

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 21 – November-December 2015

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

Cynthia Foley	68840500	cafoley@bigpond.com	President
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	
Carol Korn	68847298	tjkorn@bigpond.net.au	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	johnnkathy7@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. Our next meeting will not be until the 11th February 2016

Newsletter Information The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in early February 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 member's research.

2)

Feedback on the Newsletter is always welcome. If you have an idea on how it can be improved, contact Kathy 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.

Membership fees for **2016** will become due on the **1st January 2016**. The Annual fee for current members remains at \$40.00. You can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire, or you may prefer to pay online. Banking particulars for paying on line are as follow:

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

President of Dubbo and District Family History For over thirty years Cynthia Foley has been the President of our society. She was a founding member in 1983, and is the proud holder of No.1 on the books. During this period she has seen many changes to how people undertake their family history research. But like us all, there comes a time for change, and with family and other commitments taking up more and more of her time, Cynthia has decided to call it a day as president, and will not be seeking re-election in 2016. We are fortunate however that Cynthia will still be involved in the society as a volunteer librarian as well as undertaking publicity for the group. *This then creates the need for a member to step up and take on the position of President in 2016.* Anyone willing to take up the position will have the full support and experience of the committee and members behind them. Would you be interested in becoming president? Do you have someone in mind who you think would fill the bill? Have a think about it, discuss it with your family and friends or a committee member.

The **newsletter** continues to evolve, but your ongoing support by contributing information and stories is needed. In this last issue for 2015, I would like to thank all those people who have taken the time to give me a contribution. It is always hard to gather enough information to make a newsletter, but as they say "many hands make light work", so my job has been "lightened" with the help of other contributors and members.

Events in 2016 Starting in February 2016 we hope to run a monthly forum called "Share your Story". It is hoped to have one or two people give a short summary (10-15 mins) of their family history research, or maybe a story on some family memorabilia you may be fortunate enough to have. This could be something like medals held in your family, wedding stories, or anything that you have discovered while undertaking your family research. This would be combined with a morning tea for all attending. More information on the date and our first presenters will be in the next newsletter.

3)

Part 2 of my continuing DNA Quest - from Karlyn Robinson - Now I know Who I Am!

26 August 2015

It has been six days since I mailed off my DNA sample at the main post office in town. There is nothing else to do now but wait for the results. However, today, I received notification that my DNA sample has been received. Good news indeed! What happens next? Well, the laboratory will now extract and analyse my DNA.

Meanwhile, I have been encouraged to build my family tree so that when the results arrive I get richer details, i.e. find other family members who are related to me through the DNA process.

2 September 2015

Almost 2 weeks since I mailed off my DNA sample. Today I received notification that my DNA sample is being run through the lab and that the results should be ready in 3 to 6 weeks. So, all I can do is wait.

20 September 2015

Today is the day I have been waiting for. It is just a few days over 6 weeks since I sent away for my DNA kit and now my results have arrived! With a fresh cup of coffee in my hand I logged in to Ancestry to check my Ethnicity Estimate.

While most of the results were somewhat as I thought they might be, there was one surprise. Here is the makeup of my DNA.

36% Ireland – This was not a great surprise as I had discovered Irish ancestors on both sides of my mother's family. The Keegans from County Longford, the Muldoons from County Cavan and the Smiths from County Meath on her maternal side. There were also the Gegans from County Meath, the Murrays from Roscommon and the Welshs from County Clare on her paternal side. My father also had a sprinkling of Irish in his ancestry – the Kennedys from County Tipperary. So, I am more Irish than I thought and shall be out a wearin' o' the green next St. Patrick's Day!

25% Great Britain – This too seems to fit well with my own discoveries. On my father's side there are the Edwards family from Berkshire, the Goldings and Uttridges from Cambridgeshire, and the Thompsons and Cudbolds from Norfolk. On my mother's side there are the Coopers from Suffolk.

11% Western European – taking in areas like Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and Switzerland, this would cover the Steinhauers and Becker's from Germany on my father's side of the family.

And of course there was a surprise! **24% Scandinavia** - Who could have imagined that! It is almost a quarter of my DNA makeup and I do not have blond hair and blue eyes! I have not yet had the time to research this aspect of my heritage. I do know that the Vikings, or Norsemen as they were known, invaded England from 793 to 1066 AD. While they raided many parts of the country, the East Anglian coast was a popular place for coming ashore to

4)

conduct their incursions. Here they initially attacked the monasteries for their gold and silver. Over time the Vikings began to settle in East Anglia. In 865 the Danish Vikings landed a large army in East Anglia. I have ancestors who came from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and so I suspect that it is through these ancestors that I have such a large percentage of Scandinavian ethnicity. Perhaps the Viking invasions may also account for my father's red hair!

As well, the Vikings invaded parts of Ireland, particularly along the coast, beginning in 795 AD and as I have 36% Irish ethnicity, it is possible that I come by the Scandinavian ethnicity honestly.

The remainder of my DNA is made up as follows – **3% from the Iberian Peninsula** and **1% from Northwest Russia/Finland**. The 1% Northwest Russia/Finland ethnicity I feel I can add to the 24% Scandinavian. Although only 3% of my DNA comes from the Iberian Peninsula - Spain and Portugal – this sits well with me in certain aspects of my family history. Some family members have much darker skin colouring than others along with very dark hair and features that are not immediately recognisable as white Anglo Saxon. The convict descriptions of some of my ancestors from Ireland show they have black hair and complexions that are dark. While the term 'Black Irish' is rarely used in Ireland it is spoken of in other parts of the world, including America and Australia.

In 1588 the Spanish Armada, a fleet of 130 vessels, lost many ships along the west coast of Ireland on their return trip to Spain. In fact, only 67 ships made it home. While most of those on board the wrecked ships perished, there were survivors who came ashore and integrated with the local Irish people. As well, there were waves of Spanish immigrants into Ireland hundreds of years ago.

A team from Oxford University has discovered that the Celts are descended from a tribe of Iberian fishermen who crossed the Bay of Biscay some 6,000 years ago. The DNA of the Celts reveals an almost identical "fingerprint" to the inhabitants of coastal regions of Spain. So, this too fits in with what I have discovered about my ancestors.

Ancestry has given clear and informative instructions on how they came up with the above ratios and great detail is provided in each area. As well, I am provided with others who match my DNA and therefore may be distantly related. There are shared ancestor hints and close matches. All mine for the searching.

Did I think the whole exercise worthwhile? Most certainly! At least now I know exactly who I am, and where my ancestry truly lies. I could not be happier with the results and look forward to researching new areas of my history.

I can recommend a DNA test to anyone who has been considering it.

A big thank you to Karlyn for sharing this exciting information with all of us. And what a lot of research and information Karlyn has, makes me feel ashamed, but will inspire me to keep up my research.

5)

Further DNA News Many of you will be familiar with Martin Dodd who is another member of our society who has been diligently working on his Family History for some time at the DFHS Library. He has had a further breakthrough by using Ancestry DNA testing, creating even more interest.

At first Martin used Origin DNA and discovered his genetic makeup was: 50% European, 44% East Asian, 5% Sub-Sahara African and 1% Indigenous American. Wanting to know more, he then did the Ancestry DNA test and discovered cousins – about fifteen 4th – 6th cousins in the USA who have also registered with Ancestry.

He contacted one of these and together they have discovered a common ancestor: Alexander B. Barnett (1817-1886) whose ancestors migrated from England to the USA in the 17th Century. A descendant came to Australia in the 1890s.

Martin's second DNA test revealed a makeup of 51% Melanesia, 22% Great Britain, 14% Irish and 5 other regions.

Thank you Martin for allowing this information to be shared with other society members.

Catholic parish records in Ireland The entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms held by the National Library of Ireland (NLI) are now available on line – for free. The NLI has been working to digitize the microfilms for over three years under its most ambitious digitization program to date. These records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. Dating from the 1740's to the 1880's, they cover 1091 parishes throughout the island of Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records. Typically they include information such as the dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of key people involved, including godparents or witnesses. The black and white digital images of the registers will be searchable by parish location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed by the NLI.

Although there will not be transcripts or indexes for the images, the nationwide network of local family history centres holds indexes and transcripts of parish registers for their local areas. This means those who access the NLI's new online resource will be able to cross-reference the information they uncover, and identify wider links and connections to their ancestral community by liaising with the relevant local family history centre. The National Library of Ireland website can be seen at <http://www.nli.ie/>

United Kingdom Family Tree magazine issued in October 2015 This issue, which is held in the journals section in our family history rooms, has a good article (page 8) on how to avoid common pitfalls when doing family research, as well as tips on obtaining the best out of records you research.

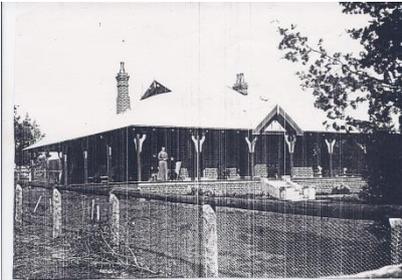
BDM indexes for Victoria are now available on line for free.

6)

Murraweeja – Connections and Associations (The story of Carol and Terry Korn's home in Dubbo)

In 1988 we moved into our home then named *Tanamera*, in Belmore Street, Dubbo. It was purchased from Mr Derek & Mrs Trish Price. Mr Price had lived in Asia in his childhood and had called this home *Tanamera* meaning 'red earth.'

In 1994 we had a visit from **Mr Fred Weston** of *The Overflow*, Nymagee, who had a desire to



visit his childhood home. The house, originally named *Murraweeja*, meaning 'place of the native pine', had been built by his parents **Mr Frank & Mrs Idah Weston** about 1911-1913 [Dubbo Council records were destroyed by flood waters in the 1955 floods] after purchasing the land in 1910 from Mr Balhausen, who owned the house on the corner of Gipps and Tamworth Streets. They had rented a house, no longer standing, on the Old Dubbo Road whilst this house

was being constructed. The photo shows Fred as a five year old on the veranda with his mother and elder brother.

(The Daily Liberal & Macquarie Advocate 21st June, 1902) *Mr Fred Weston, formerly an officer in the NSW Lancers, a Parramattan, well and favourably known throughout the whole district in many different ways, was married at St John's Parramatta on Wednesday last to Miss Ida Beames, eldest daughter of Mr F Beames, JP Harris Park, formerly mayor of ParramattaDirectly after the wedding Mr & Mrs Weston left for a honeymoon trip. They are to take up residence at Dubbo, where Mr Weston is in business.*

They are listed on the Electoral Rolls for Dubbo in 1903, 1905 and 1906: Mr Weston's occupation was listed as Engineer and Mrs Weston as Domestic Duties. The 1936 & 1937 Electoral Rolls has his occupation as Commission Agent.

They lived at *Murraweeja* until 1942; Fred Weston died in 1941 and Mrs Weston moved to Sydney. The house, which originally occupied half the Belmore/Tamworth Street block, was sold together with five building lots.

(The Daily Liberal 28th October, 1941) Obituary - Mr F Weston Passes - Half-Century in Dubbo.

The death occurred at his residence in Belmore Street yesterday afternoon of Mr Fred Weston, (74) well known Dubbo man, who had resided in the district for over half a century. Deceased was born at Albion Park and married at Parramatta to Ida Barbra Godwin Beames who survives with a family of four. The family are Frederick, Frank and Charles Edwin and Barbara (Mrs McKenzie). Deceased's father the late Frederick Weston was a field surveyor. For many years Mr Weston carried on the business of commission agent in Dubbo and was an active townsman, being secretary to the P A and H Association for 28 1/2 years, and secretary to the Masonic Lodge.

7)

In Dubbo 50 Years Almost half a century has elapsed since Mr Weston first arrived in Dubbo. As a young man he had had an interesting and adventurous life.

A particularly fine horseman (a fact of which not many of his Dubbo associates were aware) he was a member, while at Parramatta, of the New South Wales Lancers, and he was a member of the first contingent to visit England. In fact a keen judge has described Mr Weston as possessing probably the best seat on a horse ever he has known.

After settling in Dubbo he entered an agency partnership with his brother in law the late Shelley Oakes. Later he became a member of the firm Antill and Weston during which time he acted as PA & H Secretary.

For 15 years Mr Weston and Mr J O Palmer conducted a successful agency partnership. Part of his varied life found Mr Weston in Western Australia, where he engaged in goldmining in the roaring days of Coolgardie.

Show Chief's Tribute At a meeting of the general committee of the PA & H Association last night the chairman (Mr L S Clark) referred to the death of Mr Weston.

He recalled that Mr Weston had been secretary for more than 30 years. 'He was known to most of the committee and it was my privilege to serve on the committee during his term of office, as were many of those present,' he said.

'We remember Mr Weston in what we might almost term the good old days. It is with sorrow that all of us learn of his passing,' he concluded.

The meeting stood in silence to carry the president's motion of condolence.

A visitor in the 1990s was Mr Ian McKenzie, the son of Barbara nee Weston. He also provided photos of the house from his mother's time and told us of an exhibition of Weston memorabilia on display at that time, at the Experiment Farm Cottage in a special exhibition for the 50th anniversary of the National Trust.

From National Trust Quarterly February 1995 Experiment Farm Cottage has recently been lent some very interesting material relating to former tenants of the cottage, which itself is rich in history. The letter... was written by Mrs Mary Ann WESTON on 27th March, 1893 while she was a tenant in Experiment Farm Cottage. Mrs Weston was the widow of FREDERICK WESTON, a grandson of Colonel George Johnston of Rum Rebellion fame.

Mrs Weston occupied the cottage (Experiment Farm) during 1892 -1894 and paid £8.6.8 per month rent to Mrs Edith Harris the widow of John Harris (eldest son of Thomas the nephew of Dr John Harris) The WESTON family had originally been neighbours of the HARRIS family, Frederick having purchased some of the Experiment Farm land from them in the 1870s. The street known today as Weston Street, Harris Park was part of that land purchase.

Mrs Weston's letter was written to her son FRED who belonged to the Lancer Regiment which at that time had gone to London to take part in the Royal Tournament held in 1893. We have other letters written to FRED in London from Experiment Farm Cottage from his brother and sister who were living in the cottage at that time with their mother.

These letters provide an interesting glimpse of life in the 1890s. The notepaper used by Mrs Weston is edged in black. One of her daughters had just died and the custom was to use

8)

mourning notepaper for a certain period of time. Mostly, the letters contain family news. FRED's sister (pet name Bill) comments on her 20th birthday which has just passed and in another tells him about the family dog called 'Juno' who has been sent to the local butcher who as a sideline cared for sick dogs.

The descendants of Surgeon John Harris (2nd Fleet) retained possession of Experiment Farm until 1921 when it was sold to two local business men and the land subdivided. The National Trust purchased the cottage in 1960 and after three years restoration work was opened by them as their first house museum. As well as the WESTON letters the Cottage has also been lent some of the clothing belonging to Mrs Idah Weston and her mother dating from about 1880. These and the letters and other documents will be on display at Experiment Farm Cottage in a special exhibition for the 50th anniversary of the National Trust starting in Heritage Week which will run until the end of April. Experiment Farm Cottage is grateful to Trust Member Ian McKenzie and his daughter Rachel for the loan of this WESTON memorabilia. By Linda Drew-Smith

Mr Fred Weston's father, Frederick Weston (1836 Horsley, Liverpool – 1886 Harris Park/Parramatta) married in 1864 in Sydney Mary Ann Elliot 1845- 1933, the Mary Ann Weston referred to in the National Trust article. Frederick Weston 1836-1886, was the son of Edward George Weston and his wife Blanche nee Johnston.

But back to Murraweeja, where in 1998 we had a visit from former resident, Mr Ron Jeffrey. His father had been a School Inspector and it seems the house was bought by the Education Department in 1942. Another school inspector Mr Jacobs had also lived here and local identity Margaret Samuels remembers the family. Dr John and Mrs Dinah Logan bought the house in 1964 from two elderly sisters (the name was probably Campbell) who went to live in George Street. In 1971 the Logan's sold the house to Mrs Pauline Fisher from Coonamble who then sold it to Mr Derek and Mrs Trish Price in 1978, whom we purchased it from in 1988.

After living here for 27 years we are moving on. We have enjoyed living in this lovely old home, raising our two children here and being part of the history of Dubbo. We know the new owner will also love it and appreciate the history associated the home.

Many thanks to our committee member Carol Korn, for sharing this history of their home with us. Carol and Terry have decided it is time to move on and regrettably our family history group will be losing a valuable member. I am sure everyone wishes them all the best in the next chapter of their life.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members. We hope to see you back again in 2016 – Don't forget to renew your membership.