

---

# THE GAZETTE

## TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

ISSN 1443-5381

Vol.38 No. 1

March 2025



President's Report	1
City Streets – Aldermanic Inspection	1
Ghostly Cause for Thought	2
Dead Man's Pennies	3
Jonas Wagner c1831-1912	4,5,6
The Picnic Point Camp	6
My Grandparents Robert & Jean Ferrier (nee Mungall) Goodsall	7,8,9
Anomalies While Researching	9
Stepping Through the Portal	10,11
Another Anomaly – Rosalie Marioa Modrow	11
The family of Matthew Ridgway and Ann Ridgway née Tew	12,13
Vale Doug Walker 1938-2024	13
"History in the essence of innumerable biographies"	14
Guest Speaker – Rail Historian Greg Hallam	14
Searl's Poinsettia Art Florists	15
Final School Records	16,17,18

---

## TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS

### FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

ABN 84 467 848 545

<http://tddfhs.org.au>

E-mail: [tddfhs452@gmail.com](mailto:tddfhs452@gmail.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TDDFHS>

452 South Street

TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Phone 07 4634 7377

**PRESIDENT**            **Marie GREEN**  
Ironbark Court  
Highfields 4352  
Ph 04 1275 7551  
e-mail                    [bulliondale@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bulliondale@yahoo.com.au)

**SECRETARY**           **Marionne Diggles**  
Ph. 07 4697 3375  
e-mail                    [mameerogers@gmail.com](mailto:mameerogers@gmail.com)

**TREASURER**           **Kathy SIEBUHR**

**VICE-PRESIDENT**    **Jacqui BROCK**  
e-mail                    [jacquirosebrock@gmail.com](mailto:jacquirosebrock@gmail.com)

**JOURNAL EDITOR**    **Karen ROWE**  
e-mail                    [nerak4350@yahoo.com](mailto:nerak4350@yahoo.com)

### GENERAL MEETINGS

The Society meets bi-monthly, on the second Tuesday at the library at 9.00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

#### 2025 Meetings

Tuesday April 8

Tuesday June 10

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Single Membership	\$36.00
Double Membership	\$48.00
PLUS Joining Fee	\$10.00
Journal Membership Only	\$15.00
FINANCIAL YEAR	1 <sup>st</sup> July to 30 <sup>th</sup> June

**ALL MEMBERS** – fee of \$2.50 per visit (excluding Journal Only membership)

Non-Members    \$10.00 per visit

### MEMBERS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

#### Reciprocal Rights

Reciprocal Rights are extended to all members of family history societies who visit our rooms to do research.

#### Proof of current membership is required.

The daily fee will be \$2.50, which is the same as what our members pay, rather than the \$10 charge for visitors.

### RESEARCH

The Research Centre is situated at 452 South Street, Toowoomba in the cemetery grounds.

**HOURS: Monday – Friday            10 am – 3 pm**

### RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Contact the Research Officer via our email. The cost for research is \$30 per family. Scans from newspapers are available at \$2.50 for the first and \$1.50 each for subsequent documents.

### THE GAZETTE

*The Gazette* is issued free to all financial members and exchange societies.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by contributors to this journal.

To reproduce items from this journal, permission from the author must be obtained or (if none mentioned) acknowledge *The Gazette* as the source.

### President's Report March 2025

The publication *Squatters, Sinners and Settlers of the Clifton Run* has proven to be popular with 130 sold. Our *Backyard & Beyond Volume 8* is now ready for sale and already we've sold over 50 pre-publication so the printing press in the kitchen has been working overtime.

Sadly member Doug Walker passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Marionne and I attended his graveside funeral which was held at Stanthorpe and she has written a small eulogy for him in this edition. Doug gave us custody of the wages journals from Glenlyon Station with the understanding that we would eventually place them with the State Library so plans will be made for a handover in the near future.

Since installing the security cameras, it has been very interesting for the executive to watch the antics of those people who like to use our carpark and entry to the cemetery. We have long had a problem with them tramping down the water barrier at the gateway so now that there is a locked gate some have ventured to jump the fence. It would seem though that after they do it once they don't come back. That is, except for one gentleman and his wife who also trample the garden in order to get onto high ground, so I have now spoken to him and he appears to have got the message.

Our Open Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> January was successful. We had 30 in all attend. Two people joined on the day and another two the following week. Since that time we have had an influx of members with a total of fourteen joining this year. Of course, it will remain to be seen how many continue with their membership in July. Three more ladies though have volunteered to help and two of these are new members.

We also made the decision to try opening again on the third Saturday afternoon of the month on a trial basis and our first was the 18<sup>th</sup> January. We had one lady phone and apologise and only two of our regular members turned up. However, the February opening was much more successful with three members and three casuals attending. We'll see what March brings when Greg Hallam is guest speaker as well as being open for research.

Secretary Marionne and I have now rearranged the map cabinet to reflect those maps that have been indexed by Gloria Glass. What a job that has been, but certainly a worthwhile one.

Everything else continues along the same line. I'm constantly adding to the master indexes and putting files on the NAS drive. We continue to grow.

### CITY STREETS - ALDERMANIC INSPECTION.

The members of the Works Committee (Aldermen F.J. Paterson, chairman, W. Hodgen, H. G. Webb and G. A. Leichney) together with the City Surveyor (Mr. J. McLeod) commenced an inspection yesterday of the streets of the city. For some time past many requests for work to be done in different thoroughfares have been received by the Council, and it was with the object of giving consideration to these that the inspection was undertaken.

The committee left the Town Hall at 10 o'clock and did not return until just on 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and the streets which were not inspected yesterday will be visited at an early date.

Alderman Paterson said that the committee had a look over Hursley road, a main thoroughfare leading to the Clifford Park Racecourse, which the Toowoomba Turf Club hoped to have improved before the Show meeting, which commences next month.

The following streets were also inspected: Russell-street, West, Holberton, and Wallace streets, Carrington-road, Bridge-street between Holberton and Tor streets, Holberton-street, the road leading to the Rockville school near Willowburn, Jellicoe-street, Mary-street as far as the top of the hill near Ben Lomond, Maloney-street, Bridge-street, Sinclair-street, and Stuart-street as far as Long-street.

Opportunity was also taken by the committee to again inspect the storm damage, principally in the western creek. It has been found necessary, Alderman Paterson added, to do rather extensive repairs to the exit to the Margaret-street bridge, as well as to the approaches to the Russell-street bridge. The creek at the lower end of Russell-street will have to have a considerable amount of earth shifted.

It has been proposed to call lenders for this work. The Council will also approach the Commissioner for Railways asking him whether he will agree to help defray portion of the cost.

"Generally speaking," Alderman Paterson said, "the streets of the city are in a shocking condition owing to the damage by recent storms. It is very hard to estimate at the present time what it will cost the Council to repair the damage, but a previous calculation of £3000 will probably be greatly exceeded." *Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs Gazette* 1924, February 19, p. 3.

## GHOSTLY CAUSE FOR THOUGHT



MOUNT REMARKABLE HOTEL (Built 1859), Melrose, Southern Flinders Ranges, South Australia.  
Pam Bacon Photo.

In October 2005 we embarked on a pilgrimage to South Australia to discover places of significance in our family history. By coincidence we both had forbears who were pioneers in the town of Melrose that nestles at the foot of Mount Remarkable in the Flinders Ranges.

The last stage of our journey to South Australia saw us leave our Motel at Cobar on a frosty morning for the last long haul. As the day drew to a close, the Flinders Ranges loomed out of the fading light. It was quite dark when we drove into Melrose. In search of a bed for the night we entered the bar of the Mount Remarkable Hotel. The Friday night crowd packed the room and was in party mood. After securing a motel unit we dined in old world charm before retiring to our unit for the night.

After a hot shower sleep came easily. At some time after midnight we were disturbed by the door to the unit opening and someone entering the room. Half asleep we challenged the intruder. The door clicked shut as he or she or whatever retreated.

In 2015 Margaret McCallum, who is a Melrose historian contacted us looking for a photo of our World War One soldier relative. We sent her the photo and in return she sent us some Melrose history relating to our family. She also sent the itinerary for a night ghost walk through Melrose which we have transcribed in part.

**Mount Remarkable Hotel:** This building erected in 1859 replaced a pug and pine inn built on the same site two years earlier by a former Sergeant of Police at Melrose, Thomas Moran. An Adelaide physio who gave readings at the Melrose Show, a number of years ago, stayed at the hotel and witnessed a young female apparition wearing a white apron as part of her apparel. This supports our belief that the hotel's resident ghost is **Maggie Salmon**. Twenty-four year old, Maggie was employed here as a domestic servant in the 1880's. She attempted suicide by taking strychnine that was kept on the kitchen mantelpiece by the publican for poisoning stray cats. Five hours had elapsed by the time Dr Pickering arrived to administer an antidote as he had first to be notified at Wilmington and then ride his bicycle to Melrose. Maggie died 15 minutes after his arrival. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Catholic section of the Melrose Cemetery. The physio also sensed the body of a newly born child hidden in a well – could that have been Maggie's baby?

Other supporting evidence of a resident ghost includes the young daughter of a recent publican commenting to her family on their departure from Melrose that she "*needed to go and say goodbye to her lady.*" Local customers and bar staff have on numerous occasions sensed that eerie feeling of another's presence, witnessing unexplained opening and closing of doors, and on one occasion they saw a dog, in the hotel at the time, sitting at the foot of the stairs to the upper floor in a frozen position with its hair bristles erect – was it also spooked by this apparition?

So then what about the intruder in our motel unit in 2005. Did we both have a dream or was Maggie Salmon going about her duties as a domestic servant. Did she enter the room through the door or through the wall? We don't believe in ghosts but then, maybe!

South Australia had two other surprises in store for us during our visit.

Compiled by Max & Pam Bacon

**Saturday's Discussion Group Topics** (The order and content may change)

22 Mar Research Logs and Writing a report for yourself  
12 Apr Australian Libraries' Resources  
26 Apr Australian Military Research Part 2  
10 May FamilySearch



## DEAD MAN'S PENNIES

I was in the Research Centre a few weeks ago, when Karen told us all about the Dead Man's Penny, which is a memorial plaque issued to the next of kin of all who died as a result of the First World War while serving for the British Empire.

I was therefore very surprised while travelling in Victoria a couple of weeks later, to find two Dead Man's Pennies for sale in the second hand market shop in Warracknabeal. The names on the plaques were Angus Cameron and Louis Cameron. I purchased them for the small amount asked.

It appeared that the men were most likely to be brothers, so another research journey began.



NAA records had several options for Angus, but nothing at all for Louis. Looking further afield to New Zealand records I discovered Louis with his next of kin being his mother in St Arnaud in Victoria – the next town from Warracknabeal. I was then able to match Angus his brother. Their story is recorded on the Virtual War Memorial of Australia, and also in “Gallipoli Heroes – a tribute to the men of Western Victoria who gave their lives for their country” by Graham Massey – printed and published in Warracknabeal.



Angus Valentine Cameron was Private 731 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He enlisted in Melbourne on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and was killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 – one of our first ANZACs. He was one of about 40 who were out on the extreme right of the second ridge when they were cut off and surrounded by Turk troops. This happened around 4pm. Only seven managed to get back the three miles to the beach and rejoin their company. Angus was born at Teddywaddy near Charlton in Victoria. He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial Wall

Louis Cameron enlisted in New Zealand and served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade from the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1915 until 5<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Louis died in Tidmouth, England on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1919 during the 1919 Spanish Flu epidemic. Louis was born at Charlton on Victoria. He is buried in Tidmouth Cemetery.

Angus and Louis were sons of Ewen and Mary Cameron. There were 15 children in the family. Five brothers served in the First World War.

Allan Cameron landed in Gallipoli in April 1915 with the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was wounded in both legs but recovered to fight in France with the 46<sup>th</sup> battalion. He received chest wounds and was invalided to Australia in 1918.

William Cameron served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade from 1915 to 1918. Archibald Cameron also enlisted in New Zealand with his brother Louis.

All five brothers are commemorated on the St Arnaud War Memorial. Angus and Louis are commemorated on their parents' grave in St Arnaud.



The plaques were cast in bronze and are 120mm in diameter. They became known as the Dead Man's Penny, or Widow's Penny because of a much larger similarity to the penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.

The design is of Britannia holding a trident and an olive wreath, and standing with a lion. The deceased's name is cast (not engraved) in raised letters in the tablet. There is no rank as no distinction was made between the sacrifices made by different individuals. Around the picture the legend reads “HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR” or in about 600 instances “SHE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR”.

These plaques are really of immense personal value to the family, and it is sad to see them sold. But descendants of such a large family would today no doubt number in their hundreds. Rather than try to trace family members, I decided to place the plaques in the Charlton Golden Grains Museum – the town where the Cameron brothers were born. The museum is extremely well curated and has a good section relating to their local war service personnel. They were happy to receive the plaques and add them to their display for all to appreciate.

Contributed by Max Henderson

**Jonas Wagner c1831-1912**

Jonas Wagner brought his family from Germany to start a new life in Australia.

The 'Lammershagen' sailed from Hamburg on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1872 to Australia. After a traumatic voyage, due to overcrowding and disease, the ship sailed into Moreton Bay on 8 January 1873. The vessel was immediately placed into quarantine when typhus was discovered amongst some of the passengers. Jonas Wagner (aged 35), his wife, Anna (aged 41), and their son, Albert (aged 9.5) were on board. Thankfully, the family had not contracted the disease.

Jonas and his family were from the town of Dittersbach, in the Province of Schlesien (now Poland). Shortly after their arrival the family settled at Englesburg (now Kalbar). Many German immigrants made their way to the Fassifern Valley. The large majority of these immigrants did not speak English. At this time there were no schools in the area so the

opportunity to learn English was not readily available. The late 1870's to early 1880's was the peak period of settlement in the Fassifern Valley.

On 16<sup>TH</sup> February 1875 Jonas obtained his certificate of Naturalization. In March 1875 he purchased a transfer of lease from William Hardwick Foote for 120 acres of pastoral land (District of Ipswich, County of Churchill, Parish of Fassifern, portion 178, selection 3360) at Fassifern. On the property there was a 3 roomed hut constructed of slab and shingles. Eighteen acres of the land was under cultivation with grapes. Albert worked on the vineyard with his father.

Life was hard in this harsh new land for the Wagner family. As well as having to make a living, Jonas had to deal with his wife's deteriorating health. Anna (also referred as Ann / Anne) was prone to wandering away from home and had memory issues. A number of newspaper articles were published in the 'Queensland Times' and 'The Telegraph' between November 1877 and December 1878 reporting of appearances before the Ipswich Police of suspected insanity.

On 11 December 1878 Anna was institutionalized for insanity. She remained institutionalized until her death in Toowoomba in November 1918. Anna's death certificate has no information recorded regarding her parents. It just states her age as 86 years old and was born in Germany. She was buried in an unmarked grave in the Drayton Toowoomba Cemetery.

However, life must continue and Jonas had a vineyard to run. Jonas was not afraid to stand up for his property. On the evening of 21 January 1879 a man illegally entered Jonas' vineyard trampling grapes and vines. Jonas had him charged. Depositions were made by his son and also two labourers in Jonas' employ. A guilty verdict was handed down.

Although, the authorities decided that Anna was to be institutionalized, the Office of Insolvency, Intestacy and insanity for Queensland demanded payment from Jonas for her upkeep. Jonas paid when he could and when he was unable to pay he was pursued for the money. At one point Jonas asked to have Anna sent home as he could not pay. His request was refused. These requests continued, intermittently, up until 1912, the year of his death.

In 1880 Jonas applied for and was granted a horse and cattle brand. The brand was 1WX.

His son, Albert, married Anna Elizabeth Modrow on 10 September 1881 at St Stephens Cathedral, Brisbane. Jonas became a grandfather on 29 July 1882 with the birth of Bernard Henry Wagner. Jonas appears on the Queensland Electoral Roll for the first time in 1882, his property is listed as leasehold, Fassifern, Ipswich.

Jonas' son, Albert, moved to Woolloongabba and worked as a Carrier. Transport in this time was horses and drays. On 21st October, 1883 Albert Alfred Wagner was born, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grandson for Jonas.

An advertisement was placed in The Queensland Times on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1883 stating the partnership between Jonas Wagner and Herman Hilbert was dissolved with all debts and accounts to be settled with Jonas Wagner. Jonas and Herman manufactured and sold Colonial Wines at Jonas' Vineyard.

Later that year the 'Wine-growers' Association of Queensland was formed. Australian wines were also being sold in Germany. Jonas was involved in one of Australia's early industries – the making of wine.

In January of the same year an argument had taken place at Jonas' house with his then business partner, Mr Herman Hilbert. Mrs Caroline Hilbert placed a summons against her husband for using insulting language and causing a disturbance of the peace during the argument. The case was dismissed. Hilbert and Caroline resided with Jonas at this time. The couple were living with Jonas at this time.

In June 1887 the new building at the Dugandan State School was opened. Funding was raised by members of the community and tenders were called in September 1886. In November Jonas donated 2 shillings and 6 pence towards the new school building.

On January 26, 1888 Jonas became a grandfather for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time with the birth of granddaughter, Agnes Mary Wagner. A daughter for Albert and Anna (nee Modrow)

Also in 1888 Hermine Lenske and her three sons immigrated to Australia on the 'Taroba' from Hamburg. Hermine was a widow, she and her sons, Gustav (10), and twins Richard & Walter (2). Hermine and the boys made Engelsburg their home. By the following year, Jonas is listed on the Queensland Electoral Roll as 'Freehold, por 178, Engelsburg, Normanby/Fassifern'. He has worked hard to meet the conditional leasehold criteria to become the property owner.

Jonas and Hermine Lenske became a couple though they were unable to marry as Jonas still had a wife. Jonas took on Hermine's three sons and also had two children with her. Jonas & Hermine's son, Alfred Herman Edward Wagner, was born on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1890, just one month earlier Jonas became a grandfather for the 4<sup>th</sup> time with the birth of Clara Wagner on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1891 to son Albert and his wife Anna (Modrow) at Woolloongabba.

On 9 March, 1893 Jonas & Hermine's youngest child, Amanda Augusta Caroline Wagner, was born. Also in 1893 Jonas became a grandfather for the 5<sup>th</sup> time, with the birth of Edward Leonard Wagner, a son for Albert & Anna (nee Modrow).

By 1895 Jonas and Hermine Lenske had planned to move to Cooran. Jonas had purchased two blocks of agricultural land at Cooran and Hermine had a block of land next to these. Unfortunately, Hermine never experienced life in Cooran, she died on 3rd February 1898 aged just 44 years. She was buried at the original Lutheran cemetery at Engelsburg. This cemetery is now part of a local farm, however, the headstones are still in place (2017).

Jonas moved to Cooran and continued life there with his young family. He became a successful businessman and farmer in this region. A newspaper report indicates Jonas was already involved in the local community prior to Hermine's passing. In January, 1897 Jonas was one of a number of people who nominated fellow farmer, James Fraser, for the Widgee Divisional Board (Subdivision 1). James Fraser was elected to the seat.

In October, 1899 the Widgee Divisional Board road crew removed three bloodwood trees from one of Jonas' selections. Jonas wrote to the Widgee Divisional Board requesting compensation as he had left these trees to be used for building purposes. In December of that year his request was denied. Timber getting was one of Jonas' businesses. The timber was transported by dray and a team of 16 bullocks. Jonas owned the team of bullocks. Jonas was also busy purchasing more land around this time. He continued to pay rates on his Kalbar property until 1905.

Jonas was involved in a number of business enterprises, mostly agricultural in nature. Sugar cane was one crop he grew. At the 1900 Woombye Show Jonas won the prize for the three (3) best sugar canes. He exhibited 'Rappoe' cane. He did well to diversify his agricultural interests as problems developed with how much sugar cane farmers were allowed to plant. In addition, the Morton Central Sugar Mill (located in Nambour) was refusing to take sugar cane from the Cooran farmers after the next two cane harvests. Much land was lying fallow by 1905 with farmers unable to plant sugar cane as there were no guarantees they could sell their cane.

By 1905 Jonas was the largest land holder in the area owning almost 1000 acres. His homestead was on a 42 acre block located about a half a mile from the Cooran Station. On the property, close to the homestead, there was a well 30 feet deep. Spread over his various properties he had 500 to 600 fruit trees planted and producing. These included oranges, mandarins, apples, pear, plums, persimmons, and mangoes, pineapples and federator strawberries. Jonas also ran dairy cows.

Whilst building his farming enterprises at Cooran Jonas still had four children to raise. Shortly after arriving in Australia Gustav Lenski, Hermine's eldest son, went to live with his Uncle at Boonah and when he reached the age of 18 he went prospecting and goldmining at Mt. Morgan. He remained a bachelor and worked in many places throughout Queensland.

The remaining four children, twins Richard (Dick) & Walter Lenski, Alfred & Amanda Wagner grew up and remained in the district. Amanda married, local farmer, John Charles Smith (known as Charles) on 9 March 1909. Dick married Elizabeth Frances Kiel in September 1910. Walter married Florence Emma Singleton on 10 March 1915. Alfred Herman Edward Wagner married Minnie Kelly on 11 September, 1915. Further information on Jonas' second family can be found in 'The Lenski Story 1888 – 1988' written by Diane Bampton.

On 13 September 1904 the Department of Public Works placed an advertisement in The Gympie Times calling for tenders to build a Provisional School at Pinbarren Creek. A building committee was formed and the provisional school opened on 18 February 1905. Jonas was elected to the school committee. When the Cooran State School celebrated its' 100 years of education, Jonas Wagner and the Lenski Brothers were mentioned in the commemorative booklet.

Jonas was an astute business person and not afraid to ask if he saw an opportunity. In June, 1905 he wrote to the Widgee Shire Council offering to purchase 4 Kauri Pine trees in front of another selectors' property on the Kin Kin Road. The Council wrote back informing him that they would not sell the trees.

Jonas and other settlers were constantly in touch with the Widgee Shire Council regarding the dangerous state of the roads in the area. As published in *The Gympie Times* on 27 June 1910 "From J. Wagner, John Trotter, H. Hinds and others, asking Council to resume portions of 70v and 71v and put a road through to the Tableland as it was the most acceptable to settlers. The Council responded with "the overseer and members to report on the making of the road".

Government statistics have always been recorded in some form or another. Stock holders were obliged to submit their stock returns annually by the 1<sup>st</sup> February under the 'Stock Returns Act of 1893' for publication in May. In 1909 Jonas (and many others) were fined for not filing their stock reports. Jonas had dairy stock and at least 25 bullocks at this time.

On 26 Oct, 1909 *The Gympie Times* reports of a very large Kauri pine log at the Cooran Station, this log was drawn in by 24 bullocks by the Wagner Brothers. The reporting journalist was wondering if this was a record for Queensland. In this instance twins Dick and Walter Lenski were the 'Wagner' Brothers.

Another industry Jonas, (and other selectors in the area) were involved in was prospecting for gold. In the year of this death, 1912, Jonas sank a shaft on one of his properties. In June 1912 Mr Dunstan, the Government Geologist, paid a visit to Jonas' farm to inspect the gold mine shaft.

Sadly, Jonas passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1912 when he died of gastric and cardiac related symptoms, he was 75 years old. His death certificate states his symptoms were present for a week. The death certificate, certified in writing by his stepson, W. Lenske, does not mention any of Jonas' children and lists his parents and Jonas Wagner and Anna Golbel. On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1912, page 5, *The Gympie Times* published a comment regarding Jonas' death. An extract "Owing to the reserved nature of the late Mr. Wagner, considerable interest is taken as to how the deceased had disposed of his property", this sentence hints that perhaps Jonas Wagner was a private man in regards to himself and family even though his business ventures were regularly published in newspapers.

Jonas was buried in the Cooran Cemetery on 7 September. There was a wooden headstone, however, it has long been burnt by bushfires. In 1989 the sextant of the cemetery pegged out Jonas grave so family can locate his resting place. Jonas certainly lived a very full life, he has many descendants.

Jonas Wagner was a strong, capable, pioneering man, who stood tall and continually moved forward while life threw many events his way. For every success there was as much sadness, however, he was committed to his family, business ventures, and supportive of the communities he lived in.

Suzanna Margetts

#### References;

The Lenski Story 1888 – 1988' written by Diane Bampton  
Queensland Government Gazettes  
TDDFHS resources  
Queensland State Archives  
Various newspapers accessed via TROVE  
Photo – supplied by Diane Bampton

### THE PICNIC POINT CAMP

Mr. W. P. B. Miles, Hon. Secretary, Children's Welfare Association, Brisbane writes: —

At the first monthly meeting for 1925, of the Children's Welfare Association held on March 5, I was instructed to write and express the sincere appreciation of our Association for your generous co-operation in publishing and bringing before the public notice the happy time the children had, while in camp at Picnic Point, Toowoomba, in January.

We should esteem it a great favour if you would convey our sincere thanks to the general public of Toowoomba; and those who so kindly forwarded fruit vegetables, etc., and. also the owners of motor cars, who helped up so considerably during our stay in Toowoomba.

You will be pleased to know that there were 71 children and adults in the camp for 14 days, and our total expenses amounted to only £ 89/16/3, which again establishes a record for economical management.

Of course, this could only be accomplished by voluntary service all moneys collected being entirely spent on the children.

*The Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs Gazette* 1925, March 20, p. 4. c. 4



## My Grandparents Robert & Jean Ferrier (nee Mungall) Goodsall Ma and Poppa to their grandchildren

It's easy enough to be happy when life carries on like a song  
But the one that's worthwhile  
Is the one that can smile  
When everything goes dead wrong.

This verse was written in my autograph book on August 21, 1959, and is a fitting reminder of Jean Ferrier (nee Mungall) Goodsall, Jean was born December 14, 1886 at Severn River, Stanthorpe. Her father gave all the vital information for her birth certificate which reads Jane Farrier Mungall. No doubt his broad Scottish brogue was responsible for this mistake. It was not until 1952, when Jean applied for a birth certificate that the discrepancy was found. She always thought her name was Jean.

Image – Park Hill

Jean's father Robert wanted his children to have an education and was one of the driving forces behind having the Severn River school opened in 1887. The school was later known as the Glen Aplin State School.



Jean grew into a very attractive young lady and on 29th December, 1909 at her parents home "Park Hill", she married a young bootmaker, Robert Goodsall. He was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1884 in North Rockhampton to Joseph and Catherine (nee Mucken) Goodsall. He served a seven year apprenticeship as a bootmaker to John Morrow in Rockhampton. The family story was that he and his elder sister could not get on and Jane said it was either him or her leaving home. So Robert left. By mid 1904 he had moved to Mt Morgan where he worked for O'Connell and Co. His reference of 15th January 1906 speaks well of him. *He had been in charge of their Boot Department and had given entire satisfaction. He was a good salesman and stock-keeper, attentive, punctual, obliging, Honest and of strictly temperate habits.* He was of course still a young man and footloose and fancy free.

Robert then moved to Moree and worked for A.C. Reid and Co. Ltd. He didn't stay at Moree for long and the day before Christmas 1906 he moved once again. This time possibly to Sydney to work for Anthony Horden though at this stage I can find no proof of the Sydney employment. His elder brother James though did end up living in Sydney so perhaps he was there by this time.

By 11 July 1908 Robert was enrolled at Marsh Street, Stanthorpe and so the story of Robert and Jean begins. After marrying, they settled in Stanthorpe. By 1913 he had his own business which was called "Goodsall's Central Boot Palace" in the main street of Stanthorpe. In his advertisements in the paper of the day, the *Border Post*, in which Robert referred to himself as "The Lively Bootman". The following poem appeared in the *Border Post* on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1913.

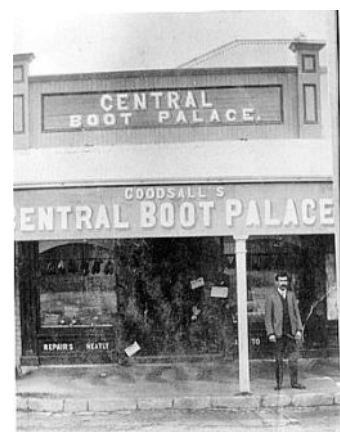
### The Lively Bootman

Oh, there's not a man in Stanthorpe, for fitting can compete  
With GOODSALL the GREAT BOOTMAN, who understands the feet.  
Be you humble, proud or grand, a person of degree  
He's for the boots to suit you, and fit you to a "Tea".

In everything in leather he is an expert great  
And hence his boots are worn all over our mighty State.  
Ladies fair and fashion belles, all wear his boots and shoes,  
His is the only shop in town, where they, their choice can choose.

He is the LIVELY BOOTMAN", and he knows his way about,  
And in knowledge of his business he cuts all others out;  
With a talent for perception, no useless time he'll waste  
For he can tell just at a glance, the "BOOTS" that suit your taste.

You'll find him active all the day, his shop is busy too,  
Attending to his customers – and they are not a few;  
He's not a moment idle, which speaks well for his fame,  
And GOODSALL'S BOOTS all o'er the land, are now a household name.  
(With apologies to my old Rockhampton employer)



They had three children, Robert Edward (known affectionately as Teddy) born 15 September 1910, Dorothy Jean (my Mum) born 25 May 1913 and Jessie Irene born 12 October 1915.

The family then moved to Brisbane shortly after Jessie was born. But why after such a short time in business did they move?

Well it appears that Robert was not a good businessman. It was while in Stanthorpe that Robert found himself in trouble over unpaid debts and the following notice appeared in the *Brisbane Courier* on Friday 11th June 1915, pg 12.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF

QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE.

In the MATTER of G.S. HUTTON AND  
MACFARLANE, Plaintiffs, versus ROBERT  
GOODSALL, Defendant.

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of 1900, that, acting under authority of a Warrant on fi. fa., issued out of the Supreme court of Queensland at Brisbane, I have seized the Goods of Robert Goodsall, of Stanthorpe, the defendant, consisting of Boots, Shoes, Wearing Apparel, and Cloths, to satisfy G. S. Hutton and Macfarlane, of Brisbane, plaintiffs, and that I will on TUESDAY, the Fifteenth day of June, 1914, at 2.30 p.m., at the store of the defendant, Robert Goodsall, at Stanthorpe, where the Goods seized now are, SELL the aforementioned Goods, to satisfy the plaintiffs, G. S. Hutton and Macfarlane, unless the amount due and owing, and all costs incidental thereto, are sooner paid.

Dated at Stanthorpe this Eighth day of June, 1915.

In July 1915 he was also being sued by Australian Boot Factory Limited of Sydney for £39.15.3. Prior to this though on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1915 he had applied to the Supreme Court for liquidation of his affairs. A meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1915 revealed that his total liabilities were £1216.11.03 and sale of his assets realized just over £170.8.0. He would have had no choice but to close up shop and move his family to Brisbane.

Not only did he owe businesses he also owed his father-in-law Robert Mungall £150 and his brother-in-law Albert James Rooks £159.10.04. I wonder did they ever get their money. Jean would have been horrified. Robert put forward the excuse that it was 'due to loss of trade caused by stoppage of dredges working in the locality owing to war, a large number of men being thrown out of employment.'

Then, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916 the Warwick Examiner reports that 'At the Stanthorpe Police Court yesterday before Mr. H. Morris, P.M., Robert Goodsall was charged with being in possession of an instrument, with intent to break into premises. Mr. F.J. Brennan appeared for the defendant. After hearing evidence, the P.M. held that there was not sufficient evidence to put accused on his trial and discharged him.'

The family first moved to Musgrave Road, Red Hill, Brisbane and on 10 July 1916 Robert enlisted in the Army and was allotted army number 2654. He embarked at Brisbane for England with the 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion per HMAT "Marathon" on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth on 9 January 1917. He was then taken on strength of the 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion on 10 January, 1917 and proceeded to France. He saw action in France fighting on the front lines, but they needed bootmakers and he was destined to spend the rest of the war boot-making in France. He returned to Brisbane on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1919. Jean had taken the children

to Ballandean to stay with her sister Helen in April 1919 for 3 months. Helen's husband had been killed.

The family then rented a house on the cnr of Lutwyche Road and Stoneleigh Street. The children went to the Woolloowin State School. Teddy (10 years) being the eldest looked after both his sisters. That same year, Teddy, was to die tragically. On July 21, 1921. Jessie was in hospital with diptheria and Robert had only just returned from the hospital. Friends were passing by and Jean took Dorothy out to see them leaving Teddy in his bedroom reading. Next thing another neighbour called out that something was wrong with Teddy. Teddy had found an old carbide lamp and no doubt was inquisitive as to how it worked. Unfortunately, the lamp exploded and Teddy never regained consciousness. Jean was devastated and never really got over the loss of her only son. She always had his photo sitting on her dressing table which reads :

We watched our darling Teddy  
Through anxious night and day,  
And only turned our eyes from him,  
To look to heaven and pray:  
Deal gently with our darling,  
Was oft our pleading cry;  
Oh, trust me with your precious one,  
Soft came the Lord's reply.

Not long after Teddy died, Jean was asked by her sister-in-law Margaret Harman to board a young man whose parents were close friends of the Goodsall family in Rockhampton. Nothing could have suited better. Jim Taylor came when he was about 16 years old and became like a son. He stayed until he married. His board also helped through the bad times. Bob had been gassed during WWI and unfortunately was drinking more than he should, so money was always short.



Above - Robert's Lutwyche Store

In late 1925 they bought a home at Kedron next door to Helen (Nell) Cammack Jean's sister. One of her other sisters Janet (Jess) Rooks lived right behind them. However, they continued to rent the home and shop at Lutwyche and rented out their home at Kedron until Robert's retirement.

When World War II broke out Robert enlisted once again on the 5 January 1942 aged 57 years 1 month. This time he worked as a Bootmaker in Brisbane and was able to come home for week-ends. Jean, with the help of her daughter Dorrie, kept the business going. Robert would do as much work as he could on the week-ends when he had leave and the rest of the week, Dorrie would take the boots into town and have them repaired.

It was about this time that Jean discovered just how bad their financial situation was. All the mail had always gone to the shop and Robert had paid the bills or in this case hadn't paid them. Jean took over and was faced with the task of catching up not only on small accounts but also the Brisbane City Council rates. From that time on she stayed and helped in the shop. No longer were customers able to get odd jobs done for nothing, business started to pay, and the home at Kedron was paid off. How much better off the family would have been if Jean had discovered this years earlier. Of course, the fact that he had lost the business in Stanthorpe should have warned her.

They remained at Lutwyche until Robert retired in 1956 when they moved to their home in Kedron. Jean's sister Jess still lived in the house behind and a nephew Charlie Cammack, whose mother, Helen had died in 1942 occupied his mother's home next door.

She was surrounded by family again. She was a generous, kind hearted but firm person. While she would stand for no nonsense her grandchildren all loved her and liked nothing better than to visit during school holidays. As it was her practice to always have an apple cut into pieces beside the bed, so the grandchildren would follow suit. When they lived at Lutwyche she would sit on the front verandah for hours with her grandchildren when they were small watching the traffic go by. They played a simple game, watching the traffic to see what the next vehicle was in the procession of buses, cars and trams, after each had chosen what kind of vehicle they were counting.

Robert was always very conscious of the dark hairs on his arms and even when he grew older he used to rub lemon juice on them to lighten the dark hairs.

He would always tell his sons-in-law not to let drink get them the better of them. Since they were both very infrequent drinkers, perhaps he was remembering the days when he was drinking too much. This was the time when Dorothy would have to accompany him into town to buy leather so he would not be able to call into the hotel.

There were many happy times though spent around the card table at Lutwyche and then at Kedron. Five Hundred was the favourite, but always after listening to the radio program "Blue Hills". Robert could never understand that both his sons-in-law favoured the Labor Party while he was a Torie. When arguments broke out he was fond of saying either "There it is in black and white" or "You can't believe everything you read". The reply depended on his opinion at the time.

Sadly, Jean was ill for some time before her death. First, Robert cared for her with the help of their daughter Jessie, who had bought her Aunt's home at the back after she had died and so was on hand. This proved too much for him and so a night nurse was hired to help. The strain had taken its toll - Robert died the first night the Nurse was there 20 December 1965. His job was done.

Jean's mind never fully comprehended that he was dead and her daughter Jessie moved her into her home and with the help of a nurse, looked after her until she died on January 23, 1966.

### Anomalies While Researching

When doing your research what weird and annoying errors have you discovered along the way? I say annoying due to the time spent trying to verify the information supplied to you.

When researching and writing up the PROVAN family for 'Our Backyard Volume 5', I could not find a birth record for James Thomas PROVAN, the fourth son of Anne Harvey and William Provan. He was born on 30 November 1866 in Toowoomba.

After much searching on QLD BDM, I found him listed as James Thomas TROVER and his parents listed as Anne Harvey and William TROVER. In this instance father and son had a name change.

<b>James Thomas Trover</b>	Products available:  
Event date: 30/11/1866	Mother: Anne Harvey
Event type: Birth registration	Father/parent: William Trover
Registration details: 1867/C/320	

I did not verify this information further by purchasing his birth certificate. There were no other records for this date that were remotely close.

## STEPPING THROUGH THE PORTAL

Its midnight AGAIN. You're hunched over your tablet or laptop, squinting at a birth record from 1820. Your eyes are wet. Your throat is tight. Your coffee went cold hours ago.

And you're wondering what the heck is wrong with you.

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Here is the raw truth about genealogy that nobody talks about. It can emotionally wreck you. Not in the superficial way that makes you shed a quick tear and move on. No. This hits deeper. This rewires your brain. This changes how you see yourself in the grand tapestry of time.

Let me show you exactly why this happens, and why it can be one of the profound experiences you'll ever have.

### The Paper Trail that changes everything

Documents have power. Real power. Not the kind they teach you about in history class. Something far more visceral. First, it starts innocently enough. Just names and dates. Clinical. Historical. Safe. You're detached. Objective. Just gathering facts like some kind of family history scientist. And then... you see their handwriting. That's when everything shifts.

When that looping signature, or that X they used to sign this document from 1854 hits your screen, your brain short-circuits. Because suddenly, this isn't just data. This is a human being, moving a pen across paper, having no idea their great-great grandchild would be studying their handwriting centuries later. Every form they filled out. Every occupation they listed. Every address they called home. These weren't just entries in a dusty ledger. These were real moments in real lives that led to yours.

Think about the marriage certificate where your great-great-grandparents signed their names. They were young. Nervous. Excited. Had no idea their union would create a lineage leading to you.

That document you're staring at. They touched it. Their hands were there. Their hopes were fresh. Their future – your past – was unwritten.

Then there are the census records and musters. Each one a snapshot frozen in time. Your ancestors gathered in their home or specified gathering place, telling a government worker who they were, what they did, how they lived, and in some cases, what ship they came on, or what crimes they'd been transported for.

Maybe it was a cold, windy day. Maybe they were tired from work. Maybe their children were running around, or the baby was crying while the census taker tried to write.

These aren't documents anymore. They're windows. Portals. Time machines. And each discovery affects you more than the last.

### The Village that Built You

Here's what happens next: The obsession starts. A deep dive into places you've never been but somehow feel like home.

That village in Ireland or Germany or China, or even somewhere in Australia, where your great-grandmother lived? It still exists. Those streets she walked? They're still there. That church where she got married. Still standing. Still holding services. Still echoing with centuries of prayers, including hers.

Its now 1 a.m. and you find yourself street-viewing the streets where they lived. You see an old house and ask yourself, 'Did they know the people who lived in that house?'

Your ancestors walked these streets. Lived in these buildings. Worked these fields. Breathed this air. The stones they touched are still there. The paths they took still wind through towns that remember them only in old record books.

You start learning about the local history. What was happening when they lived there? What challenges did they face? What made them leave? What made them stay? Every detail you uncover adds colour to the black-and-white sketch of their lives.

And something profound happens: Time collapses.

The two-century gap between you and them? It starts to feel paper-thin. Like you could reach through the screen and touch their world. Because in a way, you can. Through maps and migration patterns. Through old photographs of their villages. Through the very landscape that shaped their lives and decisions.

You're not just researching places anymore. You're walking in their footsteps across time.

You discover that your great-grandfather was a sailor or fisherman – is this why you have a love of the sea? Your grandmother owned a bakery – is that why you love baking. Did they show such great resilience, work-ethic, sportsmanship – that you or your children now demonstrate? These aren't just coincidences – they're inheritances. Echoes through time. Whispers in your DNA.

Think about it – that immigration record from 1854. That's not just a record. That's the exact moment in time your great-grandfather first saw Australia. Imagine the mix of fear and excitement and hope he felt, standing on that deck, everything he owned in one small bag. That moment existed – it was as real as dropping your grandchildren off at school this morning, or having your morning cup of tea or coffee. He had no idea that years later, someone would be searching for him and that together with the woman he fell in love with and married, he would shape an entire future. That his descendant would one day stare at this immigration record with such relief, gratitude and respect.

You are no longer just a researcher. You're a time traveller. A storyteller. A keep of flames that would otherwise go out. You search as much as you can on-line, your thirst for more knowledge grows stronger... and then you realise there must be more information SOMEWHERE? All over the world, there are archives, libraries, museums, and family history societies just like ours, who have information that hasn't been digitised or picked up by the online companies. As a volunteer at TDDFHS, I consider myself so very privileged to be the one to hold your hand as we step through the portal, walk these streets together, and go through the photographs, newspapers, school records, land records, maps and more. Reach out and you will find volunteers and organisations like ours, in all parts of the world. Enjoy the ride!

Adapted by Jacqui Brock from 'The Ghost in your DNA: Why you feel connected to ancestors you've never met' with permission from Marc McDermott.

### Another Anomaly - Rosalie Maria Modrow

Another person I researched was Rosalie Maria Modrow (nee Schwartz) who was born in Germany around 1826/27. She immigrated to Australia with her family aboard the Lammershagen in 1872.

Rosalia passed away on 14 January 1914 in Brisbane, however, try as I might to find her death registration her with QLD BDM the record alluded me. So other means needed to be used.

I did find her using the Brisbane City Council grave location tool, she was laid to rest with her son August Modrow at the South Brisbane Cemetery. This cemetery was previously known as Dutton Park.

#### ROSALIA MARIA MODROW (100% Match)

Date of Death: 14 Jan 1914 Date of Burial: 14 Jan 1914

Age: 87

Plot: Mon 2A/#34

AU / Queensland / South Brisbane Cemetery

I was then able to look her up on QLD BDM using her date of death. What a surprise I got to find she had been officially listed as Rosalia WOODROW not MODROW. Curiosity, got the better of me and I ordered the death certificate and yes, it is clearly WOODROW. The information supplied by her daughter Anna Wagner and certified in writing. Perhaps her writing was so bad that MODROW appeared to look like WOODROW.

1914		DEATHS in the District of BRISBANE.			
No.	DESCRIPTION.			Name and Surname of Father and Mother (Maiden Surname) if known, with Rank or Profession.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.
	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession.	Sex and Age.		
1535	14 January 1914	Rosalia Woodrow	Female	(1) Cause of Death. (2) Duration of last illness. (3) Medical Attendant by whom certified, and (4) When last seen Dead.	Anna J. Wagner Daughter Rawlings Street Kangaroo Point
1536	14 January 1914	Widow	87 years	(1) Cause of Death. (2) Duration of last illness. (3) Medical Attendant by whom certified, and (4) When last seen Dead.	Anna J. Wagner Daughter Rawlings Street Kangaroo Point

Suzanna Margetts (Sue)

Resources;

QLD BDM and Brisbane grave location tool



### The family of Matthew Ridgway and Ann Ridgway née Tew.

Matthew Ridgway was born in Thornborough, Buckinghamshire, England on 25 July 1833. Matthew's parents were William Ridgway (1812-1844) and Ann (Hannah) Foote born 1812. William and Ann were married in Thornborough, Buckinghamshire on 1 May 1834. The Ridgway family had a long association with Thornborough, Buckinghamshire. Other surnames in the lineage were Foote and Linely. Matthew died in Drayton, Qld on 19 August 1912 aged 79 years and only 14 days after his wife Ann.

Ann Tew was born in 1835 in Twyford, Buckinghamshire England. Her parents were John Tew born in Poundon, Buckinghamshire from 1807-11 and Eliza (Elizabeth) Evans born around 1809 in Launton, Oxfordshire, England. Ann had at least four siblings - Jane, Charles, Eliza and Ziphia. Ann died in Drayton Qld on 5 August 2012 aged 77 years.

Matthew Ridgway married Ann Tew on 17 February 1855 in Thornborough, Buckinghamshire. They had 14 children that have been identified and perhaps more. Matthew (21) and Ann (21) arrived in Sydney on the ship *The Lloyd* on 1 August 1855. They were said to be Church of England with Matthew being a 'farm labourer'. Also on the ship were Matthew's mother, Hannah/Ann Ridgway (42) and siblings Thomas (19), William (17) and Mary Ann (15). The ships records state that William Ridgway, their husband and father, was deceased.

Matthew and Ann, along with friend Henry Gilbert White, came to Westbrook Station in the Toowoomba area where he was employed for three years. Matthew then went carrying goods by bullock dray. In 1860 he started farming in Drayton. He was a church warden at St Matthew's church for 16 years. (Drayton School history 1851-1975 H.A Frawley and R Lees. 1975) On 23 April 1906 the *Darling Downs Gazette* published that Matthew Ridgway was again elected as a Parochial councillor for St Matthew's Church of England Church, Drayton along with his brother Thomas.

Matthew's brothers Thomas and William also settled in the Drayton area. Thomas (1937- 1922) married Amy Lindsay on 10 February 1877 after Amy arrived from England into Morton Bay on the *Light Bridge*. Thomas and Amy had nine children and were also buried in the Toowoomba & Drayton Cemetery, dying in the same year, 1922. Brother William, born in 1839, died in Drayton on 13 July 1872 with no descendants.

The children of Matthew and Ann Ridgway:

**Mary Ann** was born on 26 June 1856 in Qld. She married Michael Flynn, who came from Kinnity, Kings County, Ireland on 5 February 1874 in Aubigny, Qld. Maryann died on 27 May 1919 aged 63 years in Millmerran and is buried Weston Creek Private cemetery. One of their children, Michael, died in France in WWI and is buried in the Armentiers Cemetery, France.

**Sarah Ann** was born on 24 July 1858. She married Daniel Wicks and they had six children. She died on 1 December 1934 in Drayton aged 76 years.

**George** was born on 13 May 1860 and died 25 June 1956 aged 94 years. He married Sarah Bell in 1891. He is buried in the Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery.

**Jane Ellen** was born on 25 December 1862 in Drayton. She married Edward Summerville on 4 August 1880. She died on 9 March 1919 at the age of 57. She is buried in the C of E section of the Ipswich General Cemetery.

**Eliza** died on 5 September 1864.

**William** was born on 31 October 1865. He married Elizabeth Ann Searle.

**Arthur Edward** was born on 2 March 1868. He married Alice Brown on 13 November 1889 and they had eight children. Arthur died in 11 February 1909, aged 37 years and was buried in the Old Anglican section of the Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery.

**Eliza Louisa** was born on 16 May 1870. She married James Searle on 20 July 1892. She died on 3 August 1941 aged 77 years.

**Zilpha Matilda** was born 12 February 1872. Zilpha married Charles James on 21 January 1895. Matilda Ridgway had 1 child, Arthur Charles, born 1895. She passed away on 1 November 1946, aged 74 years, in Brisbane.

**Grace Emily** was born on 1 November 1873. On 20 May 1914 at the age of 41 years, Grace married George William White, son of Henry Gilbert White and Mary Ann Underwood. Grace Emily White died on 15 December 1941 aged 68 years. She was buried on 17 December 1941 in Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery.

**Henrietta** was born on 23 July 1875. She married Ben Searle on 27 December 1905 and had child, Sydney Searle, in 1909. She died on 26 August 1953 in Toowoomba, aged 78.

**Frederick Charles** was born on 4 May 1880. On 29 September 1926 he married Martha Maree Clem. He died on 8 October 1966 aged 86 years. He is buried in the C of E section of the Ipswich General Cemetery.

**Ernest James** was born on 3 January 1882. He married Julie Elborne on 17 December 1905. He died on 19 September 1956 aged 74 years.

**Bertha Lavinia** was born on 8 December 1883. She married Thomas Williamson on 12 October 1921. She died on 29 May 1953 aged 70 years.

Information about the family gained from newspapers:

Matthew offered a £1 reward for the return of his horse which was lost from the Prince of Wales reef at the Talgai diggings, to himself at Drayton, or to William Ridgway at the Talgai gold diggings. (*Darling Downs Gazette* 2 Jan 1866)

Two years later, Matthew Ridgway and an associate were fined 20 pounds for an assault of an official. In their defence they argued that the official had written 'scurrilous articles about the dead for a newspaper'. The associate admitted that he had assaulted the person and Matthew had been enlisted to 'back him up'. (*Darling Downs Gazette* 14 Oct 1868)

Matthew donated 5 shillings to the Toowoomba Hospital fund. Residents of Drayton had donated a total of £29.1.6 to the fund, a grand total of \$60 in today's currency. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 20 Jan 1875)

Mathew Ridgway, freeholder, was a signatory to a petition, which asked that 'a portion of Gowrie, namely no.2 subdivision may, for the purpose of local government be constituted a Municipality and be called a shire as provided for in the ninth section of the local Government Act of 1878. The shire was to be named 'Shire of Drayton'. (*Darling Downs Gazette* 25 Apr 1887)

Council minutes recorded that work was approved on the Eton Vale Road from Mrs Farquharson's place to Mr Ridgway's place. (*Darling Downs Gazette* 7 Dec 1895)

Dianne Knight

### **Vale Doug Walker 1938-2024**



Doug joined our society in late 2023. However, some years ago we had made his acquaintance when, as representatives of History Queensland Inc., Marie and Marionne travelled to Texas Family History's AGM. Their president had said she was moving and therefore needed to resign. At the meeting, Doug offered to take on the position but unfortunately the president changed her mind and eventually the society closed. There may have been a different outcome if Doug had been able to lead the society.

His death on 26 December 2024 came not long after he launched his final publication *More Glenlyon Connections : 1900-1988 : an index of Glenlyon Connections* compiled with the assistance of his great-niece Georgina Walker. Four of our members attended the book launch at his Toowoomba home. The book is an index of names associated with *Glenlyon Station*, recorded from 18 volumes of wages books and journals covering the years 1900 to 1988. At this stage, the original books can be accessed at our society, but as soon as we have family permission, we hope they will be donated to the State Library of Queensland. Some of the books are in a fragile condition.

The original *Glenlyon Station* was 'first discovered, named and settled by Archibald Garden-Campbell before 8 March 1840'. Doug's forebear, Roderick McLeod (1828-1924), purchased the present property in August 1900 from H.E.A & V. White, of *Belltrees*, Scone, and in 1908 it was gifted to his daughter Enid, who had married William Wallace Walker, and following the death of William Wallace, his brother Francis Percival 'Percy' Walker who was to become Doug's grandfather.

Douglas John Walker was born on 23 December 1938 to Eugenie Evelyn 'Paddy' and Scott McLeod Walker in Stanthorpe. He grew up at *Glenlyon Station* with his siblings, Annie, Scotchie, Patsy and Vicki. He attended Toowoomba Preparatory School and completed his education at The King's School, Parramatta. His family wrote in the funeral order of service booklet Marie and I received when we attended his graveside service at the Stanthorpe cemetery that he had been 'a grazier, builder, real estate agent, and hospitality and tourism manager, Doug had a multi-faceted career'.

We also have a copy of two other books published by Doug: *Emden's Last Voyage: the battle of HMAS Sydney & SMS Emden* published in 2019 and *Lest We Forget: Douglas Walker Memorial Photo Album 1883-1918*, a pictorial record of the earlier Douglas Walker who was born at *Tenterfield Station*

*“History is the essence of innumerable biographies”*

Thomas Carlyle

Most of us who explore family history eventually stumble upon a cold case or a missing person. Anyone who hasn't is not necessarily lucky—perhaps just less inclined to curiosity. Some of us (myself included) actively seek out mysteries, and sometimes, they find us.

The story I'm about to share is a small but compelling mystery from my fiancé's family tree.

One suffocating afternoon near the end of summer break, he noticed something odd on his paternal great-grandparents' death certificates. When his great-grandfather, John, passed away, his certificate listed six living children. Yet, eight years later, when his great-grandmother, Amelia, died, her certificate recorded the same six children—plus one deceased son.

Who was he? And why wasn't he mentioned on John's certificate?

Naturally, we had to find out.

Genealogy research isn't always straightforward. The usual sources were temporarily unavailable due to website upgrades, and life's demands delayed solving the mystery. But during a discussion on research roadblocks at a Saturday discussion group, inspiration struck. A fresh search of Queensland's birth, death, and marriage records revealed a name—Leonard Albert. Born in July 1924, Leonard was the youngest of John and Amelia's seven children.

The records also revealed his death in January 1933. An online transcript confirmed his parents' names, but to understand what happened, I needed more details.

**Log in. Pay. Download.**

The cause of death: **“compound fracture of mandible, fracture of base of skull, cardiac failure (accidental).”** Instead of bringing closure, this raised more questions. How does an eight-year-old boy suffer such severe head trauma?

The next logical step was **Trove**. A search for Leonard's name led to a brief article in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*. The tragic answer: Leonard had been climbing a mango tree. As he descended, he slipped and fell—impaling himself on a picket fence. He died an hour later in the hospital.

The mystery of the missing child was solved, though in a far more tragic way than expected. The reason Leonard appeared on his mother's death certificate but not his father's is simple: the informant. His mother's death was reported by his older sister, while a hospital employee reported his father's. However, the question remains—why wasn't a family member the informant for John?

The answer may never be found—but what kind of genealogist would I be if I didn't try?

Brooke Sheldon

**GUEST SPEAKER - RAIL HISTORIAN GREG HALLAM**

Greg Hallam will be our guest speaker on **Saturday 15 March 2024 at 1.00pm**. His talk will be "Fjords, financing, Fox's and a Norwegian take on the beginning of the Queensland Southern and Western Railway".

July 31 2025, will mark 160 years since the opening of the first section of railway line in Queensland from Ipswich to Bigges Camp (Grandchester). Queensland Rail's Historian Greg Hallam, (who is based in Toowoomba) in honour of that anniversary Greg will take us through an interesting background story, as to how that most unique of Queensland institutions, the Queensland Railways, had an ancestry in far off Norway in the 1860s.

Greg Hallam is a third-generation member of the Queensland Railways (Queensland Rail), and has been working professionally in the community history and cultural heritage field for the Queensland Public Sector for thirty years. Greg has been with QR/Queensland Rail for twenty-five years, and for over twenty years, has been the Historian for the organisation. Greg is still delighted to advise that he still finds some new story every day that he is working with the 160-year history of the railways in Queensland.

Greg will also be happy to discuss how you can research any family members who have been involved with Queensland Railways.

If you can attend please let us know. There is no cost and we will stay open afterwards for anyone who wants to do research.

### SEARL'S POINSETTIA ART FLORISTS



From 1933 until 1949, my grandmother – Mrs Ada Mosses - owned Searl's Poinsettia Art Florists at No. 6, Brisbane Arcade, 154 Queen Street, Brisbane. Ada was a very talented floral artist as they were known then and had been involved in learning her trade in Brisbane and Melbourne from the age of 16.

There are many brides from the 1930s and especially the War Years of the 1940s whose wedding photos portray the talents of my grandmother – Ada Mosses.

From 1933 when she commenced business in the Brisbane Arcade, Ada's artistic talents with flowers were clearly on show in so many special occasion portraits.

Newspaper reports from that time as well as the wedding photos I have of that era, clearly portray the happy events for which Searl's provided the bouquets and decorations.

Searl's business in the Brisbane Arcade at Shop No 5 originally began in 1924 as a branch of Searl's Florists of Sydney. I believe the original Brisbane Searl's was forced to close in 1932.

In late 1932, Ada was encouraged to start her own floristry business in Brisbane Arcade by a good friend from Peterson Bros. & Craig, Florists of George Street, Brisbane. Carey Petersen assisted Ada to start up the business, generously helping her in a number of ways. Ada had to borrow the first week's rent from her own mother, as her husband Will. was ill and out-of-work in that Depression era.



Not long after commencing the business, Ada's husband with whom she owned the business, fell from a frangipani tree while collecting flowers for wedding bouquets. He broke his back in that fall on 15 Feb. 1935 and subsequently died in early April 1935.

Ada battled on. Searl's was the mainstay of her family for many years.

It was the training ground for my mother Dell, and her sister Gwen, to become floral artists also. Both daughters were an integral part of Searl's Florists.

During World War 2, Searl's did a roaring trade, especially with the large community of American servicemen and women stationed in or passing through Brisbane. Searl's made many large floral decorations

for events held on American warships in Brisbane port. Floral arrangements were made also for ceremonies connected with the burials of deceased American service personnel.

Searl's employed a staff of 12 including Ada and her two daughters, a delivery driver, 2 message boys and 6 female staff assistants.

Brisbane Arcade has always been the conduit between Queen and Adelaide streets in Brisbane. For people passing through the Arcade, Searl's featured live models dressed as brides with their bouquets, head-dresses and gowns as part of the window displays - to advertise the floral arrangements that Searl's could supply. These were a popular sight for those walking past the shop.

By early 1949, Ada Mosses was approaching her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. With both daughters married and having small children, it seemed a good time to sell the business. I do know that my mother, Dell, took me as a baby while helping her mother in the shop.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1949, Searl's Poinsettia Art florists was sold to Clayphans, who also owned a florist business in Adelaide Street, Brisbane. Today the site of the old Searl's is occupied by The Tea Centre.

The winning story was written by Marilyn Hamilton for the 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Brisbane Arcade.



**FINAL SCHOOL RECORDS**

Ringing Plains Prov	Russellvale S S	Springbrook S S
Ripple Creek S S	Rywung S S	Springside S S
Riverleigh S S	Sabine S S	Springsure State High School
Riverside S S	Sandhills (later Bagara) S S	Springsure S S
Riverston	Sandy Creek (later Evlinton) S S	Springvale S S
Riverston (prev Dan Dan) S S	Sandy Gully S S	Springwood High School
Riverview S S	Sapphire S S	Springwood Road S S
Rosedale South S S	Sarina State High School	Squaretop S S
Rosedale State High School	Sawmill Pocket S S	St Bernard S S
Rosedale S S	Scarborough S S	St George State High School
Rockfield S S	Scottdale Prov. School (changed to	St George S S
Rockhampton Central Boys School	Scottville)	St Helens S S (Maryborough)
Rockhampton Central Girls & Infants S S	Scrubby Creek S S	St Lawrence S S
Rockhampton Central Girls S S	Seaforth S S	St. Mary's Provisional School
Rockhampton Central Infants School	Selene S S	Stafford Heights S S
Rockhampton North 'Boys	Sellheim S S	Stakeyard S S
Rockhampton North S S	Serviceton South S S	Stanley River S S (nr Esk)
Rockhampton North S S	Seven Hills S S	Stanmore S S (Woodford)
Rockhampton Special School	Seven Mile Creek (later Ebenezer)	Stannary Hills S S
Rockhampton The Hall Girls & Infants SS	Seventeen Mile Creek Prov. School	Stannum S S
Rocklea S S	Seventeen Mile Rocks S S	Stanthorpe Rural & S S
Rockmount S S	Severnlea (prev Beverley) S S	Stanthorpe State Education Unit
Rocksberg S S	Severnlea S S	Stapylton S S
Rockside Prov. S S	Sharon (prev Tantitha) S S	Stirling Prov. School
Rockville S S	Sharon S S	Stockleigh S S
Rocky Creek S S	Sheep Station Creek S S	Stone S S
Rocky Hill S S	Sherwood S S	Stonelands S S
Rocky Point S S	Shirbourne S S	Strathdickie S S
Rollingstone S S	Shorncliffe S S	Strathpine S S
Roma Junior S S	Silent Grove Upper S S	Stratvell S S
Roma Middle S S	Silkstone (later Newtown Ipswich) S S	Stuart Valley S S
Roma State High School	Silky Oak Creek S S	Styx Coal Mine S S
Roma State Mixed School	Silverdale S S	Styx River S S
Roma S S	Silverleaf S S	Sugarloaf S S
Ropeley East S S	Silverspur S S	Sunbury S S
Ropeley S S	Silverton Prov S S (later Somerset	Sundown S S
Rosalie Plains (later Brymaroo) S S	Dam)	Sunnybank State High School
Rosalie Plains (prev Ashlea) S S	Sim Jue Creek S S	Sunnybank S S
Rosalie Plains S S	Sixteen Mile Creek S S	Sunnynook S S
Rose Farm Prov. School	Skyring's Creek (later Coles Creek) S S	Sunnyside S S
Rosehill S S	Sladevale S S	Sunnyvale S S
Rosevale S S	Sladevale S S (prev. Campbell's Plain)	Surat S S
Roseville S S	Sliepner Junction Prov. School	Surfers Paradise S S
Rosewood S S	Smithfield State High School	Swan Creek (later Yangan)
Ross Creek S S	Smithfield S S	Swan Creek S S
Ross Island S S	Somerset Dam S S (prev. Silverton	Swan Creek S S (rewritten)
Ross River (later Weir) S S	Prov)	Swanfels S S
Ross River High School (later	Somerset Hills S S	Swayneville S S
Townsville)	Somme S S	Sybil Creek S S
Rossendale S S	South Johnstone S S	Taabinga Village S S
Rossmoya S S	Southbrook Central S S	Table top S S
Ross's Corner (later Clinton Vale) S S	Southbrook S S	Tabragalba S S
Rossvale S S	Southport State High school	Takilberin Rock Prov. School
Round Mountain Provisional School	Southport S S	Talgai West S S
Rubyvale S S	Speculation Provisional	Tallegalla S S
Rubyvale S S	Speedwell S S	Talwood S S
Runcorn State High	Splinter Creek Bridge S S	Tamaree S S
Runcorn S S	Spring Creek S S	Tamborine S S
Runnymede S S	Spring Creek Upper S S	Tamrookum Lower (later Josephville)
Russell Island S S	Spring Flat S S	Tamrookum S S
	Spring Park S S	Tandaringie S S
	Spring Valley S S	Tandur S S



Tanduringie S S	Tingoora S S	Upper Koondai-Creek SS
Tangkam S S	Tipton S S	Upper Trebonne S S (nr Ingham)
Tannymorel (prev Farm Creek) S S	Tirroan S S	Upper Woolgar Half time prov School
Tansey S S	Tivoli Lower S S	Urandangie S S
Tantitha S S	Tivoli S S	Urangan Point S S
Tara S S	Tomewin S S	Urangan Rd (later Bingham Road) S S
Tara S S	Toobanna S S	
Tara State Secondary School	Toobeah S S	Valdora S S
Tarampa S S	Toogoolawah S S	Vale View S S
Targinnie S S	Toogoom S S	Valentine Plains (prev Playfair) S S
Taringa S S	Toolooa (formerly Skyrings Siding) S S	Ventnor (formerly Yarrol Road) S S
Tarome S S	Tooth S S	Verbena Downs S S
Taromeo Soldiers Settlement School	Toowomg (later Indooroopilly Pocket)	Veresdale Scrub S S
Taromeo S S	Toowong State High	Verrierdale S S
Taroom S S	Toowong S S	Victoria Hill S S
Tarzali S S	Toowoomba East S S	Victoria Park Infants S S
Tate Tin Mines S S	Toowoomba North Boys S S	Victoria Plantation S S
Te Kowai S S	Toowoomba North Girls & Infants	Victoria Point S S
Teelba Creek / Teelba	School	Victory (prev Mulga) S S
Tellebang S S	Toowoomba South Boys School	View Glen S S
Templin S S	Toowoomba South Girls & Infants	Viewfield S S
Ten Mile Rock (later Dalcouth) S S	School	Viewland S S
Tennyson S S	Toowoomba Technical College	Villeneuve S S
Tent Hill Lower S S	Top Camp S S	Vine Creek S S
Teutoburg S S	Topaz S S	Virginia S S
Teviot Provisional School	Torbanlea S S	
Tewantin S S	Torquay S S	Wacol East S S (Spec Sch for New
Texas Prov/Primary S S	Torsdale Station Provisional School	Aust.)
Texas Secondary School	Townsville Girls	Wagoora S S
Texas Secondary School	Townsville Girls & Infants S S	Wahpunga S S
Thabeban S S	Townsville Hospital pre school	Walker's Creek S S
Thallon S S	Townsville Special School	Walkerston State Schol
Thane S S	Townsville State High School	Walkervale S S
Thane's Creek S S	Townsville S S	Walla Lagoon S S
Thargomindah S S	Townsville Thuringowa Centre for	Wallingford S S
The Beeches S S	continuing ed	Walloon S S
The Caves S S (prev Mount Etna)	Traveston (formerly Skyrings Ck, later	Walluma S S
The Falls (prev Ferndale) S S	Coles Creek	Wallumbilla High School
The Gap State Primary School	Traveston S S	Wallumbilla State Pre-School
The Leap S S	Trekela S S	Wallumbilla S S
The Monument S S	Trekelando Provisional School	Walterhall S S
The Norbell S S	Trinity Bay High & Intermediate	Wambo Creek S S
Theodore State (prev Castle Creek)	Trinity Bay State High	Wamuran S S
Theodore State (secondary)	Tully Falls S S	Wandoan Secondary Dept
Theresa S S	Tully State Rural School	Wandoan S S (prev Juandah)
Thompson's Flat (later Gunalda)	Tummaville S S	Wandoan S S Punishment Register
Thompson's Point S S	Tumoulin S S	Wandoan S S Secondary Dept
Thorndale S S	Turallin S S	Punishment Register
Thornlands S S	Turners Creek Provisional School	Warooby S S
Thornton S S	Turnorville Provisional School	Warra S S
Thornville S S (Cooyar line)	Tylerville S S	Warrie S S
Three Moon S S		Warrill Creek (later Amberley) Prim.
Thulimbah (later Mount Barney) S S	Ubobo S S	School
Thulimbah S S	Ulam South S S	Warwick - Glennie Heights S S
Thuringowa State High School	Ulam Upper S S	Warwick Central Boys School
Tiaro Mixed Prov. / S S	Ulimaroa Provisional School	Warwick Central Girls & Infants
Tieri S S	Umbiram (prev Flemington) S S	School
Timbeerwah S S	Undulla Creek (later Bennett Prov)`	Warwick East Pre School
Tin Can Bay S S	Provisional School	Warwick East Special Educ
Tinana S S	Unity Provisional (later Ehlma) School	Warwick East S S
Tinaroo Falls S S	Uping (later McIlwraith) S S	Warwick Intermediate S S
Tinbeerwah S S	Upper Don S S	Warwick State High School
Tingalpa S S	Upper Forest Springs S S	Warwick West Boys School
		Warwick West S S

Washpool (later Burra Burra) S S	Windorah Provisional School	Wura S S
Watalgan S S	Windsor Infants (later S S)	Wutul S S
Watch Box S S	Winfield S S	Wyandra S S
Waterford S S	Winton S S	Wyaralong Prov. School
Waterford West S S	Winton S S (Secondary Dept)	Wyaralong S S
Water's Vale Prov. School	Winya S S	Wyberba S S
Waterview S S (later Yurunga)	Withcott S S	Wycarbah S S (prev. Rosewood)
Watson's Crossing S S	Witheren S S	Wychie S S
Wattle Grove S S	Witta S S (prev Teutoburg, prev	Wynnum Central S S
Wattle Park Prov. School	Maleny)	Wynnum North S S
Wattlebank (prev Barmoya Central S S	Wivenhoe S S	Wynnum West S S
Wattleglen Prov. School	Wolffdene S S	Wynola S S
Wavel State High School	Wolfram S S	Wyreema S S
Weengallan S S	Wolvi S S	
Weengallon S S	Womalilla Creek Prov. School & Prov	Yaamba S S
Weir (prev Ross River) S S	School No 2	Yabba Vale S S
Welcome Creek S S	Womallila S S	Yalebone Prov. School
Wellcamp S S	Wondecla S S (prev Nigger Creek)	Yamala S S
Wellington Point S S	Wonford Half Time Prov. School	Yamsion S S
Wengenville S S	Wonga Lower S S	Yandaran Creek S S
West Crediton S S	Wonga Upper S S	Yandilla (later Millmerran) S S
West End Boys S S	Wonglepong (prev Canungera Lower)	Yandilla S S
West End Girls S S	S S	Yandina Creek S S
West End Infants School	Wonglepong S S	Yandina Creek S S (prev Valdora &
West End S S	Woocoo S S	Golden Vly)
West Haldon S S	Woodbine (now Berrembea) S S	Yangan S S
West Hill S S	Woodbine S S	Yangan S S
West Prairie Prov. School	Wooderson S S	Yaparaba S S
Westbrook S S	Woodford High School	Yarrabah S S
Westbury S S	Woodford S S	Yarraman Creek (later Yarraman) S S
Westmar S S	Woodgate S S	Yarraman Secondary Dept
Westwood S S	Woodlighton & Cattle Gully	Yarraman Upper S S
Wetalla S S	Woodmillar S S	Yarranlea S S
Wetheron S S	Woodridge North S S	Yarrowonga Provisional School
Wheatlands S S	Woodridge State High School	Yednia Provisional School
Wheatvale S S	Woodridge S S	Yee-Ann S S (prev Jondowaei Creek)
Whetstone S S (later Inglewood West	Woodview S S	Yelarbon S S
1910)	Woolein S S	Yenda Provisional School
Whichello S S	Woolgar Lower & Upper Prov	Yengarie S S
Whites Hill S S (Camp Hill)	Woolleys Road (later Ellinjaa road) S S	Yeppoon Infants S S
Whitewood S S	Woolleys Road S S	Yeppoon S S
Widgee Upper Prov. School	Woolooman Prov. School	Yeronga High School
Wildash S S (prev. Lord John Swamp)	Wooloowin S S	Yeronga Infants S S
Wilga View S S	Woombye S S	Yeronga S S
Willowbank (prev Lamington) S S	Woongarra S S	Yerra S S
Willowvale S S (prev. Grayson)	Woongoolba / Pimpama Island S S	Yeulba S S
Wills River S S	Woopen S S	Yingerbay S S
Wilmott (later East End) S S	Woorabinda S S	Yugumbir S S
Wilson Hosp School	Wooroolin S S	Yungaburra S S
Wilson Hospital School	Wooroolin West S S	Yungaburra S S (prev allumbah)
Wilson Ophthalmic Hostel School	Wootha S S (prev. Blackall Range)	Yungaburra/Allumbah S S
Wilson Optholmic Hostel School	Woowoonga East S S	Yurunga S S (prev Waterview)
Wilson Valley S S	Woree State High School	
Wilson's Peak S S	Woree S S	Zahley S S
Wilson's Pocket S S	Woroonden S S	Zillmere (prev Zillman's Waterhole) S
Wilsonton S S	Wright's Creek S S	S
Windemere S S	Wulguru S S	Zillmere North S S
Windera Creek (later Windera) S S		Zillmere S S