

Snippets

March 2015, Vol 15, No 3

What a lot of tempting opportunities there are this month, for us to hear fascinating tales and learn more about our history.

Our seminar "Criminals and Victims" this coming weekend will be another intriguing look at the past, be quick to book for this one.

Don't forget Colleen Fitzpatrick's seminar too - this is a rare chance to hear her entertaining and informative presentations.

The website is now available for the first Queensland State Conference for local, family and social history "In time and place". This will be held next October here in Brisbane, and is packed with great talks by local, national and international speakers. Check out the program - details are below in the Members Noticeboard section.

Our members meeting this month features a little-known, harrowing event in Brisbane's history - the sinking of the s.s. Pearl in 1896. Come along to hear Paul Seto tell us more.

QFHS now has a lending library! While our print library remains a reference library for use on-site only, a small and separate lending library has been established from duplicate copies of works. See 'Happenings' below for more details.

Calendar

- 04 Mar 2015 [Management Committee Meeting](#)
- 06 Mar 2015 [Family Tree Maker® User Group](#)
- 07 Mar 2015 [Seminar - Criminals and Victims](#)
- 07 Mar 2015 [DNA Interest Group](#)
- 13 Mar 2015 [Fridays@QFHS - Ancestry Library Edition](#)
- 14 Mar 2015 [Scottish Interest Group](#)
- 15 Mar 2015 [Welsh Interest Group](#)
- 18 Mar 2015 [Members Meeting 1pm: 1896 Brisbane "Pearl" ferry disaster](#)

- 20 Mar 2015 [New Members Welcome and Orientation](#)
 - 21 Mar 2015 [Family History Writing Group](#)
 - 21 Mar 2015 [The Master Genealogist Group](#)
 - 26 Mar 2015 [English West Country Group](#)
 - 28 Mar 2015 [Central European Group](#)
 - 01 Apr 2015 [Management Committee Meeting](#)
 - 03-06 Apr 2015 Library & Resource Centre closed for Easter
-

Happenings

QFHS Lending Library

As a direct result of the generosity of our members, and a few non-members, books donated to the print library and found to be duplicates are now part of a growing collection available for borrowing. Financial members can borrow two books for a maximum of two weeks. This is a work in progress so check back at regular intervals to see what has been added.

For a list of books available for loan go to the QFHS website, select 'resources', then 'catalogue search' and click on the v-Library button - or go [here](#).

Click in the 'Location' box for a drop-down menu, then select 'Lending Library', then click the 'Search' button. Alternatively, if you have a certain topic in mind, type in a keyword, click in 'Location' and select 'Lending Library', then click the 'Search' button.

Speak with a library assistant to be directed to the lending library shelving at our premises, and to check out your selections. Happy reading!

Brisbane River Ferry Disaster of 1896

Paul Seto is the author of '1896 s.s. "Pearl" Ferry Capsizing near Victoria Bridge, Brisbane River' (2011, 2015), and is our speaker at our members' meeting at 1:00 pm on 18th March.

Brisbane's worst disaster, by the number of deaths, occurred on Thursday 13th February 1896. The river steamer s.s 'Pearl' capsized just south of Victoria Bridge when being used as a temporary passenger ferry.

About ninety people were on board, a third of them drowned. Bodies were recovered all along the Brisbane river from the old Dry Dock, New Farm, Breakfast Creek, Hamilton and all the way out to Moreton Bay. The last body was recovered on the south end of Bribie Island some weeks later.

Paul will use his historical knowledge and family history research to tell us of the event, including heart-wrenching quotes from newspapers of the time. We will also hear some life stories of the people who were drowned, saved, or are still missing. In 1896 Paul's great-grandmother, the well-known soprano Mildred Sanders, sang at several fundraising benefit concerts for the 'sufferers of the Pearl disaster'.

Find out more about the tragedy [here](#).

Education - Workshops/Courses/Seminars

Seminar: Criminals and Victims

Booking out fast - book your place NOW

When: Saturday 7 March 2015 - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

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

Cost: \$15 QFHS members, \$20 others

Presenters: Shauna Hicks, Rosemary Kopittke, Helen Smith

This seminar will show us how to use court records, including local courts of petty sessions records, Australian police gazettes, and researching criminals in England. More information [here](#).



Fridays@QFHS: Ancestry Library Edition

When: Friday 13 March 2015 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Where: QFHS Library and Resource Centre

Cost: \$11 QFHS members, \$15 others

Presenter: Sue Reid

Learn more about searching on Ancestry. Ancestry Library Edition is available at QFHS, but despite what the advertisements say, yes, you do need to know what you are looking for. More information [here](#).



Fridays@QFHS: The Genealogist: what's the difference

When: Friday 10 April 2015 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm

Where: QFHS Library and Resource Centre

Cost: \$11 QFHS members, \$15 others

Presenter: Rosemary Kopittke

The Genealogist offers records not available on other subscription websites and has some interesting search options that can help break down brick walls. Come and learn what records The Genealogist has and how to best utilise its unique searches and other features. More information [here](#).



Seminar: Forensic Genealogy

When: Saturday 18 April 2015 - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Where: St Joseph's College, 285 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill, Brisbane

Cost: \$30 QFHS or GSQ members, \$40 others

Presenter: Colleen Fitzpatrick

An international speaker, Colleen is very down-to-earth and easy to understand. She combines high-tech DNA analysis with the skills of an old-fashioned detective, combing birth and death certificates, newspaper articles and church and cemetery records—and making calls to distant continents far into the night. Her talks will spark your imagination and motivate you to discover new ways of looking at your family



mysteries. You will arrive at Colleen's talks a genealogist; you will leave a forensic genealogist.

- Go [here](#) for more information and to book your place.
- Read an interview with Dr Fitzpatrick about her upcoming visit to Congress 2015 in Canberra [here](#).
- Interesting articles about Dr. Fitzpatrick and her work are available [here](#) and [here](#).

Fridays@QFHS: All about FamilySearch microfilms

When: Friday 8 May 2015 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Where: QFHS Library and Resource Centre

Cost: \$11 QFHS members, \$15 others

Presenter: Bev Bonning



Learn how to identify and arrange access to the microfilms that can help solve your research mysteries. These include films of primary resources such as parish registers, cemetery records, or poor law records. More information [here](#).

QFHS Trout Game

Limited numbers so book early to avoid disappointment.

When: 17 May 2015 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: QFHS Library and Resource Centre

Cost: \$5.00 includes morning and afternoon tea (BYO lunch)

Game Master: Ann Swain



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. More information [here](#).

To book, contact Ann Swain by email at a.swain@bigpond.com or telephone (07) 3352 5537.

Fridays@QFHS: DNA basics

When: Friday 12 June 2015 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Where: QFHS Library and Resource Centre

Cost: \$11 QFHS members, \$15 others

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. Chris Schuetz will hold a follow-up to this session in three months time to discuss the results. More information [here](#).

Members' Noticeboard

Australia's Biggest Family History Conference

When: 26-29 March 2015

Where: Canberra

The 14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, or Congress 2015, will be four days of fantastic presentations, forums, hands on demonstrations and social events. You can also meet the speakers at the speakers corner, visit dozens of exhibitors and vendors and network with others who share interests and enthusiasm.

International speakers include US forensic genealogist Colleen Fitzpatrick, Simon Fowler on UK records and archives, UK military records expert David Holman, and Paul Milner who will speak on topics ranging from maps to miners.

There will also be plenty of great local speakers. Mat Trinca, Director of the National Museum of Australia, will give the opening address, Richard Reid will present on the Irish and WWI. Tim Sherratt from the NLA will discuss TROVE. Other topics include finding your WW1 soldier, newly digitised resources, using Australian and overseas archives, the Irish, the Chinese, Huguenots, DNA, social media, pioneers, convicts, bankrupts, orphans, destitute children and more.

Participants have the unique opportunity to gather in ANZAC Hall at the Australian War Memorial for the welcome function, and to dine in the Great Hall of Parliament House for the Congress dinner—both wonderful venues.

Congress 2015 promises to be a great event. Go [here](#) for more information or to register.

Talks at the Queensland State Archives

Morning tea with Director Collections and Access

Come and have a cup of tea or coffee with your fellow researchers and Kit Kugatoff, Director Collections and Access. Share your stories on research undertaken at Queensland State Archives.

When: 26 March 2015 - 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Where: QSA Lecture Theatre One, Queensland State Archives, 435 Compton Road, Runcorn

Advanced catalogue search

Discover how to get the best out of ArchivesSearch, the Queensland State Archives' online catalogue. This seminar will teach you more advanced techniques to locate records of interest and will give useful tips for finding what you want. You're welcome to bring your wireless device - laptop or tablet - to join in with exercises presented during the workshop to help you learn how to use the catalogue.

When: 27 March 2015 - 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Where: QSA Lecture Theatre Two, Queensland State Archives, 435 Compton Road, Runcorn

Workshop: Find your First World War Soldier

How to locate files, apart from service records, relating to soldiers of WWI. Bring your wireless device – laptop or tablet – to join in research exercises presented during the workshop. Bookings essential.

When: 13 April 2015 - 2:30 am to 3:30 pm

Where: QSA Lecture Theatre Two, Queensland State Archives, 435 Compton Road, Runcorn

Seminar: First World War Records

Experience the impact of WWI through the many non-military records in the collection and learn more about the Queensland effort during the First World War.

When: 21 April 2015 - 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Where: online, or
QFHS meeting room by online link (no need to book for this venue), or
QSA Lecture Theatre Two, Queensland State Archives, 435 Compton Road, Runcorn

For any of these:

Cost: Free

To book: 07 3131 7777 or email info@archives.qld.gov.au

For more details go [here](#).

Talks at the Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Early Bulimba: The development of a community in colonial Queensland

When: 11 March 2015 - 12:30, followed by a light lunch

Where: Welsby Library, the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane

Presenter: Russell Turner

Cost: Free

For more details go [here](#).

Talks at the Queensland Chapter of the Huguenot Society of Australia

Dan Debois: A life of Spiritual, Educational and Military Service

When: Sunday 22nd March - 2:00pm

Where: Toowong Library meeting room, Toowong Village Shopping Centre, 9 Sherwood Rd, Toowong

Presenter: Geoffrey Morgan

Cost: Gold coin, refreshments will be provided

More information [here](#).

Caloundra Family History Research Inc.

Archaeological Ceramics Excavated in SEQ

We will welcome popular annual speaker Dr Jon Prangnell, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the School of Social Science & Faculty of Humanities, UQ. His talk gives an insight into our ancestors' lives in early Australia.

When: 19 March 2015

Cost: Free

Getting the best from the 'treasure' that is "Trove"

How to use Trove, the website of digitised newspapers of the National Archives of Australia.

When: 26 March 2015 - 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Cost: Small entry fee.

Where: Both events will be held at Caloundra Family History Research Inc., Sunshine Coast Turf Club, accessed through Gate 2 on Pierce Avenue, Caloundra. A map is on the website [here](#).

Visitors are welcome at both events. For further information contact Valerie on (07) 5437 3879 or Roz (07) 5493 1197 or email caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com

In Time and Place

The first Queensland State Conference will be held in October, with speakers addressing fascinating aspects of local, family and social history.

- When: Saturday 3 and Sunday 4
October 2015
- Where: Riverglenn, 70 Kate Street, Indooroopilly
- Cost: Varying prices, listed [here](#).



Thanks to the generous support of the State Library of Queensland, the conference organising committee is delighted to offer regional support to 15 country delegates - details [here](#).

For more details or to book, go [here](#).

Web Wanderings

New South Wales Will Books

The Findmypast series New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952 contains more than 415,000 wills, including beautiful images of the original handwritten documents. It includes the wills of people from other states and countries, typically where the individual was a resident of New South Wales but their last place of residence was outside the state, or where they had originated from overseas and left legacies to family members 'back home'. Available free at the QFHS library or by subscription [here](#).

New Australian additions to Findmypast

The following record sets are now available at Findmypast. There's more information on all these new record sets [here](#).

Each set can be searched for free at the QFHS library or by subscription [here](#).

- New South Wales, Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions, 1922-2001
- Queensland Immigrants nominated for passage 1884-1907
- Queensland Register of Immigrants 1864-1878
- Queensland Passage certificates 1887-1874
- Queensland Land Orders 1861-1874
- Tasmania Deaths, 1803-1933
- Tasmania Marriages, 1803 -1899
- Tasmania Births, 1803-1933

New Zealand Cemetery Records Online

More than 1.6 million records from 1,400 NZ cemeteries are now available at Ancestry. The records cover the years 1800-2007. Each typically contains name, birth date, death date, and cemetery name and plot location. It may also provide information about a spouse, cause of death, military dates, an epitaph, or even a description of the headstone. Available for free at the QFHS library or via subscription [here](#).

WWI Unit War Diaries

1.5 million WWI unit war diaries are now available online to search and download [here](#).

Gloucestershire Parish Record Indexes

More than 861,000 baptism, marriage and burial records from Gloucestershire have been added to Findmypast's collection of UK Parish records. Each record consists of a transcription of the original document. Read the full article [here](#).

The Clergy Database

Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835 makes available records of clerical careers from more than 50 archives in England and Wales, providing coverage of clerical lives from the Reformation to the mid-nineteenth century. Find it [here](#).

Early Irish Birth Index

The Irish Genealogical Research Society has launched the Early Irish Birth Index. It holds more than 5,000 records from alternative sources for births in Ireland, including early Irish census records, Registry of Deeds' memorials, newspapers, gravestone inscriptions, diaries and letters. The number of indexed names exceeds 10,400. Unlike the Marriage Index, which is free to all researchers, the Birth Index is a resource for IGRS Members only. Non-members can make a free surname-only search to find out how many entries match their search criteria. Find it [here](#).

Dublin, Ireland "Police Gazette or Hue and Cry" 1863 – 1893

470 copies of the Dublin Police Gazette or Hue and Cry covering a selection from 1863-1893 are now available online. They contain details of apprehensions sought, property and animals stolen, and apprehensions made, almost all with detailed descriptions. Earlier copies include an army deserters list focused on Irish recruits while later copies replaced this with a list of habitual criminals recently released from prison. Victims of crime are frequently mentioned and, where individuals are sought by the police, their mother's surname was also often included. The price is £2 per image or £3 to download the whole document / newspaper with payment by Paypal. Find it [here](#).

Records of Mannheim, Germany

Ancestry has added birth, marriage and death records from Mannheim, Germany. The 152,000 birth records span the time period from 1870 to 1900. The 137,000 marriage records are from 1870 to 1920 and the 234,000 death records are from 1870 to 1950. Available free at the QFHS library or by subscription [here](#).

Belgian Births, Deaths and Marriages

FamilySearch has added a large number of images of civil registration records from Belgium, primarily birth, marriage and death records and some marriage proclamation records. The largest new addition is some 800,000 images from Limburg (1798 to 1906). Other regions with new additions include Antwerp (1588 to 1909), Hainaut (1600 to 1913) and West Flanders (1582 to 1910). Access them for free [here](#).

The Rochester (New York) Genealogical Society

A number of historical church and town records from the region are available online, contained in some 200,000 pages of scanned documents. The church records can be browsed by individual church [here](#).

Kentucky Death Index 2000 - 2012

This database has been converted from PDF files and currently contains the years 2000-2012. This index is not an official record of death, actual death certificates must be ordered from the Office of Vital Statistics. The death certificate number is not included as it was not part of the original PDF index. You can access this and other databases of the Boyd County Library [here](#).

General items of interest

Helping Historical Photos Find Their Families

This Facebook page posts photos of early Queenslanders taken by local photographers in Brisbane and beyond. If you recognise anybody in a photo you can help by posting a comment or contacting the site. Look at the photos [here](#).

Australian War Memorial

The redeveloped WWI Galleries are now open at the Australian War Memorial. Tours of the galleries run daily at 10.15 am and 2 pm. More details are available [here](#).

Somme Centenary Newsletter

If anyone is planning to visit the Somme there is a plethora of interesting and handy information [here](#).

Cheaper Birth, Marriage and Death Copies

Publication of information from birth, marriage and death certificates in England and Wales will soon be available in other (cheaper) forms than as a certified copy. More details [here](#).

Making Babies from DNA of 3 People

This should complicate record keeping for genealogists! The British parliament has voted to allow the creation of human embryos from the DNA of three people to try to eradicate a type of genetic disease that has caused the deaths of thousands of babies. If the measure also passes through the House of Lords, England would become the first country to legalise the procedure and the first three-parent baby could be born as soon as next year. You can read more [here](#).

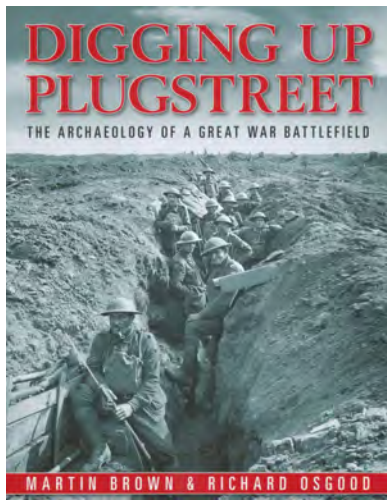
Canada's Census Debate

The debate in Canada about their census shows no signs of being resolved. Much centers around a provision in proposed laws to not make the release of census records' data mandatory after 92 years – the person filling out the census forms would have to explicitly give permission to allow this to occur. Another debate concerns a proposal to delete the presently required mandatory jail time for anyone who does not fill out a census form! You can read more [here](#).

Australian Census Under Threat

There is uncertainty surrounding the Australian national census, with the next one due to be collected in 2016. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is looking for alternative ways to collect the data, including making it a less-frequent event. Read more about the proposals [here](#) and [here](#).

Book Review



In Digging up Plugstreet Martin Brown and Richard Osgood track the fortunes of soldiers in the 3rd Australian Infantry Division in WWI. This book differs from most in that the authors have used archaeology as the vehicle for the story.

Australian soldiers were prepared for the battlefields of Europe in encampments on Salisbury Plain and these skills were used in the Battle of Messines which began on 7 June 1917. This arena bordered on Ploegsteert Wood in Belgium and became known as "Plugstreet".

The archaeological finds help create a picture of what life was really like for these Australian soldiers. It

culminates in the unearthing of the remains of two Australians who paid the ultimate price. It is a fascinating read.

The text is accompanied by many photographs of the archaeological finds, maps, documents, and other items of interest. 200pp, indexed with an extensive bibliography. Review courtesy of Pam Masel.

Trivia

Reduced-Price Postage Stamps

Australian pensioners and other concession card holders are eligible for reduced-price postage stamps. Go [here](#) for more information.

Amazing Secret Revealed After 50 Years

An 81-year-old man has discovered his late wife was keeping a huge secret from him for more than 50 years. Tony Trapani was clearing out a filing cabinet belonging to his wife when he came across a letter, addressed to him, sent in 1959. It was written by an ex-lover telling him that he had a five-year-old son, born in 1953. Find out more [here](#).

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 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.]

Permission to reprint articles from QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER is granted unless specifically stated otherwise, provided: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: "Previously published in QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER" with the appropriate date and volume number (eg QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER January 2009 Vol 9 No. 1). The last few years of Snippets editions are available from: <http://www.qfhs.org.au/library/snippets/>

Copyright © 2015 Queensland Family History Society Inc, All rights reserved.