

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

Do you sometimes have difficulty with your online genealogy searches?

Chances are you've become frustrated at times when searching for ancestors online at genealogy sites such as **Ancestry.com**, **MyHeritage** and **FamilySearch**. Knowing why genealogy searches sometimes fail can help you figure out how to fix them.

A cheat sheet of common issues that trip up your searches has been provided in this newsletter, plus tips to fix them.

Problem	Why it Happens	Solution
Transcription errors	You're not actually searching the documents on genealogy websites. Instead, you're searching a textual index created by a person (or sometimes, software) that transcribed what he or she thought the documents said. Illegible records, poor-quality digital images and human error cause a mismatch between the index and your search terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use filters and wildcards to find variant names, enter date ranges, and broaden the geographic area • Search for variant and incorrect name spellings • Search with fewer terms, for example, leave the name blank • Try another site with the same data set (the index may be different) • Browse the records.
Record errors	Enumerators and clerks who created records may have recorded wrong information, your ancestor may have reported it wrong, or another informant (such as neighbour) may have taken a guess. The index accurately reflects the record, but it doesn't match your search.	Same as above.
The record doesn't exist	Disasters such as fire, flood or custodial neglect may have destroyed the records. Or maybe they were never created in the first place, such as for early vital records in much of the US. It's also possible your ancestor wasn't enumerated in the census, or no one reported his/her birth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the collection search page and local genealogy guides for information on record gaps. • Look for substitute sources, such as church records for vital records.
The record isn't online	Libraries and archives are full of valuable records that exist only on paper or microfilm. Occasionally, one or more documents might be missed during digitisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check local library websites and genealogy guides for record locations. Visit the archive, hire a researcher to visit for you, or request a copy by mail or email. • Look for other, more-accessible records with the information you need.
The record is online, but isn't indexed	A collection may be digitised and browsable online, but no searchable index exists.	Figure out how the collection is organised (such as by state and county, chronologically, etc.) and browse to the record you need.

Burns Beach



Camping party at Burns Beach, ca. 1920



Neaves family at their shack, Burns Beach, ca. 1930

Burns Beach is named after Thomas (Tommy) White Burns who worked as a shepherd and stockman for Bernard Clarkson, moving stock between the north-west and Perth in the late 1890s. The name is said to originate from his campsite in the area.

The suburb was called Burns until 2003 when the name was officially changed to Burns Beach in response to a residents' petition.

Tommy's daughter, Edith Brown, recalls her father's early life as a drover: "(My father) used to go right up north to Dandaragan. There was a firm called the New Zealand Land Company and they had big grazing and cattle. Dad used to do all the droving. He used to go right up north and bring down the cattle with a big stick. He'd be away for a week at a time and then he'd come through and take them to Robb's Jetty and they said it was the longest train ever was taken to Robb's Jetty with cattle. He had a high name for that sort of job..." (Brown Oral History E0149).

Burns Beach is located on land granted to the Midland Railway Company in exchange for building the

Midland to Geraldton railway which opened in 1894. Prior to 1920, Burns was essentially Crown land vested in the Wanneroo Road Board which, in turn, leased blocks to residents.

By 1908 the area had developed into a small fishing and camping community and shacks started to appear. Despite its remoteness and the lack of established roads and facilities, the area was well used. Campsites cost two shillings and sixpence a week.

A form of the caravan park had been in operation since the 1920s and remained a prominent feature of the area for many years.

In 1968 when Burns pioneer Eddie Dover built his home, there were 82 houses in the area - mostly weekenders.

While Burns provided a wonderful holiday lifestyle, many of the early permanent residents remember the isolation of the area and difficulties with transport, communication and lack of services. Ronald Johnson explains:

"When we first arrived out here it was only a sandstone track, no power and very little water. The only water available was through a bore that the Shire put in

and a tank which was pumped every morning and every night, done by a small motor. This was done by a resident out here – he'd fill it up before he would go to work. If you ran out during the day that was it, you had to wait until he'd come home to fill up the tank again... we had to contend with a generator for our power and a kero refrigerator which every now and again would nearly blow up, so they were hard times." (Johnson Oral History E0205).

Most people shopped at Wanneroo, the caravan park, or bought bulk supplies from Perth. Public transport was limited. Joy Johnson remembers:

"Transperth put on one bus a week. It was a Tuesday morning, left about 9 o'clock from Burns, and we got home about 4 o'clock in the afternoon... But you had to stay all day in Perth; it was a long day." (Johnson Oral History E0205).

A strong community spirit was forged in the early years of the suburb and social events such as bingo nights, coffee and craft mornings, barbecues and progressive meals were held.

In 1988 the City of Wanneroo met the Minister for Planning to discuss



Aerial view of Burns Beach, ca. 1970



Party at Burns Beach, ca. 1970



Easter Sunday at Burns Beach, 1975



Burns Beach cottages, 1976



Burns Beach, 1989



Burns Beach Road, 1992



Burns Beach development, 2008



Burns Beach development, 2008



Burns Beach, 2008

the long-term future of the leasehold land at Burns. The first of the 21-year leases was due to expire in 1989 which meant residents could be forced from their homes. At this meeting the state government resolved to grant genuine residents freehold title so they had the option of buying their land. The small coastal pocket of land was rezoned from recreation reserve to urban residential and the Wanneroo Council then agreed to upgrade the road, water supply and sewerage system.

That same year the state government announced the accelerated release of housing blocks north of Burns Beach Road, claiming that there were enough blocks 'to create a new suburb and that the area would provide cheap land for first home buyers and all other sections of the market.' (*Wanneroo Times*, 23 August 1988)

Burns Beach has continued to develop making it an upmarket and highly sought-after coastal location today.

Reimagine Your Story – Aboriginal Family History

Do you have Indigenous ancestors? The State Library of Western Australia conducts Aboriginal family history seminars on the last Wednesday of each month, 3.30pm – 6.30pm.

Join State Library staff from the Storylines program to learn more about Aboriginal family history resources in the J S Battye Library of West Australian History. The sessions highlight some of the key resources for Aboriginal family history and showcase the Storylines online platform.

Reserve your place by calling 9427 3111 or email storylines@slwa.wa.gov.au

Manorial Records

The manorial period began with William the Conqueror at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. Peaking during the 1300s, the Manorial Period changed over time. It lasted for 860 years until becoming obsolete in 1926.

Manorial records give us information about the day-to-day life of ordinary people. By recording details of what people did, when and why; by showing what their individual and common responsibilities were; by noting what they considered to be crimes and how those crimes were punished and by showing which officials operated within communities, they provide a window on the workings of past societies. It is possible, for example, to see who had failed to repair their hedge or ditch, or who had grazed their cattle in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Land tenure was at the very heart of the manorial system. For more information about land tenure have a look at the Manorial Documents - Medieval Genealogy website medievalgenealogy.org.uk

Manorial Courts are very important. They form the basis of the Manorial Records. Every person who lived in Medieval England carried out their lives as a member of a manor under the jurisdiction of a manorial court. The Manorial Court was held in the Manor House or in the village inn.

When researching manorial records, try to find out:

- The name of the manor
- The name of the parish and county.

The manor was the principal administrative unit of medieval landed estates. Its business was carried out in the manor court before the steward. Manors varied in size but were administered by their lords as a single unit.

Manorial records are a vital source for local, social, family and economic history. They hold information on local agriculture, the resolution of disagreements between tenants and the transfer of property amongst tenants.

In the case of urban manors, records contain details of markets, trade and industrial developments. They can also tell us a great deal about the community living in the manor, its social structure, households and the local economy.

The survival rate and comprehensiveness of manorial records varies. Records from one manor alone can be scattered across a number of archives and institutions as well as being held by private individuals and organisations.

Until 1733, manorial records are likely to be in Latin and, both before and after that date, in handwriting that can be difficult to read.

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is the official index to English and Welsh manorial records. It provides brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk

If you would like to learn more about Manorial records, these websites may be of interest:

- Manorial Documents Register – National Archives discovery. nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Manors – The National Archives nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Introduction to Manorial Records – The University of Nottingham nottingham.ac.uk
- Medieval source material on the Internet: Manorial Records medievalgenealogy.org.uk
- Manorial Documents – Medieval Genealogy medievalgenealogy.org.uk
- Using Manorial Records hrionline.ac.uk



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This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Appeal for 'Olden Days' Items

City of Joondalup Library – Joondalup is establishing a collection of items that students can use during their visit to the Local History Library. It's part of the education program concerning the 'olden days'.

Do you have any old school sewing models, books or other small school or domestic items that you would like to donate for this purpose? We would be very grateful to receive them.

Please contact the Local History Library on **9400 4746** or email local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au