

# Snippets

**March 2014, Vol 14, No 3**

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Our Society is run entirely by volunteers. Everyone who is an office bearer, serves on the Management Committee, is a Library Assistant or an Indexer does so because they want to contribute to the work of the Society and does so willingly.

We are always seeking volunteers to fill positions within the Society. Right now, we need a couple of people who will help with the Library Coordinating Committee, someone to look after the garden at the Library and Resource Centre, and some people to assist with outside events, that is events away from our own premises.

In June, the Society will hold its Annual General meeting. Perhaps you would be interested in being on the Management Committee. All positions will be declared vacant at the AGM, but specifically our Treasurer will have to step down, due to the three year clause in the Society Constitution. Our Secretary will not be nominating for the position in 2014-2015. If you would like to help with any of these roles, please email [secretary@qfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@qfhs.org.au)

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## Calendar

- 05 Mar - Management Committee Meeting
- 07 Mar - FTM User Group Meeting
- 08 Mar - Scottish SIG Meeting
- 14 Mar - Fridays@QFHS: DNA Basics
- 15 Mar - Family History Writing Group
- 08 Mar - TMG User Group Meeting
- 19 Mar - Members' Meeting: Researching your suburb and family home

- 21 Mar - New Members Welcome and Orientation
- 22 Mar - Central European Group SIG Meeting
- 23 Mar - Welsh SIG Meeting
- 27 Mar - English West Country SIG Meeting

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## Happenings

### QFHS Open Day

The theme for this year's QFHS Open Day is ***Your Family Tree – more than names and dates!*** We would like to produce a slide show featuring members' treasures, complete with a short story and image, if you have one. Homes, schools attended, Nana's recipes, Grandpa's travels, newspaper articles - anything you may have used to complete an interesting story about a family member or 'to put meat on the bones'.

Send to: [marketing@qfhs.org.au](mailto:marketing@qfhs.org.au)

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## Education - Workshops/Courses/Seminars

### Fridays@QFHS: DNA Basics

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

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** Chris Schuetz

**Note:** Only a few places left so be quick!

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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### Fridays@QFHS: Education Dept and School Records for Family History Research

**When:** 11 April 2014

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** Dr Geoff Morgan

This seminar will highlight records relating to teachers, district inspectors, and students that are available for family history research. These records are across a range of educational jurisdictions; this presentation will have a particular focus on Queensland educational history and records. More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-training-courses/>

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### Fridays@QFHS: Using Directories for Research

**Limited numbers so book early to avoid disappointment.**

**When:** 9 May 2014

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** Chris Schuetz

Trade directories, post office directories, court directories, and almanacs from Australia and other countries contain a wealth of information. Come along and learn how to use the directories held by QFHS and other libraries, such as the State Library of Queensland. More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-training-courses/>

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### **QFHS Trout Game**

Allow yourself the privilege of having a fun day in family history and play the Trout Game! The game simulates researching an English family (the Trout family) using eleven types of records. The aim is to see if you can get back to the 1500s. Use the game to see how good a researcher you are using basic research techniques not involving computers at all, and find out why you may have brick-walls in your research. The Trout Game will be played on Sunday, 18 May 2014 from 10am to 4pm at QFHS Library. Cost is \$5.00 which includes morning and afternoon tea (BYO lunch). To make your booking, contact Game Master Ann Swain via email at: [a.swain@bigpond.com](mailto:a.swain@bigpond.com) or telephone (07) 3352 5537. Numbers are limited and early bookings are essential.

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## **Web Wanderings**

### **Queensland State Archives' Seminars**

#### **Find Your First World War Soldier**

Tuesday, 18 March 2014 from 10am to 12 Noon.

Join us for a workshop which may help you locate records (aside from service files) on your First World War soldier. Bring your wireless device – laptop or tablet – to join in research exercises presented during the workshop.

#### **Harmony Day Seminar**

10 am to 11.30 am, Friday 21 March 2014

Celebrate Harmony Day and the importance of multiculturalism in Queensland's history. Join us for a seminar focusing on research using records in collection that focus on multicultural groups in Queensland.

To make your booking for the above free sessions, call (07) 3131 7777 or email:

[info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au)

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### **Colonial South Australian Pioneers**

Early settler arrivals, births, marriages, deaths and burials in Adelaide and wider South Australia can be found at: <http://familyhistorysa.info/colonists.html>

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### **Tasmanian Immigration Records**

Search the Index to 19th Century Passenger and Ships Arrivals. Many records have now been digitised. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/n3h9dxv>

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### **SODA – Newly Scanned Records from the National Archives of Australia**

Keep up with newly-scanned records from the National Archives of Australia. You can also create alerts for your subject. More information is available from:

<http://soda.naa.gov.au/>

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### **What You Can Expect to See on an Historical Australian BDM Certificate**

Graham Jaunay has compiled all the details you need to know. Go to:

<http://jaunay.com/bdm.html>

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### **Convict Records**

Leading family history website FindmyPast has launched over 640,000 convict records, making it the most comprehensive online convict collection.

The Convict Transportation Registers 1787-1870 database contains original handwritten records and transcripts relating to some 123,000 convicts

<http://tinyurl.com/m2m8dy8>

The records include over 515,000 documents featuring a collection of early convicts and settlers records such as transportation details and crimes committed, and 125,000 Convict Transportation Registers.

For further information, or free at our library, visit <http://www.findmypast.com.au/>.

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### **The Manchester Guardian**

This digital archive holds pdf images of almost every issue going back to the

Manchester Guardian's launch in 1821. Find the archive at: <http://tinyurl.com/kkv7la7>

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### **Kensal Green Burial Records Online**

Deceased Online has completed digitising the records from Kensal Green cemetery in London. Kensal Green was opened in 1833. Access is by subscription. You can find

the burial records at: <http://tinyurl.com/l djhs7j>

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### **Middlesex Military Service Appeal Tribunal 1916 – 1918**

These records are the case files of over 8,000 men who were appealing against their conscription into the army during the First World War. More information is available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/op2rs7r>

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### **York Peculiars Original Probate Documents Available on Origins.net**

Most of the York Peculiars Probate records held at The Borthwick Institute for Archives have been digitised, and National Wills Index subscribers can now purchase the original documents images using Pay per View credits and view these images directly from the index records.

This collection makes available, exclusively on the National Wills Index, a comprehensive index to over 25,000 wills and other probate documents proved in the 54 Peculiar Courts of the Province of York between 1383 and 1857.

The index notes which documents are currently available online for this ongoing digitalisation project. Where documents have not yet been digitised, copies can be ordered online, which will then be emailed as digitised images. You can search York Peculiars Probate Collection 1383-1857 at: <http://tinyurl.com/m67g2cr>

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### **Scotlands Historical Property Records Go Online**

The Valuation Rolls of 1885 offer genealogists and other history researchers a fascinating picture of Victorian Scottish society. Property records containing the names and addresses of more than 1.4 million people living in Scotland in 1885 have been

released on ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk.

Called Valuation Rolls, the new records cover every type of property which was assessed as having a rateable value in 1885 and include details of owners, tenants and occupiers of property. There are now five sets of Valuation Rolls, covering the years 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915 and 1920. These are essentially property assessments and cover every kind of property. A typical Valuation Roll lists the address, the name and occupation of the owner or tenant and the yearly rent or value. The 1885 Valuation Roll covers 1,441,484 people. Pay by view site <http://tinyurl.com/lmk9jwy>

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### **An Online Graves and Graveyards Finder for Ireland**

The Historic Graves project is a community-focused grassroots heritage project. All information is contributed by volunteers and all information on the site is available free of charge. The volunteers are located in Ireland and are part of local community groups who have been trained in low-cost, high-tech field surveys of historic graveyards and recording of their own oral histories. Together, they have built a multi-media online written, visual, and audio record of the historic graves in their own areas and have contributed the information to the Historic Graves project.

This is a great resource for anyone researching Irish ancestry. It is a "work in progress." That is, not all graveyards have been surveyed yet but new information is being added frequently. You can see a map of the completed graveyards at:

<http://historicgraves.com/graveyardsmap>. Click on an area of interest on the map to "zoom in" and see the details. The Historic Graves project may be found at:

<http://www.historicgraves.com>

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### **New Waterford Death Records available**

RootsIreland has available over 90,000 Death Records from Waterford City and County period 1864 – 1912. Go to: <http://waterford.rootsireland.ie/search.php>

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### **Findmypast Adds 2.5 Million new British in India Records**

Findmypast has just published more than 2.5 million records detailing the lives of the British in India from 1698 to 1947. The newly-released records cast light on the careers and family lives of expats, the significance of the East India Company, the offices of power, infant mortality, Anglo Indian marriages, family relationships, and the lives of women in India. The details of expats' lives and deaths are documented in a variety of records ranging from returns of baptisms, marriages and burials, civil and military pensions and wills. Available by subscription or free at the QFHS Library. You can read the details at: <http://tinyurl.com/l8kxhxa>

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### **British India Office Births & Baptisms 1712-1965**

Find the births and baptisms of ancestors who lived or worked in India and other territories administered by the India office (Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh, St Helena, Sumatra, Aden, Penang, Macao). Discover where and when they were born and baptised as well as other useful biographical information at: <http://tinyurl.com/nyw64es>

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### **Map of United States' Ancestries by County**

The United States' Census Bureau has a map and a lot of text information that may interest people who are beginning to research family history. It shows the top reported

ancestries in the United States, as provided by the 2000 census. Areas with the largest "American" ancestry populations were mostly settled by some English, French, Welsh, Scottish and Irish; but by an overwhelming majority of Scots-Irish.

Obviously, this doesn't prove that your ancestors settled in these areas after arriving in the U.S. as there were many exceptions. However, it does show many of the more likely locations where you might start your search for records. You can find the information at: <http://tinyurl.com/as95h>

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### **Online Database Lists Union and Confederate Civil War Soldiers**

The database contains the names and other basic information from 6.3 million soldiers' records. You can access the free Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System at:

<http://www.civilwar.nps.gov>

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### **Free Search on all Origins.net Collections**

This free search facility allows researchers to search any collection without the initial need to register or subscribe. You can search either the whole site or specific collections, and only need to pay if you want to view the records. Start your free searching at: <http://www.origins.net/>

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## **General items of interest**

### **State Library of Queensland Releases Heritage Tourism Booklets**

The State Library of Queensland has just digitised 7,000 pages of heritage tourism booklets from all regions. The content is lovely, with great graphics - all out of copyright so everyone can feel free to use. For this and other Queensland digitised memorabilia see: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/jol/author/ccottle/>

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### **Queensland State Archives has Reached 50 Kilometres of Archival Records!**

To celebrate, they want you to tell them what your favourite QSA record is. Whether it's a school admission register, a photograph of an ancestor, or the Queensland Proclamation, email [web@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:web@archives.qld.gov.au) and they will post your favourite on this site. In the meantime, have a look at other people's favourite records

<http://blogs.archives.qld.gov.au/>

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### **Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award**

Yvonne Jenkins of Rydal was a well-known family historian and author of several books on family history. The Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. has chosen to commemorate Yvonne's memory each year by conducting the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award. Entry is open to both members and non-members of the Society and is in the form of a short essay. The topic for the 2014 award is "My Ancestor was a ...". Entries close on 30 April 2014 and must be accompanied by an entry form, which is available from: <http://tinyurl.com/mfszubw>

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### **ANZAC Connections: First World War Centenary Digitisation Project**

The Australian War Memorial is currently undertaking a project to create a comprehensive digital archive of the ANZACs and their deeds, and of the wider Australian experience of war. The collections are selected from our extensive archives

and reflect the experiences of Australian servicemen, nurses and civilians during the First World War, not just well-known personalities. This project will digitally preserve the Memorial's collections as well as provide full copies for research on the Memorial's website.

As part of this project the Memorial is seeking contact with relatives of the persons listed at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/m7jbskh> If you have any further information about these people, or their descendants, the Memorial would love to talk to you. Please contact Nick Crofts via [PubandDig@awm.gov.au](mailto:PubandDig@awm.gov.au).

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### **Fire Breaks Out at the National Archives in Kew, London**

Fortunately, the fire was confined to two water towers that are no longer used. A spokeswoman from the National Archives said everyone was evacuated from the building safely and no documents were damaged. You can read more at the BBC News web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/pph5ebr>

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### **Preserving Irish Dialects Forever with the Doegen Records Web Project**

Irish dialects have always varied widely from one county to another. With the advent of radio, television, easy travel, and other factors, the individual dialects are disappearing. The Doegen Records Web Project is an archive of Irish dialect sound recordings made from 1928 to 1931 containing folktales, songs and other material recited by native Irish speakers from 17 counties. Crucially, it includes examples of dialects that are now extinct.

The 212 surviving records which comprise the collection contain some 400 tracks in all. These include folktales, versions of the parable of the Prodigal Son, songs (both sung and spoken), discourses, prayers and miscellaneous items of vocabulary such as recitations of the numbers 1 to 30 or the days of the week. You can learn how your Irish ancestors spoke at: <http://www.doegen.ie/>

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### **Forthcoming Online Service for BDM Records from Northern Ireland**

The North of Ireland Family History Society's Facebook page has some good news for anyone researching ancestors in what is now Northern Ireland. The GRONI (the General Register Office for Northern Ireland) spent about three years digitising their records. Those records are now expected to be available online very soon. You can read the full article at: <http://tinyurl.com/n4qyvmh>

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### **Philomena Project to Help Adoptees Find Families**

The Philomena Project, in association with the Adoption Rights Alliance, will lobby the Irish State to grant access to adoption records for both in-country and Irish-US adopted people and their families.

The project aims to provide finance, campaigning mechanisms, supports, and services to natural mothers who have been unable to or prevented from tracing children taken from them by adoption, particularly forced and illegal adoptions. It will also assist the now-adult children, to trace their natural mothers, fathers, and extended families, and to obtain their birth certificates and other relevant records. You can read more at:

<http://thephilomenaproject.org/>

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This website lists websites that bill themselves as general-interest portals to historical resources. The list isn't complete, but is a good starting point to look. There are two lists on the website. Table 1 lists 66 websites that relate to individual states. Table 2 lists five sites that cover multiple states. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6xs7q3>

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### **Three Parents Listed on a Birth Certificate**

A Vancouver baby has just become the first child in British Columbia with three parents listed on a birth certificate. British Columbia's new Family Law Act, which came into effect in 2013, allows for three or even more parents. You can read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/one9j6d>

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### **Richard III to Have His Genome Mapped**

A year after they revealed a twisted skeleton found under a car park as the mortal remains of King Richard III, scientists in Britain plan to grind samples of his ancient bones and use them to map his genome.

The project, which may alter perceptions of the last king of England to die in battle more than 500 years ago, aims to learn about Richard's ancestry and health, and provide a genetic archive for historians, researchers and the public. For more information, go to:

<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=30688>

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### **Photographs from Spanish-American War of 1898 Discovered**

A wooden box recently found at Washington Naval Yard storage space contained 150 glass plate photos showings scenes from Manila, Philippines, during the Spanish-American War. The wooden box was filled with 150 original glass plate photos, individually wrapped in tissue paper, including full captions and dates, which were likely prepared by the photographer, Douglas White. You can read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/kro9nlx>

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### **Family History Centre Guests to Receive Free Access to More Family History Records**

Recently, FamilySearch.org announced plans to collaborate with several commercial family history organizations to share records, tools and other resources to allow more people to build, preserve and share their family trees online. The complete announcement is available at: <https://familysearch.org/node/2523>.

Another part of the agreement is the provision of free access to Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com in LDS Church family history centres worldwide. Anyone may access these commercial web sites at no charge by visiting a nearby Family History Centre. You may find your nearest centre at:

<https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>

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### **Facebook Will Make 'Look Back' Videos for Deceased Users**

Here is a method of leaving an online legacy, even after you have departed from this earth. Facebook has altered its privacy settings on memorialised profiles so that all functions operate as they did when the user was active on the platform. For example, if a user kept his profile public to anyone on Facebook, that is the way his profile will be even after his passing. Previously, when Facebook memorialised a profile, it was only visible to friends of the deceased. You can learn more at <http://tinyurl.com/mbgaxxh>



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## Members' Noticeboard

### Toowong History Group's New Website

There's lots to find here, including rare books written in the 1800s and now out of copyright, under the heading 'History as it Happened'. Remember to add this one to your "Favourites" list, go to: <http://www.toowong.org.au/home.htm>

Toowong History Group meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm– 9pm at the Toowong State School Historical Library - entry via Kate Street (off Sylvan Road). No fees or membership are required – everyone is welcome.

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### Genealogical Society of Queensland – Southern Suburbs Branch

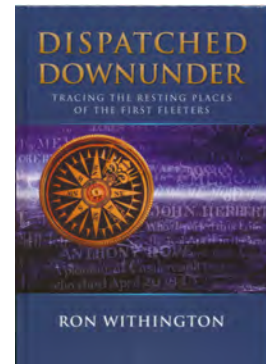
Find the new website for the Southern Suburbs Branch of Genealogical Society of Queensland at: <http://www.southernsuburbs.net.au>

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## Book Review

Dispatched Downunder by Ron Withington is a must resource for first fleeters. One aim of the Fellowship of First Fleeters is to identify the burial sites and tombstones of our first arrivals (convict and non-convict). There were 1373 such arrivals and they have identified and recorded the resting place of 702 so far.

Withington's work is detailed and well presented. Maps should provide sufficient information to locate graves. Each first fleeter has a mini biography, a transcription of tombstone details and, where possible, first generation descendents. There are numerous photos. This is not a book to be read cover to cover but is definitely a reference work. It is indexed while a variety of appendices presents information in different modes. 465 pp, published by the Fellowship of First Fleeters, 2013. Review courtesy of Pam Masel.



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## Trivia

### Half of all the Men in Britain with Surname Stewart are Descended from Royalty

This article claims a DNA study has found that half of all the men who carry the surnames Stewart, or Stuart, are descended from Scotland's royal dynasty. The same investigation has also traced, for the first time, the rise of a male DNA lineage to a single individual in the 13th century who founded a branch of the Royal Stewart line. There are about 70,000 people with the surname in Britain, and the findings mean that around 17,500 men, regardless of their family trees, can now claim to be of royal descent. The article gives a brief explanation of how the DNA Company came to the conclusion of royal ancestry. You can read the full article at: <http://tinyurl.com/lcmcosl>

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### Nothing Gets Your Attention Like Reading Your Own Obituary in the Morning Paper

Sven-Olof Svensson, 81, from Jönköping, Sweden, opened his local newspaper to read

the news, as he does most every day. At his advanced age, he usually checks the obituaries first to look for friends who may have passed away recently. He was surprised to read his own obituary. You can read more in the The Local - Sweden's News in English at <http://tinyurl.com/mgg9se9>

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### **SpongeBob SquarePants Monument Reinstalled After Cemetery Dispute**

A SpongeBob SquarePants monument commemorating the life of deceased Army Sergeant Kimberly Walker was recently reinstalled at Spring Grove Cemetery. The monument, which has two SpongeBob tombstones, went up on 10 October 2013, but was taken down the next day after a long dispute over its design. You can read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lsf8dz5>

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### **Eight Countries with Fascinating Baby Naming Laws**

Learn the various rules for naming babies at eight countries at:

<http://tinyurl.com/b3acb3y>

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### **Family Tree Rhapsody on Genealogy**

Sit back and enjoy: <http://tinyurl.com/mw6omd5>

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### **Billy Standley to be Buried Atop Motorcycle**

Billy Standley of Ohio, started planning to be buried astride his 1967 motorcycle about 18 years ago. His family carried out his wish recently with a large Plexiglas casket. He certainly will ride to heaven. You can read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/m3k6q2t>

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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

*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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