

Family and Local History Newsletter

Autumn 2014 EDITION

Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Exploring Ancestry.com

Tracing your families' history can be a great journey of discovery. You may uncover exciting and unexpected details about your family.

Come along and learn how to use **Ancestry.com**.

Mike Murray from TimeTrackers will teach you:

- How to navigate Ancestry.com

- What's included in the website
- How to find useful databases
- Successful search strategies
- How to search for ancestors who lived in Australia and overseas
- How to trace Aboriginal ancestors.

Be warned, researching your family tree is highly addictive.

Mike will be speaking at Joondalup Library, Local History on Wednesday 7 May 2014, 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Bookings are required on **9400 4746** or online at **joondalup.wa.gov.au**.

This is a free event.



Researching your English Ancestors

Did your family come to Australia in times past and are you having trouble tracing those elusive ancestors?

Learn from the experts and discover the many English family history resources available for family history researchers.

This workshop will be held at Woodvale Library on Tuesday 29 April, 10.00am to 11.30am.

The cost is \$27.00 and includes a comprehensive beginner's guide.

To book a place, please contact the Local History Library on **9400 4746** or online at **joondalup.wa.gov.au**

Got the Picture? Using Your Digital Camera for Genealogy



Now that the cooler weather is here, you might like to think about using your digital camera or iPad for genealogical purposes such as taking photographs of family heirlooms, ancestor's records, gravestones, ancestral homes and the places where your family may have lived.

Create a short list of the pictures that you want. Some suggestions are:

At the Cemetery

- The name of the cemetery and the cemetery entrance.
- The whole gravestone of your ancestor, showing the inscription and carving.
- Close-ups of the inscription and carvings.
- Nearby gravestones – they could be of ancestors that you have not yet discovered.

Tip: If the lettering is faint you might like to bring along a roll of masking tape, some fabric or butcher's paper, a wax crayon or a pencil to enable you to get a headstone rubbing of the lettering on the gravestone. One of the greatest advantages of a headstone rubbing is that it can reveal intricate details on a headstone that are near invisible to the naked eye. Headstone rubbings have revealed ornamental patterns, dates and lettering that you couldn't see in person, and which weren't picked up with the numerous photographs taken of each headstone.

At Your Ancestral Home:

- A panoramic view of the street. It will give you a good idea of what your ancestor may have seen daily.

- If the original house still exists, photograph it and some of the neighbouring houses.
- Any interesting architectural details such as fretwork surrounding the front of the building, stone carvings etc.
- The front garden.
- Any features mentioned in family stories such as the tree in the front garden that Papa used to climb as a boy.

Tip: Before you travel to your ancestral home, go onto Google Earth and see if your ancestral home looks the same or similar to the house depicted in family photographs. You may find that the house has been demolished and the current owners have replaced it with a modern home.

Heirlooms

- A full view of the heirloom.
- Place a ruler next to the heirloom to show its size.
- All sides of heirloom – front, back, sides.
- Close-ups of interesting details such as carvings, paintings.
- Close-ups of manufacturer's marks such as hallmarks, pottery identification marks, the artist's signature etc.
- Close-ups of damage or other features that may affect the value of the heirloom.

Records and Documents

- The title page of the book.
- The full record (be sure to get each page) of the book or document.
- Close-ups of those hard-to-read areas.



Private Ross Roy Cockman, 1916.



James (Sam) and Emma Cockman, 1915.
Mrs Cockman is wearing the four brooches given to her by her sons before they left for war.



Private William (Bill) Edgar Cockman, 51st Battalion with his brother Private Wesley James Cockman, 44th Battalion, 1914.

Service and Sacrifice in the First World War

2014 marks the centenary of the start of the First World War – a time to reflect on Australia's participation in the war. The Great War is an important part of Australian history and inspired the Anzac legend of brave deeds on the battlefield and mateship in the trenches.

Australia was committed to the First World War from the start. As part of the British Empire and with most of the population from Britain or first generation Australians with British parents, Australia was proud to support the cause.

Australia made a significant contribution of troops to aid the war effort considering the population was fewer than 5 million people at that time. 32,231 men, aged 18 to 41 years, volunteered representing 33% of the male population in that age group in Western Australia.

Australian women served in support roles as cooks, nurses, drivers, interpreters, munitions workers, and skilled farm workers. Australian nurses served in Egypt, France, Greece and India in difficult conditions close to the front-line, where they were exposed to shelling and gun-fire.

Twenty-three men from the Wanneroo area enlisted in the First World War including four brothers from the Cockman family, early settlers in the Wanneroo area.

The Cockman boys, William (Bill), Wesley, Ross and Ernest (Jack) all served in the army. Wesley and Ernest (Jack) served in the 44th Battalion; Ross in the 4th Machine Gun Battalion and William (Bill) in the 51st Battalion.

Bill, Wes, Ross and Jack Cockman each gave their mother a brooch before they left for war. Mrs Cockman wore all four brooches at

once. Three were pinned in a row to the front of her dress and one was pinned at the waist.

Nine men from the Wanneroo area were killed and their names are the first inscribed on the Wanneroo War Memorial.

Private Percy Ainger – 16th Battalion

Private Herbert Bennett – 28th Battalion

Private Albert Bennett – 44th Battalion

Private James Bennett – 6th Battalion

Private William Cockman – 51st Battalion

Private Charles Knight – 28th Battalion

Lance Corporal Richard Smales – 51st Battalion

Corporal Richard Waltham – 8th Battalion

Private E (Dudley) White – 11th Battalion

William Edgar Cockman, aged 24, was killed in action in Pozieres, France on 3 September 1916.



Private Ernest (Jack) John Cockman, 1916.

Wanneroo was held at the back of the Wanneroo Hall where members of the community gathered to make and fill sand bags.

When the war ended, Welcome Home Committees were set up in most Western Australian towns and dances and celebrations were organised. The Wanneroo Road Board hosted a Welcome Home Dance at the Agricultural Hall for returned servicemen. Mrs Lucy

Johnson played the piano accordion from 8.00pm until 7.00am the next day with Mr Harold Cockman as the Master of Ceremonies.



Sand-bag day at the Wanneroo Hall, ca. 1915.

During the First World War members of the community came together to do whatever they could to help the war effort. 'Sand Bag Day' was one of a number of funds and charities that were organised between 1914 and 1918. The fund raised money for the creation of sand bags used to help protect troops fighting in the trenches. 'Sand Bag Day' in



Private William (Bill) Edgar Cockman, 1916. Taken at Heliopolis on 17 February 1916 and sent to his sister. The inscription reads "From William to Ethel".

New online collections now available

The Western Australian Genealogical Society and Ancestry.com.au have recently added new genealogical and historical collections to their online resources. These new records are a useful addition to the ever-increasing amount of information available to researchers online.

Ancestry.com.au

- Australia and New Zealand, Rootsweb Death Index, 1813-2003
- Guinness Archive Index, 1824-2002
- Ireland 1901 and 1911 Census
- NSW Index to Deceased Estate Files, 1923-1958
- Perth Rate Books, 1880-1946
- UK WWII Civilian Deaths, 1939-1945
- UK Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects, 1627-1965

Western Australian Genealogical Society

- Home Office Criminal Records, Registers of Criminal Petitions (members only)
- WA Churches Geo-location map
- WA Cemeteries Geo-location map

Information can be found at ancestry.com.au or wags.org.au



Marian (Rocko) and Peter Parin in their vineyards at 10 Mile Peg, 1927.



Emma Cockman with four of her children Ross, Wesley, Eva and Frances, ca. 1910.



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Connect with the City



This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

WA Heritage Festival 2014

*In canoes and caravans,
On surfboards and in subways,
By stars and satellites,
We have journeyed across this wide brown land.*

Australia is a nation of travellers. So pack up your suitcase, fill your rucksack and shove a jumbuck in your tuckerbag because you're coming on a journey.

Join the National Trust in celebrating Australian journeys with the **2014 Western Australian Heritage Festival**. The Festival is taking place from Friday 18 April to Sunday 18 May 2014.

There are a wide range of activities being held in the country and in the Perth Metropolitan Area. For more information, pick up a Heritage Festival brochure from any City of Joondalup Library, or visit their website nationaltrust.org.au