister, he would not have pleaded guilty. He did not want to be transported and asked to be sent to a prison that would teach him a trade, or to the model prison Pentonville.¹³

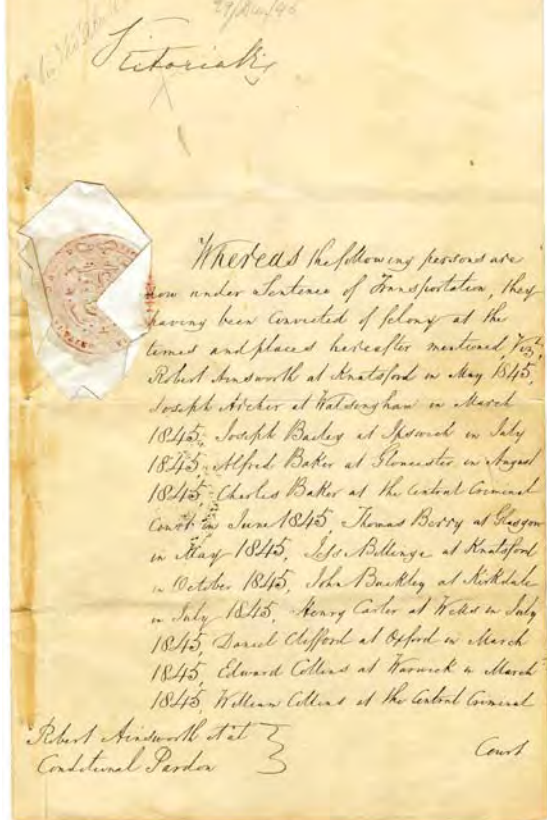
After a few weeks in Millbank prison (prisoner 5330) Thomas was indeed transferred to Pentonville Prison and assigned the number 878.¹⁴ He would be referred to by his number for the entirety of his incarceration in Pentonville, forbidden to speak or reveal his face to other prisoners, and he would undergo almost two years of rigorous instruction in tailoring, reading, writing, arithmetic, general knowledge and religious studies.¹⁵ The prisoners were placed in classes according to their abilities on entry to the prison. Thomas could read and write 'tolerably' so would have been in the middle or higher class level.¹⁶

Soon after being admitted, he asked to have a Roman Catholic priest visit him, and to be excused from Chapel services. Both requests were granted.¹⁷ Thomas spent one Sunday in 1846 working in his cell, causing the Governor and the Chaplain to debate who should admonish him, given he was Catholic and the matter was technically a religious one. They decided to leave the matter to his priest.¹⁸ Aside from this, Thomas's time in Pentonville appears to have been relatively uneventful.

Though his request to be sent to Pentonville had been granted, there was no prospect of his being allowed to stay in Great Britain. On 6 January 1847, Thomas sailed from Spithead aboard the *Thomas Arbuthnot* in exile class. He and the 288 other exiled men and boys reached Williamstown on 4 May 1847 and were handed pardons, conditional only on their not returning to Britain until their sentences had expired. The disposal list for the voyage shows 'Charles Thompson' leaving the ship to take up employment as a printer in Melbourne.¹⁹ Now that he was free, Thomas Sherry reverted to his real name.

Thomas wrote home soon after arriving, assuring his family he was safe and well and that Melbourne was a pleasant enough place to be. His brother William wrote back in May 1848 with news from home and was more than a little envious of Thomas's situation:

I need hardly tell you we are rejoiced to hear you had a pleasant voyage and that you are so happy and comfortable, it was indeed glorious news to us, as you may imagine. We suppose you are working at your trade.



▲ Image 2: Notification of pardon of exiles transported on the Thomas Arbuthnot. Thomas Sherry was pardoned and received his certificate as Charles Thompson. VPRS 89/P0000, Sir Thomas Arbuthnot

... Thank God my boy that you are in a land so abundant of the good things of this life and may God long spare you to enjoy the sweets of what must be a paradise compare [sic] to England and may you never know what it is to have a pauper or poor house among you – much envy to you all who can enjoy the beautiful land of the far south – that land of sunshine and evergreen²⁰

William wrote that he was frequently out of work and described at length his disdain for the royal family and his desire for revolution. He wanted to go to Port Phillip and had applied to the Emigration Office, but applications were already full. He said would keep trying.

Thomas was working in the printing trade but was about to make a change. In early 1848, the Catholic Diocese of St Francis in Melbourne was expanding its operations south and had established a chapel in the rural area of Brighton, on land donated by JB Were.²¹ In June 1848, St Patrick's (now St Finbar's) parish school opened a temporary classroom within the chapel and Thomas Sherry, who was educated and Catholic (and doubtless still quite dapper), was appointed as its first teacher.²²

A year later, Thomas married eighteen-year-old Eliza McGrath, an Irish immigrant, at St Francis' Cathedral.²³ He continued teaching, with Eliza assisting. His salary was not great – in 1850 it was just £12 a year – but he and Eliza were provided

with a two-room house, attached to the parish church.²⁴

By 1851, Thomas's wages had increased to £30 a year (contributed by the government) plus school fees of sixpence a week.²⁵ In March 1851, the Denominational Schools Inspector paid a visit to St Finbar's. The inspector noted that this was Thomas's first teaching position, but that Thomas was well suited to the role. The students' reading, writing and spelling was 'tolerable', but only two knew any rules of arithmetic and there was 'No sewing!' ('the wife does little'), he recorded.²⁶

Shortly after the inspector's visit, Thomas resigned, and he and Eliza left Brighton. Some have speculated that it was the lure of gold that drew him from his relatively well-paid job, but there is no evidence he headed to the goldfields. Perhaps he was worried that the questions asked of him might lead the authorities to uncover his past, or maybe he was tired of teaching in the conditions he found himself in. The school was still operating from its 'temporary' accommodation in the chapel; there was only one desk, there were no privies (the inspector noted this with not one, but two exclamation



▲ Image 3: St Francis' Cathedral, Melbourne, engraver James Tingle, Sands & Kenny 1857, State Library Victoria Pictures Collection, Acc. No. 30328102131660/35

marks), students had out-of-date books, and the blackboard was broken. Enrolments had risen to 61 from just 30 two years earlier, and although Thomas's salary had increased, many families were well behind with fee payments that were supposed to supplement his income.²⁷

Thomas and Eliza headed south around the Bay to Geelong. Thomas was still in regular contact with ►►



Image 4: *View of Station Peak - (Native You-Yangs)* taken from the Point Henry Road Geelong 1856. Port Phillip, George Alexander Gilbert 1815-1877, artist. State Library of Victoria Pictures Collection, Acc. No. H1573

his family, and his sister Charlotte wrote to him at Geelong in 1854. As with William's letter six years earlier, Charlotte wrote of the difficulties of living in London and her wish to leave.²⁸ Thomas Sherry is shown on the 1856 electoral roll as a French polisher, with land on Port Henry Road.²⁹

Thomas and Eliza were drawn back to Melbourne, perhaps by the arrival in 1857 of William Sherry, who had finally succeeded in immigrating to Victoria. They lived in a small wooden house in Duke Street Collingwood (now Abbotsford), and Thomas continued to work as a French polisher.³⁰ Their first daughter, Catherine, was born on 12 July 1860. Her birth certificate records that they had earlier had a son who was dead, although there is no record of his birth or death. A second daughter, Eliza, was born on 11 February 1866.³¹

Thomas was battling mental illness and in 1866, he was charged with stabbing a man with scissors. When brought before the court, Thomas was found to be of unsound mind and remanded for treatment. Ultimately, he was not convicted, but had to provide surety of £25.³² Thomas's mental health continued to decline and in August 1867 he was committed to Collingwood Asylum.³³

Eliza's life was thrown into chaos. With Thomas in the asylum, she had no means of support. Her brother-in-law, William, was of no use. His wife Louisa and their children had joined him in 1861, but the marriage was marred by violence, with Louisa seeking court orders for William to keep the peace.³⁴ Unable to support her eldest daughter, Eliza was forced to relinquish Catherine to the Abbotsford Industrial School (later Abbotsford Convent) as a neglected child in September 1867.³⁵ Baby Eliza developed an oral infection and died at the Melbourne Hospital in August 1868 aged just two and a half.³⁶

In early 1869, Thomas developed dysentery and was bedridden. He never recovered, and died in the asylum on 12 September 1869. Eliza had continued to visit him regularly from the time of his commitment until his death. Thomas was buried in a pauper's grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery, just as his brother William had been months earlier.³⁷

Eliza married blacksmith John McInerney in 1870, and with his income and a stable home, the police reported her decent and capable of caring for Catherine, who was released from wardship that same year.³⁸ Eliza and McInerney had one son, but he died at the age of four, and three years later Eliza found herself once again alone, after McInerney deserted her.³⁹ Eliza continued to live in Duke Street Collingwood until her death in August 1895.⁴⁰ Catherine, the only surviving child of Thomas and Eliza Sherry, married and went on to have eleven children, ensuring the Sherry family, if not the name, continues on.

The opening scene of a play written in 1998 to commemorate the Sesquicentenary of St Finbar's Parish has Thomas and Eliza Sherry hosting the District Inspector of Schools in 1851. Assuming that he came from Ireland, the playwright instructs that Thomas speak in an Irish accent (or if the actor was unable to do that, in a refined Australian accent).⁴¹

Thomas Sherry, the young man who would have spoken with a distinctly London accent, would likely be relieved that his secret life and the circumstances of his arrival in Port Phillip were able to be kept hidden for over 150 years, thanks to the peculiarities of record-keeping in the 19th century British justice system.

Today St Finbar's School in Brighton has a playground named in remembrance of Thomas Sherry. ■

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A fashionable family connection with Elizabeth Judd

by Dianne Lewis

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I knew for many years that I was to inherit a muff chain which had belonged to a great-great-aunt, along with other pieces of jewellery connected to my paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Lewis (née Robinson).¹ However, when the time came for me to collect the items from the lawyer's office I was utterly stunned and excited when out of the little black jewellery case, an exquisitely framed photograph of the aunt emerged.

Cradling the photo gently in my cupped hands, I recognised Elizabeth Judd, my grandmother's aunt, looking back at me. She was born 2 April 1846 in the District of Havant, Hampshire, to parents John Judd, a baker, and dressmaker Caroline Stallard, and was one of five children.²



The family were devastated when, short of three years later, Caroline died in 1849,³ leaving John with five children under ten to care for. John then married Ann Cross (nee Williams) on 23 October 1850 at St Mary's, South Hayling, Hampshire.⁴ She was a widow whose husband had also died in 1849 and she had a three-year-old daughter.⁵

In 1851, Elizabeth and her father, stepmother, four sisters and stepsister, were living in West Street, Havant, where John was now employed in the Stallard fellmonger and parchment maker business.⁶ Ten years later she was in Havant with her grandparents, Edward Stallard and Charlotte Todman.⁷

At 18 years of age, Elizabeth married 30-year-old Thomas Stafford on 16 April 1863 at Saint Mary's, Portsea, Hampshire.⁸ He was born in Sussex about 1832, and a saddler by occupation.⁹ A photograph of the couple was taken, possibly to record their marriage (Image 1).

Eighteen months later, Elizabeth and Thomas were steerage passengers aboard the *Lucibelle*, departing London on 12 October 1864 and arriving in Melbourne on 3 February 1865.¹⁰ The *Lucibelle* was a wooden, full rigged sailing ship of 914 tons, carrying three cabin and 14 other steerage passengers.¹¹

Elizabeth and Thomas lived at Lancefield, Victoria, where he carried on the profession of saddler, but it is not known if they went there directly after disembarking.¹² In 1883 they moved to Pelluebla (now called Peechelba) which is located between Wangaratta and Yarrowonga.¹³ In 1900 Thomas became a hotelier at the Telford Hotel.¹⁴ He started up a saddlery business when they settled in the township.¹⁵ Elizabeth and Thomas did not have any children.¹⁶

Thomas died of heart failure on 14 February 1906 at Pelluebla, having suffered severely from rheumatism, and was buried in the Yarrowonga Cemetery.¹⁷

Elizabeth, when aged 64 years old, married William Nicholls in 1910.¹⁸ She moved to his old five-roomed weatherboard cottage at Buninyong where she lived until she died on 18 December 1931.¹⁹ William pre-deceased her on 15 October 1926.²⁰

▲ Image 1: Elizabeth Judd & Thomas Stafford, c1863.
All photographs are from the collection of the author.



▲ Image 2: *Elizabeth Judd, framed collodion, mid-1870s*

As for the photograph, it is a

... collodion positive, or ambrotype, which first appeared in about 1853. By the 1860s the process had largely disappeared from high street studios, but it remained popular with itinerant open-air photographers until the 1880s, because portraits could be made in a few minutes while sitters waited.²¹

The photograph measures 6 x 7 cm and is set in a curved border, with the edges of the glass plate protected by a frame. Whilst the bottom right-hand corner has come apart, it gives the opportunity to see what the plate looks like on the edges.

Elizabeth had been photographed in a studio, seated whilst resting her right arm on a table (Image 2). She had a straight back and was facing almost straight on, looking directly at the camera. Her face and hands were relaxed, displaying no signs of anxiety at being photographed. Her hair was pulled back showing all her face which had a soft and youthful appearance.

The voluptuous dress had a high neckline which was adorned at the front with a large brooch. Elizabeth's tiny waistline was accentuated, and the huge sleeves were ruffled above the elbow and drawn in at the wrist. The skirt ballooned out at the waist from many pleats. A hat was displayed on the table and the band was covered with a wreath of colourful flowers. Neither her ears nor hands were adorned with jewellery.

Elizabeth was also photographed by Stewart & Co Photographers of 217 Bourke Street East, Melbourne, for an album portrait.

In this photograph Elizabeth was seated in a studio whilst facing and looking slightly side on. Her left hand was draped on her lap, whilst her right elbow was resting on a book on the edge of her seat with her hand raised and gently resting against her chin. Both hands were encased in leather gloves (Image 3).

Elizabeth was wearing an elaborate headpiece adorned with flowers and tied under her chin. Her dress was of a rich texture, such as velvet, high-necked and tapered at the waist. The sleeves were ruffled at the shoulder and wrist, with lace edging at the bottom. The skirt was ruffled part way down to match the shoulders and wrists. ►►



▲ Image 3: *Elizabeth Judd, c1870*

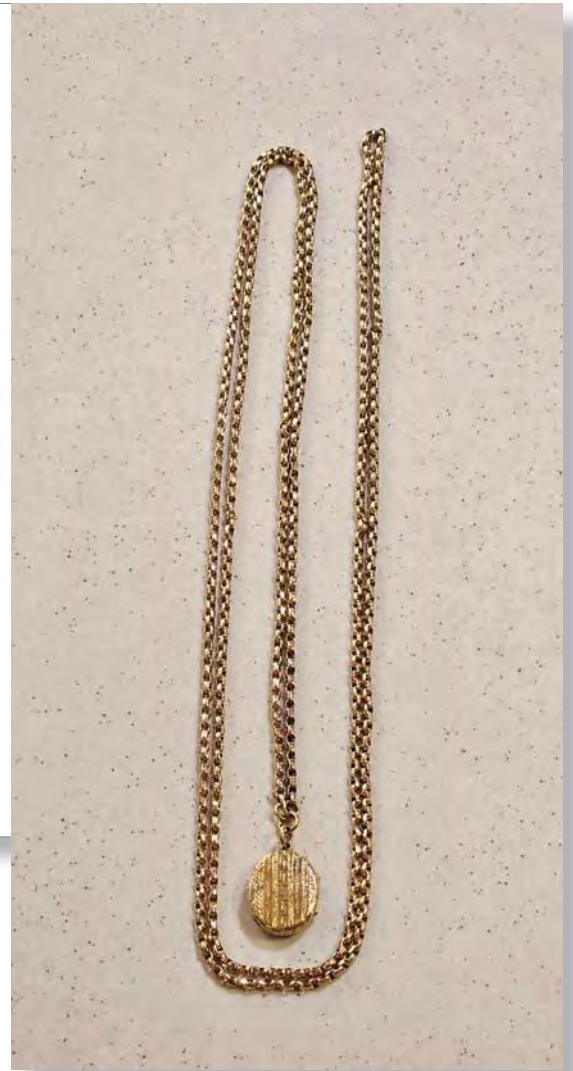


▲ Image 4: *Elizabeth Robinson, 1906, from the locket*

Her only piece of jewellery was the muff chain. In the photograph it is almost invisible to the naked eye and worn as a single strand and reaching down to her waist. The muff chain was traditionally worn around the neck to hold a roll of warm material, such as fur, into which the lady placed her hands to keep them warm. When her hands were not inside her valuable and rather heavy fur muff, the chain preserved it from falling onto the pavement and being soiled. A muff chain was also a versatile item, as it could be worn on its own as a necklace.

Elizabeth's muff chain is 71 cm long with oval box links. It is 150 gauge constructed of 14 carat gold and is sturdy whilst lightweight. An oval shaped locket is attached to the chain and measures 2 x 1.5 cm, which is embossed on one side and has the space to be engraved on the reverse side. It contained a photograph of my grandmother in mourning dress after the death of her fiancée in 1906 (Image 4). The chain and locket weigh 27 grams. Elizabeth Judd had left the muff chain in her Will to Gwendoline Ellen Lewis, the daughter of my grandmother Elizabeth Lewis, who subsequently gave it to me.

The chain has been cleaned, the locket sealed as it could not be repaired, and I'm wearing it



▲ Image 5a&b: *The muff chain (above) and detail showing the locket (below)*

as a necklace. I don't have much use for a hand warming muff in Queensland!

I have offered the collodion photograph to Museums Victoria and am awaiting their reply. Becoming custodian of these invaluable family heirlooms is a great privilege, which brings with it great responsibility. ■

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Surnames

Cross, Judd, Lewis, Nicholls, Robinson, Stafford, Stallard, Stewart, Todman, Williams

A brush with the law

by Stuart Hamilton

James Deakes was transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1843 for 'larceny by a servant'. The story of his capture is worth telling. As far as my research has found, everyone living in Australia with the surname Deakes is descended from James.

James was born in Shrewsbury, the county town of Shropshire, on 25 August 1800, the son of John, a carpenter, and Mary Deakes.¹ His birth was recorded at the monthly meeting of the Society of Friends on 14 April 1813, together with the births of two younger sisters and two younger brothers. They were recorded as 'Not Members of our Society', apparently a common practice at the time for families who needed to have their children's births registered and could find a Quaker sponsor.

James and his wife Sarah had seven children, five boys and two girls, baptised at Swan Hill Shrewsbury between 1826 and 1839.² The family lived in Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury's main street, which winds up the hill from the River Severn. Sometime between 1839 and 1841 James and Sarah moved to Worcester, where they are recorded in the 1841 census as living in Copenhagen Street with five children. Forty-year-old James is listed as a 'J Brush M' (which I interpret as 'Journeyman Brush Maker').³

His likely journeyman status was not unusual for a man in his forties, especially if they did not want to undertake the tasks required by their guild to become a master brushmaker or had insufficient funds to set up on their own. But maybe there was another explanation, lying in some doubts about his competence and honesty.

In May 1843 James and his eldest son John were before the Worcester Magistrate's Office on the above-mentioned charge of 'larceny by a servant', a graver charge than mere larceny as it implies a breach of trust. His victim was his master, Mr John Smith of Worcester High Street. James had apparently been with Mr Smith for only two months, having previously been employed by a Mr Pemberton (who may have suspected James defrauded him too).

Berrow's Worcester Journal takes up the story, from which my 3x great-grandfather and his

eldest son emerge with no credit, except perhaps for showing some entrepreneurial zeal:

The present fraud was discovered owing to a fellow-workman having observed a little girl, daughter to the prisoner, carrying a broom to a house in Union Street, and perceiving that it was made with a peculiar kind of bristles, which were at the present time being used at Mr. Smith's manufactory, his suspicions were aroused, and he informed his master of the circumstance.⁴

Smith asked Deakes to take him (and Tom Davis, a fellow employee) to Deakes' house. Deakes apparently started walking faster than the other two, so as they neared the corner of High Street and Copenhagen Street, Smith asked Davis to follow Deakes to see where he went. (One imagines that Smith had brought the presumably younger Davis with him in case Deakes scarpered.)

Davis followed Deakes, who by now was, in the words of the reporter, 'running with the utmost speed' into Copenhagen Street, not stopping at Pumphrey's Buildings, where he lived, but continuing into Bridport (a slum area of Worcester at the time). By now Deakes may have run out of puff, for he turned, put his hands in the air, and implored: "Tom, forgive me and let me go, and I'll never be seen any more." Tom was having none of this, self-righteously saying that he had a duty to perform for his master, and taking him back to Copenhagen Street, where Smith was waiting:

On arriving at the house he fell on his knees before Mr. Smith, and said, "Do Sir, forgive me, for the sake of my poor children." Mr. Smith replied, "That will be for future consideration," and then they all went upstairs into the attic, where they found a regular brush manufactory, well stocked with articles both finished and unfinished, together with a quantity of bristles. Here the prisoner again implored forgiveness, saying to Mr. Smith, "These goods are all taken from your premises, and belong to you: take them back again, and I will leave the town this night." On being asked what method he had adopted to obtain the property, he said that his son had brought them home, and that he could not restrain him.⁵

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Sixteen broom heads were produced, which Smith identified as his property, the bristles having been put in by Deakes, plus some brush patterns and other articles.

James Deakes was committed to trial; his son John was subsequently committed, according to the *Worcester Herald*, as an accomplice to his father, but according to the *Berrow's Journal* also for stealing 'a magic lanthorn' and other articles belonging to Mr Smith's son when the younger Deakes was employed as an errand boy before James joined Smith's employ.⁶

In a subsequent report of the result of the trial, the character of the hapless James was further excoriated, and the court Recorder summed up with appropriate judicial irony:

It appeared that the prisoner had been engaged by Mr. Smith purely out of charitable motives, his ability as a workman being but indifferent. Mr. Smith however had placed such confidence in his character that he deputed him to see that all the men left the premises every night and lock the doors, thus giving him free access every part of the premises.⁷

The Recorder went on to sentence James to seven years transportation, commenting dryly that allowing him to remain in the country would not 'be conferring any benefit on his family'. His son John, as a minor aged seventeen, was sentenced to three months imprisonment, with the first and last month in solitary confinement.⁸

And who was the 'little girl', said to be a daughter of Deakes, and apparently the salesgirl in this miscreant family of mine? Her carrying a completed broom, with some tell-tale signs of Mr Smith's manufactory, through the streets of Worcester led to her father's undoing. But this is a bit of a mystery. James and Sarah had two daughters, the elder, Mary Ann, would have been around 15, the younger Catharine, around 14. However, I have located neither in the 1841 census.

Copenhagen Street, where Deakes moonlighted and attempted to abscond, later housed Worcester's police station.

James was transported on the *Lord Petre* which departed London on 7 July 1843 and arrived in Hobart on 15 October that year.⁹ All in all, a pretty quick despatch of justice.

He apparently conducted himself 'unexceptionably' and was 'zealous in the performance of his duties'.¹⁰ He received his



Image 1: Former police station, Copenhagen Street, Worcester, No swan so fine, 2022, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike Licence 4.0

Certificate of Freedom in 1850 and was granted permission to be joined by his wife and children.¹¹ Sarah had other ideas however and decided to stay in England with the younger children (she seems to have agreed with the Recorder about the benefit of living with James).

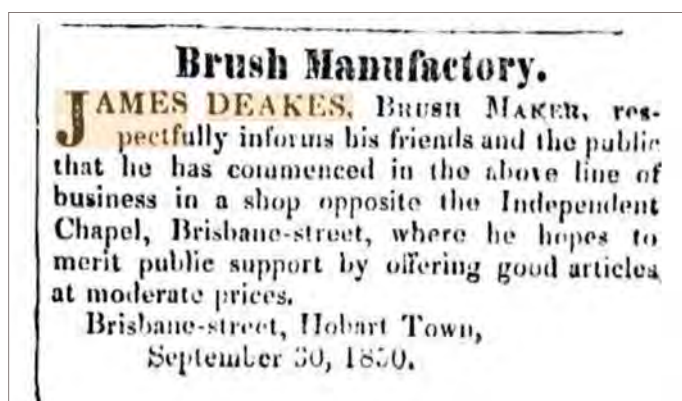
It did not take James long to resume his old trade, as in September 1850 he placed a notice in the *Britannia and Trades Advocate* informing the public that he had commenced a Brush Manufacturing business in Brisbane Street, Hobart, 'offering good articles at moderate prices'.¹² By 1858 he had moved to Liverpool Street and expanded, now advertising as a 'Brush Manufactory, Toy and Fancy Warehouse'.¹³ There is no evidence that he repeated his previous felonious ways.

His fellow miscreant, John, had already joined him in 1849, while his next eldest surviving son, James junior, followed in 1854.¹⁴ John Deakes also resumed the former family trade in Hobart, giving his occupation as Brushmaker on his marriage in 1852, and later being awarded a government tender for brooms.¹⁵

James Deakes senior died in Hobart in 1860, described in his death notice in *The Mercury*



Image 2: Copenhagen Street, Phillip Halling, 2016, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike Licence 2.0



- Image 3: 'Brush Manufactory' *The Britannia and Trades Advocate*, 3 Oct 1850, p3
- Image 4: 'Brush Manufactory' *The Tasmanian Daily News*, 11 May 1858, p4

on 7 April as 'brush manufacturer of this city'.¹⁶ So he finally made it past the lower status of journeyman brushmaker, servant to his master, to the lofty heights of manufacturing in his own right. Who said crime doesn't pay?

[I am descended from James through his son John and then John's son Edward 'Skipper' Deakes, who was born the year of James's death and was my maternal grandmother's father.] ■

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Surnames

Davis, Deakes, Pemberton, Smith, Williams

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the Rules of the Society and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, members are advised that the

Annual General Meeting

of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as a virtual meeting via Zoom

at 2.00pm on Saturday, 5 October 2024

Please register through our website to attend the meeting: www.gsv.org.au

The winner of the 2024 GSV Writing Prize will also be announced at the AGM

Annual Member Societies Meeting

held Saturday 25 May



The annual meeting brought together, on *Zoom*, and in person, Member Societies from across the state.

Margaret Vines and Emma Hegarty, *Ancestor* Team, Tom O'Dea, IT team and Meg Bate, Library, began the meeting with presentations to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest developments at the GSV.

Jacqui Brown's Digitisation presentation showed the organisation, equipment, and careful steps that are undertaken to produce quality digitised documents at the GSV and gave invaluable advice and tips about running a project.

A round-the-groups discussion followed. A snapshot of some highlights includes:

- Barbara Clayton told us about West Gippsland GS's cemetery document scanning and WWI soldiers' project. Two local pioneer family books are available for purchase.
- Julie Dworak: Gisborne GG have a historic rooms refurbishment planned. Guest speakers' topics include gold history and local Chinese settlements. They have a DNA interest group.
- Peter Reading: VicGum is turning 40 this year. They are holding a celebratory workshop in Melbourne in October.

- At Wodonga FHS, Alice Lindsay described a busy program with guest speakers, popular members 'show and tell', and 'Big Day Out' visits to historical sites.
- Elaine Alexander, Phillip Island & DGS, told of their plight with losing community allocated rooms, and the risk to their extensive and valuable Australian collection. They have received a newspaper digitisation grant.
- Kaylene Charles: Mildura Genealogy have a new large TV screen from a grant and are enjoying exploring its *Zoom* capabilities.
- At Bendigo Regional GS, Judy Woodlock is seeking new volunteers. Their knowledgeable volunteers are busy with research requests and have collated 40 years of recent birth and marriage records.
- Carol Armstrong from Ballarat & DGS: A successful Irish ancestry workshop has led to planning for a Scottish event next year. They have a popular *Facebook* page and have completed the *Ellmore Standard* digitisation.

Other Societies also shared their news and reports have been circulated. For those who were able to attend in person a congenial sandwich lunch ended the proceedings. ■



A Scottish Themed Library Open Day

The Melbourne Tartan Festival provided a perfect excuse to invest time in some Scottish ancestry research. Held in July, the Festival was a series of events held across Victoria to celebrate the Scottish cultural heritage of many Victorian residents. The GSV saw it as a great opportunity to invite non-members to a Scottish Research Library Open Day.

We will meet again as a research team in the near future to offer a Scottish Research Day for members. In the meantime, ponder which goal you would like to pursue and consider how to best summarise it for our assistants. Our last two Research Days have reinforced the value of submitting a carefully constructed query in advance of the day so we can carefully match the



▲ Image: GSV members enjoying the Tartan Festival Gala Ball, (from left to right) Margaret McLaren, Linley Hooper, Meg Bate, Mary-Anne Gourlay

The Library Open Day participants were a mixture of people new to genealogical research and old hands who were either taking the leap into researching their Scottish ancestors or who had hit a stumbling block in their research and sought a consultation to check they had explored all the options.

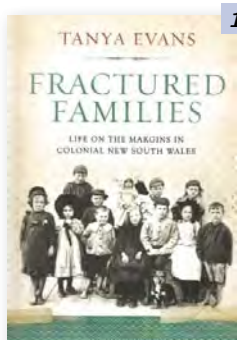
This Library Open Day began with a presentation on Scottish family history research, including an overview of the resources available in general and at the GSV in particular. Everyone then moved to the library to work one-on-one with a Library Research Assistant to pursue their goal for the session. Many thanks are due to Rod Armstrong, Meg Bate, John Blackwood, Philip Crane, Linley Hooper, Claire Johnson, Bruce McDowall and Eric Smith for their willingness to share their expertise and to tackle varied, and often challenging, queries.

request to the individual expertise of the Library Research Assistants, and to ensure the best resources are on hand. Keep an eye on our *e-News*, blog posts and social media for advertisements of the event.

Before that, though, we will hold a research day focused on parts of mainland Europe. If you would like to suggest a country to be covered, please let Rebecca know by emailing libraryadmin@gsv.org.au. We would also appreciate any offers of help from people with European research experience. Open Days depend on the generosity of members willing to volunteer their time to collaboratively tackle curly research questions. ■

Book Reviews

Reviews by Cathy Carman and Margaret Vines



1

1. Fractured Families: Life on the margins in colonial NSW

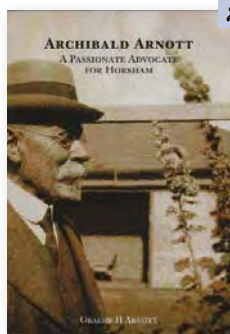
Author: Tanya Evans 304pp ISBN 9781742232577
Pub: New South Publishing, Sydney, 2015 [In GSV Library](#)

Tanya Evans, an academic historian from Macquarie University, writes about the lives of the poor and struggling in 19th century Australia. Using the archives of The Benevolent Society established in 1813 in Sydney, she combines academic history with family history research, in a partnership with family historians. Snapshot family histories from these many contributors illustrate the variety of people seeking help from the Benevolent Society, and the fates of their families.

The earliest story is of convicts William Hubbard and his wife Mary Goulding, researched by their descendant Max Carrick. The Hubbards, farming in the Hawkesbury, needed intermittent help in bad times when unable to support their growing family. Later, typical of male ex-convicts, William returned to seek aid when widowed and too old and ill to work. As a contrast, the author describes the families of Philip Gidley King, and later of Quong Tart and of White, the bakers, who were well off and proudly preserved their own history. The philanthropists who began and continued the work of the Benevolent Society came from this part of society, with increasing involvement of women from the 1860s and 1870s.

The crucial role of family history in revealing the stories of Aboriginal and mixed families, is followed by an exploration of families without breadwinners – the largest group needing support, and linked to the large group of orphans and destitute children. For example, Jane Kelly, Irish orphan and victim of family violence, walked 200 miles with her children, to seek help in Sydney. They were in and out of the Benevolent Society's care for many years, before Jane died of TB aged 42, in St Vincent's Hospital. Free migrants' families, during Gold Rushes, or economic downturns, needed help: difficulty finding work, or insufficient pay to feed their family, was compounded when the breadwinner left them to seek gold, or work, further away. The Benevolent Society offered both indoor and outdoor relief, and became a midwifery centre for the poor. Known as the 'Lying-in Hospital of NSW', it rode out public moral concern about it catering for so many single mothers, and offered early training in midwifery. Researchers will benefit from consulting the illustrations, over 30 pages of source notes, extensive bibliography and index.

Though this book refers to NSW, Victorian family history researchers can explore similar stories. Victoria had its own Benevolent Asylums in Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat and Castlemaine. Records for the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum in North Melbourne are in the manuscript collection of State Library Victoria, MS 8366, or we can consult the Hotham History project in North Melbourne. There was also the Immigrants' Aid Society Home for Houseless and Destitute Persons from 1854. This later became Mount Royal Hospital, and records are under this at PROV with some also at the GSV and on the web at [FamilySearch](#). We can all feel encouraged by the growing interest in our work from academic social historians and the way we all are contributing together to the history of our society. MV



2

2. Archibald Arnott: a passionate advocate for Horsham

Author: Graeme H Arnott 300pp ISBN: 9780 646 816500
Pub: Graeme Arnott, Point Lonsdale, Victoria, graemearnott@bigpond.com, 2020 [In the GSV library](#)

Archibald Arnott was born in 1854 in a tent on Kanawalla squatting run in Victoria's Western District. His country town success story begins with his parents, migrants from Dunfermline, Scotland, employed by the Chirnsides, then working in Hamilton. Archie became a saddler, established his own business then moved to Horsham near his wife's family. His business flourished, he became a Councillor, Mayor, Chair of the Waterworks Trust, Presbyterian Elder, JP and seems to have had 'a finger in all the local pies'. The author has researched and organised this story well. The Dunfermline section will interest anyone with connections there. In following Archie's career in Horsham, he has made copious use of local newspapers and organised the story sensibly and logically, first telling of the personal and family life, then of the business activity, which funded his community work and finally in great detail, these community contributions. He concludes with the stories of Archie's children, Arnott family group sheets, a bibliography and an index. MV

3. Pa's People, A Journey Around our Dow Family

Author: Lesley Dow Beames ISBN: 978- 0- 646-9 2321-5
Pub: Lesley Dow Beames, Self published, 2014 189pp
[In the GSV library](#)

This interesting and well-presented book traces the family history of the author's grandfather, John Dow, (1917-2001) or 'Pa', who was born in Gympie, Queensland, the son of George Dow and Ellen née Sandeesson.

The author tells the stories of the four family lines from which her Dow grandfather descended, neatly organised into chapters on each. Ancestral stories and facts extend back to birth dates in the mid-1700s and are set in a broader historical context.

Beginning with the paternal side: John's grandfather, Dow, migrated to Gippsland, Victoria in 1873, leaving behind a long Dow heritage in rural Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Paternal grandmother, Margaret Fullerton, the daughter of Irish (County Down) immigrants was born in Collingwood where her father ran a wheelwright business. Margaret's mother, Eliza, experienced deteriorating mental health and the author uses Kew Asylum and probate records, to thoughtfully reflect on its impact on her family relationships.

On the maternal side, grandfather, John Sandeesson's family from Banffshire, Scotland arrived in Sydney in 1856, subsequently farming near Grafton. There John met Ellen McAuley. Her parents, also early settlers, had an interesting connection to the Garrison Church at The Rocks, Sydney. They had married there in 1845, just one year after it opened for church services.

The book concludes with the author's warm depiction of her hard working, 'down to earth' 'Pa' living contentedly on his Upper Burnett farm in Queensland, surrounded by his Dow descendants.

Although this book is essentially a personal history its well-structured layout, clear tables and charts, detailed index, large page format, and high quality photographs and document images make it a very worthwhile read for any family historian contemplating how to best structure and present their own family history. CC■

Around the groups and circles

England and Wales Discussion Circle

This circle focuses on topics that are pertinent to the whole of England and Wales. This includes topics such as census records, poor laws, workhouses, education, health, political and social conditions. The circle will work closely with the four regional English Discussion Circles and the Early English Discussion Circle.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on 2nd Tuesday from March at 10.30am. Repeated bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday from March at 7.30pm

Contact: england@gsv.org.au

Early English Discussion Circle

This circle assists GSV Members with their **pre-1800 English research**. It covers the period before the census and civil registration records of the 19th Century. It aims to help members gain an understanding of pre 1800 records and how to access them, including in significant times such as the Civil War and Commonwealth period.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on the 1st Friday from March at 1.30pm

Contact: eedc@gsv.org.au

GSV Writers

The group encourages and helps GSV Members to **write their family histories**. It especially welcomes those that are just starting to put their research into written form. There are collaborative reviews and discussion of members' submitted writing as well as advice and suggestions concerning readability, punctuation, and good editing.

Meetings: Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from February at 12.30pm

Contact: gsvwriters@gsv.org.au

DNA Genetic Genealogy Study Group

This group helps in **developing skills using DNA testing** along with traditional research. Participants are expected to have completed the GSV beginner's DNA classes or have a similar knowledge base.

Meetings: Monthly on 1st Tuesday from February at 10.00am

Contact: dna@gsv.org.au

London and South East Counties Discussion Circle

The aim of this circle is to bring together GSV Members who are researching their family history in the south-east of England. The Counties covered are **Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, East & West Sussex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, London, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, and Surrey**. Discussions can include local occupations and businesses, migration, maps and gazetteers, and church records.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on the 4th Thursday from February at 10.30am [not December]

Contact: london@gsv.org.au

Midlands and East Anglia Discussion Circle

This circle aims to bring together GSV Members who have a common interest in family history research in the English Midlands. The Counties discussed are **Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Huntingdonshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire**. Topics relate to social, economic, religious and political history that affected the life and times of these counties.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from February at 1.30pm

Contact: midlands@gsv.org.au

Counties of Northern England Discussion Circle

Do you have ancestors from the north of England? The members of this circle meet to discuss research and shared interests in the north of England, covering the historical Counties of **Northumberland, Westmorland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, and Cumberland** as well as the **Isle of Man**. Topics discussed can relate to economic, social, and political history as well as assistance with research.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from February at 1.30pm

Contact: cone@gsv.org.au

*Groups and Circles are continuing with Zoom meetings – book via the GSV website.
Consult the Groups and Circles Notice Boards on our website for all up-to-date information.*

South West England Research and Discussion Circle

This circle is for those GSV Members who are researching their family history in the south-west counties of England, namely **Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire**. The aim is to understand the lives and times of those who lived in south-west England. Research and resources are discussed, and members assisted to break through their brick walls.

Meetings: Bi-monthly on the 2nd Friday from February at 1.30pm

Contact: swerdcircle@gsv.org.au

British India Discussion Circle

From the **17th to the 20th century**, over three million Britons served in **India and South Asia** in the military, the government or as part of the prosperous community. The British India Discussion Circle is designed to assist those GSV Members who are researching these British ancestors.

Meetings: Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday from February at 7.30pm

Contact: britindia@gsv.org.au.

Irish Ancestry Discussion Circle

This circle aims to foster the study of **Irish history and genealogical research** as well as providing support for all GSV Members who are researching their Irish heritage.

Meetings: Quarterly on 2nd Saturday. February and November meetings are hybrid: in-person and via *Zoom* attendance. May and August are via *Zoom* only, all at 1.00pm

Contact: irish.ancestry@gsv.org.au

Scottish Discussion Circle

Come along to receive assistance with researching Scottish ancestry and gain an understanding of the nuances relating to **Scottish family history** research. All are welcome to share their research experiences.

Meetings: Quarterly on 3rd Saturday of March, June and September, and (usually) 4th Saturday in November at 2.00pm

Contact: scotland@gsv.org.au

Victoria and Tasmania Discussion Circle

This is a circle for GSV Members who are researching family history in **Tasmania and Victoria**.

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Friday from January at 10.30am. The April and August meetings will be held on the Thursday before the 4th Friday at 7.30pm.

Contact: victas@gsv.org.au

International Settlers Discussion Circle

Attendance at the meetings of this circle will allow GSV Members to receive assistance with their research, and to share their experiences of **non-British family history research**. On the occasions that there is a guest speaker, insights into their approaches to their research can be invaluable.

Meetings: Quarterly on the 3rd Saturday from February at 1.00pm

Contact: isg@gsv.org.au

The Good Oil Discussion Circle

The Good Oil circle gives an opportunity for GSV Members to share their experiences on **subjects closely allied to family history research**. This can include the management of documents and images and the conserving of family ephemera. This circle works closely with the Family History Tips & Tools Discussion Circle.

Meetings: Monthly on the 3rd Friday from January at 1.30pm

Contact: thegoodoil@gsv.org.au

Family History Tips & Tools Discussion Circle

Our tips and tools forum **examines the sources of family history information and explores how to use them more effectively**. Each session aims to provide information, guidance, and foster engaging discussion on topics requested by GSV Members. Join the circle for a lively exchange of ideas and insights, all aimed at enhancing your family history research.

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Wednesday from January at 10.30am (not December)

Contact: fhtt@gsv.org.au ■

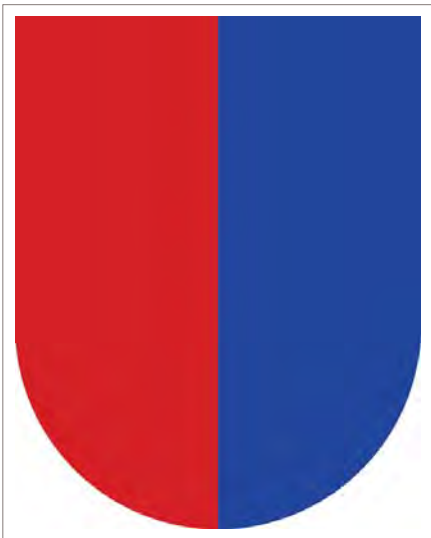
Researching Ticino ancestors

by Emma Hegarty

Introduction

Ticino (Tessin) is the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland. In the 1850s there was a significant migration from Ticino to Victoria, forming a diaspora that was concentrated in the Central Goldfields region. For descendants keen to learn more about this heritage, there is a trail of family history in both Australia and Switzerland. If you visit Ticino to explore your family history you will need a grasp of Italian, or a good translation app. However, there is a great deal to be discovered online, and here in Victoria.

Emma can be contacted at:
greatmayhem@gmail.com



▲ Image 1: Coat of Arms of Canton of Ticino. Wikimedia Commons: licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

Life in Ticino

Ticino was part of the Duchy of Milan before being absorbed by the Swiss confederation in a series of conquests in the 15th century. There are also Italian-speaking regions in the neighbouring canton of Grisons (Graubünden) whose conditions and history in relation to mid-19th century emigration were similar to those in Ticino.

For centuries, most people were agrarian peasants, making a subsistence living in Alpine valleys. In an area with limited arable land, and over-shadowed by mountain peaks, families kept goats, and grew maize, barley, turnips and potatoes.

Winters were cold and snowy, the landscape was dotted with boulders, and the valleys were prone to flooding. Life was restricted by religious and social tradition, and archaic laws governing land ownership, land use, grazing rights and taxes. In the early 1850s, damp cold weather led to crop failures.¹

International tensions also had an influence on everyday life in Ticino. In November 1847, the brief Sonderbund War led to the creation of Switzerland as a nation state. At the same time, nationalism was fomenting in the Italian states. In 1853, riots broke out in northern Italy in opposition to Austrian rule. As the Austrians

clamped down on resistance, Ticino harboured refugees from Milan. In response, Austria closed the border between Italy and Ticino for two years. Thus, Ticino lost its main connection to trade and work opportunities.²

This confluence of desperate conditions occurred at the same time that news of gold rushes in California and Victoria was reaching even the remotest outposts in Europe. Communes (municipalities) sponsored young men (usually via a loan) to travel to these new worlds, both to search for riches, and to explore the potential for more permanent migration.

Migration to Victoria

In the mid-1850s, about 2,000 Ticinesi came to Victoria. Initially they had a strong presence at the Bendigo diggings, but the majority soon congregated in and around the towns of Daylesford and Hepburn.

Gold was not as plentiful or easy to come by as the emigrants had been led to expect. Their compatriots in California sent far more money home to Ticino in remittances, as did those who had ventured to Argentina.³ Nevertheless, many decided to stay. Some became splitters, gathering wood for fireplaces, mining and construction. In Victoria, the Land Act of 1862 encouraged gold diggers to settle on the land and produce food.⁴ With a community already established around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Swiss-Italians seized this opportunity. More settlers began to arrive, as men sent to Ticino for their wives, children and extended families. The unmarried men who did not escort or sponsor a fiancée to join them typically married girls of Irish descent whom they met through the church. A distinct diaspora was established. A macaroni factory was built, a library and social groups were set up, and Italian speakers began producing food and wine in commercial quantities. Popular to this day are bullboars, sausages made from beef and pork.

In the mid-1860s, those Italians and Swiss-Italians still keen on gold mining moved to new rushes, at Walhalla in Gippsland, and Hokitika in New Zealand. Although their numbers in those

places were smaller than in Daylesford, they were still enough to form cultural communities, and their descendants can still be found in those areas.⁵

Though the families have spread around Australia, the influence of the Swiss-Italian community can still be seen and felt in the Shire of Hepburn; indeed, it is celebrated. Many descendants have taken an interest in this migration. Several unpublished family histories can be found in libraries and historical societies. The migration has also been researched by historians in both Switzerland and Australia, and their works bring the experience to life.

A note on surnames

Surnames change over the centuries. A branch of our family that settled in Victoria is named Rodoni, but a few hundred years ago the name was Rodone. My grandmother's maiden name was Tinetti. Follow her male line back a few hundred years and Tinetti becomes Tinetto. Further complications arise when English-speaking transcribers work on old handwritten records. In the 1808 Ticino census, Tinetti has sometimes been transcribed as Jinetti, and in Australian passenger list indexes I have seen it transcribed as Sinetti and Finetti. Wildcards can therefore be very useful in database and online searches.

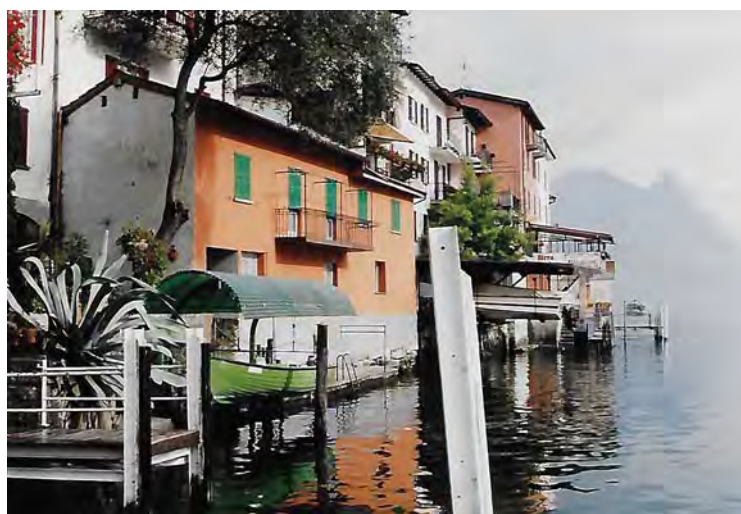
Books and manuscripts

Wine, water & stone: the Swiss and Italians of Hepburn: This well-illustrated booklet was produced to accompany an exhibition at Melbourne's Immigration Museum in 2007. It gives a broad history of conditions that led to the mass migration of Ticinesi and northern Italians to Victoria in the 1850s, and then focuses on the progress of the families who settled in the Daylesford and Hepburn region. Available at the State Library of Victoria.

Giorgio Cheda (translated by Antonio Pagliaro), *The emigration of Swiss-Italians to the Australian Gold Rush*, Italian Australian Institute, La Trobe University, 2020. This expansive two-volume study documents the emigration of Ticinesi to Victoria, principally in 1854–55. Volume 1 outlines the geographic, social, political and economic circumstances that led to this mass migration. Volume 2 reproduces a large number of letters from gold miners to their families at home in Switzerland, and includes an index of all people named in the letters. Available at the State Library of Victoria.

CC Culvenor, *The settlement of Yandoit Creek and the Gervasonis*, Jim Crow Press, 2nd edition, 2003. The Gervasoni family, who arrived in Victoria in 1858, hailed from Bergamo in northern Italy, and settled in Yandoit, north of Daylesford.

In exploring the experiences of the first two generations of Gervasonis in Australia, this social history provides an insight into their community, which was largely made up of Ticinesi emigrants. Available at the State Library of Victoria.



▲ Image 2: *The village of Gandria, on Lake Lugano. All photographs taken by the author*

Joseph Gentilli, *The settlement of Swiss Ticino immigrants in Australia*, Geowest #23, Department of Geography, University of Western Australia, 1988. After an overview of conditions in Ticino that led to Gold Rush migration, the reasons people stayed in Australia, and their ventures after goldmining, this book consists mainly of an alphabetical list of immigrants with, where known, their place and year of birth, year of



▲ Image 3: *Piazza Governo, in Ticino's capital city, Bellinzona. Castelgrande, one of Bellinzona's three castles, towers above.*

arrival, ship, and family in Australia. There is also a list of women who married these immigrants, most of them clearly of Irish or British descent. Available at the State Library of Victoria.

Glen Tomasetti, *The Swiss at Blampied, the Irish at Eganstown*, 1974. State Library of Victoria MS ►

Box 1178/2. This manuscript documents research by historian and writer Glen Tomasetti, who delved into letters and Catholic and government institutional archives, and lived in Ticino for a year in search of her own family's story.

Clare Gervasoni, *Bullboar, macaroni and mineral water: spa country's Swiss-Italian story*, Hepburn Springs Swiss-Italian Festa Inc, second edition 2007. This is a comprehensive history of the Swiss-Italians in the Hepburn region, covering every aspect of life for the first few generations in Australia. Featuring many photographs, the book covers the journey from Switzerland, the Gold Rush, farming, architecture, business, sport, food and drink, family life, community, and military service. A detailed index lists plenty of local families. Available at the State Library of Victoria.

Annamaria Davine, *Neither here nor there: Italians and Swiss-Italians on the Walhalla goldfield 1865-1915*, Italian Australian Institute, La Trobe University, 2009. This book began as a thesis, which shows in the writing style. It covers the migration and settlement of Italian speakers in

this publication provides sample letters in Italian that you can adapt to make enquiries.

Bridget Carlson, *Immigrant placemaking in colonial Australia: the Italian-speaking settlers of Daylesford*, PhD thesis, Victoria University, 1997. This research follows the migration and settlement stories of 15 Italian-speaking families who migrated to the Daylesford district. Available online: <https://vuir.vu.edu.au/15416>

Kevan M Hansen, *Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers Vol 13 Canton of Ticino*, 2020. As the name implies, this book is part of a series designed to help genealogical research on Switzerland. With detailed maps, the book provides information on how to research parish records for 614 towns and villages in Ticino. An electronic copy can be accessed through the GSV Library.

Archival records

Civil registration

The civil registration of births, deaths and marriages in Ticino began in 1855, and the records are held at the canton archive in Bellinzona, which manages many other records as well. There is no public index. Any contact should be made in Italian, and as specific as possible about the family and time period you wish to search. Records will only be released if you provide proof of your identity and descent from the family. Contact details for the central office and regional branches are available on their website: <https://www4.ti.ch/di/spop/chi-siamo/servizi-circondariali-dello-stato-civile>

Canton archives

L'Archivio di Stato del Cantone Ticino is based in Bellinzona, the state capital. As well as civil registration, it preserves state and other historical archives, manages a book and newspaper library relevant to Ticino, and hosts cultural events. Sections of the collection available online include historical maps, medieval manuscripts, and 19th century photographs. The archives will respond to questions by mail, phone or email, but they do not provide a genealogical research service. <https://www4.ti.ch/decs/dcsu/asti/asti>

Church records

In Ticino church records were kept, sporadically at first, from the 1580s. From the late 1700s churches kept a register for each family. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has copied onto microfilm all Ticino church records; however, these are not available online, nor at *FamilySearch* centres. They can only be viewed in person at the *FamilySearch* Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at the Diocesan office in Locarno, Switzerland. If you are visiting Ticino, it may be possible to see the original records. This requires time, some skill in



▲ Image 4: A farm in the Valle di Pontirone, between the towns of Biasca and Malvaglia and the Ticino–Grisons border.

Victoria in the 19th century, mostly by examining the lives of several families in and around Walhalla. An appendix lists all the Italian names the author has found in the district for the period 1865–1915. Available at the State Library of Victoria.

Swiss-Italian family history research: a guide to tracing archival material in Switzerland: Tessin and Grisons cantons, compiled by the Italian Historical Society. This booklet is held in the genealogy section of the State Library of Victoria. Compiled in 1994, it explains what sort of records might be in government offices, churches and archives in Switzerland. Although some of these records are now available through *FamilySearch*, more intrepid research may still be required for others. Helpfully,

Italian, and a patient parish priest, as you will not be permitted to handle the registers.

Museo Italiano

The Italian Historical Society, 199 Faraday Street Carlton (part of a broader cultural organisation called CO.AS.IT) includes a museum space and a resource centre. Although the society's focus is on Italian migration to Australia, their collection of manuscripts, photographs and other ephemera does include material relating to immigration from Switzerland. Their catalogue is available online. <https://www.coasit.com.au/italian-historical-society>

Census records

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has copied onto microfilm all Ticino census records from 1808 (which only counted men), 1824, and 1837 (District of Bellizona only), as well as municipal censuses taken between 1846 and 1966. These films can be viewed at any *FamilySearch* centre. There are several centres in Melbourne, including the GSV. The 1808 census, and the 1837 census for the district of Lugano, can be viewed online at *FamilySearch*.

Online resources

FamilySearch is the online portal for the genealogical services of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is a search facility for all their digitised records, and a very detailed wiki providing background information on family history research and records all over the world. The Ticino wiki page includes a long list of cities and towns, each of which links to another page that contains useful historic, geographic and demographic information. The only searchable data on their website *FamilySearch* is the 1808 census, and the 1837 census for the district of Lugano. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Canton_Ticino,_Switzerland_Genealogy

La Società Genealogica della Svizzera Italiana [the Genealogical Society of Italian Switzerland]

communicates only in Italian. Their journal, *Bollettino Genealogica* [Genealogical Bulletin], has been produced annually since 1997. They have also published several booklets related to family history in Ticino, showing a particular interest in noble families and coats of arms. They hold regular information sessions and social events in the city of Locarno. They do not offer research assistance. <https://sogenesi.ch>

Gendata – If your ancestors lived in the region of Sonogno and Frasco in the Verzasca Valley, you are in luck. A keen genealogist, Ronald Willemse, who married into the region, has personally

digitised hundreds of years of church records and made them available online in Italian and English. <https://www.gendata.ch>

Migration Blog – Active between 2009 and 2012 and still available online, covers many stories about Swiss-Italians who migrated, mainly to Victoria and California. A helpful list of clickable topics appears on every page: <https://swissinfomigration.wordpress.com>



▲ Image 5: The alpine village of Pontirone, now uninhabited except for summer cottages.

Swiss Genealogy on the Internet is a reference site, providing information on the history of Swiss-Italian migration, and contact details for societies and services that may be of use to genealogists. A page describing the route that migrants took is particularly informative for those wishing to understand the journey. The website has not been updated for several years (for example, the section on Australia and New Zealand is dated 2012). <https://kunden.eye.ch/swissgen/kant/tiemww-e.htm>

Many relevant records at the **Public Record Office Victoria** have been digitised, and can be searched for names and other key words. These include wills and probate files, prison records and passenger indexes. <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/online-collections#>

The National Archives of Australia holds Commonwealth records from the time of Federation. Although the Ticinesi were already well-established in Victoria, some Commonwealth records can reveal details about their past, and may include photographs. Principally these are military services records, and naturalisation papers. You can search the website by surname. <https://www.naa.gov.au> ➤

Facebook pages and groups

Swiss/Italian Ancestry page shares items about family history relating to Ticino and northern Italy, and descendants of people from those places who settled in the Victorian Goldfields region. Posts tend to be pictures, captions and links rather than long texts. Anyone may follow this page. <https://www.facebook.com/SwissItalian>

Swiss-Italian Ticino Genealogy is a small international group devoted to sharing resources. Posts are infrequent, but the group offers the opportunity to connect with people around the world who share Ticinesi ancestry. Membership on request. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209077749404189>



▲ Image 6: A traditional house in rural Ticino, built in the 1880s.

Visiting the Hepburn region

Even a brief visit to the district will reveal the influence of Italian and Swiss-Italian settlers, who were concentrated in Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and Yandoit. Attracted by the valleys and mineral springs, they planted poplars and built dry stone buildings and terraces in the traditional Ticinesi style. There is even a swimming pool with Swiss terraces in the Hepburn bush.⁶ Bullboar sausages are sold in the butcher shop, Italian is taught as a second language at local schools, and many buildings are named after places in Ticino or northern Italy, such as Hotel Bellinzona, Villa Parma, and the Savoia Hotel.

Swiss-Italian Festa

Since 1993 the towns of Hepburn and Daylesford have celebrated their Swiss-Italian history with a springtime festa. Events often include art exhibitions, musical performances, historical displays, a masquerade ball, and a lantern parade. The festa website includes information on local history, and a list of 431 Italian and Swiss-Italian families who settled in the area in the 19th century: <https://swissitalianfesta.com>

The Daylesford Museum, home of the Daylesford & District Historical Society, houses a collection of artefacts, and local historical records. It is open to the public for a limited period on Saturdays, but a research visit can be made by appointment. The society has published a number of books that can be purchased at the museum or ordered online.

Lavendula is a lavender farm and trattoria at Shepherds Flat, halfway between Hepburn and Franklinford. It occupies the farm established by Aquilino Tinetti and his wife Maria Caprioli. Their home and outbuildings were built in traditional Ticinesi style, and have been faithfully restored.

The **mineral springs at Hepburn** have been preserved, largely thanks to the efforts of Italian and Swiss-Italian settlers, who valued the mineral water highly.⁷ With pumps to help draw the water, many of these springs are freely accessible in parkland. <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/Places-activities/Parks-and-recreation/Mineral-springs>

The Swiss-Italian Heritage Walk is an 8 km tour of buildings and other sites significant to the history of Swiss-Italian settlement. A brochure produced by the Hepburn Shire Council is available online. <https://u3ahepburnshire.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SwissItalianHeritageTrail.pdf> ■

References

1. G Cheda (A Pagliaro trans), *The emigration of Swiss-Italians to the Australian Gold Rush*, Italian Australian Institute, La Trobe University, 2020, vol 1, pp3–14
2. 'Austria–Switzerland relations', *Wikipedia* 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Austria%E2%80%93Switzerland_relations&oldid=1188152481
3. G Cheda, vol 1, p258
4. G Shannon, 'The Italianate gardens of Hepburn Springs', *Australian Garden History*, vol 17 no. 3, Nov 2005
5. G Cheda, vol 2; A Davine, *Neither here nor there: Italians and Swiss-Italians on the Walhalla goldfield 1865-1915*, Italian Australian Institute, La Trobe University, 2009
6. R Marshall, 'Australian dry stone terraces: an historical and contemporary interpretation' in M Varatto, L Bonardi and P Tarolli (eds), *World terraced landscapes: history, environment, quality of life*, Springer, 2018
7. C Gervasoni, *Bullboar, macaroni and mineral water: spa country's Swiss-Italian story*, Hepburn Springs Swiss-Italian Festa Inc, second edition 2007, p71

Additions to the Library

Compiled by Meg Bate, Library & Digital Resources Manager

See the library catalogue for full details, including associated names and places, exact format, and location of material within the library – available online at <https://gsv.org.au> or in the library.

Thank you to all donors to the library collection.

Webcasts are available to members at home.

Abbreviations used:

\$ = Society Purchase

(...) = Donor's name, if not the author

AUSTRALIA

Citizenship and me: what Australian citizenship means to me. Essays by Gorana Kristovic, Joanne Bell, Annie Choi, Catherine Spiteri, Amara Halabi, Dung Le, Melissa Ferraro, Alysia Nenna, Sanduni Fernando. Digital copy @ GSV premises

Finns in Australia. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

No statues for heroes by Moses, Ken. Contents: Uriah Moses; Simeon Lord; William Buckley; John Batman; John Pascoe Fawkner; Bennelong; Reverend Samuel Marsden; John Pamphlett; Patrick Logan. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Vaughan, Eileen)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Camden Park Estate 1795: 1965. Australia's oldest pastoral property GSV: 994.4 CAMD CAM (Izatt, Yvonne)

VICTORIA

Arrival and survival: Jews in Victoria 1835-1985 : October 28th 1984-March 1985. Catalogue prepared by Helen Light with Gabi Eisen and Sara Wein. Digital copy @ GSV premises

Box Hill and Surrey Hills history Contents: Box Hill: A heritage tour of Box Hill 1985; Box Hill history kit; Box Hill cemetery walk (1985); Know your city no 1. Historical dates / Box Hill City Council; Surrey Hills: Surrey Hills station - 100 years / Jack McLean (Newsrail Jan 1984); Surrey Hills history walkabouts no. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Izatt, Yvonne)

Documents relating to the Western District, Victoria. Contains letters, invoices and receipts, bank order, parish maps. Digital copy @ GSV premises

Index to the parliamentary papers, reports of select committees and returns to orders, bills, etc 1851-1909. Victoria. Parliament. Legislative Assembly compiled by J. M. Worthington. Digital copy @ GSV premises

Williamstown history. Contents: Second biennial Victorian historical conference: visit to Williamstown Oct 1, 1967 / City of Williamstown; Maps and plans of Williamstown; The land sales 1837, Melbourne and Williamstown, Extract from the Port Phillip Herald, Sep 1839; Langhorne's store which later became the Marine Penal Stockade; Reconstruction of Bryant's Stores; The Melbourne Advertiser Port Phillip Australia, Feb 1838; The vocabulary of our Aborigines, Lower Yarra; Diagrams of building stones and walling; City of Williamstown: a synopsis of the municipality; Programme of the procession to lay the foundation stone of the New Mechanics' Institute, Electra Street, Williamstown on Saturday February 18th, 1860; The minutes of the Local Board of Health at Williamstown (1855-1856) Victoria, copied from the original documents by Wilson P. Evans 1962; The mayoral chain of Williamstown - its derivation and history; Topography of Williamstown in 1840; City

of Williamstown; Notes on the geology of Williamstown; Short outline history of early Williamstown; The Alfred Graving dock; Williamstown Timeball Tower; The Nelson gold robbery; The fortification of Point Gellibrand; Visit of the Shenandoah. (Information put together by the Williamstown Historical Society.). Digital copy @ GSV premises (Vaughan, Eileen)

DENMARK

A guide to old Dragor, Hjorth, Birte. GSV: 948.9 HJO (Izatt, Yvonne)

How to read the [Danish] church register. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

ENGLAND

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Monumental inscriptions: databases & viewer v. 2.

Nottinghamshire Family History Society Contents: Arnold, St Mary – Barton in Fabis, St George – Basford St Leodegarius – Bestwood Park Emmanuel – Bilborough, St Martin of Tours – Bingham – Bleasby St Mary, Blyth, St Mary and St Martin, Bulcote Holy Trinity – Burton Joyce, St Helen – Claverton, St Wilfrid – Car Colston, St Mary – Carlton & Carlton on Trent, St Mary – Cauntton, St Andrews – Chilwell Shell Filing factory – Clifton, St Mary Mary – Colston Bassett St John the Divine – Colwick St John the Baptist – Cromwell, St Giles – Cropwell Bishop, St Files – East Bridgford, St Peter – East Leake, General Baptist – East Retford – East Stoke, St Oswald – Edwalton, Holy Rood – Elston, All Saints – Gedling, All Hallows – Gonalston, St Lawrence – Granby, All Saints – Greasley, St Mary – Halloughton, S James – Hickling, St Luke – Holme Pierrepont, St Edmund – Hoveringham, St Michael – Hyson Green, St Paul – Keyworth, St Mary Magdalene – Kinoulton – Kneeton, St Helen – Lenton, Holy Trinity – Lowdham, St Mary the Virgin – Mansfield – Morton, St Denis – Newark. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Only available on computer 5) \$

MALTA

Researching your Maltese family history. Izatt, Yvonne. Digital copy @ GSV premises

POLAND

Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America. (1993-2008) Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

Polish Genealogical Society newsletter. (1979-1992) Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

SCOTLAND

Candie for the foundling, Gordon, Anne. Contents: 1. Kirk sessions; 2. The poor's money; 3. The fatherless, the foundlings and the famished; 4. Poor bodies and sick folk; 5. The poor's box; 6. A school in every parish; 7. Such good and Christian works; 8. Half horrible, half noble; 9. Called, compeared and confessed; 10. The sins of the people; 11. The morals of the people; 12. Witchcraft and superstition; 13. Holy matrimony; 14. The sacrament of baptism; 15. The burial of the dead; 16. Remembering the sabbath day; 17. The Lord's supper; 18. Candi for the foundling. GSV: 941.1 GOR. (McLaren, Margaret)



SERBIA

Serbian decorations through history and Serbian medals awarded to Australians. Pajić, Bojan GSV: 355.1 PAL (Izatt, Yvonne)

SLOVAKIA

Misli : informativni mesečnik za versko in kulturno življenje Slovencev v Avstraliji = Thoughts : religious and cultural monthly in Slovenian language. Notes have some of the names listed. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

Misli : informativni mesečnik za versko in kulturno življenje Slovencev v Avstraliji = Thoughts : religious and cultural monthly in Slovenian language. Kew: Slovenian Franciscan Fathers in Australia. E-journals: vol. 4 (1955) – 6 (1957) (Izatt, Yvonne)

Archival institutions in the Republic of Slovenia - a treasury of sources for genealogical research. Zumer, Vladimir. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne)

SWEDEN

Roots in Sweden: the genealogist's guide to the Swedish archives. GSV: 929.1485 ROO (Izatt, Yvonne)

SWITZERLAND

Map guide to Swiss parish registers: Canton of Aargau with full index of included towns. Hansen, Kevan M. Digital copy @ GSV premises \$

Map guide to Swiss parish registers: Canton of Fribourg with full index of included towns. Hansen, Kevan M. Digital copy @ GSV premises. \$

Map guide to Swiss parish registers: Canton of Sankt Gallen, Appenzell-Ausserrhoden and Appenzell-Innerrhoden with full index of included towns. Hansen, Kevan M. Digital copy @ GSV premises \$

Map guide to Swiss parish registers: Canton of Ticino with full index of included towns by Canton of Sankt Gallen. Hansen, Kevan M. Digital copy @ GSV premises. \$

JOURNEYS BY SEA

General Black: from the pages of a diary in Estonian now translated into English. A truly memorable voyage of 860 displaced persons, 24, 000 km across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in 1948. Nuchtern, Walter A. Digital copy @ GSV premises.

Mrs Owen's diary: soldier settlers from Liverpool, England, to Victoria, Australia, on the "S.S. Beltana" June 1925-March 1926. Owen, Emma. Digital copy @ GSV premises.

FAMILY HISTORY

A brief history of the forebears and descendants of George William Milner Sturt 1803 - 1881, an early pioneer of the Tumut Valley. Compiled by Carmel Fraser and Paula Johnson. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Vaughan, Eileen) **Sturt, Le Fevre, Clout, Foord, Ibbotson, Mulvihill, Montgomery, Bartholomew, Nuttall, Dunn, Lee, Cheney, Bowden, Bolton, Foord, Milner** families

A short family history [of the Murray family]. Strachan, Hugh Murray. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Izatt, Yvonne) **Murray, Young, Tindale, Carmichael, Cross, Strachan, Hunt, Stodart, Calvert, Simson, Nankivell, Murray Smith, Rede, Parbury, Shannon, Aitken, Chapman, Shannon, Stewart** families

A young man, on the way to a new world of hope: a story of Horst Blaich who left Germany and arrived by the ship "Australia" in Melbourne, 17 May 1951. Blaich, Horst. With drawings, coloured and photos by the author. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Blaich, Katz, Eppinger** families

Clark – Strachan family, Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne) **Clark, Strachan, Taylor, Cowie, Dodd, Miller, Macalpine, Adamson, Sleith, Hopwood, Stanley, Leake, Maccurdie, Nicholls, Crisp, Bell, Reynolds, Hannemann, Buckmaster, Robinson, Ryan, Edwards, Macpherson,**

Bruce, Martens, Allen, Jones, Archibald, Galloway, Cameron, Sewell, Redman, Macivor, Ogg, Duval families

As I remember. York, Loreto John. Foreword and 'Eulogy for Loreto John York, Canberra 8 October 2009' written by Barry York. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **York, Turner** families

Conway – Cato family. Dunn, Cathy. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Izatt, Yvonne) **Cato, Conway, Hobbins, Donovan, Robinson, Brown, Quinlan, Leary, Quinane, Maccormack, Ryan, Slattery, Killeen, Connors, Heenan, O'Brien, Cosgrove, Johnson, Nolan, Hutinson** families

Duncan and Christina Matheson. Will, Sandra J. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Matheson, Macrae, Cameron, Gamble, Bickerton, Byres** families

Farewell Scotland: a tale of forebears, courage and the start of a new life. Sharp, John L. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Sharp, Lyall, Rice, Hughes, Goddard** families

From oaks to gums: v. 9 the Whiteley families from Manchester – perspectives on places and time through the generations of our families in the British Isles and Australasia. Smith, Margaret and Smith, Eric. Digital copy @ GSV premises. Donated by the author. **Whiteley, Taylor, Booth, Taylor, Butler, Fitzpatrick** families

Geoghegan family in Victoria. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Izatt, Yvonne) **Geoghegan, Campbell, Daly, Patterson, Sloane** families

George T. Matthews 1821-1908: intriguing connections across Wales, Australia and USA. Crosthwaite, Jim. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Matthews, Jenkins, Thompson, Jenkins, Frelove** families

Georgie Ah Ling: Donald's friend. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Ling** family

Hardship of new settlers: Charalambos & Lefkothea, memoirs of Charalambos Yianni Leptos. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Leptos** family

Hope lives on: the family heritages of our three grandchildren. Evans, Graham. GSV: 929.2 EVAN EVA (Izatt, Yvonne).

Evans, Criddle, Farago, Kriszgraber, Horsfall, Johnston, Crook, Mellar, Adams, Hillam, Davies, Morgan, Spencer, O'Connell, Fensom, Bower, Salmond, Rennie, Thomson, Kennedy, Hutchens, Cameron families

Ilmar Drevin's diary. Drevins, Desley. Written in Latvian by Ilmars Drevins. Translated by Vilma Erdmanis. Travel and voyage from Latvia to Australia 1944 - 1949. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Drevins, Schramm** families

Little brother. Auden, Frederick Ernest. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Auden** family

Mary Bridget Reardon: this is her story. Roache, Michael J. GSV 929.2 REAR ROA. Reardon, O'Keefe, Kirby, **Macdonald, Roache, Clifford, Allan, Martin, Clare, Fargher, Dix** families

Migrant letters August 1957 to October 1958. Webb, Pat and Webb, John. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Webb** family

Muso celojums (our journey). Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne), **Bauska, Neibergs, Danilovs, Pauksts, Neiburgs** families

No man's right: a ballad of Hungarian dissident. An autobiographical account of the adventurous aftermath of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution leading to the author's migration to Australia. Mullner, Albin G. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Mullner** family

Our 1950's immigration. Smit, Ria. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Smit** family

Port Phillip bound: the diary of William Purdue. Transcribed by Bill Coleman. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Purdue** family

Speros Kostopulos 1886-1980. Miller, Craig. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Kostopulos, Vlasopulos, Peake, Drakopulos, Raftopoulos** families

The book of Pelns. Assembled by Vilnis (bill) Balodis from information supplied by Mary Louise Pelns and Dzidra

Renata Balode. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Izatt, Yvonne).

Pelns, Murnieks, Gilbertson, Kapce families

The Corlis story: a Clare Corlis retrospective, Roache, Michael and Donelan, Frances. GSV: 929.2 CORL ROA
Corlis, Donelan, Conor, Mooney, Keenan, Donoghue, Macdonnell, O'Farrell, Mehan, Bourke, Gresham, Van Damme, Lawler families

The family history of Friedrich Gross 1853-1968, Gross, Charles Neville and Gross, Eugenie. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Gross, Gogel, Muller, Deitrich, Burckert, Pelchen, Schmidt, Miles, Lawless, Weight, White, Kuhne, Hut, Baker, Conabere, Cowan, Sturtz, Evans, Mills, Muxworthy, Hartwick, Mathews, Ladlow, Kirsopp, Stoessel families**

The Fargher story by Roache, Michael J. GSV: 929.2 FARG ROA. **Fargher, Roache, Skillicorn, Clague, Watterson, Moore, Macneale, Mylroie, Quayle, Ainger families**

The great Australian Boyds, Morgan, Patricia. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Izatt, Yvonne) **Boyd family**

The Maloney line, O'Reilly, Kevin. Digital copy @ GSV premises. (Eileen Vaughan) **Maloney, Hush, Bannister, Hurst, Butler, Halford, Robinson, Coulter, Brown, Cameron, Meagher, Lennon, Maccoll, Wheeler, O'Reilly, Chenoweth, Etherton, Slattery families**

The O'Neill saga. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Vaughan, Eileen) **O'Neill, Dwyer, Vaughan, Nolan, O'Dwyer, Starling, Hope, Willmott, Kennolty, Maher families** (donated by the author)

The Park family in Victoria, Australia 1856 to 1860: notes taken from the family history of Thomas Park, (1847 to 1928), schoolboy and miner. Prepared by Alan Jones. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Park Family**

The Roache story: an ancestral and family history of the Roaches of Paulstown, Co Kilkenny in Australia (1875-2000). Volume 1, Roache, Michael J. GSV: 929.2 ROAC ROA
Roache, Clare, Reardon, Fitzpatrick, Wells, Guthrie, Phillips families

The Tanger family 1800-2000 Tanger, Fred O K. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Tanger, Naok, Bechen families**

The Ternel of Mauritius, Ternel, Raoul. GSV: 929.2 TERN TER (Izatt, Yvonne). **Ternel family**

New beginnings. Van der Leeuw, W. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Van Der Leeuw, Hagen, Verhoeff, Seventer, Reid, Ver Hoeft families**

The Williams and Quinton family history, Williams, Leslie C. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Williams, Quinton, Jackson, Cameron, Tozer, Main, Murray, Foote families**

Vaughan family, Vaughan, Eileen. Digital copy @ GSV premises. Donated by the author. **Vaughan, Tierney, Halloran, Noone, Flaherty, Loughrey, Maccaffrey, O'Donoghue, Bunbury, Arthur, Macinerny, Kiernan, Howard, Fitzgibbons, Keehan, Quinn, Murphy, Hynes, Macnamara, Clune, Walsh, Macmahon, Hanrahan families**

Voyage to the old country, Hunter, William John. Digital copy @ GSV premises. **Hunter, Simmons families**

Except where indicated otherwise, all the family histories above were kindly donated by the Melbourne Museum.

DATABASES AND INDEXES ADDED

GIN and Milestone database records and digital attachments are available to members at home. Some indexed publications do not have attachments and the original document can only be viewed at the GSV. In this case it is noted by 'Digital copy @ GSV premises'. The newly indexed and digitized publications are listed below. Twenty-seven older publications have also been digitised by our scanning team in the last quarter and are available to view at the GSV premises. So do check the GSV library catalogue.

MILESTONE DATABASE

Baptisms performed by clergy of St Jude's Church of England Carlton at the following venues: Royal Children's Hospital 1928-1963, Royal Women's Hospital 1949-1969, Queen Victoria Hospital 1953-1962. Digital copy @ GSV premises (Only pp1-4 indexed)

Births, deaths and marriages printed in the "Hamilton Spectator" from 1 Jul 1859 to 30 Dec 1920. Milestone database (vol. 3 only)

Casterton news birth notices 1875-1920 [a selection]

Deaths at the Alfred Hospital & The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum pt 1: October 1872 to December 1877; pt 2: January 1878 to December 1879.

Dunmunkle standard death notices 1973 [a selection]

Employees of Cumming, Smith & Co. Pty. Ltd. roll of honour. Cumming, Smith & Co

Extracts from the register of baptisms at the Wesleyan Church, Belfast (Port Fairy) from March 1856 to June 1868 Second and final section of baptisms recorded at Wesleyan Church, Belfast (Port Fairy) [Oct 1868-May 1888]. Digital copy @ GSV premises. Milestones database 1869-1888

Horsham cemetery register & headstones 1865-1986 and local undertaker records from 1930

Index of death notices taken from "Warrnambool Standard" 1982-1987 and 1988-1989.

Index to marriages and baptisms in the district of Maneroo NSW, conducted by Edward Gifford Pryce [marriages April-July 1845], baptisms beyond the limits of location [Gippsland 1845, 1847 covering births from 1841]

Little Sisters of the Poor private cemetery, Northcote, Victoria 1889-1997

Maldon Methodist Church baptisms

Moondarra cemetery headstones 1898-1972, register 1921-1978

Nathalia Uniting Church baptisms 1885-1919

Springdallah register of births: registered by George Woodhouse 7 March 1864-8 February 1866

Victorian Artillery Cemetery: Royal Australian Garrison Artillery; Port Phillip Coast Artillery, Fort Queenscliff: record of deaths and burials (with other regimental burials elsewhere)

GIN INDEX

1856 Electoral roll for Gippsland and stock assessments payable [incomplete]

1911 Electoral District of Castlemaine and Maldon - Fryers Division. Special general list of electors. Victoria. Legislative Assembly

Annual report and balance sheet for the year ended June 30, 1959. Australian Journalists' Association

Census returns Port Phillip district 1841

The Cyclopaedia of Victoria (illustrated) in three volumes: an historical and commercial review: descriptive and biographical facts, figures and illustrations. RHSV: 994.5 CYC - Indexed in GIN database

Early Victorian naturalizations

Parliamentary papers. Prisoners: committals - trials 1st July 1851 to 30th Jun 1853

Surname index to "History of Kyneton", Vol. 1 1836-1900

Victoria Industrial Society: list of names of all the officers and subscribers to the Association 1850

What ship came you by? The story of the plague ship 'The Manlius' 1842. Digital copy @ GSV - Indexed in GIN

WEBCASTS - Members only

Searching for migrants who returned to Ireland. Presented by Dianne Hall. Webcasts - Members only ■

Research Corner

by Meg Bate

FamilySearch VIP Symposium

I was honoured to receive an invite to attend the *FamilySearch* VIP Symposium, a celebration marking 130 years of preserving invaluable records. This event was held on Thursday 18 April 2024 at the Westin Hotel in Brisbane. This invitation was received as a result the presentation Rebecca and I delivered at the recent *RootsTech* conference.

Many prominent *FamilySearch* representatives attended the symposium, including:

- Paul Bennallack, Australian Representative for *FamilySearch*
- Steve Rockwood, CEO of *FamilySearch* International
- Ian James, Technical Product Manager at *FamilySearch* International

The event's major speakers included:

- Josephine Secis, Assistant Director General, National Archives of Australia
- Ian James, Technical Product Manager, *FamilySearch* International

An interesting panel discussion featured:

- David Fricker, Director, National Library and Archives, United Arab Emirates
- Kylie Poulton, Director, Information Services, State Library of Queensland

- Martyn Killion, Director, Collections and Executive Director, Museums of History NSW
- Wayne Metcalfe, Director, Records Access at *FamilySearch*
- Dr Alexandra Mountain, Archival Manager for the Society of Australian Genealogists

Josephine Secis provided insights into the decision-making process behind the agreement between the National Library of Australia and *FamilySearch* to digitise records and incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) tools. She emphasised the importance of evaluating benefits, considering factors such as ethnicity, responsibility, trust, transparency, governance, and the legal framework.

The panel explored various critical topics, including material that is 'born digital', the role of AI, engaging young people, fostering partnerships, and enhancing collaboration.

Ian James then shared exciting future developments at *FamilySearch*, focusing on how AI is being used to make images and records more accessible. He demonstrated how new technology, such as full-text search capabilities, is being applied to enhance the accessibility of genealogical records.

In *FamilySearch Labs* he highlighted the tool

'Expand your search with Full Text'. It uses AI to transcribe images into text so they can be fully searched. This includes records that are printed and handwritten. Particularly useful to us are filters where you can search South Australian, Victorian, Western Australian and New Zealand (Taranaki and Wellington) collections of Wills, Deeds or probate records. These can be filtered by date and place. The link is <https://www.familysearch.org/search/full-text>



▲ Image 1: At the *FamilySearch* VIP Symposium. Martyn Killion (Director, Collections and Executive Director, State Records NSW), Sonya Russell (President of the Australian Federation of Family History Organisation), Jenny Harkness (*FamilySearch* representative), Meg Bate (GSV), Shauna Hicks (Owner, History Enterprises).

AI for genealogy

Let's delve into what we mean by Artificial Intelligence (AI). In its broadest sense, AI is intelligence exhibited by machines, particularly computer systems. It is worth noting that many of our favourite family history databases, such as *Ancestry*, *FindMyPast* and *FamilySearch*, as well as *Google*, have been using this to some extent for several years.

AI that creates new and original content is called generative AI. Large Language models (LLMs) are a subset of generative AI, and have the capacity to understand and generate human language. LLMs can create a story, images, audio and video. Examples of these of generative AI websites using LLMs are *ChatGPT*, *Claude*, *Gemini* and *Meta AI*, while *Mid-journey*, *Dall-e3* are imaged based.

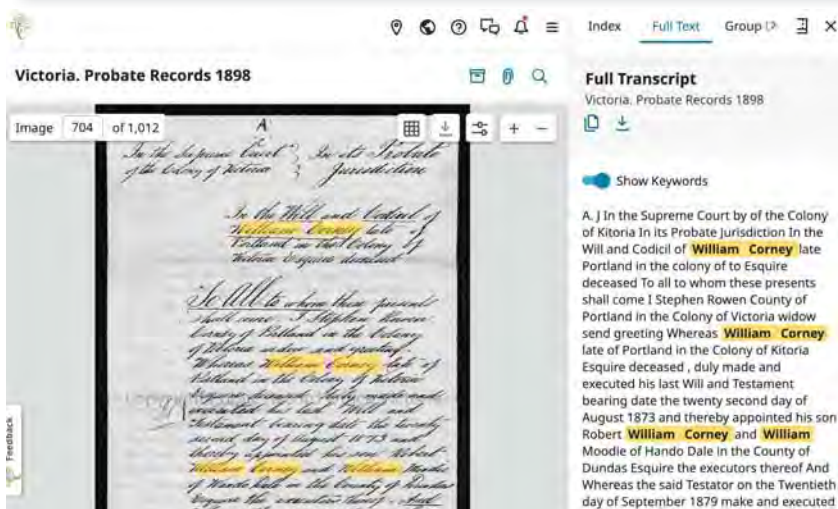
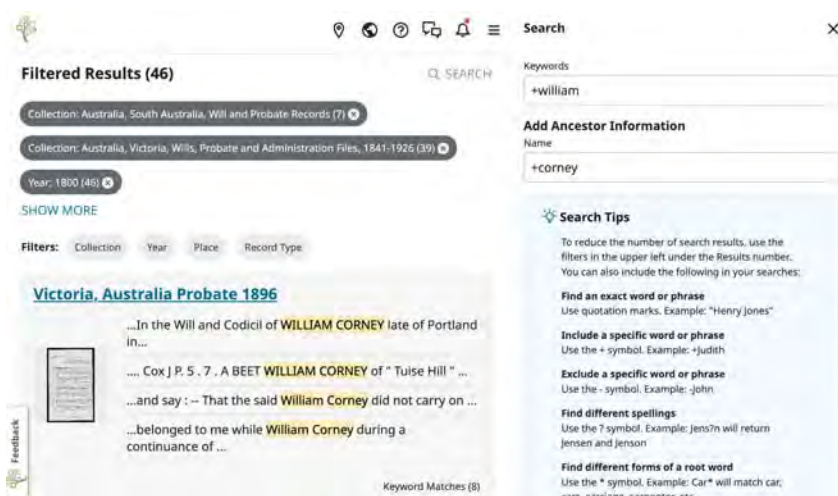
An LLM learns like a baby does. It listens to or reads a lot of language, and then figures out how language works. Using statistical patterns, it endeavours to mimic human language. Although they don't truly understand language or have consciousness, LLMs generate human-like text. As tools that focus on language tasks such as reading, writing, and answering questions LLMs can be very useful in genealogy research. For instance, they can summarise historical documents, write essays and summarise text.

The information below was generated by *Claude*, a commercial 'AI assistant'. Note that generative AI may occasionally give incorrect or misleading information, or produce offensive or biased content. Never rely on marketing material alone without doing your own independent research.

As an AI language model, I can assist family historians in several ways, though I do have some limitations. Here's a brief overview of how I can help:

1. Analysis and interpretation: I can help analyze historical documents, letters, and records, providing context and explanations.
2. Research assistance: I can suggest research strategies, sources, and methodologies for genealogical work.
3. Data organisation: I can help structure and organise family history information.
4. Writing aid: I can assist in drafting family histories, biographies, or narratives.
5. Historical context: I can provide information about historical events, customs, and social norms relevant to your family's time period.
6. Translation: I can translate text between many languages, which can be useful for international family research.

However, I cannot directly transcribe handwritten materials. I don't have the ability to see or process images. To get help with transcription, you would need to type out the text from the handwritten document, and then I could assist with interpreting or analyzing the content.



- ▲ Images 2: An example of the search, and 3: An example of the transcript of a handwritten document

Recommended reading

- Andrew Redfern, 'Harnessing the power of ChatGPT: a versatile tool for family historians', *Descent*, vol 54 no 2, Jun/Winter 2024, pp45-47
- Ethan Mollick, *Co-intelligence: living and working with AI*, London, WH Allen, 2023
- Toni Neobard, 'Putting AI into family history', *Essex family historian*, no 181, Mar 2024.
- Andrew Redfern, 'Getting started with AI in family history', *Genealogical Society of Queensland*, <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/getting-started-with-ai-in-family-history>.
- Dana Leeds, 'Exciting news: I've started a YouTube channel!', <https://www.danaleeds.com/started-a-youtube-channel> Check out her channel as she provides an excellent introduction to using *ChatGPT*. ■



Structuring a family history book

While gathering genealogical information and family stories, many of us wonder how best to share our findings. Potential forms of publication include online family trees, websites, blogs, Facebook groups, newsletters, and books.

Should you decide to write a family history book, you'll need to first decide who to include. Do you need to include all ancestral lines? The short answer is no. Indeed, trying to write about too many people can be overwhelming – for a reader, as well as for you, the writer. It can be difficult to achieve coherence and sustain interest with too many characters.

A family history book can focus on:

- one central person
- immediate family
- a slice of history – the most interesting branch, the one with the most material
- the descendants of a distant ancestral couple (for a limited number of generations or down to the present day), or
- main ancestral lines, i.e. four quarters.

Questions to ask before you begin:

- What will be the scope of your history? How will you set limits?
- Who is your prospective reader? Just family, or will it have wider appeal?
- What format/s will the history take? Eg. Printed book, e-book, pdf, website, audio book?
- Should you start writing before your research is finished? Research can be never-ending, an excuse to put off writing, and can continue while you write.
- What difficulties can you foresee? Consider the resources needed to produce a book – money, time, energy and skills. Do you need to modify your plan?

Some structural options

1. Historical detective

You can structure your book around the 'process' of searching – difficulties encountered, solutions found, historical treasure unearthed, and family members you met along the way. Including yourself in the story will make it personal – part memoir – giving your writing an immediacy that engages readers.

2. Chronological

A chronology – earliest to most recent or its reverse – can be an easy and effective way to organise your material. Work in chunks of decades or significant personal or historical time frames, mix it up with flashbacks and enrich with lots of contextual detail.

3. Locale

A place may be of such importance that it becomes a character in the story. How were your families' lives shaped by location? Whether your family lived in the same area for multiple generations or were migratory, you can use place as a structuring device. Consider dividing your book into sections focused on homeland, migration, and new land; dedicate a chapter each to branches of the family in different countries, cities or rural locales; or use the journeying of multiple generations to structure your story.

4. Themes

You can use shared occupations, motivations or distinctive character traits to shape your material. Your family might feature entrepreneurs, community leaders or strong women. Perhaps you discern binary opposites such as ambition and apathy, rebelliousness and conformity, or good luck and bad. You might structure your book around several themes.

By Victoria Spicer, based on a presentation at the Writers Circle on 1 May 2024. Victoria can be contacted at victoriaingeelong@gmail.com

5. Hybrid

Combining a variety of forms can create a strikingly original book. Consider a mix of the following: memoir, letters, diaries, poetry, short stories or biographies, newspaper articles, photos, artwork, illustrations. Use one of the other structural options to group the material under logical steps or stages.

Shaping your content

Titles and chapter headings

- Create a working title at the beginning.
- A title should be short, evocative, and memorable – and a focal point for your family story.
- Each chapter title should work as an overarching statement about what it contains.
- Use subheadings, where appropriate, to help guide the reader.

Readability

Construct your family stories to make the information accessible and comprehensible to readers who are not familiar with it.

Guide the reader by:

- keeping it straightforward and easy to follow
- organising information logically
- using simple headings with names of individual families or generations
- placing short charts at the beginning of chapters.
- limiting the detail – including only information (and people) that advances the story.
- using formatting to increase readability.

As researchers, we know the material and its intricacies by heart. Our readers don't; there's no bigger turn-off than a plethora of complicated difficult-to-follow detail.

Include lots of photos, illustrations, charts or diagrams to break up the print on pages that might look heavy-going for the reader.

Book contents

Your completed book will include some of the following:

- title page/s
- dedication

- copyright (or imprint) page
- table of contents
- foreword
- preface (or introduction)
- list of illustrations and credits
- family trees
- chapters
- postscript
- acknowledgements
- appendices
- endnotes or footnotes
- bibliography
- index

Copyright page

Common elements on the copyright page include:

- The copyright symbol, your full name as the copyright holder, and your book's year of publication
eg. © Victoria Spicer, 2024.
- Cataloguing-in-publication information. Register your book with the National Library of Australia (once you have an ISBN); include the cataloguing data (subject headings and Dewey number) on your copyright page.
- Contributor credits: You can include the details of your editor, designer, printer, illustrator, and any other suppliers who helped produce your book.

Appendices may include research notes, a glossary, additional information on people and places, and scans or transcripts of original documents.

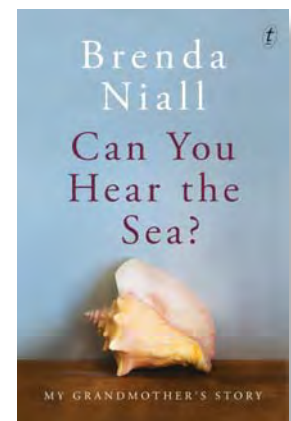
Indexes are important and a gift to family historians who look to the backs of books with relish.

Deposit a copy of your book at the Genealogical Society of Victoria, National Library of Australia (NLA), State Library of Victoria and libraries, historical or genealogical societies in places that feature prominently in your book. See *Ancestor*, March 2024, p26 for details of the NLA's legal deposit. ■

Two commercially published family histories provide excellent illustrations of both ends of the inclusion spectrum.

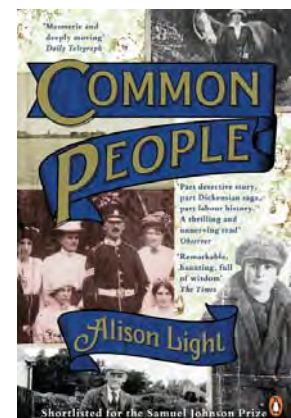
One central character

Can You Hear the Sea? My Grandmother's Story, by Brenda Niall (2017). The central character, as the subtitle suggests, is Niall's grandmother, Agnes (Aggie) Maguire (1869-1953). The history encompasses a period of more than 100 years and four generations of an Irish/English/Australian family, with Aggie at the centre.



Four quarters

Common People: The History of an English Family by Alison Light (2014). Light divides her book into four parts, one for each of her grandparents' lines. It is as much social history and local history as it is family history and a wonderful illustration of what can be wrought from thin material.



Jottings from the Journals

Linley Hooper, FGSV

'Coping with unwanted pregnancies before 1900' in the *Northwest Kent FHS journal* 16:9 (Mar 2024) is interesting with examples from newspaper advertisements and articles.

The Leicestershire & Rutland FHS journal 195 (Mar 2024) provides articles on the village of Gaddesby; the Smith, Tyson, Gregory, Cook, Bodymore/Bodimore and Bates families; and continues the Freeman family, plus 'Aliases anybody'?

The Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS journal 128 (Oct 2023) features stories on Jewish and South Asian immigrants to their region, along with the 48,000 'war brides' who emigrated to Canada. Ten per cent of whom returned to the UK within a year!

We've now caught up with the missing issues of *Irish roots*. 2023:1 (No.125) provides advice on 'Visiting the National Library of Ireland'. It is frustrating to arrive at a repository only to find that you should have made a request in advance. Make sure you have made the most of their wonderful online collection beforehand. John Grenham of *Irish Ancestors* fame has provided a visual representation of name frequencies using a wide variety of sources. This issue features County Derry sources, No.126 features County Clare and the surname Ryan. The September issue (No.127) focuses on the Valuation Office Revision Books, the Representative Church Body Library, County Sligo, and the online version of the Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland. Claire Santry's column delves into many of the newer Irish materials online and Nicola Morris provides tips on the challenges of many Irish databases. No. 128 features 'County Louth ancestors', and 'Finding Irish teachers and students in the Convent schools', along with Claire Santry's update of newer online databases for Kerry, Clare and Tipperary and others.

'The Genealogy of Father John Joseph Therry: some unanswered questions' by D J Gleeson, explores Therry's birth and the Conelly connections in *Descent* 54:1 (Mar 2024).

The Flowing stream 45:1 (Spring 2024) has a reminder of the difficulties in the early days of civil registration in England & Wales. It may explain some of the discrepancies in your family records.

Welsh research can be so hard, so it's good to read about sources like the 'Survey of the parish of Hawarden in Flint in 1815' which mentions Leach, Catherall, Duckworth, Astbury, Bennion and Beavan families in 'The Moors family of Hawarden'. See *Hel Achau: the journal of the*

Clwyd FHS 160 (Mar 2024). Other articles mention 'The missing censuses of Wales'; and 'Barnado Boys siblings' about the Breese family.

North Irish roots 35:1 (2024) features 'Tracing your Irish ancestors in England: Poor Law removals from Britain to Ireland'. Other articles cover the 'A few forgotten women' project and 'Shankill graveyard'.

Irish family history 39 (2023) provides 'Daniel McRobin 1690-1777: a tenant farmer in co. Kildare' by James Robinson, illustrating name changes from Cribben to Robinson. 'Political activism in my family tree – folklore or fact?' by Brian Fitzpatrick tells the story of the Quinn, Kelly & Fitzpatrick families. Another detailed review is on 'Morristown Lattin, county Kildare 1630-1800: the estate and its tenants'.

Metropolitan 10:1 (80) Dec 2023 reports on: 'AI and how to use it for Genealogical Research' along with 'Suicide in the Family: searching for the Inquest Files' and 'Ancestors in what is now the London Borough of Camden'. They also report that the Catholic FHS has closed. They were the specialist group for those researching British Roman Catholic ancestors and had been active for over 40 years.

Root and branch 50:3 (Dec 2023) continues Cliff Webb's precis of Surrey PCC wills to 1700 - this issue covering those from the parish of Compton. West Horsley is covered in issue 50:4 (Mar 2024).

The Irish genealogist 16:2 (2023) features 'Bishop Crow's Charity School, Cloyne, Co. Cork: a useful source of information on some 'poor' Protestant families of Cork'. Other articles feature the Watson, O'Crian of Sligo, Conroy, O'Callaghan, Whiteway, Gayer and Skeffington Gibbon families. Check our library catalogue for details.

A journal not held by our Society (because it's free to all online) is *Irish lives remembered*. The Autumn/Winter issue (no. 61) has an excellent article 'A deep dive into ethnicity estimates' by Donna Rutherford to help you understand the statements from the major commercial DNA companies.

Do remember that this column usually focuses on the printed journals we receive in the library, but we have over 100 digital magazine titles which can be searched by word within our library and many of those articles are not included in the main library catalogue. Some Societies also publish back issues on CDs which are available to view in the library. In addition, we have a backlog of printed journals waiting to be indexed. ■

Blogging with Meg

Meg Bate

Exciting news: I've started a YouTube channel!

by Dana Leeds

<https://www.gsv.org.au/danaleeds1>

I have been following Dana's work for a while and enjoyed watching her helpful and practical videos. In this blog post, she links to a panel discussion on AI & Genealogy, and provides a transcript generated by ChatGPT. She also presents a video on *ChatGPT: a step by step guide for all users*.

Exploring FamilySearch's new full-text search tool & AI transcription comparison

by Dana Leeds

<https://www.gsv.org.au/danaleeds2>

In another excellent post from Dana, she reports on the launch of FamilySearch Labs, an experimental tool that provides full-text searches of numerous documents. One of the sources you can search here is *Australia, Victoria, Wills, Probate and Administration Files, 1841–1926*. This search includes all persons mentioned in the will or probate including, witnesses, executors and creditors.

Top 8 AI family tree maker tools in 2023: ranked as the best
by Saumya

<https://www.gsv.org.au/appypie>

Saumya looks at the introduction of AI-powered family tree maker tools, and reviews eight: *Appy Pie's AI family tree maker*, *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, *FamilySearch*, *Geni*, *Family Tree Builder*, *RootsMagic* and *Gramps*.

Cite your sources: getting help online

by John Reid

<https://www.gsv.org.au/angloceltic>

John reflects on how major genealogy resources such as *Ancestry*, *Findmypast* and *FamilySearch* do not necessarily make citing sources easy. He then mentions a new tool, *Cite-Builder*, a citation tool designed for genealogists. It provides citations in various styles such as *Evidence Explained*, *Chicago*, *Harvard*, *WikiTree*, and *Strathclyde*.

Dutch genealogy news for June 2024

by Yvette Hoitink

<https://www.gsv.org.au/dutchgenealogy>

Yvette provides an overview of new sources, projects and websites relating to the Netherlands. This includes records at the National Archives of Suriname, *Open Archives*, and Genealogie Rijnland; the digitisation of birth, marriage and death records from Weststellingwerf in Friesland; and a list of Dutch archives that offer free scanning on demand.

Interactive map aids German genealogists

by James Beidler

<https://www.gsv.org.au/roots-branches>

James reports on the German Genealogy Resource Map, a collaborative project by the International German Partnership, Nancy Myers of the Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna, and Kent Robinson of Palatines to America. This interactive map uses colour-coded markers, highlighting local genealogical societies, archives, libraries, and historical societies, with detailed information on each resource, including names, locations, and contact information.

What is good quality family history?

by Danielle Lautrec

<https://www.gsv.org.au/generationsgenealogy>

Danielle explains why it's so important to have a good quality family history, and provides tips to help you improve your family history. The points covered are: 1. Be accurate. 2. Be comprehensive. 3. Keep your records well documented. The GSV library has purchased Danielle's book, *The good genealogist*, an excellent read containing additional advice on research principles and methods.

How to research the history of a place: where to start

by Jessamy Carlson

<https://www.gsv.org.au/tnaplacehist>

Jessamy, from The National Archives (UK), mentions several websites and resources that she regularly uses when researching the history of places, such as the 1921 census and the 1939 register, Vision of Britain, Victoria County History, HistPop, Society of One Place Studies, National Library of Scotland maps, British newspaper archive, National Library of Wales and a range of research guides from The National Archives.

Online collection spotlight – refugees, relief and resettlement: forced migration and World War II

by Jane Miller

<https://www.gsv.org.au/slvrefugees>

With your free State Library of Victoria library card you can access from home millions of articles, magazines, archives, ebooks, videos, songs, audiobooks and more. In this blog Jane reports on the Gale database *Refugees, Relief and Resettlement*, which documents the migration experience of people around the world between 1935 and 1950. Material is drawn from the National Archives (for both UK & USA), British India Office and the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief. ■



Public Record Office Victoria

News from Public Record Office Victoria

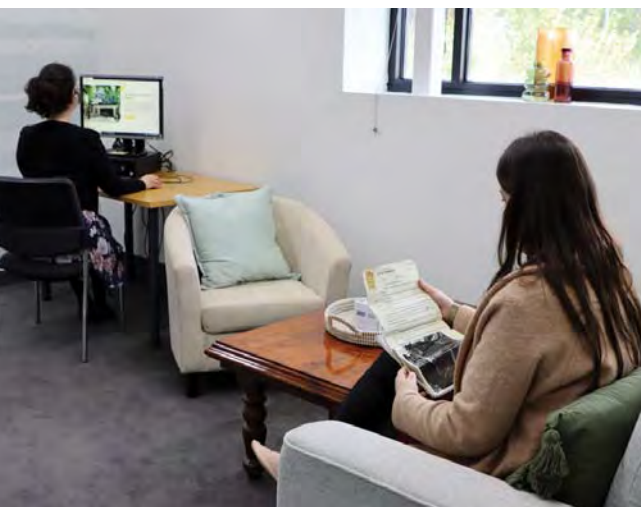
From Tara Oldfield and Kate Follington

For further information visit <https://prov.vic.gov.au>.

Local history grant recipients announced

The community history projects that will share in \$350,000 as part of round 22 of the Local History Grants program were announced in June. Projects include newspaper and photograph digitisation works, memorial websites, digital histories, oral histories and archiving projects including:

Deafblind Victoria, awarded \$13,465 for their web and video interview project capturing the stories of the Deafblind community since 1988, while **City of Ballarat Libraries** received \$10,000 to preserve two volumes on Australian flora from a 1792 French expedition.



▲ Image: Sanctuary space in reading room at the PROV.

The **Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria** was awarded \$14,950 to record a series of oral histories of long-standing volunteers, and the **North Richmond Community Health Centre** received \$14,909 for its 50th anniversary oral histories and e-book.

Bendigo Heritage Attractions receive \$9,712 to preserve the history of its gold mine, tramways and Joss House Temple, while **Taungurung Land and Waters Council** will receive \$13,545 to catalogue its Aboriginal heritage artefacts, and **Glen Eira Historical Society** \$8,000 to capture oral history from residents and workers around Caulfield Racecourse.

Visit our website to see the full list of recipients.

New to our collection

In recent months we have added the following record series to our collection: records and photographs of Mordialloc-Cheltenham Community Hospital, records of the Kingston Centre (opened in 1851 under the name of the Victorian Benevolent Asylum), West Wimmera Shire Rate Books dating back to 1875, two series from the State Electricity Commission of Victoria dating back to 1940, Supreme Court of Victoria applications under the Environmental Protection and Ombudsman Acts, Interstate Adoption Reciprocal Agreements, and appeal records, Cardinia Shire Council minutes, Royal Women's Hospital case books, correspondence and lecture notes, and photographs from Geological Survey of Victoria. Check our 'what's new' blog articles to stay up to date on new series as they are added to our collection.

Ballarat stories

To celebrate the Ballarat Heritage Festival earlier this year, staff from the Ballarat Archives Centre published a series of Ballarat stories to our blog, including a history of the Ballarat Municipal Observatory, a profile of Alice Cornwall aka 'Princess Midas', and the sad stories of a mine collapse, and murder. These provide a fascinating resource for anyone researching family or local history in Ballarat. You can find these on the PROV blog or by searching our website for 'Ballarat Heritage Festival.'

Sanctuary space

Some of the material in our collection contains words and descriptions which may be upsetting. Did you know we have a sanctuary space in our North Melbourne reading room that you can use if you'd like privacy to read through sensitive materials? You can find the space beside the microfiche area of the reading room. Ask our staff if you need assistance. ■



Royal Historical Society of Victoria

For more information, visit <https://historyvictoria.org.au>

From Cheryl Griffin, RHSV volunteer

Melbourne's Storied Laneways Exhibition

Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

On now until the end of November.

Curated by David Thompson FRHSV.

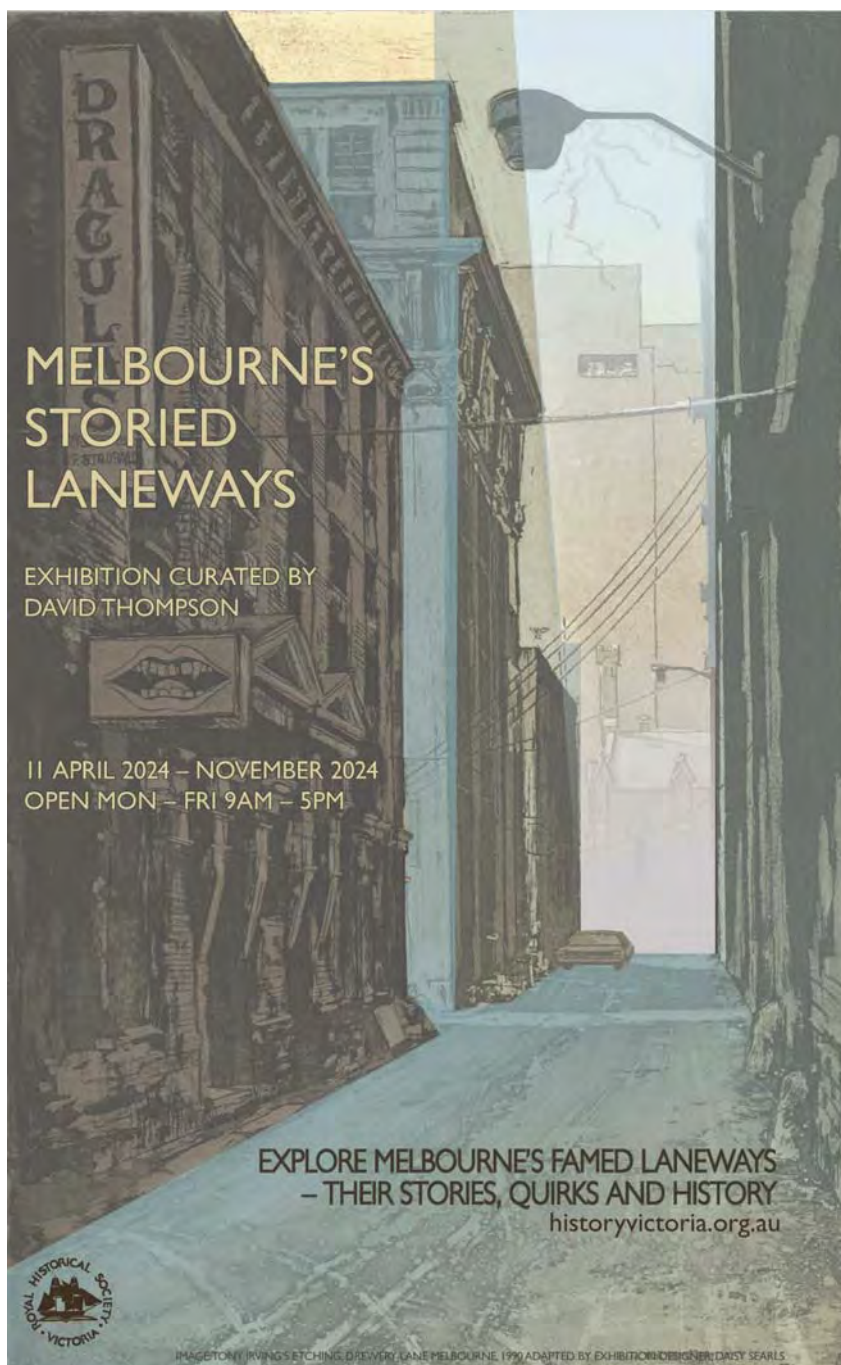
Designed by Daisy Searls.

We all have our favourite Melbourne laneway and curator David Thompson has chosen a handful of lanes which reveal intriguing Melbourne stories. When we think of today's gussied-up, tourist-friendly laneways like Guilford Lane and Hosier Lane, it is hard to imagine that a mere 50 years ago the laneways were workaday places full still of small factories and light industry. And earlier still there was the desperation of Little Lon. Today we get just glimpses of those rough and ready laneways that serviced the city and a frisson as the mouths of some still grimy and squalid laneways beckon us deeper in.

This exhibition has grown out of the RHSV's latest publication which is an updated version of historian Weston Bate's *Essential but Unplanned: Melbourne's Laneways* which came out 30 years ago in 1994. It has been updated by Richard Broome, Nicole Davis, Andrew May and Helen Stitt and will be launched by Professor Robert Adams AM, multi award-winning architect and urban designer, on 3 October 2024.

Curator's talks

David Thompson will take you behind the scenes of our current exhibition, *Melbourne's Storied Laneways* which David curated. The final two curator's talks will take place on Wednesday 25 September and Wednesday 9 October from 11am until midday – bookings via the RHSV website. ■



▲ Image: Poster for *Melbourne's Storied Laneways*, the current RHSV exhibition.



The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc

Level 1, 10 Queen Street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Australia
Web www.gsv.org.au
Email gsv@gsv.org.au
Phone **03 9662 4455**
ABN **86 947 919 608**
Reg No. **A0022763D**

Why become a member of the GSV?

Tracing your family tree is one of the world's most popular pastimes. **The Genealogical Society of Victoria** is a leading Australian family history society and exists to assist members in tracing their ancestors and to promote the study of genealogy.

At our centrally located **Research & Education Centre** in Melbourne you can work with our experienced volunteer research assistants. With their guidance, you can efficiently organise and record the family information you already hold. Then you can investigate our many resources and background information to confirm the facts and fill in the gaps.

Enjoy socialising with people who have like-minded interest in the people and circumstances of the past.

Membership Benefits include:

- **Access to research assistants** – friendly volunteers trained to help with library resources
- **Access to our comprehensive library collection** of family history records not available in commercial databases. It includes indexes, books, family histories, digital resources and unpublished material. Members may also bring a friend for one visit a year
- **Access to commercial databases** within our library: *Ancestry, Findmypast, TheGenealogist, British Newspaper Archive, My Heritage, Biographical Database of Australia*
- **Login from home** and access to parts of our collection, including the library catalogue, the Genealogical Index of Names (GIN), cemeteries database and guided research
- **Our quarterly award-winning journal, *Ancestor***
- **Monthly email newsletter**
- **Regular online blog** 'Family History matters', *Facebook* and social media groups
- **Discounted or free events:** orientation, training courses and classes, seminars, library research days and talks
- **Special Interest Groups and Discussion Circles**
- **Online Forum 'members HELP members'** for sharing research queries and experience of other members
- **Over 270 webcasts** on subjects of interest to genealogists, viewable from home
- **Quick Lookups** – free for members
- **Discounts** on extended research services and education events
- **Free annual research query** (up to 2 hours) for distant members (over 100km from Melbourne)
- **Reciprocal rights** with other major societies in Australia and New Zealand
- **Save 20% on Findmypast** annual Pro subscription

About the GSV

Membership Options

A\$

Joining fee 20.00

Annual Membership (including digital *Ancestor*)

One person 115.00
Two, same address 160.00
18–25 year-old Next Generation Genie 55.00

Optional mailed *Ancestor* (Australia/International)

25.00/35.00

Ancestor only (mailed)

Australia (no joining fee) 100.00
International (no joining fee) 123.00

Member Societies

140.00

Day Visitor

Full day with free Library access *30.00

*Fee rebatable against membership fee, within 14 days.

Library Hours

Monday Closed
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday **Booking necessary**
2nd Sat except long weekends when 3rd Sat
10.00am – 3.00pm

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.00pm
Saturday Closed

Please check the website for updates.

Patron

Her Excellency, Prof. The Honourable Margaret Gardner, AC
Governor of Victoria

Honorary Office Bearers and Councillors

President	Stephen Hawke FGSV
Vice Presidents	Peter Johnston
	Gary Buck
Secretary	Keith Oliver
Treasurer	Tony Swain
Council	Janne Bonnett
	Cathy Carman
	Claire Johnson FGSV
	Carmel McEvey
	Brian Reid
	Michael Rumpff
	Cherilyn Tillman
	Jackie van Bergen
	Rod Van Cooten

Staff

Library and Resources Manager	Rebecca Landy
Library and Digital Resources Manager	Meg Bate
Office Administrator	Linda Farrow

Research Services Self Help Guide

Free Quick Lookup

There is a free eResearch service for a library lookup or research advice taking **up to 30 minutes** for members who cannot visit the library. Replies are by email but if prints are required a cost estimate will be given. Members may send in one eResearch query at a time. Another may be submitted after receipt of results.

To submit a request by email, see the Research & Resources page online at <https://www.gsv.org.au/research-services>.

To submit a request by mail, download and complete the Postal Research Request Form located on the website, or collect one from the GSV. Submit with a SSAE. Prints are \$0.25 per A4 page – a quotation can be provided on request if an additional SSAE is provided.

Extended Research

The Research Team at the GSV can spend time researching a family or topic of your choice.

Per hour: Members \$30.00 / Non-members \$50.00 pre paid. Includes limited copying and postal charges.

Members residing more than 100 km from Melbourne are offered one annual session of complimentary research taking up to two hours.

Consultations

Stuck with your research? Arrange a consultation in our library with a member of the research team.

Consultations are for one hour.

Members \$30.00 / Non-members \$50.00

Victorian Probate Papers post 1925

Researchers will obtain copies from Public Records Office Victoria (PROV).

Members: \$50.00 / Non-members: \$75.00

Other Public Records

Researchers will obtain copies from Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) where specific reference [VPRS/Unit etc] is provided.

Per hour: Members: \$60.00 / Non-members \$85.00

Starting Your Family History classes

The class is conducted bi-monthly and provides an introductory guide to researching your family history. Bookings should be made via the Events page on the Member's Area of the GSV Website.

Member Research Interests Database

Members who have logged in can access this database to 'Submit your Interest', 'View Member Interests or Update your Interests' and 'View the how to webcast'. See the **Members Sharing Tab** in the Members Area at <https://www.gsv.org.au/members-area>

Further information about our Research Services can be found on our website <https://www.gsv.org.au/research-services>. Contact research@gsv.org.au if you need specific guidance.

General Register Office (GRO) certificates

England and Wales birth, death and marriage certificates, births and deaths at sea and events registered with UK Consuls and armed services personnel may be purchased online: https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp

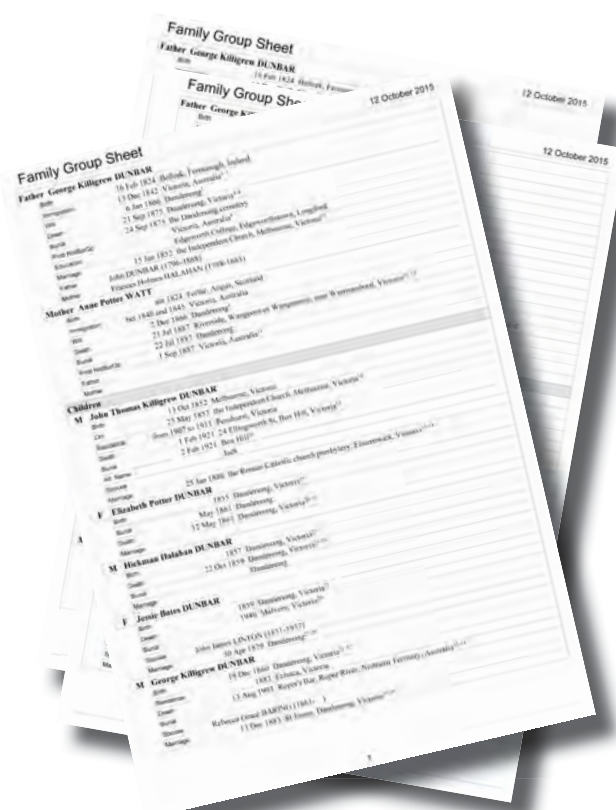
Scottish birth, death and marriage certificates

Images of Statutory (civil) registrations may be purchased online. Church registers, census records, divorce records and wills are also available: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> To learn more you may like to attend the **monthly class on ScotlandsPeople**. Check the GSV website for the latest.

England and Wales Wills and Probate

Wills and probate may be searched and ordered for people who died in or after 1858 to current times. A 'grant of representation' gives someone the legal right to deal with a deceased person's estate but not all grants of representation contain a will: <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>.

If you have any queries or need some help in using these websites ask for some assistance in the library.



News

CO.AS.IT exhibition

CO.AS.IT (Italian Assistance Association Melbourne) held the launch in July of the new graphic novel *The Islands Where We Left Our Ancestors*. It is the true story of artist Joshua Santospirito's visit to the Aeolian Islands of Italy with his parents to seek out past connections and family roots. CO.AS.IT will also be launching an exhibition of original art from the making of the book and this can be viewed until 22 November at CO.AS.IT's premises at 199 Faraday Street, Carlton, Melbourne.

The Gold Coast Family History Society

This Society, located in Nerang, will assist and guide you with your family history research. Did you know that you can continue doing your favourite hobby when you are on your holiday on the Gold Coast? A blog post written by Margaret Deacon on the life of Joseph Wood Proud, Mayor of Southport 1935–1949, was published in September 2023 on the Society's website and can be viewed in full at <http://www.goldcoastfhs.org.au/blog>. For more information, contact them by phone: 07 5582 8855 or by email at: goldcoastfamilyhistorysociety@gmail.com. It is well worth your while to do regular web searches of the smaller family history societies as you can find some interesting blogs such as this one on their websites.

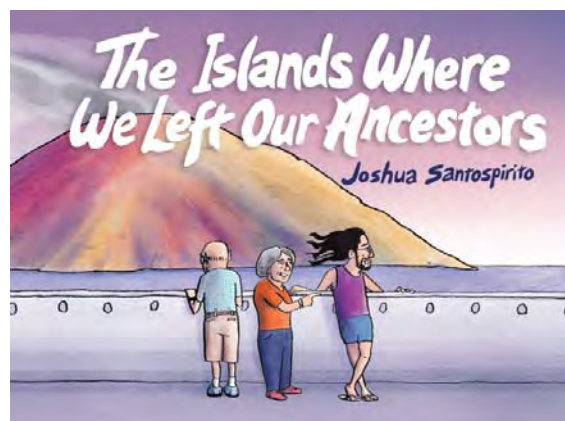
Uniting Heritage Service

The Uniting Heritage Service recently organised a seminar, in conjunction with the GSV, to help those seeking family, known or unknown. It was particularly relevant to those who have experience in the family of adoption or out-of-home care. Handouts on useful resources and a planning guide were available. It was held at the Uniting Care offices at level 4/130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. The Uniting Heritage Service is a free service for people and their families who were adopted, spent time with foster care providers, in children's homes, in family group homes, or in orphanages. If this out of home care was provided by the former Presbyterian, Methodist or Uniting Churches, they are here to help you understand more.

They will assist you in sharing your experiences and even locating family or significant people from your past. To learn more about the Heritage Service, contact: Catriona Milne by phone: 0402 969 621 or email: Catriona.Milne@vt.uniting.org. Learn more: <https://unitingvictas.org.au/heritage-service>

Did you have an ancestor who was on the stage or involved in theatre?

If so, it is well worth becoming involved with Theatre Heritage Australia. They produce a very good email newsletter, *On Stage*, three times a year. The winter issue just released has some 20 articles, often illustrated. To receive the newsletter, become a member. Membership is free but individuals are encouraged to make donations. Theatre Heritage Australia (founded in 1995 as Victoria



Theatres Trust) is a volunteer-run charity which promotes and encourages study and research into Australia's theatre history; preservation, renovation and use of Australia's theatres; and identification, documentation and preservation of items relating to Australia's theatre history. THA regularly holds free public events in Melbourne and Sydney, publishes original research to their website, and maintains a significant repository of digital material, free for research and educational use by academics, historians and the general public. For more information see their website: <https://www.theatreheritage.org.au>

Enquiries:

Theatre Heritage Australia
29 Northumberland Street
Collingwood Victoria 3066
email: info@theatreheritage.org.au

Melbourne's Storied Laneways Exhibition

Curator of the exhibition, David Thompson, will take you behind the scenes of the exhibition. The exhibition was prompted by the upcoming publication *The stories of Melbourne's lanes: essential but unplanned*, by Weston Bate, Richard Broome, Nicole Davis, Andrew May and Helen Stitt, which will be launched on 3 October 2024.

Hurry, there are only two more tours of the exhibition left — on 25 September and 9 October, both starting at 11am (book through the RHSV). The exhibition itself is open every day at the RHSV at 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. David Thompson will give participants a new insight into the intriguing history behind many of the laneways.

Really Useful Bulletin

The Family History Federation's bulletin is published monthly by email and nearly always has an interesting and instructive lead article by an experienced genealogist. The May 2024 issue has a comprehensive article entitled 'Researching British India Family History' by Valmay Young, which covers the numerous collections on the East India Company and in the British Library and online. In the June 2004 bulletin, we find the article 'Genealogy from a graveyard' by Ian Waller. Once again, this draws together all you need to know when visiting a graveyard such as: etiquette and behaviour, cleaning of gravestones and memorials, reading inscriptions, gardening and photography. Readers are strongly recommended to subscribe (at no cost). Just go to their website:

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com> ■

Evenings with your friends at GSV

GSV has many activities for members on evenings. Check the website's Events page for details. Our evening meetings include:

England and Wales Discussion Circle

Bi-monthly meetings on **Tuesdays at 7:30pm**

Meetings focus on family history topics pertinent to the whole of England and Wales, with recent topics including using the census records, educating our ancestors in the 19th century and how our ancestors moved about using roads, turnpikes and railways in the 18th and 19th centuries

Victoria and Tasmania Discussion Circle

Meetings on **Thursdays in April and August at 7:30pm**

Discuss and further your research, and broaden your understanding of ancestors in these two states. Recent topics have included making the most of resources at PROV and GSV, ancestors at war and on the home front, and Hobart's 19th century burial grounds

British India Discussion Circle

Monthly meetings on **Tuesdays at 7:30pm**

A focus on education, research and discussion on British and Anglo-Indian ancestors in British India from the 17th to 20th centuries. Recent topics have included DNA research, members' research of their ancestors, and using resources including podcasts, booklets and books

These meetings are **free for GSV members**. Come along to our evenings and enjoy some friendly, enjoyable and educational discussion.

Preserve your research via Legal Deposit

A common concern for family history researchers is how to ensure their findings are retained for future generations once their researching days are done. A solution could possibly be found via Legal Deposit.

Legal Deposit is the legal requirement that all works published in Australia must be retained by a State, and possibly the National, library. The goal is to preserve and maintain a lasting record of each State's publishing history.

Legal deposit can include self-published material, in many formats, if it meets certain criteria. 'Publishing' can be as simple as donating a copy to your local family history society library or making it available for family members.

You can learn more about the eligibility requirements and to consider if Legal Deposit is an appropriate solution for you, at one of our presentations running in September:

Thursday 12th September at 7:30pm and Friday 20th September at 1:30pm

Sessions are open to members and non-members. For more details visit the Events page of the GSV website.

Victorian GUM Inc.

(Genealogists using Microcomputers)



VicGUM (or **GUM**, as our friends call us) proudly celebrates its **40th anniversary this year**. Our unique approach sets GUM apart – we don't teach traditional genealogy. Instead, we equip our members with the skills to use their technology, equipment and applications effectively. Since our establishment in 1984, we've assisted over 3,560 genealogists to maximise their investment in genealogy. Our technology-focused approach empowers our members to take control of their genealogy research, making it more efficient and rewarding.

About 75% of our 450-plus members use Family Tree Maker software, with proficiency ranging from beginner to expert. We also have members who use Legacy and Reunion. Most of our activities are conducted on **Zoom**, enabling members from all over Australia to participate. **Membership is a steal at just \$50 per year** and offers a wide range of exclusive benefits. For instance:

- **Twelve newsletters** every year, packed with high-quality software and technology articles, providing our members with the latest insights and updates. Back issues from May 2006 and indexes are available in the members' section of our website.

- **Four User Group Zoom sessions** each month, two on Family Tree Maker, one on Reunion and one on Family Book Creator (bi-monthly). Each session lasts for two hours.
- **GUMNET**, our member-only online help and chat site. Post technical problems, such as computer and related equipment, methodology, or downloading historical documents, and benefit from the expertise of other GUM members.
- Free admission to our **monthly Zoom events**, often featuring overseas speakers with specialist knowledge of genealogy software and DNA. Some are hybrid events, allowing members to meet and chat with the speakers. Past events and beginner Family Tree Maker tutorials are available on our website.
- Our **Virtual Support Centre**, available seven days a week. Members can book unlimited, free, one-on-one tutorials and training sessions. Tutorials last about one hour. Queries usually receive a same-day response from one of our dedicated committee members.

Contact us at:

info@vicgum.asn.au, or
<http://www.vicgum.asn.au>