



## February 2014, Vol 14, No 2

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A bumper edition for you this month with lots of local and overseas websites for you to browse.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn how to use photographs to enhance your family tree software at Using PaintShop Pro Tools with Fran Warner on 14 February or attend our first seminar for the year, On Death and Burial, on 1 March. Dr Kerry Raymond, Helen Smith and Dr Leigh Summers will instruct you on the use of sites to assist you in your research. Don't miss it.

Have you visited our new website? Search the v-Library catalogue (includes microfiche) <http://qfhs.org.au/library/catalogue-search/> or browse the bookshop, all from the comfort of your own home.

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### Calendar

- 01 Feb - Chris Paton and Thomas MacEntee downunder
  - 05 Feb - Management Committee Meeting
  - 07 Feb - FTM User Group. **Learn to install the 2014 version FTM**
  - 08 Feb - Irish Interest Group
  - 09 Feb - ss Pearl Commemoration Maritime Museum
  - 14 Feb - **Fridays@QFHS: Using PaintShop Pro Tools**
  - 15 Feb - New Members' Welcome and Orientation
  - 19 Feb - Members' Meeting - **Queen of the Dance Halls: Cloudroom Ballroom in Brisbane 1939 - 1982**
  - 22 Feb - FTM User Group. **Learn to install the 2014 version FTM**
  - 01 Mar - **Seminar: On Death and Burial**
  - 01 Mar - **Fridays@QFHS: DNA Basics**
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## Happenings

### Chris Paton and Thomas MacEntee downunder - Brisbane

Unlock the Past will be holding a full day seminar with presenters Chris Paton (Scotland) and Thomas MacEntee (US). The seminar features four main presentations and short presentations by partners. There will also be exhibitions, special offers, and hundreds of dollars worth of prizes.



**WHEN:** Saturday 1 February 2014, 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

**WHERE:** Broncos Leagues Club, Fulcher Road, Red Hill

More information at <http://tinyurl.com/mukdapk>

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### 'Brisbane's Worst Disaster'

*On Thursday 13 February 1896, the river steamer s.s. 'Pearl' was capsized by flood waters near Victoria Bridge, Brisbane with about thirty people being drowned and some sixty people being saved by various means.*

For descendants and interested people there will be a commemoration of this tragic event at the Queensland Maritime Museum, (old Government Dry Dock), Stanley Street, South Brisbane, on Sunday 9 February 2014, at 2.00 pm.

For further information please contact Paul Seto, [pseto@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pseto@bigpond.net.au) or 07 54381078. Author: '1896 "Pearl" Ferry Capsizing Near Victoria Bridge, Brisbane River', 2011, second edition: 2013.

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## Education - Workshops/Courses/Seminars

### Fridays@QFHS: Using PaintShop Pro Tools

**When:** 10.00 am to 11.30 am on 14 February 2014

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** Fran Warner

PaintShop Pro is a powerful photo editing software you can use to create or enhance your images.

More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-training-courses/>

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### Seminar: On Death and Burial

**When:** 9.00 am to 12.30 pm 1 March 2014

**Where:** Queensland Baptists Conference Centre, 53 Prospect Road, Gaythorne

**Presenters:** Dr Kerry Raymond, Helen Smith, Dr Leigh Summers

- Burials: both an end and a means.



- Death Certificates: fact or fiction.
- Jet is black but it also sparkles.



More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-seminars/>

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### **Fridays@QFHS: DNA Basics**

**When:** 10.00 am to 11.30 am 14 March 2014

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** Chris Schuetz

How can DNA help you find family? Are you planning to submit a DNA sample for testing to assist in your research? This session is a primer for those intending to take DNA testing for all male and all female lines. More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-training-courses/>

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## **Web Wanderings**

### **National Library of Australia Online Research Guides**

Are you wondering how to start your research at the National Library? These guides contain key resources on selected subjects including: Australian literature, law, politics and family history (including Australian birth, death and marriage records, and shipping and passenger records). Go to: <http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides>

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### **Trove Adds another 53 Historic Newspapers**

The largest additions are from New South Wales and Victoria. Go to: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

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### **New Zealand's WWI Commemorative Website**

New Zealand has launched their commemorative website devoted to remembering the events of World War I. It is full of excellent information concerning New Zealand's involvement in the war, including the incredible fact that 10% of the country's population at the time was serving overseas. If you have New Zealand ancestors, this is a website that you will want to bookmark and return to on a regular basis. Access is free at: <http://ww100.govt.nz/>

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### **National Archives United Kingdom Guide to Records**

If you are new to The National Archives and want some help getting started with your family history or any other kind of research, go to <http://tinyurl.com/kaodbo6> for lots of helpful hints.

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### **UK/Ireland Royal Tank Corp Records**

FindMyPast has published the enlistment records of over 88,000 soldiers who served in the Royal Tank Corps from 1919 to 1934. According to FindMyPast, thousands of Irishmen are also featured in this record set. The collection contains details on previous military service, useful biographical information and the date of discharge. Available via subscription or free at the QFHS library at: <http://tinyurl.com/ovy2y98>

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### **British Rate Book Records**

FindMyPast has published a unique collection of 19 million British rate book records.

The records come from Manchester (1706 to 1900), Plymouth & West Devon (1598 to 1933), Southwark, and Westminster (1634 to 1900). If you are not familiar with rate books, they require some description. The passing of the Poor Law Act in 1601 compelled households to pay rates to help maintain the poor in their area. The rate paid was calculated based on the value of the property. This information was recorded in a rate book. Over time, the rates system evolved and the funds collected were used to pay for things other than welfare, such as local improvements to roads and canals. Available via subscription or free at the QFHS library at:

<http://tinyurl.com/bpnbv5c>

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### **Pre 1858 UK Wills**

Ancestry.co.uk has added a collection of pre-1858 wills. The collection contains about 1 million records. The wills in this collection were managed by the ecclesiastical courts of the Church of England (wills prior to 12 January 1858 were managed by the church). Wills provide a good means of understanding family members and family relationships. A typical will lists spouses, children, and sometimes even parents. Available via subscription or free at the QFHS library at:

<http://tinyurl.com/loe4u96>

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### **FamilySearch adds**

FamilySearch.org has created a massive new collection of indexes for births, marriages and deaths that cover England and Wales from 1837 to 1920. In total, there are 65.6 million births listed, 35.1 million marriages, and 40.6 million deaths. Note these are indexes and not complete records. These indexes will, however, point you to the exact location of the record.

UK Birth Index: <http://tinyurl.com/k4ngsf2>

UK Marriage Index: <http://tinyurl.com/kqa5fgg>

UK Death Index: <http://tinyurl.com/khxbl7w>

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### **1.5 Million Pages of British WWI Diaries are Digitised and Available**

The National Archives in London has announced it is putting diaries of World War I British soldiers online. The diaries record life in the trenches for all British military units, which were required to keep official journals daily. The archives hold about 1.5 million pages of these accounts, and about 20 percent of them have been digitised so far.

Volunteers have been scanning the diaries, which have been available for public view at the National Archives in Kew since the late 1960s. They can contain details that were not allowed to be sent in letters home. You can read more in an article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25716569>

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### **Operation War Diary: A Crowdsourcing Project**

The National Archives of Great Britain has just launched a huge project to digitise First World War unit war diaries. The diaries are amongst the most popular records at The National Archives and scanning them has been the biggest digitisation project undertaken so far.

The National Archives is asking for your help to make this collection even more valuable. The project hopes to create new "Citizen Historians," working together to make previously inaccessible information available to researchers worldwide.

If you can spare an hour of your time – more if you can spare it – to read and tag a

few diary pages. The data you extract will be added to the appropriate image in the database, making it possible to search for those names, places, or activities. Your efforts will greatly help future genealogists and historians. You can read more about this worthwhile project at: <http://tinyurl.com/ny23mk5> The diaries are available at: <http://www.operationwardiary.org/>

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#### **London Poor Law Abstracts 1581-1899 Online**

Abstracts of over 22,400 London Poor Law records, covering over 300 years and 66 City of London parishes, are now online at Origins.net. These poor law abstracts (summaries) contain a complete summary of the details contained within each entry and includes all details including names and places plus incidental information such as relationships and occupations where found in the original documents.

Poor Law abstracts include: Apprenticeship indentures, Bastardy examinations, Indemnity bonds, Quarter sessions and appeals, Settlement examinations and removal orders, Vagrant removal orders, Workhouse admission and discharges.

Available via subscription. You can search London Poor Law Abstracts 1581-1899 at: <http://tinyurl.com/pzsp7hs>

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#### **New Dudley Borough Archive Now Open**

You can research the past at Dudley's new £6 million archives and local history centre which was recently opened. It houses the borough's archives which date back to the 12th century. The centre holds a vast quantity of archive material which would stretch for two miles if placed end-to-end. The priceless collection is housed in a state-of-the art strongroom in temperature-controlled conditions. You can learn more in an article at: <http://tinyurl.com/lypvhol>

The Archive's website can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/c92un2f>

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#### **Historical Birth, Marriage and Death Records Go Online on ScotlandsPeople**

The digital images of the official statutory records are of birth, marriage and death records that were registered more than 100, 75 and 50 years ago. The new images will be available on the ScotlandsPeople website at:

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

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#### **Tracing your Irish Ancestors – Free Guide**

This free guide was published for visitors by the Ulster Historical Foundation and it will be very helpful to anyone who is looking to research their Irish ancestors. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/q9ph5nb>

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#### **County Down and County Antrim Church of Ireland Records and Belfast Roman Catholic Records Online**

Roots Ireland have just added over 16,000 Church of Ireland baptismal records for County Down along with over 8,000 Roman Catholic records for Belfast.

County Antrim can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/kl544mw> and

County Down at: <http://tinyurl.com/nyeebol>

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#### **Records of 49,000 Irish WWI Dead in New Digital Archive**

A new online archive lists the 49,000 soldiers from the island of Ireland who died during the First World War or as a result of wounds sustained during battle. The archive, "Ireland's Memorial Records," has been developed in a cooperative venture involving Google, the In Flanders Fields Museum in Belgium and by Ireland's

Department of Foreign Affairs.

You can read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/I927na4> The new online archive may be found at: <http://imr.inflandersfields.be/search.html>

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### **York State Historical Photos & Newspapers - 1795 to 2007**

The Fulton History web site is a free collection of old newspapers, photographs, and post cards and can be found at: <http://www.fultonhistory.com/>. The index of all available newspapers may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/m86baah>

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### **More New York City Vital Records Going Online**

More than 10 million New York City birth, death and marriage records spanning from 1866 to 1948 are now online at Ancestry.com. Best of all, the City's records will be available free of charge on Ancestry.com at: <http://tinyurl.com/89cf6az> where users can browse through birth, death and marriage records, and also gain entry to the vast collection of the city's Municipal Archives.

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### **Family Search Free Online Records from Ellis Island**

FamilySearch.org has made a huge increase to the collection of New York City passenger records. Some 28.3 million additional records have been indexed and put online from two different time periods:

1820 to 1891: <http://tinyurl.com/n35bn47> and

1909 to 1957: <http://tinyurl.com/mfxgraz>

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### **Albany County, New York, Marriages, Deaths & Miscellany 1837 - 1860**

This new database of 380 pages is drawn from the West Troy Advocate newspaper covering marriages, deaths & miscellany 1837 - 1860. You can view these records by going to the Troy Irish Genealogy website at: <http://www.troyirish.com> and then click on 'West Troy Advocate Newspaper'.

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### **Two New Databases Added to the Troy Irish Genealogy Website**

Re-Interments from St. Mary's Cemetery Albany, New York

The disinterment from the old St. Mary's Cemetery, Washington Avenue in Albany, began around 1875 and the removal work was not finished until 1917. The closing of this cemetery coincided with the closing of many other family and church cemeteries in the Albany city limits. You can view these records by going to the Troy Irish Genealogy website at: <http://www.troyirish.com> and click on PROJECTS and then click on ST. MARY'S CEMETERY, ALBANY, NY - RE-INTERMENT RECORDS.

Styles Funeral Home Records, Troy, NY

Book 1 showing burials from the Styles Funeral Home in Troy, NY during the years 1909 to 1927 has just been added to the Troy Irish Genealogy Website. You can view these records by going to: <http://www.troyirish.com> and click on PROJECTS and then click on STYLES FUNERAL HOME RECORDS, TROY, NY.

You can learn more at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nytigs/>

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### **Historic Pittsburgh Census Project**

This database allows users to search early 1850 to 1880 censuses of the city. The records can be searched by a variety of means, including by name, by street, by city of birth and by occupation. Access is free at: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/census/web.ancestry.com/~nytigs/>

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### **World War I Prisoner of War Cards Available Online**



A collection of records of Jewish prisoners of war in Siberia from 1920 has been indexed and is now available online. The soldiers, depicted on the more than 1,000 cards that comprise the collection, served in the German and Austro-Hungarian armies. Consequentially these records, many of which contain biographical information and rare photographs, are an incredible historical resource.

The genealogical information on these cards includes: the name of the prisoner; where and when he was born, did his army service and was captured; home address; nationality; religion and occupation; photographs as well as other information. You can read more about this database at: <http://tinyurl.com/khhng32>

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### **First World War Centenary Website**

The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. There will be many websites launched in 2014 to commemorate this event. A good place to follow the action is the First World War Centenary website. It provides useful information on upcoming events and website launches. It also has a very useful guide for genealogists wanting to research soldiers from World War I. Access is free. See more at: <http://www.1914.org/about/family-history/>

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### **History of WW1 video**

For those whose knowledge of the events of World War I is a bit rusty, this concise and very useful video provides the major highlights. Enjoy viewing at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXqppJ-L88U>

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## **General items of interest**

### **Oral Family History can be Lost in Three Generations**

It is not unusual for genealogists today to have conflicting stories about an ancestor if oral history was not passed down in a deliberate way through the generations. It only takes three generations to lose a piece of oral family history. It must be purposely and accurately repeated over and over again through the generations to be preserved for a genealogist today. You can read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lq2ur6s>

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### **80-Year-Old Murder Victim Identified by DNA Evidence Supplied by a Genealogist**

A woman investigating her family tree has supplied a DNA sample that has now identified a previously-unknown murder victim.

An unknown man was murdered in Northampton, England, in 1930. The body was badly damaged after being burned in a car that had been deliberately set on fire. Police soon identified the murderer but the name of the victim remained unknown until Samantha Hall became suspicious that the body in the vehicle might be that of her uncle. You can read the interesting story at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25722259>

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## **Members' Noticeboard**

### **Toowong History Group**

On Thursday, 6 February, our first speaker for 2014 is Greg Hallam, historian for the Queensland railways. In February of 1914, 100 years ago, Queensland Railways commemorated the 50th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the first section of railway line in Queensland, and to highlight the occasion trains were

brought into what is now King George Square.

Toowong History Group meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm to 9pm, with tea and coffee available following the meeting. Meetings are held in the Toowong State School Historical Library with entry via Kate Street (off Sylvan Road). No fees or membership are required – and everyone is welcome.

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### **Caloundra Family History Research Inc.**

After 10 years at the Guide Hut, the Caloundra Family History group was forced to seek new premises by mid-January 2014. Caloundra Family History Research Inc. will be 'open for business' from Saturday, 1 February 2014, which is also Grand Opening Day at the new premises. Enter at Gate 2 to access the new rooms which are located at The Sunshine Coast Turf Club, at Corbould Park in Pierce Avenue, Caloundra. There is plenty of parking right beside the facility, which has wheelchair access.

Further directional details, and a map, are on our website at:

<http://www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au/index.html>

The group's February guest speaker will be popular raconteur and author, Dr James Lergessner, and his presentation will be on "Convict Foundations".

Enquiries are welcomed by contacting June on (07) 5493 2679 or Roz on (07) 5493 1197. The group can also be reached by email at: [caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com](mailto:caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com)

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## **Book Review**



Kevin Brown, in *Poxed and Scurvied*, traces the development of health care and well being on ships over the centuries. The transmission mode of the Black Death via early merchant vessels and injury through war on naval vessels provides the backdrop for this history. The Royal Navy led the way in advances for shipboard living. It was a significant advantage to have a healthy crew and a vessel not quarantined. The quality of navy surgeons, the crew's diet, injury management and hygiene were key factors in advances on naval ships. This then filtered through to merchant and immigrant vessels. By the late 19th century life at sea was no longer seen as a threat to one's well being. Advice to "take the sea air" was seen as advantageous - especially a long sea voyage to Australia! This is not a narrow study of medicine at sea but rather a fascinating picture of social improvement.

Indexed and sourced, 246p, Seaforth Publishing, 2011. Review courtesy of Pam Masel.

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## **Trivia**

### **Mix-up at a Fertility Clinic**

This story is about a clinical technician at a fertility clinic who was recently revealed



to be the biological father of a young woman who has been researching her family tree. You can watch the interview at: <http://tinyurl.com/kdc28wl>

You can also read a lot more about this story at: <http://tinyurl.com/msauqh>

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## 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](mailto:snippets@qfhs.org.au)

The more we receive, the more frequently we can produce a Newsletter. 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.

Pauline Macfarlane

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