

General Meeting

SAT 13TH FEB 2016

Guest Speaker:
Ann Howard

11-1pm (Research)

1-3pm Meeting

Christmas Afternoon Tea

Thursday 10th Dec, 2pm

at the Cottage

Good company, Christmas cheer, food and raffles. RSVP to the cottage.

**THE COTTAGE WILL
BE CLOSED FROM**

THURSDAY 10TH DEC

AND REOPENS ON

TUESDAY 12TH JAN

WFHG e-Branch



From the Secretary

Dear Members,

This is our last e-Branch for 2015. As many of you will know, our president Kerrie Metcalfe is recovering from her recent surgery, so will be unable to do her regular report for this e-Branch issue. You all receive regular emails from me each week, so I won't rehash all my information here

We are already working on next year's events to keep you interested and informed – as we make final arrangements they will be posted on our webpage, either in the events section or on the monthly calendar

The 2015/2016 Management Committee would just like to wish all our members and their families a safe and happy Christmas Holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all in January next year.

The Cottage will reopen on Tuesday 12th January at 10am.

Kerry Clarke #434 – Secretary.

In this edition:

- * Library updates
 - * Snippets from other journals
 - * News about upcoming events
- AND MORE**

NOTE:

Our FREE Mini training session program is now finished for 2015. Stay tuned for more great events in 2016.

Bits and Pieces

WFHG Latest Publication - 2015

BOWDEN FAMILY FUNERALS, Wyong

76 pages. **Covers** funerals conducted between July 1999 and January 2015

Contains – 1714 entries arranged alphabetically. Details include Full name, Date of Death, Place of Death, Age, Date and Place of Burial, Date and Place of Birth.

Also indicates if a Coroner's Inquest was held and, where available, the Year of Arrival, if born overseas.

View details of this and other publications online [here](#)

Welcome to our new member

#763 Mrs Bobbie Saler

Special Interest Groups



English / Welsh

4th Tuesday of the month
10am - 12pm

Scottish and Irish

4th Wednesday of the month
Scot: 10am - 12pm
Irish: 1pm - 3pm

Convict

2nd Wed of the month
10am - 12pm

FamilyTree Maker

2nd Thursday of the month
1-3pm

Using Microsoft Word

2nd Tuesday of the month
12.30 - 3pm

Tablet / iPad

Runs every second month
Starts back on 23rd Jan

University of Tasmania - Free Online Unit Writing Family History

Hi all,

I thought I might put in an early update on the latest UTas, free online family history course.

Week 1 was primarily an overview of the course.

Different ways of presenting historical information were introduced. We looked at techniques to bring forward facts in a lively and realistic way and we discussed the role that fiction has to play in these stories. There are gaps in our information! What do we do with them?

Our course coordinator has also started an online discussion group called the “word nerdery” where we can ask all those annoying grammatical questions we have that make us wish we listened to Mrs Murray in 6th class more often. Below is a list of some of the questions people are asking: no answers! If you want the answers, you have to enrol in the class yourself - next time :)

When I was at school we treated 'H' as a vowel. For example - An hotel. Is this still correct or has that changed.

Cheers Sue

My question is about the use of punctuation to add emphasis or emotional depth to my writing. *Instead, I found myself before the magistrate who sent me across the seas for seven years with murderers and those who committed arson; **all for stealing some yarn.***

The excerpt is from my e-activity last week. In the last clause I wanted to convey some disdain and Mary's enduring bitterness about her transportation at age 18. At the same time I wanted her spark and spirit to be evident.

I hope this makes sense and I have been able to convey my need and something that may be useful to others.

Regards
Mary

I'm never sure when to use a colon / semi colon.

I find I tendency to use sometimes but don't know if they are legit or even if they have a name.

Marlene

Coming from the old-school language era, having left school 55+ years ago, I have trouble in capitalisation. For example, work related positions, Overseer, Cooper, with capitals, however, I now find this is not usual. Could you please suggest what is now the acceptable format.

Peter

I might try and wrestle a piece of writing out of one of the course participants for the next editions of the e-Branch.

Merry Christmas! Kate Walter #657

Events for 2016

Any member who would like to assist with, or participate in, any of the Heritage Events should contact either John Selwood or our Secretary (secwfhg2@westnet.com.au)

April: NATIONAL HERITAGE MONTH - Jilliby Cemetery walking tour

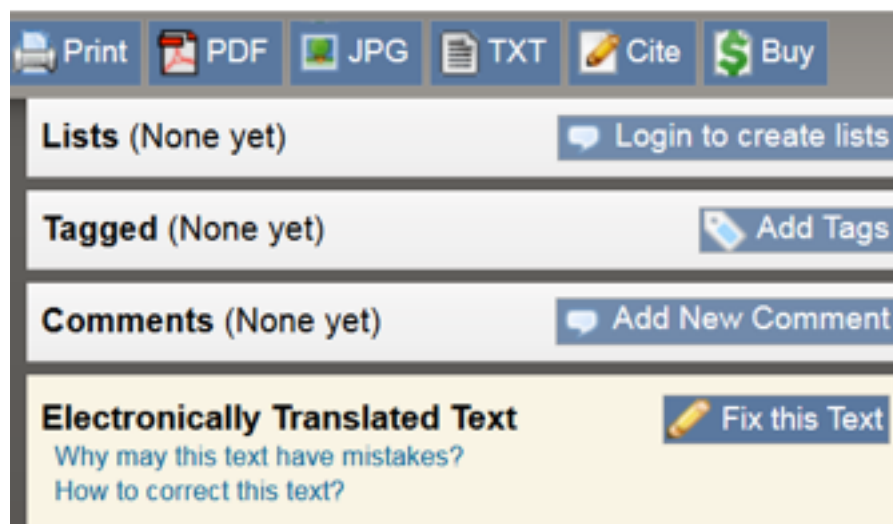
August: NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH - Anzac Avenue Wyong and Anzac Road Tuggerah Plaque unveiling

Making the most of Trove: how to cite newspaper articles

Hopefully by now you're familiar with the wonders of Trove for family and local history research. History comes alive through over one million family notices, articles and advertisements. It's important for you and anyone reading your research to be able to find your articles again, why citations are important.

To cite a newspaper article:

1. Navigate to the newspaper article you would like to cite
2. Click on the 'Cite' button located at the top left of your screen



3. A pop up screen will be displayed with examples of commonly used citation styles. You can copy the citation you feel is most appropriate and paste it in to your document, just remember to use the same style for your whole document.



It's important when citing articles to use the web address you find in the 'Cite' button as this address is permanent. The address in the bar at the top of the screen can change when Trove is updated.

For more information about printing articles in Trove, visit Trove's Help Centre: <http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/digitised-newspapers/articles-in-digitised-newspapers>

Trove is pleased to announce that the following newspapers, digitised by the National Library through the Australian Newspaper Plan program, have been recently added to Digitised newspapers and more on Trove. Many of these newspapers are currently being added to Trove and further issues will become available shortly.

Check out the Trove Forum for links to the newspapers below:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/showthread.php?2193-Trove-s-latest-newspapers&p=5901#post5901>

New South Wales

The Australian Workman (Sydney, NSW : 1890 - 1897) The Bird O' Freedom (Sydney, NSW : 1891 - 1896) The Dead Bird (Sydney, NSW : 1889 - 1891) The Workers' Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1923 - 1939)

Queensland

Brisbane Telegraph (Qld. : 1948 - 1954)
The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903 - 1926) The Evening Advocate (Innisfail, Qld. : 1941 - 1954) The Evening Telegraph (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1901 - 1921) Johnstone River Advocate and Innisfail News (Qld. : 1928 - 1941) The Toowoomba Chronicle and Queensland Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1875)

South Australia

Border Chronicle (Bordertown, SA : 1908 - 1950) Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) The Express (Adelaide, SA : 1922 - 1923) The Pennant (Penola, SA : 1946 - 1954) The Terowie Enterprise (SA : 1884 - 1891)

Tasmania

The Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer (Hobart, Tas. : 1810 - 1812) King Island News (Currie, King Island : 1912 - 1954) The North Coast Standard (Latrobe, Tas. : 1890 - 1894)

Victoria

The Colonial Mining Journal, Railway and Share Gazette (Vic. : 1858 - 1859)
The Colonial Mining Journal, Railway and Share Gazette and Illustrated Record (Melbourne, Vic. : 1859 - 1861)

Western Australia

The Avon Gazette and Kellerberrin News (WA : 1914 - 1916) The Australian (Perth, WA : 1917 - 1923) The Avon Gazette and York Times (WA : 1916 - 1930)
The Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA : 1905 - 1920; 1945 - 1954) The Leonora Miner (WA : 1910 - 1928) Narrogin Observer (WA : 1952 - 1954) The Northam Advertiser (WA : 1895 - 1918; 1948 - 1954) The Pingelly Leader (WA : 1906 - 1925) Pingelly-Brookton Leader (WA : 1925 - 1926) The Southern Districts Advocate (Katanning, WA : 1913 - 1936) The Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919) The W.A. Record (Perth, WA : 1888 - 1922) Yilgarn Merredin Times (Southern Cross, WA : 1921 - 1923)

FROM THE LIBRARY

Christmas Wishes from the Library

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very “*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*”.

Those who read *the Branch* on a regular basis would probably be aware that we have a number of wonderful volunteers who contribute articles each month to keep you, the reader, up to date in relation to all of our new resources. There are also many others who work quietly in the background, looking after all of these resources and I would like to thank them sincerely for all they continue to do.

If you haven't been able to get in to the Cottage for some time, why not drop in when we re-open on the 12th January 2016? Our Group can be proud of the resources we are able to provide for the use of our members and we would love to see you come in and make use of the many and varied records we hold.

However or where ever you may be spending Christmas and the New Year travel safely and stay well and I look forward to catching up with you in January 2016.

Glenise Clery
Librarian
L M # 284

GEMS IN THE LIBRARY #3

So, you have traced your ancestor in Australia as far back as you can, but you can't find him arriving in Australia. What to do? You have looked in the usual passenger lists without result. Have you thought your ancestor may have worked his way to Australia as a member of the crew?

On computers 1, 2, 4 and 5 we have two invaluable CDs titled *Registers of Discharge of Seamen 1859-1978 Vols 1 and 2* (CD298) and *Registers of Discharge of Seamen 1878-1887 Vol 3* (CD370). Here I found my 2 x great grandfather John Thomas Gamble arriving on board the *Camperdown* on 3 February 1859. He had worked his way as an able seaman and was discharged in Sydney.

Also on computers 1, 2, 4 and 5 is (CD042) *WA Passenger Arrivals 1839-1890*. This CD also includes *Ships Crew List 1829-1887*. For example – Alexander ANGUS arrived in Fremantle aboard the ship *Lady Amherst* on 19 Feb 1857 having worked as Mate. Ref No CSR 441/8.

OR – perhaps your ancestor travelled to Australia as crew and then DESERTED!!!! In the Library Shipping Section you will find book SHI004 *Ships Deserters 1852-1900*. This is a list of deserters compiled from notices in Newspapers. Imagine if your ancestor was Michael O'Keife and you came across the following "MICHAEL O'KEIFE stoker, 30 years of age, 5 ft 11 in in height, brown hair, hazel eyes, fresh complexion, marked with small pox; native of Malagh, Cork. £3 reward. This man probably sailed from Auckland to Sydney about this date. He is known to Serjeant N Ryan, of the Sydney Police, by whom he has been apprehended twice before, on 27th April, 1860 and 1st June, 1859; his brother is an orderly at Government House, and his wife resides at Sydney." This was a notice dated 24 Sep 1860 listing deserters from HMS *Cordelia* on 5 September 1860. You might not want to claim him, but there is a lot of information in that notice.

And then there is our microfiche collection which sometimes gets overlooked. We have *Ships Musters Departures 1816-1825; Passengers and Crew in and out of Sydney from Sydney Newspapers Vol 1 1830-1832, Vol 2 1833-1835, Vol 3 1836-1837, Vol 4 1838, Vol 5 1839, Vol 6 1840 and Vol 7 1841*. We also have *Free Passengers and Crew on Convict Ships into Sydney 1830-1840 Part 1 and 2*. All of these are worth checking out if you have a missing ancestor in the first 50 years of the Colony.

When you visit the Cottage have a look in the Library, you never know what you will find.

Esther Dean
Member #23
Life Member

BOOKSTALL BARGAIN BIN

The following second hand books are currently available for purchase at the Cottage. Please contact the Cottage by phone: 4351 2211 or email: wfhg06@westnet.com.au if you are interested in purchasing any of these items. Extra post and packaging charges will apply should you not be able to collect book/s from the Cottage.

December 2015

N o	Title	ISBN No.	Author	Dat e
1	<i>Reminiscences of Australia</i> - James Tobias Ryan "Toby" 1818 - 1899 born near Penrith describes his life & times in this colourful and entertaining book. Childhood enlivened by many boyish escapades culminates with a rip-roaring house warming party & his hasty departure for the infant settlement at the Hunter Valley. Incl. family tree - Used - good cond. - Hardcover \$5	0 9593764 0 2	Ms T. Ryan	198 2
2	<i>Irish Women in Colonial Australia</i> - The women of Ireland, bond or free, left a distinctive mark on Australia's population and culture. An intriguing picture of the richness and variety of the Irish experience in the making of a new nation. Used - Paperback \$15	1 86448 715 1	Trevor McClaughlin	199 8
3	<i>Gosford and the Kendall Country</i> - Koolewong to Lisarow - Wonderful story about anything and everybody that made anything happen from March 2 1788 when Governor Phillip sailed north in his whaleboat past Lion Island into Broken Bay. Places, people and early life in Australia. Used - First edition Hardcover \$20		Charles Swancott	196 6
4	<i>Bennelong Profile</i> - Dreamtime Reveries of a Native of Sydney Cove. Story about the life of Bennelong - Signed by the author No 112. Used - Hardcover. As new cond. \$20	0 9599039 3 3	Isador Brodsky	197 3
5	<i>My Mother's Ways</i> - An interesting book of household hints from the early 1900s in Australia. The hints & ideas belong to a time and generation of Australian women when making the best of things, reusing, recycling and making ends meet. Used - Good Cond. - Paperback \$10	9781875696581	Mary Murray	199 6

6	Pictures of Many Years - Huckel Family Reunion - Koorawatha - 1988 The story of William & Eliza Huckel arriving in Australia from England on the "Wilson Kennedy" 27 December 1852. Photos & family trees. Used - Paperback \$5		Glenda Dykes	1988
7	The Cradle City of Australia - A history of Parramatta 1788 - 1961 - Illustrations & photos and stories tracing the development of Parramatta. Used - Good Cond. Hardcover \$10		James Jervis	1978
8	Swan River Colony - Life in Western Australia since the early colonial settlement, illustrations & photos, compiled from an exhibition mounted by West Australian Newspapers celebrating WA 150 years Used - Paperback \$5	0 909699 20 8	Ted Joll, Jack Edmonds and Albert Tresham	1979
9	Ourimbah Recollections - A collection of stories tracing the history of Ourimbah formerly Blue Gum Flat from 1829. Photos Used - Paperback \$8	0 646 21049 1	Ourimbah Public School	1994
10	The Shearers - This is the first history of that independent army of men who tramped the great shearing routes of the outback. Tells the stories of the strikes in the 1890's, legendary shearers & unbelievable characters. Used - exc. Cond. - Hardcover \$15	0 17 005884 0	Patsy Adam-Smith	1982

Dellas Johnston
Assistant Librarian
Member # 332

From the Library
New Acquisitions for November 2015

Books

ATL007 *Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Maps for Hampshire, Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.*

These four, A3 size, detailed maps were donated by Mary Manser and list dates of commencement of registers for each parish within the particular county.

FDR010 *Bowden Family Funerals Burial Records Wyong Shire July 1999 - June 2015.*

This latest Group publication includes the following details for each entry: surname, given name, date of death, place of death, age, place buried, date buried and comment. The “comment” column includes date and place of birth and can also indicate if and inquest was held into the death. Entries are listed alphabetically by surname.

GUI014 *iPad for Dummies 6th Edition.*

This book was donated by Roger Lewis and covers iOS 7, iPad Air and earlier iPad models. Learn to: Use Control Center, get connected and browse the web, talk to the world with texts, e-mail, social media and FaceTime, entertain yourself with music, movies, photos, books and apps. Indexed.

GUI015 *Android Tablets for Dummies 2nd Edition.*

Another book donated by Roger Lewis. Learn to set up your tablet, configure the Home screen and get connected, surf the web, use e-mail, text and video chat and keep in touch with social media. Also teaches you how to have fun with photos, video, games, eBooks, music, movies and more. Indexed.

GUI130 *Tracing Your Welsh Ancestors.*

This easy to use guide, written by Welsh Family History expert Beryl Evans and published in 2015, identifies the variety of sources researchers can consult and lists up to date information on where such records can be found. Indexed.

LHS388 *Men and a River. Richmond River District 1828 - 1895.*

This book, donated by Jean Macleay, details the first fifty years of settlement in the Richmond River district of Northern NSW. It includes details and some photographs of the early settlers and describes life in the area from the early cedar cutting days through to the later sugar-cane and dairy farming days. Indexed.

NSP054 *The Melbourne Age, Wednesday January 15th 1913.*

Donated by Jim Walker, this is an authenticated, original copy of this Victorian newspaper. It will be stored in the map drawer in the Archive room at the Cottage. Please contact the Librarian or Assistant Librarian should you wish to look at this item as it must be handled with care.

Glenise Clery. Librarian. Member #284.

SNIPPETS: Extracts from family history magazines and journals

SNIPPETS FOR DECEMBER 2015 E-BRANCH

BATHURST NOVEMBER 2015.

Local content.

CESSNOCK DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FHS INC. OCTOBER 2015

Pgs 6-9 The Menin Gate. A description and list of names, on the memorial, of local soldiers who have no known grave.

Pgs 22-26 The Lebanese in Albury.

Pgs 32-36 Friendly Societies.

CONVICT CONNECTIONS OCTOBER 2015

Pgs 9-12 Early Convict Indents and the Sentenced Beyond the Seas project.

Pgs 27/28 Prisoners' Barracks Penitentiary – "The Trench". Hobart Town's convict barracks.

Pgs 29/30 Once Famous Sydney Landmarks. Fort Macquarie and Sydney's Old Burial Ground. Also includes details of a project to assemble a database of convicts, free settlers and military who were buried in the old ground. www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/sydneys-history/people-and-places/old-sydney-burial-ground.

Pg 40 Did you have an ancestor associated with the Cascades Female Factory between the years 1828 to 2015? If so please email: - Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au.

FAMILY TREE (U.K.) NOVEMBER 2015

Pgs 10-12 350 years of history at your fingertips. www.thegazette.co.uk. (1665 – 2015)

Pgs 26-30 Get to Grips with Family Search.

Pgs 47-49 Teach yourself old script...Online. Websites, digital books and apps.

Pgs 61-63 How to use Deceased Online.

Pgs 64-68 Tracing your English Catholic ancestors.

INSIDE HISTORY NOV-DEC 2015

Pg 15 Registry of Deeds Index hits 200,000 entries. Names in the memorial books in Dublin, Ireland. irishdeedsindex.net.

Pgs 58-61 The history lover's guide to Canberra. Attractions and websites.

LITHGOW AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. OCTOBER 2015

Pg 7 Search for the General Stores and Corner Shops. Do you have information or photos in regard to stores and shops in Lithgow? If so please email:- ldfhs@lsp.com.au.

TAMWORTH AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. NOVEMBER 2015

Pg 17 Werris Creek Railway Employees with His Majesty's Forces – ROLL OF HONOUR. List of members who enlisted during World War 1.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? OCTOBER 2015

Pg 8 Methodist mentions – number of websites which may assist in the identification of Methodist ancestors.

Pg 12 WW2 prisoner of war records hit the web. One million records of troops who were taken prisoner during World War 2 have been published on findmypast.co.uk. Australian PoWs are included.

Pg 13 Scottish maritime records online. Records of 14,000 seafarers who died between 1897 and 1974 can be found at scotlandsppeople.gov.uk.

Pgs 22/23 Now Find Your...Convicts in Australia. Number of websites.

Pgs 25-28 Are you descended from nobility?

Pgs 46/47 Isle of Man volunteer cavalry list, 1799.

Pgs 52-56 Chancery Court Records.

Pgs 61-63 Irish Roman Catholic parish registers.

Pgs 71-73 My ancestor was an Undertaker. More websites.

Pgs 81-87 Around Britain. Northamptonshire. Regional resources for the county.

Meg Gibson Member 43.

Local content: Inverell Oct 2015; Sale & District FHG Oct. 2015 ;

Adelaide NDFHG Inc Oct 2015: Pg.4 Irelandxo: The programme is based on a single idea; reverse genealogy. Instead of waiting for people of Irish descent to trace their roots, Ireland XO volunteers worldwide are networking with people of Irish descent in their local areas, helping to build bridges between the present and the past by connecting people with the home parishes of their ancestors. <http://www.irelandxo.com>, Pg. 6 The Earl Grey project saw over 4000 Irish women come to Australia from 1848-1850, many from work houses. Kay Moloney Cabell wrote a book about this project- "The Kerry Girls: Emigration and the Earl Grey Scheme." See also <http://www.irishcentral.com/> ,Pg.7 Phil Bradley has designed a search engine that allows searches of UK newspapers <http://www.philb.com/index.html>.

Adelaide NDFHG Inc Nov 2015: Pg.7 Deceased Online has added the first set of burial and cremation records for the London Borough of Lewisham and all records will be available at www.deceasedonline.com by mid-October. Immediately available are the records for Grove Park Cemetery and Hither Green (aka 'Lewisham') Crematorium
When complete and online, the full Lewisham collection will comprise approximately 1 million records (nearly 400,000 names) and will include Brockley, Hither Green and Ladywell Cemeteries (in addition to Grove Park and the crematorium) dating back to 1858.
Bega Valley Gen. Soc. Oct. 2015: WW1 related articles, Pgs8-9 Memoirs of Andrew Smith Pt.4, Pg.11 Finding American ancestors –hints for tricky names.

SAG Sept. 2015: Pgs6-18 Using the Biographical Database of Australia to distinguish convicts with the same name, Pgs 20-26 Restoration of the Brown Family grave in Camperdown Cemetery, pgs33-37 mitochondrial DNA [mother's side] explained, Pgs 37-38 3 Sydney shopkeepers Fentin McEvoy, bootmaker, at 714 George Street, Haymarket, John Keeshan, baker, at 153 Campbell Street Surrey Hills, Samuel Garrett, pastrycook and confectioner, at 93 South Head Road (now Oxford Street), Pg.41 ***German Internees at Trial Bay*** Lela Green of the historic Trial Bay site at South West Rocks is trying to compile a list of all the German internees who were at the Gaol from 1915-1918 before being transferred to Holsworthy. They've exhausted all the local sources they can find and would appreciate help from a family historian who could undertake some volunteer research for them at Sydney repositories. If you think you may be able to assist please contact Lela on lela.green@environment.nsw.gov.au , Pgs 47- 50 State Records NSW is dealing with a backlog of records- list available on their website, Pg.61 Christmas closure information for SAG.

Forbes FHG Autumn 2015: Pgs 1- 5 How WW1 affected Forbes, Pgs.8-9 Rolls of Honour in Forbes, lots of other WW1 related stories.

Ipswich Gen. Soc. Nov.2015: WW1 themed stories, including Honour Rolls, letters home, Pgs 24- 27 Queensland Railways records of employees who served in WW1.

Ku-Ring-Gai HS Oct.2015: Pgs 1-4 The taking of Lone Pine [Gallipoli]

Parramatta Female factory Friends Oct./Nov 2015 :2 petitions operating at present to get World heritage status and more funding: An updated petition and brochure are available from our website:

<https://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/support-share-sign/>

Our online petition is still very important as it shows the support is much further afield than our hardcopy. We now have 2,727 online petitioners and the same number of comments supporting our work and it means that 8,181 emails have gone to State and Federal Governments.

<https://www.change.org/p/declare-the-parramatta-female-factory-a-national-and-world-heritage-site>

Parramatta FHG Nov. 2015: Pgs 10- 13 Conditions in the Parramatta Protestant Orphan School 1854-written by the Matron, Pgs 14-15 1946 letters about the disrepair of 4 local cemeteries, Pg. 19 1934 Death of Mr Robert MOXHAM- list of mourners.

Old FHS Nov 2015: Pg. 6 Avenues of Honour cont., Pg.7 Battle of the Somme Map, lots of WW1 stories, Pg.31 English Search sites, Pg.34 This website claims to hold the names of all of the British soldiers that served in Australia. It may be useful to others. Search <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~garter1/> Pg.37 Billeting UK Soldiers during WW1.

Toowoomba Nov. 2015: Pg.6 Place/Street names changed due to German connotations, Pg.8 The job of a fellmonger, Pgs 9-10 Comparing Toowoomba's floods, Pgs 14-15 The township of Alexandria, that never was, Pgs 17-18 Agriculture in Sothern Qld in the 1890s, Pg.19 Kensington College, Newtown [Toowoomba] 1913-19.

Wagga Wagga District FHS Oct. 2015: WW1 themed stories, including the story of Edward John [Jack] Ryan, VC.

Young & District FHG Sept. 2015: Pgs 7- 10 The life of Edward Morgan, Mail coach driver who died in 1912.

Irish Research Tips November 2015

1. *The Benefits to Research of Procrastination*

In researching a family on Census returns recently I came across an interesting anomaly. To protect the anonymity of the family involved I have changed the details in the example below, but the point remains the same.

Having identified the family on the 1901 Census, parents and 4 young children, I noted that by 1911 two of the children, in their mid and late teens respectively, were absent. Nothing too strange there. Often children can be with a relative, in a boarding school or working.

However, what intrigued me about this case was *where* they were. The bulk of the family were at home in Co. Antrim, but the two boys were in Waterford!

This set me to thinking (procrastinating), if this family are doing something seemingly out of the ordinary, how many others are? Quite a few as it turns out.

The figures below are taken from the Census of 1911

(www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

For instance, there are 29 persons enumerated in Kerry that record their county of origin as Co. Down (the search result actually returns 33 entries, but on closer inspection 2 are from Co. Devon, England and 2 from a townland called Down, in Kerry).

Most of these internal migrants can possibly be explained by their professions (inc. teachers (2), commercial travellers (3), coast guards (2), lighthouse keeper (1), etc), but there are also servants (domestic and farm), a carpenter and a clerk, amongst others.

Driven by intrigue I set myself a task, I picked what I believed to be the county with the smallest population (at least currently), Leitrim, and set about establishing what other areas the good people of Leitrim populated. Below are the top 5 counties with the most, and the fewest;

County	Number from Leitrim	County	Number from Leitrim
Sligo	1370	Carlow	21
Cavan	1044	Waterford	33
Dublin	931	Kilkenny	35
Roscommon	630	Kerry	33
Longford	627	Wexford	38

What do we learn from the above (aside from the fact that I need to get out more)?

Well, if you're looking for your missing Leitrim ancestors on the 1911 Census, they're probably not in Carlow!

It also clearly demonstrates that in this instance, geographic location is a major factor, along with the pull of urban Dublin.

In a broader sense, it teaches us that whatever the scale, internal migration existed and should not be ignored when looking for lost ancestors.

The one caveat with the above, and with any research to do with the Censuses, is that they are of course merely a snap-shot in time. Which proved to be the case with the family I was tracing, who returned to their home county shortly after the Census.

P.S. For those of you interested, the lowest number of individuals from one county in another county I identified during my searches was the 6 people from Co.

Londonderry enumerated in Co. Carlow. Including a teacher, a priest and a butler, I'm sure there's a joke in there somewhere!

By Stephen Peirce,
Research Expert

Source: Eneclann News 7 November 2015

2. Interpreting the evidence from the House Books - a pre-Famine census substitute.

Everyone with an interest in Irish genealogy knows about Griffith's Valuation, a survey of all property in Ireland, to calculate the local tax rates paid towards the Poor Law system.

Griffith's Valuation (1847-64) was the third survey by the Valuation Office to calculate what taxes should be charged. Each of the surveys overlaps in time, but produced a unique set of records.

The Field & House Books [aka Quarto Books] are the records of the earliest survey, which started in 1828 and continued to the mid-1840s.

These records include the following evidence:

- The date of the survey
- The name of the householder, their townland address, and a description of their property with the valuation settled on.
- The name of the landlord.

In 1833, Richard Griffith's issued instructions to his surveyors that set the standard for what information was collected. Henceforth, they were required to:

- Measure the external walls of buildings (Length x Breadth x Height) for all houses that were included in the House Books, and the occupiers names.
- to estimate the age and quality of the Building, using letters and numbers to indicate age, quality & repair

There's great confusion, and much discussion, among genealogists about the 'coded-system' used by Griffith's surveyors, to describe property in the House Books.

IT shouldn't be that difficult, because Griffith issued his own system, reproduced here:

#1. To indicate a slate roof house of stone or brick with lime mortar

#2. To indicate a thatch-roof, where the building was of stone or brick with lime morta

#3. To indicate a thatch-roof, where the building had stone walls with mud mortar or mud walls of the best kind

#4. To indicate a basement stories of a slate-roof house used as dwellings [urban]

New or nearly new

A+ Built or ornamented with cut stone & of superior solidity and finish

A Very substantial building and finish, without cut stone ornament

A- Ordinary building and finish or either of the above when built 20 or 25 years

Medium

B+ Not new, but in sound order and good repair

B Medium age, slightly decayed but in general good repair

B- Medium, deteriorated by age and not in perfect repair

Old

C+ Old but in repair

C Old and out of repair

C- Old and dilapidated scarcely habitable

So a building described as being 1 A+ would indicate a house built of cut-stone or brick using lime-mortar, where the build and finish were first-rate and included a slate roof.

Whereas a house described as 1C would indicate a house built of stone or brick, using lime mortar, and with a slate-roof, but where the house was old and out of repair.

Caveat: Surveys were completed by a visual inspection, and can be very subjective – beauty is in the eye of the beholder after all. In my experience there are many instances where the grandeur of a house may be worn down over time. This is particularly the case where houses were not the primary residence, but a town-house, hunting lodge or a 'rus-in-urbe' country house nearby the city.

In my own research I've assisted in recovering the knowledge of some such houses, including one with an intriguing connection to Dean Swift, but that's a story for another day! FF.

Source: Eneclann News 21 November 2015