

Footsteps



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

SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS

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AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY ~ 2021–2022

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATOR

Port Macquarie Rate Books.....Rex Toomey

Life Members: Terry Browne, Kay Browne

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Society Organisation and Contacts.....	2
Areas of Responsibility ~ 2021–2022	2
New Members.....	3
President’s Two Cents Worth.....	4
From the Editor.....	5
NSW&ACT Association of Family History Associations Annual Conference 2021	5
Memories of Mary Ann Barton	7
The Amazing Beverly Brownhall, Widow Of Gordon Dick	11
Vale – Joyce Elaine Ormsby	12
Vale – Alan Edwards.....	12
A Well-Known Local Family – The Huddleston	13
Pandemics - Old and New	18
Covid-19 Pandemic -A Poem by Rex Toomey	19
Secomb Family Photograph	22
The DiNA Diary – No 19	23
The Magic of Christmas	25
Christmas Memories.....	26
Christmas of Yore - 1883	26
Christmas Pudding.....	27
A Chubby Snowman.....	28
Christmas Cake – Special Recipe.....	28
Footsteps Contributions.....	29
Some Hints for Writing Articles.....	29
Society Membership Fees.....	30
Publications for Sale.....	31
Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc.....	32

Cover Photo: *The image on the front cover was provided by Margaret Blight. The very first Christmas Card was produced in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole and the very first card was sent by Queen Victoria.*

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to new members Yvonne Parr from Wangaratta; Dianne Sales, Norma Crawford and Julie Bleasdale from Port Macquarie. We hope you enjoy your association with our Society and that you will benefit from the resources, meetings and workshops available.



PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Diane Gillespie

The Annual General Meeting of the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society was conducted in August, and I was very pleased to see a full committee being elected to manage our Society. I'd like to welcome Janet Brown and Narelle Milligan to the Committee, and I hope you both enjoy working with the other members of the management committee.

I would like to thank Margaret Blight, who did not seek re-election to the committee, for her efforts over the past three years as our Editor and commend her on the excellent, award-winning journal she has been producing. Thank you, Margaret. We welcome Narelle to this position.

The NSWACT AFHS 2021 Annual Conference was hosted by PMDFHS in September. We were delighted to host over 400 participants on the Zoom platform, with about 50 more using YouTube. This was the first virtual conference for NSWACT AFHS, and we are proud to be the leaders of this innovative way to bring the NSW Annual Conference to the homes of family historians in NSW and beyond.

I do acknowledge that the camaraderie of a 'live' conference was limited but as it was stated by a few attendees – "I had the best seat in the house and there were no queues for the facilities!"

Having the presentations on YouTube also allowed follow-up viewing. The responses from attendees were very positive and Port Macquarie has now opened the world to family historians, allowing our members and others to access records and expertise from all parts of the world. The Conference Committee, capably facilitated by Jennifer Mullin and the committee of Margaret Blight, Sue Brindley, Trysha Hanly and Clive Smith, were the epitome of flexibility, demonstrating that no obstacle can impede the way for us as family historians. We were very appreciative to the many speakers who wanted to be involved and the sponsors were generous in their support, for which we are grateful.

There is a silver lining to the pandemic in that our members are becoming proficient in using technology, with small groups grappling with the intricacies of the Zoom meeting platform and having a little fun along the way.

I am hoping that we may soon be able to increase our numbers at the General Meetings, especially as we approach the festive season, and we can meet our family history friends in person again soon.

Unfortunately, some members have passed during this time or lost a family member. On behalf of our Society, I'd like to offer sincere condolences to those affected. Recognition of these members will occur elsewhere in the journal.

On a brighter note, as we approach Christmas, I wish all members a very Happy Christmas. I hope you are able to spend the Festive Season safely with family members. Thank you to all members for your continuing support in 2021. We hope that 2022 will be a healthy and safe year for you and your families.

FROM THE EDITOR

Narelle Milligan

Margaret Blight has been our very capable Editor for three years and we thank her for the interesting and lively articles over that time. I also thank everyone most sincerely for the articles that have been sent for this edition and hope the creative juices continue to flow.

As our February guest speaker's topic will be 'Finding Grandpa' the next edition of Footsteps will echo that but let's expand it as well to '... and Grandma'. It's particularly useful for newer members to highlight the techniques you used to 'break down the brick walls'. Did you find Trove useful? Were Cemeteries listed in a library? Did you investigate the Police Gazettes?

The theme of 'FINDING GRANDPA AND GRANDMA' for February and for May the theme will be 'FARMING'.

NSW&ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

'With Conviction ... beyond reasonable doubt'

As all family historians know there is a lot of work in researching and then being convinced that you have the correct dates, precise records and all the family members - and you can prove it.

One thing for sure was that there would be a 2021 Annual Conference – especially after the disappointment Newcastle FHS had in 2020 with lockdowns and the cancelling of their conference.

Our crystal ball predicted a mixture of a live and a virtual conference – but we did not know how to achieve that. Then we adapted our thinking to a fully virtual conference. The learning curve became exponential. Some speakers had done a lot of virtual recording, others none.

How would we conduct the raffle if we had no attendees in Port? What would be our overheads? What would we charge? How would it work?

The NSW&ACT AFHS committee saw our dilemmas and enthusiastically supported our request to host the conference virtually. The format would be different to other conferences. Firstly, there could not be any social events. But that is what makes a conference, a conference. So, we decided that we'd invite societies to host 'mini-conferences'. We now know that total lockdown in NSW ruined that plan in the end.

We'd run a raffle with 'electronic' prizes if we could. We changed the timetable to be a full day – rather than the traditional 8.30am to 3.30pm on Saturday and half a day on Sunday. The longer day would be more tiring, but we could offer the talks for 48 hours after the event so people could watch some again. We were grateful to the speakers for allowing us to extend that to a week.

Bookings were pleasing – especially after a newsletter! Because societies were forced to cancel their gatherings, we had to ensure all those who would have attended the small groups were able to access the talks on the day. The final outcome was that at the height of the day, we had over 400 attendees on Zoom and a consistent 50 all day on YouTube. Several talks were watched again on YouTube the following week.

The committee and members of Port Macquarie & Districts FHS would like to thank our speakers for their participation in our conference: Carol Baxter, Kerry Farmer, Amanda Ianna, Martyn Killion, Dr Perry McIntyre, Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Michell Patient, Cate Pierce, Jason Reeve, Clive Smith and Dr Penny Walters.

Our thanks are also extended to all participants who received their Ticket-of-Leave after the Conference. We enjoyed your comments on our survey and are so pleased that you were happy with the catering, the accommodation, the replays and your comfortable chair at Port Macquarie's 2021 Annual Conference – 'With Conviction ... beyond reasonable doubt'.

From the Committee: Margaret Blight, Sue Brindley, Trysha Hanly, Jennifer Mullin and Clive Smith



Riding the Waves of History

2022 Conference NSW/ACT Association of Family

History Societies

16, 17, 18 September 2022.

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MEMORIES OF MARY ANN BARTON

Julie Eccles

The following history of Mary Ann Barton Allen was found among the belongings of Molly Farrow Grimshaw following her death. Molly was a granddaughter; it seems she is the person who wrote this history. This was collected by Margaret E Spendlove Pratt and reported by Jacqueline Spendlove Leatham.

With some added research I have been able to expand the details in the original story. William Barton is in my Goddard Tree and Jeanette Carr, in the Eccles Tree.

Mary Ann Barton was the youngest of nine children of William Barton and his first wife Jennet Carr.

Born 1842 in Southport, Lancashire, England. Her mother Jennet died in 1843, at 31 yrs of age when Mary Ann was one year of age. Her father re-married in 1851 to Mary Ann Taylor and they had two more children, Frances Barton 1852 and Elizabeth Barton 1854 – 1856.

In her memoirs Mary Ann mentioned her stepmother had two little boys and they had both died of mountain fever in Missouri, while waiting, for the handcarts to be made. These were used to transport the immigrants.

As the ship's passenger list to America did not match the story, some research was required to establish if the content of her story was fact or fiction.

William Barton was a plasterer and paper hanger by trade and was earning a reliable living in England, when he decided to join the Mormon Church and became part of the *Handcart Group*. The family would join a larger group in Missouri migrating to Salt Lake City.

This method of hand cart travel was designed as a cheaper option, due to the church being short of funds to hire wagons to transport migrants to Salt Lake City.

William left England in the spring of 1856, aboard the ship *Horizon*, with his second wife, two small daughters and his 14-year-old daughter Mary Ann, from his first marriage. They were the only ones who had joined the church. The older children in the family, some of them married, were dismayed at his decision and showed their objection by hurling taunts and jibes at them, which continued throughout Mary Anne's life in America, via letters from England.



(Mary Ann Barton)

They left England from Liverpool docks in Lancashire, England and during the journey were swept back and forth for many weeks, often going back further than they went forward.

Finally, they reached their quarters on the Missouri River where they had to camp for around three months as they waited for the handcarts to be made in Iowa City.

During this time William contracted Mountain Fever (a bacterial disease, gained from a tick bite and is fatal, with no treatment available at that time).

Two handcart groups left around the same time in late July. The Willie Company, and Martin's Company. William and his family travelled with Edward Martin's Company. William was still very weak and sick.

The Martin Company consisted of around 400 souls, one hundred and forty-six handcarts, seven wagons, thirty oxen and fifty beef cattle and cows.

Unfortunately, winter started early that year; they suffered storms, forded rivers, and often had to sleep all night wet through. As they continued to drag themselves crossing the Nebraska plains, Mary Ann's little half-sisters would ride in the handcart, the stepmother and Mary Ann would pull the cart while, William would hang onto the back of it, dragging his weary body and swollen feet behind him. He gave his portion of food to his wife and girls, going without himself.

He ate grass with the oxen and wild berries found along the way. The swelling in his legs made it nearly impossible to keep up with the group. After dragging after the handcart for days, he could not move quickly enough, when a captain came along and kicked him to get up and not give in and be brave about it.

In late September 1856, just as the guard was calling out 12 midnight, William died. Mary Ann was lying next to him as her stepmother was caring for the sick baby daughter Elizabeth, who also died on the plains not long after her father. The older daughter, Frances survived the journey, although there was no mention of that in her memoirs.

As William could not be buried, they wrapped him in a blanket and left him under a tree. He had money in his pocket when he died, there was nowhere to buy any food. His body was later retrieved from the plains and buried in Salt Lake City Cemetery.

On the journey the group had to give away many items to pacify the Indians, to stop them from molesting the group.

The night the rescue party came to save this starving and frozen group, Mary Ann was sleeping in her tent. She woke hearing the sound of a saw and thought they were building another coffin, but it was a young rescuer sawing some meat. He had thought she was dead until she opened her eyes.

She tried to sit up but could not move, as a block of ice was holding her down by her hair. A man chopped the ice away and she sat by the fire to thaw her hair out.

Two young men from Utah carried most of the women and children across the Green River, which was floating with thick ice. They both died later from exposure.

In the book titled *'The 19th Wife'* by David Ebershoff this particular trip was mentioned, and it was reported that these groups left too late as winter came sooner than expected that year.

Brigham Young, leader of the Mormon Church at the time was severely criticised, for not halting the groups until the following spring, when the weather would have been warmer and more suitable for traveling.

When Brigham Young was told about these two groups being in such dire need, he immediately ordered wagons be dispatched, loaded with food, medical supplies, and warm clothing; to meet up with the groups and bring them safely to Salt Lake City. The despatch riders found the Willie Company first and brought them in to the city safely.

The Martin Company had wandered off course due to the heavy snow and were more difficult to locate. With many of them being weak and sick. When the group finally reached Salt Lake City, on November 30th, they camped in the *tithing yard* (a large storage area for excess goods and animals produced for distribution to the community)

They received all the help they needed and were soon housed with various families. At least 145 members had lost their lives. Many of the survivors had to have fingers, toes and limbs amputated due to severe frost bite.

Mary Ann stayed with a woman whose husband was a spiritualist. He saw many faces on the walls, accompanied by strange noises that she became quite frightened.

She confided in Sarah Allen, a neighbour and was allowed to sleep there. It was through this neighbour that she met John Allen, Sarah's husband. This was in the time of *Plural Marriage in the Mormon Religion*, when men were allowed to have more than one wife.

John Allen was born in Crowland, Lincolnshire, England in 1804. The child of William Allan and Frances Steens. He had married Sarah Dalton, in England in 1823. Sarah and John had three children, Ellen, Elijah and Charles all deceased as infants. John and Sarah appeared on the 1841 UK Census without children, prior to moving to Salt Lake City.

John who was 53 years of age, married Mary Ann aged 15 years, on February 8th, 1857, in Salt Lake City. Soon after they were called to help settle Spanish Fork in Utah. This area was settled solely by The Mormon Church. One child Martha was born there, then in 1859 they were then called to Parowan in Utah.

John Allan and his wife Sarah lived most of the time in Parowan. Sarah made life difficult for Mary Ann when she had her young children. This happened quite often when more than one wife occupied a home.

In 1865, Mary Ann and her four small children moved to a farm near Summit Town. Indians would often call at the house at night, demanding all the food she had, or strangers came wanting rest and food. These instances tended to frighten the children.

Due to the isolation, she then moved into Summit Town where it was safer. Mary Ann became well known in Summit. She had a good voice and ran the choir for several years. It was known that she had to depend a lot on her own resources. She did a lot of handiwork. Her neighbours saw her as very organised and independent.

In her memoirs, one of her neighbours would sit and listen to her stories of her past. Mary Ann would often sing the “handcart song” and seemed proud that she had surmounted so many harrowing difficulties in her life and had had the strength to surmount them. Stories written by her children and grandchildren reveal how talented she was with her singing and musical ability, which has been passed to various members of the family, in one form or another. It was said she also had a great sense of humour.

Although in her later years she would not talk about her past. Mary Ann died of a sudden stroke in her 71st year on 08 April 1914. She had lingered in a coma for some time and was surrounded by her children. She was greatly missed by her children and all in the community.

Mary Ann Barton Allen had twelve children, seven girls and five boys. One older daughter died, as did four small boys. John Allen died on 31 December 1885, in Summit County. His first wife Sarah died on 12 April 1899, also in Summit County.

Although less than 10 percent of the Later-Day Saints emigrants made the journey west using handcarts. The handcart pioneers have become an important symbol in Mormon culture. A memorial has been built and can be seen in Temple Square, Salt Lake City.

In September 1890, following a long battle between the Mormon Church and legal laws of the United States of America, plural marriage (polygamy), was ended and deemed unlawful.

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THE AMAZING BEVERLY BROWNHALL, WIDOW OF GORDON DICK

Narelle Milligam

Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia nobilis*) are now appearing in country around Port Macquarie, and we are fortunate that we have our own successful export business of Bells on the North Shore.

Maria River Rd. resident Beverly and her family will send their first consignment of Bells for 2021 to Japan shortly, and because it's the first of the season, they hope for a very good price. The Japanese are interested in exotic blooms and are very particular about the quality of their imports.



Since Gordon's death in 2017 Beverly works daily in the tunnels weeding, propagating and, as Christmas approaches, the family assist her three times week to pick the blooms. They are shaped, gathered into bunches with stems of standard sizes and kept in buckets of three sizes; the sleeves are put on at night, and, on Sundays at 4am the flowers are boxed and a hole in each box sealed with gauze for ventilation and quarantine. The truck from Kempsey transports over 400 boxes to Flemington, Sydney where the exporters take over.

Beverly's background as a scientist combined with Gordon's agricultural knowledge has led to this successful export business. Their eyes met over a laboratory bench at Sydney University and after their marriage in 1960 Gordon was posted to Kerowagi in the Simbu district of Papua New Guinea where the only way out was by truck to the nearest air strip. Their first child was born there and Beverly recalls grinding the local coffee and roasting it under a sheet of iron. With very restricted opportunities for employment, she proved her worth in a local laboratory and was promoted to supervise local staff.

A two-year posting in PNG turned into 20 years. When the time came for Gordon to retire, he wanted to return to Port Macquarie where he had deep family roots going back generations. Beverly continued to work in Sydney at the University while Gordon trialed the Christmas Bells at his mother's house at Dixie Park in Port. Despite the pessimists' comments that they couldn't be grown from seed the experiment was successful, and Beverly and Gordon leased land from Jim Hack (of Hack's Ferry fame on the Maria River) and went on to develop a thriving business.

The Christmas Bell, a native related to the lily, was featured on Christmas Cards sent back to England by our early colonists. There are three different species in NSW and Tasmania, and it takes three to four years for the flowers to appear. So, patience and persistence are needed and it's obvious that Beverly possesses these qualities "in spades". We wish her a successful Christmas!

VALE – JOYCE ELAINE ORMSBY



Joyce Elaine Ormsby
(1 April 1944 – 24 September 2021)

Joyce Ormsby was a member of our Society for many years joining in July 1998. She was not a newcomer to family research, having previously lived in Campsie, NSW. Joyce was an active member of the Canterbury District Historical Society. During her time there, Joyce compiled two books of special interest to family researchers: *Moorefields Cemetery Records*, published about 1983, and *St Saviours Church of England Canterbury Road, Punchbowl Burial Records*, 1989.

When Joyce and her late husband Lew retired, they moved to North Haven. It was not long before Joyce was locally involved with the Laurieton Historical Society and assisted in the publication of *A History of Laurieton*, published in 2003. Joyce was a quiet achiever and actively involved with our Society, being a regular helper assisting

in the Family History room at the library as well as at any functions held.

In 2002, Chat and Coffee Live was introduced to Laurieton Library. Initially some Society members from Port Macquarie came to encourage attendance but this group soon grew to a regular 18 or more, happy to manage themselves. They also raised funds to donate to the Laurieton library for useful genealogical books. Joyce was a regular member of this group and gave of her knowledge willingly to any new researchers. Surprisingly, as I was composing this, I had an Ormsby researcher contact me about the Browne family. She knew of Joyce as she had assisted her in the 1980s when working on the Ormsby tree and sent condolences to the family too. Farewell Joyce. Your name will be remembered by the many people you have helped or guided on their research journeys.

VALE – ALAN EDWARDS



Alan Edwards
(Photo courtesy Port News)

Alan **Edwards** joined the Society in 2000 after his retirement. He spent his life living up and down the Mid North Coast before officially moving to the Hastings from Sydney in 1971.

He was employed by State Forestry and was a member of the Lions Club for over 50 years. At his 90th birthday, Alan said he tried to embrace every chance and keep laughing.

Alan was married for over 65 years and will be sadly missed by family and friends. Alan was 93 years of age. He was born 10 April 1928.

A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL FAMILY – THE HUDDLESTON

Narelle Milligan

Hiram ('Dan') Huddleston was the son of James and Charlotte who migrated to Australia from New Zealand. He married Jane Dawson McPherson in 1902 and twelve children were born in various locations, from East Wallsend and Broken Hill to Kempsey and Urunga. Some descendants still live in Port Macquarie.

Dan was employed by the NSW Public Works and was known for his expertise in bridge construction. He built the bridge over the Darling River at Menindee and others along the North Coast Railway line including one at Wauchope, over the Hastings River. One of his sons, Frank, was an explosives expert for the NSW Railways and also worked on the North Wall construction at Port Macquarie.

Dan died aged 67 years 18th August 1943 and is buried in the Presbyterian portion of the Port Macquarie Cemetery.



*Grave Plaque in Port Macquarie General Cemetery
(Courtesy of Rex & Yvonne Toomey)*

WISE SAYINGS

'Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding time. This arises from the fact they are produced by men who ever have been and ever shall be animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results' Machiavelli.

'Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it' Winston Churchill.

JAMES JOHN MALTA BRAME'S STORY (JAMES 1802 TO 1869)

John Stephenson

John and Ann Brame, both born in the 2nd half of the 18th Century in Suffolk, England, were my parents. My father John enlisted in the British Army in Suffolk in 1781 at the age of 13 years and during his 26 years and 9 months of enlistment, he served with the Suffolk Militia, - the 5th, the 63rd and the 88th Regiments of Foot, earning the rank of Sergeant. Various postings with these regiments, included service in West Suffolk, Edinburgh, Barbados, Grenada, Honduras and several years of Garrison duty in Malta.

It was during his time in the town of Vitoriosa, on the Island of Malta, on 14th March 1802, that I was born. Hence my name – James John Malta Brame.

At the age of one, in 1803 the regiment was sent to Ireland on garrison duty. In 1808, after suffering for 2 years with chronic asthma, in Ireland, my dad was honourably discharged from the Army.

He returned to Suffolk and took up farming. Our family eventually grew to include three daughters and two sons.

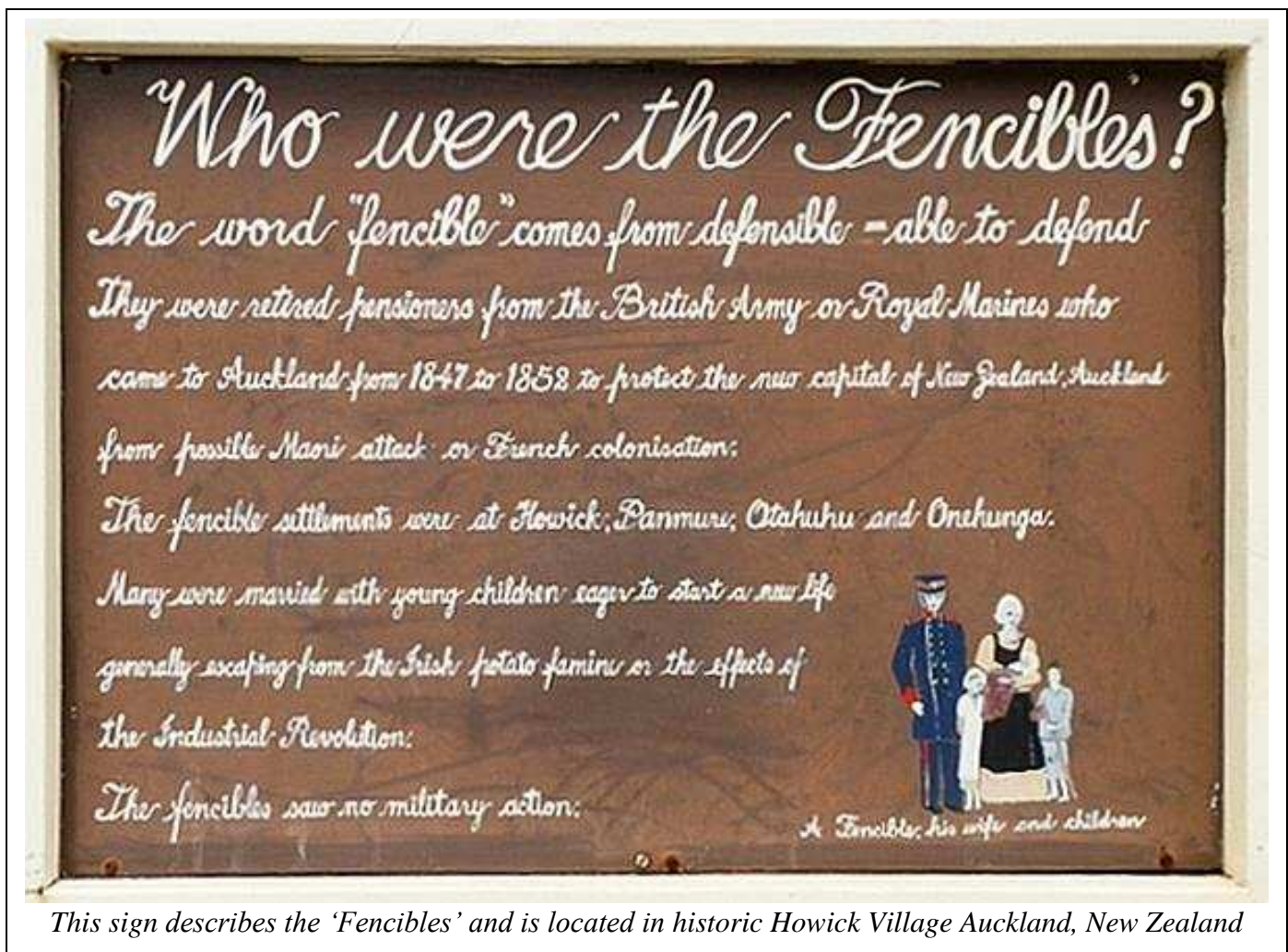
My life as a young lad was like so many of the children in the early nineteenth century, throughout the rural areas of Ireland and England. Little education and long and busy days, working with their family on small tenant farms. Because of the need for extra financial assistance for my family my father encouraged me to join the Army. With enticement from the Army enlistment groups, I was signed up for service in the West Suffolk 63rd Reg. of Foot at the age of 13.

As a junior I was trained as a Drummer, a trade that served me well, all through my Army career. Drummers and Fluters, (also called Fifers), were the army's instruments for maintaining decorum and control when mobilizing troops, in peacetime and especially in combat. Unarmed and with no means of combat or protection, we musicians marched into battle along with the front line of attack.

We were also used to convey messages from the battle fronts, to assist with the injured and maimed and to maintain ammunition supply to the troops. During peace time on Garrison duty, life was fairly mundane and garrison duties were shared among all the infantry in the barracks.

During my tenure, the West Suffolk 63rd I served 7yrs 3mths in India, 11yrs 3mths in Portugal and 5yrs guarding convicts in Van Diemen's Land. I was discharged on medical grounds after 28 years with the notation 'Worn Out'. I had the good fortune to marry my beautiful and loving wife Harriet Southwell and establishing a farm in Suffolk. It was on this farm that we started our family. Sadly, our first child, a boy, James John, born 1844 died at the age of 2.

It was around this time that unrest in the colony of New Zealand, relating to conflict between the Maoris and the English settlers, and the fear of invasion from the French led to requests by Governor Grey, to the Colonial Office in England, to send at least 2500 troops to protect the citizens of the fledgling colony. This led to the formation of detachment of retired soldiers, (pensioners), named the Royal New Zealand Fencibles Corps.



This sign describes the 'Fencibles' and is located in historic Howick Village Auckland, New Zealand

Unlike regular British 'line regiments' which could be posted anywhere, fencible regiments were raised for the defence and garrison duties at home, or in the colonies. Applicants had to be of good character, under 48 years of age, army retirees, with a minimum 15 years' service. They had to be fit for occasional military duties and would enjoy pay-rates at 1s. 3d. per day, in addition to any existing army pension.

As the farming conditions in Suffolk were hard and not profitable enough to provide a satisfactory existence for my family, I applied and was accepted into the Fencible Corps in 1847.

Each enlisted Fencible was promised free passage to New Zealand for their families, including rations on board. We were promised, on arrival in New Zealand, possession of a cottage of 2 rooms, with an acre of land attached thereto, 1/4 cleared, ready for cultivation.

The tenure of service was for 7 years, and rules and conditions of agreement included attending military exercises on twelve days per year, and on every Sunday for muster under arms at church parade. If all was complied with, ownership of the cottage and land would be granted and a discharge from the Fencible Corps at the completion of 7 years' service.



This is an image of the ship 'Sir George Seymour' arriving at Auckland on November 26th, 1847, with Fencibles and families destined for Howick. Other sailing ships and waka are in the harbour; Fort Britomart is behind. Painting by Keith Snow hangs in the vestibule of The Howick Historical Village.

We departed Gravesend on 12th August on board the 867-ton barque 'Sir George Seymour' and were the 4th of 10 shiploads of Fencibles to travel to Auckland. We arrived on the 6th November 1847, with 76 Fencibles and their 177 family members, a non-stop journey of 107 days.

To our great disappointment, the promised arrangements for accommodation and land had not been organised. Not only had the cottages not been erected, but the location and the purchase of land for the village of Howick, the settlement to which we had been allocated, had only just been agreed upon and the siting and erection of our cottages, not yet started.

A further 20 days were spent on board our cramped and unsanitary ship, prior to being relocated to temporary accommodation in 100 x 25 ft, rough timber huts, fitted out with dirt floors, gaps between the wall board of up to an inch, which alleviated the need to install windows, a delight in the freezing, windy, weather as winter approached. As it eventuated, two long and miserable years passed before the authorities completed and gave us access to our promised two roomed timber house.

As the one acre lots of land were forthcoming, many of the Fencible families constructed temporary Raupo huts on these land grants. A Raupo was a local native construction method consisting of bundles of reeds, which grew in plentiful supply in the nearby swamps, tied with flax into tight bundles, which were then tied onto a frame of Teatree, with thatched palm fronds for a roof. These small structures provided us with basic relief and some privacy for my growing family.



At Howick Village Auckland, New Zealand

Paid work was at times arranged by the Government authorities on roadworks and drainage, but this work did little to alleviate the problems, associated with the fact that our village of Howick, was located 13 miles from the town of Auckland with its population of around 2800 and all the necessary shops and services were out of easy reach. The Tamaki River had to be crossed if the journey to Auckland for goods and supplies was to be executed.

Eventually, through all the severe hardships, our life began to mould into a sustainable existence, far from the imagined paradise that the army had painted all those years ago, but now with the promise of an exciting future for my blossoming family of two daughters, Harriet, born: 1849, Matilda Mary, born: 1853, and Maria, born: 1856, and our son James John, born: 1851.



A restored Sergeant's Cottage (similar to Sgt. James Brame's) at Howick Village Auckland, New Zealand

Even with the additional five acres of land I was able to purchase, farming on the non-aggregable clay soil was non-profitable, so I adopted the trade of shoemaker, a trade I was introduced to, during my fledgling years in the colony.

After serving my seven years in the Fencible Corp and being discharged in possession of the cottage and one acre of land I took my shoemaking trade a step further. I moved Harriet and

the children to Auckland and set up a shoemaking business in Durham Street. I conducted a successful business for many years.

I have encouraged each of the children to document the moments that make up the story of their adventurous lives. We will all have to wait for them to produce the next chapters, that make up the story of the Brame family.

PANDEMICS - OLD AND NEW

Rex Toomey

John Hooke Hill became the 14th Mayor of Port Macquarie Municipal Council on 8th February 1918¹. When he took office in that last year of the First World War, he would have been aware of this great tragedy that had taken the lives of between 15 and 20 million people². How then could he have imagined this would be followed by an influenza epidemic killing an estimated 50 million people worldwide³? He may have even thought that a great tsunami of death and grief was overwhelming the world.

One of the first articles relating to the so-called 'Spanish 'flu' epidemic locally appeared in the Port Macquarie News in February 1919. In an advertisement, the mayor was calling upon '...Ladies willing to act as Nurses locally in case of the influenza epidemic breaking out in the town.'⁴ A week later, it was reporting extra cases around Sydney with '...summons ... issued against 952 people ... not wearing influenza masks.'⁵ This sounds depressingly like what has occurred with the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 20 months!

By late March 1919, the local newspaper was reporting that the Royal Easter Show had been abandoned and that Sydney '...hospital accommodation is rapidly becoming exhausted.'⁶ There were several cases locally which were being treated at the Hastings District Hospital but in April, the local newspaper reported all patients had been cured and discharged, with just one case where the sufferer was being treated at home by Doctor Sproule.⁷

Interestingly, Doctor Valentine, the Chief Health Officer and Inspector-General of Hospitals in New Zealand, said people should be able to obtain alcohol during an epidemic, adding it played an important part in the treatment of the disease.⁸ It has always intrigued me that 'Bottle Shops' are considered 'essential services' during pandemics. Now I know why! By June 1919, there were still a few isolated local cases with Taree being badly affected. Its hospital was treating only influenza patients and had five nurses struck down.⁹

Just like the current COVID 19 pandemic, it is not surprising to know that 100 years ago there were people and businesses ready to make amazing claims or profit from those being affected. This could be in the form of a 'magic cure' or treatment for side effects. One example is, 'Hearne's Bronchitis Cure' 'especially when epidemics of ...influenza, etc., are about.'¹⁰ and 'Wawn's Wonder Balm' for use '...during the recent pneumonic influenza epidemic...'¹¹ Then in January 1920, the local newspaper ran an advertisement asking the question 'Is Your Hair Nearly Ruined?' It went on to state that 'The influenza epidemic left many people suffering from hair troubles in one form or another. Hair becoming brittle, perhaps falling out, bald spots coming maybe.'¹²

As it turned out, Port Macquarie was not badly affected by the influenza epidemic with very few comments in the local newspaper and no mention of deaths. Some weeks ago, I felt the need to put down my feelings about the current COVID pandemic and I did so in verse. The poem is presented as a way of expressing my feeling about today's health crisis and it is hoped it will interest the reader.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_officeholders_of_Port_Macquarie-Hastings_Council

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/1918-pandemic-history.htm>

⁴ 1919 'Advertising', *The Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate (NSW : 1882 - 1950)*, 1 February, p. 5

⁵ 1919 'Influenza Epidemic.', *ibid.*, 8 February, p. 5

⁶ 1919 'Influenza Epidemic', *ibid.*, 29 March, p. 5

⁷ 1919 'Influenza Outbreak.', *ibid.*, 19 April, p. 4

⁸ 1919 'Alcohol and Influenza.', *ibid.*, 3 May, p. 8

⁹ 1919 'Influenza.', *ibid.*, 21 June, p. 4

¹⁰ 1919 'Advertising', *ibid.*, 8 February, p. 1

¹¹ 1919 'Advertising', *ibid.*, 15 February, p. 1

¹² 1920 'Advertising', *ibid.*, 10 January, p. 5

COVID-19 PANDEMIC -A POEM BY REX TOOMEY

The routine life of humankind was drifting through the years,
No thought of dangers lurking close, no reason to have fears,
The daily grind to just exist took every waking hour,
Until a danger came to light - something outside their power.

It came from out of nowhere like an endless, deadly wave,
By touch or breath, it spread so fast from weakest to the brave,
The people were infected in a mass contamination,
A virus from the netherworld, 'twas Covid devastation.

At first the world was helpless when this tragedy appeared,
For people quickly found that there was danger to be feared,
And soon the lockdowns started, and the masks became the norm,
And freedoms were restricted in the overwhelming storm.

Then science toiled to find a way to solve this viral threat,
And from their labs vaccines emerged, the path ahead was set,
So governments took up the race to vaccinate each nation,
And mostly people gave their trust to get this new salvation.

But humans can be fickle when their reason fades away,
And some refused the vaccine when their doubts came into play,
They said their liberty was gone and choices had been lost
But little did they know about the underlying cost.

Their families now in danger, and their friends and neighbours too,
The nurses, doctors, other people saw what would ensue,
The silliness of 'vaccine fear' was adding to the harm,
When all the vaccines from their past had never caused alarm.

The lockdowns finally ended when vaccine rates were right,
And danger from the covid slowly disappeared from sight,
Did people learn a lesson from the pandemic this time,
Or did the virus 'foolishness' become the paradigm?

When time has passed and looking back, will people feel secure?
The danger that the Covid posed was not solved by a cure!
Despite what humans think and do, their future's not foreseen,
And likelihood not long from now they'll need a new vaccine.

BIGAMY IN YOUR FAMILY?

Kay Browne

Imagine recording this lady's family tree.

Adrienne Guyot was born to working class parents at Mons in Belgium. She was an attractive young woman and married a wealthy Parisienne.

Adrienne left her French husband and with some of his wealth, she was able to visit holiday resorts and took up with wealthy men she met. She remarried but moved on when their funds ran out. In all, she was engaged on 652 occasions and was the bride at 50 marriage ceremonies.

She returned to Brussels and was about to 'marry' again, when one of her former 'husbands' recognized her. He denounced her and reported to the police. Adrienne Guyot was charged with bigamy.

A MUCH-MARRIED WOMAN

Adrienne Guyot, a golden-haired woman, recently arrested on a charge of bigamy, has been engaged 652 times, and went through the marriage ceremony on 50 occasions, says the Brussels correspondent of the "Daily Mail." She was a daughter of working class parents at Mons, and went to Paris when young. She married a rich man and from then on frequented fashionable holiday resorts. She attracted many wealthy men, to whom she became a fiancee, and whom she "married." She deserted them when they ran out of funds. Recently Adrienne arrived at Brussels. On the point of marrying again, she was recognised by a former "husband," who reported her to the police.

Port News, 7 September 1929, p6c

HOW THE LIBRARY HELPS US

Did you know that the PM-H Library staff produce a regular newsletter specifically for family historians?

Each edition has photos and articles about resources and 'what's new'. To subscribe go on to their website:

<https://mnclibrary.org.au/research/local-studies-and-family-history/>

Then click the link 'About Us' and sign up. Voila!

JOIN THE LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY E-NEWSLETTER

Name

Email *

SUBSCRIBE

FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

Most of us know about Ancestry and My Heritage, online resources but some others can be useful and include:

- **-WikiTree -Where genealogists collaborate.** This site is 100% free and includes many benefits for genealogists who sign their Honour Code.

Their aim is to grow an accurate single family tree using DNA and traditional genealogical sources.

- **Forces War Records.** This site has just introduced comprehensive resources featuring an extensive data base of military medals and awards. From Waterloo, Crimea, WW1, WW11 to the present day, there's a wide range of medals and that were issued in recognition of services and personal accomplishments of individual in the Armed Forces (and some civilians) in one place.

The medals on the site are categorised into the following sections:

- Campaign medals
- Gallantry Awards
- Coronation & Jubilee medals
- Efficiency and Long Service medals
- **The National Library** provides a guide to locating free resources on family history in the Library and elsewhere.

JewishGen describes itself as the global home for Jewish Genealogy. They are now partnered with Ancestry.com.

Cyndi's list is an Australian list of resources has a wide range which includes blogs, cemeteries and funeral Homes, Electoral Rolls and Immigration.

Geneanet.org can be used for searches in India but other websites also have content.

One Name Society - <https://one-name.org/> assists people who are interested in the origins of their family name and facilitates contact with other people of the same family name.

Ryerson Index is THE major source for finding notices of deaths and obituaries in Australia. There is no other site that is more comprehensive. There are over 8 million entries on the Ryerson Index. You may conduct searches from this location: <https://ryersonindex.org/search.php>

If you are lucky enough to find a notice concerning a family member, there is a chance you can obtain the actual notice. Go to this Ryerson page <https://ryersonindex.org/lookup.htm> and check out the locations where a notice may be found. If still unsuccessful, you can contact Ryerson by writing to them as a last resort.

SECOMB FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH



Group of Eleven People from the Secomb (?) family – Seeking names.

This photograph has been sent to the Society by William Micheletti. He said he came across a family photo during his research which he believes may be of a local family. He was wondering if there is somebody in the Society who would be able to assist identifying the people. He said there is an inscription on the back that states it refers to the Secomb Family.

If any reader can assist, please contact the Society's Secretary.

'TO FORGET ONE'S ANCESTORS IS LIKE A BROOK WITHOUT A SOURCE OR A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS' (CHINESE PROVERBS)



Using Genetics for Genealogy

A Simple Guide to choosing which DNA company to test with.

“I have had my mother's wing of my genetic ancestry analysed ... and there it all is: the arrow moving northward from the African savannah, skirting the Mediterranean by way of the Levant, and passing through Eastern and Central Europe before crossing to the British Isles. And all of this knowable by an analysis of the cells on the inside of my mouth.”¹

Nowadays it even has its own tag – Genetic Genealogy – as if all will be revealed by simply spitting into a vial. Of course, that is not strictly true. DNA might inform us of our ancestors' trail out of Africa, as Christopher Hitchens so eloquently notes, but it won't give us names.

That can only be achieved through painstaking research and double – triple – checking. But when research comes grinding to a halt, DNA testing may help. Help by giving us the names of our matches – those cousins we never knew about – who might have the evidence that we need to climb, smash through or walk around that brick wall.

These days there are a plethora of DNA testing companies available to us and choosing the most appropriate one for genealogy may seem, at first sight, somewhat daunting. FamilyTreeDNA; MyHeritage; AncestryDNA; Living DNA; 23andMe; WeGene – the list of names goes on.

But you can't go past Ancestry for your first DNA test. With a database approximating the population size of Australia² it's the leading testing company – despite a lack of tools that experienced genetic genealogists can only wish for.

So, let's cut to the chase. I strongly advise that your first DNA test be with AncestryDNA. It will cost you about \$AU115 (including postage) depending who you buy it through³ and whether or not it is on sale.

There are a number of reasons for my recommendation.

Firstly, as mentioned above, AncestryDNA has the largest database and as our aim is to find cousins (not necessarily 1st cousins but those elusive 2nd – 4th cousins), Ancestry will have them in spades. As we know, 1st cousins share grandparents with us; 2nd cousins share great-grandparents; 3rd cousins, great-great-grandparents and so on. To break down our brick wall we need to locate the ancient ancestor that sits behind it. For example, if I need to find the unknown father of one of my great-grandparents, I know that I need to look for someone with a family tree that touches on a great-great grandfather or even a generation further back. So a 3rd or 4th cousin match on that line would be perfect.

Secondly, Ancestry and 23andMe are the only companies that won't let us upload DNA tests taken at other sites. They want us to pay for and take a test with them. Not so for the other testing companies mentioned above. They allow us to upload our raw DNA from our Ancestry/23andMe test for free and, for a small fee, we can unlock the genetic tools maintained by that site. As an example, uploading your AncestryDNA to FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) is free and you will receive a list of your autosomal matches from their database.

Later, you may wish to use some of their tools. The cost of unlocking them is a one-off fee of \$US19. For GEDmatch, the upload is also free as are some of the tools. Their more advanced tools cost \$US10 per month to use. Living DNA is a British site that is very new and affiliated with FindmyPast. As with the others mentioned above, uploading is free. Their unlock fee is \$A59. MyHeritage unlock fee is \$US29 and provides some wonderful tools such as *Autoclusters* which visually groups matches around a common ancestor.

Uploading to these other sites lets you paddle in more than one genetic pool. Often people have only tested with one company and staying with Ancestry alone may mean missing a vital connection.

As an example, before AncestryDNA came to Australia I managed a number of elderly relatives' kits for tests they had done on FTDNA. Unfortunately, they were not around some years later when Ancestry testing became available outside the USA and so I was unable to test them there.

Thirdly, Ancestry links our DNA to our family trees in a way that no other company does, which gives us opportunities to knock down those brick walls. When you take a test, Ancestry wants you to link it to a person on your Ancestry tree. They can then provide you with relationship hints, known as ThruLines, based on DNA matches and common ancestors found in their trees.

Fourthly, Ancestry is a family history database with millions of records, whereas 23andMe mainly attracts those looking for medical and pharmaceutical genetic information and who often have little interest in genealogy.

So, the answer to the question "*With which company should I test?*" is simple. Buy an AncestryDNA test kit and then upload it to a range of other companies for free and maybe later pay to unlock their tools.



¹ Hitchens, Christopher; *Hitch 22: A Memoir*, 2010, Twelve

² <https://thednageek.com/ancestrydna-surpasses-20-million/>

³ Using DNA for Genealogy Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UsingDNAforGenealogyAustraliaNewZealand/permalink/1002838343208415>

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Diane Gillespie

What are your childhood memories of the Christmas season? My early childhood was spent in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, and I remember travelling into the city CBD to wonder at the Christmas decorations, the giant Christmas tree and the magical window displays of the Myer Department Store. This was the era before the large suburban shopping malls, like Chadstone in Melbourne or Westfield, or Westpoint in Sydney and the corner store and small shopping precincts operated in the suburbs of the major cities.



Flinders Street Station, Melbourne.

Flinders Street Station was always a beacon of light attracting travellers and tourists alike. It was the hub from which one could reach many shopping venues and the shops all lined the streets. There were always people hurrying through the station, whether to return home from work or to arrive in ‘the big smoke’ to join the crowds imbibing the Christmas Spirit. Parents firmly held their children’s hands to keep them from straying far.

Of course, Santa was present in the larger shops. I remember asking how he was in so

many places at the same time. He’s “Santa’s helper” and that seemed to satisfy my curiosity at the time.

The windows of the larger shops along the street displayed Santa’s workshop or illustrations from many Christmas-themed stories. They could also show how Christmas was celebrated in other countries.

Small, electric toy trains ran through the display and following their progress as they appeared and disappeared through tunnels was fascinating.



By Unknown Author

Christmas carols were played continuously throughout the shops, and I often wonder if the smiling shop assistants ever tired of hearing the same soundtrack but to the small children it enhanced a magical wonderland that only came together for a very short period at the end of the year.

Weary children returned home, often fast asleep before reaching the comfort of their own beds, being carried from the car into the house to wake the following morning, wearing some or all of their clothes from the previous night, minus the shoes.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Jennifer Mullin

When we were talking about Christmas traditions recently, I mentioned that one of my earliest recollections is that my brothers and I were given the axe and directed to find the White Cypress pine that would be our tree for the year. It was a short walk to the TSR – travelling stock route – where we would choose our tree and then chop it down. When we got it home, it was my task to decorate the tree.

I contacted one of my brothers for his recollections of Christmas and his first comment was ‘the tree’. We can’t remember if there was any traditional fare, but we remember the charcoal safe that held the soft drink bottles – the only time we ever had it. As a teenager I remember Mum was delighted to serve ‘Cold Duck’ one year.

My brother also remembered that our Santa sack was a pillowcase. One year he attached a wool bale to the end of the bed to see if Santa could fill it; whilst Santa was chided by my other brother one year for being noisy! Dad would always comment that I would be up before dawn, rustle around in the ‘stocking’ and then go back to sleep until everyone was up.

We remembered that Santa would come to town before Christmas and give us a present. We know Mum and Dad paid for the gift – but we’re not sure if they supplied it. Mum would play the 45rpm record *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* before we left to go to town to meet Santa – obviously dressed to the nines!

On Christmas Eve Mum would then play *Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane)*. We left cake and a drink under the tree for Santa – being farmers’ children we gave no thought to feeding the reindeer – as many do today. In hindsight, I suppose the deer would forage while Santa was busy delivering presents.

CHRISTMAS OF YORE - 1883

Blog from Internet

“To the model Australian matron Christmas dinner is a subject for deep consideration and anxiety. She longs to keep up the old custom, and yet in minor details she feels that the difference in climate demand some changes, and her care to provide that the home tradition is maintained with enough expansiveness to meet the circumstance; and as the servant difficulty year by year makes the preparation of the festival meal more and more the work of the mistress of a house we append a few suggestions in connection with the cooking of Christmas fare.

The first thing after (Christmas) breakfast let the mistress (the servants being gone for a holiday.) go to the kitchen to make Imitation Mulligatawny Soup, this:

‘...cut off the wing bone, take out merry thought and side bones and with a small tomahawk chop the bones in pieces...’



CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Trysha Hanly

Christmas puddings are believed to have begun in Roman times and were a concoction of meat, vegetables, fruit, spices and wine which was one way of preserving meat before refrigeration. It didn't evolve into the plum puddings we know today until around the 17th century.

The tradition of flaming the pudding with brandy adds a piece of theatre to the ritual of serving the pudding at the end of the meal - "In half a minute Mrs Cratchit entered –flushed, but smiling proudly – with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-a-quarter of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck in the top". – Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

Planning your Christmas menu? Maybe these suggestions from 1846 will help!

In an article in *Spectator* (Sydney, NSW, 1846), Saturday 24 January 1846 about the Port Macquarie-Hastings area, the author was describing his journeys around the attractive features in the district of Port Macquarie whilst '...enjoying the elegant hospitalities of Lake Clunie...' (Major Archibald Clunes Innes' property). During part of their trip, they rode their horses to Rollands Plains where they had lunch:

'On their arrival at Rollands Plains, where the Government formerly had an establishment for the experimental cultivation of the sugar cane, they halted for half an hour at the house of the overseer, which fronted the plain; the girths of their horses were slackened, and some maize, mixed with bran, was placed before them. The riders were regaled with a lunch, consisting of a huge damper (loaf of unleavened bread), some ham, cheese, excellent butter, and a capacious bowl of milk.'

After lunch, they rode on to Crottys Plains (Innes' wife Margaret, the daughter of Alexander Macleay, received a grant of land at Crottys Plains on the Wilson River near Rollands Plains).

The article continued:

'Dr. McToddy, who had appointed to meet the Major at the plains, was already at the cottage when they arrived, and (assisted by some blacks who were lounging about the place) had organized a capital bush dinner, consisting of a fine saddle of mutton, a pair of wild ducks, and some of the pigeon family called Wonga Wonga, together with the usual accessories, as well as a plentiful allowance of choice wine from the cellar at the Lake, and which, after dinner, they imbibed 'alfresco' in the verandah, accompanying their libations with the smoke of the soothing tobacco plant, which, with many other tropical productions, flourishes well in the genial climate of Port Macquarie.'

Source: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article250085022> page 5



A CHUBBY SNOWMAN

Anonymous

A chubby little snowman had a carrot nose.
Along came a bunny, and what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny, looking for some lunch,
Grabbed that snowman's nose - nibble, nibble, crunch!

CHRISTMAS CAKE – SPECIAL RECIPE

Contributed

Ingredients: 1 cup butter
1 Cup sugar
1 cup mixed dried fruit
1 cup water
4 large eggs
1 tabs brown sugar
1 teasp each salt & baking soda
50g walnuts
lemon juice
1 bottle whiskey

Method: Place dried fruit, water and half a cup of sugar in small saucepan. Boil 15 mins. Pour whiskey into glass, sample to check on quality.

Get large mixing bowl. Check whiskey again. Pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat previous step. Turn on electric mixer and beat in a large, fluffy bowl. Add 1 spoontea of baking soda, half cup of sugar and beat agin.

Resample whiskey to make sure it is still whidkey. Turn off the mixer,, break two legs, add to bowl. Chuck in fried druit. Mix on the turner. Sample whiskey to check on conshisticity. Next sift two cups of salt or something, who cares what? Check the whiskey!

Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add 1 sabletoon of brown sugar or which colour you can find. Wix mell.

Gresae the spoon, turn pake can to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Pour mix into pan cake and over bench. Throw bowl out the window. Stagger to the laundry, put pan cake in oven and set to hot rinse. Continue sampling whiskey till bottle is empty. Go to bed.

YEAR OF THE SNAKE - 2022

In the Chinese Zodiac next year is identified as the Year of the Snake and it predicts a smooth year for finances.

Snakes are wise and smart, and they know not only how to earn but also how to save. At the forefront will be topics close to you, namely friends and close circles of friends.



Chinese New Year will be celebrated between 31 January to the Lantern Festival on 15 February 2022.

FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTIONS

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in February 2022 and members are invited to submit stories and articles to the editor@pmdfhs.org.au by **Saturday 15 January 2022 so they can be included in the February issue.**



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

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

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

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

SOME HINTS FOR WRITING ARTICLES



Topics

- General – select a story from your family’s past about a specific person or group of people.
- Cookbook – Choose a favourite family recipe and write about their family – include the recipe.
- Image – From a family image, person or subject, write down your thoughts – include the image.
- Research – Enlarge on a newspaper item, for example, that you found whilst researching.
- Themes – immigration – how your ancestors arrived, ship or airplane, their journey.
- Successes – ‘rags to riches’ such as gold mining, successful farming, etc.
- Conflict – just about everyone has a family member who served their country.

Scope

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

Sources/References

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

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

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

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

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

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

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

INFOEMAIL

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

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

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

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

RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

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

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

NOTE: ALL CD-ROM PURCHASES INCLUDE POSTAGE

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

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

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

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

PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 1359
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Website: www.pmdfhs.org.au
Email: secretary@pmdfhs.org.au
Mobile: 0475 132 804

Our Research Home

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

Our Meeting Room

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

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This Journal is printed by Snap Printing
1/106 Horton Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444 – phone: 02 6583 7544