GENIE ALLERGY

ESTABLISHED 1984

Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.

Be Merrie All • be Merrie All,
With Holly deck the Festive Hall;
Prepare the Song, the Feast, the Ball,
To welcome Merrie Christmas. •

CONTENTS

OFFICE BEARERS for 2025/2026

President:	Fiona Hulbert	Treasurer:	Ruth Doward
Vice President:	Gail Buckingham	Public Officer:	Fiona Hulbert
Secretary:	Cheryl dal Pozzo		

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Exchange Journals Officer:	Vacant	Seminar/W'shop Co-ordinators:	Cheryl dal Pozzo/Fiona Hulbert
Journal Editor:	Sharon Ingersole	DNA Group Co-ordinator:	Vacant
Membership Secretary:	Bev Salter	Workshop/Seminar IT & Sound:	Jim Holmes
Monitors' Co-ordinator:	Kerry Meagher	Research Co-ordinator:	Cheryl dal Pozzo
Resources/Library Officer:	Fiona Hulbert	Equipment Officer:	Vacant
Webmaster:	Leonie Baker	Publicity Officer:	Vacant
Members:	Linda King	Special Projects Co-ordinator:	Stephen Goundry
	Lorraine Chowdbury		

MEMBERSHIP FEES:
Annual Membership Fees: Single …………………………….. ….... $50.00
Joint (2 persons at same address)….. … …… $70.00

As from 1st July, a fee of $15 will be charged if you would like your "Genie-Allergy" posted to you.
All members with an email address, will have their journal emailed to them.

RESEARCH:
Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm (CLOSED 2nd Thursday afternoon)
Saturday: open mornings, afternoons closed except by appointment
Library Fees: Members - free on production of current membership card. Visitors - $10 for half day or
$20 for whole day. Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance.
Library Rules: * Current membership cards are to be worn in the rooms.
* Attendance Book to be signed on arrival and departure.
* Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.
* Pencils only to be used in Library.
* Photocopies available through duty Monitor and will be charged according to price schedule
* One microfische only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

Correspondence Inquiries: Research will be undertaken for a fee of $30.00 per hour
For more information, email coffsgenie@gmail.com

Workshops: are held on 4th Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.

RECIPROCAL RIGHTS – Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our
rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required.

Contact Persons: President – Fiona Hulbert 6653 3866   Secretary – Cheryl dal Pozzo 6652 5145
Vice President – Gail Buckingham   Treasurer – Ruth Dorward   0413 841 911

Please contact Fiona or Cheryl if you are interested in filling the vacant positions on the Committee

Our President's report…..

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at the end of another year. I'm not sure where the year went but we are now on the countdown until Christmas.

Thank you to those members who placed suggestions in the box over the last couple of months. The committee have taken them on board. We are still seeking member suggestions for workshops for 2026. It's not too late, you can still have some input.

Discussion groups will continue next year:

- Brother's Keeper on the 2nd Monday of each month, unless it is a public holiday.
- DNA Group on the 3rd Monday of each month, unless it is a public holiday.

Our monthly Bunnings stall continues to be successful and will be held from February to November, on the 3rd FRIDAY of the month in 2026. As always, we ask for members assistance to 'man' the stall, even for an hour or two, to give the regulars a break. If you are unable to help, donations of ingredients are always welcomed by the cooks amongst us.

In the new year we anticipate holding a monitor's workshop prior to our re-opening. If you would like a refresher or are interested in becoming a monitor, please contact Cheryl via email or ring the research rooms so that your name can be added to the list. Further information to follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work during the year. Hopefully all members have a safe and restful festive season.

Take care,

Fiona

AGM REPORT

27th September 2025 saw the AGM of the Society held in the Community Village and it was well attended by members. Thankyou to all members of the Committee and their helpers, for their work during the last 12 months.

Congratulations to the incoming Committee -
Executive Committee are President Fiona Hulbert Vice President Gail Buckingham, Treasurer Ruth Dorward, Secretary Cheryl Dal Pozzo
General Committee are Sharon Ingersole, Bev Salter, Leonie Baker, Jim Holmes, Kerry Meaghr, Steven Goundry, Lorraine Chowdury and Linda King

The AGM was followed by a short General Meeting before several members spoke about an item that has special significance .
1. Susan Hodges showed a walking stick that belonged to her g grandmother which was dated back to London 1890, along with a sewing thimble and small vinaigrette container.
2. Di Baker showed a beautiful photo of her maternal g grandparents.
3. Len King showed his first box camera received in 1961 and a leather case that his mother made for it.
4. Sharon Ingersole had a play written in 1810 by her GGG grandfather Martin Kedgwin Masters who for unknown reason went from being a Surgeon/Apothecary to ending up in workhouse.
5. Gail Buckingham showed a pen and ink drawing by Ron Hindmarsh of her grandmother's house in Lancashire before it was remodelled.

Congratulations to raffle winners Sandra Ryan, Beryl Laidley and Esme Langridge

Cheryl Dal Pozzo (No 1259)

Santie's Reindeer

Da Gud Man hings da starns oot, laek peerie lamps sae bricht
Sae Santa Klaas can find his way, whin he comes here da night

Did nicht he yoks his reindeer up, an drives dem trow da sky
Dan he taks on his muckle bag an leaves his sledge ootbye

An maamie whin you mylk da coo, you'll geng an take a skurt
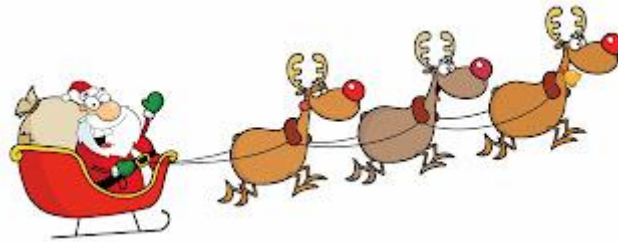O hey or maybe twartree shaeves an leave dem lyin furt

Da reindeer haes sae far tae geng, dey're maybe he'd nae maet
An he'll be blyde if he can fin a grain fur dem tae aet

A'll hing my sock apo da raep Just in below da brace
An whin he's trivelled trow da lum he'll aesy fin da place

He'll never come till a'm asleep, sae a'll pit on my goon
An up da stairs ita da laft, all geng an lay me doon

You'll pit da claes aboot me noo, because he's gittin late
An maamie when you mylk da coo, you'll mind da reindeers maet.

Vagaland

From Ayrshire Family History Society

....

Did you know?

Scottish naming patterns…..
The first son – given the name of his paternal grandfather
The second son – given the name of his maternal grandfather
The third son – given the name of his father
'The first daughter – given the name of her maternal grandmother
The second daughter – given the name of her paternal grandmother
The third daughter – given the name of her mother

Subsequent children were often called after any brothers or sisters who had died or someone the parents wished to honour like a Minister or Laird.

A BUSH CHRISTMAS

By CJ Dennis

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums
As down the road old Rogan comes —
The hatter from the lonely hut
Beside the track to Woollybutt.
He likes to spend his Christmas with us here.
He says a man gets sort of strange
Living alone without a change,
Gets sort of settled in his way;
And so he comes each Christmas day
To share a bite of tucker and a beer.

Dad and the boys have nought to do,
Except a stray odd job or two.
Along the fence or in the yard,
"It ain't a day for workin' hard."
Says Dad. "One day a year don't matter much."
And then dishevelled, hot and red,
Mum, thro' the doorway puts her head
And says, "This Christmas cooking, My!
The sun's near fit for cooking by."
Upon her word she never did see such.

"Your fault," says Dad, "you know it is.
Plum puddin'! on a day like this,
And roasted turkeys! Spare me days,
I can't get over women's ways.
In climates such as this the thing's all wrong.
A bit of cold corned beef an' bread
Would do us very well instead."
Then Rogan said, "You're right; it's hot.
It makes a feller drink a lot."
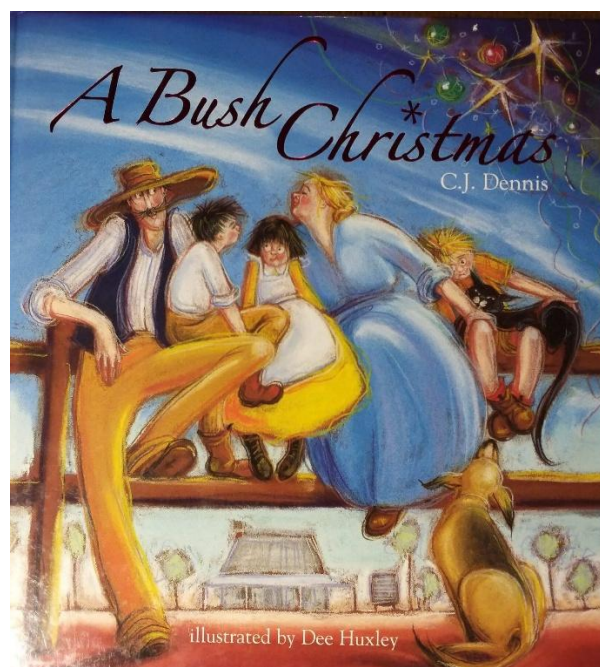And Dad gets up and says, "Well, come along."

The dinner's served — full bite and sup.
"Come on," says Mum, "Now all sit up."
The meal takes on a festive air;
And even father eats his share
And passes up his plate to have some more.
He laughs and says it's Christmas time,
"That's cookin', Mum. The stuffin's prime."
But Rogan pauses once to praise,
Then eats as tho' he'd starved for days.
And pitches turkey bones outside the door.

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums,
The chirping of the locusts comes
Across the paddocks, parched and grey.
"Whew!" wheezes Father. "What a day!"
And sheds his vest. For coats no man had need.
Then Rogan shoves his plate aside
And sighs, as sated men have sighed,
At many boards in many climes
On many other Christmas times.
"By gum!" he says, "That was a slap-up feed!"

Then, with his black pipe well alight,
Old Rogan brings the kids delight
By telling o'er again his yarns
Of Christmas tide 'mid English barns
When he was, long ago, a farmer's boy.
His old eyes glisten as he sees
Half glimpses of old memories,
Of whitened fields and winter snows,
And yuletide logs and mistletoes,
And all that half-forgotten, hallowed joy.

The children listen, mouths agape,
And see a land with no escape
For biting cold and snow and frost —
A land to all earth's brightness lost,
A strange and freakish Christmas land to them.
But Rogan, with his dim old eyes
Grown far away and strangely wise
Talks on; and pauses but to ask
"Ain't there a drop more in that cask?"
And father nods; but Mother says "Ahem!"

The sun slants redly thro' the gums
As quietly the evening comes,
And Rogan gets his old grey mare,
That matches well his own grey hair,
And rides away into the setting sun.
"Ah, well," says Dad. "I got to say
I never spent a lazier day.
We ought to get that top fence wired."
"My!" sighs poor Mum. "But I am tired!
An' all that washing up still to be done."

illustrated by Dee Huxley

For one of us to be born, it took:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 great-great-grandparents
32 third-great-grandparents
64 fourth-great-grandparents
128 fifth-great-grandparents
256 sixth-great-grandparents
512 seventh-great-grandparents
1,024 eighth-great-grandparents
2,048 ninth-great-grandparents

In only the last 11 generations, that's 4,094 ancestors—roughly within the 300 years before you or I were born!

Pause for a moment and think…
Where did each of them come from?
How many battles did they fight?
How much hunger did they endure?
How many wars did they see?
How many hardships did our ancestors survive?
And also, how much love, strength, joy, and encouragement did they pass down to us?
How much of their will to survive did each one leave inside us, allowing us to live today?
We are here only because of everything they went through.

Unearthed Journal Fills Historical Blanks

Its not often that any of Governor Arthur Phillip's material comes up for auction – the last was 20 years ago and prior to that was 70 years earlier.

 No journals of NSW's first Governor survive so when a 20 page "fair copy" fragment turned up providing a three month snapshot of the colony in 1791-92, it was a must-have for the State Library of NSW.

A bookshop in rural England had put it up for auction as "A Third Fleet" document and an Australian dealer in old books and manuscripts thought it interesting. When the first 10 pages closely mirrored accounts, some verbatim from Phillip's chapters in 1793s "*An Historical Journal of the Transaction of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island",* the dealers knew they were on to something. The dealer checked the State Library's collection and the handwriting matched that of a clerk who prepared documents for Botanist Joseph Banks. The paper stock was also the same. The Library paid about $450,000 and the document went on display at the Amaze Gallery.

Senior Curator Sally Hone said when Phillip died in Bath (UK) in 1814, his house was cleared and nobody knew where his papers went.   "We have 20 pages but where is the rest? It was a huge mystery and very tantalising.   This is not Arthur Phillip's handwriting but it is written in the first person. It contains information about convict escapes and details on their return voyages to England. We learn that out-of-time convicts paid 8-10 guineas for a return voyage. These and other new details will excite many researchers". The last 10 pages detail a previously unknown visit to Sydney by Gomebeere, an Indigenous man Phillip met in the Hawkesbury region 9 months earlier. In January 1792 Phillip wrote "he appeared to think he had enjoyed every good this world affords before we came amongst them and what we had to give except the hatchets were received with indifference. He past [sic] the night with Bannelong [sic] and those who live amongst us at Tubugulha (Bennelong Point) where they had a dance and left them early the next morning to return to the banks of the Hawkesbury"

Damien Webb, head of the Library's Indigenous Engagement branch said "it provided an important layer of new information about this complex contested part of our history. It's a fascinating excerpt and Gomebeere appears to have some agency in his interaction with Phillip. Obviously, the legacy of figures like Phillip for Aboriginal people cast a long shadow, but these things give us human-scale interactions which are so important" Webb said.

Phillip organized 8 marine settlers into a night patrol with 10 convicts to prevent thefts from gardens and crops by "wretches".   One convict who robbed the baker's house by getting down the chimney, was found guilty and executed the following day.

A Hero Comes Home, Two Centuries On

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea, and hunter home from the hill" Robert Louis Stevenson

What a sailor was Matthew Flinders.

At a moving ceremony in the small picturesque village of Donington, Lincolnshire, the earthly remains of Flinders, Britain's second greatest explorer after Cook (the man who gave our continent its name and was the first to circumnavigate it) was laid to rest 210 years after his death in a crypt at the Church of his youth. The reburial, attended by 400 people, completed a remarkable circle that stretched for a neat 250 years around the farthest reaches of the globe and right back to this very spot . This place of worship, the Church of St. Mary of the Holy Rood, was where the baby Flinders was baptised in 1774 and where he went to Sunday School and weekly services before joining the Royal Navy when only 15.

Learning his navigation trade at the elbow of that titanic tyrant and tyrannical titan, the brilliant Captain William Bligh, the slightly built young Flinders conceived the ambition to be recognised as a navigator even better than Bligh and second only to Cook. "I have too much ambition to rest in the unnoticed middle order of mankind", Flinders once wrote to Sir Joseph Banks.

After serving admirably aboard the warship HMS Bellerophon in the Glorious First of June Battle between Britain and France in 1794, Flinders signed on as Midshipman to HMS Reliance in 1795, heading to the newly established colony at Sydney Town. There, he and another dashing young mariner, George Bass, would shine as fearless sailors capable of charting and naming much of the coast before proving a strait existed between the continent and the island of Tasmania by circumnavigating the island.

Returning to UK, Flinders married Ann Chappelle in 1801, the very one he had wooed by naming the Chappelle Isles for her in Bass Strait. Just months later he left once again, this time as skipper of HMS Investigator to circumnavigate and map the continent he himself would name "Australia". Ailing badly from failing kidneys among other things Flinders returned to the UK and died at only 40 in 1814 with Ann by his side. This was just one day after he finally held in his withered hand, the first published copy of the book he had written detailing his adventures.

His funeral was held at St. James Church in Piccadilly and his coffin taken to the vast burial ground in Hampstead Road, Camden where it lay for more than 200 years. Extraordinarily. When Euston Road Station was being expanded in 2019, that coffin and Flinders' remains were rediscovered. In Donington, a Bring Him Home Committee was quickly established and he was returned. The Church bells rang as the people of Donington came out from their homes. At 1400 hours, in Naval parlance, the coffin draped in the British and Australian flags was slowly driven in a hearse through the streets past his home whilst villagers crowded on either side of the road with their heads bowed. At 1430, three shots rang out from the Royal Navy Honour Guard and his coffin is borne into the Church. The Church was packed with a diverse array or people, many of whom were Australians. Two men who were descendants of Bungaree, the Darug man who accompanies Flinders and his crew on the circumnavigation and whose own diplomatic skills in negotiating with tribes all over the country proved to be crucial to its success. Clods of earth from London, Mauritius, Sydney and South Australia are thrown upon the coffin. The Sydney earth is scattered by the two Bungaree descendants, Shad Tyler and Laurie Bimson and with it they lay a Boomerang daubed with ochre clay from Beacon Hill. Welcome home Matthew Flinders. Australia sends a fond if distant Smile.

By Peter Fitzsimmons who attended the service & who has written a book on Matthew Flinders

The Huguenots …….

The Christian movement in Europe known as the Reformation commenced in 1517 in Germany when Martin Luther wrote his Ninety-Five Theses. The Ninety-Five Theses protested against the many practices in the Roman Catholic Church that were not in the Bible, in particular, indulgences. The Theses were rejected by the Papacy and hence caused a split with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Huguenots were French Protestants, part of a Christian movement in Europe known as the Reformation. In the 1680s Louis XIV of France was determined to force all his subjects to be Catholics. Many Huguenots chose exile in more friendly countries during an extended period of persecution.

John Calvin (Jean Cauvin), a French scholar wrote "Institutes of the Christian Religion" in 1536 that led to French Protestants adopting his form of Protestantism. They were called "Huguenots". French Protestantism was never more than 10% of the population of France.

Bitter religious wars caused great harm and suffering between 1562 and 1598. In 1572 thousands of Huguenots were massacred in the St Bartholomew's Day massacre in Paris and subsequently in much of France.

If you think you may have Huguenots in your family tree, you may like to contact
The Huguenot Society of Australia,
Secretary: Robert Nash (Sydney) 0450 927 838 (PO Box 184, Newtown NSW 2042).
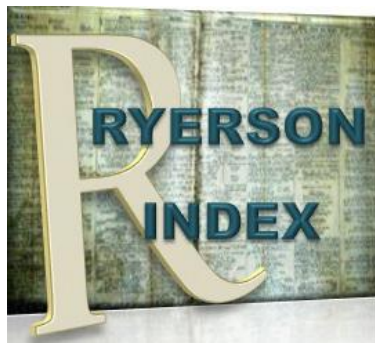Email – ozhug85@gmail.com

****

The Ryerson Index

The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

In 2020, we commenced indexing notices from Funeral Directors' websites. This was in response to the mass closures of regional newspapers which occurred in the second quarter of 2020.

Because the Index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Persons Society, its strength lies in notices from NSW papers - including in excess of two million notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald* alone. However, the representation from sources in other states continues to grow, with additional papers and funeral directors being regularly added, so that the Index can now truly be considered an Australian index.

Indexing is being continuously carried out by a team of volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, who give freely of their time to ensure the site continues to grow. Site updates generally occur weekly.

The index itself cannot by definition be considered a primary source of data, but is purely a research aid to direct the researcher to the original source of a notice. We at Ryerson cannot undertake genealogical research for you, we are too busy indexing! The Ryerson Index contains 9,837,668 notices from 499 different Australian newspapers, publisher websites and funeral director websites Australian newspapers, publisher websites and funeral director websites. https://ryersonindex.org/search.php

One of our members who has been researching her father's war records in Canada was given a website that shows where brigades and Battalions were day by day in WW11 and thought other members might be interested.

The site is *project44.ca*

Thankyou Dianne

****

AI & FAMILY HISTORY by Andrew Redfern
as presented at the October Seminar

What is generative artificial intelligence?   Generative AI describes algorithms (such as ChatGPT) that can be used to create new content, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, and videos.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO VERIFY

BIAS IN AI - Bias is a phenomenon that occurs when an algorithm produces results that are systemically prejudiced due to erroneous assumptions in the machine
learning process. What can we do about bias?

AWARENESS ☐ EDUCATION ☐ QUESTION ☐ CRITIQUE

PROMPT EXAMPLES
• Adopt the role of a family historian. Develop a research plan and strategy for researching my ancestors who _____. Outline possible records I may be able to investigate.
• Create a biography of _____ using this information: [Copy information from researched profile]
• Write 3 limericks about this ancestor. [Copy information from researched profile]
• As a children's book author, rewrite the newspaper report in a style appropriate for children aged between 5 and 12.
• Adopt the role of a data analyst. Create a table of this information, separating the various fields and selecting only those people living in _____ [insert place]. [Paste data from source]
• As an editor, retype this newspaper article, standardising spelling, abbreviations and
capitalisation. [Copy and paste the text of the article]
    ☐ Now create a table of relatives mentioned in the newspaper
      article and their relationship to the deceased.
    ☐ Create a list of _____ children
    ☐ Create a list of _____ siblings
• This is what I know about my ancestor, _____ [insert name & known details]. Identify any gaps in his/her life for further research. Provide suggestions as to what records I should investigate.
• Can you help me with a brick wall? Let me know what information you need.

 AI & FAMILY HISTORY - PROMPT TYPE EXAMPLE
Weak Prompt - Summarise this.
Better Prompt - You are a family historian. Summarise this 1856 obituary into 3 key facts.
Best Prompt Role - You are a genealogist.
    Task: Extract children's names and birthdates.
    Format: A table with columns: Name, Date of Birth, Parents, Notes.
    Restrictions: From this parish register entry (1851–1856, NSW).

PROMPT ENGINEERING
• What you enter into the AI tool is known as a PROMPT.
• The better the prompt, the better the output.
• Over time you will develop skills in writing better prompts
• Ask the AI tool for suggestions on how to improve your prompt(s).

• Look for prompts others use and see if you can adapt them for your use.
• If you are struggling to get the desired results, use a framework like this one below:

WRITING BETTER PROMPTS
Role – Family historian, Genealogist, Archivist, Author, Data Analyst, Journalist, Blog writer, Marketer, Teacher or Student
Task – Summarise, Outline, Draft, Create, Separate, Write, Arrange, Format, Compile, Sequence
Format – Table, List, Paragraph, Presentation, Chart, Image, Code, File, Pivot table, Plain text

Restrictions – Word count, Paragraphs, Using certain information, Criteria, Audience, Filter, Order, Sort, or Eliminate

THE HUMAN-AI PARTNERSHIP - HUMAN / AI

Human	AI
• Critical Thinking	Data Processing
• Ethical Judgement	Pattern Recognition
• Intuition	Multi-faceted analysis
• Context	Record matching
• Social Networks	Transformation
• Family Stories	Speed

ENHANCED RESEARCH QUALITY & EFFICIENCY = IMPROVED FAMILY HISTORY

HUMANS LEAD, AI ASSISTS - It is the interaction between humans and the AI tools that make a difference. Anyone can chat with a bot but the true power is in refining what to say, how to say it, critically analysing output and reiterating details in a dance of manipulation.

How can we use a tool that we can't believe? "By constraining it to work only with material we know to be true and explicitly telling it what we want it to do with that material. Once we understand this, the possibilities for using ChatGPT [or any AI tool]* as your personal genealogy assistant are truly exciting."

AI AS PART OF YOUR GENEALOGY WORKFLOW
How can I assist?
What tasks can AI help me with?
Where does AI fit in my genealogy workflow?

AI TOOLS
• TRANSKRIBUS: Transcribing documents, images etc
• CHATGPT/CANVA: Image creation
• PERPLEXITY: Great for research
• OTTER: Transcribing audio files
• HEYGEN: Creating video files
• 11 LABS: Cloning voices or getting voices with accents to read material
Choose the right tool for the task.

WHAT IS A GPT?
GPT = Generative Pre-trained Transformers.
GPTs are custom versions of ChatGPT that users can tailor for specific tasks or topics by combining instructions, knowledge, and capabilities. They can be as simple or as complex as needed, addressing anything from language learning to technical support. They may be considered as save prompts or mini procedures that can be repeated.

USEFUL GPTS FOR FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY
GPTs range across categories like productivity, education, and entertainment, addressing niche needs or everyday tasks. While there is no category for Family History or Genealogy, searching these terms can

return useful results. Also think what GPTs may have been developed under categories such as productivity that may be relevant to your tasks.

SOME GPT SUGGESTIONS
• Obituary Analyser: Great for family historians. Retype a newspaper obituary and then generate a table of people named, their relationship to the deceased and location.

• Mark Thompson's Historical Photo Analyzer: Your go-to expert for analysing historical photos. Basically, you show me a photo—whether it's an old family snapshot, a vintage portrait, or something mysterious you found in a flea market—and I break it down in detail.
• Will Analyser or Analyzer: Upload an historical will and I will transcribe it and then create a table that summarises the information in the will regarding the people named, their role and any entitlement.
• Pedigree Chart Surname Extractor & Comparison: Upload multiple pedigree charts as images to find similar surnames to assist DNA shared match research. Thanks to Blaine Bettinger for the original idea and the assistance of members of The Society of Australian Genealogists.
• Surname & Wildcard Variants: Generate surname variants and wildcard searches for genealogical databases.

If you are not sure was a GPT does, ask the question - **What do you do?**

AI PHOTO RESTORATION PROMPTS
Restore this vintage image by removing visible halftone dots, scratches, and discoloration. Enhance facial features and fine details while preserving the original style and texture. Improve clarity, contrast, and definition without over-sharpening. If black and white, keep tonal balance natural; if faded colour, revive tones subtly. Maintain authenticity while making the image clean and presentable. It shouldn't look like a digital rendition, but like a touched-up vintage photo.

Restore this vintage portrait by removing halftone dots, scratches, stains, fading, and other age-related flaws. Enhance clarity in the eyes, skin, and hair while keeping proportions, expressions, and lighting faithful to the original. Do not add or invent details—only clarify what is visible. Preserve the vintage style, grain, and tonal character, avoiding over-smoothing or modern effects. Maintain natural black-and-white balance (or subtle original tones if faded), ensuring midtones, shadows, and highlights remain authentic. Keep clothing, jewellery, and background consistent with the period. The final image should be clean, sharp, and archival quality—suited for high-resolution print or digital display, looking like a carefully preserved period photograph rather than a modern re-creation.

GROUP SCENE VINTAGE PHOTO RESTORATION PROMPT
Restore this historical group photograph by carefully removing visible halftone dots, scratches, stains, fading, and other age-related imperfections. Enhance the clarity of individual faces and figures with precision, while maintaining each person's proportions, expressions, and natural appearance. Do not invent or alter features—only clarify what is genuinely visible. Ensure balance across the whole scene so that no single person looks artificially sharper or more modern than others. Preserve the original style, photographic grain, and tonal character so the image retains its authentic vintage look. Avoid over-smoothing, modern photo effects, or excessive sharpening. Maintain a natural black-and-white tonal balance (or subtly revive original tones if colour-faded), ensuring midtones, shadows, and highlights are historically accurate and consistent throughout the group. Keep clothing, accessories, insignia, and background details faithful to the source and appropriate for the historical period. The final image should be archival quality, clean, and sharp—suitable for high- resolution printing or digital display. The restoration must look like a professionally preserved period photograph, not a modern re-creation.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO MARK AI GENERATED OR ENHANCED PHOTOS AS SUCH TO REMAIN TRANSPARENT & ETHICAL

RESTORING DAMAGED NEGATIVES PROMPT - Restore this historical photograph by removing only damage from the negative—scratches, streaks, blotches, fading, and exposure marks—while

preserving all original detail. Do not alter or reimagine faces, expressions, proportions, or perspectives. Keep clothing, furnishings, and background exactly as in the source. Retain authentic photographic grain, tonal balance, and vintage style; avoid over-smoothing, artefacts, or modern effects. The goal is simply to clean damage and enhance clarity, producing an archival-quality image that looks faithfully preserved, not recreated.

WHY SOME GENEALOGISTS STRUGGLE WITH CHATGPT -
• Many users treat ChatGPT like Google
• Expects instant facts instead of research reasoning
• ChatGPT can assist brilliantly — but only if you work like a genealogist, not a searcher.

FIVE HABITS FOR RELIABLE AI RESEARCH
✳ ✳ Work like a genealogist – define the research problem
🧬 🧬 Supply primary data – give it real records to interpret
🗐 🗐 Build context – continue within a project, not random chats
☑ Verify findings – cross-check before accepting
💬 💬 Collaborate naturally – reason through the evidence together

BENEFITS & LIMITATIONS OF AI
Benefits - Speed, Creativity, Accessibility, Data Processing
Limitations – Accuracy, bias, ethics, over reliance

Enhanced research quality & efficiency = Improved Family history

PRINCIPLES OF USING AI
- Generate options not answers
- Think small, iterate often
- Craft prompts, constrain content
- Use verbs, shape responses
- Transform information, reuse output
- Edit carefully, check thoroughly
- Stay transparent, act ethically

RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI – Coalition for responsible AI in Genealogy
- Accuracy
- Disclosure
- Privacy
- Education
- Compliance

RESOURCES: FACEBOOK GROUP - https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai

AI & FAMILY HISTORY							
BDM INDEXES							
	NSW	**VIC**	**QLD**	**ACT**	**TAS**	**WA**	**SA**	**NT**
Births	100 yrs ago	100 yrs ago	100 yrs ago	-	1900 to 1921	100 yrs ago	1837 to 1928	100 yrs ago*
Deaths	30 yrs ago	30 yrs ago	30 yrs ago	1930-30 yrs ago	1900 to 1939	30 yrs ago	1842 to 1994	30 yrs ago*
Marriages	50 yrs ago	60 yrs ago	75 yrs ago	1930-75 yrs ago	1900 to 1930	75 yrs ago	1842 to 1948	75 yrs ago*
Civil Registration	1856	1853	1856	1911	1839	1841	1842	1870
Exact Date on Index	No but can work out	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No – need membership	No index
* No online index available								

BDM Coverage on Ancestry

State / Territory	Birth Index Coverage	Marriage Index Coverage	Death Index Coverage	Civil Registration Began
NSW	1788 – 1910	1788 – 1945	1788 – 1945	1856
VIC	1836 – 1910	1836 – 1920	1836 – 1985	1853
QLD	1829 – 1910, 1915 – 1919	1829 – 1935	1829 – 1964	1856
TAS	1803 – 1910	1803 – 1919	1803 – 1919	1839
WA	1841 – 1905	1841 – 1950	1841 – 1980	1841
SA	1842 – 1922	1842 – 1937	1842 – 1970	1842
NT	1870 – 1910	1870 – 1913	1870 – 1913	1870

No online index available

Ranges refer to historical coverage within Ancestry indexed collections and may differ from Public Registry indexes shown.

Artificial Intelligence & Family History by Andrew Redfern 2025

****

LINKS

Sarah Ann HEATHCOTE (b. 1832 at Firbeck, Yorkshire) was the daughter of Thomas HEATHCOTE and Amey PEACH. She was also the sister of Thomas Stephen Heathcote, my great great grandfather. She died in January 1911 at Carr and was buried at Laughton en le Morthen on 30 th January 1911 (source Yorkshire Burials Laughton en le Morthen, found by Kim Earl November 2021.

She married James CROFTS at Maltby on 3 rd January 1855 at Maltby. Their last child was Thirza CROFTS, born in 1872 at Handsworth, Yorkshire (near Sheffield). Rose HEATHCOTE, the daughter of Thomas Stephen, married Arthur FOSTER and he had a sister Thirza born in 1862 at Handsworth, which is near Sheffield. She married William Valentine HEMMING and had 3 children. Their son Ebenezer Joseph Hemming migrated to Canada and started a family there.

Mary Maria FOSTER was born at Aston, Yorkshire, in 1848 and was the aunt of Arthur FOSTER. She married Jethro Lawrence LAYCOCK on 27th December 1870 at Worksop in Nottinghamshire, which is next door to Yorkshire. It is also where the Foster family came from. The notes for the 1881 Census said the enumerator (the person who took the information) was named Laycock. Lawrence LAYCOCK had a son called Lawrence who was born on 16th October 1876 at Handsworth. He married Harriet Susan Payne on 27th June 1903 at Sheffield and they had 4 children born between 1905 and 1910. However, in 1915 at the age of 37 Lawrence enlisted in the York side and Lancaster Regiment and died on the 1st of July 1916 in the Somme in northern France. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website his service number was 15783, he served in the second battalion of the Duke of Wellington Regiment of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment and he is commemorated at the Serre Road Cemetery Number 2. His address was listed as "20 Fleet Street Brightside Lane, Sheffield".

Submitted by Stephen Goundry # 1372

****

FINDING A LEMAN IN A LAMAN TREE

It is sometimes harder to find out about the life of someone if they go off script by not having children of their own, or migrate more than once. But it is possible to follow someone from cradle to grave when starting somewhere in the centre.

For Daniel Lamon HINES, this was his marriage to my great-great-great-grandmother, his first, her second, in Grafton, NSW in 1868. Daniel believed he was seven years younger than his wife. [1] Even though she stated her age as 38, Mary HALLIGAN nee CAMPBELL was closer to 43. (Her bounty immigrant record gives her age as 16 in January 1842. [2]). Daniel provided an unusual second name for this marriage. It was written as LAMON, allowing it to be interpreted as RAMON, and seems to have been inherited from his father William Lamon HINES.

When Daniel made his way to Grafton is not certain. There is one possible arrival in Melbourne on the Royal Mail Ship *Boomerang* from Liverpool, England in May 1855, shown as Dan'l HYNES. [3]. Not all details match with his Grafton description, but a young Englishman who aspired to be a miner has time to make his way north. By 1858, a Daniel HINES appeared in Black Forest (now Woodend), Victoria, making a wage from wood splitting. [4] Then much further north, a letter arrived in Grafton, NSW in mid 1867, addressed to Daniel HINES. [5]

Mary had four children with her first husband convict William Joseph HALLIGAN(~1810 - ~1860). Their son John and daughters Catherine and Letitia had all married and left home by the time Mary met Daniel HINES. Mary's youngest daughter Eliza, who experienced epileptic fits, remained at home with her mother. Mary had been deemed a widow after her husband left home for the Tooloom gold diggings in June 1859, never to be seen by family again.

However, soon after their marriage, Daniel and his wife Mary moved to the Tweed River. The first record confirming this is an 1869 Conditional Purchase of Portion 2 in the parish of Kynnumboon near Murwillumbah. [6]

A second family tragedy occurred in 1874 - the disappearance of Mary's son-in-law John Henry DE CHAVE. This was followed by another family loss - the death of Eliza HALLIGAN on 10 February 1876; her stepfather Daniel was listed as the informant. [7] and in February 1904, Mary passed away. A curious description appeared in the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate and Southern Queensland Record* (precursor to the *Tweed Daily News*) on 3rd February 1904: Mrs. D HINDS [sic] died at her residence Monday night last. The deceased lady, who has been a terrible suffer [sic], was well known and highly respected in the district. She leaves no children, and her husband who survives her intends, it is rumoured, to visit the old country. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon. 'Twere absurd to express sympathy where congratulation would probably be more acceptable. [8] It was certainly true that none of her remaining children lived in the Tweed River area, but what did the rest of it mean? Did Daniel HINES return to his "old country"?

It did not take long to find a record of departure for one D. HINES, aged 68, on *The Oroya* leaving Brisbane in April 1904 for a return to London. [9] His marriage certificate stated that he was born in Devon/shire. He was easy to find in the 1841 UK Census with his siblings and parents William and Sarah at Plymtree in Devon, but there was no supporting birth record.

This time Familysearch gave a clue: there was a possible link to Daniel LEMAN born to William and Sarah and baptised in 1836 in Plymtree, Devon.   A further search for his parents' marriage at Broadhembury in 1824 provided a partial confirmation. [10] Daniel's father had used an inverted version of the surname: Hine LAMAN. One of Daniel's brothers, Levi, also used this version in various documents [11].
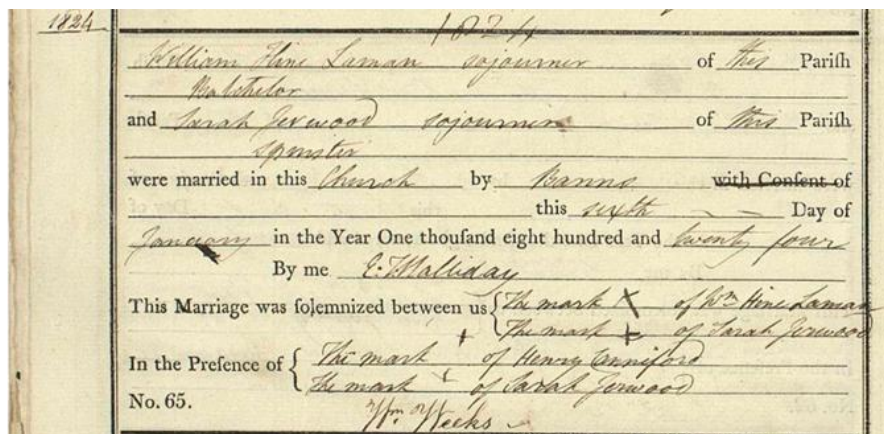
In January 2022, the UK government released the 1921 Census of England and Wales. It was self-reporting. As in the 1911 Census, Daniel chose to use a variant of HINES as his surname. Was it him? It was a thrill to see final confirmation in this way. Neatly crossed out by the 1921 Census enumerator, under the heading of Place of Work, Daniel had written New South Wales.

References
1. Marriage certificate NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, #2314/1868. This certificate copy was purchased in 1988
2. *The William Sharples*, Ship News. (1842, February 1). *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 - 1842)*, p. 2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2555644
3. Arrival of unassisted passenger 'Danl Hynes', aged 24, miner, Public Records Office of Victoria
4. Friday, Oct. 23. (1858, October 23). *The Kyneton Observer (Vic. : 1856 - 1900),* p.2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article240894850
5. No title (1867, June 4). *Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser* (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), p.2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63665690
6. Conditional Purchase, Portion 2, Book 479 No 117, NSW Land & Property Information
7. Death Certificate NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, #10347/1876
8. File held by the Tweed Regional Museum at Murwillumbah
9. UK and Ireland Incoming Passenger Lists 1878 – 1960
10. Marriage Banns courtesy of South West Heritage Trust and Parochial Council (UK)
11. For example see the 1851 United Kingdom Census for Plymtree Parish.

Daniel Leman in 1836
England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Plymtree, Devon, England

First name(s)	Daniel	Father's first name(s)	William
Last name	Leman	Father's last name	Leman
Sex	Male	Mother's first name(s)	Sarah
Baptism year	1836	Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Baptism date	17 Apr 1836	Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Place	Plymtree	Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
County	Devon	Collections from	England, Great Britain
Country	England		

Index © IRI. Used by permission of FamilySearch Intl

Submitted by Debbie Campbell # 1764

****

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members. We hope you will make yourself at home and find us to be a friendly and helpful group. Don't be afraid to ask the Monitors on duty for help – they will do their best to steer you in the right direction with your research. We have an extensive Library available which is extremely beneficial for your research, as well as our computer software.

As you eat your seafood this Christmas, have you thought about the history of our co-op?

Local historian, George England in 1970, noted that between 1883-1892 there were several fishermen operating in Coffs Harbour and Charlesworth Bay. They took the fish out to ships from the Clarence where it was packed with ice. There was also some smoked and dried fish sent to Sydney or sold to ships crews but it was not an important industry until the local ice works at the Butter Factory were established in 1910.

The origins of the Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-operative.

In 1946, the New South Wales State Government was encouraging the formation of Fishing Co-operatives as a way to stabilize the fishing industry, which had a large black-market and a wildly fluctuating price for fish which made it difficult to create a livelihood from the industry.

In March 1947, about 40 Coffs Harbour fishermen met to discuss whether to join the Grafton Co-operative, join the Nambucca Co-operative, or form a separate Coffs Harbour Co-operative. Three months later, they chose the Nambucca option, and looked forward to enjoying "all the special privileges with regard to the sale, control and marketing that are available to co-operative societies." While plans were being made in September 1947 to build a depot and a jetty extending into the harbour from the northern breakwater wall the Coffs Harbour members of the commercial fishermen's union were voting to join a state-wide strike aimed at increasing the price of fish by 25%. The Coffs Harbour district's fishing fleet of 25 craft and 60 men was finding its feet....

The Fishermen's Co-operative Society – comprising depots at Macksville, Nambucca, Sawtell and Coffs Harbour – began its Coffs Harbour operations in November 1947. Fishing was a relatively small part of Coffs Harbour's economy. (Figures for 1959 list fishing as 2% of the local economy. But the decades following 1947 produced services for the fishing fleet such as the marine rescue service, a slipway and a marina; services which have helped give Coffs Harbour its distinctive harbour-town character.

Coffs Harbour's Fishing Industry Time-line

1892 Jetty completed.
1906 Beginning of Coffs Harbour fishing industry.
1908 Four motor-boats (and 20 crewmen) engaged in the fishing industry at Coffs Harbour.
1910 Introduction of local ice-works at Butter Factory.
1912 South Coffs Island and mainland connected.
1914-1927 Northern Breakwater to Muttonbird Island built.
1919-1946 Eastern Breakwater built.
1946 Nambucca Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd formed.
1947 Coffs Harbour's fishermen amalgamate with Nambucca Fishermen's Co-op.
1947 Temporary use of a shed on railway land for first depot.
1950 Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op's purpose-built depot opened – located next to the railway gates.
1953 Ice-making machine installed at Coffs Harbour depot. (Prior to that, ice was sourced from the Butter Factory. The Butter Factory closed in 1953, according to Neil Yeates in *Coffs Harbour Volume 2*, page 150.)
1954 Registered office of the Nambucca-Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op Ltd transferred to Coffs Harbour.
1967 Eric Hogbin sets up proper business guidelines for Co-op.
1970 35 boats and 100 men engaged in local industry. (25 boats operate from the Port of Coffs Harbour.)
1975 Inner Harbour (Marina) completed.
1979 New Co-op building opened in current location.

Courtesy of the Coffs Harbour Museum

****

My apologies to Lake Macquarie Family History Society for not including them as the source of the article by John R Marsden "How Old are You?" in the September edition of Genie Allergy, and also the article by Arthur Radford on "Revealing a Family's Adoption Secret" in the March edition of the Genie Allergy.

Sharon Ingersole, Editor