



# BORDERLINE NEWS

Newsletter 191

August 2024

## Next meeting dates & guest speakers:

**Aug 20: Jenny Harkness on using Family Search at Hyphen Wodonga Library at 7pm**

**Sept 17: Carolyn Renfrey on WikiTrees and GeniTalk**

**Oct16: Wendy Cooksey on wills and probate in UK and Australia**

**Nov 17: Chris McQuillan on record searching military personnel**

The WFHS Research Area is open at Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery for members and visitors on:- Tuesdays – 1pm to 4pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays 11am to 3 & first Saturday of the month



## MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

**Subscriptions:** New members -Joining fee \$10.00 plus \$30 membership fee Annual Membership- \$30.00 Part-year membership -(join between 1st April - 30th June) \$10.00 plus joining fee. Research request - \$40.00 or \$5.00 for simple check of the WFHS records. Full transcripts of Unrelated Certificates \$6.00 each.

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## Society News - Presidents Report

*Hello Everybody,*

It is that time of year again when we are happy to see frosty mornings so we have wonderful sunny days. I hope winter hasn't been too unkind to you and you have been able to make great discoveries in your research.

We have had a very busy three months and wonderful speakers. In May, Jillian Salzke informed us about the resources held at the Charles Sturt Uni Regional Archives at Wagga. These documents cover the Riverina but include some from NE Victoria especially the Anglican Church records for the Wangaratta diocese. They now include Wodonga parishes but we do have digitised copies at Hyphen. In June, Janette very bravely brought us further into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by having a Zoom meeting with Alison Preiss from the Germanic Group of SAGHS. An excellent turnout of members who certainly learned how to trace their German ancestors and what problems they may face. Good to know that Alison and her group are very willing to help with any problems.

In July the Zoom meeting with Sue Reid, a member of the Qld Family Society on Newspapers, here and overseas. A wonderful presentation but there were many like me who were overwhelmed by what can be found if you know where to look. Her advice is not to overlook the benefits of being a library member, especially the State Library of Victoria (or NSW) and the National Library at Canberra. They have so many resources available on line and they are free to use! And don't we like free? Thank you, Janette, for arranging these highly respected speakers.

Our attempt to have a day time meeting was not possible but those who attended the 'Christmas in July' lunch were very grateful for the opportunity to have a chat.

Thank you for paying your subs for the next twelve months. Your contribution helps pay for our resources, insurance and items necessary to make a successful society. Good news! Wodonga Council has extended our agreement to be at Hyphen for another three years. Our resources are easy to access and the facilities are first rate. We are very fortunate to have this dedicated space.

As is often the case there is a request for your help. Please consider joining our committee. Our AGM is next month. We need you, so don't wait to be asked, just fill in the Nomination Form and give it to any committee member. We will be grateful for your support. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find requests to help or attend at the BBQ at Bunnings' on Sunday 22 Sept.; during Senior's week 6-15<sup>th</sup> October;; or the Bonegilla Experience 16<sup>th</sup> November; the Centenary of Wodonga Water Tower 4th December and Canberra trip for March 2025 (Janette). If you are interested in any of these events, please let us know. Keep up to date with what we are doing by checking what Ann has on our Facebook page and Janette has on our website or have Ian send you the latest news by email.

My sincere thanks to all the people who made Family history month events such a success.

All the best...Pat

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### President and Projects Officer:

Pat Hopkins

### Vice President and Program Co-ordinator:

Janette Griggs

**Secretary & Public Officer:** Ian Smith

**Treasurer:** Sue Jarvis

**Librarian:** Christine Young

**Fundraising & Archives:** Pamela Nulty

**Publicity & Promotions:** Ann Kerin

**Research Officer & GSV representative:** Alice Lindsay

**VAFHO representative:** Ann Kerin

**New Members:** Alice Lindsay

**Newsletter Editor:** Maureen Cuskelly

**Committee Member:** Vince Aitkin

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

◆ Access to all the resources in the Society's library

◆ Quarterly newsletter

◆ Access to other family history news through shared newsletters from other family history groups

◆ Monthly meetings with family history tips, news and guest speakers

◆ Contact with other family historians, researchers and members who share your interest in family history

## CONTACTING US

Wodonga Family History Society Inc.

PO Box 289, Wodonga, Vic 3689

## Website and links:

[www.wodongafamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.wodongafamilyhistory.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/](https://www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/)

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[editor@wodongafamilyhistory.org.au](mailto:editor@wodongafamilyhistory.org.au)

## New Members

A very warm welcome to Kelly Thurling, and welcome back Alison.

## Members featured stories

This newsletter has small stories of discoveries members have made using a variety of different sources and piecing together information from these to create a story.

- Howard 'found' a photo through a Canadian connection, and 'saw' his great great grandfather for the first time
- Pam discovered history that contradicted what she had been told – the updated story shows a fascinating piece of the times and how the justice system operated
- Carolyn uncovered some tragedy through her search
- And, Sue identified a castle in Scotland, and managed to visit it on her travels.
- Wendy's story of her relative's tales 'wild and true' have left her family guessing the truth

## Fundraising Update Advance notice:

Barbecue to be run at **Bunnings Wodonga on Sunday 22 September** in aid of the Society. I would like people to take note of the date and consider helping on the day. People will generally be rostered to two hour time slots. Contact me on [nultyp@exemail.com.au](mailto:nultyp@exemail.com.au) for more information and offers of help.

## Projects Update – Pat Hopkins

I hope you were able to use some of the suggestions offered in the last newsletter to help you with your research. The Search Index is finally available on the desktop at Hyphen so you can discover what we have in various forms about a particular topic. For instance, you might be interested in Leneva so what we have in books, on the computer or in family stories can be found quickly and recorded on a single page by using data filter. This method saves time when compared to Ctrl Find which most of us use. The hardest part was trying to add key words and be consistent. It is still a work in progress, hopefully, any bugs can be sorted as we use it.

One interesting, but underused, item in our collection is the Yackandandah Ratepayers' letters to and from Council. Alice is making sure that the ratepayers named can be found without having to check every book. One letter I saw recorded the date a property transferred from one person to another so there may be hidden gems there for you, especially if you are researching local families.

Several items have been added to the UK section on our desktop from CDs including genealogy magazines issued before 2005. The information may be available on the internet but you might like to view these transcriptions of old parish records, some like Dorset Parish Register Marriages Vol 1 from 1568 to 1812 or a Post Office directory such as Whitehaven in Cumbria for 1848. They can be viewed at our desktop for research only.

### **Program news: Janette Griggs**

We have a varied program coming up with a mix of speakers who will introduce you to on-line resources that will help you in your research., We look forward to hosting members and families at these events. All are welcome.

**Please note the urgent need to express an interest in the Canberra trip for 2025 if you intend going.** We are negotiating group bookings for shared accommodation, and the hire of a private bus for ease of travel around Canberra. Our aim is to provide a varied program while managing costs for members. Details below:-

#### **CANBERRA TRIP - ADVANCED NOTICE**

##### **3-6 March 2025**

This is a four-day event with three nights' accommodation in Canberra. Your cost of approximately \$500 includes accommodation, travel to and from Wodonga and Albury (V-Line bus) to Canberra, private excursions and travel in and around Canberra by private bus. .Please express interest ASAP so bookings for the WFHS event can be made.

#### **August session 20 Aug.7.00pm at Hyphen**

- Jenny Harkness from Church of Latter Day Saints will give highlight what is available on their website and give us tips to help with researching.

#### **September 17 session**

- Focusing on research skills. -Carolyn Renfrey will guide us through using WikiTrees and GeniTalk as alternative tools for recording your family history research.

#### **October 16 session**

- Wendy Cooksey will talk us through where to find Wills and Probates both in Australia and the UK.

#### **November 17 session**

- 'Lest we Forget' Chris McQuillan, Albury Historical Society, will present

Records and Indexes useful for searching military personnel

As *always*, please keep an eye on our website as events and activities are announced and note any *changes* to program events.

### **Family History Month at the Library**

#### **Janette Griggs**

WFHS hosted an open day at the library offering two workshops on Using DNA in research and a workshop on how to display the family story through scrapbooking. Both events were well subscribed and members and visitors gained new knowledge and skills. Judy Charlton and Gail Gillis gave an informative presentation on getting started, how to analyse the results and suggested tools such as DNA Painter and clustering techniques. See page 5 for some beginner notes. The research desk and resource centre was open with individual assistance provided on request.



DNA workshop presented by Judy Charlton and Gail Gillis. Photo WFHS collection



Alice, WFHS, assisting with family history research at the Family History Month Open Day at Hyphen. Photo WFHS collection

## Trove – a Goldmine

### Carolyn Renfrey

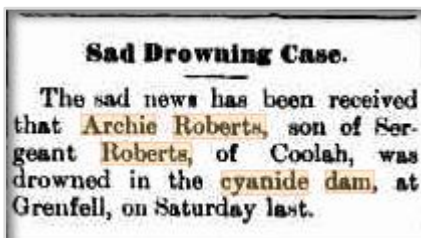
My paternal great great grandmother, Mary Ann Watts (1820-1918), arrived in New South Wales on a migrant ship in 1850. She married Mounted Constable William Roberts in 1878 and had 8 children (as named on her death certificate). My Trove searches revealed her husband's promotions and policing activities as well as minute details of her five daughters' weddings at Grenfell with receptions held 'at the bride's parents' home'. If she was mentioned at all, it was as Mrs Roberts.

In 2019, I visited the Young Family History group where another Trove search was conducted. It found a newspaper article reporting the opening of the new Anglican Church at Grenfell in 1919 where a brass plaque on the altar rail dedicated to May Roberts who had been a faithful worshipper at the church for 16 years.



Additionally, the plaque was dedicated to her son Archie aged 8 who departed this life in 1899.

Who was Archie? No mention of him on the death certificate but a search of Trove revealed more. I found that Archie drowned in a "cyanide dam" and the subsequently reported inquest provides full details of the event. I then searched *Find My Past* to discover Archie had a twin brother who died before his first birthday.



This exercise gave some colour to Mary Roberts nee Watts and proved her death certificate, stating no deceased issue, was incorrect. Trove opened the door to her life

but made me wonder more about her. Did she prefer May to Mary Ann? Did she find comfort in the church after the loss of both her twins? Did she make five wedding dresses and cater for five receptions, all the while keeping the home fires burning for a husband who was clearly committed to his police duties?

### AI and Family History – another goldmine for searching and writing the story

Interested in AI? Highly recommend you read this excellent overview written by Andrew Redfern He outlines ways AI can help from searching, identifying photos, even creating a photo likeness based on a description of your ancestor. In addition, AI can assist with story writing.

Read: Getting Started with AI in Family History at <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/getting-started-with-ai-in-family-history/>

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### Research tips: Wanting help to translate language documents such as letters, diaries and certificates?

**Google Translate:** this free tool can translate text and documents in numerous languages. It's particularly useful for quick translations.

**DeepL Translate:** Known for its high quality translations, DeepL supports multiple languages and often provides more nuanced translations than some other tools.

**Microsoft Translator:** This tool offers translation services similar to Google Translate and supports text, speech, and image translation.

**MyHeritage:** This genealogy- focused site offers translation services as part of its features, helping to translate historical documents and records.

**FamilySearch Community:** This platform has forums where you can ask for help with translations from other family historians who might be fluent in the language you are dealing with.

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## *Who has a castle in the back yard?*

**Sue Jarvis**

My great grandmother was Jessie Ann Murray whose family came from the Borders of Scotland. Before I went to Scotland I discovered as much information as I could. I found information on the internet and confirmed this was the correct family going back from my great grandmother Jessie Murray and her parents. I contacted the author of an article about Drochil Castle, who was part of our family. He had moved to Canada and had written a history of our branch of the Murray's.

When I was in Scotland, I was able to trace the places where this line of the family had lived and visit the gravesites which fitted in with the dates I had. While there, I Googled all the places the author had mentioned. This was how I found where Drochil Castle was and that it now included a farm stay.



The north east tower Castle Photo:  
Paul Hermans, May 2010

The building of Drochil Castle has an interesting story (Wikipedia). In 1758 James Murray moved to Drochil Farm which was built beside the ruins of Drochil Castle. The castle built in 1578 was never finished because James Douglas, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Morton, never completed the build before he was implicated in the deaths of Queen Mary's confidant David

Rizzio and king consort Henry Darley. Consequently, he was executed by the order of King James IV. It is now a protected ancient monument. In 2016, I was delighted to be able to stay there. The owner who had lived there his whole life told me that when they were children, they played in the ruins, but the area is fenced off now. He allowed me to have a close look at the old family castle.



The north east tower Castle Photo:  
Paul Hermans, May 2010

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## *What can a DNA test tell us? – Judy Charlton*

A DNA test from the mainstream testing sites will have:

1. Ethnicity Profile and maybe down to small communities such as Cork, Ireland
2. Some fun stuff about family traits
3. People who share DNA with you and information on what the relationship may be such as 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin
4. Tools to help you analyse the results

A DNA test may reveal confronting information – you must be prepared for any eventuality.

A DNA test will not lay out your answers for you. You will still need to do genealogical research based on archived documents and online records and analyse your DNA results. While waiting for your results (about 2 months) build a family tree on the testing site using the information you already know about your family on both paternal and maternal sides. Talk to your family and gather as much information as possible about your relatives.

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## Finding Dafydd Davies

Howard C Jones

Here's a picture of my great-great grandfather Dafydd (David) Davies (1848-1935) found recently through Ancestry.com. Dafydd was a woodman on a country estate near Aberystwyth, Wales.



Dafydd Davies (1848-1935)  
Photo: Author's collection

Every Sunday he led the singing at his Methodist chapel and won prizes for ploughing, singing and making a walking stick! Three of his 12 children migrated to Edmonton, Canada between 1903 and 1913, never to see their parents again. One son fathered 14 children and the others had large families.

Luckily for me the Canadians treasured his picture for over 100 years and posted it on Ancestry.com.

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## *Genealogy fun*

I couldn't afford a DNA test so I announced I had won Tattsлото - I soon found all of my relatives (and a few extras)

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### **19<sup>th</sup> Unlock the Past cruise August 2025**

A comprehensive family history conference, tour and cruise package developed around a 4 night Murray Princess cruise.

For further information and bookings see <https://www.gould.com.au/miscellaneous/cruises-and-events/>

## **TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED WITH DNA in family history**

**Choose the Right Test:** Select a DNA test that matches your research goals. Autosomal DNA tests are great for finding relatives across all lines of your family tree, Y-DNA tests trace the paternal line, and mtDNA tests trace the maternal line.

**Utilise matching tools:** use the matching tools provided by the DNA companies to find and connect with potential relatives. Many platforms offer features like shared matches, chromosome browsers, and family tree comparisons to help you identify how you are related to your DNA matches.

## **Combine DNA Results with Traditional**

**Research:** DNA testing should complement, not replace traditional genealogical research. Use your DNA results to confirm paper trails, solve brick walls, and uncover connections, but always verify findings with documented evidence.

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## *WFHS - Surplus to requirements.*

Any member interested in any of the following items contact Pat. All items are FREE

- 4 Index Card boxes and Index cards
  - Binding machine
  - Adjustable punch
  - Plastic binding cones    Sizes 8m and 12m
  - Plastic blanket box (crate)
  - Microfiche reader AND
  - Lamp bulbs for microfiche reader
  - 4 Drawer desktop stationery drawers – Pink
  - 3 x Toner Cartridge suitable for Fuji Xerox DocuPrint P255DW, M255Z, DocuPrint M255DF, DocuPrint P255D
  - Wire basket drawer – large – white
  - 2 drawer Filing Cabinet – fits under desk
-

## *Finding Family Stories*

**Pamela Nulty**

My research has helped me find a couple of interesting stories relating to my family from both newspapers and Law Court reports.

My maternal grandmother was proud of the standing of her mother's family in the community; her grandfather Charles Benson was a successful businessman who was licensee of a number of hotels in Melbourne and several in Ballarat between the 1860s and 1890s. One of these was the Elm Hotel which of interest, it has recently sold, destined to close after 160 years. In the near future the site is to be used for an office building.



Elm Hotel, Melbourne – licensee Charles Benson (1893).  
Photo: Google Earth

However, I later discovered Charles Benson had been a convict sent to Australia at the age of 17 for stealing a few gold sovereigns from his employer. He served his 7 years, married in Sydney and was a successful Butcher. During a trip to England with his wife he married someone else and was charged with bigamy before he and his new wife could return to Australia. He had booked passage for them the day after the wedding. He was released from the bigamy charge after it was discovered the woman he had married in Sydney was using an assumed name and was already married, so his marriage to her was not legal.

This complicated story was reported in a number of English newspapers and also in Australia. He returned to Australia with his

new wife but settled in Melbourne where he was not known, rather than Sydney. He went on to be fairly successful in the hotel business although he had a few of periods of insolvency. During these times he worked as a butcher, an undertaker and at some stage sold land to obtain Certificates of Discharge from the Insolvency Court.

The other story which I am in the process of researching is about a Merchant Mariner from another branch of the family. I discovered he spent 18 months in a Debtors Prison in England in the 1830s after buying a yacht, starting to fit it out and purchasing provisions for a year-long voyage to the Mediterranean. However, he had not sold enough tickets for the trip to cover the costs when people started to demand their money. Consequently, he was arrested, charged with insolvency and imprisoned in a Debtors Prison for 18 months. I am still piecing together this story, reports in different newspapers give slightly different information.

I uncovered the English newspaper reports about these two ancestors through my subscription to *Find My Past* and Australian reports on *Trove*

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### ***GSV Update: Grave Matters:***

*Seminar: Discover the Hidden Stories in Victoria's Cemetery Records*

Date: Saturday 12 October –

Where: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

Join GSV for an enlightening seminar where leading experts will reveal how cemetery records can be a treasure trove for local and family historians.

Learn techniques to deepen your research and unearth fascinating stories about the past.

For more information and bookings visit [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au)

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## A colourful character

David John Goode, 1938—2024

Wendy Cooksey

On a trip to England and France with my 17-year-old granddaughter Nikita (Nikki), one of the people I wanted to catch up with was David Goode. He is my 1<sup>st</sup> half-cousin once removed (thank goodness for Family Tree Maker working this out for me!).

My great grandfather, John Nicklin Beresford was widowed when my great grandmother Eliza Ann Vesey died on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1895, leaving him with three young boys aged one, two and five years old. 14 years later, he married Eveline Green on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1909. They had two children, Rowland and Elsie. Elsie was David's mother.

Some years before our trip, David's daughter, Carol, had sent me a copy of a photo of my great grandfather John Nicklin Beresford who was David's grandfather. The photo was uncannily like one of my brothers, Tom, right down to the widow's peak hairline not shared by my other three brothers.

Carol told me the photo had come from an album belonging to her father. There were many old family photos in it. She did not get around to sending me any more photos, so I was keen to see what else he may have and try to take a better copy of my great grandfather.

David was retired, but had many different occupations over his working life; the latest was as a taxi driver. He lived in Daveyhulme, Manchester. He offered to pick us up, and invited us to stay for a meal. The drive was over an hour each way. He filled it with chatter and tales. He had lost the bottom half of one leg many years before when he and his family were living in Wales. He told us that it was as the result of a poisonous snakebite. The bite apparently became infected, and the poison was so rare the medical staff had problems

treating it. After several months, the life-saving decision was made to have his leg amputated below the knee. This all took place in Wales. We acted dutifully impressed! He drove a specially adapted vehicle. Another cousin, Sue, later told me that when he drove, he used to take the artificial leg off and his wife Hazel, a smoker, used it for an ashtray. Thankfully he didn't take it off whilst we were in the car!!

We met his wife, Hazel, children and grandchildren, then I got down to the serious business of checking out David's photo album and copying the relevant ones with my Flip-Pal.



A Pears soap advertisement, picture from <https://www.bing.com/images/feed>

David continued his tales. There was a large framed picture on the wall of a young girl in a Pears soap advertisement. He told us it was the original painting from which the advertisements were copied. I didn't study it closely enough to know if it was a painting or a print. He was certainly well off enough to have purchased an original if he wanted to. He owned several properties.

He told us that he had a canteen of cutlery that belonged to Hermann Göring, and that his father had exchanged it for a particular handgun that Goring wanted. David's family use the cutlery set daily. He showed it to me and it was certainly old, good quality and obviously used.

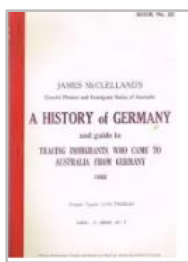
David showed us a clock hanging on the wall that he said was 'acquired' by his father during WW2 and that it was quite rare and the factory where it was manufactured wanted it back!!

All these stories were very entertaining, but I couldn't help wondering about their authenticity! When my cousin Sue let me know he had passed away after a short illness, she mentioned his wonderful story-telling adding, "We never knew how true they were".

A colourful character was David, and he made our visit most entertaining. \*\*\*



## Researching German Family History



Members may be interested in the following book available in the WFHS research area at Hyphen: *A History of Germany and Guide to tracing immigrants who came to Australia from*

*Germany* by James McLelland

Below are some other highly regarded reference books and dictionaries which may be of use. You may need to search on line to find their availability.

1. *Dictionary of German Names* by Hans Bahlow: this book is an excellent resource for understanding the meanings and origins of German surnames, which can be crucial for tracing family history.
2. *German Genealogical Research* by George K. Schweitzer: this book provides practical advice and detailed research in German-speaking countries, with a focus on records and archives.
4. *Ancestors in German Archives: A Guide to Family History Sources* by Raymond S. Wright 111 et al. This guide provides detailed information about German archives and the records they hold, which is essential for anyone conducting in-depth German genealogical research.
5. *The German Research Companion* by Shirley J. Reimer: This comprehensive guide covers historical background, German Genealogical records, and practical research strategies.

### WFHS Sponsor

**BRANDJAM**  
CREATIVE. We thank Katie for her support in printing our newsletters and flyers



## International Family History Month

WFHS would like to acknowledge all those who contributed to make this year's events a resounding success. Thank you to:

### *Program and event organiser*

Janette Griggs

### *DNA workshops*

Judy Charlton

Gail Gillis

### *Research Desk*

Christine Young

Alice Lindsay

### *Scrapbooking workshop*

Sharon Darling Filby

Sue Jarvis

Maureen Cuskelly

### *Promotions*

Ann Kerin

### *WFHS archives and photography*

Pam Nulty

### *Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery staff*

Bev

Barb



The Wodonga Family History Society Inc. is a non-profit, incorporated group.

The Society aims to promote and assist the study of Family History.

Located in the Hyphen – Wodonga Library Gallery, 126 Hovell Street, Wodonga.

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