

About the conference

Queensland has certainly come a long way since 6 June 1859 when Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent which declared Queensland to be a separate colony from New South Wales. The first Governor was Sir George Ferguson Bowen and Government documents show the new colony started with nine pence in its Treasury! Things have certainly changed over the last 160 years.

This one-day conference offers a unique opportunity to put flesh on the bones of your Queensland ancestors – to take you beyond the documentary evidence and explore the social, political and economic contexts which shaped their lives. Find out how you can unearth evidence in maps and oral histories as well as the more traditional record sources. Listen to stories about houses, colonial borders, fires, pioneers, Chinese marriages and the pre-separation years and discover record sets and sources which may have been previously unknown to you.

Book your spot now as seats are limited!

There will be a lucky door prize and fabulous raffles.



Cost: \$60 GSQ & QFHS members
\$75 Non-members
Morning tea and lunch are included.



Bookings: Book online at:
<https://www.gsq.org.au/event/the-power-of-the-past-qlds-160-years-in-focus/>
Payment may be made by credit card (online, by phoning GSQ or at GSQ) cash (at GSQ), bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) and by cheque.



When: 22 June, 2019
8.45am - 3.45pm



Where: Nazareth Lutheran Centre
12 Hawthorne St
Woolloongabba



Enriching family history

Genealogical Society of Queensland, Inc
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*The power of the
past:
160 years of OLD records, research
& stories*

22 June, 2019
Nazareth Lutheran Centre
Woolloongabba



Conference Program

Registrations 8.30 - 8.45am



Welcome 8.55 - 9.15am

Dr Jennifer Harrison, Patron, GSQ

On this day.... Where was your family?

Jennifer will welcome attendees and give a snapshot of QLD's 160 years since separation from NSW.

9.15 - 10am

Dr Thom Blake

The house that Mary built - the pise house of Bedourie

At Bedourie, in far west Queensland is a house of mud or pise construction. It is one of the oldest houses in the far west. The history of this house is interesting from two angles. First, how and why was this house built of earth when timber was the most common material for constructing houses in Queensland? Second, who built the house? This presentation explores these two questions and reveals some unexpected and fascinating answers. Given the paucity of records, addressing these issues, in particular the question of who built it, was not an easy task, but by collating evidence from diverse sources, a compelling argument is made about the owner of the house and how and why she built it. And there is a clue as to what makes this story so interesting – she ...? [In his presentation, Thom will give you the answer to this question.]



10 - 10.40am

Sandi Robb

Chinese marriage & families: 1850-1920

Prior to 1859, there had been few Chinese immigrants into Queensland, but following the discovery of gold, numbers increased rapidly. Many settled down as shopkeepers, gardeners, sugar industry pioneers and miners and raised families. So who did the Chinese marry? Were wives brought out from China or did the men go back and marry there? Sandi has compiled Chinese marriage patterns from a range of sources including births, deaths and marriages, justice records, inquests and school admission rolls. This presentation will provide some insight into the prevalence of Chinese marriages during this period and the patterns of marriage which resulted when first generation born Chinese Queenslanders came of marriageable age.



MORNING TEA 10.45 - 11.05am

11.05 - 11.45am

Joan Kelly

Oral histories

Through various oral history projects turned into exhibition content, Joan has brought her love of documentaries into the museum space. This paper will discuss several of these projects which examine how to turn oral histories into more tangible projects. Learn more about how oral histories can be included in your family history.



11.50am - 12.30pm

Bill Kitson

Cane toads or cockroaches

When Queensland became a separate colony from New South Wales in 1859, its borders were described by Letters Patent using natural features and lines of latitude and longitude. To be of any practical use the borders then had to be marked on the ground by surveyors. Between 1863 and 1886, surveyors from both colonies placed pegs, posts, rock cairns and reference trees at intervals along the border. The survey started in 1863 at Point Danger (Tweed Heads) and finished on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1886. The Queensland Boundaries Act of 1982 stated that the border was where the original survey marks were but the problem was that no one knew just how many of the original marks were left after 100 plus years of human occupation. Bill was chosen to resurvey all of Queensland's borders during this time. This presentation is about the survey along the Queensland-New South Wales section of the border and the history of its formation.

LUNCH 12.30 - 1.15pm

1.20 - 2pm

Sharyn Merkley

Brisbane burns: How the great fires of 1864 shaped a city and its people

A chance discovery of newspaper articles about the personal impacts of the Great Fires of Brisbane in 1864 fired a determination to explore the family histories of both ordinary and well-known personalities of early Brisbane whose lives were touched by the fires. In a period just before photography became widely available, the stories of early post-convict Brisbane before it became the city we know today were reconstructed from many sources including archives, libraries and newspapers. Each family's story revealed close connections to the larger historical events taking place around them. All family historians can add context to their family's history by delving into the social history of their time and place.



2.05 - 2.45pm

Stephanie Ryan, State Library of Queensland

Pre-1860 Moreton Bay records: Queenslanders' heritage

Documents reveal the path taken from the 1824 convict settlement of Moreton Bay to the free colony of Queensland in December 1859. During the 1960s a special filming was made from NSW colonial-era material of northern NSW activities which provides insight into the people – convict, military and free – as well as the development of the colony, including its agricultural, pastoral, business, transport and building activities. Other records of the time add to and enrich our knowledge of this era.



2.50 - 3.30pm

Bob McAllister

Miegunyah - A house full of history

History is written in many forms and in many places. A study of a single building and its occupants as they went about their daily lives can reveal trends in our economy and our society not readily apparent from other macro-perspectives. *Miegunyah* at Bowen Hills has had just five "families" resident since 1887. These are their stories.



3.30 - 3.45pm Drawing of raffles, lucky door prize