

**GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC**

Rootes



GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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A.J. (Lex) Bell OAM

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Network Computer Co-ordinator

Fay Carbis

Publicity Officer

Jenny Young

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday/Wednesday 9.30am – 2.30pm

Thursday 11.00am – 8.30pm

Saturday 10.00am – 4.30pm

LIBRARY ROOMS

**Room 3, Nerang Bicentennial building, Nerang Council Chambers,
Nerang/Southport Road, Nerang**

PHONE: 5582 8855 – OPENING HOURS ONLY

Enquiries should be sent to goldcoastfamilyhistorysociety@gmail.com

Items and articles for *Rootes* journal should be sent to
beverleydwyer@bigpond.com



**THE ROOMS WILL CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
ON THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2019
AND RE-OPEN 14 JANUARY 2020**

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**REMINDER
MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE OF
31 DECEMBER 2019
NEED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP**

**A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THE HARD COPY
OF THE JOURNAL
IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE**

COMING EVENTS

Our Society hosts various events during the year. All are for the benefit of our members. There is a nominal charge of \$1 for group meetings which includes tea or coffee and a biscuit. Introduction and Advance Classes and any education classes are free of charge to members. Special events incur individual charges.

The special groups such as Scottish, Irish and London are all about helping with your individual research so you do need to bring along your information so that the co-coordinators can assist you.

Check the Coming Events in your journal and updates that appear in *Saplings*, our monthly electronic newsletter. Details are also published on our web site: <http://goldcoastfhs.org.au/events-calendar1.html>

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY/ADVANCED CLASSES

Day time sessions are held at regular intervals. There is no charge to members. Bookings for these classes are essential.

Contact **Pam Oldham** on 5594 0610 or email: pamllew3@gmail.com

SCOTTISH GROUP

The two ladies who host this group are very enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about Scottish research. Meetings for 2020 will be held on Sunday 16 February, 17 May, 16 August and 15 November.

Contact **Margaret Collins** on 5593 1773 or email: cjm7cjm@bigpond.com or **Margaret Shand** on 5538 1423 or email: rinnes@onthenet.com.au

IRISH GROUP

Julian Van der Veer has for many years had a research service but is available to assist our members. Julian can be contacted by email on genfindit@gmail.com

A website you might find of interest is www.rootesireland.ie It is a subscription site and unfortunately they only allow personal usage so the Society is unable to get a library subscription. You can however subscribe for 1 day or 1, 6, 12 months. The downloads are quite generous.

LONDON GROUP

London research can be very complicated as there are so many parishes in a relatively small area. **Ann Metcher** was born near London and is very knowledgeable. Date for 2020 is Sunday 9 February, at 1pm. Please refer to our website for further dates. She can be contacted at metcher@bigpond.com

LEGACY GROUP

If you are thinking of using a program to record your family history this group can help to make up your mind. If you are already using it why not find out if you are taking full advantage of it. Co-ordinator Sue McKenzie is well versed in its use and will help you to get started or hopefully solve any problems you are experiencing.

Dates for 2020 will be Sunday 2 February, 5 April, 7 June, 2 August, 4 October and 6 December.

Contact Carol Browne at cbrowne@onthenet.com.au

COMPUTER GROUP

This very popular group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm. The programs are wide and varied and any suggestions you may have regarding topics are very welcome.

Full details are provided in our electronic newsletter prior to each monthly meeting.

You can contact **Ann Metcher** at metcher@bigpond.com for further information.

FAMILY TREE MAKER

If you are using this program and need help **Gay Eunson** will be happy to assist you.

You can reach her on 5597 5365 or email: eunson5253@optusnet.com.au

MINI SEMINARS

These seminars are very popular with our members and the speakers have a wide range of subjects. They are held approximately every three months.

Check *Saplins* for up to date information as well as our web site.

DNA GROUP

This is a discussion and self-help group. They are held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 1pm commencing again in March. Check with Fay Carbis on fay@winshop.com.au

ARMY RESEARCH

Members Chris Stocker can assist you with army research. You can contact him on sunny44@bigpond.com and perhaps arrange to meet him at the rooms if necessary.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
PRESENTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7 SEPTEMBER 2019**

It is a great pleasure to present you with my report for 2019. I'll briefly review activities of the past year and am heartened by what we've accomplished. The 2018 year concluded with a refresh of the Society rooms when a wonderful hive of working bees got together to paint the walls of the main library area. Thanks to Bunnings Nerang for their donation towards paint.

After a welcome break over Christmas we returned with vigour in January. The annual Volunteers' Morning Tea in February allowed us to show our gratitude for their work. The *State Waves in Time* Conference hosted by the Caloundra Family History Society jointly with History Queensland was held in May. It was a huge success. Eleven of our Society members attended and returned not only with fond memories but a substantial wealth of information in order to build on their family history and stories.

In June, our new fee structures were set down. Single memberships are now \$45 and family memberships \$60. This decision was prompted by numerous expenses related to Society operations and it was the first price increase in 13 years. There has been a 6% reduction in membership numbers in the last year and this reflects a similar trajectory over the past number of years.

I'd like to express some words of thanks. Sincere gratitude must go to our Management Committee who have worked very hard in the past year – Journal Editor, Beverley Dwyer, Treasurer, Maree Alexanderson with support from Fay Carbis, Secretary, Carolyn Carruthers, and the other Committee members, Ann Metcher, Mark Pittaway and John Criddle. John, you are standing down this year and thank you for your contribution. Heather Wort is handing over her role as Librarian to both Daphne Reick and Bianca Holloway. Heather is remaining on the Committee and will report on Library matters. Heather, you took on the role 22 years ago and we are so grateful for your expert library skills during that time. Thank you. Thanks to Gay Eunson for great work on *Saplings*, to the Dream Team and Sue McKenzie for her IT input.

Pam Oldham's work as Roster Secretary is very much appreciated. Our dedicated Room Assistants deserve special thanks for their superb abilities, their commitment and enthusiasm. The Society depends on them and we are keen for any knowledgeable members who may be interested in volunteering as a Room Assistant to please come forward. Holiday leave can be especially challenging to fill those important slots. Our Special Interest Group

champions are worth their weight in gold. The March Rootes journal listed each one of the 40 volunteer members and the tasks they fulfil. All of you do so much work behind the scenes for which I'm most appreciative.

In June, the Society began holding DNA Interest Groups monthly under the guidance of Fay Carbis. It has proved very popular. More and more members are having their DNA tested and we are developing a better understanding of the results and the terminology.

One of our very important members passed away in January this year. Fran Brown was an active member since she joined in 1993. She was Vice-President from 2001-2003, presented Beginners' Classes for many years and she also contributed as a Room Assistant. Elizabeth Lambert passed away in August. She had been a member since 2000 and, in the last 10 years has ably assisted with Librarian work of proof-reading and filing. Both Fran and Elizabeth will be sadly missed.

In terms of equipment we have made one purchase in the past year - a new printer. It replaced one that could no longer be repaired.

The Society has been wishing to acquire a printer/scanner for some time now and the hope is that a grant or Divisional Donation could be obtained. Two grant applications in the last 12 months failed to be approved. It was stated that, while the applications had merit the Gambling Community Benefits Fund was oversubscribed on both occasions and the applications were denied. We have recently submitted an application for a Mayoral and Divisional Donation – Division 5, and that \$2000 will help fund the purchase of this equipment. We hope for success this time.

Education activities

The Society Mini-Seminars have been very popular with members as well as members of the public.

In November 2018 **John Graham** discussed how to get the best out of the Ryerson Index, death notices online. He also spoke about the fascinating story of Australia's Free Settlements in the 1820s which provided some social history.

In February **Kerry Farmer** presented on DNA – how to proceed once you have your test results, as well as combining DNA results with your genealogy research.

In May **Cara Downes** discussed what documentation is available from the National Archives on WW1 servicemen. This, together with the talk on War Brides were very fascinating, yet poignant.

In September, **Helen Smith** will further explore the DNA subject with her talk on developing a research plan and organising your results.

Members are encouraged to attend our **monthly Computer nights** on the third Wednesday evening of each month. The interesting topics and presentations can very much assist with your research.

Four of our members graduated this year with a Diploma in Family History from the University of Tasmania. Congratulations go to Gay Eunson, Dianne Steedman and John and Isobel Flynn.

The Society continues to provide a service to the community, and this year we have presented talks on family history research at the National Seniors meeting and at four local libraries in August during Family History month. We were honoured to have been invited to participate in the **Gold Coast Open House Program** this year. The Society will be featured in the Open House booklet and we will throw open our doors to the public on Saturday 19 October. I was privileged to have attended the launch of Open House at Star Casino on 3 September by Governor de Jersey.

The Gold Coast Family History Society chose to celebrate its 40th birthday during Family History Month in August. On 11th August we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fun. One of our Society Patrons, Lex Bell, Kyla Stephan from the Local History Library and Historian, Dr Jennifer Harrison took part in our celebrations.

The history of the Society since 1979 was delivered by President, Margaret Deacon. An accompanying slide show provided visuals of the wonderful characters who have graced our family history community, the variety of locations which the Society has occupied and the events and functions that have been part of our life in the past 40 years.

A great feature of the afternoon was the Show and Tell segment which allowed members to highlight a special treasure or photo in their family history and speak about it in 2-3 minutes. The audience reactions demonstrated how much they engaged in this wonderful activity. The table displays of precious books, Society memorabilia, and cherished objects belonging to members added to the significance of the day.

The birthday cake was cut by Lex Bell and it added to the wonderful afternoon tea gourmet delicacies prepared by our members. The event provided an opportunity for about 50 members and guests to mingle and socialise – an important aspect which binds our family history community. I'd like to genuinely thank everyone who attended and who helped on the day.

An item was placed in *The Sun* newspaper this past week, Wednesday, 4th September together with a photo of cutting the cake. I ask that this Report be accepted.

Margaret Deacon - President

HEATHER WORT'S LIBRARY REPORT

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with our two new volunteers willing to work and learn about our library. Daphne Rieck has had considerable experience with computers working in large and small environments. Daphne spent her early years living in Beechmont before marrying and moving around Queensland as far north as Cairns. Bianca Holloway is involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a very welcome fresh young face to brighten up the Wednesday day girls.

Daphne will be taking over the catalogue and all that comes with books, microfiche and films while Bianca is a keen volunteer happy to do data entry work and all that keeps us busy when I am wearing my other hat, Projects Officer.

Recently added to our collection was a donation by Jennifer Harrison, a guest at our 40th birthday celebrations, of Queensland Post Office Directory (Alpha order) 1868 – 1949 of some 240 microfiche. For those who enjoy searching for family on microfiche here is some fun for you.

Looking back on the past 12 months and comparing with say 10 years ago our purchases have dropped significantly. However, donations continue to arrive for which we are very happy to receive.

The subscription Web sites continue to grow at an amazing rate so keep up to date with *Saplings* as our newsletter editor Gay Eunson is tops with keeping up with “what’s new” and “what’s hot”.

The microfilm catalogue has been updated with the Long Stay Films now merged with the rest of our films in number order. Some great titles take a look!

I resurrected *Tweed Daily News* newspapers that have been languishing in my shed, years 1990 to 2007 some dates are missing however lots of babies and marriages so far for us to index and hopefully digitised. Many ask why bother when eventually they will come up on the Trove? Well I am a great believer in diversity. We have babies from the Gold Coast Bulletin and Tweed Daily News combine them with our schools, deaths and marriages we have a good record of who was living in the area over the last 50 years. I hasten to add we are a small group entering and checking so if you like using Excel or Access or a dab hand a proof reading you are most welcome.

As always enjoy your family history research.

Heather Wort
Librarian

TREASURE TROVE: HERE GOES!

BY
JOHN CRIDDLE

Most of our readers will be aware of the National Library Trove website as a wonderful tool for research in Australian newspapers:

www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

My recent research led me to the following article from page 4 of the Cairns Morning Post from Saturday 4 May 1907. The article concerns the untimely death of a family member's great-grandfather, **William Simmonds** (1861-1907). It is rare to find such detail about the circumstances surrounding the death of an ancestor, even to the point of citing the deceased's final words: "Here goes!"

The Herberton Tragedy

DETERMINED SUICIDE

*Townpeople were horrified last night (says the Wild River "Times" of May 1st) when the new spread and they heard that a well-known and very old resident of the Herberton district, **Mr. Simmonds**, late of the Dry River, had hurried himself over the Great Divide by the aid of a Winchester sporting rifle. The scene of the tragedy was on the river side of Mr Dan Morley's*



hotel, and almost immediately after the occurrence a large crowd gathered at the place. The particulars of the affair are as follows:—About 9 o'clock Simmonds came down the street towards the bridge carrying a rifle and when opposite the Cosmopolitan Hotel he was spoken to by Mr. J Drury, and he informed the latter he was

*on the way to the Hospital. After a few minutes' conversation he invited Drury inside the bar to have a drink, and while they were partaking of it Mr Morley picked up the rifle from the counter and examined it, and noticed when he opened the breech that it was not loaded. Conversation was resumed again outside, Drury and **Simmonds** sitting down on a ladder that was lying length-wise against the wall of the hotel, and a man named Tom Mitchell,*

*standing directly in front of them, joined in the talk, the subject being on a recent small find of gold at the Tully. Whilst they were chatting, Simmonds held the rifle between his legs muzzle up, and he kept fumbling at the breech, evidently loading it, but no notice was taken of this by his companions as they thought he was only idly toying with the weapon. They had only been conversing a short time when Simmonds exclaimed "**Here goes!**" and the next instant the rifle cracked and deceased fell over sideways on the ladder. When the rifle went off Sergeant O'Donnell and Constable Walsh were standing directly opposite to the scene of the occurrence, and to Drury and Mitchell's cry of alarm, rushed over. The Doctor was sent for immediately, but those standing round felt certain that **Simmonds** had ended his days on this mortal coil. The wound bled terribly, and there was soon a large pool of blood by the body. The Doctor arrived very shortly and pronounced life extinct, and the remains of the unfortunate man were carried round to one of the back rooms of the hotel. Death must have been instantaneous, as deceased never quivered after the shot. Great sympathy is felt for the poor wife and the little ones, and what makes it more sad we hear that financial circumstances were not too bright with deceased lately. Constable Twaddle rode out last night to the Deep Lead, where the family have lately been residing, and informed **Mrs Simmonds** of the tragedy, who came into town in a buggy this morning accompanied by her children. It was pitiable in the extreme to witness their distress when in the presence of the body. The funeral left Morley's Hotel at 4 o'clock this afternoon.*



John Criddle has suggested he would like to submit a regular article to Rootes about events he finds in the newspapers taken from the Trove website.

Needless to say the Editor believes this is a great idea. Newspaper reports can reveal so much and Trove has a great reputation worldwide.

FANNY FOX: FOUR FOOT TEN AND TWENTY STONE!**BY****FRANK MOREY MILBURN**

In 1970 I married Denise, the daughter of my mother's cousin. This meant firstly that we were related (she was my 2nd cousin!) and so our offspring, as well as being our children, are also our 2nd cousins – once removed! Secondly, it meant that we had a set of great grandparents in common. That was when I got hooked on Genealogy! Back in 1975 I decided to find out where these great grandparents had come from - especially our great grandmother Frances (or "Fanny") FOX.

I had heard snippets from my mother over the years but now I was on a mission. From Tumbarumba NSW, I purchased Fanny's death certificate and then from Sydney the certificate of her 1879 marriage to my great-grandfather, William MOREY. From Victoria I bought the birth certificates of her nine children. That gave me the skeleton of her life; now I needed to flesh it out fully. For that I consulted my own mother who had her Grandma living with her family from 1913 (when Mum was born) until 1931, when Fanny passed away when my mother was aged 17.

Those certificates helped me to pinpoint the major milestones of Fanny's Australian life. But what about where she had come from, in England? The information on her marriage certificate indicated that her parents were a "Mr" FOX and a Fanny RICE so, taking that information at face value, I commenced sending to England for birth certificates for a Frances (or Fanny) Fox, born around 1856/58. Over the next (almost) 40 years, I purchased numerous birth certificates which always looked like they may be 'the one' but I was always disappointed when they arrived to find that the parentage never matched the information on 'that' marriage certificate.

In the meantime I discovered that in 1870 at the age of 13, Fanny had been sent **by herself**, on the boat 'Nineveh', to live with a married brother in Victoria. She later married my great grandfather: William MOREY in 1879 at Albury and subsequently gave birth to her nine children, mainly while living in the Bethanga goldfields area of northern Victoria, where her husband was contracted (with a bullock team) to supply timber to the local gold processing plant. In 1905, with the forced closure of that plant, due to stockpiles of toxic waste which were implicated in the deaths of numerous livestock in the vicinity, William and

Fanny and most of their children moved from Bethanga, to the Tumbarumba area of southern NSW to dairy share-farm for Cuthbert McMICKING and his father, Robert, who had extensive landholdings and a thriving cheese factory, in the nearby Mannus Valley. Fanny's husband, William Morey died in 1914 and from then, until she died 17 years later, Fanny's sole duties were in the kitchen as the cook to the large family of her son, William MOREY (Jnr), my grandfather.

My mother, also a Frances MOREY, was very close to Fanny and would often hear her talk about her life but very little about her life before her marriage in 1879. Apparently, she had lived with her brother (? FOX) and his wife in Victoria somewhere but never got on with her sister-in-law so aged 22 years, she left one day and finished up in Bethanga Victoria, where she met William MOREY, whom she later married.

When Fanny was married, she told my mother, she was 4 feet, 10 inches (148cm) tall and weighed 6 ½ stone (41kg) but, as she was having each of her nine children in the isolated valleys surrounding Bethanga, she was concerned that she wouldn't have enough breast-milk to feed each expected new born, so she would fatten herself up on hot chocolate drinks. The eventual outcome of this was that (although she grew no taller), her weight increased immensely with each child and her duty in later life, as the household cook, wouldn't have helped much either. Nobody knew just how much she weighed until she was taken, at one time, to the nearby Tumbarumba Railway Station, where she was encouraged to stand on the luggage scales which had a limit of 20 stone (127 kg) and the indicator hit the top!

Years ago my mother (thankfully), well before she died, had written her memoirs and they give a fascinating insight into her grandmother's temperament and size. A quote from those memoirs, recalling her grandmother back in the 1920s, sums up the situation perfectly:

“Grandma MOREY lived with us all our young lives. She did the cooking and no-one else was allowed in the kitchen. She just sat all day and cooked and made meals and washed up. She was (at heart) a happy soul and she used to sing while she was working; sitting at the kitchen table all day. She always made plum pudding on Sundays. I remember the times we had plum jam which Grandma had stirred with a piece of board off a kerosene case, and it tainted the jam, and we still had to have it until the last drop.

I have fond memories of Sunday afternoons when our extended family would all come after church and Grandma would play the piano and we would all sing around it. For some reason, Grandma's favourite piano piece to play

was the French National Anthem: “The Marseillaise”. Grandma would have cakes and scones ready and we would all have afternoon tea together, before the others would all go back home in their two-horse buggies before it got dark.

Grandma and my mother (her daughter-in-law) never got on very well, living in the same house, for although she was usually placid, Grandma also had a temper and would flare up over anything critical of her – and when she was angry, everyone kept out of her way!

I remember two of my sisters were in her bad books, and were in the garden out a bit from the kitchen door, and evidently didn't do as she asked, and she threw a large carving knife at them. Fortunately, she wasn't a good shot! Years before when her own daughter, Louisa, wouldn't come when she had called her, Grandma threw an opened jam tin (with the exposed lid still attached) at her, and cut Louisa's head open.

The only time that I can remember her going anywhere was when they had to vote. My father got the buggy for her and put the big kitchen table alongside of it; then put a big wooden box alongside of that; and a smaller box before that one; then 3 men helped her up, step by step – and her over 20 stone! The voting was always at the Mannus Hall. I didn't go with them as it was only for adults, but I'm sure they didn't get her out of the buggy to vote. When they came home, of course, they had to reverse the procedure. Later, my cousin Nelson WEULE, had a car and he had to take the door off to allow Grandma to get in. Later in 1931, a few days before she died, she had been singing along on a Sunday afternoon, when she collapsed. They had to get the (local) prison lorry to take her to hospital.

Grandma used to waddle when she walked, and always turned sideways going through a door otherwise she would have hit the sides. She always wore men's dancing pumps that she could just slip her feet into – there's no way she could bend down to put normal footwear on.

Grandma always wore a white apron (made from flour bags) over her black skirts which touched the floor, with at least two white petticoats underneath. It was always a good place to hide if we were playing 'hide and seek', although there was usually an unpleasant odour about her. Underneath, she wore bloomers that were in two pieces, crossed over, so when she went to the toilet, she just had to pull them apart to the side. She used to bathe once a week (as we all did back then) on a Saturday night. She did that in her own room, by herself and, as nobody ever helped her, I don't know how her back ever got washed. It used to worry me!

If we had visitors, I would often have to sleep with Grandma in her double bed. She was so big that the blankets over her left a large gap along the side

of her that left me half uncovered all night. She had long grey hair, which had originally been red (which may explain her occasional temper tantrums!). She wore her hair rolled up in a bun at the back of her head, and she would give it a good brushing at night, before going to bed.

The most intriguing thing that she ever told me was that when she had first arrived in Australia, she had 'precious stones' in the back of her heels.
..... "

In discussions with my mother later, she agreed that those 'precious stones' were probably just coloured glass ornaments attached to the sides of her heels.

Where Fanny had been buried, was unknown for over 50 years, but in 1984, I had pinpointed where her unmarked grave was in the Tumburumba NSW Cemetery, and I then constructed, engraved, and erected a detailed stainless steel plaque to show her final resting place. Today over 30 years later it still looks brand new.

By early 2015, almost 40 years since the start of my quest I still didn't know the circumstances of Fanny's birth and neither did a handful of other serious (descendant) researchers! We had all decided that the 'Frances Fox', who was shown (along with a couple of brothers: John and William) in the 1861 Census, as a 3 year old inmate of London's *Hanwell School for Orphans and Destitute Children*, was 'ours' (especially since she didn't show up on the 1871 Census anywhere!). So, I decided to 'bite the bullet' (so to speak!) and pay for a researcher from the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) to do some investigating. For an outlay of \$140.00 my long-standing 'brick wall' was about to come tumbling down!

Although the LMA could find no record of Fanny's parents, they **did** discover another brother who was also in Hanwell, and because that brother had a relatively unusual name (Ambrose), it enabled me and a close collaborator (my second cousin, Jenny Tyrrell) to finally begin to unravel the circumstances of Fanny's origins! As it turned out (probably because she had been orphaned at such a young age) she had never ever known her mother's real name and so the name "Fanny Rice" from Fanny's marriage certificate, should have read: "Jane Lee". To my delight, I discovered that one of the birth certificates that I'd previously purchased from England, was the one I'd been searching for, for all those years.

The details from the certificate revealed that Frances Fox, the daughter of Charles Fox [a furrier] and Jane (nee Lee) was born in the *City of London Union Workhouse* at Bromley on 27 December 1856! Born in a

Workhouse? That had me imagining images of Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist"! Times must have been so hard, back then!

Since then, we've been able to trace the English Fox and Lee families back further (and wider) and have uncovered the whole family of the brother that she was sent to live with, in Melbourne. Like his father, that brother was a Charles James Fox. He owned a successful tiling business, had married Isabella Ivory in 1865 and had six children in their home while Fanny was living with him.

It was quite satisfying to finally clear up that branch of the family, but I have to admit that part of me misses that challenge that I faced and conquered! Of course, there is still other information to find; and 'brick walls' to hurdle but they will never quite measure up to the journey that I embarked on, with its multitude of ups and downs and the genealogical learning curve that I experienced along the way. In this case, I really do think the journey was far more satisfying than the destination!

Frank Morey Milburn email: mindyandheather@bigpond.com



*City of London Union Workhouse in Bromley where
Fanny Fox was born in 1856*

AN UNDER USED RESOURCE

Have you ever explored our computer Red Network to discover what records are hidden here? There are over 1200 CDs which are loaded on to a computer in the back room and they are fed though to the Network computers in the main room.

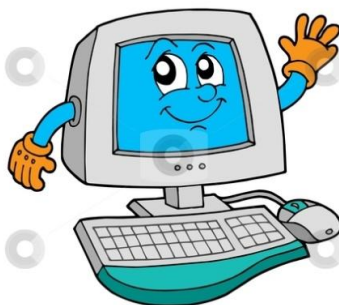
There is a wealth of information available, much of it NOT on the internet.

Here is a selection of some of the records available:

- ✚ Queensland Electoral Rolls 1870 to 1884 and 1889
- ✚ Queensland School Pupils Index
- ✚ Numerous funeral director records & cemetery records
- ✚ Parish Register transcripts of Christ Church Newcastle NSW 1804-1900
- ✚ Parish Register transcriptions of St John's Anglican Church Newcastle NSW with 1871 Parish Census
- ✚ Early Victorian Church Records
- ✚ Bristol Burgess Books, Gloucestershire
- ✚ Baptisms St Margaret's Church, Leicestershire
- ✚ Chertsey Poor Law Union Admission and Discharge Books, Surrey
- ✚ Index to Irish Marriages 1771-1812
- ✚ Paupers in Workhouses 1861, England
- ✚ Digger Collection covers most States in Australia – a variety of records

This of course is only a fraction of what is available but hopefully it will whet your appetite to check and see what else is available. There is a catalogue next to the Network computers detailing what is available.

Please ask a Room Assistant for help to navigate the system.



**A SINGULAR CHARACTER
BY
BEVERLEY DWYER**

Among the dottiest people who ever lived in London was Mrs Jane Lewson, famed throughout the middle decades of the eighteenth century for her bizarre lifestyle. Her obituary in The Observer newspaper on 9 June 1816 revealed some of her idiosyncrasies although as you will see from the notes at the end of the item the information was not entirely accurate.

On Tuesday, the 28th of May, died at her house, No. 12, Cold-bath-square at the very advanced age of 116 years, Mrs Lewson, commonly called Lady Lewson, from her very eccentric manner of dress. In recording this instance of unusual longevity, some account of her may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to our readers.

Mrs Jane Lewson, was born in the year 1700, during the reign of William and Mary, in Essex-street, in the Strand, of most respectable parents of the name of Vaughan, and was married at an early age to a wealthy gentleman of the name of Lewson, then living in the house in which she died. She became a widow at the age of twenty-six, having only one daughter living at the time. Mrs Lewson being left by her husband in affluent circumstances preferred to continue single, and remained so, although she had many suitors. When her daughter married, being left alone, she became fond of retirement, & rarely went out, or permitted the visits of any person.

The obituary is quite long and gives details of her servants and the running of her house. It continues:

She was so partial to the fashions that prevailed in her youthful days, that she never changed the manner of her dress from that worn in the reign of George the first. She always wore powder with a large tête, made of horse hair on her head, near half a foot high, over which her hair was turned up; a cap over it which knotted under her chin, and three or four curls hanging down her neck. She generally wore silk gowns and the train long, with a deep flounce all round, a very long waist, and very tightly laced up to her neck, round which was a kind of ruff, or frill. The sleeves of her gown came below the elbow, from each of four or five cuffs were attached; a large straw bonnet quite flat, high heeled shoes, a large black silk cloak, trimmed round lace, and a gold-headed cane.

Her manner of living was so methodical, that she would not drink her tea out of any other than a favourite cup. She was equally particular with respect to her knives, forks, plates, &c. At breakfast she arranged in a particular way the paraphernalia of the tea tables; at dinner she also observed a general rule, and always sat in her favourite chair. She always enjoyed an excellent state of health, assisted in regulating her house, and never had until a little previous to her decease an hour's illness. She entertained the greatest aversion to medicine, and what is remarkable she cut two new teeth at the age of 87, and never lost one in her life, nor was she ever troubled with tooth-ache. Her sight latterly failed her.

She lived in five reigns and was supposed the most faithful living historian of the age, the events of the year 1715 being fresh in recollection.



There were a number of inaccuracies in the obituary:

- She was actually born in 1720, not 1700
- She was not married at 19. She was instead married at the age of 31
- Her husband was Robert Luson (not Lewson), a very wealthy merchant from Great Yarmouth and the couple were married on 21 July 1751 at St Mary-Le-Strand, Somerset House Chapel.
- Robert and Jane were actually married for 18 years. Mr Luson died in 1769 and buried at Yarmouth, and Mrs Lewson/Luson was actually 49 years old when she became a widow
- She was actually 96 years old when she died, not 116

She also believed washing was highly dangerous and would lead to some dreadful disorder. Instead she smeared her face and neck with pig's fat, on top of which she applied a liberal quantity of pink powder.

**BOOK REVIEW
BY
COLLEEN YUKE**

THANKS A LOT, GUV!

A recent addition to our wonderful family history collection has been donated by John CRIDDLE.

Entitled “Thanks a Lot, Guv!” this book has been written by T Garth HYLAND a descendant of a number of convicts who were transported to Van Diemen’s Land in the early 1800s.

The author has researched his ancestor’s lives with all the documentary evidence he could find relating to these folk. It includes information about their trials, detention in England, transportation and their lives as convicts until they obtained their freedom.

The stories told are fictional but based on the events of the day, however the historical information is accurate and the author gives a comprehensive Reference Sources and Notes at the end of the book.

Genealogical charts referring to the following are well set out for the descendants of John IRELAND and Harriet JAMES, Michael IRELAND (HYLAND) and Mary Ann BRITTON, James BRITTON and Sarah Jane CORK, James and Sophia GUNYON, William HEARD (HURD) and Isaac (Ikey) and Ann SOLOMON. Other members of these families have trees noted.

The glossary is quite extensive and explains the meaning of the words used in the old records.

There are photos of persons and places, copies of letters and documents of importance scattered throughout the book.

A well written and useful book for those who need some ideas for writing their own family stories, otherwise an interesting and insightful book for family historians or those wishing to research convicts or if you have the time to just sit and read an interesting tale.

The shelf number is 310/HYL and the book can be found in the On Loan section in the back room. Just ask a duty room assistant to sign it out for you which you can take home for two weeks.

Colleen Yuke
cmbabar@bigpond.com

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined the Society in this last quarter. It is hoped that they all enjoy their research and have many happy finds.

3599	Bruce Fieldhouse, Robina
3600	Marie Napier, Southport
3601	Michele De la Reute, Surfers Paradise
3602	Fran Still, Southport
3603	Judy Caldwell, Arundel
3604	Pam Lee, Upper Coomera
3605	Lisa Timmings, Mudgeeraba
3606	Shane Allen, Mudgeeraba
3607	Ronald Goethals, Mudgeeraba
3608	Annette Symonds, Nerang
3609	Peter Robinson, Labrador
3610	Not for publication
3611	Anne Reid, Worongary
3612	Les Hansen, Helensvale
3613	Kelly Jones, Australia Fair Post Office
3614	Leanne Dahms, Beenleigh
3615	Carl Dahms, Beenleigh
3616	John Davies, Currumbin Waters
3617	Colin Smylie, Hope Island
3618	Pam Clare, Labrador
3619	Ken Scott, Ashmore



Wills for England and Wales 1996 to the present are available by contacting www.probatesearch.service.gov.uk New probate records appear online approximately 14 days after grant. It also contains Soldiers' Wills 1850-1986.

MORE TO BELL RINGING

THE WILLIAM SEAGER, VETERAN BELL RINGER STORY CONTINUES.....

**By
CAROL FURLONG**

Recently while in Calne, Wiltshire, U.K. I stayed with a cousin, Bill, and we went to the church where our Gt Gt Grandfather William Seager had been a bell ringer.

There was to be an Open Day at the local Heritage Centre in Calne the next day, so I went and also visited the church which was at the back of the building.

At the church, I mentioned to a gentleman there about my letter of the Veteran Bell Ringer. He said "that was in the newspaper." They had a copy of it. A lady who was there said she would go and find it. Alas, it wasn't at the church, so she went home to look for it.

I would have liked to have seen the bells, which were in the top of the Tower, and were going to be moved to about a third of the way down, to help with the strength of the tower. One of the bells was on the floor nearby. I was able to take a photo of it, and get someone to take a photo of me beside it to get an idea of the size of it.

After a quarter of an hour or so, the lady returned with the photocopy of the newspaper article and on the back of the sheet of paper someone had written the date that it was printed, 4th December 1902 and the name of the paper *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*.

Knowing I was interested in finding more family information, they suggested I go to the new History Centre at Chippenham, which was only a short bus ride away.

It is not far from the railway station at one end of town. The bus station, where I got off was the other end. A pleasant walk in fine weather.

At the centre, the people were helpful and the gentleman there helped to find the film of the newspaper of 1902. I also asked if they would possibly have an 1832 film of the newspaper. Just on the off chance that there may have been an article on William's father who had died in a quarry accident. (It was mentioned in the first article.)

"Yes!" there was a report on the "Shocking Accident". So I was able to get a copy of that article as well. I was very pleased.

When I was telling my cousin Bill, that the gentleman who had helped me, at the History Centre had an unusual surname of 'Shipp' - Ship spelt with two 'p's'.

Bill asked me “How old would he be?” I said, “I don’t know but probably around my age.” Bill then said “He was my boss in the 1980s” and his wife had bred Red Setter dogs, and they bought their first puppy from them. Amazing!

P.S. Apparently Campanology is different from the Bell Ringing in the church, which was interesting, as apparently William Seager had wanted to buy a book on the “History of Campanology” when he was in a London Book Store.

Carol Furlong,
Member 2340
nvandcj@bigpond.com

Shocking Accident. On Friday last, three poor men, who had been employed in digging stones, adjourned to a neighbouring quarry, for shelter, for the purpose of partaking their dinner, but before they had finished it, part of the earth gave way and completely buried them; two of them were soon rescued alive; the third, after the lapse of a quarter of an hour, was discovered a corpse. His name was Thomas Segar; an honest and a hard working man.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
310/BOY	From Tartan to Wattle the descendants of Richard & Sarah Boyd	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
310/CAM	Reflections by Descendants of Thomas & Sarah Campbell	Book		Conference	No
310/DAV	From Little Acorn. History and genealogy of the Davis family of Gounyan	Book	Margaret	Collins	Yes
310/EAM	"The Green and the Orange" The Flynn and the Eames Family Histories	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
310/GLE	They Came from Aberdeen, Glennie Family History	Book	Anne	Glennie	Yes
310/HYL	Thanks a lot, Guv! stories of 8 Convicts from trial in England to detention & freedom (Loan copy)	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
310/PEU	A Little Leaven. The Peucker History (Gottlieb and Maria Peucker I Australia 1853-1984)	Book		Caloundra Conference	No
A554	Ship of Courage. The Epic story of HMAS Perth and her crew	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
A557	Australian Genesis Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788 - 1850 (Loan copy)	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
A700	Their Chastity was not too Rigid. Leisure times in Early Australia	Book	Julie	Webb	Yes
A700	Sydney Looks Back (Loan copy)	Book	Julie	Webb	Yes
AT710	Norfolk Island Story (Loan copy)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
BEG/400	Nurses & Midwives in Australian history a guide to historical sources	Book		Unlock the Past	No
BEG/400	DNA for Genealogists 4th edition	Book		Unlock the Past	No
C000/510	The Story of St Stephen's Sydney	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
C347/710	The Barraba & District Hospital 1891 - 1991	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
C474/586	Collins Creek School Centenary 100 years	Book		Collins Creek School	No
C478/790	Object of the Story. Reflection on Place (Ballina area)	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
C550/580	Remembering Bega Valley Servicemen of World War I. Battlefield and War Related Deaths	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
C590	New South Wales General Post Office Directory for 1836	Book	Beverley	Dwyer	Yes
C630/310	Snowfraus. The Women of the Snowy Mountain Scheme	Book		Caloundra Conference	No
C835/700	Cobar Founding Fathers Illustrated History of Pioneering Days	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
DNA	The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy	Book		Unlock the Past	No
DNA	DNA Tracing Your Ancestors & Your Genealogy	Book		Unlock the Past	No
DNA	DNA GED Match tools for DNA & Genealogy research	Book		Unlock the Past	No
DNA	DNA for genealogy	Book		Unlock the Past	No
DNA	DNA Chromosome Mapping	Book		Unlock the Past	No
DNA	Developing a DNA testing plan	Book		Unlock the Past	No
E000/518CEM	Prisoners' Cemetery St Helena Island (Qld)	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
E000/596	City in Masks (fighting the pneumonic influenza epidemic in Brisbane 1919)	Book		Caloundra Conference	No
E000/710	Brisbane Australia's New World City: History of the old Town Hall, City Hall, City Council 1985-2013	Book	Patricia	Mackenzie	Yes
E064/710	Padd Paddo Paddington. An oral and visual history of early Paddington. Living memories	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
E210	Moreton Bay People The Complete Collection	Book	Faye	Kenwick	Yes
E210	Moreton Bay Reflections	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
E211/790	Sharing the Water Hole Ngalinga Mulgerri gwonggubunga the community of the Hinze Dam Catchment	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
E215/586	The Magazine of the State High School Southport 1960	Book	Margaret	Huth	Yes
E215/591	Gold Coast District Telephone Book 2018/2019	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
E216/790	My Story Island Indigenous Artist Camp 2015	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	Shifting Sands. South Stradbroke Island Indigenous Artist Camp 2016	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	Cross-Currents from island to mainland. Gold Coast Indigenous Artist Camp Sth Stradbroke Island 2015	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	South Stradbroke Island Artist Camp 2013	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E275/710	Canungra Heritage 1879 - 1979	Book	Mike	Bedward	Yes
E285/580	The World War I Home Front in the Beaudesert District 1914 - 1921	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E305/580	Ipswich and District Military Memorials	Book		Ipswich GS	Yes
E350/518CEM	Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery Our Backyard Volume 4	Book		Toowoomba & DDFHS	No
E362/510	The Church on The Hill. Centennial Edition Sacred Heart, Deuchar, opened March 1919 celebrated March	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
E411/818CEM	Warra Cemetery Booklet (1st edition)	Book	Anne M	Wunsch	No
E510/710	History of Caboolture and Districts	Book		Anon	Yes
E574/710	Kenilworth Farmers' Assembly Hall to Gheerulla Hall. A long and arduous journey	Book	Gay	Eunson	Yes
G303/710	It was Written. Westbury (Tas.) Places & Personalities Volume 1	Book	Darlene	Scanlan	Yes
G320/598	Gateway to Progress. Centenary history of the Marine Board of Burnie	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
H700	Skiing the High Plains A History of the Ski Exploration of Victoria's Alpine Area	Book	Jeff	Adams	Yes

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
J000/830	UBD Perth Street Directory 17th edition c1975	Book	Caral	Furlong	Yes
M505	The Sutton Companion to Local History	Book	Beverley	Dwyer	Yes
M580	Soldiers A History of Men in Battle	Book	Jeff	Adams	Yes
M580	The Boer War	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
M850	Bartholomew's Motorist's Road Maps, Touring Atlas and Gazetteer of the British Isles 1900	Book	Beverley	Dwyer	Yes
N700	By the Sword Divided. Eyewitnesses of the English Civil War (Loan copy)	Book	Karen	Currie	Yes
N700	The Cornkister Days. A Portrait of Land and it's Rituals (Loan copy)	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
NCAM/510	The Churchwardens' Book of Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire 1496-c.1540	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
NCHS/810	Street Atlas Cheshire incl Macclesfield, Nantwich and Warrington	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
NLAN/710	Southport A History. (Lancashire)	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
NLAN/810	Manchester incl Altringham, Ashton-under-Lynne, Bolton, Bury Oldham, Rochdale, Salford etc., Atlas	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
NLND/700	The Ghost Map. The story of London's most terrifying epidemic & how it changed science (Loan copy)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
NNTH/700	Northamptonshire Past & Present	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
NYKS/210	An account of families, communicants and souls in Wakefield Town and Parish 1723	Book	Beverley	Dwyer	Yes
NYKS/710	Hull as it was	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
P500	Tracing Your Scottish Family History	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518/CEM	The Kirkyard of Kincardine O'Neil, Aberdeenshire, Scotland	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518/CEM	Monumental Inscriptions Urquhart Old Churchyard Parish of	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
	Urquhart, Moray				
P518/CEM	The Kirkyard of Lonmay	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518/CEM	Monumental Inscriptions Burghead Old Cemetery (Grant Street) Parish of Duffus, Moray	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518/CEM	The Kirkyard of New Deer	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518/CEM	The Kirkyard of Fraserburgh Kirkton (Old Ground)	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P518CEM	The Kirkyard of Strichen	Book	Linda	Glassick	Yes
P530	Index of Midlothian Censuses 1851 Parish of Cranston	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P530	Index of Midlothian Censuses 1841 Parish of Cranston	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P565	Lands & People of Moray. Mortcloth dues & misc., death records Spynie, Drainie, St Andrews-Lhanbryde	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P565	Lands & People of Moray. A Moray Miscellany (Loan copy)	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P580	Aberdeen Miscellaneous Militia Records (Militia 1803-04; Justices of the Peace; Muster Roll)	Book	Isabelle	Thompson	Yes
P700	The Story of the Culross West Kirk (Fifeshire)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
P710	The Cheerful Vale. Exploring the Past of Balnagask, Tullois and Torry	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
PRECS:0204	The Story of Australia. Past and Present. In Pen and Picture Vol 4 Developing a Continent (1925)	Book	Margaret	Elliott	Yes
R310	West Limerick Families Abroad. A study of the Irish who left West Limerick and travelled the globe.	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
R432	Surnames of Ireland. A detailed and compact guide of Irish family names. (6th edition)	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
R591	Pigot and Co.'s City of Dublin and Hibernian Provincial Directory	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
R700	Knockbride. A History (Ireland)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
S830	Euro Atlas Europe Road Atlas	Book	A	Taylor	Yes

Books					
Shelf	Title	Media	Source 1	Source 2	Donation
SFRA/830	Michelin Atlas Routier France 2008	Book	A	Taylor	Yes
SHUN/830	Euro Atlas Hungary	Book	A	Taylor	Yes
T830F	Rand McNally British Columbia, Canada Provincial Map	Folded map	Ann	Metcher	Yes
Y400	Tracing Your Ancestors in the Public Record Office 5th edition 1999 (Loan copy)	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
Y400	How to Find Shipping and Immigration Records in Australia (Loan copy)	Book	Julian	Van der Veer	Yes
Y580	The Great Admirals	Book	Jeff	Adams	Yes

MISCELLANEOUS

Higham Ferrers Christenings 1580-1640 Marriages 1579-1641 Burials 1579-1640 (2)	Microfiche	Ann	Metcher	Yes
Higham Ferrers Christenings 1580-1640 Marriages 1579-1641 Burials 1579-1640 (2)	Microfiche	Ann	Metcher	Yes
Higham Ferrers Christenings 1694-1741 Marriages 1694-1741 Burials 1694-1742 (2)	Microfiche	Ann	Metcher	Yes
Queensland Post Office Directory 1883 - 1949 (Alpha order)	Microfiche	Jennifer	Harrison	Yes
Wyong Cemeteries Yarramalong, St Barnabas, Ronkana, Jiliby, Noraville	CDROM		Wyong FHG	No
Joan Reese's NSW Colonial Secretary's In Letters index 1826-1895,	CDROM	Aileen	Trinder	No
Index to Court Records 1844-1850, Bathurst Court Circuit Supreme Court Jurisdiction Information	CDROM		Teapot Genealogy	No
Steven & Bartholomew's New Zealand Directory 1866-67	CDROM		Anon	Yes

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September issue	1 July
December issue	1 October

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