

# Snippets

**April 2014, Vol 14, No 4**

With Easter upon us how many of us will have the chance to put some extra time into our family research? This month we have many great ideas and resources to help you. Happy Easter everyone!



Our well-received series of Friday workshops continues **on 11 April** when Dr Geoff Morgan will discuss records relating to teachers, district inspectors, and students. QFHS has a plethora of these records available and this workshop will guide you to use them to further your family history research.

The next of our popular Saturday morning seminars is coming up **in June**. It will explore the fascinating information available to us from wills and associated records. Well-qualified speakers Saadia Thomson-Dwyer, Shauna Hicks and Ann Swain will guide us through the valuable gems hidden in these documents and how to access them.

Further details for both these events are below, or on the society website <http://qfhs.org.au/>

Image courtesy of Grant Cochrane/ FreeDigitalPhotos.net.

## Calendar

- \* 11 Apr      Fridays@QFHS:  
[Education Department & School Records for Family History Research](#)
- \* 12 Apr      [Irish Interest Group](#)
- \* 16 Apr      [Members Meeting: Private Jim Howe's Boer War Diary](#)
- \* 18-21 Apr    Closed for Easter
- \* 25 Apr      Closed for ANZAC Day

- \* 26 Apr [Family Tree Maker® User Group: discussing managing Facts](#)
  - \* 02 May [Family Tree Maker® User Group: Brief outline of Books](#)
  - \* 03 May [Library Assistants meeting](#)
  - \* 03 May [DNA Interest Group](#)
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## Happenings

### QFHS Annual General Meeting

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 also not be nominating for the position in 2014-2015. Nominations close on **28 May**, if you would like more information please email [secretary@qfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@qfhs.org.au).

Our Society is run entirely by volunteers. We are always seeking people to assist within the Society with roles as diverse as office bearer and committee member, library assistant, indexer, gardener, and helper at events and meetings. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Society please email [secretary@qfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@qfhs.org.au).

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### QFHS Open Day

Help us illustrate QFHS Open Day this year. The theme is 'Your Family Tree – more than names and dates!'

Do you have photos or copies of those family treasures and records that 'put meat on the bones' of the story of your family? We would like to produce a slide show featuring these, 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.

The Society will hold its annual Open Day on Saturday 23 August, 2014, during National Family History Month. Please send your contributions to: [marketing@qfhs.org.au](mailto:marketing@qfhs.org.au)

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## Education - Workshops/Courses/Seminars

### 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

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

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**

**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**

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

**When:** 18 May 2014 from 10am to 4pm

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Game Master:** Ann Swain

Have a fun day in family history and play the Trout Game! See if you can get back to the 1500s researching an English family, the Trouts. You will use eleven types of records and basic research techniques not involving computers at all. You'll develop your research skills and learn to demolish brick-walls in your research.

To book, email Ann Swain at [a.swain@bigpond.com](mailto:a.swain@bigpond.com) or telephone (07) 3352 5537.

More information at <http://www.qfhs.org.au/activities/trout-game/>

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### **Seminar: Where there's a Will: Wills and associated matters in Queensland, Australia, and the UK**

**When:** 7 June 2014

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

**Saadia Thomson-Dwyer** will guide you through records available at the Queensland State Archives and how you can locate them. Saadia is the Senior Reference Archivist at the Queensland State Archives.

**Shauna Hicks** will look at resources available for researching wills, intestacy and probate administrative records in Australia. Shauna is an archivist, librarian, and family historian with over thirty-five years' experience.

**Ann Swain** will demonstrate that you can never say, 'my family was too poor to leave a will.' She will show how to access wills in the differing administration systems of England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Ann started researching her family's history in 1975 and is a founding member of QFHS.



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

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### **Fridays@QFHS: From Desktop to the Dark Web**

**When:** 13 June 2014

**Where:** QFHS Library and Resource Centre

**Presenter:** John Perryn and Dr Geoff Morgan

Beyond the reach of Google and Ancestry lie oceans of data awaiting your scrutiny. John and Geoff will lead you through a number of tools and techniques that will assist you to both broaden and focus your approach to finding hidden gems in the vast amount of data now available to the researcher. More information at <http://qfhs.org.au/activities/qfhs-training-courses/>

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## **Members' Noticeboard**

### **Toowong History Group**

This group meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm to 9 pm. Meetings are held in the Toowong State School Historical Library Entry via Kate Street (off Sylvan Road) No fees or membership are required – everyone is welcome.

**On 3 April** Adele Horsburgh will host a “Show & Tell” of WWI memorabilia. Some very enlightening excerpts from the O’Brien Diary that have not been heard before will be related to those attending on the night.

**On 1 May** Hilda MacLean will talk on Canon David John Garland who is buried in Toowong. Canon Garland served as an army chaplain in the Middle East and was particularly identified with soldier welfare. This talk explores Toowong Cemetery's place in the history of the commemoration of ANZAC Day.

For more details, go to: <http://www.toowong.org.au/events.htm>

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### **Handwriting Seminar at Caloundra Family History Research Inc.**

**On 10 April** Caloundra Family History Research Inc. is conducting a Handwriting Seminar at 170 Pierce Avenue, Little Mountain. The speakers from Queensland State Archives are Saadia Thomson-Dwyer, and Niles Elvery. Visitors are welcome and there is plenty of car parking available including wheelchair access. More details are at: <http://www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au/documents/calendar.pdf>

A map to the venue is available at:

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

Register by phoning Roz on (07) 5493 1197 or emailing: [caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com](mailto:caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com)

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## Web Wanderings

### Discovering Anzacs

The National Archives of Australia and the New Zealand Archives have joined forces to create a new website called Discovering Anzacs. The objective is to create a profile of every Anzac who enlisted in World War I complete with their service record. Go to: <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>

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### British Newspaper Archives Updates

The British Newspaper Archive has added thousands of newspaper pages to the website. They have updated 40 newspaper titles, including the Cheltenham Chronicle, the Hastings and St Leonards Observer and the Stamford Mercury. To see the full list, visit the website at: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/home/NewspaperTitles>

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### Street Life in London

Street Life in London, published in 1876-7, consists of a series of articles by the radical journalist Adolphe Smith and the photographer John Thomson. The pieces are short but full of detail, based on interviews with a range of men and women who eked out a precarious and marginal existence working on the streets of London. The subject matter of Street Life is not new – the second half of the 19th century saw an increasing interest in urban poverty and social conditions – but the unique aspect is a series of photographs ‘taken from life’ by Thomson. Go to: <http://digital.library.lse.ac.uk/collections/streetlifeinlondon>

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### Scotland's Inhabited House Tax Rolls

Inhabited House Tax Rolls from 1778 to 1798 are the latest fascinating resource to have been added to the ScotlandsPlaces website. These Tax Rolls offer history researchers a valuable insight into 18th Century life, while genealogists can use the records to find the names of ancestors throughout Scotland together with the annual value of the houses they held. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/q3wcq7z>

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### Church of Ireland adds to its online indexes

The Church of Ireland has released online indexes of the baptisms, marriages and burials in the parish registers of St Peter's, Drogheda (Armagh) between 1702 and 1900. These provide the surname indexes of all people baptised and buried in the parish, and indexes of the surnames of all brides and grooms married in the parish at this time. To view the complete list of St Peter's Drogheda records available, and to access the register indexes for 1702-1900, see: <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/185>

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### **Irish Military Pension Records 1916 – 1923**

The Irish Department of Defence has launched a collection of military service pension records that span the years from 1916 to 1923. You'll find the collection at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/q6z3cbx>

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### **Welsh Newspapers Online**

This website has added 27 new publications and now consists of some 100 historic newspapers, 630,000 pages and 6.8 million articles. They cover from 1804 to 1919. Free to view at: <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>

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### **Untold Stories & Official Histories of WWI**

Europeana 1914-1918 has relaunched their website to better cover the First World War. A new feature involves collecting from the public previously unpublished letters, photographs and keepsakes from the war. Free to view at: <http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en>

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### **Commentary on Privacy and Family Trees**

This is an interesting article covering privacy issues as they relate to genealogy, privacy and family trees at: <http://tinyurl.com/pudx9on>

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### **Reading Old Latin or English Documents: Practical Online Tutorials**

Many old documents in Europe and in the British Isles were written in Latin, the official language in England between 1086 and 1733. The National Archives of Great Britain has an online tutorial that helps read them. You can find the Latin Online Tutorial for Beginners at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners>.

There is a similar tutorial to help you read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800. Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting 1500 - 1800 may be found at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography>

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### **Historic New York Institution Digitises Newspaper**

Founded in 1824 and located in New York, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is USA's oldest technological research university. More than a century of its student newspaper, The Polytechnic, has recently been digitised. First published in 1869, it has been in continuous publication since 1885. The issues available date from the 2006-2007 academic year (Vol. 127) and more back issues will be added in the near future. View them at: <http://tinyurl.com/ojfr8uy>

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### **New Kane County (Illinois) Genealogy Online Records**

Kane County, Illinois, has announced a new web capability to search for, purchase, and download vital records files from the County directly from your computer. The office of the Clerk of Kane County has birth records starting in 1855, death records from 1866 and marriage records starting in 1836. As usual, conditions apply to accessing more recent records. You can access these records online at:

<http://genealogy.kanecountyclerk.org/>

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## **General items of interest**

### **Provenance: The Journal of the Public Record Office Victoria**

Provenance invites contributions and articles on any subject. To be eligible for publication, articles must have been researched using original records held by the Public Record Office Victoria or research that promotes a better understanding of the Public Record Office Victoria collection. The submission deadline for this years' journal is 5 May 2014. To find out more about submitting an article to Provenance, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/pyxnso>

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### **Price Changes at The National Archives at Kew**

From 1 April 2014 the prices charged for public services, including research and record copying, will be changing. It will only cost £3.30 to download digital images from the National Archives (previously £3.36). The cost of self-service copies remains at 25p for black and white copies up to A3, but the cost of other copies is going up. The full list of prices is available at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/913.htm>

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### **Wills of WWI Scottish Soldiers to Go Online**

The wills of 26,000 Scottish soldiers who died in the Great War are to be made available online for the first time as part of centenary commemorations marking the outbreak of WWI.

During WWI, when a will was processed by military authorities it was sent to the Commissary Office in Edinburgh to be preserved in the National Records of Scotland. During 2014, the last wishes of 26,000 fallen Scottish First World War soldiers will be made available online by the National Records of Scotland. Learn more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/qzpqpf1>

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### **Trenches Reveal How WWI Transformed Britain**

Two lines of trenches face off across No Man's Land. A soldier marches, rifle in hand,



along a ditch. These are instantly familiar images of World War I – but this is Britain, a century on and an English Channel away from the battlefields of the Western Front. Now these forgotten practice trenches are being used to reveal how the Great War transformed Britain – physically as well as socially. As living memories of the conflict fade, historians hope these physical traces can help preserve the story of the war for future generations. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/pwtf599>

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### **Canada at War**

This website is dedicated to the memory of the tremendous Canadian contribution in both World Wars, and a place of remembrance for all their fallen since 1914. You'll find it at: <http://www.canadaatwar.ca/>

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### **Development Dig finds Ottawa Cemetery**

The province of Ontario is asking descendants of people buried in a forgotten cemetery in Ottawa to come forward to determine what should be done with their remains. Human remains and casket material were discovered last year during preparation work for the city's light-rail transit tunnel. The discovery stopped work there. You can learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/pye6mpv>

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### **Lost 200-year-old Bible Reveals Family History**

The recent discovery of a 200-year-old Bible brought a Kentucky woman to tears. Inside, it holds living proof of a family history that had been lost for generations. The bible journeyed from the Netherlands to a flea market in Virginia Beach and back to Kentucky. You can read more at and view a video of the story at: <http://tinyurl.com/qzdnc5b>

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### **Detective Tracks Down Ancestral Home from Photo**

American cop Tom Decker used his detective skills to locate his great-great-grandmother's house using nothing but one old photograph from the 1920s. He first believed the house was located in either Dublin or Cork, but his hunt brought him to an area of east Belfast. You can read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/nhxjyke>

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### **Three-Parent Technology Advancing**

A reproductive technology that taps three parents' DNA as a way to eliminate hereditary diseases could reach clinical trials if the USA Food and Drug Administration gives the go-ahead. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/qgvtvcb>

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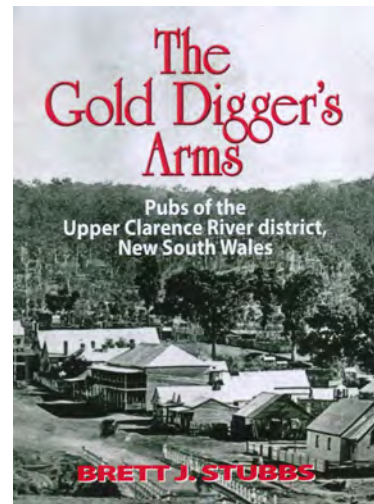
## The Great Medieval Water Myth

Remember how our forefathers and their forefathers used to drink beer instead of water? That's because the water was often polluted? Well, Jim Chevallier says that is not true. He has written an article in his blog that challenges the idea. You can read it at: <http://tinyurl.com/m2yktke>

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## Book Review

In *The Gold Digger's Arms*, Brett Stubbs has presented local history with a difference. It is a history of the Upper Clarence River District, the area bounded by the Great Dividing Range in the west, the Richmond Range in the east, Tenterfield in the south and the Queensland border in the north. From the 1840's dray traffic was criss-crossing this area as settlement pushed north. Obviously a pub would follow. They were wayside inns. In its busiest period the area supported at least 50 pubs. Today only six remain operational. Numerous maps and photographs support this history, together with biographical details of some of the better-known publicans. The work is sourced and indexed. 119 pp, Tankard Books 2009. Review courtesy of Pam Masel.



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## Trivia

### About 930,000 Direct Descendants of Vikings

Almost one million Britons alive today are of Viking descent, which means one in 33 men can claim to be direct descendants of the Vikings.

A genetic study carried out by BritainsDNA compared the Y chromosome markers – DNA inherited from father to son – of more than 3,500 men to six DNA patterns that are rarely found outside of Scandinavia and are associated with the Norse Vikings. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/ou4g369>

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### Would You Qualify as a Witch?

The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 accused many of practising witchcraft, almost all of them on evidence we would consider to be "shaky" today. If you were around in 1692, what are the odds that you would be so accused? And, if found guilty, hanged? This eye-opening article describes the things that could be used against you and identify you as a witch. You can find the article at: <http://tinyurl.com/q6kplbf>

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## How Common is Your Name?

Did you ever wonder how common your **first name** is? Are you trying to find an unusual name for a new baby? The United States' Social Security Administration has a tool to help.

You can find a [USA] state-by-state and U.S. territories breakdown of popular names from 1960 to 2012. You can also find names nationwide for each decade since the 1880s. How the popularity of a first name has changed over the years is there as well as the top 10 baby names for 2012. All this and more is at: <http://tinyurl.com/bwjkk>

According to the U.S. Census Bureau the most common **surnames** in the United States today are Smith, Johnson, Williams, Brown, and Jones. See more at: <http://tinyurl.com/2eba2ut>

You can see a map of **Europe** with the most popular surnames by country at: <http://i.imgur.com/Gtc4EKo.png>

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## Royalty and Religion Among Victoria's Banned Baby Names

Parents are being banned from naming babies after everything from TV shows and body parts, to the late Princess Diana and the Lord. The state law of Victoria is saving children from a lifetime of humiliation - kooky monikers like "Honest Mary" and "Fireman Sam" are among those that have been rejected. You can read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ogxyj2u>

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## 50 Baby Names Banned by Saudi Arabia

Linda, Elaine, Sandy and Alice are some of the 50 baby names banned by Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry for being too foreign or blasphemous. Parents considering naming their baby Lauren and Maya are also out of luck, with those names also banned for girls. Also banned names that evoke royalty. Gulf News reports at:

<http://tinyurl.com/pysczcs>

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## Finding the Real Patsey of 12 Years a Slave

You may be interested in the search for the person behind a key role in the Oscar-winning movie *12 Years a Slave*. A genealogist tries to determine the actual fate of the slave Patsey, from this true tale. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/psgrn8t>

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## A Smile for You

How to explain how we came to be - the younger generation would never believe the old-fashioned way.

A little boy goes to his father and asks 'Daddy, how was I born?'

The father answers, 'Well, son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your Mum and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail

with your Mum and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, and Googled each other. There your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said...You got Male!

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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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