A Message from the Secretary

Unfortunately my Swedish research has come to nothing. The Viking long boat of sound, well founded theory unfortunately sunk in the Fjord of reality before it made the open sea. The main obstacle was the complete lack of any documentary evidence; I don’t spend that much time on the internet but have over the years made some interesting discoveries.

The find that gave me the greatest satisfaction I have covered in a previous article. It was learning from the 434 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force site the circumstances that led to the death of my Uncle Frederick Sawyer. He and his crew were reported missing after a raid on Hamburg in 1944. From the site I found that his aircraft had last been seen being attacked by fighters and had presumably crashed into the sea.

On “London Lives” I discovered that my 4x great uncle Stephen Cousins boarded an East Indiaman, the “Admiral Barrington” bound for Bengal, on the 21st August 1785; his wife Isabella received a letter from him whilst the “Barrington” was moored off the Downs awaiting a convoy, after that he was never heard of again. Twelve years later she married his brother Edward (my 3x Great Grandfather) who had just retired from the Royal Navy with the princely sum of £100 prize money. He served most of his time on the “HMS Audacious”, a 3rd rate 74 gun ship of the line and had taken part in two major engagements - the “Glorious 1st of June” 1794 and the “Battle of the Nile” 1798. Searching various naval websites I came across a complete list of the “Audacious” sailings and brief descriptions for each voyage from 1793 to 1811, which really helped fill in details of his career.

Going back to “London Lives” I found a notation concerning Edward and Stephen’s father Isaac. On 11th February in the 29th Year of the reign of George 2nd (1756) he was found guilty of uttering three profound oaths in the Parish of St. Botolph without Bishopgate in the City of London, in company with John Lee. They were both fined one shilling each for each oath uttered, but as Isaac was a porter in one of the markets I can’t see him stopping at just three oaths.

Whilst looking for information on my grandfather’s war service, (his records being amongst those destroyed in WW 2), I came across a book covering the 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry from day one of WW1. It was a daily diary of his battalion from their formation; the detail went down to Company level so I was able to find records of the events that led to him being invalided out of the army in 1916.

If you have the time and inclination a bit of lateral thinking on Google can pay dividends!

On behalf of the Management Committee I wish you all an enjoyable festive season and our best wishes for the New Year.

John Wiseman
The attached photograph is of a young man named Herbert James Bosville, one taken in 1890 just before he married Julia Regan. We know a good deal about Julia’s family. Her father was a notable Fremantle identity – William Regan, formerly a police sergeant in charge of the port constabulary. After leaving the police William went into business as a publican and then took on security work later in life. Family tradition indicates that he retained his contacts in the police and may have been instrumental in helping Herbert Bosville to obtain a position.

The latter joined the WA Police as a 2nd Class Constable in September 1883 and was assigned to duty as a mounted man in Perth City. A very suitable start because Herbert had served in a British lancer regiment before his arrival in the colony. Note the display of a riding crop in the photo. There is a bit of difficulty in regard to his name. It tends to ‘wander’ in official documents and press reports – which label him variously as Boswell or Bosville.

The officer was baptised as Herbert James Bosville at St Pancras Church, London, on December 15, 1858. He was son of Charles Bosville of Soho, a looking glass maker, and his wife Rebecca. In later years the personal names of Bosville the soldier and policeman also vary in records, either as ‘James Herbert Theobald’ or ‘Herbert James Theobald’. As yet there is no accounting for where the ‘Theobald’ came from and Herbert Bosville he is for present purposes.

He was an intelligent and well-educated young man and in 1884 moved sideways to assist with chief office work at the Commissioner’s headquarters in Perth. Herbert won promotion to 1st Class Constable and Corporal in turn and served for what must have been an exciting two years as a trooper on Gold Escort duty in the Pilbara. Herbert was in charge of Guildford when he married Julia – although it is likely they had met years before. Their son Herbert Theobald Bosville was born there in 1892. Corporal Bosville was transferred to Fremantle in June of the same year.

Work in the port town could be hazardous and it cost Herbert his life. On the night of July 20, 1893 he and four other men took a rowing boat out into the harbour. Reasons were not given then or later: possibly trouble and brawling on a ship or reports of contraband goods arriving, or perhaps cargo pillaging by crew members, or something as mundane as searching for someone believed to have drowned in the turbulent Fremantle port waters. Unfortunately a bad wave swamped the small craft Herbert and the other men were using and he died by drowning in the dark and confusion. Perhaps he had never learned to swim.

The press paid tribute to Herbert’s good work and friendly nature. His fellow police officers in Fremantle did something surprising. After his funeral they composed and published a 25-line poem called ‘In memoriam – in loving remembrance of our old comrade’. It is pretty touching and honours a man “whose place ‘tis felt today none other can fulfil – to the erring always gentle, to your comrades always true”. Herbert Bosville received later posthumous recognition when his name was included on State and National memorials honouring police officers who died in the line of duty.

We can assume the Bosville family received much moral support and Julia was given a gratuity of 155 pounds. She remarried a decade later to George Fairbrother, but her son Herbert Bosville junior retained the family name.

Herbert the younger obviously got on well with his stepfather and was living at the family home and working as a labourer when war broke out in 1914. A year later he decided to enlist and named George Fairbrother as his next-of-kin.

At the age of 23 he joined the 32nd Battalion of the 1st AIF as Private Herbert Bosville, number 1216, and left for France in November 1915. He proved to be a good soldier and rose to the rank of sergeant within about 18 months. During the horrendous 2nd battle of Ypres in 1917 the Australian divisions rose to the task and scored some fine victories. But young Herbert did not live to celebrate them. He was killed in action on October 22 of that year and his name is on the famous memorial at the Menin Gate.

The two Bosville men have not been forgotten and descendants by marriage such as Mrs Anne Slattery have been able to rescue some images from the ravages of time.
My parents have always been involved in family history or, really, any sort of history, so it is something that I have grown up with all around me. I married an Australian whose father was German and mother was Ukranian (both coming to Australia after WW2).

I started chatting to the in-laws several years back trying to find out some information about their homelands and was basically told to leave the past alone. I did this until I had my own children. This is when I decided I needed to know where their heritage came from.

Luckily my father-in-law had thought about it several years earlier and started to collect a few things so I obtained copies of what he had, to start me off. Then I spent countless hours trawling the internet, and writing to family members (all of whom either totally ignored me or told me it was none of our business!).

My husband’s grandfather had served in the German Forces during WW2 and had been ‘Killed in Action’ in 1944. Sadly the family never knew where he was buried. I decided to start here and wrote to military establishments in Germany (always to be stonewalled and told they had no information on him, or to be given back all the information I had provided them in my enquiry). I finally struck gold (well a little bit!) in 2011 when the German War Graves Commission wrote back saying they had records for him and he was buried in an unmarked grave at the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund) Cemetery at Budaors, just outside of Budapest in Hungary.

The remains of many German soldiers who died in World War Two rest at the German-Hungarian military cemetery at Budaors. Both governments struck a deal about 10 years ago and the Hungarian Government allocated land just outside Budapest so all the known German Soldiers graves in Hungary could be exhumed and the remains buried in one central place. This is still an ongoing project. All known fallen soldiers have plaques. If their remains were found in a communal grave, all remains were buried in unmarked plots, with ALL names being on one plaque.

So finally after 67 years I was able to tell my father-in-law where his father, Johann’s, final resting place was. The Volksbund were fantastic and sent us photos of the cemetery and also the plaques with his name on it so I was able to show my father-in-law.

The word of mouth history doesn’t match what I have discovered, I think mainly because the family was German they were concerned about how they would be treated.

Since visiting relatives in Germany and doing further research, we don’t sit in judgment of the past. We understand they did what they did to survive. For many there was no choice. Join the military or be shot. In his situation, his wife was guaranteed a pension should anything happen to him, which meant the children would be catered for.

In 2012 we went to Europe and Budaors was on our list of places to visit. Now we have photos of our children paying respect to their Great Grandfather. Photos their Grandfather treasures as no other family member has ever been there.

Germany has been an extremely hard place to get information from (I have found). I did employ a researcher (who charged a fortune and came back with very little for my money). Everyone keeps telling me the Germans were meticulous with their records, but trying to pry into them is a whole other story!

Johann was born in Hamburg to Polish migrants (Franz POSKO and Marianna BANACH) who had gone to Germany for work on the wharves. I had some notes about Poland so turned to researching Polish records. Somehow I stumbled across http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/, a Marriages database for Poznan area in Poland. Upon putting in the details I knew, I came back with some matches, so I then paid to obtain the records. The website has a section for “Need a Tour Guide” or “Want to Discover your Ancestors Townlands” so, from the records obtained, I contacted them and Lukasz Bielecki (the Founder of the website) replied with so much information. Most of the records for the period are one line out of the church record books, but if he read a Priest’s note, he would translate and then go off looking for other information. I feel this was the best money I ever spent! They charged 60zloty per hour (about $20AUD).

Once we had decided our trip for Europe 2012, I contacted Lukasz and we employed him as our Guide for 2 days. His pricing was about $150AUD per day for 8hrs (providing lunch was extra). Not only did he take us to all the little villages, he translated for us and gave us the area history. The first day he took us to Buk, Usciecice, Oswiecz, and Dakowy Mokre outside of Poznan where the male line came from. The Manor where they worked is still standing today, so we were able to walk around the grounds. The church is a stone building built in the early 1900’s after the old timber one was burnt down. The family left for Germany in the late 1800’s so sadly it wasn’t the church that they knew. We found headstones with the same names in the cemetery but a local man did not know the name and he had lived in the area for many years.

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The second day of our Ancestral Tour, we went further afield and visited the villages of Ostrow Wiekipolska, Walentynow, Kurow, Zacharzew, Przygodzice. Walentynow was where the female line came from. My husband's Great Grandmother was born here. The church is still standing and we were able to go inside. The original Baptismal font is also still there today. Surreal feeling knowing that Marianna had been baptised using it all those years before!

Lukasz mentioned that The Poznan Project were only missing a couple of years data for this church, so he suggested we go and knock on the Priest's door and see if he knew of any of our family and also see if he could get the missing data. The Priest was so excited when Lukasz explained who I was and that we were from Australia. He was excitedly shouting at me in Polish, and when we could explain we didn't speak nor understand Polish, he started gibbering in German to us! Lukasz had to translate. He opened his cupboard and showed us all the journals from the church. He told us to take care but we were welcome to look at anything we liked. He left us to explore and search! Lukasz managed to find the records for 1899 and 1900 to complete their information, and he found an entry that I didn't previously have for Sebastian BANACH (Marianna's father).

Lukasz asked about the Banach Family but he had only been in the Parish for the past 20 years and did not know them. He looked up the cemetery records and sent us in search of a more recent grave in the name and then back into the Village to ask a local. Sadly they didn't know of the name at all. The experience was amazing. Going from village to village trying to comprehend how the people actually met each other given some of the distances between places. Even for the family in Walentynow, the church is actually in the neighbouring village a few miles away. Trying to imagine the family trudging to church every week in the extreme cold of the winter, was difficult.

Overall the trip was an amazing experience and I hope I have instilled some family history into my children! I have only managed to go back to about 1792 for the birth of Ignatius POSKO. Sadly, given the times, I have been unsuccessful in locating any images (which I was hoping to locate somewhere!). The POSKO was changed to POSIK once they were in Wilhelmsburg, Hamburg. Something my father-in-law has struggled with as there are no documents for it.

Whilst in Hamburg meeting my children's Great Aunty, she gave me the original Church record book for Franz POSIK and Marianna BANACH with the birth details of Johann POSIK in it. Something I will always cherish and be able to pass along to the only remaining POSIK child.

I'm still on the forever hunt for information to fill the gaps.

St Catharine’s, Dakowy Mokre on left; and The Manor, Dakowy Mokre on right
RETURN TO THE GODFREY FAMILY TREE
by Peter Godfrey

The first talk I gave to the Society in 2008 was about my family the Godfreys. At that time the furthest that I had managed to get back was to my 2 x G Grandfather Stephen Godfrey, b April 1821 in the Westfield (Sussex) Parish Workhouse, m September 1846, d November 1891. From various family records passed down to me and from my cousin in England, there was a possibility that his unmarried Mother was either a Drusilla or Priscilla Godfrey.

My tree then looked like this: Myself.

   My Father was Frank GODFREY (1913 to 1965), born in Dover, m Christine JACKSON (1913 to 1978) in 1938.
   My Grandfather was William GODFREY (1887 to 1973), born in Dover, m Hilda PIDDINGTON (1887 to 1973) in 1910.
   My Great Grandfather was Alfred GODFREY (1861 to 1929), born in Maidstone, m Isabel APPLETON (1863 to 1934) in 1887.
   My 2 x G Grandfather was Stephen GODFREY (1821 to 1891), this is the one born in the Westfield Parish Work House, m Eliza PIPER (1818 to 1880), in 1846. Mother of Stephen, possibly Drusilla or Priscilla.

Since then much has transpired. With the digitising of the LDS records and the Kent Family History Society also committing more Kent Parish Records to CDROM, I now have the following additions to my tree:

   My 3 x G Grandmother was Drusilla GODFREY (1799 to 1878), born in Pluckley, she was unmarried at the time but subsequently married a John ANGEL, but this marriage record has not yet been found. She gave birth to Stephen in the Parish Workhouse in 1821, as the Poor Law Act that created the Battle Workhouse within the South East England Union had not yet been enacted. My 4 x G Grandfather was Stephen GODFREY (1768 to 1846), born in Cranbrook, m Susanna SEDWEEKS (1770 to 1851), in 1796. Susanna’s Father was John SEDWICK who m Ann Hines, My 5 x G Grandfather was Stephen GODFREY (1746 to 1772), born in Cranbrook, m Mary PANKHURST (1738 to 1804) in 1764. Mary’s Father was John PANKHURST (1699 to 1759) m Anne Stonestreet (died 1762) in 1726. My 6 x G Grandfather was Stephen GODFREY (1696 to 1766), born in Frittenden, m Abagail BUTLER (1724 to 1757) in 1743. Abagail’s Father was Thankful BUTLER (died 1770) m Elizabeth COLEBROOKE (1683 to 1768) in 1703. My 7 x G Grandfather was Thomas GODFREY (1655 ? to ?). There is nothing more known about him at the moment. There are also other generations further back to 1600 for the Youngs, Popes, Howers and Taylors.

This is where the trail ends so far but perhaps in the future when the West Kent records are uploaded to Find My Past, as the East Kent ones currently are, I may find more.

Drusilla Godfrey.

Drusilla, (as we now know the correct name) must have been ostracised from the family when becoming pregnant as there is no mention of her in census records at Pluckley, as a Godfrey, from 1841 onwards. She travelled to the Parish workhouse at Westfield in Sussex, some 30 kms south west of Pluckley, where she gave birth to Stephen, so she clearly left home at that point. Unfortunately this establishment was later gutted by fire and all the records were destroyed. The only surviving records we have are two documents:

1. 16 April 1821 mend and heel pair shoes Drusilla Godfrey – 9d and,
2. 12 June 1821 mend and nail pair of half boots. Drusilla Godfrey – 10d.

My cousin and I believe that Stephen was taken from Drusilla at birth and raised by another family member.

1841 Census.

I mentioned previously that there do not seem to be any records of her as a single person named Godfrey in the census data from 1841 onwards. However what I have found is that in 1841 there is a Drucella ANGEL married to a John ANGEL, (he is shown as being born in Essex in 1788, but I have been unable to find that record so far), with two children William, aged 8 and Emma aged 2, living in Grays Thurrock in Essex. This is on the other side of the River Thames from Kent.

1851 Census.

This is where it gets interesting because we were unable to find a family called Angel in the 1851 census, and then we came across a family living in Grays Thurrock in Essex with a surname of BATES. All the birth dates etc. line up so what that was about we will never know. (To add to the confusion the Christian name for her in this census has been transcribed as Hennrilla!).

Prior to the Poor Law Act of 1834 it was not uncommon for the poor or destitute to move from Parish to Parish claiming relief from the richest on the way because of unemployment or illness, or for some other reason. I am assuming here that this may have been a reason for name changing at that time but not with the Bates, as the census was after 1834 and the system of claiming relief from the Parishes ceased. With the implementation of the Act Poor Law Unions were created, and workhouses were built for the relief of the poor.

1861 Census.

In the 1861 census she is listed as having been born in Pluckley, Kent, wife to John with a 2 year old granddaughter Sarah Ann, living in Orsett, Essex.

1871 Census.

I have been unable to find Drusilla in the 1871 census as yet despite extensive searches. John Angel died 22 December 1868 aged 81, at Orsett in Essex, and his wife Drusilla died 3 Dec 1878 aged 78, in the Union House Orsett, Essex. It is obvious from this that the two children she had with John did not care for her after the death of her husband John some ten years later. Unfortunately this establishment was later gutted by fire and all the records were destroyed. The only surviving records we have are two documents:

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Return to the Godfrey Family Tree cont’d

years prior. It is also obvious from all this that she led a sad life, giving birth to a son in a work house and dying in one also, perhaps not so surprising when you consider the times that people lived through at this time.

Earlier Godfreys

Like many families around the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries the earlier Godfreys were mostly ‘Ag Labs’; however after that I do have a bit to talk about and this follows.

As mentioned previously Stephen was born in the Westfield Parish Work House in Sussex. Stephen Godfrey (1821 to 1891) (G.Great Grandfather), taken around 1871

This was prior to the Poor Law Act of 1834, when Parishes themselves had set up these institutions to help the needy, and were provided after the Knatchbull’s Act of 1723 came into force. It had a capacity of 36 inmates at the time.

The following book “An Account of Several Workhouses for Employing and Maintaining the Poor” published, anonymously, by SPCK (the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) was one of the earliest directories of parish workhouses in England. In the early 18th century, SPCK was a small but influential London-based organization which strongly promoted the use of workhouses.


It is believed that Stephen was a gardener for a farm of some 400 acres owned by a William Skinner, about four kilometres south of Maidstone, and lived in Beresford Lodge near the farm, which is shown below.

Beresford Lodge, near Boughton Monchelsea, taken 2000

The Lychgate entrance to St Peter’s Church, Boughton Monchelsea was built in 1470

Alfred Godfrey, (1861 to 1929), (Great-Grandfather), taken in 1881

Alfred spent most of his life working in a store in Boughton Monchelsea as the following censuses show:

1881 Grocers Warehouseman, 1891 Grocers Assistant, 1901 Grocers Assistant, 1911 Grocers Warehouseman.

William Godfrey (1887 to 1973) (Grandfather), taken on 12 May 1937, on the occasion of the coronation of George VI

William enlisted in the Royal Engineers Territorial Force as a Sapper in October 1908 appointed a commission in April 1917 and reached the rank of Lt Colonel in January 1938. During WWII he commanded the Cinque Ports (Fortress) Company at Archcliffe Fort in Dover that was used as a training depot during this time. This fort is on the top of the White Cliffs and overlooks Dover harbour and the English Channel.

Archcliffe Fort Dover, taken c 1990

In June 1942 he was posted to Scotland near the Forth Bridge as Deputy Chief Engineer. During this appointment he was given the task of setting explosive charges in the near vicinity of Edinburgh in the event that the Germans landed there, so that their progress would be stalled working their way South to England. I have a manual that he handwrote showing the precise location and strength of each explosive.

Cont’d next page
ORIGIN OF THE SURNAME “HAY”

In the 9th Century “Rollo”, chief of the Vikings, and a few hundred of his followers came to France and attacked “Paris”. The King of France, to avoid a war, gave them land to settle on which they called “Normandy”, after the Vikings, i.e. “Northmen”.

Over time some of the Vikings became Christians and changed their names. One of them—Hue Haldup - took his name from his property—“La Haye”, which in old French meant ‘hedge’ or ‘stronghold’. Their properties were surrounded with strong thorny hedges. So Hue Haldup became “Hugh de la Haye”

One of his descendants came to England in 1066 and took part in the Battle of Hastings. His name was William de Haye and he was a knight in King William’s court.

Another served in Scotland as ‘cupbearer’ to Malcolm III sometime before 1093 when Malcolm died. He received the position of “Earl of Errol”, his sons married Scottish princesses and received titles such as ‘Lord Yester’ and ‘Marquess of Tweedale’. All these titles are still in the families today.

My ancestor Alexander Hay is my 4 x great grandfather who came out of Scotland in 1795 with his wife Isabella Ross, and settled in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

There is a village in Normandy called “La Haye-Bellefont”, which is just across the small River Soules from St. Lo. My ancestor’s home and the start of the surname HAY.

Upon getting its independence from English colonial rule in 1957, he became the first President of the renamed country called Ghana.

My Father spent further time in Cyprus before that country gained independence.

Other information obtained was found in the Mid Kent Poor Law records as follows:

After the death of Stephen GODFREY (b 1746) in 1772 his widow, Mary, and two children Sarah and Stephen were the subject of a removal order from Cranbrook to Frittenden. This was dated 30 December 1773.

Two Bastardy orders were made against Thankful GODFREY, the 5th son of Stephen GODFREY and Abagail BUTLER:

1. for a male child of Mary Goodlad, b 5 June 1776, and
2. as father of male child of Elizabeth Croucher b 10 February 1781.

So after all this new research I am quite confident that this part of my tree is correct.

I have always said that you should never stop looking because you never know what is around the corner.

Frank Godfrey (1913 to 1965)

For any members researching in Clerkenwell in England there is a particularly interesting article in the October 2013 issue of “Who Do You think You Are?” on pages 46 and 47. It is called Clerkenwell Relief Fund Books, 1860s and is all about a terrible tragedy that took place in late 1867. While certain ‘Fenians’ were trying to effect an escape for two of their members from the local House of Correction by blowing a hole in the prison wall, the ensuing explosion killed 12 people and injured over 100.

The Relief Fund Books contains blast victims injuries, property losses and lists of people’s trades, well-being, housing and family lives. Illness and disability caused by the explosion is recorded and, although much of the information is mundane, is of inestimable value to the family historian.

[Editor]
In March 1868, a mentally disturbed Irish-born Australian shot and wounded Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, at a picnic on Sydney harbour. The would-be assassin, Henry James O'Farrell, falsely claimed to be a Fenian and his shots resounded around Australia as a torrent of violent and irrational anti-Irish hatred spread through a colony already tense and nervous about reports of terrorism in England. O'Farrell was convicted and sentenced to death. Prince Alfred himself tried unsuccessfully to intercede and save his would-be killer's life. Two months earlier, 62 Fenian convicts had arrived in Western Australia on the ‘Hougoumont’, the last convict ship to Australia, which arrived in Fremantle on 9 Jan 1868. Then in 1876 an incident concerning the Fenian convicts led to a piece of Rockingham's history every bit as exciting as the outlaw Ned Kelly’s story; I am referring, of course to the ‘Catalpa’ escape. For those of us who do not have Irish ancestry, the ‘troubles’ that pitted Irishman and Englishman against each other have at best passed us by or at worst left us with a one dimensional view. Nonetheless, those who view the Fenians as traitors need to know that some had also been heroes fighting for the British Army.

Seventeen of the ‘Hougoumont’ Fenians had been court martialed in Ireland in 1867/68. I was seeking Crimean War Veterans and, in the absence of WO97 discharge to pension documents, found one of them on the medal rolls for that campaign. The remaining soldiers-cum-Fenians were either too young to have served in the Crimean War (e.g. John Boyle O'Reilly) or were in regiments not engaged in the conflict. Most of the 17 were charged with mutinous conduct or not informing about a mutiny. Ten of them were imprisoned in Ireland and England in the same prison recording consecutive prison numbers, and the Catalpa incident shows that six out of the 17 escaped on the American whaler.


Crimean Medal (three Clasps) (WO100-24) & Turkish Medal awarded

**Patrick Keating** 5th Dragoon Guards. He took part in the successful ‘Charge of the Heavy Brigade’ under General Scarlett at Balaclava and received clasps for Balaclava, Inkerman and Sevastopol. Keating was sentenced to life for mutinous conduct at his Dublin trial in 1866. After his time in Fremantle prison, he got his Ticket of Leave in July 1873. Less than a year later he died of an aneurism.

Punjab Medal 1848-9 & Indian Mutiny Medal 1857-8 (WO100-38) awarded to

**Michael Harrington** 61st Regiment of Foot who fought in both these conflicts. He received clasps for Chilianwala and Goojerat in the last campaign against the Sikhs. Harrington was born in Goleen, Cork in 1826 and joined the Fenian brotherhood in 1864. He received a life sentence for mutinous conduct and desertion. He was one of the six Fenians in Fremantle Prison who made their escape on the ‘Catalpa’. Harrington settled in New York and died there of pneumonia in February 1886 aged 60.

Second China War Medal (2nd Opium War) with clasps for the capture of the Taku Forts and Pekin in 1860, awarded to

**Thomas Darragh** 1st Battalion of the 2nd Regiment of Foot and

**John Shine** 2nd Battalion of the 60th Royal Rifles. Both men were convicted of mutinous conduct at courts martial in 1866. Darragh made his escape on the ‘Catalpa’ and settled in Philadelphia. John Shine was granted his conditional pardon in 1878. He worked around Champion Bay, Perth, Swan, Wellington, York and Beverley as a labourer, general servant, shepherd and reaper. He left WA for Victoria in 1882.

continued on next page: The story of the Catalpa Rescue
The Catalpa Rescue (courtesy of National Museum of Australia)

In 1874, Irishman John Devoy, living in the United States, must have been astonished to receive a letter from a British government (optional) convict serving a life sentence in Western Australia. The writer James Wilson wrote that his was a ‘voice from the tomb ... For is not this a living tomb’. Wilson was one of 12 Irish political prisoners, members of an Irish republican organisation called the Fenians, still serving long sentences as British soldiers for ‘mutinous conduct’. Altogether 62 ‘Fenians’, convicted of crimes ranging from ‘treason-felony’ to outright rebellion, had been transported to Western Australia in 1868 on the last Australian convict ship, the Hougemont. By 1874, all had been released except the so-called ‘military Fenians’, men such as Wilson. They thought the British would leave them to rot in prison to make an example to others for their ‘double' treachery to country and uniform.

Devoy responded quickly to this terrible appeal. One of the key Fenian leaders in America, he organised the purchase of an American whaling ship, the Catalpa, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and for the ship to sail to Western Australia to rescue his Fenian brothers from their British prison in Fremantle. As leader of the expedition, and captain of the Catalpa, Devoy chose George Smith Anthony, an American with no Irish connections. Anthony felt sorry for the Fenians, men he thought were being persecuted for love of country. Two Fenian agents, John Breslin and Thomas Desmond, were sent to Western Australia, to organise the rescue on the ground.

Contact was made with six Fenian prisoners capable of making the break and on 17 April, Easter Monday and Perth Regatta Day, Breslin and Desmond drove the six prisoners at a furious pace in horse-traps 20 miles south of Fremantle to Rockingham pier where Anthony was waiting for them with one of the Catalpa's whale boats. The escape was soon discovered by which time the whaleboat was on its way out to sea towards the waiting Catalpa. Breslin sent a telegram to the Governor of Western Australia, Irishman William Robinson, which began – ‘This is to certify that I have this day released from the clemency of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, etc.,etc., six Irishmen condemned to imprisonment for life ... for having been guilty of the atrocious and unpardonable crimes, known to the unenlightened portion of mankind as ‘love of country’ and ‘hatred of tyranny’. But the Fenians were not yet safe and clear. They sighted the Catalpa, but a fierce squall struck breaking the whaleboat's mast and the Catalpa vanished into the growing darkness. The Fenians and their rescuers were obliged to spend a cold night at sea. During that afternoon as well, police cutters from Fremantle and Bunbury were out seeking the escapees and from Perth Governor Robinson had also despatched the steamer Georgette with a contingent of the colony's Pensioner Guard.

On the morning of April 18, the Georgette found the Catalpa, but in Captain Anthony’s absence the First Mate refused to allow the colonial police to board as the ship was in international waters outside the colony’s three mile limit. After steaming around, the Georgette was forced to go back into Fremantle for coal. The Fenians were finally brought safely to shore, but in the meantime, the escapees who were seen as ‘political’ prisoners being punished for an offence against a government not society. The authorities, however, were determined to recapture the Irish rebels. The Georgette was coaled up and, with a small cannon on board, headed out to find the Catalpa.

On the morning of 19 April 1876 there occurred off Fremantle one of the most dramatic events in Australia's colonial maritime history. At first light the Catalpa was sighted by her pursuers who soon drew alongside. On the whaler the Fenian escapees had armed themselves and were determined not to be recaptured. With Breslin hiding behind the gunwale, Captain Anthony faced off the challenges and threats from the Georgette to heave too and prepare to be boarded. When threatened that his masts would be blown in, and under Breslin’s prompting, the Yankee skipper pointed to the American flag flying behind the ship: ‘That's the American flag; I am on the high seas; my flag protects me; if you fire on this ship you fire on the American flag’.

In reality, the colonial police were under orders from Governor Robinson not to create an incident outside territorial waters and, after steaming around threateningly for about an hour, the Georgette headed back to Fremantle. The Catalpa sailed to New York where the local Irish community gave the six Fenians a tumultuous welcome.

Sources

Hougoumont image courtesy Wikipedia Commons.
Catalpa image courtesy Wikipedia Commons.
Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868 (ancestry.com).
Irish Newspaper Articles (available online through the State Library of Western Australia).
UK, Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1949 (ancestry.com).
Convicts in Western Australia 1850-1887, Rica Erickson & Gillian O’Mara.
The Catalpa Rescue 1876, Richard Reid, Senior Curator, National Museum of Australia.
Speakers’ Corner

September’s talk was **Who is Jinny George**, given to us by **Ron Hassall**, one of our regular contributors. Ron’s mother died in 1993 and in a box of old photographs sent by his sister were two family trees compiled by his father, who had died four years previously.

One tree was for his father’s HASSALL family and the second was for his mother’s CASCARINO (Anglo-Italian) family. Ron decided to do some research and joined WAGS to begin the journey.

The CASCARINO family tree recorded many familiar names of uncles & aunts, who now turned out to be great uncles & aunts?? The family tree also recorded his Great Grandfather Domenico CASCARINO as married to Jinny GEORGE. This was accepted, as it didn’t seem that his father would make a mistake about the names on the tree, when all other names seemed correct.

The problem arose when Ron started to obtain the birth & marriage certificates firstly for his grandmother, which showed her mother’s maiden name as Jane ADCOCK and then for the marriage of Domenico and Jane ACOCK. So, who was Jinny GEORGE and where did she fit in?

Ron researched off and on for 19 years but could find no connection between any GEORGE families and the CASCARINO’s. By chance last year Ron did some research into Samuel ADCOCK a younger brother to Jane, who he discovered in the army on the 1891 census. The Army records of Samuel finally revealed the link. Samuel gave his ‘next of kin’ as Jane GEORGE.

Mystery solved!! Jane ADCOCK’s parents were John ADCOCK and Jane GUILDAY. After John ADCOCK died, Jane GUILDAY / ADCOCK married James GEORGE.

Ron’s father was a generation out in his family tree, Jane ‘Jinny’ GUILDAY/ADCOCK/GEORGE, was therefore Domenico’s mother-in-law not his wife.

In October **Ginie Bristowe** gave us a talk, which she has also given to U3A, entitled **Grandfather’s trip round the world in 1896/97**. He kept a fascinating diary in which he describes places he visited. These included Naples, Ceylon, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan and USA, with side trips to other countries. Ginie has his photos of the places and also family photos. She also found most interesting the ships he travelled on, those wonderful old steamers which also had sails, some of which were used to bring migrants out to Australia, like the SS Orient.

The family story is that he went off round the world to heal a broken heart when he had been told that the girl he was in love with had got engaged to another, but when he returned he found she was still free, so he married her! Some rather sweet letters they wrote to each other were included in the talk.

November’s talk was given by **John Macdonald** and was about **Garden Island - Three Names, One Island**. John explained how the islands off the coast of the Swan River Plain were formed; told the dreamtime story of the Whadjuk people’s origin of Meeandip Yondock; and talked about the first European explorers. He then moved on to Captain James Stirling’s first visit in 1827, and the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829, including some of the highlights (and lowlights) of Western Australia’s first OFFICIAL town, built on that barren outcrop of limestone covered with a thin layer of sand.

John’s talk continued into the 20th century giving details of plans for building blocks, use as a holiday destination, and World War II filling the first part of the 20th Century, followed by the establishment of Fleet Base West (HMAS Stirling) in the second half.

This talk was listened to by a big gathering and was naturally of particular interest to us all.

**ARE MEMBERS INTERESTED IN GIVING OUR SOCIETY A FAMILY HISTORY TALK?**

The society values all the work that members have researched for their Family History – why not share that journey—the research, the stories, the photos that you have found, and reveal your progress to other members? Help available to put something together. Have a Go….you CAN do it.

Please contact - Family History of Rockingham & Districts Inc
Program Planner - Helen Murphy— smurfs@iinet.net.au

**Tales from bygone days** - Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.
**LIBRARY MATTERS**
Co-ordinator—Verna Nazzari

**Library Opening Hours**
Ground Floor, Lotteries House, Civic Boulevard

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1.00 pm—4.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.00 am—1.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9.30 am—4.00 pm</td>
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Closed All Other Days and Public Holidays

**Library Closure**

The Library will be closed from Monday 16th December, re-opening on Tuesday 14th January 2014 - a four week break.

**Useful Websites**

- [www.clevelandfhs.org.uk](http://www.clevelandfhs.org.uk) - useful finding aids and indexes from local sources, e.g. mining, shipping, church, railways plus many others
- [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html)
- [www.olivetreegenealogy.com](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com)
- [www.antiquusmorbus.com](http://www.antiquusmorbus.com) - lists language doctors used in the past and what the terms mean

If any of you come across an interesting site perhaps you could let me know and I will put it in the next BTL so that all of our members can benefit.

**Scottish Valuation Rolls for 1920**

These Rolls were recently added to [ScotlandsPeople](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) website and contain 2,607,329 indexed names and 76,721 digital images, covering every kind of property assessed that year as having a rateable value, including castles, mansions, crofts and tenements. The names of owners, tenants and occupiers are given, and in many cases occupations.

You can learn who was living where, whether they owned or rented, the rent paid and the yearly rateable value of the property.

This is a boon to family history researchers as they can fill in gaps left following publication of the 1911 Census. The Rolls are fully searchable by name and/or address.

**Welcome to New Members**

The Family History Society of Rockingham & Districts Inc. would like to welcome our New Members:

- Gwyneth Tonkin
- Kathleen Curtis
- Jane Atkinson

**The WAGS Raffle**
The early bird prize was won by Joan Carney (a WAGS member). The main raffle was won by Roma Jeffery. Four runner-up prizes of $250.00 went to
- N. Avases (Lesmurdie)
- Jan Gillard (Collie)
- Gillian Holden (Port Kennedy)
- Elaine Boyd-Smith (Scarborough).

Gillian Holden is FHSRD Member No. 0663. Congratulations to all and well done Gillian.

**A very merry Christmas to everyone and all the best for a happy and healthy 2014**

**Christmas Quiz**
The Christmas Quiz was very successful with a full house and plenty of cheerful noise. Bill Ritchie compered, telling jokes between rounds of questions. Leon gave out the WAGS raffle winners before beginning the quiz, and several lucky numbers were drawn and prizes given during the quiz. The winners were from Table 4 - Ainslie Sharpe, Peter Conole, Diane Oldman, Liz Rushton and Pam Cowgill. They each received a fancy tin of biscuits.

**General Meetings**

All Members and non-members are welcome to attend the General Meetings of the Society held every 1st Saturday of the month in the 1st Floor Meeting Room, Lotteries House, Civic Boulevard, Rockingham.

Guest Speakers for: January, February, March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Website/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 4th</td>
<td>Betty Vanderlande</td>
<td><a href="http://www.clevelandfhs.org.uk">Interesting Websites for researching Ireland</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1st</td>
<td>Dr Alex Main</td>
<td>Are the Irish really Scots (or are the Scots really Irish)</td>
</tr>
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"Between the Lines" Vol. 19, No. 2
GENEALOGICAL KNOWLEDGE TEST (Moderate Level)
(Try not to use Google!)

1. In what year did parish registers commence in England & Wales?
2. What is known as an “admon”?
3. In which year did Hardwick’s Marriage Act come into force?
4. In a parish register, what name is often shortened to “Jno”?
5. What can be attached to a will in order to slightly change it?
6. Which well-known genealogical organisation was founded in 1911?
7. Between 1754 and 1837, all marriages had to take place in a Church of England church, except those of Jews and __________?
8. Rose’s Act of 1812 brought in the use of what from 1st January 1813?
9. What is palaeography?
10. What is a “contiguous” parish?
11. When was adoption recognised by English law?
12. What is an “annuitant”?
13. Which national genealogical organisation was founded in 1961 in Kent?
14. What is a “CARN” card?
15. What is an “indenture”?
16. Which well-known genealogical organisation was founded in 1979?
17. What is meant by the term “patronymic”?
18. What does AGRA stand for?
19. What work is commonly known as the “DNB”?
20. What is a “toponymic” surname?

Answers in the next edition of Between the Lines.
From the Family & Local History Quiz Book compiled by Mick Southwick (December 2011)
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The Norfolk Giant

by Diane Oldman

One of my 4 x great grandmothers was born in Lincolnshire in 1765, daughter of William Hales. Because of the surname, this interesting article about the Norfolk Giant caught my eye - but nothing to do with my family I am sure; I have the width but not the height!

Robert Hales was born on 2 May 1820 at the village of Somerton in Norfolk. His father, a respectable farmer, was 6 ft. 6 ins. in height, and married Elizabeth Dimond of the same neighbourhood who was 6 ft. and weighed 14 stone. Her family consisted of five daughters and four sons, all of whom attained an extraordinary stature - the males averaging 6 ft. 5 ins. and the females 6 ft. 4 ins. The height and weight of Robert Hales (right) are as follows: height 7 ft. 6 ins., weight 32 stone, chest measurement 62 ins., abdomen 64 ins., across the shoulder 36 ins., round the thigh 36 ins., round the calf of the leg 21 ins.

In 1848 Mr Hales had a great desire to see the ‘western world’. Accordingly he took passage on board HM Royal Mail Steamer Canada and, after one of the most boisterous passages ever made across the Atlantic, he arrived in New York on 14 December. He remained in America for two years, during which time he excited much curiosity. In January 1851, he returned to England and took the Craven Head tavern in Drury Lane, London.

Robert Hales died at Great Yarmouth in 1863 and was buried in West Somerton churchyard where his large tomb can still be seen.

Photo of Leon Daly (4th from left) on stage with others at the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints open day held recently. Leon was there on behalf of the Family History Society to assist in answering questions relating to our interests.