

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 868, Dubbo 2830

Newsletter 17 - January-February 2015

**Location: Ground floor - Two-storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery.
Cnr. Gipps & Wingewarra Sts Dubbo.**

Opening hours:

Tuesday	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Friday	10.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday	10.00am - 4.00 pm

Management Committee: Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10am in DDFHS Library. Contact any of the committee listed below if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

Management Committee contacts:

Cynthia Foley	68840500	cafoley@bigpond.com - President
Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com - Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kefuller8@bigpond.com - Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au - Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil@clearmail.com.au
Carol Korn	68847298	tjkorn@bigpond.com.au
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au
Kathy Furney	68825533	johnnkathy7@bigpond.com

Society Webpage: www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Society Email: ddfhs_2000@Yahoo.com.au (that is an underscore after the s)

Society 'Phone no: 6881 8635

Newsletter Information. The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in mid-April. Anyone with interesting information, news of an interesting website; a breakthrough with their family history, please contact Kathy (details as above). We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our member's research.

Feedback on the Newsletter is always welcome, if you have an idea on how it can be improved please contact one of the above members so that the suggestions can be taken to the monthly meeting.

The Newsletter is normally on the Society's website www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au soon after publication. Those without email addresses will receive the Newsletter by post. **However our website is currently unable to be updated, hence the last newsletter and new banking details are unable to be entered on the website. It is hoped that this will be fixed soon. Correct banking details are shown at the bottom of this newsletter in the subscription reminder.**

Note: If changing your email address, or connecting to the Internet: Please advise Ken Fuller. (See address above).

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Society News.

Your newsletters this year will be compiled by several committee members. **Cynthia Foley** has been forced to give up this duty due to so many other commitments in her life, which do not allow her to devote the time she wants to the role. We would like to give Cynthia a huge thank you for all the time and effort she has put into this role over many years. We are lucky that she will still be available to us to help out when we get stuck, and hopefully have time to write a column for the local paper each month or so.

Planning meeting

A planning meeting for the coming year was recently held by the committee. The committee is very excited by the ideas that came out of this meeting. A couple of important items coming up soon will be, our morning tea to welcome members on the 19th February 2015, a **Beginners Basic Classes** in March/April, 2015 and **Refresher Seminar** for all our valuable volunteer librarians, date to be decided. We would love to have more volunteers to help out. If you would like to volunteer some of your time, please contact June Wilson. You would have an experienced volunteer on with you; you get to know your way around the library, and are able to work on your own project in the quiet times.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 19th February 2015 at 10.30. The society will be putting on a morning tea at our rooms to welcome and say hello to our members and intending members. Why not come along and meet your committee and talk to other people researching their family history. For catering please RSVP to June Wilson on 68825366 or email her on juniwil@clearmail.com.au before 16th February.

Sunday, 15th March 2015 at 2pm: AGM in the Family History rooms building.

Internet Browser.

DDFHS still operates on Windows XP which is fast becoming obsolete. We have found that Mozilla Firefox web browser works best with our program. So if you are visiting our rooms please use **Mozilla Firefox** to access the internet.

British Newspapers on Find My Past.

Don't forget DDFHS has paid the above subscription to Find My Past which this year includes British Newspapers for member's use. Those who have used this facility report great success.

Indexing.

Thank you to several members who are indexing records. This can be carried out at anywhere in your own time, as we have laptops available to take home set up ready to index. Any member wishing to help with this interesting task please phone Linda Barnes on 68878284 for further information.

14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry to be held 26-30th March 2015 in Canberra.

These events are always exciting, informative and fun, why not think about attending. See their website for more information. www.congress2015.org.au

Thousands of diaries of World War 1.

Australians around the country are indebted to the State Library of NSW for the foresight shown in collecting the personal diaries of thousands of First World War soldiers, doctors, nurses, journalists and stretcher bearers in the wars after math. The experiences of these people during the first global war barely a decade after Australia's Federation, makes for sombre powerful reading and has an invaluable place amid the commemoration memorabilia. Check out the website www.sl.nsw.gov.au

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World War 1.

In the December 2014 issue of “**Digger**”, a journal received by our society, there is an informative article on the Recruitment marches organised when the war broke out. Of particular interest to our area is a lengthy story on the Coo-ee march, which commenced in Gilgandra. It is well worth a look if you have any family members who were involved in any of these marches.

National Library Trove website

The National Library offers a National Library card which provides you with a membership number and card. This then gives you access to the eResources of the National Library. It does not cost you anything but gives you access to a wealth of information, including the UK Newspapers. You can see how the system works and apply by going to the following link <http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/>. You will a whole new world of material available to you.

Resources in our library

Make use of the **hard copy journals in DDFHS Library**. We also have **e copies** of many of the journals which are held on a thumb drive in our rooms. The information in all these is very interesting and who knows, you may come across something that relates to your research. If you are not sure where the **hard copies** or the **e copies** are held just ask your friendly volunteer librarian.

Family Research Stories. We have been very fortunate for this issue to have not just one, but two people give us a story about their family tree research. The first one from Bill Noad relates to history in Australia, while our second story from Annette Priest relates to her research while on a trip to Scotland. A big thank you to both Bill and Annette for kindly sharing their family history with us.

“The Schomberg” and the Great Ocean Road (from Bill Noad)

I have known for some time that a forebear of mine was a passenger on the mighty Schomberg, a clipper ship specially built for the immigrant trade. Inexplicably it became irretrievably stranded at Curdies Inlet on Boxing Day 1855. Thankfully, no lives were lost.

How it happened is indeed a heady and exciting tale. Much was at stake – the Schomberg, built in the early 1850s was the newest, biggest and brightest of the fleet of the Black Ball Line. It boasted luxurious accommodation and dining room and could carry about 350 passengers, promising a speedy voyage to Melbourne. The captain, Bully Forbes, a hard driving skipper, was determined to establish a record when he declared ‘Hell or Melbourne in 60 days’. Unfortunately for the Schomberg’s owners, and especially for Captain Forbes, it was a boast he could not fulfil as it became the first, and only voyage the Schomberg ever made.

With this in mind, I travelled the Great Ocean Road in late 2014, hoping to find out more. At the Cape Otway Lighthouse I learnt of its importance to shipping. Its friendly beam flashing since 1848 was often the first and only sighting of land since leaving England for ships taking the composite great circle route to Melbourne. It was a fast and dangerous route, just the route for a hard driving skipper out for a record such as Bully Forbes. Ships plunged south through the Atlantic into the Great Southern Ocean well south of the Cape of Good Hope and into latitudes 50 degrees south where they braved huge seas, fierce winds, icebergs and bitter cold before turning northeast for Cape Otway. Forbes made landfall west of Cape Otway near Curdies Inlet. Why they were sailing so close to the shore and why Forbes, an experienced captain, was slow in responding to the danger remains a mystery.

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Peterborough, which did not exist in 1855, now marks the site where the Schomberg came to grief. A memorial and other signage explain the stranding. The remains of the Schomberg lie about 900 metres more or less directly out to sea. Divers can visit the wreck but little remains – only a faint outline of the hull. I found myself seeing as I stood there this grand ship stranded, slowly and inexorably being broken up by the huge waves breaking over it during a gale that occurred several days after the stranding. The Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum at Warrnambool displays a number of relics salvaged from the Schomberg as well as a splendid model of this wonderful ship.

There is of course much more to this tale than I have stated. For those wishing to know more I'd suggest Don Charlwood's *Wrecks and Reputations* and Jack Loney's *Shipwrecks along the Great Ocean Road*. Charlwood's is a comprehensive account and includes a list of passengers. Loney takes a different tack, the Schomberg is one of many wrecks that he discusses. Both publications are available at the Cape Otway Lighthouse and the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum at Warrnambool.

Scottish Research (from Annette Priest)

As we get older we tend to reflect more on our past and our family connections. With this in mind I set about discovering more about my Scottish grandfather and his family. A hiking trip to Scotland last year provided the ideal opportunity to enhance the knowledge I had gained from researching the 1841-1911 census data on line.

Whilst staying in Glasgow I visited the Mitchell Library family history section. Starting with a free learning session with a staff member I progressed to more involved research. A daily fee was required for more in depth research. To ensure that your time is maximized, it is a good idea to book a session in advance by emailing or phoning the library.

The Mitchell Library also provides on-line access to resources including the genealogical website. Ancestry Library Edition, newspapers, indexes to births, deaths and marriages, burial records, census data and maps are also available. Using the maps I was able to locate streets my ancestors lived in some 200 years ago.

On a previous visit to Scotland I had visited the grave of my grandmother and grandfather in the beautiful seaside village of West Kilbride and discovered that a photo I took of the headstone was the key to revealing much of my family history. I found that my grandfather had two siblings I had never heard of who had died during infancy that my great grandfather was a carpet dyer at Templeton's Carpet factory, Glasgow and I was able to trace my family history for a number of generations. My research is ongoing and as time permits I will continue to uncover more about my family.

Whilst in Glasgow I visited the People's Palace. Set in historic Glasgow Green, it is home to a collection of historical artefacts, photographs, prints and film, which gives an unrivalled insight into how Glaswegians lived, worked and played from the 18th to the 20th Century. If your ancestors lived in Glasgow during this time I would recommend you include a visit should you be lucky enough to get to Glasgow.

Subscriptions for 2015 are now due, as our year begins on the 1st January.

Your annual subscription can be paid online, or you can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire. Particulars for paying on line are as follow:

Bank: Westpac
Account: Dubbo & District Family History Inc.
BSB: 032 646
Account No: 581832

Please ensure you enter **YOUR NAME or Membership Number** (if known) in the appropriate box. Receipts and membership cards can be picked up in the DDFHS Library.

Scale Table for Fees as at 1st January 2015 for New Members. (Subscription last changed 2007)

Single Current Members:	\$40	Single New Members:	\$50
Family Current Members:	\$48	Family New Members:	\$58