

WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

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No. 90 May, 2012



OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

LOCATION:

1st Floor
100-104 Murphy Street
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.
(above Visitor Information
Centre)

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Wangaratta, Vic, 3676
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info@wfhs.org.au

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www.wfhs.org.au



COMING EVENTS:

SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2012 - GMAGS FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Shauna Hicks and Mark Grealy speak on:

- * Ancestors in Church Records; Sources for Identifying Photographs; Ancestors in Unexpected Places (Exploring Public Records Office Victoria's Nooks and Crannies, and Access Archives Victoria); Making the Most of Australian Government Archives Online.

At the Yarrawonga Family History Society, located within Victoria Park, Dunlop Street, Yarrawonga, Vic. 9.30 for 10.00am start.

Contact: Jan Parker rekrpj@bigpond.net.au 0427 883 264.

SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2012

Members Meeting at 2.00pm in our rooms. Please bring a friend and a plate of supper.

MONDAY 28 JULY to SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2012

National Family History Week. As this is 'The Year of the Farmer', we plan to have a display of farming items and information on farming families of the district. If you would like to contribute to the display, please contact the Secretary. We will be open each day during this period.

FRIDAY 10 to SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 2012

Research Workshop in Melbourne for members of Genealogical Society of Victoria Country Member Societies (our Society is a member). The workshop will provide a focused and guided personal research program. Cost \$50. Does not include travel, meals or accommodation. Bookings open Monday 2 July. Application forms will be available at WFHS and will be emailed to our members asap.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12 & 13 OCTOBER 2012

Deniliquin NSW Genealogy Muster.

Two days of Speakers and Exhibitors. Cost \$10 per day. More information will be available soon.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- ☼ Rebecca Beard
- ☼ Lorraine Wisener
- ☼ Rachel Boyd

HAVE A QUERY OR WISH TO MAKE A SUGGESTION?

Contact:

- * Ray McKenzie, President, on 03 5721 7553; or
- * Val Brennan, Vice President, on 03 5727 6229.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$25
Joint Full Membership	\$35
Single Pensioner	\$20
Joint Pensioner	\$30
Newsletter only	\$12

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OTHERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Val McPherson 03 5752 1222

Secretary: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- Dianne Cavedon
- Beverley Greskie
- Christine Heard
- Elaine Jones
- Penelope Redpath

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and Kenny Pty Ltd

Public Officer: Cheryl Price

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price and Anne Davidson.



FOUND: TWO POSTCARDS

One dated 18 August 1936 addressed to Miss D Hishon of 3 Rowan St, Wangaratta, and the other dated 4 March 1911 to Mrs G Steele 'Blair Athol' Wangaratta.

If you know of a family member who may like to see them, please contact the Secretary.



REUNION:

A reunion for descendants of passengers on the emigrant ship 'Zes Gesusters' aka 'Six Sisters' will be held on Sunday 13 January 2013 at Geelong, VIC, to celebrate 160 years since its arrival at Point Henry from England.

Even if you are unable to attend, any information, stories, etc. that you have about your family's voyage would be greatly appreciated for inclusion in the proceedings.

For more information, please contact reunion organizer, Rob Newland at robnewland@yahoo.com.au or ring E Seaton on 03 5779 1909 AH.

THE GIFT FUND: *By Mike Boling*

This Fund has been established by our Committee, the income from which is to purchase the resources (books CD's etc) we need for our research.

It is hoped that the income from this Fund will not only give us more assistance in our personal research, but also make us less reliant on other fund raising exercises.

At the Annual General Meeting Lorraine and I decided to donate \$100 to this Fund in the hope that this will encourage other members to make donations also.

Now \$100 may not seem much, but to us pensioners it needed much consideration.

So I encourage members to also consider doing something similar, and let's see this Fund grow in the coming years.

WHAT RESEARCH MATERIAL WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PURCHASED?

Please let us know what CDs, fiche, books or maps you would like to be purchased to further assist you and other members in family research. Let a committee member know or email info@wfhs.org.au

NEW BOOKS AND A REVISIT OF CURRENT ONES:

'Darling Downs Biographical Register to 1920', Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society Inc, Feb 2012.

'Lost & Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Records for Victoria 1841-1901', Angus B Watson, 2003.

'Wangaratta 1824-1963', the City of Wangaratta, 1963.

'Wangaratta 1959-1984 A Silver City' Bill O'Callaghan and Bill Findlay, City of Wangaratta, 1984.

'Wangaratta Shire Centenary 1967' J Collins Angus, Shire Council, 1967.

'Memories of Oxley, Shire of Oxley 1862-1994', Graham Jones, Charquinn Hill Publishing, 1995.

'On This Day in the North East', Graham Jones, Charquinn Hill Publishing, 1989.

FALSE BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

By Penny Redpath

I came across a problem in our family where a cleaner at the Births Deaths and Marriages supplied blank forms for births and marriage registrations for the purpose of constructing fraudulent records. Sadly this was not picked up until after the perpetrator died and the subject of the false birth certificate applied for a new certificate and discovered the fraud.



WHAT'S IN A NAME:

In England and Wales until 1874, the mother of an illegitimate child could name whoever she chose as the father. From 1875 until 1926 the father of an illegitimate child could only be named if he accompanied the mother to register the birth and gave information jointly. (Source: *Family Tree*, edition June 2012).

Sometimes, when the father of an illegitimate child is unnamed in a birth certificate, the middle name of the child might give a clue to the surname of the father.

Some European countries had a patronymic naming pattern where the surname altered. For example, if a man called Anders Johanson had a son named Karl and a daughter named Karin the children's full names would be: Karl Andersson and Karin Andersdotter. Son = son and dotter = daughter. And Alfred the son of John Williamson becomes Alfred Johnson.

WAIFS OF TARRAWINGEE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA: *By Cheryl Price*

This story of the lives of the children born mid 19thC to James and Mary Gordon (nee Woodburn) of Tarrawingee is told from the newspapers and government records of that time. No mention of the Gordon family can be found in any of the published books and family histories of the area held at the Wangaratta Family History Society, but the seed for this story was found in a newspaper article held in our library.

Five children were born to James and Mary Gordon:

- * Mary Jane Gordon born in 1859 at Spring Creek;
- * Annie Gordon was born in 1861 but a birth record cannot be found.
- * John Gordon born in 1863 at Tarrawingee;
- * Stewart Gordon born in 1865 at Tarrawingee; and
- * Isabella Gordon born in 1867 also at Tarrawingee.

The two girls were found to be in a wild state in the bush and were committed by the courts in 1870 as being uncontrollable and were subsequently sent to the Ballarat Industrial school in July 1870. The records describe them as arriving in a good state of health but their clothes and person were dirty and neither girl could read or write. Mary Jane was 11 years old and was committed for four years, Annie was nine years old and committed for six.

At this time their father, James Gordon, had been in the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum for three years and their mother, Mary Gordon, was described as very poor; cannot control the children; and has three other children to support at Tarrawingee.

The story of these wild children captured the imagination of the press of that time and both the *Melbourne Age* as well as *The Brisbane Courier* ran an extensive article about the girls. The Friday 14 October 1870 edition of *The Brisbane Courier* (page3) said:

'The Wild Children in Victoria

A reporter engaged at the *Melbourne Age* has 'interviewed' the girls who are now at the Ballarat Industrial School and gives the following account: -

'In January 1867, in Eldorado, resided a farmer James Gordon ... who was regarded as a steady industrious man. Both parents were in the possession of all their faculties and were in good health as were their two girls and a boy. The two girls, Mary Jane and Annie, were never heard by their parents to articulate intelligible sounds. They spoke in gibberish which they seemed to understand themselves. They were wild intractable children and but for a very firm control maintained over them by their father would have taken to the bush in preference to leading a civilised life. In early 1867, James Gordon showed signs of mental derangement induced by an injury sustained to his head and subsequently he had to be placed under restraint in the Beechworth Gaol. From this time the two girls began to exhibit distaste for all control and would remain away from home for considerable times in the bush. They had one redeeming feature – their affection for each other. If the one secured any dainty, she instantly divided it fairly with her sister; and if either was offended, the one at once espoused the quarrel of the other. The mother at last sought the assistance of the police and on the 15 July 1870 the two children were brought up before M A C Wells, P.M. at the Eldorado Police Court. The constable who captured them, when pushed for a description of what they were like, said they were more like aborigines than anything else. They were even worse he thought, as when they saw anyone they ran away and hid themselves. To effect this, they would climb trees like wild cats or creep into hollow logs like an opossum. It was not until two boys had actually ran them down like a couple of kangaroos that they were made prisoners. As might be expected their appearance was miserable ...

continued next page

WAIFS OF TARRAWINGEE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA cont:

... They were committed to the Ballarat Industrial School and during the journey from Eldorado to Ballarat the utmost vigilance had to be observed by the constable to prevent their many attempts at escape. For weeks at the school they hid under chairs, tables and within fireplaces if anyone came near, and would not eat if anyone could see them but would ravenously devour food that was left for them in empty rooms. By degrees they became familiar with the people and the school and were able to freely associate with other inmates and even assist them in the duties they had to perform. The two girls were allowed the free run of the institution and they accumulated a small vocabulary ... with further culture they will probably be fully reclaimed ... and be fit to take their place in society equally with the other children now under training in the Industrial School.'

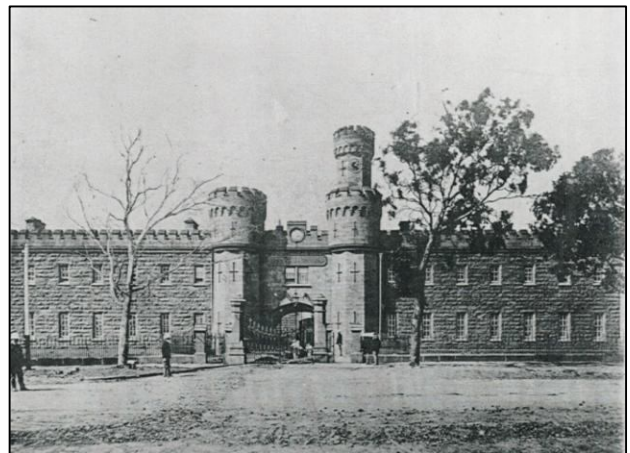
Records show the 'expiration of their term' for both Mary Jane and Annie Gordon was to be 15 July 1876.

Whilst the girls were at the Ballarat Industrial School (and the equivalent school in Geelong when the Ballarat Industrial School became for committed boys only), their two brothers got into serious trouble.

John and Stewart Gordon were caught placing obstructions on the Ovens and Beechworth rail line in 1875. They were with their uncle and were copying what he did. The uncle was sentenced to 10 years gaol and the boys were both convicted on the 25 September 1875. John was 12 years old and his brother Stewart was aged 10.

The records show that the boys were received at the Coburg station on 28th September 1875, and that can mean only one thing – their destination was Pentridge gaol. They were sentenced to the Jika Reformatory School within the walls of Pentridge for 7 years and 7 days. The 'expiration of term' for both boys was to be 2 October 1882.

This time it was the boys who were the subject of interest in an article in the *Argus* of 26 April 1878 (page 6). The article describes what happens at the Jika Reformatory School and includes a bit about the boys. Although the article doesn't name them, it is very clear it's about John and Stewart Gordon.



The entrance gates to Pentridge Gaol 1870s

'The Jika Reformatory

... Most of the younger reformatory boys, or rather of those who came in young, owe their present unhappy condition to causes quite outside themselves. For instance, two of the handsomest and best behaved of them were sentenced for placing an obstruction upon a railway, which, as was proved at the time, they were set on to do by their uncle, who got ten years imprisonment for his share in the offence. The poor children had no knowledge of the nature of their act, or of the consequences which might flow from it. They simply acted under the orders of a relative whom they had always been accustomed to obey.'

The article goes on to describe the bleak conditions of the reformatory; the daily routine; and the exposure of the young children to the tougher, older delinquent children.

At this time the boys' records describe their father, James Gordon, as a labourer, very poor, in the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum. Mother, Mary Gordon, living in her own place at Tarrawingee, in the Beechworth District.

continued next page

WAIFS OF TARRAWINGEE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA cont:

When John Gordon reached the age of 15, the authorities apprenticed him out in June 1878 to a Mr John Campbell of Somerset Park, Campbellfield (now near Broadmeadows, Melbourne). He would have had to remain in the care of Mr Campbell for four years until his sentence expired on 2 October 1882.

As for the younger boy Stewart, he was moved to the Ballarat Industrial School for boys in December 1879, six months after his brother was apprenticed out. And from there, at the age of 17, he too was apprenticed out by the authorities as a servant to Mr W G Leslie, farmer, of Rupanyup, Murtoa (near Horsham, Victoria) and would have had to remain there at least until his sentence expired on 2 October 1882.

The girls appear to have continued to have a difficult time. After serving her four years at the Ballarat Industrial School, Mary Jane Gordon, at the age of 15, was 'licensed out' to Mr Josiah Glasson of Sturt St, Ballarat on 16 February 1874, but was recommitted back into 'custody' by the Melbourne Committing Bench seven days later on 23 February 1874 for a further two years. What happened to Mary Jane during this seven day period and where she was living is unclear. And what happened to her after her 'Expiration of Term' on 23 February 1876 at the age of 17 is also unclear but further research found her and will be discussed later on in this article.



Ballarat Industrial School for boys c1890

The younger girl, Annie Gordon, after serving five years, was 'licensed out' at the age of 14 to Mr G H Harrison, clerk of Ballarat on 17 April 1875. The Melbourne Committing Bench recommitted her on 20 July 1876 for one more year. Her committal records give an update on her parents and state that 'father, James Gordon, still in the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum on 25 September 1875. Mother Mary Gordon, address Tarrawingee, her only means of living is by selling eggs, she is destitute'. This may mean that Annie ran away from Mr Harrison and returned to Tarrawingee where she was apprehended and returned to Melbourne for committal. Annie's 'Expiration of Term' was 20 July 1877 at the age of 16, and her prospects would have been as poor as her sister's.

During 1878 there were a number of articles about the effectiveness of the Industrial Schools for committed children. The letter to the editor from a girl who had attended an Industrial School appears on page 10 of the Thursday 12 September 1878 edition of *The Argus*. It clearly describes the prospect of girls who have been in such a school:

'An Industrial School Girl's Tale.

I have been an industrial school girl myself, and can therefore judge. I want to speak chiefly on the hiring out of girls. Girls are sent out at the age of 13 years generally for a term of three years more or less and mostly into low places where they learn almost nothing. When her term is up she is free to go where she likes ... The Department should have control over the girls until they are 19 or 20 years old. It is no wonder so many girls brought up in these schools are on the streets... Just fancy a young girl between 16 or 17 years with a few pounds saved, becoming, as the term goes between girls 'her own missus' with no proper home to go to, knowing little or nothing of housework, washing or ironing, nor does she care to know it ... After trying one or two places, she goes as barmaid and generally useful in some low hotel where her complete ruin is soon brought about and so she walks the streets.'

Now the search was on to try and find out what happened to this family after the children were set free.

Their parents died in Beechworth in 1903. James Gordon died at the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum in 1903 at the age of 71. His parents are recorded as unknown and he had been in the asylum for at least 33 years. Mary Gordon died in 1903 at Beechworth at the age of 75. Her parents are also listed as unknown. Even though the establishments where they were living in their old age would most likely have recorded the names of their parents and children, the staff member who would have been sent off to report such a death to the registrar would most likely not have that information with him or her nor would they have considered it important.

WAIFS OF TARRAWINGEE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA cont:

Death records of four of the five children were found and in three of those records, not only was their father's name correctly given but so was their mother Mary Gordon's maiden name Woodburn listed. These were the records of Mary Ann, John and Isabella. The fact that 'Woodburn' was known to those providing the information for the death records was a small miracle considering the circumstances of the family:

- * Mary Jane Glasson (nee Gordon) died in 1931, age 72, Box Hill, Melbourne. She was buried at the Box Hill Cemetery;
- * Annie Gordon. Once again still can't find any birth death or marriage records;
- * John Gordon died in 1910, age 47 in Heidelberg, Melbourne. He was buried at the New Melbourne Cemetery;
- * Stewart Gordon died in 1951, age 85, (father and mother unknown), Blackburn (near Box Hill), Melbourne. His cremated remains are at Fawkner Cemetery; and
- * Isabella Harris (nee Gordon) died in 1928, age 60, Blackburn (near Box Hill), Melbourne. She was buried at the Box Hill Cemetery.

The eldest girl, Mary Jane Glasson, is an interesting case as 'Glasson' is the name of the chap she was licensed out to at the age of 15 when she was still in the care of the State of Victoria via the Industrial School. Her death record shows she married James Glasson in Tamworth NSW and the NSW marriage records confirm they were married at Tamworth in 1900 (she would have been 31 years old). Her death record also states she died at 119 Devern St, Box Hill at the age of 69 but in fact she was 72; and she had lived in Victoria for 40 years and NSW for 29 years. Mary and her husband had no children.

Isabella Harris was the only child of the Gordon's who did not end up in the care of the State as a committed or convicted child. Her death record shows she was married for 41 years to George Harris and they were married in Blackburn, Melbourne (she would have been 18 years old). Her death record also states she died at Whitehorse Rd, Blackburn and she had lived all her life in Victoria. Isabella and her husband had no children.

A poignant note can be added to the death of both these sisters. They were buried in the same grave at the Box Hill Cemetery in the Methodist section, grave M1206.

As to their sister Annie, no clear record can be found as to what happened to her. In this research consideration was given to whether it was possible that Annie was really Isabella, but it was soon dismissed as it was inconceivable that a three year old child could be mistaken to be eight years old at the time of commitment of the girls in 1870. Also, the accuracy of the birth and death records of Isabella are indisputable.

The eldest boy, John Gordon, was the first of the Gordon children to die. He died on 28 October 1910 at the Austin Hospital in Plenty Rd, Heidelberg, Melbourne. His usual residence is given as unknown. His age on his death certificate is given as 44 but in fact he was 47 and he was buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery on 30 July 1910 in the Methodist section. John was not married. From the fact that his death certificate gives the correct names of his parents, it can be assumed that he and his sisters kept in contact. Because of the early death of John and the fact that he died in the Austin Hospital, the Boer and WWI records were searched to see if he and his brother went to war but no records were found.

The youngest boy, Stewart Gordon, was the last of the Gordon children to die. He died on 15 July 1951 at the age of 85 at the Salvation Army Men's Eventide Home in Middleborough Rd Blackburn, Melbourne. This was given as his usual place of residence. His parents names were unknown but this is the correct Stewart Gordon when compared to other same name Victorian death records. The death records show that he lived in Victoria all his life and he was an orchardist in Shepparton. He may have moved from the farming area of Murtoa near Horsham where he was apprenticed to nearby Shepparton. His death record states that he married Jenny Wren when he was 68 years old in Melbourne, and that he was a widower at the time of his death. Stewart had no children. He was cremated at the Fawkner cemetery where his remains were interred.

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WAIFS OF TARRAWINGEE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA cont:

This is the conclusion of the story of the Gordon children - Mary Jane, Annie, John, Stewart and Isabella. Their tumultuous beginnings did not bode well for all of them and would have influenced their outlook on life. It's hoped that there were plenty of times of enjoyment and they were able to keep in touch with each other over the years.

Thank you to Jean Rankins for uncovering The Brisbane Courier 1870 news article that started off this story. And thank you to Jennifer Burrell of the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society for finding the committal and conviction records contained in the State's Children registers and sending copies to our Society.

Hardcopies of all documents used in researching this story are contained in the 'Gordon' surname file at our Society. And for those who wish to read the full newspaper articles online, here are the links:

The Brisbane Courier Friday 14 October 1870 page 3 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/526678?zoomLevel=3>

The Argus Friday 26 April 1878 page 6 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/5930191>

The Argus Thursday 12 September 1878 page 10 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/5948075>.



WHO WAS HIS WIFE? A tangle of spouses:

The following is an article from the *Poverty Bay Herald*, Volume XIII, Issue 4672, 27 August 1886, Page 4, New Zealand:

'A very singular disputed will case has been before the Supreme Court in Melbourne. Fiction, after all, is not more extraordinary than fact ... One Henry Sutton made the will in dispute. He had been married four times. Sutton married his first wife in 1858. She had originally been the wife of one James Stone in Tasmania. Stone, after living 15 years with her, eloped with another woman and went to England. This Mrs Stone thereupon married a Mr Chapman, who died, and she afterwards became Mrs Sutton. But it is asserted Stone was still alive at the time of this marriage, which was thus illegal. Mrs Stone lived with Sutton two years, when she left him. This was in 1860.

In 1862 Sutton married Margaret Delaney, Mrs Stone being still alive. Margaret Delaney died in 1866 and Sutton then married her sister Mary Delaney, Mrs Stone being still alive. Mary Delaney lived with Sutton nine years then she left him and went off to California with another man, and it is believed she is still alive there. Sutton was deserted by Mary Delaney in 1877, and after seven years he married again, this time to Lena Wark.

Mrs Stone, his first wife, was by this time dead, but Mary Delaney, his third wife, was alive in California. Sutton himself died six months after his marriage to Lena Wark, who, it may be added, married again.

Who was Sutton's wife was the question the Court was asked to unravel in the interests of a nephew, who, if Lena Wark was not a legal wife, would get the benefit of the will. He had three months granted to him to procure further evidence, and had a very extraordinary task before him, one would say. The story is an amazing instance of the vicissitudes of colonial life.'

RESEARCHING ENGLISH CENSUS RECORDS:

By Jayson Pratt

Administrative County of <i>Sussex</i>	Municipal Borough of <i>Hurstpierpoint</i>	Municipal Ward of <i>Malthouse</i>	Urban-Sanitary District of <i>Hurstpierpoint</i>	Rural Sanitary District of <i>Hurstpierpoint</i>	Parliamentary Borough or Division of <i>Hurstpierpoint</i>	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of <i>Hurstpierpoint</i>	Page 6								
Colch. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (No. of houses in the street, or in the building, or in the yard)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday (Males Females)	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed or Not Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Blind (2) Dumb (3) Lame (4) Deaf (5) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot					
1	101 <i>Upper Malthouse</i>	1	<i>William Henry</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
2	102 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Agricultural Labourer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
3	103 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>John</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Agricultural Labourer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
4	104 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Ellen</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Agricultural Labourer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
5	105 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Albert</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>		<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
6	106 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Margaret</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>		<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
7	107 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Agnes</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>		<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
8	108 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Frank</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
9	109 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Richard Pratt</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
10	110 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Ann</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
11	111 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Richard</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
12	112 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Arthur</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
13	113 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
14	114 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
15	115 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>Emma</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						
16	116 <i>do.</i>	1	<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Hurstpierpoint</i>						

I have found the Census records to be a very valuable source for my family history research as some of you already know, and this article is a brief description about the information available and how I have successfully used the records to trace family members for my tree.

To show how I use the information from a census form, I will explain how I followed a family line which had been a brick wall for me. I knew that the man I was researching was Richard Pratt and he lived in Hurstpierpoint Sussex at one time. I was linked to his son Michael who was born in 1817 at Hurstpierpoint. That was my starting point. So I searched the 1841 Census for Michael Pratt living with a father by the name of Richard and Mother Hannah in the county of Sussex. Nothing was found, but a Michael Pratt with the correct birth year was found in an Assizes/prison in Sussex in 1841 at the time of the 1841 Census - I saved that information to follow up later.

The website familysearch.org didn't contain the records I was after but I found Michael Pratt's christening record with the correct parents on the microfiche files dated 1992. I then looked up his parents Richard Pratt in the 1841 Census in Sussex with a wife Hannah. One record was found that matched:

1841 Census at Hurstpierpoint.

Richard and some family members were living at Malthouse, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

- Richard Pratt Head of House Aged 65.
farmer.
- Hannah Pratt Wife Aged 55
- Charles Aged 25
- Emma Aged 20
- John Aged 15

As you can see from the above, I found out the age of Michael's father and the names of other family members listed and their ages to follow up. I also found out they were living at Malthouse Farm and they were still living at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

continued next page

RESEARCHING ENGLISH CENSUS RECORDS cont:

With this information I was able to find photos of Malthouse Farm on the internet, so with these new clues I started to search the internet using keywords like 'Pratt Hurstpierpoint', 'Pratt Malthouse', and 'Richard Pratt Hannah Sussex'. Using the website familysearch.org I was able to find christening record for the children listed with the parents of Richard and Hannah.

I also needed to find out Richard Pratt's wife Hannah's maiden name. Using the approximate age of Hannah from the 1841 Census, I found a marriage of Hannah Hole to Richard Pratt in Bolney, West Sussex in 1807. Hannah Hole was recorded as born in Hurstpierpoint. Their first son Richard was born about 1808 in Bolney. They moved back to Hurstpierpoint and had another seven children including Michael, Charles, Emma and John. I was also able to find the christening record of Richard Pratt also born in Hurstpierpoint in 1774. The christening records of Richard and Hannah named their parents. So from just one record in the 1841 Census, I was able to find a load of information about this family.

The 1851 Census onwards changed to add more information. And from these census records I was able to find out the size of the farm; how many men were employed; where they were born; marital status and much more - all depending on the year of the census.

When I see the people living at Malthouse Farm on the night of each of the census years, the records sometimes show a Grandmother-in-law or cousin which gives you more names and marriages to chase up. Sometimes there are borders, lodgers and servants listed and, from experience, some of these people turn out to be relatives like a second cousin or a nephew but not listed as such so it's worth tracing a person living at that address on the night - especially if their place of birth is in the same county as the family on the census form. I have found grandparents or wife listed on a census form which gave a county where they born and an age which enabled me to then find the christening or marriage records. I was also able to trace the marriage of a daughter listed as visiting on census night as it had her married name on the form.

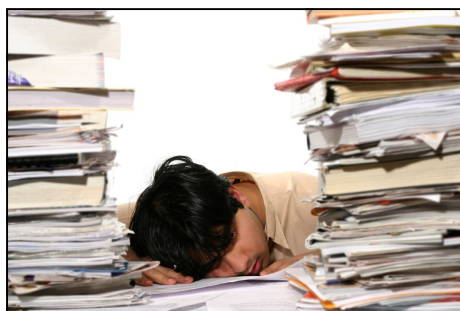
Hope you enjoy the journey as I have and continue to find those elusive ancestors.



CENSUS DATES:

UK - 1801, 1811, 1821 - few still exist. Then conducted every ten years.

Australia has a history of regular population stocktakes from the time of the first British settlement. From 1788 stocktakes occurred in the form of musters and victualling lists, maintained to control food stores. In 1828 Australia's first census was held in NSW. From then on regular censuses were held in NSW and, as they were established, in the other colonies - 1881, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1991, 1995, 2001, 2011. *Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.*



HANDY RESEARCH SITES:

Ireland

Irish census records before 1901 have almost all been destroyed. Those for 1901 and 1911 are freely available online at the National Archives of Ireland.

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

England & Wales

Historical Directories is a free digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, from 1750 to 1919. It contains high quality reproductions of comparatively rare books, essential tools for research into local and genealogical history.

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>

The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835, launched in 1999 and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, makes available and searchable the principal records of clerical careers from over 50 archives in England and Wales.

<http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/index.html>

A good article explaining the some of the complexities of locating wills and probate records in the UK.

<http://www.origins.net/help/resarticle-willsPC.aspx>

Australian Cemeteries

This site gives you the address, map and latitude and longitude of Australian Cemeteries as well as a look-see using Google Earth. It certainly helps to find those obscure cemeteries.

<http://www.auscem.com/auscemlist.php>

Australian Newspapers

Here is the latest list of newspapers which the National Library plans to digitise to allow public access.

http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/selected_newspapers/Future_Titles.html

And those newspapers which are already digitised can be found on TROVE <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

NSW Archives

Always a wealth of information <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

HANDY RESEARCH SITES:

Italy

Transcriptions of the vital record indices from Polizzi Generosa and Isnello, Sicily, Italy. Research services offered.

[Abstractions of the Indexes to the Civil Records of Polizzi Generosa and Isnello, Italy](#)

Alberobello, Bari, Apulia, Italy Civil Records Births and families from 1812. Names of the head of households as taken from tax records in 1812.

[Alberobello, Bari, Apulia, Italy Civil Records 1812 - Italy Gen Web](#)

[FamilySearch.org - Free Family History and Genealogy Records](#)

[Italy, Catholic Church Records](#)

Images of baptisms, marriages, and deaths from the parishes of Italy.

[Italy Church Record Baptism 1809-1865](#)

From FamilySearch.org.

[Italy Church Record Baptism 1866-Present](#)

From FamilySearch.org.

[Italy Church Record Christenings](#)

From FamilySearch.org.

[Italy Civil Registration Birth 1809-1865](#)

From FamilySearch.org.

[Italy Free Births, Marriages & Deaths](#)

Existing Italian Transcribed Records by other people of groups.

[Libby's Italian Records Page](#)

Links to civil records lists for Castellino del Biferno and Celenza sul Trigno in southern Italy.

[The original link is broken. This link points to an archived copy on the Wayback Machine].

[Samples of Italian Birth Certificates](#)

[Sersale Vital Statistics](#)

Birth Records taken from the LDS church's microfilms of the town of Sersale in Calabria, Italy. [Vital Records for Selected Italian Towns](#)



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