

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

Tips to Trace the Lineage of Your Photos



Wedding of Frederick John Duffy and Eva Matilda Cockman ca. 9 December 1907.



Ernest John Cockman in military uniform ca. 1916.

Tracing the line of descent of your family is more than putting names and dates on your family tree. You can use those same genealogical techniques to trace the history of ownership (the provenance) of your photos.

Knowing how a group of photos came to be in your family archive can prevent an identification mistake. You might assume that those lovely photos came from your paternal grandfather's family when in fact they were once owned by your paternal grandmother's family.

Different collections of photos often get grouped together by well-meaning relatives. Studying clues such as photographer's imprints with locations or facial resemblances can help you to sort out who's who. If a relative gives you a box of photos, ask how the photos came to be in that person's possession. Before they leave, ask your relative for information about any unidentified photos in the box. It will enable you to know what family characteristics match different branches of the family tree.

National Family History Month

National Family History Month takes place in August, 2015. Genealogy events taking place in the Perth Metropolitan area include:

Events at the State Library of Western Australia

Tuesday 4 August - Thursday 6 August and Wednesday 12 August

- Seminars, tours and training sessions
- Tips and strategies for searching Ancestry.com (Presented by Leonie Hayes and Tricia Fairweather)
- The Irish in Western Australia (Presented by Dr. Jean Butler)
- Black and White and Read all Over (Presented by Leonie Hayes and Tricia Fairweather)

Events at the Western Australian Genealogical Society

Thursday 13 August

Getting Started with Your Family History

Wednesday 19 August

Orientation Day for New Members

Sunday 23 August

Family History Open Day

Don't forget Genie Exchange, which is held every Friday from 10.00am to 12.00noon at City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup, Local History. An Introduction to Family History session is being held on Wednesday 22 July. Call 9400 4746 to book, or visit the City's online event calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au



Nancy Cockman sitting on the Alex T. Brown shipwreck with children Dorothea and Terry Cockman ca. 1944.

Focus on pioneers: Sears family, Greenwood

George Sears was born on 20 October 1898 in Datchet, England. He served in the British Army as a Sapper (Royal Engineer) in the Royal Artillery during the First World War. According to his daughter, Judith, George felt he wasn't treated very well when he arrived home after the war. Someone who George referred to as 'landed gentry' gave him ten pounds and told him to go to Australia - which he did.

George arrived in Albany aboard the *Demosthenes* on 3 July 1922. He worked on farms throughout rural Western Australia. He joined partners in a gold mine in Kalgoorlie and worked on farms in Salmon Gums, Corrigin and Mukinbudin. George joined a partnership in a wheat farm in Kalannie, however the Great Depression forced him to leave this venture and he went to Perth. George set up an engineering workshop in Bazaar Terrace, near William Street. It was while he was working there that George met Joyce Mackenzie in 1935 at a dance. Joyce was born in Subiaco in 1910 and had lived in Perth all her life. The couple became engaged and began looking for a property where they could start their own poultry farm.

At this time George met an old friend who had poultry farm on Wanneroo Road and invited him to have a look. George liked the poultry farm very much. He started taking Joyce up there on weekends where she stayed with their soon-to-be future neighbours, the Dempsters. George discovered that some Crown Land on Wanneroo

Road was about to be opened for selection and he applied immediately. Two other parties were also interested, so the decision had to go before a board. Fortunately George was successful in being granted the land which amounted to 13.5 acres at the Nine Mile Well in South Wanneroo (now Greenwood in the City of Joondalup). This location was named for one of the wells that lined the old stock route along Wanneroo Road.

George and Joyce were married on Saturday 20 July 1935. The wedding was a small affair with just a few friends and relatives in attendance. The wedding breakfast was held at the bride's parents' house in Nedlands. After the wedding concluded, the happy couple set off to Wanneroo to begin their new life. They named their property Ben Ceres. The name is derived from the Scottish word for mountain, 'Ben' and the Goddess of fertility, 'Ceres'.

George paid 139 pounds, 10 shillings to have a three-roomed weatherboard and asbestos house built, complete with a back verandah and outside toilet. He ordered 1,000 Australorp chickens, and started clearing land and constructing outbuildings. George did much of the work himself, only occasionally hiring a casual labourer to help with heavy manual tasks.

In the early days Joyce recalled living on 12 shillings and sixpence a week, as any money made from the sale of the eggs went straight back into developing the farm. The couple had no running water and

the flies and heat were terrible. In time, George sunk a well and piped water to the house, chicken sheds and green feed patch where they grew lucernes and elephant grass for chicken feed. The eggs were stored in an underground storeroom and in summer they were covered in wet hessian bags to keep them cool. The eggs were sold to the Egg Marketing Board and taken to the West Perth Markets every Tuesday and Friday.

Joyce gave birth to the couples' first child in May 1936. They named their daughter Judith Fraser Sears. In accordance with family tradition, George gave all their children the middle name of Fraser. Fraser was his Scottish grandmother's maiden name. Two sons followed - David in 1938 and Ted in 1941.

George and Joyce were very community-minded. In the mid-1940s, George came up with the idea of starting an archery club on his property. He cleared eight acres of land at the back of the property and started the Greenwood Archery Club. There were twenty members in the Club. It provided entertainment for teenagers in the area. The Greenwood Archery Club held regular competitions with the University Archery Club; arranged meets, picnics and chook raffles. George donated a chicken for the prize. The club was at its peak from 1946 until 1950.

Judy (Judith) Sears fondly recalls the community's annual picnics at Lake Gngangara and Lake Goollelal. Local families were picked up on the back of Bill Lockwood's pig lorry that had been scrubbed especially for this

purpose. This was a real treat for all the local children. Mothers packed sandwiches, watermelon and lemon squash, and the kids spent the day playing rounders and swimming in the lakes.

As the Sears children grew, they each had a horse or pony and enjoyed riding. David in particular attended local meets and won ribbons in competitions at the Wanneroo Show. The family was very happy at Ben Ceres, thanks to the tenacity and resilience of George and Joyce who worked hard all their lives to make Ben Ceres the successful business and happy family home that it was.

The Sears family were very keen photographers. They captured many family and neighbourhood memories on their little 'Box Brownie' camera over the years. Judy Sears has donated many of these photographs to the Joondalup Local History Library. She also provided the library with detailed accounts of the family's everyday life.

George retired from the poultry business in 1967. He and Joyce settled into retirement on their property. George passed away in 1976 and Joyce moved to a retirement home in 1982. The house and land were sold to make way for residential development. Joyce passed away in 1989. Their daughter Judy remains active in documenting and preserving the history of the area.

George Sears Park in the City of Joondalup commemorates the family's pioneer heritage and community contribution. It's located next to the site that used to be Ben Ceres.

To find out more about the Sears family, search on the Picture Joondalup website, contact Local History on **9400 4746** or visit Joondalup Library, Local History located on the lower level of the Library.



Sears poultry farm, ca. 1945.



George and Joyce Sears pictured in front of their newly built house, ca. 1935.



George and Joyce Sears (nee Mackenzie) on their wedding day, 20 July 1935.



Taking aim, members of Greenwood Archery Club ca. 1947. Left to right: Judy Sears, Margaret Dempster and Helen Stone.



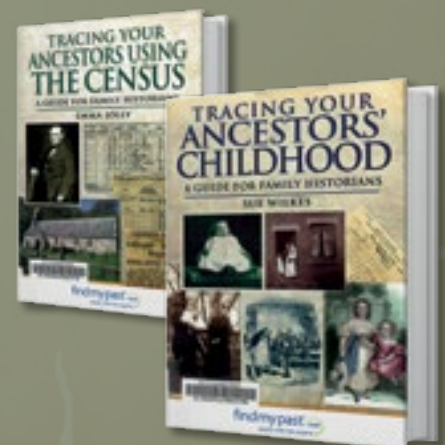
Greenwood Archery Club picnic lunch ca. 1947.

New Family History Resources

The Local History library regularly receives new books that assist family history researchers in their quest to uncover records that can sometimes be elusive. The following recent additions may be of interest:

Tracing your ancestors' childhood: a guide for family historians by Sue Wilkes, is a useful resource for anyone trying to find out more about the early years of their forebears. This book explores the history of childhood and education, as well as experiences at home, school, work and in institutions during the Victorian era. Information covered is focused primarily on England and Wales between 1750-1950. Information about emigration records for the USA, Australia and Canada is also included.

Tracing your ancestors using the census: a guide for family historians by Emma Jolly, is a comprehensive guide to searching census records. Written with the family historian in mind, this book describes the history of census records, compares online and other sources, discusses lost and damaged records and provides information on how to interpret census records correctly.



Online Family History Newsletters

It is well worth subscribing to online family history newsletters. They are a useful source of information and best of all it doesn't cost a cent! Here are some recommended sites:

LostCousins - lostcousins.com

One of the best and most informative online newsletters is LostCousins. The newsletter contains useful information, tips and advice to help locate relatives living in the UK and overseas (excluding North America). The LostCousins website contains helpful tools such as the Index of Incorrect Surnames.

National Archives of Australia - naa.gov.au/collection/publications/newsatarchives

Published monthly, the newsletter focuses on items that have been recently added to the NAA database.

Ancestry.com.au - blogs.ancestry.com/au

The Ancestry.com.au monthly newsletter contains information about key collections, tips and hints that help you with your research and items such as the Manchester Parish Registers that have just been added to the Ancestry.com database.

FindMyPast - findmypast.com.au

This site requires an account to be registered; however the regular updates about new records that have been added to the database are very useful.

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All past editions of the City of Joondalup newsletter are available on the website at joondalup.wa.gov.au. Search for Local History under the Libraries section.



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Connect with the City



This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Census Do's and Don'ts

Here are some tips that will help you to search the online census databases more effectively:

Do

- Experiment with the site's search tools, entering different search parameters and spellings.
- Look for search tips to see whether you can use tools such as wildcard symbols or Boolean searching to catch mistranscriptions and unexpected spellings.
- Try searching without a name. Enter other information such as the person's place of residence, birth date and immigration date.
- Search for friends and neighbours that your ancestor may have been living with.

Don't

- Expect to find an ancestor on the first try.
- Assume the site's data matches everything you understand to be true about your family. Names may have been spelled differently; people may have reported different ages or immigration dates from what you've found in other sources.
- Assume that it's your ancestor because the name is correct. Multiple people could have had the same name.