

Footsteps



**Port Macquarie & Districts
Family History Society Inc.**

SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS

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Vice-Pres: Alastair Moss.....
Treasurer: Clive Smith treasurer@pmdfhs.org.au
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AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY ~ 2021–2022

Acquisitions/Archives..... Clive Smith
Find a Grave..... Carol Smallman
Footsteps Narelle Milligan
General Meetings Roster..... Dawn Stephens
InfoEmail..... Diane Gillespie/Jennifer Mullin
Journals..... Alastair Moss/Greg Hearne
Library Assistant..... Pauline Hincksman
Library Roster..... Janet Brown
Membership/Minutes..... Jennifer Mullin
Museum Heritage Group..... Diane Gillespie
NSW & ACT Association – Delegate..... Clive Smith
Public Officer..... Clive Smith
Publicity/Facebook..... Pauline Every
Research Co-Ordinator Trysha Hanly
Ryerson Index Transcribers..... Kay and Terry Browne
Social Coordinator..... Jennifer Mullin
Website Sue Brindley
Welfare..... Yvonne Toomey

SUPPORT GROUPS

Convict Studies Group..... Clive Smith
DNA Support Group..... Ken Hunt/Pauline Every
Family Search..... Robyn Denley
Research Support Group..... Clive Smith
Writers' Group..... Diane Gillespie

CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATOR

Port Macquarie Rate Books..... Rex Toomey

Life Members: Terry Browne, Kay Browne

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cover photo: *Courtesy of Douglas Vale collection. Photo taken in the 1930s of members of the Dick and McLaren families in their Cricket Club on the North Shore. Port Macquarie 2444. The sign is over the door.*

NEW MEMBER APOLOGY

An apology is due to Evelyn Parr who I announced as “Yvonne” in the last Footsteps. Welcome Evelyn and please accept my apology in making the worst error in Family History –getting names wrong. Jennifer Mullin.

A warm welcome is extended to Margaret **Hill** from Port Macquarie and Teresa **Byrne** from Kambah, ACT.
We hope you enjoy your association with our Society, and you will benefit from the resources, meetings and workshops available.



PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Diane Gillespie

It is the beginning of a new year for Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society. Let us hope this year we see a decrease in the effects of the pandemic we have been enduring for the past two years. Covid-19 has had ramifications on the activities of the Society for the past couple of years, but we have adapted by using technology in the form of Zoom and virtual or hybrid meetings to maintain connections with our members and the broader genealogical world. We were also able to present the first virtual conference for NSWACT Association last September.

Some of our members have been missing the social contact for which PMDFHS is renowned but we are managing to gather in small groups or restrict the numbers at CC MacAdams trying to maintain contact but minimise the likelihood of transmitting the virus. I hope that we will be able to have a few more social gatherings over the next few months.

Like last year, Roots Tech will again be a virtual event. It is also free once again and speakers from all over the world have been recruited to present talks on a very broad range of subjects from DNA to traditional research methods, military records, parish records and recent datasets that have recently been released etc. There should be something for all family historians and I recommend registering for the event, which will occur from 3 – 5 March 2022. The latest media release contains the name of the first keynote speaker. The organisers have been working on the presentation and access for the past twelve months to ensure attendees will benefit from their experiences at Roots Tech.

The 1921 Census for England has been released through FindMyPast and though there is a fee to view the transcripts I am hearing some wonderful feedback about recent finds. The clarity is very pleasing and there is now a way of correcting the transcripts that will provide feedback to the transcribers.

Planning for this year for PMDFHS is currently underway but like the plans of mice and men, we will have to maintain flexibility until the pandemic lessens. Unlike some other family history groups, we have been able to continue to offer meetings throughout last year. I am grateful for the expertise of Clive Smith and others who have embraced the use of cameras, green screens, and directional microphones to bring the meetings into the homes of our members and others through NSW Association of Family History Societies. Members can be assured that our meetings and Support Groups will continue this year, either in person or via Zoom. If you need assistance using Zoom it can be arranged.

At our February general meeting this year we are hosting Shauna **Hicks**, via Zoom. Her topic of “Finding Grandpa” has evoked quite a bit of discussion among members, especially those who have a ‘brick wall’. I’m sure we all hoping to gain a few tips and tricks to find that elusive ancestor who is probably hiding in plain sight.

I invite all members to have a say in the future of our Society. If there is a subject or area of research about which you would like more information, please suggest a speaker who may be able to address this need.

I have been enjoying this Christmas break. I have tidied a few of my lines and found my paternal 4 x great grandmother’s maiden name. Don’t ever give up!

FROM THE EDITOR

Narelle Milligan

For the first edition of the year writers place emphasis on finding our grandparents, not only through research but through memories and oral history. We thank the contributors and proof-readers with a special mention to our Research Officer whose painstaking efforts produce results.

The front cover reflects the Australian Ashes win and acknowledges the history of our cricket history. The game has touched many of our families and has produced champions. Yet, ball and bat skills have been developed in our backyards and many of us know the story of Sir Donald Bradman as a child, hitting a ball against the water tank to quicken his reflexes. The article by our President, Diane Gillespie captures the essence of generational change. As we head through another year of change and turmoil, I remind readers that the next Journal has a theme of 'Farming.' This encompasses battle stories on the land, changes in agricultural machinery (Do you know how the expression 'It's a Furphy' began?) and techniques. We welcome other stories as well.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Trysha Hanly

In my early days of researching my family history, I was trying to find information about my great grandmother who Dad knew as Polly **Layton** nee **Carter** who was born in Ireland. I had a set of 1881 census CD's (remember those days?) and set about looking for her. I hit a brick wall when I couldn't find anyone under Carter or Layton with a given name of Polly. What I didn't know was that Polly was often used as a nickname for Mary and for Margaret. Years later, I discovered that she was not born in Ireland, but in Southwark, London and her father's name was **McCarthy**, and he was born in Clerkenwell, Middlesex. I couldn't convince my dad that her given names were Mary Ann – he had only ever known her as Polly and moreover, she made great cakes which he very much enjoyed as a youngster. I came across a similar name anomaly when researching my husband David's tree. When asked to name his father's siblings, so I could research his family, David listed Rita, Eileen, Dan, Bede, Mick, and Vaughan. When I presented him with my results, he was sure I had got them all wrong because I had located records for Mary Eileen Hanly, Margaret Veronica Hanly, Laurance Bede Hanly, Joseph Maurice Hanly, Thomas Daniel and Leo Denis Vaughan Hanly. David was surprised that names they were known by had absolutely nothing to do with the first names on their birth certificates. (Of course, he now loves to tell that story to his cousins).

Isn't family history fun... and confusing and challenging!



Mary Ann May/Mae Anna Maria

Mitzi Molly Polly Mamie

MYSTERY MAN

Trysha Hanly

Don't you just love oral family history – and don't the family become peeved when the facts contradict the family grapevine stories.

My grandmother told our family that her father Alfred **Layton** was a fisherman who owned a fleet of fishing boats at Lowestoft on the east coast of England, near Yarmouth and that his father before him was also fisherman.

Despite researching fishermen in that area, including the Lowestoft Maritime Museum, and contacting others researching the same family, there have been no records to confirm the story. To add to that, my great grandfather's own father is unknown. He and his two siblings were children of Mary Layton (unmarried) who was the daughter of a Trinity Pilot, so perhaps there were sailors in the lineage, just not fishermen.

Great grandfather Alfred Layton **was** involved with boats, but as a stevedore on London Docks (shown on the birth certificates of my grandmother and her sister, and in the 1891 and 1911 Census returns).

My dad did not believe the facts and when I was helping him write his autobiography, he insisted the fishing fleet story remained in.

There are some other mysteries involving my great grandfather – can't find his birth, he was a widow when he married my great grandmother, and I can't locate his first wife. Not surprisingly, many trees on Ancestry have a wrong spouse for Alfred and therefore a wrong mother for my grandmother and her sister



Alfred Layton in about 1905

Alfred Layton and his wife Mary Ann “Polly”
in about 1924

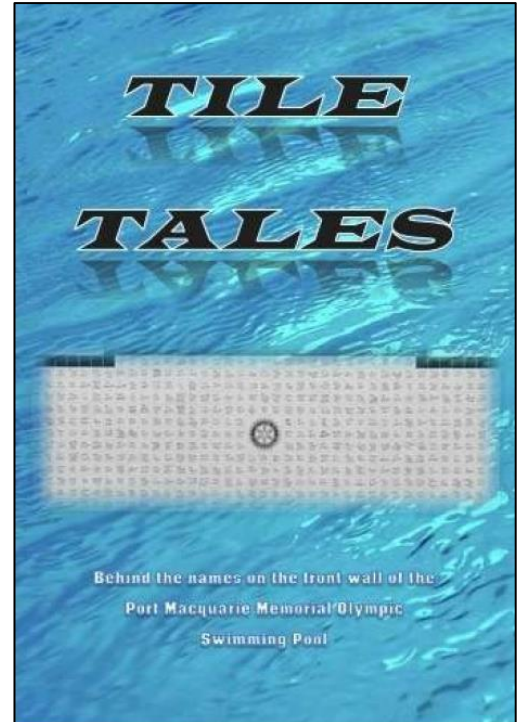


TILE TALES – 10 YEARS LATER

Rex Toomey

It is hard to believe that just over ten years ago, Yvonne and I commenced work on *Tile Tales* for the society. Little did we know then how much time and effort would be required before the book was finally published. Whilst Yvonne took on the key role of editor, the work was undertaken, by many, many other dedicated people both inside and outside of our society, who saw the project as a most worthwhile endeavour.

The book was officially launched three and a half years ago on 2nd July 2018 at the CC Mac Adams Music Centre. Despite it being a cold and wet Monday afternoon, there were over 50 people in attendance. Publication of the book was also well supported by the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.



Behind the book lies the story of how in 1965, ceramic tiles were sold to support Rotary in raising money towards the building of the amenities block for the new Port Macquarie War Memorial Swimming Pool in Gordon Street.

Each tile was sold for £5, and they were purchased by residents, business representatives and owners, service, and sporting clubs, and even visitors to Port Macquarie. All the tiles contained the name(s) of each purchaser, and they were made into a mosaic which was then placed on the outside wall of the amenities block and facing Gordon Street (still there today).

There are 493 tiles in total and from those were written 375 individual stories about local pioneering families, modern families, local trades, businesses (past and present), sporting and community groups and local icons.

At the time, the publication of this book by our society was a monumental undertaking. It had a hard cover, weighed over 2kg, contained 752 glossy pages, had over 600 black and white photographs and included a 20-page index of nearly 12,000 names. A full review by Clive Smith may be found in the November 2018 edition of Footsteps.

The society is pleased to announce that most copies of *Tile Tales* have been sold and there are only 60 copies left. Therefore, this may be your last chance to obtain a copy as it will NOT be re-published. You may like to consider purchasing *Tile Tales* for a family member or as a gift. Contact the Secretary for details on how to obtain a copy whilst stocks last.

I have been checking Find-a-Grave for a few years now, for the PMDFHS. I am competing with another person who does Innes Gardens, but that's ok, if they get done.

Has anyone used Find-a-Grave?

Instead of travelling around the countryside to towns where we have relatives interred you can now put a request into Find a Grave by email. Most likely, there is a member in that area, like me, who receives emails from 'Find a Grave' saying they have had a request for a photo of a headstone of a person who has been buried in a cemetery nearby.

Most cemeteries that are Local Government owned have an index of all people who are buried or cremated there.

My role is to locate and photograph that headstone. I download the photo onto the computer and enter the Local Government area for which I have volunteered. I use the index number to find the grave with all the details then click and drop the photo into the appropriate spot on the page. The person who had originally requested the photo will be notified by 'Find-a-Grave' that their request has been fulfilled.

Port Macquarie Historic Cemetery

My first request was from the Historic Cemetery. It was for **Herbert Edward Cummins**. It got me thinking, "will I have a headstone, or will I have only the bronze plaque with the name inscribed?"

I looked on the index and there was a CUMMINS Albert Edward, with the same dates that were supplied. Hopefully, I first looked in 'The Winding Sheet' and there was an obituary for CUMMINS Herbert Edward. Born 1868. Died 8.9.1871. 3 years, 7 months, and 5 days. Child of **J.R. & M.P. CUMMINS**. There was a little notation of his illness. He had Purpura, which is a blood disease. I located his headstone from the CD we have of photos of all headstones in the area up until 2012.

I was so glad to be able to fulfil this request as there are so few headstones.

In this fledgling town of free settlers, what would people know of these kinds of illnesses? How did the parents cope? Did he have siblings? I've now decided to trace his family.



IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE

***Herbert Edward
Died 8 September 1871
The Beloved Son of
J.R and M.P. Cummins
Aged 3 years & 7 months 5 days***

IRISH MIST (pron. 'myth') –Finding Grandpa

Narelle **Milligan**

I never knew my paternal grandfather as he died shortly after I was born. My grandparents had a large family and as I grew up, I saw some uncles and aunts more frequently than those who lived interstate. However, when I started to compile a Family History, I received the same story from them all: my grandfather was poor, a labourer, Irish and a Catholic who had migrated from Ireland when he was two years of age and spent some time in another state as a young child.

In the late 80s my brother wanted to visit Europe and Britain on a European passport but was unable to obtain enough proof about his/our grandfather. Dates did not seem to match, there was no record in the Irish town he claimed the family came from.

A genealogist was engaged with no results, a cousin visited the Irish town, but the dates gathered from the headstones led nowhere. My brother settled for a British visa and various visas for the countries he visited. The mist around my grandfather was thick.

The Mist starts to lift.

In 2002 the search began and in 2010 was stepped up. The 'forensic four' of the families started their research in a more ordered way and to prevent confusion in the family nicknamed my grandfather 'JP.'

Ancestry was on the scene, libraries had shipping records, Family History societies had lists of local names and the National Library and Archives were used. Hours were spent! Money was also spent on Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates. They contained incorrect information on his marriage and death certificate and his Obituary in the local paper was word for word the myths we heard from our uncles and aunts.

Then the beginning of a breakthrough. My son, unlike the rest of us, researched the Police Gazettes and sent a photo to us, asking us who we thought it looked like – 'JP's'son we all replied. On the record my grandfather's surname was the same, he was born in Ireland, (not true as we were to find out and he had lied to the Police), his religion was 'RC,' but the name of the ship was blank.

I visited the town he lived in during his last years and asked the Historical Society if they could find any records. The volunteer came out giggling from the research room, with a news clipping in her hand, as she knew my aunt from her school days. 'JP' had an alias in the early 1900s and had been sentenced to three years jail in Sydney for stealing his ex-fiancée's savings and burning her clothes on an oval on his way home.

Perhaps he might have received a bond for this first offence, and he pleaded that he'd "never been before a court of law before either as a witness or a principal" but the Sergeant said to the Magistrate that (sic) "some years ago the prisoner had lived inunder the name of Daley, contracted a number of debts and left.

Later, he and a woman had kept a 'shanty' on the Tweed and he and his paramour, having an altercation, the accused burnt her box of clothes."

Further searches involving 'the Tweed' came to a dead end.

The Mist Vanishes

In 2015 my son found another court case in Victoria by using the Police Gazettes. He started his email by saying “This is becoming like a plot from a crime novel.” In the 1800’s my grandfather was charged with larceny and his address and wife’s name were in the Gazette. He had married the daughter of a prominent Public Servant; the ceremony took place in one of Melbourne’s most prestigious Anglican churches (he had put his age up to do so) and had a daughter. This was his first marriage. The cost of living must have difficult on a low wage, and he was charged again with larceny. He fled the State in what is known as ‘The Poor Man’s Divorce.’

Birth, Death and Marriage certificates were bought in a flurry and shared amongst the ‘Forensic Four.’ What did we find? My grandfather was born of an English father, was Anglican, his mother was an Irish servant girl who had met her husband-to-be on the ship from England. They were Assisted Migrants. His parents married, then left Sydney with their young family to follow the gold in Bendigo, Victoria and, in fact became wealthy and well-known citizens of the city they lived in.

We found he was proficient with an axe, had been a miner, a business owner, and a contractor to the NSW government for the supply of timber.

‘Poor’? Well, my grandfather went bankrupt just before he ‘married’ my grandmother in another town in the early 1900s and was rescued by his future father-in-law. The family say he had had great ambitions for their education and, although poor, they had a life rich in books and learning. But that is another story because there were a few minor involvements with the Law to come!

(Some details of names and places have been omitted as my grandfather still has live offspring)

Police Gazettes

Trove

National Archives

National Library of Australia

NSW BDM



Bendigo C1850's

MYSTERY SOLVED

SECOMB FAMILY PHOTO IDENTIFIED

Bill Dawson

For a number of years my late wife, Enid, and I have enjoyed the task of proofreading Footsteps. Since Enid's death in 2020 I have continued in that role.

When the past and present editors handed me the proof copy of the last edition, they drew my attention to a family photo that needed identification. My son, Geoffrey, who was with me at the time, and I thought that we had seen it before.



Photo number 1 as in November Edition

My wife, Enid was born Enid Joyce **Secomb**. She had been studying and recording the history of her family for most of the sixty-four years of our marriage. Her extensive records are still with me. When I looked the next day, I found an original print of the photo. There was a difference. The journal photo has two people missing as its left-hand end has been torn or cut off.

The second photo is 23.5 by 19cm, sepia in colour, with a white paper border, mounted on thick dark brown cardboard, with the notation "**Angus McNeil Kempsey**". It is a photo of William and Annabella **Secomb** and their family.

On its back there are two distinct sets of handwriting as follows

1. *With Compliments from William & Bella Kempsey April 1912*
2. *L to R Norman, Edwin, George, Percy, Otho, & Amy
Front Ellen, Martha, Mr. & Mrs. W Secomb, Mary, Clara,
Alwyn in front.*



Photo number 2 - subsequently found

Enid would have known the person who had given that photo and had written on the back.

Since finding that photo I have located a larger print of it in a glass fronted wooden frame. The frame measures 80 cm by 67cm and hung for many years in William and Annabella's home.

William's marriage to Annabella was his second. His first wife was Sophia **Kesby** and all those standing or sitting were children of that first marriage. Alwyn, the person reclining on the floor, was the only child of the second marriage. He was my Enid's father.

Enid grew up in Wide Street, West Kempsey, in a house next to William and Annabella. She turned five in 1936 when her grandparents both died. She personally knew all those in the photo. She had a remarkable memory and clear insight into the connections of the **Secomb, Halliday, Campbell**, and related families.

William and Annabella were both born at Rollands Plains. Annabella was the daughter of George Halliday and Rosanna Fahy. George was Port Macquarie's first miller. Rosanna was the daughter of **Corporal Michael Fahy**, one time Superintendent of Convicts.

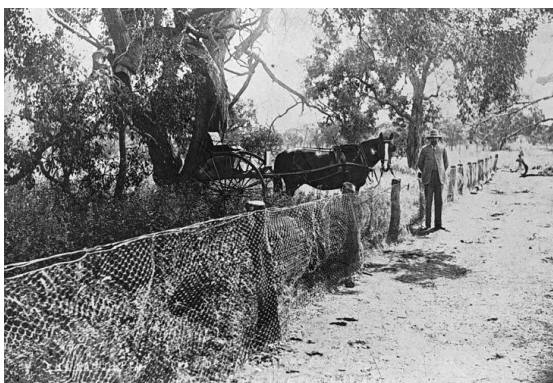
Our house contains furniture and other items Enid inherited from her Secomb and Halliday families. Every day I check the time on the Ansonia Mantel Clock that William gave his first wife in 1877. Enid detailed the clock's history in an article in Footsteps Number 126, February 2013. She wrote it "still keeps reliable time in our home in Port Macquarie." In 2022 it is still ticking away and striking at the passing of each hour.

THE RABBIT-PROOF FENCE OF CARWOOLA

Zoe D'Arcy



In May 1915, Annie Gleeson was travelling along what is now called the Captains Flat Road. Around Wanna Wanna, she came up to a gate across the road. Maybe she was a bit tired that day, or perhaps she had things on her mind, because somehow, she forgot to close the gate behind her.



Rabbit proof fences Australia photos from the internet

This wasn't any old gate – it was part of the rabbit-proof fence that encircled Wanna Wanna and Wanna Wanna's owner, Frederick Powell, had spent a lot of money getting it built,

getting permission for it to include gates across public roads, and getting it certified as properly rabbit-proof. He brought charges against her, and the magistrate ordered her to pay a £5 fine and costs. If she couldn't pay, then she would spend one month in Goulburn Gaol.

There are a couple of things that amazed me when I read about poor Annie's fine in a digitized news article on the National Library's Trove website. First – a gate across a public road? Second – a rabbit-proof fence? Sure, I'd heard about the big (and largely ineffectual) rabbit-proof fences in Western Australia. But here? Within spitting distance of my house? When I found the Wanna Wanna fence (with gates) marked out on a Carwoola parish map



a rabbit proof fence?

that was in use until 1908 I thought I might do some more digging.-----

Rabbits were introduced with the First Fleet, and they first established themselves in feral colonies in Tasmania. In 1859 Thomas Austin infamously imported 24 English wild rabbits into Victoria for breeding and hunting. He is usually credited with the creation of the feral rabbit problem we're still dealing with today, but he may not have been the only guilty party. There is evidence that others in Victoria and South Australia were quietly doing the same thing as Austin. In fact, locally there were attempts made to introduce rabbits during the 1850s by **William Davis** of Ginninderra and **Charles Massey** of Gundaroo. **Samuel Shumack** recalled in his autobiography that these breeding attempts were unsuccessful because of 'native cats' – quolls.

The rabbits spread, and the land suffered. Controlling their numbers proved impossible – despite some quite creative efforts. Frederick Campbell of Yarralumla arranged for over 700 quolls to be trapped from the Queanbeyan and Bungendore regions and sent by rail to Narrandera to see if they might control rabbit numbers there. In 1883, the NSW government passed the Rabbit Nuisance Act. This gave rabbit inspectors the power to enter private lands, inspect for rabbits and to instruct landowners to destroy the rabbits (at their own cost). Despite this, the rabbits continued to spread. Only seven years later the NSW government passed the Rabbit Act of 1890, which put rabbit-proof fencing at the heart of its strategy to control the spread of these pests.

The rabbits hadn't made their way entirely across NSW, at this stage, they were still relatively unknown around the Carwoola area. That was changing, though. In May 1895 Frederick Campbell reported rabbits on his Yarralumla property (was he regretting ridding the district of all those quolls?). Later that same year, the Goulburn Evening Penny Post reported that 'Mr. Cavanough whilst walking about his homestead at Lake George noticed a rabbit run from the gully, and when going in that direction came across its burrow, found a nest of eight young bunnies.' Rabbits were starting to become plentiful in area. By 1901, an article in the Queanbeyan Age stated, 'Rabbits are greatly on the increase throughout this district, causing much anxiety to farmers and pastoralists.' The author of the piece demanded

action. ‘Unless some plan for the destruction of the pest is devised it is feared that the coming crops will be greatly injured by them.’

As you might imagine, there was a whole industry being built around ‘destruction of the pest’, and some historians have speculated that this industry was in part responsible for helping rabbits spread as people saw a chance to make money. Local newspapers ran many advertisements for rabbit-proof fencing supplies, for rabbit traps and poisons. The Gidleigh, Foxlow and Carwoola properties all employed men to dig up burrows.

One Bungendore man, **William Lewis**, dug up human remains in 1911 while trying to destroy a rabbit warren - only a couple miles from Carwoola Church. The local coroner decided that they were those of an Aboriginal man, ignoring Hoskinstown rumours of a shepherd that had mysteriously disappeared after quarrelling with his mate ...

A writer from Captains Flat wrote about the Carwoola property around this time, 'There was not much good grass till the recent rains fell; what there was being old and stale, but now, since the late rains, the aspect has improved, and a coat of verdure crowns the flats and slopes of the hills. Rabbits appear to literally swarm along this valley; it would be difficult to find them thicker anywhere.' Not too long after this was written, Carwoola was bought by **James Maslin**. Years later, he confirmed that when he bought the property it had been in a ‘very wild state ... infested with rabbits.’

In 1902, with rabbits showing no signs of being under control, and calls from farmers getting more strident, the NSW government passed yet another piece of legislation to help contain rabbits. It's this legislation that created district Rabbit Boards. These boards had the power to erect rabbit-proof fences wherever they saw the need – including across public roads – as long as there was a rabbit-proof gate. Good fences were the most effective way farmers had to control rabbit numbers – rabbits couldn't move from their neighbours' farms, and if the farmers worked hard, they could keep on top of the rabbit populations within the fence boundaries.

If you do an online search in Trove of the phrase ‘rabbit-proof gate open’, you begin to realise that the NSW public roads were full of these gates – and for a surprisingly long time. Members of the public were fined for leaving them open, and farmers complained when the gates were not well maintained. Other gates did not work from a road-safety perspective. In 1919, when cars were becoming more common, the Chairman of the Queanbeyan Pastures Board commented in a meeting about rabbit-proof gates, ‘it would be more convenient to the travelling public if gates were erected on level ground. He, himself, had found gates erected on a downhill grade, very awkward, and persons driving vehicles had to tie back their brakes when getting out to open same.’ Tie back his brakes?

So, when and why did these gates disappear from our public roads? Where did the rabbit-proof fences go? Well, the rabbit-proof fences are still around. Look at some of the older fencing with rotting wooden posts around the Carwoola area – you'll see the tell-tale netting of rabbit proofing.



You might even spot some fully netted metal rabbit-proof gates (I've seen at least one), but the gates across public roads? I suspect there were a couple of reasons for their disappearance. First, the rise of the motor car. I saw some references to inventions being trialled in the 1930s that would let motor cars through a fence, but not rabbits; then in the 1950s myxomatosis was introduced to Australia. It had such an immediate impact on rabbit numbers that people, and politicians could easily have thought that rabbits were no longer a problem ... if only that were really the case!

(Ed. Zoe D'Arcy is a former Manager at the National Archives of Australia.)

HISTORICAL NOTE

Kendall, the town 36 kilometres south of Port Macquarie was originally named Camden Heads as it is located at the headquarters of the Camden Haven River. It was renamed Kendall in 1891 after the poet, Henry Kendall (1839 - 1882), who lived in the area from 1875 to 1881, when he was appointed by Sir Henry Parkes as the first Inspector of Forests for NSW.

The Port Macquarie /Hastings area was once heavily timbered and surrounded by forests. It was partly due to the richness of the timber resources in the area that Port Macquarie was chosen for the penal settlement in 1821. However, the thick banksia and ti-tree scrub did not prove to be adequate for the building of the settlement and convict timber-getters were soon working several miles inland. Trees such as blackbutt, tallowwood, turpentine, brush box, cedar, mahogany, and pine were within easy distance.

However, by 1830 when Port Macquarie was open to free settlement, much of the easily accessible and highly prized cedar, had already been cut out by convict gangs – whole houses were built out of cedar, as well as public buildings, fine furniture, packing cases, paling fences, and farm buildings!



Song Of the Cattle Hunters – opening lines

While the morning light beams on the fern-matted streams,
And the water-pools flash in its glow,

SPANNING THE GENERATIONS

Diane Gillespie

As family historians we look to span the generations within our family tree. Obviously, we always move from the 'known' to the 'unknown' and what better way to do that than to tell your grandchildren about your grandparents. In this way we span four generations, establishing ourselves as the lynchpin between the generations as well as time-travelling over the period of a century or more.

Family historians born in the early to mid-twentieth century may have ancestors who lived, loved, and worked in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century. My grandparents were all born in the Edwardian period, that decade between 1901 and 1910 when King Edward VII came to the throne for his very brief reign. They could be considered lucky in some regard as they were mostly too young to enlist in World War (though some raised their age to be part of 'the Great Adventure') and in WW2 they were older than the average 26-year-old who enlisted. Their older brothers, who were born at the end of the Victorian era, bore the brunt of the price paid by families to keep the Empire safe during WW1.



This Photo by Unknown
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Members of the latest generation, aptly nicknamed Generation Z seem amazed that family historians handle technology in all its forms as well as we do. They are astounded to realise that their great, great grandparents (our grandparents) either walked to and from school in all kinds of weather or maybe, if they were lucky, rode a horse to the school yard and back home. No four-wheel drive to deliver them to the school gate and be there to meet them when the final school bell rang.

To plant the seeds of curiosity about family history in the younger generation, I feel that discussing how their great grandparents spent their childhoods can have relevance to the youngest members of our family. Our ancestors, whether they grew up in the suburbs of the growing cities or in the country areas, all have stories to tell.



This Photo by Unknown Author is
licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

These ancestors either made their own fun by playing games using very basic equipment – how many of today's younger generation have played hopscotch drawn in the dusty playground or on asphalt with a piece of chalk and using a rock as a 'taw' to mark their progress or have swung from a piece of rope over a fast-running river or cooked yabbies in a billy over an open fire?

Nintendo and PlayStation have captured the energy and enthusiasm of the younger generation and channelled it into never-ending fantasy worlds of violence or make-believe where 'lives' are expended as easily as the flick of a switch.

Our grandparents spent their limited free time outside, playing

games of make-believe, catching tadpoles, climbing trees, playing street-cricket, and collecting bottles for refunds. This free time was limited as the children would have had 'jobs' to do. My maternal grandmother was required to help with the milking, like her brothers and sisters, before and after school because she lived on a dairy farm and there were no mechanical milking machines.

My maternal grandfather travelled by bullock dray at the age of 6, with his parents and older brothers and sisters, from the remote mining community of Mount Hope to West Wyalong in 1912, a journey of approximately 200km which would have taken a lot longer than the current few hours.

My paternal grandfather came from a baking background and the need to rise early to assist with the baking of bread did not aid his concentration during a long school day. My paternal grandmother came from a single parent family and often came home to an empty house – a 'latch-key kid'. She was expected to begin preparations for the evening meal on returning home from school.



*[This Photo](#) by Unknown
Author is licensed under [CC](#)*

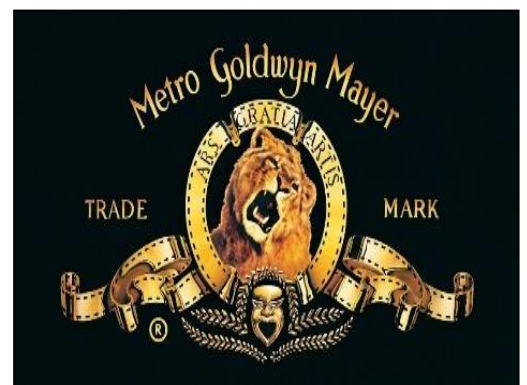
Children of the Edwardian generation benefitted from universal primary education, at least allowing them to obtain a basic education where satisfaction was taken in tidy books, good penmanship and pride in a task well done. Primary education became compulsory in Australia in 1870.

However secondary education wasn't compulsory with the leaving age at the turn of the century being 12 years of age.¹ The fortunate few who demonstrated academic aptitude were encouraged to continue their education in the hopes of pursuing tertiary study. It was often more advantageous for the child to leave school by about 14 and pursue an apprenticeship or go to work either on the land, if they were country kids, or work in a factory in the city, their wage usually supplementing the family's income.

Entertainment for children of the early twentieth century was only limited by their imagination. Gathering around a pianola or a piano provided young people the ability to enjoy music and singing.

'Moving pictures'² were coming into vogue in the early part of the century, though a lot of the pictures were silent and required accompaniment by a pianist and the dialogue appeared as sub-titles. One needed to be able to read to attend the theatre!³

Youngsters of today can view movies, play games, or obtain information on the small hand-held devices they all possess. Attending the theatre to witness a live production can be a treat for a small child or going to a cinema to see a movie on the 'big screen' is certainly a different experience, especially when the MGM Lion fills the screen in a dark cinema!



*[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is
licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)*

As I ponder the changes of the twentieth century that my grandparents saw and the changes that I see my grandchildren enjoying – I know that they would not understand each other. I see it as my responsibility to embrace the generations and foster an understanding of change, time, and differences. We are – after all – family historians.

¹ <https://www.historyextra.com/period/the-school-leaving-age-what-can-we-learn-from-history/>

² <https://australianindianhistory.com/category/travelling-moving-pictures>

³ <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/australias-early-theatre-history>

ROOTS TECH CONFERENCE IS NEARLY HERE

It's not too late to register.



WOMEN AND CRISIS: KNITTING, COMMUNITY, COOPERATION

by Zoe D'Arcy

A hobby I began as a distraction turned out to have a long tradition in the emergency sector, and speaks to the strengths, skills, and commitment that women bring to their work.

Last year, during Australia's first pandemic lockdown (only the first!), I asked my mother to teach me how to knit. I desperately needed something to distract me from constantly doom-scrolling through endless, negative news stories. My phone habit had really kicked off during the 2019-20 fires, with constant checking of apps such as Fires Near Me whenever I wasn't out there on a fire truck. In lockdown, my phone time was really hitting its peak and I felt it was eroding both my productive time and my mental health. I needed something to distract both my hands and my mind. Knitting, I felt, would result in a tangible, wonderful, outcome. Women knitting during times of crisis is nothing new. In fact, women knitting to help others during crises has a long and honorable tradition. The most well-known example of this is during WWI, when a seemingly endless supply of woolen socks was essential for frontline troops to combat trench-foot. With very few options open to women to support the war effort, knitting became a patriotic act. This effort wasn't just limited to individual women sitting at home and knitting the odd sock.

Women created organizations such as the Soldier's Sock Fund to raise funds for, purchase and distribute the amount of wool required. They put together guidelines in the form of knitting patterns and even special sock measurers – published to ensure good quality socks were sent off to the troops, and as I've become increasingly aware due to the lack of my own knitting skills, they generously contributed their skills and time to make an estimated 1.3 million socks, as well as vests and balaclavas.



Photo from internet – Camden History Notes

Since then, over the last century, women have been able to take on more diverse roles in both the emergency and defense sectors. However, knitting is still there. Red Cross encourage volunteers to knit trauma bears for children affected by crises.



People knit penguin jumpers, to help protect Little Penguins from oil spills. Knitting has also become an activity for activists, with the advent of guerilla yarn bombing. And who can forget the pink pussy hats, that have grown from hats worn at a single protest march, to become an ongoing project aimed at bringing about positive social change?

Knitting is a deeply gendered activity and, in the way that can happen, it can perhaps be easily dismissed, its efforts and outputs belittled as ‘novelty’ items. The value these organizations bring, the commitment and skills – not to mention resources – that are required for this sort of social support and activism can be sometimes ignored. After all, isn’t knitting just something that your mother taught you to do? But personally, I reckon that the way that organized knitting during crises has both changed and stayed the same offers some insight into the value of commitment, community, guidelines, and skills that women bring to their work.

My first jumper is finished now. It’s not perfect, but it’s fabulous for the winter Canberra weather. My mother, an amazing knitter, did not laugh at my request to learning to knit in my 50s after I refused to learn as a child. Instead, she generously rose to the challenge, and has been a patient and wonderful teacher. And as well as reflecting on the history of knitting during crises, I’ve also benefited from knitting’s quiet, meditative actions.

(ED. Zoe D’Arcy is now a Ph.D. candidate in Emergency Management)

RESOURCES

Camden History Notes. <https://camdenhistorynotes.com>

Legacy FamilyTreeWebinars. www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com By subscription but has some free.

“The Colony.” Author. Grace Karskens. “The story of the marvellously contrary, endless energetic years of Sydney.”

The Dúchas Project aims to initiate the digitisation of the National Folklore Collection in Ireland. www.duchas.ie



Using Genetics for Genealogy

5 years of The DiNA Diary.

“The family historian must master the art of storytelling. What, after all, is truth without anecdote, history without events, explanation without narration--or yet life itself without a story? Stories are not just the wells from which we drink most deeply but at the same time the golden threads that hold and bind--Ariadne's precious string that leads us through the labyrinth that connects living present and the living past.”¹

A very happy New Year to you all and welcome to 5 years of The DiNA Diary and yes, the story will come later.

Genealogical DNA testing has taken us on quite a journey in the past 5 years and each of the major testing companies have embraced it in various ways. AncestryDNA has had the largest database for many years and is obviously the first place to test your DNA as well as members of your family. The major gripe from genealogists about Ancestry is that it doesn't have the tools available that other companies offer. This isn't so much a problem when we start out on our DNA journey, but once we have increased our knowledge, then we realise that there are better ways of researching our cousins – especially if we have a brick wall that we would like to knock down.

Because of the paucity of these tools, we are recommended to download our raw DNA from Ancestry and upload it to several other sites that can better provide the information we need. They include MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA), GEDmatch and LivingDNA among others. Each has its benefits and drawbacks.

MyHeritage offers DNA testing but also lets us upload existing test results to their site. As well as offering matches with people who may not have tested with Ancestry, MyHeritage provides us with two extremely useful tools. Chromosome Browser lets us view the DNA chromosome segments that we share with others and can show those bits of our DNA that are passed down from our ancestors. It also lets us triangulate to find common ancestors. MyHeritage also provides us with a wonderful tool called Autoclusters. This automated program groups our matches together in a visual way that, again, indicates common ancestors.

FTDNA also provides a raft of tools. If you have a family tree on their site, then you can link your matches to that tree. This in turn allows FTDNA to indicate whether your remaining matches are from your paternal or maternal lines. You can also search for those matches *In Common With* (think Shared Matches in Ancestry) or *Not in Common With* (which cannot be done in Ancestry). It has a chromosome browser too and an ethnicity Chromosome Painter tool. Again, you will find matches that may not have tested with AncestryDNA. A downside is that there are no records to search on this site.

GEDmatch has a lot of tools, in fact this is its main function. Many are free while others require a monthly fee to access them. GEDmatch has no records available and neither does it sell DNA kits.

LivingDNA is part of FindmyPast but doesn't yet have any useable tools. We are still waiting for the launch of its new family tree features that were proposed in 2021. Another downside for this site is the small database but, like the others mentioned above, it is growing and is proving very popular with British genealogists.

So, if you haven't already done so, read this article by Louise Coakley on how to download/upload your raw DNA² and have a look for yourself.

My Granny Was a Viking

In 2020 and 2021, not having much to do during the COVID lockdowns, I tested my mitochondria and upgraded my Y-DNA to find my haplogroups. "What are haplogroups?" I hear you asking. According to the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) they are 'a genetic population group of people who share a common ancestor on the patriline or the matriline'.³ Roberta Estes is more succinct. She suggests that we "[t]hink of a haplogroup as an ancestral clan, a large family, like the Celts, or Vikings".⁴

Any changes to our DNA – an A to a G for example – is called a mutation and as these mutations are passed down through the generations, the haplogroup name will also change.

If you have tested your mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) you will have a clan name for your maternal line made up of letters and numbers. mtDNA is passed down from a mother to her children (male or female) and stretches back thousands of years – with mutations – to our ancient ancestors in Africa. My mtDNA haplogroup is H2a2a1.

Y-DNA is passed down from a father to his sons and like mtDNA it goes back tens of thousands of years – again back to the birthplace of Homo sapiens in Africa.

When I first tested my Y-DNA I was shown as RM269, then it was further refined to R-Z2. Further testing now provides me with a more detailed R-BY157975. The R branch is the most common for those of us males who passed through Europe. Unfortunately, I don't have any matches for this more refined – and so far, unique – haplogroup.



Y-DNA and mtDNA haplogroups are not the same despite sharing some of the same letters and shouldn't be interchanged.

Enter Roberta Estes (again). Roberta writes a popular blog called *DNAeXplained – Genetic Genealogy* and in September 2020 she wrote about the sequencing of Viking DNA discovered at ‘sites in Scotland, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, the Baltic, Iceland, Greenland and elsewhere in continental Europe.’⁵ A total of 442 Viking remains were tested and the subsequent results were then compared to known Viking samples from Scandinavia. From their findings published in the science magazine *Nature* under the title of *Population genomics of the Viking world*,⁶ the authors observed that between AD 750 – 1050 there was a major influx of Danish genes into England and Norwegian into Ireland.

Visiting Roberta’s *Ancient Viking* website⁷ then pressing Ctrl/F (Command-F for a Mac) and entering my mtDNA haplogroup, showed that my mtDNA matched with samples VK317 from Kaagården in Denmark; VK333 from Oland, Sweden and VK493 from Salme in Estonia.

Sample	VK317 / Denmark_ Kaargarden Grav BF99	VK493 / Estonia_Salme_11-S
Location	Kaargarden, Langeland, Denmark	Salme, Saaremaa, Estonia
Age	Viking 10 th Century	Early Viking 8 th Century CE
Y-DNA	J-BY62479	R-S6353
FTDNA Comment	Splits J2-BY62479 (M67). Derived for 9, ancestral for 3. Newpath = J-by62479>J-BY72550	Shares 1 SNP with a man from Finland. Forms a new branch down of R-S6353. New branch = R-BY166432
mtDNA	H2a2a1	H2a2a1



So... my Granny was a Viking and I’m getting the T-shirt! – many thanks to Sue Brindley for the Viking Granny pic.

¹ Joseph A. Amato, Jacob's Well: A Case for Rethinking Family History

² <https://genie1.com.au/dna-transfers-how-to-download-your-raw-dna-data-and-upload-to-other-databases/>

³ <https://isogg.org/wiki/Haplogroup>

⁴ <https://dna-explained.com/2013/01/24/what-is-a-haplogroup/>

⁵ <https://dna-explained.com/2020/09/18/442-ancient-viking-skeletons-hold-dna-surprises-does-your-y-or-mitochondrial-dna-match-daily-updates-here/>

⁶ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2688-8>

⁷ *ibid.*

FINDING MY GRANDMOTHER - MEMORIES

Gwen Grimmond

My Grandmother was Theresa Elizabeth **BROWN** nee **STANDRING** 1884 – 1944. My mum, sister and I lived with our maternal grandparents after my dad enlisted in the RAAF in WW11. We lived a Pegler Avenue, Granville in the home that Grandpa Brown, a carpenter by trade, built by himself.

Grandma Brown died when I was 9 years old, but I have many fond memories of our times together. She was a wonderful cook, and we would sit at the dining room table, with a starched tablecloth. In those days, it was understood that children could only speak when spoken to at the dinner table. Our grandfather, Francis Hector Brown, would stand at the head of the table and carve the meat and our grandmother would sit with the large tureen of steaming vegetables and serve each plate with meat and vegies and pour hot gravy from an old-fashioned gravy boat before pass the plates around the table. We all had our white damask serviettes on our laps and grace was said before the meal.

How different would she find things today? Gone are the starched tablecloths, replaced by place mats, or by some people, with lap at rays and eating while watching television. The only distraction to the meal in those days was the news on the wireless. The meals have change too. Stir-fry meals were not served in the days we lived with our grandparents and splayds were not found in our cutlery drawer. The only pasta served was macaroni cheese or shell macaroni found in a delicious baked custard.

However, my grandmother's visit would allow me to ask my queries on family history. My mother told me that Theresa was born at Duri near Tamworth and worked at Goonoo Goonoo homestead when she was young. She left the country to travel to Sydney at the age of 15. Why? I also discovered that Therese gave birth to a boy when she was 17 years of age, but I cannot find him marring or dying. Where did he go? On his birth certificate an aunt was given as Theresa's Mum. Did she raise him?

My grandmother only wore black or grey garments when I knew her. I never knew why. I have since discovered that her youngest daughter, Beatrice Irene Brown, died in tragic circumstances at the age of 16. Grandma would tell me about Beatrice.

During grandma's time ladies wore soft fabric garments featuring lace and they wore petticoats. She would be surprised to find my wardrobe is mainly slacks. Her hair was long, and she wore it in a large bun at the back of her head, kept in place with hair pins. I can still remember her favourite perfume 'Blue Grass.'

To me, the days spent with my grandparents were happy, safe times and I would hope that my grandmother would be comfortable in our home in these modern times.

Reprinted from Footsteps 2007.

My three times great grandfather, William **Bath**, his second wife Sarah née **West** and family passed through Port Macquarie in 1844-45. William and the elder boys only stayed for a day before proceeding on to Walcha. William left his pregnant wife and his four youngest children in Port Macquarie to await the birth of their child, Frederick George Bath, who was duly baptised in late March 1844 in St Thomas church. Sarah and the five youngest Bath children then travelled to Walcha in a bullock dray owned by James **Noakes**. For many years this was the only connection the Bath family had to Port Macquarie.



(ED Bullock drays were used regularly between Port Macquarie and New England, Oranges and other commercial goods were hauled to Walcha and wool was transported to Port Macquarie for shipping to Sydney)

All the thirteen Bath children married, giving William 132 grandchildren. Their wives and descendants have been extensively researched, and their stories documented. The one exception was the wife of Christopher Bath. In 1856 Christopher had married Caroline Ann English. The only record we could find related to Caroline Ann was her baptism in 1838 at St Anne's in Hunters Hill, where it was recorded that she was the illegitimate daughter of the widow Mrs Caroline English, born 3 May 1835 and that their place of residence was Bedlam Point. Her father's name was given as Edward **Boulton**, but this proved to be a dead end.

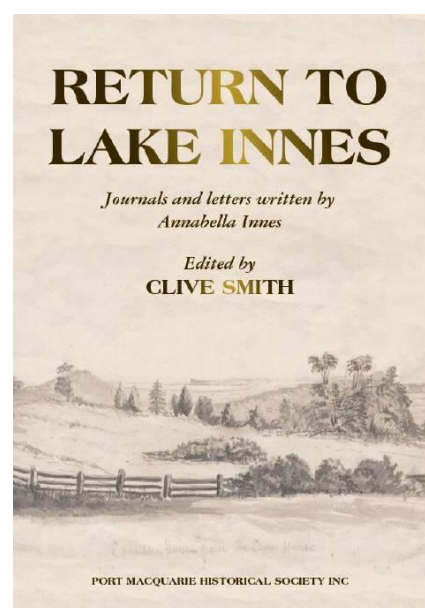
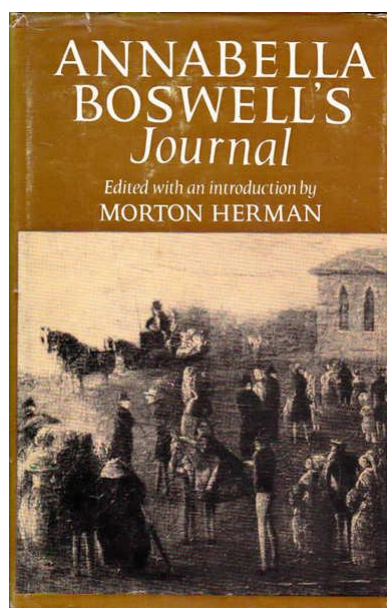
Christopher and Caroline went on to have nine children and as Mrs English was the witness to some of the births, we knew that she was either living with her daughter or nearby.

Who was Mrs Caroline English and how did she and her daughter get from Bedlam Point to Walcha? When Mrs English died in 1881, her son-in-law gave the details for the registration of her death, including a supposed age, birth, and marriage in Sydney. However not a single record could be found to support any of the information in the death certificate.

Then wonderful Trove appeared, and the obituary of Caroline Ann **Bath** née **English** revealed that she had been born in Newcastle, educated in Port Macquarie and spent a short time at Moona Plains near Walcha before marrying in Walcha in 1856. Moona Plains was owned by Alexander Fitzgerald **Crawford** and three of his children had been baptised in Port Macquarie. We wondered if Mrs English might have worked for the Crawford family but could find nothing to connect them.

In 2021, a Bath researcher who had other family connection to Port Macquarie, made enquiries of the research team of the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society to see if any school records existed for the child Caroline Ann English born 1835. Unfortunately, none did, however they did find two references to Caroline English in March 1853, when she was the witness to two marriages. It is not known which Caroline English this person was, the mother or the daughter, but it confirmed that a Caroline English was living in Port Macquarie in 1853, three years before the marriage recorded in Walcha in 1856.

The name Mrs English was remembered by the Port Macquarie researcher, and a few months later we received notice that two references had been found to Mrs Caroline English. The first entry came from the diaries of the author Annabella Boswell (1826-1914) – *Annabella of Lake Innes* published 2010, page 224, 30 Oct 1847, and the second from *Annabella Boswell's Return to Lake Innes* Edited by Clive Smith, published 2020, Page 75, 2 January 1854.

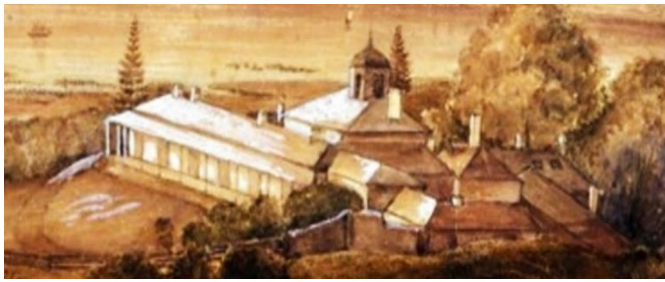


(Ed. There have been several editions of Annabella Boswell's Dairy. The book on the left is believed to be one of the first editions. The book on the right by Clive Smith, Fellow of the Australia Society of Archivists, is from the original diaries and letters.

The first recorded that Mrs Caroline English had been hired as a servant and had an 11-year-old daughter of the same name, while the second record showed that Mrs English was still working for the family in 1853 in a trusted position.

This led to some intense research into the Innes family, which revealed the upper class and privileged lifestyle of the household that Mrs English and her daughter were a part of for six

years. Imagine being piped awake each morning by a Scottish Piper, then piped to bed! The servants would have been exposed to the latest fashions in dress and furnishings, to the manners and rituals of a wealthy family and their many connections, accommodated and lavishly entertained on numerous occasions.



(Editor: Major Innes original house and the ruins it is today)

From this new information we were able to fill out the life story of Mrs English and her daughter, but we were not sure just who Mrs English really was, although we suspected that she had arrived as a convict from England 1811.

Numerous people get DNA tested to see where their ancestors came from — their ethnicity, which is calculated by an algorithm, while the real value of DNA is in the science of DNA matching to other family members.

We needed DNA from a direct descendant of Christopher Bath and his wife Caroline English. Many Bath researchers had been trying to find the origins of Mrs English for well over ten years, and the answer came in one day after a direct descendant allowed me access to their DNA results.

Descendants of the daughter of Mrs English — Caroline Ann English/Bath were closely matching to descendants of Thomas Henry English the son of the son of the convict girl Caroline Boulton. Mrs English was the same person as the convict girl Caroline Boulton who had arrived in 1811 with her sister Mary Boulton.

I am eternally grateful to

- the researcher from Port Macquarie Family History Society who remembered the name ‘Mrs English’ and followed up with their research results.
- To Trove.
- And to Ancestry DNA matching.

I have been researching the Boulton and English families for well over ten years and have now pulled all the threads together in a small book — *‘Mrs English and the Boulton of Bermondsey’*, which tells the incredible story a girl/woman who crossed the seas from one hemisphere to the other three times in twelve years. She completely lost her convict past when she returned to Sydney in 1825 as ‘Mrs English, Widow’ arrived free on the ‘*Phoenix*’, bringing with her a brother and sister. An A4 bound book of 86 pages, detailing the lives of the first and second generations of the Australian descendants of Henry Boulton of Bermondsey, England is available. Em: margaret.parkes@bigpond.com. A PDF version is available free.

FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTIONS

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in May 2022 and members are invited to submit stories and articles to the editor@pmdfhs.org.au by Saturday 2 April so they can be included in the May issue.



Any article relating to your research or your family members will be gratefully received. Funny snippets and interesting newspaper articles will also be most welcome.

Articles should be limited to between 1500–1550 words with up to four photos, or up to 1800 words without photos. It is always important when researching to cite your references and sources. When inserting the references or sources in your articles, it is requested that you use numbers i.e., 1,2,3, etc. (not Roman Numerals) and that you place them as ‘endnotes’ not ‘footnotes.’

Stories that are submitted for publication in Footsteps should generally be the work of the author or the contributor submitting the story. If the writing is not the work of the author, please seek permission from the original author where possible, and indicate the source of the work when the article is submitted.

All contributions are subject to copyright unless otherwise indicated and no portion of this journal may be reproduced without written permission of the Society. The views expressed by authors and contributors to Footsteps are not necessarily those of the Society.

SOME HINTS FOR WRITING ARTICLES



Topics

General – select a story from your family’s past about a specific person or group of people.

Cookbook – Choose a favourite family recipe and write about their family – include the recipe.

Image – From a family image, person, or subject, write down your thoughts – include the image.

Research – Enlarge on a newspaper item, for example, that you found whilst researching.

Themes – immigration – how your ancestors arrived, ship or airplane, their journey.

Successes – ‘rags to riches’ such as gold mining, successful farming, etc.

Conflict – just about everyone has a family member who served their country.

Scope

Try to limit keep that article to one but no more than two pages – this helps to limit ‘waffle’.

Sources/References

Add these as endnotes. Some readers may find them useful when doing their research!

(Some of this article was suggested by an internet article by Kimberly Powell – thoughtco.com)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

	Renewals	New Members*	
	Payable at 1st July each year	1st July to 30th June	1st Jan to 30th June
Single	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$20.00
Family	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
<i>Footsteps</i> Journal editions—November, February, May, August	4 issues included in Membership fees		
	Subscription is available to Non-Members at \$15.00 for one year.		

*Includes a one-off \$5.00 joining fee.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Society will undertake family history research for an initial fee of \$20 and will include a list of records used, entry into *Footsteps* (where appropriate) and suggestions regarding other resources. There may be an additional fee for further research.

Please make your initial enquiry to the Research Officer at secretary@pmdfhs.org.au and include as many details as possible about the person/family and any other relevant information including sources already researched. Alternatively, enquire via mail and include a business size, stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Research Officer, PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

INFOEMAIL

Our Society newsletter, *InfoEmail*, is emailed on a regular basis to members who have provided an email address. Remember to keep your email address up to date so you do not miss out. Please email us if you are not receiving the *InfoEmail*.

If you do not have an email address, but have a computer with internet access, the *InfoEmails* are available on our website at www.pmdfhs.org.au to download and read. Journal reviews now have their own separate tab on the left side of the Society's website.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

General assistance with family history – local, Australian, and overseas – is available for members and non-members in the Local Studies Room at the Port Macquarie Library. Our volunteers are normally on duty to help on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm, with a break over Christmas. This service is dependent upon the Covid-19 restrictions, so please check with the library for their most up-to-date requirements.

RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

The Research Support Group for members which was previously held at Port Macquarie-Hastings Library, in the Technology Room, will continue to be available via the 'Zoom' video link from 1pm to 3pm on the Wednesdays, until further notice. The topic is advertised in the latest *InfoEmail* and at the most recent General Meeting.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Publication Name	Member Price	Normal Price	Weight
Port Macquarie's Last Convicts; The story of the end of the convict establishment in 1847, 204 pages, soft cover	\$18	\$20	737g
Tile Tales; Stories behind the names on the front wall of the Port Macquarie Swimming Pool, 752 pages, hard cover	\$60	\$60	2kg
Cemetery Trail; Port Macquarie – Hastings Full colour, 224 pages (glove box sized)	\$27	\$30	425g
Can You Remember? Memory Joggers for writing a Life Story (A5 booklet – pink cover – 16pp)	\$3	\$3	25g
Starting Your Family History (A5 booklet – yellow cover – 20pp)	\$3	\$3	30g
Pedigree Chart & Family Group Sheets 1 chart, 16 group sheets (A5 booklet – blue cover – 40pp)	\$5	\$5	54g
Certificates of Freedom Records for PM Convicts: Runaways, Robbers & Incurable Rogues (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	n/a
Port Macquarie Index to Colonial Secretary's Papers 1796-1825 (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	n/a
Harvesting the Hastings – Farming Families (CD-ROM in colour)	\$17	\$20	n/a
Sydney Gaol Records for Port Macquarie Convicts April 1821-1826 (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	n/a
General Cemetery Port Macquarie – Transcriptions & Images (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	n/a

NOTE: ALL CD-ROM PURCHASES INCLUDE POSTAGE

Postage Australia Wide		
Up to 250g (Large letter)	\$5	Holds one book only
250g to 500g (Large letter/Package)	\$12	
Over 500g (Prepaid satchel)	\$18	Holds several books

Postage charges must be added to the cost of the items purchased. When ordering several books, calculate the total weight and use the table above to calculate postage cost. For ALL overseas rates, or to collect items instead of paying postage, please contact the Secretary (see telephone number on page 2). **Some of the above publications can be purchased via our website: <https://www.trybooking.com/BSNGD>**

However an order form is also available at: www.pmdfhs.org.au – please complete the order form and send with your payment to: The Secretary, Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. Alternatively, please send an email to secretary@pmdfhs.org.au to obtain the Society's banking details to direct deposit into our account via the internet. Pre-payment is required; however Local Government Libraries can be invoiced.

PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Website: www.pmdfhs.org.au
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Mobile: 0475 132 804

Our Research Home

Local Studies/Family History Room
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
Corner of Grant and Gordon Streets
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Our Meeting Room

CC Mac Adams Music Centre
Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
(between Port Macquarie Olympic Pool and Players Theatre)

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society is affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society
Parramatta Female Factory Friends
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