



Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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AFFHO Council 2019-2020

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Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council it is primarily concerned with family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Associate membership is open to any organisation which satisfies the Council that it is interested in family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Newsflash contributions to editor@affho.org

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From the President

August has been a very busy month for most family history organisations as we celebrate National Family History Month (NFHM) and organise events for our members and the public. My society has celebrated 31 days of family history with events almost every day and it has been very rewarding introducing the public to the role of our society and how it can assist in furthering an individual's family history.

The opening event for NFHM was held in Melbourne on Friday 2nd August and at that event the winners of the Nick Vine Hall Award were announced. Congratulations to the winners and the runners up - listed elsewhere in Newsflash. I understand that the entries were of a very high calibre this year and the editors and contributors of each of the journals need to be very proud of their efforts.

The closing event for NFHM is to be held at the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG), Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney, on Tuesday 3 September 2019 and registration is essential.

We were fortunate in Auckland to take part in the Auckland Family History Expo which has been generously sponsored by the Genealogical Computer Group and the Auckland Council Libraries. This year they brought three international speakers to Auckland for a weekend.

- Dr Nick Barratt, who is currently President of the Federation of Family History Societies, delivered some inspiring stories which enthralled the audience.
- Cyndi Ingle, who is the creator of the award winning CyndiList.org has been a genealogist for nearly forty years and her talks gave much practical advice and tips and had many making notes for future study.
- Raymon Naisbitt, from FamilySearch delivered a number of talks on different aspects of the FamilySearch website and how to navigate and make it work for users.

I hope that your society has been able to take advantage of the opportunity which National Family History Month provides. If you didn't take part this year then plan to do this next year.
Robyn Williams, President

National Family History Month Closing Ceremony

Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG)

Richmond Villa

120 Kent Street, Sydney

Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 10.30 am

- Speaker - Heather Garnsey,
"Ten Mistakes in Family History - and how not to make them!"
- Prize Draws
- Slideshow - sponsors, events and participants in NFHM 2019
- Morning Tea

Bookings are essential – register at

<http://familyhistorymonth.org.au/event/nfhm-2019-closing-ceremony>



Winners of the Nick Vine Hall Award 2019

Winners were announced at the National Family History Month Opening Ceremony.

Category A (for societies with less than 500 members)

Winner: *Newcastle Family History Society Journal No. 221, March 2018*, Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

Runner Up: *Pigeon House Tidings No. 47, December 2018*, Milton-Ulladulla Family History Society Inc.

Category B (for societies with 500 or more members)

Winner: *The New Zealand Genealogist Volume 49 No. 374, December 2018*, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Runner Up: *Western Ancestor Volume 14 No. 4, December 2018*, The Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.



From the Society of Genealogists Newsletter

http://www.sog.org.uk/uploads/Events%20Images/SoG_monthly_newsletter_aug_2019.pdf

Launch of Hearth Tax Digital. Hearth taxes were levied in medieval and modern Europe, notably in France and the Low Countries, but were not levied in the British Isles until the late seventeenth century.

Following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, the hearth tax was levied in England and Wales from 1662 until 1689 (it continued to be collected in Ireland until the early nineteenth century).

It was charged according to the number of fireplaces in dwellings, and it was collected twice each year at one shilling per hearth. It was also levied in Scotland in 1691 with collection lasting until 1695.

The hearth tax provides a remarkably rich series of records on population, wealth distribution and poverty in a period of key political, social and economic change.

The Hearth Tax Digital website, in association with the Hearth Tax Project & Centre for Hearth Tax Research, has recently launched online at <https://gams.uni-graz.at/context:htx>.

Just to note at present the City of London and Middlesex, Durham, York, parts of Yorkshire and Westmorland are online and Bristol, Essex, Kent and Surrey are currently being worked on.

T T Reed Family History Award, 2018

An Annual Award made by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc.
for the best family history submitted for judging, with a focus on South Australia.

Furious Riding – Tales of the Jolly family, 1713-2017, Judy Smith

A New Start – the Start, Blackburn, Knowles and Rafferty Family Story, Joan Paasuke

Stephen and Elizabeth Stringer (Somerset to South Australia 1863) and their Eighth Child, Joseph Stringer, Leon Stringer

Leane Times: One Family's Transformation from Cornish farmers to Australian fighters, Wendy Frew

O'Grady Emigrants from Ardfert, County Kerry, Ireland, 1854, Margaret A Heath

Dust in the Wind. One Family's Journey – 1850-1991, Marie Anthea Hughes

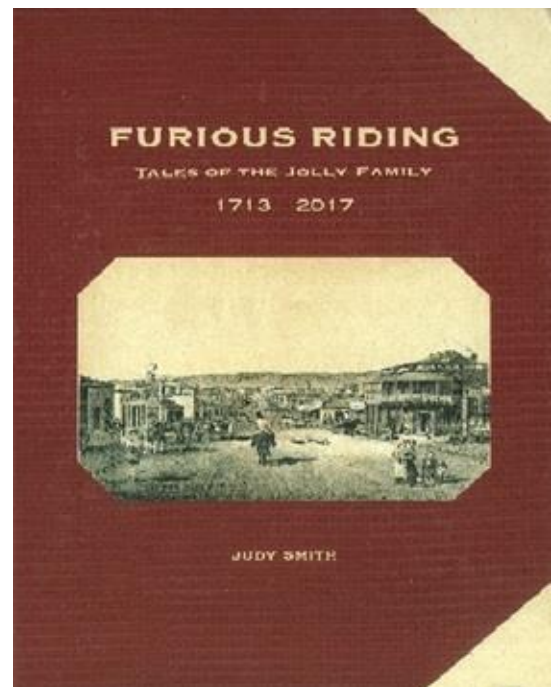


This year six family histories were presented for judging for the TT Reed Family History Award 2018. The judges, of which there were four, coming from a variety of backgrounds, have read the histories and prepared the following comments to provide feedback to the authors as to why they made their decision and to also be a guide to future authors when creating their own story of their family. Members of the Judging Panel believe that over the years, since the Award has been made, feedback has helped improve the scholarship of family histories. While the family history is primarily for the family concerned, the reality is that family histories have a broader appeal to others who are interested in South Australian history in general and those interested in the social history of the State. Families do not live in isolation and the narrative of the family story needs to be inter-woven with their community and broader histories. The ability of the author to do this makes the difference between an ordinary history of facts (often 'hatches, matches and dispatches') and an excellent history reflecting the context of the period in that era of time.

The Judges made the Award to, *Furious Riding – Tales of the Jolly Family, 1713-2017*, by Judy Smith.

Furious Riding – Tales of the Jolly Family, 1713-2017, Judy Smith

A meticulously researched and comprehensive history of the Jolly family. The book is well written and presented, easy to read and will be of interest to the general reader. Future generations will find this an invaluable resource. Jolly descendants have a treasure trove of information on their ancestors. Judy Smith has written several family histories in the past, including one that won a previous TT Reed Family History Award. As a result, she is well versed in what is required in a family history, so in many respects she 'ticks most of the boxes' in what are seen as essential elements in a family history. The Jolly family arrived in the Colony of South Australia at the beginning on the State's white history and went on to have a large family which has multiplied over the generations. There are good biographies of family members down to at least the third and fourth generations. Photographs are of high quality and family trees clearly presented. Descriptions of basic vital statistics have been presented in different ways so as to make this book a much more interesting read.



From the Society of Genealogists Newsletter

http://www.sog.org.uk/uploads/Events%20Images/SoG_monthly_newsletter_aug_2019.pdf

The Scottish Court of Session Project is now live. newly digitized 18th and 19th century Scottish Court of session records from the Law Library of Congress, Washington D.C. and university of Virginia school of Law are up and ready for researchers. the project can be explored online at: <http://scos.law.virginia.edu/explore>. (from @UVALAWSCOS on Twitter)

News Release



FamilySearch Users Can Now Correct Name Indexing Errors

Salt Lake City, Utah (31 July 2019), [FamilySearch](#) has added a much-anticipated innovation that now enables users to make name corrections to its indexes. Corrections made by users increase the likelihood of success for researchers to find the records of their ancestors. (Find and share this announcement online in the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#)).

If you have ever searched for ancestors online in indexed records, you inevitably find collections where your ancestor's name was indexed incorrectly. Sometimes it was indexed correctly according to what was written on the source document, but that name may not be an alternative spelling of the name used by your family.

The reasons for incorrect entries of indexed names are many and valid—difficult-to-read handwriting, faded ink, document damage, errors in the original documents, uncommon names, language barriers, and unexpected spellings are among them. When entries are indexed incorrectly from valuable historic records, it is difficult for family researchers to find the ancestor and the accompanying information they are seeking.

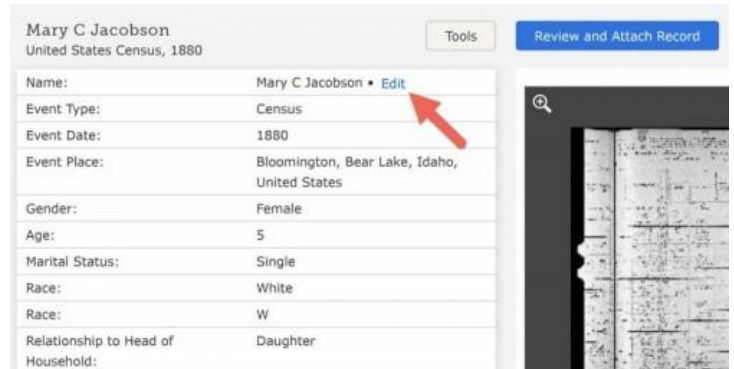
People can now correct the spelling on the index and leave a brief explanation. Corrections will appear along with the original index entries—making both searchable online. Only indexes referring to images can be corrected, meaning that not all index entries are editable. A user can check the image and compare it to the index entry. An icon of a page and a camera at the side of the index entry indicate that an image is available.

FamilySearch product manager John Alexander recommends that users take the time to use the new tool as needed when they run across indexed records that they know are in error. “Adding corrections to an index when the information does not match the names as written in the original document or if the document was recorded wrong will increase the quality of the index and usefulness to other searchers,” said Alexander. For example, if “Johnathan”—spelled with an H—was indexed as “Jonathan,” a user who recognizes the error can add to the index to show the actual spelling as written in the document. Alexander reported that users will soon have the ability to correct additional types of indexing errors besides names.

FamilySearch Indexing Editing Made Easy

Editing an index entry on FamilySearch is simple. When searching for an ancestor on the site, users can look through the results for a likely record and click the ancestor's name. A box will pop up with the indexed information on the left and a clickable image on the right. If the index is editable, the word “Edit” will appear in blue to the right of the name.

To enter the desired correction, click **Edit**, and follow the prompts. A space is included for other comments or explanations. User corrections will not override the information already on FamilySearch but adds an alternative. Multiple corrections can be added to a record. All will be searchable



From the *Society of Genealogists* Newsletter

http://www.sog.org.uk/uploads/Events%20Images/SoG_monthly_newsletter_aug_2019.pdf

English and Welsh Probate Records Price Reduction. We are excited to reveal that the cost of post-1858 probate records for documents and wills (England and Wales) has recently been reduced from £10 to £1.50. It is unknown for how long the price will remain at this level. Searches and orders can be made on the government's website <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>. A new probate record will be online approximately 14 days after probate has been issued.

NB: There is a different process in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Gold Coast Family History Society 40th Birthday

The Gold Coast Family History Society chose to celebrate its 40th birthday during Family History Month in August, 2019. On 11th August we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fun. Local dignitaries, a Society Patron, Local History Library staff, and presenters took part in our celebrations. The history of the Society since 1979 was delivered by President, Margaret Deacon. An accompanying slide show provided visuals of the wonderful characters who have graced our family history community, the variety of locations which the Society has occupied and the events and functions that have been part of our life in the past 40 years. A great feature of the afternoon was the Show and Tell segment which allowed members to highlight a special treasure or photo in their family history and speak about it in 2-3 minutes. The audience reactions demonstrated how much they engaged in this wonderful activity. The table displays of precious books, Society memorabilia, and cherished objects belonging to members added to the significance of the day. The birthday cake was cut by our Patron, Lex Bell. Afternoon tea provided an opportunity for about 50 members and guests to mingle and socialise – an important aspect which binds our family history community.



L to R: Dr Jennifer Harrison, Historian, Kyla Stephan, Local History Librarian; Margaret Deacon, President of Society; Fay Carbis; Lex Bell, Patron of Society.

The Tuam Orphan Girls' Project

I am researching the girls who were sent out from Tuam Workhouse and ancillary Workhouses in Annaghdown and Headford in 1848-50

The FB page for the Project gives info about several of the girls and their stories. Included are connections to the 'Kelly Gang' via Steve Hart and also the author Steele Rudd

<https://www.facebook.com/Tuam-Orphan-Girls-Project-1295743930582497>

I would appreciate if you could disseminate the link amongst your members as I am hoping to organise a Commemoration for the Girls in May 2020, the 170th anniversary of the last of the ships as part of our Famine Memorial remembrances in the area

Thanks

Martin Curley, Mountbellew, Co Galway



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HAGSOC News Items

E M Fletcher Writing Award Update

A big thank you to those who submitted a story in the inaugural 2019 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award. The competition has now closed. Following the launch by Society Vice President Jenny Higgins in February 2019, there was a steady trickle of entries until the concluding two weeks, when a last minute flurry saw most of the submissions arrive. We are pleased to let you know that 56 entries were submitted – a great response for a fledgling competition in its first year.

The competition is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher, a long-time member who had significant input into the formation of the Society over many years. It was a pleasure to hear from Eunice's daughters, Robin and Anne Fletcher, who are delighted that the competition was named after their mother. Robin said 'I can't think of a nicer way to have Mum remembered, as it brings together two of her great loves'.

At the time of writing this article, the entries are with the judges for assessment and the winner/s will be notified by 1 October 2019. We thank our judges, David Coombe, Cora Num and Mary Lynn Mather, who are no doubt enjoying reading the results of your hard yards of research that were transformed into the wonderfully diverse mix of stories we received. We are planning an event during October 2019 to celebrate the winning entry and present the winner/s awards. More information about this event will be on the HAGSOC events web page as details are finalised. <https://familyhistoryact.org.au/>



Eunice M. Fletcher

Family History Month - Mugga Mugga Cottage

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra recently partnered with ACT Historic Places for an event at historic Mugga-Mugga, to celebrate Family History Month. Visitors enjoyed a talk by Society member and National Library of Australia staffer Quentin Slade about her family history quest using early maps of the Canberra region. A tour of the historic 1830s stone cottage, perched on the gentle hillside of the Limestone Plains, rounded out an enjoyable day.



Family History Month - Royal Australian Mint - Bushrangers

Last year it was convicts this year it's bushrangers. The Royal Australian Mint has launched their new coin, exhibition and roadshows with "The Bold, The Bad and The Ugly: 'Australia's Wild Colonial Bushrangers'". HAGSOC members were invited back for a special evening to view the exhibition with the presentations given by the curators. Thirteen of our members braved the Canberra cold to hear the stories of the bushrangers featured, warm up with tea and coffee and view a presentation by Matthew Frawley, the Product Development Officer, on the process of creating themes for coins and the follow on marketing and presentation. The bushrangers featured in the marketing roadshows for this exhibition are: Captain Moonlite, Captain Thunderbolt's lady Mary Ann Bugg, Birdman of the Coorong - John Peggotty, Patrick and James Kenniff, Dan 'Mad Dog' Morgan, Moondyne Joe and, of course, Edward (Ned) Kelly and his gang.



WAGS FamilyHistoryWA Snippets

2019 has been an eventful year for the WA Genealogical Society. On the 1st January the Society celebrated the 40th anniversary of its formation in 1979, which was also the year of Western Australia's sesquicentenary. From tiny beginnings in a small room in West Perth with no computers, internet, mobile phones or electronic mail, the Society has come far. We've developed into a sophisticated group with hard working teams of dedicated members and been able to manage the many changes to our organisation and genealogical research methods brought about by technology.

This milestone was celebrated at a luncheon on 7th April and, in front of a large turnout of members, the official birthday cake was cut by old and new members, Shirley Babis and Shane Becu, along with President Ian Simon. We were also treated to humorous and thoughtful speeches outlining our Society's past and what might lie ahead for genealogy in the future.

The Society has used this 40th anniversary year to make the full changeover to its new business name, FamilyHistoryWA (FHWA) - the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. remains our legal entity. Signs, stationery, email addresses and logo are among the many items undergoing rejuvenation and we now have a marquee and flag to take to outside events. It has been a huge task but should provide the Society with a new identity and broaden our appeal

In March, our Military Special Interest Group organised a weekend away at Albany to view the installation Field of Light which comprises 16,000 spheres set up at Mt Clarence to mark the last sight of home for 41,000 troops who left from this West Australian port city for Europe and the Great War. The group of seventeen members also visited the magnificent National Anzac Centre, the Princess Royal Fortress Museum and spent time with members of our affiliate organisation, the Albany Family History Society at their headquarters.

At the June AGM, Ian Simon, our President for the last three years, stepped down from the role as required by our Constitution, and Tony Turner was elected to the position. Ian is to be heartily congratulated on the way he has led the Society. His commitment and the time and energy he gave to the role as well as his astute leadership has been of great benefit to the Society.



*Pictures top to bottom:
WAGS 40th Anniversary dinner
Albany Family History Society
Field of Light at Mt Clarence*

Searching Registry Historical Indexes

Family Historians News – July 2019 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages. Reprinted with permission.

A helpful Family History Search Guide containing tips for searching the historical index can be found on the BDM website at: <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Documents/family-history-search-help-guide.pdf>

Some registrations appear more than once in Registry indexes because of the process of registrations prior to 1856, when registration of births, deaths and marriages became the responsibility of the Registrar-General.

From 1825 to the early 1860's, church records of baptisms, marriages and burials were submitted by religious ministers/priests. Copies of records created were also sent to another department, who issued certificates. Later in the 1860's and 1870's these church records were forwarded to the Registry, in addition to records from other registering bodies such as the Supreme Court and the Archdeacon's Court.

Some of these records were duplications of each other and, as a result have been entered into the indexes more than once, the end result being, the duplications are the same person.

If you have any questions relating to the Registry's indexes, please contact us on:

bdmfamilyhistory@justice.nsw.gov.au

Changes to Fees for Products and Services

NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages.

This update is to advise that the Registry's fees for products and services are changing from Monday 1st July 2019. A breakdown of the updated fees can be accessed from [Fees for products and services](#) link.

From 1 July 2019, the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages joins the Department of Customer Service (leaving the Department of Justice). This change was announced by the NSW Premier Ms Gladys Berejiklian in March this year following the NSW State election.

You may notice the departmental name change, and a new logo on tax invoices and any other correspondence. Your transactional processes and your key Registry contacts will remain unchanged.

Regards, Stakeholder Support Team

The British Newspaper Archive available in Australia

I'd like to bring to the attention of the AFFHO an incredibly useful resource for family history group members in Australia. The resource is the [British Newspaper Archive](#).

The Archive currently comprises of over 33 million pages dating between 1703-2003. It also includes stories, photos and advertisements from settlers moving to Australia – take a look at [BNA Australia Day blog](#). There are also interesting stories relating to projects like the "Big Brother" movement to promote emigration to the colonies.

JCS is now the representative for Findmypast Ltd in Australia so we are keen to ensure that family historians are aware of this vast collection of newspapers. Subscriptions are available to BNA as well as [Findmypast](#) to family history societies and organisations. There is also a discounted bundle option available making it a lot more affordable to subscribe to both resources.

For more information and to request a free 14-day trial contact alex@jcsolineresources.org

"If you're curious about the past, then *The British Newspaper Archive* is your best friend for life."

Matt Brown,
Editor-at-Large of *Londonist*

