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Front Cover: Cowra District Hospital, Nursing Staff 1940-1950 (see story p. 21)

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From the President

Rosemary McKenzie

Our second monthly meeting for this year held the first Tuesday of March was very well attended by over 40 in person or via Zoom. **Dr Dianne Snowden** was our guest speaker and has a very strong connection with the Canberra area. She spoke about her 2018 book *White Rag Burning* which examines the stories of Irish women who committed arson in order to be transported. Dianne has also recently released the *Parker Family of the Monaro*—the story of John and Margaret Parker who arrived in New South Wales from Limerick, Ireland. Pam Ray has reviewed the book for us in this journal.

As most of you will be aware now our **Zoom Room** in the Education Room was completed over the Christmas/New Year shutdown. We are one of the first Family History Societies to have a Zoom Room, thanks to the ACT Government's 2019-20 Participation (Digital Communities) Grant. Training for the use of the room has been conducted and many of our SIGs and SUGs are making use of the hybrid meeting options.



As some may be aware ACT Health has released a notice regarding the **mandatory use of Canberra Check-in**. <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr/information-for-businesses> see the section "Businesses and venues that must use the app". We, unfortunately, fit into the categories identified and there are heavy fines, for the society and for visitors, for not adhering to the new requirements. We are however, seeking clarification and will communicate any updates on the website and in the newsletters.



Our first **Night in the Library** and launch of the new hallway exhibition. The evening went well with over 30 attendees for the evening. Alistair Crombie from the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre gave a very interesting background to the schools exhibition which is now in the hallway. With presentations on resources in our library and HAGSOC projects being undertaken by our



society the feedback from the evening was very positive. I would like to thank our engagement committee, library volunteers and our roving advisers who combined to make this evening a success.

I am very pleased to announce that **Prof. Peter Stanley, FAHA** has accepted our invitation to be Patron of HAGSOC. Peter is one of Australia's most active military historians and has written over 30 books. He has had a long association with the Society with speaking engagements at our monthly meetings and Writers SIGs. Most recently Peter has supported us as one of the judges for our Writing Competition. We are happy he has agreed to continue to be an ambassador for the Society and provide support for our members in a more formal capacity.



As outlined in the newsletter we are actively pursuing the goals in our Strategic Plan. With a hiccup for last year and Covid we are back on deck with some reshuffled deck chairs. The **Strategic Plan** is available for reading in the member area of the website, under "Accountability". If you have any questions about the plan or about specific areas of the plan contact the Council Champions or the Vice President. Just a reminder of the areas and who the champions are:

- 1. HAGSOC Library:** To provide members with easy access to high quality, relevant material to further their family history research. Anne Beasley and Francine Morrison.
- 2. Member Services:** To provide members with the resources, support, and skills they need to successfully undertake their family history research. Rosemary McKenzie.
- 3. Outreach and Community Engagement:** To publicise HAGSOC and the work that the society and its members do and to contribute to and participate in the wider family history and local community. Deb Hawker.
- 4. Education and events:** To provide opportunities for members and the public to enhance their knowledge and skills in family history and to generate additional income for HAGSOC. Sue Pillans.
- 5. Information Technology:** To support HAGSOC initiatives and ensure that both the internal technology infrastructure and resources and the external face of HAGSOC are enhancing our reputation and our support of members. Howard Viccars.
- 6. Governance:** To ensure that HAGSOC operates efficiently, effectively, and productively. Neville Morrison.

I do hope you are enjoying 2021 and the Society's "new normal". Best of luck with your researching and remember that "not all those who wander are lost"!

A Family Censored

Barbara Broad (nee Ascoli)

We are all censors in this game of genealogy.

My grandfather, Ernest Albert ASCOLI (1872-1956), known as Alf, told a story of his parents dying on a shipwreck off the shores of Australia. This happened in the 1870s and Alf was separated from his baby sister and brother. He said the children were 'taken in' by different families and there was no legal adoption. He did not know the family names or where the shipwreck happened.¹ Did Alf ever see his baby sister or brother again?

How this story moved me as a young child, as I learnt more about my grandfather's life. Alf said that at about twelve years of age, he had to walk and obtain lifts to travel from the New South Wales (NSW) country town of Orange to Maclean. He made that long trip and began work on a cane farm in the Clarence River district. He lived his adult life there, worked hard, bought land, later married and had nine children.



*Alf Ascoli and his four sons
L-R: Vincent, Albert, Alf, Fred, Sten Ascoli 1936.²*

Alf never saw his baby sister again but as an older man, when he travelled to Queensland, he met a shopkeeper who knew the unusual family name. This resulted in the joyful reunion of Alf and his brother, Frank.

The reunion of the two lost brothers was a key family and community story and was recorded in local newspapers. The large extended family welcomed Alf's brother into their family.³ But what was left out of this story? What was the truth of this reunion?

After my grandparents' deaths I started my genealogy research into shipwrecks around the Australian coast. No luck there. Later with more comprehensive research, I found a birth certificate for Alf in Sydney in 1872 and also certificates for Alf's younger siblings, named Sara and Marcus.⁴ Parents for the three siblings were Francis Joseph ASCOLI and Christiana LONG.

I could not find a NSW birth certificate for Frank (the brother who was reunited with my grandfather).

More questions arose. Who was Frank? How did he connect to the ASCOLI family? Did the shipwreck occur when the family was travelling away from Australia rather than towards a new life?

Alf's father, Francis Joseph ASCOLI (called FJ ASCOLI in this story) had been the informant for his three children born in Sydney and there was some consistent information on the birth certificates, such as his marriage date to Christiana and his occupation as a cook. Shipping records confirmed that in the 1870s-1880s, FJ ASCOLI was a chief cook on ships travelling between Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and other Pacific Island ports.⁵ No marriage record certificate has been located for Christiana and FJ ASCOLI.

FJ ASCOLI must have enjoyed being a father because by the time his third child with Christiana was born in Sydney, in 1877, he had recorded his and his wife's ages as three years younger, i.e. than what their ages should have been estimated from the earlier certificates. This was the first glimpse I had that FJ ASCOLI could alter his life facts.

The family did not have a permanent home in the 1870s which was evident from various records and certificates. I was excited though to have information on Alf's father, my great grandfather. I now knew FJ ASCOLI was a Frenchman, born about 1824 in Marseilles, a professional cook and living with his family in Sydney in the 1870s. This was good news to share within the family, but the next research find was not so well received. Different stories certainly have different reactions.

My research showed that my grandfather, Alf, and his brother, Marcus, had spent over five years in a children's home for destitute children in Randwick, Sydney. Alf received a basic education at the home and after five years he was apprenticed, aged twelve years, to work in Orange, NSW. The reason for the brothers' admission to the Randwick home was because their father was in gaol and their mother in service.⁶ Later research showed that FJ ASCOLI lived in Sydney after his gaol sentence but it appears he was never reunited with his sons. I could find no more records for Alf's baby sister, Sara. Was Alf's mother able to care for baby Sara (i.e. while she worked for others) but not able to keep her sons with her? This is how I retold the family story in my mind.

Alf never shared the true story of his childhood with his family. Was Alf repeating a story about shipwrecks because that is what he had been told as a child? Or was the shame of a father in gaol, who had deserted his family, too much for Alf

to share? Or was Alf censoring his life to create a more acceptable story, as he made a new life, in a new community?

As I read the government reports on the abuse in the Randwick children's home, I cried thinking of my grandfather and the life he must have had in that institution.⁷ But the more I remembered this man, a man of such refinement, gentleness and compassion, the happier I was that he had excluded that childhood part of his life from his life story. He was never a victim or defined by that history. Our family knew Alf as the kind, caring grandfather, a family and community man. The local newspapers described him as 'highly respected' and people said they 'had never heard a bad word said about him'.⁸

My research continued over many years and I visited the Italian town, ASCOLI Piceno in the Marche region, but I could find no evidence of my ASCOLI family in Italy.

After my Italian visit, I left my ASCOLI research for a while and concentrated on my grandmother's German and Irish ancestors (SCHIPP and NOWLAN families) who were early settlers in the Northern Rivers district where Alf and his family lived. I had many family stories to investigate but suddenly realised that there was one story that was heavily censored. My ancestors purchased some of the first land grants from the government and worked the land with crops and cattle to provide for their families and to improve their communities. But who were the original owners of that land?



*Alf Ascoli ploughing the land
on the cane farm, Palmers Channel, NSW, c1920.*

I remember the bounty of that wide, beautiful Clarence River opening into the ocean at Yamba. I remember sitting with my grandfather and hearing stories of him fishing in a little boat with a light that attracted the fish to jump into the boat. No fishing lines. Just light and stillness. I remember picking the oysters off the rocks at Palmers Channel and Yamba. There was no fish and chips shop, just a dad who carried a sharp oyster knife and an abundance of oysters. Plenty for all to share.

Now as an older woman I feel great sadness that as a child and young adult I never heard about the indigenous people who were the first peoples of these lands. I now know the Traditional Custodians of the Clarence Valley area are the

Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl nations.⁹ In my childhood they were non-existent in my family stories, in my community and in my culture. I understand now they could have been living on the outskirts of the community and/or integrated into the community but in my censored world, as a child and young adult, they were simply not there. What we could have learnt together!

I return to my ASCOLI research and discover my ancestral line goes back to Germany, England, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and some other European ports (including Amsterdam, Lisbon and Gibraltar). From the 1600s, the ASCOLI family were Jewish traders with occupations that have included: shipping merchants, feather merchants, flower makers, factory owners (e.g. a flower factory in Hamburg), seamen, hotel owners in Gibraltar, cooks and chefs.¹⁰

Alf's father (FJ ASCOLI 1821-1895) definitely did not die in any shipwreck. His life appeared a wreck though with his numerous families in Australia and elsewhere. His death is recorded in 1895, in Melbourne, by his last wife, and the certificate records he has no children.¹¹ He had at least eleven.

It appears FJ ASCOLI first came to NSW in 1854, as a seaman on the *Sovereign of the Seas* when he had a short brush with the law and was accused of stealing. He was sent back to his ship and eventually returned to Germany.¹² By 1859, FJ ASCOLI has returned to Australia and settled in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia with his new wife/partner, Louise MARTINI. He and Louise have three children, Lydia born in 1859, Anna in 1867 and Francis in 1869.¹³ The last two children were born in Victoria.

I discover Francis ASCOLI, born 1869, in Ballarat, is Frank, the brother, who my grandfather, Alf, met in his old age. But Frank is a half-brother, not the brother from Alf's childhood shipwreck story. Alf had welcomed Frank as a full brother into his family and never told any of his children about the true sibling relationship. Had he and Frank ever met before their meeting as old men? I doubt it.

Who is authorised to tell a family story? The person who has lived it and decided what is important? Or a family member who hears the detailed stories, sees the whole life and other characteristics of that person? Or a researcher assessing the documents and re-telling, re-creating, and interpreting that history?

Other genealogy researchers and ASCOLI family members have shared their research and we have now discovered more families, children and misadventures for FJ ASCOLI. He had at least seven wives/partners and numerous children in different countries.¹⁴

A great grandchild of FJ ASCOLI (same relationship as I have to FJ ASCOLI) tells me the story of her grandmother whose parents died in a shipwreck. Wait a minute, I've heard this same story from my grandfather but these two children never met, and they lived in different Australian states. How and why did these two children with the same father but different mothers have the same story to tell? Who created that story? Who obliterated the truth? Who perpetuated that story? I assume FJ ASCOLI and/or his agents. A sad ending to this tale is that

the mothers of these children were separated from their young ones and their stories lost.

From many birth, death and marriage (BDM) certificates I cross referenced data and signatures to verify information but with my ancestor, FJ ASCOLI, who is an experienced censor (or liar) of his life events, it is not easy to pinpoint and verify his life journey. His is a life in parts, cut apart with weeping wounds that his descendants have to dress.

I discover that FJ ASCOLI, for at least one moment in time, is British, French or German; his occupation is a sailor, a chef, a restaurateur, a surveyor, a teacher, a boarding house proprietor and/or a baker.

It also appears FJ ASCOLI liked to dress well. In 1871, he reported to the police, that a 'pair of white drill trousers and a fancy vest' had been stolen.¹⁵ 1871 was a busy year for FJ ASCOLI. His white drill trousers were stolen one month before his marriage to Agnes REILLY (born 1850) in Melbourne and two months before his (alleged) marriage to Christiana LONG (born 1848) in Sydney.

FJ ASCOLI continued to lie about his age, for example, in 1884 on his marriage certificate, in Adelaide, to Bessie LAWRENCE (his last wife), he records his age as 48 years, when he was more likely 63 years.¹⁶ That same year 1884, my grandfather, Alf, was living his life as an orphan and trying to make his way between Sydney, Orange and Maclean, to survive a life because he believed his parents were dead.

With the continuing digitalisation of many world-wide archival records and some exciting DNA matches with FJ ASCOLI's descendants, many ASCOLI stories emerge. I now connect to ASCOLI families around the world. We are in America, Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Guatemala, Israel, Panama and many other places. Our DNA matches support our decades of genealogy research.¹⁷

My latest story for FJ ASCOLI is that he is German; born Joseph ASCOLI, in 1821, in Hamburg.¹⁸ His parents were Samuel ASCOLI and Sara ISRAEL. Samuel had a feather decorator business in Hamburg and in 1838 he sent his son, Joseph (my FJ ASCOLI) on business to Paris, London and Amsterdam. The Jewish family ran a company exporting goods to different countries. Joseph 'got into trouble' and in with 'bad company' and ended up in gaol in Hamburg. By 1847 he was out of gaol and married to Bihita. In 1850, he married again. This time to Louisa GOTTCALK and they had three children. In 1858, Joseph started working on the emigrant ship, *Victoria*. The ASCOLI family in Hamburg knew that their Joseph had left that ship in some port in 1859 and had deserted his family in Germany.¹⁹ They, or their descendants, never heard from him again until we genealogists wove together the complex family threads.

My Australian genealogy research finds the *Victoria* arriving in Port Adelaide on 25 September 1858 and by the following year FJ ASCOLI is a teacher and settled with his new family in the Adelaide Hills and so begins the Australian adventures of my great grandfather.²⁰

A life that can be retold so in many ways. Do I cut and censor what is objectionable or leave the story complete? Sometimes a censored story helps one live a good life, as my granddad, Alf, led. Sometimes a censored story aids one to live a destructive life, as my great grandfather, FJ ASCOLI, led.

Recording the snippets of the ASCOLI family in this story reminds me that I continue to be a censor whenever I share my genealogy research. I aim for the truth but what is truth when it is recorded by just one person. Still I have learnt that it is better to try to tell a truthful tale than pretend no story exists, even if sometimes I do inadvertently censor part of that story. Most of all I sit on the fence wondering if censoring is good or evil.

- 1 *Rivers Part 1. The Clarence River and the Ascoli Family*. Silver Gums Press, Canberra, 1996. Family stories and interviews on the Ascoli and Schipp families recorded in this publication by the author
- 2 *The Catholic Press*, A.H.C. Guild 28 May 1936, p 17 Article and photo of Alf and his four sons receiving a certificate of merit from the Catholic Guild. Photo in author's papers
- 3 *Daily Examiner*, 1 June 1956 *Obituary A.E. Ascoli*. Newspaper article held in author's papers
- 4 NSW Register of BDM. Birth Certificate for Ernest Albert Ascoli, NSW 1872, Reg No 1872/2264 NSW Register of BDM, Historical Index Search <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au> viewed 2002 and following years. Other Ascoli BDM certificates purchased from NSW and other states
- 5 *Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters*. <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/> Viewed in 2003 and in later years. Also shipping and passenger lists in various newspapers relating to Ascoli family
- 6 <http://www.sydneymbenevolentasylum.com> viewed in 2009 and in later years <http://srwww.records.nsw.gov.au/indexsearch> Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children. Ernest Ascoli. NRS 13362 (3), Reel 1867, Page 233, Number 3363 *NSW Police Gazette*, 29 September 1880, p444, Deserting Wives and Families Services. Viewed at *Find My Past* <http://www.findmypast.com.au> 30 October 2013 Other NSW newspaper articles and Police Gazettes reports relating to FJ Ascoli.
- 7 Society for the Relief of Destitute Children. 1879. *Inquiry into alleged Ill-Treatment at the Asylum for Destitute Children, Randwick. Minutes of Evidence and Sub Committee's Report Theron*. F. Cunningham and Co., Sydney
- 8 *Daily Examiner*, 15 March 1947, p 2 Maclean Golden Wedding, viewed 22 Aug 2020 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article195286973>
- 9 <https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/> viewed in 2018
- 10 G Marks, interviews and correspondence with the author, 2006 and subsequent years
- 11 *Registry of BDM Victoria*. Death certificate for Francis Ascoli, in the District of East Melbourne, 1895 No 6294. Copy of certificate courtesy of Kathleen Delany (great grand-daughter of FJ Ascoli)
- 12 State Records Authority of NSW; *Calendars of Persons tried on Criminal Charges in Sydney Courts 1847-1867, 1876-1880*, Series Number 1861, Reel 685
- 13 *The South Australian Government Gazette*, April 26 1860, p 374, lists Frederick J Ascoli as a teacher at Manxton (now Woodside). Other SA newspaper and gazette articles relating to FJ Ascoli
- 14 *The Ascoli family in the world*. Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/120610354635570>
- 15 *Victorian Police Gazette*, 21 March 1871, p 99
- 16 South Australian Register of BDM. Marriage certificate for Francis Joseph Ascoli and Bessie Jane Lawrence, Adelaide 1884, Vol No 138, p 694
- 17 <https://www.ancestry.com.au/dna> <https://www.familytreedna.com/> <https://www.myheritage.com/>
- 18 M Studemund-Halevy *Biographisches Lexikon der Hamburger Seefarner : die Grabinschriften des Portugiesenfriedhofs an der Königstrasse in Hamburg-Altona*. Christians, Hamburg, 2000
- 19 G Marks, J Ascoli, K Delany, interviews and correspondence with the author, 2008 and in subsequent years. G Marks, *Lost Italian Roots, Shemot*, 2019 Vol 13 No 2, pp 32-33
- 20 R Parsons, *Migrant Sailing Ships from Hamburg*. Gould Books, North Adelaide 1993, p 22 Other SA newspapers and shipping reports on the *Victoria*.

Frustration, Serendipity and Beyond

Andrew Simpson

After what seems like a lifetime writing policy, legislation, procedures, training syllabuses and safety management systems, I thought I might try my hand at something more prosaic, relating to family history and research.

My mother died in 1968 and my father in 1988. My mother's death set me on the path to find out more about my family. However, my enthusiasm led to **frustration** in 1970 when I recognised that the family stonemasons, carpenters, bean counters, and their apprentices had effectively built the inevitable brick wall and formed a secret society. My father died in 1988, and even by invoking Scottish tenacity, despite several incursions the wall and secret society remained well maintained and insurmountable.

Fortunately, I had managed to collect basic BMD facts on my parents and grandparents, which allowed me to obtain original certificates and build a limited family tree. The wall remained intact until 2016, when my chipping away at it broke the foundations and allegorically I discovered it was a dam (yes correct spelling and context) wall. The flood of information I was availed was like a tsunami.

This was the moment of serendipity, joy, panic, bewilderment, and sundry other emotions. So, "What was this moment?" I hear you ask. Well, relatively speaking, and unbeknownst to me, a close familial member of my secret family society had been liaising with an (at that time unknown to me) distant cousin and providing him with a modicum of additional information. Apparently, there was some discord between my mother and grandmother's records, resulting in an "Ask Andrew" answer.

So, I was contacted by the distant cousin (who in fact is a generational descendant of my great grandfather). In comparing notes, I was able to provide dates, records, and research references logically and systematically for my mother, father, and my grandparents. After stumbling across an immigration and burial record for my cousin's brother I was rewarded with a printout of paternal family hierarchy dating back to 1719 and a full list of relatives (paternal and maternal) originating from that date. The list completed in 2016 was confined to (where known) BMD in Scotland, migration, and birth of children in country of destination. Additionally, I received two documents on life and times in the old country and a missive on migration to Australia covering my grandfather and two uncles.

Since joining HAGSOC and becoming aware of the various places to research, I have used both hard copy and electronic databases to validate, update, document and expand my database to include BMD in America, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and at sea.

Beyond

Initially, for my analytical brain (and OCD) the amount of information and compilation task was beyond my comprehension and imagination. However, after a few deep breaths and a giving myself a good talking to I developed a systematic approach resulting in a massive database and alphabetical by surname document listing all known and identified relatives. The document is cross referenced for marriages and includes place of birth, marriage (if any) place of death. This information now covers eleven (11) known and documented generations with the database inferring 1,701 relatives and 360 families.

So where to now? Beyond, Beyond? Apart from agriculturally based activities, a common theme in my research is internal and external Scottish migration. Juxtaposed is the early occupational tradition of lighthouse keeping, particularly on the West Coast of Scotland. The irony was that those who kept the lights never migrated overseas. Perhaps the concept was move away from the light, go this direction, migrate, be free, we will watch over you. Sounds like a good book (or short story) title.

Meanwhile I am self-publishing my findings for my children and grandchildren. The sections being 'The Old Country', 'The Journey Out' and 'Opportunity? The New Land – America, Canada Australia, New Zealand'. *[Book now finished]*



*My Grandfather John Young Simpson (1885-1964), three Generations c. 1956 [Source: Family archives]
Front row L to R: David Simpson (cousin, son of Victor), Sylvia Simpson (my sister, daughter of Arthur), Andrew Simpson (self, son of Arthur), Ian Simpson (cousin, Son of Victor).
Second row L to R: John Young Simpson (my grandfather), Mabel Constance Simpson (my grandmother).
Back row L to R: Victor Simpson (my uncle), Muriel Simpson (my aunt & Victor's spouse), Annie Cummings Simpson (my mother), Arthur John Simpson (my father)
Location: in the back yard of our house at 31 Kurnell Rd Cronulla, Sydney, NSW*

Bridget (Lahy) Murphy arsonist, Mexborough, 1841

Diana Heins and Patricia Murphy

Finding our second convict ancestor involved searching numerous records, linking names from newspapers with clues in certificates and using geography to help family history research. Patricia MURPHY discovered the arrival of Bridget MURPHY; Diana HEINS researched the family origins in Tipperary, Ireland.

Who were Thomas, Bridget, John and Patrick Murphy?

Our first convict was Thomas MURPHY¹ who married Bridget LEAHY on 28 November 1835 at Ardfinnan, County Tipperary, Ireland. Their sons John and Patrick were baptised at Ardfinnan in 1836 and 1839. On 8 March 1839, Thomas was convicted of stealing a sheep and transported to Sydney on the ship *Blenheim II*. We could not find Bridget's arrival in New South Wales.

On 15 October 1856, Thomas was killed by a falling tree at Longbottom, Concord. His death certificate named his wife: Bridget LEAHY. One name at the inquest was the first clue to finding Bridget's departure from Ireland.

Who was William Prior?

At the 1856 inquest into the death of Thomas MURPHY, a witness was William PRIOR, "a relative". What was his relationship? In 1866, William PRIOR aged 21, married Lucy MORGAN at Concord; his parents were recorded as Mary (LEAHY) and Samuel PRIOR. William was born in Hobart in 1844². He died at Concord in 1872. Newspapers reported connections between the PRIOR, LAHY and MURPHY families around Longbottom, Concord and Burwood in the 1850s and 1860s.

Who was Mary Lahy?

Tasmanian records revealed Mary LAHY married Samuel PRIOR at St Joseph's Church Hobart on 6 February 1844, with witnesses Michael LEAHY and Bridget MURPHY³. Also in the Tasmanian records was Mary's permission to marry Samuel PRIOR granted on 30 November 1843. Samuel PRIOR arrived "free", whereas Mary LAHY's entry was "*Mexborough*", indicating Mary arrived on a convict ship.

This was a significant discovery⁴. Mary LAHY was convicted of arson in Tipperary on 5 March 1841 and transported for 15 years on the ship *Mexborough* from Dublin to Hobart. Her convict record stated "house breaking" "my brother" "tried with my sister Bridget MURPHY on board". So, William PRIOR was Thomas MURPHY's wife's sister's son.

Bridget Murphy in Hobart

Bridget in her 1841 convict description was a farm servant aged 30 years. She was only 4 feet 10¾ inches tall, with a florid complexion, brown hair, an oval

head, small face, a wrinkled forehead, pointed nose, rather wide mouth and round chin. She had lost the little toe of her right foot.

At the top of Bridget MURPHY's convict record is a note: "2 boys Patrick 2 years John 4 years", the same little boys whose baptisms were in the Ardfinnan



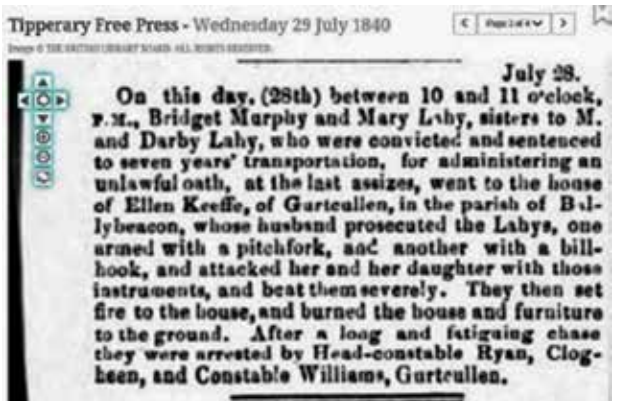
Source: Libraries Tasmania, Index number 51601, Name_Indexes No. 1421086 Conduct Record CON40/1/8 Image 50 record number 372.

church register on 6 January 1839 and 25 May 1836. The record states Bridget MURPHY *Mexborough* [ship] 26 Dec 1841 Tipperary 5 March 1841, 15 [years]. "Transported for arson Stated this offence setting fire to a house. Tried with Mary LEARY [LEAHY]. I committed the crime in consequence of the pros^r having transported 26 yrs my brother married husband transported 2 years ago". These notes, with abbreviations and lacking punctuation, confirm Bridget's sons were John and Patrick, her husband [Thomas] had been convicted and she had a convict brother.

There could be several motives for this crime. Bridget's petition on 15 April 1839 sought her emigration with Thomas. She stated on her conduct report in 1841 the crime was a consequence of her brother's transportation. Babette SMITH commented on the number of Irish women convicted of arson⁵. Dianne SNOWDEN, in her study of 248 Irish women convicts to Van Diemen's Land between 1841 and 1853, concluded that in some cases, arson was a deliberate act, serious enough to result in transportation and welcomed to escape poverty or reunite families. Bridget and Mary's crime was the earliest example of arson studied in this study. SNOWDEN considered the motive was revenge for the brother's transportation⁶.

Michael and Darby Lahy, Bridget Murphy and Mary Lahy in Tipperary

The British Newspaper Archive revealed the *Tipperary Free Press* report about the series of events leading to transportation of Bridget and Mary's brothers. The unlawful oath at Gortnaculla was administered to John KEEFE, "requiring him not to mention their names as having broken the windows of the police barrack at that place". Gortacullin (the current spelling) was the townland where a Patrick LAHY, possibly their father, occupied four portions in 1827.



The Ireland-Australia Transportation database contained Michael LAHY age 26 and Darby LAHY age 23 tried on 20 July 1840. They were transported on the *Egyptian* (2) which sailed on 19 August and arrived in Hobart on 12 December 1840. Michael's Ticket of Leave was granted on 19 June 1844 and his Certificate of Freedom on 23 July 1847. Darby's conduct record stated "tried with my brother on board". His Ticket of Leave was 24 July 1844 and Certificate of Freedom 24 July 1847.

John and Patrick Murphy at the Orphan School

In January 1842, Patrick aged 3 and John aged 3 [he was 5 years old] were admitted to the Queen's Orphan School in New Town, Hobart. Their mother was Bridget MURPHY. The boys were among 25 children from the ship *Mexborough*⁷. Children of convicts lived at the Orphan School in New Town between 1833 and 1879⁸. The buildings, dated 1831 and illustrated in the history of the institution, are still in St John's Park⁹. On 4 November 1845, Bridget received her Ticket of Leave. On 2 June 1846, Patrick and John were delivered to their mother, Bridget MURPHY. On 2 February 1847, she was recommended for a Conditional Pardon, which was approved on 4 July 1848. On 28 July 1848, Bridget MURPHY and two sons were the only steerage passengers on the ship *Bangalore* from Hobart to Sydney¹⁰.

Tipperary in the 1830s

Tipperary had a reputation for violence in the decades prior to the famine¹¹. The newspapers in the 1830s and 1840s had many court reports of criminal activities. On the day of Thomas MURPHY's conviction, 8 March 1839, there were 445 prisoners in Clonmel Gaol. The tithe wars 1831-36 were associated with the 1830s protests against land taxes and the imposition of this tax on cropland for the support of the Church of Ireland^{12 13}.

Geographical links between family surnames and their historical context have been important in this research. Patrick LAHY occupied eight acres in Gortacullin townland, which covered 1547 acres from the River Tar south to the foothills of the Knockmealdown Mountains. The Galtee valley to the north had good land, wealth and food production. There was also poor land, poverty and starvation¹⁴. In this Barony of Iffa and Offa West in 1841, 37 per cent of houses were Class IV: one room made of mud. Another 41 per cent had two to four rooms built of mud with windows¹⁵. By 1853 in Griffith's Valuation, Patrick LAHY was no longer a land occupier in Gortacullin. The cluster of houses was only 700 metres from the original crime of the LAHY brothers: the Police Barracks on the road between Clogheen and Newcastle. A Patrick LAHY aged 76, died at Clonmel work house on 3 January 1865¹⁶.

Epilogue

For a century after the end of transportation to Van Diemen's Land, convict ancestors were often hidden or ignored¹⁷. This research has revealed the story of lost and unknown ancestors. Discovering their convictions and lives after freedom means they have not been forgotten¹⁸. Bridget, her sons and siblings

missed the Great Famine of the 1840s. They also missed being transported to New South Wales, where transportation ended in 1841. John and Patrick MURPHY's early childhood may have been detrimental as they both continued to appear in court reports in New South Wales. John married Bridget LYNCH; their children became successful in their occupations around Flemington. Yet no knowledge survived of their two convict grandparents.

Acknowledgement

Orphan school and shipping records from Jeanette FANNING.

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A Man Who Excelled in the Art of Blade Shearing Shearing - Eric Wilkie (1914-1998)

Wendy Paterson

Popular lore often depicts Australian shearers as a rough, ill-mannered lot – hard workers, heavy drinkers and quick to spend their pay check. By contrast, the memories I have of my paternal step-grandfather, Eric John WILKIE, are of a man well respected for his expertise with the blade shears, good natured, considerate of his family, friends and neighbours, and modest about his accomplishments. To me and my siblings, Eric was our beloved Pa, as we had no contact with our biological grandfather. As a teenager I enjoyed telling friends that Pa was a champion blade shearer who had represented Australia at the 1956 Summer Olympic Games held in Melbourne. Yet machine technology was introduced to shearing from the 1890s, and Eric does not appear as a record holder in books about the history of shearing.¹ Had I exaggerated Pa's achievements?

Rituals are crucial to building and maintaining close ties with family, and even more so, when different generations live far apart. Life in the small country town of Skipton, Victoria, where my grandparents lived, seemed a world away from where I and my two younger brothers and sister lived in the outer Sydney bush suburb of Thornleigh, New South Wales with our parents, Elizabeth and Bill HARRIS. Most years we returned for a brief holiday with Nanna and Pa. Though we were always warmly welcomed, our family must have driven my grandparents spare sometimes with our busyness and chatter, and my demands for a story about the past.

Eric was born on 7 September 1914, the second eldest son of Andrew Henderson WILKIE (1883 – 1954) and his wife Margaret Louisa (1883 – 1954, nee STODDARD), who were small-scale breeders of quality sheep at Skipton Park, one of the oldest farms in Victoria's Western District. Eric began blade shearing around 1929, when he was fifteen years of age and had completed elementary schooling. His older brother William was continuing his education at Ballarat, and their father told Eric he would have to find a job as he couldn't afford to support another son of working age.

As was typical, Eric served his apprenticeship by watching and learning from more experienced shearers. Using his initiative Eric approached William NOTMAN who jointly owned a five-stand shearing shed in Skipton with his brother Albert, and asked for a learner's pen. William agreed, and Eric was told to buy himself a pair of blade shears and an oilstone at the local store. No doubt it helped that Eric's cousin, Jim (James Murray) WILKIE was shearing there. Reflecting on how sore his hands were at the end of each day, Eric recalled

Albert asking whether he ever thought about giving up shearing. Eric responded wryly: "I think about it every day".²

Eric next travelled with his father nearly 1,000 kilometres to Wilcannia, NSW, in an old double seater 'Hupmobile' car to work in the shed as a lowly "rouseabout". This involved running all day – picking up fleeces from the floor, throwing them on the table to be dressed and classed, then sweeping the floorboards clean. His father was employed as the "experter" – maintaining and repairing shearing tools and machinery, including steam presses.

Like treacle off freshly baked damper, the places where Eric and Andrew worked roll off the tongue – "Billila" (about 200 kilometres east of Broken Hill), "Murita" and "Cullpurlin". They then moved down to the Riverina, to properties including Hugh Victor MCKAY's (the famous farming machinery inventor and manufacturer) on the Murrumbidgee River, and others on the way to Omeo in East Gippsland, Victoria.³

It was the cusp of the Great Depression and many Australians would suffer great hardship in the years ahead. Some pastoralists believed that preparing valuable stud sheep for showing or sale was best done by skilled men using blades. Also blade shorn sheep had slightly more wool left on them compared with machine shorn sheep and were less vulnerable to wind chill if there was a sudden drop in temperature.

Shearing was physically demanding backbreaking work. It required great skill and stamina, an ability to withstand hardship, rough conditions and long hours. At that time, up to thirty men could be living in a shearers' hut, sometimes for months on end. While the pay could be good depending on the number of sheep a man sheared, the work was seasonal, and an amount had to be paid to the shed each week for board and food – there was no such thing as superannuation, sick or holiday pay.⁴

Fortunately for Eric, his blade shearing skills improved. Notably, Tom OSBORNE Senior contracted him to shear at Terrinallum Homestead, Darlington, in Victoria's Western District, when it was owned by Lindsay NICHOLAS (Australian heir to the Aspro fortune) and his wife, the famous concert pianist Hepzibah MENUHIN. Built in 1850, the homestead's bluestone woolshed and shearers quarters with shingles under an iron roof had 14 stands and provided shelter for up to 2,500 sheep.

Shearing was a family affair. Eric's second cousins Murray (James Murray WILKIE 1917 – 1984) and Bennie (Leslie Roderick WILKIE 1921 - 2011) joined him to shear stud sheep at the WALTON's Wurrook pastoral station (birthplace of the Australian Kelpie), and at many other surrounding sheds.⁵

In 1938, the Arbitration Court made a judgement regarding members of the Australian Workers Union working in the pastoral industry. Recognising their specialist expertise, for the first time blade shearers working in NSW and Victoria were awarded one shilling extra per 100 sheep shorn, in addition to the machine shearing rate of 35 shillings. Wool prices were low, and Chief Judge

Dethridge commented “quite possibly before very long the Australian wool-producing industry might be struggling desperately to maintain itself against the competition of artificial wool”.⁶

This may have partly influenced Eric’s decision to apply to join the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a trainee ground mechanic, three months after Australia entered World War Two on 3 September 1939. Wanting to improve his prospects, Eric embellished his qualifications. The Recruitment Officer based in Melbourne recorded that Eric was a “Foreman and driller, with seven years’ experience working on internal combustion engines”. This fits with what my father told me, that Eric used to go boring for water with his father, camping out in the Western District for months, with his wages supplemented by seasonal blade shearing. Eric added “he was willing to serve anywhere, fit from playing football, could rough it, and was prepared to sleep in a barrack room.”⁷

However, Eric’s call-up for September 1940 was jeopardised when the NOTMAN brothers wrote to the RAAF Recruiting Officer asking whether this could be deferred until November. Eric was “one of their best shearers” and they had “already suffered greatly” because of the enlistments of their employees, as well as Albert’s son, Claud (George Claud NOTMAN, 1915-1999). Eric was aware of this correspondence, as he wrote separately to state that he would ‘be greatly favoured’ if this appeal was denied. Consequently, the NOTMAN’s request was politely refused.

Unfortunately for Eric, he failed the practical test for entry to the RAAF as a trainee mechanic. I imagine this was incredibly disappointing for him. Instead, Eric was told to report to No. 1 School of Technical Training, West Melbourne on 16 September 1940 as a trainee rigger, a position he was considered “barely suitable for”. By December, Eric’s had achieved satisfactory proficiency and his character was assessed as “very good”. Nevertheless, Eric was transferred to the Reserve Forces and instructed to take up civilian duties as a welder with A. H. Wilkie Contractors (his father’s business).⁸ Eric’s attempt to break away and decide his own future had failed.

By 1942, National Service officers for designated areas were given authority to decide based on industry and occupation whether “a man’s service on the industrial front was of greater value to the war effort than his enlistment”⁹. As far as I am aware, Eric never mentioned “welding” as part of his responsibilities working with his father. Eric’s older brother William had already enlisted with the RAAF so perhaps informal family connections were used to influence Eric’s ongoing release to the Reserve Forces.

Having a steady wage and working closer to home in Skipton was more attractive after Eric married my paternal grandmother, Leonie HARRIS (Verna Leonie, nee CALLAGHAN 1914 - 2002) on 18 Feb 1844 at the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Ballarat.¹⁰ This was Leonie’s second marriage. My father was the son of her first marriage to William Robert HARRIS, whom she divorced in 1939. Electoral rolls list Eric’s occupation as “labourer” from 1943 to 1949, then “station hand” from 1954 onwards. In November 1952, the Pastoral Board set the minimum

rate for a station hand at £12/13/1, “without keep”, for properties which ran at least 2000 sheep.¹¹ As a station hand, Eric’s duties included crutching and drenching sheep, assisting with lambing, and shearing. Usual conditions were 44 hours a week spread over six days, if work was not confined to the homestead.

In 1954, the Ballarat Agricultural Show successfully applied to the prestigious Royal Melbourne show to hold the Australian Blade Shearing Championship, which had not been held for nearly 50 years. Eric and Bennie seized this opportunity to demonstrate their skill and win some prize money. Eleven shearers competed in the final, with the focus being on who could best take the wool off three sheep in 15 minutes, “cleanly and evenly”. More than 500 people were packed tightly around the staging at any one time for the blade and machine shearing, with the crowd sometimes 12 deep behind three rows of seats. Claud NOTMAN provided informed comment to record audiences for nearly six hours. I can imagine the crowd cheering and clapping as Eric was proclaimed the Australian Blade Shearing Champion, with second prize going to T. W. ANDREWS and third prize to Benny WILKIE. Eric received the significant sum of £100, roughly the equivalent of two months wages. The chief judge, Mr SIMPSON, commented the competition was ‘definitely the highlight of the show and the biggest and best staged contest he had seen’ – ‘And I have seen them all’.¹³



Eric Wilkie – 1954 Australian Blade Shearing Champion¹²

Consequently, Eric was the only blade shearer invited to display his prowess for over 10 days to visitors and Australians attending the Melbourne Olympics in December 1956. The Australian Wool Board had arranged a demonstration of “old fashioned blade shearing, machine and table shearing” as part of an exhibition of champion sheep and fleeces, held in the Treasury Gardens, Melbourne.¹⁴

At 50 years of age Eric once again won the title of blade shearing champion of Australia in 1964 scoring 263 points out of a possible 300, defeating his nearest rivals by nine points. Tied second were B. L. FAY from “Warrnhelp” and Eric’s cousin Bennie, now about 43 years old. While the judge, Mr B. POWELL of



Eric Wilkie – Dec 1956 Wool Exhibition, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne, demonstrating blade shearing for visitors at the Olympic Games¹⁵

Werribee commended the ability of the 10 competitors, he considered blade shearing could be considered a “dying art”, and indeed this was the last year the competition was held in Ballarat. Afterwards, Eric commented to a journalist that when in his prime “best days on the blades gave a tally of about 150”.¹⁶ This is comparable with one of the fastest blade shearing teams in Victoria, which was averaging 154 ewes and lambs a day in the mid-1930s.¹⁷

In his history of men and their flocks in the Western District of Victoria, Claud NOTMAN described Eric and Benny as boosting attendance at the annual Ballarat Agricultural Shows for 10 years, with Benny being “one of the greatest in his time for speed and quality”.¹⁸ While Eric won three Australian Championships in total compared to Benny’s six, I think it is significant that Eric won both the first and last blades competitions held in Ballarat. Benny has a current nomination for inclusion in the Australian Shearers Hall of Fame, and I will argue that Eric also deserves to be remembered for his achievements.¹⁹ Remarkably, Eric, Murray, Dave and Benny WILKIE were still blade shearing together in 1970 at one of the last big blade sheds in Australia – Claud NOTMAN’S Mt Widderin property near Skipton.²⁰ When Eric died at home aged 83, Claud posted a tribute in *The Courier*, “A man who excelled in the art of Blade Shearing, He was fast, proficient, and loved the work ... We have kept our mutual respect to the end.”²¹

Though shearing is not an Olympic sport, it was a significant honour for Eric to be selected to demonstrate the art of blade shearing to local and international visitors after winning the Australian Championship in 1954. I can still see Pa, slightly stooped, his hair now silver and wispy, showing me how he could whistle and use the slightest of hand gestures to encourage his kelpie Moss to round up the chickens late in the afternoon, with Nanna calling out from the kitchen “I hope you’re not using that sheep dog of yours, the hens will stop laying”. Pa would give me a quiet grin, and we both knew not to answer. Never one to provoke a family upset, or boast about his achievements, Eric made the best of his opportunities and became a champion blade shearer. I am now even more proud to call him my grandfather.

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My Memories of Nursing at Cowra District Hospital - early 1940s

*This story was written by Vera Speer (nee Boardman) and submitted by **Pauline Ramage** who is previously from Cowra. The article is reprinted with permission from Vera's relative Allison Shein.*

Since the four years of training which I completed at Cowra District Hospital in June 1945, there have been many dramatic changes in health care. Matron KNIBBS was there when I began, then Matron POIGNAND, then Matron DUGAN with Sister Jean BOARDMAN (a cousin of mine) acting for some time as well as theatre sister. Some trained nurses and nurses training do everything except cooking. Also there was a boiler man who was indispensable. He did many jobs including sharpening our razors which were used in preparing skin for operations as well as ill men who could not shave their beards. I remember an old gentleman who was quite ill with Pleurisy and Pneumonia, after I shaved him he took a deep breath and said "Well I didn't ever think that a slip of a girl would ever shave me". I think of it sometimes even now, he must have been terrified.

I remember before antibiotics when a patient with Pneumonia either reached a "Crisis", very high temperature and within a couple of hours they died, or "Lysis", a very slow recovery. The treatment was poultices (Antiphlogistine and

Linseed Meal) to the chest and nursing care. Then thanks to May & Baker, M&B 693 was used for Pneumonia, M&B 760, sulphadiazine, sulphathazole, and sulphaguanadine, for their respective conditions.

I remember three blood transfusions during my four years, there could have been one or more when I was on sick or annual leave.



*Nursing Staff 1940-1950. Some known to be in the photo:
front row LH side, Mary WRIGHT; middle, Matron McBride;
others in the front row Sr. Jean BOARDMAN and her cousin Sr. Vera BOARDMAN
middle row LH side, Sr. Pat WALSH who eventually became matron in the 1970s.*

I remember being on duty to give the first penicillin injection at Cowra District Hospital to a young boy with Osteomyelitis of the leg. It was orange powder, and had to be dissolved in sterile water, injected 3rd hourly for a few days, he made a dramatic recovery.

I remember a small child with Laryngial Diptheria who unfortunately died but no electric suckers in those days, sterilized fowl feathers were used to clean the tube in the throat.

A military ward was built behind the main building for the servicemen at the Military Camp stationed at Cowra during the war, it was staffed by army sisters for a short time but when war conditions worsened they went overseas, it was then staffed by our nurses, of course under military doctors. One young soldier who had been operated on for a ruptured gangrenous appendix could have died and probably would have, was fortunate when the Waggendsteins apparatus

was first ever used at the hospital. Occasionally medical orderlies came in when needed (in such cases as C.S.M.-Cerebral Spinal Meningitis) while they were unconscious.

There was a fumigation room at the hospital with a very strong door to seal the fumes where the mattresses etc. were fumigated, some formalin was poured onto Condy's Crystals, it was very pungent - one made a very hasty exit.

In an earlier story written about the hospital, it was stated that the isolation ward then was not in much use. It was very much used while I was there by the district, the Prison of War Camp as well as the Military Camp.

At one time we had an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, when one might have thought a circus had come to town. As isolation was full of patients, a big marquee was put up near isolation ward on the grass. Florence NIGHTINGALE would have been quite at home with us with our kerosene lanterns, urinals, and bed pans.

We had Japanese, Koreans, Italian prisoners of war in isolation ward, also some Javanese women with small children with Measles and Pneumonia, they were soon moved up to a warmer part of Australia.

I was on night duty when the Japanese prisoners broke out of camp, some escaped over electrified barbed wires, throwing blankets over the wires, quite a number had broken bones and suffered burns, they were brought in over a period of time to the hospital for x-rays, Sister BOARDMAN had a busy time doing x-rays and I believe the new supply of Vaseline was nearly exhausted being used for burns.

When I commenced my training our time sheets showed 56 hours per week though we worked more, sometime during training it was reduced to 48 hours. In special cases (unconscious) we did 12-hour shifts - 72 hours per week. We paid threepence per week through Mr. TODHUNTER (secretary) for hospital insurance. The doctors "God bless them" gave their services free to us.

I remember Dr. J GARNER, Dr. Alec McLAREN, Dr Enid McLAREN, Dr. MAHON and Dr. GREAVES.

There are a few photos taken while I was there. In one of them there is a group of us including Dr. Alec McLAREN taken in front of the steps at the hospital entrance about 1944 I think.

A first year nurse wore a dark royal blue star on the front of the cap, two for second, three for the third, and four for the last year. The hospital badge I received when I finished which I still have is a green oval shape with four stars on it.

I have precious memories of my four years at Cowra District Hospital.

Vera Speer (nee BOARDMAN).

The Rev William Martin

Ireland's first Covenanter Presbyterian Minister

Sue Pillans

Covenanters were members of a 17th-century Scottish religious and political movement, who supported a Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and the primacy of its leaders in religious affairs. The name derived from Covenant, a biblical term for a bond or agreement with God.

William MARTIN was born near Ballykelly, County Londonderry, Ireland on the 16 May 1729 the eldest son of David MARTIN. He graduated in 1753 in Theology from Glasgow University and the Reformed Presbyterian Hall where he studied under John McMILLAN founder of the Scottish Reformed Presbyterian Church and later ordained at The Vow, near Ballymoney Antrim. He was the only Covenanter Minister for Antrim and Down Counties, his preaching and pastoral duties were extensive. By 1760 he had based himself in Kellswater near Ballymena while still having supervisory responsibility for other Covenanter groups across Antrim.

Rev MARTIN seemed to be a charismatic preacher, vocal in his opposition to the British influenced authorities. At this time conflict and violence caused by high rents and evictions for farmers and a declining linen trade that employed Scottish settlers, caused all Presbyterians to feel they were discriminated against by the official Church of Ireland authorities.

Presbyterians had already started migrating to America. A group of Scot- Irish Presbyterian Covenanters in Rocky Creek South Carolina sent a call to Ireland for a preacher in 1770. Rev MARTIN decided to accept the call and preached sermons to his various congregations to pool their resources and accompany him. In a feat of amazing skill he organized 5 ships with around 1200 people under his leadership, arriving in Charleston in 1772 on the eve of the American Revolution.

The settlers were granted free land, scattered throughout the province of Chester but the majority were around Rocky Creek, they prospered and by 1774 had built their own church.

1780 finds the British taking Charleston South Carolina. Rev MARTIN being a strong supporter of the patriots preached a fiery sermon, reminding the congregation their fathers having been forced out of Scotland and again out of Ireland, had come to America where they were now free men. The British were coming to once again force them out of their homes. He told them there was a time to pray and a time to fight and the time to fight had come! Immediately after this sermon two companies were formed and they joined the American Forces.

For his efforts, the British burned down the church and imprisoned Rev MARTIN for six months.

At his trial, faced with the charge of Rebellion Rev MARTIN stated that “the Declaration of Independence was merely a statement of what his religion had always maintained”, he made no apology.

Sadly after returning to his parish his health deteriorated, the congregation let him go because of intemperate remarks, and in 1801 charges were brought against him by the Presbytery, including habitual drinking and the keeping of slaves, he was deposed from his church and died in 1806.

On June 29, 2007 a ceremony was held at the Vow in Ireland to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Ordination of William MARTIN with a plaque erected in the old Vow graveyard.

Although no passenger lists survive for the five ships, *James and Mary*, *Lord Dunluce*, *Pennsylvania Farmer*, *Hopewell* and *Free Mason* most families can be found in the South Carolina Council Journals where their land grant was recorded or in Jean Stephenson’s book, *Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina*. The Chester Public Library has a MARTIN Family File.

Sources

The Belfast News published letters from heads of households from the James and Mary and Lord Dunluce ships.

Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772: Reverend William Martin and His Five Shiploads of Settlers. Jean Stephenson. Shenandoah Publishing House. 1970 - available on google books

Journal 37 of the South Carolina Council, Meeting of January 6, 1773, PP: 1.



Fairfield County South Carolina, erected in 1959.

Telling Half the Story

Ross Cleary

So much of the satisfaction in family history research comes as we burrow through archives and records unearthing documents which together form a mosaic for understanding more of the lives of our ancestors. For those ancestors in colonial Australia, these stories are sometimes of hardy farming men and women coming to grips with and attempting to 'tame' this land. My own research has led me to several of these stories.

My convict ancestor John TOOHY, arriving in 1830, achieved his Certificate of Freedom and farmed for the rest of his life in the Gunning area. My CLEARY ancestors, fleeing the ravages of the 'great potato famine' left their native Ireland in 1848 and on arrival were soon farming near Kilmore in Victoria, then near Albury, and finally just west of Grenfell. DUFFY and DAWES ancestors arrived in the colony in the 1850's and settled in the Good Hope district west of Yass where they farmed until moved on by the incipient building of the Burrinjuck Dam and its spreading flood.

I am sure that in the many other branches of my family tree, there are even more ancestors to be found who farmed the land. It is a common enough Australian story, shared by many.

Like many a researcher, I have enjoyed tracing the transfer of title of lands to these ancestors and seeing maps of their land holdings. I haven't had as much luck as others in coming across early photos or personal documents that tell me of their lives in their own voice. But this hasn't stopped me constructing in my imagination, and in my own words, what this life might have been. There is plenty of good historical writing of the colonial experience to draw on for this, and I have enjoyed constructing my own narrative around the bare facts of the lives of my forebears.

But now I find myself wondering more and more about the other side of the story. Because the other side of the European colonisation of the land, is the Aboriginal dispossession of their lands. We are more and more aware of this previously untold, or unheeded, Australian story and more and more aware that the forced colonisation of this land and the dispossession of its original inhabitants remains at the heart of the 'unfinished business' of reconciliation within our country. Some would say, and I find myself in agreement, that until a treaty is signed, and there is a constitutionally enshrined "voice to Parliament", there will remain an unbridged chasm in our national conversation.

I doubt that my ancestors ever heard the phrase "terra nullius", but I have the uncomfortable feeling that in their actions of clearing land, fencing paddocks, creating tracks across the land, building local townships, they were de facto expressing this precept. I accept that their own contributions to expanding the footprint of colonial settlement were totally within the law. It was within the law of a colonial society, that is. But we know now that the laws governing colonial New

South Wales paid no heed whatsoever to the laws and lore of the Aboriginal society that colony was actively dispossessing.

And it's not as if there were no First Nations Peoples in sight. My ancestors at Gunning, Grenfell, Yass and elsewhere surely were aware of these original inhabitants, for the most part living displaced outside of the towns my ancestors came to for supplies, or worship, or enjoyment, or who camped near their properties. Perhaps even camped on a part of their farm properties. I cannot imagine my ancestors understood there was a difference between the Wiradjuri nation and the Ngunnawal nation, over whose adjoining lands they would travel. Did they understand anything of the intricacies of Aboriginal clan systems? It's possible they did, if my ancestors were well disposed to Aboriginal people living nearby, and sensitive to the nuances of relationships. But I lack the evidence to do little but speculate on this.

A more unsettling thought grows from the evidence now being assembled on "frontier wars". As the maps of these areas of active conflict are drawn, an even more fundamental reappraisal of my ancestors settling of the land, may be required. This is not only an unsettling thought, it is a long way removed from the 'heroic' narrative of our pioneer farming families.

Some may argue that these issues are of greater relevance to the professional historian, and because of their speculative nature to the family historian, can at best be a footnote to our research. I can't agree with this. My ancestors, and maybe yours, were living on land which had been taken over without negotiation, stolen, from its original inhabitants. And this settlement was occurring within 1 or 2 generations from that original dispossession. I am not for a moment suggesting that my ancestors could be expected to have anything more than the 19th century European mindset they had, with all its implicit and explicit racism and ideas of land ownership. But my 21st century mindset now understands clearly that I have been researching one half of the story only. My 19th century farming forebears bought land illegally seized by a colonial government, and in that way, they also contributed to the ongoing dispossession of the Aboriginal people and the further disintegration of Aboriginal society which followed. It is an unsettling thought. It also points to an incompleteness, a hole, in my research into their lives in this new land. And I know now that I need to revisit my narrative of their lives and think very carefully about how I am to research and then tell the other side of their settler and pioneer stories.



Duffy family group, on a farm near Yass, which demonstrates the known research of white settlement.

A Chaddesden Farmer's Victorian Notebook

Peter Cholerton

Kerry Holdsworth's great-grandfather started his notebook 175 years ago in Derbyshire when he was just 19 years old. This is an abridged copy of an article written by Peter Cholerton for the Chaddesden Historical Group and includes extracts from the notebook kept by William WHITE of Meadow Farm, Chaddesden, born 1827, farmer and land surveyor, who emigrated to Australia and died in Melbourne in 1885. For the full article see <https://www.chaddesdenhistorygroup.co.uk/history>.

Until the 1920s, Chaddesden was a small Derbyshire village, but it is now a large suburb of the city of Derby only two miles to the west. Most of its farms were lost to residential development, although Meadow Farm on Meadow Lane, a substantial Victorian homestead, managed to survive until the 1970s when it was demolished to make way for a new road scheme.

More than a century previously, Meadow Farm (pictured here) had been the home of the WHITE family, who were closely related to George and Maria WRAGGE (nee WHITE) and their children. These two families were notable in that several of their young men made successes of their lives by emigrating to Australia in the 1850s, and a few years ago I published an article on the Chaddesden Historical Group's website entitled "*The Wragge Brothers, Australian Pioneers*" which highlighted some of the exploits of Thomas, George, William and Henry WRAGGE and their cousin William WHITE. Subsequently I was contacted by Kerry Holdsworth, one of William WHITE's Australian descendants, who gave me a copy of a notebook of William's dating from 1846. Once I had transcribed the whole notebook, which is part diary, part surveyor's field-book, it was obvious that it represented a remarkable survival from Victorian times.

William WHITE was born at Chaddesden in 1827, as the only child of William Morledge WHITE, a farmer, maltster, brick-maker, land-agent and valuer, and his second wife, Jane HARVEY. By his first wife Elizabeth HARVEY (Jane's sister), William Morledge WHITE had five daughters and one son, Thomas Harvey WHITE, who later became a land-agent to the STANHOPE family at Chevening in Kent. William Morledge WHITE would marry a third time to Sarah WRAGGE but had no further children.



Meadow Farm.

The notebook entries initially run from February 1846 to May 1846, thereafter the pages are used for surveys and notes, etc. On the first page, under the heading of "Remember", William has listed various disparate items including "2 Wks Friday to fly White Pigeon", "Sulphate of Copper", and "Asparagus Plants". As might be expected, the book contains numerous references to the minutiae of farming life. William was clearly a practical man since he leaves further reminders for himself regarding "Saddle, Bridle, Bit & Chain", "Cow Drenches" and "Gun & Ramrod". He also notes down other useful information such as a "Recipe to make Boots and Shoes elastic, durable and waterproof", as well as a method for making the "best Tracing Paper", which would no doubt have been invaluable to him in his surveying work when copying plans, etc.

When William was growing up, Meadow Farm comprised some 185 acres and was thus one of the largest in Chaddesden. However, because of its proximity to the River Derwent only a few hundred yards to the south of the farmhouse, flooding was a frequent problem, as highlighted in his notebook entry for 6 April 1846: "A very great Flood in Meadows up to Oat Stack in Home Close". A week later, on 13 and 15 April 1846 remedial work was in hand for William noted firstly "Draining in Share-flat-nook Pingle" and then repairing the flood bank in the same field.

In his free time, William evidently had an interest in natural history for he notes two publications: "*Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*" and "*The British Flora*". It seems possible that one of his pastimes was dancing, for the notebook includes detailed instructions for performing the square dance known as the First Set of Paine's Quadrilles. Other, more typical, country pursuits gave him a break from the daily routine of farm work, such as 4 March 1846 when he went fox hunting. The next day he assisted his father in valuing seventeen trees growing at nearby Spondon and which belonged to a relation, Mr. SANT. On 9 March 1846, William was "Ferretting at Mill" where he "Lost young Hob [male] Ferret" ... Chaddesden Mill, a water-powered corn mill, lay only a few hundred yards west of Meadow Farm.

On 16 March 1846, his notebook records "I went with CLARKE to take Lots of Timber", indicating that he and another local man, John CLARKE, had spent several hours that day in lotting-up nearly 400 felled trees and poles, etc., lying at Chaddesden Hall and elsewhere that were to be sold by ticket auction, a type of sale in which the potential buyers handed in their sealed "tickets" or offers for the lots they wished to purchase. There is no indication as to the proceeds of the sale, but maybe the money William WHITE gained from first valuing and then presumably also selling the timber helped to pay for his passage to Australia a few years later.

William gained his surveying expertise whilst studying at the Agricultural Training School, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, and his Australian great-grandchildren still have in their possession an invoice sent to his father for what must have been his final term which ended at Christmas 1845, with the fee for his tuition shown as 20 guineas (£21) plus extras such as books, drawing paper, etc. It is quite clear

that William, although still only a young man, was already quite an accomplished land-surveyor, for scattered throughout the notebook are surveys of various fields in and around Chaddesden, usually drawn up in order to calculate the remuneration due to labourers for their piece work, as demonstrated by this example.



Acreage of brushing.

William’s own title for this particular survey is “Acreage of Brushing at Far & Near Common Baulk, as found by measurements made Oct 23rd 1848”. The term brushing simply means the trimming of rough growth from a hedge, for which purpose the labourer would use a brush-hook or slasher (a long-handled tool with a curved blade) and the shorter bill hook. At the bottom of the plan Derby is away to the left and Nottingham to the right. Two adjacent fields are shown, Far and Near Common Baulk, and William has carefully noted the lengths of the relevant hedges that were to be “brushed” as 352 yards, 323 yards, 299 yards and 139 yards ... a total of 1,113 yards. He next takes the figure of 1,113 yards and then completely unexpectedly divides it by 28 thereby arriving at 39 acres 21 yards which he rounds up to 40 acres. Of course, an acre is usually thought of as a measurement of area but could, confusingly, sometimes also be used as a measure of length,

and in Victorian Derbyshire the linear acre tended to be based on four roods of seven yards each, or 28 yards, which is exactly the divisor used in this example.

On 17 March 1846 William’s elder half-brother, Thomas Harvey WHITE, arrived back in Chaddesden for a week’s visit. Thomas wanted his brother to draw up some plans for him, and William was thus occupied for the next couple of days. A few days after his brother returned to Chevening, William took the Meadow Farm bull to Derby but failed to sell him. The bull seems to have been granted a temporary reprieve, for on 31 March 1846 William notes “Luke FLIXON’s Cow came to Bull”, so evidently the animal was being used to serve a neighbouring farmer’s cow. However, at the Derby Easter Fair on Friday 17 April 1846, his notebook entry reveals the bull had finally been sold for £9.

On 2 June 1849, there is a reference to an unusual crop, for William’s book contains the following note: “Settling with Riley & Co for hoeing Beans & dills at

Near Common Balk at 5s pr acre". Dill (a green, annual herb) would probably have been picked as a green feed for the farm-horses to ensure they provided a plentiful supply of manure.

At around this time, William drew up a plan of part of Bottom Meadow Nook a short distance from Meadow Farm in order to compute its area, for his great-uncle, Samuel WHITE, was to be paid for reaping it at the rate of 11s per acre. The plan of August 1849, which is reproduced here, shows the field in relation to the Derby Canal, and with an area of 2 acres 0 roods 27 perches, the cost of reaping would have amounted to £1 3s 10d. Over on the left-hand side of his plan, William has marked the location of a limekiln – often a good indicator of a farmer keen on improving his holding, since lime would be applied to the fields as a dressing to reduce soil acidity and thus promote better grazing and crop growth. The Derby Canal, which ran immediately to the north of Meadow Farm, is known to have carried Derbyshire limestone, so this is presumably how the WHITE family obtained the supply for their kiln.

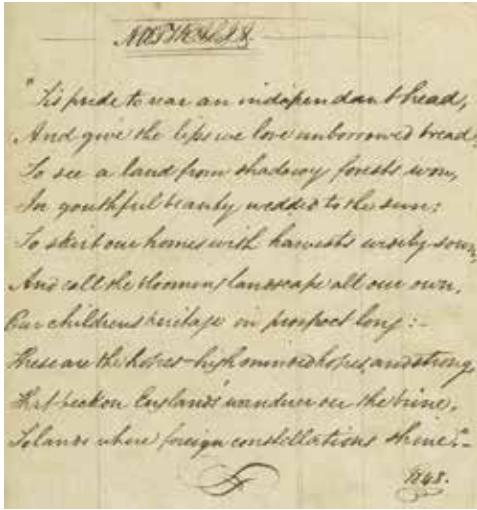
In that same year of 1849, the death of William's father, William Morledge WHITE, focussed William's mind on his own future and an indication as to what he was planning can be discerned from his notebook, for in 1848 about half-way through the book and under the heading of AUSTRALIA he copied out a ten-line verse of poetry (see next page) he had evidently read in James F. BENNETT's influential book entitled "*Historical and Descriptive Account of South Australia: Founded on the Experience of a Three Years' Residence in that Colony*", which had been published in London in 1843. BENNETT sought to present a



Bottom Meadow Nook.

balanced picture of what life was really like in Australia ... it was not a country where easy money was to be had for little or no effort, but for the man willing to work hard it was truly a land of opportunity.

For a while, the idea of a new life in Australia was little more than a distant possibility and William carried on as usual at Chaddesden and his notebook contains further examples of his surveying work in and around the village, which would all have been made using a surveyor's chain – an unwieldy contraption comprising 100 metal links, each 7.92 inches long, totalling 22 yards in length. The last dated entry (15 August 1850) in William's notebook involved the measurement of some land belonging to the WHITE family at Spondon brickyard which had been used for growing wheat. Just a few months later William WHITE



Australia Poem.

placed the brickyard, and other family properties on the market shortly before he departed for Australia.

In the years prior to his emigration to Australia, we can imagine William WHITE and his WRAGGE family cousins sharing James BENNETT's book about the continent amongst themselves and planning their new lives. Within the space of a few years four of the WRAGGE brothers had emigrated ... Thomas (1851), George and William (1852) and Henry (1858). Here, the *Derby Mercury* newspaper of 29 September 1852 carried an advert giving notice of the impending sale of farm animals and stock on 5th and 6th October for Mr. William WHITE of Chaddesden Meadows,

"who is leaving the country ..." William duly left for Australia and settled in Melbourne. On 1 October 1862 William's marriage was noted in the *Derby Mercury* as follows: "On the 19th June, at Richmond, Australia, by the Rev. Jas. TAYLOR, Mr. W. WHITE, late of Chaddesden, Derbyshire, to Jessie, third daughter of Mr. Alexander ARNOT, Inverkeithing, Scotland." One of their children would go on to marry a descendant of Yorkshireman John HOLDSWORTH, who coincidentally had emigrated to Australia at about the same time as William, and it is through this line that William's notebook and other papers have been preserved.

The surveying skills that William WHITE began using in Chaddesden as a young man were perfected in Australia, and various examples of his work there can be seen online in the "Maps" section of the National Library of Australia's excellent Trove website. Another notebook in the possession of his Australian descendants contains some additional surveys, including one made in 1883 of land at Yarraville, a suburb of Melbourne. In this plan, William marked the dimensions (still in links, rather than feet or yards) of a group of some 20 plots lying between Somerville Street (now Somerville Road) and Anderson Street. William's measurements for the block seemed remarkably accurate when checked against Google Maps and I couldn't help wondering if William used the same surveyor's chain in Australia that he first dragged round Chaddesden's fields some 37 years previously! The Yarraville survey must have been one of the last he ever made, for in March 1884 he placed an advertisement in his local Australian paper announcing that he had sold his Licensed Surveying business in Queen Street, Melbourne, to another firm of engineers and surveyors.

Sadly, just over a year later, in early May 1885, William WHITE died, leaving his widow and five surviving children. He was buried at Brighton General

Cemetery in Melbourne, and this notice appeared in *The Argus* newspaper of 5 May 1885: "WHITE – On the 4th inst., at his late residence, Hampton-street, North Brighton, William WHITE, surveyor, late of 48 Queen-street, Melbourne, aged 57 years." A short obituary notice such as this cannot begin to even hint at the interesting life William had lived. Born in Chaddesden, he worked both as a farmer on the family farm and also as a land surveyor, and then whilst still a young man underwent a 10,500 mile sea voyage in order to emigrate to a new life in Australia. We are indeed fortunate that first he, and then his descendants, took great care of his little notebook which provides such a fascinating insight into Victorian farming life in Chaddesden back in the 1840s and 1850s.

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Elizabeth Smith b. 1799

Jenny Burgess

In 2018, I wrote an article about Elizabeth SMITH and asked for DNA results to try to prove the ethnicity of Elizabeth. Elizabeth's birth date comes from her death date in 1846. While many family trees had her as the daughter of Joseph SMITH b abt 1773 convict arrived *Neptune* 1790, and Mary, a Darkinjung woman, there were other names for her parents. Using DNA results to check the ethnicity seemed a good approach.

Thirty-six descendants from five of Elizabeth's children who survived and reproduced, responded with their ethnicity results.

Thirty-three people showed no Melanesian, which at that time would have indicated Aboriginal.

Three people did show Melanesian; however, this was linked to other proven family sources and not Elizabeth.

The Ethnicity of the 36 showed strong links to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and also links to South Asia.

While the results seemed conclusive that Elizabeth did not have an Indigenous Mother, there were still doubts. At the DNA Downunder Conference in Sydney August 2019, I was talking with Michelle Patient, a genealogist familiar with the Macdonald River, where Elizabeth lived. Michelle suggested a mitochondrial DNA test (mtDNA) on a known female line descendant, would prove or disprove the Indigenous story.

The mitochondrial line would only be accurate if there was no adoption in the line of female descendants.

Searching through Family Trees, there were two females with a direct line back to Elizabeth. One of these females (R) already had an Autosomal DNA test with Ancestry, which linked back to Elizabeth and her husband John BAILEY. The second person, at that time, had not had an Autosomal test and even though they lived much closer in NSW, they had no proof, except on paper, of the direct line.

R lived in Bundaberg Qld and agreed to do the test. The kit was ordered and I drove from Canberra to Bundaberg to meet R and oversee the simple buccal swab test. This was early December 2019. The kit was posted back to Family Tree DNA in USA and the wait started. Even though we followed all the instructions, I worried I may have contaminated the test in some way and the result would not be accurate.

At the end of January 2020, the results arrived. If Elizabeth had an Aboriginal mother, R would have a known Aboriginal Haplogroup. The Haplogroup linked to Elizabeth was H1bb, a common English Haplogroup. Despite this conclusive evidence, some descendants continue to believe the Indigenous story.

Now that we know Elizabeth was not Indigenous, the search is on to identify her line. Information from one of the mtDNA matches, shows there could be a link to Devon in England.



With Elizabeth's last name of SMITH, and no documentation, we may never know if SMITH was her real name or a married name but results to date are tending toward real name. Was she born in Australia, or did she arrive from England? There are no Elizabeth SMITH convicts, that can link to Elizabeth. Also, no Elizabeths marrying a SMITH in NSW or an Elizabeth SMITH getting married, in the time frame, before her first child was born in 1824, when she was supposed to be twenty-five. Even with all these facts, it seems likely there is history, yet to be discovered.

A group of us has searched thousands of matches from four of Elizabeth's descendants. While the search is no closer to finding Elizabeth's parents, it has identified Romany matches. Interestingly the South Asia showing in the Ethnicity results mentioned above, is linked to Romany and the SMITH name also links to Romany.

The search continues.

Note: my mtDNA is a totally different Haplogroup.

Secret Men's Business

Elaine Gifford

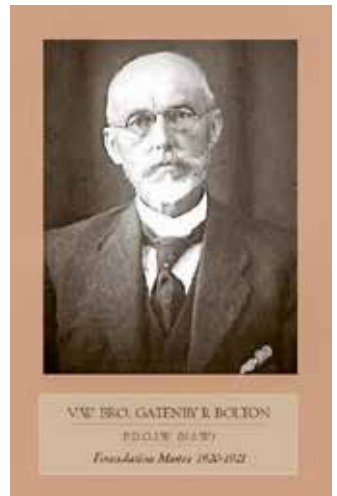
Although I was part of the fourth generation of BOLTONS to live in the rural service town of Tailem Bend on the River Murray in South Australia and spent the first twelve years of my life there, I now know there was something going on for all those years of which I was quite unaware.

I must have walked near the unassuming building many times, whenever I went to the main street past the nearby police station. What was it? The Temple of the Tailem Bend Lodge of Fortitude, one of many twentieth century Masonic Lodges in Australia and beyond.

Briefly, the existence of the Lodge came to my attention in 2020 as a result of two events. First, in late 2019 when visiting South Australia, I had the opportunity to be shown over my old primary school by the current Principal, a relation by marriage. While there I gave the community librarian a copy of a story I'd had published in *The South Australian Genealogist* about the BOLTON family's local involvement. I left my email address. So when she received a request to locate a photo of my BOLTON great-grandfather, she knew whom to contact.

Why was this photo wanted? It transpired that a history of the Tailem Bend Lodge was being written AND, to my surprise, Gatenby Robert BOLTON, my father's grandfather, had been the founding Master of that Lodge, the lodge I didn't know existed. Fortunately, although GR BOLTON had died eight years before I was born, my cousin Helen had earlier given me a digital copy of a formal photo of him, which I was happy to share.

Many emails followed. The History was being researched and written by Trevor GORDON, who told me he was the last Master of that Lodge. The Lodge had operated from 1920 to 2016, when it had amalgamated with another Lodge. When the time came for me to see a digital copy of the almost-complete book, I learned that his formal title was RW Bro Trevor J GORDON OS PSGW and my great-grandfather was VW Bro Gatenby R BOLTON PDGIW (NSW).



Abbreviations, unfamiliar terminology, reference to lodge rituals – I found I had much to learn. To my further surprise, I discovered that over the years local members had included not only GR BOLTON, but my grandfather, my great-uncle and three of his sons and many familiar Tailem Bend names of my own time – my first headmaster, a class teacher, a pharmacist, a railway stationmaster and fathers and grandfathers of my school friends.



My grandfather's lodge jewel – unearthed by Helen when she learned about the lodge book being written.¹

The resultant publication, simply titled *The Lodge of Fortitude No 94, 1920–2016* with the subtitle *Tailem Bend Masonic Lodge*, has now been launched and a copy recently mailed to me. I have enjoyed being able to study it further, in the process learning more not only about the lodge, but about my wider family and about early days in my town. It is thought likely that it was GR BOLTON who had the idea of forming a lodge when he had been in Tailem Bend a few years and learned of others in surrounding small towns and settlements who would be interested. He had filled lodge roles in Broken Hill during his decade there, another fact which had escaped my notice when I was researching the BOLTONS' time in NSW.

For the Tailem Bend Lodge, men initially came to the night meetings on foot, by bicycle or by horse and buggy - or across the Murray by rowboat. Here is how the initial meeting dates were decided upon:

According to the Warrant, the night of, or immediately preceding a full moon was chosen for the regular Lodge meeting. This was not chosen for any reason other than to facilitate safe travel by moonlight, as there were few cars and no streetlights in those days.

For the inaugural meeting in 1920, support by members of the nearest lodge and the State body was enabled by river transport, though some, like the Grand Organist, undertook 'a strenuous journey' to be there.

On Friday, March 26, the Grand Lodge officers, at the invitation of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Murray Bridge Lodge accompanied them on the s.s. "Milang" to Tailem Bend a distance of some 16 miles. ... On arrival at Tailem Bend at 4.30 p.m., the visitors were met by the Worshipful Master and officers-elect of the new Lodge of Fortitude. Afternoon tea, provided by the ladies, was partaken, and then the visitors were distributed among the various households to prepare their toilet for the evening function – the Consecration of the Lodge of Fortitude, No. 94, S.A.C., and the Induction of Wpl. Bro. G.R. BOLTON, the Master Designate.

I was pleased to read that:

There were 50 Brethren present. The Worshipful Master (Wpl. Bro. BOLTON) Invested his officers in a stately and dignified manner.

Lodge records described the proceedings, concluding with:

Bros. HAWKES and DINGLE favoured the company with several musical items, which were highly appreciated.

A most successful evening was concluded a little after midnight, and Murray Bridge was reached about 3.30 a.m. Some of the Grand Lodge

officers made their way to the railway station and left by the first train at 6 a.m. for the City. Others did not!

A hundred years later, the launch of the book took place in January this year, part of a public function in the Taillem Bend Town Hall at which the Lodge's Centenary was celebrated, park benches were presented to council, and scholarships to final year students at the primary school were announced.

In October last year I accepted an invitation to launch the book, thinking that South Australia's Covid-19 on-again, off-again travel restrictions would be eased by January. And they were, just one day before the function, too late for me to travel from Canberra.

When it had become obvious that my presence may not be possible, it was arranged that my second cousin, Richard BOLTON, who still lives in South Australia and does have childhood memories of his father and uncle setting out for lodge meetings, would do the launch. My cousin Helen who, like me, had not been aware of the Taillem Bend Lodge and the involvement of our grandfather and great-grandfather, was was also able to be there.

The Taillem Bend Primary School's February 2021 Newsletter includes an enthusiastic item about the scholarships presented to two students at the Centenary Celebrations of the (now) Lodge of St John at the Town Hall – a far cry from the blanket of silence about the Lodge in years past.

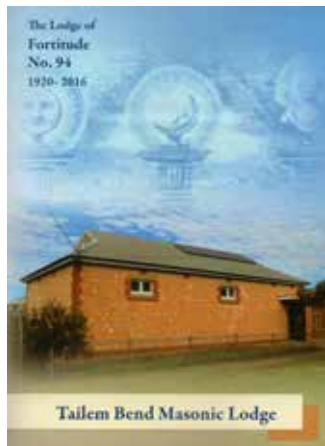
Uncovering another aspect of the life of 'my' BOLTONs has been an unexpected gift for me, and I am pleased that the story of a valued Taillem Bend institution has now been captured.

1 Here is Trevor Gordon's explanation of the significance of my and Helen's grandfather's jewel.

The jewel is what some members call a "Past Master's Jewel" while others just call it a "Jewel". It is a jewel that is provided by the Lodge and is presented to a member at the meeting when he completes his year as Master. If he was to serve another term as Master at any time then a Bar would be added to the jewel signifying that next term as Master. Our records show that he was Installed as Master on 24/5/1927 and would have received his jewel on 22 May 1928. This jewel is worn in the Lodge room during a meeting or on any official occasion when regalia is worn. The jewel however is not worn when he is wearing Grand Lodge Regalia. Inscription on jewel reads:

Presented to
Wpl Bro John Bolton P.M.
By the Brethren
As a token of esteem
May 1928

The P.M. signifies Past Master. Accompanied with the Jewel he would also have received a certificate from Grand Lodge recognising his term as master.



Talem Bend Masonic Lodge 2020



Vale Ruth McEwen Rodgers

Fellow of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of Ruth RODGERS (nee DEDMAN) 24 February 2021. Ruth was a very active and much respected member of the Society and will be missed by council and fellow members alike.

Ruth was born 25 January 1930 on her father's dairy farm at Launching Place, on the Yarra River, east of Melbourne. She was the younger daughter (of three children) to John and Jessie DEDMAN. Ruth first came to Canberra as a child when her father, John DEDMAN was member for Corio 1940-1949; war time cabinet minister, then Minister for Post War Reconstruction. After graduating from the University of Melbourne with a BSc in Mathematics, and that 'overseas trip' to London (where she was seated in Pall Mall on Coronation Day) she moved to Canberra, which became her home for the rest of her long life.

She married Dr Alex (Alexander) RODGERS, attached to the ANU Department of Astronomy. With him she travelled to California (Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories) and Royal Observatory at Greenwich. They then returned to Canberra where Alex continued his career at Mt Stromlo, becoming the sixth Director in 1987 a position he held until his death in 1992. Ruth and Alex had three children, Jane, Andrew and Sarah, whom they raised on the then furthest edge of Canberra - Deakin!



*Ruth McEwen Rodgers (nee Dedman)
25 January 1930 - 24 February 2021*

Ruth joined HAGSOC on 4 Feb 1981, serving as a member of Council 1986 to 1997. She was made a Fellow of the Society in 1997. (Her citation is available in *The Ancestral Searcher* Vol 20 No 4.)

Ruth was much involved (she called it co-ordinating) with the early editions of *Family History for Beginners and Beyond* - and organising speakers for the annual Basic Family History courses. Ruth's speciality was Scottish Research - which she pursued with energy and enthusiasm - and she was always willing to share her knowledge both through courses and personally. For many years she was a member of the Society's Roadshow to NSW regional and city societies.

Apart from tracing her parents' families (DEDMAN and McEWEN), Ruth also worked with her sister-in-law Jean on the RODGERS family in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley,

Apart from organising hospitality at meetings and managing book sales on behalf of the Society, Ruth was frequently on the Library Roster. She was also a member of the WWI Rehousing Team, working on the WWI dossiers at the National Archives of Australia, for which the Team received the President's Award in 2002.

In recent years, Ruth has not attended as many functions as she would have liked, but she always remained interested in the doings of the Society and its members.

She will be sadly missed by many of our HAGSOC members. We extend our sympathies to her children Jane, Andrew and Sarah, and their respective families.

Book Review

Pam Ray

The Parker Family on Monaro, by Dianne Snowden. Dianne Snowden, [Hobart TAS], 2020. 482 pages.

What a pleasure it was to read the book depicted here, a recent welcome donation to the HAGSOC library by its author, Dr Dianne SNOWDEN AM, of Tasmania.

Dianne has for some years been a teacher and researcher at the University of Tasmania. Her interests and expertise include Australian history, archaeology, and conservation of natural and built heritage. Genealogy and women's history are special interests and she has published several historical works related to these. Some HAGSOC members might have studied family history with Dianne. She has held several important positions with research related organizations, including being the first woman to chair the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

I first met Dianne at an Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry many years ago and followed her career with interest. What I did not know is that she was actually born in Cooma, and is a descendant of the PARKER family, which is the subject of this, her latest work.

It must be said that this is a weighty tome, in every sense of the word. It is not a book to cuddle up with under the bedclothes, as it needs a solid base for support and two strong hands to hold it. However, the contents are fascinating and worth the close attention that the narrative commands. Dianne comes from a very interesting pioneer family and the work that she has completed and resources which she has consulted to document the family is meticulously detailed here. Her historical background information adds point to the activities of the family in its many endeavours.

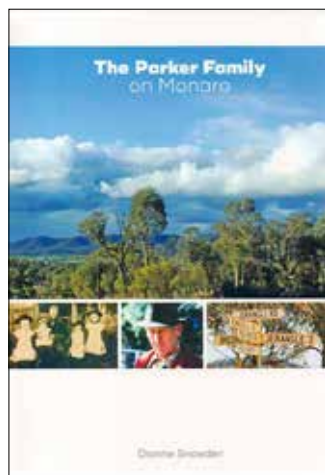
Of Irish origin, John and Margaret PARKER chose to settle after their arrival in NSW in 1840 in what might have seemed a formidable and inhospitable part of the country to some of their fellow immigrants.

Initially the PARKERS were in the south of the Monaro, near Bombala, labouring on a property there. They moved eventually to the hilly country north-east of Cooma, south of Michelago and Queanbeyan. Here the first PARKERS raised a large family of ten children, not all of whom survived infancy in an area where medical help would have been difficult to access. Dianne has detailed the generations of descendants down to the great-great-grandchildren. Many genealogists with a family from the northern Monaro or Queanbeyan area would find connections in this book. What neither Dianne nor I knew during our infrequent chats was that one of my great-grandfathers had a nephew who married into her family.

Dianne has not shied away from some of the family's activities which won them a certain notoriety in the district. Newspaper reports of trials and scandalous behaviour are here for our information. Working on isolated land selections, sometimes for little return, provided temptation for some. However, others led lives of great probity and were highly regarded in the district.

This book is full of beautifully reproduced copies of original documents. The footnotes would be helpful to any researcher, while the maps and genealogical charts are very clear and easy to follow. Photographs add a personal touch to the story told here. The select bibliography should prompt researchers of the period and place dealt with here to pursue some of the sources listed. The index of names at the rear is of course very helpful in locating individual family members and others mentioned in the text.

I so enjoyed this publication that I recommend it highly, not only to people hailing from the Monaro, but to all family historians who aim for the high standard which Dianne has achieved here.



From Our Contemporaries

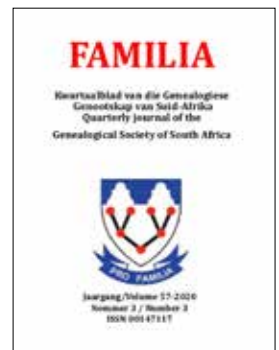
Peter Kennedy & Pauline Bygraves

The items selected for this column are taken from some of the many overseas journals received by the Society - they usually mention Australia in some form or may be of general interest to Australian researchers. If you have an interest in a particular country or location, there will often be other relevant material - recently received journals are on display at the front of the Library.

E-journals are accessible on the computers in the main room. Open the HCEr icon on the desktop and click on the link to "Electronic Journals" under "Electronic Resources". E-journals can also still be accessed on the computers in the overseas room. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email the editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

AUSTRALASIA

- Robert CAMPBELL and Bridget McCANN were married in Co Donegal and in 1839 embarked on the *Susan* for Australia with their four sons, Robert, John, Samuel and Thomas. Their daughter Jane, who was married to Thomas MULDOON or McDOON, was already living in Australia. The family settled in the Hunter Valley where Robert worked as a shoemaker and a farmer. Following two murders and other scandals involving the family, some descendants moved to Narrabri where William, son of John CAMPBELL and Martha KIRKLAND, worked as a builder. *New Zealand Genealogist* Dec 2020 v51 n386 p218 (K9/60/02).
- F/Lt RH CHEATLE (RAAF) was the wireless operator on a Lancaster bomber (ND-961) which collided with another Lancaster bomber on the way back to the UK on 8 February 1945. He is buried in the Woensel General Cemetery near Eindhoven in the Netherlands. *Familia (Genealogical Society of South Africa)* 2020 v57 n3 p22 (electronic journal).
- Luke PERHAM arrived in January 1842 in Launceston, with his father Thomas, his mother Eliza and four siblings, on the immigrant ship *Arab* as part of the "Under the Bounty" scheme. Luke, Luke's sister Elizabeth, and her partner Benjamin SHADBOLT, decided to try their luck in New Zealand, arriving on the *Amasis* in April 1859. Luke and Benjamin went into partnership in the Barry's Bay area. They acquired the lease on the Travellers' Rest hotel in Barry's Bay and secured rural leases to farm cattle. In 1866, Luke married Theresa BROUGH at the

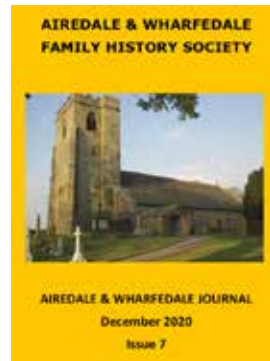


Anglican Church in Akaroa. *NZ Family Tree Dec 2020 v52 n3 p8 (electronic journal)*.

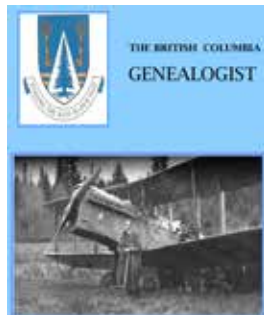
- Kath WOODLEY is seeking assistance to complete the life stories of several of the 180 children who resided at the Wallis Family Home at Motueka from the late 1860s until 1885. William TURNER, aged 7, left the home in September 1887 to join a parent in Sydney. Minnie and Thomas THOMPSON, aged 6 and 4, were returned to their mother who was departing for Melbourne in September 1870. Bertram BLACK, aged 7, was admitted in 1877 and left in 1878. A possibility is Percival Bertram BLACK, born to Alfred BLACK and Mary KIMBER, who died at Melbourne in 1956. *New Zealand Genealogist Dec 2020 v51 n386 p244 (K9/60/02)*.

ENGLAND

- John BANCROFT was born and brought up in Ovenden. In 1845 he was sentenced to transportation for the theft of a lock and key from one person and two handkerchiefs from another. After spending time in the hulks, John arrived in Tasmania on the *Neptune* in 1849 - the ship was originally destined for South Africa where it was planned to establish a new penal colony - however, local opposition was so strong that the ship went on to Tasmania. *Airedale & Wharfedale Journal Dec 2020 n7 p13 (electronic journal)*.
- Eric CATTERALL is researching his NIXON family. His ancestor Thomas NIXON moved to Barnsley around 1800 with his parents and was transported to Sydney in 1829. Thomas's brother Abraham and cousin Richard were transported in 1832. *Barnsley FHS Jan 2021 v29 n1 p33 (electronic journal)*.
- Paul CRIPWELL is researching the origins of his family name. Two main families have been identified: one in Bunny and the other in Ruddington. In the latter case the family was associated with the lace industry and while some descendants continue to live there, others have moved further afield, including to Australia. *Nottinghamshire FHS Jan 2020 v16 n9 p26 (electronic journal)*.
- Ann EAGLES is researching William WATERS and his wife Elizabeth COONEY, both thought to have been born in Ireland. Their children Patrick, Bridget, Sarah, Mary Elizabeth, Ann, Daniel and Catherine were born in Barnsley. All, apart from Catherine who went to the USA, migrated to Queensland. Mary



- married Joseph PRIOR/PRYOR in 1854 and migrated in 1886. *Barnsley FHS Jan 2021 v29 n1 p34 (electronic journal)*.
- Geoff EDGE: “Manchester Probate Names Index 1812-1837”. *Manchester Genealogist 2020 v56 n4 p398 (electronic journal)*.
 - Robert GARNETT was born in 1804 in Lancashire and became a cabinet maker. Joined eventually by two of his sons, he built up the firm to be a significant English furniture manufacturer. One of the grandchildren (not named in article) was a surveyor who migrated to Australia, married, fathered three children, left his wife and returned to England, and ended up in Whitechapel Workhouse Infirmary where he died in 1897. *Airedale & Wharfedale Journal Dec 2020 n7 p4 (electronic journal)*.
 - Charles GITTINS, son of James GITTINS and Sarah WITTISON, was born in 1863. He migrated to Western Australia, where he died in 1927. The GITTINS surname occurs in the Ferryhill area and descendant Jen McRAE (from Western Australia) would like to know if the family came from there. *Cleveland FHS Jan 2021 v14 n9 p53 (NY09/60/14)*.
 - George HAIGH, son of John HAIGH and Massey THISTLETON, married Amelia WHITLAM from Lincoln. They had a daughter who died young and two sons who migrated to Australia. Through their uncle, Sir Titus SALT, the sons (unnamed) introduced alpacas into Australia, where the wool was used in worsted production. *The Scrivener (Calderdale FHS) Dec 2020 n173 p28 (electronic journal)*.
 - Lilian RILEY was born in 1882 in the Ecclesall Bierlow Union Workhouse in Sheffield, Yorkshire, to an unmarried woman named Mary RILEY. Later she was informally adopted by a childless couple, Joseph NIXON and Harriet DAVIES from Stockport, Cheshire. Lilian lived with them until 1909 when she married Albert WALKER, the man who had looked after the horses for Joseph Nixon. Albert emigrated to Canada in 1910. Lilian followed in 1912, with their young daughter. Seven more children were born, in Alberta and BC. Their descendants now live throughout Canada, the USA, Australia, and France. *The British Columbia Genealogist Dec 2020 v50 n4 p5 (electronic journal)*.
 - David SCHOLEY: “Illegal Marriages”. *Barnsley FHS Jan 2021 v29 n1 p6 (electronic journal)*.
 - Henry WELLINGS migrated to Australia from Shropshire with his wife Elizabeth HEYDEN and their son, Thomas Henry WELLINGS in 1858. Thomas Senior published a journal of the voyage out to Australia on the steam ship *David McIver*. A descendant, John WELLINGS compiled a book



“The Wellings of Eden” dealing with generations of the WELLINGS family in both Shropshire and Australia. *Shropshire FHSJ Sep 2020 v41 pt3 p118 (NSH9/60/01)*.

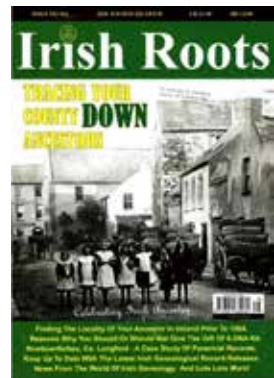
- James WOOD married Selima in 1836 against his mother’s wishes when he turned 21 and received his inheritance. According to family memoirs, he bought two work horses and another young horse, and set sail for Australia. The work horses did not survive the long journey, unlike the ‘useless’ horse named St John, a thoroughbred colt with a good pedigree. The horse was later sold to Richard ROUSE, who had migrated to Australia in 1801 with his pregnant wife and child. It turned out to be a famous sire featuring in many Australian racehorse pedigrees. *Roots and Branches (Felixstowe FHS) Dec 2020 v35 n4 p7 (electronic journal)*.
- Pip WRIGHT: talk on penal transportation using local Suffolk examples. *Roots and Branches (Felixstowe FHS) Dec 2020 v35 n4 p6 (electronic journal)*.

GUERNSEY

- James FALLA (the son of James FALLA and Mary BICHARD) was born in Guernsey and migrated to Melbourne on the vessel *Charles* in 1854. Henry Ollivier De JERSEY (the son of John De JERSEY and Elizabeth OLLIVIER) was born in Guernsey and migrated to Melbourne in 1860. James FALLA died of apoplexy in January 1880 and Henry De JERSEY died in February 1880 after being thrown from his horse while travelling to visit James’ family. *La Société Guernesaise Journal - Winter 2020 v32 n2 p9 (electronic journal)*.

IRELAND

- Dora, Eliza, Mary Ann, Bride, Margaret, Kate and Agnes were the daughters of Terrence BERRY, a saddler from Naas, Co Kildare. They were among the first generation of Catholic children to be educated in the Irish National Schools system introduced in 1831. Four of the sisters arrived in Australia around 1853 and taught at Fort St Model School in Sydney, before moving to Brisbane to teach at Model Schools there. Two more sisters arrived from Ireland, followed by Dora and John HERBERT and their young family from Athboy, Co Meath. By 1866 all seven sisters were in Brisbane. Margaret and Eliza remained single and devoted their lives to education. *Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2020 n116 p30 (R9/60/04)*.
- Jennifer HARRIS: “Australian Irish Connections - Researching Families in Australia”. *Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2020 n116 p26 (R9/60/04)*.
- Nicola MORRIS responds to an enquiry from Australia about the surname McMULLEN/MULLEN. Michael John McMULLEN emigrated from the UK on

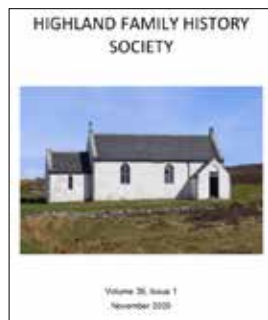
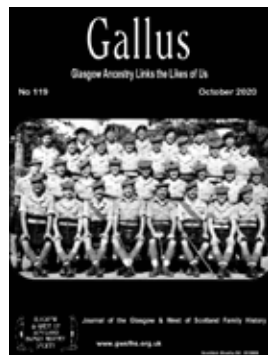


the *Queen of the Colonies* in 1865, with his wife Mary Anne and four children. When Michael married Mary Anne WALSH in the UK in 1853 his surname was recorded as MULLEN, and his deceased father as Bryan MULLEN. Ever since their arrival in Australia, the family has been known as McMULLEN. *Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2020 n116 p28 (R9/60/04)*.

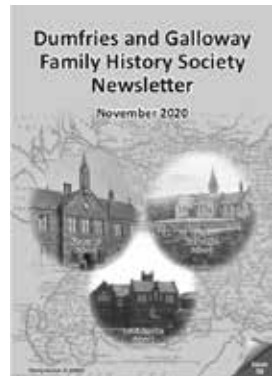
- James G RYAN: "Tracing Your ... Co Down Ancestors". *Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2020 n116 p10 (R9/60/04)*.

SCOTLAND

- Gavin BELL: "Monumental Inscriptions versus Burial Registers/Lair Plans" (includes information on finding a grave in Aberdeen City or Shire). *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Journal - Nov 2020 n157 p18 (electronic journal)*.
- Book review: "Turnberry Airfield" by Margaret MORRELL. The book provides biographies of staff and students, and contains extensive diary entries, including from Australian students. *Troon@Ayrshire FHS 2020 n91 p10 (electronic journal)*.
- Sheila DUFFY: "There is some corner of a foreign field" - British personnel who died in Cyprus during the Cyprus Emergency. *Gallus (Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS) Oct 2020 n119 p12 (electronic journal)*.
- Sheila DUFFY: detailed review of "Tracing Your Army Ancestors" by Simon Fowler. *Gallus (Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS) Oct 2020 n119 p44 (electronic journal)*.
- John DURHAM: "Highland Family History Society Records Available On-line" (contract with Findmypast). *Highland FHSJ Nov 20 v39n1 p4 (electronic journals)*.
- Oscar GARDEN, born in 1903, son of Robert GARDEN from Kirkwall, was the fourth person to fly solo to Australia. He set off from Croydon in 1930, in a second-hand Gypsy Moth he bought in Selfridges, after just 40 hours of flying experience. 18 days and 12,000 miles later he arrived in Sydney. *SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Winter 2020 n96 p9 (electronic journal)*.
- Thomas KENNEDY was the fourth child of James KENNEDY and Mary RONALD. Thomas married Jean PRINGLE in 1825 and expanded his father's seed business in Dumfriess - in 1856 he handed the business (Thomas Kennedy & Co) over to his son-in-law Alexander



Tweedie NEWBIGGING (husband of his daughter Helen KENNEDY). The business covered the whole of the UK and had connections with Australia, New Zealand, China, France, Germany, and Holland. *Dumfriess and Galloway FHS Newsletter Nov 2020 n98 p30 (electronic journal)*.



- Alexina LAW (daughter of George LAW and Margaret STABLES) married Robert GRAHAM (son of Joseph GRAHAM and Margaret TAYLOR) in 1865 in Aberdeen. Alexina was travelling to Australia on her own in 1887 on the iron-hulled *Kapunda* to rejoin Robert who had recently migrated to Australia. Alexina died off the coast of Brazil when the *Kapunda* sank after being hit by the iron barque *Ada Melmore* (which also sank as a result of the collision). *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Journal Nov 2020 n157 p32 (electronic journal)*.

- Kathleen PEARSON is seeking to connect with anyone who has studied the family of John ROBSON who was born in Ruthwell in 1840. His mother was Mary JARDINE and his father was John ROBSON (unmarried). John ROBSON Jnr emigrated to Australia and was married there in 1875. *Dumfriess and Galloway FHS Newsletter Nov 2020 n98 p30 (electronic journal)*.



- Rhona ROBERTSON: update on transcribing of 1911 census for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Journal Nov 2020 n157 p6 (electronic journal)*.
- Following the story of the SLATER family who migrated to Australia from Orkney (*SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Spring 2020 n93 pp 18-20*), Pip BUCHANAN has provided further information about the family in Orkney: "The story behind the row of five Slater, Slatter, Scleater graves in St Magnus kirkyard". *SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Winter 2020 n96 p12 (electronic journal)*.
- Orcadian Forbes (Forby) SUTHERLAND was a sailor on Captain Cook's expedition, who died of consumption in Botany Bay in April 1770. He is the first white man to be buried in Australia and Captain Cook named the point where he was buried after him. *SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Winter 2020 n96 p9 (electronic journal)*.
- James WILSON of Cumnock, Ayrshire, migrated to Tasmania on the *Percy* in 1858, arriving in Launceston on his 21st birthday. After moving to the

South Island of New Zealand for a few years, James returned to Tasmania in 1863 - the following year he was appointed Chief Constable of the Great Lakes area and lived on a property called The Steppes, which remained in the family until 1975. James married Jessie MOYES of Bothwell in 1874. *Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin Dec 2020 v31 n3 p28 (electronic journal).*

- Norman WOOD: database of WWII north-east Scotland fatalities. *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Journal Nov 2020 n157 p7 (electronic journal).*



UNITED KINGDOM

- John SYMONS: "Understanding Army Terms (Part 3)". *Hillingdon FHSJ Dec 2020 n132 p5 (electronic journal).*

Society Education and Social Activities

April to June 2021

Most meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. If you wish to attend contact the convenor for the meeting details. Special Interest Group meetings (open only to members), or User Group meetings (open to non-HAGSOC members).

Education Sessions – Bookings are required for all Education and Events. Courses, Workshops and Seminars are listed in the President's Newsletter, in the Library, and on our webpage www.familyhistoryact.org.au. For courses requiring payment, please register and pay for these events on our webpage. For any last minute changes please check the Events and Courses pages on our website www.familyhistoryact.org.au. Write to registration@familyhistoryact.org.au for course or general queries.

Please note most of the meetings will be Zoom meetings unless restrictions have been relieved. Check the current newsletters for up-to-date information. There may be additional courses available, keep an eye on the courses page and in the newsletters.



APRIL 2021

- 1 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **Scottish Special Interest Group** (convenor Rob Forrester) meets on the first Thursday of every even month. All members welcome, especially those with Scottish ancestry.
- 2 Fri: Good Friday **Public Holiday**
- 5 Mon: Easter Monday **Public Holiday**

- 6 Tue 7pm: **Monthly Meeting**.
- 10 Sat 2pm to 3.30pm: **The Master Genealogist Down Under** (SIG) The purpose of the group is to learn, share and troubleshoot features of The Master Genealogist (TMG) family history software and the companion programs that facilitate the publication of websites and ebooks from TMG data, and provide tools for online research using the TMG data. Our TMG-Down Under email list (see <https://groups.io/g/TMG-DownUnder>) facilitates contact between users to help solve problems and explore ideas and is the medium for publicising our events.
- 8 Thu 10am to 12 noon: **Family Tree Maker** (FTM) Users Group (convenor Support Team) meets on the second Thursday of each month except January. This month's topic is 'Writing and printing from FTM'. Contact the Support Team at ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au or come along to any meeting.
- 11 Sun 11am to 1pm: **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Library. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au.
- 14 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **Convict Special Interest Group** (convenor Michele Rainger) meets on the second Wednesday of each even month. Tonight's topic is "Convicts on Norfolk Island" presented by Jenni Bird and Barbara Moore. For more information please contact Michele Rainger at michelerainger@gmail.com.
- 15 Thu 10am to 12noon: **Legacy Users Group** (convenor Julie Hesse) meets in the Education Room on the third Thursday of each month.
- 15 Thu 8pm: Heraldry Special Interest Group (convenor Niel Gunson) meets on the third Thursday every even month except Dec. For details and venue, contact Niel on 6248 0971.
- 17 Sat 10am to 12.30pm: **Writers Special Interest Group** (convenor Clare McGuinness). All members welcome. For room set up purposes please email writers_sig@familyhistoryact.org.au if you are attending.
- 26 Mon: Anzac Observance Day **Public Holiday**
- 28 Tue 10am to 12noon: **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Zoom Room. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au.
- 28 Tue 1pm to 3pm: **DNA Drop In Clinic** Have you had a DNA Test and don't know what it means or how to use the results in family research? Join in this

round table Zoom meeting to discuss your specific questions/problems on DNA. Contact: dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au.

MAY 2020

- 4 Tue 7pm: **Monthly Meeting**.
- 7 Fri 9.30am to 11.30am: **Reunion & Mac Support Users Group** (convenor Danny O'Neill) meets on the first Friday of every month (except January) in the Education Room. Contact Danny 60done@gmail.com.
- 8 Sat 9.30am to 11.30am: **Irish Special Interest Group** (convenor Barbara Moore). Topic is "*Transplanting the Linden Tree: how a Flemish family came to settle in Ireland*". There are six meetings per year, held on the first Saturday of February, then the second Saturday of March, May, July, September and November. Contact Barbara at bmoore123@iinet.net.au.
- 8 Sat 1pm to 3pm: **DNA Special Interest Group** (convenors Elizabeth Hannan, Sue Barrett and Marilyn Woodward) meets on the second Saturday of every odd month (except January) in the Zoom Room. All welcome! This group will meet after the Irish SIG following a lunch break, so bring lunch if also attending the Irish SIG. Contact dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au.
- 9 Sun 11am to 1pm: **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Library. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au.
- 12 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **The Master Genealogist Down Under** (SIG) The purpose of the group is to learn, share and troubleshoot features of The Master Genealogist (TMG) family history software and the companion programs that facilitate the publication of websites and ebooks from TMG data, and provide tools for online research using the TMG data. Our TMG-Down Under email list (see <https://groups.io/g/TMG-DownUnder>) facilitates contact between users to help solve problems and explore ideas and is the medium for publicising our events.
- 13 Thu 10am to 12 noon: **Family Tree Maker** (FTM) Users Group (convenor Support Group) meets on the second Thursday of each month (except January) in the Education Room. The topic for today is '*Exploring and recording relationships in FTA*'. Contact the Support team at ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au or come along to any meeting.
- 15 Sat 10am to 12.30pm: **Writers Special Interest Group** (convenor Clare McGuinness) meets on the third Saturday of every month (except January) in the Education room. All members welcome. For room set up purposes, please send Clare an email on writers_sig@familyhistoryact.org.au.

- 20 Thu 10am to 12noon: **Legacy Users Group** (convenor Julie Hesse) meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Education room. Contact Julie (bnjhesse@grapevine.com.au)
- 20 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **English and Welsh Special Interest Group** (convenors Jeanette Hahn and June Penny) meets on the third Thursday of all odd months and covers all things English and Welsh. The topic is "*The Chipping Sodbury Bequests: case study using census and tax records to trace property*" presented by Rosemary McKenzie.
- 23 Sun 2pm to 4pm: **Australia Special Interest Group** (convenor Pauline Ramage). We meet on the fourth Sunday of every odd month (except January) in the Zoom Room.
- 24 Mon 10am to 1pm: **Practical Procedures in the Library** – Education Session. Making best use of the HAGSOC Library with Jeanette Hahn. These sessions are not just for those new to the Library but for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge and make the most of our own really fabulous resource. Bookings are required. Four places available per session as we will be using the computers in each room.
- 25 Tue 10am to 12noon: **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Zoom Room. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au
- 25 Tue 1pm to 3pm: **DNA Drop In Clinic** Have you had a DNA Test and don't know what it means or how to use the results in family research? Join in this round table Zoom meeting to discuss your specific questions/problems on DNA. Contact: dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 29 Sat 10am to 12noon: **Digital Assets Management SIG**. Contact Danny O'Neill on 60done@gmail.com

JUNE 2020

- 1 Tue 7pm: **Monthly Meeting**.
- 3 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **Scottish Special Interest Group** (convenor Rob Forrester) meets on the first Thursday of every even month in the Library. All members welcome, especially those with Scottish ancestry.
- 4 Fri 9.30am to 11.30am: **Reunion & Mac Support Users Group** (convenor Danny O'Neill) meets on the first Friday of every month (except January) in the Education room. Contact Danny 60done@gmail.com
- 9 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: **Convict Special Interest Group** (convenor Michele Rainger) meets on the second Wednesday of each even month in the Education room.

- 10 Thu 10am to 12 noon: **Family Tree Maker (FTM) Users Group** (convenor Support Team) meets on second Thursday of each month (except January). The topic for today is "Tips for FTM users". Contact the Support Team on ftm.sug@familyhistoryorg.org.au or come along to any meeting.
- 12 Sat 2pm to 3.30pm: **The Master Genealogist Down Under (SIG)** The purpose of the group is to learn, share and troubleshoot features of The Master Genealogist (TMG) family history software and the companion programs that facilitate the publication of websites and ebooks from TMG data, and provide tools for online research using the TMG data. Our TMG-Down Under email list (see <https://groups.io/g/TMG-DownUnder>) facilitates contact between users to help solve problems and explore ideas and is the medium for publicising our events.
- 13 Sun 11am to 1pm: **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Library. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au
- 17 Thu 10am to 12 noon: **Legacy Users Group** (convenor Julie Hesse) meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Education room. Contact Julie (bnjhesse@grapevine.com.au)
- 17 Thu 8pm: **Heraldry Special Interest Group** (convenor Niel Gunson) meets on the third Thursday every even-numbered month (except December). For details and venue, contact Niel on 6248 0971.
- 19 Sat 10am to 12.30pm: **Writers Special Interest Group** (convenor Clare McGuiness) meets on the third Saturday of every month (except January) in the Education room. All members welcome. For room set up purposes, please inform Clare on writers_sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 Mon 10am to 1pm: **Practical Procedures in the Library** – Education Session. Making best use of the HAGSOC Library with Jeanette Hahn. These sessions are not just for those new to the Library but for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge and make the most of our own really fabulous resource. Bookings are required. Four places available per session as we will be using the computers in each room.
- 29 Tue 10am to 12noon: **Pauline's Parlour** Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem in the Zoom Room. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. Bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au
- 29 Tue 1pm to 3pm: **DNA Drop In Clinic** Have you had a DNA Test and don't know what it means or how to use the results in family research?? Join in this round table Zoom meeting to discuss your specific questions/problems on DNA. Contact: dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

Services for Members

Photocopies

A4 25c

Microform Prints

A4 45c

GRO Certificate and PDF Service

Members \$24 certificate, \$16 PDF

Non-members \$27 certificate \$17 PDF

Translation Service

Translations available for the following languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the material is non-refundable. Prices vary according to language and are charged per 100 words or part thereof.

Further details in Library or from the secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

LDS Film Viewing

The HAGSOC library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the HAGSOC library access to the approximately 25% of digital records held by LDS that have restricted access imposed by copyright holders.

Discounts

Financial members receive a 10% discount when purchasing HAGSOC publications. Further details in Library

Research Advice

The service providing free research to members, for those facing a "brick wall" in their research, is currently suspended.

Research Service

Contact Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339 .

Readers' queries

Members may submit queries for inclusion in *The Ancestral Searcher* free of charge. Please no more than 200 words per query. Non-members \$27.50. Contact: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au (all prices include GST)

Notice to Contributors

The copy deadline for contributions to *The Ancestral Searcher* is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to publication. The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters, news and items of interest on any subject pertaining to family and local history.

Please send text files in either MS Word or plain text. Articles should be no more than 2000 words, with one or two quality images. Please limit footnotes to 3-4 per 500 words.

Digital images should be a high resolution and tiff or jpeg images.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

Authors can assist by; formatting dates to '1 July 1899'; months to be spelled out; no ordinals on numbers (no st/nd/rd/th); ship names should be *italicised*; all quotes to be in "double quotes"; and all family names should be formatted as CAPITALS. (But not in captions or end notes.) Submissions and questions to: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

LIBRARY

Unit 7, 41 Templeton Street, Cook — 02 6251 7004

Opening hours:	Tuesday	11.00 am	—	2.00 pm
	Wednesday	10.00 am	—	3.30 pm
	Thursday	11.00 am	—	2.00 pm
	Saturday	2.00 pm	—	5.00 pm
	Sunday	2.00 pm	—	5.00 pm

The Library is CLOSED on all Public Holidays

Reader's Access Ticket for non-members: \$10 for one day, \$20 one week, \$30 one month.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly general meetings are held beginning at 7.00pm in the HAGSOC Education Room, Templeton Street, Cook, ACT on the first Tuesday of each month, except January. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of November. Notices of special meetings, and social gatherings are advertised in this journal as appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership begins from the date the member joins and will expire either one or two years later at the end of the month in which the member joined. New members, or members who have lapsed for more than 12 months, are required to pay a joining fee. Joint membership is available for additional members at the same address. The Pensioner concession are available to Australian residents please check with our Membership Secretary. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 81.00*	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
Joint	\$ 122.00*	Journal Only – Australia	\$ 35.00
Individual – Pensioner	\$ 76.00*	Journal Only – Overseas	\$ 45.00*
Joint – Pensioner	\$ 112.00*		

** GST free other prices include GST*
Membership forms are available on the website, at the HAGSOC Library or can be posted on request.

The Ancestral Searcher is the official journal of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The journal is published quarterly and available without charge to financial members of the Society and affiliated bodies. Kindred Societies can receive the journal on an exchange basis. Back copies are available for current year and previous two years at \$5.00 each. Earlier issues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for a yearly bundle of 4 issues (price includes postage within Australia).

Reproduction without permission is not permitted. The views expressed in the items in the journal are those of the authors' and not necessarily those of the Society, and the Society cannot vouch for the authenticity of advertisements appearing in the journal.

ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for advertising and contributions is required by the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising in the journal:

Full page for four consecutive issues \$330; half page for four consecutive issues \$175;

Full page for one issue \$110; half page for one issue \$60.

Advertising in non-consecutive issues is charged at the single issue rate. 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society.

Advertising in the form of flyers can be included with the journal posting. These are to be supplied by the advertiser folded to A5 or smaller in size, cost for A5 20c, A4 30c and A3 or larger 50c per insert.

Readers' Queries up to 60 words: members, no charge; non-members \$35.00.

Payment is required at the time of submission.

All prices include GST

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*The objectives of the Society are:
To promote and encourage the study and preservation
of family history, genealogy, heraldry and allied
subjects, and to assist members and others
in research in these areas.*