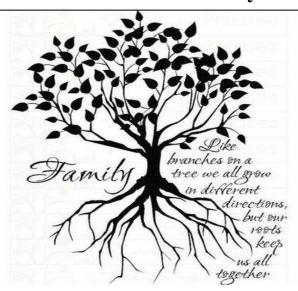


Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



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MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Joint (2 persons at same address)..... ... \$65.00

RESEARCH:

Library Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 4.00pm (closed at 1.00pm on 2nd Tuesday of month)

Saturday: 10.00am – 4.00pm (except 4th Saturday of the month)

Library Fees: Members - free on production of current membership card

Visitors - \$14.00 per day or \$7.00 per half day or part thereof **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 microfische 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

Workshops: are held on 4th 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. **Contact Persons**: President - Rosie Doherty....(02) 6652 4469 Secretary - Maureen Joyce..... (02) 6653 Vice President - Maggie Heffernon... 0428 176 387 Treasurer - Jane Gow...... (02) 6658 3355

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Annual General Meeting normally held in September, has been cancelled until further notice.

All Workshops and Seminars have been cancelled until February 2021.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Many things have changed for our Family History Society members over the past four months including the closure of our Research Rooms for Members' research. This month a welcome event was the re-opening of our Rooms for Members' Research with certain restrictions. During the closure, Committee members have been working hard to keep the Society financial and viable. Special thanks needs to be accorded to Assistant Treasurer, Lyn Brotherton, and Membership Secretary, Bev Salter, for their numerous Wednesdays spent in our Rooms balancing the books, banking Membership Renewals and recording the many members who have renewed their membership at this difficult time. Your Membership Renewals have been very important as they are the only finance coming in to our coffers at this time. Fortunately, Coffs Harbour City Council has waived the payment of our Rent for some months. Thanks also to those other hardworking Committee members, who have been very involved behind the scene and in the Rooms keeping the Society functioning.

At our first Committee Meeting in four months held on Thursday 16th July, it was decided that all Workshops and the planned October Seminar would be cancelled due to limited number of people allowed in respective venues and unavailability of some of the proposed speakers. I am sure members will not be at all surprised by this decision. We have kept our Community Village booking for November as hopefully we will be able to have a joyful Family History Society Christmas Party. We have changed our Committee Meeting day to a Thursday due to unavailability of Training Room of a Tuesday. We, as does everyone else, have to abide by the restriction of only 10 members of Committee using that particular room on one day.

The CHDFHS Inc. Annual General Meeting was due to take place on Saturday, 26 September 2020 at the Community Village in Room 1. At our July meeting, the Committee made the decision to defer the Annual General Meeting to a later date. This is due to the confusion of this year and to allow present Committee members to settle down in their roles. All members will be informed of the new date for AGM when it has been finalised.

Thank you to all members for your continued support of our Society.

Wishing you successful researching and also good health.

Rosie Doherty #396

MONITOR COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Society rooms opened for limited hours on Tuesday 7th July. Hours are from 10.00am to 12.00pm then 1.00pm to 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. We are restricted to these hours because of social distancing and the requirements of hygiene and cleaning necessary as set out below.

- Only two members apart from the Monitors are to be in the rooms at any one time.
- Members are requested to phone during opening hours to book a computer and it would be appreciated if only one session per week is required.
- Members are also requested to wear disposable gloves when browsing the Library collection as it is impossible to quarantine books for 24 hours in our limited space.

Listed below are some of the extra duties our Monitors need to do to keep our members as safe as possible during this pandemic.

- Detergent, disinfect or clean work stations and equipment such as monitor, phone, keyboard & mouse
- Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap, paper towels & toilet paper.
- Clean frequently used areas daily with detergent or disinfectant. Clean frequently touched areas such as door handles and surfaces.
- Monitors to wear gloves when cleaning and wash hands thoroughly before and after with soap and water.
- Kitchen and bathroom facilities to be sanitised on a regular basis.

I thank all Monitors who have agreed to return to their usual shifts. Their help is very much appreciated by the Committee. I wish the best of health to our Monitors, who, because of health problems, have decided not to return at this time.

Maggie Heffernon, Monitor Co-ordinator #1622

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to the following new members. We hope you will make yourselves 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.

Laurie PIPER	# 1981	Di GLENNON	# 1987
Jill GILL	# 1982	Di MULLIGAN	# 1988
Elizabeth O'SULLI	VAN #1983	Jon MULLIGAN	# 1989
Peggy GREEN	# 1984	Sally WYNNE	#1990
Anne WRIGHT	# 1985	Robert SLOTTER	# 1991
Jeanette WALSH	# 1986		



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**. 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 or Rosie on rdoherty1@bigpond.com
- If you are interested in a My Brother's Keeper please contact Jim on walledcity@live.com.au
- If you are interested in getting involved in the Cemetery Transcription Project, please contact Maureen on mkphome@bigpond.com

Please contact Rosie or Maureen if there is any other area that may be of interest



DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

from Diane Smith - DNA Special Interest Group Convenor

With DNA or Genetic Genealogy fast becoming the latest addition to helping with Family History research, our Society commenced a DNA support group in February 2019. We have had 20 plus members attending each month where they have learned to understand and interpret their DNA results in a more comprehensive way. We have also heard many success stories from people connecting with previously unknown cousins who have helped them not only with their research but also sharing photos and family stories. Any Society member who has had their DNA tested or if you are interested in learning more about DNA, you are welcome to attend. There is a small charge of \$3 per person to cover costs of room hire. Morning tea is no longer available (until further notice) so if you would like a cuppa, then please bring your own everything. Bring your laptop, iPad or tablet so that you can access your results during the session. Our group provides a friendly and informal forum for learning about your DNA results. We meet at the Curran Centre in Gordon St Coffs Harbour from 10am–12 noon on the first Monday of each month. If you would like to know more, please contact Diane Smith Member (#1815) on dilin.smith@gmail.com Meetings resumed on 3rd August but as numbers are limited due to social distancing, you must contact Diane to register.

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** 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

Memberships were due for renewal on 1st JULY 2020

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 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 \$65 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.



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.

TROVE – the National Library of Australia's free on-line cultural and research portal, celebrated its 10th birthday in December 2019 and with it come a new look - a brand new version of the Website with a new design and layout with additional features. It now has more room to grow and promote new collections, help researchers connect and bring more freely available, digitised items to an increasingly on-line community. Material previously only available in physical Libraries or Archives is now accessible on-line. Trove is upgrading categories to combine newspapers or gazettes so that they can be searched together but you can still filter your search to include only one. You now have space to write a biography, include your research interests, share a link to your blog or website and make this information public if you choose. Trove is an essential, even daily stop on your research journey.

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

ARTICLES OF INTEREST FROM EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Society	Journal and Issue	Article	Pages
New South Wales			
Botany Bay FHS	The Endeavour #142 Mar 2020	My Freedom of Information Document	10 - 11
		Unlocking the Mysteries of the First Fleet Marine Arrivals	12 - 18
Liverpool Genealogy Society nc.	Links 'n' Chains	Free Research Charts on their WEBSITE	
Richmond/Tweed FHS Inc.	The Cedar Log Mar 2020 #143	HHARP Children's Hospital Records London and Glasgow Website http://www.hharp.org/	15
Tea Gardens Family Research Group	Spanning the Years Feb - Mar 2020 V39 #1	Time for Revision or Getting Started and Tips for Family Research	6 -8
Queensland			
Queensland	Convict Connections Chronicle Feb 2020	Cessation of Transportation to Tasmania 1853	4 - 6
Bundaberg Genealogical Association	Family Ties Mar 2020 V23 # 3	Scotland Records	10 - 18
Northern Territory	1		
Genealogical Society Northern Territory	Progenitor Mar 2020 Vol 39 # 1	Rich History of the NT'S Mt Bundy Station	3 - 9
International			
United Kingdom	UK Family Tree - March 2020	Become a DNA Super-Sleuth	42 - 46
	UK Family Tree - May 2020	Improve Online Research	10 - 16
		Victoria's Long Reign & Legacy	18 - 23
		Become a DNA Super-Sleuth	36 - 40
	UK Family Tree - June 2020	Become a DNA Super-Sleuth	32 - 37
	UK Family Tree - July 2020	Become a DNA Super-Sleuth	20 - 23
		Plan a Successful Archive Visit	28- 29
		Exploring Repositories	39 - 43



THE YELLOW FLAG - Flying in Coff's Harbor (sic)

COFF'S HARBOUR ADVOCATE: 19 JULY 1919

The Yellow Flag – that widely recognised symbol of quarantine is flying in Coffs Harbor. It marks premises in which there are pneumonic influenza patients and sends out its message, "STAND OFF."

Coffs Harbor, however, has been fortunate in that its cases, though numerous enough as far as "ordinary flu" is concerned, have been mild, and there is not the least excuse for anyone to become panicky, though naturally, no precaution should be neglected. The individual who gets cold shivers down his back at the sight of a bit of yellow bunting on the opposite side of the road requires a nerve tonic. There are few households in the town and immediate districts that have not had their sick ones, and the verdict of the sufferers (most of whom are now convalescent) is that they "wouldn't wish their worst enemy a dose of it" — and they apparently meant all they said.

Owing to Dr. Larbalestier's indisposition, Drs. Earle Page and Macartney were in Coffs at the end of last week; and the result of their visit was that some half a dozen patients were ordered to the public hospital, where they are now being treated; others are receiving attention in their homes. This will probably mean that Coffs Harbor will be proclaimed an infected area, and the usual regulations will come into force. In this event, billiard rooms and various amusements will become things of the past for the time being, meetings will be prohibited, and we will be required to camouflage our features behind muslin folds. In other words, it looks to be "odds-on" that we are going to be masked. (It was declared an infected area the following week)

To the casual observer, however, it would appear that the pandemic has passed its zenith in the District, and we look forward to an early return to normal conditions. In the interim the residents will doubtless loyally observe whatever regulations the authorities may decree.

Source: TROVE Digitised Newspapers: (NLA)

Rosie Doherty #396

DURING THE MIDDLE
AGES THEY CELEBRATED
THE END OF THE PLAGUE
WITH WINE AND ORGIES
DOES ANYONE KNOW IF
THEY HAVE ANYTHING
LIKE THAT PLANNED
WHEN THIS ONE ENDS?

RAILWAYS.....

When I was at high school, I had an assignment on the Industrial Revolution. I got the subject of railways, not knowing at that time that two of my great grandfathers worked on the railways.

Arthur FOSTER was born in Handsworth, Yorkshire in 1873 and served in the Boer War in South Africa. Fortunately or unfortunately he was wounded on the first day. He was shot in the shoulder.

My mother said she remembered his arm was affected but he got a job as stationmaster. His sister married a William Valentine HEMMING who also worked on the railways so travelled around. They had a son Joseph Ebenezer Hemming who migrated to Canada and lived at one time at Fraser River outside Vancouver. He ended up dying at Matsqui British Columbia in 1964. My mother said that a Canadian soldier visited the family during World War 2 but doesn't remember now who he was.

My father's father Robert GOUNDRY was born in Crook in County Durham in 1855, was married in Chorley, Lancashire in 1889 and his first son was born in Enfield, London in 1890. John was born in 1892 in Laughton Yorkshire, One other son Robert was born at Auckland, Durham, in 1895 and the other two were born at Birstall, Yorkshire, one being my grandfather George. He said that whenever anyone official turned up Robert used to move. He ended up dying at Laughton in March 1912.

Stephen Goundry Member No. 1372



THE FAMILY BIBLE is a Bible handed down through a family, with each successive generation recording information about the family's history inside it. Typically, this information consists of births, deaths, baptisms, confirmations and marriages. Other items, such as letters, newspaper cuttings and photographs, might also be placed inside a Family Bible. In the United Kingdom, they were common in the Victorian period, and are also found in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. They are often used as sources for genealogical research.



SHARE YOUR STORY

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

The Black Shepherd of the Mason Family

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF JOHN ARTHUR MASON (& SON), ELDEST SON (AND GRANDSON)
OF THOMAS AND HANNAH MASON



John Arthur Mason c.1894

Some years ago, cousin Doreen Milligan née Mason informed me that it was believed that John Arthur MASON was the Black Sheep of the family – little did she realise how Black!!!

John Arthur MASON was born on the 15th June 1864 in the small village of Woodford in Essex which is about 13 kilometres NE of London. In 1856 stations were opened at George Lane and Snakes Lane on the new railway line from London to Loughton. This opened up a new way of life, enabling local residents to commute to work in the City each day. Gradually houses were built for the new clerical class. Although most of these were on land taken from the large estates, some were built on "waste" enclosed from Epping Forest. In the 1860s and '70s Woodford Wood was cleared in the north-west of the parish. In 1878 the Epping Forest Act was passed safeguarding the remaining forest. Both John's parents were well educated and wealthy, and at this time his father was a merchant working for the West India Company and his mother, born in the Tower of London, was the daughter of John LILLEY, a Captain in the Grenadier Guards. It is shown later on in this account that he didn't get on with his father (a major understatement I think) and around 1888 his father give him £2,000 and was told to go forth and "start afresh in the colonies". (How many Masons have heard that one? !!!) In today's money that £2,000 would be over £120,000!!! Later on it is believed he borrowed a further £4,500 from his father – wow! He sailed from England to New Zealand in 1888 and went to Dalvey, Otago where after a short time he leased the "Dalvey" sheep farm at Pomahuka which is about 140 kilometres west of Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island. I've yet to definitively find him on a passenger list as there were a number of John Masons sailing to Australia and New Zealand that year. In July 1891 he married Mabel Meredith MAITLAND at St Matthew's Church, Dunedin. The marriage was reported in the newspaper "Otago Witness" and from a particular article on the ceremony in that paper it seems this was a very high-class affair with all the guests listed and many of the ladies apparel being described in great detail.

One of John's other interests was horse racing in which he owned a number of "fillies". There was an article published in the Southland Times at the end of 1892 casting aspersions over his horse "Chance" to which he took great offense and responded with a letter to the Editor. John ran sheep at Pomahuka from April 1891 until April 1894 when the lease ran out. He had lost £7,000 and proceeds from the sale of his sheep raised £1,200 but his creditors seized £900 of that. At the beginning of 1894 an article appeared in the Star newspaper which showed he suffered losses due to a fire which destroyed his horse stables. In 1894 he and Mabel left New Zealand for England arriving in January

the following year. It looks like the reason for John's visit was most likely to borrow more money from his father or at least pay his outstanding debts. John was declared bankrupt in 1895 and a number of notices were placed in various newspapers; The Portsmouth Evening News, The Times, Press and the Tuapeka Times. When I read the article in the Tuapeka Times I took particular exception to the author's assertions regarding John Arthur and his ilk and I had serious thoughts of bringing about a MASON Class Action against the editor – but I think it may be too late now! On the 11th October 1895 he was made bankrupt with liabilities shown as £7,509 and assets of £75. He stated that his losses were due in part to losses on the farm and losses in betting, keeping race horses and hunting and, of course, those Wascally Wabbits!! In December the Otago Daily Times ran an advertisement authorised by the Official Receiver for Bankruptcy for the sale of two races horses owned by John.

Much to his father's undoubted exasperation, notices were placed in The Times during March 1899 which were issued from the Supreme Court of New Zealand giving John notice that Mabel had filed a Petition for Divorce against him seeking a dissolution of their marriage. It seems as if John had no permanent address at the time so the copies of the court documents were sent to his father's offices in Leadenhall Street in the city and to the "Eccentric Club" in Piccadilly — obviously he was well suited as a member there! As John had "gone walkabout" then Mabel applied in December 1899, through the New Zealand Divorce Court, to have the case dealt with there but a question arose as to the court's jurisdiction. Just 4 weeks later John decides to go to South Africa. It was reported on 15th May, 1900, in the New Zealand Times whilst in England John and Mabel had an argument and she returned in February 1896 to New Zealand (It's possible that this date is incorrect as will be seen further on) with her mother who was accompanying her. It seems she had left John some three or four months before and was advised to apply to the New Zealand Divorce Court to seek a divorce on the grounds of cruelty. Some of the examples of cruelty he displayed towards her were given in the Divorce Court and included him chasing her with a bread knife, chasing her out of the house, kicking her and throwing things at her. She also added in her evidence that he drank a lot and had committed adultery with Agnes SPARKES, Polly BLACKMORE and many others!!! She told the court that since leaving him she had had custody of their child who she maintained at her own expense. The Court granted her divorce and gave her custody of her child. After reading the divorce article in the New Zealand Times which mentioned that Mabel was "given custody of the child" I looked high and low for this elusive Kiwi MASON in the Land of the Long White Cloud but no such luck. After searching for ages through all the online data bases, Ancestry and Findmypast etc. and believing the "child" was born either in England or New Zealand I'd struck out and threw in the towel. A few times before, when faced with a problem like this, I've contacted a group of volunteers, who try to help with various genealogical queries and they go under the banner of Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. I sent all the information I had on John Arthur to Morag, a RAOGK volunteer living in New Zealand, and within a very short space of time she had found not only our kin but quite a bit of extra information. It's not what you know but who you know! I was so lucky to have found Morag. Also, I must acknowledge my sincere thanks to John Sherbourne in Wellington, New Zealand, who spent many hours at the Wellington Archives sourcing and photographing the divorce documents for me. The child mentioned in the divorce papers was John Clifford Stuart MASON born on the 5th January 1896 at 66 Merrion Square in South Dublin, Ireland. Merrion Square is one of Dublin's largest and grandest Georgian squares and, by the by, Oscar Wilde lived just down the road at No 1 when he was a child – none of your two up two down houses for our John Arthur. On the birth registration it shows that the informant was John Arthur MASON and the date of registration was the 4th April 1896 so we now know that both John Arthur and Mabel were staying in Ireland for over 3 months. After Mabel divorced John, she remarried on 1st September 1900 in the Registry Office in Napier, Hawks Bay, New Zealand to Frederick Stuart DES BARRES only to seek a divorce again in 1912. This was on the grounds of desertion and misconduct and she was granted a Decree Nisi with custody of her children. Mabel remarried a final time in 1913 to James Ambrose EIVERS – and lived happily ever after? John Clifford Stuart DES BARRES was living in Opotiki, a small town by the Bay of Plenty on the North Island and his occupation before he joined up was that of a "Kinematograph Operator" and "Picture Show Manager" and on the 15th December 1915 joined the New Zealand Cycling Battalion.

At this time he had taken the name Des Barres after his mother's marriage to his step-father and would be known as Clifford Stuart DES BARRES. In July the following year he was posted overseas and was "Killed in Action" in France on the 30th September 1916 at The Battle of the Somme — at just 20 years of age. He was the first in his Battalion to be killed. A report was given regarding his death in the Poverty Bay Herald in December 1916. He was buried at Military Cemetery at Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France. John jnr. made his Will on the 8th March 1916 with his mother as Executrix.

On Sunday, 31st March 1901 in the census return it shows John Arthur was listed as a "visitor" and gives his occupation as an actor. He was staying at 27 Brunswick Terrace, Hove, Sussex the home of William BRASS a building contractor. He has now stated twice he was an actor and I wonder where he gained his experience. Was he "on the boards" or could he have been in the "silent movies"? More research needed – by someone else, I think! It's weird to think that John snr. was into acting and the son he never knew was a cinema manager and projectionist.

Another "small world syndrome" – in this case it is that 68 years later Shirley and I were renting rooms at Brunswick Place just a few minutes away from Brunswick Terrace. Unfortunately, I've yet to find him with any certainty in the 1911 census. But I did find a John MASON living with the widow Mary RICHES (there's a good clue for you !!) and the two little Riches. His age is correct at 47 years, therefore born around 1864, and working at his old hobby – Horse Dealer. I wonder if he still trod the boards part time? – much more research needed.

In Thomas' Will his estate was worth over £153,000 which in today's money is probably worth more than £3 million and he left bequests to literally scores of people, family, friends, work colleagues and employees past and present including his chauffeur and gardener. Even though Thomas died in 1921 those bequests continued to be paid right through to most of his grandchildren. He left nine annuities to his nephews and nieces, one being of £200 to my grandfather, Frank MASON. I believe that upon the death of Frank MASON in 1938 his surviving six children, Doris Margaret, Lesley Gwendoline, John Walter, Frank Lionel, Kenneth Cyril (my dad) and Ralph all received a payment of £1,000 each as a final settlement of the annuity.

Sadly, all of Thomas' three sons and his wife predeceased him. John Arthur died on the 5th February 1915 at 3 York Place, Marylebone, London. In the Medical Officer of Health Report of the Metropolitan Borough of Hampstead in 1915 it lists 3 York Place as an Institution — I haven't been able to find out yet what type of institution it was — maybe a small hospital. John Arthur's death certificate shows him living with his parents in Sunset Avenue, Woodford so it would seem by this time that there had been some sort of reconciliation between them. Also, the certificate suggests that he could have died suddenly and that his father, Thomas MASON, was noted as Informant but the words "present at death" were not entered. John Arthur MASON and was buried with his brother, Edward Stanley Mason and his nephew, Alan Edward Thomas MASON, at St John the Baptist Church at Buckhurst Hill in Essex. His mother, Hannah, died a few months later and was also buried at the same church.



Ken Mason Member No. 1807



Boldly Go Where Your Ancestors Have Gone Before!

I am currently working through a project with a lady named Anne who found out, after her mother had passed ten years ago, that she had aboriginal ancestors. Whilst a surprise, given that she is a fair skinned redhead, she wasn't completely in shock, as she looked at pictures of her mothers' family (of which she had very few) and remembered her grandmother. The saddest part of the scenario is that her mother passed on, taking all the stories which traditional indigenous families would ordinarily have shared about their culture through the generations and leaving her feeling quite disconnected. Having had little contact with any family over the years and not knowing whether there were others of her generation out there, we set out to find this wonderful woman some living relatives in the hopes that they could help her re-connect with that side of her family and it's history. I had never before done research on aboriginal history. It can be a maze of dead ends when it comes to official documentation as you might imagine and more luck than good management when a search yields results. We did make some headway, connecting with a couple of family members as we populated her tree in Ancestry, but the BEST thing we ever did was to take a road trip!

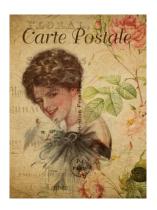
Anne and her husband had been caravanning up the east cost of NSW and were stopping in Coffs for a few days with us before heading to Queensland for the winter. She joked that we should swing across and see her family's old country in Goodooga and Brewarrina, near Lightning Ridge as we had discovered the main concentration of her family were born, lived and died there. Two glasses of wine later, over an hour long phone call, and we had planned the five day detour so I set about collating the information we had so far and planned a few visits that we should do along the way.

I could go on for hours about the trip but in a nutshell, the most amazing things happened as we spun through the next few days. We stopped for coffee in a café in Brewarrina and after joking around with the staff we dropped one family name and there followed a calling out of "Muuuum, Janey Williams" and we then stood facing one of the directors of the local historical society who knew of the family we were seeking. We booked a tour at the local Aboriginal Culture Centre and got talking to Brad 3 (Brad 1 was the tour guide and Brad 2 was in Canberra canvassing for conservation of the local river) whose family knew her family and the matriarch known as Gumbine. He regaled us for over an hour with stories of the area and the Murruwari people as well as Gumbine and her siblings, one of whom was Anne's great grandmother. We visited a sheep station outside Goodooga and fell upon a man who knew of other local records. And, by simply posting pics of our trip on Facebook, suddenly came full circle to another friend in Coffs who had worked out at Goodooga on that particular station and knew an old aboriginal worker who still lives there. The reason the trip was such a success for us all was not because of the facts we took and the visits I had arranged, but because we lingered, visited and talked to people about why we were there and took time to ask questions and listen. Sometimes a name would crop up just in conversation and connections were made. We stood amongst the buildings and on the ground on which several generations of Anne's aboriginal ancestors had lived and worked. We came away with absolute gold and it had nothing to do with names and birth dates, but stories and experiences - the very things that were missing in her life and the very things that have helped her to feel connected to that part of her history. She then arranged to have lunch with two wonderful cousins she had never met before and share all the wonderful FAMILY stories that we learned in just a few days. And we are still discovering more through the contacts we made.

So, if you have the opportunity to get away from the desk, the computer and the paperwork, go get your hands dirty. Visit the significant places. Talk to everyone you meet about what you're doing even if you're not looking for anything in particular. You never know what little nuggets of gold will come out of it for you.

POSTCARDS







The world's first postcard appeared in Austria in 1869 and in Britain a year later. The picture postcard began to appear a few years later and during the Paris Exhibition of 1889 they received a big boost in popularity as a means of sending messages. It triggered off a craze for postcard collecting and caught the public's imagination, so much so in fact that in their heyday between 1890 -1920, they even took the place of traditional family photo albums. Virtually every country in the world produced cards in ever increasing numbers. In 1902 Britain was the first country to divide the back thus allowing the address and message on the back and a complete picture on the other side. One of the attractions of the postcard was that it was sent at a cheaper rate than a letter. From 1870 to 1918, the postal charge was ½ d, and from then until 1940, just 1d at a time when letters cost 1d and 2d respectively. When a separate charge for postcards was abolished in 1965, the rate was still only 3d.

The years before the First World War have been called 'The Golden Age' of picture postcards as everybody used them for messages before the telephone was widely in use. Cards of all descriptions and subjects were produced and personal collections were popular, many of these cards being produced in Germany. Of course with the outbreak of hostilities this supply came to an end. And if you think instant communication is something from the modern technological age, there used to be 11 post boxes in and around Marden, emptied 3 times a day (with deliveries to match) as well as on Sundays and even Christmas Day. Cards such as those published by 'Valentines of Dundee' and 'Raphael Tuck' in particular, were especially sought after as these were of the highest photographic quality. During this golden period, postcards featured every conceivable subject, including hand painted picturesque views of famous sites and buildings, and photographic images of major political and sporting events, as well as recording and celebrating important moments such as early aviation. They were also an extremely useful and popular way of advertising your business or product.

After the First World War, the role of the postcard changed becoming increasingly associated with the holidays or visits to friends and relations in other parts of the country. Photographers made good business by travelling their locality and taking photos of villages, landmarks and beauty spots that could be turned into picture postcards. Sweetman's of Tunbridge Wells and Salmon's of Sevenoaks (still in business today producing postcards and calendars are just 2 examples). Some they published themselves, but more often they were sold on to shops in the area for onward sale. My grandfather did just that, as did other Marden retailers such as Bailey's and Dovey's. Their name would appear on the bottom of the card as additional advertising. The shops could also request specific photographs to be taken adding a certain exclusivity to the card. Later still, after WW2, the cartoon-like "Seaside" postcard made popular by such artists as Donald McGill, master of the double-entendre were a must buy. Nowadays, such topographical postcards are of particular interest to the more historically minded collector. They are an excellent way of showing how a particular resort may have changed over the years, how people were dressed and which modes of transport were available there at that point in time. Some collectors specialise in cards from a handful of resorts only, thus building up a pictorial and social history of each place.

Shipwrecks



Was your ancestor a passenger on a wrecked ship, a crew member or perhaps the Captain?

It is quite common to find that an ancestor or a ship suddenly disappears from records without explanation. Before the mid-Victorian era many ships 'went missing' and their fate is not recorded – either because no one knew what happened or because there was no way of recording the loss. Therefore, it is not always possible to confirm that an ancestor was lost at sea or to determine the exact circumstances of the shipwreck but there are places you can look and you could be lucky. There is no central directory of every shipwreck and almost all the relevant sources are indexed by the name of the vessel rather than the people involved. Your first task therefore is to find the name of the ship involved. Once you have the details about the ship concerned and a date for its loss, you can start to find out more about the people on board and what happened. If the person you are seeking was lost at sea and no body was found, there may not be a conventional death certificate. If the body was discovered, a death certificate may have been issued at a place you weren't expecting depending on where the body was found.

Ships are lost at sea for a number of reasons, storms being the main one and are probably behind the majority of unexplained disappearances. The luxury ship "London" was overwhelmed by a storm in 1866 and only 19 people were saved. As with the "Titanic" in 1912 (which we now know from the one surviving fireman, was ablaze in the coal bunkers before she even left Southampton and should never have sailed), together with speed and the weakened bulk head, sank with the loss of over 1500 people. Other common causes are fog, ice and lightening. One of the more improbable, was the loss of the "Essex" in 1820 which was sunk by a whale! Human error and navigational mistakes are other factors.

In 1779 the captain of the "Arethusa" mistook the shore lights for an enemy vessel at night and ran his ship straight onto the rocks off the French coast. He and his crew were arrested and the ship was lost.

Accidents and collisions were also a common cause of loss. In 1942 the cruiser HMS "Curacoa" was literally sliced in two when the liner "Queen Mary" struck her amidships travelling at 28 knots. The navy vessel sank immediately with the loss of 338 lives. Deliberate violence plays its part too, from enemy action during the war to piracy, mutiny and these days, terrorism. The most famous merchant ship to be sunk was the liner "Lusitania" hit by a U-boat in 1915 taking 1200 lives with her.

Fire poses a major hazard to ships and in the age of sail, timbers and tar soaked rigging were all highly flammable. In 1825 an Officer aboard the "Kent" (a British East India ship) dropped a lantern in the hold near a cask of spirits which caused the ship to catch fire and explode. The instability of a ship through weak structure, poor design, cargo slippage or mechanical failure has caused many deaths at sea. In 1782 the rotting timbers of the HMS "Royal George" led to her unexpectedly sinking taking with her 900 men. Ships are sometimes lost deliberately on occasions for insurance or other reasons.

From the National Archive you can get a Certificate of British Registry which gives the history of the ship and its fate. eg. owner and occupation of the owner, name of ship, Port where registered, date of registration, description of ship, Captain of ship and fate of the ship. If a Captain loses his ship for any reason other than enemy action (and he survives), he is subjected to a court martial resulting on a first hand description of the ship's loss including testimony from crew members. The first publication to systematically list its shipping losses was "Lloyds List" dating from 1741. Information can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk > research-guides > ships...

This guide contains information about researching wrecked or sunken ships at The National Archives. Another useful site is https://www.archives.gov/research/maritime. Lloyds Register of Shipping has been produced annually since 1764 and initially did not contain every British ship but since 1875 all British vessels over 100 tons are listed alphabetically. After 1786, all British ships had to be registered at their home Port. The National Archives has indexed records from 1889 to 1920 by the ship's name. The Admiralty started registering British coastal shipwrecks in 1850 whenever lives were lost. In 1856 the Board of Trade took over this role and after 1865 the 'casualty returns' included all British ships lost wherever it occurred and from 1873 a report was made even if no lives were lost. Returns of deaths of seamen starting in 1891 can also be found at the National Archives. The entry lists the seaman's name, age, rank, birthplace, address, ship on which he served at the time of death. Lists of passengers lost can also be found here. However, because there are so many passenger lists for each ship, make sure you have the correct list for the voyage when the ship went down. Another useful site is www.wrecksite.eu which contains most wrecks and pictures of many.

There is a Shipwrecks Guide to be found at the NSW State Archives. www.records.nsw.gov.au for Australian shipwrecks. Also check indexes to the Colonial Secretary's correspondence under the name of the vessel. Until the early twentieth century, a journey to NSW involved a sea voyage and travellers boarding a ship often faced the perils of fire, disease and shipwreck, hence the Australian coast is littered with the wrecks of many ships that failed to safely reach their destination. The main series of correspondence and the list of Special Bundles should be consulted for information relating to or concerning shipwrecks in NSW.



Simon Wills - with his permission

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH – has been interrupted because of the COVID-19 virus but many events continue to be delivered on-line. SAG (Society of Australian Genealogists) runs an extensive program of lectures, workshops, and group meetings which are open to everyone. They also hold member-only webinars and members receive a discount on our events. Webinars are recorded and most are available to non-members as well as members. You can register at http://www.sag.org.au/How-to-Join-A-Webinar. Content is changed every three months. September to December is as follows:

2 September 2020 WEBINAR: Ancestry tips 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join Michelle Patient each month for *Ancestry Tips* - an hour focusing on using the Ancestry website, with plenty of time for your questions.

Skill level: All

3 September 2020 WEBINAR: Spring clean your family history 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Been on a break and need to get back on track with your research? Or are you feeling overwhelmed with the state your notes are in? Hear Danielle's top tips for cleaning up your research notes and establishing some simple goodwork habits for family history.

Skill level: All Presenter: Danielle Lautrec

7 September 2020 WEBINAR: Bond, James Bond 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Giving a common word to a search engine brings its own problems ("no I do not mean marriage bonds"). In this presentation Kerry Farmer demonstrates how researching in Australian and English records found fascinating parallels with the literary character. Skill level: All Presenter: Kerry Farmer

10 September 2020 WEBINAR: The FamilySearch family tree: How to use it and why you should use it 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

In this talk Paul Parton, Outreach Presenter for FamilySearch, will explore the value of the collaborative single tree concept. Users with a free account can contribute to the tree or simply explore the tree looking for ancestors. Three conceptual pillars of the tree will be examined to address concerns some may have about the collaborative tree concept. The layout of the tree and how to navigate it will also be demonstrated

Skill level: All

17 September 2020 GROUP: Writing Discussion Group - Ten Doors Down 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Robert Tickner will be talking about his book, Ten Doors Down: the story of an extraordinary adoption reunion. It is the story of a federal minister's remarkable reunion with his birth parents. You will get the most out of the session if you have read the book before the meeting. Skill level: All Presenter: Robert Tickner

18 September 2020 WEBINAR: GED match course - Part 1 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Session 1 shows how to download DNA from the testing companies and upload it to GEDmatch and then explains the Legend, Resources, Information and Forum areas. All the variations of the One-to-many and One-to-one utilities are demonstrated, as well as the very useful tool "People who match both, or 1 of 2 kits". GEDmatch is a three part course. Book using this event listing if you just want to attend this session. If you want to book for all three of the sessions with the course discount of \$60 members, \$90 non-members, please book using the event called WEBINAR: GEDmatch - Full course. Skill level: All Presenter: Sue Dobson

18 September 2020 – 16 Oct 2020 WEBINAR: GEDmatch - FULL COURSE 10.30am -12.30pm Full details of each session can be found in the individual listings for those sessions.

Skill level: All Presenters: Sue Dobson & Kerry Farmer

19 September 2020 WEBINAR: Introduction to Findmypast 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Find out about the range of records available on the Findmypast website and get tips for effective search strategies. Skill level: All, good for beginners Presenter: Michelle Patient

24 September 2020 WEBINAR: Finding the unknowable 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Jewish families often think that records of their Eastern European families prior to the Holocaust, or prior to their emigration from Eastern Europe were all destroyed during World War II. Although many records did not survive, many did, and can, with diligent searching be found. We'll be discussing some research techniques and resources available digitally, and visiting ancestral towns to find out more about your family before they emigrated.

Skill level: All Presenter: Janette Silverman, AncestryProGenealogists

26 September 2020 WORKSHOP: Trove newspapers 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Learn to use the newspaper resources of Trove for family history, with tips on features such as downloading, printing, using tags and lists, and correcting newspaper text. Attendees need to be familiar with using the internet and already have a Trove account. Skill level: All, beginners welcome Presenter: Danielle Lautrec

30 September 2020 WEBINAR: A triangle of care 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

In 19th century Sydney, the Benevolent Asylum was a place of temporary refuge for destitute ex-convicts and deserted families, as well as a lying-in hospital for single women and their illegitimate offspring. From the 1850s it forged close connections with the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children and, from 1862, the Liverpool Asylum. Learn more about who needed the help of these institutions and what records they left behind. Skill level: All

Presenter: Heather Garnsey

2 October 2020 WEBINAR: GEDmatch course - Part 2 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Session 2 concentrates on the remaining free tools (Admixture, 3-D Chromosome Browser, etc) as well as the Ancestor Projects. We will also look at the tools for uploading a family tree to GEDmatch and searching and comparing with the family trees of others. Skill level: All Presenter: Kerry Farmer

7 October 2020 WEBINAR - Ancestry tips 8:00 pm 9:00 pm

Join Michelle Patient each month for Ancestry Tips - an hour focusing on using the Ancestry website, with plenty of time for your questions. Presenter: Michelle Patient (SAG member and AncestryProGenealogist contractor)

8 October 2020 GROUP: Writing Discussion Group 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Was your ancestor an Activist? Did she march with the Suffragettes? Campaign for better working conditions? Protest the Gold Licence fees? Tell us about them in a 3 minute story

Skill level: All Convenor: Lilian Magill

10 October 2020 WEBINAR: DNA Research Group - Beginners 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Receiving your DNA test results is an exciting time but that excitement can quickly turn to confusion.

This session will look at some essential basics and then focus on test results and how to interpret the data so you can start finding those new cousins. We will also look at some of the tools to aid you in your DNA research.

Skill level: Beginners Presenter: Melissa Hulbert

15 October 2020 WEBINAR: Practical application of copyright in family history 10.00am -11.30am

Copyright law can be confusing, so Lorraine and Danielle will demonstrate how to apply the law in family history using real examples such as copying material in the library, using people's photographs, using unpublished family histories from the SAG archives, citations and captions, acknowledgements and permissions, and more.

Skill level: All Presenter: Lorraine Brothers and Danielle Lautrec

16 October 2020 WEBINAR: GEDmatch course - Part 3 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Session 3 explains and demonstrates the powerful Tier 1 tools of GEDmatch. (These require a subscription of US\$10 for a month's usage.) These include Segment Searching, Phasing, Triangulating, as well as combining and analysing multiple kits at the same time. The Lazarus tool will also be explained, which can create a kit of some DNA from a deceased ancestor using the DNA of their descendants and relatives.

17 October 2020 GROUP: Legacy Software Group 10:30 am- 2:30 pm

Legacy Software group meetings provide opportunities for you to extend your knowledge of Legacy features and to share your Legacy experiences. If you are undecided about which family history software program to purchase come along and see what Legacy can offer you. Newcomers and beginners are welcome.

Skill

Level: All **Convenor:** Danielle Lautrec

20 October 2020 WEBINAR: Where to look when your Australian or UK ancestors 'disappear'

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Our ancestors can be surprisingly elusive, being present for decades in one spot then mysteriously disappearing from key records. Although we might find several gaps in records in our family trees, in reality it is actually quite rare for an individual or family to genuinely be missing from those records or to have disappeared seemingly into thin air. This talk will provide a few tips and pointers to help you solve those riddles and hopefully find that missing ancestor in Australian or UK records.

Skill level: All Presenter: Deb Carter, AncestryProGenealogists

24 October 2020 to 12 December 2020 WEBINAR: Family history fundamentals - Part 1 Getting started 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Just started your family history or need a refresher? This session will cover the principles of family history research, types of sources and repositories, charting, search techniques and research planning. *Family History Fundamentals is a three part course*. Book using this event listing if you just want to attend this session. If you want to book for all three of the sessions with the course discount of \$60 members, \$90 non-members, please book using the event called WEBINAR: Family History Fundamentals - FULL COURSE.

Skill level: All **Presenter:** Danielle Lautrec

24 October – 12 December 2020 WEBINAR: Family history fundamentals - FULL COURSE

4 November 2020 WEBINAR Ancestry tips 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm See earlier Webinar 7 October 2020 for details

7 November 2020 GROUP: New Zealand Research Group 10:30 am- 12:30 pm

Topic to be advised closer to the date. Skill level: All Convenor: Pauline Weeks

12 November 2020 GROUP: Writing Discussion Group - DNA stories 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

This session will examine how to write your DNA stories – share exciting discoveries, explain the DNA evidence, protect the privacy of the living and deal with uncovered secrets in a sensitive manner. Members can book for all WDG meetings between Aug-Dec using the Writing Discussion Group Ticket and receive a discount.

Skill level: All Convenor: Lilian Magill

14 November 2020 GROUP: Family Tree Maker AM session 10.30am -12.30pm

Join other users of this popular family history software program for insights, ideas and opportunities to share tips and ask questions. Skill level: All, beginners welcome Convenor: Larry Czarnik

14 Nov 2020 GROUP: Family Tree Maker PM session 1:30 am - 3:30 pm Evening

session of above. Skill level: All, beginners welcome Convenor: Larry Czarnik

20 November 2020 WEBINAR: Family history fundamentals - Part 2 Analysing the evidence 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Just started your family history or need to develop your skills further? This session will cover tips and techniques for analysing sources and the information within them, and using that as evidence in your family history. It will include analysing handwriting, evaluating sources and problem solving.

Skill level: All Presenter: Danielle Lautrec

21 November 2020 GROUP: The Master Genealogist Software Group 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Topic to be advised closer to the date Skill level: All Convenor: Bruce Fairhall

28 November 2020 GROUP: DNA Research Group - Intermediate, Tools in Practice

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Topic to be advised closer to the date.

Skill level: Intermediate Convenor: Veronica Williams

28 November 2020 GROUP: DNA Research Group - Advanced 1:30 pm - 3:pm

Topic to be advised, closer to the date. This session will NOT be recorded, so you must attend live.

2 December 2020 Ancestry tips 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join Michelle Patient each month for *Ancestry Tips* - an hour focusing on using the Ancestry website, with plenty of time for your questions. *Skill level:* All Michelle Patient is SAG member and AncestryProGenealogist contractor)

10 December 2020 GROUP: Writing Discussion Group: **The Last Full Stop** 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

A discussion on what you do, once you have finished writing 'the book'. Looking at ideas on publishing. What to write next. This is an open forum for all members to join in. *Members can book for all WDG meetings between Aug-Dec using the Writing Discussion Group Ticket and receive a discount.*

Skill level: All Convenor: Lilian Magill

12 December 2020 WEBINAR: Family history fundamentals - Part 3 Documenting and Presenting 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

This session will cover tips and techniques for writing it up and sharing your family history with other researchers in a variety of forms, including charts, software, reports, books and online. It will also cover tips for making those dreaded source citations easier! Family History Fundamentals is a three part course. Book using this event listing if you just want to attend this session. If you want to book for all three of the sessions with the course discount of \$60 members, \$90 nonmembers, please book using the event called WEBINAR: Family History Fundamentals - FULL COURSE. Skill level: All Presenter: Danielle Lautrec

The power of the family stories and the family history is really remarkable. There seems to be something that's particularly important about children knowing where they came from in a larger sense and having a sense of family history and a family place.

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

1st February 1st Quarter March Issue

1st May 2nd Quarter June Issue

1st August 3rd Quarter September Issue

1st November 4th Quarter December Issue

Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries re 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.

RESEARCH SHEETS, ETC.

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.

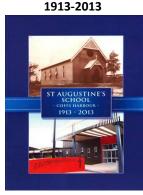
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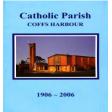


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