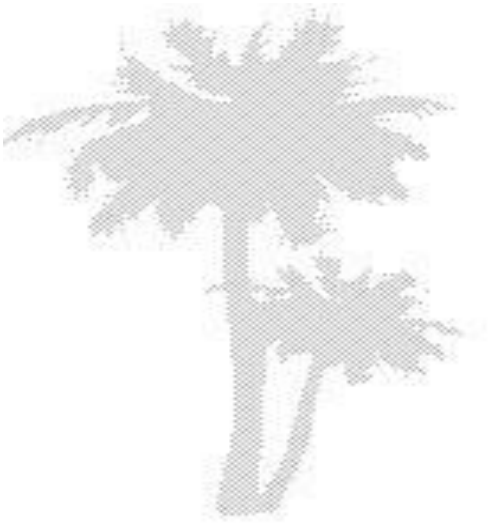
Mackay Genie Gossip

November 2007 Ph. 07 4952 2762



Mackay Family History Society Inc.

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Mackay Genealogy Committees

Executive Committee		**Fundraising**
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Vice President	Jeannette Howard	Meralyn Froyland
Treasurer	Yvonne Peberdy	
Secretary	Jean Turvey	
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Yvonne Peberdy	Noel Flor
Jean Turvey	Gerry Woodruff
Dorne Cawte	Bob Warry
Adelaide Grendon	Ken McKerihan

Project Officers
Jean Turvey, Judy Wallace

Attention Researchers

1. Pencils only to be used while you are researching in the room.

2. **NO BIROS OR INK OF ANY DESCRIPTION ALLOWED**.

3. No large bags or briefcases are allowed at the fiche readers or tables, this is to prevent fiche and books accidentally going home with you.

4. All research material cannot be borrowed out, or removed from the premises.

5. If you wish to photocopy any articles please advise the person on roster who will **photocopy** for you.

[Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.
Carolan (Librarian)]

News from our Research Library

Research Library closed for Christmas holidays Saturday 15th December and re-opens on Monday 14th January 2008

Change of Society Meetings: In future they will be held quarterly at the society library on the First Saturday of Nov., Feb., May and Aug. at 1 pm. That is 3rd Nov.2007; 2nd Feb 2008; 3rd May 2008; and 2nd Aug 2008 (AGM) Members & visitors are welcome.

Annual General Meeting: Held at the society library the First Saturday of August at 1pm. Members & visitors welcome.

Annual Membership Fees Have Changed

Single Membership is $35.00 and Family Membership is $45.00. These are due on the anniversary month of the member joining.

Genie Gossip Quarterly Journal published – Feb., May, Aug., Nov. is $3-00 per issue. It is also available by email. Postage $1.00 extra.

Beginners' Classes: Three sets, each of five sessions, are planned on selected Tuesdays in 2008:
5 Feb. to 4 March. 10 June to 8 July.
11 Nov. to 9 Dec. 2008 from 12.30 to 3.30pm. Fees apply.

Projects: Indexers and other helpers are always needed. Please volunteer. Contact Yvonne Peberdy at our library for details.

For Sale: Various items used in genealogical research, including:

Australian Family Tree Collection magazine	$6.00
Janet Reakes, *A – Z of Genealogy*	$2.00
Janet Reakes, *Dictionary of Queenslanders*	$2.00
Catalogue of Library Holdings	$2.00
Potted Plants	$1.00
Paperback and Hardcover Books	50c & $1.00 each
CD of Mackay Cemetery records	$25.00
CD of Mackay Holy Trinity Church, Baptisms and Marriages Index	$25.00
7 Generation charts	$7.50
9 Generation charts	$5.00

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: **Margaret Brignone, Lesley Brown, Marie Parker; Marcia Dunn Clyde McPhee and Julie Sykes.** We wish each of you well in your research, and hope that you take an active part in our society. Older Members, when you meet these new members, please remember to welcome them personally.

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MID WINTER RAFFLE: 1st Prize $500.00 fuel voucher Ticket No. 0059 Gary O'Shea. 2nd Prize $200.00 fuel voucher Ticket No. 1109 H.Allwood.

Thank you to all the ticket sellers who helped out - Meralyn, Bob, Trevor, Joyce, Grace, Jan, Melva, Carolan, Jean, Noel and Ray, Sue and May. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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GARAGE SALE: Held on Saturday 1st September on the footpath at our library was a huge success. Thank you to the people who donated their "treasures" or books for us to sell. Thank you also to the people who lovingly tended their plants and donated them for us to sell. A special thank you to Joyce and Peter, Dorne, Meralyn and Sue who helped at the sale; and thank you to Des and Judy who helped us with the preparation in the days leading up to the sale.

-Jean, Carolan & Yvonne

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Wot's **New** at our Genie Room Library??

BROADBAND is now available at the nominal cost of $3-50 per hour, so the users can access and/or order certain research documents. It is wise to book ahead. Also, our society has a payment facility so that you can pay the society for these, instead of opening an on-line account at the relevant website. It will now be easier to phone the library – what a relief!

The fee for other computers is $1.00 per hour.

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Kindly donated by Yvonne Peberdy:-

- *Mirani State High School 40th Anniversary Booklett*
- Jan Rees, *From Mandarins to Mangoes, a history of farming in Bowen;* 2007 Jan Rees, PO Box 481, Red Hill, Q 4059. ISBN 978064672409
- Matthew McNair Tonkin, *St. George & the Chinese Dragon;* 2006 Jan Rees, PO Box 481 Red Hill, Q 4059. ISBN 09 775632 0 0
- Margo Shiels, *Bends in the Road;* 2006 Margo Shiels, PO Box 374, Bowen, Q 4805. ISBN 0 646 38289 6. (The author was born in China, married in Sydney and settled in Bowen.)

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Wot's **Old** at our Genie Room Library??

Microfilms of THE 19TH CENTURY IMMIGRANT SHIPPING RECORDS FOR NSW are held in our library. However, we do not hold an Index; but neither do you need to spend hours, or perhaps days, trawling systematically through each film looking for your ancestor. All is not lost.

Go to the website for the NSW State Archives at < http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes >. This Index provides the Name of Person, Age, Name of Ship, Year of Emigration and Reel Number. Having searched the Index on-line, the researcher is now equipped to look at the relevant Shipping Record in our local genealogical library. Note that this is cheaper and quicker than ordering direct from the archives.

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**:** Members may hire microfiche and a fiche-reader for $5.00 over a weekend. Contact Jean Turvey on (07) 49 426266 for more details.

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Some Common Terms and Their Meanings

- BDM (or BMD) An abbreviation for *Births, Deaths & Marriages*
- PR *Parish Registers* have been in existence in the United Kingdom since 1538 by decree of King Henry VIII. The local ministers and priests recorded the christenings (sometimes births), marriages and deaths conducted in his parish. Similar registers also exist in some other countries. In Australia they began with European settlement in 1788. Most, if not all, Australian parish registers prior to 1856 are now available from the relevant registry office, as they appear on a BDM microfische index.
- BT *Bishops' Transcripts* are the transcriptions (i.e. copies) of BDM which were sent by the local minister to the bishop each quarter. Because these are copies, they are not always as accurate as the parish registers. These transcripts and parish registers are available from church archives. However, they are not totally complete; some are missing.
- *Civil Registration* of BDM began in England in 1837 at the behest of Queen Victoria. (Scotland and Ireland followed later) and New South Wales (i.e. Australia) in 1856. In the United Kingdom these records are available from regional registry offices and the national one. In Australia they are available regionally and from the registry office in each state capital.

However, it costs more to obtain copies of these records from a registry office than it does at the church archives. The reason is that a registry office provides certified copies - legal documents. Church Parish Registers, especially, the early ones, sometimes have extra information by way of a marginal

notation, which is useful. Remember that the vast majority of genealogical records are written by hand, because typewriters and computers are relatively new inventions.

All the BDM Indexes for each state of Australia, that are accessible to the public, are available at our society library. Some Indexes are on microfische, while the others are on CD. They provide the following information:

BIRTHS: Surname, Given Name/s, Date, Father's Name, Mother's Name, Registered Number.

DEATHS: Surname, Given Name/s, Date, Father's Name, Mother's Name, Registered Number.

MARRIAGES: Are listed twice; that is, under the name of the groom as well as that of the bride.

> Surname, Given Name/s, Date, Name of Bride or Groom; Registered No.

By searching these Indexes thoroughly, one can build a family tree at little or no cost. However, it will be necessary to buy the occasional certificate from time to time to verify certain information, so that you can proceed with your search. This procedure also provides proof of your research when you record the Registration Index numbers as well. This practice is extremely important as it gives your research credibility and integrity.

It is beyond the scope of this article to provide full details of addresses and costs for obtaining copies of these records. That up to date information is better obtained from our society's research library at 17B Keith Hamilton St., Mackay.

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For information on military disciplinary executions during World War I. See http://www.shotatdawn.org.uk

- *CQ Genealogist*, March 2007. No 83; page 16.

The Value of Church Archives

-Des Dunn

Many years ago when I originally looked at the NSW Registry Office Marriage Index for a certain Robert Innes, I found two entries; namely:

1. Robert Innes & Mary Coatcliffe 1852 Entry No. 444; Vol. 80;
2. Robert Innes & Mary Coatcliffe or Eccles 1852 Entry No. 2133; Vol. 73.

What did it mean? This was confusing as I knew virtually nothing about Robert. A few possibilities presented themselves. Not wanting to go to the expense of two certificates that may prove that he was not my Robert, I contacted the church archives as they were cheaper.

The following marriage record was found in the Uniting Church Archives, Sydney (for St. Andrews Scots Presbyterian Church, Sydney). Marriage Records No. 537/1852:-

> I, Revd. John McGarvie of Sydney, Minister of St. Andrews Church do hereby certify that Robert Innes, Widower of Sydney and Mary Coatcliffe or Eccles, Widow of the same place were joined together in Wedlock by me, on the Twenty fourth day of February 1852 at Sydney, by Licence in the Presence of CharlesXMerrick and MaryXJane Merrick. Witnefses of Sydney. Signed: John McGarvie, DD. Signed: Robert Innes. MaryXEccles, Parties.

It appears from the above that Mary was a widow – hence the different surnames, one being her maiden name and the other being the surname of her first husband.

Church records prior to 1856, when civil registration began, were collated and edited many years later by the NSW Registry Office and eventually included in their BDM Indexes. Today

Robert's marriage entries are listed on the microfische as follows. Each entry takes up one line. Note the different reference numbers which are underlined.

- Surname: *Innes*. Christian Names: *Robert*. Date: *1852*. Surname of Bride/Groom: *Eccles*. Christian Names: *Mary*. Place of Registration: *JB*. Volume Reference: *V1852 2136 73C*. Registration Year/Number: *1852* ---
- Surname: *Innes*. Christian Names: *Robert*. Date: *1852*. Surname of Bride/Groom: *Eccles*. Christian Names: *Mary*. Place of Registration: *JB*. Volume Reference: *V1852 444 80.* Registration Year/Number: *1852* ----.

Subsequently more information was obtained about Robert and Mary which verified that it was he for whom I was looking. So it does pay to search church archives. Our society library contains some Mackay church marriage records. Why not have a look next time you visit?

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HOW DID YOUR INTEREST IN FAMILY HISTORY START?
WE INVITE YOU TO WRITE A SHORT ARTICLE ABOUT IT.

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Important Tips on Research Methods & Recording Source References

NATURE OF EVIDENCE

DIRECT — speaks directly to the point in question (e.g., a birth certificate is direct evidence of the date and place of birth of the person for whom it was issued).

INDIRECT or CIRCUMSTANTIAL — provides facts from which a conclusion can be inferred (e.g. approximate year of birth can be inferred from the date of an infant's baptism).

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

PRIMARY — personal testimony of an eyewitness or a record created shortly after the event by a person with personal knowledge of the facts

- Where and when was the record made?
- Who made it?
- For what purpose was it made?
- Did the information come from someone with personal knowledge of the facts?
- Was there any reason for the informant to provide inaccurate information, either intentionally or unintentionally?

Applying the answers to those questions:

- An official birth certificate is better evidence of a date of birth than a diary entry made by an individual not present at the birth. (However, even an official birth record might not provide good evidence of the child's parentage in the case of an adoption because in some places concealment of the identities of the birth parents of an adopted child is officially sanctioned and substitute certificates falsely showing adoptive parents as birth parents are put on record.) Moreover, even official records can and do contain errors.
- Death information provided by the attending physician is primary evidence of the date and place of death, but birth information on the same certificate (provided by someone with no personal knowledge of the date and place of birth of the decedent) is secondary evidence.

SECONDARY — Evidence that is copied or compiled from other sources or that is written from memory long after an event occurred.

- A genealogist should not rely solely on secondary sources but should locate and examine the primary sources upon which a compiled account was based, if extant, of course.
- In weighing genealogical evidence, remember that two pieces of evidence from the same source are not really two pieces of evidence. For example, a newspaper obituary might give information which later is used in a compiled history.

Original Sources

Family Records: Family Bibles, vital records, correspondence (letters), memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds and wills, diplomas, certificates, and testimonials.

Public Records: Censuses, government records, military, pensions, land bounty records, passport applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or immigration records, records of entry, state, province and local records.

Institutional Records: Church records, cemetery records and inscriptions, educational institutions, societies and fraternal organizations.

Secondary Materials

Printed Materials: Family histories, collected genealogies, source materials [abstracts and transcriptions of records], local histories, other printed materials such as newspapers, reference works and directories (city, telephone, trade and professional), Web sites, Mailing Lists, Message (Bulletin) Boards, and Email messages.

FORMS OF THE EVIDENCE

The best form of evidence is the original document or record.

When an original document is not available, a legible scanned copy, photocopy, or microform (film or fiche) copy of the original document should be obtained.

If an original document is not extant, one must rely on the official transcript of a document (such as a deed or will) entered in a record book by the clerk.

One should not rely on an unofficial transcript of, extract from, or abstract of an original document if the document itself or a copy of it is available.

DOCUMENTATION

Family historians must learn to weigh and evaluate evidence similar to the way juries do. There are differences, however.

In a court of law there are two major categories of evidence:

- Admissible; meaning it is worth considering, but still varies in degrees of reliability.
- Inadmissible; meaning it is not allowed to be heard because it is not reliable enough.

But we genealogists do not have judges to tell us what can or cannot be heard. We "hear" it all.

We look at every shred of information we find and sometimes draw incorrect conclusions because we do not know how to weigh it or how to resolve the frequent occurrence of conflicting evidence.

Researchers often assume that if several pieces of information agree, the data must be correct. Such assumptions often lead to erroneous pedigrees and frequently create genealogical dead-ends. There is a great deal of confusion surrounding the terms "evidence", "proof", and "sources". Donn Devine, a certified genealogist and practicing attorney, in an excellent article on "Evidence and Sources" in *Ancestry* magazine, provides this guidance:

- ***Source*** is the means by which information comes to a researcher.

- ***Proof*** is a name for a process that takes place in the mind, not for the evidence on which it is based. However, the term is also used to refer to the documents utilized as evidence for many lineage-society applications.

CITATION EXAMPLE
FOOTNOTES AND END NOTES EXAMPLES

Family historians should be cognizant that most genealogy software programs use predetermined terms in their report format, such as "married" that may or may not be 100 percent accurate. The compiler may or may not have overridden default options or included footnotes to indicate variants. In this instance (above) the term "married" is used and that is how the relationship was referred to in the sources so cited. Nevertheless, research in primary sources has not turned up a marriage license or record to either the first or third "wife" assigned to a given man.

Remember to cite the specific sources ***you actually used*** in compiling your family history. "**Source notes have two purposes: to record the specific location of each piece of data and to record details that affect the use or evaluation of that data."** *(Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*).

After collecting information, take a careful look at what you have and sort it into two groups:

- Remember to cite the specific sources *you actually used* in compiling your family history. "Source notes have two purposes: to record the specific location of each piece of data and to record details that affect the use or evaluation of that data.." *(Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*).

After collecting information, take a careful look at what you have and sort it into two groups:

- Primary evidence or sources. These usually are written records; the first or earliest documents in which a particular piece of information was recorded, and created at or near to the time of the event.
- Secondary evidence or source. Think of this as second-hand information that has come from some other person or record.

Get as close to the primary records and original documents as you can. However, keep in mind that even they may contain errors. Just because it is a primary source does not guarantee the information is 100 percent correct, but it is more likely to be. Additionally, make the effort to trace your secondary evidence back to primary sources. Don't blindly accept information you find in a book, CD, or on the Internet — or from your relatives' memories.

How do you resolve conflicting evidence? Follow the advice of Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, given in a National Genealogical Society Conference lecture: Judge Each Item of Evidence with the test of the four "Cs."

- Closeness (in place and time).
- Credibility (of person who made the record).
- Causality (why the record was made).
- Corroboration (with other evidence).

Of course, if you do not know where the information came from, how can you evaluate it? That is why you should carefully record and cite your sources. To create worthwhile genealogies for our families we need to use the best records and sources available, do the best work we can so our family histories may be continued by our descendants, and so they will

not have to duplicate all of our work because they do not know what sources we used to reach our conclusions.

Suggested Reading & References

- Black, Henry Campbell. *Black's Law Dictionary: Definitions of Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern,* Centennial Edition (1891-1991), Sixth Edition. St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co., 1990.
- Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* (3rd edition). Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2000.
- Jacobus, Donald Lines. Genealogy as Pastime and Profession, Second Edition [Revised]. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1978.
- Lackey, Richard S. *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records*. Jackson, Mississippi, University Press of Mississippi, 1980.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1997.
- National Archives and Records Administration. *Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States* (General Information Leaflet 17 [Revised]). Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1993.
- Rubincam, Milton (editor). *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources* [Revised Edition]. Vol. I. Washington, D.C.: The American Society of Genealogists, 1980, especially Part 1, Chapter I. "Interpreting Genealogical Records," by Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr., Chapter V. "The Rules of Evidence: A Standard for Proving Pedigrees," by Noel C. Stevenson, and Part 2, Materials for Research (all).
- Stevenson, Noel C. *Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship*

and Family History. [Revised Edition]. Laguna Hills, California: Aegean Park Press, 1989.

-Previously published by RootsWeb.com, Inc., RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Genealogy News, Vol. 4, No. 31, 1 August 2001.
- RootsWeb: http://www.rootsweb.com

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KENT SETTLEMENT (POOR LAW) RECORDS 1598-1930

A Guide

-Gillian Rickard

[This appeared in the "Hambrook Herald", Vol.26; No.116 December 2005. Every parish in the UK kept Settlement & Removal documents which record the movement of people from one parish to another. To the family historian, they are an important primary source for research.-Ed.]

Settlement documents involve not only paupers but also tradesmen, craftsmen, seamen, soldiers, labourers, widows, single people and children. They are of importance to family, social, administrative and demographic historians in recording movements of individuals and families from parish to parish and often recording short biographies of people about whose lives little would otherwise be known.

This 64 page paperback book catalogues parish by parish all known surviving settlement records for the Diocese of Canterbury, comprising the eastern two thirds of the pre-1974 county of Kent. It covers the more well-known types of loose documents commonly found in parish collections and also less well-known sources, including other parish records, Quarter and Petty Sessions records, Poor Law Union records, Justices' diaries and papers, etc.. The whereabouts of all records is noted, along with detailed catalogue references to Archives

collections. There is an introduction to the surviving documentation for East Kent, with details about the different types of settlement records that will be encountered and what information can be gained from each. A Select Bibliography points the reader towards background reading on the subject of Settlement Records in general. As a source book and historical record in itself this work will prove to be indispensable to anyone with an interest in the history of Kent.

ISBN: 0-9521828-0-7.

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The following has been attributed to Mark Twain: "When I consider past events, the further back I go the more I remember; even if it is not true."

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Help wanted

Hard Nuts Cracked Here (perhaps!)

But first the hard nuts must be found, and then shared so an attempt can be made to crack them. Please share your research problems through these pages. Remember a problem shared is a problem halved – and you just might receive the help you need to crack those hard nuts and those brick walls. Please include your contact details.

Research Interests

Share your research interests with others by recording them in this journal which is sent to many other family history societies. You never know, you may find someone researching the same family as you. Then you can work together with mutual benefit. This method is very successful.

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Old Irish Naming Patterns

Irish parents did not always name their children according the generally accepted naming pattern listed below. However, some did; and when researching one's ancestry it is wise to keep this in mind, because it may give you some clues about the identity of the previous generation.

OLD IRISH NAMING PATTERNS
1st son named after his father's father
2nd son named after his mother's father
3rd son named after his father
4th son named after his father's eldest brother

1st daughter named after her mother's mother
2nd daughter named after her father's mother
3rd daughter named after her mother
4th daughter named after her mother's eldest sister

Naming patterns were also common in Scotland and were similar, if not the same, as in Ireland.

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How Did You Start??

+

Do you have an ancestor who was in Mackay or the surrounding areas before 1885 ??

We would like to hear from you!!

The Society has commenced a book on the early Pioneers of Mackay pre 1885. We currently have 209 families. If you would like your ancestors preserved in history please ring our library in Keith Hamilton Street, Mackay West. Phone: 4952 2762

NOTE: The following article is about child labour in the coal mines of England. It is from Louis L. Synder, *Fifty Major Documents of the Nineteenth Century*, an Anvil Original; 1955 D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc. Canada. Pages 65 –68.
Footnotes 2 to 7 and number 9 are not in the original, and have been added by Des Dunn.

REPORT OF LORD ASHLEY'S MINES COMMISSION, 1842[1]

The conditions existing in the British mines during the early eighteen forties were shocking and scandalous. Mingled among naked men chopping at the veins of the earth were young girls crawling on all fours and tugging small coal carts. Others sat in darkness and "trapped," opening and closing doors for the passage of the carts. Working underground for long hours, and for pitifully low wages, these children seldom saw the light of day. The atrocities visited upon them resulted in lung diseases, ruined eyesight, and nervous collapse. Laissez faire had truly become "the dismal science."

The conscience of England was lashed by the novelist, Charles Dickens, and the fiery pamphleteer, William Cobbett, whose social tracts denounced the exploitation of workers in mines and factories. With public attention drawn to the degrading situation, Parliament was prevailed upon to interfere. Three Tory members, Michael Sadler, Richard Oastler, and Lord Ashley, led parliamentary investigations of the iniquitous conditions in factories and mines, leading to a number of reforms for the industrial workers.

The following excerpts give the testimony of four English girls during the investigation of labour conditions in mines made by Lord Ashley's Mines Commission in 1842. As a

[1] *Parliamentary Papers, 1842*, XV-XVIII, appendix I, pp. 252, 258, 439, 461; appendix II, pp. 107, 122, 205.

result of this inquiry, the Mines Act of 1842 excluded boys under eleven, together with all girls and women, from further employment in the coal pits. By 1846 no child under nine was permitted to work in mines. But there was still no limit on the hours for boys or men in the mines.

* * *

A

Sarah Gooder, aged 8 years

I'm a trapper[2] in the Gawber pit. It does not tire me, but I have to trap without a light, and I'm scared. I go at four and sometimes half past three in the morning, and come out at five and half past. I never go to sleep. Sometimes I sing when I've light, but not in the dark; I dare not sing then. I don't like being in the pit. I am very sleepy when I go sometimes in the morning. I go to Sunday-school and read "Reading made Easy." *[She knows her letters and can read little words.]* They teach me to pray. *[She repeated the Lord's Prayer, not very perfectly, and ran on with the following addition: "God bless my father and mother, and sister and brother, uncles and aunts and cousins, and everybody else, and God bless me and make me a good servant. Amen."]* I have heard tell of Jesus many a time. I don't know why he came on earth, I'm sure, and I don't know why he died, but he had stones for his head to rest on. I would like to be at school far better than being in the pit.

B

Isabella Read, 12 years old, coal-bearer

[2] Trapper: A child in a coal mine who opens the air doors of the galleries for the passage of coal waggons

I am brought with sister and brother, it is very sore work; cannot say how many rakes or journeys I make from pit's bottom to wall face and back.

I carry out about 1 cwt. and a quarter[3] on my back; have to stoop so much and creep through water, which is frequently up to the calves of my legs.

I do not like the work, nor do the lassies, but they are made to like it.

C

Mary Barrett, aged 14

I have worked down in pit five years. Father is working next pit. I have twelve brothers and sisters – all of them but one live at home. They weave, and wind, and hurry, and one is a counter, one of them can read, none of the rest can, or write. They never went to day-school, but three of them go to Sunday-school. I hurry for my brother John, and come down at seven o'clock about. I go up at six, sometimes even seven. I do not like working in pit, but I am obliged to get a living. I work always without stockings, or shoes, or trousers. I wear nothing but my chemise. I have to go up to the headings with the men. They are all naked there; I am got well used to that, and don't care much about it. I was afraid at first, and did not like it. They never behave rudely to me. I cannot read or write.

D

Patience Kershaw, aged 17

My father has been dead about a year. My mother is living and has ten children, five lads and five lassies; the oldest

[3] One hundredweight weighs 112 lbs or 50.8 kilogrammes.

is about thirty, the youngest is four. Three lassies go to mill.[4] All the lads are colliers[5], two getters[6] and three hurriers[7]. One lives at home and does nothing. Mother does nought but look after home.

All my sisters have been hurriers, but three went to the mill. Alice went because her legs swelled from hurrying in cold water when she was hot. I never went to day-school. I go to Sunday-school, but I cannot read or write. I go to pit at five o'clock in the morning and come out at five in the evening. I get my breakfast of porridge and milk first. I take my dinner with me, a cake, and eat it as I go. I do not stop or rest any time for the purpose. I get nothing else until I get home, and then have potatoes and meat, not every day meat. I hurry in the clothes I have now got on, trousers and ragged jacket.

The bald place upon my head is made by thrusting the corves.[8] My legs have never swelled, but sister's did when they went to the mill. I hurry the corves a mile and more underground and back; they weigh 300 cwt.[9]; I hurry 11 a-day. I wear a belt and chain at the workings to get the corves out. The getters that work for are naked except for their caps. They pull of all their clothes. I see them at work when I go up. Sometimes they beat me, if I am not quick enough, with their hands. They strike me on the back. The boys take liberties with me; sometimes they pull me about. I am the only girl in the pit. There are about 20 boys and 15 men. All the men are naked. I would rather work in mill than in coal-pit.

[This girl is an ignorant, filthy, ragged, and deplorable-looking object, and such a one as the uncivilized natives of the

[4] A textile mill, such as a woollen or cotton mill.
[5] A digger of coal, a miner
[6] One who extracts coal from a mine
[7] A hurrier pulls/pushes a low-wheeled container carrying coal
[8] Corves is plural of "corf", a low-wheeled vehicle for carrying coal in the mines. Formerly a large basket or box on low wheels.
[9] "300 cwt." is three hundredweight

prairies would be shocked to look upon.]

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General Paralyis of the Insane

-Adapted from the *Leicestershire Newsletter* & submitted by Yvonne Peberdy

General Paralyis of the insane is one of the later manifestations of Syphilis, a disease mainly sexually transmitted but which can be acquired in utero from an infected mother. Evidence of its presence has been found in the Egyptian mummies. The first definite description in Europe was in 1449 when it was called "the Spanish sickness"; and, there being no cure, became increasingly common. The earliest treatment was by Mercurial salts which killed more people than the disease.

It presents as a sore and gradually progresses, perhaps years later, to other complaints such a heart and nervous problems. However, the final stages are comparatively rare. General paralysis of the insane resulted in admission to the Mental hospitals. The first effective treatment was the arsenical Salvarsan discovered by Paul Ehrlich in 1910 and rapidly adopted. It was superseded by Penicillin in 1940s.

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Personal Recollections and Memorabilia

Mark Herber, *Ancestral Trails, the complete guide to British genealogy and family history,* London: Sutton Publishing – Society of Genealogists; 2nd Edition 2005. ISBN 0-7509-4198-7. Page 14.

…Ask where your relatives and ancestors went to school or where they went on holiday (which was often to see other relatives). Other questions could relate to family legends, the location of any family Bible, or the location of documents such as birth, death or marriage certificates, family photographs,

wills, medals, newspaper cuttings or letters. You can also ask the relative about specific people. For example, you might ask an aunt to answer the following questions about her grandfather (your great grandfather):

a. What was his full name? Did he have a nickname?
b. When and how did he die? Where was he buried or cremated?
c. What was the name of his wife, when did she die and where was she buried or cremated?
d. When and where were they married? Did either of them marry twice?
e. Where did they live?
f. What were their children's names, who did they marry and where do (or did) they live? If they have died, when did they die, and where were they buried?
g. What was your grandfather's job? Where was he employed? Did he fight in any wars?
h. Where and when was your grandfather born? Did he have an accent?
i. Do you know the name of any schools or colleges that he attended?
j. Did he attend any church? If so, what denomination and where was it?
k. Do you have his birth, marriage or death certificates, a will, or employment records?
l. Do you have any photographs of him or can you remember what he looked like?
m. Which other relatives may have information about your grandfather?

More detailed lists of questions that you can put to relatives, with guidance on interview techniques, are included in Howarth (65) and Thompson (89). If the relative completes the

questionnaire, you can ask further questions by a telephone call or at a meeting. It is preferable to meet relatives and discuss the family history with them. A relative may know more about family members by way of interesting anecdotes rather than genealogical facts. For example, a relative is more likely to remember that her grandfather was a tailor who spoke with a Yorkshire accent than she is to know his date of death. At a meeting, you can obtain an indication of dates, and narrow down the records to be searched, by asking questions such as "Was your grandfather alive when you married?" A great aunt may not remember the exact dates of birth of her brothers and sisters, but she will remember them in order of their ages. This type of information is easier to obtain at a meeting. Some researchers tape record (or video) interviews with their relatives. However, the presence of a tape recorder or video camera may inhibit conversation, especially if there are scandalous matters to discuss. You should never record a discussion secretly. You should ask to take photographs of relatives to add to your collection. Other relatives may like to see up to date photographs of family members whom they may not have seen for years. You should leave your telephone number and address with the relative. Once you have stirred memories, the relative might remember more information or recall where some important documents are located.

There are a number of points to remember when interviewing relatives, especially the elderly; First, it is important that relatives feel at ease in providing information to you, that they see you as a serious researcher (not just looking for family gossip) and understand that they have a vital role to play in the research. Show the relative the work you have done, copies of documents that you have obtained and point out the gaps in our knowledge with which they might help you….

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Mt. Pelion Post Office

Joan Frew, *Queensland Post Offices 1842-1980 and Receiving Offices 1869-1927*, South Brisbane: Watson Ferguson & Co. 1981. ISBN 0 9593973 0 2 Distributed by Joan Frew, P.O. Box 445, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Q 4006. Page 361:-

MT.PELION

28 miles from Mackay bearing 290 degrees. The railway opened December 1, 1923. The receiving office opened at the station about February 1924 and then left by May 1925. It was designated a post office late 1927.

Notes from member, Adelaide Grendon (née Benson)

My grandfather, Otto Valdemar Hansen delivered mail by pack and sulky twice weekly before the railway was built from Hampden Store to Blackrock. I do not know where he left mail at Mt. Pelion, it could have been a store near Kerry's Creek. Mrs. Griffiths had a phone and possibly the Post Office under their home opposite Mt. Pelion Railway Station. The Post Office was later situated on Big Boggo Road just off the main road. It was a two storey building, living area upstairs with Post Office under. Later years the building was lowered. Living area at back and Post Office and Exchange at the front – Non Official Post Office was the title.

Names of Post Officers:

1930s – Hearley; Armstrong.

During War Years

Mrs Bolck was Post Master 1940s. Mr Tom Tideman returned soldier was Post Master for a short period. Mrs Betty Huner to early 1950s. Then Mr & Mrs Sam Senini the Post Office was on their farm. Mrs Ella Senini, Sam's wife ran the Post office she resigned 1951/52 when the farm sold to the Grendon family. Mrs Ruby Grendon

became Post Mistress 1951/52; she resigned 1956. Her son Thomas Grendon became Post Master until he resigned 16 January 1964. His resignation was accepted 29 January 1964 when I (Adelaide J. Grendon) was appointed to succeed Tom as Post Mistress at Mt Pelion 1 March 1964 to 2 January 1967. Maureen Pantelic became Post Mistress 2 January 1967 until the post office closed in the 1970s.

When Mrs A.J.Grendon was appointed, the allowance payable under present conditions was at the rate of £569.0s.0d. per annum.

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Genie Gossip – A History

-Des Dunn

Genie Gossip, has been our society's journal since its first edition as a newsletter in April 1988 when it consisted of four A4 pages. It has been a vitally important means of keeping in touch with members. Each issue contains short articles about the results of members' getting to know their ancestors, plus other information to assist readers in their family history research.

During the next nine and a half years, this particular format was maintained until issue No. 89 in December 1997. That is ten editions a year until 1995, six the next year and five in 1997. All of these are a catalogue and commentary on the activities of our society. We have Numbers 1 to 89 in our library.

However, 1998 saw a change in the original format to an A5 booklett, also the numbering system was dropped at that time. So it is difficult to know just how many have been published since then, as it has appeared somewhat sporadically. It is

important that our society keeps a complete set for its records. Therefore, your assistance would be appreciated in helping to provide any missing editions. It is known that the following have been published since the beginning of 1998 all of which are in our library:-

1998 Aug/Sep. Oct/Nov.
1999 Feb/Mar. Apr/May. June/July. Aug/Sep. Oct/Nov.
2000 Mar/Apr. May/June.
2001 Feb/Mar. Apr/May. June/July. Aug/Sep.
2002 Jan/Feb. May.
2003 Jan. Mar. June. Dec.
2004 Feb/Mar. Apr/May. Sep/Nov. Dec.04/Jan.05
2005 Feb. May. Oct.
2006 May. Sep.
2007 Feb. Aug.

ARE THERE ANY MORE EDITIONS? If you have any copies which do not appear above, our society would be very grateful if you were to donate them; so that we have a complete set. Our librarian will receive them gladly. Thank you.

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SOME FAMILY SAYINGS:

- On a complaint about not having friends: "There are plenty of other fish in the sea."
- "...looks like something shot out of gun" or "....looks a fright"
- So and so "went to market"; that is they really said what was on their mind
- When neither person knows what they are doing: "A case of the blind leading the blind".
- Don't jump to conclusions: "I wouldn't jump over duck houses..." & "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched"

A TABLE OF FEES ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT CUSTOM OF THE PARISH

From the Register of Lyminge Parish, Kent, England 1766

The burial of everyone who died within the parish	£0.2s.6d.
A double fee if brought from another parish	£0.5s.0d.
An head stone	£0.l0s.0d.
A flat stone over a grave	£1.0s.0d.
Breaking the ground in the church	£1.1s.0d.
Breaking the ground in the chancel	£2.2s.0d.
For a flat stone in either place	£1.1s.0d.
Publication of banns	£0.1s.0d.
Banns certificate	£0.1s.6d.
Marriage by Licence	£0.10s.0d.
Marriage by Banns	f0.5s.0d.
Churching	£0.1s.0d.
Every house keeper at Easter by way of offering	£0.1s.0d.
For writing the register and parchment	£0.3s.0d.
Allowed the Minister when Archbishop visits	£0.5s.0d.
At the Commissary visitation	£0.2s.6d.

-R Price, Vicar of Lyminge, Kent, England

-*The Kentish Connection*; Dec., 2004. Vol.18; No.2

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URGENTLY NEEDED!!

Your stories and anecdotes, your thoughts and research hints etc. are urgently needed for this journal. Handwritten, typed or emailed articles are welcome.

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Standards for Good Genealogical Research

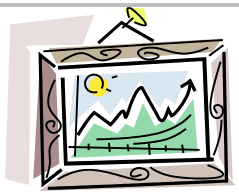
- Record the Sources
- Use original records and not Aunt Mary's thoughts. They can be used as a guide but not as totally unquestionable
- Don't believe all you read in print - whether in newspapers; family trees already done, or those that are published on the internet

LIBRARY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS: 15 Dec 2007 to 14 Jan 2008

2008 Programme

It is planned to have:

- **Regular Workshops, perhaps on different days so more can attend.**
- **At least 3 sets of Beginners Classes. Tell your friends. Details on page 3.**



Mackay Family History Society Inc.
PO Box 882, Mackay, QLD 4740
Phone: (07)4952 2762 **Email:** mfhs@easynet.net.au

This is a not-for-profit organisation.
All office bearers and helpers are volunteers.

Address of Research Reference Library:
17B Keith Hamilton Street, Mackay West.

Library is open to the public. Research Assistance is available.
Library Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00am. to 3:00pm. Tuesday 9.00 am to 12 noon. First & third Saturday of the month 10.00am. to 12.30pm. (From late January to early December)
Fees: For non-members $5.00 per three hour session or part thereof. Fees for research requests from people who do not present at the library - for example, written or e-mail requests - are $15 per hour plus a stamped self-addressed envelope.
Membership Fees: Single $35.00 & Family $45.00 are due annually on the anniversary month of the member joining.
Volunteers are welcome to do library roster duty and assist with other projects. Please contact Yvonne Peberdy at our library to discuss details.
Society Meetings: The first Saturday of February, May, August(AGM), and November at 1.00 p.m. in the society library. Other meetings and activities will be advised. All Members and Visitors are always Welcome.
Quarterly Journal: *Genie Gossip* is published in February, May, August & November. It is available at meetings and in the society library; and also by email. The cost per issue is $3.00. Postage is 50¢ extra. Submissions for publication are always welcomed. They can be posted to, or left at, the library; or emailed to the editor, Des Dunn at < desrd@bigpond.com >
Newsletter Submissions: are gratefully accepted, and can be mailed to Yvonne Peberdy, PO Box 882, Mackay 4740 or left in the "Letterbox" drawer at the society library.

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