

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 23 – March-April 2016

Location: Ground floor – Two storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery, Cnr. Gipps and Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo.

Opening hours: Tuesday 1.00-4pm, Thursday 2.00-6.00pm, Friday 10.00-1.00pm, Saturday 10.00-4.00pm

Society webpage: www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Society email: info@dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 868, Dubbo. 2830 NSW

Society phone no: 02 6881 8635

Management Committee

Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil@clearmail.com.au	
Karlynn Robinson	68855773	karlynnrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	johnnkathy7@bigpond.com	
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	

Management Committee Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10am in DDFHS Library. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, or simply contact any of the committee listed above if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

Newsletter Information The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in early June 2016. **Please share** any interesting information, news of an interesting website, or maybe a breakthrough with your family history, with other members. Contact Kathy Ph.68825533 or email johnnkathy7@bigpond.com if you have anything that can be shared. We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our members' research.

Membership fees for **2016 are now overdue** The Annual fee for current single membership remains at \$40.00, while joint membership fee is \$45.00 and family membership \$48.00. You can post your renewal to PO Box 868, Dubbo or you can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire. For those who prefer to pay online, banking particulars for paying are as follow:

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Bank – Westpac, BSB 032 646, account no 581832

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

Society News for 2016

Annual General Meeting for our society was held on **Sunday 20th March 2016**.

Unfortunately with the resignation of Cynthia Foley after 33 years at the helm, the position of President has become vacant. Cynthia was a founding member of the Dubbo and District Family History Society and over the years has built the foundation for our ongoing success. She has been a champion of our organisation over the years, and her knowledge and experience in everything “family history” will be sorely missed. We are fortunate Cynthia will still be involved in the society and we all look forward to catching up with her at our events

Website and Facebook Don't forget to check out the website and Facebook for our society. Regular updates, with information for our members, are being made to both, and don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page.

'Legacy' users group Members may be aware of a software programme called 'Legacy' which can be used for your family history research. One of our members is a long term user of this programme, who has offered to run a group each month to share her experience and knowledge of the programme. If you are interested in taking part, please contact *Jennifer Bruce* on 6882 9050. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th April 2016 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the family history rooms. This will be a small group to share experiences of using the 'Legacy' software and is only open to members of Dubbo and District Family History Society.

How to improve our society The society is always looking for ways to improve its facilities and the services available to our members. This is why there is a suggestions box in the family history rooms. We are looking for ideas and suggestions from our members. If you have something in mind why not write it down and put it in the suggestion box, or if you would prefer, contact one of the committee members and discuss your suggestion with them.

Think Tank Group – Lost Someone? Can't find them anywhere? Maybe we can help! The Think Tank Group meets to discuss research with like-minded people. They discuss how to use the various websites for family research, and how to utilise the fantastic resources available in our rooms. Our core group of June Wilson, Jenny Bruce, Jo Murphy and Robyn Allan would love to have other people join them in this morning gathering. The group meets in the family history rooms on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10.00am. The remaining meeting dates for 2016 are 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December. For more

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information contact Jo Murphy on 6882 9426 or June Wilson on 68825366, email juniwil@clearmail.com.au

Church of England records from Holy Trinity Church Dubbo At our library rooms we hold photo copies of **baptisms**, and **marriages** conducted by the clergy of the Holy Trinity parish.

These copies are of the original **Baptismal** registers and are for the years 1874- 1968. Details that can be found on entries include, date of baptism, date of birth, child's christian name/s, parents' names, abode, occupation of father and by whom the ceremony was performed. The first baptism in the register is for Agnes, child of John and Agnes Angus who lived at Marthaguy at the time their baby was baptised on 24 May 1874. Agnes was born on 17 February 1873. Her father was a labourer.

Marriage register records are from 8 November 1884 to 29 December 1886, then from 8 August 1900 to 6 August 1978. These records are photo copies of the actual parish registers, containing all the information that you will find on the certified copy from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Details include date of marriage, full names of bride and groom, age at time of marriage, their address, occupation and details of parents of the bride and groom. Birthplace of the bride and groom and their conjugal status at the time of the marriage, all this important information also contains the signatures of the bride and groom, priest conducting the ceremony along with the witnesses, who are often family members. The first marriage record to appear in the register on 8 November 1884 was between Walter Thomas Ross and Christina Eason. Walter Ross had been born in Yorkshire and Christina Eason had been born in Norfolk, England.

Please note that unfortunately we do not hold any copies of **burial** registers from Holy Trinity Church.

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. will hold their Annual Conference for 2016 at Camden from 9th-11th September 2016. It will be hosted by the Camden Area Family History Society Inc. and Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

Early Bird Registrations opened on the 1st March 2016, and will close on the 21st July 2016. Check out the Camden Family History website for full details www.cafhs.org.au
Contact the Conference Convenor, Tony Jackson on 0437 651124 or email nswact2016conference@gmail.com

One day seminars are coming up in **Bega** and **Coffs Harbour**, both on the 28th May 2016. **Bega** will be hosting Ken Phillips, editor of Spirit of Gallipoli, who will be giving a talk which will be of interest to anyone with Jewish Ancestry. They will also have Dr Carol Liston talking on Land and Property Information. She will give advice on how to use the Torrens Title Register which has a wealth of information for researchers. For more information contact Ursula Hunt 02 6495 3566 or Mick Harrison 02 6492 0321

Coffs Harbour will be hosting Ben Mercer who will talk on 'The New Ancestry, Tips for getting the Best out of Ancestry and Ancestry DNA'. For further information: Phone Sharon

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Ingersole 02 6653 9240 or Stan Gordon 02 6658 7955 or email coffsgenie@gmail.com

Understanding Occupations We are all familiar with some of the common employment occupations shown on Census Forms and Voters lists. For example we all know what an Ag. Lab. does as well as a Farmer and Physician etc.

But often, something a little less familiar crops up when we are researching our ancestors. Recently I discovered an ancestor who was a *Cordwainer*. I had no idea what this was and so I went in search of this occupation. This led me to think about other unusual or obscure occupations and the need to know where to go to find the answers.

So here is a list of some sites that may be helpful when we come across an unusual occupation on a marriage certificate, census forms and voters lists etc.

HALL GENEALOGY – rmhh.co.uk - This site contains a myriad of occupational descriptions plus medical terminology and other information helpful to genealogists.

ROOTSWEB – rootsweb.ancestry.com This site also has a comprehensive list and descriptions of occupations.

CYNDI'S LIST – www.cyndislist.com/occupations.general

CORAWEB - coraweb.com.au has an excellent section on almost every type of occupation you could think of. This site is particularly good if you are seeking early Australian occupations.

GENEALOGY QUEST – genealogy-quest.com Gives a list of old time occupations, alphabetically by occupation.

STATE RECORDS OF NSW - gives a list of professions and occupations through Archives Investigator.

And by the way, a *Cordwainer* is someone who makes bespoke shoes from new leather.
Thanks to Karlyn Robinson for this contribution.

TROVE 7 is coming The following information has been received from Trove. After consultation, testing and much collaborative effort with Trove's partners, we are very pleased to announce that Trove 7 was launched on 25 February 2016.

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Newspapers

Over the years the Trove community has provided us with fantastic feedback and suggestions. We have been listening and have tried to incorporate as many suggestions as possible into the newspaper zone. Some of the highlights include:

- * Simplified interface
- * Customisable viewer displays
- * New browse features

This work was partly funded by the generous donations received from members of the Trove community as part of the 'Change lives, Support Trove' appeal.

2. Government Gazettes

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The State Library of NSW and the National Library of Australia have been working collaboratively to digitise and make available the NSW Government Gazette (1832 to 2001). These important government records will be delivered through Trove with a small sample appearing when the Trove 7 is released. Nearly one million pages will be completed by the end of the project. This collection of digitised and full-text searchable Gazettes are a much anticipated addition to Trove, one which will benefit local, family and social historians, legal researchers and others throughout Australia.

3. Discovery

The nuts and bolts of the Trove engine have been upgraded for faster, more responsive searching and an improved experience on your mobile device.

What's staying the same?

Many things you and I love about Trove will stay the same, including the look and feel of most zones, tagging, commenting and lists, the forum and fantastic content from organisations around Australia.

Questions or comments?

We will have information on the Trove forum <<http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/>> and invite you to reach out to us there and join the conversation.

Events in 2016 - First Share your Story 19th February, 2016 The first event for this year was extremely successful with over 30 people attending. They were entertained by Karlyn Robinson and June Wilson who gave informative summaries of their family history research. Then on the 18th March 2016 we had Ritchie McKay as a Guest Speaker in our rooms.



Karlyn Robinson, Ritchie McKay and June Wilson

Share your Story For those people who were unable to attend our first 'Share Your Story' in February, June Wilson (above) has kindly supplied us with the story of her research. We will bring you the presentation by Karlyn Robinson in the next issue.

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"In the Rocks" Sydney - George Wilson 1819 - 1898 - by June Wilson

My paternal Gt Gt Grandfather came to Australia just prior to his marriage to a young Irish girl Agnes Hamilton. The ceremony took place at Scot's Church Sydney, on August 19th 1843.

What prompted him to come to such a new colony, and on what ship? What was his departure date from his homeland and when did he set foot in Australia? What transpired in the life he led in early Australia? Here began my search.

Going backwards from my known information from my Grandmother Lillian's birth certificate then from her father James Sydney Wilson's birth in 1856, I was able to find my Gt Gt Grandfathers birthplace, Inverkeithing, Fife Scotland. Now to track his movements from leaving Scotland..

The only records covering my couple were the church records. These did reveal some useful information. This library has the images from the church registers, available on rolls of film. I used them to track the family's address, and the occupation of the father.

To my disappointment George Wilson is a very popular name.

My task was to check ships passenger lists prior to his marriage to Agnes and to order his Death Certificate, which I was hoping could reveal the length of time he was in the Australian Colonies, giving me a guide to his arrival.

But no, the ships passenger lists had just too many George Wilsons arriving in the time frame I had established. I was so disappointed at not being able to reach a result from my constant searching in numerous directions. I had been eight years coming to a conclusion. I just needed to choose a feasible timeline and order a Death Transcript of any George Wilson of Sydney. I did this from Marbract Services (Marilyn Rowan, the principal) and the trading name at that time. It was here I made my breakthrough, I hit the jackpot on my very first try. Marbract has a wonderful exchange method where if your inquiry matches another researcher's request, they notify you/them with details. This method gives you a wonderful opportunity to connect with any other researcher following your interest. I didn't waste any time in tracking the information. What a thrill to find that a team at Latrobe University were involved in a four year archaeological study of The Rocks in Sydney, among those inhabitants of which was my George Wilson who resided there from 1851- 1880 living at several addresses during that time frame. The University research log was forwarded to me along with references to publications relating to that study. Wow! What a plethora of information.

This study enlightened me to the difficulties in the life of city dwellers during George and Agnes Wilson's child rearing and working days in the colony. How did they endure each day under such harsh conditions? Agnes, wife and mother of eight, had been known as an exemplary wife and mother, unfortunately departed this life in February 1862, she suffered an untimely end, aged 41 years. The City Coroner commenced an inquest at the Whalers' Arms Inn, Gloucester Street, with the Sydney Morning Herald reporting her death "Death Under Suspicious Circumstances". A further comment in the report stated, she was a "great drunkard" not just a drunkard but "a great drunkard" and suffered from the effects of her intemperance for several weeks prior to her death. Her body was severely

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bruised in several parts, the bruises being the effects of blows struck by a woman living in the same street, (Gloucester Street) during a drunken quarrel. The inquest reports her young daughter aged 8 or 9 assisted her mother during her depleting health. At her death, Agnes had a very young daughter 18 months old, Esther Caroline. A further comment by the Coroner indicated that twelve weeks prior to the death of Agnes, her husband George, a stevedore, left their home for employment at Moreton Bay Queensland. This separation showed a further hardship in their family life. The report mentioned George was sending 3 pounds per week prior to her having a 'punch up' with a neighbour. The coroner reported her medical condition of suffering with a diseased heart (broken) and chronic inflammation of her stomach. A verdict of 'death from natural causes, accelerated by neglect' was recorded. From her death transcript I was unable to learn anything that I did not already know. Agnes Hamilton born Belfast Ireland, RC, born circa 1821 and at marriage in 1843 aged 21, buried Bunnerong (Botany) Cemetery.

I will surmise, I would think George would have returned ASAP from Moreton Bay to assist the older children with the very young aged 6, 4 and 18 months. Agnes was buried two days after death so there was no way he could have made it back to Sydney by coastal shipping to attend to burial arrangements. The death transcript doesn't give any mention of George, the spouse and further, none of their eight children are mentioned. The close knit neighbourhood of The Rocks came to the fore, a newspaper report stated "a Mrs McNab took care of the six children who were still living in the home until their dad could be with them". I feel very sad when I think about a married woman with eight children departing with very little recognition, even 'a great drunkard' deserves more than blank spaces on her death transcript. Just 9 months after the death of Agnes, the youngest, Caroline Esther died aged 2 years and 5 months - the cause of her death Abdominal Consumption, length of illness 9 months, buried Bunnerong, the same grave details as mother Agnes, so I suspect they were buried as paupers.

George and some of the younger children remained in The Rocks area until 1880. Three of the older children had married prior to George's departure and the remainder of the family moved to North Sydney. George's son George, died aged 38 from consumption (tuberculosis) a common condition of the time, duration of illness 2 years. Father, George was the informant to his death and lived at Felton Street, Neutral Bay. George's living situation had improved somewhat. At his death he had been living with his eldest daughter and husband at Holtermann Street North Sydney. Cause of death, Rheumatism, Morbus Cordis (heart disease) and Syncope (blacking out, fainting). From a family of five boys and three girls, the only male to live to what was an old age of 75 years was my Gt Grandfather James Sydney. He and wife Caroline reared 9 children into adult life, with his occupation being a Boat Builder. My grandfather Herbert lived by the banks of the George's River in Oatley. Interestingly my dad was a great fisherman (not a great drunkard) and built small boats for river fishing. I have always loved to throw a line in and stand for hours, as long as there is a bite now and again. So, does a particular family interest or gift, help to shape our world?

Unfortunately despite the many directions I have taken over a number of years of researching, I am not able to announce that I have the shipping details for either of my Gt Gt Grandparents. Most shipping records were very brief especially for single male/female

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immigrants. On some sailings, crew barely gained a mention let alone the finer details, however I do have one record that fits the time line of George as a crewman.

Next Share Your Story will be held in the Family History Rooms on **Friday 15th April 2016**. This time we will have Lyn Smith and Dorothy Blake to give you a summary of their family history research. The talk will be followed by a light morning tea with a cost of \$3 to cover this. You must advise of your attendance to Lyn Smith on 02 6885 0107 or email baretsmiths@bigpond.com before 11th April 2016.

British Anzac Centenary Weekend 17-19 June 2016 at Brightlingsea near Colchester, Essex, England. This year will be the centenary of the arrival of over 10,000 ANZACS who, between 1916 and 1919, were billeted at Brightlingsea near Colchester, Essex, England. They trained at an Australian Engineers Training Depot that had been set up in the town before they were sent fully trained on active service to the Western Front and beyond.

To commemorate this, Brightlingsea's Museum and Town Council are organising a three-day event. If anyone has a connection to the Brightlingsea ANZACS of the First World War we would very much like to hear from anyone who has family stories, photographs that show a connection to our ANZACS.

Over twenty marriages took place locally and at least three of the men stayed and brought up families here. It would also be delightful to meet any descendants who could attend in the events from 17-19 June 2016. Please let us know in advance if you are coming. Please contact Margaret Stone 01206 305024, or email Margaret@bright97.freeserve.co.uk for more information.

Rouse Hill House & The Rouses Caroline Rouse Thornton has advised that she has revised her original copy of this publication. Her book covers the districts of Windsor/Richmond, The Hills district, Parramatta as well as the Rouse family (and others) in the Mudgee, Wellington, Bathurst and Gulgong areas. Also featured are the New England area and Norfolk Island because of connections to the Buchanan family, plus references to pioneering in Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia. If you think this publication may be of interest to you, contact Caroline Thornton on 02 9955 7375 or email carthornton@bigpond.com