Snippets 2024







Volume 24 No 1

How wonderful it was to finish the year with the announcement that we had been successful in the competitive tender for the Brisbane City Council community facility at 46 Delaware St, Chermside/Geebung.

The first priority is installation of air conditioning in the building. Unfortunately, this will not happen quickly despite QFHS having submitted the appropriate paperwork. Installation will most likely be sometime in April.

Clearly, this is far from ideal in Brisbane's hot and humid climate. In the meantime, Management Committee has hired a monster portable air conditioner which provides some cooling, however the building soon warms to very uncomfortable temperatures.

Possible Research Centre closures

Our volunteer Library Assistants, without whom we cannot open the Research Centre, are locked into their 10am-3pm roster. We have no desire to unnecessarily limit members' access to the Research Centre, but neither will we make unreasonable imposition on our volunteers.

Management Committee takes our duty of care to our volunteers seriously and recognises

there will be days when the temperature and humidity in the Research Centre is highly uncomfortable by early afternoon. Our Library Assistants are not required to work under such conditions. Until effective air-conditioning is installed, the Library Assistants on duty will decide if/when it is necessary to **close** the Research Centre. **This will be determined by their ability to stay** - each daily team will face different climatic conditions and will have different physical tolerances so there will be not set closing time.

Visiting the Research Centre

If you intend to visit the Family History Research Centre, we recommend you either time your visit to the mornings when we are confident the air conditioner will manage the conditions, or **phone the Research Centre** on 07 33553369 to check with the Library Assistants before setting out on your journey.

Do you live near the Research Centre?

One action that would extend the Research Centre's hours of operation is to switch on the rented air conditioning unit early before the building starts to heat up. If you live in the vicinity and could undertake to drop in before 8.30am and start the unit one day a week or fortnight for the next few months (quite a simple process), we would be very grateful. Please email Dette at library_assistance@qfhs.org.au if you are able to help.

In the meantime, other Applications For Works will be submitted to Council for signage so it's clear who we are, what we do, and how to contact us, and for new doors at the front entrance and kitchen to improve ventilation, light and security.

Management Committee

For the last three years, we have chosen an illustrated cover from *The Queenslander* to add to the header for Snippets. *The Queenslander* was the weekly summary and literary edition of the *Brisbane Courier*, the leading journal in the colony - and later, federal state - of Queensland since the 1850s. It was launched by the Brisbane Newspaper Company in 1866 and discontinued in 1939.

With weekly publication spanning 60+ years, there were many (out-of-copyright) images to consider as a header for Snippets. This year we have chosen a lively image from the 19 April 1928 issue: a man sits dozing on the edge of a jetty while dangling a fishing line over the side. A small boy is cheekily pulling up the fishing line from behind him. It has a lovely vintage feel.

Research Centre - NEW opening hours 2024



SAT midday-3pm

TUES, WEDS, THURS 10am-3pm

Changes to hours of operation on Saturdays

Our open plan arrangement in the Research Centre has one particular drawback: the noise of hybrid and in-person meetings is often not compatible with quiet private research and other normal activities in the Research Centre. Saturdays were particularly affected with a number of SIG meetings and New Members Welcome and Orientation having a disruptive impact on researchers, and vice versa.

Consequently, we have decided to quarantine activities wherever practicable. This has been achieved by rescheduling the Central European SIG, Scottish SIG and New Members Welcome and Orientation to Saturday mornings and adjusting the Research Centre opening times on Saturdays to midday-3pm - that is, not opening to researchers until after the mornings activities are over.

In this way, important member programs and services are maintained in a manner more likely to achieve satisfaction for all concerned.

Thank you to the various Convenors and Coordinators for their generous cooperation.

A defibrillator in the Research Centre

Management Committee has purchased a defibrillator and Facilities Manager Alan Bourne has installed the glass-fronted cabinet housing it on a wall in the Research Centre. Library Assistants have been familiarised with the defibrillator's use during their recent Training and Consultation sessions.

You may be interested to view a short video illustrating its function <u>here</u>.

Our Library Assistants do not have first aid training but the defibrillator is highly automated with clear audible spoken instructions so, if it is ever needed, it is quite simple to use.



We're excited to be hosting international speakers from the Ulster Historical Foundation for the benefit of our members and others interested in unlocking the secrets of their Irish heritage. If you have Irish heritage, do consider the advantages of attending this event with 90+ other family history researchers.

Can't attend in person? We're considering the possibility of recording the talks, to be made available in March for those who registered. If this possibility interests you, please email Dale Fogarty, Irish Research Group Convenor, here-to-find-out-more.

Ulster Historical Foundation Talks

Friday 16 February 2024 9am-1pm Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside

Advance your knowledge of Irish research at this very special morning featuring guests from the Ulster Historical Foundation.

This event is your gateway to tracing your roots, connecting with your ancestors, and embracing your unique heritage.



Program:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History research
- The importance of gravestone inscriptions and funerary monuments in Irish research
- Irish education and school records: the records of the National Education system
- Getting the most out of Griffith's Valuation

Book now for Ulster Historical Foundation Talks

Let's unlock the secrets of your Irish heritage together



Take a look at the <u>Volunteers</u> page on the QFHS website.

You will find information on the roles currently available and how to express interest in them.

If you're unsure of how you can contribute, simply supply a few details and our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Caroline Brudell, will be in contact for a chat. There really is something for everyone!

We rely completely on the support and contributions of our volunteers. Why not join us? Volunteering is 'win-win' – it benefits both the individual and the Society.

Why not volunteer with the TAG team?

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is vital to the Society's ability to deliver services to our members in their quest to discover more about their family history.



Currently, the TAG team

- maintains the network configuration and all associated devices at the Family History Research Centre.
- facilitates access to online commercial databases (eg Ancestry, Find my past).
- manages QFHS email accounts aliases, redirections and accounts with associated storage.
- assesses and advises Management Committee re
 - various software options, eg. Cloud storage, discussion boards/forums,
 - o possible future projects, eg. digitising the reference collection
 - privacy and digital security
- supports the work of the digitising and indexing teams by facilitating upload of data to QFHS datasets.
- manages in-house developed software: datasearch, membership/attendance system, the menu system for the array of QFHS research computers.

Additionally, TAG is currently invested in developing a replacement website utilising the WordPress platform. Major considerations in this project are

- a membership management system.
- an event registration capability and associated 'shop'.
- interface with the catalogue, vLibrary.
- interface with the Society's significant digital asset, QFHS datasets and the associated Datasearch program.

We would welcome new members to the TAG team and appreciate those with IT capabilities have backgrounds in specialised areas – hardware, software, apps, networks, data(base) development and maintenance, data analysis, website development and maintenance, project management and other niche areas.

Whatever your background and area of interest, we would be grateful for your contribution.

The TAG team volunteers are a mix of long-time members and newbies, and the work environment is collaborative with opportunities to take on specific projects and manage them with independence within the team. Members may volunteer in an ongoing capacity with network hardware maintenance or to take on a specific project, whether large or small,

as best suits their availability.

Most members of the TAG team meet on Fridays at the Research Centre but off-site contributions are also embraced.

Interested? Got questions? We'd be delighted to receive an Expression of Interest from you so our Volunteer Coordinator can contact you for an initial chat.

President's Update

Dear Members

Let's give a hearty three cheers and do some happy dancing for the Management Committee and all the previous MCs and individuals who worked to bring the Society to the point it could so successfully compete with many others for Brisbane City Council's community facility at 46 Delaware St, Chermside.

Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray! Thip hip HOORAY! Fit was no mean feat.

Our tender application was supported by a local community theatre group, Growl Theatre, and we will be sharing storage space with them at the Family History Research Centre. We are awaiting a lease from BCC Legal team before finalising arrangements with Growl Theatre and moving out of the storage shed to the rear of the building.

We currently have in storage – at Chermside and at a nearby storage facility – boxes boxes of potential family history treasures collected or donated over many years. Unfortunately, it appears the scale of collection/donation has exceeded our ability to manage them – to assess for suitability and to incorporate them into our collection and make them available for researchers.

The time has come to make such an assessment and to take resultant action. Thanks to a review of our Collection Development Policy, we will have the necessary guidance to make appropriate decisions about our multitude of boxes of potential treasures. The review is organised by Vice-President, Alex Daw, and led by experienced genealogist, founding member, and esteemed Fellow, Shauna Hicks with valued contribution from member volunteers Carolyn Grimward, Rosie Gall and Bev Young - thank you all for your time, expertise and interest.

I am hopeful there will be a number of projects defined and started during the year to bring these resources into the light for the benefit of all our members. I expect such projects to involve digitising resources so they available in some form to all members, far and wide. Eric and Rosemary Kopittke have made a start on assessing a large collection of boxed resources pertinent to Central European ancestry and known as the Les Moreland Collection. Les was a prolific collector of facts, sources and letters from a wide range of contributors and we are hopeful that, in this year of the 40th anniversary of the Central European Interest Group, a good start will be made on a suitable project. A celebration is being planned for Saturday 1 June (please make a note on your calendars) to acknowledge the 40th anniversary and this will be supplemented by the lasting legacy that access to the Les Moreland Collection will provide to all members with Central European heritage.

We also have a 10,000-volume print reference collection housed at the Family History Research Centre in Chermside, accessible by any member able to visit the premises. This valuable collection is the result of thousands of hours of volunteer labour and includes many resources not available elsewhere. Unfortunately, a significant proportion of our membership cannot access the value contained therein and I believe we must find ways to open our print reference collection to all our members.

Similarly, our collection of journals from family history and genealogical societies around Australia and beyond is extensive and full of interesting articles that would interest us and aid our research. While our Journals team is dedicated to making as much available as possible via sourcing digital versions, the print versions that family history societies continue to publish are largely limited to our members who physically visit the Research Centre. The journals specialists in the Print Library team are very keen to develop strategies to improve members' access to this valuable resource.

So, when I think of suitable priorities for the Society in 2024, I can list a few:

- * **Our premises** air conditioning, new security doors at two locations, replacement kitchen cabinetry, signage for kerbside and front façade.
- * **Our constitution** a replacement for current constitution and by-laws to meet the needs of the Society in the 21st century. Please check out the relevant webpage here and contribute to discussions on various topics as they are introduced.
- * Our website the development of a replacement website is a huge and important undertaking for Management Committee, ably led by TAG Coordinator MC member, Clem Ditton. We are hopeful that we'll see a replacement during 2024 but the constraints of money and time may prove a challenge. Elsewhere in Snippets is a description of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) team if you can contribute to their work for the Society, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Caroline Brudell hem2
- * Our resources adding to our array of digital resources and improving access for the benefit of all members.
- * **Our volunteers** we think you are fantastic and, whether you volunteer in large or small ways, we are grateful for your interest and dedication. We, very simply, do not have a Society without you. Nor can we expand our range of services and programs without more of you.

We have a number of important vacancies, highly important among them being Snippets

Editor. This edition of Snippets is the first for three years without the calm and competent management and friendly opening statement from Pat Smith, who retired from the position at the end of 2023. We thank Pat most fervently for her three years in the role. If members are finding this edition of Snippets a little discombobulated, that's because yours truly is at the helm – I do apologise if my head is still on holiday and I've left important notices out.

Snippets Editor is a member of the Communications team and vital to our ability to communicate effectively with our members. If you're interested in contributing to this important function, there's a role description for Snippets Editor and a Communications Team statement on the Volunteers page of the website <a href="https://example.com/hem-editors/he

Finally, we have an array of interesting events during the next month or so (information and booking links are provided elsewhere in Snippets)

- * What's New? Curated by Alex Daw, an open forum where we have the chance to share our exciting discoveries, connect with fellow genealogy enthusiasts, and stay updated on the latest in the world of family history research. I always learn something useful to my research at What's New?
- * **Presenting...** is back with another year of guest speakers on interesting topics. Thank you, Lyndal Cosgrove
- * **Learn@QFHS** starts the year with *Finding your Queensland Country Women's*Association History. CWA, a wonderful organisation with a long history in Queensland.
- * Ulster Historical Foundation Talks, brought to you by the Irish Research Group and the Management Committee with over 90 interested members and family historians already registered to hear the expert speakers from UHF Belfast on their Australasian tour, this mini-conference is already a success.
- * **Talking about...** continues with Nancy Edwards curating this popular format. Thank you, Nancy.
- * **Members Lounge Socials** starts the year with a guided tour of the Queensland Telecommunications Museum in Clayfield. Thanks to Chris Roberston for providing Members Lounge support and organising our ML Socials for the year.
- * Book Club this year, Alex Daw has selected specific books for us to read and discuss. Quite apart from the opportunity to get together in person, as well as online, all titles have been chosen both for their good storytelling and their value for us as family historians. Here's what successful and prize-winning author, Geraldine Brooks, has to say about Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's invisible life, the our first book for Book Club:

'Simply, a masterpiece. Here, Anna Funder not only re-makes the art of biography, she resurrects a woman in full. And this in a narrative that grips the reader and unfolds through some of the most consequential moments - historical and cultural - of the twentieth century.'

I'm so looking forward to reading, learning, researching, sharing and achieving with you all in 2024.



Allana O'Kane **President**

What's on?

Your calendar for the coming weeks



Events

Seminars, Workshops, Courses and Conversations

1 Feb 7.30pm (hybrid) Family History Toolkit - publishing a family history book

8 Feb 7.30pm (online) What's New?

9 Feb 10am (online) Learn@QFHS - Finding your QCWA History

12 Feb 7.30pm (online) Finding Your Family: fundamentals of research (week 1)

16 Feb 9am (in person) Ulster Historical Foundation Talks

21 Feb 7.30pm (hybrid) Presenting... Family History and the Big Picture 26 Feb 10am (hybrid) Book Club: Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life 28 Feb 10am (hybrid) Talking about... Researching a Biography

7 Mar 7pm (online) Learn@QFHS - Photogenealogy: an introduction

Bookings essential. Please check <u>website</u> for more information.

Other important dates

Members Lounge Socials

6 Feb 10.30am (in person) - Queensland Telecommunications Museum, Clayfield

New Members Welcome and Orientation:

21 Jan 9.30am (in person)

17 Feb 9.30am (in person)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)



Next meetings:

English West Country
DNA (beginners questions)
Family Tree Maker Users
Central European
Family Historian Software Users
Irish
Colonial India and Far East
The Master Genealogist Users
DNA (for those with some experience)
Scottish
QLD Pre-Separation
Family History Writing
Welsh
25 Jan - 12pm
27 Jan - 10am
2 Feb - 10am
3 Feb - 10am
4 Feb - 1pm
10 Feb - 10.30am

11 Feb - 10.30am
15 Feb - 7pm
24 Feb - 10am
9 Mar - 10am
9 Mar 1.30pm
16 Mar 9am
17 Mar 10am

Please check the QFHS website or contact the group convenor to confirm your meeting location. Meetings may alternate between online or in person at our **Family History Research Centre - 46 Delaware Street, Chermside**.

Learn more about QFHS SIGs

Would you like to learn more about a particular interest group or perhaps join them for a meeting? Click here and select an interest group. You can contact the SIG Convenor if you have any questions or would like to join a meeting.

Members Noticeboard



Members Lounge

Meet fellow members and share common interests.

We'll be providing many opportunities to do so with our learning and sharing events,

plus informative and enjoyable social activities.

Most events available free to Members

Activities included in the Members Lounge 2024

Book Club – every two months, members only, starting Monday 26 February

Family History Toolkit – every two months, alternating with Book Club. Members only

Presenting... guest speakers on a variety of interesting topics - monthly

Socials - mostly in-person activities every month: a film, excursion, coffee morning. Scheduled variously throughout the month as the activity dictates.

Talking about... – monthly, online. Join the conversation on a variety of engaging topics. Non-members are also welcome to attend.

Trout Game - an annual in-person activity. Use the game to assess your basic research skills and see if you can get back to the 1500s

What's New? - monthly, members only
Join the next session - Thursday 8 February 2024 - 7.30pm (online)



New Members
Welcome
and
Orientation

Get ready to make the most of your membership

These orientation sessions will be **held in person at the QFHS Family Research Centre**, **46 Delaware St Chermside**. It's your opportunity to learn more about our research resources, services and learning opportunities.

Not a new member but need an update on accessing resources at our Family History Research Centre? You're very welcome to join the sessions.

Session details:
Saturday 17 February 9.30am - 12.30pm (in person)
Sunday 24 March 9.30am - 12pm (online)

Events

Most of our speakers donate their time for the larger education benefit of our members. We are particularly grateful for the donation of time and effort from our own members. Their knowledge & expertise are valuable gifts to the Society and our members, and we thank them, one and all.

Family History Toolkit



Publishing with Momento

Thurs 1 Feb 7.30pm (AEST)
Hybrid - online and at QFHS
Chermside

a Members Lounge free event

Have you always wanted to publish a family history book? Maybe a coffee table book with lots of photos and short stories about your ancestors. What about a memory book recording your memories about your life or that of a parent? Maybe you want to publish something more serious and lengthy but don't know how to go about it.

There are many self-publishing options out there and Momento is an Australian company ... (<u>read more</u>)

Register here for Family History Toolkit

Members Lounge Socials



Join us for a guided tour through Queensland Telecommunications Museum

Tues 6 Feb 10.30am a Members Lounge free event

(although a gold coin donation would be appreciated)

Image: Pixabay.com

Various forms of Communications technology have had a significant impact on the history of settlement and family life in Queensland. Join us for a very interesting, guided tour of our early communications ... (<u>read more</u>)

Register here for Members Lounge Social

Learn@QFHS



Finding your Queensland Country Women's Association History

Presenter: Jeni Bush
Friday 9 Feb 2024
10 -11.30 am (AEST) Online
Tickets \$15 - \$25
Click here for more information

Register here for Learn@QFHS

Finding your Family: the fundamentals of research a six-week intensive training program



Presenters: QFHS Tutors

From Mon 12 Feb (2 hours attendance per week)

Online

Tickets \$60 - \$90

Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Registrations close 5 Feb 2024

Register here for Finding Your Family: the fundamentals of research

Presenting...

Family History and the Big Picture

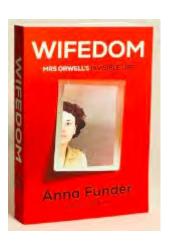


Presenter: Dr Gaye Wilson

Wednesday 21 Feb 2024
7.30-9.30pm (AEST)
Hybrid: online and in person
Free event
Click here for more information

Register here for Presenting...

Book Club



Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's invisible life

Mon 26 Feb 10am a Members Lounge free event

Let's read the book that's flying off the shelves in bookshops and libraries at the moment.

The book is part biography, part memoir, part ...(<u>read more</u>)

Family historians will be interested to discuss the challenges of writing a biography, the lost art of letter writing, and how much truth is revealed in letters. Fascinating!

Register here for Book Club - Wifedom

Talking about ...



Researching a Biography

Wed 28 Feb 2024 10am (AEST) Online

Click here for more information

Conferences



This major international event will be available on-line. Find out more about the program and how to register <u>here</u>.

What's New?



A new index, Australasian

Volunteers in American Civil War

1861-1865 has been added to our

Online Access/Searchable

Datasets/Military page for members to research.

This index provides details about people mentioned in a collection of books donated by James M.Gray that can now be found in the QFHS Print Library. The books deal mainly with Australian and New Zealand volunteers who fought in the American Civil War and those buried in Australia.

For members unable to visit the Library and Resource Centre, we provide a short Look-Up Request. Simply note the item of interest and complete the Look-Up form here.

If you're eager to keep abreast of the latest discoveries, resources and bright ideas join our free members forum.

What's New?



Thursday 8 February 7.30pm (online)
Thursday 14 March 7.30pm (online)

Haven't joined a What's New? session yet? Why not try it in 2024?

It's a great way to find out about new QFHS resources and the latest national and international Family History developments including events, collections and information sources. You'll also have an opportunity to engage with fellow members whilst sharing knowledge and discoveries.

What's New? sessions are held online monthly. See the Members Lounge page on the website <u>here</u> to learn more and register.

Register here for What's New? Thurs 8 Feb 7.30pm

Growl Theatre's next production



Self-obsessed 'feminist icon' Margot Mason is not having a good day. A gun-toting student, abandoned children and an irate taxi driver all conspire to prevent her from writing her next book in this satirical comedy.

Joanna Murray-Smith's deliciously wicked comedy deftly walks the tightrope between satire and farce proving the female of the species is not only deadlier, but funnier than the male.

*** CONTENT WARNING FOR THIS SHOW ***

This show contains coarse language, a prop gun and gun shot sound effect.

Show dates: 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 February 2024

Venue: Windsor School of Arts Hall, Windsor

Tickets on sale now here

What's Online



Our online resources keep growing

If you haven't found time this year to explore our on-line resources the summer break might be the perfect time to run some keyword searches. Consider these data collections and indexes which have been updated or added in 2023.

- QFHS Books: Name Accumulation Index.
- Queensland Schools Pupils Index Part 7
- Orphanage Admissions 1865 1909

The following datasets are very comprehensive and might just throw up that piece of evidence that you are looking for:

- Commonwealth Electoral Roll (Queensland) 1903, 1906,1913, 1922, 1934, 1941, 1949,1959,1969
- Early Queensland Electoral Rolls 1860-1884 and 1889
- Queensland Customs House Shipping 1852-1899: Passengers and Crew

Stay up to date by regularly searching our online collections and databases. You can search by logging in to the QFHS Website. Click on the **Online Access** tab then select **searchable datasets**.

International Databases and Sites

QFHS Subscriptions to International Databases

QFHS provides free access to an extensive range of information available through the library editions of the following websites (check the QFHS website for member login details)

From home

MyHeritage TheGenealogist (United Kingdom)

From the Research Centre at Chermside

Ancestry
Biographical Database of Australia
British Newspaper Archive
Emerald Ancestors (Northern Ireland)
Findmypast
Irish Ancestors (Ireland)
MyHeritage
TheGenealogist (United Kingdom)



QFHS is a FamilySearch affiliate library.

You can reach limited-access FamilySearch databases and images on the QFHS computers.

Interesting article from ABC News website

Criss-crossed letter from 1879 sends family on a journey to solve the mystery of its author

Also online - cybercrime!

We have experienced an increase in phishing where a scammer uses the identity of a Management Committee member or other volunteer to elicit information. The scammers are getting more sophisticated, having moved on from the fantastical 'you've won a million dollars, please provide your bank details so we can transfer funds' to now communicating in such a way that a moment's inattention on our part could lead to a result for them. We all must learn to recognise the small signs that something may not be quite right and offer this example of an email from 'Allana' to Alex.

From: Allana O'Kane wassmmx@optimum.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:40 AM
To: vice-president@gfhs.org.au

Not always apparent at first glance but this is not Allana's email address.

Subject: Hello Alex

Attn. Alex,

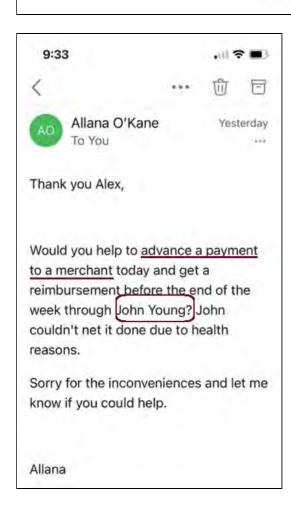
Cheers,

Allana O'Kane

We encourage you to think (for example):

I understand your busy schedule, Can you be available to aid with an assignment? Kindly advise.

- * does this sound like the 'sender'?
- * do they usually start their emails with words like Attention/Attn?
- * have they ever mentioned 'assignments'?
- * does something not ring true?



As you can see from the follow up email (left), the scammers are using names and positions of real people - John Young is the Treasurer so using his name in relation to a request to transfer funds gives credibility to the email.

Names and positions of Management Committee members and other volunteers are listed in QFHS publications and on our website, so unfortunately these phishing attempts are a fact of life.

We urge members to educate themselves about acts like phishing and other cybercrime.

This website has useful information: https://www.cyber.gov.au/learnbasics/explore-basics/recognise-andreport-scams

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those who have taken time out to send items of interest to our Snippets mailbox at snippets @qfhs.org.au

The more we receive, the more interesting to members our newsletter will be. If your submission does not appear in this issue, we will try to include it in a future edition. Please note that reference to any product does not imply endorsement. Members are cautioned to evaluate products prior to purchase.

The Family History Research Centre is located on the traditional lands of the Turrbal & Jagera peoples.

Disclaimer: This newsletter is produced in good faith, and information received is deemed to be accurate but the editor takes no responsibility for incorrect information supplied. [Editor's note: The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Editor or of QFHS.]

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