

Researching Family History Records from UK in Australia

Joy and Allan Murrin
Saturday 29th Oct
10am - 4pm, \$25
Call 4351 2211 for

The Wyong Family History Group General Meeting

10th September

The cottage will open at 11 am for unassisted research. The meeting will commence at 1 pm

Our guest this month will be Peter Rea, who will talk about the history of the Hawkesbury and Hunter Regions

Fundraiser Bunnings BBQ

Saturday 8th Oct

Contact Esther Dean via the cottage if you can spare a few hours to help out. All welcome to drop by and have a sausage

WFHG e-Branch



From the President

We have just had our first Management Committee Meeting this week for the 2016 – 2017 period. It was my pleasure to Welcome Back Kerry Clarke Secretary, Michele Gane Treasurer, Roger Lewis Vice President and the following committee John Selwood, Wayne Dean, Pam Mansergh and Martin Fisher. We were delighted to welcome new to the committee Christine Ullrich and Jean Macleay. It is also our pleasure and good fortune to have Esther Dean as minute secretary. Esther has a wealth of knowledge about the group and she saves our secretary Kerry a lot of work.

I would like to thank all those who have taken on or continued on with other positions that are very important to the continued efficient running of the group.

In October the Committee will be sitting down to plan the coming years events, we will be using attendance numbers to the past years events to determine what we will repeat so it's very important that the members when they can participate in what we plan as a lot of work and preparation goes into the talks, outings, and seminars etc.

- In this edition:
- * Library updates
 - * Snippets from other journals
 - * News about upcoming events
 - AND MORE

Anyone who attended either of the ANZAC unveilings would testify to the superb way they were organised and to their great success. I was so proud to be President of our group and many thanks goes to John Selwood who was the coordinator of the subcommittee and to the following subcommittee members - Anne Lee, Helen Burkett, Pam Mansergh and Roger Lewis as well as the helpers on the day. Well Done!

Next week we are off to the Annual State Conference and this year we were able to arrange a bus for the Friday, I am sure those of you who took advantage of this will not be sorry. Roger Lewis, I, Glenise our librarian and Joy Pilkington stay on for the weekend this enables us to have a stall of our publications, network, get new ideas and for Glenise to buy new resources. It's a hectic weekend for us but a benefit to our group in the future.

We have had a successful 2015 – 2016 so I hope we can do the same for the following year ahead, I extend my sincere sympathies to any of our members who have lost a loved one over the past couple of months and my thoughts to those who are sick or battling on going medical problems.

See you at the Cottage. Keep Smiling

Kerrie Metcalfe LM (80)

President, Wyong Family History Group Inc.

NOTE:

Upcoming FREE mini-training sessions held at the cottage. All commence at 10am unless otherwise stated. Please register your interest with the Cottage on 4351 - 2211

September - Tuesday 13th 11am - 12pm

Research resources at the cottage

More information available on our website
www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

Special Interest Groups

Microsoft Word Interest Group is moderated by Helen Johnstone-Lord
Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon
monthly. 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm

Convict Interest Group is moderated by June Johnson
Meets the 2nd Wednesday morning
monthly. 10.00 am to 12 noon

Family Tree Maker (FTM) Interest Group is moderated by Martin Fisher
Meets the 2nd Thursday afternoon
monthly. 12.30 pm to 2.30pm

English and Welsh Interest Group is moderated by Esther Dean
Meets the 4th Tuesday morning
monthly. 10.00 am to 12 noon

The Scottish / Irish Interest Group is moderated by Gwen Bates
Meets the 4th Wednesday morning
monthly. 10.00 am to 12 noon

The Facebook Interest Group is moderated by Melissa Metcalfe
Meets bi-monthly, 4th Saturday
morning of the month. 10 am to Noon
25 Jun, 27 Aug, 22 Oct 2016.

The Computer / iPad / Tablet Interest Group is moderated by Roger Lewis
Meets bi-monthly, 4th Saturday morning of the month. 10 am to Noon
3 Sep, 26 Nov 2016.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.

presents

“Researching Records in United Kingdom from Australia”

SEMINAR

SATURDAY 29th October 2016
WYONG RSL (CLUB WYONG)
cnr Anzac Ave & Margaret St, Wyong 2259
10:00am - 4:00pm

Guest Speakers: Joy and Allan Murrin

For over 30 years, Allan and Joy Murrin have visited family history libraries and centres throughout the world—they are exciting speakers and have spoken on Family History topics to many societies and groups.



Topics to be discussed

England/Wales Census
Understanding the essentials of the Census. Methods in discovering and knowing your ancestors.

Is it the Best of Times
Consider what used to be and how technology is making it better for our

Raffle prizes to be drawn on the day will include a Flip Pal Scanner and Gift certificates from Joy Murrin Transcription Services.

Researching Family History in UK from Australia
Some case studies in analysing Australian documents to research and trace ancestors in UK.

Bookings at The Cottage 4351 2211 Tuesday—Thursday or online at www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au
Cost.....\$25.00. There will be limited seating.

Free tea and coffee available all day

Information sessions on using the Cottage resources

A short information session on finding and getting the most out of the amazing resource collection at the WFHG cottage has been organised by our committee and delivered by Glens Cleary. The session will be particularly valuable to our Research Volunteers, and all members are encouraged to attend.

The session will be run multiple times to encourage as many members as possible to attend.

The next two dates are:

Tuesday 13th September 11am-12 noon, and

Thursday 13th October 11am-12 noon.

Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these sessions, as our resources are constantly being expanded. *As this type of session was requested by quite a number of members in the survey, Glenise is looking forward to seeing many of you attending on each of the nominated days.*

Note from the editor:

The first of our **Information sessions on using the Cottage resources** was held on Wednesday 31st August. I attended this session and it was fabulous.

I attended something similar a few years ago when I first became a member of this group. Yes, a few resources have been added in that time but no enormous changes.

What I found useful is that my family history research focus has changed - so while I was curious about, and focusing on one set of records last time - this time I was interested in something else. So in some ways - it was like a whole new tour for me. Also - I don't know about you, but I can only learn so much in one setting! So while I definitely have been told about certain record collections before - I promptly forgot about them! It is really important to keep learning new things, but also going over well known research areas.

The sessions are informal, with lots of opportunities for questions. If you can make the time - it is highly recommended.

If you would like the Wyong Family History logo embroidered onto a shirt, jacket or cap, contact the Advance Design Clothing Company 14/11 Donaldson Street Nth Wyong. Phone 4351 1555.

ADVANCE | design

Uniforms & Corporate Apparel

FROM THE LIBRARY

New Acquisition August 2016

BOOKS

REG007 *Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 - 1954. Incorporating the Wollombi Express (1892-1906) and Wyong District Advocate (1906-1920).*

While researching details for this latest Wyong Family History Group publication, it was found that many issues of these newspapers were missing for the period 1892 – 1905 and 1941 – 1949. The entries in this book have been extensively researched through other sources to provide, where possible, full details for each entry transcribed from the available newspapers.

As you will notice, I have only added this one book to our Library shelves this past month. However, I will be attending the annual State Conference at Camden as you read this and am hoping to return with copies of some great new resources to assist with your research. Keep your eye out for what I have bought in the next edition of *the Branch*.

Those members who attended the recent AGM on the 13th August would know that an interesting discussion was held on the topic of using DNA results to assist with Family History research. I recently came across an article in the June 2016 edition of *Descent* – The Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists. This article explains, in simple terms, the various types of DNA testing and how the results from these tests can assist researchers. I have copied it here for those who may be interested.

Glenise Clery. LM #284

DNA: Frequently Asked Questions

by Kerry Farmer (Member)

These are the questions I am most often asked about using DNA for research.

Q: Do I need a hair or a bone from a deceased ancestor to learn about their DNA?

No – you inherited DNA from your parents just as they inherited DNA from their parents. A genealogical DNA test involves you providing your own saliva or cheek swab to a testing company which then analyses your sample and compares your DNA with others in their database. Combining the DNA from a number of descendants can help form a good picture of the DNA of a deceased ancestor.

Q: How can a DNA test help a genealogist?

Genealogical DNA tests compare our DNA with others. Most family historians take DNA tests hoping to find genetic cousins, so we can make contact and hopefully expand our known family tree.

By comparing our DNA with others, we may be able to identify an unknown ancestor or prove or disprove a suspected relationship. Thus we can test theories and check the accuracy of our constructed family tree.

Because of the randomness of DNA inheritance, genetic tests can only indicate the probable generation in which a shared ancestor lived. To learn more, we need to combine this genetic information with family trees and traditional family history research.

Also because of DNA randomness, we inherit somewhat different DNA from that inherited by our siblings. Testing more family members helps us find more matches and may help us identify how a newly predicted genetic cousin fits into our family tree. For example, if we have tested the DNA of a known second cousin (who shares our great grandparents), then we know that anyone who matches us plus also matches this second cousin, must lie on one of the family branches containing one of these great grandparents.



Y-chromosome – father to son

X-chromosome – all lines **except** father-to-son

Autosomal DNA – 50% from each parent

Mitochondrial DNA – mother to children

So all these can be used to trace ancestry

Q: Can only males take DNA tests?

The Y-chromosome DNA test was the first popular commercially available genetic genealogist test. As only males have a Y-chromosome, only males can take a Y-DNA test. (A female needs to find a male on the relevant line who is willing to take the test for her.) However both males and females can take the other DNA tests (autosomal or mitochondrial).

Q: Which DNA test should I take?

The answer to that depends on the genealogical question you hope to answer. Earlier articles discussed these different kinds of DNA and some genealogical questions they might answer. The three main genealogical DNA testing companies (Family Tree DNA, 23andMe and AncestryDNA) offer differing ranges of tests.

Males wanting to look for those sharing ancestors on their all-male line should take at least the Y-37 test from Family Tree DNA. Anyone wanting to look for those sharing ancestors on their mother's mothers' (all-female) line should take the mtFull Sequence test from Family Tree DNA.

Anyone looking for those who share relatively recent ancestors (within about five generations, lines can contain both males and/or females) should

take an autosomal DNA test. Family Tree DNA calls their autosomal test 'Family Finder'. 23andMe calls their corresponding test 'Relative Finder'. AncestryDNA also offers an autosomal test.

Family Tree DNA and 23andMe offer chromosome browsing tools to help identify on which branch of the tree any shared ancestors lived. AncestryDNA directs relatives to subscribers' family trees.

Q: After I have my DNA test results, what should I do next?

Log in to the website of the testing company and check the list of matches. These are people who tested with the same company and share segments of DNA with you – and so probably share ancestors. Contact those with the closest relationship and see if you can identify the shared ancestor. Start by looking for surnames or geographical regions you recognise. If you can identify the shared ancestor, then exchange information about other relatives.

If you have tested with Family Tree DNA, join all the relevant projects you can. These include Y-DNA surname projects, (both Y-DNA and mtDNA) geographical projects, haplogroup projects (grouping those with similar Y-DNA or mtDNA) – and more. Project administrators are knowledgeable volunteers who can probably deduce more about your DNA by comparing it to the similar DNA of others.

Test the DNA of other family members – perhaps taking advantage of the testing companies' sales. It is much easier to work out how some newly predicted genetic cousin relates to you if you can see that they also match with some other known relative.

Download your raw autosomal data from the relevant company's website and upload it to GEDmatch. GEDmatch accepts data from people who have tested with Family Tree DNA, 23andMe and also AncestryDNA. Thus you can compare your DNA with others who used the other testing companies.

Come along to the SAG's DNA Research Group to learn more about what else you can do with your DNA data.

Websites

23andMe – www.23andme.com

AncestryDNA – <http://dna.ancestry.com>

Family Tree DNA – www.familytreedna.com

GEDmatch – www.gedmatch.com

See the Society of Australian Genealogists calendar for the next meeting of the DNA Research Group.

GEMS IN THE LIBRARY #10

Recently Librarian Glenise held a competition asking members to search our resources to find the number of mentions of the death of James Munro in Queensland on 1 Dec 1915. Unfortunately I was the only member who took up the challenge.

I could only find one resource – **CD241 Toowong Cemetery** where the entry read “*James Munro DOB 5 Jan 1851 DOD 1 Dec 1915 – Portion 14, Reference 108*”.

However, clever Glenise found a second record which prompts me to remind members of one of the golden rules – Look Outside the Square. Who would have thought that the **NSW Probate Index 1800-1985** would have an entry which read “*James Munro, died Queensland 1 Dec 1915*”.

Looking outside the square leads me to highlight a group of CDs installed on computers 1,2,4 and 5 in the computer room – **Police Gazettes**.

Do you ignore the Police Gazettes because your ancestors weren't criminals? Perhaps you should think again. Perhaps your ancestors were victims of crime or maybe missing persons.

An entry on page 7 in the NSW Police Gazette dated 7 January 1874 reads “*John Curtis, charged on warrant with stealing a mare and colt (not recovered), the property of Joseph Simmonds, Crowther, has been arrested by Constable McManus, Young Police. Committed for trial at the next Court of Quarter Sessions to be held at Young. Bail allowed – self in eighty pounds, and two sureties in 40 pounds each.*” From this President Kerrie now knows that in 1874 her Great Grandfather Joseph Simmonds was living at Crowther in the Young District of NSW and had been the owner of two horses.

An entry on page 62 of the 1873 NSW Police Gazette has the headline “*Extract from Victoria Police Gazette Feb 11, 1873 – Missing Friends*” followed by “*Inquiry is requested for FELIX SALZMANN, born at Naters, canton of Valois, Switzerland, aged about 29 years, tall, stout, chestnut hair; a farmer or farm labourer. Left his home for Santa Fe, Buenos Ayres, and thence for Australia, but has not been heard of for four years. His father and mother are dead, and a fortune has been left him. 0659 8th February 1873*”. Nice information if he was a member of your family.

Our collection of CDs of Police Gazettes covers NSW 1862-1938; Queensland 1864-1905; South Australia 1901-1910. Happy hunting!!!

Esther Dean
LM #23

IRISH RESEARCH TIPS AUGUST 2016



Legislation, and how to use it to gain access to records you're legally entitled to see.

The Dail [Irish parliament] has passed legislation to protect the privacy of Irish citizens. An unintended consequence, is to sometimes set limits to tracing exempt records: military records, but also records relating to children raised in care.

Many researchers who are genuinely trying to trace their own family history have reported great difficulty in getting access to records they are legally entitled to see. Despite greater awareness and sensitivity to the fact that personal identity is a human right, some archivists and institutions still act as 'gate-keepers'.

If you find yourself in this circumstance, it's important to know the legislation, and how to use it to gain access to records you're legally entitled to see.

There are two main pieces of legislation: the Freedom of Information Act (2014); and the Data Protection Act (1998).

In 2011 a case-ruling by the Supreme Court, placed significant restrictions on an earlier Freedom of Information Act (1997).

The case before the Supreme Court was taken by the family of an elderly man, deceased by the time the case came to court. This gentleman had wanted to trace his mother's medical records in the Rotunda Hospital, so as to be able to know with certainty, who his mother was. She had a very common name, and he hoped that medical records would include her date of birth, by which he could pick out his mother from her doppelgängers.

The Information Commissioner and the High Court had previously found in this gentleman's favour, but on each occasion the Rotunda Hospital appealed the decision.

In 2011 the Supreme Court of Ireland found:

*The **circumstances** in which the information was originally given, determine whether the information can be accessed under FoI, or should remain protected*

This gentleman's family were devastated they were not allowed to access the relevant medical records and follow through on their late father's wish.

The 2011 ruling is very subjective – it allows the institution holding the records to make the judgement call on access.

Despite a new Freedom of Information Act in 2014, the post-Rotunda legal position means that certain records are still exempt.

This situation has to change, and there are increasing calls to change Irish laws, so that all children raised in care and/or adopted have a right to access their records.

In the meantime, your best chance to access records, is by applying through the Data Protection Act.

Quite simply Data Protection does not apply to dead people.

You will have to provide proof of kinship to show you are genuine.

This can be onerous for a married woman tracing back two or more generations. You may need to provide a mini-pedigree supported by civil birth and marriage records, to show descent through the maternal line.

Ultimately, people follow through when it matters to them.

By **Laura Carroll**

Source: Irish Family History Centre Newsletter Saturday, August 13, 2016

The importance of cross-checking your information

It is so important to cross check our information at all times, to use *every* available source in our quest to learn more about our ancestors. A recent search for a marriage of Anne to Edward prior to 1917 proved, frustratingly, negative. Anne gave birth to a son, Patrick, in 1917 but died within a few days of his birth. As a result, her history was lost to Patrick and granddaughter. This was an attempt to reclaim Anne's history.

Extensive searching did not reveal the marriage in either the UK or Ireland. In an attempt to narrow down the search, we wondered if the couple had been identified in the 1911 Census. Deciding what is relevant and what is not, is a very important part of assembling a project. Filtering and assessing facts can be the making or breaking of a project.

Although the quest was for the marriage of Anne and Edward, we decided that knowing where either of them was in 1911 might give us some clues. Unfortunately, given Anne's surname, there were too many persons of that name in 1911. We had nothing to narrow down the search for Anne, other than her age.

We had, however, very specific information on Edward as to place of birth, so we focussed on trying to identify him in the 1911 Census. As it turned out, Edward, the father of the child born in 1917, appeared to be married to another woman in 1911. All earlier work in learning about Edward as to his parentage and crucially, his place of birth, paid off here. Information gathered helped to successfully identify him in the 1911 Census.

In fact, Edward had married a widow, complicating our search for him in the records. If the certificate we have identified proves that this is our man, we can then move on to search for the death of the wife we saw in 1911. We expect to find the death of Edward's first wife, before 1917.

So, a simple search for a marriage record required much more extensive searching than could at first be envisaged. To get a result, we needed to garner information not just on Anne, but on Edward too. And the journey is not over yet.....

By Carmel Gilbride

Expert Researcher

Source: Irish Family History Centre Newsletter Saturday, August 27, 2016

Submitted by Pam MANSERGH #14, Life Member.

August E newsletter snippets by Lynda Smith

Local content: Camden area FHS July 2016; Gen Society of the Northern Territory March 2016;

Adelaide& Northern Districts FHG Aug. 2016: Pgs. 3-4 Beware those stalls/websites selling Family or Surname Coats of Arms, Pgs. 5-6 Doing the laundry through the ages.

Geraldton FHS, June 2016: Pgs. 6-7 A story about Frenchmen living in Australia during WW1 who enlisted, Pgs. 8-9 Publishing your family history- photobooks and other ideas.

Gwydir FHS April 2016: Launch of new book "Moree ANZACS" in April 2016. Now for sale for \$30. Group is working on second book. This issue features a few of the Moree ANZACS in detail.

Hurstville FHS Aug-Sept. 2016: Pgs.6- 8 Panania North Public School 1956-65.

Ku-Ring-Gai HS Aug. 2016: lots of reports on interesting guest speakers and tours that the group has organised of late, including Sydney Town Hall.

Orange FHG Aug. 2016: Pgs. 3-4 Children's author **LYDIA KATHLEEN PENDER nee PODGER** Pgs. 7-15 Excerpts about Orange residents from historic newspapers.

Port Macquarie FHS Aug. 2016: Pgs. 8-9 Growing up in the Depression- in Newcastle, Pgs. 10 -12 Researching Chinese/Australian relationships in the 19th Century, Successes with various brickwalls,

SNIPPETS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 E-BRANCH

CAMPBELLTOWN JULY 2016 & PICTON JUNE 2016.

Local content.

BATHURST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. AUGUST 2016

Pgs 16/17 Bathurst District Great War Volunteers.

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. JUNE 2016

Pgs 11-14 My Convict Ancestry. Convict John Winch.

Pg 26 Following the 22nd throughout the War. www.anzac-22nd-battalion.com/.

Pg 28 Irish Naming Patterns.

COALFIELDS HERITAGE GROUP APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2016

Pgs 20-26 Coalfields Inquests. Names: Rickerby, Leitrim (Laithem), Lawton, Walker and McCauley.

Pgs 26-30 Aldine Biographies 1888 – Part 17. Names: Hannel, Morgan, Hardy, Rees and Thomas.

FAMILY TREE (U.K.) AUGUST 2016

Pgs 24-30 Tracing your ancestors' homes in the 1900s. Resources and websites.

Pgs 32-38 20 easy ways to make an awesome family history.

Pgs 42/43 Seeking your Scottish ancestry. Key records and websites to search.

Pgs 44-48 Just the job... Top 30 free websites for researching old trades and occupations.

Pgs 66-70 BMDs: beyond the usual records. Includes Marine Register Book, Board of Trade records, British citizens abroad and British Army records.

TOMAREE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP, NELSON BAY (NSW) INC. JUNE 2016

- Pg 3 Helpful Hint. List of websites that include family trees.
 Pg 13 Digging Deeper. Google runs different search engines in each country. List of Google addresses from other countries.

VICTORIAN G.U.M. INC. NEWS AUGUST 2016

- Pgs 4-10 More Tips and Tricks on Charting in Family Tree Maker.
 Pgs 18/19 Four Easy Ways to Label Family Photos.
 Pgs 20-25 Legacy Family Tree. From Events to Family Story.
 Pg 27 Free Legacy Family Tree update now available (version 8.0.0.559)

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? AUGUST 2016

- Pg 10 First World War naval database launches. Details of more than 3,600 naval officers and ratings at www.royalnavalrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk.
 Pgs 17-20 10 Top Tips and Tricks for Better Searches.
 Pgs 46/47 The Finchley Manuals of Industry, No. 1, 1849.
 Pgs 49-51 Best Websites – Evacuees. Mobilisation of British civilians in September 1939.
 Pgs 58/59 Get started with Tree View.
 Pgs 61-63 Scottish Valuation Rolls.
 Pgs 71-73 My ancestor was in the prison service. Number of websites.
 Pgs 81-86 Around Britain. Isle of Man. Regional resources.
 Pg 94 London Lives. www.londonlives.org.

Meg Gibson Member 43.