

GENIE ALLERGY



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



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Our President's report.....



Hello everyone,

After a busy couple of months packing, moving, and setting up again, we made it! My heartfelt thanks to every one who assisted with our relocation. Without your efforts the whole process would have taken a great deal longer. The official opening of our new location was well attended, with life member Mrs Beryl Laidley cutting the ribbon, ably assisted in this by Mr Gurmesh Singh, Member for Cowper.

For those who are unsure of our new location the address is: Rooms 1 and 2, Block C, Coffs Harbour Community Village, 22 Earl Street, Coffs Harbour. Our new phone number is 6648 3605. Our opening hours remain the same. For weekend access please ensure that you have the phone number with you so that you can call the rooms to obtain the access code for the security gate.

Family History Month during August is a great opportunity for anyone contemplating starting their family history journey. Research in our rooms for members of the public is free. Our wonderful team of monitors are on duty to help guide anyone with their research.

Family History Downunder, to be held at the Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle Street, Castle Hill between 8-11 November 2022, has recently announced that Chris Paton, world renowned researcher specialising in Irish and Scottish research, will be one of over 30 speakers at this gathering.

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. Members are encouraged to give thought to who you would like to see on the committee, as well as in the executive roles. Nomination forms will be available in the rooms. The AGM will be followed by a short General Meeting and then a question- and-answer session about family history research.

Finally, our guest speaker for the October seminar is Shauna Hicks. Shauna's presentations are informative with plenty of helpful hints for your own research journey. Registration is necessary to assist with catering. Cost is \$30.00 for non-members and \$25.00 for members.

Until next time, may your research journey be successful

Fiona

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to our new members. We hope you will make yourself at home and find us to be a friendly and helpful group. Don't be afraid to ask the Monitors on duty for help – they will do their best to steer you in the right direction with your research.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sue Ohlin | Robert Burness |
| Heather Collyer | Suzanne Greenaway |
| Kevin & Wendy Brooks | Linda King |
| Joan Reynolds | Narelle Borrott |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

Memberships were due for renewal on 1st JULY 2022

Renewal forms were sent out with the June Newsletter and from now on you will be issued with a membership badge replacing the current membership cards. Badges will display your name and membership number and if required prior to the renewal of your membership, they will be available for \$6.50 with a pin or \$7.50 with a magnet. If you are interested, please let Bev Salter or Fiona Hulbert know.

When renewing your Membership:

1. A completed membership form **MUST** be completed for all payments made. Be sure to complete Section 2 with your Membership type, how you would like to receive your quarterly journal, sign the form and show the method of payment. Note: The completed form is used to ensure our records are kept up to date and therefore it is vital we receive a form to cover all membership payments.
2. Membership will now be \$45 a single and \$60 a double + \$10 if you would like your "Genie Allergy" posted to you each Quarter. They will no longer be available for collection but will be emailed to you.
3. Payment methods:
 - (a) Cash is payable only in person at our Research Room.
 - (b) Cheque is payable in person at our Research Room or by mail to PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour 2450.
 - (c) EFT/Direct Deposit: BSB, Account No., etc. as details on our membership form and you must quote your member number and/or name at the time of payment.
 - (i) Online through your financial institution; OR
 - (ii) In Person at a BCU branch (Banana Coast Credit Union).

Following payment by EFT/Direct Deposit, IT IS ESSENTIAL that a copy of the completed membership form be emailed, mailed or delivered to our Research Room. Renewed membership badges will be placed in the Badge Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection if you haven't included a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.

Membership forms are available on our website <https://www.coffsharbourfamilyhistory.com>

MEMBER'S ENTITLEMENTS

Use of Society's resources including books, microfilms, microfiche, computer system, etc
Receive quarterly Journal Genie-Allergy
Attend meetings and monthly workshops
Guidance with research in our library
Resource borrowing scheme
Free entries in Member's Interests Directory
2 hours free research per year for members who are resident 50km or more from Coffs Harbour.

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As exchange journals are no longer being printed, they will now be available for viewing by members from the Admin. desktop at our rooms. Monitors can access these journals and you can download them onto a USB. If anybody would like particular journals emailed to them, please contact Lyn via email at lynette.brotherton@gmail.com

WHO IS MY GRANDFATHER? George Henry BOURNE (1876-1960)

My Great Grandparents, Arthur & Rebekah BOURNE, migrated from England, arriving in Moreton Bay in 1871 on board the "Indus". They made their home in and around Brisbane before moving to Sydney in 1875. Arthur worked as a lock maker in England and in Australia was variously known as a plumber, glazier, painter, contractor and builder. He was listed in three Sands Directories, 1875, 1876 & 1877, as a Glazier, off Little Macquarie Street, Sydney. The family were respected members of the community. Arthur was an elder of the Granville Congregational Church and the Minister used to come to tea every Sunday. Before tea, Arthur would read from a large bible and everyone kneeled down while listening. Keys of the church were left hanging on the veranda at "Thelma", 17 Prince Street, Granville; built by Arthur and now Heritage Listed dwelling. I know a lot about my Grandfather. I learned from him as a child and I learned of him from my Mother and my delightful Aunts. George celebrated his birthday on 3rd November; his children say that he was definitely born in Balmain; and his birth year is accepted as 1876 from the age at which he died as well as other sources. However, I have been unable to find a record of his birth. All children of the family have been found in Birth or Baptism Indices, except for George. George is not listed on the Birth Certificates of the next born (Rhoda 1878) or the last born (Cyril 1893). Arthur was the informant for Rhoda's birth record and Rebekah was informant for Cyril.

From the above information I assumed that George had been adopted so I looked for male children born on 3rd November 1876. There were three! One had married; one had died aged three years; and for the third, Samuel Ernest CROMPTON, I could only find a birth record. Samuel was born at home at 107 Abercrombie Street, Sydney, to Jane Crompton (nee Bateson). He was registered (illegitimate) at Balmain on 14th Dec 1876 by his mother, who was living at the Abercrombie Street address. Jane's first husband, John CROMPTON, had died of Enteric Fever on 25th May 1875, at Stewart Street, Balmain. The youngest of their twelve children, George, was nine weeks old and there were six other children ranging in age from two to fourteen years. They were Annie 14, Mary 12, Elizabeth 8, Joseph 7, John 6 and William 2. In October 1876, three weeks before the birth of Samuel CROMPTON, the two older boys were placed in the Protestant Orphan School. In March of the following year, Elizabeth and William were admitted to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum. George would have been twenty months old and probably stayed with his mother, leaving Anne and Mary unaccounted for. Aged 14 and 13 years in 1877 they may have been old enough to go into service. The other children were progressively put back in the care of their mother after her marriage to Arthur SICKEL in February 1880.

So ... was Samuel CROMPTON adopted out? His birth date is the same as my Grandfather's and there is a Balmain association. Is he my Grandfather? The question of his adoption was raised with several older relatives. None could say that Grandfather looked very different from his siblings. George had fair hair, blue eyes and a ginger beard. Some siblings were fair and others were dark. The youngest, Cyril had blue eyes and black hair. No-one knew anything about an adoption. In the 21st century my brother and I took DNA tests and discovered that we had a BOURNE cousin in common – a 2nd cousin once removed – descended from our Grandfather's brother. This meant one of two things. Either George was the child of Arthur & Rebekah BOURNE and had not been registered; or George was the son of Arthur BOURNE and Jane CROMPTON. Not being registered is one thing; being left off successive birth registrations is another. George would have been eligible for a pension in 1941 and would have required a birth certificate. The Archives checked records from 1940-1950 but found nothing. An Aunt said that Grandma received the pension and, when George could no longer climb ladders, he applied for and received the pension. In the hope that George may have been christened, I also requested a search in the Uniting Church records but received no reply. Perhaps my search terms were too broad. I am not being disrespectful in referring to Grandfather as 'George'. I have fond memories of a family story that one day Grandfather BOURNE was holding a struggling two year old toddler (me). My sister Narelle, four years old, walked by and said: "Put her down George. She wants to get down". My family use the name with reverence. He was a lovely man.

So ... I live in hope that the mystery will be solved.

And ... I believe that there is no such thing as coincidence.

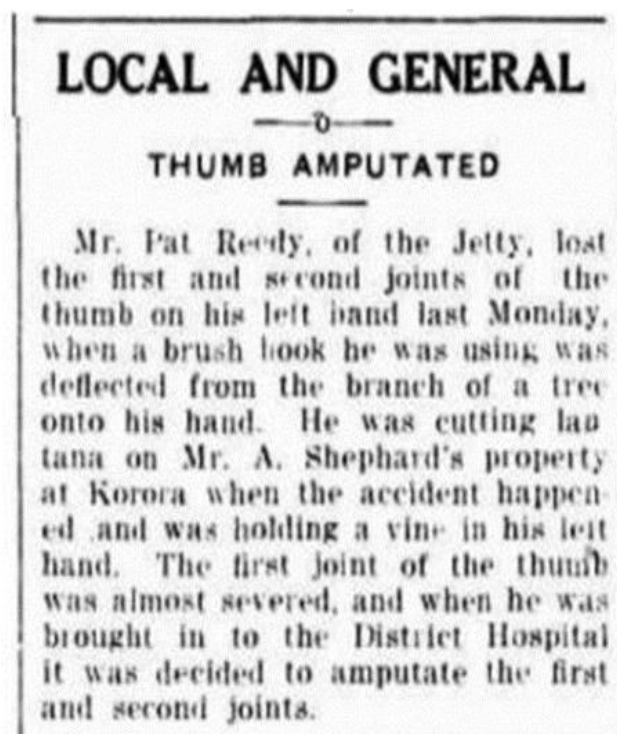
Coming Full Circle

Researching our local history means traversing a loose network of information both analogue and digital. The information is managed by dozens of loosely-connected heritage-collecting agencies. It requires experience to navigate the network between them, but sometimes the connections are right in front of you, just waiting to be discovered.

The first small collection added to Coffs Collections (in 2019) was rescued from old carriers (cassette and CD-ROM). Known as the *Voice of Time*, it contains oral interviews of local people recorded in the late 1980s. The audio was converted to digital form and can be listened to using any web-enabled device. [1] Our collected local identity takes many forms. In addition to audio, Coffs Collections includes (museum) artefacts, (library) pamphlets, (museum) photographs, and donated stories. The latter are mostly on paper and are still to be digitised.

One donated story was a brief biography of a person named Pat REEDY. It summarises his war training and service on Morotai Island (in the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia), with some photocopies of photographs. They made an immediate connection with some, until now, uncredited photos already in Coffs Collections (just search on Morotai).

[2] But who was Pat REEDY?



LOCAL AND GENERAL (1939, March 17).

Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW : 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954), p. 2. [4]

A tantalising clue or two was in the biography with photographs loaned by Helen LANDRIGAN: an image of Pat with his sister Gloria REEDY; a description of his role in the Second World War. But no war record was to be found on the War Memorial's or the National Archives' website. No birth listed in the Registry's index. No inclusion on the Coffs Harbour cenotaph, which meant that Pat had returned home to Australia.

Some broad searching in Trove did find a few articles about Pat in his early days. [3] LOCAL AND GENERAL (1939, March 17). Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW : 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954), p. 2. [4] and also about the marriage of his sister Gloria in 1942. UPPER ORARA WEDDING (1949, October 25).



UPPER ORARA WEDDING (1949, October 25).
Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW : 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954), p. 4. [5]

[5] The latter was curiously titled SECOMB – FAINT Wedding, but it also mentioned the late Michael REEDY as father of the bride. A hint to follow further. This turned out to be Gloria’s second marriage. There was no mention of Pat, but another search under his sister’s married name revealed confirmation of his existence. Was it an unusual form of memorial?

New Proprietors of Pat’s Gift Shoppe (1973, October 18). Sawtell Guardian (NSW:1970 –1976), p. 1. [6]



New Proprietors of Pat’s Gift Shoppe (1973, October 18).
Sawtell Guardian (NSW : 1970 - 1976), p. 1. [6]

Time to go back to Michael REEDY. He was listed in the NSW Registry’s Death index for 1942. The NSW Marriage index showed his wife’s name, Sarah Jane. She wasn’t listed as a guest at her daughter’s wedding. A check of the Registry’s Deaths index did have a name match for her, but in Orange, also in 1942. [7] This geographical separation was unexpected. Sometimes only a basic tool such as a certificate can provide the answers. There are several options for obtaining one: buying an original or a transcription, finding it in a family tree in Ancestry (also a cost unless your public library subscribes to it) or, a long shot for contemporary events, finding the information in FamilySearch. Most of these options require spending a little, but they can save time too. [8, 9] The 1942 death certificate of Sarah Jane REEDY was invaluable - it solved the mystery of Pat’s name. He was formally known as Clifford. Pat was 22 when his mother died; his older sister Isabel was 28 and younger sister Gloria was 10 years old.

Subsequent quick searches uncovered his war service file, which mentioned his lost thumb, on the National Archives' website; his gravestone in the Coffs Harbour Historic Cemetery via the Ryerson Index; and his funeral notice in the Coffs Coast Advocate (on microfilm at the Coffs Harbour City Library). [10,11,12] Alas, they did not explain why Clifford was known as Pat. Clifford (Pat) Reedy Coffs Harbour Lawn Cemetery [13]



Clifford (Pat) Reedy
Coffs Harbour Lawn Cemetery [13]

But one last search of Coffs Collections revealed the remaining member of the family - Isabel LANDRIGAN, older sister of Pat, who had been a *Voice of Time* interviewee in 1987. [14] And the instigator of Pat's brief biography. [15] Our research in Coffs Collections had come full circle.

ENDNOTES

1. Voice of Time oral history project, <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/15447>
2. Coffs Collections, <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/>
3. Trove, <https://trove.na.gov.au>
4. LOCAL AND GENERAL (1939, March 17). Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW : 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954), p. 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article187990457>
5. UPPER ORARA WEDDING (1949, October 25). Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW : 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954), p. 4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article185058564>
6. New Proprietors of Pat's Gift Shoppe (1973, October 18). Sawtell Guardian (NSW : 1970 - 1976), p. 1. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247259737>
7. NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages, <https://www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages>
8. Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/>
9. FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>
10. National Archives of Australia, <https://www.naa.gov.au/>
11. The Ryerson Index, <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>
12. Coffs Coast Advocate microform, <https://bit.ly/3bKgU4a>
13. Australian Cemetery Index, <https://austcemindex.com/inscription?id=7895066>
14. Jerry Landrigan & Isabel Landrigan Interview, <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/31269>
15. The war service of Pat Reedy, <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/75961>



Debbie Campbell Member No 1764
Local Studies and Digitisation Librarian
Coffs Harbour City Council

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Alice's Grandmother

When my mother died of cancer on the 14th August 1996, her family history items were delivered to my house and left on the doorstep by my sister. Mother had photographs, some marriage and death certificates, a few old family Bibles and a little bit of information handed down from the older members of the family. I joined the Coffs Family History Society so that I could go to their workshops in between full time shift work, caring for my father who had Parkinson's Disease plus multiple small strokes, my volunteer work for Wires, my volunteer work, as the secretary of the our hospital branch of the NSW Nurses Association. Isn't it great to retire!

The first thing I was told at the Family History workshops was to start with you and work backwards. On looking at my mother's material, I noted, there was nothing about my mother in the collection. Mother had started with Robert FOSTER, her mother's grandfather.



Photo. Foster family home Mardell's Road.

So, I thought, I would look at Robert FOSTER, an Agricultural Labourer, born on 24th March, 1845 at Market Weighton, Yorkshire, England to Robert FOSTER (1806 - 1884) and Hannah POTTER (1812 - 1902). I have a photo of Hannah reading what looks like a family Bible.

Researching Robert, I found him in the 1861 Census, aged 16, a farm servant in Watton, Yorkshire. Then in 1867, Robert, married Ann LONDESBROUGH, Robert was 22 years and Ann 20 years. In the 1881 Census Robert (a farm Labourer) and Ann lived in a house with their children John 11, Frank 8 Maria 6, Ada 4 and Richard 2 years plus five lodgers! Tunnel Miners and Mine Labourers. Were they saving for their trip to Australia?

Mary, their eldest daughter, was out working as a servant, 14 years old, in 1881. Then suddenly, I had one of these "did they swim to Australia moments", which went on for years!! For years I could not find out how, when, or where the Fosters arrived in Australia. I tried to find out by searching the records but it was not until one day I was searching on Ancestry, looking at their daughter Ada's hints, that up popped the information that on the 9th July 1888 Robert, Ann, their children Mary, John, Frank, Maria, Ada and Richard had departed from Bremen on the vessel "Habsburg", for Brisbane, as Unassisted Immigrant Passengers. My Uncle, Tom MILLWARD, later said "I could have told you that"!!!

I wondered what they were doing in Bremen, Germany. I had never, up until that time, heard any of the family mention that they went to going to Germany. Why had they gone to Germany? Perhaps it was the advent of tractors, less Agricultural Labourers needed. It was, because of "the depression", I was told.

Next the FOSTER family is found in Ulmarra, Robert was 43 years old, when they, arrived, in Australia. I later found that Robert's elder brother, Frank, was living in Ulmarra. The Fosters lived in Ulmarra for 7 years when, George HARDACRE, who was later to marry their daughter Mary, arrived from the South Coast. George told them of property he seen at Central Bucca, on his walk up to Ulmarra, the property was coming up for selection and was good farming country.

Robert and Ann moved to Central Bucca in 1895. Six years after their arrival, Robert had a horse accident which left him with a fractured skull. Robert was paralysed, Ann nursed him, she, and members of the family, ran the dairy farm for the next 24 years. Robert died, at 80 years, on 28th December, 1925, and according to his death certificate, he died of Heart Failure, Chronic Bronchitis following Hemiplegia due

to a fractured skull 20 years prior to his death. The Horse accident, that caused his fractured skull, is documented in the Clarence and Richmond Examiner on Tuesday 15th May, 1900, page 5. Thanks Trove! Prior to my mother's death she took me out to Central Bucca cemetery, where an old style fence once stood along two sides of the grave but a fire had been through. There was no headstone. I checked the old undertaker's records, to check the site was correct (the records were, at that time, in the old library where the car park of the Coffs X-Service Club is now). A photo of the grave, from Ann's funeral service showed the fence. A plaque was ordered and my mother, brother Wes, and I put the plaque (and headstone) on top of the grave. (Sorry to the historians, I put Ann, before Robert, on the plaque, only to find out later that was, not, how it was done. Man went before a lady in those days!) Did I say, Robert is buried, with his wife Ann at the Central Bucca Cemetery?



Robert & Ann Foster's Grave, Bucca Cemetery

Ann LONDESBROUGH was born on 21st November, 1847 in Lund, Yorkshire, England, her father John (1821 - 1898) and her mother Maria SPENCE (1828 - 1896). That Family History workshop that told me never to trust the spelling was right! There were lots of different spellings. Ann's surname is spelled LONDESBROUGH on her marriage certificate, her daughter, Mary FOSTER'S Bible spells it LONDSBROUGH, the village, in England, is spelt LONDESBROUGH but, on one English census, it is spelt LANDSBRO. The modern generation spells it LONDSBROUGH. Ann's father started out being a Bricklayer, ended up an Agricultural Labourer. Ann with her daughter Ada, managed the dairy farm, raised Albert Curtis FOSTER after Albert's mother, Maria, died and looked after Robert. Ann FOSTER died on 18th March 1938, aged 90 years. Ann's obituary stated she was born, in Hull, on the North bank of the Humber River. A Yorkshire woman.

My mother's grandmother was Robert and Ann's daughter, Mary FOSTER. Mary was born on 4th May, 1867. Robert and Ann were Wesleyans and brought their children up with a strong work ethic, attended Sunday School (as it was then) where they were taught to read and write by reading the Bible and writing Bible verses (they had little public schooling). Mary had a Bible which has inside the words "a reward from the Wesleyan School, Little Weighton, to Mary FOSTER, 14th January, 1881", in it, Mary listed family births, deaths, marriages. Mary had very clear, easily readable writing. On the back page of Mary's Bible is written "Ada FOSTER got married to Mr. G. WILCOX on the 4th November, 1947, I hope they will be happy for all time." (Should I say, Ada was 70 years, it was George's 2nd marriage!) The front pages, of her Bible, list Alice MILLWARD'S (nee HARDACRE) family and the back Mary FOSTER'S. Mary also lists her parents, their children and separately Albert Curtis FOSTER (her sister Maria's son).

The Fosters conducted Church, in their family home, at Central Bucca. Mary (my mother's grandmother) was born on the 14th May, 1867 in Little Weighton, Yorkshire. In the 1881 Census at 14 years, Mary was a serving girl in the home of an oil merchant. Mary's future husband, in 1881, (George HARDACRE) was a Coal Miner, at Burnley, Lancashire. Aged 17 years, George arrived, in Australia, in 1884. The Family said, "they knew each other in England and wanted to marry, however George's biological father had been Church of England, his step-father, James HOLDEN, was a strict Roman Catholic and would not consent to the marriage. George became a Protestant - Wesleyan. Mary's family arrived in Sydney on 9th July, 1888, Mary was 21 years. The FOSTERS went to Ulmarra. "The Family" then say Mary sent George a letter. George was a Hawker living at Tilba, Tilba, on the South Coast of NSW.

George sold his horse, sulky, pots, pans and walked to Ulmarra. (An article I read, on the state of the roads, in those days said, “there was only a rough walking pathway between Bellingen and Coffs, no bridges, the river, at Repton, was crossed by boat”).

Mary’s father Robert. selected land at Central Bucca, and moved there in 1895. Mary and George HARDACRE married on 15th November, 1898, Mary was now 31 years, (George 35 years). George built a hut on the 200 acre Central Bucca property that he had selected, and he called the property ‘Grassington’ after his home in England. George was late, for the wedding, when the best man arrived to find him, George was putting down a floor in the hut for Mary! Mary’s first pregnancy ended in the death of twins, (1889) after Mary went into labour, alone on the farm. The twins were buried, on an island at the edge of the creek, on the HARDACRE farm where Mary’s sister Maria, who died, at 23 years, in 1898, is also buried. Maria was the mother of Albert Curtis Foster. The twins’ deaths were registered at Bellingen. After the death, of the twins, George, took Mary to Grafton, three months before the births of each of her next two children. At ‘Runnymede’ private hospital in Pound street, Mary, worked as a kitchen hand and cook until the babies were delivered, and then returned to Central Bucca.

Alice Mary was born on the 15th May, 1902 and George Robert (known as Bob) was born on 15th September, 1903. After the children arrived, George, built a slab building on their land. Rules for taking up selected land, said the land had to be worked for three months of the year, so until the farm was viable, Mary worked the farm, milking cows, feeding pigs, feeding calves, feeding the working dogs, chooks and looking after the children. George went away to supply them with an income. George’s hobby was inventing farming equipment. In 1897 George patented, what is believed to have been, Australia’s first flying machine. George flew from Woolgoolga crashing into a tree at Moonee. (Article Feb, 1930.) Mary, Uncle Tom MILLWARD informed me, told George after he came home from this flight (having walked back to Woolgoolga to get his horse and cart) that she was fed up. Mary had milked the cows, fed the calves, dogs, chooks and cooked tea, which had gone cold. Mary, told George, he was not to waste any more time flying. (Advocate/Opinion 23rd July, 1983 Article on flight).



Mary Hardacre, Ann Foster, Alice Millward (baby)

In 1911 George bought, what is now Number 12 to Number 38 Hardacre Street (was Katoomba Street). He built a house on Number 12 and brought Mary to town, telling her she had worked long enough, she could retire. However, the share farmer, on the Central Bucca property, Herbert WATSON, did not work (milk cows, feed calves, chooks, etc) on the Sabbath, so for years the HARDACRES, went to the farm, on Sundays, to do the farm work. The house, at Number 12, had sawdust on the floor in one area, where butchered cattle were hung up and kept cool. The property had chooks, a vegetable garden and a milking cow run on the land from Number 12 to the current Number 38 Hardacre Street. The land was fenced, a spring fed well was in front of the current Number 30. Mary must have done a lot of work, as George, with the money he made from a Gold mine, purchased a Taxi, driving it to Coramba, Bellingen, Grafton, from the Jetty to “Top Town” (as Coffs Town area was then known). Following the sale, of the Taxi, George moved houses from an old mill, near Coramba to 81, 83, 102 and 104 High Street (now West High street) and renovated them before renting them out. George and Bob built Ada FOSTER a home,

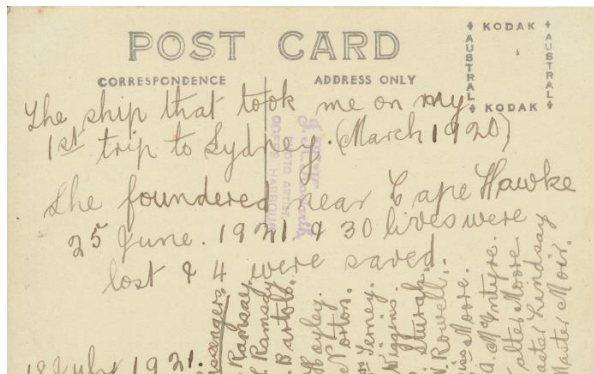
in Glenreagh Street, on the site of the current childcare building. (Advocate Oct, 1927). Mary and George went with Alice, to Sydney Technical College, so that Alice could do a six month dressmaking course. Mary was taken, by basket from the jetty to the boat, ss "Fitzroy" in March, 1920, for their trip to Sydney. (The ss "Fitzroy" foundered near Cape Hawke, on the 25th June, 1921, 30 lives were lost, 4 were saved. On the back of a photo of the ss "Fitzroy", Alice MILLWARD wrote this information and a list of the passengers at the time the ship was lost).



ss "Fitzroy" at Coffs Harbour



Basket to the ship



Mary's Postcard

George moved Houses to Nile Street, opposite Coffs Harbour High School (now a block of units) and set Alice up in a shop on her return from Sydney, where she did dressmaking etc. Mary looked after the house, animals and vegetable garden. She was a member of the Australian Red Cross and by 1917, the Coffs Harbour Branch had 43 members, who would later make 465 items, including pyjamas, bed linen and socks for delivery to assist hospitals and convalescent homes for the troops. The Red Cross was also involved with fundraising such as stalls and refreshment marquees at sports days and Agricultural Shows. Mary HARDACRE had lots of scrap books where she put recipes, knitting patterns, Bible verses and cut out items from newspapers - she loved the Royal family.



The House in Hardacre Street

Mary's mother Ann, died in 1938, the year Mary's husband, George, returned to England. Bob, their son, lived, at home, until 1946 when he married Ruby May FOSTER. George built a house, at the back of Number 20 Hardacre Street for his stepsister, Mary PETERS, (nee HOLDEN). (Advocate 16th December, 1958). Mary went to live, with her daughter, Alice MILLWARD, at Korora, following a stroke. Mary was cared for by Alice BAKER, her granddaughter.

Mary died on 12th October, 1948 at 78 years. According to her death certificate, Mary died of Hypostatic Congestion, Coronary Occlusion in the Coffs Harbour District, later Base Hospital. My mother, Alice BAKER, said she died of "a stroke". She was buried, with George, at the Historic Coffs Methodist (now Uniting) Cemetery, on the 14th October, 1948. Mary's death certificate stated she had spent 61 years in New South Wales.

Alice Baker Member No. 1999

MY MASTERS – FROM DIZZYING HEIGHTS TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR

A bit more of my family Saga: this time MARTIN KEDGWIN MASTERS, the father of William Miller Masters, (featured in my last article). This time I have tried to make it more fictional, however never having written fiction before, I found this difficult. I tried to imagine what life at the time would have been like for him and how he plummeted from dizzying heights to the depths of despair and I hope I have given a portrayal of the life of this man, about whom, very little is known. He was my GGGG Grandfather.



Typical attire for a gent at that time



Surgeon- Apothecary Room

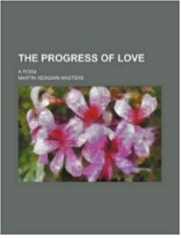


Attending a patient

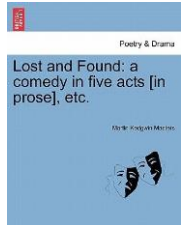
As he walked along that cobbled street to his rooms, well dressed ladies, dapper gents and horse drawn carriages passed him by, his perfectly polished shoes shone almost as brightly as his silk cravat and the brass plate on his door which read Martin K Masters, Apothecary/Surgeon. Once inside, he donned his apron, prepared his mortar and pestle and arranged his elaborate remedy jars in the window. Most of his remedies were made from the herbs stored in those jars as antiseptics, anaesthetics and antibiotics hadn't yet been discovered.

His earnings were high and he was living the good life. He was moving in the right circles, could have the finest of wines, smoke the best cigars and Anne his beloved wife could have the most beautiful of crinolines and the children the best education possible.

Frustrations were emerging however and he felt he was being shackled by his profession preventing him from being free to indulge in his real love – literature. His love of literature was learned from devouring the works of others hence he taught himself to write prose. He wanted to earn his living from writing and his first book, written in 1807 “The Progress of Love” was described by the British critics of the day *“we do not know this writer and are therefore not disposed to censure or commend him from any personal prejudice, but we are pleased with the frankness with which he honestly says he did not compose his work but wrote it with the hope of gaining literary recognition”*.



Then in 1811, he ventured into play writing and wrote the play “Lost & Found: A Comedy in 5 Acts”



Writing poems and plays gave him entry into literary circles with the likes of Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Thomas Hardy and William and Mary Godwin. He was thought to have a natural genius for writing and William Godwin, a leader in the Romance movement, gave Martin great encouragement. But, in neglecting his family and profession in preference for his new love, his income was slowly dwindling and he was sliding deeper into debt. He became a risk taker making investments, many of which were unsuccessful. One of those investments with Merchant Gustavius Smith, had been successful however and lay in the Bank of England until the Government decided in 1851, to address the national debt by using money in these dormant accounts. If only he had known!!

He had frequent invitations to dinners and meetings with his literary friends mostly at William Godwin’s home, where he indulged himself in the presence of these learned men. Both authors, Godwin and Mary (Shelley) had a real love match, but when Mary died in childbirth less than a year after their marriage, even with his medical knowledge, Martin was unable to prevent her death.



William & Mary Godwin

Stress was taking its toll on Martin’s wife Anne. Spending more and more time with his literary friends, she and the children were being neglected. She spent many hours alone struggling to make ends meet, trying to protect and care for her children and her health was rapidly deteriorating, hence her death in 1820. Saddened though he was by Anne’s death but to enable his continued meetings and dinners with his influential friends, he was encouraged by Godwin, to find a second wife and Mary Ann, thirty two years his junior and a nineteen year old “English Rose”, fitted the bill. A torrid affair began which produced a baby girl. Two years later they were married and she bore him another five children. However, Mary-Ann became the wicked step-mother to the children he had with Anne! Objecting to their father getting involved so soon after their mother’s death, the children from his first marriage wanted nothing to do with her. This caused even more problems for Martin and his escape was to immerse himself deeper in his writing.

Unfortunately his writing overtook his profession and very soon he was on a downward spiral; his taxes weren’t paid, he was having great financial difficulties and life was becoming increasingly tough for him.

He had lost his profession, his friends, his investments, was virtually homeless and ultimately, soon would lose his life. With nowhere to go and listed as a Medical man of the Established Church on admission to Christchurch Workhouse in Southwark, it was a shaming experience for him to have to succumb to the life of a pauper and rent accommodation for his family within the local workhouse.

On 26th May 1836, aged 65, Martin was found dead in his bed at that Workhouse.

Sharon Ingersole Member No. 1548



Surely your research has provided you with a story to tell. I need your stories for our Journal and without them the "Genie-Allergy" will cease to exist.

- Perhaps you have a problem that someone can help you with?
- Perhaps you do have skeletons in the cupboard which makes life interesting?
- Did you have a convict in your family and what was his/her crime?
- Do you have nobility, aristocracy or royalty in your tree?
- Do you have an interesting story or an article to share? Include photos if you have them as they always add interest.
- You may want to share humble origins, or a grand adventure, wars, marriages or even why you became interested in Family History in the first place,

If you do, I would love to hear from you. Please email me on shaz@ingersole.com

Articles need to be received by the deadline to be included in the next available issue. The closing date for the December issue is 1st November 2022.



Have you hit the proverbial brick wall and do you need some help? Please send your query/questions/problem to the Editor for publication in the Journal, as someone may have already encountered this or a similar problem previously.

They could have some suggestions for you.



Father's Day

Australia celebrates on 1st Sunday in September, this year 4th September, but Father's Day was celebrated on Sunday, June 19th 2022, in most countries.

Father's Day, in the United States, is celebrated on the third Sunday in June to honour fathers. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. She is said to have had the idea in 1909 while listening to a sermon on Mother's Day, which at the time was becoming established as a holiday. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19th 1910, the month of the birthday of Sonora's father. In 1924 U.S. Pres. Calvin Coolidge gave his support to the observance, and in 1966 Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson issued a proclamation that recognized the day. It became a national holiday in 1972, when Pres. Richard Nixon signed legislation designating the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Although it was originally largely a religious holiday, Father's Day has been commercialized with the sending of greeting cards and the giving of gifts. Some observe the custom of wearing a red rose to indicate that one's father is living or a white rose to indicate that he is deceased. Other males—for example, grandfathers or uncles who have assumed parenting roles—are often also honoured on the day. Some Roman Catholics have continued to observe the feast day of St. Joseph, on March 19th, as a tribute to fathers.

THE 1841 CENSUS IS CONSIDERED 'THE ULTIMATE CENSUS' – BUT WAS THERE A CENSUS PRIOR TO THIS?

“In reality, the 1841 Census is more of an end product, the acme of campaigning and correspondence which has pursued for decades and generations. A major victory was achieved in 1800 when the principle of a national enumeration of people was accepted in the Population Act by the Parliament of that time. Many attempts had been made before the 19th century to persuade English Monarchs, Governments, and even the Church, to conduct a national census; Bills had been introduced into and laid before Parliaments but all had failed either because of lack of time, lack of finance to implement the aspirations or a total lack of support for the proposed legislation.

The decennial census was introduced in England and Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands and on the Isle of Man in 1801, the authorities neither requested nor required the names of individuals. The only information solicited was the number of males and females employed in agriculture, the number employed in a trade, manufacture or handicraft. A certain amount of confusion arose as many women and children and servants were put into the third category, irrespective of their actual occupations. In an attempt to resolve these anomalies, the 1811 and 1821, questionnaires requested the number of families in each category. The results were published as numerical analysis by counties, parishes and townships or municipal boroughs. Employment categories were extended in 1831 from three to seven.

From 1700 to 1780 and then 1781 to 1800 The Population Act required that the number of baptisms and burials in a Parish be provided. Marriages from 1754 to 1800 were also required. Whilst the 1800 Act elicited only numbers of people, many enumerators made detailed listings of their local populations including names, family groups and relationships, ages, dates of birth and added notes of immigration patterns in their Parishes. However, Censuses had been taken long before the 1800 Population Act, both in the British Isles and further afield. The Children of Israel in 1200 BC being one of the earliest documented.

In the British Isles, the Domesday Survey of 1086 was compiled by Norman clerks at the instruction of William I who wanted to know the extent of the land he had conquered and how it was managed. Landholders were male thus the Domesday census lists adult males only. In 1181, the Saladin Tithe was imposed on individuals' personal estate – not their real estate. This was calculated on 1/10th value of possessions for urban dwellers and 1/15th for rural dwellers. This tax remained on the statute books until 1623 but was not enforced much after the medieval period.

From 1272, Freeman's Rolls were maintained by Corporate towns as a record of the names of Freemen and Guild members who could normally claim certain privileges in their borough such as shares in the town's profits and exemption from tolls. The Statute of Winchester in 1285 required every man between 15 and 60 to be assessed and sworn to arms according to his land and chattels (real and personal estate). This confirmed an old Anglo Saxon Fyrd developed by King Alfred to enable all men to serve their shire when called upon to do so, to prevent the repetition of the Danish invasion. Whilst by no means true censuses, two of these lists were made annually but very few have survived.

In 1332 grants and subsidies were levied by the Monarchs as a means of raising revenue; taxes imposed as the need arose. The returns to those liable were inscribed in parchment rolls and so were known as Lay Subsidy Rolls. No complete set of these rolls survived. In 1377 to 1381, as a result of wars, England was in crisis and all males over the age of 14 were required to pay tax. These are not true census as females and children under the age of 14 were not included. The 1434 returns showed the quotas for the village and not the individual but Cornwall, Devon, Kent and Sussex names were given and the originals are now held in the Public Records Office.

In 1522, a nation-wide valuation of properties in Muster lists and Rolls for several counties resulted in holdings for counties and subsequent muster and militia lists "Tudor & Stuart Muster Rolls". In 1523, the first census was made in a form resembling that of the 19th century and that original census for Coventry is held by the City Archivist. In 1525 lay subsidies were imposed on a national basis on top of the previous 1/10th and 1/15th tax. The method of taxation was based on the tax payer's capacity; the capital value of the property, landed income and wages. These assessment rolls provided a directory of the upper, middle and lower middle classes and are quite like the earliest Parish registers. Henry III, after taking the Established Church from Rome, retained the practice of Parishes levying an annual tithe of all parishioners at Easter and from part of this tithe, incumbents derived an income. These were known as the Easter Books, several of which have survived.

In 1563, the Ecclesiastical Return of Families, laid down the number of families in every diocese in England. In 1565 a schedule of inhabitants of some Canterbury Parishes was compiled which contained the names of the householder, his wife and the number of children as well as the number of servants. Uniquely it also contained the number of dogs and hogs kept by each householder! A Poor Census in 1570 listing the names of individuals, ages, addresses and occupations portrayed those at the bottom of the social ladder. It also showed those contributing towards the poor rate and identified master craftsmen and apprenticeships. Manorial surveys were also conducted in many parts of the country; the ownership of tenements were traced back to their owner "ex antique". Such surveys provided surnames and thus a history of the tenancies. The decline or increase in the fortunes of a family can also be traced through these surveys. In 1608 a census was taken of the men in Gloucestershire, describing their occupations and indicated the distribution of industry in the county. At regular intervals detailed lists of inhabitants in Northamptonshire were compiled and were included in the Parish registers.

In 1638 the King ordered a survey to be undertaken of the inhabitants of the city of London. The Clergy of London were required to make an estimate of the rental value of the houses of each of the city's 107 Parishes together with the actual tithe paid for each house. Many of these lists contained the name of householders, rents paid for the house, the tithe paid, the location of the house but the information for each parish varies enormously.

In 1641 with the prospect of civil war, the House of Commons asked all males over the age of 18 to maintain the "Reformed Protestant Religion". Conducted on a national basis, these returns (now kept in the House of Lords Record Office) listed not only those who agreed but those who refused. From the mid 17th century many further taxes were imposed indicating the financial worth of the individual or the property they owned.

Those who contributed towards a “free and voluntary gift” on a county by county basis, were named on the lists of that year. These gifts were to celebrate the return of Charles II to the throne and so it is likely that the names appearing are of those who supported the Monarchy.

Taxes like the Saxon Fumage Tax based on the number of chimneys in a dwelling, the hearth Tax based on the number of fireplaces were introduced and twice a year the taxes were payable. Bills of Mortality were introduced in 1665 to provide data on deaths from the Plague. Lists of Papists were made, Parish lists were made, list of valuations and so it continued.

In 1695 a Parliamentary Act for the registration of births, marriages and burials became effective. Each registration was taxed in order to raise revenue “for carrying on the war with France with vigour”. It was a complicated act that required births to be registered within 5 days and recorded on certificates for each Parish, but there was no reference as to what should happen to the certificate thereafter. The Marriage Duty Act attempted to extract duties from bachelors and widowers and required detailed statistics on nobility and gentry. In spite of all the confusion, many assessors did produce annual returns and included the name, estate, degree, title of each individual and the tax payable. Unfortunately, no centrally maintained lists have survived.

From 1700 to 1770 the census was taken every decade of the inhabitants of Liverpool. Names, ages, the household, the head followed by his wife, children and servants. Widows, single women, adult brothers and sisters are also identified. In 1705 the House of Lords asked Archbishops and Bishops to supply the same statistics as well as the names of the Papists. The potential growth of Roman Catholicism was a huge concern and as such, the Archbishop of Canterbury was persuaded to secure an Order in Council requiring every incumbent to take exact account of the number of Papists in the Parish. They were further asked to state the Papist’s qualities, estates and place of abode. In 1750 a list was compiled on French Protestants who left France for their religion and now reside on the Isle of Jersey. This was to identify suitable “foreign Protestants”

In 1723 many individuals swore an Oath of Allegiance before their County justices “pursuant to the late Act 9 Georgii Regis”, which provided names of potential ancestors, places of abode and declared loyalty to the crown. These are mostly held in the Quarter Sessions of county archives. By the mid-1700s, almost every county was enumerated and showed the numbers of families and inhabitants, both males and females. 1753 should have been a major milestone in the history of the British Census. Thomas Potter, son of the Archbishop of Canterbury, introduced the Population Bill, “A Bill with the Amendments for Taking and Registering an annual account of the total number of people, the total number of births, marriages and deaths and also the number of poor receiving Alms from every Parish and extra-parochial place in Great Britain”. He met with such opposition within Parliament, and many argued strongly against it. It was felt that it would reveal England’s weaknesses in terms of population structure to her potential enemies. Hence the Bill wavered and was abandoned. But public debate on population figures for England intensified which was a catalyst for censuses in the respective locality.

In 1757, the new Militia Act was introduced as there were no competent people left in the old regiments to defend people in the event of an invasion by the French. All professional soldiers were fighting on the continent in the armed forces and this required that lists be made by the counties in England and Wales to recruit men to serve in militia regiments. These recruitments were selected by ballot and if a man was unwilling, he had to find a substitute. Most counties had enumerations and lists compiled for one reason or another often containing the figures for the inhabitants of a town, the number of males and females, married persons, widows, widowers, unmarried males, unmarried females over 20 and boys and girls under 20. From Aiken in 1795 “it is to be observed that in the lowest rank of people there is often more than one family to a house.

In 1777 a National Tax was introduced on male servants and households employing them had to pay the levy. A complex scale of charges was applied, depending whether he was married or single, whether he was employed as a book keeper, steward, warehouseman, waiter, groom, stable keeper etc. Servants engaged in husbandry, manufacture or any trade were exempt as were those employed by the Royal Family or those in service at Oxford and Cambridge Universities as well as Westminster, Eton and Winchester schools. Also, male nurses and those in the forces below officer rank were also exempt.

In most Parishes in most years in the late 1700s a survey/census of one form or another throughout England was undertaken and finally, as a result of lobbying and public debate another Population Bill was laid before Parliament on 19 November 1800 and came into force the following year. Thus, a nation wide census was held on 10 March 1801 and has taken place every 10 years since, except in 1941 when War broke out”.ⁱ

ⁱ Extracts taken from Pre-1841 Censuses & Population Listings in the British Isles by Colin R Chapman

Did you know that 100 years ago, in 1922, Coffs was ‘hooked to the north by rail’?”

“Early February once again saw Moonee Street flooded – the worst for four years. Over a 3 day period, the town was drenched with nearly a foot of rain. Residences in the vicinity of the intersection of Moonee Street and Coramba Road were surrounded by four feet of water and ‘certain fittings of out buildings that are not usually mentioned in polite society bobbed along in the Moonee Street torrent’.

Yet another section of the long awaited and much anticipated Northern Railway finally opened, this latest bit covering the distance from Coffs Harbour to Glenreagh – some 26 miles and 30 chains in distance. The only missing link now was from Macksville to Raleigh.

With the completion of the last section north from Coffs Harbour, the first through train from Grafton to Coffs arrived at the Jetty on July 15th, carrying officials only. However it would be nearly 3 months before the first train from South Grafton would arrive – at midday on Thursday October 12th.

It was planned to run a special excursion to Coffs from the north each Sunday and the first excursion train to arrive on 20th October, was actually two trains with more than 700 excursionists aboard.

Meanwhile, despite the Macksville to Raleigh gap, the first train bearing passengers from Sydney, about 70 in number, pulled into the station the following Monday to be met by members of the Chamber of Commerce and a number of other interested citizens. The excursion trains from the north proved to be so popular that by mid-November, several hundred people were visiting Coffs Harbour each Sunday.

Though the ‘Golden Era’ of gold mining in the district was long over, the owners of Dal Campbell’s mine at Korora announced that their last assay showed 12 ounces to the ton.

Late November saw the official opening of the Dorrigo Hydro-electric Scheme (the first in Australia) by the Premier, Sir George Fuller.

Christmas day in the Coffs Harbour district in 1922, was one of the hottest on record with the mercury touching 107 degrees. They said ‘that the weather has been as dry as a wood God stuffed with shavings’!

They also said that ‘the number of dogs registered in Coffs is much below the number of yelping curs that infest the town. We also tip a few to die of lead poisoning – by gun – in the near future’.

They said that ‘a Yankee airman has flown at the rate of 248mph, nearly half the speed of our debtors ducking around corners when they see us coming!’

From 100 years of News – the history of the Coffs Coast from the pages of *The Advocate*.

If you have Italian ancestry you may like to visit the following sites.....

<https://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en>

<https://www.italiangenealogy.com/>

<https://www.cadutigrandeguerra.it/SourcePage.htm>

<http://www.gentedimaregenealogy.com/index.php>

Anyone interested in German research contact www.svengrewel.com who will do research for a fee

Ian O'Hearn will be available to assist with land and property research by appointment. Please contact the rooms for booking

From Cheryl dal Pozzo

