

Family and Local History Newsletter

Spring 2012 EDITION

Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

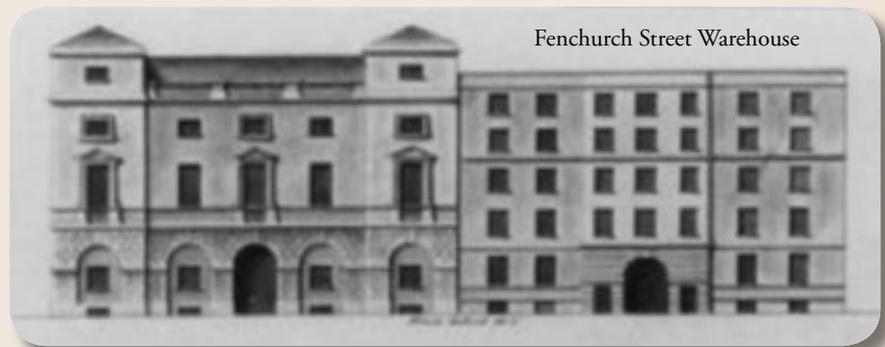
Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

East India Company London Workers

Did you know that the India Office Records are an important source for London working-class history? In the early 19th century, the East India Company employed more than 3,000 labourers in its London warehouses.

Documents survive which tell us who these men were, their age and height, where they lived and what jobs they had before joining the warehouses. There are pay and pension records. The Company made notes on the labourers' health. Dates of death are sometimes recorded. Snippets of information which are unlikely to have been recorded anywhere else can be discovered. Where else would you discover that Charles Twort of St George in the East had bad feet and corns?

The warehouse labourers were drawn from widely different backgrounds, with over 350 different former occupations listed in the admissions register. As well as servants and labourers, there are



bakers, butchers, booksellers, carpenters, chemists, clerks, coopers, farmers, gardeners, grocers, hairdressers, mathematical instrument makers, sailors, The labourers' working week was from Monday to Saturday, with a fixed day of six hours at a time when a 10 or 12 hour day was common. Overtime was paid. Many of the men had a second job in the afternoon, sometimes continuing their previous occupation.

Records about the East India Company warehouse labourers are not just of value to genealogists. They could also be exploited by social, political, commercial and military historians.

The data from the Company warehouse admissions register has been added to the India Office Family History Search. There are entries for 4,672 permanent labourers and writers (or copyists) entering the Company London warehouses between June 1801 and November 1832. So check to see if you have an ancestor who worked in the warehouses. There may be intriguing stories about your family which have lain hidden in the records for 200 years waiting to be uncovered by you!

Reproduced from the British Library "Untold Lives: Sharing Stories from the Past" website <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/untoldlives/>

Family History Resources at Joondalup Library

Have you ever wanted to borrow the CD-ROMs and books from the Genealogy Collection in Local History, but couldn't? You'll be pleased to hear that most of the genealogy resources are now available for loan.

You can loan directly from Joondalup Library, Local History or place a request on the item via the Library Catalogue to collect at Joondalup, Duncraig, Whitford or Woodvale Libraries.

Tip: Search for CD Rom Genealogy in the Library Catalogue to see what is available.



Googling Names

Google is an often overlooked, but a powerful tool for family history researchers. Most family historians do not make full use of its search capacity. They simply use Google to access a predetermined website such as Ancestry.com, FreeBMD or Family Search.

For example, you're looking for an ancestor named Frederick Jones. Frederick was born in 1880 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. Type all of this information into Google. In most cases you will get lots of hits. Most of the hits will be of no value, but, by using this information, you can often find out snippets of information about Frederick Jones and/or other people researching the same name.

Tip: Remember, when you use Google, think outside the box and type in anything that you think may be a clue to the person/family that you're looking for.

Tip: Here are a few strategies to aid your genealogical Googling and weed out some of those same-named but unrelated people:

- Search on spelling variations of your ancestor's name.
- Experiment with entering the last name first, first name last, with and without the middle name, with nickname, first initial plus last name etc.

- Use quotation marks around the name (as in "Fred Flintstone") to eliminate pages that show the first and last names far apart.
- Add a place that your ancestor lived to narrow results.
- Adding the unusual name of your ancestor's spouse or child can also narrow your search.
- Are matches on a famous figure with your ancestor's surname clogging up your results? Use a - (minus sign) to eliminate a word associated with the celebrity, for example, "Fred Flintstone" -Bedrock.
- Try other Web search engines such as Ask.com and Dogpile.
- Try a genealogical search engine or tool such as Free Genealogy Search Help for Google www.genealogy-search-help.com



Walter Padbury

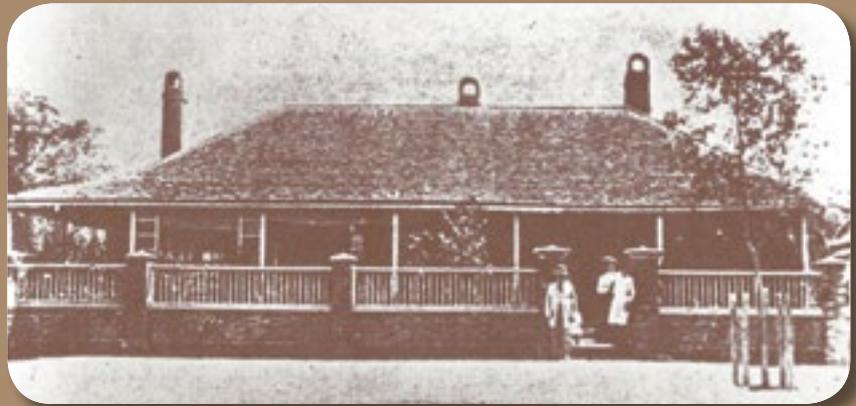
If you live in Padbury, you may have wondered how the suburb obtained its name. Padbury was named in honour of Walter Padbury. Walter owned the land which bears his name. He was one of the earliest settlers in the Swan River Colony (arriving eight months after it was founded). Walter Padbury became Western Australia's first millionaire and Australia's greatest philanthropist.

Walter was born on 22 December 1817 in Fawler, Oxfordshire. On 15 October 1829, he and his father Thomas boarded the *Protector* bound for the fledgling Swan River Colony. Five months after they arrived in Fremantle on 26 February 1830, Thomas died, leaving twelve year old Walter in the care of a married couple living in the tent next to them. The couple spent all of Walter's inheritance on alcohol, leaving the boy penniless and unwanted.

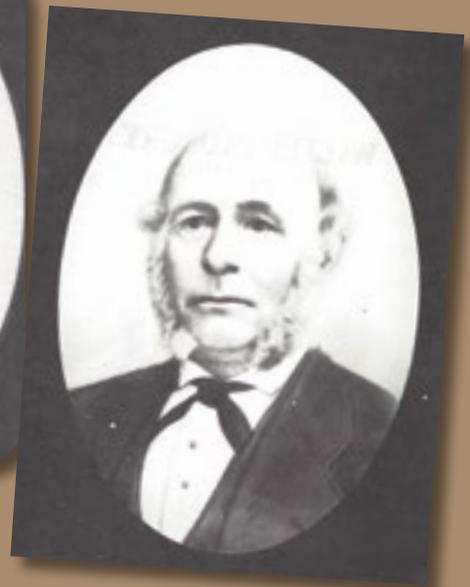
Walter was a very hardworking and enterprising young man. He worked as a builder's labourer, servant, drover, barman, shepherd, stableman and butcher. He became a contract fencer, then a cattle and sheep trader and pastoralist.

Walter opened up vast tracts of land for farming in the Geraldton/Greenough area. He was one of the first pioneers to set foot in the Pilbara and realise its potential for keeping stock.

In 1843 Walter met the beautiful, feisty and hardworking 17 year old Charlotte Nairn. It was love at first sight. They married in the Court House, Perth on 23 April 1844. Charlotte was Walter's partner in every sense of the word. She worked beside her husband in



The Padbury's house on G7. Walter is standing in the foreground. (Reproduced from "Walter Padbury: his life and times" by John Nairn.)



Walter and Charlotte Padbury. (Reproduced from "Walter Padbury: his life and times" by John Nairn)

the butcher's shop that they set up in what is now known as St George's Terrace. After two or three weeks, Charlotte became so proficient that she often looked after the shop when Walter was working at their slaughterhouse or delivering meat to their customers.

The couple were devoted to each other. Sadly they were unable to have any children. Walter and Charlotte were very generous benefactors to family, friends, the Church of England and a large number of

charities, many of whom helped the sick and the destitute.

Charlotte died of cancer on 2 February 1895. Walter died on 17 April 1907. He was 89 years old. Walter was buried next to his beloved Charlotte in the East Perth Cemetery.

Rediscovering Lost Treasures

Most people have an old shoe box or cardboard box full of letters, documents and other family memorabilia that's been gathering dust, lying forgotten in the spare room. These neglected boxes are a treasure trove for family historians.

- **Letters** are like a snapshot of the past. A letter can contain the date that it was written, the sender's address and the recipient's address on the envelope. Apart from the letter's content, you can discover something about the person who wrote the letter and the person who received it. It may be addressed to Dear Mr, Darling Richard, My dearest Aunty Elsie and so on.
- **Postcards** can give you the address of the recipient. Some postcard writers include the date that they wrote it. You can also check the date that the card was posted by looking at the postmark.

- **Wedding Invitations** are often kept as a reminder of the special day. The invitation will list the date of the celebration, where the ceremony is being held, the names of the bride and groom, and the names of their parents.
- **Newspaper Clippings** can be kept for a variety of reasons. The most commonly kept newspaper clippings are those of engagement, wedding, birth and death notices. Make a note of any names that you don't recognise.



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