

GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Rootes



**Located corner Lawson & Scarborough Street Southport
now site of RSL**

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GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PATRONS

Cr. Dawn Crichlow OAM

A.J. (Lex) Bell OAM

COMMITTEE 2018/2019

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Librarian and Projects Officer

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Committee

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Ann Metcher

John Criddle

Mark Pittaway

Roster Secretary

Pam Oldham

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Gold Coast Family History Society will be held on Saturday 7 September 2019 at 2pm. We do hope as many members as possible will attend.

Many people do not come to the meeting because they believe they will be coerced into volunteering to sit on the committee. This is not the case – no one is going to force you to do anything. On the other hand you could express opinions about the administration of the Society. This is what is needed – feedback. The committee requires your input, so do have your say.

The meeting is being held in the Albert Battery next door to our rooms. We are greatly appreciative of their generosity. Afternoon tea will be served.

Our rooms will close for research at 1.45pm.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY/ADVANCED CLASSES

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

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

SCOTTISH GROUP

The two ladies who host this group are very enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about Scottish research. The last meeting for the year will be Sunday 17 November 2019 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

IRISH GROUP

Julian Van der Veer has for many years had a research service but is available to assist our members. December 2 is the last meeting for the year at 9am.

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 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.

DNA GROUP

This is a discussion and self-help group and the first two meetings were very well attended. Next meeting is Sunday 27 October at 1pm. Check with Fay Carbis on fay@winshop.com.au

ARE YOU INTERESTED in exploring web sites? Would you like to share your finds?

Ann Morse has provided her hot web sites for many years in our journal but due to health problems has ceased her contributions.

Would you like to provide a regular article to the journal? You can chose the format and the length.

Contact the Editor, Beverley Dwyer on beverleydwyer@bigpond.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Waves in Time Conference. The Queensland State Conference of Family and Local History in Caloundra in May was a great success. About a dozen of our members from the Gold Coast attended. The presentations ranged from DNA, Telling your Immigrant Ancestors' Stories, Convict Women Crossing The Seas, Mapping our Ancestors - plotting their journeys, and many more that kept delegates' attention riveted.

Thanks to Fay Carbis and Ann Metcher for their contribution on the Conference Committee. Heather Wort took charge of the Society Exhibitor table and earned the Society more than \$600 from books and other resources. We are very grateful for your efforts, Heather. Thanks to those who donated their books.

Attendees at the Mini Seminar in May presented by Cara Downes from the National Archives were fascinated by the wealth of information on the Archives site about records and stories of World War I servicemen. At the same time we were alarmed by the challenges these men faced in attempting to seek support from the government at the time. The second talk on World War 1 and 2 brides was extremely interesting.

Computer nights have been well-attended. In June, Paul Dinniss provided a fascinating story of his family which is being detailed in the form of a book and he discussed his publishing methods. In July, a few attendees at the Conference gave a brief talk on a number of the presentations. By attending these conferences we are extending the realms of research possibilities and realizing that so many talented people and speakers are widening our inquiries and capabilities beyond the simplistic methods of research.

As I write this our 40th Birthday Party preparations are well under way as the 11 August approaches. I'm excited at the Show and Tell items that members have identified and I know the audience will be mesmerized by the 2 minute stories.

The Society history has been a joy to unfold and, together with the photographic slide show it reveals our marvellous progression since 1979. Special guests have been invited and I know they will appreciate the memorabilia and displays reflecting our history, as will members. The December issue of *Rootes* will detail activities of the day.

The Queensland Museum Development program is an initiative of the Gold Coast City Council under the auspices of the Office of City Architect and the Heritage Planning Department. The Society was invited to a full day Museum Bus tour to the Ipswich Railway Museum and the Ipswich Hospital Museum. Gay and Bob Eunson attended and Gay submitted a favourable

report. While our Society does not fit closely with the museum model there is much that we can learn in terms of publicity and volunteering. Thanks Gay for your report.

City of Gold Coast is also offering workshops in the next few months on disaster preparedness and recovery and we are expecting a couple of Committee members to attend. This is an area that all Not-for-Profit organisations are required to address. The Gold Coast Family History Society has a wealth of resources and it is incumbent on us to protect them.

We continue to seek new Room Assistants and look forward to hearing from any member who may be interested in giving a few hours each fortnight to assisting others in their research. Please contact me on 0439 871 329. I am so grateful to all those who currently offer their time to volunteer.

Our Society has been invited to be part of the Gold Coast Open House Program on the weekend of 19-20 October this year. We are delighted to be incorporated into this calendar so that we can highlight the Society to the community. The Rooms will open at the same time as usual on the Saturday and we will provide additional volunteers to help with short tours for visitors. Would Room Assistants please let me know if you would like to help on the day.

Margaret Deacon

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined recently and it is hoped that they have success in their research. The voluntary Room Assistants are there to assist so please do ask for help when needed.

3588	Peter Richie, Robina
3589	Judy Winder, Mermaid Waters
3590	Anne Walker, Carrara
3591	June Martin, Ashmore
3592	Not for publication
3593	David Riley, Mudgeeraba
3594	Kym Gorman, Carrara
3595	Terry Pleash, Hope Island
3596	Chaz Orsini, Springbrook
3597	Brigitte Hewitt, Springbrook
3598	Natasha Nicholson, Tallai

HEATHER WORT'S LIBRARY REPORT

It is good to report a very successful stand at the recent family history conference on the Sunshine Coast. My thanks to the many donors of books, to Colleen Yuke, Sandra and Ken Green for a day at my home for sorting and pricing and to members who supported me during the three days of the conference.

Time moves on and a chance to act as chauffeur for member Marian Michael to the centenary celebrations of the Collins Creek Public School located near Kyogle 8th June held a surprise for me. Marian of course was amongst family and school friends her father R.S. Perdriau being a local land owner and State Member for Byron in the 1920s what I had not expected was the close ties the dairying community of Collins Creek have with those in the Byangum and Eungella area on the Tweed going back over a 100 years. Although my father was a builder in Murwillumbah it was my mother's dairying family that gave me the connection. The migration of Bega dairying sons to the Richmond and Tweed is well documented. It was a most enjoyable day for both of us.

A copy of the book *Collins Creek School Celebrating 100 years* was purchased now located in the library at C474/586. There are many stories on local families along with photos of past and present students.

Member May Shackleton has been busy photographing and transcribing small cemeteries on her caravanning holidays around Queensland and has donated a digital copy of the Bollon Cemetery. Bollon has a population 334 (2011 census) was established 1879 and is located 634 km from Brisbane, and 507 km from Toowoomba.

Purchases made at the recent conference include *Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery Our Backyard Volume 4*. As always this is a quality edition of those buried in the Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery published by the Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society. The stories, photographs and family connections make it an interesting and well researched publication.

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy; DNA Tracing Your Ancestors & your genealogy; DNA for Genealogists 4th edition; Plus three handy guides from Unlock The Past: DNA for genealogy, DNA testing plan and DNA Chromosome Mapping. With the current interest in DNA and all its results these publications should take some of the mystery out of this very popular subject.

Index to burials in Longreach Cemetery and Warra Cemetery.

A full list of purchases will be in the December 2019 journal of *Rootes*.

Isabelle Thompson has been busy again collating information on Aberdeenshire and donating to the society. Isabelle's latest collection can be found under Aberdeenshire miscellany (Aberdeenshire Militia 1803-1804 and Muster Roll of the Strichen Fyvie Volunteer Infantry).

Heather Wort
Librarian

STOP PRESS – URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Heather Wort has decided that this will be her last year as Librarian, a position she has held for over 20 years.

Therefore an apprentice Librarian is sort so that Heather is able to train the person taking up the position. There is no need for previous library experience.

If any member feels that they would enjoy taking on the position please get in touch with Heather by email: hrwort@bigpond.com



IN THE BEGINNING

By

ANN FITZ-GERALD

I began my family history research in approx 1976/77. I was interested to learn what I could about my origins and found the whole subject fascinating. At that time there was no internet access - there simply was no internet! All research was done by trial and error working back from myself through each maternal and paternal generation's birth, marriage and death certificates. Long, hard, slog often receiving the dreaded "No Result" at a cost of \$5.00 for every five years of unsuccessful certificate search at New South Wales and Victorian government offices - but such tremendous excitement when the next certificate along the line was successfully received. Even the wait of three to five weeks from time of application to that long awaited mail delivery was worth every day of the wait. Infinitely better than winning Lotto!

To begin with I became a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Genealogical Society of Victoria and Genealogical Society of Queensland which all provided help and support but access to records was obviously very restricted due to distance. Then, in 1979 I read with interest and great joy, through the GSQ newsletter, that a new genealogical society had been commenced in Southport, offering support and help to those researching their family. No more long drives to Brisbane to attend GSQ or the Queensland State Library to find my ancestors.

Due to the incredible foresight of Thelma Rootes and Joyce Valentine together with Heather Wort who were the founding members, this new Gold Coast society which became known as "GSQ - Gold Coast Branch" flourished under the auspices of this tenacious, incredible group who stopped at nothing to achieve success. My sincere apologies to other members who were part and parcel of the band of loyal Committee members who also worked so hard to achieve the goal of a new Society, but whose names escape me although the faces are there.

Originally monthly meetings were held in Thelma Rootes' garage on Chevron Island where a small band of committed members regularly attended and which were always followed by supper brought along by attendees.

Thelma and Joyce and their Committee produced a newsletter in the form of a couple of foolscap pages of photocopied items of interest covering happenings in the Society, records purchased etc. This newsletter initially bore the name of the new Society but was later changed to "Rootes" magazine as we know it today to honour Thelma and her wonderful

endeavours as the founding member to give the residents of the Gold Coast their very own genealogical society. I like to think in some small way I was of some help to the new society in 1980 by transcribing the Florence Street Cemetery in Tweed Heads, the Chinderah Cemetery, the very old and totally overgrown Tumbulgum Cemetery and adding these transcriptions to the Society's ever growing holdings.

I remember James McClelland, a man of renowned genealogical repute throughout Australia agreed to be Guest Speaker at one of our monthly meetings in Thelma's garage. The garage was full and buzzed with excitement! James McClelland had produced a couple of dozen books on Australian History at that time covering the History of NSW; Convict, Pioneer and Immigrant Records and Histories; books on searching these records; Guides to Immigrants from all over the UK to Australia; hints on searching both in Australia and Overseas together with addresses for Parish Registers in every Irish County. In addition to this, and ever so importantly at that time, James McClelland had transcribed into book form many hundreds of inward shipping indexes held on film at the New South Wales and Victorian Archives. Without a trip to the Archives Office in Sydney or Melbourne this covered a substantial list of inward passengers to Australia. I spent many hours pouring over these books. What a bonus to have a genealogist of such renown amongst us as a guest speaker.

Another meeting night in Thelma's garage saw a good turnout of members who brought along an item (of interest) of family or genealogical interest that pertained to an ancestor and/or the member's family history.

I don't seem to remember actually doing research in Thelma's garage, mainly attending the monthly meetings as Thelma and Joyce together with their small fledging Committee developed and reported on the Society's guidelines in anticipation of becoming a fully functioning genealogy society.

Initially our local Society was a branch of the Genealogy Society of Queensland who, if memory serves me correctly, assisted with the purchase of items for our new library. At a later time the connection with GSQ was severed and we became the "Gold Coast & Albert Genealogy Society Inc" in our own right, bravely standing alone and independent. The Society later changed its name once more to the current "Gold Coast Family History Society".

As the membership grew and the library increased its holdings of both books, films and fiche, the Society moved from Thelma Rootes' garage to premises in the original Gold Coast Library building in Lawson Street. I remember attending there and searching the ever so important International Genealogical Index (IGI) for family births, deaths and marriages of UK

ancestors. The Lawson Street premises were extremely cramped and soon became inadequate. The Society then moved to premises in Christine Ave, Miami before finally becoming a permanent fixture on the first floor at the current location of what was then the ex-Nerang Council Chambers. I remember the Committee being very excited as there was a large, walk-in fireproof lockable safe to house all our records thus assuring their safety from theft and fire. The Society, following further growth, eventually relocated downstairs to the current rooms.

I remember after a day's work in Southport, attending as a Thursday night Library Assistant for a couple of years. Don??? was in charge and we spent many a happy night assisting members with their research. Since those early days back in 1979 the "Gold Coast Family History Society" has gone from a branch society of GSQ to an independent Society in its own right, growing substantially over the years and going from strength to strength.

I wish the Society another 40 years of growth and success.

Ann Fitzgerald Member No. 36 – joined 1984



DISCOVER DNA

The Society has introduced a DNA Information Self-Help Group monthly and the first one, held on 23 June was very well attended. Fay Carbis began with an overview and provided a handout containing web links and steps to walk through the process. This will enable members to grasp the concept gradually, bounce info off each other and develop a deeper understanding of DNA. The amount of scientific jargon associated with genetics can be intimidating. Having a DNA test offers us another research tool. Does our DNA test confirm conclusions drawn from more traditional genealogical research techniques, and can it fill in the gaps?



While ethnicity estimates ignite attention the most useful component of your DNA test results is your match list which connects you to others who are also descended from your ancestors. Communication with your closer genetic matches is likely to reveal additional information to help complete your family tree. Consider targeted testing of your known relatives to better achieve your research goals.

In order to construct a testing plan you need to have a specific research subject and clear objective. Focus on a single ancestor and set a

goal. Find out more at our next Mini-Seminar.

Helen Smith will speak on DNA at the Mini-Seminar on 21 September. The specifics of her talk relate to Gedmatch Genesis and developing a DNA Research Plan.

Developing a DNA Research Plan and Organising Results

Having a plan and being organised is necessary in any genealogical research and DNA testing is no exception. Determining the question, the DNA test most appropriate for the problem, analysing the results are all necessary steps for any DNA research whether looking for unknown parentage or to determine where an unknown match may fit into your family.

GedMatch

GEDmatch is a powerful third party tool that can be used in addition (not instead of) the tools already available at your DNA testing company site for analysing autosomal DNA results. It accepts DNA result uploads from many different companies so is a chance to compare cousin results across companies.

Margaret Deacon

AN INTERESTING HEADSTONE

by
Dawn Hutchinson

You never know when or where you will learn something new which will change a historical fact that you remember learning from your school days. While on a visit to England we were driving through the beautiful county of Devon when we came across the small village of Worth Maltravers nestled on the cliffs west of Swanage. Here the limestone cottages and farmhouses have been built around a central pond beside which we sat on an ancient stone bench and admired this quaint little town.

Churchyards always intrigue me and it was here that we found the grave of **Benjamin Jesty** with a very interesting epitaph. This Devon village is very proud to be the final resting place of a man, a simple farmer, who was not given the credit for his discovery.

Sacred.

To The Memory

of

BENJAMIN JESTY of Downshay

who departed this Life

April 16th 1816

aged 79 years

He was born in Yetminster in this
County and was an upright honest
man particularly noted for having
been the first Person (known) that
introduced the Cow Pox

by inoculation, and who from
his great strength of mind made
the Experiment from the (Cow) on
his Wife and two Sons in the Year 1774

After reading this epitaph I decided to look further into the claim that **Benjamin** was the first to discover a vaccine for the dreaded disease small pox. I remember learning at school that **Edward Jenner** was credited with the small pox vaccine. Who actually was the first discoverer?

As Benjamin Jesty dealt in cattle, he had previously had cow pox but found that milkmaids who had had that disease appeared to be immune to smallpox, which, during the eighteenth century was widespread throughout England.

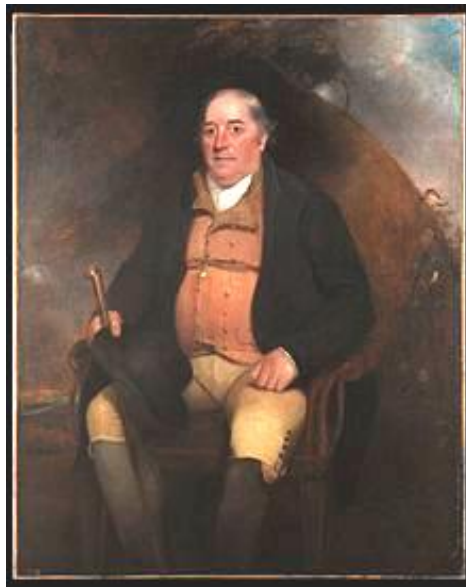
To prove his theory he decided to use his wife and two small sons as guinea pigs trusting that his idea would be a success. He injected them with matter from a cow pox lesion on one of his cows. His theory appeared to work as all survived and his method was used widely in country areas.

This experiment, 22 years before **Edward Jenner** was given the credit for the discovery of small pox vaccine, seems to prove it was discovered much earlier, in fact in 1774 by the Devon farmer, **Benjamin Jesty**

Benjamin Jesty died in Worth Maltravers on 16 April 1816 and is buried in a prominent position in the parish churchyard. His widow, Elizabeth, died on 8 January 1824 and was buried alongside him. Both headstones are listed structures, primarily due to their historic interest

Having seen his grave and reading the epitaph, I now attribute that he was the first person to discover a vaccine for smallpox, a dreaded disease of that time. It certainly pays to keep your eyes open when travelling through the small villages of England as there is so much history to be found in this far off land.

Dawn Hutchinson – dawnmh@bigpond.com



Benjamin Jesty 1737-1816

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOLD COAST & ALBERT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC. JULY 6TH 1990.

Welcome to the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Gold Coast & Albert Genealogical Society Inc.

The past 12 months have been a time of great change for the Society. After two very well attended Special Meetings and much discussion at both of these, a unanimous decision was made to disassociate from the Genealogical Society of Queensland and adopt a new constitution.

This decision was not a frivolous or light hearted one as all concerned realised the amount of extra effort that would be needed, from both the Committee and general members, to establish ourselves as an autonomous body.

Throughout ten year association with the Genealogical Society of Queensland, the branch has grown from strength to strength and the time had come to go our own way in order to meet the demands that increased membership was placing on us.

We were fortunate to have come to our aid, in a legal sense, Mr John Brady, who advised and assisted the Management Committee with the amendments necessary to our constitution and the lodgement of forms to the Justice Department. He also took many calls from us to answer questions we had with respect to correct procedures to complete our task.

As of the 26th February 1990, our club ceased to be a branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland and became officially recognised as the Gold Coast & Albert Genealogical Society Inc. The legalities of this change having been duly attended to, it was now time to resume our normal activities.

FINANCE: As of the 30th June 1990 our bank balance stands at \$3065.23. In May of this year we increased our Investment Account from \$707.67 to \$1000.00. Funds have been raised through membership fees, seminars, raffles, library fees, donations, sales and tea money.

MEMBERSHIP: As of the 26th February 1990 our membership was 65 single and 18 family memberships. As of 30 June that has increased to 154 single and 28 family.

LIBRARY: Even though our librarian, Joan Bessell was hampered in the first half of the year due to inadequate funds being made available she still managed to add to our shelves many new items, including the Queensland BD&M indexes 1885-1899, NSW Depositors' Journal Index, the Musters of NSW & Norfolk Island 1805-1806, Catholics of NSW and Their Families 1788-1820, Toowong Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions and many more.

From 1st July 1989 – 26th February 1990 \$520.29 was spent on purchases. From 27th February – 30th June 1990 \$865.85 was spent on purchases giving a total spent of \$1376.14.

Margaret Shand continues her task of indexing our ancestor charts and Heather Wort has been doing a wonderful job with book covering as well as her collecting and compiling of various newspaper clippings. Several members have been assisting Heather with both these tasks and the Committee is very grateful for their efforts.

Some of our members have continued to donate books, magazines, pamphlets etc for our library and these additions are always welcome.

As in any facility such as ours there will always be the risk of things being 'borrowed' unofficially. We are unfortunately, no exception. It appears to be a fact of life these days.

Our rooms are open for a total of 70 hours per month and throughout the year 1533 visits to the room have been made by members and non members.

Those members who give so generously of their time to make sure the rooms are open deserve a special mention. Without members such as these we would not be able to continue. I urge those of you who may be able to spare some time to consider being a volunteer.

The Society also continues its volunteer work with the Southport Library each Monday to assist members of the public with the IGI and Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages as well as Queensland PO Directories and Shipping Indexes. The work of these volunteers is very much appreciated by the Southport Library as well as by the Management Committee.

JOURNAL: In November 1989 we changed from newsletter format to that of a journal and have subsequently applied to the National Library of Australia for an ISSN number. This was granted in May of this year. Our original name for the newsletter, *Rootes*, has been continued through to the journal and for the benefit of members it will, from September on, be sent out by post. Heather Wort had this responsibility of seeing the new format set in operation but since then that task has been undertaken by Diana Platz. Diana and the journal sub-committee work very hard to get your journal out to you each quarter and as we now exchange more and more with other Genealogical and Family History Societies, not only in Australia but overseas, it is in your own best interest as members to supply our journal committee with items for publication and your areas of research. You never know where that elusive information you have been seeking may be hiding. I know that the journal committee is anxious to build up a file of items that they can use, so please, don't be shy; help them out as much as possible.

Heather Hills, President

**South Australian Record and Australasian and South African Chronicle
(SA : 1840 - 1841), Saturday 30 May 1840, page 7**

LETTERS FROM ADELAIDE No. VI.

[A letter lately received from John Holman, addressed to his father, Richard Holman, Southpetherwin, near Launceston, Cornwall.]

South Australia, Oct. 20, 1839. Dear Parents, — This comes with my duty, &c.— (Then giving a description of the voyage, he says,) — September 17, four o'clock, we reached the promised land; everything appeared to gratify, and it presented itself as we were told before we left home.

Hundreds and thousands of acres, uninhabited, looking green as a wheat-field in May, with some clumps of trees, and the ranging hills covered with timber. In going up the creek to Port Adelaide we saw all kinds of beautiful shrubs as ever eye beheld, which would be admired by your gentlemen in England. Wild geese, duck, quail, and many sorts else. It was a joyful day to me, after being 19 weeks and four days on the water.

We landed at Port Adelaide without wetting our feet, with all our things safe. Bullock carts and horse carts came galloping over the plain to meet us. My baggage, Mary, and four children were drawn by a cart and two horses to Emigration square, where we have a house to live in for a little while before we can suit ourselves with another; one week's provisions, 21 lbs. of flour, 12 beef and pork, 1/2 tea, 2 sugar, pint and half vinegar, all free of expense, not as some of you tried to persuade me, that we should have to pay for it; they do not require a single farthing of me. I am under no bondage whatever; there is no one to keep me if I like to come home again, or go to any other colony. Thank God I am very well pleased where I am: I am freer than when I was in England.

There were five children died on the passage, and eight born; all the women do well. We are happy to tell you that Mary and me find almost everything to our expectations; and all we repent is that we had not come here two years before. I am but a youngster in the colony, yet, if please God I have my health, and things turn out to my expectations, we would not be back to Southpetherwin for 500 pounds.

I went to work with Thomas Scown five days after I landed, at 12s. per day. He keeps six bricklayers, a plasterer, and three or four carpenters. He is in connection with a gentleman in a brick-yard; they burn about 200,000 a-month; he has three fine cart horses and a good hackney, a very good house

and garden, and has bought several pieces of land. [This man referred to is from Launceston].

I work now for two masters, who have the government works; they have 60 carpenters and more than 100 tradesmen altogether. The Governor's new house is finished; we are now building storehouses and offices. Wages: carpenters, from 12s. to 14s. a-day; bricklayers, plasterers, and stone-cutters, from 12s. to 13s.; building masons from 10s. to 11s.; labourers, 7s. to 8s.; the lowest wages I know given to any working man is 21. 2s. per week, and paid every Saturday evening at four o'clock.

Flour has been dear, but is now on the drop. There are plenty of good shops of all descriptions; you can buy anything here for money, as well as in any town in England. We have had a fine dropping spring, and the English wheat looks well in the colony; we hope for a good harvest in about six weeks. Our harvest here is in the beginning of summer, or towards the middle (not as yours, at the latter end), owing to the mild winters. We have just sown the Indian wheat. Potatoes, 3d. per lb., turnips 1 1/2d. each, salt pork 9d., fresh mutton and beef 10d. to 1s. We have plenty of good rice at 2 1/2d. per lb., tea 3s. 6d., coffee 1s. 6d.

We want a plenty of agricultural labourers; in sheep-shearing and cutting grass they can get 20s. per day. I have bought a piece of land, 23 feet front and 60 feet back. The town land is very dear, but you can buy country land for 20s. per acre, all fit for the plough. We want some of your English farmers, with money. There are no rates or taxes, no tithes, nothing but labour to pay. Dear Thomas, if you will take the advice of a brother and a friend, and one that wishes your welfare, come over to me as soon as possibly you can. (Here follow some family directions.)

We have got a fine Methodist chapel, and a church, and all sorts of religion, as in England. Richard and Charlotte go to Sunday school. The natives are quite harmless; there is now one at my door talking with me; they can talk English.

Give my kind love to all inquiring friends. Cattle here are plenty; the oxen are very fine; the horses much the same stamp as in England.

—From your's, &c. JOHN HOLMAN.

Thanks to Brian Hallam for sending his ancestor's letter. He was certainly full of praise for his new country and no doubt with his attitude, he would have had a successful life in South Australia.

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\$45 a year gives you \$3,200 value p.a.

Our Society subscribes to a very large number of genealogical subscription sites:

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British Newspaper Archives	Australian Biographical Database
The Genealogist	

These cost the Society about \$3,200 per annum.

You may not have used all of these sites yet, but they are readily available on the internet computers in our rooms - all for the cost of membership to our Society at \$45 per year. That is incredible value and difficult to find elsewhere. Very few family history organisations offer as many subscriptions to their members.

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If you are a member, make time to come to the rooms and avail yourself of the data we give you access to and the help we offer you. See you soon.

AUSTRALIAN WWII RECORDS TO BE DIGITISED

**As reported by Gould Genealogy
by Alona Tester on 1st May 2019**

Big news from the Australian government is that it they have just announced that it will digitise Australia's World War Two records of service men and women, as part of a new program that is 'focused on recognising the service of our veterans'.

In a joint release from Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester, the pair said that the 'digital records will make them easier to access so Australians can discover the as yet untold stories of their relatives and how they defended our nation during times of war'.

About 80 per cent of the 1,062,000 WWII service records are yet to be digitised in the [National Archives of Australia](#), and with next year marking the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, the government said that it wanted 'to ensure Australians can remember and understand the service and sacrifice of those who came before us'.

The digitised records will be freely available to all Australians, and will provide a 'comprehensive source of information' for students, journalists, authors, academics and families interested in knowing about the services of the Australian Defence Force.

The release also announced the rollout of the second stage of the [ANZAC 360 app](#), which will focus on key Second World War battles and campaigns in south-east Asia, using virtual reality and 360-degree drone technology, as well as undertaking scoping studies to develop a new 'interpretive' facility near the Bomana Commonwealth War Cemetery in Port Moresby and to replace ageing facilities at Sandakan Memorial Park in Malaysia.

Gay Eunson eunson5253@optusnet.com.au



LEST WE FORGET

**PIANO MAKER'S APPRENTICE
TO SANDPAPER INVENTOR
BY
BEVERLEY DWYER**

No doubt you use sandpaper when you do some home renovations. Do you know who invented it? Do you know that its origins are to do with pianos? Friend (and Society member) Elizabeth Pike had inveigled me into doing some research on her **Oakey** family which I duly carried out. She mentioned that her aunt had insisted that one John Oakey had invented sandpaper. Elizabeth's direct ancestor was John Oakey but he wasn't that person.



In the 1839 London directory I found the following entries:

John Oakey Glass paper maker 34 Manor Place Walworth
John Oakey Music Master 33 Manor Place Walworth

The music master was Elizabeth's ancestor. It made sense that the other John Oakey was related in some way and could glass paper maker be something to do with sandpaper?

Mr. Google revealed so much information about the inventor of sandpaper and what a revelation. It is quite amazing how inventions evolve.

John Oakey was apprenticed to the Piano manufacturing trade. The firm in which he earned his living made their own "Sandpaper" for the Woodworking Shop and it was part of his apprenticeship to perform this task. Taking pages from old ledgers, he would coat them in glue, subsequently sifting sand or powdered glass over them. After acquiring a detailed understanding of the processes that made these compounds bond firmly, he opened his own business.

Originally, the process of making glass paper and emery cloth was carried out by hand, requiring a five year apprenticeship. Paper was carefully and evenly pasted with hot animal glue and then allowed to cool slightly so that it became tacky. At precisely the right moment the abrasive powder was sprinkled on, taking care to get an even coating. The coated paper was then

reheated to soften the glue, allowing the abrasive to sink, creating an even stronger bond. After cooling, the paper was cut to size by hand.

Over time Oakey mechanised this process using machines that he invented and patented. Mechanisation enabled larger sizes of paper and cloth to be handled and rolls of 50 yards by 48 inches were common. Waterproof papers and cloths required a slightly different process which he kept secret for many years.

John was born 1 April 1813 and baptized 30 May 1813 at Hoxton Academy Chapel (a non-conformist church). His parents were Joseph Oakey and Eve Bunting. Joseph was a piano maker and it is very likely that John served his apprenticeship under his father.

Elizabeth Pike's John Oakey had been born in 1755 at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire and I wondered if Joseph Oakey could be a brother. I located the baptism for a Joseph on 3 April 1752 at St Mary's, Hitchin, Hertfordshire with the same parents as John (John and Ann).

Therefore it would seem that the sandpaper inventor was the nephew of Elizabeth's John Oakey. The information was confirmed when I located the will of their father who died in 1831 in which it mentioned his son, John and his late son, Joseph (he died in 1829).

In 1850 John was established with a Mill and large factory in the Blackfriars Bridge Road. As always, quality was his watchword and the Blue-black Emery Cloth gained high praise. Emery grain went to the Engineers and the coarse Emery to the Rice Milling countries.

He also started the famous "Wellington Knife Polish" for use on knife boards, following with Black Lead and later other polishes for the domestic household.



So next time you traipse off to Bunnings to buy some sandpaper you will know its origins.

The following article appeared in the June 1990 issue of Rootes and was by Anne Hrabanek. The incident was rather intriguing so I followed on from it. Beverley Dwyer – Editor.

ENTRY IN PARISH REGISTER AT GODALMING

When searing parish registers one occasionally comes across a rather puzzling entry. This one is from the baptismal register of Godalming parish in Surrey, England.

1727/28 February, the 4th day. Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua Toft and Mary his wife, being ye first child after her pretending Rabett breeding.

You may wonder what on each had been going on! Joshua Toft was a journeyman cloth worker. His wife, Mary claimed that, after being startled by a rabbit while weeding in a field she had given birth to several hundred rabbits! Her story caused a sensation at the time and women were reluctant to eat rabbit.

Mary and some of her rabbit offspring were taken to the nearby town of Guildford where they were examined by Dr St Andre, surgeon to King George I. Incredibly, not only did he believe her story, but he published a tract setting out his reasons for so doing!

Controversy over the affair raged for a long time. More tracts, were published and many eminent clergy and physicians joined in the argument. Finally Queen Caroline stepped in and ordered Dr Cheselden to investigate the matter.

Fortunately for future family historians, he found it to be a complete fraud and Mary Toft was sent to Bridewell Prison.

After her release from Bridewell, Mary returned to Godalming and, apart from a short spell in Guildford Goal in 1740 for receiving stolen goods, lived there until her death in 1763.

Anne Hrabanek's ancestors on her mother's side came from Godalming but she did not find a connection to the notorious Mary. However when her great x 3 grandparents married in 1775 one witness was William Toft. Was he a relation?

A Google search revealed an enormous amount of information about "the rabbit woman" and even many sketches, some quite incredible. It is amazing how people were taken in by the story but of course at that time people

believed in witches and more. Shown below is one of the sketches which circulated during that time.



Mary Toft managed to trick doctors into believing that she had given birth to rabbits. Mary did this by shoving the rabbits up her vagina before pushing them out and 'birthing' them.

weird-facts.org

[@factsweird](https://twitter.com/factsweird)

The case against Mary Toft was dismissed, not for lack of proof of guilt, but probably because of the further embarrassment to the establishment, as there were some very prominent people involved. She spent a few months in jail then returned to relative obscurity. In the years that followed the scandal, The Duke of Richmond who had a residence near Godalming, sometimes showed her at dinner parties for the curiosity of his guests.

She died on 13th January 1763. The London papers' obituary columns announced her death alongside those of peers and statesmen.

NEW ACQUISITIONS - BOOKS					
Field2	Field3	Field4	Field5	Field6	Donation
310/DAV	From A Little Acorn. History and genealogy of the Davis family of Gounyan	Book	Margaret	Collins	Yes
A554	Ship of Courage. The Epic story of HMAS Perth and her crew	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
C347/710	The Barraba & District Hospital 1891 - 1991	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
C478/790	Object of the Story. Reflection on Place (Ballina area)	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
C545	Orphans of History. The Forgotten Children of the First Fleet (Loan copy)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
E000/710	Brisbane Australia's New World City: History of the old Town Hall, City Hall, City Council 1985-2013	Book	Patricia	Mackenzie	Yes
E064/710	Padd Paddo Paddington. An oral and visual history of early Paddington. Living memories	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
E210	Moreton Bay Reflections	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
E211/790	Sharing the Water Hole: Ngalinga Mulgerri Gwonggubunga the community of the Hinze Dam Catchment	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E215/586	The Magazine of the State High School Southport 1960	Book	Margaret	Huth	Yes
E216/790	Cross-Currents from island to mainland. Gold Coast Indigenous Artist Camp South Stradbroke Island 2015	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	My Story Island Indigenous Artist Camp 2015	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	South Stradbroke Island Artist Camp 2013	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E216/790	Shifting Sands. South Stradbroke Island Indigenous Artist Camp 2016	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E285/580	The World War I Home Front in the Beaudesert District 1914 - 1921	Book	Colleen	Yuke	Yes
E305/580	Ipswich and District Military Memorials	Book		Ipswich GS	Yes
E574/710	Kenilworth Farmers' Assembly Hall to Gheerulla Hall. A long and arduous journey	Book	Gay	Eunson	Yes
G303/710	It was Written. Westbury (Tas.) Places & Personalities Volume 1	Book	Darlene	Scanlan	Yes

NEW ACQUISITIONS - BOOKS					
Field2	Field3	Field4	Field5	Field6	Donation
G320/598	Gateway to Progress. Centenary history of the Marine Board of Burnie	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
M580	The Boer War	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
N700	The Cornkister Days. A Portrait of Land and it's Rituals (Loan copy)	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
NCHS/810	Street Atlas Cheshire incl Macclesfield, Nantwich and Warrington	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
NLAN/710	Southport A History. (Lancashire)	Book	John	Criddle	Yes
NLAN/810	Manchester incl Altringham, Ashton-under-Lynne, Bolton, Bury Oldham, Rochdale, Salford etc., Atlas	Book	Heather	Wort	Yes
NLND/700	The Ghost Map. The story of London's most terrifying epidemic and how it changed science (Loan copy)	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
NYKS/710	Hull as it was	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
P530	Index of Midlothian Censuses 1841 Parish of Cranston	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P530	Index of Midlothian Censuses 1851 Parish of Cranston	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P565	Lands & People of Moray. A Moray Miscellany (Loan copy)	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P565	Lands & People of Moray. Mortcloth dues & misc., death records Spynie, Drainie, St Andrews-Lhanbryde	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
P710	The Cheerful Vale. Exploring the Past of Balnagask, Tullois and Torry	Book	Margaret	Shand	Yes
PRECS:0204	The Story of Australia. Past and Present. In Pen and Picture Vol 4 Developing a Continent (1925)	Book	Margaret	Bruhn	Yes
R310	West Limerick Families Abroad. A study of the Irish who left West Limerick and travelled the globe.	Book	Ann	Metcher	Yes
S/830	Euro Atlas Europe Road Atlas	Book	A	Taylor	Yes
SFRA/830	Michelin Atlas Routier France 2008	Book	A	Taylor	Yes
SHUN/830	Euro Atlas Hungary	Book	A	Taylor	Yes

CD ROMS AND MAPS					
Title	Media	SourceF Name	SourceLName	Donation	
Index to Court Records 1844-1850, Bathurst Court Circuit Supreme Court Jurisdiction Information	CDROM		Teapot Genealogy	No	
Joan Reese's NSW Colonial Secretary's In Letters index 1826-1895,	CDROM	Aileen	Trinder	No	
Wyong Cemeteries Yarramalong, St Barnabas, Ronkana, Jiliby, Noraville	CDROM		Wyong FHG	No	
Steven & Bartholomew's New Zealand Directory 1866-67	CDROM		Anon	Yes	
ShelfNo	Title	Media	SourceFName	SourceLName	Donation
T830F	Rand McNally British Columbia, Canada Provincial Map	Folded map	Ann	Metcher	Yes

IDENTIFYING WITCHES

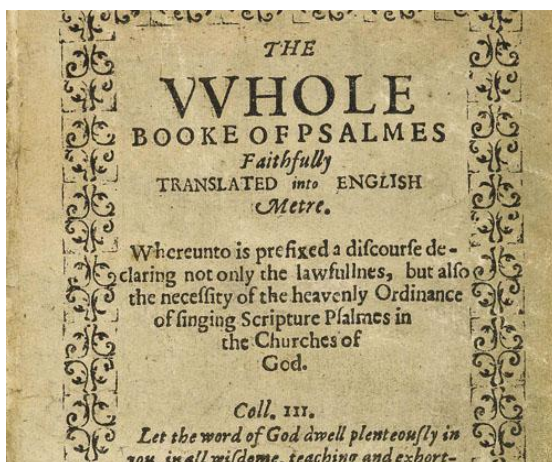
In medieval times until the early 18th century ducking was a way used to establish whether a suspect was a witch. The ducking stools were first used for this purpose but ducking was later inflicted without the chair. In this instance the victim's right thumb was bound to her left big toe. A rope was attached to her waist and the "witch" was thrown into a river or deep pond. If the "witch" floated it was deemed that she was in league with the devil, rejecting the "baptismal water". If the "witch" sank she was retrieved before drowning.



THE 23rd PSALM FOR GENEALOGISTS

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray
 It maketh me to lie down and examine headstones,
 It leadeth me into still courthouses.
 It restoreth my Ancestral knowledge,
 It leadeth me into the path of census records and
 ship's passenger lists for my surnames sake,
 Yea, though I walk through the shadows of
 research libraries and microfilm readers
 I shall feel no discouragement
 for a strong urge is within me.
 The curiosity and motivation, they comfort me.
 It dependeth preparation of storage space for the
 acquisition of countless documents.
 It anointed my head with midnight oil.
 My family group sheets runneth over.
 Surely, birth, marriage and death dates shall follow
 all the days of my life
 and I shall dwell in the house of a family history-seeker
 forever.

Author unknown



HISTORY OF THE MISSING DAYS

September was the month during which England shifted from the Roman Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. A Julian year was 11 days longer than a Gregorian year. So the King of England ordered 11 days to be wiped off the face of that particular month. Consequently the workers worked for 11 days less that month, but got paid for the whole month.

In the Roman Julian Calendar, April used to be the first month of the year, but the Gregorian Calendar observed January as the first month. Even after shifting to the Gregorian Calendar, many people refused to give up old traditions and continued celebrating 1st April as the New Year's Day. When simple orders didn't work, the King finally issued a royal dictum, which stated that those who celebrated 1st April as the New Year's Day would be labeled as fools. Hence April Fool's Day.

And so, with that act of Parliament, Britain (and its colonies) joined most of the rest of Europe in using the Gregorian calendar. September 3 through September 13 was skipped altogether for 1752 and life went on. There was little backlash from the public.

Britain wasn't the last holdout for the new form of calendar, either. Russia didn't change over until 1918. Greece refused to switch until 1923. By then the synchronization had become so bad that the two countries needed to skip 13 days rather than 11. It's one of the only ways that people can skip forward in time until we invent the time machine.

CALENDAR 1752						
SEPTEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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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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