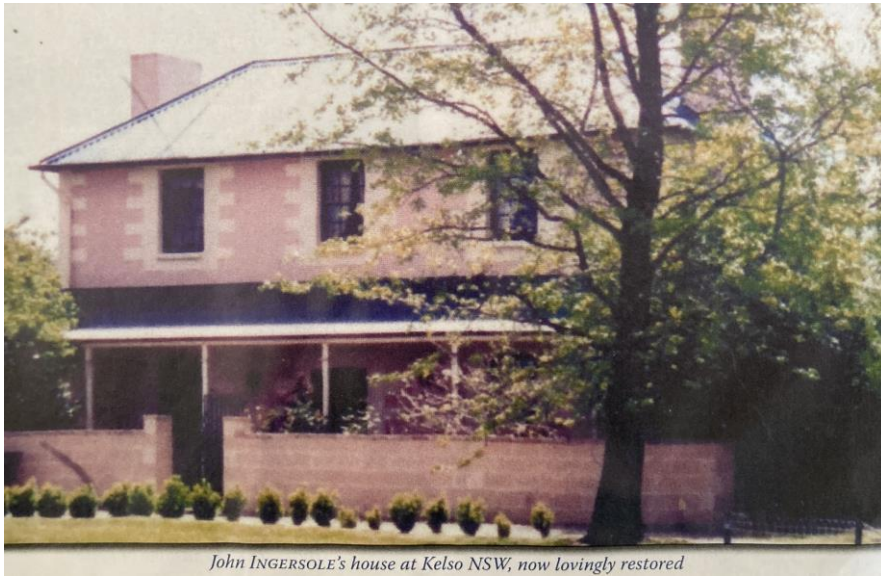


GENIE ALLERGY



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



John INGERSOLE's house at Kelso NSW, now lovingly restored

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COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.



Mail: PO Box 2057, COFFS HARBOUR, 2450
New Location: Coffs Community Village (behind Coles) Block C, Rooms 1 & 2

Phone: (02) 6648 3605. Email: coffsgenie@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.coffsharbourfamilyhistory.com>

Hon. Solicitor: Adam Todd



ABN NO: 22 081 981 363

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Fiona Hulbert	Treasurer:	Ruth Doward
Vice President:	Robyn Little	Public Officer:	Fiona Hulbert
Secretary:	Cheryl dal Pozzo		

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Exchange Journals Officer:	Lyn Brotherton	Seminar/W'shop Co-ordinators:	Cheryl dal Pozzo/Fiona Hulbert
Journal Editor:	Sharon Ingersole	DNA Group Co-ordinator:	Vacant
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Webmaster:	Leonie Baker	Publicity Officer:	Vacant
Special Projects Co-ordinator:	Stephen Goundry		

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

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

A fee of \$10 will be charged if you would like your "Genie-Allergy" posted.

RESEARCH:

Library Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Saturday: 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm (except 4th Saturday of the month)

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 microfiche 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.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in "Genie-Allergy". All care is taken to be accurate, however the Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space constraints.

Contact Persons: President – Fiona Hulbert 6653 3866	Secretary – Cheryl dal Pozzo 6652 5145
Vice President - Robyn Little 6651 2529	Treasurer – Ruth Doward 0413 841 911

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

From our President....



Hello Everyone

We have certainly had a busy time since my last report.

The Society has conducted two successful stalls at Bunnings, selling jams, pickles, sauces, and raffle tickets. We have at least three more stalls this year so keep the goodies coming.

Due to some extra visitors in Block C a few weeks ago availing themselves of our toilet facilities, the step has been taken to lock the entry door until Council can come up with a better security solution for all of the tenants in the building. We hope to have an intercom, or similar, installed and locks on the toilet and kitchen. Please make sure that you have the phone number with you when you come to the rooms to let us know you are there at the door. (Ph. 6648 3605) If visiting the rooms on a Saturday, you also need the phone number to receive the security code to open the entry gate.

Our recent visit to the Sikh Museum was well attended and very interesting. This was followed by a light lunch across the road at the 'old' temple. We were made to feel very welcome. For those of you who may wish to visit the Sikh Museum and Temple, the museum is open Thursday to Sunday and is well worth the trip.

Our outing Bowraville, to celebrate Family History Month instead of our usual workshop, was also well attended and so much better on the bus than all of us having to drive down and find sufficient parking. Thanks to Cheryl and Ruth for finalising this arrangement.

Nomination forms for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in September are available. Please consider joining the committee. Some members of the current committee are considering stepping down. Remember this is your society and you need to have a voice in the way it is run. Everyone is allocated a job, at the present time some of the current committee are undertaking more than one job. We need more people involved to keep the society vibrant and fresh.

Finally, I would just like to thank you all for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

*Happy researching,
Fiona*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to our new and re-joining 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.

Trevor JACKSON
Tracy CONRY
Roslyn HOPWOOD
Gail and Keith ROBINSON
Ronald BARNETT
Geoffrey ROYAL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

Memberships were due for renewal on 1st JULY 2023

FEE INCREASE - From July 1, 2023, our membership fees were increased to: Single \$50, Family \$70 We have attempted to keep this increase to a minimum.

From now on you will be issued with a membership badge replacing the current membership cards. Badges will display your name and membership number and if required prior to the renewal of your membership, they will be available for \$6.50 with a pin or \$7.50 with a magnet. If you are interested, please let Bev Salter or Fiona Hulbert know.

When renewing your Membership:

1. A completed membership form **MUST** be completed for all payments made. Be sure to complete Section 2 with your Membership type, how you would like to receive your quarterly journal, sign the form and show the method of payment. Note: The completed form is used to ensure our records are kept up to date and therefore it is vital we receive a form to cover all membership payments.
2. As from 1 July 2023, membership will now be \$50 a single and \$70 a double. Journals will no longer be available for collection but will be emailed to you if you have an email address. It is preferable that we email the magazine to you but if you prefer to have the "Genie Allergy" posted to you each Quarter, then you need to add \$10 to your membership.
3. Payment methods:
 - (a) Cash is payable only in person at our Research Room.
 - (b) Cheque is payable in person at our Research Room or by mail to PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour 2450.
 - (c) EFT/Direct Deposit: BSB, Account No., etc. as details on our membership form and you must quote your member number and/or name at the time of payment.
 - (i) Online through your financial institution; OR
 - (ii) In Person at a BCU branch (Banana Coast Credit Union).

Following payment by EFT/Direct Deposit, IT IS ESSENTIAL that a copy of the completed membership form be emailed, mailed or delivered to our Research Room. Renewed membership badges will be placed in the Badge Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection if you haven't included a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.

Membership forms are available on our website <https://www.coffsharbourfamilyhistory.com>

MEMBER'S ENTITLEMENTS

**Use of Society's resources including books, microfilms, microfiche, computer system, etc
Receive quarterly Journal Genie-Allergy
Attend meetings and monthly workshops
Guidance with research in our library
Resource borrowing scheme
Free entries in Member's Interests Directory
2 hours free research per year for members who are resident 50km or more from Coffs Harbour.**

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As exchange journals are no longer being printed, they will now be available for viewing by members from the Admin. desktop at our rooms. Monitors can access these journals and you can download them onto a USB. If anybody would like particular journals emailed to them, please contact Lyn via email at lynette.brotherton@gmail.com



I am sure that your research has provided you with a story to tell and those stories are needed to add interest to our journal. Without them, the "Genie-Allergy" will cease to exist.

- Perhaps you have a problem that someone else can help you with?
- Perhaps you do have skeletons in the cupboard which makes life interesting?
- Did you have a convict in your family and what was his/her crime?
- Do you have nobility, aristocracy, or royalty in your tree?
- Do you have an interesting story or an article to share?
Include photos if you have them - they always add interest.
- You may want to share humble origins, or a grand adventure, wars, marriages, or even why you became interested in Family History in the first place.

If you do have a story, I would love to hear from you. Please email me on shaz@ingersole.com

Articles need to be received by the deadline to be included in the next available issue. The closing date for the December Issue is 1st November 2023.

12 Genealogy Research Rules

The word "rules" might be a little strict...let's just call them guidelines. :)

FamilyHistoryDaily.com

1. Always Cite Your Sources. Always.
2. Never, Ever Assume Another Researcher's Information is 100% Correct
3. Remember That Every Name Has Variations, Check Them All
4. Never Copy Another Person's Public Tree, Use it Only as a Helpful Aid
5. Share Freely With Others and They Will Share With You
6. Don't Trust Your Assumptions, Only Sources
7. Check and Double Check Your Facts Before Recording or Sharing
8. Take a Second Look at Records, Your Answer May Be Right in Front of You
9. Don't Limit Yourself to Only One or Two Research Sites, Look for Options
10. Go Offline or Order Hard Copies to Expand Your Research
11. Back Up Your Files Monthly, Keep at Least Two Copies of Your Research
12. Never Give Up *you may not find what you're looking for but the journey is always worth the effort*

Weavers of Yorkshire.

Yorkshire isn't known only for its coal mining and steel industries (or not now anyway as they have been shut down). The area around Huddersfield and Wakefield is also good farming land with a lot of sheep there. Whereas Manchester is known for its cotton mills, Yorkshire was known for its wool industry. Although there were several mills around Leeds and Bradford, a lot of the "prep work" could be done at home so was also a family business.

William DAWSON was born in 1811 at Emley in Yorkshire. He was the second son of Matthew DAWSON and Ann ABBOTT (4x great grandparents) and was the brother of my 3x great grandfather John DAWSON. This makes him my 3rd great uncle. In the 1861 Census, William's occupation was "Hand Loom Pretting Weaver". His daughter Ellen was 16 and a "Worsted spinner" and his younger daughter Sarah was 14 and her occupation was "Woolen Winder".

William died in 1879 aged 68. His brother John, a miner, was born in 1802 and died in 1871 aged 69, a similar age to that of his brother. When Sarah Ann DAWSON was baptized at Emley in July 1847, the occupation of her father William said "Weaver".

In the 1871 Census at Darton, there was a John MARSHALL aged 61. His occupation said "Linen Weaver". (RG10/4643, page 34). He had a 6-year-old daughter Elizabeth.

In 1901 at Bradford there was a John DAWSON, aged 43 whose occupation said "Worsted Twister". He had three daughters: Annie, 24, Emily, 21, and Ethel, 18, whose occupations were all listed as "Woollen weaver". (Melrose Street, Bradford, source RG13/4166, page9).

Selina ELLIS was born in Mapplewell, near Barnsley, in 1863. In the 1901 Census she was living at Pudsey, 38, and already widowed. Her occupation was "Weaver, Woollen". There was also a 63-year-old Mary ELLIS, Selina's mother and three children aged 12, 4 and 1.

Also at Pudsey, there is Ann DAWSON, aged 42, whose occupation is "Worsted Weaver". Her daughter Ethel is 21, single, and her occupation is the same. (RG14,2651 0585, 03). DAWSON is the same name as my father's mother, and she had sisters who lived there. In fact, there was one of my father's cousins who visited us here in Coffs Harbour. She is now dead but I have a photo of her from about 30 years ago.

Lena RAMSDEN, the daughter of James Ramsden and Harriet DAWSON, was born at Holmfirth, which is near Huddersfield in Yorkshire. It is also where my father was christened. Her occupation in the 1911 census was "Spinner in worsted industry". Lena was born in June 1887 at Huddersfield and died in April 1917, also at Huddersfield. According to Family search, she was my second cousin twice removed.

Submitted by Stephen Goundry Member 1372

What's on.....

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| September 21st | Table at Bunnings selling raffle tickets & produce |
| September 23rd | AGM followed by Workshop "Bring Something Precious & Tell Us Its Story". |
| October 19th | Table at Bunnings selling raffle tickets & produce |
| October 28th | Seminar – to be advised |
| November 12th | Harbourside Market stall – craft sales only/raffle drawn at 2.00pm |
| November 25th | Workshop and General meeting – What would you like the Committee to organize for 2024 and what's in our Library? |
| December 14th | Final Committee Meeting & Rooms will close for the Christmas break. |

Please advise our Secretary, Cheryl, if you will be there or can help with anything.

**Clarence & Richmond Examiner & new England Advertiser (Grafton 1859-1889)
Tuesday 23 July 1889, page 2**

“To the Editor of the Examiner....

Sir, I take the liberty of asking you through the medium of your well-read paper to publicly thanks Mr. DC McIntyre for having saved my life at the Glenugie Creek on Friday evening last, with great personal risk. Perhaps a few details attached would be interesting to some of your readers. All went well with the exception of the very bad roads to Woolgoolga. I left at 7.00am, raining very hard, water everywhere till nearing Halfway Creek mail station where the horses bogged and turned the coach completely over; Mac and myself being underneath and covered with luggage. Luckily we both hung onto the reins or the consequences might have been serious. As it was, we escaped with few cuts and bruises. I need not say that all the covering portion of the coach was smashed. We scrambled out and set to work to put matters right. We cut away all disabled gear, stowed away the “cargo” and “set sail” once more, determined, if possible, to reach Grafton that night, but the fates were against us.

We crossed Halfway Creek alright (although high and strong) but a mile or so further on, we bogged completely, coach up to the hubs, horses up to their flanks. Our only alternative was to make all things taut and carry the mail on the horses. Started once more; things went merrily till we reached Glenugie Creek which was running fearfully high. Undaunted, Mac had two horses and got over alright – in fact lovely. He asked what I was going to do – to cross it or stop. I replied in the affirmative which I shall never forget. I set the horse swimming but the current was too strong. We drifted, the horse doing his best to get rid of me at the same time, in fact started to return. I then struck out for the side and swam for a long time until the weight of my clothes began to tell and I remembered going down twice when brave hearted Mac dashed down the bank and brought me ashore, thoroughly exhausted.

Ultimately, we reached Mr. Finlayson’s place and he made us very welcome, bestowing every care. We reached Grafton finally after our adventurous trip at 8 o’clock on Saturday morning.

I cannot speak too highly of Mr. McIntyre, for nothing but good generalship and presence of mind displayed by him enables me to write this little episode”.

THOS. J HANKS of Sydney.

Submitted by Ian O’Hearn Member No. 1672



Do you need some help? Have you hit the proverbial brick wall? If you have, please send your query/questions/problem to the Editor for publication in the Journal. Someone may have already encountered this or a similar problem previously and may have an answer for you.

They could also have some suggestions for you.

HERITAGE WALKS

Did you know that there are several Heritage walks in our area?

a) Coramba Village Heritage Walk (4ks)

15ks from Coffs Harbour and one of the earliest settlements on the Coffs coast. The original Aboriginal inhabitants were the Bagawa people. Timber getters arrived in the 1850s looking for 'red gold' Cedar, the cur logs were rafted down the Orara & Nymboida Rivers to Coutts Crossing and shipped to Sydney from Grafton. In 1870s regulations were imposed to preserve the remaining timber. In 1883 Government Surveyors arrived in the Orara and in 1886 the area was made available for selection in parcels of 50-60 acres. The first selector was Eugene Rudder followed by a group of settlers from the Hunter Valley. William Gale, another selector chose the area which is now Coramba Township. Today Coramba is a quiet residential village which has retained much of its historic charm and is surrounded by small farms.

1. Hampden Hotel – 17-21 Gale Street – 1940 - *The first hotel on this site was built in 1895 by Joseph Murphy and sold in 1900 to Thomas Martin and was added to. Sold several times after this, the original hotel burnt down in 1940 and was rebuilt to the building it is today.*
2. Cattle Brand Bollards – along Gale street – *displaying the cattle brands of Coramba's early pioneering families.*
3. Mr. Martin's 5 houses – 1900 – *Thomas Martin, the publican owned the land next to the Hotel and built 5 houses to be rented out. The sole survivor is no. 7 Gale Street.*
4. St. Therese of the Little Flower Church –6-10 Gale Street 1927 – *This picturesque "Caroenter's Gothic RC Church was built on land where the first Coramba Butter Factory stood until 1925. The Foundation stone was laid by Bishop Carroll on 28.11.1926 and he opened the Church on 13.3.1927 dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux who had been Sainted in 1925.*
5. Former Methodist Church – 2 Duncans Bridge Road – 1907 - *Parishoners sought approval to build Churches in Upper Orara and Coramba. In 1977 it became the Uniting Church and closed in 1988.*
6. Site of the timber Allan truss bridge – 1922 – *demolished in 2010. Built by Percy Allan and stood alongside the current bridge.*
7. Coramba 'Beach' - a popular swimming place for locals *and in 1910 the T & C Journal said "a cool & inviting stream winds its way through shaded places, its dark pools in which heavy shadows riot in strange designs, lending a placid beauty to the scene".*
8. Plaque & Pine tree – 2003 – *Commemorates the opening of the new bridge on 3.5.2003.*
9. Former Butter Factory – 1925 – *Dairying was Coramba's major industry. The Orara Dairy Farmers Co-op Society was formed in 1897 and the Butter factory was built in 1901 (where St. Therese RC Church now stands). In 1925 a new factory was built to cater for the 140 farms supplying cream. This coincided with the arrival of the North Coast Train line in 1922 and the opening of the Dorriggo-Glenreagh line in 1924. Sold in 1950 to Fawcett Bros for a pickle factory. In 1960 used as Peters Ice Cream receiving depot and bulk store. At one time was a Candle factory and for many years occupied by Coramba Timbers.*
10. CWA Park – Corner of Gale & Martin Streets – 1957 – *the Coramba CWA was formed in 1953 by 17 local women. This site was purchased for a children's playground and was officially opened in 1957. The CWA reluctantly closed in 1982 owing to lack of interest.*
11. Former CBA Building – 23-25 Gale Street – 1934 – *the first building was destroyed by fire and this, the second, became a private residence following the bank's closure in 1956.*
12. Site of the original Post Office – 1880 – *originally a telegraph station with Mrs Rudder in charge for £5 per annum. It was upgraded to a Post Office in 1913 and also served as the Commonwealth Savings Bank and the local telephone exchange. Between 1915 and 1940 pigeons were used to pass messages between Mulhearn's remotely located & inaccessible timber mills because of the irregular postal service. Pigeons could take the messages between mills in under an hour whereas overland it would take 3 or more hours.*
13. Shops 31 Gale Street – 1920 – *today this is the General Store, bakery and pie shop.*
14. View down Thrower Avenue – *green paddocks and herds of dairy cattle, the last of the numerous dairy farms that contributed so much to the development of Coramba and the Orara Valley.*
15. Service Station – 33 – 35 Gale Street – 1950 – *the Site of the original CBA Bank which was destroyed by fire in 1934 and with the creation of Thrower Avenue, the Service Station was built in 1950.*
16. 40 Gale Street – former Butcher's shop according to local lore.
17. Former shop and bakery 39-41 Gale Street – 1900 – *former pair of co-joined shops dates from the turn of the 20th century when Coramba was developing as a small village.*

18. 48-50 Gale Street – Site of the Former Dorrigo Shire Council Chambers –1914 –*Dorrigo Shire created in 1906 & in 1913 split into Nymboida & Dorrigo shires. Coramba was the geographical centre of the new shire.*
19. 45 Gale Street – 1920 – *an early shop attached to a residence.*
20. 49-51 Gale Street, site of Martin’s Coffee Palace 1950 – *Martin’s Coffee Palace was built in late 1800s, a concept from the USA in the 1880s as part of the Temperance movement. They served no alcohol or intoxicating liquors. The now Fibro cottage is a rare example of a post WW2 cottage in Coramba.*
21. 62 Gale Street “Attunga” 1925 – *spacious weatherboard house built by George Edward Dahl, a carpenter from Taree who came to Coramba in 1907 and married a local girl, Myra Martin.*
22. Coramba Community Hall (School of Arts) 1914 – *built in 1914 by George Dahl, on land donated by William Gale and quickly became the social centre of the town. Inside is a painted memorial arch to the men who died in both world wars.*
23. Police horse paddock – *used for keeping Police horses – now a Police garage.*
24. Police Station & Courthouse 71-73 Gale Street – 1898 – *The first Police station was established in 1896 in an old relocated building from Nana Glen. The first Sergeant was Sgt. Pritzler. The present Police station was purpose built in 1898 and had lock-up cells and stables. The new court house opened the following year. 2 mounted Police served at the time and patrolled the Orara Valley and Eastern Dorrigo.*
25. 77 Gale Street – “Frogmouth Hollow” 1920 – *large timber Federation & post WW1 house built for the coming of the railway in the 1920s.*
26. St. Pauls Anglican Church – 15 Dorrigo Street 1899 - *foundation stone laid in 1898 on land donated by William Gale and dedicated in 1899.*
27. Coramba Public School – 1888 & Pre-school Cottage 1910 – Short Street. *In 1887 there were less than 10 families in Coramba and Eugene Rudder applied for a public school on behalf of 5 other families and permission was granted for a Provisional School for between 12 & 20 children. It was finished in May 1888. In 1910 a second school building was built and in 1912 the teacher’s residence was built.*
28. Pioneer Graves – *on the other side of the school fence are 2 pioneer graves. One headstone belongs to Mary Ann Carey died 27.3.1902 aged 77 years.*

b) Sawtell Reserve Heritage Walk (2ks. long). The Sawtell Reserve - is the birthplace of modern Sawtell, the place where Aboriginals came to fish and hunt, the place where the first cedar cutters set up camp, the destination for the first holiday makers and today is the centrepiece of Sawtell’s many sporting and holiday facilities.

1. Starting at Sawtell Bowling and Recreation Club – *Began in 1948 with the purchase of land in Lyons Road. Locals joined in with picks and shovels to prepare the greens. A new clubhouse was built in 1952.*
2. Sawtell Scouts Hall – *First Scouts group was formed in 1950 and the club house built soon after.*
3. Sawtell Legacy Flats – 1968 - *the only welfare organisation in the world committed to providing for the widows of servicemen.*
4. Sawtell Tennis Courts – *Built in 1927 and close to the holiday houses along Lyons Road and were a symbol progress. They have since been relocated.*
5. Lovers’ Lane – *avenue of Melaleuca trees; the path holiday makers trod after arriving by train*
6. Sawtell Croquet Club – *built after WW2 with available timber and voluntary labour. A new clubhouse was built in 2002. In 2008 they celebrated 60 years. And is one of the oldest clubs in NSW*
7. Memorial Pine Tree - 1917. *Planted by Eileen Passlow as a memorial to her brother killed in France WW1*
8. Walter Harvie’s Camp site – 1863 – *the first cedar getter and the first European settler in the Coffs area.*
9. Bonville Reserve Hall & Mrs Richardson’s Refreshment Rooms – 1861- *In 1863 a small community evolved near Bonville and the selectors arrived. The first holidaymakers were Bellingen and Dorrigo farmers and the 102 acre reserve was gazetted as Bonville Recreation Reserve and the first hall was built. The reserve’s popularity was boosted by Sawtell becoming a popular holiday destination and was one of the few places in NSW where the train line was within walking distance of the beach.*
10. Diving Rock and swimming area – *where Bongil Creek runs into the sea*
11. Coastal Walk arriving at Mick’s Retreat – *built by Coffs City Council*
12. The Original Lyons Road- *the surviving part of the original Lyons Road. Many huts and cottages were built by the early settlers and was the only road into the area until the Boambee Creek bridge was built.*
13. Bongil Creek & Bongil National Park – *sweeping ocean views. The area is known by the Gumbaingirr Aboriginal people as “Bongil Bongil” (a place where one stayed a long time)*
14. Site of Boambi House – 120-122 Lyons Road – *William Bayldon (emigrated from Yorkshire in 1855) and built his house in 1871. Said to be haunted.*
15. Pade Lane - *the rear lanes originally served night soil carts*

16. 108 Lyons Road, the home of Mr. Gibbons – *the first architect designed house in Sawtell 1950*
17. 98 Lyons Road – *1930 - early timber and fibro cottage* Balydon Road – *former boundary to Bonville Reserve until 1960s*
18. Sawtell Cricket Ground - *went into recess during WW2 & resumed in 1946*
19. Sawtell Golf Club – *officially 1938 -created by Scotsman David Kidd in 1920s*
20. Bridge across Middle Creek – *built in 1926 by Tom King & Joe Anderson & linked the reserve with the emerging township and the train station.*

c. “Bonnie Bonville” Sawtell Heritage Walk

1. Starts at Sawtell Rock Pool – *1963-1965 – built in 1958 after every Australian child had to learn to swim*
2. Bonville Headland, Bonville Creek & Bongil Bongil National Park – *sweeping ocean views*
3. Bludgers Rest (Boronia Park) & Chinaman’s Creek (Middle Creek) – *1930 makeshift huts were built by homeless people in Boronia Park. 3 Chinese men panned for gold in Middle Creek. Named after one who drowned.*
4. 3 Boronia Street – *1957 Built by John Blenkin. Has a striking butterfly roof*
5. 38 Boronia Street – *designed by Frank Scahill in 2008 after original house was burnt down*
6. 3 Fourth Avenue – *post WW2 development in late 1950s*
7. Catholic Church – *1952- Cnr. East and 4th Avenues – one of largest timber buildings in the area*
8. Lyle Rose RSL War Memorial Park – *1956 – dedicated to Lyle Rose, the park’s caretaker for many years.*
9. Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club – *1932 – first carnival in January 1933*
10. Hilltop Store (First Avenue) - *built in 1925 for Christian Scheef and family*
11. ‘Seacrest’ Flats 20th Avenue – *1950 – remodelled in 2008*
12. Houses at 117 & 119 1st Ave – *1920*
13. 112 1st Avenue – *1920 – Built by Bowes Family who owned a timber mill*
14. 109 & 111 1st Avenue – *1960 – Fibro post WW2 Seaside holiday houses*
15. 3 Coronation Avenue – *1950 – post War 2 ‘moderne’ or international*
16. 5 Coronation Avenue – *1920 – Weatherboard cottage from Osie Sawtell’s original subdivision*
17. Bartlett Park – *1920 - in 1905 Dick England selected 83 hectares for a cattle farm which was sold to Osie Sawtell in 1923 and Bartlett Park was created within this subdivision & named after the Bartlett family who lived nearby. In 1863 from this point, Walter Harvie, the first white settler in Sawtell witnessed an Aboriginal tribal fight, one of the earliest recorded in the area.*
18. Rear lanes in Sawtell – *houses accessible by the rear lane that served the night soil carts.*
19. Sea-esta Flats 95 1st Avenue – *1957- Unpretentious fibro holiday cottages*
20. Sawtell Police Lock-up – *89 1st Avenue – 1920 – Unique and rare in NSW Originally from Mullaley near Gunnedah, it was first moved to Boronia Street in 1950 and to this site in 1970.*
21. Sawtell Fire Station – *27 Elizabeth Street – 1971 – the Sawtell Fire Brigade was established in 1971.*
22. Meals on Wheels - *25 Elizabeth Street – 1946 – built by Sawtell RSL as their first hall & club room*
23. CWA Community Hall – *21 Elizabeth Street – 1946 built same time as MoW on land donated by Osie Sawtell*
24. St. Nicholas Anglican Church – *15 Elizabeth Street – 1935 – originally built by Osie Sawtell as a Union Church for the C of E, Presbyterian and Methodist denominations. Later became sole property of C of E and was dedicated to St. Nicholas. Last of Sawtell’s major timber buildings & show importance of the timber industry.*
25. Sawtell Hotel First Avenue – *1932 – built by France Tyson during the depression. Originally called the Imperial Hotel after Tyson’s previous hotel at Fernmount which burnt down. It is Sawtell’s only hotel.*
26. Site of the Seaview Guest House – *1926 – destroyed by fire in 1962.*
27. Sundeck Flats – *66-68 1st Avenue – first stage in 1957 – 2nd stage in 1969*
28. Fig Trees (Ficus Hillii) 1st Avenue – *1946 – kerbed & guttered and a row of fig trees planted in centre strip by local gardeners, Mrs Cockbain and Mrs. McKay. The trees are now Heritage listed and known as ‘the plot’.*
29. First Avenue Cinema – *Current cinema is the 2nd on the site. The first weatherboard dance and picture hall was built in 1930 by Charlie Finch. Bought by Alan and Doris Brissett in 1942, films were screened on Friday & Saturday nights with a matinee on Sunday. Doris’ brother George would walk around Sawtell with a cow bell to let people know that the movies were starting. The cinema was rebuilt in 1957 and is still run by the Brissett family today, the grandchildren of Alan & Doris.*
30. 21-23 1st Avenue – *1927 – One of the earliest surviving buildings in Sawtell. Built by local Chemist & Dentist, Charlie Finch.*
31. 2-4 & 6-8 1st Avenue - *originally Shepherd’s Service Station*
32. 8-18 1st Avenue – *1940 – row of shops built of concrete blocks.*
33. 34-36 1st Avenue - *1940 - simple refined shop façade representing Sawtell’s post WW2 commercial development*

Brochures and maps for these walks are available at our rooms.



Music in the Blood

When I started doing my family tree, I wrote to my Uncle Denis (my mother's youngest brother) and he sent me the newspaper clipping below which is Herbert ARGYLE'S funeral notice. Herbert was born in 1874 at Staveley, Derbyshire but by 1898 he was in Rotherham in Yorkshire where he married Maude Elizabeth GEE. He died in Rotherham in 1933 and my mother said she could remember the sound of the funeral march with all the bands going down the road.

“The Late Mr Herbert Argyle Bandsmen's Tribute

The funeral took place at Moorgate Cemetery, Rotherham on Wednesday of one of the best known bandsmen in South Yorkshire, Mr. Herbert ARGYLE (89) of 22 Grosvenor Road, Rotherham who died on Saturday. Mr. Argyle was born near Chesterfield and came to Rotherham about 40 years ago. For the past two years, Mr. Argyle has served as attendant at the Children's Museum in Clifton Park. He played in Orchestras of the Empire Theatre Rotherham and Cinema Theatre Sheffield. He has also played the trombone in the Rotherham Borough Band, Rotherham Military Band for which he was Assistant Conductor and the Old Rotherham Temperance Band of which he was one of the founders. He also played with various other bands at great concerts and competitions. He had eleven medals for trombone playing including one from Crystal Palace and another from Belle Vue.

The funeral procession was headed by a band made up of members of the Rotherham Military Band, Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, Rotherham Borough Prize Band, Hawmarsh Prize Band, Greaseboro Prize Band, Holmes Hill Prize Band, Kilnhurst Colliery Band, Silverwood Colliery Band, and Mexboro Military Band. The band which was under the leadership of Mr. AE Breakwell (Rotherham Military Band played the “Dead March” and at the graveside they played “Abide with Me” and the “Last Post”. Rev, JF Skinner, Paster at the Rotherham Baptist Church conducted the service. The mourners were Mrs. H Argyle (widow), Mr. & Mrs H Argyle (son & daughter-in-law), Mr. & Mrs E Richards (son-in-law & daughter), Miss Ivy Argyle (daughter), Mr. & Mrs W Lewis of Clowne and Mr. & Mrs Maplethorpe (brother-in-law & sister), Mrs J Mercer (sister-in-law), Mr. T Maplethorpe & Mr F Flatherty (nephews), Mr George Gee (cousin), Grandad Maplethorpe, Mr. Jack Heathcote, Mr. & Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Meara, Misses Anna & Elsie Green. Representatives from the Rotherham Military Band Club were Mr. W Walsham (Secretary), Mr. H Wilson (vice Chairman), Mrs. Walsham, Mrs Finney and Mrs Newsam. Inspector Harvey represented the Police Band and Constable Kirk represented the Clifton Park Museum staff. Floral tributes were received from widow and family, brother Edgar, sisters Emily & Harriet, Mr & Mrs Tom Heathcote and family, Gertie and Jack, neighbours & friends, Rotherham Military Band, Clifton Park Museum Staff, Rotherham Military Band Club Members, Rotherham Borough Prize Band, Carlton Dance Band. Bunches of flowers were sent from Grandchildren Ada & Jack, Mr. & Mrs Bartlett & family, Mr. & Mrs Geo Parkin, Grandad Maplethorpe, Nora & Sid, Mrs Botham & family, Mrs Wood, Mrs Keaton, Mrs Roadhouse, Phyllis & Fred, Misses Annie & Elsie Green.”

Herbert's uncle Henry ARGYLE was born in 1845 and had a son Samuel born 1880 at Newton, Derbyshire. In April 1902, he married Essie Annie PARRATT at Nottingham. In the 1901 Census, aged 16, Essie was living with head of the house, Charles A PARRATT at Ilkeston, Derbyshire even though she was born in Lambeth, London. She was said to be Music Hall Variety Artiste. William GOUNDRY was my grandfather's brother and in 1919 he married Annie Elizabeth COLEMAN at Laughton All Saints. Her father, Alexander Vincent COLEMAN, was the licensee of the St Leger Arms. According to my second cousin Paul Jowitt, the grandson of William and Annie, her father said to her “sing something for me Annie” and then dropped dead.

THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE (UK)

The GRO is part of His Majesty's Passport Office and overseas civil registration in England and Wales. They maintain the national archive of all births, marriages and deaths dating back to 1837. Digital records are now available for £2.50 for births and deaths from their website gro.gov.uk

Births 1837 – 1922 Deaths 1837-1887

The images are available to view once payment is completed and a link to the image is provided on the order confirmation screen. It will then be available in 'My Orders' for 3 months after the date of purchase. It can also be saved as an image file on your PC. If you are using it for the first time, you will need to complete the registration process and you will need an email address, your full name and postal address, details of the registration you are applying for, and valid credit/debit cards if placing an order.

Searching the on-line Indexes is free. The name search allows for exact matches, phonetic similarity, similar sounding and derivatives. If you know the GRO reference, even better. The results will tell you what is available – whether certificate, pdf or digital imaging. This digital imaging, at £2.50, is considerably cheaper than the full certificate (£11.00) or pdf (£7.00). Hopefully you won't be unlucky with your image with either the top or bottom missing off the scan, but this applies to whatever option you use.

As Family Historians, the journey into the unknown is never ending and we can dive into these opportunities with great enthusiasm but keep a close eye on your spending!!



Book Reviews – by Fiona Hulbert

The Forgotten Children – Fairbridge Farm School & Its Betrayal of Australia's Child Migrants by David Hill 304.8 HIL

A Fairbridge child himself, David Hill delves into the experiences of other children who stayed at the Molong Fairbridge Farm School during the late 1950s and early 1960s. His experiences were, perhaps, not as severe as some of the children who had been there for many years, as he was there with his two brothers. However, the treatment of the children has remained with him throughout his life.

A fascinating insight into a system of child migration from Great Britain that is now considered by many to have been extremely harsh for those children who arrived in Australia alone, in most cases. Available for borrowing.

Singing the Coast

By Margaret Somerville & Tony Perkins 398.2 SOM

A collaboration between Margaret Somerville, a Professor of Education at Monash University, and Tony Perkins, a cultural knowledge holder of the Gumbaynggirr Nation. Through the stories and knowledge outlined in the book we learn of the deep connection between this land's original inhabitants and how they protected the country on which they lived.

A welcome insight into the heart of the Gumbaynggirr nation, on whose land we live, work and play.

Available for borrowing.

A History of the Port Phillip District – Victoria Before Separation

By A.G.L. Shaw 994.51 SHA

From the earliest attempt at settlement in 1803, when the Colonial Governor in Sydney was concerned with the possibility of a foreign invasion from the south to the movement towards separation, and all matters in between. A widely researched text with a great deal of detail.

The build-up to the establishment of the settlement of Melbourne is dealt with in some detail. One of the concerns expressed by the Colonial Government was the distance of this settlement from Sydney.

An in-depth study of the effects of migration to the district particularly after the discovery of gold and its influence on the development of Melbourne. Interaction between the local indigenous population is also dealt with in the body of the text.

A Few Forgotten Women

This is a new project of particular interest to lovers of family history, social history and women's history.

A Few Forgotten Women is a project devised by a group of friends, known collectively as *A Few Good Women*. The group first got together during lockdown to provide mutual encouragement for family history projects. Even without meaning to, family historians often focus on the men on their family tree. It is usually the men who carry on the surname, the men who join the armed forces and who are more likely to leave wills, to vote or to rent property, thereby leaving a trail in the documentary record. Merely by virtue of her gender, a female can become overlooked. We realised that, unless we took on the responsibility of preserving them, the stories of many of the women we encountered during our research would be lost.

The aim of the project is to preserve the memory of some women who have, until now, been hiding in the shadows, forgotten by history. The women that you will meet on our website are those that we have discovered during our investigations into our own ancestry, as part of a one-name study, a one-place study, or when undertaking a wider project. Then there are the women that had no link to our own work but who cried out to us as we researched in the documents of the past. We hope that meeting our forgotten women will encourage others to tell the stories of their own. Some women are further on the margins than others and this project focusses on those whose lives were touched by issues such as poverty, illegitimacy, criminality, disability, alcoholism, prostitution, abandonment or mental ill-health. Often, several of these conditions go hand in hand, impacting on the lives of the women whose stories we seek to tell. Other women were less marginalised but lack descendants who can preserve their memory; they too find a place amongst our biographies. The nature of our site means that many of the stories we tell do not make easy reading. Please be aware that some of the biographies will contain material that some readers might find distressing.

We are sensitive to the ethical issues surrounding telling the stories of people of the past. There is a balance to be maintained between commemorating their lives and respecting personal privacy. Many of our women faced trauma and adversity; on balance, we believe they deserve their place in history. We aim to provide rounded portraits of real people in an empathetic and non-judgmental way. Where the women have descendants, we have tried to contact them to get permission to tell their ancestor's stories.

Our website is in its infancy, new stories will be added regularly.

Take a look at <https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/affw>



With permission from Janet Few, one of the Few Good Women

ALL FROM ONE – JOHN INGERSOLE

From my research, it would appear that all INGERSOLES (Ingersole with an e) in Australia descend from one man, John INGERSOLE who arrived in Australia on 6 May 1829 as a convict aboard the “Lord Melville”.

According to the Hall of Names, INGERSOLE is a very old Anglo-Saxon Name originating when the family lived in the Ingersaul region at a time when surnames were derived from place names. The Ingersole name was found with numerous spellings – Ingersoll, Inkersall, Inkersoll, Ingersol, Ingersaul, Enkersoll etc. After William the Conqueror abolished great earldoms which had existed under the Anglo-Saxon rulers, the Ingersole family was facing a period of development and was first found in Derbyshire where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity, seated with manor and estates in that shire. By the 13th century they were found in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and London. I have traced this family back to 1530 and this family has always been in Essex. My husband Kevin likes to tell people he is a Viking however!

John INGERSOLE was born 3 January 1793 in Barking Essex, one of at least 3 children born to John INGERSOLE and Mary PAIN who married in 1787 in Whitechapel, Middlesex.

At the time of his transportation, John had been married to Ann FOKER for eleven years – of their marriage Boyds Index says “John INGERSOLE aged upwards of 18 years, bachelor intends to marry Ann FOKER of Great Warley, aged upwards of 20 years with the consent of her natural father Thomas FOKER and Mary OSBORNE, his natural and lawful mother”. John and Ann had 6 children and it seems he became a serial poacher as he was imprisoned initially at Chelmsford in 1823. His Settlement examination for March 1823 at Springfield Gaol reads “*The examination of John INGERSOLE of Shenfield in the county of Essex but now a prisoner in His Majesty’s Gaol at Chelmsford in the said county taken before us, two of His Majesty’s JPs in and for the said country, this 11th day of March 1823 touching the place of his last legal settlement. This on oath saith that he is about 29 years of age and was born in Barking as he had heard and believes and is the son of James INGERSOLE deceased, whose place of settlement was in the Parish of South Weald in the said County at the time of his decease, which he acquired as deponent believed by renting the Black Horse Public House for 4 or 5 years, that he this deponent hath never done any act by service, apprenticeship, occupancy or otherwise, whereby to gain a settlement in his own right and saith that about 11 years ago he was married at Childerditch to Ann FOKER, his present wife by whom he had 4 children, namely James aged about 10, Ann about 8, John aged 6, and Mary about 4 years, neither of whom have done any act of their own whereby to gain a settlement and are now, as he believes, with his wife in the Parish of Shenfield. Sworn by J McLachlan and Thos. Brooksby. John signed with an X*”

Then .. “*The above named John INGERSOLE now present before us on his oath saith that he hath done no act since his examination first taken on 11th day of March last whereby to gain a settlement that the above examination is true and that he hath a 5th child born since his former examination, named Thomas about 4 months. Sworn before us this 6th day of February 1824. John signed with an X*”.

Then again... “*1828 Midsummer – John INGERSOLE, late of the Parish of Little Warley, labourer, for a misdemeanour under 57 Geo.3c90 pp28, puts himself guilty and is sentenced to 6 calendar months hard labour in a convict gaol. The Act for 57 George IIIc90 is an Act for the prevention of persons going armed by night for the destruction of game (poaching)*”.

“*The trial of John INGERSOLE 15th July 1828 Committed in Court at Chelmsford, Essex. Convicted of misdemeanour under 57th Geo.3rd C.90. John INGERSOLE was transported beyond the seas to such a place of his Privy Council shall appoint pursuant to the Statute for the term of 7 years*”.

Extract from the Chelmsford Chronicle.. “*The trial of John INGERSOLE 25th July 1828 Committed in Court at Chelmsford, Essex. Convicted of misdemeanour under.....John INGERSOLE was charged with having been found on the night of 23rd January last in a wood in the occupation of Lord Petre, called Dame Helen’s Wood, armed with a gun contrary to the Statute. It appeared that from the evidence of William Valentine, one of Lord Petre’s keepers, that between 6 and 7 o’clock on the night of the above mentioned, the witness*

and William Burls being upon the watch, saw the prisoner with a single barrelled gun upon the ground with which he shot a pheasant and then laid the gun on the ground. The witness and Burls then made up to him when the prisoner picked up the gun and cocked it. He took hold of it by the barrel apparently with the intention of striking the witness with the butt end, but the witness struck him on the head with a stick. He took to his heels but had no chance of escape from these men of the woods who outran him. The prisoner had been in the employ of the late Mr. Winn who looked after the game. William Burls corroborated Valentine's evidence. The prisoner's defence was that whilst he was gamekeeper for Mr. Winn, he had left the gun found on him in the woods and that he went out on the night in question to fetch it and not for the purpose of killing game. A pheasant accidentally presented itself on a tree and he shot it!

The Jury found the prisoner guilty and in consequence of its appearing, he had been two or three times before convicted of the like offence and the Chairman sentenced him to seven years transportation. Until his transportation, he was held in the Prison Hulk "York" moored at Portsmouth"

His description is shown as aged 32 years, married with 6 children, height 5'5", dark hair, hazel eyes (one eye faulty), a scar by his right eye and a scar on his left forefinger and thumb. He was a Protestant, could read and write (seemingly he couldn't as he signed the above documents with an X).

He was initially sent to Mr. William THURLOW, a farmer and grazier at Wallis Plains (now East Maitland) before being sent to the SUTTON family at Bathurst. His Ticket of Leave was granted on 31st May 1832 for apprehending two runaways and he was allowed to remain in Bathurst. His Ticket of Freedom was granted on 10th August 1835.

Some time before 1840, John INGERSOLE had set up home with widow Catherine (Stone) BRYANT and had a second family – 6 children born between 1840 and 1850. However, John and Catherine didn't marry until 1877 in Bathurst and at that time Catherine was said to be a widow with 4 children to her late husband John BRYANT.

Meanwhile back in the UK, whilst he was getting on with his life in Kelso, Ann his wife, was looking for him. In The Times 25th September 1847 *"Next of Kin – persons wanted... John INGERSOLE formerly of Shenfield near Brentwood, Essex, who in the year 1829, went to Sydney NSW and when last heard of in the year 1834, was servant to Mr. W. Thurlow of Wallis Plains. Any person who can give information if the above John INGERSOLE be living or dead, is requested to communicate with the same. Mr. William Parker, 1 Field Court, Gray's Inn, Solicitor"*.

In the 1841 Census Ann INGERSOLE (FOKER) was living in West Ham, Essex, with her daughter Sophia and grandchild (child of daughter Mary Ann).

In the 1851 Census Ann is at Great Warley, Essex with her daughter Sophia and grandson Faustin. She is stated as a widow. In the 1861 Census Ann is still in West Ham and has a boarder.

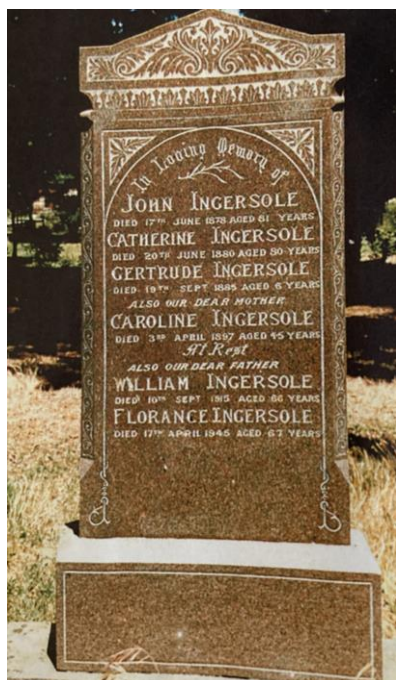
Ann never remarried and died in 1868.

John's brother William INGERSOLE was also convicted at Essex for sheep stealing but wasn't as lucky as John and was executed in 1811 at Chelmsford, Essex. He was only 21.

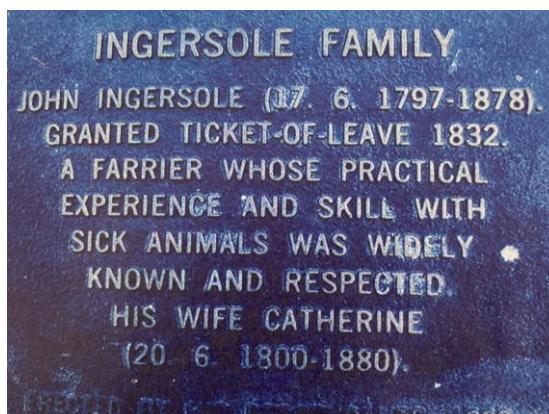
Thomas INGERSOLE, John's youngest son from his marriage to Ann FOKER came to Australia about 1856. Was he looking for his father or had he heard of a better life here? He obviously found his father in Kelso and either there was a dispute in the family or John denied having a previous family in England, for in his Will of 29 September 1876, John INGERSOLE left to his son Edward, 4 acres of land fronting to Macquarie River and 2 acres in the South West corner. To his son William he left the remaining 6 acres and the house. From the 6 acres to William, £50 was to go to James and £50 to Edward. From the 4 acres to Edward £50 was to go to daughter Ellen McCartney and £50 to daughter Maria Nixon. His estate was sworn at £330. Affidavits were signed by William Thomas INGERSOLE to the fact that his father only had 3 sons – himself, Edward and James. This seemed to indicate that the Australian INGERSOLES did not know about the family left behind in England or perhaps they thought their half brother was only here to claim his inheritance as no mention was made of him in the Will, nor his other children.

From Judith Webb's "By The River" - *If one could pause without peril on the Kelso end of the Denison Bridge and look downstream, a small two storey house would look squarely back from its peculiar position*

across the end of River Road at right angles to Macquarie River Road. This was duly exercised and resold in 1852, the new owner being John INGERSOLE whose descendants in a couple of generations, clustered so thickly along the lane that for a time, the lane was known as Ingersole Lane." This house has since been lovingly restored.



Headstone I Kelso Cemetery



Plaque in the Pioneer wall Bathurst

John's and Catherine's son Edward INGERSOLE (married Caroline MILGATE) was a horse trainer and unofficial Vet in the area. From the Australian Men of Mark "*Edward John INGERSOLE was born at Kelso near Bathurst in 1850. He has been connected with horses and cattle all his life and has been to Queensland and Victoria on two or three occasions in the capacity of drover. For the last 25 years he has been in the employ of Mr John Lee, squatter of Kelso and broke in the famous racehorse "The Barb" (Melbourne Cup winner) as well as "Lecturer", "Kingsborough", "Barbelle", "Barbarian", "Blair Athol", "Lord Lyon" and many others. Mr Ingersole is one of the best and most experienced horse breakers in Australia and now resides on his own property at Kelso.*" He died of senile heart disease on 9th February 1926 and is buried in the Church of England Section of the Kelso Cemetery. John INGERSOLE was my husband's GG Grandfather, his son Edward was his G.Grandfather and his son Frederick James was his Grandfather.

Like his son Edward, John INGERSOLE was a farrier whose practical experience and skill with sick animals, was widely known and respected. William, the eldest of his three sons, inherited the house and conducted a butchery at the crossroads in Kelso. John INGERSOLE died at Kelso on 18 June 1878, just one year after his delayed marriage to Catherine. He and his family are buried in the Kelso Cemetery.

His son from his first marriage to Ann, Thomas INGERSOLE remained in Australia, settling in Kelso and marrying Eliza Jane ASHWORTH in 1874. They had 8 children. He was also a butcher in Kelso and in later life he and Eliza moved to Sydney where he died in 1895 aged 70 and had been in Australia 50 years at the time of his death.

I have absolute admiration for Ann INGERSOLE (FOKER) for her courage and to have raised those six children alone. One can only speculate whether John ever thought of the family he left behind.

John INGERSOLE and his wife Catherine BRYANT are my husband Kevin's great great Grandparents. Their son Edward and his wife Caroline MILGATE were his great Grandparents and their son Frederick and his wife Frances MANSELL were his Grandparents.

References: Hall of Names
Gillian Morris, Essex Researcher
NSW BDMs
Peter Burke
Trove
Ancestry.co.uk

Submitted by Sharon Ingersole member 1548



More about DNA Testing

More and more people are choosing to take a DNA test, prompted in part by some popular TV programmes which use DNA testing to identify individuals. The TV show “*Long Lost Family*” presented by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell featured the reuniting of people (through DNA) separated from their birth family as children.

But programmes like this do not explain which type of test to take and how to interpret the results.

DNA – Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid – is a complex molecule which found in the nucleus of a cell, contains all the genetic information. These molecules consist of 4 basic building blocks known as bases and the sequence of these bases forms the genetic instructions. Each human cell contains 23 pairs of DNA molecules known as chromosomes, 22 autosomes and either an XY pair (male) or an XX pair (female).

There are in excess of 3 billion base pairs in the human genome but commercial autosomal DNA tests only look at about half a million of them, in areas where variations are known to occur. The rest of the genome is the same for all humans.

DNA is passed down through the generations. The more DNA we have in common with another person, the more likely we share a similar, and more recent ancestry. Long sequences of matching DNA indicate a close relative. As family historians, we are not looking at the medical DNA tests which are usually done from blood samples and they look for the specific gene(s) involved. If you are worried about a specific issue, you should be approaching your Dr. for advice and possible testing.

Genealogy DNA tests fall into 3 categories:

Mitochondrial DNA – passed from mother to child and can show deep ancestry on your matrilineal line (mother’s mother’s.....mother) many thousands of years ago. These tests are seldom used now.

Y-DNA – passed from father to son and in some instances can help identify a male ancestor.

Autosomal DNA – by far the most common now, and from the testing companies’ data bases can help identify ‘cousins’ who share DNA with the tester. It is usually only effective back to about 5 generations.

When you take a DNA test, you either spit into a test tube or rub a swab around the insides of your cheek and place it into a test tube, seal it up, complete the paperwork, post it off and wait for your results which usually takes about 6 weeks. The results are in two parts, the ethnicity admixture and the list of people who match you in varying amounts; the more DNA they share with you, the more closely you are related.

The ethnicity part of the DNA test is generally thought of as being the least reliable part of the results although often it is the part that people are most interested in. It is accurate to the continental level but less so at country level. All the companies rely on control panels of people who have reported that all of their grandparents/great grandparents were born in the same small locality and so are thus thought to be typical of that area. The bigger the panel, the better the results but it is still a new science and the ethnicity admixtures are updated from time to time.

The list of shared matches is usually presented in the order of the amount shared DNA which is measured in centiMorgans or cM. The higher the number of cMs you share with someone, the closer your relationship is to them. The more people in the testing company’s database, the more matches you will have.

Understanding your DNA Results

Assuming you took your test with AncestryDNA, you can use this time to compile a tree on Ancestry in order to get the most from their ThryLines tool. Do remember to link it to your DNA results and make it searchable if not public. Be aware that too much information in an online tree can be easily copied and pasted but it is good for other researchers if you do have a good tree. You could put on line all of your known ancestors with their dates of birth, death and location but nothing more, Don’t put all of the sources

or any images on line and don't include all of the siblings. Rather invite the researcher to contact you and then it's up to you what you share.

Once you get the email saying your results are ready, open Ancestry, select DNA from the menu bar at the top and then DNA results summary.

1. *DNA Story* is your ethnicity estimate based on the test results of people in Ancestry's control panel. You may want to explore this first but be aware that although it is accurate to the continental level, it is harder to pinpoint exact countries. DNA ethnicity is a new science and the estimates are updated from time to time and be aware that the estimate is for where your ancestors are likely to have been living 500-1000 years ago. Unless you have a Royal connection, you are very unlikely to have proven research that far back. If your ancestors were in England, as far as paper research can take you, they may have descended from the ancient Britons who were here when GB became an island around 8000 years ago; they may have descended from Anglo Saxons who came from Germany/Netherlands; from Vikings who came from Norway/Denmark; from Norman French who were mostly descended from the Vikings as well. Very likely you will be a mix of all of these regions. There are similar difficulties separating all other regional ethnicities.
2. *ThruLines* looks at the ancestors in your tree and searches all the other trees showing the descent from a common ancestor in each tree that it thinks matches yours. It also shows which people in that line of descent have taken an AncestryDNA test and how many cM they share with you. The results rely on 2 or more trees showing the same names and dates so is not always accurate.
3. DNA Matches is probably the most useful section for serious researchers. Select 'view matches' and then 'all matches'. You will get a long list of people who share DNA with you listed in order of how many cM of DNA they share with you, the highest at the top. Ancestry will suggest a relationship according to the amount of shared DNA, ie the number of cM but other than parent/child, it cannot confirm any relationship. You have to use traditional research and know the possible relationship for any given number of cM. Each step up or down a tree will roughly halve the amount of DNA that you share with an individual.

A parent & child always share 50% of their DNA, the child getting one complete strand of its DNA from each parent. In all other relationships, the strands of DNA will have broken apart and recombined in a random fashion. Full siblings share about 50% of their DNA and although they get 50% from each parent, it is not the same 50%. The actual amount shared can be anything from 50/50 to 65/35. Whilst you get 50% of your DNA from each parent, you may not get 25% from each grandparent although paternal grandfather and paternal grandmother will total 50% as will maternal grandfather and maternal grandmother.

Recently Ancestry have introduced Parent 1 and Parent 2 matches but the DNA alone can't tell whether it's a paternal match or maternal match. You have to decide that from traditional research.

Initially you should look at all matches and hopefully there will be a few people who you recognise and can place into your family tree and you will therefore know who the most recent common ancestor is that you share. Click on the known match's name then Edit/Add groups. Create a custom group and assign it a colour eg dark blue for father's side, light blue for paternal grandfather, green for paternal grandmother, red for mother's side, yellow for maternal grandfather and pink for maternal grandmother. Ideally you will have enough known second cousins to identify all four grandparents/pairs but this is not always the case. When you have assigned one or more colours to a match, you can then click on shared matches and unless you have known pedigree collapse, you can be fairly sure that all of the shared matches will match through the same grandparent line. The link could be several generations further back however. You can then choose to add the shared match to the same group and place a coloured dot beside their name. Even if you have no idea how a match is related to you, you will be able to work out on which side it is related and if the match has enough information in a tree, or you choose to contact them through Ancestry, you may be able to build a 'quick & dirty' tree for them which eventually links to yours. You will be expanding your own tree but do keep notes of the sources looked at.

Assuming that you have a tree on Ancestry that is linked to your DNA test, the most useful matches are those who also have a tree linked to their DNA which goes back through the generations for your MRCA (most recent common ancestor). These will be picked up by *ThruLines* and you can see how they trace back to a shared ancestor. Of course you should check everything before adding it to your own tree. If your match has an unlinked tree, you will need to do more research to see how they relate to you.

With permission from Brenda Paternoster, Kent Family History Group