

# GENIE ALLERGY



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



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**COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**



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Secretary: Cheryl dal Pozzo

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

Annual Membership Fees: Single ..... \$50.00  
Joint (2 persons at same address)..... \$70.00

*As from 1<sup>st</sup> July, a fee of \$15 will be charged if you would like your "Genie-Allergy" posted to you.  
All members with an email address, will have their journal emailed to them.*

**RESEARCH:**

**Library Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm (CLOSED 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday afternoon)  
Saturday: open mornings, afternoons closed except by appointment

**Library Fees:** Members - free on production of current membership card. Visitors - \$10 for half day or \$20 for whole day. Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance.

**Library Rules:**

- \* Current membership cards are to be worn in the rooms.
- \* Attendance Book to be signed on arrival and departure.
- \* Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.
- \* Pencils only to be used in Library.
- \* Photocopies available through duty Monitor and will be charged according to price schedule
- \* One microfiche only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

**Correspondence Inquiries:** Research will be undertaken for a fee of \$30.00 per hour  
For more information, email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com)

**Workshops: are held on 4th Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.**

**RECIPROCAL RIGHTS** – Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in "Genie-Allergy". All care is taken to be accurate, however the Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space constraints.

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Vice President - Robyn Little 6651 2529 Treasurer – Ruth Doward 0413 841 911  
Please contact Fiona or Cheryl if you are interested in filling the vacant positions on the Committee

## Our President's report.....

Hello Everyone,

Another year is almost over, and I trust it has been a rewarding one for you as far as your research is concerned.

For those interested in re-establishing the DNA group, this will take place in the new year. The most likely morning will be a Monday (not the 3rd). It will be a discussion group for the start and hopefully building on this, depending on the interest level. Stay tuned.

A reminder to members when visiting the rooms, please ring 6648 3605 if you are outside. Try and avoid knocking on the door as this disturbs the other tenants in the building. Our rooms are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, and on some Saturday mornings between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm.

Our October seminar was well attended, and we welcomed visitors from Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Evans Head. Our guest speaker, Dr Richard Reid from Canberra, enjoyed his visit and hopefully his presentations have helped 'kick-start' your Irish research.

Our last monthly Bunnings stall for this year has continued to be successful. These will continue next year, with the first one being held in February. Thank you to all those who have assisted with the stall in any way.

Event planning for 2025 is well underway, so if you have any suggestions for possible topics for workshops let the committee know so that we can contact people and organisations, if necessary.

Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season and looking forward to continuing your research journey in 2025.

Fiona

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### **Chris Paton & Mia Bennett Down Under Scotland, Ireland, England & DNA Starts in just over two weeks**

#### **[Chris Paton & Mia Bennett down under](#)**

See also attached brochures for program other details

Take your research further with leading experts Chris Paton and Mia Bennett, featured speakers on our **[18th Unlock the Past cruise](#)** (Southern Australia) in December 2024. Chris and Mia are among the most sought after speakers internationally in their respective fields of expertise - Chris (from Scotland) on Scottish and Irish genealogy and Mia (from England) on DNA and English genealogy.

Sydney – 2 days Thu 28 - Fri 29 November 2024 – **[Sydney details and booking](#)**

at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

Adelaide – 1 day Fri 6 December 2024 – **[Adelaide details and booking](#)**

at Hisense Stadium (West Adelaide Football Club), 57 Milner Road, Richmond SA

Brisbane – 2 days Thu 12 - Fri 13 December 2024 – **[Brisbane details and booking](#)**

at Geebung RSL Club, Corner Newman Road & Collings Street, Geebung

**DISCOUNT** for those travelling from a distance - 50% discount is available to those living more than 4 hours away from the venue (as per Google maps). Ask for a promo discount coupon - **[alan@gould.com.au](mailto:alan@gould.com.au)** (advise where you are coming from).

#### **EXTRA BENEFITS**

- Prize draw for several hundred \$\$\$ in prizes for those pre-booked
- 10% or more discount on all bookshop products available at the event
  - 50% discount for all attendees for purchases by 31 Jan 2025
    - ebooks - 1500 titles available
    - USB data products & collections - over 100 titles available

We hope to see you at one of our Chris Paton & Mia Bennett events.

## THE WAY WE TRAVELLED BACK THEN

### We travelled by trams.....

We travelled by trams and Sydney's first tramway opened in 1861 between old Redfern Station and Circular Quay. These two tramcars were pulled by horses but ceased in 1866 as an International Exhibition was held in the Garden Palace building at the Botanic Gardens and although the Government agreed to extend the line, it was impossible to have it ready in time to handle the large crowds expected for the exhibition. A temporary tramway was constructed and was to be removed after the exhibition but because of its popularity it was decided to construct other lines to the suburbs. After successful trials with electric trams, they replaced many of the steam trams, Cable tramways were constructed where the terrain was too steep for the steam trams but electric trams serviced much of Sydney and reached its peak in the 1920s.



The increase in private car ownership and competition from privately owned buses was having an effect on the tramways. In 1931 the Government decreed that the operation of private buses be restricted but it did not solve the problem and had its own Government bus service and plans to replace the trams with buses within 15 years.

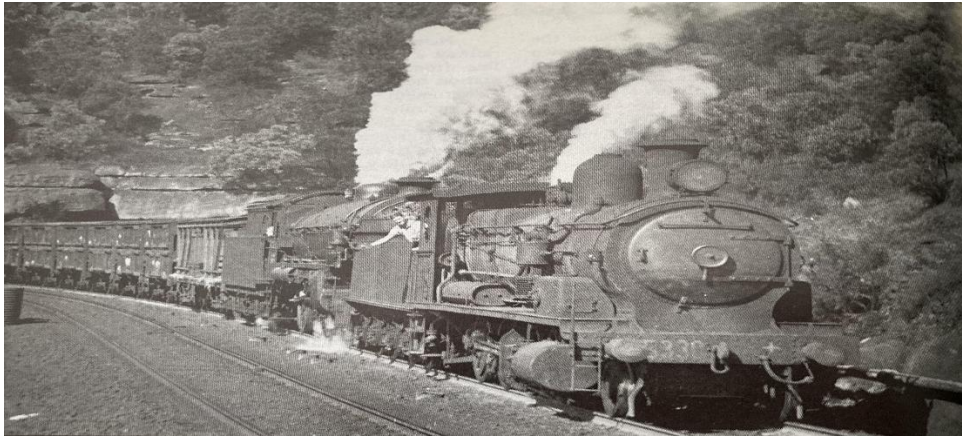


However, WW2 interfered with these plans and the trams carried heavy loads, especially when petrol rationing was introduced and the trams had to operate under minimum maintenance conditions. With the end of the war, the tramway replacement programme was revived and from 1948 many of the lines were replaced by buses, the last in 1961 from the city to Maroubra Beach and La Perouse. Government tramways operated in some country towns – steam trams in Broken Hill, Maitland and Newcastle.

In Melbourne the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board was in control of the trams and in 1906 the St. Kilda and Brighton Beach and from Sandringham to Black Rock and Beaumaris was inaugurated and became the first electric tramway of permanent consequence in Victoria.

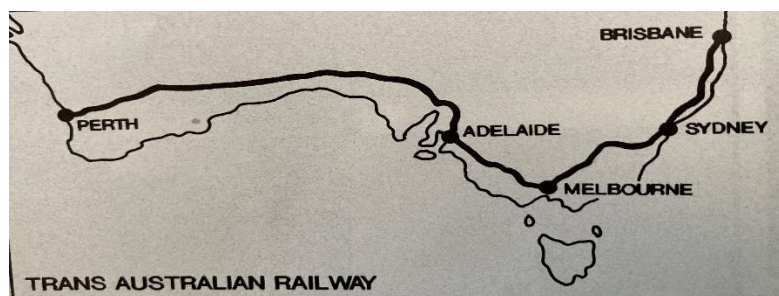


## We travelled by Rail .....



A true history of triumph over distance can be justly proud. Australia's first railway was built with convict labour in Tasmania, then known Van Dieman's Land. It was a 5 mile track built across the Tasman Peninsula under the direction of Captain O'Hara Booth and was completed in 1836 and cut out the arduous sea journey around Cape Raoul on the trip between Hobart Town and Port Arthur.

The next railway development began near Goolwa, a site near the mouth of the River Murray in South Australia. Some months later saw the birth of the first steam railway in Australia, the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company which started steam operations between Flinders Street and Port Melbourne in 1854. A year later NSW had its first steam railway from Sydney station to a station near Granville and was to be the first Government owned steam railway operating in Australia. Perhaps because of the vast distances between the States, few people imagined that the railways would ever extend far enough to join up. The other States as they broke away from the founding colony, soon recognised the immense value of rail transport and set about building their own railway systems, well before Federation in 1901. This led to the development of six distinctly different rail systems and a 7<sup>th</sup> system, known as the Commonwealth Railways was completed in 1917 with the line between Port Augusta in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Fortunately the standardisation programme which has now provided a standard gauge linking the East and West coasts have done much to correct the century old error



No train journey in the world is quite the same and none has a similar attraction – it is more than a mere journey – it is an experience. The country through which our railway runs falls naturally into 4 divisions –

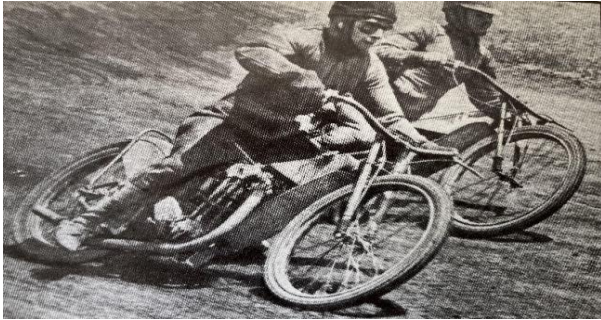
- The Granite plateau extending eastwards from Kalgoorlie
- The Limestone or Nullabor Plain running to the East from the granite country
- The belt of sand hills on the Eastern edge of the Limestone region
- The stretch of country extending from the Eastern edge of the sandhills to Port Augusta

The Westernmost division resembles the goldfields of Western Australia, the Easternmost is of the same type as neighbouring parts of South Australia. The Limestone plains are not quite like anything in the world.

**The Zig Zag Railway** - Constructed by John Whitton, Engineer in Chief for the Railways, it was started in 1860 after the proposition to have tramways on the public roads. Years of surveys took place and it was thought that there was no possible way of getting a train down the mountains. The termination at Mt. Clarence was so precipitous that a zig zag line was proposed instead of a tunnel. There was no contractor in the Colony who was prepared to undertake the building of a tunnel. The zig zag consists of 3 roads - top, middle and bottom with the junction of each provided with a dead-end siding with a loop line to each. This permitted the train to be 27 wagons and one engine long - a wonderful piece of engineering admired by railway men world wide. Rail travel in Australia compares favourably with others throughout the world and today we have the Indian Pacific, The Ghan and Great Southern.

### **We travelled by Motor Bikes...**

The crackle of exhausts, thrill of speed and the freedom of the air draws thousands of Australians to be a motorbike rider. Each Capital city has its speedway track, popular by many.



### **We travelled by horse....**

In 1901, the age of motor vehicles was a long way off and everywhere horses were used for transport to draw sulkies, buggies, wagonettes, omnibuses, trams, lorries, ploughs, harvesters, hansom cabs and delivery carts. The horse population reached its peak in 1918 with about 2½ million in Australia with the larger firms keeping their own stables. However the horse required more attention than the motorcar was later to receive and every morning city dwellers who depended on the horses for their livelihood, were forced to rise at the crack of dawn to feed, harness and prepare them for the day's work. Horse transport became an important industry and provided employment for a variety of trades like saddlers, coach builders, carriage proprietors, horse trainers etc.

Cobb and Co was born out of the turmoil and excitement of Victoria's gold rush. A young American, Freeman Cobb, was sent to Victoria by the American Express Company and soon realised that people were desperate for transport to the goldfields. He managed to raise the necessary capital to open a short coach route from Sandridge to Melbourne and then to Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine. As well as lighter coaches. They imported 'crack' American drivers who had acquired their skills with Wells Fargo. Within a few months Cobb and Co was almost a legend and won a reputation for reliability and regularity.



Cobb & Co coach  
on the road from Ungarie to Wyalong

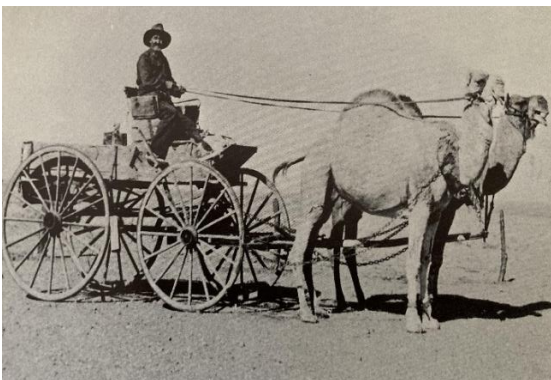




## **We travelled by Camels and Donkeys and Bullocks .....**

The first camels to reach Australia arrived in 1860 when 24 camels and 3 drivers were imported by the Victorian Government for use in the Burke and Wills expedition. With their large feet and well used to walking on sand in high temperatures with a shortage of water, they had great potential for Australia's outback transport. In 1866 they were used extensively on the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line and the building of the Trans Australia Railway on the hot, waterless Nullabor Plain.

Edward Henty, the founder of a permanent settlement in Victoria, brought with him 4 working bullocks in 1834, the forerunners of those teams that did so much to open up the new country



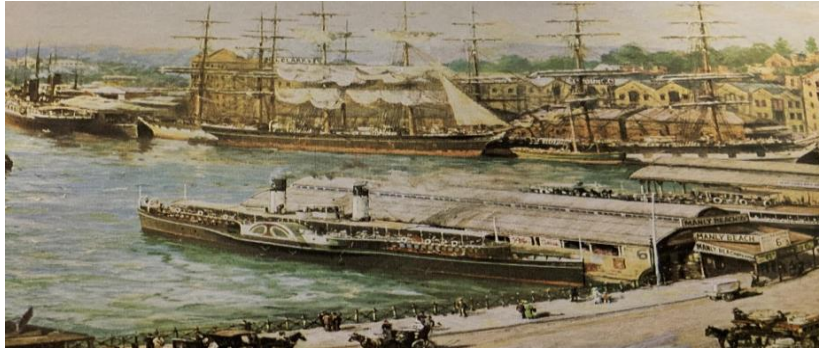
## **We travelled by Automobile.....**

It can readily be understood that a car built for the perfect English and Continental roads and climate is quite unsuitable for the rough Australian conditions in regard to clearance, strength, power and durability. After sending a Rep to Australia to investigate the conditions, the Siddeley-Deasy car was regarded as peculiarly adapted for Australian conditions even though it was not manufactured in this country. It was accepted that it was not possible to build a light car which had the durability and efficiency but after careful research the Daimler Company at last perfected a suitable vehicle.



## We travelled by Ship .....

Every Sunday evening at 8.00pm, the showboats “Kalang” and “Koondooloo” departed from Circular Quay for a 2 hour moonlight concert cruise. Vocal and instrumental numbers were interspersed with community singing led by popular artists. The sight of a vessel steaming over the harbour on a moonlit evening created a delightful atmosphere rarely forgotten in Sydney.



In Melbourne the river regatta held at ‘Henley-on-Yarra’ was the premier aquatic event of the year with over 100,000 attending. By day the boat races excite keen interest and by night the fireworks and illuminations created a spectacle.

In 1913 “Australia” sailed from Portsmouth as the flagship of the newly formed Australian Fleet Unit. On the outbreak of WW1 she was assigned to counter the German Pacific Squadron and was employed solely in the Pacific. She was then sent to Scotland and became flagship of the 2ns Battle Cruiser Squadron. She returned to service in 1916 and in 1919 was back in Sydney where she was scrapped in 1921.

“The pioneers of the Northern Rivers” is the name given to the North Coast Steam Navigation Company. Some Sydney and Clarence River capitalists combined and sent home Captain Wiseman to get a steamer built for the Clarence trade. Three years later the steamer “Grafton” was brought out and ran for many years on the North Coast until being sent to Tasmania. With the growing trade on the rivers the Company expanded its fleet and vessels like the “Kyogle” proved herself to be seaworthy when she made her maiden voyage to the Richmond River in 1902. Sydney Cove incorporates Circular Quay and has been famous since the days of sail. Most of the ferry traffic is concentrated at the Quay and thousands of passengers are carried each year. In 1788 Governor Phillips had his convict ships brought round from Botany Bay and anchored in the cove.

The golden age of Australian passenger ships began in the early 1900s when the power, speed and luxury of these liners carried enormous prestige. During the wars, most of these ships became troop ships, hospital ships or invasion transports. In 1936 the luxurious “Kanimbla” made her maiden voyage from Melbourne to Adelaide and Fremantle.

In 1939 she was requisitioned by the British Admiralty and in 1945 she became a troop carrier bringing troops home to Australia. In 1961 she was sold to the Japanese Shipping Company and was given the new name of “Oriental Queen” cruising the Pacific. (I did my first cruise on this ship in 1963...Sharon)



the old the old “Kanimbla”



The restored “Oriental Queen”



## We travelled by plane.....

Displays of aeroplanes during the lunch hours certainly impressed hundreds of thousands of spectators with a wonderful sense of efficiency and perfect control. The NSW Aviation School was opened by the Governor in 1916 when he said “flying machines, though endless in number and perfect in construction, were of no use without trained men – men who must be physically and temperamentally fit for the task”. The first trans-Pacific flight was by Charles Kingsford-Smith who helped to put Australia foremost to develop the potential of aviation. After a distinguished war career and commercial enterprises, he went to the US where he formulated the plans for making the first trans-Pacific Flight. He failed to get the necessary financial backing in the US but back in Australia he teamed up with another ex-war pilot, Charles Ulm and managed to fund the purchase of a damaged Fokker triplane which was to become the “Southern Cross”. In May 1928 Kingsford Smith and his crew took off from Oakland California making the flight in 3 stages – to Honolulu, Fiji and Brisbane – 83 hours and 38 minutes!

The Flying Doctor – Outback Australians owe much to the man who first demonstrated that the aeroplane could be used to “spread a mantle of safety”. Dr. George Simpson was a man of many attainments but his consuming interest was in ensuring that the people of the remote areas received the same medical care as their less adventurous city dwellers. And so in 1928 the Flying Doctor Service began after planning with John Flynn the essential details for a complete coverage of Australia.



*The way we Travelled – View Productions P/Ltd 1996*

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## DNA

DNA can reveal a lot of individuals probably distantly related to you. It also gave a match of 217cM with a lady called Diane who was shown as a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> cousin with “extremely high confidence”. Initially, her family tree going back to great grandparents, showed no familiar names and as she lived in Canada it seemed unlikely. After further contact, it became clear that her only likely link with the UK was with her Grandmother Caroline. Caroline’s mother was Mary Ann and her father shown as Frederick. Caroline had been born in London in 1901 but at the age of 12 was sent to Canada under the auspices of Barnardo’s children’s charity. Diane had been led to believe that Caroline’s father was a butcher, a married man named Fred who had died in a bicycle accident in 1901.

Given the close DNA match, it became almost certain that her father was a Grandfather named Frederick. In the 1901 census he was described as a journeyman-butcher. According to Diane, Caroline’s mother was at the time working as a servant at a house to which Fred used to deliver butchery orders. So they lived close to each other, he was single and only 20 and certainly did not die in a bicycle accident. A family rumour also stated that Fred had fathered an illegitimate child. This was the verification that would have been lost forever without the DNA Match.

Caroline was born in 1901 in London Workhouse; her mother Mary Ann registered the birth a week later, giving her address as the Workhouse where she had delivered the baby. Fred did contribute 2/6 a week for his baby's upkeep but with Mary Ann unable to cope with working and raising a child she was taken into foster care and although Mary Ann was supposed to contribute towards her daughter's upkeep, she did not. With the birth of a second illegitimate child, Caroline was then sent to Barnardo's and was one of 132 girls sent to Canada. She was very fortunate to have a nice foster home, did well at school, married and seemingly had a good life.

Barnardo's was one of many children's charities that sent children to start a new life in Canada and Australia from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1960s. This was a popular policy supported by the British Government who believed that children would have opportunities they wouldn't have in the UK. Although well intentioned, we now know it was a misguided policy. The last Barnardo's child was sent to Australia in 1967 and in 2010 the British Government formerly apologised for the UK's role in sending more than 130 children to former colonies.

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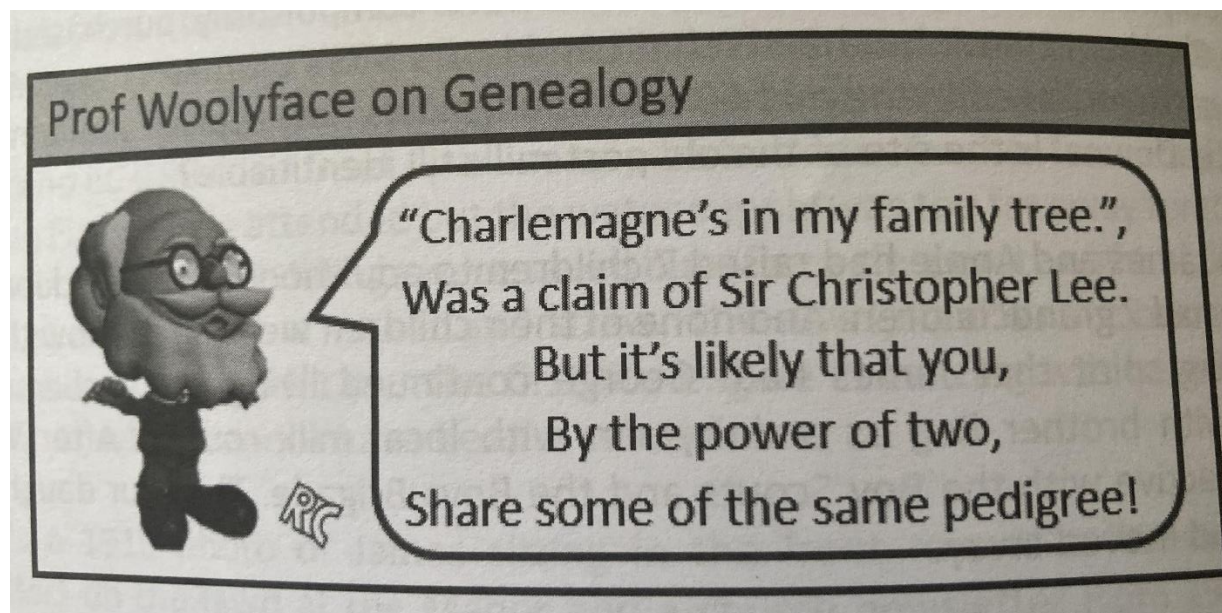
**More on DNA** – The Y chromosome DNA test explores a man's direct father's ancestry (similarly the X chromosome soon to be available for a woman's mother's ancestry) as opposed to the autosomal DNA which many of us have used, which has both the X & Y chromosomes. As the Y chromosome passes down with little change from father to son, there are typically many generations of males with the same Y chromosome. Sometimes there is a small mutation and then there are many generations of males with this similar chromosome. These are called Haplogroups. Whereas autosomal DNA is effective over relatively few generations, Y-DNA can help you with ancestors over 10,000 years. Y-DNA testing allows you to connect with others who are descended from a common patrilineal ancestor many generations ago and can be a great help in breaking down brick walls. Soon it will apply to female lines. The only company to test Y-DNA is [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com). They analyse your test many times to ensure the result is correct.

**In the New Year, our Society will be forming a DNA group under the leadership of our President, Fiona. If you would like to join this social group, please let Cheryl know. Further details will be advised once known.**

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Do you have an interesting story to share? It doesn't have to be your family history but if you have found something that you think members may be interested in, then please send it to me at [shaz@ingersole.com](mailto:shaz@ingersole.com) or drop it into the rooms when next you are there. It all makes for a more interesting newsletter.....Sharon

## Charlemagne, Dracula and the Power of Two



In his informative and entertaining book “A Brief History of Everyone who ever Lived”. Adam Rutherford reported that Christopher Lee liked to claim that he descended from Charlemagne. He then showed that whilst this is very likely to be true, most of us Europeans are as well! Hence, we are also related to Dracula – feel free to substitute Count Dooku, Saruman, Scaramanga, Fu Manchu, Lord Summerisle etc.

Charlemagne was notable fecund – siring 18 children, but this is not crucial. Yes, he should have had at least one child who had children, but he was not an ancestor due to the power of his prowess, rather the power of arithmetic, namely the power of 2! Consider we all have two biological parents, four grandparents etc, having at the  $n$ th generation,  $2^n$  biological ancestors. Assuming each generation occurs every 25 years, in around 1250,  $n$  for me is 29 and  $2^{29}$  is 526,870,912, when the world population was only about 350,000,000. So, some of my direct ancestors alive must be duplicates – this is known as “pedigree collapse”.

By Charlemagne's time  $2^n$  exceeds a million million! Many ancestors must be duplicates, probably Charlemagne himself and with different wives/concubines!

If a father's parents were second cousins, you don't have 32 great grandparents – at most 30. There are maiden names that are not known, children but no fathers, wives but no husbands and so it goes.

Editor, Sussex Family Historian.

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## GHOSTS OF HARTLEY VALE

At the peak of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, Hartley Vale Road snakes above bushland, dropping away each side into the valley below. A sandstone causeway built by Convicts allows motorists to visit the area today and is said to be an engineering marvel but with a dark past. It was the setting for one of Hartley's most horrific crimes “The Woman in Black”. The haunting truth behind this tale is the savage murder of a 14 year old girl named Caroline. Her mother took her own life in 1835 when Caroline was just eight. Suspicions were raised that her father may have played a role in his wife's death and he was arrested and sentenced to death by hanging. The conviction was overturned but while he languished in prison, Caroline and her sister



Maria had to fend for themselves and with little food, they were sent to the “Harp of Erin” Inn, built in 1832 at Hartley to work as servants for the very respectable Collits family. It was here they met John Walsh, a feed convict whom Maria ultimately married. Caroline married the 25 year old son of the Hotel proprietor, William Collits but it was a very unhappy marriage. Caroline left him for a while and went to live with her sister and John Walsh. In 1842, hoping for a reconciliation, John Caroline and William met at a tavern near Hartley but on the return trip, the men fought and John picked up a rock to strike William, who fled. Early the next morning the bloodied body of Caroline Collits was found on Victoria Pass, her head struck with a rock which lay covered in blood nearby. John was arrested, convicted and hanged in Bathurst on 3 May 1842.

Sightings of Caroline are said to be scarce these days but in 2015, truck drivers still claimed to see her – white face, black dress and pleading, especially on cold dark nights when the threat of black ice forced them to travel slowly. If you go there you may not see the ghost of Caroline but you will see wonderful gardens.

An excerpt from Henry Lawson’s “*The Ghost at the Second Bridge*”

*You’d call that man a senseless fool, a blockhead or an ass who’d dare to say he saw the Ghost of Mount Victoria Pass;  
But I believe the ghost is there for, if my eyes are right, I saw it once upon a ne’re to be forgotten night.*

*’Twas in the year of 89, the day was nearly gone, the stars were shining & the moon is mentioned further on;  
I’d tramped as far as Hartley Vale, too tired at the past but coming back I got a lift in Johnny Jones’ Cart*

*And as we climbed the stony pinch below the Camel Bridge, we talked about ‘the girl in black’ who haunts the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge;  
We reached the fence guarding the cliff & passed the corner post, & Johnny like a senseless fool, kept harping on the ghost.*

*She’ll cross the moonlit road in hast & vanish down the track; her long black hair hangs to her waist & she is dressed  
in black. Her face is white – a dull dead white – her eyes are opened wide. She never looks left or right or to either side*

*The tangled bushes were not stirred because there was no wind, but now and then I thought I heard a startling noise  
behind. Then Johnny Jones began to quake, his face was like the dead. Don’t look behind the ghost is there he said.*

*He stared ahead his eyes were fixed, he flogged the horse like mad; You blank I cried, you’re only mixed a drop too  
much you’ve had; I’ll never see the ghost I swear, but I will find the cause, I turned to see if it was there and sure  
enough it was.*

*It appeared to plead for aid as far as I could see, its hands were on the tailboard laid, its eyes fixed on me; the face it  
cannot be denied was white – a dull dead white, the great black eyes were opened wide & glistened in the light.*

*I stared at Jack, he stared ahead, and madly plied the lash, to show I wasn’t scared I said ‘why Jack we’ve made a  
mash’, I tried to laugh, ‘twas vain to try, the try was very lame; and tho’ I wouldn’t show it, I was frightened all the same.*

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## Archiving for the Future

How great it would be if our ancestors had kept detailed births, deaths and marriage records – just for our benefit! A lot of questions would have been answered.

Fast forward to today. Some of us are the current custodians of the genealogical data for our families and we now have the ability to record so much more information than ever before; not just historical documents and stories but also photos, negatives, audio & video content, DNA data and family tree information. Often the current generation has no interest in genealogy and cannot see the point of why we are doing this. But subsequent generations may pick up the family tree baton and run with it!

A person’s life can be summarised as 2 Jan 1698 – 17 Aug 1752 but in doing this we miss the most important part, the “--“ in the middle – what the person actually did throughout their entire life. We live in an ephemeral world where everything now is digital. Information is no longer stored in a way that is time-honoured to our

eyes, ears or hands. Letter writing has gone by the wayside and physical mediums like paper, photos, sound and film are now digitised. You could exclude future archaeologists for concluding that 21st century people must have lived in the dark ages as they may find no evidence of physical writings or imagery because everything has gone digital. Without physical records of historical events, the past would be unknown. That is a real problem with the digital information age.

What then are the best physical mediums and practices to store our genealogical data for the future?

In the early 1990s, the author scanned an image which then saved 6 megabytes in size – small by today's standards of gigabytes and terabytes. Back then, the floppy disc only had a small capacity which meant that a large file had to be scanned over multiple floppy discs just to back it up. If one of the discs had developed a fault, the image would have been lost. As technology changed, the author moved to the next available format to take advantage of the increased capacity. He started with floppy discs onto Zip discs (100MB) then CD-R (700MB), DVD-R (4.3GB) and now Blu-ray discs (25GB) and hard drives (16+TB). As a result he still has a copy of the digital scan made more than 30 years ago. In the digital world there is still no archival format that reliably last more than 30 years..

The problem is that all the devices we use today to access digital and analogue mediums, will eventually become obsolete or fail. Specifications change. The pace of obsolescence is rapid and hard to predict; you may be surprised how quickly things have aged and become out of date. Technological changes and resolution improvements have changed in just the last 20 years or so – imagine the audio/video/photo resolutions that will exist in the future. Have multiple back-ups preferably in different locations. Storage is so fast and cheap nowadays; it is a shame that backing up is an afterthought!

Our genealogical family tree software might work with current operating systems but may not work with future ones. The data may be stored in an incompatible format that you cannot export from or the company that made the software, may no longer exist or release updates. Every family tree application worth their salt, can import/export files like GEDCOM.

If we are to keep the documents of our time, we must constantly update our digital back-ups to keep up with the times and transfer them across to the current archival formats before they become obsolete. We must also ensure that we store this information in a standard way utilising the highest resolution possible so that they can be understood in the future.

Old photos must have the Ws recorded on the back – the who, what, where, when and why. But how do you write on the back of a digital image? One option is to record information inside a plain text file that has the same name as the video/image or audio file. Do not use Word, PDF or RTF file formats as the chances of the information still being readable in the future, is increased. Even better, change the file name to be more informative. With some image file formats, you can embed the information within the file known as metadata in EXIF (exchangeable image file format). There are numerous applications to facilitate updating your EXIF data. Usually your digital camera will automatically record some basic information such as resolution, date and time. The metadata is almost as important as the file itself; without context an image or video might become meaningless.

I would suggest that if you haven't already done so, bring out your old photos and spend time with your family going through them and capture as much information as you can. There is so much generational knowledge that doesn't get passed down and a picture could be worth a thousand words and written stories and information can convey so much more.

Constantly update the technology behind digital genealogical 'Encyclopaedia Britannicas', maintain multiple back-ups of all information and record as much metadata and as many details as possible. Digitise what is important to you and make sure you leave details on how people can access this information in the future before it all physically crumbles and degrades into obscurity through the annals of time. If we don't do this those in the future will not need to make the familiar statement ...."I wish our ancestors had kept detailed records....".

## SELECTION OF BOOKS NEW TO OUR COLLECTION IN 2024

Title	Location	Call Number
Bhakrodi to Woolgoolga	Reference	
Sacred to the Memory: A study of Wilberforce Cemetery	Reference	929.4042 MCH
Rowdy Voices & Quiet Whispers	Reference	994.402 POR
Quirindi in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century: How the Town Began	Reference	994.44 DUR
Blood on the Wattle	Borrowing	994 ELD
St. Serf's Kirkyard, Dunning Memorial Inscriptions	Reference	941.1 TAY
The First 25 years of 2 Air FM 107.9	Reference	994.43 FIR
To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora	Borrowing	994.1 DEV
Barefoot Through the Bindies: Growing up in North Queensland in the Early 1900s	Reference	994.31 HOU
Digging Deeper into Bribie Island During World War 11	Reference	940 GRO
Lost Brisbane & Surrounding Areas 1860-1960	Reference	994.31 LOS
Lost Brisbane 2 & Surrounding Areas: The Later Years	Reference	994.31 LOS
Lighthouses of Australia: Images from the End of an Era	Reference	941.1 MAC
Scotland: A Concise History		
Pioneer's Register Warrnambool Township & Shire 1839-1900 Vol. 1 A-K	Reference	929.2 WAR
Pioneer's Register Warrnambool Township & Shire 1839-1900 Vol. 2 L Z	Reference	929 WAR
The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts	Reference	994.402 COL
Your DNA Guide: The Book – Step by Step Plans to Connect You with your Family using your DNA	Reference	724.42 SOU
Living in the Know: An Adoptee's Quick Start Guide to Finding Family with DNA Testing	Reference	724.48 BER
The Sirius: Past and Present	Reference	387.5 HEN

This is by no means a complete list of all the resources that have been added to the Library over the past 12 months. Check out the books that we have available for use in the rooms.

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### Our Pioneers

You left your friends at home and sailed, across the mighty sea,  
 Unsure of what awaited you, unprepared for what might be.  
 You left behind the centuries that spoke your fathers' toil  
 You left the luscious rolling dales, the rich rewarding soil  
 You landed here with eager hearts, with willing hands you came  
 To build a bold new country in the land you fought to tame  
 And tame the land you finally did, but how you paid the cost  
 The joy of new born family against the sorrow for those lost  
 So was it worth that awful trip, the sorrow and the pain  
 If you had to live your life once more, would you do the same again?  
 I thank you all, you bravest folk, you fought your doubts and fears  
 And gave us life. Be proud of us as we are proud of our pioneers.

Margaret Turner





## Digital Skills for Family Historians New Online Course Dates Released

The Society of Australian Genealogists is excited to advise members and friends that we have been able to schedule two more online sessions of this popular new program presented by Andrew Redfern.

The available dates are: 1. Wednesday's 23 & 30 Oct and 30 Nov 7.30pm-9.30pm AEDT

2. Friday's 1, 8 & 15 Nov 1.30pm-3.30pm AEDT

Each course is limited to 30 participants. The sessions are recorded, however you will get the best experience of this course by attending live where possible.

### Three Part Online Program – About the Course

Are you looking to develop your technology skills around family history? This three-part course is designed to build upon key understandings and principles of family history research and show you how to interact with various platforms, websites and software to ensure you make the most of the tools available to you.

In this hands-on course, you'll learn to:

- **Set Up Your Computer for Research:** Learn how to organise your digital workspace for efficient and effective genealogical research.
- **Access Key Repositories and Record Sets:** Discover where to find vital records and how to remotely access many of these resources.
- **Search Indexes Effectively:** Master the art of navigating indexes to uncover the hidden details of your ancestors' lives.
- **Employ a Variety of Software:** Gain skills in a variety of software packages, many of which you already have access to, in order to organise and manage your findings. Using a case study approach, each session will demonstrate key skills in real-time, ensuring you gain practical experience. Our expert instructor will guide you through the process, providing ample time to address your own questions and work through any trouble spots.

By the end of this course, you'll be equipped with the foundational digital skills needed to conduct thorough and organised family history research. The course is aimed at foundation level, for those starting their research or those who perhaps feel overwhelmed with the amount of information available.

Richmond Villa 120 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

W: [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)

E: [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)

T: 02 9247 395

## An original poem for Remembrance Day (submitted by Stephen Goundry 1372)

In recognition of Remembrance Day, I thought I'd share an original poem, one which I'm attributing to an Australian soldier, Bluey Plunkett. "Return" is one of two poems written in the back of my grandfather's World War Two diary, and must have meant something to him. One poem, *Zeroes Over Lae*, is specifically noted as being written by 'Bluey' Plunkett, a fellow soldier in his section. The other poem, *Return*, doesn't have a name attached, but I believe was probably also written by Bluey. It has a similar style and rhythm. I think "Return" is very evocative, and as far as I can tell, it's never been published anywhere before. I've reproduced it as written in the diary, including spelling and punctuation, some of which may be due to the original reproduction.

Please respect the creator, and if you wish to share this poem, only do so with appropriate acknowledgement.

**"Return"** - *Attributed to 'Bluey' Plunkett, circa 1943.*

There are crowds along the footpaths, There is shouting in the bars  
And excitement in the houses And soft eyes 'neath Southern Stars  
There are women at the windows, Keeping vigil for the men  
Who have won the dark blue chevron And are coming home again.  
There are men who sailed in sadness, Fought with sternness far away  
Men who bade farewell to living, Yet kept living day by day.  
There are cobbers with a welcome, (Jokes & questions interposed  
In the mask o'er the feelings while the gap of  
years is closed)  
There are parties, there are revels, There are calmer sessions, then  
The talk gets down to bedrock, With the men now home again.  
There are men who went to duty, Dared for duty with a smile  
And came back to those they fought for, And found the job worthwhile.  
There are women who have waited, Lonely bravely smiling hearts  
Who have worked & loved together, To anaesthetise their smarts  
Whose nights have oft been empty, Whose days have dragged, & then their lives have all been sunshine,  
As the men come home again, There are men who came from solitude,  
To look on the loves they left, And to march to other battlefields, of their loves again bereft.  
There are men & women thinking, As the welcomes race around  
Of the far off kiss & handshake, And the transport outward bound And the brave hearts that went with them,  
And bled on a far terrain, And they pause awhile to remember –  
Those who came not back again, There are men who walk with heroes,  
Though their voice & step be gone, And their spirit tarries with us –  
And it bids us – "CARRY ON"!



## UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Britain saw many changes, both in work and socially. Most of my ancestors were involved in primary industries, whether they were miners or 'ag labs', apart from a few who worked in some capacity on the railway. Several of my ancestors lived in the same small town or village and shared the same occupation. Two of my branches seem to have specialized in another occupation, nail making. Several generations of the Truelove family who lived around Darton in Yorkshire had this occupation as well as some other branches, like the Ledgers, who married into the Truelove family. The Trueloves were from Royston, Darton and the surrounding villages. The Ledgers and Shaw families also had links with Leeds.

The village of Mapplewell in the parish of Darton, was the major centre of nail making in Yorkshire for three centuries. The reasons are both geographical and historical. Darton, a parish of Barnsley, lies close to the Tankersley ironstone seam, which outcrops between Huddersfield and Sheffield. The nail making industry in the Barnsley area dates from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The hearth tax returns of 1672 identified ten out of sixty five households in Darton township as owners of forges (small hearths) for making nails. This contrasts with the four forge owners in Kexborough and two in Barugh.

During the Middle Ages, making nails by hand was a specialist trade, which produced a good standard of living for those able to master the skills and accumulate enough capital to purchase the necessary equipment. With the mechanization of nail making during the Industrial Revolution, this meant that work for those who weren't mechanized decreased. All that was left for them was to cut the rods obtained from the mills, make a point at one end and the head at the other.

One branch of my family tree goes back to 1738 when Samuel Truelove married Ann Johnson. My Great Grandmother was Annice Truelove. However, in 1724 Ann married Michael Lindley at Darton. This meant there was another branch that I didn't previously know about. Mind you, all their children were girls apart from John who was only 3 when he died. Several of my ancestors lived in the same small town or village and shared the same occupation. Two of my branches seem to have specialized in another occupation, nail making. Several generations of the Truelove family who lived around Darton in Yorkshire had this occupation as well as some other branches, like the Ledgers, who married into the Truelove family. The Trueloves were from Royston, Darton and the surrounding villages. The Ledger and Shaw families also had links with Leeds.

In 1831 John Lindley married Eliza Simpson at Darton. One of the witnesses was Thomas Pickering. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were riots in Yorkshire and some people involved in those riots were Pickerings. There was a Dodworth group allegedly led by a John Pickering, although he was never arrested. Four of his brothers were, though, and they were transported to Australia. ("Yorkshire Rebel. The Life and Times of John Lindley 1770-1853" by Ron Riley). Hannah Ledger was born at Mapplewell in 1826 to Thomas Ledger and Hannah Batty. Hannah's father, Thomas Ledger, was the brother of Martha Ledger who married John Truelove, my 4<sup>th</sup> great grand uncle.

In 1851 Hannah was living with her parents and family at Broadroyd Head. Broadroyd Head was "a hamlet approximately three miles (5km) to the north-west of Barnsley, part of the 'village' of Mapplewell, comprising the hamlets of Mapplewell, Staincross, Broadroyd Head (Upper Carr Green and Carr Green)."

In the 1851 Census, there is a William Ledger, aged 54, occupation is nail maker, his wife Mary, also 54, sons Joseph (14) and Thomas (11) living at Walton Square, Barnsley. There is also a Job Lindley (born 1827 Staincross), the son of George Lindley and Elizabeth Yardley and in the 1841 Census, they were living at Broadroyd Head but as he was only 13 there was no mention of his occupation

Hannah married Job Lindley at Darton. In the 1861 Census, Job, Hannah and children Sarah, Frederick, Sophia and Selina were living in Broadroyd Heath, Darton. Also in this census and living next door, was widower Charles Pickering (born 1815 Staincross) and his family. Charles died in April 1862 aged 47, and is buried at All Saints, Darton. In the 1861 Census, at Broadroyd Head there were ten nail makers, three carpenters, two coal miners, one basket weaver and one labourer.

In the 1861 Census, there is a 44 year old David Ledger born in Mapplewell with an occupation of nail maker. With him was his wife Elizabeth, (aged 48) also born at Mapplewell. With them is his step-son Joseph Waring (26), also a nail maker and his step-daughter Charlotte Waring (aged 20). David's wife, Elizabeth (nee Broadhead), (daughter of James Broadhead & Elizabeth Gibson) had married George Waring in Darton on 21.4.1834 In 1854, she married George Wainwright at West Ardsley.



I bought a book from the Barnsley FH Society, the index to the 1861 Census. It lists inhabitants by family name. Under the Hepworth name, all the males are either nail makers or nail maker journeyman. There were six of them, all born at Carr Green – two were young women (Ann [17] and Charlotte [15]). Ann was the daughter of Richard and Hannah and Charlotte the step-daughter of David Ledger.

In the 1871 Census David is still married although Elizabeth is absent. A nephew George Ibberson (12) also a nail maker is also living with him.

Sarah Ann Pickering was born at Darton in 1840 and in August 1857, she married George Ibberson. He was born in 1839 at Carr Green and his occupation was stone mason journeyman. However in the 1861 Census, Sarah Ann is said to be a widow and her occupation nail maker. With her were 3 young children – Martha (11), Henry (7) and Laura (a baby). On 17 October Sarah Ann married David Absalom Cooper at Darton and had 5 children. Also in 1885, Samuel Ledger married Mary Pickering at Darton, both born at Staincross and his occupation of course, was a nail maker.

William Ellis born 1834 at Darton, the son of George Ellis and Martha Truelove, was stated in the 1861 Census he is said to be a journeyman nail maker. Martha Truelove was my first cousin 4x removed.

You can see what happens in a small village with the Ledgers, Lindleys, Trueloves and Pickerings with limited spouses available!

Stephen Goundry # 1372

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#### **BROTHER'S KEEPER DISCUSSION GROUP**

At the October meeting of the Group, it was decided our "homework" for the November meeting on 11<sup>th</sup>, would be Military Service. From the National Archives of Australia web site, a member of the group not only found a friend's War service but how much he had been fined for being away without leave (AWL) but this letter to the Army from his future mother-in-law and the Army's reply.

To the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Melbourne

*"Dear Sir,*

*I would be under a debt of obligation if your Office would inform me if you have any record of a marriage said to have taken place in England or elsewhere, of the person mentioned below. My daughter is engaged to be married to him early in August next. I have been informed on good authority that such a marriage did take place whilst on leave from the front. You will, I am sure, realise the importance of such a serious matter being cleared up before such a ceremony takes place and you will recognise the responsibility that is placed on me (her mother) to ensure that her life is not blighted and that a crime be not allowed that would be against the laws of the Commonwealth. I understand that from the records in your possession, you are able to give me the required information and would ask you to kindly treat the matter as urgent as should the stories that have been told be found to be true, your prompt reply would perhaps prevent a deal of suffering to my daughter and her parents. The following are the particulars that may facilitate your inspection –*

FA Langridge, No. 33480, Driver, 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 31<sup>st</sup> Battery  
Enlisted – Western Australia Embarked HMS "Shropshire" 11.5.1917 from Victoria  
*Thanking you in anticipation for an early reply.*  
*I am Sir, Mrs JS Gardiner*

From the Army- Major Officer 1/c Base Records.....

*Dear Madam,*

*I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and to inform you that according to the records No.33480. Driver Frank Albert Langridge, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force as a single man and no advice has been received of his having since married.*

On his return from overseas service he was discharged, married in 1922 and lived happily ever after!

Jim Holmes #1834 & Esme Langridge # 1951