

GhostBuster



CAMPBELLTOWN DISTRICT FAMILY

HISTORY SOCIETY Inc

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
Single \$20.00
Couple \$30.00
Name Badges \$8.00 each

Website Address: www.cdfhs.org.au

Webmaster: Dennis Allsopp webmaster@cdfhs.org.au

RESEARCH FEE

Written inquiries \$30.00. Stamped self addressed envelope to be included with inquiries.

RESEARCH CENTRE

Campbelltown City Library, Hurley Street, Campbelltown.

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THE SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT JANUARY) AT 1.30pm, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF CAMPBELLTOWN CITY LIBRARY (Unless otherwise advised). ALL WELCOME.

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Ghostbusters is published three times a year, (March, July & November).

Articles for inclusion are to be handed in no later than 27th January, May and September or at the February, June & October Meetings.

We are happy to exchange Journals with other Societies. If your Society would like to be included on our exchange list, please contact us.

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Editorial

Hi to all,

Welcome to another edition of the Ghostbuster magazine and a new year.

Our main topic in this magazine relates to "My Missing Ancestor." See pages 8 - 13.

We would like to see more people volunteer, not just in our Society, but in other Societies. I point you to the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, and their links on pages 15 – 16. Thank you to all of our volunteers who put in a lot of effort last year.

We hope to hold more courses in 2025, dependent on when the library moves to its new location.

Copies of this magazine and our newsletter are also loaded onto our website.

If anyone wants this magazine in soft copy only, please contact us.



David Beddie and Helen Kirwin

Ghostbuster Magazine

March 2025 Issue

Topic: "An Unexpected Discovery".

Maximum 600 words. Plus, a picture if you have one.

Submission Date by: Saturday 7th June 2025.

Extra item for the magazine: "Unidentified Photographs".

Contact Details

Do we have your up-to-date contact details?

If you have changed your address, phone or email address please advise us at:

maged@cdfhs.org.au

From the President's Pen. . . .

President's Report March 2025.

Happy New Year all Members,

Welcome to 2025. Here we are now in March, this year seems to be passing so quickly. I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and a fantastic New Year.



In December we had our meeting at the Mt. Annan Botanic Garden followed by our Christmas Party. Those that came had an enjoyable day out.

Also, in December the Council invited our volunteers to a “Gift of Time Ceremony” and presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge and thank them for their selfless contribution to the community.

A big thank you to all the volunteers in our society who give endless hours each year to help the library provide a professional service in our Family History Room.

At the writing of this report, we have held our February meeting where Jeff McGill gave a very interesting and informative presentation on his “Irish” family research.

This year we need to fill some committee positions these being:

Social Secretary:

Publicity Officer:

We really need these positions filled. Please email me at rdpalmer9@hotmail.com,

or call me on 0402307136 if you are interested.

Thank you.

We have decided not to hold any courses this year due to the uncertainty of when the library will be moving.

We have received some suggestions for outings which I need to follow up and present to the society for all to consider. If you think of an outing that is different and would be very interesting to do, could you contact me on my email rdpalmer9@hotmail.com or phone me on 0402307136.

As President I'm looking forward to 2025 being a very successful year for all of us.

Best Regards,
Robert PALMER
CDFHS President.

Courses and Workshops

We may have several courses in 2025. Dependent upon when the library moves.

The courses will be \$15, payable on the day.

The courses may be several of:

- * Beginners.
- * DNA update.
- * British research.
- * Immigration.

Please advise if you are interested in any other topics.

Times will be: Arrive by 10.45am, Finish by 3.30pm.

Details are to be advised.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

Email: social@cdfhs.org.au

Phone: to be advised

Volunteering

Do you want to volunteer in the Family History Room?

We learn a lot more about family history research by volunteering here.

Contact Robert Palmer: president@cdfhs.org.au

Campbelltown District FHS Inc - Calendar

Meetings are held at Campbelltown Library, Meeting Room 1, at 1.30 pm, unless otherwise advised.

Sat 1st March 2025

Member's Meeting.

Location: Campbelltown Library. 1.30pm

Speaker: Sharon Greene.

Topic: Discussion on Australian Cemeteries Index.

Sat 5th April 2025

Member's Meeting.

Location: Campbelltown Library. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 3rd May 2025

Member's Meeting.

Location: To be advised. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 7th June 2025

Member's Meeting.

Location: To be advised. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 5th July 2025

Member's Meeting.

Location: To be advised. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Any questions on these should be directed to the Social Secretary
social@cdfhs.org.au

MISSING!

MY GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER

Ann McKay was born at Farr, Sutherlandshire Scotland in 1771 to John and Ann McKay. She married William Munro at Farr (Tulish in Kirkcaldy). They were the parents of five daughters and two sons. William was a shepherd and moved about quite a bit. When the Clearances came to Scotland they sailed for Australia as Bounty Immigrants on the ship James Morand arriving in Sydney in 1839. William was sent to work for Mr Glanville of St Vincent NSW (Shoalhaven). When William's work obligations were finished, the family lived at Cabbage Tree Flat about 1842. In 1853 they moved to a farm on Tapitallee Creek at Good Dog Mountain (now West Cambewarra). The farm was sold about 1857, and they moved to Bolong on the Berry Estate by the Shoalhaven River east of Bomaderry. The Munros were on this farm in 1860 at the time of the great flood. Their son Donald was postmaster at Bolong.

Donald's wife Jessie died in December 1862. From a letter Donald wrote to his brother Angus in January 1863, telling of this, we know that William was living with Donald, and that Jessie had been caring for him. However, no mention is made of Ann. This and other small facts, leads me to the belief that Ann died before Jessie probably earlier in 1862. A search of the NSW Registry Office files reveals no listing for her death, and she does not get a mention in the local newspapers. Also, I cannot find any reference to her death in the Shoalhaven Historical records. I also checked the Numbaa Cemetery records as this was where Jessie was buried. This cemetery suffered much damage from floods over the years.

When he was 86, William and his son Donald settled about 1869 at Tucharimba in the Richmond area of NSW.

Marie Holmes.

My missing ancestor...

by Sharon Greene

My missing ancestor is more of a mystery man, although he certainly has been missing from the written chronicles of my family history on more than one occasion.

My mystery man was or is George Arthur Francis COFFEY and he certainly has

been a very illusive ancestor. I have written about him more than once but the ‘case-file’ is still open on him!

Let me use a timeline of events to capture his movements, timelines are great because they give you clarity and perspective, but not always answers.

George Arthur F [Francis] COFFEY was born in Darlinghurst, Sydney in April 1844 to parents John Christopher COFFEY and Margaret, nee LEGASS. He was their fourth child. John Coffey was an ex-soldier, ex-mounted policeman and possibly not a nice father. Margaret Coffey was an Irish famine girl, who arrived on the Red Rover and was a needlewoman.

For whatever reason George as a 14-year-old lad ran away from home, along with three other young lads. Their collective fathers posted an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald in April 1858 stating that anyone harbouring them, would face the full-force of the law.

In early June 1858, another advertisement appears and this time appealing for any information about George Arthur F Coffey, from his afflicted mother, who is in very bad health, since he left. She is also offering a £2 reward and a promise: his mother promises him forgive ness and kind treatment. The advert was placed by his father, the pleading, obviously from his mother.

Where George and his friends went is open to conjecture and the potential for the makings of a great novel, about ‘the hard and harsh times’ of life in early colonial New South Wales.

Disappear he certainly did. Possibly around this time and to assist his disappearance, he dropped his surname of Coffey, and used his third Christian name as his surname, possibly for the remainder of his life, to be known George Arthur FRANCIS.

With the discovery of GOLD at Ophir, near Bathurst, in 1852 would have made it easy for a young man to blend into the massive influx of foreigners heading towards the gold-fields. By early 1882, 37-year-old George Arthur FRANCIS, miner, signs the marriage register when he marries 23-year-old Jane PEISLEY in the St Stephen’s, Church of England Manse, 4th January 1882.

What happened to him or where was he for those intervening 24 years remains another mystery ... did he marry? Is there another family out there that I’m waiting to discover? Not impossible.

Their first child, Arthur Henry FRANCIS was born the following year in February 1883, at Mount McDonald, near Woodstock / Cowra in the Central West and registered at Carcoar. George's occupation is listed as a 'gold miner'.

Their second child, Florence Emily FRANCIS was born in July 1884 on the Abercrombie River [this was the birthplace of her mother Jane] and her birth was also registered at Carcoar.

Their third child, Clement Hiram FRANCIS was born in October 1887, at Mount McDonald and registered at Carcoar. Mt McDonald was a thriving mining community however nowadays there is a roadside signpost, with farms and only a handful of houses visible from the said signpost and that's it. But there is also a gold mine.

Perhaps, married life with a young family, was too much for George because he appears to disappear a few months after Clement's birth. With no government supports to assist and a young family to care for, Jane develops a common-law-marriage with another miner and the family begins to roam the gold-fields.

Her new man was Robert HAYHOE [appearing around 1894] and he too, was in search of gold. Their first child was born in December 1895, Edwin Gordon FRANCIS and registered at Peak Hill however due to the strict registration laws of the times, their children were recorded under Jane's married name, with the husband's name left blank: Their second child, was Ivy Lorrie FRANCIS, born in August 1897 also registered at Peak Hill. Sadly, Ivy died the following March, when she was only 7 months old. Their third child was perhaps blessed by the Saints to guarantee his wellbeing. Harold Robert John James Joseph FRANCIS, came into the world as the year of Federation spread across Australia, born in June 1901. His birth was also registered at Peak Hill, without a father's name. During these years they were residing at McPhail and Tomingley, two other gold mining villages near Peak Hill. [There are still gold mines operational in these areas and should you ever visit, the smell of sulphur in the air, is overwhelming.]

Life it appears, was never to be an easy thing for Jane, from her birth in the wilds of the Abercrombie Rivet and until her death and final resting place at Peak Hill cemetery. And you might ask how I know about the Hayhoe connection. This is where it pays you listen to those 'family stories' from your elders and if you're sensible, you will write them down [if only].

The wonderful TROVE database was there to confirm and expand on the stories I'd heard: when Jane Francis sued Robert Hayhoe in the Peak Hill Police Court for maintenance, for their two surviving children, of whom he was the father. This was October 1901 and only months after the birth of baby Harold. In her statement Jane says her husband [George Arthur FRANCIS] had left her for 14 years and she had been living with the defendant [Robert Hayhoe] for some 7 years.

On her own again in 1901, with Arthur 18, Florence 16, Clement 14, Edwin 6 and baby Harold she managed to build a life and home for her family. Some years later sadness was to strike when Jane died suddenly in April 1907, aged only 48 years.

UNRESERVED

Auction Sale.

Saturday, May 4,
Commencing at 2 o'clock sharp.

BAKER & SPENCE

HAVE received instructions from the
Executor in the Will of the late Mrs.
Jane Francis to sell on above date

AT McPHAIL,
23 HEAD MIXED CATTLE, viz.
8 First-class Milking Cows, 15 Head of
Mixed Young Cattle, all in good condition

- 1 Light Draught Horse
- 1 Sulky and Set of Sulky Harness
- 54 Sheets of Roofing Iron, 6 and 8 feet
lengths, nearly new, no holes punched
- 1 200-gallon Iron Tank
- 1 150-gallon Galvanised Iron Tank
- 1 Double Bedstead and Wire Mattress
- 1 Single Bedstead
- 1 Table
- 1 Sewing Machine
- 1 Safe
- 500 Fencing and Netting Wire, Kitchen
Utensils and Sundries, also
- 1 4-roomed House (iron roof).

BAKER & SPENCE,
Auctioneers.

Trove again lists the substantial collection of goods and chattels that Jane had acquired and these are listed for auction, some weeks later after her death.?

According to the Trove newspaper notice, the executor of Jane's will authorise the sale, I often wondered who that was and what happened to the money?

The three eldest are able to make their way in the world and perhaps with times changing again, they made their way to Sydney, taking 12-year-old Edwin with them. Robert Hayhoe claimed his youngest son, 6-year-old Harold Robert JJJ and headed north and would finally reside in Brisbane, Queensland: they became known as Old Bob and Young Bob.

So, what became of George Arthur FRANCIS? He made another listing in Trove [or did he] in November 1927, as a bankrupt person in the Government

My lost ancestor

WILLIAM ELIAS BURTON – born 1843 Preston Lancashire to Elias & Alice (nee Atherton) Baptised 12 November 1843 St. John's Pteston Lancashire England

On the 1871 (RG10/914 folio 40) census William is listed as a convict in Gillingham Kent. He is 28 and his normal occupation is engine driver.

I found William Elias as a 'resident' of Wormwood Scrubs Prison in London, on the 1881 census. He was unmarried and his normal occupation was Engine Driver.

The A2A site shows an entry in 1868 for a Bill of costs for the prosecution of William Elias Burton and two others for larceny and receiving at Salford Easter Quarter Sessions.

The Salford Weekly News dated 18 April 1868 has a report of the trial of William and two others for stealing 208 yards of printed cloth. He was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

The Preston Guardian dated Saturday July 25th 1868 has a list of prisoners before the court at the Manchester Summer Assizes including William.

The Pall Mall Gazette dated Wednesday November 7th 1877 has a mention of William "Among the cases tried The Manchester Times dated Saturday November 10th 1877 has three articles that mention William, one on Tuesday reported as Burglary at Droylesden, another on Wednesday as The Charge against Railway Official and the last on Thursday again as The Charge against Railway Official. William was complaining to the court that every time he got a job someone would tell his employer which led to him being dismissed. At the end of this is the judge's summing up and charging William was with being a habitual criminal who has already served several sentences including the last one of 7 years imprisonment and sentenced him to a further ten years.

In 1888 William married a widow Olive Nicholson nee Hulme. There is no trace of either of them in 1891 nor of any of Olive's children from her first marriage. In 1901 Olive is living with a married son John, and is shown as married but with the surname Nicholson. No trace of William Elias. Olive's death certificate describes her as 'the widow of William E Burton'. I can find no death for William Elias Burton.

Carole Cockshott (nee Burton)

Resources in the Campbelltown Library

Genealogy – How to.

(Family History Room – Not for Loan).

- * The Australian guide to online genealogy. Manktelow, Nicole. 2002.
- * A beginner's guide to online genealogy : learn how to trace your family history and discover your roots. Dunn, Michael, 1971-. 2015.
- * The family history book : how to trace your ancestors in Australia. Gilmartin, Cassie. 2024.
- * A genealogist's guide to discovering your Germanic ancestors : how to find and record your unique heritage. Anderson, Chris, 1948-. 2000.
- * Guide to genealogy. Resler, Tamara J.. 2018.
- * Handbook on Irish genealogy : how to trace your ancestors and relatives in Ireland. 1984.
- * How to find shipping and immigration records in Australia. Num, Cora. 2002.
- * How to trace your convict ancestors : their lives, times & records. Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1987.
- * How to trace your English ancestors: (including Wales, Channel Islands, & Isle of Man). Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1987.
- * How to trace your family tree : (and not get stuck on a branch). Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1992.
- * How to trace your family tree : discover and record your personal roots and British heritage : everything from accessing archives and public record offices to using the internet. Chater, Kathy. 2013.
- * How to trace your German ancestors : a guide for Australians and New Zealanders. Mutzelburg, Owen. 1989.
- * How to trace your Irish ancestors : an A-Z approach. Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1987.

- * How to trace your Italian ancestors : a guide for Australians and New Zealanders. Leone, Bette, 1948-. 1994.
- * How to trace your military ancestors : a guide for Australia and New Zealand. Montague, R. H. (Ronald H.). 1989.
- * How to trace your missing ancestors : whether living, dead, or adopted. Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1994.
- * How to trace your Scottish ancestors : an A-Z approach. Reakes, Janet, 1952-2003. 1988.
- * How to use the British immigration to Victoria resource kit. Stage 1, Assisted immigrants from U.K., 1839-1871. 1988.
- * How to use the genealogical research kit. Archives Authority of New South Wales. 1988.
- * How to write and publish your family story in 10 easy steps. Kyle, Noeline, 1940-. 2011.
- * Italian genealogical records : how to use Italian civil, ecclesiastical, and other records in family history research. Cole, Trafford R. (Trafford Robertson), 1951-. 1995.
- * Reaching through time : finding my family's stories. Bostock, Shauna. 2015.

CAHS Inc – Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc are displayed on the home page of the CAHS Society.

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

CDFHS Inc - Facebook

Our facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/cdfhs>

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

Dates and times mentioned below, should be applicable in 2024.

Meetings are held on 4th Saturday of each month, except for December and January, starting at 1.30 p.m.

The Museum is open to visitors on 1st Sunday, and 3rd Sunday of each month, February to Mid December, 10.00 am -1.00 pm; other times by appointment.

Note these changed dates and times.

For bookings and further information please contact CAHS on 02-46251822 or email to: secretary@cahs.org.au

You can also visit the CAHS website at: <https://www.cahs.org.au/>



Website Shop – CAHS

Please visit the updated Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society website shop.

<https://www.cahs.org.au/the-society-shop/>

They include 145 titles, including Grist Mills, IGT Publications and General books.

If you have any issues purchasing items from the CAHS webshop, you may use the Society shop to view and choose publications. Then simply note the name of the publication and email CAHS Inc at: secretary@cahs.org.au or vicepresident@cahs.org.au

CAHS will reply quickly, advising costs, delivery, and payment options.

Please note that CAHS Inc now has a new website:

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

Research Interests

https://cdfhs.org.au/?page_id=294

Research report

The research officers are continuing to assist in answering questions on enquiries that are sent to them. Please send an email to our Research Team at: research@cdfhs.org.au if you have any questions.

Researching in the Family History Room

Research is available in the Family History Room, in the library. We will advise further details as they come to hand.

However, there may be limits. To attend you should book with the library on 02 4645 4558.

For any additional questions please contact our volunteer co-ordinator on: volunteer@cdfhs.org.au

FamilySearch Affiliation

Campbelltown City Library has arranged FamilySearch affiliation.

You can access FamilySearch, including extra items not available from your normal access.

Users MUST register with Family Search to use their search facility - this has always been the case, whether from home or the library.

But the Affiliate Library extras will ONLY be available on the Library's PC's.

Social Secretary's Report

There is no Social Secretary's report at this time.

Denise Baxler

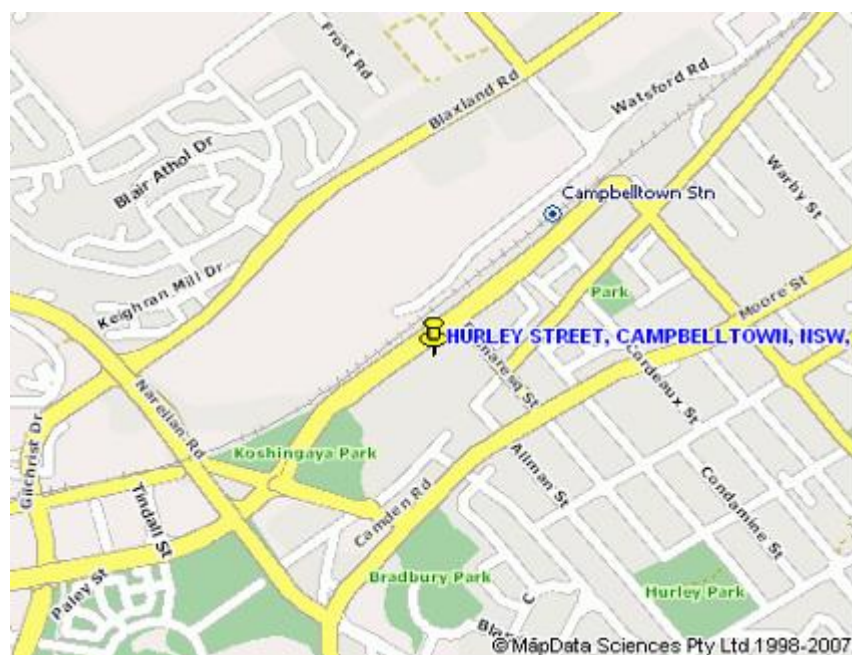
Social Secretary

social@cdfhs.org.au



The New Family History Room at Campbelltown Library.





The Following Items Are For Sale From Campbelltown District Family History Society

* Campbelltown Pioneer Register 1800-1900 CD 2nd edition	\$30
* Campbelltown Federation Register - Book	\$15 (special)
* Campbelltown Cemetery Pictorial CD – only special request	\$10
* To purchase Pioneer Register plus Cemetery Pictorial together costs	\$40.
* Triple CD - Pioneer, Federation & Cemetery Registers [1 CD]	\$105.00
* Ghost Busters (Our Journal, Free To Members) Non Members	\$2.00
* Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park.	\$15.00 + \$6.95 p&h
* 5 Generation Chart	\$2.00
* 7 Generation Chart	\$4.50
* 9 Generation Chart	\$4.00

Check on-line shop for other products eg. books, combo CD
<https://www.cdfhs.org.au/shop/>

Useful Addresses

Campbelltown City Library Hurley St (Cnr of Camden Rd)
 Campbelltown NSW 2560
 Phone: 0246 45 4444

Campbelltown LDS Research Centre - Corner The Kraal Drive
 & Johnson Road Blair Athol NSW 2560

Transcription Agents in NSW

Joy Murrin - PO Box 278 Oatley NSW 2223
 (NSW, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales)
<http://www.joymurrin.com.au/>

Marilyn Rowan - PO Box 52 CAMDEN 2570, NSW
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<http://nswtranscriptions.com.au/>

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