

Redland Researcher



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*The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

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Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

PO Box 605
Cleveland Qld 4163

Email: redlandgs@gmail.com

Website: www.rgs.net.au

2019/2020 Management Committee

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Life Member 2011 Les Callaghan, **Life Member 2013** Les McFadzen

Life Member 2016 Jeanne Dixon, **Life Member 2019** Pat Misson

The Management Committee of the Redland Genealogical Society Inc. meets on the first Wednesday of each month, February to December, commencing at 2.00pm.

The General Meetings are held on **the second Wednesday of each month**, February to December, **from 12:15pm to 2:30pm**, at the Donald Simpson Centre, Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. An entry fee of \$2 applies at each meeting. Free parking is available on site.

The Annual General Meeting is held **at 12:15pm on the second Wednesday in July**, followed by the General Meeting.

Meetings are not held in January.

The Society's Collection of on-line data bases, books, microfiche, CD-ROMs, etc **contains resources for world-wide research.** These are accessible in our Library Room in Cleveland Library, corner of Middle and Bloomfield Streets.

Financial Members can access this Room, at any time that the Cleveland Library is open, by presenting their "special activated" Library Card at Cleveland Library Reception to obtain the key.

RGS Volunteer Genealogical Research Assistants (GRAs) are in attendance in our Library Room, to assist Members and the General Public, during the following times -

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am to 12.30pm - Saturdays 12.30pm to 3.30pm

GRAs: Bob Aldred (Librarian), Kaye Barber, Greta Brown, Margaret Clark, Jeanne Dixon, Annette Hall, Karen Hawkes, Margaret Johnson, Brenda Jones, Bev McFadyen, Les McFadzen, Pat Maclean, Cath Maris, Pat Misson, Jan O'Brien, Irene Salvatierra, Dianne Smith, Helen Veivers, Audrey Warner, Charlotte Wruck.

Local History Collection: The Redland City Council's Local History and Heritage Collections are housed in the Cleveland Library. Angela Puata is Redland City Council's *Local History Librarian*; her assistant is Gillian McNeill.

Redland Genealogical Society Inc. Membership Fees

Single Membership is \$30.00 per annum - Family Membership is \$45.00 per annum

Redland Researcher is free to Members.

Unless requested otherwise, this Newsletter is e-mailed to Members

A Letter from the President

Dear Reader

As of 30 June 2020, the Redland Genealogical Society is no longer a branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland. This brings to an end a relationship forged in November 1981 when, following a talk from Merle Grinley, President GSQ, and Margaret Belcher from GSQ, members of the then Redlands Genealogical Club voted to become Redlands Branch – Genealogical Society of Queensland.

This action does not mean that our association with GSQ is totally severed. The Redland Genealogical Society will become an affiliate of GSQ, allowing us to receive various GSQ publications, to participate in Open Days and to have two Cards for use by our Members who wish to research at GSQ free of charge.

You may ask why the change is necessary! As GSQ moves towards amalgamation with the Queensland Family History Society, it was considered that it was not possible to carry Branches forward into the amalgamated body. Moreover, our society is an established, independent incorporated entity, fully responsible for its own finances, library resources and insurance coverage. In other words, we are very capable of “standing on our own two feet”.

I believe that members will see little change in the way the Redland Genealogical Society operates – we will continue to meet at the Donald Simpson Centre on the second Wednesday of each month (pandemic permitting), to have our Library within the Cleveland Library, to conduct displays in the Redland City area and, generally, promote the study of family history within our Redland City community.

Helen Veivers
President

A Note from the Editor

Prices for Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages certificates usually increase each July. This year most prices are unchanged, except for a few minor increases and a reduction in the price for Victoria's Uncertified Certificates.

Greg Glidden

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Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in Redland Researcher are not necessarily those of the Researcher Committee, nor of the Redland Genealogical Society Inc. The responsibility rests with the authors of submitted articles; we do not intentionally print inaccurate information. The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject material.

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LIBRARIAN'S JOTTINGS



At last the Cleveland Library is open again. However, there are restrictions! We are hoping that our members soon will be able to use our Library Room, albeit with certain cleaning requirements, limited numbers (probably 2 or 3 at a time) and physical distancing requirements.

Offsite access is still available to Ancestry.com via the library web page. It has been extended until the end of August. Just log in to the Redland City Council's library site and click on the Family History box and go to Ancestry.com. This version of Ancestry gives you worldwide access. FindMyPast is also available (one person at a time across all Redland Council libraries).

Another option is to send your research requests to Pat Misson who has volunteered to search the RGS subscription sites – ie: Find My Past, TheGenealogist and the Australian Biographical Database. Email your research requests to Pat - contact details, page 2.

Covid 19 also gives us the opportunity to explore other options on the internet. Don't forget to visit our own website <https://rgs.net.au/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/redlandgs/> to start with. These are being regularly updated to help you stay tuned into what is happening in our Society and genealogy generally. Our website includes our newsletters and useful internet links.

Other research options from home are the multitude of websites, including those that are free, like FamilySearch at www.familysearch.org.

To find other free sites Google "free family history" but be careful as many sites offer free access for a limited time only. If you use these sites be sure to cancel within the time offered to avoid payment, as they require you to submit a credit card.

While Covid-19 has physically isolated us, there is still a big world out there in which to search for your family history. Also, there is a better chance of getting replies if you contact family members and others who may have information that will help your research.

As restrictions are starting to ease, we hope that our library door will be reopened in the near future. In the meantime, stay safe and may your "virtual library" reap results to help you grow your family tree.

Bob Aldred

How far is too far?

by Yvonne Weston

You just never know where family contact is going to come from. I am a member of a Dutch Facebook group and a post that I made 2 years ago was recently noticed by another member in Canada. What sparked his interest in the post? Well, I mentioned a surname of one of my ancestral lines "Eelman" which happens to be the surname of a friend of his.

Okay, coincidence or not? I do have a branch of that family who moved to New York and others to Canada, so the possibility is definitely there. Before I was aware of it, he contacted his friend and messaged me advising me of his friend who may be researching the same family.

When his friend, Marlene, and I finally made contact and compared our trees, we realized that we are 9th cousins 1x removed! Her family came into the USA via Ellis Island in New York, lived in New Jersey for a few generations, before crossing the border into Canada and settling in Smithtown near Niagara Falls.

We are now sharing our research and although it has resulted in a lot more distant relations being added to our trees, it also has consolidated our research on the mutual direct ancestors. So, have I really gone too far off the direct path? Yes and no! In adding and researching the distant cousins, uncles, aunts etc, I have been able to get a clearer picture of my whole family.

I look forward to discovering more, weaving the distant cousins back into the family, because they did marry back into other branches of the family lines, and wondering if anyone's family tree really is that straight forward diagram that we all envisage at the start of our journeys.

Reflections during lockdown

from Audrey Warner

Because we can't gather together to enjoy each other's company, I thought that it might be fun to look back on some of the events from the past. Even though some of the people in the photos may not still be with us, we should be able to remember them and think of the happy times we shared.

I have enjoyed my time with the 'Genies' and have a number of photos of outings & events, but am attaching one from my very early days with the Society of a meeting when the Society first moved from night time at the Cleveland State School to day time in the Donald Simpson Centre, thus attracting more members.



I'm sure other members also have collections reminding them of the fun times & outings we have had.

Thank you for these thoughts, Audrey! [Ed. RR]

Someone Had a Good Memory

by Brenda Jones

My grandfather, John Olliffe, served in the West Midlands Police force from 1919 - 1941 and I was unable to find any information regarding his service, until I was told that the West Midlands Police Museum was correlating all its records.

On contacting them, I received two pages listing my grandfather's record of arrests etc.

Two years on, the person who had found this information thankfully had an excellent memory for an unusual name and, on finding his full-service record, emailed me asking would I like his full file. The money was sent immediately, and I received twenty-six (26) pages, giving all information on his joining and his death.

I learned that my grandmother was by his side when he died at midnight in hospital, and the names of the six PCs who were pall bearers at his funeral.

There is so much more information that tells me that the house they lived in, in Cheltenham, is still there and why he left Bourton-on-the Water to go to Birmingham. So many unanswered questions now complete!

Never give up with finding new records to help you.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Did We Make it? Yes, We Did!

by Annette Hall



With all that has happened over the last several months there was always the chance that one of us could have picked up that nasty coronavirus. We, like most others of our age bracket, seemed to take it in our stride, and followed the rules that had been laid out for all to follow.

We celebrated our special milestone with our son and his wife, our two daughters and their husbands and our eight grandchildren (actually, only seven, one had a camping weekend with his little mates) - much more exciting!

We also got together with our great group of friends for lunch. After not seeing each other for a couple of months because of the COVID-19 rules, it was great to sit back and have a good old chat and laugh. Hopefully in the next few years we will have several more 50th Wedding Anniversaries to attend.

Denis keeps talking about "Life Sentences", what could he mean?

Everyone changes over the years and, like most people, there are ups and downs to navigate and life whizzes by while bringing up children, working and helping out with other activities.

All of a sudden you have reached that time of your life when you take a good long look and think to yourself "When did this happen, when did I get old, when did I, all of a sudden, not know things and our kids now know what's best?"

While we were living, loving and enjoying our family that's when! It's good to know that, when you reach this age, you still have that special someone to watch out for you.

Editor's note – In an article in the May edition, Annette spoke of researching Denis's and her ancestors, "to see how many, if any, 'made the 50 years'." She was surprised to find as many as she did. Congratulations Denis and Annette for "making the 50 years" on 6 June 2020.

If they had known!

by Yvonne Weston

When my parents met, my father was asked by his then girlfriend's dad, are you related to my first wife? This is because their surname is the same. Dad was not aware of any connection whatsoever, so the relationship was given the blessing.

Little did they know at that time, that dad is related to her by marriage through his second great-uncle on this great grandmother's line. Tenuous connection, I know, but when a man's heart is broken, there is no telling the level of disconnect he wants to maintain from his former love.

I'm glad they were ignorant of the connection, otherwise I would not be here to tell our family's story, let alone add to it with my own descendants. You just never know what you might find if you keep digging.

Don't think that I will tell my dad about this!

Longer Than A Country Mile

by Dawn Montgomery

Many will know this saying, indicating that a mile in directions given by a person in the country always seems further than the actual, especially when you are looking for a landmark.

Some time ago I discovered some reproduction old maps, on which were the following Scales:

A 1772 map of Great Britain and Ireland gives:

British Statue [sic] Miles 69 ½ to a degree

Common Scotch Miles 50 to a degree

Irish Miles 54 ½ & 14 Poles to a degree

Sea Leagues 20 to a degree.

Another, undated, tells us there are

60 Geographical Miles to a degree.

And an 1831 map of France tells us there are:

23 French Leagues to a degree, and the heights of mountains are expressed in yards,
with 1000 yards = 914 metres.

So, perhaps, there is something in that old saying. And those who after all these years say "I can't work out things in metric – give me inches and feet any day" can know that they are not 'new-fangled metrics' at all.

You could check this website <https://www.thoughtco.com/degree-of-latitude-and-longitude-distance-4070616> if you want more information on these degrees [Ed. RR]

Family Tree Maker Logo

18706 WOI McFadzen LG. RAE (Rtd)

Genealogical researchers who use the Family Tree Maker (FTM) programme will be familiar with my complaints about the logo used by Mackiev.com who took over production of the programme from Ancestry. The 2017 version of FTM had a logo that included three photographs. On one side was a family of four and the other side had two photos. One was an Australian digger and the second was a woman dressed for the period.

As an ex-serviceman, with over twenty years of military service, I noticed, when the 2017 programme, was released that the digger had his slouch hat (hat, fur felt, Khaki) turned up on the wrong side. It was just a simple error as you could see that the photo had been reversed. I notified Mackiev.com immediately and asked that the photo be corrected and explained what the problem was. I did get an answer eventually saying that they would investigate and correct the problem if required. Each time a programme update was released I would notify Mackiev.com that the logo had not been corrected.

After another email, I was advised that they had contacted an Australian military researcher who told them that both Tasmanian & Victorian diggers did have the brim on their slouch hats turned up on the right & not the left side. After more of my own research, it turned out that the researcher's statement was correct. Do I admit I was wrong? No way!

After years of Boer War research, I was aware that prior to Federation each of the colonies had their own uniform rules. That meant I had to do more research. As a Warrant Officer (WOI) for more than half my military service I was familiar with the Army Dress Manual. The army dress code, produced after Federation, clearly indicated that the hat brim was to be turned up on the left side.

Further research indicated that it did not come into effect until after 1903. So, who was correct, me or the researcher? The next thing to check was the photograph. Was it pre-1903? The uniform worn by the digger confirmed it was an Australian WWI photo, approximately 1914 and therefore subject to the Army Dress Manual.

The researcher accepted my findings. Did Mackiev.com admit their error? No way! However, the logo on the Mackiev.com web site was corrected, but the FTM programme used the original logo and it remained unchanged.

Shortly after the situation was confirmed, Mackiev.com released the 2019 Version of FTM and solved the problem by replacing the photograph of the digger with a photo of a sailor!!

Of course, the navy did not use the slouch hat. Problem solved!!

Researching in South Australia

South Australia's Births, Deaths and Marriages do not have an online search facility. Certified copies are obtained from them, and anyone has access to -

- birth certificates more than 100 years old
- death certificates more than 30 years old
- marriage certificates more than 75 years old.

On their website, they advise "*Some records are also available from **Genealogy SA** who provide family history research services with a strong South Australian emphasis*" and they provide a direct link to this Society.

The "Online Database Search" for Genealogy SA (South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc.) also can be accessed at <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search>

A "name" search is available, and the information provided in the "free" section of the search is helpful. Additional information, in greyed-out areas, is available to the Society's members.

The Society holds copies of the original District Registration Certificates for Births, Deaths and Marriages from which their index entry was derived. The original Certificates hold additional information that many researchers find valuable. The Society is not permitted to provide an image copy of these original Certificates but can provide a Transcription. Content varies according to when the record was created. A Table provides information about what will or will not be contained in Transcriptions from records made during several periods, from 1 June 1842 onwards.

The free search of records held by Genealogy SA is not limited to Births, Deaths and Marriages. Entering a person's name can bring up information contained in –

- Church records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials;
- School admissions;
- Shipping arrivals;
- Cemeteries;
- Newspaper notices of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces;
- Biographical Index of South Australians.

Transcriptions from Births, Deaths and Marriages records can be ordered online from the Society - current cost \$24.20 for non-members. This compares very favourably with the current cost of \$55.50 for a certified copy from South Australia Births Deaths and Marriages.

The Society also provides a "Look- ups" service to obtain information available in the other sources. This can be requested online – current cost \$17.60 for non-members. However, there are limitations.

Comprehensive details are provided, in the "Online Database Search" page, on records available, dates covered, limitations on information to non-members and search tips.

[Ed. RR]

My grandfather Seymour and his brother Edward

by Di Edelman

Part 1

I discovered when I was 51 that I was adopted. Now that was quite a shock, as you can imagine. I wasn't who I thought I was. Who was I? Where did I come from? Who and where were my family? Of course, this started me on my genealogy journey to discover my origins and it's been a wonderful journey. I'm concentrating on finding out about the life that my ancestors lived and writing their story. My focus for months has been my maternal grandfather Seymour HARRISON and his brother Edward. This is their story and to begin I want to establish how the family came to be in Australia.

Thomas Charles NORLEY was born on 17 October 1821 in Bethersden in the county of Kent in England to Thomas NORLEY and Mary BEECHING. He arrived in Melbourne Australia on 25 March 1841 on the *Susan* as an assisted immigrant, being sponsored by Nicholas THOMAS, as a farm labourer.

Charlotte BUTLER became his wife on 11 August 1848 at Ashfield, New South Wales. She had been born in Benenden Kent on 1 April 1832 to George BUTLER and Charlotte GLADWISH and migrated with her family on the *Cornwall* arriving in 1839. They were also assisted migrants.

Edward HARRISON was born on 16 October 1836 in New Malton in the county of Yorkshire to Mary and John HARRISON. He married Margaret GILLIES at Snake Valley (now Stanley) in the Bright area of Victoria on 7 February 1857 where he was a gold miner. Margaret was a Scottish lass, having been born in Edinburgh Scotland in 1835 to Daniel GILLIES and Marian McKAY. She migrated to Victoria Australia from Liverpool on the *Hornet* in August 1854 to work for Mr E Stamp of Geelong. I can't find details of Edward's migration to Australia at this time, but I will keep looking and obviously he arrived before 1857.

Both Thomas NORLEY and Edward HARRISON were gold miners and their names can be found in records of the times.

At Bright Cemetery where Thomas is buried, the following information creates an insight into the man :

"Thomas Norley Son of Thomas Norley and Mary Beeching and husband of Charlotte Butler. Born Bethersden Kent England and died in Wandiligong Victoria Australia".

Charlotte, Thomas' wife was born in Benenden Kent, some 10 to 15 km from where Thomas was born. They were married on 11 April 1848 in the Church of England Ashfield NSW where Charlotte was the daughter of George Butler and Charlotte Gladwish. It is unknown where Charlotte died and is buried. She is unable to be traced on the BDMs.

From the book, "Bright Gold" written by Brian Lloyd and Kathy Nunn comes the following excerpt: *"John Walker remembers Norley as (a) man well past middle age in 1875 at the Cornish (mine) lifting a rock that two men of ordinary strength, John Forrester and Morgan Davies could scarcely get off the ground. When Norley worked at the Oriental Tramway he was said to be capable of lifting a derailed 2.5ton ore truck back on its rails."*

Harriet Rebecca NORLEY was the third child of Thomas NORLEY and Charlotte BUTLER. She was born at Tuena, near Bathurst west of Sydney, New South Wales on 8 September 1856. John William HARRISON was born to Edward Harrison and Margaret GILLIES on 27 November 1857 at Snake Valley (Stanley).

John William HARRISON married Harriet Rebecca NORLEY in Wandiligong Victoria on 1 March 1876. He was 18 and she was 19 and they are my great grandparents. They had twelve children in twelve years – six boys and six girls – four of whom died very young. John and Harriet lived in Porepunkah near Bright and the electoral rolls show them living there until 1917. John was a labourer and Harriet would have been very busy with her family. One of my cousins tells me that her mother said that Harriet was a bit of a tyrant but, of course, I have no proof of that.

One of those twelve HARRISON children was my grandfather, Seymour John or John Seymour, who was born in Porepunkah Bright Victoria on 13 July 1894. I am going to include his older brother, Edward Toiler, in my story as he and Seymour joined the army together and I think they had many similar interests and I think they were close (just my feeling). Edward was born in Bright on 26 June 1884, so he was almost 10 years older than Seymour.



Early photo of Porepunkah

The families were settled in the High Country or the Alpine Country in the North East area of Victoria. The area includes the locations of Bright, Beechworth, Snake Valley, Stanley, Porepunkah and Wandiligong all of which appear in the various records for the family. The gold rush began in the area in 1852 with the discovery at Beechworth, then Bright and Wandiligong and all along the Ovens River. Harrietville is another small town and I wonder if it was named after Harriet, but I can find no evidence either way. It's a pleasant thought though.

It seems that they were living in Porepunkah from at least 1887 and I assume that the children attended the Porepunkah School. I have been unable to find records of the school from that time but am hoping more information will come in from my queries as I would love to know details of their schooling. The school has created a CD with many photos showing the history of the area and I was very lucky to track that down and receive a copy and for this, I am very grateful. It would have been even better if the photos included dates and names of the people in the photos.

I know that both Edward and Seymour were sporty with both being keen cyclists, participating in many cycling events in the mountains.

"Porepunkah" Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness (Vic. : 1914 - 1918) 26 March 1914: 4. Web. 8 Dec 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article129524737>, reported:

"The Shackcloth road race promoted by the district champion (Mr F. E. Smith) eventuated on Saturday afternoon over the course of 14 miles from Mr G. Rayner's blacksmith shop to Walkear's, Eurobin.

Despite the fact that the cricket final at Bright drew a large number of local residents, there was a good gathering to witness the event. Where the finish took place, the road was lined with spectators.

There were large entries and very few withdrew from the contest, the substantial cash prizes being tempting.

Mr W. H. Goldsworthy, who is of great assistance in sporting circles locally, acted as starter and judge, and got the field away without a hitch. The race was free from accident, although tyre and other troubles were numerous. The winner turned up in W. Pitts, of Bright, who just beat Seymour Harrison, a most fancied rider, Harrison looked all over a winner, but was overcome with cramps towards the finish, which threw him behind. O. Mills, of Wandiligong, was third, and C. Rivett fourth. V. Higgs gained fastest time, accomplishing the distance in 44mins."



Seymour could be the tall fellow in the middle of the back row

"CYCLING." *The Age* (Melbourne, Vic : 1854 - 1954) 24 April 1905: 8. Web. 24 Mar 2020 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article192235450>, reported:

"CYCLING BRIGHT

A bicycle match between Edward Harrison, of Porepunkah, and Andrew Wallace, of Wandiligong, for £20 a side, took place at Alpine Park, Bright, on Saturday. Harrison won."



Edward is on the right

Unfortunately, I can't find much information on Seymour during this time until both he and Edward sign up to join the army on 19 July 1915. His enlistment papers tell us that he was born in the Parish of Porepunkah near the town of Bright and that he was living in Porepunkah with his father, John, who is his next of kin. He has been a volunteer member of the Australian Light Horse Brigade for two years and works as a labourer. He had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair; weighed 11 stone 7lbs (73kg) and was 5ft 10.5in (179cm) tall. His religion was Church of England.

Edward's regimental number was 4024 so they must have enlisted together. He and his family were living at 10 Elgin St Carlton when he enlisted, and his wife is his next of kin. He is 5ft 9.5 ins (177cm) tall and weighs 17st 4lb (110kg). He is of medium complexion, has brown eyes and dark brown hair. His religion is shown as Church of England.



*Seymour Harrison in Uniform 1915
Regimental Number 4025*

On 8 February 1916 the brothers boarded the *HMAT Warilda* to set off for war. They were members of the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Battalion, 9th Reinforcements. They must have stayed in Egypt for a short time but then on 21 March they boarded the *HT Oriana* for Marseilles, France where they disembarked on 27 March. They were taken on strength (TOS) in the 24th Battalion on 6 July 1916 into what was called the Nursery Sector of France near the frontlines at Armentières.

To gain day-to-day knowledge of the activities of my grandfather and his brother in the 24th Battalion, I have read *Red and White Diamond, Authorised History of the Twenty-fourth Battalion AIF* by Sergeant W.J. Harvey, MM. The book was first published in 1920 with a foreword by General Sir William Birdwood, Bart., G.C.M.G., K.C.B. Much of it is copied from the diary that Sergeant Harvey kept through the war. I also have copies of the Official Unit War Diaries of the battalion and we were lucky enough to have a tour of the Somme with Myriam of Walkabout Digger Tours in April 2019 and she has provided me with notes of their war. My quotation marks in the next section show direct sections from *Red and White Diamond*.

The first couple of weeks of their service in France seemed to consist of a lot of marching, carrying heavy packs and seeking billets in haysheds etc. "Furphies", or rumours had predicted that they would be staying in comfortable French houses in lovely villages so that led to some disappointment. Sometimes they marched all night carrying all their kit and blankets and there was a great deal of training to become familiar with the latest weapons.

The British offensive, known as the "big push of 1916" had begun near Albert on 1 July. On 26 July, the 24th marched to the brickworks at Albert, a town which they found in ruins after heavy bombardment. Sgt Harvey says: *"The chief feature was its battered cathedral with the famed statue of the Virgin and child hanging from the ruined tower. The current superstition was that when the statue fell to the ground hostilities would cease, and on that account expectant eyes were often turned in that direction. However, it transpired that nothing short of a direct hit would bring about its downfall, British engineers having firmly secured the statue to what was left of the tower."*

Whilst waiting in Albert, they prepared for battle – gave final messages to the padre for passing on if they didn't return, left surplus kit with the quartermaster and made sure that they were battle ready. The battalion then took up forward positions at Pozières. As they moved forward, the debris of battle surrounded them, and they saw many little white crosses where men had died. At dusk, they reached Sausage Valley, a valley about 400yds (365m) wide and half a mile (895m) long. It was a hive of activity with men moving forward and wounded men being taken out on stretchers and in ambulances and the enemy firing on them all the time. This was to be the first big battle that Edward and Seymour would be part of. How frightening it must have been!

Their battalion was part of the sixth brigade that was to relieve the second brigade at the front. To quote from Sgt Harvey again: *"About midnight guides who had been sent down from the units we were relieving reported to take our companies into position, the route being along the Contalmaison Road, then turning to the left along a smaller road past the Chalk Pit, across the Pozières-Bapaume Rd into Kay Trench, then to the allotted positions. The blackness of the night, brightened only by occasional flares over the firing line in the distance, rendered progress over the debris-strewn and shell-pitted roads slow and laborious. Gas shells falling along the route kept the men putting on and taking off their masks during the first stages of the journey, and as we got nearer the fighting area, several casualties were sustained by shell and rifle fire."*

As the relieved soldiers retired, they advised that they had driven the Germans out but that they now commanded a position 350 yards (320m) away and were in trenches looking down on the Aussies and to expect counter attacks all day. At daylight, the whole area was desolate. Pozières was gone. For 36 hours the men were bombarded with fire and were often buried by shellfire and extricated by their mates. Brigade records show that casualties were 60 per battalion per hour. Horrific losses! *"The ordeal of holding these ghastly trenches, which appeared to be merely waiting for death, threw many of the men into a shell-shock stupor, and stretcher bearers who struggled with the wounded had to kick the dazed men to induce them to move out of the way."* There were only 16 stretcher-bearers for the 24th and on the second day of the battle only four remained. What a ghastly job they had!

The heavy fire eased on 28 July and the battalion had suffered such losses that they were withdrawn to Sausage Valley, officially for a rest – but how could they rest – living in shell holes and in battered trenches with continuous fire overhead and others passing on the way to and from the battle?

Another attack on Pozières ridge was planned for 9:15pm on 4 August. The 22nd and 24th battalions, about 1000 men, were to be involved and the men moved off about 5pm. *"Every man was well supplied with bombs and ammunition and carried as well as his usual fighting gear sandbags for rebuilding the enemy's trenches when captured, and either a pick or a shovel to assist in the work of consolidation."* The Germans, of course, noticed all this activity and their heavy barrage disrupted the movement and it was dark before the men were in position where they were being lashed with 'whizbangs'.

"Who of those who participated in that engagement will ever forget the dash along that notorious trench? Some idea of the physical and mental strain of that night may be gained when it is considered that the men, each carrying 70lbs (31.7kg) of equipment, were pushing through a tempest of shells, and stumbling over the dead and wounded and all manner of obstacles."

About 1am, it was realised that the ground had been won and the mopping up began. In the morning mist, they could see the German soldiers retreating in groups. Many men were killed and wounded on both sides. When the battalion was relieved on 7 August, they'd been in action for 13 days and the men were exhausted. They had a few days rest at Warloy where His Majesty King George inspected the battalion. They then had a week's rest at Berteaucourt where the locals were hospitable, and the men were able to enjoy some meals of meat, eggs and chips.

On the 18 August, they headed back to battle and arrived back to Albert on 21 August where they had to prepare to go back into battle and this can't have been easy.

Mouquet Farm (or Moo Cow Farm as the Aussies liked to call it) is an important place in the Digger's battle of the Somme. It had been a farm in peace time but at this time, it was a German strong hold with tunnels leading away and deep underground shelters. On the afternoon of 22 August, the 24th headed into this battle to relieve the 9th and 12th Battalions but the heavy German fire made it difficult to get into position. They changed places with the 21st battalion on the 24th and were behind the lines when German bombardment cut off all communication. On 26th when they were looking for relief, they were ordered to attack the farm immediately. The order was thought to be suicide and was fortunately withdrawn as the German position was very strong. They were withdrawn on the night of 26 August and marched to Bonneville where General Birdwood presented ribbons to those men who had won medals at Pozières and Mouquet Farm.

Several days were spent reorganising the troops and many were promoted to replace those men who had been killed. On 5 September they marched to Doullens where they caught the train to Belgium. They detrained at Proven near Poperinghe on the 6th and camped in the Winnipeg Camp, one of several with Canadian names. The Germans had used a lot of gas in this area and there were precautionary warnings everywhere and many gas-mask drills with the new box respirators. I know from family talk that Seymour was badly affected by gas and wonder if it was here that he was first confronted with gassing. The weather was pleasant, and the men were undertaking light duties at the front while still having plenty of leisure time. Movies and concerts happened in the large corrugated iron concert hall. The battalion formed a football team for competitions and gambling, or "speculation", was undertaken on the outcome of the games. I wonder was Edward in the team – remember, he had played for Melbourne South in the Victorian Football League (VFL).

Back home in Australia, a poll was being held on conscription and the men were able to participate. The discussions around the issue were heated and many men were against compelling others to be part of such a dangerous occupation.

The work at the front here included mining under the German positions and I imagine that Edward and Seymour may have been involved here since they grew up in mining families. The men also repaired roads, trenches and gas pits.

Edward had a very eventful September. On the 9th he was promoted to Temporary Corporal and on the 30th he went to hospital for eight days with influenza but on that day, he was promoted to Sergeant and on 7 October to Temporary Company Sergeant.

On 19 October 1916, the battalion passed back through Ypres and trained to Steenvoorde district where they were billeted until the 22nd.

And then they headed back to the Somme. The weather was cold and wet, and they had several long marches before being bussed through Flexicourt, Amiens and St Sauveur to Buire. While stationed in Buire the men explored the area which proved helpful in the Spring of 1918 when they fought the Germans here during the German advance.

Di's article continues in the next edition of Redland Researcher. It commences with an account from Sgt Harvey's 1920 publication "Red and White Diamond, Authorised History of the Twenty-fourth Battalion AIF", telling - "November 1916 was the worst month of their war, being a month of 'indescribable agony'."

[Ed. RR]

Snippets



Queensland State Archives

QSA advised that *ArchivesSearch* – their online archive catalogue – has been upgraded with a new way of searching, new functions and a more modern interface. You will be able to:

- create an account to save your searches and see the history of your record requests
- add keyword tags to help make records easier to find
- filter searches and search results
- pay for digital copies online
- see the access status of records, including Restricted Access Period expiry dates
- easily request access to restricted records.

User guides and 'how to' videos will be available to help you make the most of the new system.

You will be able to create your new account online from the launch of the new system on Tuesday 30 June.

Church of Ireland Archives

The Church of Ireland Representative Church Body (RCB) Library announced that the historical diocesan archive for Tuam, Killala & Achonry has been listed and catalogued, and a detailed 66-page catalogue is available online. The catalogue could assist those researching Church of Ireland ancestors to the extent that it may provide leads to relevant resources. Much relates to appointments of clergy and other administrative matters, but the archive includes an eclectic range such as "an 1802 return of Protestant families to Ballysacerry and Rathrea with names, residents and numbers of members of the Established Church", "a list of candidates for confirmation in 1778", and "returns of denominations of land with landholders' names alongside, circa 1787". The following website gives an overview of the catalogue <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/9747/the-diocesan-archive-of-tuam>. A link to the catalogue is in the first paragraph. Researching these resources has to be done at the RCB Library, but arrangements can be made to pay for research; refer to <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/genealogy>. A limited range of digitised materials and PDF downloads is available on the Library's website.

Irish Newspaper Archive

The National Library of Australia's July newsletter contained the following - "*Did you know that the Irish Newspaper Archive is the largest online database of Irish newspapers in the world? The archive dates from 1763 to the present and includes both out of print and current titles. Search or browse digital replicas of nearly 90 titles, including the Irish Independent, the Irish Examiner, The Freeman's Journal, the Connacht Tribune, the Meath Chronicle and the Southern Star. Use your Library card to access this resource from home by visiting our eResources portal.*"

Those who do not have an NLA Library card can register for one at <https://www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard/registration>. There is no charge.

Trove's "Next Chapter"

This new stage of Trove is the culmination of a four-year modernisation and digitisation project led by the National Library of Australia and supported with \$16 million over four years by the Australian Government. Millions of pages of content have also been added as part of this project. Trove advises "*Created in consultation with over 3,000 Australians, the new-look Trove is accessible and user-friendly, featuring a modern and intuitive design that makes it easier to explore, find and share stories about Australia. New measures have been taken to improve the cultural safety of Trove for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*"

A 45 minute discussion of what Trove means to different communities, hosted by Annabel Crabb, is available to watch through this link [Watch the digital launch of Trove's next chapter](#). It informs on what is available on Trove and the ways in which the information can be utilised.

FamilySearch

The following new resources are available -

- Wales, Monmouthshire Electoral Registers 1839-1889
- Middlesex Parish Registers 1539-1988
- Ireland, Registers of Queen's Colleges 1849-1858

[Ed. RR]

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints On-site Genealogical Research

Members may recall that the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints provided a service to the General Public whereby microfilm records held in the USA could be ordered for delivery to a nominated centre. Access to these records then was made available for on-site research in the Church's Family History rooms. The nearest centre for RGS Members was the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints in Delancey Street Cleveland.

Recently, a Member endeavoured to ascertain whether this service still was offered, but to no avail.

Enquiries reveal that the demand for this service greatly declined due the digitisation of the Church's records thus enabling much more research to be carried out on its FamilySearch website.

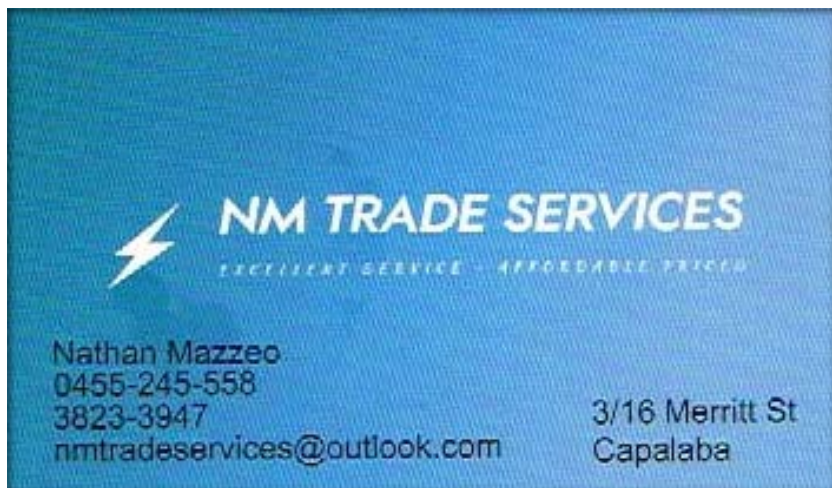
It has been confirmed that this service ceased in August 2017 due to the progress made in this digitisation programme.

Researching on FamilySearch is free, but a free log-in account must be created to access the website to perform your research. This can be done at <https://www.familysearch.org/register/custom/1>.

[Ed. RR]

Business Advertisements

Jessica's work includes family history/genealogy research, including the recording of oral histories, design of photobooks and navigation of archives. She works with organisations/community groups to provide significance assessments of collections or to research and design history displays and publications. She specialises in Public Relations for heritage organisations but is accredited across all areas of heritage and PR (PHAQ, APRIA). She can assist with developing and/or maintaining websites, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. Her work also includes developing flyers and advertising materials, and helping organisations or people working on a project to 'get their message out there'.



Air conditioning installation/repairs
Cold room repairs
Smoke alarm installs/test
Hot water repairs
Safety switch testing
Solar system repair/testing
Appliance repairs
Pool equipment repairs
Water tank pumps and submersible pumps
Alarm installation
Security (CCTV)
TV Antenna and points
Data points

Wandering Through the Web



Toronto Emigrant Office Assisted Immigration Registers

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/db/hawke.aspx>

This database is an index to the four volumes of assisted immigration registers created by the Toronto Emigrant Office between 1865 and 1883. The registers are a chronological listing of those new immigrants who were assisted by the government to travel to many different destinations across southern Ontario. Over 29,000 entries have been transcribed from the registers.

Scottish Handwriting.com

<https://www.scottishhandwriting.com/index.asp>

This website offers free online tuition in palaeography for historians, genealogists and other researchers who have problems reading manuscript historical records written in Scotland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It states, "emphasis is on practical help to improve the palaeographical skills, rather than on the academic study of Scottish handwriting".

Tutorials can be read online or downloaded. Information includes lettering, numbers, dates, weights and measurements. Coaching tips are provided.

GPO War Heroes

https://gpowarheroes.org.uk/#my_search

The Post Office, known as GPO prior to the 1960s, was once the largest employer in the UK. 12,830 postal employees are recorded to have lost their lives fighting in WWI and II. During the 1950s, a postal worker researched and hand-wrote the names of each of the fallen, in alphabetical order, and these pages were bound into a separate volume for each war.

On this website, you can view the pages of both Memorial Books and enter surnames into the "Search" facility. A "comments section" is provided to add details about their lives, through a simple form, to bring these volumes of names alive with citizen history.

BBC News – In pictures: Dame Vera Lynn's life and career

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-53068899>

Not a genealogical item – but a topical one! It is good to pause now and then and reflect on the past.

 	<h2>Queensland State Archives</h2>	
<p>16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill Phone: (07) 3249 4200 Website: www.naa.gov.au</p>	<p>435 Compton Road, Runcorn Phone: (07) 3131 7777 Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au</p>	
<p>Important! Before visiting, you should check NAA's requirements, details on https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/research-centres</p> <p>NB! COVID-19 restrictions Telephone before visiting!</p> <p>Open - Wednesday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm Closed – Saturday to Tuesday and Public Holidays</p> <p>A public kitchen with tea and coffee facilities is located on the Ground Floor.</p> <p>Free on-site parking is available.</p> <p>The strengths of their Brisbane facility collection are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immigration records that date from the 1850s • post office and mail service records and photographs • works plans which cover everything from iconic buildings such as the General Post Office and Customs House, to defence service homes built in typical Queenslander fashion. 	<p>Important! Before visiting, refer to "Public Search Room" in their website for requirements for using the search room and for accessing records.</p> <p>NB! COVID-19 restrictions You will need to book your visit, using the link Book a time</p> <p>Currently, times are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm.</p> <p>Monthly Saturday openings will start from Saturday 8 August.</p> <p>Free on-site parking is available.</p> <p>Visit their website for details of a free taxi service from Fruitgrove Railway Station on Tuesdays.</p> <p>The QSA holds informative Seminars and Events throughout the year, on their premises and at external venues. Check "What's on" in their website for details or arrange a subscription to their free "qsa bulletin".</p>	



Where to get your Certificates Check the relevant Registrar's Office for more information

These prices are based on Historical Certificates, where available

Queensland

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Qld)

110 George Street, Brisbane. 4000

PO Box 15188, City East, Qld 4002

Phone: 1300 366 430

Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

\$22.90 Historical Image – PDF on-line

\$22.90 Historical Source Image – PDF on-line

\$32.20 Historical Certificate – includes postage

www.qld.gov.au/familyhistory/

New South Wales

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

GPO Box 30, Sydney, NSW 2001

Phone: 13 77 88

\$35.00 (with Registration number)

\$48.00 (w/out number, includes 10-year search)

Both include postage; Credit card charges extra

www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Transcription services:

www.joymurrin.com.au

<http://www.transcriptions.com.au/>



Victoria

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

GPO Box 5220, Melbourne, Vic 3001

Phone: 1300 369 367

\$20.00 Uncertified Historical Image - via download

\$33.80 Historical Certificate – postage extra

www.bdm.vic.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory

(Pre 1930, apply to NSW)

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6207 3000

\$65.00 includes postage

Historic Death and Marriage Indexes are available.

https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18/kw/bdm

South Australia

Births, Deaths & Marriages

Consumer & Business Services

GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, SA 5001 Phone: 131 882

\$55.50 - includes postage

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages/family-research>

Also, use their link to [Genealogy SA](http://GenealogySA) for an online name search for BDMs and other resources!

Western Australia

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

PO Box 7720, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850

Phone: 1300 305 021

\$20.00 (uncertified copy) – includes postage

<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/>

Tasmania

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

GPO Box 198, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

Phone: 1300 135 513

\$55.42 – includes postage

www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/home

Northern Territory

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

GPO Box 3021, Darwin, NT 0801

Phone: (08) 8999 6119

\$47.00 – postage extra

(1856-1863 = NSW) (1863-1870 = SA)

www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm

New Zealand

Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Citizenship

PO Box 10-526, Wellington 6143 New Zealand

Printout **\$(NZ)25.00**

(Visa, MasterCard & American Express accepted)

A printout has more information than a certificate

www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/



Queensland Family History Society Inc.

58-60 Bellevue Avenue, GAYTHORNE 4051

Phone: **(07) 3355 3369**

Email: secretary@qfhs.org.au

Website: www.qfhs.org.au

NB! COVID-19 restrictions Refer to their website for details on arranging to visit and the current limited opening times.

There are no stairs at this venue. It is accessible by either train or bus. Parking is available in the street.

RGS is an Associate Member. QFHS. Membership cards are available from our RGS Secretary for a borrowing fee of \$2. QFHS will charge an Hourly or a Day fee, if you do not take this card with you.

If registering online for seminars, the card is not needed. Our QFHS Membership number, obtainable from RGS Secretary, must be stated.

Disclaimer

The above information is correct at the time of going to print. Use this only as a guide. Check websites for full details. Prices are subject to change. If you do find incorrect information, I will appreciate your advising me.

[Ed. RR]

Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

25 Stackpole St (cnr Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd)

WISHART 4122

Phone: **(07) 3349 6072**

Email: info@gsq.org.au Website: www.gsq.org.au

NB! COVID-19 restrictions Anyone who wants to attend must email Claire at secretary@gsq.org.au to book a session.

The centre will be open for the following limited hours -
10:00 AM until 2:00 PM each Tuesday and Thursday
12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM on Saturdays.

These hours will apply until 17th August.

There will be 8 people allowed at the computers.