

**GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC**

Rootes



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GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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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

**THE ROOMS WILL BE CLOSED
ON THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

**SATURDAY 18 APRIL – EASTER
SATURDAY 25 APRIL – ANZAC DAY**

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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 the special group meetings which includes tea or coffee and a biscuit. Introduction and Advance Classes are any education classes are free of charge to members. Special events such as our mini seminars incur individual charges.

The special groups are all about helping with your individual research so you do need to bring along your information so that the co-ordinators 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-calendar.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. The next Introduction Class will be 13 March at 9am.

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 17 May, 16 August and 15 November commencing at 1pm.

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

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. Dates for 2020 are Sunday 10 May, 9 August and 8 November at 1pm. She can be contacted at metcher@bigpond.com

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

LEGACY GROUP

If you are thinking of using a program to record your family history this group can help you to make up your mind. If you are already using it and have any problems they will be able to assist and make sure you are taking full advantage of the program. Co-ordinator **Sue McKenzie** is well versed in its use.

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

Contact **Carol Browne** at cbrowne@onthenet.com.au

DNA GROUP

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

IRISH RESEARCH

Julian Van der Veer has for many years had a research service and been a Society member for a long period. He is available to assist members. Julian can be contacted by email on genfindit@gmail.com

ARMY RESEARCH

Member 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.

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. You can find details on our web site and information in *Saplings*.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the holiday season winds up I contemplate the horror of widespread bushfires throughout Australia over the last few months since September. The images on social media, in the papers and on our televisions over the Christmas and New Year holiday season have been heart-breaking. Loss of human life and wildlife is only the beginning. The thousands of souls who've lost their homes, properties and businesses are in limbo and have a difficult decision to make as to what their future will look like – whether to rebuild or relocate. What has struck me as I reflect on these tragic circumstances is the loss of personal possessions, their treasures, family history documents and photographs belonging to those families that can never be recovered. There may even have been family history centres and historical societies damaged or destroyed in many of the small towns. Our hearts go out to everyone who has suffered. Perhaps there is a lesson for all of us here and that is to consider how we protect and secure our family records, important documents and treasured items.

Thanks to those Committee members and a couple of regular members, Karen and Les who helped with our annual room clean prior to re-opening on January 14. I am very grateful for your efforts.

Prior to Christmas the Society was successful in receiving a Gold Coast City Council Divisional Donation of \$1800 which will go towards the purchase of a printer/scanner. The Committee is very focused on making the correct decision on the type of machine and we are assessing all options based on our requirements.

Our first Mini-Seminar of the year presented by Kerry Farmer is expected to attract much interest on February 29. The first topic centres on Scottish ancestors and those who fell on hard times. Kerry will focus in her second topic on national, state and local government archives and the documents they keep – bankruptcy, land, divorce, military and occupation records to name just a few.

The second Mini-Seminar to be held on 4 July should be a topic of interest to everyone. Dr Hilda Maclean will talk about burial places prior to the establishment of gazetted cemeteries in the 1870s. These include home and plantation burials as well as those of smaller religious denominations. In the second session Hilda will discuss how burial practices and customs were adapted to the tropics. She will also cover the types of documents generated locally by a death. Members are encouraged to bring a death certificate if they have any queries or need interpretation.

The Society volunteers are our most precious resource. We will have great pleasure in treating them to a lunch to acknowledge their contribution on Monday March 9 at the Anglers Arms Hotel in Southport.

We are very keen to have more Room Assistants come on board to help out as research assistants and you will receive full training. Please contact me at miggy49@bigpond.com if you are interested. It is not a huge commitment and you may do just one shift a month if that works for you.

Please consider attending our Computer evenings on the third Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm. We have some very exciting sessions coming up this year which you do not want to miss. Keep an eye out for your monthly *Saplings* newsletter that highlights the next topic.

The Gold Coast Family History Society has a wealth of untapped resources ready and waiting for you, our members, to access. For instance, the microfiche collection can provide additional information from that which is available on subscription sites. Have you searched through our online and hard copy catalogue? The treasures are there waiting for you. If you need help and don't know where to look, always ask a Room Assistant.

Two sessions of Family History for Beginners are held each year at the Society Rooms. For new members wishing to attend the first session is being held on March 13. Another will be held later in the year and you will be informed through the online *Saplings* newsletter.

Best wishes for the year ahead and happy researching.

Margaret Deacon

HEATHER WORT'S LIBRARY REPORT

The weeks and months are flying by and Christmas, bush fires, dust storms, cloud bursts and giant hail have left family and friends grieving and facing an unknown future. However, we have also seen wonderful examples of the human spirit. Many will have stories in our family records of ancestors who have been through similar events and without their courage and determination we would not be here. I remember in the 1950s when the Tweed River in Murwillumbah flooded and watching whole houses going down the river, the memory never leaves me.

John Criddle has been busy seeking out interesting books for the library:

- *Heartbreak Corner* by Fleur Lehane. A story of the Tully, Durack and other pioneer families of South West Queensland

- *Tracks of Triumph* is a tribute to the pioneers who built the famous Kuranda Scenic Railway.
- *Onkaparinga* This is a story of the mill and its workers through 120 years. This reminded me that we have many cemeteries from the Onkaparinga on CDROM which can be found on the network computers.
- *Tales of Old Mosman* contains history and memories of the graceful old suburb. I have not been there for years, so my memories are from my childhood.
- *Death or Liberty, The Convicts of the Britannia, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1797.* Its 200 or so convicts faced a sadistic captain, starvation rations and savage punishments during the long journey.
- *Pioneers of the Kimberley – The Maggie Lilly Story.* This is the story of five generations of outback women and men.
- *The Artful Duchess* by M. Fleay Beasy. Biography of Maude Fleay nee Glover – the mother of David Howells Fleay of Fleays Fauna Sanctuary, West Burleigh.

Lots to do and enjoy when family history is your hobby and passion!

Heather Wort

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members. When you come to the rooms to do research please ask for help if you need it from our voluntary Room Assistants.

3620	Ros De Laroy, Upper Coomera 4209
3621	Russ Mendola, Upper Coomera 4209
3622	Desley Eklom, Runaway Bay 4216
3623	Jen Steel, Ashmore 4214
3624	Ron Steel, Ashmore 4214
3625	Ben Dimmock, Coombabah 4216
3626	John Dimmock, Coombabah 4216
3627	Judy Young, Nerang 4211
3628	Des Manning, Mudgeeraba 4213
3629	Bobbie Richardson, Burleigh Heads 4220
3630	Bob Odgers, Broadbeach 4218
3631	Lin Odgers, Broadbeach 4218

RYERSON INDEX INC.

Ryerson Index Inc. commenced on 10 October 1998 and celebrated its coming of age or 21st birthday on 10 October 2019.

It has grown from a small group of dedicated genealogists who undertook to index the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1998 going forward. After a generous donation of 14 years of back copies of the SMH from the late Joyce Ryerson, the group elected to work backwards and finally reached the date of origin in 1831.

Today the entire SMH is completely indexed.

The volunteer indexers, who now total more than 100, are collecting copies of death and funeral notices and indexing them from 347 papers throughout Australia.

There are now in excess of 7.2 million entries in the database.

Access to the Index on the internet is FREE on www.ryersonindex.org

As the Index grows, more indexers and gatherers are needed to proceed with the overall objectives of indexing all the current newspapers in Australia.

As part of its development in recent years, Committee member, Bob Atkins from the Central Coast of NSW, as Special Assignments Officer, has undertaken throughout NSW a program of visiting Family History Societies and groups telling the story of Ryerson.

He has conducted talks and workshops which include outlining the purpose, aims and objectives of the Committee and encouraging Societies to work as a group to completely index their local papers back to inception.

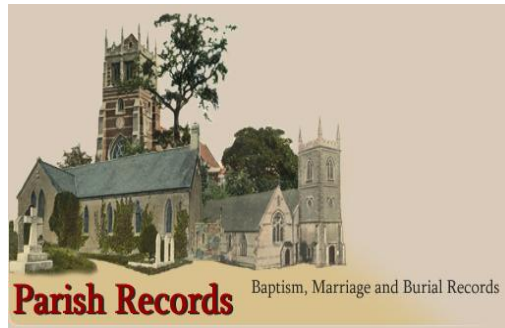
He has visited eleven groups and conducted three workshops, resulting in twenty new indexers since March 2018, most of them in the last 12 months. He has also attended three open days with a display table, plus displays at the Annual Conferences of NSWACT Association of Family History Societies in 2018 and 2019. He was a guest speaker at the 2018 conference.

He is currently in contact with ten Societies to develop a series of talks and workshops in the months ahead.

If you are interested in learning more about Ryerson and how you might be able to contribute as a thank you for the benefit you may have received from using the Index, contact Colleen Yuke at combabar@bigpond.com in the first instance on how to proceed.

CONGRATULATIONSRyerson Index Inc Committee on a job well done.

N.B. Colleen Yuke is a member of the Gold Coast Family History Society.



Below is a summary of the various stages of development in the keeping of parish register in England.

1538 We have Thomas Cromwell to thank because he ordered that each parish should keep a register of baptisms, marriages and burials. The entries were to be made after each Sunday service.

1598 The Provincial Constitution of Canterbury required that the registers should be of parchment. All previous entries, which were usually written on paper, had first to be copied, particularly those since the accession of Queen Elizabeth. So many early registers did not survive because they became unreadable through damp and decay and the mice having a good feed. Up to about 1732 it was common to record the entries in Latin with the Latin forms of Christian names.

1664/5 An Ordinance stated that the date of birth should be given when a child was baptized and dates of death were also to be given. As most researchers know this did not happen very often.

1653 This was the period of the Commonwealth, and the Government took over the quality of registers and appointed officers called 'Parish Registers' to be responsible for the entries. These have become known as Civil Registers, but unfortunately not many have survived.

1667/8 Legislation was passed requiring that all burials should be in a woollen shroud, and an affidavit made at each burial that this had been done, otherwise a fine was payable. The Act gradually became ignored and was repealed in 1814. Its purpose had been to help the wool trade.

1694 A tax of 2/- was levied on each birth, 2/6 for a marriage and 4/- for a burial. Births were to be notified to the incumbent within five days and he was to receive a fee of 6d for recording them. As you can imagine this tax was not popular and was short lived.

1711 An Act that proper register books with ruled lines and numbered pages were to be used. As we all know it was largely ignored.

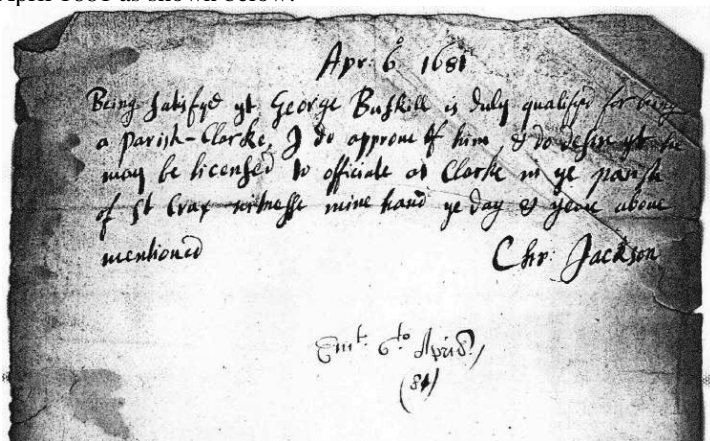
1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act. Limited to England and Wales, took effect from 25th March. This Act declared that a marriage could be solemnized only in a parish church or public chapel after the publications of banns or by a licence issued by the bishop of the diocese. Banns books and marriage register books were required to be kept separate from those for baptisms and burials. The marriage had to be performed by a clergyman of the Church of England. Jews and Quakers were exempt. Minors (under 21) needed the consent of parents or guardians. Some Catholics were married in the Church of England, as well as their own church, to ensure legality.

1783 A Stamp Act was passed. This decreed that a duty of 3d had to be paid for every entry of a birth or christening, marriage or burial. The duty was collected by the incumbent who was allowed to gain 10% as a commission. It was repealed in 1793 much to the relief of the people.

1813 George Rose's Act came into effect requiring that specially printed registers should be used, with separate books for baptisms, marriages and burials. Baptismal entries were to include the names, address and occupation or status of the parents. Burial entries were to include age, and place of resident of the deceased. The form of marriage registers was again changed in 1837.

PARISH CLERK

My George Buskill qualified as a parish clerk of St Crux in the city of York on 6 April 1681 as shown below:



George's profession was that of a tailor and his position of parish clerk was for life. In turn his son, Rubin followed both as a tailor and parish clerk at the same church.

The parish clerk's duties included the arrangement of baptisms and communions; he would ring the church bell and lead the responses at services. The parish register entries were often written by the Parish Clerk.

PARISH CHEST

The poor law of 1552 directed the parishioners in every parish to provide a strong chest, having three keys, for holding the alms for the poor. From the early 16th century separate legislation required that every parish should have a locking chest to contain the parish registers and all other documents pertaining to the parish.

Beverley Dwyer

USING DNA FOR RESEARCH

BY

FAY CARBIS

DNA is a wonderful new resource to help expand our research. I have discovered many family connections that otherwise would not have been possible.

My husband's great grandfather was illegitimate and I believed that I would not discover who his father was. I had a vague clue but nothing that would conclusively identify him, but with DNA matching I have been able to identify his family. At this stage there are 38 DNA matches to the one family and I have no doubt that I have found the connection I was looking for.

In my family, my great aunt was a mystery as no one knew what had become of her. I still don't have an answer to that question but, through DNA, I have found descendants of her only son. Using various techniques, including Facebook, I was able to make contact and find answers as to why contact had been lost.

Using DNA matches is a great way to confirm you are on the right track with your research. If you are interested in the subject of DNA, come along to our next DNA SIG Meeting to be held at 1pm on Sunday 22 March.

**THOSE GOODS AND CHATTELS
BY
ANNE HRABANEK**

Where there is a will there is often an inventory and from it one can build up a fascinating picture of an ancestor's home and possessions.

The most detailed inventories were compiled in the 16th and 17th centuries. They were usually drawn up by two or more neighbours of the deceased who went through the house and valued or appraised the contents of each room in turn, starting in the main living room, known as the hall.

The names of many household furnishings were similar to those in use today. Among those not so familiar were the chests called "arks" or "coffers" and "painted cloths", which were low cost substitutes for tapestries.

No inner-springs or water beds for our forebears! Their mattresses were stuffed with feathers, flock (wool waste) or straw, according to their position on the social ladder. Curtain listed in an inventory often refer to those on a four-poster bed, the room being darkened by window shutters or "lids".

Food was stored in the "buttery" and cooked in brass pots, or "kettles" suspended over the kitchen fire and in three-footed pots and the smaller "posnets". For roasting meat there was a spit supported on "cob irons". The family ate from wooden or pewter platters and bowls or "porringers" and some silver tableware was in use in the more affluent households.

When the appraisers had finished in the house they valued everything else including animals, poultry, crops, plus any tools and stock in trade. The last can be helpful in establishing or verifying an ancestor's occupation. Finally they noted the deceased's debts and any monies owing to him.

While inventories on their own are of little or no use in proving family relationships, they can be fun! I wonder what my 10 x great grandmother's "two hats" looked like! They were valued at 4 shillings, a considerable sum in 1591.

And what happened to the linen in the house of another ancestor, a prosperous yeoman farm who died in 1763?

The inventory indicates a well furnished and equipped home but includes only "four pair of old coarse ragged sheets, a napkin and one other little cloth". It was taken the day after the funeral, so had some visiting relatives helped themselves? I shall never know!

This article first appear in ROOTES in December 1995.

**A DOMESTIC FRACAS
BY
BEVERLEY DWYER**

Domestic violence was rife in the past just as it is today. In 1842 **Mary Sparrow**, mother of 13 children, had her husband, John summonsed to court. The complaint was that on Tuesday and also on Saturday nights, her husband struck her with severe violent blows using a whip. She showed the marks on her arm and said there were many others on the rest of her body; he had continued this conduct over a number of years and was continually getting intoxicated.



Living at home was a son and the youngest daughter, Elizabeth. They appeared in court and were asked to give evidence as to the truth of her statement. This they did and the daughter revealed that she had also been attacked trying to assist her mother and exhibited a bloodied eye.

John Sparrow, in reply to her accusations produced mouldy crusts of bread which he said was all his wife gave him to eat, despite the fact that he allowed her eleven shillings a week for housekeeping. His wife admitted the payment but denied that it was regular.

The judge suggested that he had not proved the case so he pleaded personal chastisement, an old law whereby a husband could whip his wife provided it was a just measure of correction. Instead of the rod of a little finger's thickness, the defendant produced a good sized horsewhip the thickness of the thumb at one end and tapering down in just proportion for the length of

about three quarters of a yard to the old legal standard of a little finger's size. This was the part of the whip he showed to the bench and needless to say it was not accepted.

The bench required him to enter into a recognizance of the peace himself in £20 and a surety to the like amount or stand committed. He was also admonished as to his future conduct and taken away in custody until the required surety could be obtained.

Sadly on the 1851 census, Elizabeth who was still living with her parents was recorded as being blind due no doubt to the attack by her father when she tried to help her mother.

Whether John Sparrow mended his ways is questionable but Mary did stay with him until her death.

Beverley Dwyer email: beverleydwyer@bigpond.com

BRISTOL RECORDS

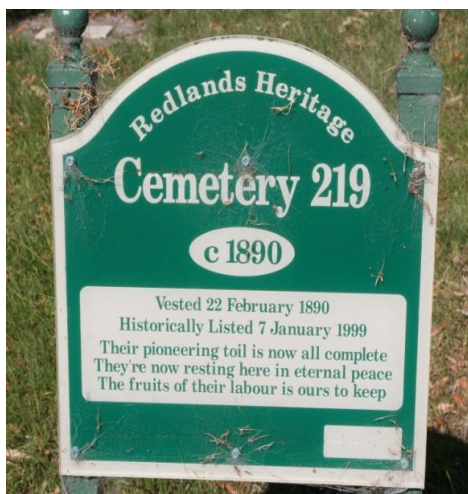
Ancestry has now added 2.6 million BDMs for Bristol and in January 2020 there will be the addition of non-conformist records. One interesting record found was the marriage of Archibald Christie to Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller, the latter of course then became Agatha Christie. They married on 24 December 1914 at the Emmanuel Church, Clifton. Archibald was a Captain in the Royal Flying Corps but at that stage Agatha didn't have an occupation – that was to change in the future.

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
305	Decemr 24 1914	Archibald Christie Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller	25 24	Bachelor Spinster	Captain in Royal Flying Corps —	Olden Lodge Chilton Bathfield Tongway	Archibald Christie (deceased) Frederick Abrah Miller (deceased)	Indian Civil Servant Gentleman
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>License</u> or after <u>by me</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Archibald Christie</u> <u>Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>William James Hemmings</u> <u>Reginald Charles Murray</u>		

STORIES BEHIND THE HEADSTONES
BY
MARGARET ELLIOTT

Alongside Serpentine Creek Road, Redland Bay, Queensland lies a very small cemetery. It is sited on a rise and the graves are barely seen from the road. This cemetery, first called Redland Bay Cemetery, was originally known as South Redland Bay Cemetery and is currently designated Redlands Heritage Cemetery 219. This 5 acre cemetery, established in 1890, was the only public cemetery in the Redland Bay district for 18 years.

It is known that there were a lot more burials in the area of the cemetery which is now trees and bush. However, there is no indication who is buried



there or where. That area is being kept as natural bush for that reason. The small fenced area where several headstones are erected is the only indication of a cemetery however the entire 5 acres is being preserved.

It is not known what percentage of the 5 acres was initially cleared for use. In the early 1900s, the cemetery was considered too distant and desolate for many in the Redland Bay community. A donation of land at Gordon Street, Redland Bay, saw a new

cemetery known as North Redland Bay Cemetery, established by late 1907. The two cemeteries operated in tandem and gradually the first Redland Bay Cemetery became known as South Redland Bay Cemetery. It was recognized as such by 1925. Four interments were removed from the South Cemetery to the North Cemetery: one in 1908, one in 1923 and two in 1929.

The South Cemetery closed about 1945 and by the late 1970s parts of the 5 acres was being used as grazing land. A public petition successfully pressed for the area to be conserved and in 1977 Redland Shire Council took responsibility and grazing ceased.

Near the road front of the cemetery several graves have been identified and information from the headstones that survive, albeit damaged, has been

recorded. In that area a probe has identified other graves sites without headstones and small concrete slabs have been placed over those areas. After photographing the remaining headstones I decided to briefly research each name.

Redlands Heritage Cemetery - Headstones

Headstone 1 Margaret Doig (nee Wilson) died 20 July 1905 aged 89 years. Margaret's husband, Sylvester, had died years earlier on 25 September 1884 and is buried in Brisbane General Cemetery.

Research has revealed Margaret and Sylvester were married in New South Wales and by 1850 were living in Queensland. Sylvester was a man of prominence, well known as editor of the 'Moreton Bay Free Press'. This newspaper was started in the interests of the pastoralists and in opposition to the 'Courier'. In 1850, Margaret and Sylvester lived in a solitary house on Bowen Terrace which was considered to be in the bush. A scene from the Doig House done by Conrad Martens in 1850 is held by the Brisbane Museum.

In 1953, J. Harlen, grandson of Margaret and Sylvester, wrote to the Courier Mail informing them that Sylvester, his grandfather, was a friend of the explorers Leichhardt and Gregory and would have accompanied them on their last fateful journey but declined due to the aboriginal unrest in the area of his house at Bowen Terrace. He stated that he could not leave his young family alone there. Margaret Doig was living in Redland Bay area when she died.

Headstone 2 Heinrich Dittman died 16 November 1899 aged 75 years. Heinrich brought his family to Australia from Prussia c1870. In 1883, the case of F Dittmann v H Dittmann on charges of abuse was reported. Neither appeared in court so the matter was dismissed! In 1886, Heinrich Dittmann was charged with being of unsound mind. For two days he had wandered in the bush without food or water. Upon returning home he tried to hang himself but his wife intervened. He further threatened to shoot his wife and anyone who came to their house and was referred by the court to Brisbane for medical care. The year before his death, Heinrich Dittman was charged with physical abuse of his wife. According a Brisbane newspaper report in January 1898, Heinrich was 74 years of age, his wife 68 years. During a quarrel over the way to dry maize, he punched his wife with a closed fist knocking her to the ground. He then kicked her several times in the hips and side of her body while she was on the ground. A neighbour seeing the abuse called for him to cease harming his wife. When the incident went to court Heinrich was fined £2 plus court costs with 2 months jail without hard labour for default. It seems Heinrich's age and mental condition was taken into account.

Friederike Dittmann died 4 October 1905. Friederike and Heinrich are buried adjacent to each other with inscriptions either side of the headstone.

Headstone 3 Aeneas Walker died 1 October 1906, aged 71 years. Aeneas married Margaret Gray at Brisbane in October 1868. Aeneas was said to be an Accountant at that time. They had at least three children. Aeneas Walker was Secretary to the Brisbane Gas Works from as early as 1864 to 1868. He then opened his own Accountant and Actuary business with the address No. 7, Exchange Rooms, Town Hall Buildings, Brisbane. Aeneas held Honorary Secretarial positions including the Caledonian Society, the Presbyterian Church, Brisbane Horticultural and Agricultural Society. Aeneas was involved in Bee Keeping and he imported queen bees from Italy and New York. After his marriage, Aeneas and Margaret lived at Stratton and then they moved to Hopemount, Pine Mountain in the North Ipswich area. Aeneas was living in Redland Bay area by 1900. His wife Margaret died in 1932, aged 86 years, and is buried in Toowong Cemetery.

Headstone 4 William 'Willie' Fielding died 30 Dec 1905 aged 18 years. Willie has a tall spirelike monument over his grave. Willie Fielding was the only son of William and Eliza Fielding of Crediton House, Redland Bay. Willie, along with his sisters and other friends, went on a cruising excursion in Redland Bay. During a mishap one girl drowned and Willie was last seen in the water but disappeared. It was presumed he had drowned even though Willie was known as good swimmer. Nine days after the event a shark, caught off Dunwich, was cut open revealing the remains of a person later identified as Willie. It was a dreadful tragedy for the Fielding Family.

Headstone 5 Robert Sinclair died 11 March 1908 aged 70 years. Robert, son of Hugh Sinclair and Marion Bridges was born in Scotland and married Barbara Burnet, a widow, during 1882 in Queensland. Barbara had previously travelled to Australia with her husband Mr Snowdowne with whom she had baby son. Her husband died on the voyage to Brisbane. Robert Sinclair and Barbara had three daughters and Robert was a Plantation Manager on a property which bordered Redland Bay. After the death of Robert in 1908 Barbara moved to Montville where her only son was a fruit farmer. She remained there until her death on 8th July 1940. Barbara is buried in Woombye Cemetery.

Headstone 6 Edward Heinemann died 31 July 1925 aged 82 years. In January 1866, Edward and his brother Heinrich arrived in Brisbane on the sailing vessel *Johann Sasso*. They had come from Holstein, Germany. After arrival, Edward was employed by the Dart Family of Oxley. In 1872, Edward married Ernstine Dittmann, the daughter of Heinrich and Friederike Dittmann in the Lutheran Church, Bethania. They had twelve children. Edward and his

brother Heinrich were bricklayers by trade. They took up adjoining selections of land at Upper Tingalpa Creek where Edward farmed. It was noted that aboriginals caused problems in that area and both brothers eventually moved to other areas. Years later Heinrich was known to be a successful sugar grower at Mount Cotton and had established a mill.

Edward took up land in Redland Bay around 1885 where he grew sugar cane. He punted his cane to Ageston Mill via the Logan River. After a time he turned his attention to fruit growing and his orchard was recognized as one of the best in the district. Edward involved himself in community activities. He was a councillor for many years and chairman of the Tingalpa Shire Council for several years. He was also a trustee of the Redlands Cemetery where he was eventually buried. **Ernestine**, his wife, died in 1936, she is recorded as being buried with Edward.

The Trustees of the Redlands Heritage Cemetery 219 are remembered on a huge boulder within the cemetery which has their names, dates of birth and death recorded plus a photograph of each.



Sources used: BDMs and Trove.

Margaret Elliott - marg3cal@bigpond.net.au

A LETTER TO THE AUNTS FROM GALLIPOLI

**Submitted by
FAYE KENWRICK**

Letter of a British Naval medical officer, Surgeon Lieutenant Gerald Sylvester Harvey, to his aunts in Ireland. The letter, written on the battleship HMS "London" graphically describes the first landings on Gallipoli and Harvey's participation in the evacuation of the wounded in the first days after the landing and their treatment by medical officers including him on hospital and other ships, including the "London". Most of the soldiers he encountered were Australian, and he writes of them highly.

H.M.S London
C/- G.P.O. London
30/4/1915

Dear Aunts

Just a line to let you know I am still fit & well though very busy. We are present lying off the Gallipoli peninsular & banging six inch guns at the Turks who are trying to dislodge our troops.

Last Saturday night, six days ago, we left our base accompanied by a huge fleet of transports to start in on our great stunt. We war-ships carried 500 troops apiece. They were to be landed first to secure a foothold for the others. Topping fine fellows they were & ready to do anything.

Well, in the early hours of Sunday morning we anchored a mile or so from shore & just at dawn the boats made for the beach loaded with troops. They were discovered by the Turks who were heavily entrenched about 100 yds off & a murderous fire opened on them from rifles & machine guns. However, they carried on & jumping on the beach with fixed bayonets, charged right up the cliff, which at this point was practically perpendicular, & wiped out all the Turks they met.

Needless to say they were cut up a bit but are now firmly established & dug in. The Turks have tried to dislodge them several times but have retired with heavy casualties each time, so now they content themselves with worrying them with shrapnel & long distance rifle fire.

We had two of our men & a middy wounded in the boats landing them, but they are doing alright.

We lie off shore about a mile & shell any guns that open on the troops.

This ship has been given the job of transporting the wounded from the beach to the hospital transports & our boats ply to & fro all day & night. The Fleet-

Surgeon is in charge & used to go on the beach at first but Wednesday night he was so tired, he sent me instead.

I went in an open boat & it was rather nerve racking to hear the bullets whistling round. I got on shore & saw the Colonel in charge of the red-cross station & started getting his wounded into the boats when the Turks opened on us with shrapnel & a couple of men near me were wounded. We were then ordered to stop until the fire slackened, which it did immediately. However, it started again when we resumed, but we carried on & filled all the boats & started off for the trawler which was to carry them to the hospital transport.

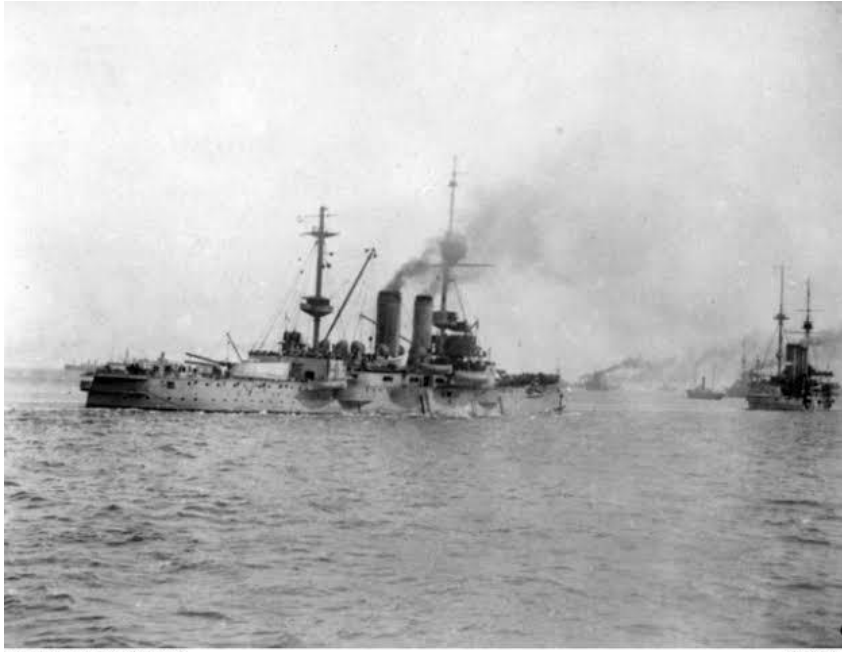
As soon as we got alongside & started transferring the wounded the blighters started again & dropped shrapnel all round us, luckily injuring no one although you could hear the bullets rattling off the steel shield of our picket boat. However, as things seemed to be getting too hot for us, I ordered the captain of the trawler to get under way, which he did & stopped about a mile further out. There we were able to get our wounded on board unmolested. I got off about 200 that night & got back on board here about 4am. You will see from this that the Turks don't take any account of the Red Cross. All our doctors ashore carry revolvers & are quite prepared to use them if necessary. The Sunday night of the day we landed was of course the worst for the wounded & nearly all the battleships had to take some in & treat them. We got about 80 here & Lorrimer & I were hard at it from about 7pm until 3 in the morning, sewing, splinting, disinfecting & generally doing what we could for the poor devils. There were only two of us as the P.M.O. was ashore getting them off in the boats. They were awfully plucky & very grateful & gave three cheers for the doctors when leaving us for the hospital ship in the morning.

Things were pretty strenuous the first few days but are settling down now they have dug themselves in properly & the wounded are much less. Also the hospital arrangements are better. The troops with us are mostly Australians & very fine men they are. At the other landing place, they are British & include the Dublin Fusiliers & the Munsters I believe. The Naval Division is out here too but not Stan's battalion.

I myself am top hole & hope to stay so. I am really quite safe in a battleship for anything except big guns or mines & during action we doctors are put in the safest part of the ship, so you need not worry about me.

I had a letter from Uncle Willie not long ago. You might send this on to him as I doubt if I shall be able to write to them personally. It is jolly hot out here now in the day time but cools down nicely at night. Hope we get this over

soon & get home once more. I want some leave badly. I don't know when this will go as we have had no mail out this last week.
Much love to you all. Yours affectionately Gerald



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2932

HMS LONDON

George Sylvester Harvey was born in Essex in 1889, the son of James Pratt Harvey and Marion Cissie Waugh. He was raised in Cork, Ireland from a very young age by his grandmother, Anne (Duke) Waugh and after she died he was cared for by his two maiden aunts, Isabell Waugh and Clara Waugh, the aunts to whom he wrote the letter.

Gerald retired in the 1930s as Surgeon Captain and in WWII he became Deputy Head of a Civil Defence College in Gloucestershire, where he prepared civilian instructors to cope with probable bombing wounds and possible poison gas effects. He died 30 June 1954.

This letter is now in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

HOMEWARD MAIL FROM INDIA, CHINA AND THE EAST
BY
BEVERLEY DWYER

This newspaper was first published on 1 January 1857 by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. It is a compendium of political, military and economic news from the East.

A predominant part of the paper is related to news about India, the jewel of the British Imperial Crown.

The Homeward Mail provided people in Britain with political and military news from the East as well as civil service appointments, shipping intelligence and trading updates.

Each edition published the name of passengers who arrived in England and the names of passengers travelling further afield. For example, 1857, the paper published, 'Captain Noaks, on board *Earl of Harkwicke*, arrived 17 December from Madras and Cape of Good Hope' and listed the names of the ship's passengers.

You will also find public notices of births, marriages and deaths. *The Homeward Mail* provides a British perspective on events in Asia at the height of the British Empire.

Another interesting find in the newspaper is the advertisements which are very varied and include people advertising to board the children of parents who are living out in the East.

The really good news is that this newspaper can be found on our subscription site of British Newspaper and covers the time period of 1857-1914.

East India Trading



GALLIPOLI: MISSING KILLED IN ACTION

BY
JOHN CRIDDLE



Most of our readers will be aware of the wonderful additional information that may be found researching Australian newspapers on the National Library of Australia **TROVE** website: www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers

When using TROVE it is helpful to refine your search using **Place** to select the state. Further refining of your search results by **Category** to **Family Notices** allows you to find birth, marriage and death information. Refining search result by the **Category** and **Article** often produces some very interesting additional information.



The approach of ANZAC Day is an ideal time to share a sad story, revealed by my research with TROVE newspapers concerning my maternal grandfather's brother, **Leslie John Owens**. Les was born at Penguin, on the northern coast of Tasmania, in 1891. After the

death of his father in 1897 his mother purchased a 30 acre farm at West Pine, about 10 km inland from Penguin, where Les lived and worked with three brothers and a sister. His involvement in the local Presbyterian Church is indicated by the following article in the **Launceston Examiner** (Friday 8 January 1915):

*West Pine – The anniversary services of the Presbyterian Church were held at West Pine on Sunday....Special hymns were rendered by the children, conducted by **Mr Leslie John Owens**. Miss Plapp presided at the organ.*

On May 20th, 1915, Les enlisted as reinforcement to the 15th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Division A.I.F. He gave his "former military service" as "Rifle Club". Embarking from Australia on June 1st, Les arrived at Gallipoli on August 4th, just in time for the ill-fated August offensive against the Turks. Following his first action on August 8th he was listed as "missing".

Five weeks later, the following article appeared in the **North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times** (Tuesday September 14th 1915):

REPORTED MISSING – Official word reached Penguin on Saturday evening that Lance-Corporal L.J. Owens had been reported missing between August 7 and 8. Lance-Corporal Owens is the third son of Mrs Clara Lette of West Pine. He is aged 24 years, and sailed with the same reinforcements as Private Sidney Duff, previously reported killed in action. Much sympathy is expressed for the relatives subjected to this new anxiety.”

The following months were a time of uncertainty and anxiety for Les's mother who wrote at least one letter to the International Red Cross hoping Les had been captured and was a prisoner of war in Turkey. The reply to her letter was reported in the **Launceston Examiner** (Tuesday 18 April 1916):

A MISSING SOLDIER. Mrs. C. Lette, of West Pine, received the following letter, dated December 24, 1915, from Geneva Red Cross International “Dear Madam – We return with regret the enclosed correspondence addressed to Lance-Corporal Leslie Owens. This must not be taken as an absolute proof of the death of the addressee, but that as far as the knowledge of the Ottoman Red Crescent Society goes, he is not a prisoner of war in Turkey – Yours faithfully, Comite International de la Croix Rouge, Geneve”

Finally, nine months after he was reported “missing” the sad truth was reported in the **Launceston Examiner** (Wednesday 17 May 1916):

OWENS – Officially reported killed in action on Gallipoli, August 9, 1915, John Leslie Owens, 6th Reinforcements, 15th Battalion, A.I.F., beloved third son of Clara Lette, West Pine, Penguin, and the late James Allison Owens, aged 23. “He gave his all”.

Soon after, a memorial service for Leslie John OWENS, held in the West Pine Presbyterian Church, was reported in the **North Western Advocate & Emu Bay Times** (Tuesday 23 May 1916):

WEST PINE MEMORIAL SERVICE An impressive memorial service was held in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening in memory & honour of Private. Leslie John Owens, son Mrs Clara Lette of,

“Brookside” West Pine, reported missing in August last year, and intimation of whose death in action was recently received. Amongst those present was Pte. George Mainwaring who was wounded in the same campaign, and has since received his discharge. There was also present a representative gathering of members of the Masonic Lodge of Peace, of which deceased was a member.”

As was the custom for many bereaved families, the Owens family placed In Memoriam newspaper notices each year after the war ended. Seven years after the death of Les Owens, the following notices appeared in the **Burnie Advocate** (Monday 8 August 1923):

IN MEMORIAM – OWENS *In fond memory of my dear son, Leslie Owens, and his loved comrades of the 15th Battalion, A.I.F., who fell at Gallipoli, August 8, 1915. “They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old”*

IN MEMORIAM - OWENS *A tribute of love to the memory of Leslie John Owens, 15th Battalion A.I.F. who fell at Gallipoli, August 8, 1915. Inserted by his mother, brothers, sisters, West Pine.*



Nearly sixty thousand Australian servicemen died in the Great War. Many family members, like those of **Leslie John Owens**, had to endure the anxiety and agony of a son initially reported “missing”, later declared “killed in action”. These truly were “the forgotten years” for a generation of Australian families.



“A truly wonderful family history research tool”

THOSE MISBEGOTTEN CHILDREN
BY
BEVERLEY DWYER

Do you have a Merrybegot in your family? Well, that is a nice way of saying “do you have a bastard in the family?”

If you have (and there are few of us who haven’t) do not despair, it is not necessarily the end of the line. Bastardy Bonds could be the answer to your problem.

In England, the cost of bringing up a child of a poor woman could well fall on the parish. Needless to say this was not popular with the overseers of the poor and every effort was made to find the miscreant father.

From 1732, the mother was examined about the parentage of her child by two Justices. If he was married then he would be ordered into a bond to pay support for the child. He did not have to support the mother. A bond would normally show the name, parish and marital status of the mother and sometimes her father’s name; the name, parish and occupation of the man and sometimes his father’s name particularly if he was assisting his son with the payments.

Of course, there are drawbacks. Quite often the mother of the child did not really know who the true father was and would choose the more affluent of the potential fathers. Or if she was really devious she would name a man who was not the father, knowing he would have to plead his innocence at Quarter Sessions. He may or may not have been believed.

If the man absconded then the amount deemed payable by the Justices became the responsibility of the parish. Most of the Bastardy Bonds were kept as part of the parish records and therefore have been deposited in County Record Offices, although, some churches may still retain them. You may also find some online.



THE BRIDE MARRIED A CORPSE

by
BEVERLEY DWYER



On 27 November 1666 a marriage took place at South Pool, Devon. The bride was Dorothy Ford and the bride groom had been Reverend William Streat. He had died on 11 June 1666 and was buried in the same yard of the church where the marriage took place. How was this possible?

Well, there are two different versions of the story but whichever is true the facts are that the body of the Reverend had been exhumed so that the marriage could take place with the bride standing beside the coffin while a visiting rector performed the ceremony.

There doesn't seem to be any doubt that William Streat had been courting Dorothy. Her family were not having dishonour brought on their name when it became obvious that there was to be an addition to the family tree.

The second version for the strange marriage was that the friends of the heartbroken Ford soon began to complain of a nightmare they were having, one that kept recurring. In the dream, Streat would come to them and say that he was unable to rest in peace until he had fulfilled his pledge to marry Dorothy.

After months of this, with dozens of people reporting the same dream like demands from the dead clergyman, the village relented. The church was decorated for a wedding.

After William was reburied, the story goes that he never haunted anyone's dreams again.

I have found several anomalies. The burial entry in the parish records tallied with all the information from many different sources; however the marriage entry made me wonder as it read:

Robert Streat Rector and Mrs Dorothy Ford were married November 27 1666.

Who was Robert Streat? He did exist because he is mentioned in the Will of William but doesn't explain the family connection. My feeling is that he was William's brother and standing in as proxy. Robert died in 1668.

In the parish records I found the baptism of a child born to William and Amy on 22 August 1665. Presumably Amy died although I can't find a burial and if this is the case it didn't take him long to get involved with Dorothy.

If Dorothy had been pregnant by William as her family seemed to think there is no evidence of a child being baptised.

William Streat was born in 1600 in the county of Devon and became a sojourner of Exeter College in the beginning of 1817 and matriculated on 8 May 1821, graduated with a B.A. on 31 January 1621/2 and M.A. on 10 June 1624. He took holy orders and became rector of St Edmund-on-the-Bridge, Exeter in 1630, and in 1632 rector of South Pool, Devonshire.

After 1641 he inclined to Presbyterianism and preached bitterly against King Charles and his followers, styling them 'bloody papists'. After the Restoration he appears to have modified his opinions, for he contrived to keep his rectory until his death at South Pool in 1666.

The neighbouring ministers agreed that he was as infinite a rogue and as great a sinner that could be, and that it was a pity that he did escape punishment in this life.



OWED TO A SPELL CHEQUER

I halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plane lee marques four my revue
Miss steaks aye ken knot sea

Eye ran this poem threw it
Your sure reel glad two no
It's vary polished in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew

A chequer is a bless sing
It freeze yew lodes of thyme
It helps me awl stiles two reed
And aides mi when aye rime

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud
And wee mussed dew the best wee can
Sew flaws are knot aloud

And now bee cause my spelling
is checked with such grate flare
Their are know faults with in my cite
Of nun eye am a wear

Each frays come posed up on my screen
Eye trussed to be a joule
The chequer poured o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule

That's why aye brake in two averse
My righting wants too pleas
Sow now ewe sea wye aye dew prays
Such soft wear for pea seas

Unknown author.

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AUDITOR

Leasa Arnett Chartered Accountant

HON. LEGAL ADVISER

Sue McLeod BA LLB GradDipLegPr TEP JP

CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary, Gold Coast Family History Society Inc.
Post Office Box 2763,
Southport BC 4215

WEB SITE

www.goldcoastfhs.org.au

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