

Redland Researcher



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*The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

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Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

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Patron: Les McFadzen

Management Committee 2023/2024

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Magazine Interest Group Convenor	Annette Hall
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Zoom Group Convenor	Penny Stewart

Life Members

2010 Denise Brady & Marel Donaldson - Foundation Members

Kaye Barber, Pamela Gilbert, Elaine Speck, Glenda Webb

2013 Les McFadzen, 2016 Jeanne Dixon

Past Life Members

2011 Les Callaghan, 2019 Pat Misson

General Meetings are held on the **second Wednesday of the month**, February to December, **12:15pm to 2:30pm**, at Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. An entry fee of \$2 applies to cover the room booking (and a lucky door prize ticket). Free parking is available at the Centre. Meals can be purchased from the Centre's café by those wishing to have an early lunch prior to the meeting.

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

The Management Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, February to December, at 2pm.

Meetings are not held during January.

The RGS Collections contain a range of resources **for world-wide genealogical research** in various formats. These are held in our Genealogy "Genie" Room in the Council's Cleveland Library, Middle St (opp. Bloomfield St), Cleveland.

RGS members can use the RGS Library and its facilities, including accessing available online research organisations, at any time the Cleveland Library is open. **To obtain the Genie Room key**, members must present their **RGS Redland City Council's Libraries Service card** to the Cleveland Library Reception staff. It is not the same card that you use for borrowing privately from the Council's Libraries. It is the card given to all joining members. You must activate this card at Cleveland Library each time you renew RGS membership by presenting it with your latest RGS Membership Card.

Genealogical Research Assistants (GRAs) are in the room **to assist RGS Members and the General Public**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am to 12.30pm - Saturdays 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Volunteer GRAs: Karen Hawkes (Librarian), Bob Aldred, Ian Barrett, Val Burt, Margaret Clark, Russell Clarke, Annette Hall, Bev McFadyen, Sandra Pawluk, Eddie Richards, Irene Salvatierra, Dianne Smith, Penny Stewart, Helen Veivers, Audrey Warner & Robyn Waters.

Redland City Council's Local History Collection: The Local History Collection is housed in the Cleveland Library with much of it available online at https://redl.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/1007593/0. Georgia Bennett is Redland City Council's Local History Librarian; Gillian McNeill is Local History Technician.

A Note from the Editor

Please help our Librarian, she still needs more support! I know that Karen is most grateful for those who came forward recently, and for the existing group without whom her duties would not be possible. However, more volunteers are needed to completely fill the GRA roster of two per session. Please consider becoming part of this very important group. With a full complement, commitment is 3 hours per month on either a Tuesday or Thursday morning, or a Saturday afternoon; otherwise present volunteers have to double up on their time to fill in the gaps.

This will be my final newsletter as I am stepping down as Newsletter Editor after ten years. Your new Editor will be endorsed by the Management Committee shortly and announced at the May General Meeting. I am sure that he will receive the same great support that you always have provided to me. The success of the *Redland Researcher* is due in no small part to the support that you provide with your stories, poems, research tips and advice in general.

Thank you one and all!

Greg Glidden

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Membership Fees & Payment

Single Membership \$35.00 per annum - Family Membership \$50.00 per annum

Membership fees & Membership Renewal fees can be paid by Cash, Cheque or Electronically at General Meetings, or by Cash or Cheque to a GRA in the Genealogy Room. Alternatively, fees can be Transferred Electronically to the Society's bank account, Bank of Queensland Cleveland, BSB: 124-025 Account Number: 2349 3170.

When paying by Electronic Transfer it is very important that:

New members include the word '**New**' and '**Surname**' in the 'Payment Reference'!

Renewing members include '**Membership number**' and '**Surname**' in the 'Payment Reference' and also email or hand in a completed Membership Renewal form to the Membership Officer!

Application for Membership forms are available on the website, at General Meetings, and in the Genealogy Room.

Membership Renewal forms are emailed to members prior to their membership expiry date.

Redland Researcher is free to Members. It is emailed unless otherwise arranged.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in "Redland Researcher" are not necessarily those of the Management Committee, nor of 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.

Copyright

Articles published in *Redland Researcher* are copyright to the Society and the authors. While articles may be copied for personal use, they may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Society and the Author.

Requests to reprint articles should be directed to redlandgs@gmail.com.



Notes from the Librarian

Hello Everyone. Have you visited our Genie Room this year? When visiting please remember to Sign the Attendance Book and to fill out the Borrowing Book when Borrowing Books, CDs and Magazines. A List of our Complete Catalogue can be found on Computer 3 in our Genie Room, also on our Website and on the Redland City Council Library Site, for you to browse.

Our Society subscribes to the following sites, all accessible in our Genie Room Only –

- FindMyPast
- Biographical Database of Australia
- RootsIreland
- TheGenealogist

A Reminder “Please **DO NOT** take the Passwords for the above Subscribed Sites home for personal use”. **They are to be used on the computers in the Genie Room Only. Contravention of this could result in the cancellation of our subscriptions** as we pay only for “one seat” for each, which must be used only on computers in the Genealogical room.

We also subscribe to “Family Tree UK”, “Who Do You Think You Are? UK” and “Irish Roots Magazines”. The latest copy of each can be viewed in our Genie Room and previous copies can be borrowed.

The donated items from Ken Gough are still available in the Genie Room for viewing if you think you might be related or connected. This consists of two Folders with Certificates, Information and Research Notes. The Family names are Gough, Kent, Breddin and Russell, originally from Scotland. The Society would like to forward these to someone who is related or connected. Is that You or do You know someone that is? If You are interested in these Families, please contact the Librarian or the President.

“TheGenealogist” has advised that they have just released over 120,000 Worcestershire Parish Records and over 3 million Irish Records, so call into the Genie Room to check them out.

GRAs have Voted for the Electronic Bank “Square” to be available in the Genie Room for the Electronic Payment of Membership Fees and Donations. However this may take a few months to organise. Meanwhile, Electronic Payment is available at General Meetings.

We currently have only 16 GRAs for Library Duty. I ask all Members to Please consider joining the Team. We have all Duty Days available on the Roster – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays. Please contact the Librarian for a chat.

We Thank our Resigning GRAS – Laraine Haswell, Charlotte Wruck, Chris Boylett, Pat McCallum and Jeanne Dixon for your Time as Volunteers. (Jeanne will still help with behind-the-scenes work). We Welcome Bob Aldred and Audrey Warner back to the Team and I personally would like to Thank All GRAs for your Help and Knowledge especially those who have done extra Duty Days.

New Acquisitions:

Title	Author	Category	Location
<i>The Universal British Directory. 1793-1798</i>	Clive Wilkins-Jones	Directories	2 BRI DIR WIL
This is a Facsimile Text Edition, consisting of an Index & 9 various Volumes. Donated By George Chapman, thank you.			
<i>Old Uralla Cemetery</i>	Uralla Shire Council	Cemetery	4 NSW CEM URA
Donated By Bev McFadyen, thank you.			
<i>St John's Pinjarra Burials. Western Australia. 1844-2020</i>	Swan Genealogy	Cemetery.	1 USB
This was purchased by the Society, only to be viewed in our Library, not for borrowing. This is kept in the top locked draw of the filing cabinet and can be viewed only when GRAs are on Duty.			

Hope To See All Researching In The Genie Room.

Karen Hawkes



Writing Interest Group Short Stories

The Group starts its meetings with the opportunity for members to write a story in a given, short timeframe on specified topics. Sometimes the Group provides these stories for the Newsletter.

Three of these appear over the following pages, choice of topics on this occasion being "A Sad or Difficult Time in my Ancestor's Life" or "How Weather Influenced my Ancestor's Life".

"A Sad or Difficult Time in my Ancestor's Life"

by Audrey Warner

My mum was one of twelve children although not all of them were to live a full life. Their mother, my grandmother Bridget, saw many sad times in her life as her children passed away over the years. Two died in infancy and, while she was still alive, two of the boys had very tragic ends.

The first of the three to go was Wallace, a single man, who was killed in 1930 when a motor cycle he was riding skidded and slid under a passing motor car. He received a severe scalp wound, injuries to the right shoulder and the ribs, and cuts on the hands and face, was treated by ambulance bearers and taken to the Mater Hospital but soon died. He was only 28.

Next to go was Arthur. During WW2, he was a driver in the 2/3 Reserve Motor Transport Company, but was captured in Java and, as a Prisoner of War, was forced to work on the Burma end of the infamous Thailand-Burma railway. He died in 1943 of cardiac failure following Anorexia, Diarrhoea, Beri-Beri and Cerebral Thrombosis in the 55 Kilo Hospital. He was only 37.

Grandma Bridget only lived for two years following the death of Arthur and was 71 when she died, so she wasn't still around when her youngest child, Cecil, died of a fractured skull & other injuries when he fell at the Criterion Hotel in George Street, Brisbane looking very much under the influence of liquor. He died at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1966. He had made it to the ripe old age of 50. Alcoholism seemed to be a family trait, as Bridget's father and then her husband, the grandfather I never knew, were also afflicted with the disease. I say I never knew him but found out many years later that he had been that funny old man I saw once who lived with my aunt, his eldest daughter.

No wonder one of my older cousins remembers Grandma Bridget as being a grumpy old lady; I think she had every reason to resent the hand she had been dealt in life. Luckily, I remember her as quite a kind person.

How Weather Influenced my Ancestor's Life

by Helen Veivers

My husband's Great-Great Grandfather, Thron Mathiesen, at the age of 21 was a ship's carpenter on the *City of Madras* that had sailed from Norway in 1863. When the ship docked in Sydney he "jumped ship" and never returned on board.

We visited Norway in 2017 and, as genealogists do, visited a cemetery in Holmestrand, Thron Mathiesen's hometown. We'd travelled to Holmestrand by train from Oslo and when we stepped off the train were greeted with very cold, rainy weather. We determined that this would not deter us from our planned cemetery visit, so asked directions and eventually located the cemetery – the rain worsened, and we found it difficult to read the names on the headstones, not only because they were written in Norwegian, but also because visibility was quite low. We found a little information and began to understand why we'd been told, when we first arrived in Norway, that babies in Norway are born wearing raincoats. Having retrieved some information we set off for the nearest café and eventually the return train to Oslo. Warren's boots were so saturated that we just could not get them dry – they became totally unwearable. (Luckily mine were waterproofed – had a layer of Gore-Tex which surprisingly worked.)

Now, getting back to the original topic as to how weather influenced Thron Mathiesen's life – we've reasoned that he saw the blue, blue, big skies in Sydney and decided to leave the wet weather behind him. (Thron married in Sydney, eventually moving to Queensland and working as a Bridge Inspector on the north bound railway line in Queensland.)

(contd. over)

How Weather Influenced My Ancestor's Life

by Cynthia Carson

My grandmother's family the McGrath's moved to Cairns in Far North Queensland from Victoria somewhere between 1905 and 1911. This was during the second generation of white settlement. It was widely thought that Europeans could not work in the heat and humidity of the deep North.

Yet my great grandmother Martha Alice McGrath *did* work, caring for six of her surviving children, whilst pregnant. She would have been expected to wear long sleeves and full heavy skirts that fell to the ground. Women in this climate would have sweltered for most of the year in the heat. Summer would have been particularly brutal; a summer pregnancy almost insufferable.

As it turned out, the pundits were right about my great grandmother and an unsurvivable climate.

On 16 February 1911, after a long Summer, Martha gave birth to her 14th child, Roger Stanley McGrath. He lived for 45 minutes. She was still weak from her confinement when a late season cyclone hit Cairns.

It had been an exceptional wet season. Then, on the 23-24th March 1911 the Adelaide Steamship Company's steamer, the luxury passenger ferry SS *Yongala*, sank in cyclonic winds off Cape Bowling Green (south of Townsville) with all 122 souls on board lost. This is one of Queensland's worst maritime disasters. The cyclone then tracked North West and I believe it was the same weather system that flooded Cairns and pushed a path of destruction through Mossman and Port Douglas.

Cairns, which was built on a swamp, flooded and one of the main streets, Lake Street, lived up to its name. Further north in the Douglas Shire, buildings were levelled with 100 people made homeless and two fatalities. The rail access to the Atherton Tableland was severed and the number 15 tunnel on the Kuranda range collapsed.

The principal consequence of the cyclone for Martha was that the ferocity of the wind ripped off the tin roof of her weatherboard house. One can only imagine what it was like for her, drenched and weakened by the exhaustion and melancholy of her recent child birth, trying to comfort her young children, including her youngest, my six year old grandmother.

After the wind had died down, Martha, being gravely ill, was loaded onto a hand cart and pushed to the hospital where she passed away on 2 April 1911. Her death had far-reaching consequences for the family, particularly her three youngest children, who ended up in a Townsville orphanage. Perhaps she might have lived were it not for the cyclone that sunk the *Yongala!*

In the flood of 1911, in all, 158 inches, that's over 4 meters of rain, fell. Somehow, Martha was buried in the McLeod Street (now the Pioneer) Cemetery, Cairns; a feat remarkable in itself, as the cemetery fell into disuse as it regularly flooded.

North Queensland became regarded as the most successful example in the British Commonwealth of a tropical region settled by Europeans.

BURIAL RECORDS

by Penny Stewart

An Overview of "Deceased Online" Website

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/>

This is **FREE** however it only provides very limited information. To be able to get more information you have to **PAY TO VIEW** that additional information, which contrasts with "Billion Graves" & "Find a Grave"

The amount of information directly available on "Deceased Online" is very limited – at most it will show birth, death, and cemetery location. It does however have direct links to document on a "pay to view" basis.

(contd. over)

Enter the relevant information into the boxes in the column on the left-hand side of the page.

The search facility for you to enter information:

free search

last name

first names

from year to year

[search >](#)

What you first see when you do a search of "Deceased Online":

NEW SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS!
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

a gower consultants and manuscripts joint enterprise

home search coverage help/FAQs my account about us

free search

last name

first names

from year to year

[search >](#)
[advanced search >](#)

member login

login name

login email

password (forgotten?)

Search Results [help >](#)

Searching for EDWIN COPAS, 1834 to 1881. Click on a name for further information.

Sort By: Deceased name [Go >](#) Similar names: - Similar Names - [Go >](#)

Results per page:
10 [Go >](#)

name	summary
Copas, Edwin	buried on: 14 December 1881 recorded in: Southwark

If you click on the blue writing of the person who you are searching you will be presented with the following screen:

NEW SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS!
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

a gower consultants and manuscripts joint enterprise

home search coverage help/FAQs my account about us

free search

last name

first names

from year to year

[search >](#)
[advanced search >](#)

member login

login name

login email

password (forgotten?)

Keep me logged in
(requires a cookie)

[login >](#)

not yet registered?
[register here >](#)

Burial Register summary [help >](#)

last name	Copas
first names	Edwin
burial date	14 December 1881
location	Southwark

Further information available

The following information is available for purchase. Once paid, you may revisit this information using our service for up to 6 months. During this time you may also make your own personal copies of the information.

This record is sold under an agency agreement with the supplying authority. When you view information relating to this record you are forming a contract directly with the authority rather than Deceased Online Limited.

Description	price		
Grave details and 19 other burials	£1.60	view	about ...
Burial register scan	£2.20	view	about ...

(contd. over)

As you can see, at this point it is necessary for you to “pay to view” further information. If you decide to go ahead with this you will be asked to complete a “Member Login” and you will need to set up an account to facilitate this payment.

There is a link from Ancestry in the same way as “Find A Grave” i.e., it has a link within the relevant Ancestry record.
NOTE: It is under the record name “Web” UK, Burial and Cremation Index, 1576 – 2014.

A screen print of an Ancestry record and the relevant link to “Deceased Online”:

Edwin Copas
in the Web: UK, Burial and Cremation Index, 1576-2014

Detail	Source
Name	Edwin Copas
Register Type	Burial
Death Date	abt 1881
Burial or Cremation Date	14 Dec. 1881
Burial or Cremation Place	Southwark, London, England
URL	https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch?DetsView=Summary&src=ext&fileid=10391520

(Note: This record is not from Ancestry and will open in a new window. [Learn more](#))

Save ▾

At the bottom of this record you are shown the relevant link in blue writing. If you click on this link, you will be taken to the “Deceased Online” website.

NOTE: You cannot directly record information that you find in “Deceased Online” into your Ancestry Tree like you can in “Find A Grave”.

Unlike the other “Billion Graves” and “Find a Grave” you create an account. This is purely to facilitate payments and does not give you any other options.

A Screen Print highlighting how to create an account in “Deceased Online”:

deceasedonline
a gower consultants and manuscripts joint enterprise

NEW SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS!
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

home search coverage help/FAQs my account about us

You must be logged in to proceed
To view the details you have requested you must be logged in to Deceased Online
Please either login or register to proceed.

member login

login name
login email
password (forgotten?)

Keep me logged in
(requires a cookie)

login >

not yet registered?
[register here](#) >

free search
last name
first names
first name
from year to year
from year to year
[search](#) >
[advanced search](#) >

How to buy vouchers to spend when you need to
[ways to pay](#) >

(contd. over)

An Overview of “Billion Graves” Website

<https://billiongraves.com/search>

This is a **FREE** site where it will show you the information available on the person’s burial which may include photos of gravestones, birth, death, and marriage dates and occasionally links to other relatives who also have records on “Billion Graves”.

What you first see when you do a search in “Billion Graves”:

It is a site where members of the genealogical world (you and me) voluntarily enter burial details as well as upload photos. It is suggested that you register as a “volunteer” as this will give you additional features that may be handy as you get used to using it.

A Screen Print of “Billion Graves” showing where to sign in to register as a volunteer:

NOTE: When you look at a record you will see **links** shown as Blue icons in the middle of relevant record to Birth, Marriage, Death, and Census Records on My Heritage.

If you click on one of the Blue icons, you will be presented with a screen in My Heritage. The information shown in:

- Orange print are direct links to information located in My Heritage and that information is only accessible if you have a subscription to My Heritage.
 - If **you have** a subscription to My Heritage, just click on the orange and it will take you directly to the information.
 - If **you do not have** a subscription to My Heritage, you will be asked to join My Heritage.
- Normal print (not coloured) shown on this My Heritage page is free for you to look at.

(contd. over)

What you first see when you click on a Blue Icon in the middle of the search page of "Billion Graves":

The screenshot shows the MyHeritage search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for Family tree, Photos, Research, DNA, and Help. The search bar contains the following information: First and middle name(s) George/Alexander, Last name Clark, Year of birth 1817, and Place. A search button is visible. Below the search bar, there are filters for ADD DETAILS (Father, Mother, Spouse, Death: June 16, 1876, + More) and a Start new search button. The main results area shows 'Showing 1-20 of 1,243,163 results for George/Alexander Clark in All Collections'. On the left, there is a 'NARROW DOWN BY CATEGORY' sidebar with 'All Collections' selected. The results list includes 'All Collections' with various categories and counts. The first result is 'George Alexander Clark' from FamilySearch Family Tree, with details: Birth 1817 - Place, Death Day Month 1876 - Place, Parents Names of both parents, Wife Name of wife, Children Catherine Clark and names of 3 more children, and Siblings James Clark and name of one more sister. The second result is 'Mr. George Alexander Clark' from BillionGraves, with details: Birth 1817, Death June 16 1876, and Burial Southend-on-Sea (Saint Mary The Virgin) Churchyard, Southend-on-Sea, England, United Kingdom. Both results have a 'View record' button.

Suggestion is to take a photo of this page and go to GSQ website, accessible through our Affiliate Membership with them, to access that information. *This is one of the Benefits of Membership available to you – details of how to access this from your home are provided in the Members' Section of our website.*

NOTE: Whilst it is linked to My Heritage be aware that "Billion Graves" is FREE for you to access directly via the above link – you do not need a subscription to My Heritage to search on "Billion Graves".

[Editor's Note: Zoom Group Convenor, Penny Stewart, kindly provided these notes from one of her Zoom sessions. Due to space restrictions "Find a Grave", will appear in future editions with information on Military and Council Cemeteries]

I didn't have any Grandparents!

by Dawn Montgomery ©2023

Well, any that I knew about, until I was in my twenties. My friends never spoke about their grandparents, that I remember, so I didn't know what I was missing. Both my mother's parents were gone before I was even thought of, also Dad's Mother, while his Father died when I was only two years old, so I didn't remember him at all.

For three of them I have only one photo of each, and no idea what my Mum's father looked like. Neither had she, for he died when she was only six and she couldn't remember him as he had been away from home, mining, most of her life.

So here is what I now know of my grandparents.

Robert Wilson, my maternal grandfather, was born in Coolumbaloo, Bathurst, NSW on 9 January 1858, son of Robert Wilson from Leicestershire England and Johanna Haley from Cork, Ireland. On 20 November 1881 he married Mary Jane Finn at Wellington, NSW when his occupation was given as labourer. I have their original marriage certificate. They had 11 children, four of whom died in infancy; my mother was their youngest, born in 1900. When Robert Wilson died on 4 July 1906 at Orange, NSW, his occupation was given as quartz gold miner. Some years ago, my cousin Valerie's son and I found his grave in Orange Cemetery, with a large plain marble headstone, marvellously preserved. It has been named as a heritage gravesite by Orange Council. In 1999 the Orange Council allowed it to be opened to inter my cousin Valerie, Robert's granddaughter, who had died in Orange.

Mary Jane Finn, my maternal grandmother, was born on Christmas Day in 1862 at The Rocks, Bathurst, NSW, fifth child and first daughter of Irish parents Patrick Finn and Mary Fisher. The photo I have of her is rather blurred and she is standing side-on. My mother told me that her mother had beautiful titian hair which was apparently so striking that it was said of her that "she ran through Hell with her hat off." One day my cousin Valerie – she who is now buried with Robert Wilson – told me, "Grandma Wilson was a very dignified, calm and quiet lady" to which my father commented, "She wasn't too calm and quiet when she was leaning out of her first-floor window berating me for bringing her daughter home at a late hour!"

After Robert's death, Mary Jane was at one time publican of a hotel in Orange. My mother told me that they did not live at the hotel but in the house next door, as Mary Jane did not want her children growing up in a pub. Mum remembered climbing a mulberry tree in the garden of this house and getting into a lot of trouble for getting mulberry juice on her white dress!

When my Mum was ten or eleven, in about 1911, the family moved to Sydney, and Mary Jane had an imposing house on The Avenue, Newtown. Newtown was apparently *the* place to live in those days. Mum said it was such a dignified street there were big gates at the end of it, to keep out the hoi polloi. Mary Jane ran this big house as a boarding house, and it was from the second storey window of this house that she would have scolded my Dad for bringing her daughter home at the 'ungodly hour' of midnight – said daughter at that stage being 28 or 29 years old.

Mary Jane died of cancer of the oesophagus on 20 November 1931, the 50th anniversary of her marriage. My mother said that just before she died, Mary Jane suddenly called out, "I'm coming, Robert, I'm coming!"

George William Montgomery, my paternal grandfather, was also born in 1858, on 6 July at North Sydney, second child and eldest son of William Montgomery an Irish bounty immigrant and Mary Ann Blue a 'native of the Colony' and granddaughter of Billy Blue. On 6 April 1887 he married Emma Selina Denys at St. Philip's Church of England, Church Hill, Sydney; and their first child was born just three months later. My father, also George William Montgomery, was their eldest son, born on 23 December 1897. Grandfather's trade was as a Carpenter and in this capacity he went to the Boer War, according to my father; however I suspect he was really there before the Boer War, as there was a gap of over five years between their second child's birth in 1892 and that of my father in 1897, whereas there were four children born between 1897 and 1902. In the early 1900s grandfather had a series of green-grocer shops and my father absorbed much knowledge about fruit and vegetables from working in these shops for his father during his teen years. The two photos I have of this grandfather show him to be of lean and wiry build with crinkly curly hair, probably a legacy from our Jamaican ancestor, Billy Blue.

Emma Selina Denys my paternal grandmother, was born in a pub called "The Blue Anchor" in George Street, The Rocks, Sydney on 24 October 1867, youngest surviving daughter of Charles Joseph Denys a French winemaker and Suzette Rousseau (from Switzerland) who had married in New York in c1849 and who came to Australia as assisted migrants soon afterwards, first settling in Victoria. From a newspaper cutting after her death, I discovered that Emma Selina used to breed budgerigars. My Dad told me that she used to send a lot of fruit and vegetables to St. Joseph's Orphanage at Lane Cove, a few suburbs north of their green-grocers shop at North Sydney; he presumed it was 'conscience money' for her having married a non-Catholic in a non-Catholic church – this only when I gave him the news from my research that she had been brought up as a Catholic. The photo I have is only of her head and shoulders, and shows a matronly woman who looks quite serene, quite a feat when you consider that she brought up 10 children, 9 of her own plus her second daughter's illegitimate daughter who I always knew as Dad's youngest sister until I began my family research. While my cousins and I refer to her as Emma Selina, I have seen grandmother referred to as "Aunty Lena" in a letter, and also as Selinasgel. She died on 6 July 1930 and is buried in Northern Suburbs Cemetery in Sydney.



British Home Children

by Greg Glidden

FindMyPast has made key resources relating to British Home Children free for all to explore, stating "*These compelling records paint a vivid picture of the children's experiences and may even allow you to chart the journey made by a particular child.*"

Wikimedia advises "*It wasn't until 1998 that a British parliamentary inquiry brought the details of the scheme to light, thanks to an earlier investigation carried out by social worker, Margaret Humphreys.*"

It is believed that around four million people around the world are descended from a British Home Child.

Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised on 16 November 2009, and in 2010, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued a formal apology in the House of Commons for the "shameful" programme. Canada is yet to do so.

Information on the plight of many of these Children can be found on the website of "British Child Home Group International" at <https://britishhomechild.com/history/>.

Displays Coordinator Report

We had a display at the Harmony & Heritage Fiesta held at the Redland Museum on 24th March and were in a good position in the entrance area. The Redland City Council Local History Group and the Coochiemudlo Historical Group were located nearby. The Fiesta had food stalls, a great variety of entertainment from a range of cultures, held inside and outside the Museum, and volunteers on all displays were given free refreshments.

The whole day went extremely well, especially considering that it was a very rainy day. Our display generated a lot of interest from members of the public. We had our full-sized models, a male convict and a female dressed from that era. We were there from 9am to 3pm and it was well worth the effort.

These displays play an important role in encouraging new members for our society.

Elaine Speck

Guest Speakers

February 2024 Pat McCallum, one of our members, presented "*WikiTree and Me – Hobby or Obsession*". He uses this free website to record his Family Tree. Pat gave an insightful, comprehensive overview. His tree was a revelation with all the stories, facts and photos presented together to give the reader a comprehension of the lives and times of his ancestors. Users contribute to their Own Family Trees while building One Worldwide Family Tree within the system.

March 2024 As our scheduled guest speaker was unable to attend due to ill health, our President, Helen, & Secretary, Penny, organised an impromptu discussion on Family Traits. We had an extensive discussion on this topic and the part played by Genetics. Members had a few laughs when different family characteristics were mentioned.

April 2024 A special thank you to Val Blomer, former Convenor of GSQ's Convict Connections Group, who gave us the very interesting and entertaining presentation on "*Dance and Its Role in the Colonial and Convict Era*". Val is a well-regarded expert on Convicts in Queensland.

Snippets



Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies:

At present all of the wills and documents submitted in support of probate in England and Wales are preserved indefinitely in the original paper form. These records date back to 1858. The Ministry of Justice held a consultation on a proposal to digitalise post 1858 wills and then, after 25 years, allow the original wills to be destroyed. A petition *-Do not allow original wills to be destroyed after 25 years* surpassed the 10,000 signatures required to receive a response from the Government.

Lost Cousins:

"Looking at Wills from a different Perspective."

Peter Calver provides three perspectives on retaining original English and Welsh wills. Read more on his website: <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/latejan24news.htm>. He feels that any decisions could have an unanticipated impact on retaining original paper copies of documents, in general. Bear in mind that Governments look for means of cutting expenditure. There also may be advantages in digitising these documents that haven't been considered. It's a long read, but worthwhile!

Catholic Family History Society (UK):

The Family History Federation has announced that the Catholic FHS has been dissolved due to lack of volunteers to run it. "The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society will now add the Catholic FHS material to its already substantial Catholic collection."

Family Tree Maker:



FTM has announced that a new edition will be arriving soon. FTM 2024 will replace FTM 2019. At present a release date has not been advertised. Some members have received an email from MacKiev offering a 60% price reduction for pre-ordering. One member, enquiring about not receiving this offer, was advised that it is being rolled out progressively to existing users.

(contd. over)

Snippets (contd.)

**Understanding Codes on the 1939 Register:**

You may have wondered what the codes appearing at the side of names and in adjacent columns signified:

NR - National Register

CR - Central NHS Register, used until 1952.

IC or IC - when a new **Identity Card** was issued.

MC - Medical Card person signed up with new GP.

ARP in column 1 - **Air Raid Precautions**

O, V, S, P in column 5 - **Officer, Visitor, Servant, Patient (or Inmate)**

PWC - Post War Credits

FA - Family allowances

The 3 letters appearing adjacent to a name, or a date, are Area Codes relating to where an event took place, such as a marriage resulting in a woman's change of name. Name changes due to adoption were always annotated too.

Once WWII was over and soon after the inauguration of the National Health Service, these records were passed to NHS. Some were used by them until 1952 and others until 1991.

Members' Interests

Please contact Members through the Society's email: redlandgs@gmail.com

Member's Name: Mary HANSEN

Membership No: 410

SURNAME	COUNTRY	Town or City	STATE, COUNTY, PROVINCE, ETC	Year or Range of Years
AUBREY	ENGLAND		WARWICKSHIRE	1790-1900
BAILEY	ENGLAND	Tamworth	STAFFORDSHIRE	1800-1900
BEALEY	ENGLAND	Tamworth	STAFFORDSHIRE	1800-1900
DIXON	AUSTRALIA	Jericho	QUEENSLAND	1860-1960
DIXON	AUSTRALIA	Avoca	VICTORIA	1835-1900
EVETTS	ENGLAND	Stratford	WARWICKSHIRE	1760-1900
EVETTS	ENGLAND	Birmingham	WARWICKSHIRE	1760-1900
EVETTS	AUSTRALIA		QUEENSLAND	1850-1950
HARNEY	AUSTRALIA	Clermont	QUEENSLAND	1840-1950
HARNEY	IRELAND	Athlone	ROSCOMMON	1800-1900
SALMON	IRELAND	Moore	CLARE	1750-1855
SALMON	AUSTRALIA		QUEENSLAND	1850-1930
SAMMON	AUSTRALIA	Clermont	QUEENSLAND	1880-2020
SAMMON	IRELAND		CLARE	1750-1855
SMART	ENGLAND	Bath	SOMERSET	1780-1900
SMART	AUSTRALIA	Melbourne	VICTORIA	1830-1940
VICKERY	ENGLAND		DEVON	1700-1900
WILSON	AUSTRALIA	Walkerston	QUEENSLAND	1895-1960
WREFORD	ENGLAND		DEVON	1740-1900

Forthcoming Events



CONNECTIONS - Australasian Conference 2025

This is a premier event for local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future.

Date: 21 to 24 March 2025

Venue: Brisbane Technology Park, 1 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains QLD

Full details will be found on GSQ's website: <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

Early Bird registration is open. Interested persons can choose to sign up to a newsletter to stay in touch.

The website provides full details, including Costs, Speakers, Conference Programme, Parking and Public Transport.



Australian
Historical
Association

Conference, The 9th CHINA Inc 'No Fuss' Conference, 'Northern Gateways'

The Genealogical Society of Northern Territory, with which we exchange magazines and have reciprocal rights, has asked that we bring attention to this conference being held in Darwin from 20 to 23 September 2024

At present, information is limited, and a preliminary conference programme will be published 1 June 2024.

Following is some background to holding this conference:

On 5th August 1874, the SS Vidar arrived in Port Darwin with 186 indentured Chinese labourers onboard. To mark this sesquicentenary of Chinese settlement in the Northern Territory, the Chung Wah Society's NT Chinese Museum will be co-hosting the CHINA Inc 2024 biennial conference in Darwin.

Under the broad theme Northern Gateways: Chinese History and Heritage in Northern Australia, the conference aims to explore sub-themes relevant to the Chinese in north Australia, such as ports and travel routes; overland routes; the railways; tropical settlement; remote adaption; community integration; marriage opportunities and family formation including with Indigenous people.

Special sessions will be reserved for papers within two sub-themes:

- "Objects as tellers of history"
- "Chinese families and Chinese family history".

Further information will be provided when it becomes available.

Wandering Through the Web

FamilySearch

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

Most of us know FamilySearch for all of its records, some may not be aware that it is a repository of lots of digitised books. Some are written about Family Histories and often have total family trees in their Appendices. They are freely downloadable.

Lost Cousins April 2024 Newsletter

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/apr24news.html#dkdkj>

A letter sent "back home" from a British Home Child in Canada is included. More of these are intended to be included in future Newsletters.

Qld State Archives

<https://blogs.archives.qld.gov.au/2024/01/23/lost-in-translation-not-anymore-navigating-handwritten-documents-with-ease/> (**Blog**)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GO_Kxxzac

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/latenov23news.htm#> (**Video**)

Qld State Archives has put together a video, fact sheet and blog post offering practical tips and strategies for deciphering handwritten documents. These cover essential techniques, hints, and examples. equip you with the skills needed for transcription and general research purposes.



In an EMERGENCY
dial TRIPLE ZERO
(000)



For NON-URGENT
Police contact call
POLICELINK
131 444

Crime Prevention Corner

Car and road safety for kids

In Australia, transport injuries are the most common cause of child injury death and the second most common cause of injury related hospital admission for children aged 0 – 14 years.

Top ten steps for safer travel:

1. Always buckle up – the use of any restraint is better than no restraint.
2. Rear facing as long as they fit – infants are safest if they remain in the rear facing as long as they still fit.
3. Inbuilt harness as long as they fit – when a child is too tall, use a forward-facing child restraint.
4. Booster seats as long as they fit – when a child is too tall for a forward-facing child restraint, they should use a booster seat with a lap-sash seatbelt until they are tall enough to fit properly into an adult seat belt.
5. Seat belt? Check 5 - full details at (<https://kidsafe.com.au/crguidelines>)
6. Correctly fitted and adjusted – all child restraints and booster seats must be installed correctly according to the manufacturer's instructions and an accredited restraint installer can help with this.
7. Safest in the back seat – children 12 years of age and under are safest in the rear seat.
8. Is your car right for the job? – which allows each child to be in appropriate restraint for their size.
9. Accessorise correctly – never add accessories to the restraint that was not provided by the manufacturer.
10. Regular car seat check-ups – check the restraints regularly to insure it is installed correctly and adjusted for the child.

National Archives of Australia

16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill

Phone: (07) 3249 4200

Website: www.naa.gov.au

Important! Before visiting, you should check NAA's requirements at <https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/research-centres#before-you-visit>. Bookings are not essential but may be required if busy. Phone 07 3249 4200 to plan your visit and to find out more about COVID-19 health and safety measures in place.

Open - Wednesday to Friday 9:00am to 4.30pm
Closed – Saturday to Tuesday and Public Holidays

Free on-site parking is available.

The strengths of their Brisbane facility collection are -

- 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 Queensland fashion.

For details of regular Events, you can register on their website to arrange a subscription to their free newsletter .

Queensland State Archives

435 Compton Road, Runcorn

Phone: (07) 3037 6777

Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au

When visiting the Reading Room, it is advisable to pre-order items on the "ArchivesSearch" catalogue to ensure that they are available on your arrival - <https://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/>

Open hours are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm & second Saturday of each month 9.00am to 4.30pm. The Reading Room is not open on public holidays or during the Christmas to New Year holiday period.

QSA's archival collection comprises of millions of public records dating back to the early Moreton Bay penal settlement of 1823. Free on-site parking is available.

The QSA holds informative Seminars and Events throughout the year, some on their premises, some at external venues. Check "*What's on*" in their website for details. You can keep informed of these **by arranging a free subscription to "qsa bulletin"**, using the link on their website. The bulletin is sent by email.

Where to get your BDM Certificates

Prices are based on Historical Certificates, where available

This information is a guide. Please check websites for full details of types of certificates available, how to place orders and how to make payments.

Prices are changed regularly by government agencies.

Queensland

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Qld)
Level 32/180 Ann St, Brisbane City QLD 4000
PO Box 15188, City East, Qld 4002
Phone: 13 74 68
Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
\$24.70 Historical Image – Download
\$24.70 Historical Source Image – Download
\$34.70 Historical Certificate – Postage included.
<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/rbdm>

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)
Postage included
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 4332, Melbourne, Vic 3001
Phone: 1300 369 367
\$22.00 Uncertified Historical Image - Download
\$54.40 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
\$70.00 – Postage included
Historic Death and Marriage Indexes are available.
<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/article/births-deaths-and-marriages-forms-and-fees-tab-payment-options>

South Australia

Births, Deaths & Marriages
Consumer & Business Services
GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, SA 5001
Phone: 131 882
\$30.25 Historical Image - Emailed
<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages/family-research>

Also use their link to [Genealogy SA](#) for an online name search for BDMs **also to search a number of other worthwhile resources!**

Western Australia

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
PO Box 7720, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850
Phone: 1300 305 021
\$20.00 Uncertified Copy – Postage included
<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/>

Tasmania

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 198, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Phone: 1300 135 513
\$61.08 – Postage included
www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/home

Northern Territory

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 3021, Darwin, NT 0801
Phone: (08) 8999 6119
\$52.00 – Postage extra
(1856-1863 check NSW)
(1863-1870 check SA)
www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm

New Zealand

Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Citizenship
PO Box 10-526, Wellington 6143 New Zealand
\$(NZ)25.00 Printout - Emailed
Printout has more information than a certificate
(Visa, MasterCard & American Express accepted)
www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/

