The Story of Beldon

The suburb of Beldon was inhabited by the Nyoongar people for over 40,000 years. They would have passed through the area on the journey from the coast to inland areas. Fauna in the Beldon area was limited by the low, dry scrublands, however emus and kangaroos were known to feed whilst passing through. Kangaroos remained in the area after the first houses were constructed.

Exactly how the suburb of Beldon obtained its name is not clear. There are two possible sources for the title. The first is provided by the Department of Land Administration:

"…the suburb Beldon is named after A. W. Beldon whose name appears in a list of early landowners and surveyors of Wanneroo. Little is known of Mr. Beldon. The suburb was originally proposed to be named Albert Grove in 1974, after Sir Albert V. Jennings, a founder of the Company Jennings Industries, which was the co-partner in the development."

▲ Gradient Park Beldon ca.2004.
◄ Gradient Way extending east towards Ocean Reef ca.1980s.

A.W. Beldon is listed as a surveyor who was active in the Wanneroo area in 1838. Another possibility suggests that the suburb name commemorates Arthur and Florence Beldon who ran the Wanneroo School between 1945 and 1962.

Beldon was approved as the suburb's name in 1975. By 1977 house and land packages were being advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper. In 2001 an article in the *Sunday Times* newspaper described Beldon as being a 'sleepy corner of the Northern Suburbs'.

There were no large shops in Beldon until Woolworths opened its doors on 5 December 1977. The shopping centre was advertised as 'Mullaloo Woolworths' because Mullaloo was already a well known and popular suburb. Real Estate in the area was advertised under 'Mullaloo-Beldon' and 'Ocean Reef – Beldon' until 1979.

During the early years Beldon was designed to cater for young couples and families. Many migrants called the suburb home.

Cawarra Crescent extending north west ca.1980s.

During the early 1980s, many display homes were built in the area – mainly on Craigie Drive. In 1984, the median price for a house and land in Beldon was $46,250.

Initially children had to travel out of the suburb to attend school until Beldon Primary School opened in 1985. Belridge Senior High School opened in 1991.

In July 1992 the school was awarded a certificate of merit for its design by the Buildings Management Authority. Judges described the school (which is built on a steep site) as 'an innovative concept, well carried out and providing a very good quality school environment'. The school became fully operational in 1995.

In 1991 the Belridge Professional Centre opened. The centre brought new facilities such as doctors, dentists and other professional services to the Beldon and Heathridge region.

People continued to be attracted to the Beldon area. In 2011 the suburb featured over 1,665 homes. The population was 3,983. On 1 December 2014 the median house price was $512,000.

Beldon Shopping Centre ca. 2004.

Johanns and Marias everywhere!

Naming traditions German genealogists should know.

Do the names Johann and Maria frequently pop up in your German family tree? One German family has Johann Henrichs, brothers named Johannes Caspar and Johannes Franz Caspar, Maria Catharinas, a Maria Teresia, Anna Marias and more. Family Tree German Genealogy Guide author James M. Beidler explains why this is and what it means for your German record searches:

"German children were given two names. Boys commonly were baptised with the first name Johannes (or Johann, often abbreviated Joh). German girls were baptised Maria, Anna or Anna Maria. This tradition started in the Middle Ages."

So a family could have five boys with the first name Johann. You can see the potential for confusion until you understand that the first name doesn't mean a thing.

The second name, known as the 'rufname', along with the surname, is what would be used in marriage, tax, land and death records.

In a family with boys named, for example, Johann Friedrich, Johann Peter, and Johann Daniel, the children would be called by (and recorded in documents as) Friedrich, Peter, and Daniel. Usually the name Johannes in

these records marked a 'true John' who would continue to be so identified.

By the 19th century more Germans gave their children three names. Again, typically only one of the middle names was used throughout the person's life. Roman Catholics often used the names of saints, while most Protestant groups also included names from the Old Testament or even from non-Christian mythology.

A second naming tradition involves nicknames, often called 'kurzformen'. In English, most nicknames are created by dropping the end of the given name (Christopher becomes Chris), however Germans often shorten a name by dropping the first part. Examples include:

- Nicklaus → Klaus
- Sebastian → Bastian
- Christophel → Stophel
- Christina → Stin or Stina
- Katharina → Trin

Note that these familiar forms are used in church or other records, even though by today's standards we might expect formal names to be used.

In German-speaking areas, children were almost always named for one or more of their baptismal sponsors.

The most common pattern would be for sons to be named in this order:

- first born, father's father
- second born, mother's father
- third born, father of the child
- fourth born and on, uncles of the child.

The same pattern applies to daughters but using the mothers' names (father's mother, mother's mother, and so on). Families would reuse given names for children who died young. There are even documented instances of families using the same name for two children who both survived.

(Partially reproduced from the Feedblitz Genealogy Insider website, 9 July 2015.)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Maria Barbara Bach

Genealogy Brick Wall Busters

10 Places to Find Your Ancestor's Family, Friends and Neighbours

In the past, people tended to move with and marry into particular groups of people. Tracing those 'clusters' (even if the people aren't in your direct lines or even related) is a key strategy to break through genealogy brick walls. It can help you discover maiden names, places of origin and other documents that mention your ancestor.
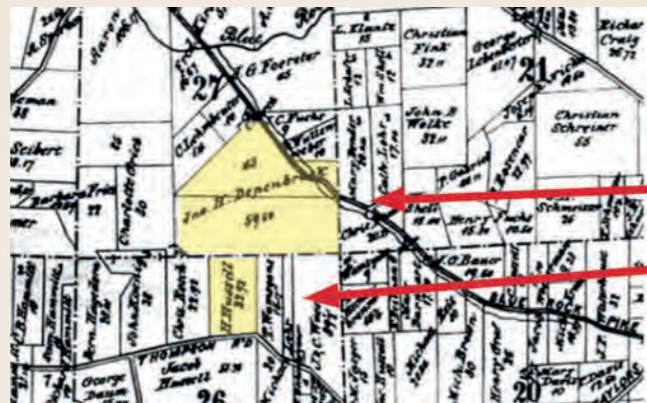
So where can you find names of people in your ancestor's cluster? Here are ten places to start looking:

1. Study old letters, diaries, address books, funeral cards, etc.

2. Census Records: have a look at the list of household members and neighbours.

Great-great-grandfather boarded with his future brother-in-law in the 1900 census.

3. Witnesses to marriage certificates, wills and naturalisation records, and those who provided testimony in court records and pension applications.

4. Sponsors on baptism and confirmation records.

Great-great-grandmother's family was neighbours with her brother's wife's family.

5. Land records: note who the neighbours were.

6. Travelling companions on passenger lists: examine the entire list for people from the same place or people who appear in other records as neighbours, witnesses, etc.

7. Rosters and newsletters of your ancestors' clubs: included below is an example of a founding members list from a 1902 history of the Covington, Kentucky German Pioneer Society.

Fourth (4th) great-grandfather's – their children married.

8. Newspapers: look for names of family and friends in obituaries, wedding announcements and other articles.

9. School yearbooks.

10. City and Post Office directories: use the listings by street in the back of some books to learn neighbours' names.

(Partially reproduced from the Feedblitz Genealogy Insider website)

New Resource

A useful new book entitled **Guide to Baptist Historical Resources in Australia** provides a wealth of information for researchers.

The author, Reverend Dr David Parker, is a consultant theologian and the Honorary Archivist for the Baptist Union in Queensland. He has compiled an overview of the Baptist denominations in Australia and describes its background, structure, activities and special characteristics.

The book provides a detailed state-based list of the various locations where historical records can be found, the conditions of access that apply, and is illustrated with photographs and copies of related ephemera items.

Family History Magazines

Joondalup Local History Library has four genealogy magazines that contain a wealth of information to entertain and inform anyone who has an interest in family history.

Western Ancestor: Journal of the Western Australian Genealogical Society contains feature articles, useful information, regular articles and society news, including information about the Special Interest Groups and upcoming events.

History West is published by the Royal Western Australia (WA) Historical Society. As the title suggests, the magazine focuses on WA history.

Ancestor is the quarterly journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. It contains information about researching ancestors who lived in Victoria and has feature articles, tips and hints to help you with your research both in Australia and overseas, regular articles, and society news.

Inside History is an award-winning Australian genealogy journal. It contains articles about prominent Australians (both past and present), the latest news from the history and genealogy world, an 'Ask the Expert' section, and information about not so well-known events that occurred in Australian history. The journal has a comprehensive section called 'What's New Online?'. It lists family history records from both Australia and overseas that have very recently become available online. The magazine also road tests history apps. *Inside History* has the added advantage of being able to be borrowed electronically. You can download the magazine from Zinio.

1939 UK Register

Findmypast.com.au has added the 1939 UK Register to their database.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939, a massive administrative task was underway - the taking of the 1939 Register. It's one of the most important British documents of the twentieth century.

In December 1938 it was announced in the House of Commons that in the event of war, a National Register would be taken that listed the personal details of every civilian in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This Register was to be a critical tool in coordinating the war effort at home. It would be used to issue identity cards, organise rationing and more.

The 1931 UK census was destroyed during an air raid on London and the 1941 census was never taken. The 1939 Register is therefore the only surviving overview of the civil population of England and Wales spanning the period 1921-1951. It bridges a census gap that risked losing an entire generation and is a fascinating resource for anyone interested in understanding twentieth century Britain and its people.

National Family History Month

National Family History Month takes place in August. The City of Joondalup and other local governments as well as the State Library of Western Australia have a number of resources (both electronic and in book form) that are able to be borrowed and/or accessed by family history researchers.

During National Family History Month there are many genealogy events taking place in the Perth Metropolitan area. Check local event websites or ask a team member in the Local History Library on your next visit.