

GSQ e-NEWS

Issue 164

June 2020

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OPEN

Monday • Closed

Tuesday • 10am - 3pm

Wednesday • 10am - 3pm

Thursday • 10am - 3pm

Friday • 10am - 3pm

Saturday • 12noon - 4pm

Sunday • Interest Groups

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month • 6pm-9pm.

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From the President

June 2020

The Light at the End of the Tunnel: I don't know about you, but I'm beginning to see light at the end of this very long and twisting tunnel through which we've all been travelling since March. While I'm sure there will be a few more twists and turns for us to navigate, it seems that our lives may be able to return to normal reasonably soon – albeit a "new normal". As advised in the Events Reminder of 15 May, GSQ has trialled limited openings on Thursday 21 and Thursday 28 May, with a small number of members (8) able to attend. The chance to research and socialise again in GSQ's Resource Centre has been very much welcomed by those who have taken up the opportunity to do so. Following the success of the Trial Openings your Management Committee decided at a meeting on 29 May to extend the opening times for GSQ. As from **Tuesday, 2 June** our Resource Centre will be open as follows:

- Tuesday, 2 June 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Thursday, 4 June 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Tuesday, 9 June 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Thursday 11 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

Entry will be by booking through Secretary, Claire Rodwell (secretary@gsq.org.au). *Tea and Coffee will not be available – it is suggested that those attending bring their Lunch (including Drinks) which should be consumed outside the Resource Centre.* As for the past two weeks, 8 bookings will be available for each session – 6 for Computers and 2 for the Library/Microfiche area. If you book and then find you're unable to attend, it is requested that you email Claire, so that your spot can be re-allocated. A member of the Management Committee will "sign in" attendees. **Please do not attend if you are unwell.**

Some news from GSQ's Management Committee – David Barnes has replaced Cath Maris as Treasurer of GSQ as from Friday, 23 May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cath for her excellent work as GSQ's Treasurer since her appointment in November, 2017. Cath has willingly shared her considerable financial knowledge and has maintained and reported GSQ's finances in an exemplary manner. She has been an active member of the Management Committee, always willing to help when assistance was required. I'm sure all GSQ members will join with me in thanking Cath for her years of service.

GSQ's Pro subscription to Zoom has been utilised by an increasing number of GSQ users during the past month. It has certainly been very useful in facilitating contact between members and within our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). If you have some spare time on Mondays, why not join in the Zoom discussion starting at 2.00pm and led by Ailsa Corlett – it just might help you solve some family history related dilemma! Bookings are needed. Email Ailsa at tag@gsq.org.au to receive the sign in details.

Should you wish to share your genealogical news with other members for possible publication in an edition of eNews, please send to enews@gsq.org.au .

With my best wishes for the health and wellbeing of all,
Helen Veivers, President

Resource Centre now OPEN as follows:

Tuesday 2 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

Thursday 4 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

Tuesday 9 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

Thursday 11 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

Book a place by emailing secretary@gsq.org.au



Subject to the restrictions regarding the Covid-19 situation, all face to face interest group meetings are postponed for the foreseeable future. Some groups are conducting virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.

DNA Interest Group

The DNA group held another successful virtual meeting on Sunday 17 May with 39 logging in for the session. Helen Smith did a run through of changes within the DNA programs since our last meeting and then did a presentation on using the WATO app. WATO stands for *What Are The Odds* and assists helping to work out a likely relationship with a particular unknown match. By using the tool it demonstrates where and how likely the match will be within a particular line, with a numbered grading. The GSQ DNA group recently held it's DNA Clinic with a virtual one on one on Wed 27 May. Two members took advantage of it helped individually by Greg Carlill and Helen Smith.

The next GSQ DNA virtual group meeting is scheduled for **Sunday 28 June 2020 at 9:30am until 1pm** and will include two presentations, DNA Update and (provisionally) Y-DNA. Time will then be allocated for our Mentoring groups roundup by going through the different groups to determine who is having problems within that program/app etc.

English/Irish Interest Group

The English/Irish group will not meet on its usual date in June. Hopefully we will be able to meet on the first Sunday in August, our next scheduled meeting date after June. Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy the opportunity to expand your research from the comfort of your home. Remember to check out the various databases and websites that give access to English and Irish records.

Redlands Branch

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Lockdown the planned meeting for the Redland Genealogical Society for 13 May will not be held. Members are further advised that Redland Libraries has extended the free use of Ancestry Library to 30 June.

Scandinavian Interest Group

I just found a hard-cover family tree in German, which Jean Bulow in Gladstone gave me many years ago. I see she used to help at GSQ, but died a few years ago. This family tree is about the German Bulow family going back to the 1500s, and could go into the GSQ library. Someone in the German group may be interested in it.

In addition to helping our members with Scandinavian research, I also do professional research through my web-site <http://jspl.com.au/>. There has been more interest since the virus lockdown started. At present I am doing Danish and Swedish research for two families in Melbourne, and Norwegian research for a lady in (would you believe) Salt Lake City!

She would have access to all the records in Salt Lake City, but the Norwegian language is still a problem.

Good luck with everybody's research, and stay well.
Steinar

Monday Morning Natters

Monday Morning Natters – Monday 1st May 10am -12 noon has been converted to a Zoom meeting. The topic for Monday is : *Bring along a family recipe that has been your favourite from grandma, aunt, or other family member.* Judy will email with details.

Upcoming GSQ Education Events

These education events will be at your place via ZOOM unless otherwise notified.



Google Tools for Genealogists

When: June 13 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Where: Your place

Presenter: Helen Connor

\$25 – \$40

With search engines, a part of our everyday lives, most of us have turned to Google at some stage in our family history research. It is so easy to type in a name or genealogy search query and discover all the fantastic resources the internet has to offer. However, Google search results can be unpredictable when it comes to research. Sometimes you have to trawl through the rubbish to find the real genealogy gems. You will learn handy Google tricks that will help you get the most from using a search engine for your family tree. Click [HERE](#) to register.



Finding Tasmanian Records

When: June 27 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Where: Your place

Presenter: Helen Connor

\$25 – \$40

During this presentation Helen will show you how to access Tasmanian online genealogy records for researching ancestry, family history and genealogy. Birth, marriage, death, census, church, military, immigration and naturalisation records will all be explored. Additionally, you will learn how to access Tasmanian archives and original documents and published resources. Click [HERE](#) to register.



Exploring FindMyPast Worldwide

When: July 4 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Where: Your place

Presenter: Judy Lofthouse

\$25 – \$40

Learn how to search for Australian, Irish, UK and US records on FindMyPast that is available at GSQ, and currently through MyGSQ. This is a hands-on session so bring information about your ancestors to take advantage of the help available. Click [HERE](#) to book.

Getting the Most out of FamilySearch

When: July 25 @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Where: Your place

Presenter: Cathie Sherwood

\$25 – \$40

Family Search is a free web site for family historians and includes millions of record sets from across the world. How do you get the most out of it when searching for your ancestors and finding that you have thousands of records to review? As it is a free site, should you put your tree on Family Search – what are the benefits and the disadvantages? How can you make best use of the catalogue and the access to records which are not usually available to the general public but are accessible if you are using Family Search at GSQ? This practical computer course, offered virtually in your own home, will take you through the main features of Family Search with tips and tricks for searching it. Click [HERE](#) to book.





Brick Wall Workshop

When : July 18 @ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Your place

Presenters: Christine Meehan, Cathie Sherwood and Janice Wellard

\$35 – \$50

You will need to reserve your place early for this workshop as numbers are limited to 10.



Do you have an ancestor that you can't find in a census or find his or her birth/baptism or marriage? When you do a search, are there so many entries that you can't work out how to narrow them down or know which ones to choose to view? This frustrating experience – hitting the brick wall – occurs to all family historians at some time. Sometimes the problem can be easily resolved, sometimes unusual sources may need to be consulted and sometimes research needs to be reviewed to find further clues.

Three experienced researchers will offer a very practical, problem solving workshop which will be of interest to people who have tried – they believe – all possible avenues of research and have come up with a blank. Christine, Cathie and Janice will guide you through various record collections, offering suggestions, helping you to prove or disprove your findings and identifying possible avenues for further research. A bonus will be the other participants who can also share advice on the tips and tricks they have tried.

The details of your brick wall, including where you have already searched, MUST be submitted at least two weeks prior to the workshop, that is, by July 7. This gives the presenters sufficient time to become familiar with your brick wall to provide you with the best possible outcome.

Submit your brick wall details as a Microsoft Word/PDF attachment to Cathie Sherwood:

cathie@ancestordiscovery.com.au

Click [HERE](#) for bookings.

IMPORTANT: This workshop will be offered virtually using Zoom. However, should restrictions be further eased by the date of the workshop, it may be changed to a face to face session at GSQ.

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Best Free DNA Genealogy Websites

By Blaine T. Bettinger

You've had your DNA tested with a genetic genealogy company (maybe even more than one), you've reviewed your ethnicity estimate and you've gone through your match list. Now what should you do? How do you maximize your testing dollars to wring every bit of useful genealogical information out of your DNA test(s)? The answer may be in tools at third-party websites—so, not the sites of companies offering DNA testing—which give you new ways to analyze your test results that can lead you to revelations about your family tree. Click [HERE](#) to read Blaine's article.



TAG (Technical Advisory Group) News

Consideration is now being given to a special index that was compiled some years ago but as yet not been made available to members to consult. This is the General Index Files which contains approx 151,000 files. We are looking at putting the index on the Website with access to both Index and Images on the GSQ computers.

Unfortunately due to the size we cannot have all the images on the Web site as well.

There are also many other indexes that we are consulting to make sure they are accessible to all members and in a searchable format, either via the Web site or via the GSQ computers.

We'll keep you posted.





FREE Family History Webinars from Legacy Family Tree

What is the cost: There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. BUT, 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.

JUNE

- 2 June - Sources for Landed and Titled People by Paul Milner.
- 3 June - "What are the Odds?" An online tool that can help solve DNA puzzles by Jonny Perl.
- 6 June - Using DNA to Answer Real Research Questions: Three Case Studies by Gail Blankenau.
- 16 June - Genealogical Treasures in Irish Archives by David Ouimette, CG
- 23 June - Working with SuperSearch™ to Find the Correct Historical Record by Tal Erlichman and Daniel Horowitz.
- 30 June - The 1939 Register for Family Historians by Fiona Brooker.

JULY

- 1 July - Finding a father for Molly - Using DNA by Jill Morelli
- 3 July - Turning dry facts into exciting narrative by Carol Baxter
- 14 July - Connecting the Dots - Introduction to Auto Clusters... by MyHeritage Webinars
- 22 July - More Websites Every Genealogist Should Know by Gina Philibert-Ortega
- 28 July - Fabulous Photo Discoveries™ at MyHeritage by Lisa Louise Cooke

If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything. The Legacy Webinar website with more information is available [HERE](#). Download the 2020 Family History Webinars PDF [HERE](#).

Relax a while, puzzle your way into the archives

NSW Archives have a desktop jigsaw application primarily designed for your computer. It may not work on your mobile device (we understand a mobile application is in development) Something to enjoy while social distancing. Click [HERE](#) to access the page.



Riding the Waves of History

**36th Annual Conference of the
NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies
11-13 September 2020 - (Friday to Sunday)
at Wests New Lambton Newcastle
Hosted by the Newcastle Family History Society Inc
with the support of the
Maitland & Beyond Family History Group Inc**
Conference web page coming soon.



**22 - 26 March 2021
Sunshine Coast Convention Centre
& Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort**

7 KEY SPEAKERS REVEALED!

Blaine Bettinger	Maurice Gleeson
Cyndi Ingle	Paul Milner
Chris Paton	David Rencher
Judy Russell	

plus many more local speakers

Relax with Sunshine and Genealogy!

Enjoy this state-of-the-art venue, with the natural beauty of bush and beach. What better environment to get away and soak up this amazing conference.

Keep in touch with the event click [HERE](#) to go to the website to register.

STOP PRESS

**Early bird reduced price.
\$545 - 4 days pass (save \$150)
ends 31 August 2020.**

**Research Support and Chat
for GSQ Members Only**
Put in your Diaries
From Monday 1 June 2020
2 -3pm – Weekly



**Research Support & Chat for
GSQ Members Only**
Put in your Diaries
From Thursday 4 June 2020
11 - 1pm – Weekly

Our Monday afternoon research meetings via Zoom have been working really well.

Last week we had a query from David in relation to finding data/ records Pre Registration in both Ireland as well as England. It was a good day as we had two experts on hand to assist with his Irish question – Helen Connor and Bobbie Edes. Both offered sites that David could visit and do searches on as well as information regarding just what is and what is not available. Bobbie then was able to show us all how to use the Griffiths Valuation in relation to the Townland Maps. This was most interesting to know and find out about, and David left with lots of hints and tips on where to start looking for his ancestors.

We have had some interesting questions come up in relation to research and how to locate and find sites during this time period when we are not able to fully access all of GSQ's resources.

So if you have any questions on where to look on the net or what records are available to access, then please come along and join us.

This coming week Dianne would like to know how people document their research? What sort of apps/record keeping software people use and hints or tricks that anyone has regarding these. So will be an interesting meeting this **Monday 1st June at 2 – 3pm.**

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

Ailsa Corlett

Genealogy crossword: webinar fun facts

Who doesn't like a good crossword puzzle? Combine that with genealogy and you've got a fun, quick activity to pass the time.

Click [HERE](#) to print the crossword with the clues.

**When Life Gives You Lemons: Genealogy
Activities for Coronavirus Quarantine**

Social distancing got you down? We've compiled a list of genealogy-focused Coronavirus quarantine activities. Some interesting tips as always from LegacyTreeGenealogists, including a downloadable Bingo. Click [HERE](#) to access.

Join Ailsa & other GSQ members on Thursday between 11am - 1pm via ZOOM to talk about your research & make contact with other like-minded GSQ members.

If you have any questions on where to look on the net or what records are available to access, then please come along and join us.

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

Ailsa Corlett

**Got Greek Ancestors? 3 new historical record
collections from MyHeritage now available**

May 18, 2020

MyHeritage

**New Greek
Record Collections**

Corfu Vital Records, 1841-1932
Sparta Marriages, 1835-1935
Greece, Electoral Rolls, 1963-1924

www.myheritage.com/greek-records



Great news for those with Greek roots! Three new important Greek record collections have just been published at MyHeritage



How to Find a Gravestone at the Cemetery

Have you ever tried to find a gravestone in a large cemetery? One with tens of thousands of gravestones? If so, you know how time-consuming, and even frustrating, it can be.

Unless you use the BillionGraves app! Then it's easy! Do a search with the app, walk toward the marker on the BillionGraves map, and BOOM, within minutes you are there!



The FamilySearch Wiki

What is the FamilySearch Research Wiki?

The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free, online genealogical guide created and maintained by FamilySearch, a non-profit organization.

It contains links to genealogy databases, websites, other resources, research strategies, and genealogical guidance to assist in the search for your ancestors.

Articles included are locality pages for countries around the world and topic pages that include pertinent genealogy record types explaining how to use the record, what it contains, and how to find it. Click [HERE](#) to access the Wiki homepage.



Food for thought

How Accurate are Online Family Trees?

There are really no differences between the accuracy of online family trees and paper-based genealogies of the past. Ironically, experienced genealogists tend to discredit and avoid online family trees and embrace inherited paper genealogical records when it is obvious that genealogists who were working before computers and the internet, even professional genealogists, had far less access to genealogical records than anyone has today.

When I first began doing genealogical research almost 40 years ago, I completely relied on paper family group records from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. As I reviewed the work that had been done previously, I almost immediately discovered that the existing submitted (user-created) paper records were riddled with errors. The records created by experienced and, you might say, professional or professional level genealogists were just as inaccurate and subject to unsupported conclusions as those submitted (and copied) by the obvious novices. Even with the limited resources I had at that time, I was able to begin doing research into historical records and started trying to correct the errors. Interestingly, I am still doing exactly the same thing today but with more records.



For the past two years or so, I have been able to work with a core representation of my family tree copied from the FamilySearch.org Family Tree into my own personal family tree on MyHeritage.com. Using the MyHeritage Consistency Checker, I have been able to more accurately judge the accuracy of the information entered into the Family Tree. I must conclude that the accuracy is rather dismal. This test tree on MyHeritage has only about 4,072 people. The MyHeritage Consistency Checker finds 1,226 inconsistencies including some of the standard: child older than parent and child born after a parent dies. To say the least, this is disconcerting.

Granted, the automated error finding programs are not perfect but they do give us an idea of the depth of the problems that are endemic in all family trees. Could I create a completely error-free family tree? The answer depends on the number of individuals in my family tree, the time spent in doing research, the focus of the individuals selected, and the availability of historical, genealogically significant records. For example, if I were to confine my research to my direct line surname family, the Tanners, I could be almost certain that information I have already accumulated is almost completely accurate. But, if I add collateral lines and descendants, I will quickly get to the point in time when the number of people involved and the possible lack of records will begin to diminish my accuracy.

To maintain that your family tree is completely accurate, you would have to assume that all of the underlying source records were also completely accurate. Even if you are an extremely meticulous researcher, you ultimately must rely on the accuracy of your records.

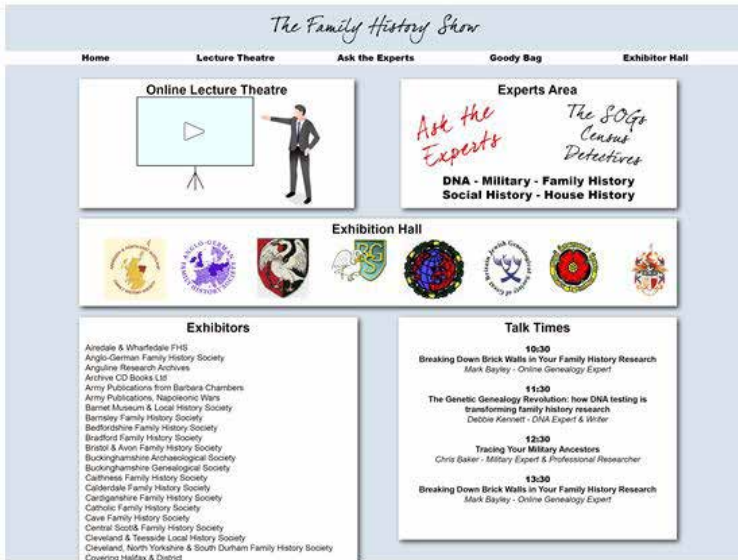
It is often assumed that genealogical information obtained directly from an informant about people known to the informant is reliable. Bible records are one common example of this type of record. However, we can always speculate about the true father of a child or the accuracy of the dates recorded. People not only make mistakes but they also intentionally falsify records.

If we automatically discount online family trees any time they disagree with our own records, we may ultimately be assuming infallibility. Since being infallible is highly unlikely, we must always accept corrections to our data with equanimity. With careful research using all the available tools and aids such as DNA testing, we should be able to have a reasonably accurate family tree but that does not give us a license to dismiss all other online family trees as inaccurate despite their failure to have sources and jump through all the hoops we think are required for accurate historical research.

From James Tanner, Genealogy's Star used with permission.

Family History News

The Family History Show Online
Saturday 20th June 2020, 10:00-16:30



A new virtual experience from *The Family History Show* that will be taking place next month. We look forward to (virtually) seeing you there!

The great news about this virtual event is that you are still going to be able to safely enjoy access to many of the usual features of the physical shows. The Online Family History Show will be on **20th June** featuring a wide range of virtual stalls from family history societies to archives and suppliers, including TheGenealogist!

Mirroring the format of the very successful live shows, The Family History Show Online will feature an online lecture theatre, the popular 'Ask the Experts' area where you can put questions forward to specialists, as well as a whole host of stalls so you can ask for advice as well as buy genealogical products.

To make this online experience as useful to family historians as attending the physical show would have been, you can "visit" a stall in the virtual exhibition hall. With over 85 exhibitors currently attending there will be a wide variety of societies and companies. Here there will be the opportunity to talk to some of the stallholders by text, audio or video from the comfort of your own home. With this facility you can ask them for advice, talk to them about your own research and also purchase various items from their online stall.

The virtual lecture theatre gives you the chance to watch talks from the same lecturers who would have been at the York event. These presentations will cover a wide variety of family history topics and will be available throughout the day.

Early Bird Special

Tickets to attend The Family History Show Online are currently available for only £5.50. All attendees will also receive a Virtual Goody Bag on the day worth over £10.

Visit the website [HERE](#) it looks like it will be a great event.

Frequently Asked Questions

I'd like to join in from overseas but I'm worried about the time difference?

No problem, all lectures and live streams will be available for 24 hours, plus you can submit your questions to our experts in advance!

What software is required?

All show features will be available via your web browser so no need to download software.

What are the system requirements?

You can use Windows 7 or newer, Mac, iOS and Android. We'd recommend using something bigger than a phone to access the website as it would be preferable to have a bigger screen.

What internet speed would I need?

To engage in audio / video chat with exhibitors we'd recommend a speed of 10Mbps or higher



Why Is It Not on The Map? How Learning History Aids Your Genealogy

"Why is it not on the map?" We discuss how learning history can help you in your family history research—especially when it involves areas with shifting boundaries and name changes!

One of the biggest frustrations for a family historian is finding a new place name written in a family record ... but then not being able to find that place on a modern-day map. Click [HERE](#) to read the blog post from *LegacyTree Genealogists*.

