

GSQ e-NEWS



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25 Stackpole Street, Wishart Q 4122

PO Box 1467, Carindale Q 4152

Phone: (07) 3349 6072

E-mail: info@gsq.org.au

Web: www.gsq.org.au

December 2020

From the President

2020 is drawing to a close: This very unusual year is drawing to a close. I would like to thank all who have volunteered for GSQ during this year. It is you who have kept GSQ operating under what can only be described as trying conditions,

Thanks to all who have brought donations for our Christmas Raffle which is to be a Hamper of food/drink items suitable for Christmas – the box's contents continue to grow, but there's room for plenty more donations at this stage. (If we have lots of donations, we will, of course, have more than one raffle prize. This raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Thank You Afternoon Tea to be held at GSQ on **Saturday, 12 December**, commencing at 2.00pm. Tickets in the Raffle, priced at \$2.00 each, can be purchased at GSQ prior to 12 December, on the day or online through our website. There's a Bonus prize for buyers of 5 tickets – a My Heritage DNA Kit.

To ensure we comply with COVID -19 guidelines, bookings for the Afternoon Tea are essential and can be done either via our website or by emailing secretary@gsq.org.au. (On the website there is a link for the Afternoon Tea and Raffle Ticket purchase on the front page.) You will not be required to bring food for Afternoon Tea- GSQ has again been successful in obtaining a Grant from Brisbane City Council, provided with the express purpose of purchasing food for a Christmas celebration.

Many of you will be aware that GSQ has been fortunate enough to be allocated several Sausage Sizzles at the Wecker Road (Mt Gravatt) Bunnings during the past year – these are very good fundraisers for GSQ and also help us spread the word about Family History Research in the local community. I would like to thank Howard McKinnon for his work in organising these for GSQ during the past two years. We sometimes are offered a date for a Sausage Sizzle at very short notice – perhaps because another community group has been forced to withdraw. At these times we need to search for helpers spontaneously. Up until now a small group has staffed the stall, but we now realise how worthwhile it would be to have a larger pool of workers upon which we could draw. If you would like to help GSQ in this way, please contact secretary, Claire, on secretary@gsq.org.au .Tasks on the day include setting up, cooking the sausages, taking orders, preparing the delicious morsels and receiving payment, and of course, packing away again at the end of the day. It is always a lot of fun!!

In closing, I wish all GSQ members a safe and joyful Christmas season. My last wish is for a New Year that is so much better for all of us than 2020 has been.

Helen Veivers
President

OPEN

Monday • Closed

Tuesday • 10am - 2pm

Wednesday • Closed

Thursday • 10am - 2pm

Friday • 10am - 2pm

Saturday • 12noon - 4pm

Sunday • Interest Groups

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Snippets from 16 November 2020 Management Committee Meeting

- New computers, purchased through the Gaming Commission Grant, to be installed during the Christmas break by TAG – *GSQ will be unavailable for research purposes until Tuesday 19 January 2021.*
- Thank You Afternoon Tea at GSQ - 2.00pm *Saturday 12 December, 2020*; Christmas Raffle to be drawn on this day.
- Appointment of Honorary Life Members discussed.
- First General Meeting to discuss Amalgamation with Queensland Family History Society to be held on **Saturday, 30 January, 2021** (Further details to be confirmed.)

After several months of exceeding our permissible allowance for Colour Printing at GSQ we have had the colour printing option turned off on all the Research Computers and they will now only print in black and white. If you attempt to print a colour copy from the Research Computers it will fail to print and will be notated in the Multi-Function Devices log.

If colour printing is required it can be performed through the Secretary's computer and the Reception computer only. It is recommended that such files be downloaded to a USB and presented to the Senior Research Assistant or Management Committee member who is on duty so that it can be executed for you.

Black & White Copies are charged at the rate of \$0.20 per print page and colour copies at the rate of \$1.00 per print page.



*You are invited to Afternoon
Tea on Saturday, 12 December
at 2.00pm at GSQ.*

This is an opportunity to catch up with fellow GSQ members before GSQ closes for Christmas.

Please email Claire Rodwell on secretary@gsq.org.au for catering purposes if you intend to come along.

GSQ Christmas Closure period

12 December 2020 – 18 January 2021

May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2021.



GSQ Notices

Did you know that GSQ has an active & informative Facebook page?



Did you know GSQ has a Facebook Page? To find it type 'Genealogical Society of Queensland - GSQ' into the Facebook search field and hit enter. Many links to events and genealogy related news are posted throughout each month as well as our weekly GSQ Blog. To keep in touch by ticking the 'Like' button you will have the new page items feed directly into your Facebook page.

The page co-ordinator (Bobbie Edes) is always on the lookout for new genealogy related pages, links or news and would love to hear of any that you know of. Please note new email address is now facebook@gsq.org.au



Our GSQ November blogs feature five stories by Marg Doherty, Lee English, Lyn Irvine, Pauline Williams & Bob McAllister. If you haven't already checked them out, then follow this link for each weekly blog: <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/> This same link also shows all previous blogs published by GSQ, so it's a great resource as many of our blogs carry genealogy 'how to' and helpful hints.

GSQ Webmasters have set up a separate email for our Blogs Co-ordinator, Bobbie Edes, who has reported that the 2021 blogging calendar is now almost complete. Can all our great bloggers note that emails with blog submissions etc are now to be sent to blogs@gsq.org.au, many thanks to the webmasters for arranging this.

SALE



3 x Canon 100 – Operational
2 x Canon 100 – Suitable for spares



1 x Canon 250 – Operational
1 x Canon 300 – Operational



1 x EYE COM – Operational

Microfilm Readers

Offers in excess of \$100.00 will be accepted by the Treasurer at finance@gsq.org.au up until 16th January, 2021.





GSQ Notices



Vacant Positions at GSQ

Currently, there are a number of vacant positions at GSQ. Please consider taking on one of these positions to help make your society even better. If interested, please contact either President, Helen Veivers (president@gsq.org.au) or Secretary, Claire Rodwell (secretary@gsq.org.au)

The positions are as follows:

Education Coordinator: You will be responsible for organising and running GSQ's education program. This requires coordination with Presenters, accessing bookings on the website and ensuring that everything is ready for a presentation, whether it be virtual or face-to-face and preparing monthly reports for the Management Committee. Planning for the actual Education program for 2021 is well underway.

Marketing Officer: This is a really important role. GSQ hasn't had a Marketing Officer for some time. Post COVID it will be imperative that we advertise what GSQ does – and does very well! This role would involve liaising with various forms of media (print, radio) etc to ensure that the people of Brisbane (and further abroad) are aware of what GSQ is all about. The Marketing Officer would also liaise with our Facebook Coordinator to ensure that the GSQ message was consistently advertised.

Bookshop Coordinator: This role is multi-faceted. It would involve controlling the purchasing of books to sell in GSQ's Bookshop, ensuring the Bookshop section on the website is up to date and advertising in eNews and in other media the items available in the Bookshop.



Legacy Family Tree Webinars

FREE Family History Webinars from Legacy Family Tree

What is the cost: There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. **However**, the recording is available to view for the next 7 days - for **free!** Watch it as many times as you would like, pausing and taking notes, during the free viewing period. If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything.

Some December offerings:

- 1 December - *Once upon a time: It's all about the story* by Carol Baxter
- 2 December - *Four ways DNA Painter can help with your family history research* by Jonny Perl
- 4 December - *Your DNA questions answered live* with Diahn by Diahn Southard
- 8 December - *Find a Boatload of Passenger Lists on MyHeritage* by MyHeritage Webinars, Sharon Monson
- 16 December - *Ten Best Sources for Determining Your Immigrant Ancestor's Town of Origin* by Lisa Alzo
- 22 December - *The New Ethnicity Estimates* by MyHeritage Webinars, Ran Snir
- 30 December - *Ten Databases You Need to Know About* by Shannon Combs-Bennett

There are more coming up in December and in 2021. The Legacy Webinar website with more information is available [HERE](#).



Subject to the restrictions regarding the Covid-19 situation, some interest groups will be holding their meetings at GSQ. There is a limit of 20 people attending the groups. Some groups are conducting virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.

Family Tree Maker Users' Group

The next meeting of the FTM User Group will not be until **Sunday 10 January** 2021 at 10.30 am. The library will be open from approximately 9.00 am.

Our group is a networking group that can help beginners and assist both Mac & Windows users and hopefully overcome any FTM problems they may face. GSQ members and researchers contemplating purchasing a family history programme, are welcome to attend our future meetings.

People with laptops should bring them along so the participants can help solve your particular problem(s). Advance notice to the convenor on lesmcfadzen@outlook.com of your problem(s) will assist in setting the meeting Agenda.

Writing Group

The Writing Group had its final meeting for 2020 via Zoom on 18 October and were delighted to welcome three new members to the group. We reviewed pieces of writing submitted by two members and both felt that the comments from Group members were very helpful. We discussed some possible topics for the Joan Reese Memorial Short Story competition for 2021 and have forwarded a recommendation to the Management Committee for approval. Details will be published in the December issue of Generation.

On more technical issues, we refreshed our knowledge of some basic structure and grammar tips, looked at some features in Word to help in putting our written work together, and reviewed various software options for creating family tree charts that could be included in our stories.

The timing of a Writing Group meeting in December would be too close to Christmas and New Year, so our next meeting will be in **February 2021**; whether this is at Wishart or via Zoom will be decided closer to the date.

Do contact Pauline on pstirland@hotmail.com if you have any queries about the Group.

English/Irish Interest Group

The English/Irish group will meet again for the last time in 2020 on **Sunday 6th December**. All members of GSQ are welcome to attend this meeting where we discuss all things English, Welsh and Irish. If you plan to attend please email Janice Wellard (the outgoing English/Irish SIG Coordinator) on janicewellard1@gmail.com.

The GSQ Research Centre will open at 10 o'clock and the meeting will start at 10.30. Following the meeting the library will remain open until 1 o'clock for individual research. As usual a gold coin contribution is requested from attendees – this is used towards the purchase of resources for English and Irish research.

A new English/Irish SIG Coordinator is needed to take over the group from the end of this year. Let me know if you are interested in taking on this role.

Legacy Users' Group

As emailed to all members of the SIG earlier please make contact if you have any questions. Remember that at this time you can watch Legacy webinars that are on each week and available free for the 7 days after showing.

German Interest Group

The meeting of the 27th September Karen Hawkes gave an amazing and very professional talk on her Schodel Family; the German group is very blessed to have such talented researchers and more to the point willing to put up their hand to put forward a presentation on their families.

The next meeting is on **Sunday 31 January 2021** is a research day. Come along and see if we can help further your research



Convict Connections Group

Sunday 13 December will mark the last gathering for us for 2020. What a strange year it has been. We had become quite used to travelling interstate four or five times a year to family history fairs and conferences as that had been our main fund raising project. In the meantime, subscriptions to our "Chronicle" have remained steady.

Our theme for December is looking at life on board the Hulk *Phoenix* which was an unseaworthy ship moored in Lavender Bay and used as an extension of the overcrowded old Sydney *Gaol in The Rocks*. From the hulk, prisoners sentenced to transportation for committing crimes within the colony were transported to other penal settlements.

There will be related activities as per usual. Please bring a plate of COVID-friendly finger food for our luncheon spread. Open from 9 am

Scottish Interest Group

At our last meeting, Margaret Thomas gave an interesting presentation on Midlothian and its records, especially considering the restrictions in place at the moment. Copies are available in the library or from the convenor.

Our next meeting will be our Hogmanay meeting on **Sunday 3 January 2021**, so please come along, enjoy the company, and bring a plate, if it is COVID safe. Dark-haired strangers bearing lumps of coal are traditionally welcome, but those bringing whisky and food even more so.

At our March meeting on 7 March 2021, Ian Hunt will be giving a talk on Inverness-shire, which will be of interest to members with Highland ancestry.

A reminder to those who may have missed a trip to Scotland this year, a series of free heritage videos has been made available on YouTube by *Carney Heritage Productions*. They are accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLXwn9GRubrx8IHJUclorQ/videos>.

From the Scottish Interest Group, best wishes to one and all for a very Merry Christmas & a Happy Hogmanay.

DNA Interest Group

The DNA Group held it's November meeting on Sunday 14th and this was our last meeting for the year. Our 2021 calendar resumes on **Sunday 28 February**, and the decision has been made that at this stage our meetings will continue via the virtual platform that we've been using since April.

Please note you must email us (address below) if you'd like help, and include in your email a brief note of what your DNA problem is. **The next DNA Clinic will be held in 24 February 2021.**

If you're not already a member and would like to join our friendly group then drop us an email on dna@gsq.org.au and we can add you to our list.

It is preferable that members email our secretary via this address first before applying to join our closed GSQ DNA Facebook group.

Scandinavian Interest Group

The next meeting of the Scandinavian Interest Group will be on **Sunday 17 January 2021**, information in January eNews.

Wishing all members a Happy Christmas & see you in the New Year.

Monday Morning Natters

December Monday Morning Natters is on **Monday 7 December** 10am -12 noon has been converted to a Zoom meeting.

Topic for this meeting: Did you make decorations for Xmas? Did you have a Xmas tree? Where did you get it from?



GSQ ZOOM Meetings

**Research Support and Chat
for GSQ Members Only
Put it in your Diaries
Monday 2 -3pm – Weekly**



**Research Support & Chat
for GSQ Members Only
Put it in your Diaries
Thursday 11 - 1pm – Weekly**

Monday afternoon Zoom meetings are still proving to be very informative, with a large number of GSQ members joining in to share and chat about their Genealogical Journey.

Newspapers and Trove are still a great resource to use, and despite a learning curve on using the new site, Trove is still producing great results for assisting in your research.

Upcoming events are discussed so that everyone is well prepared to join into these presentations.

The group is growing and staying strong, and will continue to be held each Monday afternoon from 2 – 3pm. Email Ailsa Corlett of tag@gsq.org.au to be added to the invitation which is emailed out each week.

The last meeting for 2020 will be on **Monday 9 December** & will resume on **Monday 18 January 2021** after the Christmas break.

Fortnightly Wednesday Morning Zoom Group 11 am - 12:30 pm fortnightly

A fortnightly Zoom meeting has been convened every second Wednesday morning at 11am; this is on the opposite Wednesday to the night meeting (ie on the alternate week). Each of our friendly meetings run for about 90 minutes or so and has a discussion topic with those present all contributing their thoughts & knowledge on the subject one by one. The meeting is convened by Research Assistant, Bobbie Edes. If you'd like to join Bobbie's meeting then please email facebook@gsq.org.au with the heading: **Bobbies Fortnightly Wednesday Morning Zoom group** and ask to be added to the Wednesday morning email list for the link.

The last **Wednesday Zoom for 2021 is on 9 December** at 11am and the first one back in 2021 is on **Wednesday 20 January 2021**..

The Thursday Zoom group which is between 11am – 1pm is also still going well at this stage. Many have returned to GSQ to do research there as the Library is open that day between 10am – 2pm, but we still have a large number keen to join in and discuss their research problems, joys and generally see if we can help each other with our family history.

Please send to Ailsa at tag@gsq.org.au your email and questions so that you can be added to the list regarding the Zoom invitations.

The last meeting for 2020 will be on **Thursday 10 December** & will resume on **Thursday 21 January 2021** after the Christmas break.

Wednesday Nights at GSQ via Zoom 7 - 9 pm - 2nd & 4th Wednesday

These meetings have been organised by Ailsa Corlett, particularly for those who are in the workforce and so unable to attend the very popular Monday Zoom meetings. They are however open to all GSQ members. There will be opportunities to discuss research problems with other attendees and to provide information and ideas you have discovered.

Dates for these meetings are as follows:

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

If anyone wishes to join either or both of these meetings please contact Ailsa Corlett on tag@gsq.org.au, so that your name and details can be recorded and links sent to you prior to the meeting.

The last meeting for 2020 will be on **Wednesday 9 December** & will resume on **Wednesday 27 January 2021** after the Christmas break.



VALE MARGARET COLEMAN

Margaret Joyce Coleman – Volunteer extraordinaire

GSQ lost a dedicated volunteer when Margaret Coleman passed away on 16 August 2020 at the Mater Private Hospital. Margaret was a long-term volunteer at the Society, having commenced as Secretary in 2009 in her first year on the Management Committee as no one else would take the role. She then became Vice President for a number of years. Margaret managed the library every second and fourth Friday having taken up this role for many years until the Covid 19 shutdown early this year. Margaret was also a member of the History Queensland Management Committee for several years and was Treasurer for a year.



During her time at GSQ, and particularly on the Management Committee, Margaret was active. She led the last review of the constitution, consulting with the branches and individuals. She was volunteer coordinator for a period and as Vice-President supported me while I was President. She was a behind the scenes worker.

Margaret loved people and enjoyed interacting with GSQ members. She had a long history of volunteering having worked at two Commonwealth Games in Queensland; she volunteered to show visitors over the Young Endeavour when it last visited Queensland; and she was a Cub leader in the Scouting movement. I am sure she had many other volunteering roles over the years.

Margaret was involved in other activities. She was a member of the Queensland Light Opera Chorus and as such had a good singing voice. She also played cricket before it was a recognised sport for women. And Margaret loved to travel. During her time at GSQ, I know she visited China, went on the Ghan and visited Gallipoli in 2015. When she organised the trip to Gallipoli, she had already had breast cancer, but she was determined that in 2015 she would honour her great uncle on the centenary of his death. She managed to undertake the trip with great determination.

Determination was Margaret's middle name. She had a lot of bad health and a few falls, but each time she got up on her knees and then on her feet and off she went. Nothing stopped her until the end in August. I find I use Margaret as a benchmark for resilience. If I take a faulty step, I think of Margaret and get going.

Margaret lived a good life in her seventy-six years. I will miss her friendship. Vale.

Thanks to Marg Doherty for telling us about the amazing volunteer roles that Margaret undertook willingly for GSQ.

Memorial for Margaret Coleman:

We've been contacted by Margaret's niece, Stephanie, to advise that she is organising a Memorial celebration of Margaret's life on **Sunday 13 December** starting at 2.00pm at the Norman Park Bowls Club. It would be wonderful to have a large GSQ representation at this gathering, given Margaret gave so much to GSQ during her twenty-three years (23) of membership. If you are interested in attending, **please contact Stephanie no later than Monday 7 December** by emailing steff.tudor@gmail.com



FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

NSW State Archives latest news

During 2020, volunteers contributed over 5,500 hours to the NSW State Archives on a range of projects; even continuing throughout lockdown by adapting to volunteering from home using digital copies of the records to create item lists and indexes. Their significant contribution can be seen through the increasing number of records of the State Archives Collection that have been made discoverable online. This year alone their contributions have included:

- [Convict Assignments Index 1821 to 1825](#)
- [Tramway Employees Index](#)
- Completion of the [Nurses Index](#)
- Additions to [Convict Applications to Marry Index](#)
- Addition of 'foreigners' and 'inebriates' to [Gaol Inmates / Prisoners Photos Index](#) (NEW!)
- [Fire Commissioners Personnel Index](#) (NEW!)
- [These records](#) relate to Aboriginal people and cover the dates 1832-1835 and 1837-1844. The records are 'blanket returns' which are lists of Aboriginal people who received blankets from the colonial authorities. The records are broadly arranged by locality and include both Indigenous and European names for each person as well as their age. These record series are an incredibly valuable source for people tracing family and personal history.
- Here's one you may not have seen – NRS-4346 [Photographs of Public Buildings in New South Wales, 1880-1940](#). It's worth a look.
- Another interesting series, NRS-20455 [Albums of Addresses presented to Lord Carrington as Governor of New South Wales](#), (formal statements to Lord Carrington) from the Inhabitants of Newcastle and Towns of Surrounding District.
- In our latest *Archives Behind the Scenes* episode [Bonnie talks about Divorce Case Papers](#). These are our main series of records relating to divorce in NSW and cover the period 1873 up to about 1976 (with a few gaps around the 1960s and 1970s). We hold about 188,000 files, that's about 10,000 boxes of these records.
- Sydney had an outbreak of the Bubonic Plague in the years 1900-1908. This outbreak and its effects on the people are recorded in the Register of Cases of Bubonic Plague, which is [indexed and digitised on our website](#). Find out more about this record of the Black Death in Sydney in our mini-webinar: Mini webinar: [Bubonic Plague mini=webinar](#) Fri, Dec 18, 2020 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM AEST.
- We are pleased to announce that we have made available online our now out-of-print 2006 'Guide to New South Wales Archives Relating to Convicts and Convict Administration', aka 'The Convict Guide'. It is available to view on [our website](#), or to *download as a PDF file from within the viewer*.



Grafton Court House & Police Station from the Photographs of Public Buildings 1880 - 1940

Choosing your DNA test: the best DNA testing kits

Debbie Kennett, author of DNA and Social Networking, explains why DNA testing is increasingly important in family history research.

DNA testing is a very important tool for the family historian. It can help to verify your family tree and provide helpful clues to inform the future direction of your research. It can also sometimes help to break down those long-standing brick walls.

Click [HERE](#) to read the information.

Free Virtual Family History Classes, Webinars, and Videos from the BYU Family History Library

Although the Brigham Young University Family History Library is closed to both volunteer/missionaries and patrons, we are hosting a broad offering of free online classes, webinars, and videos. All of the present offerings are outlined on our "Classes and Webinars" webpage.

Click [HERE](#) to discover the webinars & classes.

