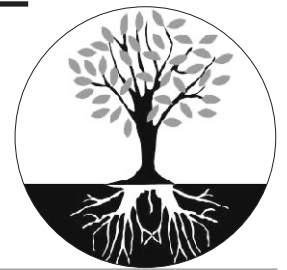




SOUTH GIPPSLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Inc.



DECEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 No. 04

PRESIDENT'S LETTER DECEMBER 2014

Welcome to the final newsletter for the year. I trust it has been a successful year of family history research for you. But I wonder.....

Have you completed your family tree?

Twenty-two generations may be born in as little a period as 500 years if the average age of each parent is approximately 20 years old. You would then be descended from 2,097,152 individuals. Have you discovered them all yet?

- 1 you
- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great grandparents
- 16 great great grandparents
- 32 great great great grandparents
- 64 great great great great grandparents
- 128 great great great great great grandparents
- 256 great great great great great great grandparents
- 512 great great great great great great great grandparents
- 1,024 great great great great great great great great grandparents
- 2,048 great great great great great great great great great grandparents
- 4,096 great great great great great great great great great great grandparents
- 8,192 great great great great great great great great great great great grandparents
- 16,184 great great great great great great great great great great great great grandparents
- 32,768 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 65,536 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 131,072 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 262,144 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 524,288 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 1,048,576 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 2,097,152 gggggggggggggg grandparents

Wishing you joy, peace and hope this Christmas and in the year ahead.

Rosemary Abbey.





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Telephone 5662 2217

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1 HOUR PHOTOS
YOUR DIGITAL SPECIALIST

- La Trobe Health Services Claim Centre
- Duty-free Shopping





Reminder! Research Enquiries

The South Gippsland Genealogical Society offers a Research Service for people unable to visit our room. However, please note that we are only able to research our own holdings and those of the local municipal library. The fee for this service is \$10 per hour.

Please mail your research queries, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the society's Research Officer.

**South Gippsland Genealogical Society
PO Box 395
LEONGATHA. VIC. 3953.**

COPY DEADLINES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

February meeting for the March newsletter

May meeting for the June newsletter

August meeting for the September newsletter

October 31 for the December newsletter.

OFFICE BEARERS

President.....Rosemary Abbey (03) 5662 3059

Vice-president..Joan Lehmann (03) 5674 3400

Secretary.....Anne Larking (03) 5662 2087

Minute Sec.....Zoe Baillie

Treasurer.....George Jenkins

Program.....Margaret Pegler
assisted by Helen Ebery

Librarian.....Alison Marshall

Research.....Marion Moon/Alison Marshall

Local records...Elke Holm/Faye Marshman

Co-opted

members.....Helen Ebury, Geoff Robb and
Ken Swadling

Hospitality.....Geoff Robb

Newsletter.....Rosemary Abbey (03) 5662 3059

Ken Swadling (03) 5659 8239

David Tattersall (03) 5662 2387



SGGS PROGRAM FOR 2015

2014: Wednesday December 10, 7.30pm: Christmas dinner at Bair's Hotel.

Speaker: Pat Spinks to speak on the Funnell Family.

2015:

Thursday, February 12, 6.30pm: Barbecue at Mirboo North at the public barbeques in the park with a tour of the Historical Society rooms afterwards. BYO everything - food, drink, chair, crockery and cutlery.

Thursday, March 12: Members' night: Who was the hardest/easiest ancestor to find? Members to give a short talk.

Thursday, April 9: WWI - a look at military sites on the internet - members to bring a photo or record of a military ancestor.

Thursday, May 14: Guest speaker.

Saturday, June 13: To be confirmed.

Saturday, July 11: Indexing local books.

Saturday, August 8: Annual General Meeting with guest speaker.

Thursday, September 10: Podcast - members to bring along a school photo.

Thursday, October 8: Three members to speak on a branch of their family.

Thursday, November 12: Library.

Wednesday, December 9, 6.30pm: Christmas break-up at Bair's Hotel with a guest speaker.

The South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions expressed, or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter. The editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/letters etc. due to limited space.

A VALUABLE REFERENCE FOR LOCAL RESEARCH

Members researching local families may be unaware that the Society's library holds a very handy reference: **South Gippsland Miscellaneous Lists.**

It includes:

- 1913 Electoral Roll, which includes occupations.
- Leongatha High School Rolls for 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1939.
- Wonthaggi fatal mine accidents.
- A list of Korumburra and Wonthaggi miners.
- Leongatha telephone lists for 1918, 1923 and 1958.
- A list of South Gippsland soldiers who served in the Boer War.
- A list of South Gippsland soldiers who served in the 1st Division AIF (WW1).
- Names of signatories to the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition (including original signatures).
- A list of members of different lodges in the local area.
- A list of shire presidents for Phillip Island and Woolamai, Korumburra and Dumbalk Shires.

CONNECTING WITH THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

SGGS Librarian, Alison Marshall, recently attended a workshop at Coal Creek Community Park & Museum, Korumburra, facilitated by Emma Fellowes-Cooke (Coal Creek staff teacher) regarding methods of engaging the local school community in history studies.

WWI CASUALTY RECORDS

The Genealogist has added a major new collection including more than 600,000 fully searchable records of those wounded, captured, missing-in-action, or killed, abstracted from weekly casualty reports dated 1917-1918.

This is a subscription site.

More details are available at: http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/feb13_casualty_lists.php

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
June 2013 Vol 13, No. 6*

Recent Library Acquisitions



*Great Gippsland Mysteries.
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Korumburra.
1914-2014.
Pincini, Joe: Colourful Life of a Workaholic.*



MEMBERSHIP

The **YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE** (due at the Annual General Meeting in August) is:
SINGLE - \$30. COUPLE - \$40. STUDENT - \$10 and includes four newsletters.

The **JOINING FEE** for new members (other than students) is **\$10.**

Meetings held in the months of February to May and September to December will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Historical Society Rooms, McCartin Street, Leongatha. Meetings held in the winter months of June, July and August will generally be held on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise notified) at 1.30pm in the Historical Society Rooms.

The rooms are open for research every Thursday and Friday between 12 noon and 4pm

The cost of self- or assisted research for non-members is **\$5 per visit.** If you join within a fortnight of the visit, the \$5 will be deducted from your membership fee.

Help from our Research Officers is available at **\$10 per query** plus stamped addressed envelope. Send your query to Post Office Box 395, Leongatha, Victoria. 3953.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Many thanks to members who have contributed articles to this edition of our newsletter. Please keep them coming - you never know who else is out there reading the newsletter who may find they can be of assistance to you in your research.

Contributions may be typed, handwritten, saved on a memory stick or CD and left at the society's room, or mailed to:

PO Box 395, Leongatha, Vic. 3953

or preferably sent direct via email to:

Rosemary Abbey - roseabmailist@yahoo.com.au

Ken Swadling - kenswadling@yahoo.com.au

David Tattersall - mushroomcrafts@dcsi.net.au

Please make note of the deadlines for the coming editions of the newsletter.

David Tattersall.

LINKS TO THE USA...

GROVE CEMETERY RECORDS FROM MAINE, USA, ARE NOW ONLINE

Steve Boguen recently finished digitising the roughly 8,000 handwritten burial records of Grove Cemetery, Belfast, Maine, where he has served as superintendent for 34 years. He started the indexing project 10 years ago.

Boguen noted that the card indexes are generally more accurate than the tombstones themselves. People sometimes were buried in family plots without an accompanying memorial. Some headstones have deteriorated or disappeared completely. In other cases, a headstone may have been placed in the cemetery “in memory of” someone who had a connection to Belfast but is not actually buried here.

The records can be viewed on the city’s website at: <http://cemetery.cityofbelfast.org/>. The database can be searched by first name, last name or burial year and includes a map that highlights the section of the cemetery in which the person is buried.

You can read more in an article at: <http://bit.ly/12cjsam>
*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
July 2013 Volume 13, No. 6.*

UNITED STATES' ANCESTRIES BY COUNTY

The United States’ Census Bureau has a map and a lot of text information that may interest people who are beginning to research family history. It shows the top reported ancestries in the United States, as provided by the 2000 census. Areas with the largest “American” ancestry populations were mostly settled by some English, French, Welsh, Scottish and Irish; but by an overwhelming majority of Scots-Irish.

Obviously, this doesn’t prove that your ancestors settled in these areas after arriving in the U.S., as there were many exceptions. However, it does show many of the more likely locations where you might start your search for records. You can find the information at: <http://tinyurl.com/as95h>
*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

Family Search Free Online Records from Ellis Island, New York

FamilySearch.org has made a huge increase to the collection of New York City passenger records. Some 28.3 million additional records have been indexed and put online from two different time periods - 1820 to 1891 at <http://tinyurl.com/n35bn47> and 1909 to 1957 at <http://tinyurl.com/mfxgraz>
*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
January 2014 Volume 14, No. 2.*

Death is only an horizon, and an horizon is only the limit of our sight.
- Traditional, sometimes attributed to William Penn.

71 DIGITAL PORTALS TO U.S.A. STATE HISTORY

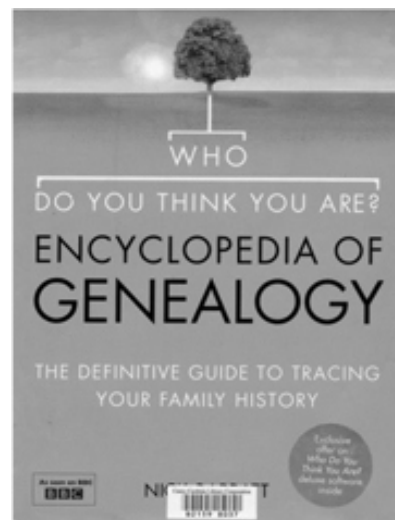
This website lists websites that bill themselves as general-interest portals to historical resources. The list isn’t complete, but is a good starting point to look. There are two lists on the website. Table 1 lists 66 websites that relate to individual states. Table 2 lists five sites that cover multiple states. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6xs7q3>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

BOOK REVIEW:

Encyclopedia of Genealogy

By Nick Barratt



At over 500 pages this very large, hardcover volume could serve as a doorstop if it wasn’t so useful.

Written by the genealogical expert behind the BBC series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, it covers the basics of getting started on UK research, not only in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, but also the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. It deals in detail with basic sources such as civil registration, census returns, parish records and wills and probates before moving to specific areas of family history. These include military ancestors – army, navy, air force and marine and merchant marine ancestors, and ten chapters on other specific occupations.

It also covers emigration and immigration, poverty, lunacy, illegitimacy, adoptions, bigamy, divorce, criminal ancestors and – importantly – working further back in time to centuries before civil registration began. There are also very specific troubleshooting algorithms to follow when dead ends are encountered, plus comprehensive lists of key resources: archives, websites, name profiling and the latest DNA techniques. It is a valuable source of information for anyone researching British ancestors, whether beginners or experienced genealogists.

Available on inter-library line from local libraries, Call No. 929.1072 BARR.

FREE GUIDE TO TRACING LONDON ANCESTORS

FamilySearch has released a new online guide to tracing London ancestors. The guide has been published in the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

Features include articles on each of London's 109 historic parishes loaded with descriptions of records available online at major websites Ancestry.co.uk, British History Online, BritishOrigins.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.co.uk, TheGenealogist.co.uk, Google Books, Internet Archive, London Lives, and ParishRegister.com among others.

The article is located at: <https://familysearch.org/blog/free-guide-london-ancestors/>

- Previously published in *QFHS Newsletter* September 2012 Vol 12 No. 9.

Domesday Book online

Free online Domesday Book information available at: <http://www.domesdaymap.co.uk/>

-Previously published in *QFHS Snippets* May 2013 Vol 13, No. 5

READING OLD LATIN OR ENGLISH DOCUMENTS: Practical Online Tutorials

Many old documents in Europe and in the British Isles were written in Latin, the official language in England between 1086 and 1733. The National Archives of Great Britain has an online tutorial that helps read them. You can find the Latin Online Tutorial for Beginners at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners>.

There is a similar tutorial to help you read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800.

Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting 1500 - 1800 may be found at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography>

Previously published in *QFHS Snippets* April 2014 Volume 14, No. 4.

DEVELOPERS FIND OTTAWA CEMETERY

The province of Ontario is asking descendants of people buried in a forgotten cemetery in Ottawa to come forward to determine what should be done with their remains.

Human remains and casket material were discovered last year during preparation work for the city's light-rail transit tunnel. The discovery stopped work there.

You can learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/pye6mpv>

Previously published in *QFHS Snippets* April 2014 Volume 14, No. 4.

CANADA AT WAR

This website is dedicated to the memory of the tremendous Canadian contribution in both World Wars, and a place of remembrance for all their fallen since 1914.

You'll find it at: <http://www.canadaatwar.ca/>

Previously published in *QFHS Snippets* April 2014 Volume 14, No. 4.

GRAVE SECRETS

WW1 Pictorial Honour Rolls & more

Faith Jones, together with her team of volunteers have done an amazing job with creating pictorial honour rolls of Australian men in WW1. Currently listing over 15,500 pictures, the collection continues to grow, and so does their research interest, as they've just started work on two new projects.

The Lost Heroes of the Great War (<http://lostheroes.gravesecrets.net>) project relates to the photos of military men and women that many have in their possession, but sadly have no details to identify them. This website is for people to post photographs of Australians such as these in the hope that other members of the public have the same photograph and are able to help with identification. The other project Faith is currently working on is compiling details of the "World War 1 Australian Army Nursing Service". If you wish to contribute to any of her projects, you'll find contact details on the website mentioned.

From *Gould Genealogy Newsletter*, December 2013 and March 2014

Lyrebird Mound selected 1884

[In 1884] On the southern side of Millar's and Musgraves' selections, Jacob Thomas selected two blocks of fertile red soil that he named "Lyre Bird Mound".

Thomas, a mining engineer from Ballarat, brought considerable capital with him to Gippsland. This enabled him to employ men to assist him in the development of his property. At the end of the first year of occupation, Millar had cleared 100 acres, Thomas 50, and Gwyther, the Musgrave brothers and Stephenson 20 acres each.

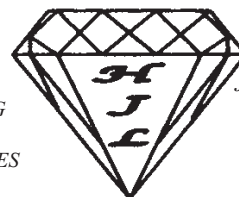
The land to the north-west of Millar's was selected under a non-residential clause by James, Walter and Jane Nation of Melbourne. James Nation listed his occupation as "gentleman", resident at Kew, while his brother, Walter, is listed as a soap and candle manufacturer of Melbourne with Jane Nation listed as "gentlewoman".

Having access to other sources of income, they were able to employ gangs of scrub cutters to speedily develop their property that later became known as "Springdale".

- From "No Parallel: the Woorayl Shire 1888-1988", by John Murphy. Pub. The Shire of Woorayl and Hargreen Publishing, Melbourne, 1988.

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HAIR AND SCIENTIFIC TESTING

Today, hair is one of several bodily substances that potentially could be tested to prove or disprove a relationship between yourself and an ancestor, or even to find out more about an ancestor's general health.

However, the hair of your ancestor that you might come across in a Victorian locket or wallet is unlikely to yield much useful information. Unless a follicle is attached, hair does not contain the YDNA that comes from the male line of your family. Additionally, hair that has been preserved in jewellery will probably have been lovingly fondled over the years, and may thus be contaminated by the DNA of the person or people who have touched it. Contamination from soap residue is another problem.

On the positive side, hair does contain the mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) that can tell you something about your maternal heritage. If you wanted to check that the hair in your mourning ring is actually that of your great grandmother, you could have it examined and compared with that of a living female relative. By doing this, you could establish that the two donors were related, though not exactly what the relationship was.

At the moment, however, organisations that offer to test your DNA for genealogical reasons generally use swabs taken from the inside of the mouth, rather than hair samples. This is because the testing of hair samples is a very expensive process and one that is currently undertaken not by genealogists but by forensic scientists after a murder or other crime. Hold on to your hair samples, however. In the future, genealogical organisations might well commonly offer to test hair as well as saliva.

- Symes, Ruth A.,

It Runs in the Family: Understanding More About Your Ancestors, The History Press, Gloucestershire, 2013.

The Philomena Project

The Philomena Project, in association with the Adoption Rights Alliance, will lobby the Irish State to grant access to adoption records for both in-country and Irish-US adopted people and their families.

The project aims to provide finance, campaigning mechanisms, supports, and services to natural mothers who have been unable to or prevented from tracing children taken from them by adoption, particularly forced and illegal adoptions. It will also assist the now-adult children, to trace their natural mothers, fathers, and extended families, and to obtain their birth certificates and other relevant records. You can read more at: <http://thephilomenaproject.org/>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

Tasmanian Immigration Records

Search the Index to 19th Century Passenger and Ships Arrivals. Many records have now been digitised. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/n3h9dxv>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

TARWIN VALLEY'S FIRST SELECTORS

Two of the first selectors in the Tarwin Valley were Peter Carmichael and Frank Dodd.

In December 1877 Carmichael inspected the area and was so impressed with the quality of the chocolate soil that he took a box full of it back with him to his home town in the Western District as evidence of its fertility. There it aroused considerable interest and led to others trying their luck on this newly-discovered portion of Victoria.

Frank Dodd made the journey from Melbourne in Christmas week of 1877, accompanied by his nine-year-old son and a companion, George Goldsmith. One of the main reasons Frank Dodd decided to come to South Gippsland was that he and his wife had already lost four children through the heat and privations of living conditions in the northern part of the State.

After walking the last ten miles down the Tarwin Valley, Dodd selected his block adjacent to the river, approximately three miles north of the present township of Dumbalk. Like the other settlers on Liddiard's and Whitelaw's Tracks, the only tools available to Dodd for land clearing and building purposes were those that could be carried or brought in by pack horse. These comprised axes, mauls and wedges, crosscut saws, crowbars, shovels and the Trehwella or pump jack used for manoeuvring logs into position for burning.

- From "No Parallel: the Woorayl Shire 1888-1988", by John Murphy. Pub. The Shire of Woorayl and Hargreen Publishing, Melbourne, 1988.

Convict Records

Leading family history website FindmyPast has launched over 640,000 convict records, making it the most comprehensive online convict collection.

The Convict Transportation Registers 1787-1870 database contains original handwritten records and transcripts relating to some 123,000 convicts <http://tinyurl.com/m2m8dy8>

The records include over 515,000 documents featuring a collection of early convicts and settlers records such as transportation details and crimes committed, and 125,000 Convict Transportation Registers.

For further information, visit

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

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

Renamed Places in Queensland

Anyone doing local or family history knows the frustration of finding a town or street name or building name that just doesn't appear on a current map. This site is intended to help find out the location and/or new name for those old/forgotten places in Queensland. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/mbuy3yg>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
January 2014 Volume 14, No. 1.*

LEONGATHA MEMORIES

The following extracts are from *A Stroll Down Memory Lane*, published by Stradbroke Day Centre Book Committee, Woorayl District Memorial Hospital, 1990.

EDWINAARNOLD:

Mrs Edwina Arnold, born around 1919, remembers the horse drawn transport in her early days. Her father was Thomas McKean jnr, who went to Geechville School for three years. Mrs Arnold thought it was the first school in Gippsland and it was near Yarragon. Thomas started school when he was 12 years old and left when he was 14 to take the mail through to Yarragon by horseback. He changed horses half way and would bring provisions back for the family (on the horse).

Mrs Arnold says, "When Grandpa died in the late 1920's at his daughter's farm (O'Toole's), Sangsters were the funeral directors. They came out Wild Dog Valley Road with a horse drawn hearse. The road was terrible, covered with mud and slush which reached half way up the wagon wheels. The horses were lifting their legs up out of the slurry to try and pull their load."

She remembers five horse drawn vehicles were following the hearse, Wigney's, O'Tooles and Tiemans, in buggies pulled by two horses or ponies. They were following in the tracks the hearse made.

Edwina and her sister would come into town on "Ladies Day" (cattle sale day). They would drive into Leongatha in the buggy (a buggy had four wheels). They also had a jinker (two wheels) and a "pig cart" to bring the pigs to market. Upon arrival in the town they would take the horse and buggy to Conway's stables in Bair Street and for 1/- the horse was fed chaff and stabled until they were ready to go home.

IVEE STRAZABOSCO:

Ivee Strazabosco, born 1907: "Ernie Johnson, Mrs Len Pigden and Wattie Holt had the first cars in Koonwarra. My brother would come in and say "Ernie Johnson went out today." He could tell by tracks left in the ankle deep dust. Roads were very bad.

On the main highway the maintenance work was done by a man with a horse and dray working with a pick and shovel.

I was at school when the first aeroplane flew over Koonwarra. No "please Miss, can we go out?" The children all ran out, so excited to see this strange thing going over.

CLEANING GRAVESTONES, MONUMENTS AND STONE SCULPTURES

This web site has a number of articles about cleaning, repairing, and preserving cemetery markers of all sorts at: <http://www.gravestonepreservation.info>. It includes information on proper cleaning methods at: <http://bit.ly/1c9CNmv>

Pay close attention to rule #1 in that article: "If the stone shows signs of chipping, scaling, flaking or other forms of deterioration, do not clean. You will do more harm than good."

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
August 2013 Vol 13, No. 7*

Genealogists Spend a Lot of Money

An article by Jill Krasny states: "People curious about family history spent a whopping \$2.3 billion on genealogy products and services last year, according to a study by market research firm Global Industry Analysts. They took most of their work to sites like Ancestry.com, which charge between \$22.95 and \$34.59 per month for access to billions of pertinent records. One-on-one consultations set them back \$2,000 to \$5,000 per session, depending on the length and complexity of the project".

You can read the full article at:
<http://mashable.com/2013/05/03/digital-family-tree/>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
June 2013 Vol 13, No. 6*

Updates to Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has published a small but important list of teacher's rolls from New South Wales 1869-1908. This collection can be searched by name, year and keyword. Details in the rolls include age at the time of hiring, training, promotions, teaching qualification, employment history listing schools and dates, any awards or reprimands, salary and marital status.

They have also updated their database of city and area directories for New Zealand. City directories are one of the best ways to search for ancestors because they can help identify where a person lived at a particular time. City directories often serve as a substitute census record and can also help fill in the gaps between two censuses.

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
November 2013 Volume 34, No. 4.*

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

This digital archive holds pdf images of almost every issue going back to the Manchester Guardian's launch in 1821.

Find the archive at: <http://tinyurl.com/kkv71a7>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

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GLOBAL SEARCH FOR BERWICK FAMILIES

Berwick-upon-Tweed is a town in Northumberland, England, which is generally known as simply Berwick, and has a VERY long history. This town is situated in England, but is only 4km from the Scottish border.

Now there is a global search on to find descendants of those who used to live in this town. Sounds like a grand plan, but it is for a grand occasion, as 2015 is the 900th anniversary of the town.

As part of the "Berwick 900" (www.berwick900.org.uk) celebration preparations the team planning next year's Berwick 900 festival have brought in local historian Peter Munro to do this research. He is chairman of the Borders Family History Society, (www.bordersfhs.org.uk) and his job is to begin tracking down the descendants of Berwick families around the world. He aims to discover their stories, build new links with families still living in the region, and involve them in events celebrating nine centuries of the town's history in 2015.

"My key aim is to discover interesting family stories and personalities. We'll use these in the displays and performances being planned for next year's celebration of Berwick's 900-year story. I'll be using social media to help publicise the project and encouraging people throughout the world to revive their family connections with Berwick and to visit the town. As well as identifying interesting families and collecting their stories, I'll be searching for material that the families themselves may not know."

The Our Families Story project is supported by Berwick's Guild of Freemen, and they're "hoping it will lead to a more comprehensive Berwick 900 family studies project, to involve local people of all ages and create further international links with descendants of old Berwick families."

If you have any interesting information about ancestors from your family's past in Berwick, you can contact Peter Munro via email or by writing to him c/o Berwick Record Office, Wallace Green, Berwick, TD15 1ED, Northumberland, ENGLAND. Or send an email to: berwickfamilies@gmail.com.

MORE INFORMATION: www.berwick900.org.uk

*Information from
Gould Genealogy 14 April 2014*

Probate Index Brings Past to Life

More than a million images of probate records from Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch have been digitised and indexed at Archives New Zealand in a joint venture between FamilySearch and the archives.

You can find more details in an article at: <http://archives.govt.nz/about/news/2013/03/probate-index-brings-past-life>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
April 2013 Vol 13, No. 4*

York Peculiar's Original Probate Documents Available on Origins.net

Most of the York Peculiar's Probate records held at The Borthwick Institute for Archives have been digitised, and National Wills Index subscribers can now purchase the original documents images using Pay per View credits and view these images directly from the index records.

This collection makes available, exclusively on the National Wills Index, a comprehensive index to over 25,000 wills and other probate documents proved in the 54 Peculiar Courts of the Province of York between 1383 and 1857.

The index notes which documents are currently available online for this ongoing digitalisation project. Where documents have not yet been digitised, copies can be ordered online, which will then be emailed as digitised images. You can search York Peculiar's Probate Collection 1383-1857 at: <http://tinyurl.com/m67g2cr>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
March 2014 Volume 14, No. 3.*

AGE OF CONSENT

Do you have UK ancestors who appear to have married at an impossibly young age in the 19th century?

The 1823 Marriage Act made the legal age for marriage without parental consent at 14 years for males and 12 years for females.

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
November 2013 Volume 34, No. 4.*

National Archives - Wills 1384-1858

These records are Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills made between 1384 and 12 January 1858. They are the copies of the original probates written into volumes by clerks at the church courts. Until 12 January 1858 all wills had to be proved by the church and other courts. The PCC was the most important of these courts dealing with relatively wealthy individuals living mainly in the south of England and most of Wales. Search is through Discovery and there is a cost for copies.

Happy searching at:
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/wills.htm>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
May 2013 Vol 13, No. 5*

My Primitive Methodist Ancestors

This site provides a vehicle for sharing information and research about every aspect of Primitive Methodism.

You can share memories, photos, research and stories.
<http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
April 2013 Vol 13, No. 4*

Discover National Library of Scotland Online

The National Library of Scotland's (NLS) award-winning magazine Discover NLS is available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/luac9ao>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
January 2014 Volume 14, No. 1.*

Mormon volunteers digitising Victorian historic documents

In an article published in the Melbourne Age on October 25, 2014, Carolyn Webb writes about group of American Mormon retirees who are working voluntarily to scan every Victorian will, probate and inquest document from 1926 to 1937, to be uploaded to the web.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints paid their airfares, but the retirees are paying for their other expenses while they stay in Melbourne - some of them for up to two years, working with high tech scanning equipment in a basement room of the Public Record Office Victoria in North Melbourne.

Knowing one's family tree is a vital part of their religious life, but as one of their number said, they are also doing it "because we want to serve, we want to help. We want to make these names available to everybody. We want to feel of use. And it's a great adventure."

The digital projects co-ordinator at the Public Record Office, Daniel Wilksch, said the Mormons' work was "wonderful", and had saved Victorians millions of dollars during the past decade.

The PROV gets the digitised data for free, and the information is uploaded to the Mormons' FamilySearch website for genealogists all over the world.

This project is part of an on-going effort that has been happening for some years. Between 2004 to 2011, foreign Mormon and local volunteers have digitised seven million Victorian documents from the 1840s to 1925.

Mr Wilksch said that so far, only about 1 per cent of the PROV collection had been digitised, - most of it by the Mormons, who supplied their own digital cameras and software.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's "Remember Me" Project

Most families cherish family photographs taken years ago. Sadly, many Jewish families from European countries were denied the opportunity to preserve family photographs during the upheavals of World War II.

Now the Remember Me? Project is working to find old photographs and even to identify the people in the pictures. More than 300 Holocaust survivors worldwide have now been identified through their childhood photographs. The project is meant to identify the people in the photos, and to record their stories in an attempt to broaden understanding of the Holocaust and preserve the era's history.

Remember Me? has also helped survivors reconnect with loved ones from whom they were separated during the chaos of the war.

The Remember Me? project can be found at: <http://rememberme.ushmm.org/> You can learn more about this project in an article at: <http://hrld.us/Zk5wQm>

-Previously published in QFHS Snippets February 2013 Vol 13, No. 2

ELEPHIND: A DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS SEARCH ENGINE

Elephind is a great service that searches online digital newspaper collections.

Best of all, it is available free of charge, at <http://www.elephind.com/>.

Elephind is a search engine that operates much like Google, Bing and other search engines. The one thing that is different is that it searches only historical, digitised newspapers. It enables you to search for free across many newspaper sites simultaneously rather than having to visit each collection's web site.

So far, Elephind has indexed newspaper titles containing more than 2.5 million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to August 2013. It has indexed 141,628,238 articles from 2,677 newspaper titles. These include such well-known sites as Chronicling America (the US Library of Congress) and Australia's Trove, as well as smaller collections.

Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines, but they are searchable from Elephind.com. A list of available newspaper collections that have been indexed so far is available at <http://goo.gl/VRQN51>.

Additional newspaper collections are frequently added to Elephind's indexes.

Elephind operates in much the same way as many other search engines. If you already know how to search for things in Google, Bing, Yahoo or elsewhere, you will be able to use Elephind.

When you first visit <http://www.elephind.com/> you'll see a simple search screen containing one data entry box.

You can search for words or phrases in much the same way as you do on Google although not all of Google's sophisticated Boolean search terms are available on Elephind. You can find tips for using the search box at <http://goo.gl/3T6JuH>. You will also see a highlighted link for "Advanced Search". When you click on that, a more sophisticated search form appears, allowing you to narrow the search to any combination of specific newspaper titles, country or a range of dates.

Elephind does not host the images on its own web site; it merely links to newspapers found on a wide variety of servers in a number of different countries.

It's a great tool for family historians, genealogists and researchers to search historic, digitised newspapers from around the globe.

Elephind is continuing to add more newspapers, so if at first you can't find what you're looking for, check back later. You might also want to add your name to the Elephind mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/ndGhb> to receive an email message whenever a new collection is added.

From Victorian G.U.M. News, November 2014, Volume 31, No 11.

People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors.

- Edmund Burke, 1790.

FIND YOUR CRIMINAL ANCESTORS ONLINE

Source: Emsley, Clive:

Uncovering a Life of Crime, Who Do You Think You Are Magazine, June 2013

Ancestry.co.uk

Criminal Registers, 1791-1892.

This mammoth collection boasts over half a million entries for those charged with all sorts of crime from across the UK. The registers are hand-written entries of those charged with a crime and held in custody. They include: name; age; where tried; basic details of the offence; followed by the sentence or whether they were acquitted. Some early registers also have place of birth.

Prison Hulk Registers, 1802-1849.

These registers list prisoners on 19 prison hulks. They consist of the name, date received, age, year of birth, date convicted and where they were convicted.

Australian Transportation, 1787-1868.

These transportation registers include the name, where and when convicted, and the term of the sentence. Also check the Royal Naval Medical Journals (1817-1857) on this site, as they include any medical treatment given to convicts on their journal.

Dorset Criminal Records, 1724-1904.

From calendars of prisoners to prison registers and transportation records, there's plenty to discover here.

Middlesex Convicts, 1682-1787.

This small collection lists criminals from the London area sentenced to transportation, mainly to America and the Caribbean for the early years.

Findmypast.co.uk

Calendars of prisoners, 1868-1929.

These are after-trial calendars and include more detail than the criminal registers on Ancestry.co.uk. As well as name, age and trade, there is more information about the offence (including details of the victim), as well as information about previous convictions and the jury's verdict and sentence. As the records are typed (with some additions, like previous convictions that were handwritten), they are easy to read.

Central Criminal Court calendars of prisoners, 1851-1931.

If you find an ancestor here, then make sure you head off to www.oldbaileyonline.org to find out more about their trial (only applicable for cases up to 1913).

Criminal petitions, 1817-1858.

Although this collection is relatively small, it's worth checking if you have an ancestor who was incarcerated during this period. Petitions for clemency were usually made by family members and, although rarely successful, they can sometimes run to a few pages and give background information on the convict that you won't find elsewhere.

Pentonville Prison photograph album, 1882-1885.

Explore photographs of over 1,000 prisoners who ended up in Pentonville Prison.

Manchester prison registers, 1847-1881.

As well as basic details the registers also include physical descriptions. Most prison registers aren't online, so check out the local record office.

Prison ship (hulk) registers, 1811-1843.

This is a transcript by Jill Chambers of the same registers (taken from HO9 at The National Archives) available to view on Ancestry.co.uk. Although you can't see the original documents, as you can on Ancestry.co.uk, Jill has taken great care to make sure that the records are assigned to the correct ship (hulk). There is also a transcription of the registers for the Cumberland, Dolphin and Ganymede hulks, as well as a transcription of convict arrivals to New South Wales 1788-1842.

British newspapers

Crime has always been part of the staple diet of newspapers and trials were often reported in detail. If you aren't a subscriber to findmypast.co.uk, this vast collection of regional newspapers is also available on www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

Selected free websites:

Old Bailey, 1674-1913.

www.oldbaileyonline.org.

Taken from the published proceedings of what became the Central Criminal Court, this is a researcher's goldmine.

Buckinghamshire prisoners – Aylesbury Gaol in the 1870s.

www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archives/ea_libprisoners.page

Created using receiving books from the county gaol, this database includes photographs where available.

Bedfordshire Gaol Register, 1801-1879.

<http://apps.bedfordshire.gov.uk/grd>

This growing database hopes to expand its entries right up to 1901.

Warwickshire calendars of prisoners, 1801-1900.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/corporate/prisoners.nsf/By+Crime?openview.

This database lets you search by name or browse by crime.

Lincolnshire convict database.

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/convictssearch.aspx?navCode=3169

A great database made up of transcriptions of a variety of records, including "keeper's reports" so you may find out about your ancestor's behaviour in jail.

Swing riots and rioters.

www.swingriotersriotersblacksheepsearch.com

Rich in information on swing rioters and those transported or imprisoned on hulks, this site also has a useful links section.

Convicts in Australia.

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online

Scroll down to "Convicts" to explore the newly digitised early convict records (1788-1801) and search the database.

HISTORY

History is the distillation of rumour.

- Thomas Carlyle, 1837.

Historic graves project helps get Irish gravestone photos online

It goes without saying that gravestones are an important facet of any genealogical research, as the information written on a headstone can verify details, create new leads, as well as sometimes creating more questions. But nothing can beat seeing the headstone or marker of a grave of a long-lost ancestor, be it in person or an online photograph.

Sadly headstones don't last forever, with both the weather and vandalism playing a part to erode history, so it is important that details get recorded now.

The Historic Graves Project (www.historicgraves.com) is an Irish-based community-focused heritage project, that aims to work with individuals and groups around the whole of Ireland to record by photographing and transcribing the details from over 3600 graveyards around the country.

All information that is contributed to the Historic Graves project is submitted by volunteers, and the information on the site is available to everyone, free of charge.

But rather than simply being a transcription and photo website, the project allows for multimedia as well. So you can contribute a video, or audio oral history, which adds another dimension to the site. Together with collaboration, this will become a multimedia (online written, visual, and audio) record of the historic graves in Ireland.

This is a "work in progress," so don't despair if "your" cemetery hasn't been covered yet. Just be sure to check the map of completed graveyards, which gets updated regularly (<http://historicgraves.com/graveyardsmap>). Click on an area of interest on the map to "zoom in" and see the details.

More information at <http://www.historicgraves.com>

Images of The Great Parchment Book now Online

The Great Parchment Book of the Honourable The Irish Society records a major survey of the estates in Derry managed by the City of London through the Irish Society and the City of London livery companies. It was compiled in 1639 and is an important source for the City of London's role in the Protestant colonisation and administration of Ulster.

165 folios survived a fire in 1786 but uneven shrinkage and distortion rendered much of the text illegible. The parchment sheets have now been flattened as far as possible and digital imaging used to improve legibility and provide digital access to the original manuscript.

Read more at: <http://goo.gl/SK98AL>
See images of The Great Parchment Book at: <http://www.greatparchmentbook.org>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
May 2014 Volume 14 No. 5.*

New Ordnance Survey Records and Maps Go Online

152,332 records for Ordnance Survey County Maps of England and Wales (1841-1952) have recently been uploaded. Go to: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/records/> Also available online are a set of images of Ordnance Survey maps – the One Inch Revised New Series, covering England and Wales from a century ago. These maps have also been geo-referenced so that they can be compared to present day and other mapping. Check them out at: <http://tinyurl.com/qdzn53c>

*Previously published in QFHS Snippets
November 2013 Volume 13, No. 10*

BOOK REVIEW

Symes, Ruth A.,

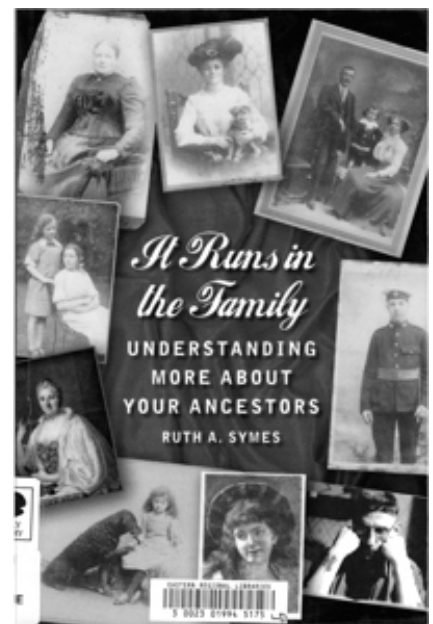
It Runs in the Family: Understanding More About Your Ancestors,
The History Press, 2013.

Sometimes written records, family photographs and especially artefacts are difficult to interpret and pose more questions than they answer.

This small volume (160 pages) examines the wealth of personal and historical clues in photographs which provide an intimate guide to our ancestors and their times.

Their clothes can date photos from fashions, as can their eyes, the state of their teeth, hair (including facial hair), height and weight, distinguishing features and even tattoos. But so can heirlooms and objects handed down through families, including jewellery, brooches, cufflinks, perfume, the legal and economic connotations of wearing wedding rings, the use of flowers and even attitudes to keeping dogs.

Drawing on evidence from social history, women's history, art and fashion, and using examples from the lowly as well as the famous, this book turns a magnifying glass on the photographs and objects that record the lives of our ancestors, allowing us to draw closer to them in ways we might not have thought possible.



This book is available from local libraries on inter-library loan, call number FAM929.1SYME.

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