

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 26 – September-October 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 (during opening hours)

Management Committee

Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	Vice Pres/Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
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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 December 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 kathyfurney47@gmail.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.

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.

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.

Society News

Share Your Story The presenter for our **October** event on **Friday 21st October**, will be local member **Jo Murphy**. Here is another of our members who was bitten by the family history bug, and has gone on to write her own book on her ancestors called *Sons of the Soil*. Jo is now nearing the end of a second publication called the "Page Family of Williamstown in Victoria". The theme of her story at her presentation is being called "Who was Eliza Dunn?" who was the very young bride of Mr. Page. Remember you **must book** to attend, so RSVP by the 18th October, to June Wilson at juniwil@clearmail.com or phone 6882 5366. The presentation will be followed by a light morning tea for which there is a cost of \$3.

The Battle for Dubbo or How the West was nearly lost – "In August 1858, Mr White arrived at the banks of the Macquarie River near Dubbo. He had with him a solid grasp of the English language, a firm belief that he had the answer to every question, and around 18,000 sheep. His preferred path across the river, along routes designated by the government for moving sheep across the continent, was blocked by a fence. What happened next included the furtive building of bridges in the night, rock fights across the banks and an armed standoff between landowners and drovers. If stock could not cross the river at Dubbo, then Dubbo didn't have a reason to exist. It might have looked like a fight between landowners but in reality it was a fight for existence."

If you are wondering what this is about why not go along for the **Lunchbox Talk** with **Andrew Glassop** at **Dubbo Plains Cultural Centre** on **Thursday 6th October**. As the name suggests it will be a lunch time presentation at 1pm. The \$10 cost (\$8 for Friends of WPCC) includes a light lunch and tea and coffee. Bookings can be made at WPCC reception on 6801 4444. Anyone who attended Andrew's presentation in our rooms in September will know this will be an entertaining talk.

Royal Australian Historical Society Conference 2016 Only a couple of weeks until this conference is held. The conference is being held on the **22nd-23rd October 2016** at Centro CBD, Wollongong. There will be a pre-conference get together on Friday night, 21st October 2016. Check out their website for full information.

'Legacy' users group is proving popular with those members currently attending. If you would like to take part contact Jennifer Bruce on 6882 9050 to register for the next gathering, but remember this group is **only open to members** of Dubbo and District Family History Society. They next meet is on Tuesday 25th October 2016 at 1.30pm.

Think Tank Group The remaining meeting dates for our Think Tank Group for 2016 are, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December. For more information contact Jo Murphy on 6882 9426 or June Wilson on 68825366, email juniwil@clearmail.com.au but remember this group is *only open to members*.

Our Christmas Party this year will be held on **Sunday 27th November 2016** which is only a short time away. Make sure you save the date, as we would love to see as many members as possible attend. Full particulars will be going out to everyone soon.

Can You Help? You might be researching the following names or have information on them. Please contact the researchers shown below if you can help out.

MILLS Henry b 1825 parents Edward Mills (convict) and Margaret Holmes, m 1845 Windsor to Eliza DEMPSEY d 17.12.1895 Tuena NSW. They had seven children, Matthew, Henry, Thomas, Mary, George, Albert and William.
Contact: Margaret Rouhan, PO Box 349 Beerwah Qld 4519, Ph 07 543909003
Email rouhanx2@yahoo.com.au

SIMPSON Ernest Edward, Native Auckland NZ, Married Margaret ROBINSON (nee BEALE); died 6 5 1928. Margaret remarried Timothy McSWEENEY 1928. Timothy died 6 1 1965 Qld. Margaret & Timothy had 2 children, Aleathea & Irene Edna who lived in Dubbo.
Contact: Kathy Baff, email kathyzbaff@gmail.com

Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) The Royal Australian Historical Society has advised that the NSW Land and Property Information digitised indexes are now loaded and can be viewed for free through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) which can be accessed through the Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) website at

<https://six.nsw.gov.au/wps/portal/>

The records are: Grant Registers, Old System Vendors and Purchasers Index, and Torrens Purchasers index 1863-1971. This means people can research any part of NSW from 1792-1971 online from home and is great news for all researchers who do not have easy access to the Land Titles Office building in Macquarie Street or State Records at Kingswood. (*Taken from Coffs Harbour Journal March 2016*)

Aboriginal Research Researching Aboriginal family can be a difficult task so the two websites shown below may help.

***The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS):**

This is a world-renowned research, collections and publishing organisation who promote knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, traditions, languages and stories, past and present. They care for a priceless collection, including films, photographs, video and audio recordings as well as the world's largest collection of printed and other resource materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. AIATSIS

undertake and encourage scholarly, ethical, community-based research in a variety of sectors, including health, native title, languages and education and their activities affirm and raise awareness of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. See more at: <http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family>

***The Centre for Indigenous Family History Studies (CIFHS):** This website has been created to provide a resource for those people researching their Aboriginal heritage. The material on this site has been extracted from publicly available records in various state and federal archives throughout Australia. The words used in these extracts are those that appear in the original documents. Although often offensive, the words from the original documents have been used so that the reader will be forewarned when accessing the original documents. This site will be constantly updated with new material as it becomes available. See more at: www.cifhs.com

(Thanks to Maggie Heffernan for telling us about the AIATSIS and we learnt of CIFHS from a visitor to our Research Room. *Taken from Coffs Harbour Family History Journal March, 2016*)

Researching Patient Records from Mental Health We are often asked how to research mental health records. This article from *Discover* provides helpful advice. State Records holds patient records from a number of State-run mental health facilities including Gladesville Hospital, Callan Park Hospital, Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, Kenmore Hospital, Bloomfield Hospital, Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital and Darlinghurst Reception House.

Typically patient records held at State Records can include:

- ☐ Admission files
- ☐ Case papers
- ☐ Medical case books
- ☐ Admission registers
- ☐ Registers of discharges removals and deaths, and
- ☐ Admission cards

It is important to remember that these records may be incomplete.

Patient records are closed to public access for 110 years under Access Direction No 7 to protect the sensitivity of the individuals described therein. To obtain permission to access any surviving records of patients, researchers must contact the NSW Ministry of Health, unless the hospital is still operating (for example Cumberland Hospital [formerly Parramatta Hospital for the Insane] and Bloomfield Hospital). Generally you will be asked to complete an application and provide proof of your relationship to the patient.

The address at the Department to contact is:

NSW Ministry of Health
 Locked Mail Bag 961
 NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059
 Attention: Facilities and Records Unit
 Phone: (02) 9391 9071

If the hospital is still in operation, contact the hospital directly. Once you have received permission from the Ministry, you may then contact State Records' room staff. Please provide as much information as you can, including your name of the patient, the dates they were a patient (if they died at the hospital the date of death can be crucial to a successful outcome). Please allow up to TEN (10) working days for staff to check records. Our staff will advise you of the outcome of the search. You can then make arrangements to visit the reading room to view any surviving records. (Taken from Orange FH newsletter)

Another Milestone reached for the Ryerson The Ryerson Index volunteers are to be congratulated once again now they have indexed every available death notice in the Sydney Morning Herald from its first publication on 18 April 1831 to the current day. At the time of writing that was over 1,861,292 records!

Never ones to rest on their collective laurels, they've apparently decided to trawl back through the SMH again, looking for cases where funeral notices were published but there was no corresponding death notice. You can check out their website at www.ryersonindex.org

(From December 2015 Journal of Society of Australian Genealogists)

Irish civil registration images go online Images of Irish civil registration records of births, marriages and deaths have been made available online free of charge. At the official [Irish Genealogy](http://IrishGenealogy) website, images of records of births over 100 years old, marriages over 75 years old, and deaths over 50 years old are being put online. The records available online so far are:

- Births from 1864-1915;
- Marriages from 1882-1940;
- Deaths from 1891-1965.

Deaths from 1864-1890, Roman Catholic marriages from 1864-1881, and Non-Catholic marriages from 1845-1881 are to be added later. The records cover all of Ireland up to 1921, and what is now the Irish Republic (previously the Irish Free State) from 1922 onward. Births, marriages and deaths for what is now Northern Ireland are already available online for a small charge at NI Direct. *(From Grow Your Own Family Tree – Alan Stewarts UK and Ireland family history news)*

Save the Date for 2017 The Orange Family History Group is delighted to announce that they have been selected to host the **2017 NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference** with the theme of: *Your family story: telling recording and preserving*. The conference will be held over three days **22-24 September** in the city's cultural precinct. They will be providing regular updates on their website or follow them on face book. What a golden opportunity for anyone from Dubbo to attend a conference relating to family history.

Family history research has come a long way and today millions of records are available to us with just the click of a mouse. We tend to forget how researching used to be - journals, books, microfiche, letter writing and waiting weeks or months for a reply. At the Dubbo and

Dubbo District Family History Library, our shelves are packed with hidden gems just waiting to be found. Members have had great success by delving into the books on the library shelves. We have an excellent selection on New South Wales with a focus on the Central West and environs. As well there are many good reference books on other Australian States and countries overseas, yours for the finding. Next time you are in the rooms, check out the books in the library.

Dubbo Public School This is one such publication on the shelves in our rooms. This book was produced by the Dubbo and District Family History Society, and contains a Register of Admissions, Progress & Withdrawal of girls from 1900 to 1971 and boys 1929 to 1971 at Dubbo Public School. It is also available to purchase.

Centenary of Battle of Fromelles, July 2016 Local member Lesley Abrahams has spent many hours researching World War 1 soldiers from the Dubbo Area. A big thank you to Lesley for kindly agreeing to share some of her findings with us.

“From research into the identities of soldiers listed on the Dubbo District School Honor Roll, located in the Dubbo Primary School senior block, four soldiers were identified as ‘*killed in action*’ on 20th July 1915 at Fromelles. They were interred nearby, or are commemorated at Pheasant Wood Cemetery”.

A small diversionary attack was launched by allied forces at Fromelles at 6.00 pm on 19th July 1916, to discourage the German forces from withdrawing troops from this area, about 70 kms north of the Battle of the Somme. A retreat was ordered the next morning and by 5.00 am the British and Australian armies were back in their own line. The Australian 5th Division lost over 5,000 men. Shortly after the Germans had retaken the positions they buried the allied soldiers killed in this area in pits. In 2007 and 2008 a survey, and then an exploratory dig found the burial pits. Exhumations were done between May and September 2009, and DNA samples taken, which revealed 173 Australians were buried. Most remains were later identified and all have been reinterred at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, or neighbouring cemeteries. Following is some history on the four soldiers.

COLLIER, Clarence Timbrel, Lieutenant, 18th and 53rd Battalions. Clarence was born in Geurie and attended Dubbo District School in 1907, becoming a solicitor after leaving school. Before going to the Western Front, he served in New Guinea. Clarence was killed in action at Fleurbaix, on 20 July 1915, age 24 years. He has no known grave. He is remembered at V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery, Fromelles, France, and in the University of Sydney Book of Remembrance.

HOLLIDAY, Clifford Dawson, Corporal, 2nd Battalion, was born at Kogarah in 1895 and attended Dubbo District School 1902 to 1909. He won a University Scholarship in chemistry. His father was the Wesleyan Methodist minister in Dubbo 1902-1912. Clifford was killed in action at Fleurbaix, on 20 July 1915, aged 20 years. He was buried at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. He is remembered in the University of Sydney Book of

Remembrance.

SAMUELS, Alfred Ernest, Lance-Corporal, 54th Battalion, was born in Dubbo, although his family lived at Narromine, where he was a farmer. He was killed in action on 20 July 1915 at Fromelles (Fleurbaix), aged 34 years. He is buried in the Rue-du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France. He is remembered on Dubbo War Memorial. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Samuels received a letter from another son, Private "Rol" Samuels, relating the death of his brother, Lance-Corporal Alfred Samuels.

TURNER, John, Private, No. 767, 30th Battalion. Killed in Action 20 July 1915, near German lines at Fleurbaix, France, aged 20 years. He was re-interred at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery in 2008. He is remembered on Dubbo War Memorial.

Three other Dubbo enlisted soldiers died either on 19th or 20th July, and are commemorated or buried at Fromelles.

CURRAN, James Joseph, Private, 31st Battalion. Killed in Action, 19 July 1915, at Fromelles. No Known Grave – buried in mass grave. Dog tag was returned by the German authorities. Remembered at V.C. Corner, Australian Memorial Cemetery, Fromelles.

QUIHAMPTON, Wilfred, Private, 54th Battalion. Killed In action, 20 July 1915, Fromelles. No Known Grave. Remembered in V.C. Corner, Australian Military Cemetery, Fromelles. From Wongarboon.

WALLIS, (real name WAILES) Joseph Patrick, Private. Killed in action, 20 July 1916, Fromelles. Death report provided by German Red Cross. He was reinterred at Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery.

Dr. Edmond Henry Burkitt was another Dubbo resident who enlisted as Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps, September 1915. Until April 1916, he assisted in the Dubbo Army Camp, with the health checks for the enlisting men. By May 1916 he was in France and served with 14th Field Ambulance, and then 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. He also served at Ypres, and then Passchendaele. After Dr. Burkitt returned to Australia in September 1917, he resumed his practice in Dubbo, and served as a leading community member and on many committees. He was instrumental in having the Dubbo District School Honor Roll commissioned. Dr. Burkitt died on the 14 November 1925 at Coogee, NSW. There is a memorial window for him in the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Dubbo

Dubbo's Drift Wells Park The quest for a reliable water supply in Dubbo is not new. In the early days of settlement, some Dubbo residents had their own well, but most used a community well which was in Victoria Park. By 1893 the matter of a reliable water supply had become contentious, so after much discussion and no doubt argument, a well was sunk into an ancient water channel called a drift, hence the name Drift Well. Money for construction came from a \$30,000 government loan, surprisingly it came in under budget at a cost of \$26,768. The first well which was hand dug, was 24 metres deep, 4.5 metres in diameter and was lined with locally sourced bricks. It was opened in 1894 with water being pumped to a reservoir in Fitzroy Street. The second Drift Well was built in 1909 and was 6 metres in diameter and 21 metres deep. However this well was constructed using the caisson method, creating a brick and concrete chamber in the ground. These two wells were linked so that water could be simultaneously pumped out. It was not until 1929 that a

third Drift Well was sunk, being only 9 metres deep and east of the original wells on the other side of Brisbane Street, so Dubbo was now supplied by three drift wells. By this time the original steam engine used to pump the water up, had been replaced by electric engines.

History also reveals that in 1950 an employee Walter Pettiford, was drowned when he fell into one of the wells. There are some fascinating accounts of his accident if you search the Trove newspaper website.

We are fortunate that Dubbo Council saw the value of this early history of our city and have refurbished the old well site on the corner of Tamworth and Brisbane Streets in Dubbo. You can find more history and see the original steam engine, by visiting this site.

(From Council website and signage at the Drift Wells park).

Free UK Genealogy This is a website that currently provides free online access through FreeBMD, FreeCEN and FreeReg to UK family history records through over 350,000,000 high quality records. FreeBMD provides transcriptions of the England and Wales Index of Births, Marriages and Deaths; FreeCEN offers access to 19th century census; and FreeReg documents historic Parish Registers. Check out the website at www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/ This information was found in the September, 2016 issue of Australian Family Tree Connections magazine which contains many other interesting items. These magazines are available in our rooms.

Find My Past has recently added the New South Wales 1891 Census records to their website as well as the Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists 1852-1924.

British records added to the website are:

Britain, Absent Voters Lists 1918-1921,

Britain, Children's Employment Commission Part 2, 1842,

Britain, Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar, vols 1 and 11,

Britain, Enemy Aliens and Internees, First and Second World Wars.

Full particulars of these additions are shown on page 43 of the September 2016 issue of the Australian Family Tree Connection magazine.

Remember Genealogy without Sources is Mythology

This means that just because something is on the internet doesn't mean it is correct. You need to have more than one source of information, so as to check against each other and ensure that the information on your ancestors is correct.