



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



CONTENTS

Inside front Cover	Society Information	Pages 6-7	My Discovery Stephen Goundry
Page 1	President's Report Brothers' Keeper Group DNA Group Seminars	Page 8-9	Why and How
Pages 2-3	How Old are You?	Pages 9-11	Domesday Book
Pages 4	How to Write your Life Story	Page 11-15	Coffs Harbour Historic Sites
Page 5-6	Port Arthur	Page 16	A Creepy History Lesson Research assistance

Journal Published Quarterly by



COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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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 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.

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



Our President's report.....

Hello Everyone,

After a fairly hectic time at the rooms since Saturday 31st May, things have finally settled down. As a result of the hot water service rupture in the kitchen, the rooms have been freshly painted and there is new floor-covering throughout. Several of the committee also completed a full stocktake of our resources and found nothing damaged or wet. Good news. Our electrical equipment has also been checked.

A reminder to any members who may be interested in attending the 40th Annual Family History Conference to be held at the Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow, Wollongong on 12-14 September. The Illawarra Family History Group is hosting the event. Registration is necessary. Attendance can be in person or via Zoom. Further information can be found on the following website:

<http://familyhistoryconference2025.org.au>

Dates for your diary – 25th October – all day seminar with Andrew Redfern. He is a great speaker and will no doubt keep us well informed on recent Artificial Intelligence (AI) developments.

1st November – our postponed May seminar (thanks Cyclone Alfred) with three speakers who will help us with furthering our convict research, plus other interesting topics.

Our Bunnings stall is continuing to grow. Held every third Thursday of the month (except December and January) we sell preserves and cakes, as well as craft items, including knitted items, machine made quilts and table toppers, and woodwork items.

Our Brother's Keeper and DNA discussion groups are continuing. Brother's Keeper on the 2nd Monday of the month and DNA on the 3rd Monday of the month, unless otherwise advised.

Until next time, happy researching,

Fiona



SEMINARS

- Saturday 25th October – Andrew Redfern presents “AI Assistance for Family History Research”

- Saturday 1st November – Prof. David Roberts, Prof. Martin Gibbs & Mark McLean present “Digitally Constructing MacQuarie’s Colony”

Please Register if you haven’t done so already. Both Seminars will be very informative and you will learn strategies and insights to help with your family history.

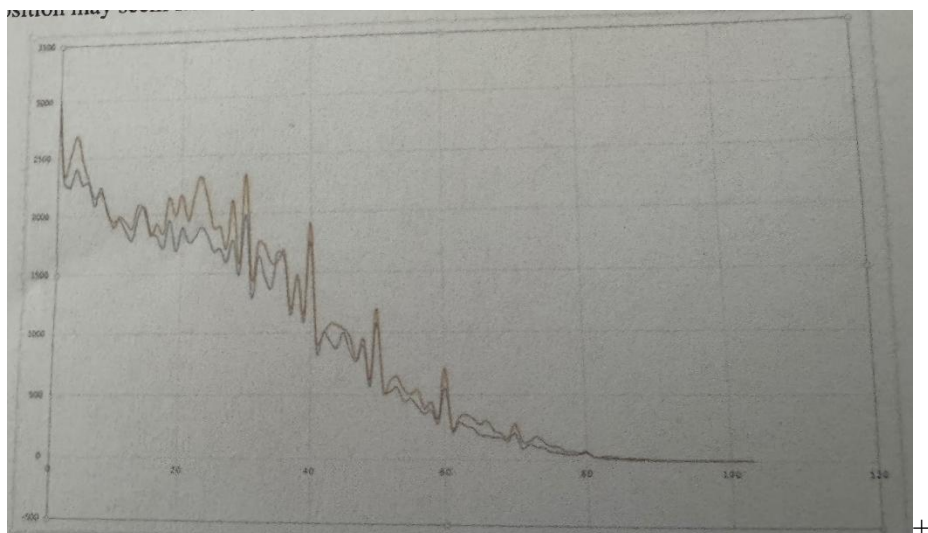
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Written by John B. MARSDEN on 07 April 2025.

How old are you? How many hundreds of times have you had to answer this question? Through our lives it has governed when we received childhood vaccinations, when we started (and left) school, when we could first drink, get a driving licence and marry. Then, later, it dictates when we can receive our pension and possibly a free television licence. We are asked our birthdate whenever we interact with government or the health service, whenever we want to borrow money or open a savings account or get a credit card. If necessary, we can prove our age by producing a birth certificate. So we are really familiar with our birth date and have little difficulty when asked our age every ten years when the census comes around.

Simpler times.... But now transport yourself back to 1851. You are a man or woman in late middle age, married with children and grandchildren and faced with the census form. How old are you? The situation 174 years ago was very different. You have had very little interaction with authority throughout your life. The little schooling you received (if any) was not dependent on your age and you started work when strong and responsible enough to hold down a job. Save money? Chance would be a fine thing! A pension? This would not be a reality for another 58 years; you expect to work until you are no longer able, like every generation before you. How old are you? You have never really had any cause to think of this. In truth you don't really know and don't really care.

When your grandchildren were born a few years ago you remember your son having to register the births and he got a birth certificate which provided a record of the date, but when you were born, the only record was the baptism register in the parish where you were born, but since moving to Manchester as a child, you have never been back there and certainly are not going to make the long journey just to get a copy of the register entry. You can't ask your parents if they can remember; they have been in the churchyard for many years. You remember that they recorded these matters in a family bible, but this passed down to your older brother and disappeared when he died a few years ago. You'll just have to guess. Perhaps you think back and remember that the Peterloo massacre happened just before you got married and you know that was in 1819 and you would have been about 20 years old then, so perhaps you were born around 1800 so you are about 49 to 50 years old. The form does not have space to accommodate "About 50" so you simply enter "50". What does it really matter? There is nobody who will dispute this. Where is the evidence for this? This proposition may seem fanciful, but consider the chart below.



The data shows ages recorded in the 1851 census and is taken from the data transcribed from the unfiled returns for Manchester. The curves show for each age the number of persons recorded with that age; men are shown in blue, women in orange. The curves show a population which is substantially under the age of 40 but with a distribution which tails off progressively with relatively few people over the age of 80, as might be expected. But what is immediately obvious is that far from showing a smooth distribution, there are marked peaks at ages 30, 40, 50 and 60 with a smaller one at 70 and a "ripple" at 80. Ages of 10 and 20 do not show the same peaks. This would support the proposition that older people, born before the

start of civil birth registration, were uncertain about their dates of birth and tended to gravitate towards the nearest multiple of ten which they felt was appropriate to their impression of their age.

It is noticeable that the same peaks apply to both men and women but also that the peaks for women's ages are distinctly more marked than those for men. This suggests that women were even less confident of their true age than men.

Is there another explanation? It has been suggested that the clustering of ages around the multiples of ten is a hangover from the requirement in previous censuses, in particular the census of 1841, that adult ages should be rounded down to the nearest 5 years. If this was the case, we would expect to see similar peaks at 35, 45 55 and so on, yet there is no significant peak at any of these ages. In any event, is it likely that the head of household, when filling out the household form, would remember, much less hark back to, a practice from ten years previously, when filling out a form which explicitly asks for their age? Indeed, the evidence is that in 1841 many householders ignored (or failed to understand) the rounding down rule and some enumerators carried these precise ages forward when copying into their enumeration books.

Likewise, there is no evidence that enumerators rounded ages when copying the household forms into their enumeration books. Ages which are multiples of ten appear on pages where other adult ages do not. There seems little reason to attribute the observation to hangovers from the previous practice.

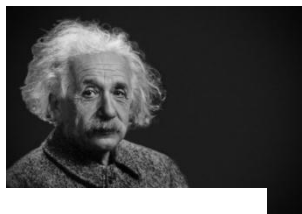
What does it matter? This is an important matter for family historians. The 1851 is usually our jumping-off point for the period before civil registration when we will be dependent upon baptism registers to identify the earlier generations. The census provides an age (and by implication a year of birth/baptism) and a birthplace. We will use these to search the baptism registers for the birth place looking for our ancestor's baptism in the years indicated in the census. If he was aged 50 then we will expect to find a baptism between (broadly) April 1800 and May/June 1801. But what if we don't?

Let's say we find a baptism in 1797 with the right name. Is this our ancestor? Strict interpretation of the age in the census would say no, but if we accept the premise that by 1851 he only knew he was "about 50" then it is possible he may be. It is also possible, with a common forename, that there may be several children baptised around the right time. The one which became your ancestor may be any of these. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss how this problem might be resolved, but clearly it exists and will have to be addressed. We can perhaps take this line of argument further. How reliable are any of the ages of older adults? How many thought "About 48" or "about 75"? These randomly inaccurate ages will not leave evidence in the form of peaks in the distribution.

The message to the researcher is to be VERY cautious about the acceptance of ages in the 1851 census. Indeed, be cautious about ages in subsequent censuses. Our "about 50" year old, if he survives to be enumerated in 1861, 1871 or, who knows, 1881 will be no wiser as to his true age (and perhaps less so) than he was in 1851. The ages of children under 14 may be more reliable (they should have a birth certificate and in any event, parents may be fairly certain as to their year of birth) but should be treated with caution nevertheless.

Then, of course, the place of birth may not be right - but that's another story!

There are so many quotes attributed to Albert Einstein that verifying their authenticity can be challenging. Nonetheless, it's clear he appreciated the importance of intuition, insight, inspiration and imagination in his thinking. "I believe in intuition and inspiration...At times I feel certain I am right while not knowing the reason."



HOW TO WRITE YOUR LIFE STORY

From the author Katarina Sherbourne – *“As a writer with a passion for real-life stories, for over 15 years I have been helping people write about their lives, turning precious memories into beautiful books to give to family and friends. Here are a few tips for anyone wishing to write their life story”*.

Do some prep.....You don't need to start with an intimidating blank sheet of paper. Instead, start with relatives and friends about your life. Spend time looking through photos, reading old diaries and letters and listening to music. Why not visit some of your old haunts to jog your memory.

On a piece of paper, sketch out your family tree and write down the names of important people in your life. List the places you have lived, your schools, colleges and jobs. A timeline may be useful: imagine your life as a horizontal line and starting with your birth, note down the significant events and experiences as you have gone through life eg. Education, career, romances, family life etc. Make a list of headings about the main areas of your life that you would particularly like to cover. Use two notebooks – one beside your bedside and the other with you when you are out and about so that you don't forget new thoughts and ideas.

Getting started.... Having done your prep, you are now ready to begin writing. You don't have to start at the beginning of your life or write chronologically. Perhaps start with an experience you remember well eg your wedding day, a special birthday or holiday. Evoke as much detail as you can. Describe the weather, what you wore, what you ate, the music of the time, food, pastimes, hobbies and how much things cost. Most importantly, describe how you felt. Include snippets of conversation (even if not 100% accurate) to make your story come alive.

Once you have a few pages written you will feel more confident about continuing. Tackle the more straightforward topics first and leave the harder for later. Remember the things that made you laugh and cry. Keep to a routine that suits you. When are you at your most creative? Are you a morning lark or a night owl? Where is the best place for you to write?

Making it personalWrite from your own point of view. It is *your* story and *your* take on life and this is what makes it unique and personal. Use your own words and expressions allowing your personality to shine through. Be clear who you are writing for. If your story is for your children, grandchildren or friends, make it speak to them and be mindful of them as you write.

There is no need to write about everything that has happened in your life; just focus on the important episodes. It is always more interesting if you write about fewer events in detail rather than lots of things where you skim the surface. You don't have to write about painful experiences but write only about those you want to share.

Be prepared to put your story aside for a while and come back to it later.

Shaping your story into a good read....The main thing when you are writing your life story is to get the words down first and worry about grammar and punctuation later. There are lots of free editing tools (eg Grammarly which you can install on Word) to help you tidy up your sentences and spelling as you go along. It will be useful to have a fresh perspective on your work. Ask a trusted friend to read your story and give you feedback. They will be able to tell you what you've left out, what you have repeated and what doesn't make sense. Find someone with good word skills to proof read your script.

End your story with a chapter which looks back over your life and reflects on your experiences. Finally divide your script into chapters with suitable headings and complete your project with a great title.

If you need professional help writing your story or if you have already written it and want it to be edited and turned into a beautiful book with favourite photographs and a specially designed front cover, please get in touch on www.lifestoryinabook.com

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE by Colin Knight

Port Arthur's reputation precedes it. The name evokes a strong emotional response for many Australians due to its connection to two dark and formative chapters in our nation's history.

Two centuries ago, it was a harsh, secondary punishment station for male convicts and almost thirty years ago, it became the site of a horrific massacre. But despite its bleak history and remote location, Port Arthur is one of Tasmania's most popular tourist attractions.

Port Arthur is Australia's largest and best preserved convict site, with more than 30 buildings and ruins scattered across the 100ha settlement including guard towers, a penitentiary, churches and cottages. The surrounding landscape is physically beautiful and features gardens, towering sea cliffs and a harbour surrounded by forest. Thousands of people lived here during its European history, from boys and petty thieves to violent criminals as well as priests, soldiers, civil servants, wives and children.

Public opinion towards Australia's convict past has shifted from shame to a cornerstone of our national Identity. Now people actively look for convicts in their past whereas earlier generations felt the shame



Of having a convict in the family. But you don't need convict heritage to be moved by the stories of hardship attached to Port Arthur and appreciate the resilience of the men and boys who passed through. Port Arthur was founded in 1830 as a timber getting camp. In 1833, it became a secondary punishment station for reoffending male convicts from across the Australian Colonies. Secondary punishment was the very bottom rung of the convict system of Van Diemen's Land – it was a harsh place. Stories of cruel punishments have endured longer than many of the physical buildings. The Separate Prison is Port Arthur's Most notorious building. Convicts interned in this prison (completed in 1852) were subject to a separate treatment; total solitary confinement, often in windowless, pitch-black cells, in absolute silence. To increase their isolation, convicts wore hoods over their heads when walking to and from the Chapel and watched the services from individual cubicles. It was hoped that silence would encourage introspection and that social isolation would distance convicts from the corrupting influence of other inmates. "A young person can learn how to be a better criminal simply by being in prison so the solitude and separation was part of trying to break that criminal culture and the criminal learning". "The silence was also there whereby a person would contemplate past misdeeds, meditate upon them and with religious instruction, reformation would be generated from within and therefore might be more permanent. Fairly ambitious thinking!!"

The Separate Prison, reflects Port Arthur's more experimental side – a place that sought to reform criminals, not just mete out punishments. English Philosopher says, "Port Arthur is a machine for grinding rogues honest". Criminals could be moulded into respectable citizens through hard work and moral instruction. "The idea is that you feed these criminals into it and it grinds away and hopefully out the other end. A more compliant, malleable and contributing citizen to the new emerging colony. The consequences of it not working meant that they were simply fed back into the machine which continues grinding?. Reoffending convicts were provided with the skills needed to achieve a better life; taught to read and write and many learned a trade.

By the 1850s, the site had extended to 40ha industrial penal settlement with convicts engaged in all manner of trades from shoemaking to smithing. Brickmaking and ship building. A convict's experience at Port Arthur hinged on their behaviour. Good behaviour could result in learning a trade and early release; bad behaviour landed them in Separate Prison. Early release was the ultimate incentive and a well-behaved convict could be discharged within 2 or 3 years having learned a trade, basic literacy and embark on a new life. It was up to the convict to stay on the path and if they didn't, they could end up back at Port Arthur or worse, Norfolk Island. If they followed the specific guidelines of obeying rules and working hard they could have a better life.

The probation station for boys at Point Puer which operated from 1834-1848 and was the first purpose-built prison for boys in the British Empire and had almost 800 living there at its peak. It got the kids out of the clutches of adult criminals and away from their influence. Disciplining the boys and keeping them in line was no small task as these boys were street kids and tough as nails. They were taught a trade, some education and were sent on their way. Some made it, others didn't and unfortunately the boys carried the stigma of having been at Port Arthur.

During the 1860s Port Arthur entered a slow decline. The Pauper's Depot, the first of its kind in the Australian colonies, and Asylum were built to house the destitute and mentally ill. Port Arthur closed in 1877 and quickly became a tourist attraction – some convicts returned and for a small fee, would tell their stories of the horrifying experiences.

In April 1996, a gunman entered Port Arthur's Broad Arrow Café and with 3 semi-automatic rifles, murdered 35 people and injured dozens more. This sent shock waves around the world and as the nation grieved, the public united in overwhelming support for tighter gun control including a total ban on automatic and semi-automatic firearms. The then Prime Minister John Howard, swiftly introduced the National Firearms Agreement that banned a number of firearm types, tightened gun ownership and introduced a buyback scheme. Almost 700,000 firearms were surrendered and melted down.

Today, the victims of this horrendous event, are commemorated in a memorial garden, near the ruins of the Broad Arrow Café at the Port Arthur Historic Site. The names of the victims are displayed on a memorial plaque near the reflection pond. People can sit quietly here and reflect on the tragedy.

MY DISCOVERY

I had an aunty Jean, or that is what I called her. I didn't know where she fitted into the family tree though. That was, until about 2:30 am on 21st September 2021.

Wednesday the 20th of September was my shift at the FHS and I mentioned a photo of my grandmother with two of her sisters, Alice and Ethel (DAWSON) and my father. It was one of about three taken at Black Carr Woods. I don't know exactly when it was taken but I looked up Black Carr Woods and they were near Bradford. I said to someone that there had been a relative who lived at Pudsey (in fact I had visited her there). When she died someone had found an address book and in it found my mother's address so had contacted my mother to tell her of the death.

I woke up and got into Family Search on my computer. My grandmother's sister Ethel had married a man called Herbert GREAVES in 1938. In 1901 he was 5 and was described as a "boarder" at the house of an Oliver HUDSON, who was the father of Sarah HUDSON who was 57. His occupation was "Confectioner and Sweet Boiler". In the 1911 Census, Herbert had been 15 and his occupation was "Assistant Confectioner Wholesale". The address was at Pudsey and the head of the household was a 66-year-old Sarah HUDSON who had been born at Pudsey. She was Herbert's mother.

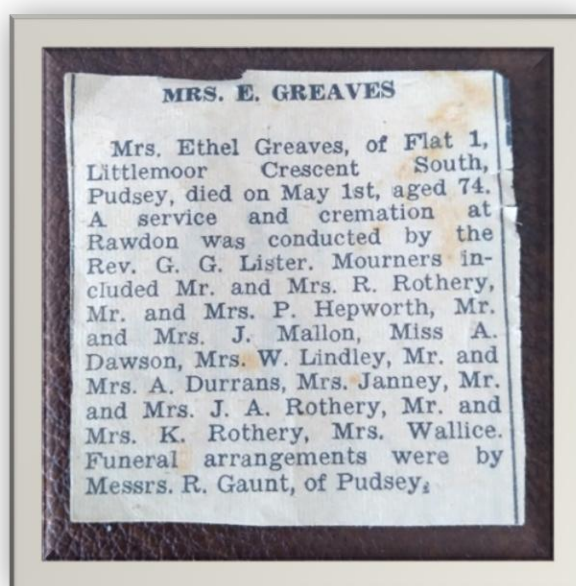
Another listed source was the 1939 Register, taken so that people could be traced and identified during World War 2. Herbert was 43 and his occupation was "Commercial Traveller Stores". Ethel GREAVES was 40 and Elizabeth A GREAVES was 71. There were two unattached people and one of them was named Elizabeth (Jean E) Rothery GREAVES. I knew her as Aunty Jean and her surname was ROTHERY! She also lived at Pudsey. The Register said she had been born in 1934. There was also a Marjorie Hepworth GREAVES aged 19 but I don't know who she was. When I tried to find out it said the record was restricted. The only reason I could think of is that she is possibly still alive. Also, there was no relationship listed with the head of the household. One interesting fact, though, was that her occupation was "Finisher Burler Worsted".

Judging by the dates alone, Jean could have been the daughter of Herbert and Aunty Ethel.

The photo below was taken in Argyll Street, Coffs Harbour and shows Aunty Jean, Uncle George and Aunty Cynthia (Dad's brother and sister).



When Aunty Cynthia died I asked for all her photos and also found the death notice for Ethel Greaves. It mentions a Mr and Mrs R Rothery, a Mr and Mrs J.A. Rothery, plus a Mrs W. Lindley,



WHY & HOW?

In our lifetime, we've met thousands of individuals and have peered at even more faces. Whether referring to brow bridges or cheekbones, each and every face has its own distinctive structure. This prompts us to question how these differences in facial features came to be. Examining the factors responsible for change, especially using different races as points of comparison, helps us piece together the puzzle of why and how.

The disparity between Mongoloid and Caucasian is quite evident. The most prominent Mongoloid features are the flat face and the slit eyes. These evolved to accommodate cold temperatures. Eastern Siberia was originally inhabited by the Tungus, a Mongoloid race. In temperatures as low as the recorded minus 96 degrees F, a facial structure lacking protuberances, minimizes the surface area exposed to the cold. This flattening can be seen in reduced brow bridges and the nasal skeleton that is the same altitude as the eyes cornea. A widened face allows some compensation for the size of the nasal resonance chamber needed for speech, but this cavity needs to be more deeply set in order to heat inhaled air. Thus to create this required depth, the malars or cheekbones, are enlarged and extended forward.

The most striking of the Mongoloid characteristics are the eyes. The monolid or epicanthic fold, is an adaption to snow glare and snow blindness – the slit allows minimal reception to bright light. It is the fatty layer above and under the eye that creates the slit thus is an effective insulator. This facial fat is so crucial that the eye orbitals are extended vertically to provide additional space for fat.

Recent studies have uncovered new genetic evidence to explain other Asian phenotypes beyond the eyes and facial structure. The EDARV370A has been traced as the cause of Eastern Asian thickness of hair, an increase of eccrine glands (sweat) and a decrease in mammary glands (small breasts). The selective forces causing 370A, temperature plays a big part. A warm and humid Central Asia 40,000 and 32,000 years ago Found that excessive sweating was a selective advantage. And although the warmer climate now would imply that there is no need for the slit-eyes and flat faces, these continue due to a lack of a more advantageous gene to replace it. The nuances between Asia itself. Between the Korean, Japanese, Chinese are often taken as a singular entity. The only thing they have in common is eating rice!

Archaeological evidence supports that Koreans were a Tungusic race that migrated from Central Asia to the Korean Peninsular on the third millenium BC, driving out the Paleo Asians (ancestors to the Ainu, an important ethnic group in Japan. Blood markers found that Koreans are genetically nearest to Mongolians and are related to the Japanese. Hence Korean, Mongolian, Tungusic and Japanese languages all share a common origin and there is not a close genetic relation between Korean and Han Chinese. Modern China is made up of 92% Han Chinese and another 56 prominent minorities (8%) including the Uyghurs, Tibetans and Hui. The modern Japanese genotype is the result of a mixture of Jomon who were the primary inhabitants until 300BC and Yayoi famers, characterized with more wide-set eyes and more pronounced facial topography.

The generally accepted theory, based on the '*Out of Africa*' model, is that modern humans migrated from Africa and across to Asia 50000 -70,000 years ago. They likely reached Europe no later than 42000 years ago.

The first Asian people represented by the skulls from the Upper Cave at Zhoukoudian in China, more closely resemble contemporary Africans and Europeans than they do modern Asians. Some Scientists believe that South-East Asians are direct descendants of *Homo Erectus* that migrated from Africa to Asia 1.8 million years ago. The physical features typical of modern Asians can be traced back to *Homo Erectus* specimens such as the skulls of Dali and Peking man. Early humans in Asia lack the characteristic features of the skull and face found in modern South East Asians. Genomic research has studied the origin and formation of modern East Asians who split from other populations as early as 70,000 to 50,000 years ago. Possible routes into East Asia were north of the Himalayas and a southern route, south of the Himalayas. An initial upper paleolithic population movement dispersed throughout Eurasia using a southern dispersal route through Southern Asia to Australasians (Oceanians), Ancient Ancestral South (Indians), Andamanese and Papuans.

After the peopling of the south & southeast Asian region, the ancestral population diverged into at least three ‘deeply branching East Asian lineages’ namely the Ancestral South Indians, Australasians and the East & Southeast Asian – modern Asians, Polynesians, Siberians and native Americans. There are currently 8 identified sub-ancestries on the East Southeast Asia branch – **Hoabinhian** – lineage associated with 8000 -4000 year old hunter gatherers in Laos and Malaysia; **Tianyuan** – Upper Paleolithic dating 39000 years ago in Northern China; **Guangxi** – 10500 years; **Jomon** – 8000-3000 Japanese; **Ancient North East Asian** – Amur River, Mongolia, Siberia; **Ancient South East Asian** – Fujian & Guangxi region of Southern China; **Yellow River** - 9500 year old individual from lower reaches of Yellow River in Shandong. Formed from a mixture of Ancient North East Asia & Ancient Southern East Asian or an earlier mixture of a deep interior group & a deep coastal group; **Ancient Tibetan** – associated with 6000 Zongri from the Himalay Region of the Tibetan Plateau. Highest among the Qiang, Tibetan and Sherpa people.

The defined thin Caucasian face structure and the effects of adaptation and natural selection are unmistakable. The origin of Scandinavians is complex, involving multiple migrations and genetic mixing but is believed they are descendants of people who came to Scandinavia after the last ice age primarily from the South and Northeast with some genetic influence from other parts of Europe. Scandinavia was one of the last parts of Europe to become habitable after the ice age, attracting hunter-gatherers due to its ocean resources.

About 11,500 years ago, people migrated from the south through Germany, Denmark and then by sea to Norway. About 1000 years later people travelled from the north east towards the south. The Vikings, often associated with Scandinavia, were seafaring people from the region who raided, pirated, traded and settled throughout parts of Europe and beyond. Modern groups descended from the north Germanic people and often referred to as Scandinavians, include the Danes, Faroese, Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes. Scandinavians do not have a single origin but are a mix of those who came there after the ice age.

DNA was recently taken for sequencing from bones and teeth of 7 individuals from the Norwegian Atlantic coast and the Baltic islands of Gotland and Stora Karlso. This was then compared with the genetic variation of contemporary hunter gatherers from other parts of Europe. Surprisingly, hunter gatherers from the Norwegian Atlantic coast were genetically more similar to contemporaneous populations from East of the Baltic Sea whereas hunter gatherers from today’s Sweden were more similar to central and western Europe. The conclusion then is that in Scandinavia at that time, the geographic west was the genetic east and vice versa.

The Mediterranean race was thought to be a sub-race of the Caucasian race originating from a common ancestral stock that evolved in the Sahara or Eastern part of Africa and was said to be a ‘brown’ human variety, neither white nor negroid but pure in its elements ie not a product of the mixture of whites with negroid people. They were said to have a shorter or medium stature, a long or moderate skull, a narrow and often aquiline nose, prevalence of dark hair and eyes and frequently darker skin (olive complexion). Aristotle contended that Greeks were the ideal people because they had a medium skin tone in contrast to the pale northerners.

Racial differentiations occurred following long standing claims about the differences between Nordic and Mediterranean people. Ancient writers considered the Greek and Roman people to be Germanic and some Celtic people to be wild, red haired barbarians. It was said that the Mediterranean race was “the greatest race of the world” and singularly responsible for the most accomplished civilizations of antiquity; Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Persia, Ancient Rome, Carthage, Hittite Anatolia, Land of Punt, Mesopotamia and Phoenicia. The 4 great branches of the Mediterranean stock were the Libyans, the Ligurians, the Pelasgians and the Iberians. Ancient Egyptians, Ethiopians and Somalis were considered as Hamites. Semites were a branch of the Eurafricans who were closely related to the Mediterranean. The homeland and cradle of the Mediterranean race was said to be in an area from Morocco to Afghanistan. These people formed the major population of Pakistan and North India. Taller Mediterraneans were Neolithic sea farers who sailed in reed type boats and colonized the Mediterranean basin from a near East origin. They were said to have also colonized Britain and Ireland, their descendants characterized today by dark brown hair, dark eyes and robust features. Researcher Carlton Coon says “The Mediterraneans occupy

the centre of the stage, their areas of greatest concentration are precisely those where civilization is the oldest. This is to be expected since it was they who produced it and in a sense, that produced them.” Ripley divided Europeans into 3 main categories – Teutonic, Alpine and Mediterranean. Although languages spoken were largely Indo-European, the oldest extant language in Europe was Basque. The concept of race in a biological sense however, has become untenable.

DOMESDAY BOOK

This was a fundamental part of English heritage and unique to Medieval history. There is no comparable record of a complete country – England – now kept in the Private Records Office in London. 900 years of documents highlights some intriguing customs and personal details. It is divided into 37 counties, each beginning with a general survey then essays on places chosen for their geographical and social diversity. There is nothing like the Domesday Book; no comparable 900 year inventory of a complete county, village by village, manor by manor. Alongside the Bible and the Koran, Domesday is one of three best known titles in the western world.

The original book survives, preserved for centuries at Winchester, the capital of the ancient Saxon Kingdom of Wessex and now held at the PRO in London. That something so well known has remained until recently, in every sense a closed book except to a few medieval scholars. This was because it was written in a highly abbreviated form of Latin.

The wealth of information continued illuminating one of the most crucial times in our history – the conquest and settlement of England by William 1 and his Norman and French followers. It is essentially the product of powerful will and relentless curiosity of William the Conqueror. However, it could not have been made without the advanced administrative system that William inherited from his Anglo-Saxon predecessors. By AD1000, most of England was already divided into a network of shires that persisted relatively unaltered until the reorganisation of County boundaries in 1974.

Medieval Government did not possess the centralised powers of the modern State but the pre-conquest English Kings exercised great authority over most of the local magnates. East Anglia and other Eastern and Northern Counties were governed by Danish laws and customs since Alfred the Great. English Kings minted coinage controlled from the centre and gathered silver from the tax known as Danegold, a name from the 10th century, to buy off marauding Danish armies.

Robert Bishop of Hereford wrote “that the King’s men made a survey of all England, the lands in each County, the possessions of each magnate, their lands, their habitation, their men – both bond and free living in huts or in their own houses and lands, ploughs, horses and other animals and of the services and payments due from each and every estate. After these investigators, came others who were sent to unfamiliar counties, to check on the first assessors and to denounce any wrong-doers to the King. Many calamities arose from Royal taxes.

All of England, apart from the Northern Counties (not yet under Norman control) was divided into 7 circuits covering groups of counties with 4 Royal Commissions. The King wanted the survey done swiftly – done in Latin- then sorted and re-sorted until the final format was the “Domesday Book” under counties, landholders and manors. Each Shire summary inscribed in a “quire” small booklet with 44 lines of script to each carefully ruled folio, headings in red capital letters. As they progressed, writing was more compressed in Caroline Miniscule style and became less neat. Firstly, there was “The Little Domesday Book” and recast to “The Great Domesday Book”.

Throughout the centuries it was treated with great reverence hence it is still in almost pristine condition.

It is not just a relic of the past but a vital source book for understanding the origins of our modern institutions and societies.

The Domesday Book was written in the 11th century in clerical Latin, stylised and abbreviated. The English translation was done in the 19th centuries by different translators with a great emphasis on original documents. Dr. John Morris, University College, London in 1968 with a team of Medieval Latinists, produced a format for completely new English text. Work began in 1969 and appeared in print in 1975 with 35 volumes.

Historic Sites of the Coffs Harbour District 1788-1988

Local history realises the fascinating fact that history is people – their actions, reactions, their strengths and weaknesses, their needs, their humour and sometimes anger but above all their ability to overcome often impossible odds in their belief in the land and their desire to create a better way of life for their families. These hard-working men and women pressured authorities to set up schools, post offices, law offices and Churches. They formed community groups to attend to the welfare of their little bush hamlets. Jetties and safe harbours were constructed, roads cut through virgin scrub and railway lines laid down. A few of these brave men and women are listed.

John Korff 1799-1870

He was born in Hackney, London to German parents. He had a sound education and trained as a shipwright at the Royal Dockyards, set up his business in Lowestoft in Sussex, married and became a Freeman of the City of London. His business ultimately failed and he and his family came to Australia where he continued in the shipping industry. His boats traded between NZ and the Pacific Islands and after a southerly gale prevented him negotiating the bar at the mouth of the Bellinger River, he sailed north to the calm waters behind Mutton Bird Island and realised it could become a safe harbour for shipping. So began Korff's Harbour and now thriving Coffs Harbour.

William (1799-1870) and Mary Bryant

Mary was a convict, transported for assault and robbery in 1786 and sailed on the "Charlotte" in the first fleet in 1787. On board she met a Cornish fisherman William Bryant, also a convict convicted of smuggling. Mary was delivered of a baby girl on board and 4 days after landing, she and William married. A model prisoner William was involved in the management and direction of boats for fishing and became friends with a Dutch captain who supplied him with charts and instruments and with Mary's help they planned their escape from the Colony with 5 other convicts. They set out for freedom but fought cyclones, storms and rough seas coming ashore on Jetty Beach for water and fruit but were frightened away by "wild Indians" and took shelter on Mutton Bird Island. Finally, they crossed the Timor Sea in 1791 and initially they were treated well but once their status was known, they were transported to Batavia. William died there with his son, Mary and her daughter were returned to England, (her daughter dying enroute) initially to prison but a kind lawyer used his influence to secure her release and she was reunited with her family in Fowey. A tragic story of a convict family in the harsh days of Australia's first settlement.

The Jetty, Coffs Harbour

Up until 1892, a familiar site was the little cedar ships anchored beyond the line of surf whilst logs of cedar, beech, ash and pine were manipulated through the waves and swung on board, a difficult and dangerous procedure. John Korff had declared in 1847 that the harbour was a good and safe port and very suitable for a jetty and so construction began in 1890. Adjacent to the jetty were calf and sheep pens, goods sheds and a wharfinger's cottage. Extensions to the jetty were continued throughout the 1900s and by 1955 the updating was completed with a widening programme. In 1982 the rail tracks were removed and in 1984 the cranes, so long a feature of the jetty skyline, were taken away.

Breakwater Construction

It was soon realised that although the Jetty was a vast improvement loading and unloading ships in rough weather, there were grave concerns and the obvious solution was to build breakwaters north and south of the Jetty. Work began in 1912 on the northern breakwater and the whole scheme linking the mainland and Mutton Bird Island was completed in 1912. The southern breakwater began in 1918 and was completed in 1939 with additional reinforcements being added in 1942. The last ship to use the port was the "Lorrain" in 1979 with a general cargo for Lord Howe.

The BAT Mill

The first settlers to Coffs Harbour area found fine softwoods growing along the creeks and in the valleys. These were easily floated down the waterways to the little ships waiting beyond the surf. Hardwoods however, presented a problem and it was then realised that there was a real need for a local timber industry. George Nicholls, a small coastal shipping owner built a large sawmill in 1903, where today, Coffs High School stands. On his death, his wife sold the mill. Another mill was constructed at Woolgoolga by the British Australian Timber Company (BAT). Tramlines were built to the now site of the Big Banana and to Bucca Creek. So large were some of the timbers that a stronger engine was imported from the USA which made 2 trips a day carrying 6 logs each trip. Logs were exported and processed in Britain and Germany. Forty bullock teams also operated in the forests west of Coffs and Boambee. The BAT Mill burnt down in 1914 and the company built two mills at Boambee and Upper Bonville.

Walter Harvey

A native of Nova Scotia, working on a general cargo ship bound for Sydney and after a collision with a British ship, he quietly left, aged only 17. With only 10/- in his pocket and the clothes he was wearing, he took another ship south and ended up working on a dairy farm at Dapto. Taking odd jobs, he eventually found work with a shipbuilder on the Bellinger and after 12 months with them, he bought bullocks, drays and gear and set out on his own quest for Cedar. Encouraged by the Aborigines who told him stories of fine strands of Cedar he explored the upper reaches of Bonville Creek and on to Coffs Harbour. With plentiful Cedar, good hunting and fishing, he was content to live his life out in the area. In old age he became the first mail carrier on the Bellinger, then a punt man at Raleigh. He said in 1927 "I am the oldest pioneer of Coffs Harbour still living and the first man to ship anything marketable from Coffs, namely Cedar".

William Edward Bayldon

The Bayldon family – all 3 brothers and their families - emigrated from Yorkshire in 1855 and arrived on the Bellinger in 1864. The Bayldons were wealthy people and William opened a Chemist shop in Sydney before moving to the Clarence and farming at Ulmurra. William applied for a land grant which was successful, and they moved from the Clarence to a river frontage below Bellinger, no easy task as they lived graciously and it took several trips to get them there with the help of Walter Harvey and his Cedar rafts, the loads were floated up Pine Creek to the Bellinger. They were the first team to come along the coast from the Clarence. William contributed greatly to the development of the area, introducing both horse and dairy cattle, blood- stock and attending to the medical needs of the settlers. In 1871 he selected 3 portions along Bongil Creek and named the area Bonville. The Bayldons lived graciously, their piano providing entertainment and their home was always open to the neighbouring settlers. Their majestic home "Boambi House" with its orchards and gardens was pulled down in 1923. Bayldon, a suburb of Sawtell was named in memory of this family – the first to build a house in the Coffs Harbour Shire in 1871.

Milling at Crossmaglen

Walter Harvie was the first to discover timber in the Bonville-Crossmaglen area but it was not until 1912 that the Coffs Harbour Timber Company built mills at Boambee and Crossmaglen. A 3'6" gauge tram line joined the North Coast Railway at a siding near Archville to help transport the Cedar. The Singleton family was the first farming family in the area and named it Crossmaglen after their home village in Northern Ireland. Matthew Singleton was the Mill Manager until 1932 when the uninsured mill was destroyed in a disastrous fire. Since then Crossmaglen became a rural tranquility with its farmers, hobby farmers and retirees enjoying the enviable peace among the quiet hills that once echoed the ring of axes and the crack of bullock whips.

Tommy Albert's Orange Trees

Tommy was 19 when he came to Coffs after hearing of the good land available to settlers. He applied for 160 acres between Coffs Harbour and Red Hill where he intended to grow sugar cane. However, after assessing the needs of the tiny settlement, he switched to growing corn, fruit and vegetables. He built a house and worked his selection with little success because of the rough terrain. He stayed there for 5 years until his term of occupancy ran out then sold his farm for £25 but his labour on the barren soil was not in vain as his fruit trees survived. They were the only ones in the district and were known as Tommy's Orange Trees. Tommy died in Grafton in 1956 aged 95.

The First Police Station – Coramba

In the mid -1870s, word had spread that there were fine strands of Cedar along the Orara and cutters were moving in, first to assess the quantity and quality of the timber and then to set up camp along the richly timbered river flats. The discovery of gold in the 1880s meant there was an influx of settlers. It became a 'fly-by-night' settlement and the need for a Post Office and Police Station was obvious. An old building from the almost deserted Nana Creek settlement was brought in and Coramba Police Station went into operation in 1896. As well as law and order, the station provided a mining warden's office to process the applications for leases following the discovery of gold. Cells were also provided and Sgt. Francis Pritzler was appointed as the first upholder of the law in December 1896. Coramba Police Station is still in operation.

Coramba Butter Factory

As gold mining decreased in the Nana Glen-Coramba area, the South Coast Settlers lured North by the elusive dream of 'the big strike', stayed on to become dairy farmers. Quality pastures had been a problem until Paspalum, grown on a Bucca property, interested William Seccombe. The new grass was quick growing and seeded profusely. This new grass, together with the invention of the cream separator widened the dairy industry and the district farmers were convinced of the need for a Butter Factory. This was erected by the Orara Co-operative Dairy Company in 1904 on a site later occupied by the RC Church. In 1926 a new factory was opened beside the railway – the most modern butter factory in the country. Conditions changed and the need for a Butter Factory at Coramba declined and local farmers produced gherkins instead of milk. Supply outgrew demand and the Pickle Factory became a depot for Peters Ice Cream and later became the Handle Factory.

The First Post Office – Coramba

By 1875 Cedar Cutters were working in the lush softwood forests along the Orara and floating the logs to the Clarence, then came bullock teams and settlers, among them Eugene Rudder. He was a natural community leader and through his efforts a Receiving Office was set up on his property with Mrs Annie Rudder in charge. The first mail was received on 22nd April 1880. By 1886 many settlers were established along the Orara including William Gale who selected the actual site for the town of Coramba. With the discovery of gold, miners and timber getters arrived and the settlement flourished. A Progress Association was formed and in 1889, requested that a full Post Office be constructed. This opened on 28.4.1889. The Commonwealth Savings Bank agency opened in 1909 and the official stated was granted to Coramba Post Office in 1913. The Post Office is still there today.

Arrawarra Fish Traps

The Arrawarra fish traps were designed on the principle of Aboriginal fish traps used on the Darling River with a 'maze' confined within well-defined main walls, clearly visible at low tide. Broken pipis and conjevoi were placed in the pools as the tide rose and Aborigines had been seen taking away cod, groper, drummer, bream and parrot fish strung on poles.

Woolgoolga Jetty

At the time settlers in Coffs Harbour were stressing their need for a jetty, a similar situation existed in the little village of Woolgoolga where a primitive wharf, constructed by William Pullen had replaced the Cedar ships lying beyond the surf. In 1892 a structure was declared a legal wharf in Woolgoolga and had enormous activity in the early years with up to 36 bullock teams unloading and it is on record, that one

million feet of timber was shipped from the Dundoo Mill in a twelve-month period. The Jetty had the usual stories of basket landings of people and goods from the ships. In 1935 a severe storm carried away 100 yards of the jetty and also a steam crane and shelter shed. With the cost of repairs and the upkeep, the jetty's days were numbered and it was finally declared unsafe for shipping but became a happy meeting place for fishermen and tourists. The old wharf struggled for existence and at low tide, bits of its structure would appear from time to time and in 1965 the Public Works Dept the removal of the jetty was completed.

Signal Point – now Emerald Beach

From Cook's own words from the Log of the "Endeavour" ...15 May 1770 at 2.00pm. Fresh gales from the SW, WSW and SSW. Heavy squalls attended with rain and hail which obliged us to close the topsails. Between 2 and 4pm we had some small rock islands between us and the mainland. We steered 3 leagues from the land in 33 fathoms of water in latitude 30 degrees. We were 2 miles without the islands". He called the islands Solitary Isles on the chart. From Haklutt's Voyages – "The complete isolation of these islands from themselves as well as from the mainland was doubtless heightened by the fact that night was fast closing in when they were sighted, the weather adding gloomy effects".

As the colony expanded north and shipping increased, lighthouses were built, one on South Solitary Island. Following the collision in 1866 of the "Helen Nicholl" and the "Kellawarra" between North and South Solitary Islands with the loss of 8 lives, a Signal Station was set up on the headland at North Moonee, now Emerald Beach. George Damerell was appointed Signal Master in 1887 but with the invention of wireless the station closed down.

Early Sugar Mill – James Small

Many settlers worried about the flooding of the Clarence River moved south to the Coffs Creek. When they moved to what was the Banana Bowl, now Opal Cove Resort, they met up with a surprised squatter, his sons and a teamster who were cutting mainly Cedar and pine and dragging the logs to the surf where they were picked up by a small ship, the "Jane". He quickly legalised his holding and decided to experiment with sugar cane. He cleared and planted 30 acres, the cane flourished but became too great to be handled by the horse operated plant. In 1885 James erected a steam-driven plant, crushing his own and his neighbour's cane but the cost of transport became too great and he sold the mill. The growers experimented with treacle and rum but by 1898, the last of the sugar was sent from this district with the industry being left to the mills along the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed rivers. The Government bounty of sugar had ceased and only the large mills were able to survive.

Coffs Harbour's First School

George Shephard was the leader of a group of settlers who came south from the Clarence for suitable flood-free land and were surprised to find that Peter Moller had land west of Moonee Street. Shephard selected land on top of what became known as Shephard's Lane and his house became the meeting place for settlers to discuss their concerns, one of which was a school for their children. In 1885 Shephard approached the Inspector of Schools at Grafton and was successful. A teacher would be sent when the settlers had built the school. The next day, slabs and shingles were cut and assembled and in a week the building had been completed to the satisfaction of the parents. By mid-April, the Teacher in Charge was Miss Archibald who had 16 uncertain pupils.

Coffs Harbour Historical Society, Australian Bicentennial Society & Coffs Harbour City Council

DNA discussion group's next meeting will be on 3rd Monday commencing at the rooms at 10am

Brother's Keeper discussion group will be meeting on 2nd Mondays commencing at 9.30am in the Family History Rooms. Discussion group is open to all those interested in finding out more about this program are welcome to attend.

A CREEPY HISTORY LESSON

Can a History teacher explain this.....

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846

John F Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860

John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain 7 letters

Both were particularly concerned with Civil Rights

Both wives lost a child whilst living at the White House

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday

Both Presidents were shot in the head

Lincoln's Secretary was named Kennedy

Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln

Both were assassinated by Southerners

Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808

Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839

Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939

Both assassins were known by their three names

Both names are composed of 15 letters

Lincoln was shot at the theatre named "Kennedy"

Kennedy was shot in a car named "Lincoln"

Booth ran from the theatre and was caught in a warehouse

Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theatre

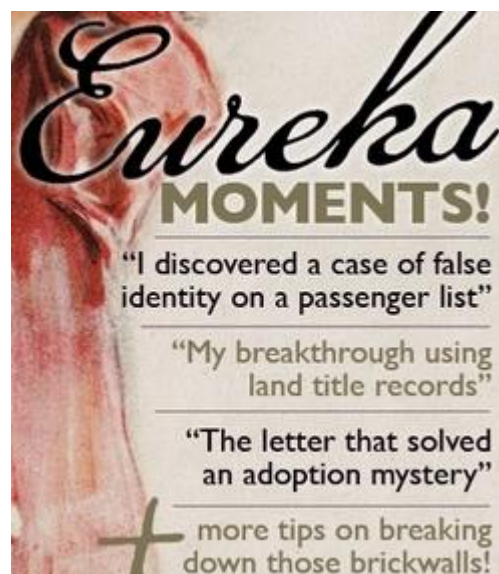
Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials

And here's the kicker.....

A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland

A week before Kennedy was shot. He was with Marilyn Monroe!

Source unknown



Have you hit that brick wall?

Would you like help with your research?

Would you like to be steered in the right direction?

A problem shared is a problem halved – would you like to share your problem?

We have numerous resources in our Library and many very experienced family historians who would be only too willing to help you.

Just call into our rooms, give us a call on 6648 3605 or email us on coffsgenie@gmail.com