

Missing Link



The Railway comes to Queensland



That Great Aussie Spirit



Workhouses



A Ukraine Experience

And much more ...

56

May. 2025

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The Heritage Centre, 17 Emerald Street, Cooroy.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30 am -1.00 pm

Other times by appointment.

Research fees: Members \$2 per session Non-Members \$10 per session

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Editorial

Welcome to Missing Link Issue 56, the journal of Cooroy Noosa Genealogical and Historical Research Group Inc.

We thank Louise Ball and Liz Diggles for their past contributions, and dedication in editing and producing many editions of the Missing Link.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest journal and we look forward to receiving your contributions for the next Missing Link in Nov 2025.

Helga, Joan and Jackie

Front page illustrations:

1. North Coast Railway between Brisbane and Gympie, ca. 1891, (Poulsen, P. C., 1857-1925)
2. Yandina Station on the North Coast Line, ca. 1890's
Both photos courtesy of State Library of Queensland
3. Victorian era workhouse, from HistoryExtra.com
4. Eureka flag, from Wikipedia

The past few months have been a little wet. I am glad we talked to the Council about putting drainage across the centre's front or we would have problems with water entering the centre from the road. For our open day on 10th May, we have many plants, jams, chutneys and second-hand books for sale. The open day is one way of putting the centre on the map and telling the public what we do and how we do it. Many knowledgeable members can help to find your family. My thanks to the members who cleaned the library under the eye of our librarian Peggy, sorting the books and placing them back in order, and to Tom and John for updating our computers and adding NBN. It is our 29th birthday this year in July. We are celebrating at the RSL, Cooroy. All members and families are welcome. My thanks to members, Louise and Liz, for putting the Missing Link together over many years. Thanks to Helga, (still continuing), Jackie and Joan for taking on the task of editors. It is another way to put our centre out to the public.



VALE

Edna May Smith

25th January 1929 – 15th April 2025

Edna May Crees was born on 25 January, 1929 at St. Margaret's Private Hospital, Cooroy. Her parents Arthur (a blacksmith) and May Crees arrived in Cooroy in 1913. Their story can be found on page 76 of the publication "Pioneer Families of Cooroy and District".

She attended Cooroy Primary School, Nambour High School and St. Margaret's in Brisbane. On her return to Cooroy her first job was with Jack Daly, the Tailor and later she was employed by F.A. Row's General Store as an office girl. She married farmer George Smith in 1950 and had four children. Sadly, George passed away in 1993.



Edna in front of the Blacksmith's Shop building once owned by her father Arthur Crees

Edna gave a great deal of time to community service. Her husband George was the President of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and a Trustee of the Noosa District Hospital Board. Edna served on the Hospital's Auxiliary for fifteen years. She learned to play the piano and in 1943, at fourteen, took on the task of organist at Cooroy's Anglican Church, retiring a few years ago when she moved to Peregian. She was a member of the Church's Ladies Guild. With four children attending local schools, she served on school committees and became involved with the Endeavour Foundation and the O.E.S. She was a member of Cooroy's Tennis, Golf, Garden and Bowls Clubs.

In 1969 she purchased the Cooroy Rag newspaper and after selling it in 1971 worked as a teacher's aide in the Library at Cooroy Primary School. She assisted the school's committee with their 75th Anniversary celebrations and wrote the "History of Cooroy 1909-1984" for their publication.



Edna cutting the cake at the opening of the Heritage Centre May 2017

Edna joined our Group in 1998. Her knowledge of the history of Cooroy, its people past and present has been invaluable and she has assisted with many of the Group's local history projects including the publications "Pioneer Families of Cooroy" and "Echoes of the Past", the heritage walk brochure and subsequent Noosa Council project to place identity plaques on the town's buildings of historic interest.

The members of our Group have appreciated her fundraising efforts, support and enthusiasm to bring the building of the Heritage Centre to fruition.

Edna had a long and full life. She will be remembered by her family, the members of our group and the Cooroy community for her generosity and kindness. She was farewelled at the Anglican Church, Cooroy on 28th April, 2025.



*"It is a desirable thing to be well-descended,
but the glory belongs to our ancestors"*

Plutarch, Ancient Greek philosopher.

The Railway Comes to Queensland

Helga Hill

The first railway built in the new State of Queensland was the 21-mile track from Ipswich, west to Bigge's Camp, now called Grandchester. It was officially opened on the 31st July 1865.

The new Queensland Government had decided on the railway gauge of 3 feet 6 inches. It was an economic decision, as plans were being made to open up the outback and connect it to the ports.

The building of the railway continued West, and up through the range to Toowoomba in 1867, and on to Dalby on the Darling Downs in 1868. A branch line reached Warwick in 1871.



The official opening of Queensland's first railway at Bigge's camp, Grandchester on 31 July 1865. The ceremony to open the first section of the Ipswich to Grandchester railway was attended by Governor Sir George Bowen, Lady Bowen and other officials. The line was later extended to the Darling Downs, then was connected with Brisbane in 1875. (Illustration Negative number: 150529, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland)



After a section of the Albert Bridge at Indooroopilly was washed away in the 1893 flood, repairing the railway link between Brisbane and Ipswich was a priority for the government. Crowds witness the launching of a new bridge span along the Brisbane River 1895.

At the same time the railway was being built East from Ipswich to connect with Brisbane. By 1874 it had reached Sherwood and then by 1875 it reached Oxley point, now called Chelmer, and here it crossed the Brisbane River on the newly constructed railway bridge, the Albert Bridge.

The Albert Bridge was destroyed in the 1893 flood, the middle section being washed away.¹

¹ Evolution of Rail in Queensland, Image: Queensland Museum, www.museum.qld.gov.au



The Walter Taylor bridge under construction with the Indooroopilly Ferry crossing the river.

As the Albert Bridge was for trains only, the vehicle traffic used the Indooroopilly ferry to cross the river. It was situated just upstream of the railway bridge. The ferry continued until the Indooroopilly Toll Bridge was built and opened in February 1936. The bridge was renamed The Walter Taylor Bridge in 1956 on the death of the builder.

Between 1865 and 1900 nearly 4,500 km of railway lines were constructed across the State of Queensland.



One Hundred Years ago

COOROY.

Cemetery.—A meeting of the cemetery trustees was held on June 17 to discuss an alteration of the by-laws, and to carry out improvements of the grounds. It was decided to ask the Home Secretary to allow a revision of costs, as the present fees are inadequate. It was also decided to obtain prices for painting fence and shelter shed, and to employ a man for brushing, &c.

Roads.—The roads are again a quagmire, and considerable amounts of money have been spent by the Noosa Shire on the Cooroy West, the Mary River, and Eumundi roads during the short dry spell, the settlers on each of the roads having turned out in strong force to supplement the council work. Practically all this work is now nullified, and the question of bringing the farm produce is becoming an acute problem.

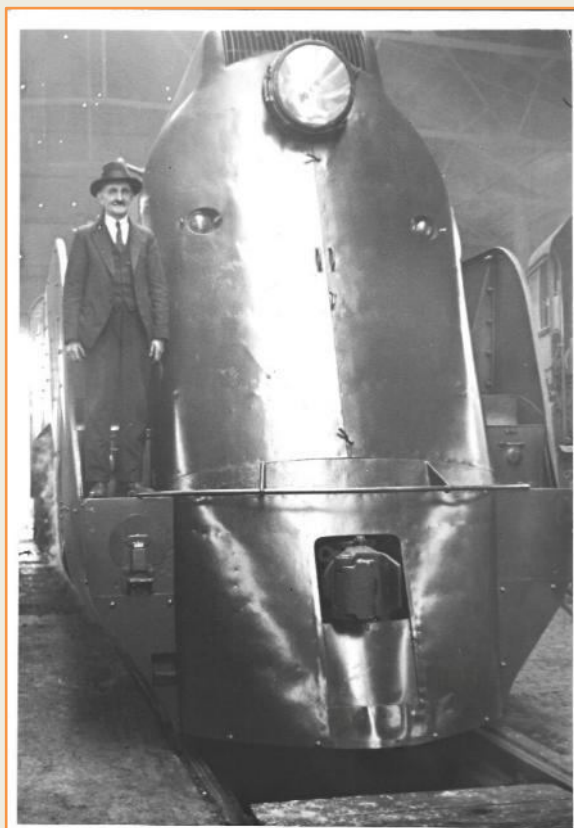
Personal.—Mrs. G. Grant is on a visit to Mackay, and will be holidaying for several weeks.

Cooroy Railway Loading.

The above for the week ending 22/6/25 is as follows— To Melbourne, 625 cases bananas; to Sydney, 399 cases bananas, 5 bags French beans, and 1 case pawpaws; to Brisbane, 251 boxes butter, 62 bags ???, 28 bags French beans, 12 cases bananas, and 30 cases fish; to Gympie, 26 cases fish; to Yandina, 15 boxes butter; to Nambour, 15 boxes butter; to Toowoomba, 7 cases bananas; to Wallangarra, 27 cases bananas.

Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser (Qld: 1922 - 1954), Fri 26 Jun 1925 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

The Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864 - 1933), Mon 22 Jun 1925, Page 10 (trove.nla.gov.au)



Fred Hartley, one of the first drivers of the Spirit of Progress express train between Melbourne and Albury

My interest in one of the firsts for Australian railways is associated with my paternal grandfather, Fred Hartley.

The introduction of the **Spirit of Progress** - a landmark in Australian rail travel, was introduced by the Victorian Railways on 24 November 1937. It was Australia's first fully air-conditioned, all-steel, streamlined express passenger train, running from Melbourne to Albury. The train featured an Art Deco style with a royal blue and gold livery. Its sleek appearance was complemented by luxurious interiors, including native Australian blackwood veneers and stainless-steel fittings. My grandfather was one of the first engine drivers of this famous train. Comfort was the key as passengers enjoyed air-conditioned carriages, comfortable seating, shatterproof glass, and a modern galley kitchen in the dining car. The Spirit of Progress was launched with much fanfare, including a publicity stunt where it raced an aircraft from Melbourne to Geelong. During this run, it set an Australian rail speed record of 79.5 mph (128 km/h). The train was hauled by powerful S class 4-6-2 steam locomotives, which enabled the train to maintain high speeds over long distances.



Spirit of Progress



People have often spoken of the Australian *spirit*. But what is it and where did it originate? I cannot accept that the spirit was introduced into Australia by the convicts and the military of the first fleet. Or the second or third for that matter. We know that most of these convicts were convicted of minor crimes that were so trivial, they would barely get a mention these days. England at that time was desperate to populate its new colony, Australia, before the French beat them to it.

After arrival in the colony, the convicts were put to work building roads, buildings, raising crops and more. The work was carried out under very harsh conditions, usually under the watchful eye of unjust supervisors. If one showed any *spirit* toward authority, they would be rewarded in most cases with the lash or cat-o-nine tails. As the years went by and convicts served their sentences, most were accepted into the general population. These hard-working pioneers laid the foundations for the nation that we enjoy today.

The children of these pioneers grew up wild and free. Some went on to build a greater colony with new business ventures, farming techniques, and exports back to England. Others of this generation showed their spirit rebelling against the rules of authority by taking up arms to rob the rich and share with the underprivileged - bushrangers. During the gold mining boom of the mid 1800s, angry miners grouped and armed themselves against the government forces over unjust taxes. This became known as the Eureka Stockade. The whole thing became a fiasco, but it induced the authorities to abandon the miner's right tax. This achievement would have lifted the miners' spirits. Maybe the mateship of a few, gathered together for a common cause, was the birth of the Aussie spirit.

Since those times, the Aussie spirit has been nurtured and has grown through events such as the shearers' strike which attracted a huge public meeting in Barcaldine, the call to arms for WW1, and support for sports teams participating in international events. Our national characteristics are identifiable in mateship, endurance, ingenuity, resilience and courage. It is clear that these traits did not emerge overnight.

They were honed by the challenges our forebears faced in surviving in this remarkable country with its vast distances, harsh terrain and unpredictable climate. The spirit required to survive and grow is constantly tested. It has produced generations of Australians capable of overcoming the hectic struggles of their daily lives.

In early 1891, central Queensland shearers went on strike. From February through until May, central Queensland was on the brink of civil war. Striking shearers formed armed camps outside of towns. The culmination of the strike came at Barcaldine, when the colonial administration ordered the arrest of the shearers' leaders on charges of sedition and conspiracy. Sights such as these large contingents of soldiers were common throughout the Central Queensland district during this period. (The State Library of Queensland)

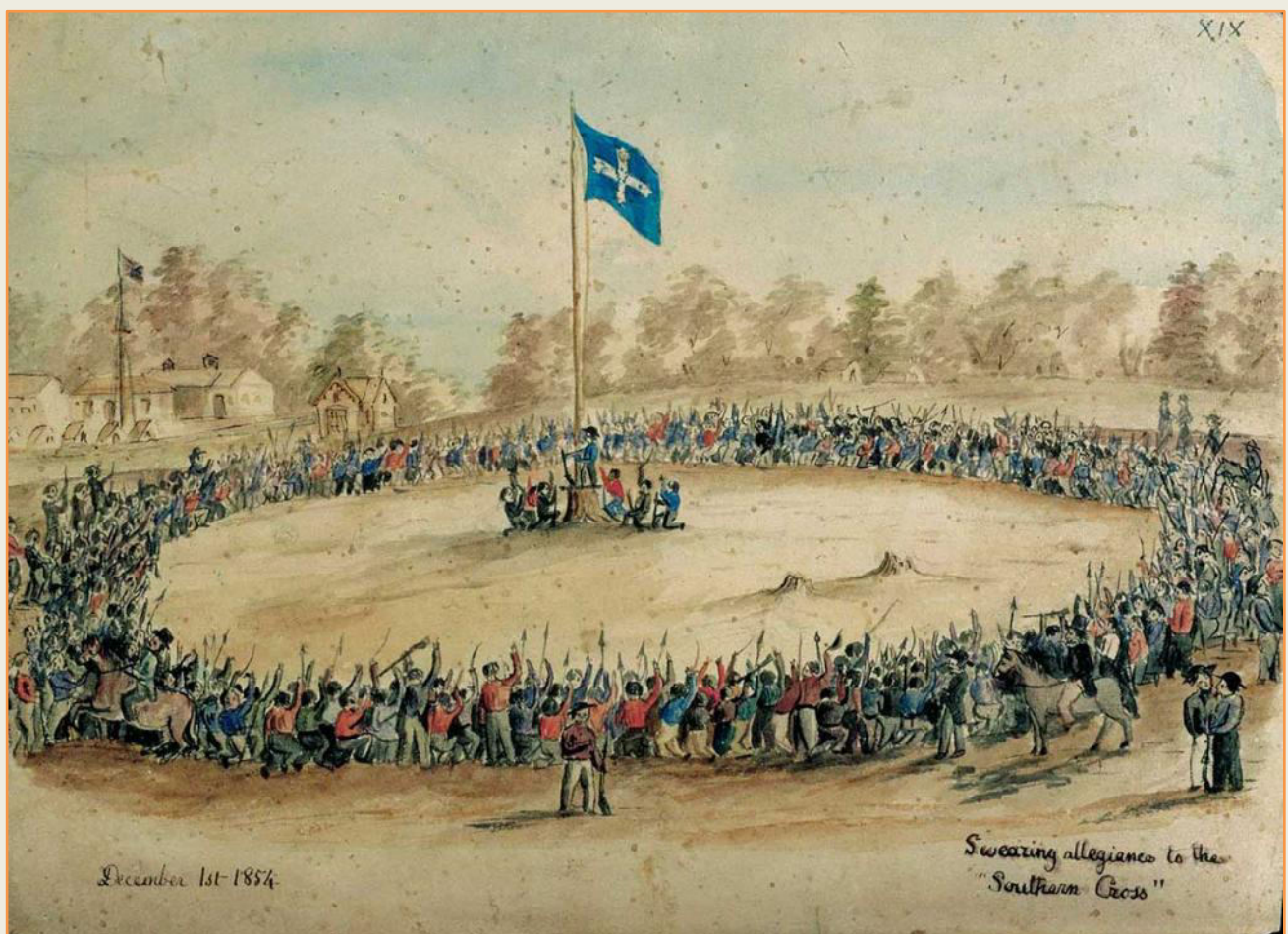


Contingent of soldiers preparing to ride west during the shearer's strike, 1891



The Eureka Stockade

The best-known rebellion in Australia was the Eureka Stockade which occurred on December 3, 1854, on the Ballarat gold field in Victoria.



Swearing Allegiance to the Southern Cross by Charles A Doudiet (National Museum Australia)

The diggers resented the exorbitant licence fees and the harsh police actions for collecting them. The lack of a vote and lack of representation in Legislative Council were also grievances.



Eureka Flag

After continuing clashes with the police, the Ballarat Reform League was formed by the diggers on November 11, 1854, to petition the new governor. Unfortunately, troop reinforcements arriving on November 28, increased the harassment. Peter Lalor was elected as the League's commander in chief on November 30, and building the stockade on the Eureka goldfield began. By December 3, 150 diggers were inside it with troops and police surrounding it. The diggers opened fire. The battle only lasted fifteen minutes, resulting in the deaths of 22 diggers and 5 troopers. Lalor escaped, though wounded, and remained in hiding till an amnesty was declared. None of the accused rebels was convicted. Reforms were eventually enacted in 1855.

However, this was not the first rebellion against the government in Australia. The Castle Hill rebellion in 1804, was an unsuccessful attempt by Irish convicts to overthrow British rule and return to Ireland to keep fighting for Irish independence. These convicts, or political prisoners, had been sentenced to transportation following the unsuccessful rebellions in Ireland in 1798. Governor King had the leader, Cunningham, and eight others hanged without trial. It is believed that 39 convicts died during or after the uprising. Seven convicts were sentenced to 200 to 500 lashes and another 23 were sent to the Newcastle chain gang.

It is interesting to see the difference in the attitude of the governments of the day towards the rebellious convicts of 1804 and the rebellious diggers of 1854.

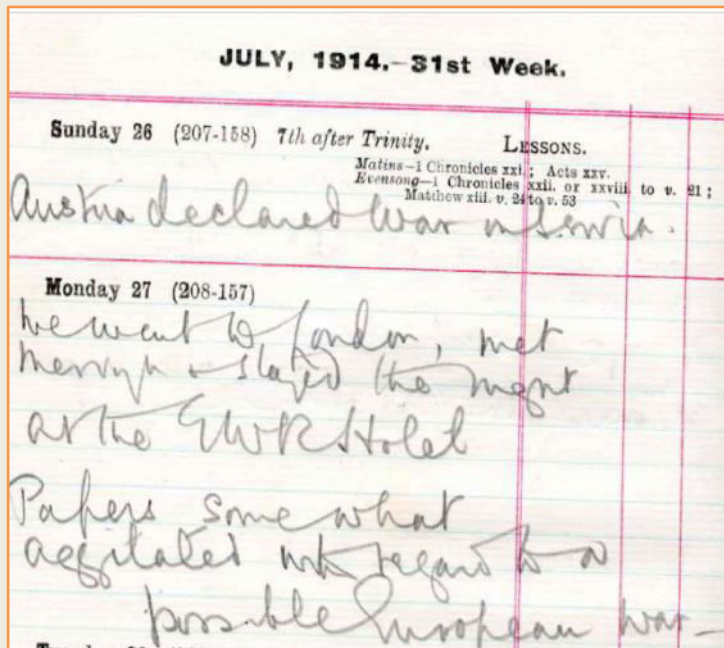


*J. B. Henderson, 'Eureka Stockade Riot, Ballarat, 1854'.
Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

*Eureka leader Peter Lalor,
December 1854:*

*"It is my duty now to swear you in,
and to take with you the oath to
be faithful to the Southern Cross.
Now hear me with attention. The
man who, after this solemn oath
does not stand by our standard, is
a coward at heart ... We swear by
the Southern Cross to stand truly
by each other, and fight to defend
our rights and liberties."
(National Museum Australia)*





A holiday to Switzerland to collect alpine plants at the end of July 1914.

This trip to Switzerland for Vernon and Gwynedd Hill and their eldest son Mervyn, was no doubt planned for some time. Vernon was a very keen horticulturist with his own nursery, 'Mendip Nursery' at Burrington in Somerset.

This Diary tells the tale of being caught in Switzerland at the start of World War 1 in Europe.

28th July 1914

We crossed in beautiful weather to Calais, caught the Simpton Express to Lausanne. The fields looked beautiful, good harvest in N. France.

29th July

Raining, caught the boat to Geneva, stayed at the Beau Rivage Hotel.

30th July

We were given advice and directions for our trip to Gruben via Turtmann.

31st July

Visited the Botanical Gardens. Papers still rather nervy about the situation

1st August

Walked up to the Angsberg Pass, 9000ft. Found all the flowers we needed.

On our return found all fellow creatures gone!

1st August cont.

Germany had declared War on France and Switzerland were mobilizing. No chance of even getting to Turtmann.

2nd August, Sunday

Walked down to find nothing, Swiss mobilizing, trains, telephone, postal - all in the hands of the military.

3rd August

Woke to find ourselves in comfortable Pension rapidly filling with English. Went to the consulate only to find 1000 others placed as us. No money, no change, no chance of escape.

So began a week of aimless wandering, from pension to Consulate. We made friends and a committee was formed to try and get decisions as to possible return.

Russia declares War on Germany, as did England for violating Belgium's neutrality.

3rd August cont.

Returned to Lausanne, could not cross the frontier, impossible situation.

Money was getting scarcer. The Swiss Government were admirable, no panic allowed.

But no News.

Trains were very limited, as troops were moving up to the frontier.

11th August

Returned to Geneva, taken to the Station Master who gave us 200 francs.

Travelled by train via Bellegarde, passing the frontier, moved further on, stayed on the station for 5 hours, talked to the soldiers, travelled via Paris.

11th August cont.

We saw train loads and train loads of troops and guns, but still knowing nothing of England. As we left France we saw our troops landing.

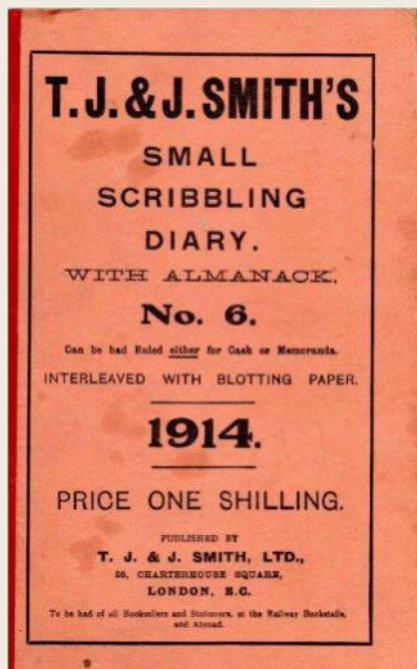
13th August

Crossed in darkness to Folkeston, safeguarded on the crossing by a cruiser.

14th August

Home at last.

Note: Gwynedd discovered on arriving home that her brother Wynn had been 'called up' on the 5th August.



Queensland's Diamantina Orphanage

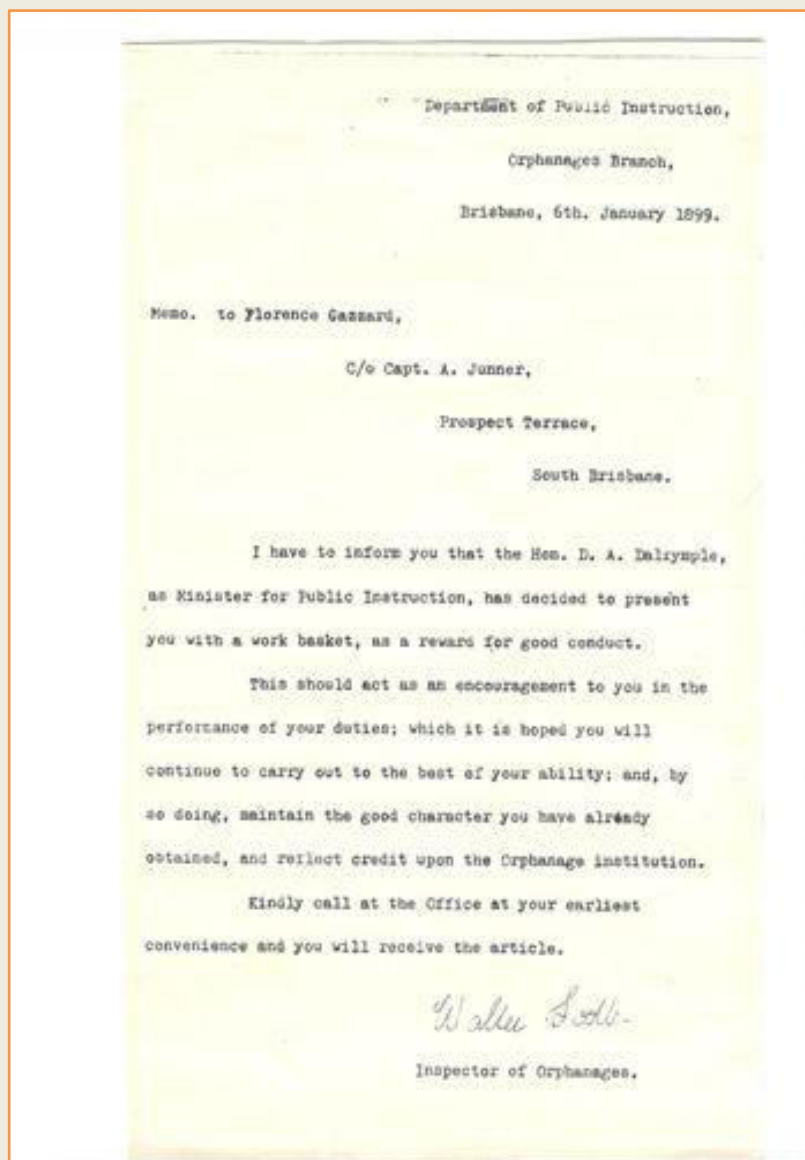
Liz Diggles

The Diamantina Orphanage was established at Roma Street, Brisbane in 1865. Initially functioning under philanthropic and charitable auspices, it later became subject to government administration as Queensland's child welfare system evolved. The Queensland government assumed control following the passing of the *Orphanages Act* 1879. The Orphanage moved location twice, to South Brisbane in 1883 and to the Brighton Hotel, Sandgate in 1893. It holds a significant place in the history of child welfare in the state. Named after Lady Diamantina Bowen, wife of Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Bowen, its founding was part of a broader movement during this era aimed at addressing the needs of destitute and orphaned children, reflecting societal concerns about poverty and child neglect in rapidly developing urban areas. The orphanage was designed not only to provide shelter but also to offer education and vocational training, intending to prepare children for integration into society as productive adults.

Despite its foundational purpose, the history of the Diamantina Orphanage, like many similar institutions of the period, is fraught with complexities, including the challenges of overcrowding, limited resources, and at times, inadequate conditions.

My own family has a link to the Diamantina Orphanage through my paternal grandmother Florence who, as a child of eight years, was admitted to the orphanage together with her half-sister Olive, then aged six years. They were admitted in 1889 by Olive's father who was unable to care for them whilst their mother was imprisoned for petty offences that today would receive support and assistance rather than incarceration.

The little girls joined the sad ranks of other orphans dressed in blue and white striped dresses without shoes or socks, who slept in dormitories of twenty-four beds with one night nurse to supervise. A report from *The Queenslander* laments '...one looks round at the rows of little beds whence the cry of "Mother!" never comes however restless may be the head upon its pillow.'²



The children attended school in a room at the orphanage. They had regular tasks which included scrubbing, cleaning and sewing for the girls, grounds maintenance and animal husbandry for the boys. Every Sunday they attended Sunday School or the nearby church service depending on their age.

Possibly the saddest day in Florence's young life was July 4, 1892³ when Olive's father came to take her, but not Florence, home. The sisters were separated and probably never saw each other again. Florence remained attached to the Orphanage until at least 1899.

At the age of twelve years, like all State Wards, Florence was removed from school and assigned to a family as a domestic servant. These families were to be 'foster parents', providing a family life through the teenage years for the orphans as well as a means to earn a living. One can imagine that this system was open to abuses of all kinds.

Nanna Diaales award for good conduct

It seems however that Florence may have been lucky in her placement. She was sent to the family of a Captain Alexander Jenner who had himself been an orphan in Scotland from the age of seven years.

² *The Queenslander* "At The Diamantina Orphanage", 20 Nov 1886

³ From the records of the Diamantina (later *Warilda*) Orphanage held at the Qld State Archives, Brisbane.

Much has been written about Captain Junner and is available through 'Trove'. It seems he was a very brave and capable mariner who had been at sea since the age of fourteen. Eventually he settled in Brisbane and skippered government supply and passenger vessels up and down the Queensland coast and sometimes to Sydney. Upon his retirement in 1932, he was described as "*...one of Nature's gentlemen...who provided unfailing solicitude to those in his care...*"⁴

This may have been the first opportunity that Florence had to view the daily life of a normal family. The Junners had five children. Her work was constant and kept her going sometimes until midnight, she reported much later to one of her daughters. Although she rarely spoke of her childhood to her own children, she certainly spoke of the Captain and collected newspaper cuttings related to the family which she kept in a scrapbook now in my possession.

Florence probably left the employ of Captain Junner in 1899 by which time she was almost eighteen years of age. A certificate included here commends Florence for her *good conduct* rewarding her with a work basket, whilst also pointing out how her conduct reflects her upbringing in the orphanage.

The Diamantina Orphanage closed as an orphanage in 1893 (circa year), but the re-named Diamantina Receiving Depot continued its role of reception, care and boarding-out of children to foster homes. In Jan 1910, the Depot re-located to Woolloowin and occupied the same building as the Infants Home.

On 17 Dec 1964 the Diamantina Receiving Depot was renamed *Warilda* which became the Receiving and Assessment Centre for children in southern Queensland.



The original Diamantina Orphanage, Roma Street Brisbane with Mt Coot-tha in the background. (Qld State Archives)



⁴ *The Brisbane Courier* "True Son of the Sea. Captain Junner's Experiences" 10 Dec 1932

Workhouses

When researching my distant relative, Lucy Burge, I learnt that at twenty-six she was single and pregnant. She was sent to the Union Workhouse in Abergavenny to have her baby. This was in 1878.

Workhouses had been built all over the country to house the very poor, very old, unemployed and sick. They also housed orphaned or abandoned children, physically or mentally sick patients and unmarried mothers. Conditions were harsh and degrading to discourage the poor from relying on parish relief. By the 1830's the majority of parishes had at least one workhouse which would operate with prison-like conditions. Living in them was dangerous, as mortality rates were high especially with diseases such as smallpox and measles spreading like wildfire. Conditions were cramped with beds squashed together, hardly any room to move and with little light. When they were not in their sleeping quarters, the inmates were expected to work. A factory-style production line which used children was unsafe and focused on profit rather than solving social issues. Under the New Poor Law Act in 1834, all who wished to receive aid had to live in a workhouse, not in their home as before. Families were divided and children separated from their parents.



The Abergavenny Union workhouse was built in 1837-8 for up to 150 inmates. Although most workhouses had a small infirmary for the care of sick inmates they were usually too small with poor, crowded facilities. While the Poor Law unions had to employ qualified medical officers to care for the sick, the post usually went to the person who tendered for the lowest salary. Early nursing care usually used female inmates who were often illiterate. A problem when dispensing medicine. Such nurses were often drunk on medical spirits such as brandy purloined from patients or traded with them for favours or food. Before 1863, not a single trained nurse was employed in any workhouse outside London. Florence Nightingale's efforts led to improvements in the standard of care with the founding in 1860 of the Nightingale Fund School in London.

By the end of 1846, a change in settlement laws granting settlement after five years, and the results of the Irish famine put great pressure on the workhouse in St Marlebone where there was a large Irish population. To reduce the cost of providing for them, economies were made. Nurses and laundrywomen

received 1s. per week, those who laid out the dead received 1s.6d., the cook and the barber 2s. One year, a suggestion to abolish the Christmas pudding was rejected but portion sizes were reduced to 8oz. and raisins were substituted for currants.

Workhouse Meals

Until 1842

- all meals were taken in silence
- no cutlery was provided
- inmates had to use their fingers
- meals were kept dull, predictable & tasteless.

There were 6 official diets which were so meager that they were described as **"a slow process of starvation"**.

A typical meal was:- BREAKFAST 6 oz bread; DINNER 4 oz bacon and 3 oz bread or potatoes; SUPPER 6 oz bread & 2 oz cheese.

The official ration in **prisons was 292 ounces of food a week. The workhouse diet was between 137 and 182 ounces a week only.**

Hopefully when Lucy was admitted to the workhouse things had started to improve. She would still have had to wear a uniform and would not have been allowed out without permission. However, any pauper could discharge himself on giving reasonable notice, usually three hours, and demand re-admission that same evening, possibly the worse for wear. One woman recorded 163 separate admissions to the City of London workhouse.

Workhouse infirmaries were for the care of the inmates. By 1880 admissions for those who were poor but not destitute were allowed. Where appropriate, such patients were required to contribute to their upkeep. The 1885 Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Act stated that anyone receiving only poor-rate-funded medical care could no longer lose their vote. Before 1918, receiving poor relief disenfranchised the patient.

Over time, the improved workhouse medical practices were the beginning of the state funded medical service. When Britain's National Health Service began in 1948, much of its real estate was former workhouses.



St Pancras Workhouse



A Winter Tragedy

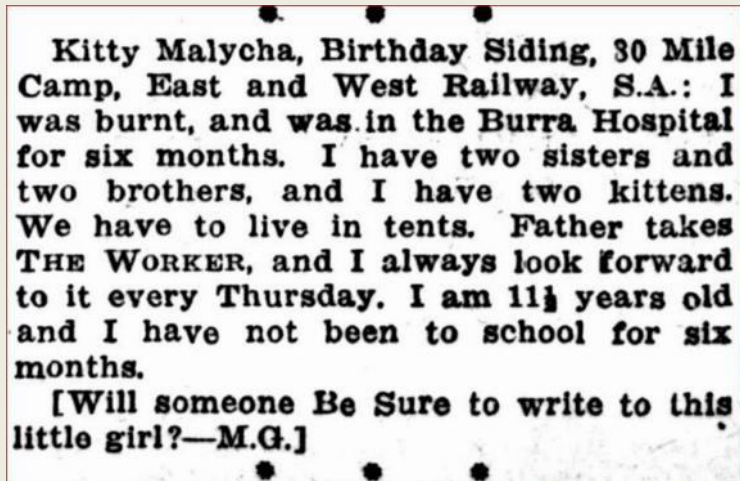
Carmel Galvin

In the cold midwinter of 1913, Kitty suffered a horrific accident that would change her life forever. With her father away at work and her mother ill with a severe cold, the young girl tried to light a fire to make her mother a cup of tea. We are fortunate that the treatment of burns has come a long way since this poor child suffered.

Born on 29 December 1904 in Broken Hill, New South Wales, Catherine Mary Malycha, known as Kitty, was the second child of Mary Immaculate O'Dea and Valentine Malycha. Her family had moved north from Terowie, South Australia in the wake of legal and financial troubles involving Valentine's father. Their stay in Broken Hill was brief and they returned to South Australia to be near their extended families. Like many settlers of the time, the Malychas hoped for a new beginning beyond Goyder's Line. Yet the harsh conditions of life were dangerous.

TEROWIE. June 21. - A sad accident occurred today, when Mr Malycha's little girl, Katherine, aged eight and a half years accidentally set fire to herself and was severely burned. The father's duties necessitate his absence from home, and the mother being unwell having a severe cold, the little girl got up, unknown to her mother, to get her a cup of tea, and it is surmised she put kerosene on the wood to make a quick fire. The mother, hearing screams, was quickly to the rescue, but was unable to put the fire out until it had severely burned the little girl. Medical aid was soon procured, and the little sufferer was conveyed by the doctor to Mrs. Robinson's private hospital, where she is now lying in a critical condition.⁵

Kitty's story captured public attention. Living in a tent at Birthday Siding, East–West Railway, she wrote to **The Worker**, a labour newspaper, sharing a brief but moving account of her ordeal:⁶



Kitty Malycha, Birthday Siding, 30 Mile
Camp, East and West Railway, S.A.: I
was burnt, and was in the Burra Hospital
for six months. I have two sisters and
two brothers, and I have two kittens.
We have to live in tents. Father takes
THE WORKER, and I always look forward
to it every Thursday. I am 11½ years old
and I have not been to school for six
months.
[Will someone Be Sure to write to this
little girl?—M.G.]

The editor at the time, Mary Gilmore, a notable poet and advocate for the working class, ensured Kitty's story was not forgotten.

Her letter sparked an outpouring of kindness. Letters of comfort and friendship poured in from across the country. In a subsequent issue, Kitty thanked the many strangers who had written letters of sympathy and friendship: "I really cannot write to all, as they are too numerous."⁷

Valentine, Kitty's father had been working on the railway line being established to connect eastern Australia with the west. Kitty wrote to the **Daily Herald** in 1918 describing life in this remote corner of South Australia. The camp was now about 105 miles (170 kms) north of Port Augusta.

It is very dry, and the rabbits are very poor. They climb bushes and trees for feed. There is no grass about our camp, and none grew last year. Birthday siding is five miles from the camp, and the J.R.V. dam is about the same. I catch a number of rabbits in steel traps during the night time. I do a lot of knitting.⁸

⁵ 1913 'TEROWIE', *Daily Herald* (Adelaide, SA: 1910 - 1924), 28 June, p. 8., viewed 04 May 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article124954060>

⁶ 1916 'CHILDREN'S LETTERS.', *The Australian Worker* (Sydney, NSW: 1913 - 1950), 15 June, p. 11., viewed 04 May 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article145766198>

⁷ 1916 'CHILDREN'S LETTERS.', *The Australian Worker* (Sydney, NSW: 1913 - 1950), 3 August, p. 11., viewed 04 May 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article145766624>

⁸ 1918 'THE LETTER BOX.', *Daily Herald* (Adelaide, SA: 1910 - 1924), 16 April, p. 8., viewed 05 May 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article124540003>



Birthday Railway Siding:

A small wooden shelter with water tank, and wagons on railway line.

This photo was taken well after construction of the railway was finished. Living conditions in tents in this harsh environment during construction was extremely difficult for families

Birthday Siding

(<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1780/3/14>)

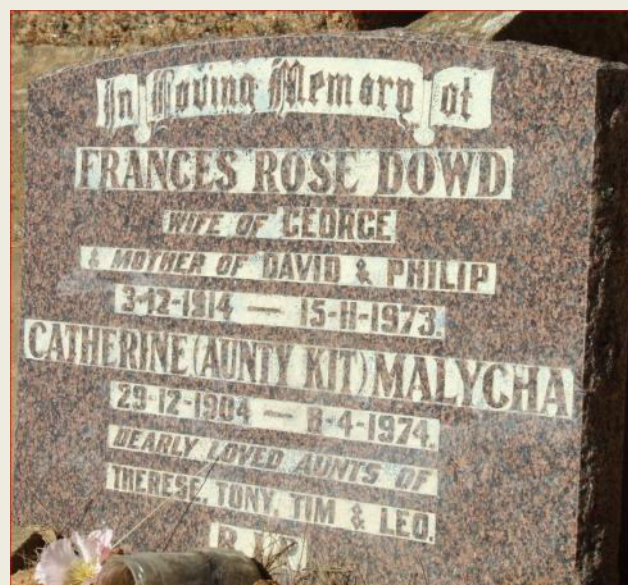
After the completion of work and the dismantling of the camps, the family moved to Spalding, South Australia. Kitty never let her injuries define her. Though much of her life was lived quietly in the Mid North of South Australia, the newspapers offer glimpses into her later years. She lived in Spalding, where she contributed to community life through her participation in Catholic fundraising events, local dances, and the Country Women's Association. A talented needlewoman, she won prizes for her hand-knitted garments at CWA shows, including a bed jacket in 1934 and a gentleman's cardigan in 1935.

Her parents died within a year of each other, her mother Mary died in July 1935, aged just 55 and her father Valentine passed away in March 1936, aged 62.

Her elder brother Stephen Francis (Frank) married in 1935, and her younger siblings Frances, Margaret Eileen, and Thomas (Tom) followed in later years, all with connections to the local districts. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Kitty remained a resident of Spalding, appearing on local electoral rolls. She was involved in efforts supporting Australia's war effort, with her fancywork once again recognised at the 1942 CWA Exhibition, which raised over £61 for wartime causes.

Kitty's life centred around family. In later years, she is recorded holidaying with her sister Frances (now Mrs. G. Dowd) a niece and nephews at Fisherman's Bay, a detail that gives us a glimpse into her role as a devoted aunt and family matriarch.⁹

Kitty Malycha passed away in April 1974 in Spalding, the town where she had spent the majority of her adult life. She never married, but the love held for her and the strong family bond is reflected in the words on the tombstone in Spalding.



⁹ 1953 'SPALDING', *Northern Argus* (Clare, SA : 1869 - 1954), 28 January, p. 8. , viewed 05 May 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article100589391>

*I'm starting to think I'm a bit out of place,
The world is changing at an uncomfortable pace.
Don't make a phone call, just do it online.
If I had the knowhow that would be fine.*

*I'm beginning to look a lot out of place.
That's not me in the mirror. That's not my face.
Not even my body. Where did I go?
She's more like my mother! Oh, don't the genes show!*

*I'm actually hearing I've become out of place,
It's not really music, more like a disgrace.
Where's the melody, lyrics, the joy in a song?
Instead they just shout, sound angry. It's wrong.*

*I am now wondering if I've been outplaced,
What's this in my bowl, how will it taste?
With milk that's not milk, meat that's not meat,
Next thing we know, we'll eat fish that have feet.*

*I'm fully aware I'm a bit out of sight,
Specsavers will fix it, so I'll be alright.
Lately it seems, I'm a bit out of mind,
So I now cheat at crosswords for words I can't find.*

*I'm also realising I am out of touch.
The way the world's going, it's all a bit much.
Wars, disasters, and hateful crime,
Can't be fixed before I run out of time.*

*But, really I know I'm not out of place.
I'm just where I should be, in my own little space.
We love where we're living in Havenside Court,
For there is nowhere else we ought to have bought.*



Tech Talk

Carmel Galvin

Have you seen these?

Trainer Lori has three excellent videos on using PowerPoint for Genealogy.

Part 1 : [Clipping and Storing Research](#) Did you know you can clip a video into PPT?

Part 2 : [Editing photos](#) - tips and tricks for manipulating photos

Part 3 : [Creating Output](#) - turning family tree reports into beautiful books or videos

VGA's 7th birthday celebration ["Tune Up Your Cousin Bait!" by Marian Burk Wood](#)

[Make a Shareable Family Heirloom in One Weekend](#) by Devon Noel Lee





Balalaika

In October 1970, my husband Graeme and I visited the USSR – United Soviet Socialist Republic – as it was known back then. We flew from London to Moscow and spent time in Moscow, Leningrad, (now St Petersburg) and Kiev. The following is an excerpt from our Ukraine experience.

From Leningrad we flew Aeroflot Airways, the State airline, to Kiev. The flight itself was an experience. First, we were escorted from the terminal after the other passengers had boarded, just the two of us, to our seats in the front of the plane. Everyone stared at us. The aircraft was painted grey, outside as well as inside. There were no overhead lockers, just dark brown netting for luggage. No one spoke English and as the announcements were in Russian, we had no idea what the pilot was saying. Graeme noticed a large altimeter on the front of the bulkhead (grey wall) and at one stage the plane suddenly dropped and the passengers went 'Oooh!' We understood that. The meter had spun backwards rapidly to show how quickly we had dropped. This created quite a stir. Suddenly, an air hostess came from the pilot's cabin and started talking excitedly in Russian. Following the announcement the passengers started babbling away in Russian, until the aircraft began to climb again. At this point Graeme noticed the altimeter rise. Whew! We were relieved. In addition the Aeroflot plane vibrated badly at times.

Kiev in the Ukraine was very different from Leningrad and Moscow. It felt more relaxed. After being transferred to our hotel we noticed there were English and American tourists. At reception we booked a tour of Kiev and noted the receptionist spoke English. After handing over our passports, she was surprised and delighted that we were from Australia. She had never met any Australians and she told us we were the first to stay in the hotel. She knew where Australia was and said, 'No' we were not to go on the bus tour; we were to have a car with a male driver and a female guide.

The young guide was a university student who provided an excellent commentary. We saw monuments of Ukrainian heroes from World War II as well as large statues of Russian notables such as Lenin and Stalin. As the tour progressed and the guide noted our keen interest in history, and probably because we were aged in our twenties, she also 'pumped' us for information about living in the West. She hoped to go to the West sometime. She asked us about films and books and asked had we read any Russian authors. 'Yes', said Graeme. 'I've read Dostoevsky and Solzhenitsyn'. The young guide was amazed because they were banned in Russia. Graeme then asked if the driver spoke English, and our guide said, 'No'. He did not. She then asked further questions about the West. (Ukraine eventually gained its independence after the breakup of the USSR in 1991.



Victory Square, Kiev 1970

Now as I write, President, Vladimir Putin has ordered the military invasion of Ukraine. In fact, it is now three years since fighting began and there seems no end or resolution in sight.)

In the hotel in Kiev that evening, we ordered Chicken Kiev for dinner, the first time we had eaten this meal. The following day we had a free day and walked in the city.

On Friday 30th we were transferred to the airport where we boarded a flight back to Moscow in another Aeroflot aircraft. This time it was uneventful; we knew what to expect.

Back in Moscow a guide took us to a tourist shop where we purchased a roughly carved wooden Russian bear, a balalaika and a set of postcards. (We did not own a camera.) Not only did we purchase souvenirs, we also spent our foreign currency using our Russian roubles and kopeks, with the exception of three roubles. Travellers were expected to pay a three rouble airport tax before departing the country. As it turned out, the tax was not collected. In addition foreign tourists were not allowed to take Russian currency out of the state – it was an offence. However, unbeknown to the authorities Graeme concealed a five rouble coin in his shoe. If it had been discovered, he was at risk of being taken prisoner and transported to the Siberian Gulags, a system of labour camps. Fortunately, it was not discovered. Passengers were not required to take off their shoes as they sometimes are obliged to do today for overseas flights.



Our wooden bear stands about 26 cm high

Before we left Moscow, we woke to find it was snowing heavily outside. This was definitely a winter experience as a blanket of snow covered buildings, roads and runways and resulted in a three-hour delay at the airport. We watched as the workers cleared the runway with snow ploughs.

We were seated in the BEA aircraft for our return flight to London. As the plane took off and climbed into the air, there was a spontaneous cheer and a clapping of hands by the passengers. I think we were all relieved to be flying safely out of the country.

The USSR had been a once-in-life-time experience, one which we have never forgotten.



Russian rubles and kopecs



From the 16th Century, the average marriage age of both men and women was around the mid 20s. A decade of working, such as in service, allowed for the acquiring of skills and savings, for the setting up of a home after marriage.

The age gap was two years. It was only in the early 20th Century. that the age at marriage decreased.

This was gleaned from CAMPOP (www.campop.geog.cam.ac.uk) where population and society has been studied for the past 60 years. Their blog is worth looking at. *"Five reasons why service in the past was not like Downton Abbey"*, explains why you should not believe all you see on TV



Facebook Genealogy Groups

Joan Whan

Most people I know either know about Facebook or have a Facebook account but a lot of people doing Genealogy don't use the Genealogy Groups that you can join. Personally, I have joined many groups that relate to the families and places that I am researching. Not only are there groups for people and families but also places that your relative may have lived which can add the social history to your research. There are also groups on how to help you use Ancestry, Find My Past, Find a Grave and Trove plus many others.

When you join, you can just read what people post in the Groups, post a question for someone or a place you are researching or help someone who is looking for their family. One thing I have to say is that a lot of people in these groups are very helpful and happy to share. They share photos and information that you may never come across anywhere else.

A few groups I use on a regular basis are: First Fleet 1788 Researchers, Australian Ancestors, Lost Sydney, Old Brisbane Album, Irish Genealogy, Aboriginal Genealogy, Convict Ancestry Australia, Irish Jamaicans, Decendents of Frederick Meredith (1st Fleet – Scarborough), Apps Family, Ballater Local History Group. There are so many groups from all around the world, all you need to do is look for the family or area you are interested in and join. You just never know what you will discover.



*"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,
you may as well make it dance"*

George Bernard Shaw, British playwright.

The strength of plain language is often discarded in favour of over descriptive writing that exhausts the reader and dilutes the power of the work. Take the following passage from *Auto de Fay* by Fay Weldon.

We stood upon the beach on a rainy day, my father, my mother, Jane and I, and my father walked off along the shore without us, saying 'Don't ever leave the children with friends. Have them properly adopted.'

How do you feel - stung, devastated or shocked? Fay Weldon made us feel exactly how the family felt that day, by using language that is plain, yet powerful with no adjectives and abstract nouns.

We have all read or attempted to read books with flowery language and they are exhausting. The author is trying to prove that he or she can write, but they fail dismally. The book is eventually discarded and returned to the library.

Remember when writing, plain is good.

You are welcome to attend the Writers' Group. Come as an observer and see if it fits.
Writers' Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9.15 a.m.



Irish Interest Group

Peggy Radford

We started the year looking at the Irish Church Records. Although a lot were lost in the Great Fire of 1922 many were copied before they were sent for safe keeping in Dublin and other were never sent. The RCB Library has a listing of what has survived, where they can be found and how to access them.



Unfortunately, our March meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

April was the month for Military research and members were shown how to compile their own individual list of records from Ancestry and FindMyPast. We also visited the Military Archive website which has online access to the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection among other records.

There was no formal meeting in May due to some members travelling overseas. Instead, members used the month to explore the Virtual Record Treasury which has been slowly digitally replicating records that were lost in 1922. There will be a discussion at our June meeting about our finds.

The Irish Group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month 9am until noon.



The Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 9.30 am. In December convenor Bev Warner retired and we thanked Bev for her assistance and knowledge shared over many years.



In January we began the year with a “Show and Tell” of objects with a Scottish connection. From a family bible to whiskey and everything in between, inherited treasures included a Spurtel (porridge stirrer), Clan broaches, a sprig of heather dried and pressed by Lola’s grandmother (who arrived in Australia in 1897). There were post cards, photos, tartan scarves and a Lindsay Clan kilt and their provenance explained. The Group has established a database of our ancestors’ names, dates, the place where they lived and occupations.

In February we researched and found photos of the graves of ancestors available online. Memorials revealed new information of extended family members. “Scottish indexes” held a conference on Zoom enabling a log in from a home computer.

In March we delved further into getting to know our ancestors and shared knowledge of family connections to the Scottish Rievers, weaver and mill worker families, farms and houses once rented or owned, stone masons, sailors, shoemakers and railway employees. In April we delved further into our ancestor’s occupations and their working life. At our May gathering we will be planning the program for a Scottish Event to be held in July or August that will include a display at the Centre and presentations by our members. More information soon.¹⁰



English Interest Group

Margaret Rickard

Each month we have a topic where members of our group share interesting and varied stories based on the lives of their English ancestors. And what wonderful stories we share! In January we started with the topic, **Pubs and Publicans**, and I think we all know how popular *they* were with many folk. Indeed, some made it into the newspapers for their drunken behaviour. All publicans were compelled to obtain a licence for their pub, tavern, inn or beer-house.



Serving in the **Military** was our theme for February. During this session Rodney showed us photocopies of navy ships to enhance his stories of his naval ancestors. I shared stories of two brothers, sons of my 3X great grandparents, who served in the Royal Navy. One died from cholera on his ship off Malta in 1850 aged 26, while the other brother was more fortunate. He served for over twenty years and retired in the 1860s.¹¹

¹⁰ Thistle image - by rawpixel.com on Freepik

¹¹ The Tudor Rose image - by Sodacan - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26449899>

In March the topic was **An Interesting C19th Family**. We each shared a story and had many laughs that day as each member retold the life of a particular family.

The month of April proved to be a more sobering session as we talked about extended family members who had spent time in **Asylums, Workhouses and Orphanages**. They were grim places even into the early 20th Century. Joan read interesting details about the Abergavenny Union Workhouse revealing shocking conditions.

A tip worth mentioning... In the 1911 England and Wales Census, inmates in asylums and prisons were recorded only by their initials. For example, the second wife of my great-great grandfather, John Baines was listed as HAB and not Henrietta Augusta Baines. Her condition in the 1901 census was described as Lunatic. She sadly died in the asylum in 1926.

Perhaps we will have a few smiles when we tackle the next topic, **Getting into trouble with the law – Prisons and fines**.

New members are always welcome to join our group.



Early Australian Research Group

Helga Hill

This new group is struggling to get going. As the majority of the members do have ancestors who arrived in Australia in the early days, it is worth pursuing. The early history of Australia colours our understanding of the past and the struggles of those early settlers.



The National Colonial Flag



Captain John Bingle and Captain John Nicholson are credited with the first recorded attempt to design a 'national' flag for Australia. Their flag featured four stars of the Southern Cross on a red cross, against a white background, with the Union Jack in the canton.

In his diary, Captain Bingle claimed that this design, created in 1823 or 1824, was accepted as the national colonial flag of Australia by the Government of Sir Thomas Brisbane.¹²



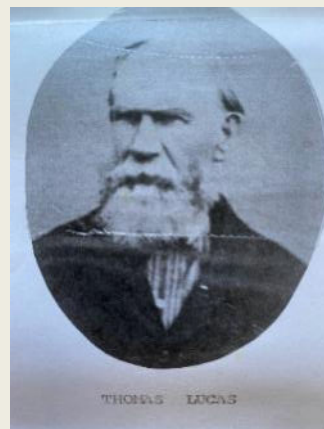
¹² Australian Flags booklet (<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resources/australian-flags-booklet/part-4-history-australian-national-flag/early-flags>)

Recently I popped into the Cooroy Heritage Centre on their open day, and got chatting. I wondered if any other 6th Generation Australians descended from two First Fleet convicts are around? In 1984 it was estimated that one in every 15 Australians was a descendant of the First Fleeters.

On 7 July 1784 Nathaniel Lucas was sentenced at the Old Bailey to Transportation for 7 years. By this time England was in full swing getting rid of pick pockets, n'er do wells and other riff raff off the streets. Was he one of those? Well his crime was having garments under his mattress at an Inn that clearly didn't belong to him... silk? Or (and this is the story we're sticking to) as he was a skilled carpenter and builder someone thought of a great way to get 7 years free labour from someone who could actually be useful establishing a colony. Off he went on the First Fleet sailing on the Scarborough. Olivia Gascoigne was on the Lady Penryn, apparently guilty of attempting to steal gold from her employer with menaces.

The first time they meet is when the Fleet arrives at Sydney where 15 convicts were not allowed to disembark, selected for their good character to be settled on Norfolk Island where they arrived in the Supply on 6th March 1788. Nathaniel and Olivia were paired off – who knows how much input they had in that – and proceeded to have 13 children, the last two after leaving Norfolk. I'm descended from number 13, Thomas, born 17 November 1807

In 1805 the settlement was reduced, the British having realised that the Norfolk pines intended for ships' masts were the wrong kind (adjacent branches were a point of weakness as against alternating) and the naturally growing flax intended for sails was wrong as well. The settlement was basically a mistake, except that it stopped the French, who were circling, from claiming it.



In April of 1805, Nathaniel returned with his family to Sydney in the Investigator, and in 1808 was appointed Superintendent of Carpenters. He was appointed the builder of many notable sites around Sydney, such as the Francis Greenway designed St Luke's church, none of which survive today. In May 1818, his body was found in the Liverpool River. His death was said 'to have proceeded from his own act, owing to mental derangement.'

Olivia went to Tasmania where many of her children lived, in a town called New Norfolk, where the bulk of the Norfolk Island former convicts had been sent once the island was wound down.

Reference: The Lucas Report by Edwin Russell Lucas, 1983.



Recent Reads of Interest

Carmel Galvin

On the Genealogical Society of Queensland blog:

- [Metaphors We Live By: Phrases That Capture the Genealogical Journey](#)

[Forgotten Ancestors : Remembering Henry William Chiddicks](#)

National Archives of Australia:

- Keep up to date with [Newly scanned records](#)
- Are you having trouble finding something? Visit the [Forum](#) Here you can discuss, share tips and advice on how to use and search the collection database RecordSearch.

GLAM Workbench:

- A favourite tool provided by Tim Sherratt [Save Trove newspaper article as image](#)

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Left to right: John Sparrow, Richard Dock, Carmel Galvin, Heather West, Tom Heitman, Joan Sussmilch

Benefits of Membership

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Your current membership card allows you access to the facilities of the following societies:

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Queensland Family History Society

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Promote and encourage the study of genealogy, heritage and local history, record and index local monumental inscriptions, parish records and historical material. Conduct workshops and social events, share resources amongst members, extend and maintain our library holdings and hold regular monthly meetings.

Publications for sale

Pictorial Records of Noosa Shire Cemeteries 1873-2004 on USB \$10
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The Editors reserve the right to correct articles in order that the article is where deemed necessary grammatically correct [except where quotations are used]. It is not our intention to change the story line but to present articles in a readable format.

Missing Link is the official journal of the Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group Inc. ISSN 1329-7597 © CNG&HRG Inc.