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## A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE QFHS INC. MAP COLLECTION

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*Shirley Wallace was the recipient of the 2005 QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History. She has devoted countless hours to sorting, repairing and cataloguing the collection of about 2000 maps held by the Society. Shirley has kindly written the following article to make members aware of the collection and of the aspects of family history that maps can reveal to researchers. To illustrate how to use them, she shares a journey she took with the maps to flesh out the life of one of her ancestors.*

Queensland Family History Society Inc. has a collection of about two thousand maps. Of these, about half are of Queensland and they date from 1842 to recent times.

The parish maps show property boundaries of selections, pastoral leases, freehold blocks and crown reserves with Lands Department numbers. They also contain the names of the pastoral leases and names of early selectors or owners of freehold title. Parish and town maps with details of public buildings such as schools and post offices were drawn by private surveyors or by government departments.

The Society also holds a complete set of Ordnance (survey) maps of Scotland, England and Wales from 1841 to 1870. The maps show cities, towns, villages, roads, railways and topographic features.

Included in the collection are over 200 German maps dated from the 1890s, with revisions in the late 1930s. There is also a small range of maps from other countries.

On top of each cabinet is a book with a list of that cabinet's contents and relevant index numbers. The maps are simply indexed showing and their index numbers, where they are and what they are.

### **Example: Map C1-Bris-22**

This means that the map is in Cabinet 1 and it is a map of Brisbane (Number 22).

The book entry for **C1-Bris-22** expands the information thus:

**Suburb:** Ashgrove; **Date:** 1975; **Scale:** 1": 4 chain; **Type of map:** Street. (1" means 1 inch)

**Comments:** It was part of the town plan for public exhibition.

[1 inch = 2.54 cm; 1 chain = 22 yards (about 20.1m).]

**When you are reading a map it is very important that you're aware of its scale.**

### **An Overview of the Map Room**

**Cabinet 1:** A miscellaneous collection of mostly maps of Queensland but with some of Australia and other Australian States – in particular of northern NSW.

**Cabinet 2:** Mostly Parish maps of Queensland.

**Cabinet 3:** A complete set of Ordnance Maps of England, Scotland and Wales; five maps of Ireland; and maps of some English counties.

**Cabinet 4:** German maps. (Refer to p.49 also.)

**Cabinet 5:** The *Two Mile Series* and *Four Mile Series* of maps of Qld; Maps of Commonwealth Electorates (Qld), Local Government shires/wards, and Qld Lands Department maps.

**Boxes 1 to 9:** Road Maps

**Boxes 10 to 16:** National Geographic Maps

**Folders 1 to 6:** Antique Maps

### **Cabinet 1**

The maps stored in this cabinet are mostly of Queensland but in the back of it there is a miscellaneous collection of maps of the other states, particularly of northern New South Wales. Also some maps of Australia are included. The maps are separated by dividers.

The Queensland maps include early maps of Brisbane and its suburbs and of Moreton Bay, as well as maps of some Queensland towns. There are also maps showing the extent of Brisbane floods, stock routes, proposed railway lines, goldfields, artesian bores, the 1864 rail freight systems and miscellaneous others.

There are some Cadastral and Ordnance maps. The Cadastral maps show the size and boundaries of properties, topographical features, roads and railways. Ordnance maps were drawn from surveys conducted by the Australian Defence Forces. There are also geological maps

that were produced by the Department of Mines and the Department of Lands.

#### Suggested steps to follow:

- Check *Book 1* for contents of Cabinet 1.
- Check the Road Maps (Boxes 1 – 9) in the Map Room and the atlases in the Library if you are unfamiliar with your research area.
- Check the *Index Card File*.

#### Cabinet 2

The QFHS Inc. collection of some 570 Parish Maps of Queensland is only a fraction of the complete series. The maps mostly cover the coastal areas and also some of the Darling Downs and, in the western areas of the State, the Maranoa and Mitchell districts.

With a scale of 1 inch to 40 chain, the maps are clear and concise. The Key Map on each Parish Map shows its county and all its parishes.

Also check for Reference Numbers on the Key Maps that indicate maps from the *Two and Four Mile Series* stored in Cabinet 5 that duplicate these parishes. By simply checking this Reference Number in Cabinet 5, you may find the desired Parish Map. The Parish Maps are in alphabetical order of District, then County, and then Parish.

#### Suggested steps to follow:

- Check *Book 2* for list of contents.
- **In the library**, check *Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Properties*. (H8/11/2). This is a helpful resource when researching pastoral areas.
- Refer to *Folder 5* — a yellow folder on the shelves in the map room. It has six maps of Northern Territory pastoral properties.
- Check *Queensland Parish Maps* compiled by Pearl Mahony and Dorothy Grice (H8/039/003). It gives a listing of the names of property owners in alphabetical order.
- Check the *Index Card File*.

#### Cabinet 3

The complete collection of Ordnance maps of Scotland, England and Wales are held here. On the door are two grid index maps that make it very easy to locate any map. The scale of these maps is 1 inch to 1 mile. (1 mile is approx. 1.6 km.) The maps include such details as villages, towns, forests, farms, estates and surface features. In Cabinet 3 there are also

five Irish maps and other maps of some English counties.

#### Suggested steps to follow:

- Check *Book 3* for list of contents of Cabinet 3.
- Check the *Gazetteers* held at the desk (ask the Library Assistant) or go to *Drawer 13* and refer to the set of microfiche of the *England and Wales Gazetteer* and find the information you need to locate the area of your research.
- Check the *Road Atlas of Britain* on the shelves in the Map Room.
- Check the *Index Card File*.

[A gazetteer lists, for example, the distances of villages and towns from cities, population and much more.]

#### Cabinet 4

The German maps held here are scaled at 1 centimetre to 1 kilometre. They are Ordnance maps that show surface features and lots of detail. The *Index Grid Map* is on the door of the cabinet and each map has a Key Grid showing the names and numbers of the adjacent maps. A list of the grid numbers in numerical order is in the back of *Book 4*.

A small collection of maps of other countries is in the front of the cabinet.

#### Suggested steps to follow:

- Check *Book 4* for contents of Cabinet 4.
- Ask the Library Assistant for help so you can check the *German Gazetteer* which is held in the cabinet at the front desk. (See p.49 also.)
- Check the German atlases in the Library —  
e.g. W08.GER/054/001; W08.GER/054/002;  
W08.GER/054/004; W08.GER/054/005;  
W08.GER/054/008.
- Check the *Index Card File*.

#### Cabinet 5

The *Grid Index Map* on the front of Cabinet 5 shows the *Two Mile Series* of maps in red and the *Four Mile Series* in blue. About four of the *Four Mile* maps are missing but these are covered by the *Two Mile Series*. However, *Map 39* of the *Two Mile Series* (the Sunshine Coast) isn't in the collection.

Other Queensland maps held in this cabinet are those of the Commonwealth Electorates of Queensland at the time the maps were produced, and maps showing Local Government areas (Shires or Wards) in Queensland. ►

Also included are maps from the Queensland Department of Lands and maps published by the Queensland Department of Irrigation and Water Supply. They include geological maps.

The *Two and Four Mile Series* of maps are not listed in *Book 5* so please refer to the *Grid Index Map* on the front of Cabinet 5.

#### **Suggested steps to follow:**

- Check *Book 5* for the contents of Cabinet 5.
- Refer to the *Grid Index Map* on the front of Cabinet 5.
- Check the *Index Card File*.

### **Boxes 1 to 9 — Road Maps**

If you are unfamiliar with the locality you are researching, then road maps may help you, particularly if it is overseas. There is a collection of road maps covering Australia (about fifty-five for Queensland) and some for many other countries on the shelves. Their dates of publication range from the 1950s onwards.

### **Boxes 10 to 16 — National Geographic Maps**

*National Geographic Maps* provide information about a country's culture and history. Many different countries are covered in this series.

Included are maps of the world, of ocean floors and of the solar system.

### **Folders 1 to 6 — Antique Maps**

Antique maps of England, Wales and Ireland and some old maps of London are held in these folders. The maps are reproductions of hand-drawn maps dated from as early as the 1600s.

*Folder 5* has six maps of pastoral stations in the Northern Territory.

#### **Suggested steps to follow:**

- Check the book labelled *Folders and Boxes* on the shelf in the map room.

### **Photocopying Maps**

**[Please ask a Library Assistant to do your photocopying. Do not try to do it yourself.]**

All the maps have been repaired and bound. Photocopying is no longer a problem but some maps are very fragile so care must be taken at all times.

#### **Information for Library Assistants**

- Please use the photocopier outside the map room.
- Attach an A3 sheet on the back of the map behind the area required. This can be done with a small circle of adhesive tape. One piece is enough.
- Position the A3 sheet on the copier but **DO NOT CLOSE THE LID** as it could damage the map.
- Remove the tape from the back of the map immediately after making the photocopy.

### **A personal research journey using maps**

Let me take you along the journey I made to discover an ancestor. I knew Nathan Peachey came from Cambridgeshire but I needed more information about him.

- The G.R.O. (General Register Office – Births, Deaths & Marriages for England and Wales) had no record of him in the early years of registration so I hypothesised he must have been born before 1837.
- In the 1992 version of the I.G.I. (Drawer No. 37), I found Nathan was born in 1834 to Edward and Ann Peachey in Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire.
- I then searched the microfiche of the *Gazetteer of England and Wales* (Drawer 13) for the place, Fen Ditton. I learned that it was two and a half miles north-north-east of Cambridge City.
- I studied the two Grid Index Maps on the door of Cabinet 3 and found that *Map 54* was Cambridgeshire. The city was clearly evident and I soon found Fen Ditton, a farming district with stately homes and estates, forests and mills. The map was from the 1840s when Nathan would have been seven years old. When I found out later that he was an agricultural labourer, I knew he must have worked on some of those farms so I photocopied the map.
- I was unable to find him in the 1881 Census and since I knew he had come to Australia, I went to the shipping lists in the Library (H7/25/10).

My search here was unsuccessful so I reasoned that perhaps he'd come to Australia before the Separation of Queensland. The earliest shipping records that I'd searched were from 1860.

- I then went to the State Archives where I found, in some 1854 shipping records, that Nathan came to Australia with his brother and cousin on the *General Hewitt* when he was twenty years old.
- Next I perused the *Queensland Electoral Rolls 1860 – 1869 and 1870 – 1879* on Computer H and I found him in 1870 in Allora. By 1879 he was at Farm Creek, later called Tannymorel, on a leasehold farm, Lot 1556.
- Then I went to the cabinet that holds the Card Index for the Pedigree Charts of QFHS Inc. members. There I found references to a Margaret, Pam and Berris (you know who you are) who shared my interests. *Thanks Cousins for all your help!*
- Since he had lived in Tannymorel, I knew the Darling Downs District was the area to search. I found Tannymorel was in the Parish of Cunningham, County of Merrivale and Lot 1556 was clearly marked. *Map C2-DD-85* is a parish map with a Scale of 1": 40 chain. All details are large and clear as is *C5-2m-42*, its duplicate in the *Two Mile Series*. I copied both maps.

I now knew the district in which he lived and further research revealed he married the girl next door and that they had lots of children. Hence it was not surprising to learn that he was a driving force in the community's efforts to have the first school built. And, I like to believe, they lived happily ever after.

**Conclusion**

If you haven't used the *QFHS Inc. Map Collection* in your research thus far, I hope that this article has whetted your appetite and that you will soon do so. There you will find a treasure trove of information that will most likely add to your knowledge of an ancestor's life and times.

**Maps — Searchable Index**  
on  
**Computer in the CEMETERY ROOM**

You can now search for a map on the computer in the Cemetery Room.

Shirley Wallace compiled the index and Rosemary Kopittke created the searchable data base. They say it's still a work in progress.

*Thank you Rosemary & Shirley*

**USE OF DEUTSCHES  
ORTSVERZEICHNIS  
(GERMAN GAZETTEER)**

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*Eric wrote the following article for a workshop that he gave to the Central European Group some years ago. If you have interests in Central Europe, please refer to p.59 for the meeting dates for the Central European Group.*

**Overview**

The Deutsches Ortsverzeichnis . . . (German locality list) is one of the tools available for researchers to help them track down the place of origin of their German ancestors. It is a reprint of a book which was first published in 1930 during the Nazi era. The original purpose of the book was to help party members find birth certificates of their ancestors by locating for them the *Standesamt* (Civil Registry Office) for each town and village in Germany. The book thus reflects the state of Germany at that time.

**The Book**

The book has three sections. The first lists towns and villages in the Germany of 1930. The second section lists towns in those areas lost to Germany after World War I — i.e. Elsaß-Lothringen, Memel, North Schleswig, Danzig, West Preussen, and Posen. The third section lists the *Kreise* (Districts) for the first section.

As an example, suppose you wanted to find out about the village of Pankin. Looking in the first section (p.207, column 621), you will find the following entry —

\* Pankin Pom 111d L 503 ∞

Taking each of the items in turn this entry informs you that:

- \* Pankin was the site of a civil Registry Office.
- Pom Pankin was within the province of Pommern (Pomerania)
- 111d 111 is the number of the *Kreis*. The key to this information is found in Section 3. On p.376, column 16, you are told that Pankin is in the *Kreis Schlawe*; in turn this is part of *Regierungsbezirk Köslin*; and this in turn is part of the province of Pommern. The letter *d* tells you