

Family and Local History Newsletter

Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

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

The Ongoing Impact of War

For many ANZACs, the horrors of war didn't end when they returned home. Ongoing health problems – both physical and mental – often meant unemployment, disability, pain and if things became unbearable, suicide.

The intimate details of such difficulties are preserved in more than 600,000 World War I repatriation records held by the National Archives of Australia.

They document the medical care, welfare services and pensions provided by the Repatriation Department – now known as the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Very few of the files have been viewed since their official use.

To mark the centenary of World War I, the National Archives has begun a \$3.4million project to describe and digitise many of the records, ensuring greater public access.

Not all servicemen and women who returned home have a repatriation record, only those who applied for a pension or benefit. Find out more on the *Discovering Anzacs* website at discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au



Rehabilitation of demobilised soldiers - Anzac Hostel - A ward circa 1918.
(Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia)

100million Netherlands Records added to the Ancestry.com website

Do you have ancestors who lived in the Netherlands? Ancestry.com has added indexes to over 100million birth, baptism, marriage, death and burial records from the Netherlands – many of which have previously only been available at the WieWasWie (Who Was Who) website.

WieWasWie is a collaboration between more than twenty Dutch archives. If you find a record of interest you will have to follow a link to see the image as only the text is available on Ancestry.com. If you wish to see the image, **Ancestry.com** has provided a link to the WieWasWie website. This will take you to these relevant search pages where you can see the image:

Netherlands, Birth Index, 1787-1915
Netherlands, Baptism Index, 1569-1879
Netherlands, Marriage Index, 1570-1938
Netherlands, Civil Marriage Index, 1795-1950
Netherlands, Death Index, 1795-1965
Netherlands, Burial Index, 1546-1821

Tip: If you don't write or speak Dutch, use Google Translate to help you to understand the records.

Scandinavian Surnames

Most of the time in genealogy, you can rely on a child to have the same surname as his or her father. A big exception - one that is often frustrating for people who are tracing their Scandinavian ancestors - is the patronymic surname. Here are some Scandinavian surname basics.

The people of Scandinavia gradually began using surnames around the 15th or 16th century. Most of the population used the **patronymic system**, in which a child's surname was formed from the father's given name plus a suffix (in some other cultures, a prefix would form the patronymic). Commonly used suffixes in each Scandinavian country are shown in the chart below.

The patronymic system continued at least through the 19th century, and sometimes into the 20th. A number of laws mandated fixed surnames, but especially in rural areas, populations were slow to adopt them.

Not everyone stuck to this system, though. Merchants and craftsmen sometimes used German surnames or names reflecting their occupations, so you may find Scandinavians with names such as Schmidt (German for "smith"). The Clergy often Latinized their surnames. Other methods that might be used for determining a surname include:

- **Military names**, primarily in Sweden. Only one man with a particular name could be in a unit, so the next arrival with the same name would use another surname, which he might keep after his service ended.
- **Farm names**, primarily in Denmark and parts of Norway. A family might take the name of their farm and carry the name to a new area.
- **Geographic names**, primarily in Sweden and sometimes Norway. The name might represent some physical attribute of the land, such as Lindberg ("tree" plus "mountain"), or be the name of a town.

Country	Son	Daughter
Denmark	- <i>sen</i>	- <i>datter</i>
Sweden	- <i>son</i>	- <i>dotter</i>
Norway	Before 1814 (Danish rule): - <i>sen</i> 1814 – 1905 (Swedish rule): - <i>son</i> After 1905 (Independence): - <i>søn</i>	Before 1914: - <i>datter</i> 1814 – 1905: - <i>dotter</i> After 1905: - <i>dotter</i>

(Partially reproduced from the *Genealogy Insider* website 6 August 2015)

An Introduction to Family History

Saturday 8 October 2016, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup

Tracing your family history is fast becoming a favourite pastime for many but where do you start? The Joondalup Local History Library is hosting a two hour seminar 'An Introduction to Family History' to help enthusiastic researchers get started on the right path.

Participants in the seminar will learn about how to begin researching their family tree and explore useful family history resources with City of Joondalup Libraries experts Olive and Wendy. You can discover all the best tips and resources to begin researching your family, and receive a copy of the City's *Tracing Your Family Tree: A Beginners Guide* booklet.

To reserve your place, book via the City's online events calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au or call 9400 4746.



Family History Workshop – The Next Step

Tuesday 20 September 2016, 10.00am – 12.00noon
City of Joondalup Libraries – Woodvale
5 Trappers Drive, Woodvale

Have you attended a City of Joondalup 'Introduction to Family History' seminar? These workshops help you break down those brick walls and find information that has been eluding you. Bring all of your questions and have them answered in a friendly environment.

To reserve your place, book via the City's online events calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au or call 9400 4746.



Pioneering Families – The Darch Family



The Darch family at Mission Farm house, circa 1910.

The Local History Library has recently processed a large and historically important donation of family photos from the Darch family, after whom the suburb of Darch in the City of Wanneroo was named. The donation comes from the family albums of

siblings, Norma McCrone (nee Darch) and Barry Darch, both of whom grew up in the local area.

Their pioneer forefather, Thomas Sellick Darch, came to Western Australia as a convict. He was sentenced to 15 years transportation for setting fire to a house and a stack of straw. Thomas arrived on the *Runnymede* on 7 September 1856, and was granted conditional release in 1861. He and his wife Johanna raised their seven children at the site of the former Mission Farm located on the shores of Lake Goollelal in the modern day suburb of Kingsley in Joondalup. The farm was originally established by Rev. John Smithies as an Aboriginal mission with the intention of teaching indigenous people western farming and agricultural methods. The mission suffered a number of natural setbacks such as floods and drought, from which it never recovered. In 1851 the mission relocated to York. The Darch family leased the land and operated a dairy there until 1910. Around this time they purchased property at the 12 ½ Mile Peg, Wanneroo Road from where they operated a market garden and dairy.

Thomas and Johanna's son, John (Jack) Darch brought his new wife, Frances (nee Stubberfield) to



Frances Darch and her children, n.d.

his family home in 1900 where they raised their eight children, one of whom was Cyril (Peter) Darch. Sadly, Jack Darch, was killed in an accident in 1921 and Frances married Harold Cockman in 1929. With the help of her children, they kept the dairy and market garden going until 1949 when the property was divided between Cyril (Peter), Clarrie and Roy Darch.



Norma, Barry and Roma Darch ca. 1930s.

Peter had three children: Norma (1933-2016), Barry (1937-) and Brian (1944-1962).

Norma and her brothers grew up alongside their numerous cousins who were close neighbours. The extended Darch family were well-known and well-loved in the local area. Norma remembers her parents Peter and Dot (nee Fry) often having large groups of young people over at their place on Friday nights and weekends.

Their home was a very busy and popular hangout for the local youngsters. Dot was a skilled seamstress and her creations are featured in many of the photographs Norma donated. Her dresses were proudly worn to the annual Wanneroo Show over the years. Dot also had a horse named Sally (captured from a herd of wild brumbies) that only she could ride. The family enjoyed wonderful summer holidays with their many friends at Mullaloo Beach and at Yanchep. These events are portrayed in the photographs which are a valuable record of life at Wanneroo from the early 1900s.

Norma and Barry have recorded their memories as oral history interviews for the Local History Library. The interviews are available for loan on CD. The collection of Darch photographs can be seen on Picture Joondalup. Sadly just a few weeks after the donation was received Norma passed away suddenly. Staff at the Local History Library gratefully acknowledges this generous donation.

Top Tips for Searching World War I Records

1. Use **wildcards** when searching for specific regiments. Type Ess* and you will get results for the Essex Regiment and Essex Yeomanry.
2. Some so-called **service records** may consist of just a single page. These names usually appear on lists tucked away within other records. Click on the transcript button to see the source of these records.
3. Be sure to check the **historic newspapers**, as they often contain soldiers' obituaries or reports on local regiments.

(Reproduced from the *Findmypast eNewsletter* 29 June 2016)

Exploring Your Ancestor's Home in the UK

Have you ever wondered what your ancestor's home in the UK looked like? Where did they live? What did their street look like? The church they attended? The school where they were educated?

The UK, City, Town and Village Photos, 1857 – 2005 (*The Francis Frith Collection*) contains more than 120,000 images of almost every city, town and village in Great Britain. The images are primarily topographical – of towns, landmarks and landscapes, allowing viewers to gain a glimpse of ancestral towns and cities as they looked in the day.

You can access the UK, City, Town and Village Photos database via **Ancestry.com** for free at any of the City of Joondalup Libraries.

(Partially reproduced from the *Ancestry.com eNewsletter* 8 June 2016)

State Records New South Wales

State Records NSW has launched a new website which includes a new search engine for their collections. Researchers will now be able to do a single, simple search to discover photographic and documentary content from amongst the Collection. Note that the online indexes are still accessible via the new website but have not yet been migrated to the new system. This will be an ongoing process over time however they will ultimately all be accessible from the single search engine. For more information on using the new website, please visit records.nsw.gov.au/archives

Top Tips for Searching Census Records

1. The 1841 census enumerators were instructed to **round down a person's age** to the nearest multiple of five. For example, a person who is aged 69 was recorded as being 65 years old.
2. Due to the personal nature of the census information, a 100-year secrecy rule is in place. **Anyone under 100 years old is redacted** (censored) unless a death certificate is verified.
3. Householders completed their own forms for the 1911 census, so you will be able to see your **ancestor's handwriting**.

(Partially reproduced from the *Findmypast eNewsletter* 15 June 2016)

Recent Acquisitions

The three booklets featured are part of a new collection recently purchased by the Local History Library for use by family history researchers. Other titles include *Scotland's People, Migration to New Zealand* and *Guide to Convict Transport Lists* amongst others. Come in to see what else is available that may help you find your family.



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