

GSQ eNews

Issue 133

November 2017

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Open hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10am - 3pm
Wednesday	10am - 3pm
Wednesday*	6pm - 9pm
Thursday	10am - 3pm
Friday	10am - 3pm
Saturday	12noon - 4pm
Sunday	Interest Groups

* (2nd & 4th Wed of month)

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Send contributions
for next eNews to
enews@gsq.org.au
by 22 November.

From the President

A Tale of Two Seminars

This month I am going to compare two one-day seminars I attended two weeks apart. The first, on 14 October was in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, at the end of our overseas holiday. It was run by the LDS church and was their annual Tri-Stake seminar. The second seminar was GSQ's own annual seminar, held 28 October (this past weekend), at Coorparoo here in Brisbane.

Yes, I must admit that I might be a tad biased towards one of the seminars – but not overly so, as I hope you will see.

The LDS seminar was a large affair with about 250 or so attendees who had a massive 8-stream programme to choose from, with each stream offering 5 talks. In contrast, GSQ's effort was a lot smaller and focused. We had just over 60 attendees who experienced a single stream offering with 6 talks. I think seminars with a multi stream programme are somewhat self-defeating. No single attendee can attend all the lectures on offer, and quite often must choose between two or more lectures with the same time slot. Also, this is not fair for the presenters, who experience diminished attendance levels at their talks, and which does not reflect the time and effort they have put into preparing them. On the other hand, multi stream programmes can give exposure to more presenters. It is a bit of a Catch-22 situation. As I have been both a presenter and an audience member, I tend to lean towards a single stream, or perhaps a twin stream, format, as being the most equitable overall.

Both seminars were not without their technical issues. At Surrey, Dave Obee, the main drawcard speaker for the seminar, arrived at the room he was to deliver his first talk of the day (he had to do three all up) to find there was no computer there for him to use for his powerpoint. He had been assured that there would be a computer in each of the 8 rooms, so he left his laptop at home. After about 10 minutes waiting one turned up, then it did not want to talk to the projector. Sound familiar? For his third talk, after the morning tea break, he had sought out the room he was to speak in and saw that there was indeed a computer there for him to use. So, he went and had morning tea. On his return, the computer was gone! More time lost. The moral of the tale is to never leave home without your laptop, if you are presenting.

For GSQ, the technical issues were slightly different, but computers were involved. Our first presentation of the day involved a presentation from someone located in Edinburgh Scotland. It was a Scottish seminar after all. For this to occur, GSQ needed a wi-fi dongle, and a programme to handle the presentation, with the presenter being able to log in to it and our technical person being able to communicate back to him as well.

A tales of two seminars (cont)

All the requirements were obtained, and every test prior to the day worked well. On the day, however..... it did not work quite as advertised. Eventually the presenter was able to deliver his talk, by being sent a message saying "Start talking!" He couldn't hear anything from our end, but we heard his talk, and that was the main thing.

The second point of issue GSQ had was with a presenter who wanted to use their own laptop because there were sound and music files on it that were part of the presentation. When it was plugged into the projector it refused to work correctly! This is the reverse of the presenter's moral above – sometimes, even if you bring your own laptop, it isn't going to work. Catch-22 again. We had to use the GSQ computer, which would work with the projector, and heard the talk without the extra audio content.

The last comparison I want to make is about lunches. The LDS enlisted their junior female members to provide a bagged lunch that could be ordered online whilst registering which cost CAD \$5.00 and consisted of a ham and salad roll, a piece of fruit and a small bottle of water. GSQ, on the other hand, as part of the seminar registration cost, provided morning tea (coffee, tea, cakes and other nibbles) and lunch (wraps, sandwiches, egg slices, fruit platter, etc) for a price I have quickly worked out to be no more than \$4.00 per person. I think those who attended GSQ's seminar got the better deal, in all respects.

Overall, it is hard to say which format for a seminar is best – to go large with a multi-stream format of presentations, or to go for a smaller audience with a targeted stream of presentations that are interlinked. Each has their own strengths. The LDS were using their own building for their seminar (the church complex at Surrey) so they had the space to offer the multi-stream seminar. GSQ had to rent a space for its seminar. The property used, the Queen Alexandra Centre at Coorparoo, did have a second room that could have been used (and has been in the past), but the single room was sufficient for the task.

Whilst I enjoyed the LDS seminar two weeks ago, I enjoyed the GSQ seminar more – even if I was the MC. I wish to thank all the presenters and volunteers who went into making our annual seminar the success it was. Thank you all.

So yes, I guess I am somewhat biased after all.

Geoff Doherty

President



Date Claimer

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday 4 November at our headquarters in Stackpole Street.

Meetings of Branches

North Brisbane Branch

The Branch holds its meetings on the first Friday morning of each month (except January) at the Brisbane North Area Scouting Centre at 23 Sicklefield Street Alderley. Doors open at 8.45 am.

North Brisbane Members are able to borrow from our extensive library of books, magazines, fiche and CDs.

The next meeting for 2017 will be held on Friday November 3.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings.

Redlands Branch

The next meeting of the Redland Genealogical Society will be held on Wednesday, 8 November at the Donald Simpson Centre, Bloomfield Street, Cleveland, commencing at 12.15pm.

For information re the Guest Speaker for this meeting please visit the Society's website (www.rgs.net.au) or the Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Redland-Genealogical-Society/>).

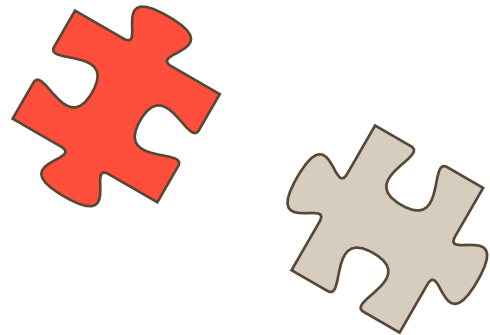
Visitors very welcome. \$2.00 admission with Lucky Door Prize.

Beaudesert Branch

Meetings are held in our rooms at 15A William Street, Beaudesert, on 4th Wednesday of each month, commencing at 10.00am.

The library is open each Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

The next meeting is 22 November 2017.



GSQ presentations at BCC Libraries

Although most activities run by GSQ are principally for the benefit of members, we do engage in activities intended to encourage more people to take up family history as an activity; and thereby grow our membership.

GSQ members are most welcome to attend any of these sessions conducted for the general public in Brisbane City Council Libraries. There is no charge but you must book a place in advance through the relevant phone number listed opposite.

Library	Topic	When	Time	Booking
Coopers Plains	Introduction to Family History	Sat, 11 November 2017	1-3pm	34031530
Nundah	Finding Grandma	Sat, 18 November 2017	1-3pm	3407 8701
Mitchelton	Using Newspapers for family history	Wed, 29 November 2017	2pm to 4pm	34037410

Meetings of Interest Groups

Scottish Group

The next meeting of the Scottish Interest Group is due to take place at GSQ on Sunday 5th November when the library will open at 0900 am. Our normal meeting beginning at 1000 will include a help session for those with research problems. A computer and projector will be available to catch upon the latest changes to the scotlandspeople website.

As it is the last meeting for the year it is usual procedure to 'bring a plate'.

On completion of the meeting the library will remain open for research. If possible advise the Group Secretary or President in advance of any research problems you have as it will assist in setting the agenda. Visitors are welcome.

Family Tree Maker Users

The FTM User Group meeting will begin at 1030 am on the 12th November, although the library will be open from 0900. This group is a networking group that can help beginners and assist both Mac & Windows users overcome any FTM problems they may face. All members should be using their Mackiev 2017 upgrade by now and received their backup DVD or USB stick. We will explore the new FTM 2017 version links to both Ancestry and the LDS Family Search.

People with laptops should bring them along so the participants can help solve your particular problem(s). GSQ members and researchers contemplating purchasing a family history programme, are welcome to attend our meeting. Advance notice to the convenor on mcfadzen@bigpond.net.au of your problem(s) will assist in setting the meeting Agenda. Any GSQ members and researchers contemplating purchasing a family history programme, are welcome to attend our meeting.

Meeting this month

5 November	Scottish
12 November	Family Tree Maker Users Legacy Users
19 November	DNA Scandinavian
25 November	Military
26 November	German

Legacy FT Users Group

Our next meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday 12 November. We hope to have several members report on their investigation into the "Hints" feature introduced in Version 9.

How have you used the (orange dot) hints? Does it matter if you have a My Heritage tree or not? What if the person being investigated is in your Legacy tree but not your My Heritage account? In this new area, there are no experts and we are all learning together. So come along and contribute your experience.

Scandinavian Group

The Scandinavian Interest Group aims to provide assistance to members researching their Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish or Icelandic ancestors.

The Resource Centre opens at 12.30pm and closes at 2.30pm. The meetings usually commence at 12.30pm and take the form of discussions or guest speakers about Scandinavian research, migration or customs. The next meeting will be on 19 November.

Meetings of Interest Groups

DNA Group

Members should note the extra meetings added to the original schedule. We will meet on Sunday, 19 November (9.30-12.00) and Saturday, 16 December (9-12).

Intermediate level DNA data users are reminded that the 7 week course begins on Tuesday 7 November.

<https://www.gsq.org.au/events/intermediate-dna-class-2017-11-07/>

Military Group

The last Military Group meeting for the year will be on Saturday 25 November. Doors will open at 10am and the meeting will commence at 10.30am. All members are welcome so come along and join us for the meeting and morning tea.

Attendees are asked to bring along details of their favourite military ancestor/person of any war and serving with any country. Share with other attendees the sources used to find details of your favourite military person. You can also come along just to learn about military research: you don't need to present. The group will finish by midday to allow the GSQ library to open.

German Group

Our next meeting on 26 November will be the last for the year, so we will spend some time helping each other again. We all bring a plate of German food or your favourite snack along and celebrate a very successful and busy year.

We welcomed four new faces to the group at our September meeting - Evelyn, Margaret, Kim and Verena who met with success and surprises.

Doors will open 10am for research, lunch at 12.30 and close 2.15pm. Do come along and help us enjoy our Christmas Cheer.

Coming up in December

3 December	English-Irish Group
10 December	Convict Connectiond
16 December	DNA Group

English/Irish Group

If you are interested in research in England, Wales and Ireland, this is the group for you.

The English/Irish group meets on the first Sunday of even months of the year, with our next meeting to be held on Sunday 3rd December.

The GSQ library opens at 10a.m., with the meeting commencing at 10.30. Join us for a lively discussion about various research interests in England, Ireland and beyond. Generally there will be one or two presentations about different aspects of research in these countries.

As the December is the last meeting for the year, please bring along a small plate of food to share for morning tea/lunch. The GSQ resource centre will remain open until 2.30p.m. for attendees to do their own research. We hope to see you at this meeting. Entry is by gold coin donation.



Writing Group

The Writing Group is now in recess until February 2018, although we anticipate that many of our members will be busy writing up their research. Topics for 2018 and meeting dates will be confirmed in due course. For more information contact Pauline Williams on pstirland@hotmail.com.

Informal members' gatherings

Monday Morning Natters

On the first Monday of each month, we meet at Stackpole Street at around 10 for 2 hours of low-key learning about the theme for the month and a chance to chat about whatever else may be puzzling or fascinating you in the world of genealogy.

There is no need to book; just roll up with a gold coin contribution for the morning tea jar. You will be most welcome.



November 9

The theme for November is ***Dating Photographs***.

You will be amazed at how much you can learn about the creation of those mystery images at the back of the album when a few people put their heads together. So bring them along and find out just how much information is revealed by great-great grandma's leg-o-mutton sleeves.

Our final Natters on December 4 will involve a hunt for hidden treasures in the GSQ Library followed by seasonal celebrations.

Event bookings

All GSQ events (except for those marked "gold coin donation" for members) require advance booking. You can access the online booking form either from the relevant Events page (just click the big Book now button) or by going to the GSQ Shop on the website and selecting the GSQ Events card.

In either case, you have the option of paying online with your credit card or selecting the offline payment option and presenting your cash (and booking reference number) next time you visit Stackpole Street.

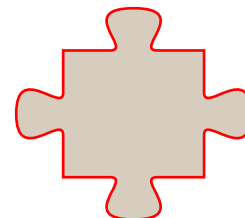
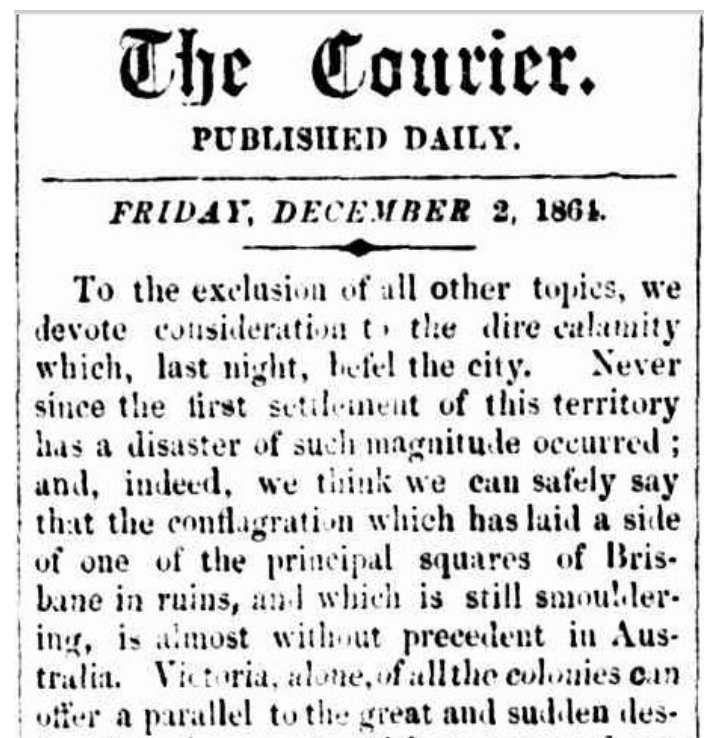
Wednesdays@GSQ

Our headquarters at Stackpole Street are open two evenings per month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays) from 6:00-9:00 pm particularly for those unable to research during working hours.

On the fourth Wednesday, from approximately 7:00 pm there will be a speaker who will address a topic that is a little different to our main educational opportunities. These sessions are open to all members for a gold coin contribution with no need to book.

22 November

The final talk in the series for 2017 will be given by Sharyn Merkley who examines the December 1864 fire that destroyed an entire block of the Brisbane CBD.



Education Opportunities

Hands-on Workshops

- 18 November ***Find My Past***
(presented by Judy Lofthouse)
- 2 December ***My ancestor was in Wales***
(led by Pauline Williams)

Exploring Find My Past

18 Nov 2017 9-11.30am

with Judy Lofthouse

Did you realise that Find My Past has records from Ireland, USA as well as UK and Australia? Come along to learn how to search them all.

This a hands-on session limited to 14 attendees to ensure personal attention.

Cost: \$25 for members \$35 for non-members.

Bookings essential

My Ancestor was in Wales

Saturday 1 December 9am -11.30

with Pauline Williams.

Do you have a Welsh connection in your family? Come along and hear Pauline Williams on how to research your Welsh connections.

Cost: \$25 (members) \$35 (non-members)

Booking are essential.



DNA Course

An **Intermediate* DNA Class** will be conducted on consecutive Tuesday evenings for seven weeks.

First session 7 November 6.30-9.30pm

The course will be led by Helen Smith and restricted to twelve participants. Members only (Cost \$35)

This seven week class will be working through the *Genetic Genealogy in Practice Workbook* by Blaine T Bettinger and Debbie Wayne Parker. Each participant must have a copy of the book.(either in hardcopy or as an ebook).

Advance bookings are essential.

*** This course is not suited as a starter course in DNA.**

If you are interested in DNA and just starting on that journey, remember GSQ has a DNA SIG. (Meetings are on Sunday 19 November (9.30-12.00) and Saturday 16 December (9-12). All are welcome

Society News



TAG Talk

The October Tag Talk introduced the "new" start page which has been developed to deliver ready access to the most commonly used computer resources on our updated (Windows 10) workstations. Users exploring this tool had some questions.

"But where can I do a Google search?"

At the top right corner of the page beside the name of our Society. Just type your search terms into the box and click on the button. Nothing could be simpler.

"I quite liked the start page when I had it, but it disappears after I search in Ancestry or go to Trove".

Absolutely true and that can be frustrating until you know that clicking the outline drawing of a house (the Home button) in the top row of the browser will bring back the Start page whatever is currently on the screen.

"It might be good, but I just can't find it!"

Fair call. We have now added an icon on the desktop that has the sole function of getting your started. Look out for it.



"What happens when your big blue start button says it cannot find the start page to start it, so I cannot start working?"

This time you can validly blame the new Windows. GSQ uses a networked storage system to make resources available to each workstation. Since we switched to Windows 10, from time to time a workstation (not always the same one) will simply refuse to believe that the storage is actually connected (even though it is). If this happens, you can easily fix it (because you are smarter than a dumb machine) or ask the library volunteer on duty to help.



Press two keys (Windows and E) at the same time to open the File Explorer application.

This will show all the files on your workstation and the links to the rest of the network. Look on the left hand side as you scroll down until you see three lines each including an icon overwritten with a red cross. That is the indication that the workstation has "lost its connection".

The fix is as simple as a single click on each icon to switch its colour to green. Once you have done that, order is restored and your start page should run as expected.

Have you told someone?

Things go wrong on even the best-managed computer system. But if you don't report the problem, how will we know that it needs fixing?

If you find something that does not work (or that does something unexpected) please ask the volunteer on duty to make a note in the diary. Then the TAG Team can do something about it.

Of general genealogical interest

Local Historian archive

The British Association for Local History has published a journal four times a year since 1953 that it describes as enabling family historians to "learn about the local world in which their forebears lived and worked".

The entire archive has now been digitised and every issue before 2015 is now freely available for download from

<http://www.balh.org.uk/publications/local-historian>.

Who knows what treasures you may find?

British Army Ancestors

Have you used Discovering Anzacs and wondered if there is a corresponding British site where family members may have uploaded images of men who served in the armed forces during WWI?

Then go to <http://britisharmyancestors.co.uk/> which aims to span the period 1850-1920.

In addition to the photo archive, this site provides another path by which to search for elusive service records (although none are actually hosted on the site).

British Royal Family tree

If you have begun to watch Jenna Coleman portraying Queen Victoria, then you may want a quick guide to who was who in shaping her succession. You will find an excellent tool at <https://www.zoompast.com/>

Even if you are not particularly interested in the detailed content, it is well worth exploring the tree to see how it handles changing the display in a manner familiar to anyone who has used online maps. You may be tempted to create a (free) account and upload your own GEDCOM.

DNA Course

The search for vital records of ancestors in England and Wales is made much simpler when you know the Registration District(s) in which the event was (probably) recorded. Unless you are very familiar with the area, that can sometimes prove a challenge on its own.

There is a section on the UKBMD site [<https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/>] that identifies the coverage of each district. But that requires that you have a possible District in mind.

Another very useful page

[<https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/places/index.html>] provides a searchable index of placenames linked to districts and time periods. This list advises that Alington in Norfolk registered births in Loddon until 1938 but in Norwich Outer from 1939; and should not be confused with Alphington in Devon where registrations were made in St Thomas until 1936 and subsequently in Devon Central.

Mediterranean genealogy

Nothing complicates the hunt for ancestors quite like successive waves of invaders each of whom introduced their own system of record keeping. Researchers with ancestors in Malta, Sicily or Tunisia need to cope with the changes brought by the French, Spanish, British and Italians.

A new website Digital Genealogy [<http://en.geneanum.com/home.html>] seeks to put all those changes in context to simplify your searching.

As an example the Maltese pages [<http://en.geneanum.com/malta.html>] provide information on Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Notaries, Passports and Census. Even if you do not (yet) know of any ancestry in those areas, the site is worth reading simply to broaden your experience.