

# Family and Local History Newsletter

Winter 2014 EDITION

Joondalup Library, Local History  
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

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

## National Family History Month

National Family History Month is taking place during August. The State Library of Western Australia has an interesting program of events that are well worth attending. For more information please access the State Library Events Calendar.



Facts to consider when researching your female ancestors:

- A married woman was called a feme covert, which literally means a woman hidden behind the identity of her husband.
- A widowed woman would have to be named guardian of her own children in a probate court or the court might name a male relative to look after the children's inherited property – even if they still lived with their mother.

## Researching female ancestors can, at times, be difficult.

- An underage woman usually had to have a male guardian's permission to marry. Look for a record with the couple's marriage record.
- Early divorces often had to be approved by state legislatures. Look for these records in legislative records (usually at a state archive).
- Prenuptial agreements (which are often found with deeds or court records) weren't uncommon, even early on.
- Land records are excellent for researching women. A husband had to sell land – even if the wife had inherited it from her father. But the wife had to sign off on it. That's called her "dower" right. It was intended to provide some means of support for a woman whose husband had died. The dower right should not be confused with a dowry. A dowry is money or property that a wife or wife's family gives to her husband when the wife and husband marry.

If you're researching female ancestors who lived in the USA, "Property" transfers of slaves, (usually in Chancery or Equity Courts) can also be a source of information to help to locate female heirs.

- You can find maiden names in children's birth, marriage and death records, and in male ancestors' wills. Sons in families will sometimes have their mother's maiden name as a middle name.
- Don't assume that someone listed by initials in a record (such as M.A. Smith) is male.

*Black's Law Dictionary* is a good resource for finding out what laws governed women's lives in the places where your ancestors lived in the UK and in the USA. The dictionary was first published in 1891. The second edition was published in 1910. You can access the 1910 edition of the dictionary for free by going into the [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)

# Picture Joondalup

Is your child doing an assignment about the local history of the area? Have you ever wondered what your suburb looked like when it was first created?

Picture Joondalup has in excess of 7,000 photographs on its database. The photos are primarily of people and places in the City of Joondalup area and a small selection of regional significance. Every photograph is accompanied by a detailed description.

Access Picture Joondalup via the library website homepage or search the library catalogue. It's well worth a look.



# Edgewater Quarry

There are a number of limestone quarries throughout the City of Joondalup area. One of the better known quarries is at Edgewater. Quarrying of limestone started there in the 1960s. The stone was initially used for road base. The large rocks were used in the construction of groynes, masonry walls and retaining walls. The higher grades of stone were used for cement making and as flux in steel production.

Tony Ariti drove the front end loader at Edgewater Quarry during the mid-1960s. He recalls:

“So they could quarry the limestone for road making purpose only. Nothing else. Not to sell it. And so the Shire then used to quarry the limestone out to build roads.”

Roy Ostle spent five years working in the Wanneroo limestone industry. He describes the quarrying process:

“We never had the pneumatic drills that they got now. All the holes was drilled with a big crowbar. About ten feet long. Ten, twelve feet. And we just used to pick it up and drop it as we turned it. Turn it and drop it. Turn it and drop it, with a little bit of water. And we used to drill the holes down for about ten feet or so like that. And then we'd put a drop, a small charge down the hole first. And that used to be called bulling it. And that was to make a cavity at the bottom where the explosion took place. And then we'd ram four or five packets of gelignite down into it. And that used to lift out tonnes and tonnes of great big lumps of limestone come out.”



When you visit Edgewater Quarry, make sure that you have a look at the walls of the quarry. You can still see the chisel marks and the blast holes.

There are plans to eventually develop Edgewater Quarry into an open recreation space.

# Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission ensures that the 1.7 million people of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and Second World Wars will always be remembered. The commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in the 153 countries around the world that hold Commonwealth war dead.

They also commemorate Commonwealth civilians who died as a result of enemy action during the Second World War. Sixty-seven thousand civilians lost their lives in World War II. Their names are listed on a roll of honour, housed near St George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, London.

This interesting and easy-to-use website, [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) enables family history researchers to find information on family members who died in the two world wars as well as information and photographs on memorials and cemeteries. There is also a Fast Facts and Common Questions section.

Under the tab, 'Find War Dead' you can search by surname, date, war, rank, regiment, awards or any combination of those criteria. The results provide information on rank, service number, date of death, age, regiment, country of service, grave or memorial reference and the name of the cemetery or



Turnbull Field Memorial, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, ca.1940s

memorial where they lie.

Searching under the 'Find a Cemetery' tab you can find information about the 23,000 cemeteries, memorials and other locations worldwide where Commonwealth casualties from the two world wars are commemorated. You can search for a cemetery or memorial by name, country, war, size or any combination of those criteria. Search results include locations notes, maps, plans and pictures.

The Perth War Cemetery is one of the 57 West Australian cemeteries listed on the site.

The Perth War Cemetery (established by the army in 1942), was used for the burial of service personnel who died of their wounds in Hollywood Military Hospital after their return from duty and others who died from accidents or sickness. The cemetery contains 475 burials from the Second World War and 16 from the First World War.

The Western Australian Cremation Memorial is also located here and commemorates seven members of the Australian forces who were cremated at Karrakatta Crematorium.

Adjoining the Perth War Cemetery, and originally part of it, is the Perth War Cemetery Netherlands Annex. Seven Dutch servicemen and 21 Dutch civilians, five of whom are unknown are buried here. The civilians were evacuees from Java flown to Australia by seaplanes. On arrival in Broome Harbour the planes came under attack by Japanese fighter aircraft and all were sunk. There were many survivors, but a number whose bodies were not recovered also lost their lives.



Edwin (Nardo) Crisafulli and army mates, Papua New Guinea, ca. 1942



Edwin (Nardo) Crisafulli , ca. 1942

# Family History Online Resources

Parish registers are a useful resource that record baptisms, marriages and burials made by the Church of England from the mid 16th century. The registers are a valuable tool for family history researchers because official civil records are not available before 1837. Two interesting websites are The Workhouse and Dusty Docs.

## The Workhouse workhouses.org.uk

The Workhouse brings to mind the world of Dickens and the bleak times of Victorian England. As part of the poor relief system, parishes were responsible for the poor in their area and the workhouse provided basic accommodation and work for people unable to support themselves. This site contains a wealth of information and offers a fascinating insight into the history of workhouses and their inmates, buildings and staff.

## Dusty Docs dustydocs.com

Dusty Docs is a collection of online English parish registers with links to other free websites containing parish records. The site has records for England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, New Zealand and Australia.



William and Henry Clarkson headstone



Wedding of Elsie Edwards and George Leach, 1910



Wedding of Daisy and Amos Caporn, 1905

## Useful Resources



### Joondalup Library, Local History

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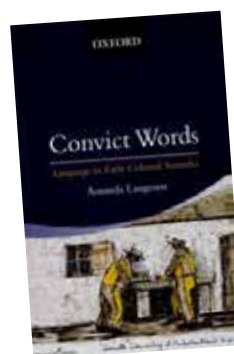
[joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)

Connect with the City



*This document is available in alternate formats upon request.*

This book was found hidden away in the general reference collection amongst the dictionaries. Just like finding a little gold nugget, it promises to bring joy to the family history researcher. Hidden within its pages is a wealth of phrases and



terminology used by the unique society of foundation Australians. It captures the language that helped shape the nation, and defines the meanings of such terms as "Ticket of Leave", "Emancipations" and "Certificates of Freedom". This little book could well be the gem you've been looking for to further your research. It is now part of the Genealogy Collection and is available for loan.