

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ISSN 14440970

The Skeleton

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(INC.)

Affiliated with WA Genealogical Society (Inc.)



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.australindfhs.org

THE AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Library and Research Centre

Situated at: Australind Library Complex,
off Paris Road, Australind WA 6233

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Australind WA 6233

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	Kate Bullock	9725 9445
	Jayne Denham	9797 1629
	Avalon Donovan	9797 0198

Annual Subscriptions: 1 Jan - 31 Dec

Single Membership \$35
Joint Membership \$45

Single Membership (Senior over 60) \$25
Joint Membership (Senior over 60) \$35

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm
Thursday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturdays by appointment - no extra charge

Non-member charges
Use of library \$5 per session

A researcher is available to conduct
research on behalf of the Society

Contact Mr Alan Reynolds via the Library on
9796 1050 or email: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Research

Initial Fee \$10 for 2 hrs
Additional \$ 5 per hr
Photocopying and Postage extra



Your Contributions . . .

Please email articles for the next newsletter to the Australind website with
'Newsletter' in the Subject line or leave in the tray at the Family History
Library: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Deadline for the receipt of articles for next edition of the *Skeleton*.

15th February 2015



Disclaimer

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements or opinions expressed by authors of papers published in this newsletter. The accuracy of offers, services or goods appearing here cannot be vouched for by the Society. The Editorial Team reserves the right to condense and edit articles to meet the approved size limits of our newsletter.

Message from the Editorial Team

Hello everyone

Like most of you, we can't believe another year has nearly gone and it will soon be Christmas. Looking back, we've had another busy year in the Library helping people with their research and gaining new members (and friends) along the way. One lady, Patricia Pyke, travelled by bus to Australind from Perth for the day to do some research with us.

During 2014, many of you would have noticed our display marking the 100 year anniversary of WWI, showing local stories and photos. Next year will be the 100 year anniversary of the ANZACS fighting in Gallipoli.

Our co-editor, Anne, is taking a break due to a sad family bereavement, so Marg has filled in once again. Thanks Marg.

We hope you have a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. The Library re-opens on Tuesday, 13th January 2015 when we will be ready after the short break to start afresh.

Irma, Jayne & Marg
The E-Team

DATES for your DIARY

Christmas Party Tuesday, 9th December 2014 at 11am in the room opposite to AFHS Library. Please bring a small plate to share and a gift to the value of \$5.

Library closes Thursday, 4th December 2014. Re-opens Tuesday, 13th January 2015.

On request we can arrange appointments for researchers to come into the Library on Saturdays (between 10am and 2pm).

Committee meetings: Last Friday of the month. 10am. AFHS Library.

WAGS Library open Mon 9:30 - 20:00
Wed-Fri 9:30 - 14:30 Sat 13:00 - 17:00
www.wags.org.au

TIP: *Don't forget to bring along your USB thumb drive to save files from your web research.*

AFHS SERVICES

Library Visit

Affiliated Societies - no charge (show membership card)
Non members - \$5 per visit

Membership

1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015.

Computer Use

Internet Access -includes Ancestry.com + Find My Past and many more.

All users	\$2 per hr
Printouts	30c each
Burn CDs	\$1 each

Micro Film/Fiche Readers/ Pro Scan

All users	\$2 per hr
Printouts	30c each

Photocopying

A4 B&W single	20c	Double-sided	30c
A4 Colour single	30c	Double-sided	50c
A3 B&W single	30c	Double-sided	60c

Ring Binding

Up to 50 sheets	\$2
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Laminating

Please ask at desk

President's Report

Hello to fellow members and researchers

Welcome to the December *Skeleton* produced by the hard-working newsletter team, who I know appreciate input from you, the members. There has been a great response to the newsletter; the E-Team received a lovely letter from the Donnybrook Historical Society congratulating them on a great article on Whaling in the September issue. This is great feedback for the team - thank you.

The next Affiliated Family History Societies' Conference will be held here at Australind in September 2015. We look forward to welcoming Societies from around WA.

Our Christmas function will be held on the 9th December in the Mulgara building next door; there was such a fantastic turnout last year we really need more room to enjoy each other's company (details on page 3). I am looking forward to catching up with members and friends there.

Currently, the Australind Family History Society has 174 members, including three Life Members. We consider ourselves very lucky to have such a lovely building, excellent resources and great members.

Kate, one of our valued Librarians, has created a file on south-west homesteads and farms, listing owners' names, locations and sources. Members are invited to contribute information via the exercise book provided. Wonderful work, Kate.

Our condolences to Anne and Bill Kirkman on the sudden loss of their son, Chris. Our thoughts are with you.

Our Library will close for the Christmas break on the 4th December 2014, re-opening January 13th. I would like to wish all our readers a very happy and healthy Christmas season.

Kind regards

Chris Shaw

We thought we would like to share this beautiful photo with you. It was brought into the library by member Dave Henderson, whose father is one of the babies. What a very special twin pram this was!



FATHERS' DAY COMPETITION



Following the Mothers' Day photo competition we had earlier in the year, we thought it only fair to do the same for Fathers' Day. As you can see from the photo, this competition proved really difficult for us to guess whose father belonged to whom - especially when daughters usually resemble their Mums! However it was good fun trying!



A Sign of the Times

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual,

"And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped,

"Didn't you get my email?"

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus

were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel.

Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20 bill lying on the floor.

Which one picked it up?

Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

ISAAC WALTER SUMSION

My Grandfather's WWI Service

by member Beverley Dyer



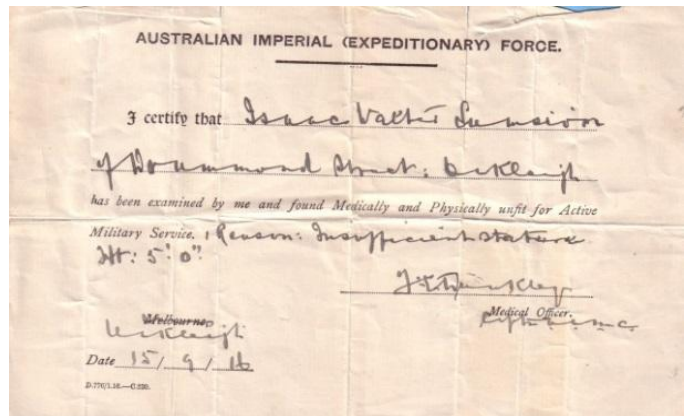
*Isaac Walter Sumsion
Passport photo 1917*

There has been a lot of publicity around the centenary of the First World War and I started to reflect on my paternal grandfather's service. He was Isaac Walter Sumsion, born on the 21st August 1892, the fifth child of carpenter Charles Benford Sumsion and Anne Giles. The family moved from Gawler, SA and settled in Oakleigh, Melbourne, setting up a business in the Eastern Market.

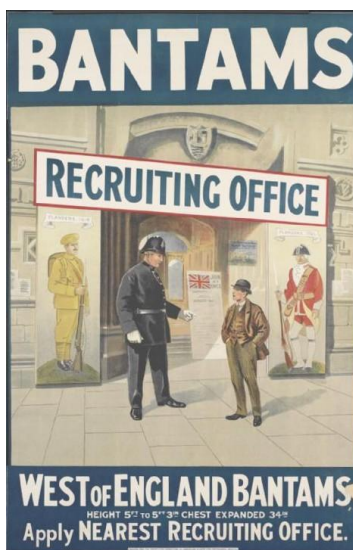
When Isaac (or 'Dick' as he was known) was a school cadet, a tragic shooting occurred which left him with an aversion to guns. However that didn't stop his desire to serve when the call was made.

At the age of 24 he made an attempt to join up, but was rejected due to insufficient stature. The story was told to his children that the regulation pack that the soldiers were required to carry weighed more than his paltry 90lbs.

As the war progressed and the losses increased, he applied again and was once again rejected on physical grounds. He was at this point prevented from further attempts at joining up.



AIF Certificate - Person 'Insufficient in Stature'



Dick had learned of a 'Bantam' unit being formed in England, where men who were below the regulation size of 5ft 3in, and otherwise fit, were able to join up. Being a lofty 5ft, he just qualified! He investigated joining the unit but found that if he was injured he would be repatriated to England, and not home to Australia. Instead he signed up and became a war worker and departed Australia on the 12th May 1917, aboard the HMAT *Benalla*.

As a qualified carpenter, he was assigned to work at the Bristol Aeroplane Company's Filton works. At this time they were producing the Bristol F-2 Fighter, its basic construction being a fabric-covered wooden frame. I don't know exactly what he did, as he died when I was nine, long before I was interested in such stories, but he could well have had a hand in building the planes that were chasing the Red Baron!



During his stay in Bristol he boarded with a young war bride, Florence Cox, whose husband Harry was away at the front. The acquaintance developed into a lasting friendship. The Cox family later emigrated to Australia and both families remain close to this day.

*The house in which Dick boarded in
Highbury Road, Horefield, Bristol*

During his time in England, Dick caught up with his father's family on the Salisbury Plains. He was disgusted at the snobbery exhibited by his uncle and was glad that having performed the family duty, he didn't have to visit again. On occasions he would go to the theatre and attended many performances of Gilbert & Sullivan musicals. While in Bristol he met and became very friendly with a bus conductress. He would wait until she finished her last shift at night and then escort her home before walking home himself, following the tram track so he would not get lost if it was foggy or snowing. He later proposed marriage to her. His landlady, Mrs Cox, had misgivings and warned him that she felt the young woman didn't share his feelings, but rather enjoyed the good times they shared.



Is this the elusive bus conductress???

At the end of his service in England, Dick returned to Australia arriving on the 7th May 1919 on board the *Kursk*. With the aim of preparing for his bride, he obtained employment building Soldier Settler homes for the government in Mildura, rather than returning to the family business. Working hard, he managed to save the majority of his wages, but received a 'Dear John' letter, informing him that she had changed her mind and claiming she couldn't be so far from her family! Utterly devastated, he returned to Melbourne and his father's business, spending all his savings in a matter of months.

Life did look up for my grandfather, however, when he later met and married my grandmother and they had many happy years together, celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary before his death at the age of 82.

References:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantam_\(military\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantam_(military))
<http://www.1914-1918.net/whatbantam.htm>
http://www.militaryfactory.com/aircraft/detail.asp?aircraft_id=136
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Aeroplane_Company#1911-1914

LIBRARY – LATEST ACQUISITIONS

Many thanks to the generous people who have donated books to the Library.

Harvey St John Ambulance 75th Anniversary 1935 - 2010	
Sir James Mitchell Premier & Governor of Western Australia	Bruce Devonport
Nannup: A Place to Stop and Rest	Len Talbot
Our Footsteps on the Wards 1953-2003	Bettie Crombie
2014 A-Z Great Britain Road Atlas	
Rails Through the Bush. Timber & Firewood Tramways	A Gunzburg & J Austin
From the Barracks to The Burrup	A Witcomb & K Gregory
Memories of the Midland Railway Co of WA	Philippa Rogers
The Grieves of Southfield	Jean C Grieves
Family History of Paul, Russell, Chalmers & Cuthill Families of Denny	Jean C Grieves
The Misfortunes of Phoebe (Morgan)	Rica Ericson
Wongi Wongi	Judith Drake-Brockman

** WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS **

630	Tony Edwards	Bunbury
631	David Holly	Eaton
632	Suzanne Holly	Eaton
633	Tom Scott	Bunbury
634	Kerry Cooling	Treendale
635	Tracy Higgins	Australind
636	Petrina Prowse	Boyanup

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Surname	Place	State/County	Country	Period	Member No.
WINTERS		ONTARIO	CANADA	Pre-1850	271 Allen Taylor
HARRIS	Australind	WA	AUS	1842+	636
BROWN	Fremantle	WA	AUS	1850+	636

If you would like to contact any of our new members, please ring the AFHS Library on 9796 1050

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

Words overlap and share one or more letters.

When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message.

Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line.

```

s g o c o d t j e i s d e e r t r e h s a d i
t n r a g s a l i l n g d k a s a n t a m e r
h a e r r i v y e n g y s c a h r i j o y s t
g d c o m e a i e n g i s t c c o y o u y q j
i v n l s y g n o k n l c h f o r v v p e d x
l e a s l h y g x g a d e o t r m a f k k r m
y n d l e s n i t d x l e b l a n e t v r n w
e t o p d y f n r r r m f c e d e z t s u a b
n h c s d k k e e g s u q w e l r r t r t m y
m j u n l k d n n a k t d z o m l e w e n w r
i b p o r n n i m m h q x o r n b s c i f o r
h l i w o o k t s y o t j v l h s e n n x n e
c i d s d c s v i x e n m y m p c s r d a s m
v t e r o i n o r t h p o l e a h t x e y r e
g z y t r m k g n i d d u p e z l f g e k n p
q e s h n f s e l b u a b p l k p i n r i f t
r n c p m i s t l e t o e q k w q g p p w n v
    
```

advent	dancer	joy	reindeer	tinsel
baubles	dasher	lights	rudolph	toys
blitzen	december	merry	santa	tree
cake	donner	mistletoe	sing	turkey
carols	eggnog	north pole	sleigh	vixen
chimney	elves	peace	snow	wreath
christmas	gifts	pine	snowflake	
cold	holly	prancer	snowman	
comet	ivy	pudding	star	
cupid	jingle bells	red nose	stocking	

WAR VETERANS HONOURED

by member Marg Smith

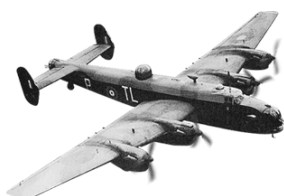


Tom Lofthouse – Albany, November 2014

On the 1st November, Albany celebrated 100 years since the troop ships carrying almost 30,000 soldiers set sail from King George Sound.

During the commemoration, three West Australian WW2 veterans were awarded France's highest accolade, the Legion of Honour - brothers Murray and Eric Maxton from Albany, and AFHS member Tom Lofthouse (my uncle by marriage). All three served with the RAAF.

The French Minister of Defence, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, presented the medals, and praised the men's courage, risking their lives in the skies above Nazi-occupied Europe during WW2 to help Allied forces liberate France.



Tom Lofthouse served as a rear gunner in a Halifax bomber as part of Bomber Command. Airmen in Bomber Command had a very low survival rate. As an Air Gunner in 466 Squadron RAAF, Tom flew a thirty-six operation tour, later completing a further ten operations of a second tour as a Rear Gunner with No. 77 Squadron RAF. On this second tour, Tom flew several operations in support of the D-Day landings, targeting coastal guns and railway yards.

When he returned from Albany, Tom told of the wonderful time he'd had – parades, meeting dignitaries, being treated to lovely food and drink. We believe he stayed out late on the Saturday. His daughter received a phone call from the friends where he was staying that night. The conversation went as follows:-

“I feel like Tom's mum, but he hasn't come home yet. Do you know where he is?”

The daughter's reply, “Dad's fine, he's here partying, but I'll send him home soon.” (Tom's 91!)

Tom and the Maxton brothers had had a quick 'heads-up' on cheek kissing, as that was how they were told to greet the French Minister - as you can imagine, Tom was a bit nervous about that!

The medal is very beautiful; Tom is very proud to be Australian.

**‘BLOOD SWEPT LANDS AND SEAS OF RED’
TOWER OF LONDON 2014**
by member Heather Wade



My husband and I recently went on a trip to Denmark and the United Kingdom in a quest for ancestors, but we also met living relatives.

Our last destination was London and the weather in October was unusually fine and warm. Everyone was making the most of it and the school children were on a week's holiday. Our destination was Tower Bridge but after alighting at Tower Hill Station we were pushed through the gates by railway personnel to enable the station to clear before the next trainload disgorged its passengers headed for the Tower of London.

They had all come to see the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' artistic installation in the moat surrounding the Tower. The 5th August marked 100 years since the first day Britain was involved in World War 1, so poppies were progressively 'planted' and filled the moat from then until 11th November (Armistice Day). The sea of red was made up of 888,246 red ceramic poppies each representing a British military fatality. The last poppy was planted on Armistice Day by an Army Cadet that then ushered in two minutes' silence.

The installation had several purposes; it was to be a focus for reflection, to engage, to educate and raise funds. The poppies were sold for £25 each (about \$40) and proceeds went to six service charities. Volunteers played a huge role by initially planting, and later checking, cleaning, packing and sending to purchasers.

We were two of the five million people who visited the spectacle. Despite a petition from Boris Johnson and David Cameron for the installation to be kept intact longer, the process of dismantling commenced on the 12th November. However, two parts of the installation were preserved for another fortnight, touring the country before finding permanent homes in the Imperial War Museum and Manchester.

I was stunned with the beauty of the installation and surprised by the number of people on the day we visited. The installation struck a chord on a number of fronts with many people. It has inspired projects around the world and will be remembered for a long time for many different reasons.

DIFFERING CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

by member Thelma Kemp

Childhood Memories

Gavin Forrest came out from Scotland on the *Trusty* with his second wife and their blended family. My grandfather, James Forrest, was aged about nine at the time. James married Jane Doonan, an Irish immigrant in 1858 and they went on to have 13 children. The family's Protestant values were strongly adhered to, with James, in the absence of the visiting clergyman, reading scripture to the family. The reading on Christmas morning was paramount and took place before any exchange of gifts was permitted.

My father, Thomas Allen Athol Forrest, always known as Allen, was the 12th child, being born in 1882. He did not get married until he was 60 years of age. As a result, my childhood Christmas experiences were often influenced by his own. We lived on a small farmlet at Cookernup and had rather erratic transport. On Christmas morning the necessary chores with the animals were attended to as usual. Following this, the mandatory Christmas service was listened to on the radio, instead of actually attending church.



It was following this that we were allowed to open our presents - only as a very young child I would have a small gift at my bed when I awoke to keep me going. How I used to wish we could be like other families I knew. My father would not be swayed! The true spirit of Christmas had to be dealt with first, then some frivolity could take place.

After the opening of our presents, we would go to the farm of my maternal grandparents, Francis and Daisy Craigie, a few miles away, with my mother taking a couple of hot roasted chickens - chooks we called them in those days. Most of her family would gather there with the women completing the hot Christmas dinner for a sit-down meal for the whole tribe of us. The huge Christmas pudding had real thruppences, sixpences and one lucky person could get a whole shilling. My grandmother was a thrifty, wonderful lady who held the family and the next generation together. She always had a gift for all. The children each got a packet of raw mixed nuts in their shells. She worked on the assumption that shelling the nuts would keep us occupied and out of mischief, giving the adults peace after a heavy Christmas lunch. As an only child, I relished this time with my cousins and forged bonds with some that remain strong today.

Memories of White Christmases

In my 20s a friend and I emigrated to Canada, arriving in time to celebrate Thanksgiving and to get semi-acclimatised to the winter chills.

We were working in a 500-bed hospital in Toronto that seemed to employ the League of Nations, such was the mix of people. We came from Australia, New Zealand, India, Burma, Malaysia, Scotland, Spain, West Indies, Germany, and of course, Canada, from English and French speaking backgrounds. Most of us were shift workers, including the medical staff. The gardens were bare but the fir trees in the streets and yards had outdoor coloured lights and carols were being played and sung everywhere. Then right on cue, down came the snow and the white Christmas began. The hand of friendship and camaraderie was extended to all, each giving of their culture.



The full Christmas meals went on for several days and nights! The shift workers were well catered for. You ate turkey before going onto night shift and coming off shifts. I had not seen such huge birds before. It was turkey with all the trimmings and roast vegetables, but with side dishes of rice, curries and poppadoms. The traditional Christmas puddings and pecan pies followed. It was a very special time of sharing, forging and cementing wonderful friendships. The next Christmas was a repeat of the same.

Today when I hear 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas' being sung, I think back to those very special times in my other wonderful homeland.

THE REMEMBER POEM

*I remember the cheese of my childhood
And the bread that we cut with a knife
When the children helped with the housework
And the men went to work, not the wife.*

*The cheese never needed a fridge
And the bread was so crusty and hot
The children were seldom unhappy
And the wife was content with her lot.*

*I remember the milk from the bottle
With the yummy cream on the top
Our dinner came hot from the oven
And not from the fridge; in the shop.*

*The kids were a lot more contented
They didn't need money for kicks
Just a game with their mates in the road
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.*

*I remember the shop on the corner
Where a pen'orth of sweets was sold
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic
Or is it...I'm just getting old?*

*I remember the 'loo' was the lav
And the bogey man came in the night
It wasn't the least bit funny
Going "out back" with no light.*

*The interesting items we perused
From the newspapers cut into squares
And hung on a peg in the loo
It took little to keep us amused.*

*The clothes were boiled in the copper
With plenty of rich foamy suds
But the ironing seemed never ending
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.*

*I remember the slap on my backside
And the taste of soap if I swore
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice
what we wore.*

*Do you think that bruised our ego
Or our initiative was destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table
And I think life was better enjoyed.*

~ Anon ~

CRICKET AT CHRISTMAS

by member Kate Bullock (née Wilkins)



The Wilkins Family

*L-R Back: Alex, George, Marion, Stan, Lillian, Charl, Ellen, Myrtle, Horace
Front: Fred & Bob*

Place:

Homestead farm of my grandparents, Horace and Ellen Wilkins at South Wyola, WA.

Years:

Early 1940s.

Temperature:

Hot.

In attendance:

My grandparents, Mum and Dad, two sisters, one brother, four aunties, five uncles and their partners and three cousins.

The background:

Riding on the tray of the farm truck each weekend, many miles were covered collecting team-mates from farms along the way to play cricket matches in neighbouring towns. The 'boys' were always immaculately turned out in their cricket whites - even their boots, as it was the job of the 'girls' to have everything in readiness for their brothers.

Christmas Day:

With such a gathering of a cricket-mad family, the occasion was just right for a decent game of cricket. After a traditional Christmas lunch, leaving the ladies to have a good natter while clearing away and washing up, the rest of us were out to the 'cricket patch'. I remember feeling very grown up being allowed to have a turn at batting. How we didn't all fall in a heap running around in the heat all afternoon amazes me. The ladies came to join in the game after their kitchen chores were done.

It was such a happy time and we were never again to have all the family together, as my grandad died in 1944 at the age of 60 years.



Q. What happened when the snow-woman got angry at the snowman?

A. She gave him the cold shoulder.

WEB CORNER

*** Remember to visit our own AFHS Website administered by Chris Riley***

www.australindfhs.org

Principal Probate Registry Wills Index - England & Wales 1853-1943

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

'Forces War Records' - Access to millions of UK military records.

www.forces-war-records.co.uk

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World Naval Ships

Have a query about a naval ship somewhere in the world? Looking for a picture of a particular naval ship? Try looking at the World Naval Ships website. Post your query to their numerous forums. You never know just what you might find out about your naval ancestor.

<http://www.worldnavalships.com>

Gravestone Photographic Resource

<http://www.gravestonephotos.com>

