The Arch of Ctesiphon, which lies to the south of Baghdad, is the world’s largest brick-built arch, and the last structure still standing from an ancient Persian imperial capital of the same name.
In this BTL I have entered a small article about one of my ancestors whom I have been researching and writing about for some time. That is Druscilla GODFREY my 3 x GGMother. She was unmarried when she gave birth to my 2 x GGFather Stephen in 1822. I know that she left home and did not raise Stephen, and I eventually found census data that showed she had married a John ANGEL; however up to now I was unable to find a marriage for them. This I finally did in the second week of November and the Parish Record is included with the article. I have always said no matter how many brick walls you come across never give up looking, and once again it paid off.

For those of you who don’t use our library please remember that it is well stocked with books, magazines, CDROMS and other items from many parts of the world, particularly Great Britain and Australia. Most of these are for loan. This is in addition to the computers we have for use, that give access to all the main databases that we as researchers use in our endeavours.

During the past month we have shown our face at the Seniors Expo at the Gary Holland Centre, The Family History Expo at The Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints, and a further Seniors activity at the Murdoch History Expo at The Church of Christ of Latter Day Seniors Expo at the Gary Holland Centre, The Family Researchers use in our endeavours.

This I finally did in the second week of November and the Parish Record is included with the article. I have always said no matter how many brick walls you come across never give up looking, and once again it paid off.

I was hoping by now to be able to report that our new computers and desks have been installed in the Library. However, while you know by now that the Grant from the City of Rockingham for the desks has been received, the Lotteries Grant is taking a lot longer. We have had communication with them and our application is going before their board in November with final approval by the appropriate Minister in December. We have been asked to contribute $1,500 towards the cost of the computers so it looks like there is a very good chance that we will receive the remainder of the money from Lotteries. We are picking up the desks on 25th November and it is envisaged they and the new computers will be set up during our break in January 2015.

**Peter Godfrey**

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**Vale Helen Hunt**

Helen joined the society in 2010 and became a library assistant pretty much straight away. She joined the management committee in 2011 and became the fundraising coordinator through to 2013. Helen went to the UK in April of that year and when she came back she was diagnosed with liver cancer. We have just recently found out that Helen died last April and is buried at Jarradale. I’ve received many comments about Helen and I think the following from Betty Vanderlande says it all - Very sad news about a wonderful, vibrant lady who had an energetic, infectious enthusiasm for everything and everyone she touched. A member who will always be missed. [Editor]

I would like to advise FHS members of a new WA digital newspaper source to be added soon, submitted by another FREARSON family member, covering Norseman and Goldfields from about 1896 - gold, water and rail era. This is my great-grandfather Septimus FREARSON's newspaper. The family were also in publishing, newspapers and stationery in South Australia.

**Peter Godfrey**

WA Railway Employees Killed While on Duty: Interesting eight pages of names in date order from 1879 to 1970's. Includes where, places and incident types. There are links & contact email to other WA & NSW railway research, and a reference to the Railway Memorial. http://www.railheritagewa.org.au/archives/employees_killed_WA_10may12.pdf

**Peter Godfrey**

Quote: "Today (6th August 2014) the National Library has confirmed that the 'Norseman Pioneer' and its predecessor will be on Trove by 31 December 2014 (unless something happens to prevent this). I have to repeat again that it is not a very illustrious newspaper – but it is ours and that is something.”

**Donelle Zauris**
My father was born at Brydons Camp (place name) in Hertfordshire on the 24th January 1891. His mother Hannah Halsey, who was eight months pregnant, had fallen down the stairs and that night the baby was born prematurely. He was christened Hubert Halsey but was always known as Bert; he often said "he was in a hell of a hurry to get here and had been in a hell of a hurry ever since".

Bert attended the village school with his friend Percy Willmore, they grew up together, often going exploring in Ashridge Park or trailing after the people riding to hounds. When Bert left school at 12 he went to work on the Ashridge Estate, the home of Lord and Lady Brownlow, to learn to be a gardener. However he was more interested in the new fangled motorcars and wanted to be a motor mechanic. His mother arranged for him to live in Luton where he served his apprenticeship at the Vauxhall Motors. He had a great sense of humour being brought up in a happy home, his father was Thomas Halsey and his mother was Hannah nee Tarsey. He had a sister Daisy and two younger brothers Eric and Kenneth, who was 18 years younger than Bert.

He became a skilled motor mechanic and he had met Annie Barker, who was to be my mother. No doubt they had begun to plan a marriage, but it was not to be as Kaiser Bill threw a spanner in the works. War against Germany was declared on the 4th of August 1914. Bert enlisted in the Army on September the 7th 1914, he became No.2033 Private Halsey of the 9th Middlesex Regiment (known as The Diehards); he was 23 years old. Percy enlisted at the same time, so they set out on the adventure together. (Incidentally my great-grandfather John Dukes (on my mother's side) served in the 57th Regiment of Foot which was part of the Middlesex Regiment. John Dukes enlisted when he was 17 years in 1825. The regiment was sent to Sydney, Australia in 1826 and stayed there until 1831 when they were sent to Madras, India, where John Dukes served until 1846, when he was sent home to England being worn out by illness and years of service.)

Bert was lucky not to be sent to France and the Regiment was shipped out to India ending, up at Dinajpur District, Cooch Behar Division, Bengal. In 1915 the regiment was sent to Basra, Mesopotamia - now Iraq. It was here Bert had his adventure, he felt the heat (120 degrees in the shade and no shade), tasted the dust and awful smells, got left in the desert on his own for 36 hours - he must have had a guardian angel watching over him. He also discovered apricots and was warned by one of the bearers, "sahib, sahib, plenty latrine in the morning". I think dad really enjoyed the new sights and sounds; he was quick to pick up a smattering of the language. As a child he had attended church three times a day on Sunday and was not too happy to go to Church Parade. The sergeant asked "What's the matter with you Halsey, don't you want to attend church?" When the answer was "no", the sergeant got him to do different jobs around the camp. However my dad never said a bad word about anyone and he was always ready to help others in need.

Great Britain declared War against Turkey on November the 5th 1914; the British occupied Basra, Turkey's port at the head of the Persian Gulf, in November 1914. Strategically it was justified to protect the southern oil wells of Persia and the refinery of Abadan. The British force was under the command of Major General Charles De Verc Townshend who was a British Indian Army Officer. He considered the fighting in Mesopotamia as a sideshow; the real fighting was in France as far as he was concerned. He was dramatically ambitious, having already survived a siege of 46 days at Chitral on India's frontier in 1895. The siege successfully raised, he was promoted and had been invited to dine with Queen Victoria.

The British advance of 46 miles north to al-Quornah in December and a further 90 miles up the Tigris to al-Amarah in May-June 1915 was accomplished with little resistance. For all practical purposes this should have been far enough, however the ancient capital of Islam, Baghdad, fatally beckoned. To push on towards the glittering prize was foolhardy as their line of supply was stretched to five hundred miles from their base in Basra. There were no roads, no railways and only a few river steamers south of Bagdad. (At this time (1915) this was the only win so far in the war, everywhere else was bogged down in the trenches.)

I do not know when Dad was left on his own for 36 hours in the desert, supposedly to be guarding something. How lonely he must have felt and pretty sure it was the end of him. Fortune favours the brave though and another patrol came by, and the officer advised him to come along with them, as he was sure no one would be coming back for him. Another anecdote was when Bert received some soap in a parcel from home. The Tigris is a fast flowing river and, apparently, the soldiers had to wash their clothes on the riverbank. Another soldier asked for the loan of the soap, reluctantly it was handed over and, slip-slop, ended up in the water to be washed away; no pun intended. He also remembered an Arab who he said was the biggest man he had ever seen.

On November 22nd 1915 a fierce battle was fought at Ctesiphon only 18 miles from Baghdad. The Turks were routed; however the British had to retire from Ctesiphon on November 29th. It must have been a bitter retreat having gone so far. I read somewhere that the wounded could not stand the jolting of the ox carts and preferred to try and crawl along the ground. General Townshend and the army reached Kut-el-Amara on December 3rd 1915 and a siege began.

Continued next page
The general was a very selfish man and had no care for his men. They received no mail or messages but he continued to. 23,000 men died trying to get through. There was actually no real danger of running out of food but after four months the soldiers were in dire straits.

By this time Bert and Percy were in the hospital, Bert's left arm was paralysed carrying a pack too long whilst Percy was delirious with fever. The order came for walking wounded to get down to the river to be evacuated. Dad would not leave Percy so somehow he managed to get him on his back and carried him down to the boat. They were taken to Bombay in India for hospital treatment; probably issued with clothes, and received some back pay. "All for a shilling a day, no debts and nothing to pay, marching around with everything found, all for a shilling a day."

The Turks besieged Kut-el-Amarah for five months, and eventually General Townshend surrendered on April 29th 1916. The Turks accorded Townshend full military honours; he was taken by First Class train to Constantinople where he had a small palace and servants, freedom and his own yacht, and moved in the highest Turkey society. The ordinary soldiers were sent on a death march to Baghdad where 50% died. The General never held a senior post again. He never asked after his men. Other British forces re-took Kut in February 1917. 40,000 men were sacrificed at the altar of one man's ambition.

As far as I know, Percy stayed on in India and the army; when he was well he received some tutoring and went on to be an officer. When dad came home from the War in 1916 he was in hospital for several months being looked after by Dutch nurses. I still have a picture of him with the nurses. His black hair was nearly grey and his left arm was paralysed from a pinched nerve from carrying a pack too long. He did regain most of the use of his arm and hand but it took nearly two years. During this time he learned how to carve wood, one of his efforts was a clock case for his mother. She had it in her kitchen for many years, it was sent out to us after she died. My daughter has it now, only it has a battery making it go, but the face is the original. The case is oak, carved with the rose of England.

My father, like most other soldiers, spoke little of the war; it had been over for eleven years before I was born. He did however help me to put together a lecturette when I was in primary school. I had a map with some pictures from an old magazine, there was one of the arch at Ctesiphon, there was also a small black box with the star and crescent on the lid with a button from a Turkish uniform.

When we went to England in 1936, my grandmother still had father's army tunic and solar topi hanging in a cupboard.

Bert married Annie in July 1918; they left England for Australia in 1925 to follow the sun. Percy also married but stayed in England. A daughter was born to each couple; Percy's daughter was named Paddy. Bert and Percy died within a week of each other; but after Mrs. Willmore died we lost touch with Paddy.


Dad had a wonderful sense of humour, we had many laughs together and this probably got him through the times he was upset and worried about his work as Manager of the workshop at International Harvester Truck Company in Perth. He claimed the mechanics stayed awake at night working out how they could mess up a job - this was during the Second World War when the workshop repaired trucks for the Army. The Federal Hotel on the corner of Wellington Street and George Street was the place to have a drink after work and they were like a family, all friends together.

Bert had many talents and could turn his hand to almost anything, he built the foundations for his house in Ashridge Mills Road, Gosnells from the stone on the block. When he retired because of illness in 1953 he was happy with his garden and raising Light Sussex Chooks and showing them, winning quite a few prizes.

My father died of a heart attack on the September 29th 1959, about 4 o'clock in the morning at the Old Armadale Hospital two weeks before my 30th birthday. At first I could not believe he had gone and kept dreaming he came back. I had to ask the doctor if he was truly dead and the dreams went away but oh, how I missed him. My mother was terribly upset also, it was as if a light had gone out of our lives. There were many people at the funeral who we did not know, and we received lots of cards and letters from people who thanked us for Dad's help in the past.

Well done thou good and faithful servant. Rest in Peace.

The medals are all tarnished. The years have flown away Since you kept them brightly polished Ready for the Anzac Day.

You fought in a different War Zone One termed as "Justa Show". It soon turned to a disaster Which now few people know.

How much you must have suffered But still you stood the test Why didn't you tell me Father The story of the rest.
THE WONDERFUL ARCH AT CTESIPHON

From Alice Murins

The history of Ctesiphon has been long and varied. It was one of the cities that succeeded Babylon as the chief centre of power and population in Mesopotamia.

The successors of Alexander the Great who conquered Babylon, founded a new city at Seleucia some twenty miles below modern Baghdad. This city remained a centre of Greek power until the coming of the Parthian kings, who, with the aid of their semi-civilised bands, established themselves in Seleucia.

For various reasons however, the Parthians found it desirable to build a city on the opposite bank of the Tigris. This was Ctesiphon, which soon became predominant, a development that marked the definite triumph of the East over Hellenism. About A.D. 46 the Parthians themselves began to give way before the advance of Rome, and the Emperor Severus I ruthlessly sacked Ctesiphon. It rose from its ashes and became the capital of the Sassanians, the rulers of the new Persian Empire, under whom Ctesiphon rose to greater glory than it had previously known.

For four centuries it flourished exceedingly; Khusru Anushirvan who was a mighty builder, reconstructed the palace at Ctesiphon, the huge archway of which still remains to testify to the power and luxury of the kings who held their court beneath its mighty span.

Extract from an English magazine published sometime after the First World War.

A glimpse of the ruins was shown on one of the nightly television news of the war in Iraq. The town is now known at Madain.

OILS IS OILS

We are running short of petrol
And all they do is talk.
Don't they realise it's likely
We soon shall have to walk.

Oh I saved my pedal pushers
And I'm going to buy a bike.
For sure the day I catch the train
They're bound to go on strike.

So I'll pedal gaily down the hill
Thinking "this is just a breeze".
But when it's time to come back up,
Could someone push me please!!

The Godfrey Tree (some more)

I have written various articles about my family tree, starting in 2008 with the basics and then bringing it up to date in April of this year with the latest information available. This last update was about my 3 x Great Grandmother Druscilla GODFREY, who gave birth to a son Stephen, (my 2 x Great Grandfather), out of wedlock. I later found her in a census married to a John ANGEL. However up to then my cousin and I in Kent had been unable to find their marriage. But this week it came to light in Family Search. I had been searching regularly but had missed a few months, and there it was:

Marriage of John ANGEL to Priscilla GODFREY 3 June 1833
at Stoke, Kent, which is in the Medway region.

At the end of all my talks and articles I always say never stop looking, if you ever wanted more proof here it is.
It has been a long road but at last I was able to log into our website. There on the front page of the September 2014 edition of the BTL was a beautiful picture of Coventry Cathedral. My heart turned over. There was the old cathedral in all its peaceful beauty with the magnificent new cathedral adjoining. People sitting quietly in the sun, reading or reflecting. Underneath was a picture of Nurses in the Trenches in WW1 presenting my article on page 9. War in both pictures.

I was 9 years old when I saw the bombed Coventry Cathedral for the first time in 1944. My parents were not born in Coventry but they lived most of their early lives there. They got married during the Depression and went south because of work pressures a couple of years before I was born. By 1939 they had taken over a poultry farm in the village where we grew up and my cousin was evacuated to us there.

By 1944 she had gone home and my seven year old brother and I were more excited to see our playmate again than our uncle's wedding, though looking forward to it as we had not been to a wedding before.

We left Coventry station and there before us was the devastation of the centre of Coventry. Although my father had been to Coventry when his sister was bombed out, it was our first visit since 1939. It was our place that had been the haven for the family as they needed it.

My mother cried, tears streaming down her face. We both took her hands and somehow she hung on to the case as well. Slowly we walked into Broadgate and around what had been streets. I can still see it. Holy Trinity beside Broadgate stood out among the ruins of the city. Yet only a short way away lay the Cathedral – devastated, it had been the unlucky one.

We walked into the Cathedral. It was incredible. The rubble had of course been cleared away. There were lumps where the pillars had been, lawns where the pews had been. The roof was open to the sky miles above it seemed to me. I could see the ancient St Mary's Guildhall in its pinkish Coventry stone across the cobbled, narrow Bayley Lane, through where the old stained glass windows had been. At the Altar was a huge, stark, black smoked, timber Cross and across it in very large letters “Father Forgive”. To a child that did seem at odds with what I was seeing at the time.

We sat down and I remember sitting on one of the stumps of a pillar. It was amazing. A feeling of complete peace and comfort stole over me. I could not understand it and it was years before I did.

Of course our cousin and my grandmother’s sweet shop in a time of rationing took over two delighted children. It was actually a small general grocery shop but it was the sweet jars on the counter that attracted our attention.

When I got home I asked my brother if he had found anything odd when we were in the Cathedral. He looked at me oddly, then said “Yes, a spooky sort of nice”. Somehow we never spoke of it again.

On later visits we watched the city reborn as it was rebuilt. Big holes in the ground as the foundations and cellars were built, and fences around with gaps in so we could see, some lower for children.

Three years later on one of those visits my cousin, her 14 to my 12, were allowed to go into the city on our own. We were told we could get lunch at a cafe and we felt very grown up. We had our grown up lunch then looked around in the town at all that was going on, and wandered into Holy Trinity Church on our way back to the bus. It is a beautiful church and I got another surprise. The Church seemed to wrap itself round me and hold me tight. Both the old Cathedral and Holy Trinity have the same effect on me today.

Several years passed and I had a family of my own. My brother, mother, grandmother, and my father died within the same space of time, it was a very happy and a very sad time of my life.

Then my aunt, who had been bombed out, died and the younger of my father’s two sisters visited us, bringing with her a lot of old documents that had been left to me. When I asked her what they were she said “Oh just some old papers from the Curzons's and the Williamson’s.”, in her “that’s it” tone of voice which I knew meant no further questions, I think she probably thought I knew. Or she did not want to spoil the surprise perhaps.

I had a look later and they were a Treasure Trove. There were old apprenticeship documents, Freedom of the City documents and other material going back to the second half of the 1700's, of several people in several generations I had never heard of, although there was one name that struck a chord, although not quite right, in one document. All were Coventry documents.

It was a miracle these documents survived the bombing of my aunt’s home, there had been nothing left, I understood, but their late daughter’s necklace on top of the rubble. Their daughter had died of TB aged 17 a year earlier. My aunt must have seen to the documents’ survival by putting them in safe storage in a safety deposit box in a bank or similar. She was a very sweet lady, but an organised one.

At the time I already had the genealogy bug and at my father-in-law’s request I had looked into my husband’s family.

At the time, however, I was not ready to deal with these new documents, the loss of so many of my family was still raw, so I put them in a safe place.

See March edition for the follow-on episode.
COLONEL ANGELO (Part Two)

Diane Oldman and Peter Conole

Edward Fox Angelo gave up his military career and moved north to take up the position of Government Resident at Roebourne in February 1886. The Residents (often called Resident Magistrates) were officials appointed - usually on the basis of social status and education - to look after the civil affairs and development of various towns and communities around the colony. Angelo had been a Justice of the Peace since 1883, so he also presided over the town’s local court.

Roebourne and the nearby pearling industry port of Cossack were key centres in the north-west. Resident Angelo seems to have arrived with a mandate to finalise important infrastructure. During 1886 a solid stone gaol was built and opened. In October of that year his wife Mary presided over a major public function, the opening of a new court house. A vital and cost-saving horse-drawn tramway connecting Roebourne to Cossack reached completion in 1887 at a time when pearl fishing was booming, with many ‘Malays’, Chinese and Japanese starting to get involved. The term ‘Malays’ was a vague one referring to men from the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), not the Malay Peninsula itself (1).

Mention of Mary Angelo requires comment on a certain facet of family life at Roebourne. Because of Edward’s position the Angelo family were expected to be at the centre of social life in the district and to keep a ‘good table’ for civic functions. Those activities cost money whilst he and Mary (pictured here) were still in the process of raising and educating their family of ten children. The oldest of them was Edward Houghton Angelo, who at the tender age of 17 was appointed to the position of Treasury Clerk at Roebourne. The lad was well educated and no talk of nepotism is on record (2).

Much could be said of Angelo the man, because in many ways he was a cultural asset to the WA community. He happened to be a talented artist and pianist and later developed a keen interest in photography when working in early 1889 (6). Resident Angelo’s time in office became more complex as the weight and extent of various law enforcement problems increased. He did his best with police assistance and, for example, secured the conviction of a settler for unlawfully killing an aboriginal man. But it was often hard to bring indigenous people to justice for tribal killings and other offences because of difficulties in obtaining witnesses - and the simple fact that suspects could simply move inland. In addition there were some very unpleasant trials, especially those for murder involving cannibalism (5).

Another problem of the northern coast, a factor since Matthew Flinders provided an eyewitness account in 1803, was chronic feuding between aborigines and ‘Malays’. Fleets of ‘Malay’ vessels, many based on the port of Macassar, engaged in trepang fishing in the north. They often operated as slave raiders and pirates on the side. Aborigines retaliated in kind. As author Kevin Moran wrote: “the relationship between Aborigines and Malays was terrible and violent conflicts and massacres occurred...” Angelo received grim tidings about one incident. A mariner left Cossack in late 1887 and returned from remote LaGrange Bay to report that aborigines had killed 23 ‘Malay’ survivors of a shipwreck. Distance and limited resources made it impossible to take action. The Resident may have been relieved when he left Roebourne in early 1889 (6).

Edward Angelo was in financial difficulty and had several creditors back in Roebourne. He filed for bankruptcy and matters were settled in March 1889 by payment of ten shillings in the pound. Notwithstanding that awkward episode, Angelo won appointment to the position of Government Resident at Bunbury. After what seems to have been a short but uneventful time in office, in 1890 he was appointed Superintendent of Rottnest Island, which for many years had been used as a prison for aboriginal offenders. That function was now in decline: numbers of inmates had fallen to a few dozen and colonists were complaining about the expense of the establishment (7).
Colonel Angelo (Part Two) cont’d

Acting through The West Australian newspaper some folk agitated for the island to be converted into a summer holiday resort in February 1891. A few years later Alexander Angelo, the second son of Edward and Mary, stuck in his oar and wrote to his father asking for permission to open a retail store on Rottnest. The Superintendent supported the move in a letter of December 1894 to Premier John Forrest. Unfortunately, assorted bureaucrats looked into the matter and expressed concern about possible conflicts of interest and favouritism to a junior family member. Premier Forrest rejected the Angelo store idea in late 1895.

In those same days, during December 1895, the Superintendent was the victim of a cruel but clever hoax. Certain of the prison staff disliked him and one man salted a little gold in some part of Rottnest. When poor Edward Angelo was alerted to the ‘find’, he collected the samples, pegged out the area for the Government, asked to be appointed Gold Field Warden, requested permission to sell miner’s rights and claimed a reward from the Secretary of Mines for discovering a field. His subsequent embarrassment when the truth emerged can only be imagined.

Despite the above Angelo’s time on Rottnest was not unpleasant. He entertained various distinguished guests, hunted and fished and engaged in artistic pursuits. An example of the latter is the fine Angelo painting shown here. He founded a Rottnest Literary Institute and wrote and published on various topics. The Superintendent also improved facilities on Rottnest, including construction of a good sewerage system and a new lighthouse.

Edward Fox Angelo was replaced as Superintendent in September 1898. He then retired from public life and lived a rather secluded existence. In general terms, as a soldier and administrator, he deserves to be acknowledged for his positive services on behalf of Queen, Empire and Colony. In summing up his reputation, Professor Geoffrey Bolton wrote that Angelo was a “gentlemanly and conscientious official, but too much given to formality and fuss”. He died on November 16, 1902 at his residence in Peppermint Grove and was buried in the Presbyterian section of Karrakatta Cemetery (8).

The old warrior’s widow, Mary Fraser Angelo (1851-1928), outlived him by decades. She too had the misfortune to meet with financial difficulties and filed for bankruptcy in 1904. The details are not of direct concern here. However her oldest son, Edward Houghton Angelo (1870-1948), succeeded in both banking and the grazing industry in turn and became a power in WA politics. He was Mayor of Carnarvon (1910-1915), then a Nationalist Party member of the Legislative Assembly (1917-1933) and lastly a member of the Legislative Council (1934-1940). According to a brief biographical sketch he was a “single-minded and effective advocate for the development of the north-west”.

One might fairly add that Edward Houghton Angelo was also a credit to an unusually adventurous and assertive family (9).

Notes

(1) The Wikipedia entries for Roebourne and Cossack have solid data about infrastructure work in those settlements.
(3) Obituary in the Western Mail, November 22, 1902; Angelo, Edward Fox, Ephraim, or, the present location of the Hebrew Tribes (E.Stock, London, 1896).
(7) For Edward’s bankruptcy woes, see SRO Cons 3431, 1889/07. For his time on the island, see Moran, K. Rottnest: Ghosts of Wadjemup (Horizon Syndicate Pty Ltd, Perth), Chapters 8 and 9, passim.
(8) ‘Edward Houghton Angelo’ in the Australian Dictionary of Biography (Melbourne University Press, 1979), Vol.7 - article by G.Bolton; Western Mail, November 22, 1902.
(9) For the bankruptcy proceedings: SRO 3560, 1904/023. For Edward Houghton Angelo, see Wikipedia entry and the article cited in Note 8.
In the June “Between The Lines” that concentrated on WW1, I told the story of Frederick PERKENFELT (1883 to 1916) who, although he was of German parents, fought for Australia in the First World War. This came about because I did some research for a friend, and the whole story became even more interesting. Here it is. (All of the births and deaths were in NSW except where indicated.)

1. Violet RICHARDSON. Frederick had a sister Violet who was born in 1886 and married a Henry RICHARDSON in 1912. Henry was born in 1885 from parents George and Annie, (2 and 6 below).

2. George RICHARDSON. George was born on 7 June 1845 and baptised the same year. He married an Annie ROBERTS (6 below), who was born in 1845, in 1866. Nothing much different so far you would say. However: George RICHARDSON’s parents were William and Mary TURBIT (ALLEN), (3 and 5 below).

3. William RICHARDSON. (Convict number 1). William was born in 1799 in Sussex England. In March 1816 he was convicted of robbery in the Surrey Assizes and sentenced to life transportation. He sailed on the “Elisabeth” on 4 June 1816 and arrived in Port Jackson on 5 October 1816. (By coincidence I am writing this on the 5 October 2014 some 198 years later)! A petition for mitigation of sentence was lodged in 1822 but it was not until September 1824 that a character reference was obtained, and his ticket-of-leave was issued on 28 October 1824. He received permission to marry a Mary SMITH (4 below), from the Governor on 11 January 1825 and she was assigned to him on 26 March 1825 when they were married.

4. Mary SMITH. (Convict number 2). Mary was born in about 1802 in London and on 28 April 1820 she, along with many others, was convicted of having forged bank notes. Many convicts were transported because of this as it was relatively easy to forge notes at that time. She was sentenced to 14 years transportation and arrived in Port Jackson on the “Providence” on 7 January 1822. Her marriage to William lasted until 1840 when she died.

After Mary SMITH’s death William again sought permission to marry, this time to a Mary TURBIT (ALLEN) (5 below), and they were married on 17 December 1845. If you look in 2 above you will see that George RICHARDSON was born 6 months prior to his parents marrying.

5. Mary TURBIT (nee ALLEN). (Convict number 3). Mary was born about 1798 in London and on 20 July 1818 she was convicted of larceny and was sentenced to 7 years transportation. She arrived in Port Jackson on the “Lord Wellington” on 19 January 1820. Her future husband, Henry TURBIT, was also a convict and was convicted of stealing a shawl and was sentenced to 7 years transportation arriving in Port Jackson on the “Mariner” on 11 October 1816. Prior to sailing on the “Mariner” he spent 8 months onboard the Hulk “Retribution”. His is a whole other story, however he does not figure as a direct descendant. He and Mary were the licensees of the “Carpenters Arms” in Sussex Street, Sydney. He was also reputed to be an artist and has drawings hanging in the National Gallery. He died on 20 November 1840 which left Mary free to marry again, which she did to William RICHARDSON.

6. Annie ROBERTS. Annie was born on 16 March 1845 and her parents were William and Ann SMITHERS, (7 and 8 below).

7. William ROBERTS. William was born on 27 June 1813 and his parents were John and Sarah WISE, (9 and 10 below).

8. Ann SMITHERS. Ann was born on 28 March 1822. Her parents were Thomas and Sophia EAST, (see 11 and 12 below).

9. John ROBERTS. John was born in England in 1769 possibly in Buckinghamshire. He enlisted in England in the New South Wales Corps and arrived in Sydney on the “Britannia” on 5 June 1789. He spent various times on Norfolk Island as a Marine. He married Sarah WISE (10 below) on Norfolk Island in 1802.

10. Sarah WISE. (Convict number 4). Sarah was born in Gloucester about 1769. On 22 July 1795 she was convicted in the Gloucester Assizes and transported for 7 years, (crime unknown). She arrived on the “Indispensible” in Port Jackson on 30 April 1796.

11. Thomas SMITHERS. (Convict number 5). Thomas was born in Kent in 1778, and married an Ann COOPER on 30 June 1806 in Surrey. On 31 July 1809 he was convicted of stealing a horse and sentenced to hang. This was commuted to life and transportation. He spent time on the hulk “Retribution” from September 1809 to July 1810 when he left England on the “Indian” arriving Port Jackson on 16 December 1810. He obtained his ticket-of-leave in 1814 and obtained an absolute pardon for this crime on 31 January 1818. He married Sophia East on 16 November 1812 and, as he was still married to Ann COOPER who he left behind in England, he must have committed bigamy.

On 22 September 1826 he was committed for trial for stealing blankets and found guilty on 5 December and was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment on Norfolk Island. He received a pardon for this crime on 7 June 1831. His current wife Sophia (12 below), died in 1834 and Thomas married again, to a Margaret DONNELLAN, that same year and again to an Anne BRODIE in 1841. He died on 1 March 1856.

12. Sophia EAST. Sophia was born in 1796 and her parents were John OWEN and Hannah EAST (see 13 and 14 below). She was not an English convict but on 5 December 1826 she was found guilty of stealing blankets with her husband and, like him, sentenced to 14 years on Norfolk Island. She received her pardon in 1827 and died in 1834.

13. John OWEN. (Convict number 6). John was born in 1769 in Middlesex and on 10 September 1783, at the age...
Who Wants a Convict cont’d

of 14 was convicted of feloniously stealing knives and forks and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He spent time on the hulk “Censor” from then until 24 February 1787 when he joined the “Scarborough” in Portsmouth, a ship of the First Fleet. The ship arrived in Botany Bay on the 19 January 1788. On 13 September 1788 it is reported that a John OWEN was charged of aiding and abetting a William BOGGIS when he tried to rape a Lydia MUNRO, and was ordered to receive 50 lashes. In January 1789 a John OWEN was ordered to receive 100 lashes for being absent for 3 days from a camp at Rose Hill.

He married a Hannah EAST supposedly in 1790 in the Hawkesbury. However as Hannah did not arrive until the Third Fleet in July 1791 this date must be incorrect. It is more likely they were married in 1791/1792 as their first child was not born until 1792. He received his ticket-of-freedom on 9 September 1813 and died on 3 November 1828.

14. Hannah EAST. (Convict number 7). Hannah was born in 1773 in Middlesex. She was convicted of felonious stealing on 24 February 1790 and sentenced to 14 years transportation. She arrived in Sydney Cove on 9 July 1791 on the “Mary Ann”, which was part of the Third Fleet. As Sophia (12 above) had the surname of her mother, I am still unsure of this genealogy.

So what started out as a simple research item for a friend, who only gave me one name, that of a Henry PERKENFELDT (father of Frederick, the WW1 story) to go on, it turned up the exciting finds of not one but 5 definite convicts on the family tree. (This discounts John TURBIT, not direct line, and Mary SMITH not a direct line.

Further ancestors were found prior to the convicts being transported but they have been left out of the article.

It is interesting also to note that whilst the main website used was Ancestry.com.au the New South Wales Public Records Office at http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/research-topics/convicts/convicts was an excellent reference for convicts.

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Convict Family Tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William Richardson (Convict 1). 1799 to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Richardson 1845 to 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Richardson 1885 to 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m Violet Perkenfelt 1886 to 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Roberts 1845 to 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m 1 Mary Smith 1825 (Convict 2). 1802 to 1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m 2 Mary Turbit (Allen) 1845 (Convict 3). 1798 to 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Roberts 1813 to 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m Violet Perkenfelt 1886 to 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m John Roberts 1768 to 1840</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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A new website for German speaking countries. From Marjorie Burton

The Anglo-German Family History Society is a great source of information about migration to the UK from German-speaking countries, and amongst the articles on their site I found these tables which indicate the proportion of Church Registers that have been microfilmed. The tables also show the proportions of Catholics and Protestants in each region - the one thing I know about my German ancestors is that they were Protestants. http://www.agfhs.org/site/ .
Finding a British Army serviceman's record for World War One is a lottery, you could be lucky or you more likely may not be.

The Service records were sorted out in the 1930’s before they were stored in the Army Record Office in Walworth in London. Not all records were kept. Some were sent to Pensions.

Unfortunately World War II saw their destruction, at least for the most part. Only about 30% of those records still exist. A World War II bomb dropped in 1940 on the Army Records Office caused a fire burning most of the records.

The records called the Unburnt records can be found in National Archives Collection WO 364. These are on Ancestry. They are in the main NCO’s and other ranks documents that were used for disability pension claims when they were discharged from the Army. The originals are not available, only the microfilm copies at the National Archives. Even then the record may or may not be all the record that originally existed.

National Archives Collection WO 363 are the Burnt records, what remains of them which is around a quarter to 30%. Mainly they are only fragments very carefully removed, at the best they are damaged. What does remain can be found at the National Archives on microfilm or on Ancestry. Needless to say the originals of what is left are not available.

These records can be difficult to read as they can be scored across by burning. That we have them at all is incredible.

Collection PIN 26 is not a collection of photos on Pinterest but a small collection of service records kept by the Ministry of Pensions and the National Archives. There are about 22,000 of them, some got pensions, others did not. They start around 1920 and go on until 1989. They are not all the Pension records and account actually for only about 2%. They too are only part records and cannot be found online, probably why not all family historians know about them. They are the originals and can be found by going to the National Archives catalogue and searching by name.

Pre World War One records can also be handy. Some men who had served before 1914 re-enlisted. So if you think this may be the case, say the soldier is older, or you think he may have served in India or the Boer War try that. Some young men joined the Army if they did not have a family or wanted adventure and did enlist in the peacetime army. Try Collection WO 97. The originals can be found at the National Archives, but they are on Find My Past too.

Taking the same line of thinking, there are those who served in the Militia, the forerunner of the Territorials. The Militia was abolished in 1908 but some would have still been able to have served in WWI and re enlisted. This is

Collection WO 96. Once again they are on Find My Past and are in original format in the National Archives.

If your soldier served in the Household Cavalry and was a casualty, Collection WO 400 may produce some results. It would be worth checking anyway. These original records can be found at the National Archives, but not online. The Household Cavalry Regiments also have a set. You can write of course – Household Cavalry Museum, Combermere Barracks, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 3DN, United Kingdom.

If you are visiting Windsor in Berkshire it would be worth a visit to The Household Cavalry Museum. However as with a visit to any museum of this kind it is wise to let them know you are coming so access to the documents will be easier.

When visiting Archives or Museums of this kind, also check whether or not you need a Reader’s Ticket. They can be obtained ahead of a visit.

The really lucky ones are the Guards Regiments. They kept their own records as well. Try the archivists of each regiment. Not online but you can write. Try The Regimental Archivist (of whatever regiment you need) Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ, United Kingdom and ask for the form. They will send this and you can fill it in and send it back so that the archivist can do a search. The record costs of course.

Guards Regiments were also in the burnt and unburnt records as well, but if you cannot find them there, write to his Regiment.

If your soldier re enlisted in 1919 or later then his record will be available, though WWII records are not yet publicly available. They can still be privately requested, cost 30 pounds sterling and you need to provide kinship records. This kinship document can be found here http://www.veterans-uk.info/pdfs/service_records/army_kinship.pdf Then the veteran’s living next of kin must give consent. Somewhat lengthy process but can be done.

What will you find in the record if you are lucky enough to find it? Well his name, age and number of course, although it would be wise to have that before you start if your serviceman has a common name, there are thousands of John Smith’s!! If you have his medal look on the rim, his name and number will be there. On the documents you will find his place of birth, what he did for a living before he enlisted. Whether or not he was married. Date and place he enlisted. His physical description, that is a nice detail, one can get a better picture.

The forms this all may be on are firstly the Attestation Form which is the one he filled in when he enlisted. This might be as early as the Militia. His medical history forms, that will include when he was ill or wounded. If he was disabled there will be one. Regimental conduct sheets,

Continued on next page
World War One Service Records cont’d

can be interesting. Did he get an award? The discharge documents say when and where he was discharged and of course why. Most quite normal end of service but now and again there is a surprise!

Army Officers
Once again these records too were burnt, more totally than the servicemen. There were supplementary records, but some of these were destroyed before 1940. So once again a lottery, there are only 217,700 which have survived. What are left are supplementary records.

If your relative was a Guards officer try the Regiment as above for their records too still survive.

For the others -

WO339 is for the records of all officers who completed their service before 1922. Regular army officers before the war, Special Reserve Officers, and those with temporary commissions in the regular army are also included. Reserve Officers who served with the Indian Army are also included. Search by first and last name. It includes record of service and other records. Correspondence, even some personal correspondence. There can be attestation papers and other bits and pieces. You might find a date of death. No date order and quite varied results in each case!

WO374 is for the Territorial Commission Officers and temporary commissions. Search by last name.

Well you can imagine what is going to happen with a last name search and that is Smith or Jones! Even a first and last name search! Whoops! Well there is a way but a longer way round. Search for the long number for that is how these records are organised.

Not difficult, the long number records are online in Collection WO338 War Office: Officers’ Services, First World War, Index to Long Number Papers. These are from 1870 to 1922, so a search for an officer who served before WWI is technically possible.

Once you have his long number go back to WO374 and use the advanced search. Only use the numbers not the letters that are included in the whole number. They are of course National Archives records so put that in the space provided.

It is possible that an officer’s name can be found in the War Diaries, but that is a big search, one needs to know where the officer served. They can be found in Collection WO 95. The more confidential war diaries were in WO 154 and these two have now been released. The maps are in WO 153. Most of the war diaries are now online in the National Archives, cost of course.

Medals

Medal Rolls They can be found in Collection WO 372 for 1914-18 along with all the other services, although most of them belong to Army personnel both officers and men. Can be found online at the National Archives.

Silver War Badge Rolls
These were awarded to all military personnel of Britain and the Empire regardless of rank who served at home or overseas and had been discharged by reason of wounds or illness were awarded the Silver War Badge. Ancestry.com has these records online as has Find My Past.

All the documents make a valued addition to the Family Archives.

British Uniforms WWI

World War One Service Records cont’d

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Speakers’ Corner

In September Hamish McGlashan gave us a very informative talk on Kimberley Explorers and Consequences, concentrating on Prince Regent River and Colcott River. His first comment was that John Forrest was not the first explorer. That honour goes to George Grey (aged 25) and the expedition of 1837-1838. Grey was born during Waterloo - the 200 year centenary is in 2015. He came to Australia in H.M.S. Beagle just after Charles Darwin returned, and hoisted the British flag at Hanover Bay and declared it for the Queen. He later wrote a book of his travels, eventually serving as Governor of New Zealand and then Governor-General.

Another early explorer was John Martin who visited the area. When the Colonial government was not interested he went back and started the Camden Harbour Company. Three ships arrived with immigrants but it all turned into a tragedy. A Government party arrived but many people left and finally the whole place was evacuated and a stone hearth is all that remains.

Then came John Forrest whose first explorations opened up the East Kimberley. Joseph Bradshaw saw cave paintings where he camped and they are now called the Bradshaw Paintings. There are others on Mt Elizabeth Station. He eventually left in 1893 and moved to the Northern Territory. Annes Gunn moved with his new wife to the N.T. from Melbourne. After he died is wife moved back to Melbourne and wrote ‘We of the Never Never’. A great and very educational talk.

October’s talk gave us Nicholas Reynolds with Australians in the First World War. Nicholas is a regular contributor to our talks and has been Curator of the Mandurah Museum for ten years. His speciality is navy stories and this one was on how to get the Germans out of PNG at the beginning of WWI and it was in 2015. He came to Australia in H.M.S. Beagle just after Charles Darwin returned, and hoisted the British flag at Hanover Bay and declared it for the Queen. He later wrote a book of his travels, eventually serving as Governor of New Zealand and then Governor-General.

Richard Offen gave us a History of the Swan River in November. The Swan River is very important to the Noongar people who have lived in the area for 40,000 years.

A great and very educational talk.

Richard gave us a very informative talk on Kimberley Explorers and Consequences, concentrating on Prince Regent River and Colcott River. His first comment was that John Forrest was not the first explorer. That honour goes to George Grey (aged 25) and the expedition of 1837-1838. Grey was born during Waterloo - the 200 year centenary is in 2015. He came to Australia in H.M.S. Beagle just after Charles Darwin returned, and hoisted the British flag at Hanover Bay and declared it for the Queen. He later wrote a book of his travels, eventually serving as Governor of New Zealand and then Governor-General.

The first European visitors were the Dutch explorers who saw the black swans and gave the name Swan to the river. They also named Heirisson Island in 1801. Captain Stirling first came in 1827 and decided the area was a good place for a settlement.

The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge. The first bridge built was the Railway bridge. Eventually there was also the Railway bridge.

Richard’s talk gave everyone a new perspective on Perth’s iconic river and its history, and was very well regarded by all.
Welcome to New Members

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

- Nicholas Brown
- Felicity Simpson
- Peter Crew
- Irene Byron
- Judith Walker
- Bill Stewart

NEW ACCESSIONS - No new accessions to publish in this edition.

Useful Websites

- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guide-listing.htm#p - to study in-depth Guides
- www.castlegarden.org - for New York immigrants before Ellis Island
- www.thornber.net/cheshire/index.html - a scrapbook of Cheshire with photographs and 118 historical sites information

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.

If your family members won’t talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.

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>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 3rd</td>
<td>Helen Murphy</td>
<td>Journey of ship Lochee to South Australia 1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7th</td>
<td>Graham Bown</td>
<td>Portland Convict Prison - the Formative Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 7th</td>
<td>Ian Simon</td>
<td>Using South Australian Information Sources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEWS FLASH

The WAGS Annual Raffle Early Bird winner was Peta Borsboom, a WAGS member. Maybe next year for one of our members?

The WAGS main raffle winner was S Bartley, Mt. Barker (ticket sold by Albany FHS). The minor winners were R. Dunwell, Corrigin; M. Burns, Karrinyup; S. Warner, Cloverdale; J. Arrowsmith, Darlington.

Library Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1.00 pm—4.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.00 am—1.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9.30 am—4.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closed All Other Days and Public Holidays

The winning table with their prizes

December meeting

This was a great success with five tables of six competing in the Christmas Quiz. The winning table people each received a tin of mixed biscuits. A mouth-watering afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and the meeting ended with many good wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Santa arriving for the Quiz

Quiz players in action

“Between the Lines” Vol. 20, No. 2