

**GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC**

Rootes



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GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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A.J. (Lex) Bell OAM

COMMITTEE 2018/2019

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Electronic Newsletter (Saplings) Editor

Gay Eunson

Network Computer Co-ordinator

Fay Carbis

Publicity Officer

Position Vacant

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

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**ALL MEMBERS
ARE INVITED TO**

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

**TO BE HELD AT 2PM ON
SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2019**

AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE SERVED

**THE ROOMS WILL CLOSE FOR RESEARCH
AT 1.45PM ON THE DAY**

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.

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. The meetings commence at 1pm on Sunday 18 August and 17 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. Meetings commence at 9am on Monday 5 August and 2 December.

Julian can be contacted by email on genfindit@gmail.com

LONDON GROUP

London research can be very complicated as there are so many parishes in a relatively small area. **Ann Metcher** is native to the area and very knowledgeable. She can be contacted at metcher@bigpond.com

Meetings will be advertised in *Saplings*.

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 2019 are Sunday at 1pm June 2, August 4, October 6 and December 1 (the first Sunday every second month).

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

A REMINDER

**to members who have the membership expiry date of
30 June 2019 (check your current membership card)**

**Fees have not increased since 2006 but the time has come and
they are now:**

Single \$45 – Family \$60

**If you receive *Rootes* in a hard copy there will be a renewal form
enclosed. If you are reading it on-line you will find a form on the
web site**

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or on-line

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Gold Coast Family History Society Inc. will be held on Saturday 7 September 2019 at 2pm Room 3 Bicentennial Community Centre, Nerang Southport Road, Nerang.

Closing date for nominations is Saturday 24 August 2019 and the form must be returned to the Secretary by this date. Postal address is Post Office Box 2763, Southport BC or can be left at the Rooms.

A complete list of nominations will be posted on the notice board in our Rooms. Any member not able to attend the Annual General Meeting may vote by proxy to be handed to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- Business arising from the Minutes
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- Appointment of Auditor
- Appointment of Honorary Solicitor

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Please inform the Secretary of any matters you wish to be included before Saturday 24 August 2019. An Agenda for the meeting will be posted on the notice board in our Rooms.

Would members please note the following By-Laws:

1. In accordance with the Constitution all Members of the Management Committee or any sub-committee must be financial to be entitled to hold or nominate for committee position as at 1 July.
2. No more than one member of a family will be permitted to hold a position on the Management Committee.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ROOMS OR ON THE SOCIETY WEB SITE: www.goldcoastfhs.org.au

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I send out a heartfelt welcome to all our new members and hope that you derive much pleasure from your new hobby/pastime. Please don't hesitate to seek aid from our expert room assistants. If you have any queries or wish to make any comments don't hesitate to contact me directly or email me via our Society address at goldcoastfamilyhistorysociety@gmail.com. If you didn't manage to attend the Introduction to Family History session in March please keep your eye out for the next session in October which will be publicised in the monthly *Saplings* e-newsletter.

Our Volunteers' morning tea on 25th February was attended by a very happy crew who enjoyed catching up with those whose paths they don't often cross. Being a Sunday the parking situation was better than during the week. Food was plentiful (due to lower numbers) and thanks to Fay for her thoughtful choices. Thanks to those who returned their Volunteer Registration form and please hand them in if you haven't already done so. Updated Room Assistant Manuals were distributed.

Social interaction is an important aspect in our family history community whether you are a member or a volunteer. It is great to stand back and notice engagement of those sitting at computers sharing, helping each other or just having a laugh.

Our Committee Treasurer, Maree Alexanderson has taken time off temporarily from her duties due to health issues and we wish her a speedy recovery. Fay Carbis has taken over the reins in the meantime and is doing a marvellous job.

Equipment issues. Number One computer had been out of action for some weeks but through much creative trouble-shooting Kelvin, our IT guru has brought it back to life. The glitch must have been contagious and the adjacent Internet printer went down claiming 'paper jam'. It could not be rectified and due to its age and the inability to obtain parts we were forced to purchase an up to date Fuji Xerox printer. Sorry to all for the inconvenience. The Society must carefully manage its finances and often big expenses for repairs or new equipment will occur out of the blue.

New fee structures From June 2019 when memberships are up for renewal our fees are being increased - the first time in 13 years. A single membership will cost \$45 and a family membership \$60. The day fee will increase to \$1, and tea and coffee \$1. The Committee carefully considered these price rises. The numerous expenses involved in running the Rooms mean that this is an inevitable decision.

Rostering of Room Assistants. It is always the case at this time of year when many of our room assistants take off on holidays. We urge those members who are competent in family research to consider becoming a room assistant. One or two shifts each month would help tremendously. I want to thank all those who are taking on many additional shifts in order to fill the spaces. It was brought to the attention of the Committee to review opening hours on a Thursday. After much deliberation and feedback from members the verdict is that the hours will remain the same.

Mini-seminars. Kerry Farmer gave a brilliant DNA presentation on 23rd February. The high number of attendees reflected the increasing huge interest in the subject. She explained how to achieve the most out of your results, and how important it is to combine traditional genealogy with DNA. The event held on 11th May by Cara Downes from the National Archives created great interest with her talk on the WWI Repatriation files and War Brides in Australia in WWI and WWII.

Computer nights on the third Wednesday evening of each month are very popular and we encourage members to attend. These nights are very informative in providing a range of websites, ideas and various methods of undertaking family-related and social research. On 19th June, Fay Carbis will be discussing how to get the best out of FamilySearch.org and obtaining primary source records from this site.

The Queensland State Conference on Family and Local History was held at the end of May in Caloundra and we will have more information on this in the next *Rootes* journal.

Happy researching, Margaret Deacon – President, Mob: 0439 871 329

HEATHER WORT'S LIBRARY REPORT AND HER MEMORIES OF THE SOCIETY

Putting pen to paper all began when my great Uncle Stan came to stay with my husband Ian and I on return from our honeymoon in 1961. At the time we were living in my parents' beach cottage at Kingscliff, NSW. Uncle Stan was a very brave man as I could barely boil an egg. A great story teller particularly about his 15 siblings, his parents and the Tanja farm soon had me jotting down names and dates. Unfortunately the stories were stored in my head...

Two years living in England, setting up home in Murwillumbah, three children, building a home in Southport and scrapbooks filled with newspaper items from the *Tweed Daily News* that told of births, deaths and marriages, in

other words who was doing what in mum's large Taylor family from Eungella in the Tweed Valley. I yearned to know more.

What do I do with all this information? I thought I had a lot, little did I know! Out of the blue in 1980 a small notice appeared in the Southport Library of a group wishing to form a Gold Coast Branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland. What a revelation, I had no idea such organisations existed. Unfortunately I let two months go by so missed out on being a foundation member.

From the beginning Joyce Valentine and Thelma Rootes (foundation members) took me under their wing. Every meeting revealed wild and wonderful ways where my ancestors might be found. As the resources were limited in the group, they took me to the Queensland State Library and State Archives.

On my first trip to the State Library I was introduced to microfilm. I could not get my eyes off the screen and came home with a massive migraine but in my hand was a copy of Frederick William Wort's obituary. Ian could barely understand my excitement. My Hays, Wort and Rowe families are all Queenslanders so the finds went on especially at the State Archives which at the time was located near to Boggo Road Gaol.

Gradually the group was putting a library together, mainly books, but then 2 June 1982 the first set of microfiche were purchased, New South Wales births deaths and marriages pre 1856 and 1856 to 1873. It would be hard for anyone to imagine our enthusiasm and even awe to have these records at our fingertips when we are now almost buried in an avalanche of digital records.

As our ties with the Genealogical Society of Queensland grew ineffective we changed our name to Gold Coast & Albert Genealogical Society Inc., the Albert in recognition of the Albert Shire Council's support in offering a room plus a vault to rent in the old Albert Shire Council building. The word genealogical had a lot of people perplexed so after the two councils merged we changed our name again to the Gold Coast Family History Society Inc. I still have the written proposal I presented to the meeting.

When the librarian resigned I decided to put my hand up. I was already covering books and was familiar with the catalogue system. This system was designed by Joan Bessell one of our former librarians. When the paper work was handed to me I was reasonably able on the computer so with permission decided to ask a school friend of mine, Jim Gray, former RAAF personnel to design a program suitable for a family history library and so as they say the rest is history.

The hours spent entering the data was sheer pleasure. I was given a fairly loose reign when attending conferences to buy resources, a trust I truly

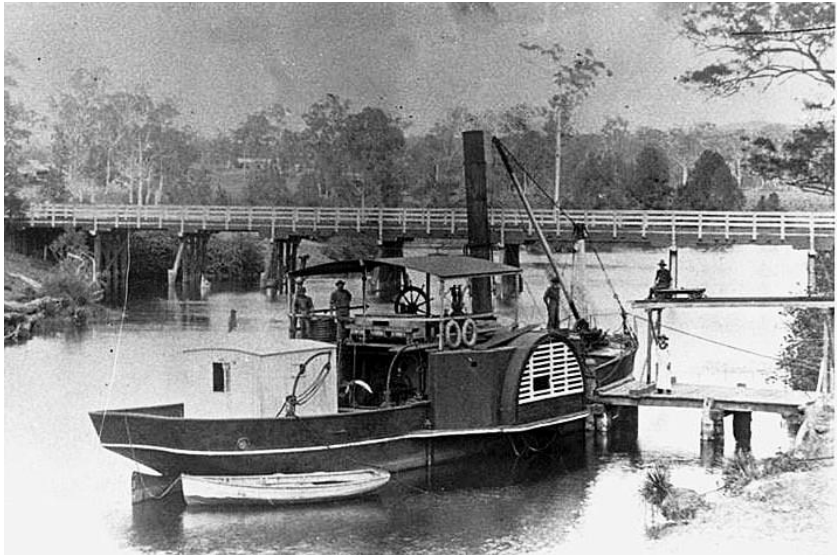
appreciated. Over the years our purchasing has decreased and funds channelled into subscription providers which is a whole new world that has changed the way family history societies function.

Through my membership of the society and family history, I have gained confidence, travelled, attended conferences, gained an associate diploma in local and applied history and made enduring friendships both within the society and in wider genealogical family.

The nervous fear I felt on that first trip to the State Library took a while to overcome so I made a list I was going to visit the National and every State Library in Australia. Over time I was able to achieve my goal some many times over. Now when I visit these halls of knowledge I feel a thrill, warmth and a welcome.

So I can truly say that my membership of the Gold Coast Family History Society has been a life changing experience and my treasure trove of family history records gives me endless pleasure.

Heather Wort (nee Hays)



'Maid of Sker' at Nerang Wharf, circa 1900

FROM THE EDITOR

My venture into family history (or should that be adventure?) began in 1983 when my aunt handed me the original marriage certificate for Henry Thompson and Sarah Duffield which took place at Stepney (London) in 1850. My first reaction was what would I do with it – family history wasn't something I had ever thought about. The more I thought though I felt I had to find out about them.

So I did. This was not an easy task. Firstly I needed to find out about the family after they arrived in Sydney. The only way I could access the New South Wales birth, death and marriage indexes was to have the microfiche sent from Lismore Library to Tweed Heads Library. Gold Coast libraries didn't have them. This went on for some time until in 1989 I discovered that there was a family history society on the Gold Coast – I didn't even know such organisations existed. Furthermore it was located at Christine Avenue, Miami which was just around the corner from where I lived.

Unfortunately the society moved to Nerang soon after but the rooms were a considerable improvement.

More and more records were being produced on microfiche including the wonderful International Genealogical Index (IGI). We all thought we were in seventh heaven. An extra treat was that we could actually get print-outs of the fiche because at that time the Nerang Council Library was down the hall from our rooms and they were the proud possessors of a fiche printer. What luxury!

The microfiche were so popular we had to put a time limit on the use of the readers, much as we do today with the computers. We usually had a waiting list but those who were waiting were happy to fill the time by checking out the books.

When we moved to Nerang we thought we had a lot of space compared to Christine Avenue but as our acquisitions mounted and we started to get computers we were very cramped. Furthermore in the summer the heat in the rooms was extreme – no air conditioning so it could become quite uncomfortable.

In 1991 the editor of *Rootes* (Diana Platz) resigned and I was coerced into replacing her. At the time I did wonder what I had let myself in for as it was time consuming when all articles submitted had to be retyped (no articles were sent by email at that time).

Although research was hard slog I really feel we had a great deal of satisfaction in searching for our ancestors.

Beverley Dwyer - Editor

**ANN MORSE'S HOT WEB SITES
WITH REMINISCENCES OF BYGONE RESEARCH
BY OTHERS**

It really is hard to believe we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary in August this year. Starting with a small brown suitcase with about a dozen books we now have a library bursting with thousands of items (18000 according to our website) and an amazing network computer system. When I first joined the society there were no computers, no internet and everything was done by writing letters or visiting Record Offices and other establishments. We certainly helped to keep Australia Post in business with all the letters that were written, BUT we mostly managed to find many of our ancestors without all the modern technology. Once we had computers the horizon opened up with Rootsweb mailing lists, Dead Person Societies (as they were called), many people created their own websites with all their family names, and various indexes they had transcribed, Pioneer Registers, to name a few. There still are some old sites to be found but mostly now they have disappeared or have been archived by the State Libraries. Hope you have some fun with some of these old websites.

RootsWeb mailing lists – these were great and there were thousands of them covering all different subjects and areas of the world. I think I belonged to about 30 at one stage. You subscribed to the list and then were able to ask questions about your ancestors in a particular area (Bristol was my main area at the time) and sometimes other members would do research for you. RootsWeb say there are 32,740 lists archived on their website so when you have a spare few minutes you could have a play around with it and see if you can find anything interesting. Some list members were so enthusiastic, especially the Bristol list, that gatherings were held in other countries to talk about their research. The Bristol list held a few meetings in Brisbane over the years.

<https://mailinglists.rootsweb.com/listindexes/>

https://lists.rootsweb.com/hyperkitty/list/bristol_and_district.rootsweb.com/2007/8/

We also had Dead Person Societies or DPS which were formed in most states in Australia. The Perth DPS in Western Australia is still alive and well and the aims of these societies was to promote an interest in genealogy via the use of computers and the internet (or bulletin board systems) in a social environment, to promote the production and distribution of genealogical

indexes and other research tools and to foster cooperation, personal development, and entertainment through genealogy.

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/>

The Ryerson Index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Person's Society, indexing many notices mainly from NSW papers at first but nowadays has expanded their indexing and over two million notices have been indexed to the present day.

<https://www.ryersonindex.org/>

Cyndi's List is another website that has been around since computers began and has managed to keep up to date with the times. You could spend hours on this website checking out what is available online. I don't think there is a subject that isn't covered somewhere in this website.

<https://www.cyndislist.com/australia/general/>

Geelong Family History Group. Gradually societies started putting their websites online and they were useful if you were searching in a particular area and they often included local indexes. You could also get some research done for a small price although it was better if you joined the society for perhaps twelve months and got more help.

<https://geelongfhg.com/>

Cora Webb, helping to trace your family history. This is another "old" website and I'm pleased to say that the little dog has been bounding across the front page of this site for as long as I can remember. Cora first had a general website but has now been publishing books for quite some time. There are still lots of links on her page you can check out.

<https://www.coraweb.com.au/>

And of course we had to have maps and you still need maps if you are interested in finding out exactly where your ancestor lived. Of course most maps are now available online but in the good old days there was always a scramble at Family History Fairs to see the latest maps that had been published. We have an amazing collection of maps, gazetteers and books in our library rooms and they should be a "must look at" if you are serious about finding where your ancestors lived. There is really not much point searching for ancestors unless you check where they were living and then find out some history about their lives and where they worked. And mostly there were no trains or cars to get them to work, they walked quite often long

distances every morning and night. Gould Genealogy, located in South Australia is one place that has supplies of maps and other items for family history research.

<https://www.gould.com.au/>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter has also been around for a long time as well and I notice now is connected to My Heritage. This man had all the latest information from around the internet, mostly from America.

<https://blog.eogn.com/>

Exploring Surrey's Past, this is a fascinating website and if you had ancestors in this area you will find lots of information to add to your story. There are lots of villages to explore and find information.

https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/places/surrey/reigate_and_banstead/redhill/

Pioneer Indexes were another source of information when we thought we might have someone famous or a convict in our research. Many of these old Pioneer Indexes are archived at the Trove or National Library but we do have quite a number of them in our library. We also have many Pioneer Registers/Histories published by various society groups from all parts of Australia. It is really worth checking out your area of Australian research to see if any of your ancestors are mentioned in these books, and you won't find any of this information on the Internet. Check out our online catalogue to see if your area of Australian research has a Pioneer Register published and then have a look in the book section of our library the next time you are doing some research, you might be surprised at what you find and as I said, not on the internet. There are also a collection of family histories written by some of our members and others and if you investigate you may find a name that connects to your own research. You need to spend a little time looking but it would certainly be worthwhile if you found a connection to someone mentioned in one of these books.

Free Settler or Felon Database is an ongoing project with 180,000 references to people and places in the Newcastle and Hunter Valley area of NSW. That elusive ancestor might be just waiting for you to find him or her. There are various other indexes to check, not all working but worth a look.

<https://www.jenwillets.com/index.htm>

The bible for United Kingdom societies was the Federation of Family History Societies, sometimes we were lucky enough to have speakers at our meeting from this society. At one of our seminars we had Michael Gandy one year and on a couple of occasions we have had visits from Lady Teviot and also Iain Swinnerton.

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/intro.php>

During the 1980s we went to Family History conferences and checked out all the various societies as well as many speakers. One in particular was Janet Reakes who was a professional genealogist and had written books on different areas of genealogy. Janet wrote 26 "How To" books for just about every area of family history, as well as a number of videos (remember those?). Once computers arrived on the scene and we had lunch time television you might remember Janet had a regular spot on the Ray Martin Show. She also gave talks on the radio, in fact you could say she was "everywhere". It is hard to put into words how motivated she was but listening to her speak she really inspired you to "get cracking" and find your ancestors, always making sure you proved every bit of information and not just assume you had the right person. She gave a number of talks here in the Nerang Bicentennial Centre and mostly they were booked out. Her enthusiasm for us to find our ancestors was almost contagious and I think most of us hoped we would find long lost relatives. Janet passed away in 2002 and one of her last projects was trying to establish Immigration Walls in various places in Australia, including Hervey Bay Qld, where you could "buy a brick" with your immigrants name on it. If you click on this first link, and scroll down the page there is a wonderful obituary to Janet Reakes which tells you about her life story and what an enthusiastic genealogist she became and also her love for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The other links give you an idea of the number of books she wrote on various subjects, the immigration walls and a section of her own family tree.

https://www.egfhg.org.au/index.htm_files/Black%20Sheep%20Dec%202002-60.pdf

<http://worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n90641968/>

<http://www.ancestry-australia.com.au/cgi-bin/csvsearch.pl?DataCategory=Welcome>

<http://www.angelfire.com/or/janetreakesfamily/>

I hope you have enjoyed our little trip back in time and hopefully you will play around with some of the websites, perhaps on a rainy day (wonder when that will be). Just remember that some of the links on some these sites may

or may not work. There is still lots to find and as I mentioned, if you take the time to look in our Library collection I'm sure you will be pleasantly surprised at what you might find and definitely not all on Ancestry or Find my Past. We also have an amazing collection of CDs on our Network computers covering many different subjects and also worth a look.

Ann Morse annmorse76@gmail.com

THE OTHERS

When we joined the Society – (our ROOTES Magazines start from 1990) – it was one room upstairs, soon enlarged to another room.

There were lots of books, a number of maps, a few Microfiche Readers, and lots of Fiche. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) was the 1884 edition, and it was some time before the 1888 edition arrived.

Which when it did, it had numerous new entries, although some entries also disappeared.

So it was very exciting when the Society moved downstairs to the HUGE rooms, and gradually more tables, chairs, microfiche readers, photocopiers, computers and printers arrived.

It is a real credit to the Committees over the decades, in the way the Society has grown.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary.

Brian & Beth Hallam – Member Nos. 212 and 213 – joined 1990.

One of the teachers at St Hilda's School who knew Thelma Rootes told me of Thelma's plan to start a genealogical society. We both attended an early meeting which was held in the garage at Thelma and Tom's house on Chevron Island. Although all my family history was based in the UK, that was when I became aware that resources could be available in Australia. There were a couple of micro-fiche readers and Thelma had gathered an array of materials. The discussions with other members were also invaluable.

One very enthusiastic member was Joyce Valentine who seemed to know a great deal especially of local families. Before long, the society was properly constituted and went from strength to strength, soon outgrowing the garage. The energy and enthusiasm of the office bearers has been amazing over the next 40 years. Also, there has been a flow-on to other organisations with an historical background, including Local Studies and the various museums. My direct contribution has been small. I was asked to take on the Scottish Interest group when the previous member left. At that time, the society had rooms in the old library at Nerang. (I have memories of a couple of times having to contact the Council caretaker because the door wasn't open!) It was

most interesting to become involved with the research of members all over Scotland. However it was with great relief that I welcomed Margaret Collins to join me a few years later.

Congratulations to all the committees past and present in making so many resources available and especially to our indefatigable librarian, Heather Wort, who has been a guiding hand and inspiration from very early times.

Margaret Shand Member No. 14 – joined 1982.

Having settled in Palm Beach in 1966, it didn't take me long to join the Society, once it moved to Christine Avenue, Miami in 1987, where the researchers were most helpful.

Having already written a Matheson Story, I didn't spend as much time as I might have at the Rooms. I did however make use of the system of locating a UK marriage, by looking at each name separately and finding the same reference for two people. I found an Eliza Simpson, but the same reference showed John Clarke. Must have been entered incorrectly! So I sent a cheque, purchased through our Rooms, to Birmingham, for the marriage certificate of Simpson and Griffiths. Back came the cheque - no such marriage. I sent it back to Birmingham and asked for whatever marriage was on 12.10.1856. Back came the Simpson/Clarke marriage, which started a search for Griffiths. How that was solved appeared in the June *Rootes* last year. Weeks after that article was published, one of our members, who has no connection to Clarke or Griffiths, and almost without searching, accidentally came on the *Rootes* article again. Her friend had earlier mentioned she was descended from a Clarence Griffiths! What has come out of that casual conversation is a long story in itself.

Bobbie Matheson - Member No. 77 – joined 1988.

I well remember the first time I went to the rooms in 1985. They were behind the old library in a very small area and smelt of mice or some such.

I took a book from the shelf titled Naturalisations and lo and behold the book fell open at Peter Platz, no one was researching the Platz line and so I was hooked. Maybe Peter had his finger at the spot so I would find it.

I joined up that afternoon. We went from there to Christine Avenue and were able to be open for more hours, we extended the Thursday time so that researchers were able to come after work as well as Saturday.

Carol Browne and I worked the Thursday nights and Saturdays for a number of years.

I became secretary to the club and worked with the committee when we left the Brisbane Genealogical Society and formed our own Society. The club went ahead in leaps and bounds after that happened.

After Christine Avenue we moved to the Nerang Bicentennial rooms, firstly upstairs and then we moved to the rooms we currently occupy on the ground level.

I also was the Editor of *Rootes* for a period of time and as today it was a struggle to get items to publish. I was very proud when we published an article I wrote regarding some old photos that had been found in a second hand shop and was able to describe them.

Happily the description of the photos alerted a lady that had been searching for the photos that her mother had said had disappeared, and she was able to obtain them once again.

I worked on the Somerville Funeral records, other members transcribed the entries and I entered all the data onto the computer. That was a very time consuming effort especially as I also worked full-time.

It was a very enjoyable time and the comradery amongst the members in helping each other is a lesson to all on how to treat everyone.

Diana Platz – Member No. 45 – joined 1985.



**Our present day rooms at the
Bicentennial Building, Nerang**

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members. We hope that you enjoy your research and please do not hesitate to ask for assistance from the volunteer Room Assistants.

3568	Adolfo Matthews, Mermaid Waters 4218
3569	Sue Hubbard, Helensvale 4212
3570	Mary Johnston, Nerang 4211
3571	Bob Beattie, Main Beach 4217
3572	Pat Beattie, Main Beach 4217
3573	Julie Turnbull, Condong 2484
3574	Carolyn Miller, Broadbeach 4218
3575	Helen Ross-Johnson, Burleigh Heads 4220
3576	Ron Wright, Surfers Paradise 4217
3577	Sharon Schofield, Main Beach 4217
3578	Helen Purvis, Gaven 4211
3579	Jeff Warrington, Nerang 4211
3580	Frank Baines, Varsity Lakes 4227
3581	Noleen Richardson, Molendinar 4214
3582	Christine Smith, Burleigh Heads 4220
3583	Margaret Russell, Highland Park 4211
3584	Kim Johnson, Labrador 4215
3585	Ilona Smith, Benowa 4217
3586	Karen Anthonsen, Coombabah 4216
3587	Julie Lund, Helensvale 4212



HOW EASY WAS IT TO BE A BIGAMIST?

By
COLLEEN YUKE

Now that most of his great grandchildren have passed on I feel I can write this story with impunity.

Richard **ORRELL** was my great, great grandfather. He was born around 1839 the son of a sawyer in Salford, Manchester, England. Richard aged 21 years and Elizabeth **HALLAM** married in this town.

The immigrant ship the 'Rockhampton' on which the Orrell family travelled to Queensland was plagued with disease. The 1866 passenger list did not survive the Brisbane floods of 1890. We do know from newspaper reports and records at the Queensland State Library that the ship's voyage and subsequent quarantine at Dunwich, Stradbroke Island was well documented.

From the Brisbane Courier of Saturday 2nd June 1866 entitled **THE IMMIGRANT SHIPS**

Our Cape Moreton telegram announced the arrival of the Rockhampton, Black Ball immigrant ship from Liverpool via Queenstown, on Wednesday. She sailed from the latter port on January 28th with 440 passengers, and has made a long passage of 122 days. Unfortunately the voyage has been attended with much sickness, and not only have a large number of passengers died, but the surgeon has also fallen a victim. The telegram states that no less than twenty-six deaths have occurred, and there are now on board twelve cases of fever. The ship was originally intended to have proceeded to Keppel Bay with the passengers, but in consequence of the extraordinary amount of sickness instructions have been forwarded for her to come into this port to undergo quarantine, and accordingly she anchored inside Cape Moreton at 4.30p.m. the same day. The cutter, Day Dawn, was immediately despatched to her with provisions and other necessities for the passengers, and arrived at her destination on Thursday evening, when the vessel was lying at anchor off the Yellow Patch, as the weather was unfavourable to her reaching the anchorage off the Pilot Station. Yesterday morning she got under weigh at daylight, and by noon she again came to anchor in Yule Roads. From there she will be towed to the anchorage off the Quarantine Station at Dunwich by the Kate, s., which left town yesterday for the purpose. It is intended to place the surgeon of the Southern Ocean, which has since arrived, in charge of the passengers by the Rockhampton while they are in quarantine

The ORRELLS had an unnamed female child born at Dunwich on 24 Jun 1866 who died shortly after birth. We know from this record that a son John Thomas was 9 years old on arrival in Moreton Bay and that one male and five females had died prior to the birth of the last infant. Richard and Elizabeth settled or should I say moved around in Fortitude Valley for some years with Richard working as a labourer or a lumper, a handler of ships cargo. They had many addresses shown in Post Office Directories. The couple went on to have a further five children all born in Queensland. James ORRELL who could neither read nor write, was one of these children and became my great grandfather.

James married Isabella Landells **PETRIE**, James was underage when this marriage took place so he needed his mother's authority to be married. Isabella was a relative of the PETRIES of early Brisbane. James was a hard worker and provided a home for his family of ten children on the Blackall Ranges near Mellum Creek now Landsborough. He was highly thought of by his descendants, his grand-daughter paid for a monumental plaque in the Pioneer Park at Landsborough.



The monumental plaque in the Pioneer Park at Landsborough

Back to my bigamist....Richard ORRELL married Annie HARRIS nee SMITH who also has an interesting background. Annie had a child with a married man called Thomas Lodge MURRAY-PRIOR 1819-1898. He was from a well known and well documented family, a politician of the

Toowoomba area. A descendant has corresponded with me and confirms this point.

This is where the bigamy came in.....Richard's first wife Elizabeth nee HALLAM was still alive and kicking living at Mellum Creek and did not die until 10 October 1890. It is hard to understand these days how such a thing could happen. I have searched for a divorce record, nothing shows up and as the family were not wealthy it is highly unlikely they did divorce. Annie, Richard's second wife had a further two daughters and passed away just 6 years after Elizabeth.

Richard must have been quite astute as he applied for an Queensland Age Pension between 1908 and 1909 but was not a recipient for long, dying in 1910. All told a total of 15 children and lots of descendants, not bad for a bigamist.

Richard was buried as a pauper in Toowong Cemetery, some years later the plot was sold to another person who is buried on top of poor old Richard!

I wish I had known Richard myself to ascertain what type of man he was and if he ever felt any guilt about his circumstances. I also wonder if his first wife Elizabeth knew of her rival living in Brisbane Town.



**Richard (Dick) Orrell and Albert Miers, (Dick's brother-in-law)
in front of their bakery**

Colleen Yuke email: combabar@bigpond.com

BOOK REVIEW

WEST LIMERICK FAMILIES ABROAD

It is well known that Irish research is extremely difficult. So any resource we find is welcome and this book is a welcome find. The volume is similar to those many Pioneer Registers found in our library so the information submitted has mostly been by Australian contributors although there are some from the United States.

This book is a study of the Irish who left West Limerick and travelled to the four corners of the globe. This work sets out their family trees, logs their emigration and contains numerous stories of their triumphs, trials and tribulations in their new homeland.

There is a list of contributors however the book was published in 2001 so contact details may well be out of date. This publication was a find by Ann Metcher at the Bookfest.

One section which is most interesting is entitled *Missing Friends* which consists of advertisements placed in the *BostonGlobe* or *Pilot* newspapers from 1831-1860.

One such advertisement reads:

ROBERT DORE (carpenter by trade), a native of Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. He was heard from six years ago, by his daughter; he was then in Point Henry, near Kingston, Upper Canada. Any information of him or any of his family, will be gratefully received by his son, Robert, No. 85 Eliot Street, Boston, Ms. 3 April 1847.

The shelf number is R310

This book is a gem.

Beverley Dwyer – Editor

COLD WEATHER

The ill-fated King Charles I insisted on wearing two shirts prior to his execution in Whitehall 370 years ago. Noting the bitter cold on that January 30 day, Charles was anxious not to shiver and appear afraid when facing the axe.

**EDWARD HENRY MOREY –
Convicted Murderer
By
FRANK MOREY MILBURN**

Years ago, it was oh-so-shameful to have to admit there was a convict in your Australian past! However, times have changed and now people share their convict ancestors like a ‘badge of honour’; and there’s no doubting that many ex-convicts went on to become respectable members of society (and even leaders!) here in Australia.

Like most researchers, I went looking for a convict in my wider families past (**any** convict!). I’m sorry to have to report that (as far as the sort of convicts that come to mind for most Australians): I have none! However, in some respects, I do qualify – sort of!

In the afternoon of Christmas Day 1933, two local fishermen discovered a man’s body (stashed into a bag!) floating in the Murrumbidgee River at Wagga Wagga, NSW. When the Police were called to the scene, the primary investigating officer (Constable Joe Ramus) noticed something else unusual in the water! Snagged onto a dead branch in the water was, what today we would probably think was a clear plastic bag. It was, in fact, the total **skin** of the dead man’s hand, which had floated off his decomposing body, because of the tight wrist area of his jacket.

This skin (or ‘glove’) was sent to Sydney, where a police fingerprinting expert inserted his own finger inside each of those ‘fingers’ and was able to obtain a clear set of fingerprints. This all happened during the ‘Depression’, when unemployed men were roaming everywhere looking for work and for those men to be able to obtain ‘food relief’ vouchers from any Police Station they had to provide their fingerprints to prevent rorting of the system! Because of this, the Police were able to obtain a ‘match’ and establish the identity of the dead man as **Percy Smith**, from Carlton in Victoria. Due to the unique method of establishing the identity of the victim, eventually the case became well known in Police jurisdictions right around the world as “The Human Glove Murder”.

Once the identity of the victim had been established it wasn’t long before Percy’s movements during the previous few months were verified by multiple witnesses. And the inescapable conclusion was that, in his final days, he had been in the presence of one **Edward Henry Morey**.

Although (until the day he died) Edward Morey maintained his innocence, the case went to trial in Wagga Wagga on 8th May 1934. The charge was that Edward (on or about 18 December 1933) had battered Percy Smith to death

and disposed of his body in order to obtain Percy's covered wagonette, his horse, and all of his belongings including tools, and even his two dogs which he then sold off to various people around the district. Edward's alibi for having the possessions was that he had bought them off a certain 'George McDonald' (of whom the police were acquainted, he said). However, after much searching by Police, when the 'said' George McDonald was tracked down Edward, caught by surprise, changed his story and said: "No, not *that* George McDonald; it was *another* George McDonald!" The trial lasted four days, during which one of the witnesses was shot dead by his wife (?). At the conclusion of the trial, Edward Morey was found '**guilty**'.

(In August 2014, under the provisions of 'Freedom Of Information' legislation, I sent to the NSW Police Archives for any information they might have on the case, and was surprised when, in the mail, I received 497 pages (A4) of information actually, everything that they had on the case including the fingerprints, court documents, internal memos and letters, newspaper clippings etc! After reading through it all, and considering all of the evidence, I, too, came to the conclusion, that there was no doubt about his guilt!)

The court's guilty verdict was followed by the sentencing, and it was that he was to be 'put to death'. However a few months later, on 8 October 1934; the Executive Council (of the NSW Government) commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. Edward was sent to Goulburn Gaol, but then after almost 20 years (in December 1953), because he had been diagnosed with 'tuberculosis', he was released on compassionate grounds, so he could be treated at the Waterfall Sanatorium, in Sydney's south.

At some time, he must have been released, because he was convicted of being 'under the influence of liquor' whilst driving a truck in Orange, NSW in March 1953, and sent back to prison for breaching his bail conditions. He eventually passed away on 23 November 1977 in the North Ryde Psychiatric Centre, supposedly of a heart attack, aged 80 years!

But how (*you may ask!*) does this relate to my family?

Well, in fact, Edward Henry Morey was the cousin of my maternal grandfather: **William Morey** (b: 1851 at North Albury, NSW). William's father (also a William!) had seven siblings: **John Charles** Morey (b: 1846 in Chardstock, Dorset); **Elizabeth** Morey (b: 1850 @ North Albury, NSW); **Eliza Elizabeth** Morey (b: 1854 @ Wangaratta); **Mary Jane** Morey (b: 1856 @ El Dorado, Vic); **George Walter** Morey (b: 1859 @ El Dorado, Vic); **Emily** Morey (b: 1861 @ El Dorado); and **Edward Chick** Morey (b: 1863± @ El Dorado, Vic)

William's youngest sibling **Edward** Chick Morey's eldest child was **Edward Henry Morey** ('my' murderer!), who was born at Morongla Creek, just south of Cowra, NSW on 26 April 1897. He enlisted for WWI in July 1918, but did little more than go AWOL on a couple of occasions and then the war ended in November 1918 anyway. By my calculations, back in civilian life over the next 15 years, he was convicted on at least 17 occasions for mainly minor offences (assault, riotous behaviour, stealing, stolen goods in possession, poisoning protected species (ie: possums]; etc), but nothing anywhere near as serious as murder! The general consensus was that he was very likeable and friendly, until he consumed alcohol!

The funny thing is, though, that my grandfather wasn't even aware that they were related! Whilst in Goulburn Gaol, Edward wrote to my grandfather, saying that he was a relation and asking if, maybe, my 'Pop' could help prove his innocence. 'Pop' (although he would have known of the murder!) had no idea about any relationship, so he asked his daughter (my aunt Muriel an Anglican Sister), who was stationed in Goulburn at the time, to go and find what it was all about. Muriel did this, and then reported back to her father that: "No, he has nothing to do with us!" Funny how branches of families can drift apart like that!

Just on a closing note, although Edward Henry Morey never married, he had, earlier (with a Jessie Thompson), beget an illegitimate daughter, Dorothy Margaret Morey (b: 26 July 1917 at Holbrook). Two years later, in Sydney (and no longer with Edward!) Jessie, alone and in *dire financial straits*, tried (unsuccessfully) to strangle her young daughter (Dorothy), was tried, acquitted, but then succeeded a few months later (on 3 October 1919) in strangling another new-born illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth Thompson. She was again acquitted, because it was felt that 'the system had let her down'. Both Jessie and her daughter, Dorothy, went on to marry and are buried together only a couple of kilometres from where I live (at Allambie Gardens, Nerang) Dorothy only had an 'adopted' son, but he's oblivious to the fact that both of his 'adopted' grandparents were convicted murderers.

Frank Milburn email: mindyandheather@bigpond.com



ANOTHER 40TH BIRTHDAY MEMORY

I joined the society in 1989. It didn't take long for the addiction to set in. I would take the kids to school and then off to the rooms with great excitement. At that time we used one small room upstairs with a number of microfiche readers. I have very fond memories of spending a day each week with several older but lovely ladies who had a wealth of knowledge. We would have morning tea and lunch together and chat about our research and share the thrill of our finds. It was hard work and slow then. No internet sites or databases to give quick results. We only had microfiche and with using a microfiche reader for any period of time came that woozy sea sick feeling, hence the need to stop for a cuppa and chat. Microfilms were only available at the LDS church at Isle of Capri and any further research meant a drive up the highway to the Genealogical Society at Stones Corner which was quite a long drive in those days. The other main tool besides microfiche was a book published yearly called the Genealogical Research Directory (GRD) which had thousands of family entries that you could use to find your ancestors. You might find your ancestors here but then you needed the evidence to prove they were yours. Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts were available at the rooms to manually record your findings. Computer programs were yet to come.

Results were always very slow as of course it was all snail mail and required a great deal of waiting. Letters and BMD forms had to be mailed to England or interstate which then meant the long wait for the reply. Each day I would listen out for the postie and then rush out in the hope that my next certificate had arrived. Such was the life of a family history enthusiast. It also meant overseas currency was needed to send with your application. No credit cards or bank transfers then. UK pounds were often available at the society rooms. Early in my research my cousin sent me a photocopy of a certificate belonging to our great grandfather. No one at the society had ever seen one before so I was at a loss to know what it was about. One day I made the trip to Stones Corner and as I was leaving I remembered the certificate and asked the room assistance about it. No, she didn't know what it was either but suggested I check the card catalogue. If only Google had been invented then! The certificate came from the Drapers' Company, London (a Guild) and there was an address in the catalogue for them. Many letters later, back and forward over the waters lead to me developing a large family tree and finding a 4th cousin in Norfolk who I still keep in touch with.

Debbie Flesser No. 96 – joined 1989

REMINISCENCES OF RESEARCHING

By

DAWN HUTCHINSON

How different researching is today from when I began in the early 1980s. I wish there had been all the facilities available then that we all use today. I used to drive each week to the John Oxley Library in Brisbane and would spend the day searching in the only way there was – trailing through microfiche which today not many of our members seem to take advantage of, and old microfilms which were very difficult to decipher, as well as newspapers.

Armed with a notebook and pencils (of course, no pens ever allowed) I spent hours writing down my findings on the various families I was researching (in fact I still have that notebook and often refer to it even now). At night I would transfer what I had discovered into their respective files. So time consuming but to me it was well worthwhile.

I would anxiously await the post each day after sending for certificates, hoping that they would prove I was tracing the right line and how disappointed I would be when it arrived only to find “it” was not mine. Then the start would begin again – I never gave up and have been able to trace (and prove) the families of my four grandparents back to the 1600s and have written books on all those families.

Today people seem to rely on what they discover on the Internet and so many take for granted that what they find on Ancestry family trees is correct. I have found people entering my families and very few have the correct information so I know they have not sent for certificates to prove their entries. So many seem to merely copy from someone else’s tree they have found on Ancestry and not worry about proving the facts.

There is so much to be found on the Internet today but certificates still need to be bought – especially for your direct line. I have found by going sideways in the family I have often discovered new leads or been able to verify a missing child.

One little snippet can lead to opening up new avenues and now after 35 years I am still adding meat to the bones of all my ancestors. Little did they think that they would be of interest to their descendants long after they had passed away.

I joined the Society in 1995.

Dawn Hutchinson – Member No. 766

CURIOSITY, REASON AND NUMBER 29

I joined the Family History Society in 1983, What is so dramatic about that, you ask? My Membership was then and still is no 29.

The reason: My Mother had a lot of questions about her family as my Grandmother died when Mum was only 8 years old in 1919.

The family history group met at the home of Thelma & Tom ROOTES in Chevron Island. We met for the meetings in their lounge room- and did our research in their garage, then with only 29 members - what could go wrong?

To look at a microfiche (New South Wales Births, Deaths & Marriages) you asked for the one you wanted to research and you did not get another until that was returned to the person on roster to look after the fiche, not a lot of fiche in those days. There were always a lot of books you could read, (the start of our wonderful Library).

Thelma Rootes was a wealth of information and whenever you rang her with a query, she would say, "come over and we will look at it together". She did not mind you going over to their home outside of the normal research times. Thelma was wonderful help to me and I will always be very thankful.

The group, of course, grew and we outgrew the garage and we moved to a room at the back of the Council Library in Woodroffe Park Southport, and then to a room in a building owned by the Council in Christine Avenue, Miami. Our next move was to Nerang, again with the help of the Albert Shire Council.

Curiosity: My Grandfather remarried fairly quickly after his wife died, to Susan who already had three children, and then from that marriage eight more arrived..

Mum always said her Mother was an only child and was born in Ireland, Wrong, she was born not far from where Mum was born in Granville, New South Wales. Mum's Grandparents were born in Ireland but met in Australia and married at St Patricks Church in Parramatta. My Grandmother was not an only child, there were seven children all together..

My thanks for researching this family, was the look on my Mother's face when I told her that the soldier she called uncle John who sent her a handkerchief from France, and a cousin she called Auntie Lily were her very own Uncle and Auntie, siblings of her Mother.

I thoroughly enjoy doing family research and always will.

My Grandmother's family was Melehan. My Mother's family was Stubbs. My family is Catlin.

Irene Daniel No. 29 – joined 1983

A (VERY) BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

By
COLLEEN YUKE

As our 40th Anniversary is coming up I thought the following might be of interest.

From the journal when our Society was known as The Gold Coast and Albert Genealogical Society Inc. "An Anniversary Affair" was held in the Nerang Library Building on Sunday 16th May 1999 admission was \$15. In the same journal came the brief history of the Society.

Six people attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Gold Coast Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Queensland in December 1978. By March 1979 it had grown to seven members. Nearly 21 years later the membership stands at over 600.

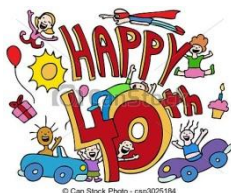
The first meeting was held at Bill West's home in Robert Street, Southport. Those who attended the Inaugural Meeting were Joyce Valentine, the instigator of the group, Joan Hart who became the first President, Fay Carbis, Secretary, Olive Howard, Beryl McLachlan and of course Bill West. In those days meetings were held wherever there was room and the few records carried in boxes in our car boots. Later a more permanent home was found in Thelma Rootes' garage on Chevron Island.

Eventually the Society reached the dizzy heights of its own (cramped) rooms in Christine Avenue, Miami. These were provided by the then Albert Shire Council and the Society was most grateful.

In February 1990 the Society became independent by breaking away from GSQ. We were also offered Rooms at the Albert Shire Council Chambers at Nerang, our existing home.

The Society has gone from strength to strength. Very few indexes and records were available in the early days and members struggled to do their research with limited resources.

Today so much is at our fingertips and our progressive group manages to keep up very well with the latest material available.



GCFHS MEMBER NO. 157 – A SPECIAL NUMBER FULL OF MEMORIES

Congratulations to the Gold Coast Family History Group for a wonderful 40 years and for playing a special part in so many members' lives. A home away from home!

Family History had always been spoken about with great importance and respect in my family so it had my interest from a young age.

Returning to the Gold Coast in 1965 and meeting Heather Wort whose husband was a life-long friend of my husband's, Heather and I soon realized we had much in common, the same birthday and a love of family history just to name two.

Family history meetings at Christine Avenue, Miami are as far back as I remember, followed by the upstairs rooms at Nerang which hold many fond memories. The members, as always were friendly and helpful. Morning tea and lunch breaks were great times for fun, chatting and picking up hidden secrets.

In the early days we enjoyed many interesting guest speakers with hardly a spare chair. One memorable evening the guest speaker was George O'Brien from Mudgeeraba. George, a gifted story teller and Bugle Player had the room enthralled about his visit to the Menin Gate in Belgium and being invited to play the Bugle. What a thrill for George.

The Computer Group evenings were a must. Computers were a rare commodity and there was much to learn about this new way to communicate with distant relatives and to search the Net for amazing information. Family Tree Maker was a gift from Heaven.

The first of my many Conferences was a four day Family History Conference held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. We all stayed on Campus at a Residential College which was a highlight for me. I loved every minute. So much exciting knowledge!

I would like to thank the many members who made or make this wonderful hobby of family history so enjoyable. The knowledge and patience shared by Room Assistants to members is astounding and always left me wanting to spend more time in the Rooms.

Congratulations to all, a job well done and much appreciated. I cannot imagine my life without family history and the wonderful people I have met over 40 years.

Marian Michael (Perdriau) Member No. 157 – joined 1990

A VETERAN BELLRINGER

William Seager was member Carol Furlong's great-great grandfather. This letter was found by Carol's cousin amongst family papers. The author is unknown. Daughter, Mrs Cook mentioned in the letter is Jane, Carol's maternal great grandmother.

There are probably but few of the present generation who are aware of the existence in Calne of one of the oldest – he considers himself to be the oldest but one – bellringer in the United Kingdom, in the presence of William Seager.

He was born in premises at Quemerford, part of Lord Lansdown's property, on the 17th May, 1815, and has lived there ever since, now under the care of his daughter (Mrs Cook) and her husband. Very few of his lordship's other tenants can show so long a term.

His father was killed 12th October 1832 whilst working in Conigre stone quarry.

William commenced bell ringing 24th April 18 (the letter was torn so the date is not on there.) on the occasion of a festival at Bowood when Lord Kerry came of age, and has rung the church bells until recently at every other Bowood celebration; he rang at Queen Victoria's Accession, Coronation, and Jubilee. For 63 consecutive years he rung the old year out and the New Year in, and for 50 years has been an ardent teetotaler. He possesses the certificate (or testimonial) of the Royal Humane Society, dated 18th November, 1879, for saving life on the 10th June, 1879.

To give the story in his own words: "I were going into Calne to get my bit of bacon and shop things, when at the bottom of New Road I heard a hullabaloo round by the canal, and went to see what were up, and there was a crowd of people watching a poor boy drowning, I jumped in, and as soon as my head was under water I thought, 'Lor I wonder if I can swim! I could 40 years ago!' However, I caught hold of the boy and brought him safe to bank, 'Catch cold No; I squeezed the water out of my clothes and walked home, where as luck would have it, my wife was airing the clean bed clothes, so I wrapped myself in a warm blanket, got into bed for a while, then had a cup of tea and come into Calne for my shop things as if nothing had happened."

The boy thus rescued was Harry Ludgate, son of the respected Calne stationmaster.

One day when Seager was in London a friend took him to a noted book shop, remarking that "Here you can have any book you ask for" "Then give me "Hand book of Campanology." "Ah" said the bookseller, "there you beat

me,” I had one copy and sold it last week.” Besides bellringing Seager practised the art of bell hanging and many a belfry far and near has had the benefit of his handiwork. The old man is now confined to his room, but his chief trouble is that he has outlived so many of his friends, and others seem to have forgotten him, though he speaks gratefully of a good neighbour who sends him a dinner fortnightly; and he is highly gratified that the Bishop of Salisbury waves his hand to his window whence he passes that way.

Since the above was written the “Veteran Bellringer” passed away on January 29th 190 (again the page is torn) the age of 88.

(It would have been 1903).

Carol Furlong email: nvandcj@bigpond.com



BRICKWALLS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN

By
BEVERLEY DWYER

Do you ever browse the books in our library? If you don't then you should reconsider. Sitting at the internet computers is very limiting.

Many years ago we received a donation of a book *Register of the Parish of St Nicholas Galway 1792-1840*. I was interested because my **Lewis Henry Campbell** was from that parish according to his army records and he was born c1783. Unfortunately the book commenced in 1792 so there would be no baptism for Lewis. There was only one Campbell family mentioned and they were vicars of the parish. I don't know why but I rejected this family.

So the years went by and I could not find the parents of Lewis.

Recently I had to open the rooms for the Irish group and decided to ask co-ordinator, Julian van der Veer for his opinion. However Julian was very busy with the number of members who arrived for advice. As I was not assisting Julian I decided to amuse myself by looking at the book again. By the way it is not online.

The vicar who was in charge in 1792 rejoiced in the name of **Drelincourt Young Campbell** so I decided to Google it. Why hadn't I done that before? I had a number of hits. One was an index for Wills and was quite detailed as it listed the people mentioned in it. Drelincourt's wife was **Sarah Westlake** and she was the sister of John Westlake. Then there was the Eureka moment – four sons: John, James, **Lewis** and Charles.

I had been looking for Lewis Henry's parentage for 35 years – I just couldn't believe it. Unfortunately the Will has not survived.

There are still many unanswered questions because anyone who has done Irish research would know about the limitations of the records. I have not been able to find the marriage of Drelincourt to Sarah Westlake but the name is certainly not Irish and on investigation the name is prominent in Devon and I have found a Sarah who looks promising. She died in 1822 at the age of 74 taking her birth to c1748 and there is a Sarah Westlake baptized 23 July 1749 at Crediton, Devon parents George and Mary.

Giving more credence to this discovery is the fact that her grandson, Charles Drelincourt Campbell was in Devon, not far from Crediton in the 1820s. He had two sons baptized there. Why would an Irishman go to Devon unless he had prior connections to the place? Incidentally the occupation of Charles was a Limner. I had not heard of this before but on investigation found that it is a portrait artist.

Beverley Dwyer email: beverleydwyer@bigpond.com

THE GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC does not necessarily endorse views expressed by the authors of articles in the journal nor can it vouch for the authenticity of advertisements.

Contributions should be original and any sources used to be quoted. Please forward to the Editor, Beverley Dwyer, Post Office Box 34, Miami 4220.

Email: beverleydwyer@bigpond.com

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June issue	1 April
September issue	1 July
December issue	1 October

Advertising Rates for ROOTES

Full page \$40 Half page \$20 Quarter page \$10

Research enquiries

Limited research can be carried out for members who have difficulties visiting the Society's Rooms. Non members are required to make a donation of \$10 per enquiry.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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ROOTES was named in honour of Thelma and Thomas Rootes