

# GENIE ALLERGY



**Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.**



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*COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT*  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

**Annual Membership Fees:** Single ..... \$45.00  
Joint (2 persons at same address)..... \$60.00

**RESEARCH:**

**Library Hours:** Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm  
Saturday: 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm (except 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month)

**Library Fees:** Members - free on production of current membership card  
Visitors - \$7 for 2 hours  
*Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance*

**Library Rules:** \* Current membership cards are to be worn in the rooms.  
\* Attendance Book to be signed on arrival and departure.  
\* Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.  
\* Pencils only to be used in Library.  
\* Photocopies available through duty Monitor and will be charged according to price schedule.  
\* One microfiche only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

**Correspondence Inquiries:** Research will be undertaken for an initial fee of \$30.00.  
For more information, email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com)

**Workshops:** are held on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.

**RECIPROCAL RIGHTS** – Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in "Genie-Allergy". All care is taken to be accurate, however the Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space constraints.

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....**



Because it has only been a couple of months since I was elected to the role of president of C.H.D.F.H.S. you may think not a lot has been happening, but let me assure you that, behind the scenes, it is “business as usual.”

We have been implementing measures that will make tasks simpler for members, cleaning and sorting old records etc, and other members have stepped up to the task of monitoring. We have recruited members for tasks that were normally done by committee, and I thank them one and all for their efforts.

Since we have not met socially for more than twelve months, the April workshop was well attended. It was intended to be more a get together and this proved a great success.

Our next big function will be in May. Joy and Allan Murrin will be the guest speakers. See any of the committee or monitors for more information.

In the meantime, successful researching!

Stan Gordon (President)

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**



A warm welcome to our new members. We hope you will make yourself at home and find us to be a friendly and helpful group. Don't be afraid to ask the Monitors on duty for help – they will do their best to steer you in the right direction with your research.

<b>Ray Barnes</b>
<b>Carolyn Johnston</b>
<b>Alice Baker</b>
<b>Maurice Ward</b>
<b>Margaret McAnnelly</b>
<b>Jean Hicks</b>
<b>Peter Radcliffe</b>
<b>Margaret Markham</b>

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

**Memberships are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> JULY each year**

Renewal forms were sent out with the June Newsletter and from now on you will be issued with a **membership badge** replacing the current membership cards. Badges will display your name and membership number and if required prior to the renewal of your membership, they will be available for \$6.50 with a pin or \$7.50 with a magnet. If you are interested, please let Bev Salter or Stan Gordon know. When renewing your Membership:

1. A completed membership form **MUST** be completed for all payments made. Be sure to complete Section 2 with your Membership type, how you would like to receive your quarterly journal, sign the form and show the method of payment. Note: The completed form is used to ensure our records are kept up to date and therefore it is vital we receive a form to cover all membership payments.
2. Membership will now be \$45 a single and \$60 a double.
3. Payment methods:
  - (a) Cash is payable only in person at our Research Room.
  - (b) Cheque is payable in person at our Research Room or by mail to  
PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour 2450.
  - (c) EFT/Direct Deposit: BSB, Account No., etc. as details on our membership form and **you must quote your member number and/or name at the time of payment.**
    - (i) Online through your financial institution; OR
    - (ii) In Person at a BCU branch (Bananacoast Credit Union).

Following payment by EFT/Direct Deposit, **IT IS ESSENTIAL** that a copy of the completed membership form be **emailed, mailed or delivered to our Research Room. Renewed membership badges will be placed in the Badge Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection if you haven't included a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.**

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### DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



**from Diane Smith - DNA Special Interest Group Convenor**

The DNA Special Interest Group will be meeting again this year, commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.. It is open to all financial members of the Society. If you have recently had your DNA tested or received one as a Christmas present coming along to our meetings is a great place to start finding out about your results. The group provides a friendly and informal forum to help you understand and interpret your results in a more comprehensive way. The group meets from 10am-12noon at the Curran Centre in Gordon St Coffs Harbour. There is a small charge to cover room hire and please remember to bring your own laptop. Wi-Fi access available. As the kitchen at the Centre is closed you will need also bring your own morning tea.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Diane Smith at [dilin.smith@gmail.com](mailto:dilin.smith@gmail.com)

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MEMBERS' INTEREST GROUP?



If you are interested in the formation of a Group relating to another area of research (other than DNA), the Committee will be pleased to hear from you - email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com). Possible Groups could be of a country (e.g. Irish), a particular family history software program (e.g. Legacy or Brother's Keeper), Convicts, FamilySearch, etc. When the Society forms an Interest Group, a convenor or joint convenors will be appointed to the Group and each Group formed by popular demand would be for members only, meeting on a regular basis, time and place (possibly once a month), with the aim to help participants in that specific area of interest.

- If you are interested in an **Irish Research Group**, please contact Maggie on [mheff.1940@gmail.com](mailto:mheff.1940@gmail.com) or Rosie on [rdoherty1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdoherty1@bigpond.com)
- If you are interested in a **My Brother's Keeper** please contact Jim on [walledcity@live.com.au](mailto:walledcity@live.com.au)
- If you are interested in getting involved in the **Cemetery Transcription Project**, please contact Sharon on [shaz@ingersole.com](mailto:shaz@ingersole.com)

**Please contact Stan if there is any other area that may be of interest to you.**

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## SCANNING SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

The Society is offering this service to members who would like their old photos, slides or negatives digitised. **Stan Gordon** has offered to assist members by doing the scanning. He would prefer that members go to his home at Toormina and take their photos, negatives and slides as well as a USB drive so the scanned images can be saved to the USB. The cost of this service is 50 cents per image which will be added to our Society's funds. If you would like to take up Stan's offer, please phone him on **02 6658 7955** or email him at [stngordon@gmail.com](mailto:stngordon@gmail.com) to arrange a suitable time. If you have large documents, such as foolscap BDM certificates or newspaper pages up to A3 size, etc., you are able to scan them using the A3 Book Edge Scanner we have in our room. This Scanner is now installed on the WIN7 computer and the scanner unit is on a trolley under the bench ready to wheel out and use. The scanned images will be saved to the computer and then can be copied to your USB drive or you will be able to print them. As our Society's printer is an A4 one, the scanned images are reduced in size to fit but if you would like to have them printed as A3, you will be able to do this at a print shop. Please ask the monitors on duty for assistance.

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**Would you have some time to spare and be interested in helping Maureen enter data into the Find A Grave Website? If you do, she would love to hear from you.**

**Please contact Maureen on [mkphome@bigpond.com](mailto:mkphome@bigpond.com)**



# “The Bad”

## The Good, the “Bad” and the Ugly – David Halket

This is the second in a trilogy of biographies about a father and two of his sons. The “Good” was one of my great great uncles, Laurence John Halket, the “Bad” was David Halket, my paternal great great grandfather and the “Ugly” was Richard Webb Halket, my great grandfather.

### AN ACCOUNT OF A CANNY SCOT WHO WAS THE EPITOME OF A PENNY PINCHING MISER

David Halket was born on Monday, 26th November 1792 in Perth, Scotland and baptised there three days later. At the time his father, David, was 41 years of age and was a Cooper and Spirit Merchant in Perth and his mother Barbara Robertson was 34 years of age. They had a total of 10 other children, another three sons and six daughters. Two of their children died, one was stillborn and the other child died some three weeks after birth. David’s sister Isabella was born on November 20, 1794 when David was 1 year old and his father passed away, due to a fever, on August 29, 1796 at the age of 44. Both of David’s parents were buried at Greyfriars Cemetery, Perth, Scotland. David’s older brother Lawrence died in the London Hospital on March 5, 1806, when David was 13 years old and his mother passed away in Perth, Scotland, on 19th February, 1812 at the age of 53.

David Halket was my paternal great great-grandfather and as you will read in this narrative his business activities were varied, numerous and of dubious ethics. During his life his involvement in various pursuits had been described as the following:- Patent Nail and Spike Manufacturer, Brick and Tile Manufacturer, Ship Owner / Ship Agent / Ship Broker / Ship Auctioneer, Steam Packet Boat Director, Member of the London Institution, Insurance Agent, Merchant, Contractor for Convict Ships, Director of Steam Boat Towing Company, Benefactor, Director of a Copper Mine (Worthing Mine – South Australia), Manager of a Copper Mine (Victoria Mine – Cornwall), Manager of a Copper Mine (St Austell Mine – Cornwall), Director of a Patent Cooperage Company, Assignee acting on behalf of creditors, Multiple and vexatious litigant, Multiple and vexatious litigant.

I have found very little solid information on him between his birth in Perth, Scotland and 1822 when he is listed in the Land Tax Records in London but I’m sure more records exist and will become available once they are digitized. It is believed that he had been living in Gateshead, Sunderland sometime before this date and could have been operating as a Patent Nail and Spike Manufacturer. There are a number of references taken from TNA and various record offices which I’ve entered but have yet to obtain the documents. In the Edinburgh Advertiser on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1822 there is an article where it seems he has, by way of a lease, an interest in a brewery which he wishes to sell.

There are three Trade Directory entries relating to a David Halket, in Liverpool, in the 1820s who was a timber merchant and surveyor of ships for Lloyds. In the 1824 Baines Liverpool Names Directory there is a listing for a David Halket ; *Halket David, ship owner & surveyor of shipping; h. 35, Grafton st.* There are further entries in 1825 and 1827; *Halket David, timber merchant, 35, Grafton street* and in the Morning Chronicle on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1828 there is an article which names David Halket as a Lloyds surveyor in Liverpool. Unfortunately, the Liverpool Mercury reports in September 1829 the death of David Halket. *“On Tuesday last, at his house, in Grafton-street, much respected in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year, Mr. David Halket, many years Surveyor of Shipping for Lloyd’s”.* Even though it’s certain that this isn’t our David Halket it seems quite a coincidence that there were two David Halkets in the north of England at the same time and both being ship-owners.

There are numerous references in the Lloyds Shipping List relating to Halkett & Co. and David Halket being ship owners and he is noted in various documents as an extensive ship owner and ships agent. The ships I found so far that he had owned, part owned or managed during his life were:- *“Mary Halket”* – a brig, 183 tons – owner; *“Richard Webb”* – a barque, 480 tons – owner; *“Walter Morrice”* – a barque, 666 tons – owner; *“John Brewer”* – a barque, 457 tons – owner; *“Emily”* – a barque, 580 tons – owner; *“Alexander Robertson”* – a barque, 229 tons – owner; *“Fortescue”* – a barque, 500 tons – joint owner; *“Maria”* – a barque, 280 tons – owner; *“Catherine”* – a schooner, 133 tons – owner; *“Hamilton”* – a barque, 310 tons – owner; *“Renown”* – a ship, 316 tons – owner; *“Countess of Dunmore”*, 231 tons – an agent; *“Margaret Ogilvie”* – a brig, 158 tons – an agent; *“Stratheden”* – a barque, 429 tons – an agent. Apart from owning and managing the above ships he was contracted to sell many other vessels.

In the mid 1820s there are a number of records regarding London Land Tax payments made by David Halket on a property in London Street, London. There is a London Street close to Fenchurch Street which is not far from where he later lives in St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate. The Public Ledger newspaper published a notice in 1827 showing him “Selling by the Candle” the brig “Pomona” at the Lloyds Coffee House at Cornhill. *A candle auction is a variation in which the end of the auction is signaled by the expiration of a candle flame. An inch of candle being lighted, he who made the bid as the candle gave its expiring wink was declared the buyer; sometimes a pin is stuck in a candle, and the last bidder before the pin falls out is the buyer. This was intended to ensure that no one could know exactly when the auction would end and make a last-second bid.*

An entry in the Parliamentary Papers that year noted that Messrs. Alexander Robertson and David Halket were to receive a payment of £253 3s for a lost bill dated 1825.

In April 1828 his unmarried sister Mary, died in Queens Square, Bloomsbury, London at the age of 39 years. This may have been the home of Alexander Robertson.

In 1829 David is found in the London Postal Directory with Alexander Robertson and they are operating as Insurance Brokers and General Agents at 2 Old London Street. At this time he is running his business from both 2 Old London Street and 19 St. Helens-place, Bishopsgate – obviously his business was improving so much he was able to move into St Helens Place. During the early part of the 1830s there were a number of newspaper notices as regards to him acting as an agent in the sale of ships. Between 1831 and 1854 he was noted in the Lloyds Register of Shipping as having owned, part owned or been an agent for about 20 ships. These included Barques, Brigs, Schooners and Frigates.

According to the Lloyds Register of Shipping List at or about this time David Halket owned at least two ships – the barques “*Renown*” and the “*Catherine*” and he was also acting as a ship’s husband on behalf of Scott & Co., owner of the ship “*Countess of Dunmore*”. “A ship’s husband was an agent who was responsible for providing maintenance and supplies for a ship in port”.

David didn’t marry until he was 38 years old and by that time, he would have been a reasonably wealthy man. He was married at St. Andrews Church in Landford, Wiltshire, to Mary Webb on Tuesday, 8th November 1831 and the ceremony was witnessed by Mary’s parents, Richard and Selina Webb. Mary’s father, Richard, was a Land Surveyor and leaseholder of an extensive area of land in the parish of Whiteparish, Wiltshire, the land which in turn was owned by Alexander Baring, 1st Lord Ashburton. Also, Richard Webb’s 3x great grandfather, John Webb was the 5x great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II. David’s first son, Richard Webb Halket, was born on June 12, 1833, at Melchet Park in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Interestingly and unusually, he named his son after his father-in-law – or was he just partial to that name?

The following year he became one of the Directors who joined together to create the London, Herne Bay, Canterbury and Dover Steam Packet Company. This was a company being setup to seek £25,000 by the sale of shares to build two steam packets to operate between London and Herne Bay. At some time in the early to mid 1830s he purchased a property in St Georges Parade, Herne Bay in Kent and in 1835 he became one of the town’s Improvement Commissioners. These, seemingly, were a group of *ad hoc* urban local government boards who were able to act as town councillors who could levy rates etc. They had powers which often included dealing with street paving, cleansing, lighting, providing watchmen or dealing with various public nuisances. “*In the 1830s, a group of London investors, who recognised Herne Bay’s potential as a seaside resort, built a wooden pier and a promenade on the town’s seafront. This and the subsequent building of a railway station led to the rapid expansion of the town; between 1831 and 1841 the town’s population grew from 1,876 to 3,041. The London businessmen intended to rename the town St Augustine’s, but the name was unpopular with residents and the “Herne Bay” remained. In 1833, an Act of Parliament established Herne Bay and Herne as separate towns*”. (From Wikipedia encyclopedia) “*Pigot’s directory of Kent for 1826 includes combined entries for Herne Bay and Herne Street and while the exact date of compilation of the content is uncertain, it is reasonable to assume that it was based upon things that were extant in late 1825 or early 1826. As with many directories, each location is introduced by a few descriptive words. In the case of Herne Bay, these provide a good contemporary view of the coastal stretch of the parish. “Herne Bay is situated on a point on the coast nearly equal in distance between Whitstable and Reculver, six miles from Canterbury, and sixteen from Margate. It has latterly obtained some notice as a place of resort for bathing; the water is clear, and the sea view extremely pleasing; the buildings are good and increasing in number, while the air of tranquillity that pervades this spot, make it preferred by many, to more gay and more tumultuous watering places*”. (Extract from the Kent section of Pigot’s Directory for 1826). Shortly after purchasing the property in Herne Bay he contributed £10 to the building of a new church there.

As early as 1833 David Halket owned a fairly new brig built in Yarmouth, Norfolk and named her the “*Mary Halket*” after his wife. This ship was ostensibly wrecked twice! he first was on the 19th May **1837** when she was reported to have capsized off Taganrog. (southwestern Russia – it lies on the northern coast of Taganrog Gulf of the Sea of Azov.) In The Times on the 7th June 1837 it was reported that “*the Mary Halket had been capsized, and sank about 30 miles from Taganrog (Russia), Crew saved*”.

Also, the same incident was reported in the Caledonian Mercury on the 9th June and in the Lloyds List Marine News. Bizarrely the “*Mary Halket*” continued to be found in various shipping intelligence newspaper entries and listed in the Lloyd’s Register of Shipping from 1837 until 1852 when it was reported that she was scrapped due to running aground at Punta Arenas. (*Chile*).A conundrum that needs further research.

It was just 3 months after he married Mary that his father-in-law, Richard Webb, made David Halket one of the executors to his Will. The second Executor named was a Walter Morrice who was also the owner of a number of ships and a close collaborator of David Halket.

In 1833 he was the ship's agent acting on behalf of Scott & Co., owners of the barque "*Countess of Dunmore*" with the Master at that time being John Miller. This is an early example that I have discovered of David Halket's entry into the area of litigation and as will be seen later on he became a notoriously litigious individual who would seemingly sue anyone for anything. The case was argued in the Court of Common Pleas in London in regards to a Bill of Exchange for £137 paid for repairs to the "*Countess of Dunmore*" in Rio de Janeiro.

On the 15th February 1836 his first daughter, Selina Webb, was born at St. Helen's Place Bishopsgate but tragically died 3 weeks later and in the following year, on the 11th September 1837, his second daughter, named again Selina Webb, was born at St. Helen's Place Bishopsgate.

In 1838, David Halket had joined and became one of the proprietors of The London Institution which was an educational institution founded in London in 1806. It is interesting to note that included in the list of proprietors were the Right Hon. Alexander Baring, Lord Ashburton and a Mrs. W. Morrice.

*"The popular interest being taken in all forms of scientific advance, together with the quickening pace of the industrial revolution, ensured there was a strong demand for the Institution's resources and there was no shortage of subscribers. Several hundred people paid 75 guineas for the honour of becoming a "proprietor" – the total number being limited to 1000. The cost of ordinary life membership was set at 25 guineas. A number of strict rules were laid down: members had to apply to the Librarian or an attendant to obtain a book; no books were to be removed from the premises; and ladies could only be admitted as "subscribers to the lectures".*

The Wiltshire Independent published a birth notice announcing that on the 15th June 1839, Mary Frances, was born at Melchet Park, Wiltshire. This was his third daughter.

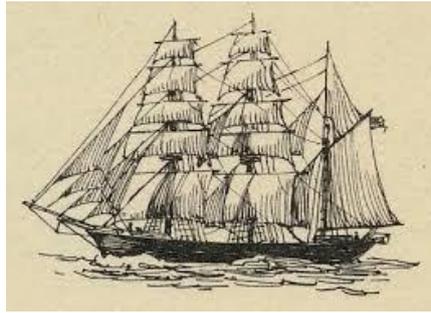
In 1839 the Berwick St. James Estate in Wiltshire was leased to Walter Morrice and David Halket by Lord Ashburton and a transcript of the Indenture can be found here Berwick St James is a village and civil parish on the River Till in Wiltshire, England, about 7 miles (11 km) northwest of Salisbury, on the southern edge of Salisbury Plain.

In January 1840 it was reported in the Hampshire Advertiser that the barque "*Richard Webb*" was launched at Redbridge near Southampton and christened by one of Richard Webb's daughters ) most probably it was his wife's younger sister, Eliza Brewer nee Webb. The building yard was owned by a Mr. Morrice. It is questionable but probable that the ship was named after his late father-in-law. On her first voyage in 3rd May 1840 the "*Richard Webb*" left Portsmouth for Sydney, Australia carrying 65 Welsh miners and merchandise and put into Port Adelaide, South Australia for supplies and provisions before arriving at Port Jackson (*Sydney Harbour*) on the 24th September 1840. After discharging her cargo in Sydney she spends some 5 months in port while the goods were sold and the ship refitted. At the end of November she advertises for passengers and goods for the return journey to London and eventually sails on the 6th April 1841 with 1382 bales of wool and 8 passengers.

Unfortunately, David Halket has yet to be found with Mary and their children in the census held on the 6th June 1841, although there is a census entry for his address at 19 St Helen's-place, Bishopsgate with two female servants listed as living there. It is fairly certain that they were living at that address in 1841 as it was reported in The Times, in July of that year, that Mary had given birth to a stillborn son – "*On the 12th inst., at St. Helen's-place, Mrs. Halket, of a son, stillborn*".

The Caledonian Steam Towing Company came into existence about 1841 for '*the purpose of navigating and employing vessels impelled by steam in the towing of ships and vessels*'. and by 1848 the company owned 9 tugs. The office address in 1842 is given as 11, Milk Yard, Shadwell and among the Managers/Directors of the company in 1849 were David Halket and John Drysdale. The company seems to have expanded rapidly as in the 1850's they are noted as owning 17 tugs. 1852 directories show the office address as 3, Shadwell Dock Street. The 1861 Post Office Directory gives their address as 6 Wapping Wall, Shadwell, with Thomas Forsyth Watson as manager. This was in fact the residence of Watson and his family. Watson had been born in Rotherhithe about 1823 and in 1851 was living in Paradise Street, Rotherhithe and was a sea captain and in 1861 whilst living in Wapping Wall he was shown as a shipowner. By March 24th 1865 the companies address was given as Prestons Road, Poplar, on the Isle of Dogs. In 1871 Watson was shown as living in Richmond Street, Plaistow, E. London and his occupation is given as "manager, Caledonian Steam Boat Company". On 15th November 1865, ground to the North of the East side of Orchard Place, Leamouth Road was being used as a repairing yard by the Caledonian Steam Towing Company.

The yard had a river frontage of 130ft, and included a small shipbuilding slip, as well as a brick-and tile machine shop, a timber built office, store and shed, and an old ship's deckhouse used as an office. The company went into voluntary liquidation on August 26th 1873.



In 1841 David Halket contracted with the British government through a Public Tender to supply ships to transport convicts to Australia. The ships were the barques "*Richard Webb*" 403 tons, "*Emily*" 448 tons and "*John Brewer*" 457 tons and these ships were the type of which carried general cargo and passengers as there was no purpose built ships to transport convicts. All three ships took the convicts to Hobart Town in Tasmania with the "*Richard Webb*" leaving Deptford, London, on the 15th October, 1841 where men of the 99th Regiment embarked together with 4 women and 6 children. She then sailed to Kingstown, near Dublin, and 193 male convicts, 5 children and 5 free settlers embarked and they departed on the 15th November. They arrived in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, Tasmania 109 days later on the 4th March 1842. 4 male prisoners had died on the journey. The *Courier*, a Tasmanian newspaper, also carried the report that the "*Richard Webb*" was "*bringing intelligence that Her Majesty having given birth to a Son, on the 9th November. The young heir apparent to the Crown of England is to be called Prince William*". On the 15th March the "*Richard Webb*" left Tasmania for Port Jackson (Sydney Cove) and arrived there on 22nd March 1842 and disembarked Government stores, 47 officers and men from 3 regiments, 12 women, 17 children, 5 free male settlers, 2 males and 1 female and child passengers for Government order and 32 crew.

The "*Richard Webb*" then sailed from Sydney on the 16th April to Guam and was wrecked on an uncharted rock, near the southern Tiger Shoals, in the Flores Sea south of Celebes (*Indonesia*), probably on the 13 or 14 May 1842. Her crew reached Batavia (*Jakarta*) in the longboat after thirteen days. The "*John Brewer*" departed London on the 5th December 1841 with 198 convicts on board and arrived 122 days later on 6th April 1842. Of the 198 convicts on board most were to serve an average of 10 years penal servitude and 14 of them were sentenced to life.

The barque "*John Brewer*" was most probably named after John Hibberd Brewer who had married Eliza Webb, David Halket's sister-in-law, a year earlier. Similar to the "*Richard Webb*" in tonnage and size she was also built in 1841 at Redbridge and most likely at Walter Morrice's shipyard. John Hibberd Brewer lived at "Garlogs", Nether Wallop, Hampshire and held the office of Master of the Court of the Queen's Bench between 1861 and 1879 and the office of Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Queen's Bench between 1879 and 1889

The "*Emily*" departed from Dublin on the 14th July 1844 with 205 convicts and 1 child arriving 107 days later on the 30th October 1844. The transportation of convicts from Britain to Australia was coming to its final stages at the end of the 1840's as there were enough people at that time to sustain the colony. When the last group of convicts landed in Western Australia in 1868, the total number of transported convicts stood at around 162,000 men and women and were transported to Australia on 806 ships.

#### *The Barque "Walter Morrice"*



THE BARQUE WALTER MORRICE CALLING FOR A PILOT OFF POINT LYNAS

Amongst other ships owned by David Halket was the immigrant barque “*Walter Morrice*” which was built at Sunderland in 1847, measured 126 feet in length with a 31 foot beam and was registered at 666 tons gross (552 net).

Originally owned by Halkett & Co. of London and intended for the Australian trade, she began her career running out to Sydney under Captain D. Morrice. The barque “*Walter Morrice*” departed from Portsmouth, England on the 25th day of October 1848 and arrived at Port Jackson in the Colony of New South Wales on the 12th day of February 1849. The Captain was most probably, David Morrice, the son of Walter Morrice after whom the ship was named. Walter Morrice died in May 1843.

Following the discovery of gold in California in 1849, the “*Walter Morrice*” was transferred into the American Pacific Coast trade to take advantage of the ‘gold rush’ and thereafter sailed regularly to San Francisco for several years before reverting to her former Australian run in 1853. In 1856 she was purchased by her master Captain Morrice who put her into the Indian trade where she remained until disappearing from records in the early 1870s.

On the 21st August 1842 David’s third son, David Alexander, was born at St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate, London.

Bill of Complaint against Louisa Webb (David Halket’s sister-in-law) In November 1843 David Halket lodged a Bill of Complaint with the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain against Louisa Webb regarding the Will of Richard Webb, her father.

On 18th February 1844 David’s fourth daughter, Barbara Isabella, was born at St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate.



THE BARQUE “*RENOWN*” GOING DOWN THE CLYDE

Arrivals — April 30, “*Renown*”, barque, from London 3rd Jan, with merchandise The barque, which left Launceston for London on 23rd July contained the following cargo—2549 bags wheat, containing 1030 quarters, 574 bales wool, 20 casks 2 tons and 50 bags flour, 10 bundles whalebone, 1 box curiosities, 36 pieces plank, 6 tons bark, 3 hogsheads tallow, 1 box apparel, 4 cases slops, 1 cask head matter, 3 boxes writings.

David Halket’s father-in-law, Richard Webb, had a son also called Richard Webb, who died in 1844 at the age of 28 years, and he too made David Halket a joint executor in his Will – less than 4 weeks before his death. David Halket invested/squandered/misused a considerable amount of the money he was entrusted with into mining and railway shares.

In 1845 The Morning Post showed that David Halket had donated 2 guineas (£2 2s) to the erection of a marble statue of Prince Albert outside the Royal Exchange, London. Names on the organising committee included Baring and Rothschild.

On the 8th July 1847 David’s fifth daughter, Caroline Louisa, was born at St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate. On the 16th August 1847 David’s maiden sister, Barbara, died of apoplexy in Perth, Scotland. On the 12th September 1849 David’s fourth son, Laurence John, was born at St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate. In the following June David Halket was in the Court of the Queen’s Bench as the plaintiff in Halket v The Merchant Traders’ and Ship Loan Association. The year previously the court had accepted David Halket as one of the assignees in the bankruptcy of the Association.

In November 1851 David Halket was appointed director of the Worthing Mining Company at Hallett Cove, South Australia.

*“The Worthing mine was discovered in 1847 on the Worthing farm belonging to John Hallett. Hallett, born in 1804, went to South Australia with his wife and three children, including his one year old son Henry, on the Africaine, of which he was a part-owner, on 6 November 1836. Some of the copper ore was assayed in England leading to the formation of a London mining association made up of ten members, each promising to invest \$2,000 for further prospecting on the property. His younger brother, Alfred, arrived in 1838 as agent for the Worthing Copper Mining Company. The association hired Cornish Captain John Phillips and five miners, one of which was Zacharias Carthew from Redruth. Both Phillips and Carthew and his family travelled on the Rajah which arrived at Port Adelaide in September 1847. They had soon established a large and well defined lode. This in turn resulted in the formation in England of the Worthing Mining Company, in 1849, with a capital of \$200,000. This amount was to be raised from the issue of 10,000 shares of \$20 each, with a deposit of \$4 per share. A sum of \$8,000 was used to pay John and Hallett for that part of their land on which the deposit was found. Alfred Hallett was also appointed manager. More miners were hired during 1849, including Captain John Richards, previously from the Princes Royal mine, and work started with the sinking of three widely spaced shafts, the building of six miner’s cottages, an adit, a whim and an engine and waterwheel ordered from Cornwall. During the next year additional cottages were added together with offices, stores, powder magazine and a house for the captain. By the end of 1851 the shafts and adit were completed and timbered to a depth of seventy metres. An engine house and twenty metre high chimney were also completed. Finally an engine and Cornish boiler were installed and pumping had started to keep down the water in the shafts. All was in readiness to start the mining of the copper lode.*

*Unfortunately the miners, including Zacharias Carthew and his sons, had left for the gold fields of Victoria and those still around were planning to leave. Even though many returned after only a few months and most after a year or so, no work was carried out at the Worthing mine until 1856. Alfred Hallett managed the Preamimma mine, near Callington, during this time. Even then the company realised that it had over extended its resources and that there was no copper to pay for all the buildings and equipment. It really had a state of the art show at grass (above ground), but after ten years of investing and building it had still not produced any copper. By the end of 1856 all work and efforts at the Worthing mine were stopped and transferred to the recently purchased Bremer mine near Callington. Hallett left for the Flinders Ranges and became part owner of the Mount Rose mine, but returned later to manage the Bremer mine. During 1859 the engine at the Worthing mine was removed and installed at the Bremer mine but the waterwheel was never installed anywhere and remained on site until the 1870s”. THE DAILY NEWS – 22ND NOVEMBER 1851*

On the 23rd November 1871 the Worthing Mine went into Liquidation.

Amazingly, for over 30 years we lived in Hallett Cove and the remains of the mine were 10 minutes away from us and we had no idea of the family connection.

1850 August 9th, left Acapulco. In port, a schooner, hence, full of passengers; British barque *Fortescue* had been in port 57 days; had \$30,000 in dust on board; detained on account of a law-suit.

The 1851 census held on the 30th March shows the family continuing to live in St Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate, London. At that time, they had 6 servants and David Halket’s occupation was shown as an insurance agent. No mention of his other occupations such as ship owner. In September David Halket is in the Court of Bankruptcy as assignee for the creditors in the case against J C Byrne.

On the 16th November 1851 David’s fifth son, Francis James, was born at St. Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate

In March 1851 two leases are contracted between Edmund Parker, Earl of Morley and two other groups of businessmen both of which include David Halket. The first is between the “adventurers” John Henry Murchison of 20, Saint Helen’s Place, Bishopsgate Street, London, mine agent, David Halket of 19 Saint Helen’s Place, London, esquire, Josiah Hugo Hitchins of Tavistock, mine agent, and William Godden of Boringdon Park Mine, Plympton St Mary, mine agent. Sett (*licence*) to search for metallic minerals in Cann Wood, Cann Down, Castle Down Plantations, Towers Wood, Boringdon Park Plantation and closes in Boringdon Farm, Plympton St Mary and with a lease of the Fishery in the River Plym including the Salmon Hutch, Spire Pool, Engine Pond and the canal lying east of the Cann Quarry Railway. The term was for 21 years and the dues were 1/15th of metallic minerals or proceeds from their sale and Is per ton of metallic minerals transported by rail from the mine. Rent for fishery: £30 pa. The second lease is for the Plym Fishery and Oysterage it is again between Edmund Parker, Earl of Morley, the above “adventurers” and Robert Salmon, Thomas Martin and Christopher Spear all of Laira near Plymouth, fishermen, and Thomas Rennoll of Plymouth, victualler for the Rights and interests in the Fishery in the River Plym together with the Salmon Hutch, Spire Pool, Engine Pond and the canal lying east of the Cann Quarry Railway for a term of 1 year at a rent of £10.

**DAVID HALKET OF 20 ST HELEN'S PLACE, BISHOPSGATE STREET, LONDON, GENT.,** Thomas Nichols, Iron founder, Josiah Hugo Hitchins, mine agent, and John Metherall, mine agent, all of Tavistock. Plym Fishery and Oysterage (scope and content) – file ref. 69/M/6/467 – date: 24th March 1851; John Henry Murchinson of 20, Saint Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street, London, mine agent, **DAVID HALKET OF 19 ST HELEN'S PLACE, BISHOPSGATE STREET, LONDON, ESQUIRE.,** Josiah Hugo Hitchins, of Tavistock, mine agent, and William Godden of Boringdon park Mine, Plypton St. Mary, mine agent. (scope and content) – file ref. 69/M/6/468 – date: 1851 John Henry Murchinson of 20, Saint Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street, London, mine agent, **DAVID HALKET OF NO 19 ST HELEN'S PLACE, AFORESAID, ESQUIRE.,** Josiah Hugo Hitchins, of Tavistock, mine agent, and William Godden of Boringdon park Mine, Plypton St. Mary, mine agent. (scope and content) – file ref. 69/M/6/470 – date: 3rd February 1857 John Henry Murchinson of no 20, Saint Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street, London, mine agent, **DAVID HALKET LATE OF GREAT SAINT HELENS, ESQUIRE.,** Josiah Hugo Hitchins, of Tavistock, esquire, and William Godden of Boringdon park Mine, Plypton St. Mary, mining captain. In April David Halket was appointed to the Committee of Management of the Victoria Copper Mine near St. Neot in Cornwall where the company is advertising the sale of shares.

*“In March 1851, a fresh lease was granted, and by the following year, a 30 feet diameter water wheel was operating 150 fathoms of flat-rods, to a shaft (possibly the “Third Shaft”?) sunk to 30 fathoms (180 feet) from the surface. The old First Adit was cleared for 70 fathoms (420 feet), and a new adit (the “Second Adit”) was driven to 100 fathoms (600 feet). A further underground cross-cut was extended towards the Lark Holes copper lode. In September 1853, the Wheal Victoria mine Engine Shaft (the main was stated to be down to 57 fathoms (342 feet), this being 40 fathoms (240 feet) below the level of the horizontal adit. This was stated as being “a depth quite sufficient for proving the productive, or unproductive character of the different lodes”. The main copper lodes run east-west, and a considerable amount of additional underground cross-cutting (on a cross-coursing vein running north-south to the main lodes), was subsequently carried out to over 7 fathoms (42 feet) in each direction, but with little success.*

*In this same Journal it is reported by Mr. Oliver O. Trewren on the 2nd September 1853, that “I consider the mine a fair speculation, and in regular course of development. The sett itself is a continuation of the Caradon granite, which, together with the cross-course and the lodes is of a character precisely similar to that of the mines of the district, and a few months of spirited perseverance will prove the value of the property.” Unfortunately, this renewed optimism was found to be a little too over-optimistic, and the Mine Adventurers' either started to lose their money, or were not convinced and withdrew any further financing. By 1855, the Wheal Victoria copper mine had shut down for the second and final time.”* 25TH APRIL 1851 – GLASGOW HERALD

In April 1852 The Patent Cooperage Company was formed with David Halket as one of its directors. The company was selling shares to purchase a patent to manufacture casks by machinery. The following month The Times and the Circular to Bankers contains notice showing David Halket as one of the directors of the St. Austell Consols Copper and Tin Mine which is seeking to sell shares in the mine.

1854 Halket v Brown Plaintiff: David Halket Defendants: Robert Brown, Harley Goodall, Harrison Chiltern, John Hibberd Brewer and David Morrice

This case was regarding a dispute arising from an agreement entered into in February 1850 with the plaintiffs, David Halket and David Morrice, and defendant, Robert Brown, entered into a partnership adventure for the export of goods to America in March 1850 on the ship “John Brewer” commanded by the defendant Robert Brown There is another part of this case which I have yet to obtain the details from The National Archives

In October 1854 David Halket in a joint venture with Thomas Nichols, iron founder, Josiah Hugo Hitchins, mine agent, and John Metherall, mine agent, all of Tavistock contract to lease and counterpart lease from Edmund Parker, Earl of Morely the Cann Quarry at Plympton St. Mary in Devon. Licence and authority to search and mine metallic minerals in a part of Cann Wood, Pithel Plantations, Castle Down Plantations, Castle Park and Brixton Farm

Term: 21 years from 7 August 1854 Royalties: 1/15th share of metallic minerals raised OR 1/15th share of money from sales of the metallic minerals At the end of 1854 David's sixth daughter, Sarah Grandin Ellen, was born in Herne Bay, Kent

In 1855 Post Office Directory for Essex it shows David Halket's address as 6 St. Georges Terrace, Herne Bay On the 7th February 1855 a notice appears in The Morning Chronicle indicating that David Halket had filed for Bankruptcy in the Court of Bankruptcy in London. – image On the 15th June 1855 the London Gazette Last Examination. In September a notice in The London Gazette shows the meeting in the Bankruptcy Court in order to make a Dividend on the estate and effects of David Halket. On the 1st November The Globe carries a notice of Court of Bankruptcy regarding mining shares dealt by David Halket.

The following article was from The Express under Law Intelligence – Court of Bankruptcy

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall-street, November 28 1855 (Before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque)

*In: Re David Halket ; The bankrupt was described as late of St. Helens-place and now of Herne Bay, shipowner, merchant and insurance broker. The balance-sheet from January 1 the 1850 to February 1855 contains the following items:- Surplus at the commencement £25,267.; creditors £16,325.; ditto holding security £6,860.; profits, £5,075.; in good debts, £2,851; property surrendered, £ 3,540, ditto in the hands of creditors, £6,593; leases £33,500.; trade expenses and personal, £4,000. Mr. Honeyman, for creditors, opposed; Mr. Linklater for the assignees, did not oppose; Mr. Lawrence supported. His Honour, in giving judgement, said the specific objections by the opposing creditors were, first, for breach of trust in respect of the bankrupt's executorship in Webb's estate, and next, as to an alleged breach as regard the accounts of the ship Walter Morrice. Upon the first point he, (the commissioner) had not the slightest hesitation that there was originally a breach of trust in respect of Webb's estate.*

*As the executor he was not entitled to invest the estate in railway shares and he was quite sure, if the case had been brought before the Court of Chancery, he would had been held liable for any loses on such an investment ; still less was he entitled, so having invested it, to sell out those shares of every party interested in the estate. Being, therefore, of the opinion that this was clearly a breach of trust, the next point he had to consider was whether the opposing party had a special right to complain. Then he found by the deed produced that the opposing party, Mr. Brewer, had assented to the arrangement by which other funds were to be substituted for those which the bankrupt had misapplied. That, he thought, constituted a sufficient case of condonation to estop Mr. Brewer from a specific complaint in that court; but a breach of trust was to be viewed in this court in two ways – first as related to the party directly defrauded, and, next, as it related to creditors generally, for there was this mischief in a breach of trust – and it was a mischief which must at this moment be sufficiently apparent to the minds of all persons, so much so that he (the commissioner) need not now dwell much upon it – the mischief of false credit which a man got with the world by the use of money in his trade which he ought never to have carried into it. In that respect he considered the conduct of Halket as being exceedingly improper as related to that trust. The next point was as to the ship. He did not recapitulate the particular sums, because he had no doubt that as a shipowner and a broker he was not bound to distribute any remittances received from the captain until the ships accounts were finally wound up. he was not aware that it had never been established that a ship agent, or broker, or part owner of a ship was bound specifically to apply the remittances he had received on account of a ship. If he carried them into his general trade, and dealt with then as a prudent man should do, he did not think it could be imputed as a breach of trust that he did not apply each specific remittance to the share of each particular owner. He would therefore acquit the bankrupt of any fraud or gross misconduct in respect of those remittances; but he thought it would have been much better, if his circumstances were such as they evidently must have been at the time of receiving these remittances, if he had been much more careful as to their application. He came now to the general features. It appeared that a very short time ago – 1852 – the bankrupt had a surplus of £25,000. A great portion of that, however, of property of a very precarious nature, but the greater part of it had since vanished and therefore he (the commissioner) could not say that this had been a trade which had prudently been carried on, more especially as he (the commissioner) could not pronounce it legitimate trading, and it was not justifiable that a person denominated as he was here – and the Court must take his denomination as a true one – viz., as a shipowner, agent, and insurance broker, should become a speculator in railway and mining shares. The books, it appeared, had been very well kept. He had looked at the banker's book to ascertain whether, if the bankrupt had excised due diligence, he would have discovered the frauds of his clerk; and, a cursory view of them he did not discover any marks of erasure of other indications which were sometimes found in fabricated books. Mr. Stansfield (the official assignee) told the court that the thing was very ingeniously done, and though, a very careful investigation, the bankrupt might have discovered it at an earlier period, yet that, under ordinary circumstance, he attention might not have been drawn to it. Since the bankruptcy, by the statement of the assignees – and he (the commissioner) always gave credit to the statement of the assignees on that point – and corroborated to the statement of assignee on that point – and corroborated by the official assignee, who is bound to hold even hand between all parties, it appeared that the bankrupt had given every assistance to the estate; and so far his conduct was meritorious.*

*But, as there was a misappropriation of trust money, although there was condonation as requested the parties immediately injured by it, he could not consider the bankrupt faultless as regarded the trading community. Had it not been that, it was very probable that a first class certificate would have granted. The Court would award a certificate of the second class, and, in consideration of the length of time which the bankrupt had been before the Court, the certificate would be granted immediately.*

On the 15th December 1855 a notice appears in the Economist showing the Declaration of Dividends. Great Wheal Baddern includes the earlier mines of Wheal Grease and parts of the adjoining Basset Graze United sett. Production records state that for the period between 1850 and 1870 the mine sold 3,379 tons of lead ore at 70% and 41,107 ounces of silver. Between 1854 and 1857 it raised and sold 1,137 tons of zinc ore as well as 26 tons of black tin between 1852 and 1872. A good account of the state of Great Wheal Baddon in the mid 1860's comes from Thomas Spargo's book of 1865, entitled '*Statistics and Observations on the Mines of Cornwall and Devon*' where he writes '*Great Wheal Baddern, in the parish of Kea, Cornwall, in 3,313 shares. Secretary, Mr. T. B. Laws, London. Purser, Mr. I. M. Visack, at the mine. Mineral Lord, Viscount Falmouth, 2/3rds, and Messrs. Graham & Vivian, 1/3rd. Dues, 1-18th. Adit, 10 fathoms deep. Depth under adit, 50 fathoms. 58 men, 13 females, and 14 boys employed, total 85. Pumping-engine, 66-inch cylinder. Stamping-engine, 30-inch cylinder. The rocks are clay-slate and elvan. Mineral Sold In 1864: 26 tons 12 cwt. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. for £1,621 5s 9d*

*"It is much to be regretted that there should have been occasion to draw so much on the Company for funds to carry on these works. They have manifested great patience, but "hope deferred maketh the heart sick"'*

On the 26th December 1857 David's sister, Christian, died in Perth, Scotland.

It seems that sometime after his bankruptcy David Halket moved back to the north of England as the 1858 the Post Office Directory of Northumberland and Durham shows his address as 6 Eldon Street, Newcastle and subsequently he moves to Gresham Place, Newcastle until his death. In the 1859 Electoral Roll it shows David Halket still owned the property in St Helens Place, Bishopsgate.

*Machine for making cut nails, patented by Ezra Jenks Coates by 1850. Used at Christiania Spigerverk, Norway. Today at Norwegian Technology Museum, Oslo*

In June 1860 a Bill of Complaint was brought against David Halket and his partner at the time, Edward Bates, by an American, Ezra Jenks Coates, regarding a dispute over a number of nail making machines sold to them by Coates. Ezra Jenks Coates patented his nail making machine in 1841 and sold the rights to Halket and Bates to operate 20 machines. After they had taken possession of the machines disputes arose over a number problems ranging from the machines were in a poor condition to misrepresentation of the amount of nails the machine could produce.

The 1861 census shows he was living in a boarding house in Chelsea as a lodger and gives his occupation then as a Patent Nail Manufacturer. It's fairly certain he was not living with Mary at this time due to the pending court proceedings regarding the non payment of the residue of Richard Webb's Will due to Mary and their children.

In April 1862 an action was brought before the Court of Chancery in Halket v Halket. The Complainants were David Halket's wife, Mary Halket, together with their children, Richard Webb Halket, Selina Webb Halket, Mary Frances Halket, David Alexander Halket, Barbara Isabella Halket, Caroline Louisa Halket, Lawrence John Halket, Francis James Halket and Sarah Grandin Helen Halket. In this case a Bill of Complaint was brought by the Complainants regarding the failure of the Defendants to distribute the residue of Richard Webb's Will. The Defendants other than David Halket were; Francis Webb, barrister and brother of Mary Halket, John Hibbard Brewer, Master of the Court of the Queen's Bench 1861-79 and a Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature 1879-89 and husband of Eliza In regard to the price of coal.

David's wife, Mary Halket, entered into a partnership with Edward Bates and in 1867 the partnership was dissolved so this article may relate to Mary and not David. David had been suffering from bronchitis and pneumonia for some months and on the 13th January 1864 he died at his home, 2 Gresham Place, Newcastle at the age of 71 years. He was buried at St Andrews Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the 20th January and the inscription on the grave says the following:-



#### ST ANDREWS, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, ENGLAND

*“In memory of David Halket born at Perth November 25th 1792 died at Newcastle January 13th 1864. Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. Also of Mary his wife born at Salisbury December 2nd 1811 died at Lytham Lanarkshire November 12th 1873. Francis James their youngest son born November 16th 1851 entered into rest February 13th 1885. Jesus said I will come and heal him. And of Laurence John L.R.C.P. their third son (rest illegible).”*

His Will which was drawn up the previous year had bequeathed all his property to Mary Halket which amounted to less than £2,000. The Probate Index in 1864 shows David Halket died with assets of under £2,000 in which he left to his wife Mary. She died in January 1874, and her estate was less than £100 which she left to her son-in-law, Robert Punshon. move??? Even after his death the problems he caused during his life continued to play out.

The Law Times Report of July 1870 publishes a case heard before The Court of Queen’s Bench regarding Webb v The Commissioners for Improving the Town of Herne Bay. This case relates to David Halket, whilst a commissioner, selling bricks to the commissioners in consideration for mortgage securities. The names of the plaintiffs given in the Law Times Report were Frederick Webb, Thomas James Hale and J. W. Brewer. The correct names were Francis Webb, Frederick James Hale and John Hibberd Brewer being the assignees after the bankruptcy of David Halket in 1859.

About 1871 David’s sister, Isabella/Isobell, died in Perth, Scotland.

*1877 Halket v Punshon* London Daily News.... Which Halket and which Punshon? I’ve yet to find out.

Did David Halket have any redeeming features? I very much doubt it unless you count his extraordinary ability to pen such scathing correspondence and his creative accountancy skills. Unfortunately, not an ancestor to be particularly proud of.



Ken Mason - Member No. 1807

***Watch this space – next episode Ken tells us about “The Ugly”***

## DOCTOR WILL. C. SPEECE

One of the earliest Doctors in the local area was Doctor Will. C. Speece, who was originally from the United States of America. He first visited the Bellinger area in about 1887 and then for a number of years acted as a Medical Insurance referee for various companies, travelling widely in Queensland and New South Wales. In January 1898 Dr. Speece accepted the post of Medical Officer to the Beacon Mine at Upper Bucca, which was booming at that time. The new Doctor was available for professional visits from the surrounding districts and was prepared to pay periodical visits in the various centres. The Doctor could be found at home every afternoon and evening, unless absent on a special call. At that time the closest doctors were at Grafton or Bellingen. Coffs Harbour's first Resident Medical Officer, Doctor Robert Kane, did not arrive until August 1906.

The Bellingen newspaper "The Raleigh Sun" (1898-1918) was the area paper of the time and reported on personal local events. In February 1898 the paper reported: *"Mrs Colin Buchanan of Karangi has been seriously ill suffering from inflammation of the bowels. Dr. Speece attended her and she is now almost recovered."*

Dr Speece developed a great affection for the area and except for a term as Medical Officer at Tiboburra Hospital he lived about the Bucca District. He had quite an unusual personality and his "Bohemian" instincts led him to reside in the bush, miles from any possible patients and quite alone. However he did move into Coramba in early 1907 before his untimely death in October 1907.

The Raleigh District Hospital at Bellingen opened on 3 July 1903 and its first patient required surgery a week later. Captain Smith of Bellinger Heads was admitted with appendicitis. "Raleigh Sun" notes: *"An operation was skilfully performed by Medical Officer, Dr. Humphrey, assisted by Dr. Speece. The case is a critical one but so far we are glad to hear the patient is doing well."*

On 24 September 1907 "Raleigh Sun" reported: *"The influenza and whooping cough epidemics appear to be getting more prevalent every day around Coffs Harbour."* The article went on to say that Dr Kane had been in attendance with the very sick children of Mr. and Mrs. Kiddle. While Dr. Speece attended to Mr. Seccombe's children, who were very ill suffering from pneumonia. In early October 1907, Mr. W. Seccombe of Coffs Harbour organised a Thanksgiving Service and Presentation at his home for Dr. Speece for the recovery of his daughter, Meme, who had been at death's door with pneumonia. Sadly, about a week later in October, Dr. Will. C. Speece died very quickly from pneumonia. His death took place at Mr. Seccombe's home and he was aged about 42 years.

Dr. Speece was buried in Coffs Harbour Cemetery with Reverend W. Ferries conducting the funeral arrangements. His obituary from "Raleigh Sun" stated in part: *"He was a born humourist, of an unique personality. To all who knew him, his strange and conspicuous characteristics made him an enduring personality. Withal he was one of the kindest men ever born. The late Doctor was a very clever writer, and for many years he was a contributor to the 'Bulletin' and country papers."*

Dr. Speece's unique character may be seen in this original letter given to our Family History Society many years ago by the Buchanan family. The letter was type-written by Dr. Speece to Mr. Buchanan a well known farmer of Karangi.

*"Dear Mr. Buchanan,*

*Please put one level teaspoonful of .....?..... in cold water and give the child a teaspoon. Should any marked change take place you must let me know without delay. I feel bound to add that I bitterly resent interference in the shape of the clergy, coming in to give their advice, and I warn you that if I find any of them Poking their damned interfering fingers in my pie then you will have to send to Grafton or Bellingen for medical advice. I yield to no man on earth in my professed respect for the clergy, but I fully recognise the fact that it will keep those gentlemen very busy to guarantee us a box seat in heaven without wasting their valuable time on matters that they know absolutely nothing about. Keep up your hot applications, and keep the crowd of visitors out of the room. I tell you that if I hear of a lot of curiosity mongers being admitted to worry that child I will throw up the case and you will have to send to Bellingen for a doctor. I warn you claims that the doctor's instructions to the crowd in search of gratified curiosity is go to hell or go home and you see that you do as I say."*

*Will. C. Speece*

Rosie Doherty – Member No. 396

## My Uncle Bill

My uncle Herbert A Argyle was born at Carr in 1926. As his father and grandfather were also his birth that he would be called Bill. Like many involved in World War 2. Like my father he was also involved in the peacekeeping forces. British, New Zealand, Australian and Indian Kure in Honshu. It consisted of one brigade of UK, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops. BRINDIV, the British Indian Division, consisted of one brigade from the 5th Infantry Brigade Group and the 268th Indian Infantry Brigade which is how my uncle went to Japan. It was responsible for the demilitarisation and dispersal of Japan's war industries but one prefecture, Hiroshima, was allotted to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.



South Yorkshire in May Herberts it was decided from of his generation he was in the Signal Corps, but he In February 1946 a joint occupation force was sent to

After the war, he gave my mother a pair of Japanese sandals which she passed on to my brother's son. My Uncle Bill died last year at the age of 93.

Stephen Goundry. Member No. 1372



Do you have an interesting story or an article to share? Include photos if you have them as they always add interest. You may want to share humble origins, or a grand adventure, wars, marriages or even why you became interested in Family History in the first place, If you do, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me on [shaz@ingersole.com](mailto:shaz@ingersole.com)

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The [Online Genealogical Index \(OGI\)](#) is a way of locating online genealogical data for England and Wales. If you don't know where to find data for your ancestor then you can enter a country, county, town and approximate year (optional). The OGI helps you find sites that contain records that contain the place of interest. This is a free site and the search results will give you details of the record sets available, links to the sites where they can be found and information as to whether the records are freely accessible or require payment or subscription.

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## EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As exchange journals are no longer being printed, they will now be available for viewing by members from the Admin desktop at our rooms. Monitors can access these and you can download them to a USB. If anybody would like particular journals emailed to them, please contact Lyn via email at [lynette.brotherton@gmail.com](mailto:lynette.brotherton@gmail.com)



Do you need help with your research? Do you need guidance on where to look other than the Internet? Have you a brick wall that you can't knock down? Please ask one of our monitors when next you are in the rooms. All are very familiar with the contents of what we have in the rooms and are only too willing to share it with you.

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## **THE REAL FACE OF WHITE AUSTRALIA – LIVING UNDER THE WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY**

<https://www.realfaceofwhiteaustralia.net>

In the early twentieth century Australia defined itself as a white man's country, yet the reality was something different. As well as Indigenous Australians, there were many thousands of non-Europeans, including Chinese, Japanese, Indians, Afghans, Syrians and Malays. Because of the colour of their skin and the homelands of their forebears, these men, women and children found themselves at odds with the nation's claim to be white. They faced discriminatory laws and policies designed to deny them their place as Australians. As a result, there are extensive government records documenting their lives. This project aims to make people more aware of these records and this history, revealing the real face of White Australia. Are You Interested in Helping to Transcribe some records? If you are then go to - <https://transcribe.realfaceofwhiteaustralia.net>

In 2017, the co-ordinators worked with a group of cultural heritage students at the University of Canberra to create a site where records relating to the administration of the White Australia Policy from the National Archives of Australia could be transcribed by the public. This was launched at a 'transcribe-a-thon' held at the Museum of Australian Democracy. The work continues!

If you'd like to help, click on the Get Started button of the link above.

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## Some Interesting Words from Old Transcriptions

(mostly 16th & 17th century) Courtesy Shelagh MASON

**myschance = mischance**

**revoakeing = revoking**

**doters = daughters**

**ells ware = elsewhere**

**rayseing = raising**

**wrytyng = writing**

**healpefull = helpful**

**thynentary = the Inventory**

**manareing = managing**

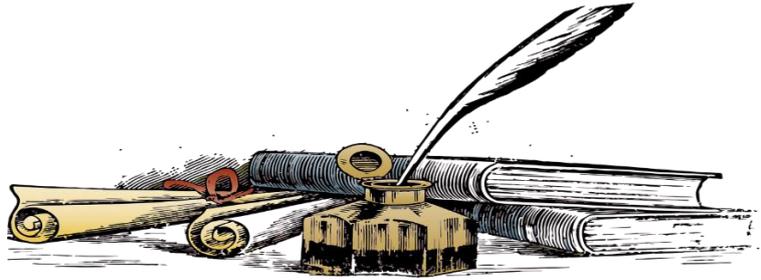
**knedynge troffe = kneading trough**

**skole = school**

**blakets = blankets**

**wohyt = white**

## Overcoming Roadblocks to Writing Your Family History



- Before you start, decide what you hope to achieve with the project
- Make a plan and set goals
- Get organized
- Seek out help and inspiration
- Use prompts and pictures
- Begin in the middle if you don't know how to start
- Write naturally and take your time

About Writing ..... "There is something eternal in the very nature of writing, as is so graphically illustrated by the scriptures themselves. In a very real sense, our properly written histories are a very important part of our family scripture and become a great source of spiritual strength to us and to our posterity... I have a strong feeling that when this life is over, our personal and family histories and the influence they wield, will be of much greater importance than we now think.

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### **2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition**

The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) runs an annual writing competition and entries are now open for the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition. The competition will be judged to select the best short story (between 1500- 2000 words) on a family history/genealogy theme. The genre of writing is not limited, so try your hand at non-fiction, biography, creative non-fiction or fiction. Whether you are telling a story about one of your ancestors or sharing a personal memoir, the broad theme allows plenty of scope to be creative. A maximum of two photographs or illustrations may be included if they are specific to the story, with captions of 10 words or less for each photograph or illustration and these won't be included in the word count.

Although references are not required, if the author chooses to include them, they will also not be included in the word count. Entrants are asked to include a short 25 words or less 'inspiration statement' about what inspired them to write the story.

Entries are open to residents of Australia over the age of 18 years with a closing date of Thursday, 15 July 2021. Entries can be submitted on-line through the HAGSOC website - (<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au>) in PDF, MS word or RTF format and must include the entry form. <https://familyhistoryact.org.au/index.php/activities/writing-competition/writing-entry>. Award winning entries will be notified by 1st October, 2021 and there is an opportunity to win \$1,000. There are special member prizes for any members of HAGSOC. All information about the competition, including this year's judges, Terms and Conditions and Entry Form, is available on the HAGSOC website. Entry fee for non HAGSOC members is \$30 and there is no limit to the number of entries that can be submitted, but each entry requires payment of a separate entry fee.

Enquiries can be directed to [writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au)

## **MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS**

- Use of Society's resources including books, microfilms, microfiche, computer system, etc
- Receive quarterly Journal Genie-Allergy
- Attend meetings and monthly workshops
- Guidance with research in our library
- Resource borrowing scheme
- Free entries in Member's Interests Directory
- 2 hours free research per year for members who are resident 50km or more from Coffs Harbour.

### **JOURNAL DEADLINES**

# 1 <sup>st</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	March Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	June Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> August	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	September Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> November	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	December Issue

**Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries regarding their research, or questions about research for inclusion in our Journal. Material needs to be received by the deadline as above to be included in the next available issue.**

**Please Email our Editor Sharon on [shaz@ingersole.com](mailto:shaz@ingersole.com) if you have a story to tell.**

### **RESEARCH SHEETS, ETC. FOR SALE**

Pedigree Charts	20c ea.
Family Group Sheets, etc.	20c ea.
Printouts from Computer (Greyscale)	20c ea.
Photocopies A4 (Greyscale)	20c ea.
Brothers Keeper Family Tree CD	\$3.00 ea.
Legacy Family Tree Standard CD	\$3.00 ea.
Convict Research Booklet	\$2.00 ea.
Beginning Your Family History Booklet	\$1.00 ea.
Seven Generation Charts A3	\$5.00 ea.

**If you would like to purchase and of this research material or any publications which may be for sale, please contact the Monitor on duty.**