



#4 October 2006

## Welcome

Our last Meeting was a round the table beginners/help night. We started by going around the table introducing ourselves and our specialities or problems.

We had a varied group of question relating to Australia and England with Irish, Scottish and New Zealand as well. We were able to answer quite a lot of questions on the night relating to Australia and England.

Sandie managed to perform a couple of miracles finding missing Australian relatives for a few different people.

### Specialities within our group

- Jacqui – Wales, England, Ireland, Italy, workhouses
- Margaret – England, Yorkshire
- Sandie – Australia
- Tammy – Australia
- Helen – European, Australia
- Peter – Computing, South Australia
- Bev – Local History Northern Districts

We also have a specialist on adoptions and fostering please ask any of the above and they will advise whom to talk to.

Some recommended web sites from our discussion to check out are

- A2A.org.uk
- Ozgenonline.com
- Familysearch.org

Joining newsgroups or mailing lists is a good way for people to advertise what information they are looking for and hopefully get a response. Some people have waited years before linking to someone in their tree. Try the County groups as they often are able to help but most have fees attached.

- Genforum.com is a free service
- Rootsweb is a free service

The cost of certificates was an issue for a lot of people and a few ideas were passed around such as in Australia – NSW – there are a few people who will transcribe certificates at about ½ the cost Sandie has contact details for this service

We are pleased to announce that we have a permanent home with the Salisbury Historical Society and look forward to setting up our own area soon.

We also have begun setting up a library which includes books, newsletters from other groups as well as our own and microfiche and cd's which will be able to be used in our own area when it is set up.

Our group will be welcoming the Whyalla Family History Group to the Playford Library on October 25<sup>th</sup> they are coming down for the day to check out what resources are held at the Playford Family History Service.

Tonight's meeting will be Ken Barlow of the Old Adelaide Goal Preservation Society with The History of the Old Adelaide Goal with a demonstration of articles used in the Early Prison System in our State.

Our Finale of the year is on 16<sup>th</sup> of November An informal get together and shared supper to bring our year to a close.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Old Police Station, Ann Street, Salisbury.

Cost is \$2 per person or we are offering a \$20 annual subscription.

Email: [andfhg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:andfhg@yahoo.com.au)

Postal: PO Box 32, Elizabeth SA 5112

## RAFFLE

Our Raffle was won by Ken Barlow  
Thank you to all who supported us.

## BOOK SALES

We are pleased to announce that we are able to sell *Sources for South Australian History* by Andrew Peake for \$10. See Tammy if you would like to purchase a copy

## JUNK BOX REVEALS FAMILY SECRET

by Sue Webb Bodishbaugh [derbygal@juno.com](mailto:derbygal@juno.com)

My mother-in-law cleaned house to move from a large home to a retirement home and gave me three boxes of what she called "family junk." Each box was a treasure in itself: one was wood, handmade and beautifully carved by my husband's grandfather and namesake, when he was in shop class in grade school. One black and red tin box (grandpa's money box in his 1923 grocery store) later was found to have come from Germany in the 1800s and inside were the treasures including more than 100 letters, birth certificates, German smallpox inoculations dated in the 1840s (giving the city/township where great-grandpa was born and his age, as he was "9 months of age at this time"), Civil War letters written to and from the battlefields. I digested and gloried in this new information for a month but, as usual, so many answers produced so many questions. Then three of the oddest things happened.

First, I went to our Family History Center and asked for help obtaining copies of microfilms from Edenkoben, Germany. "Edenkoben?" the nice lady asked. "Yes," said I. "Well, why don't you just ask Charlie Doll. He's over there. His family is from Edenkoben." As DOLL was one of the names mentioned in the letters, and Edenkoben was a tiny dot on the German map, I was floored. Not only did Mr. Doll have the microfilms on hand, but also he gave me the address of his cousin who authored the history book *1600 YEARS OF EDENKOBEN*, so we could correspond, and he helped me with my beginning German language reading. Like any good teacher, he didn't do it for me; he just showed me the way and picked me up every now and then when I faltered. I am still amazed when I remember that night. "This genealogy stuff is a piece of cake," I thought. Ha! It was a classic case of beginner's luck.

Second, after stumbling over the tiny writing in faded purple and blue inks written forward, sideways, and between the lines in a foreign language, I passed a few copies through my law firm's International Department. The paralegals, all of whom knew German, assured me these were not written in German. A month later, I lunched with three letters spread before me, pondering my next step, when my boss passed behind me and laughingly said, "That person writes just like my mother!" Both daughter and mother are from Baden-Baden but it just so happened that mother was a teacher in a private girls' school in a certain short time period in Germany during which three forms of the German language were required to be "proper." One was Sütterlin/Zutterlain, the language of these letters. So, in her mid-80s, with one good eye and a very large magnifying glass, dear mother translated my letters to her daughter who typed them on her laptop and brought them to me on a disk. Mother would only accept a very small fee for the letters brought many delightful memories of Germany. She not only translated but, ever true to her teaching background, gave me historical information I otherwise never would have known: "When she says, 'I knew you since you first got your three little scars . . . ' she is saying she knew him when he was nine months old, as that is the age at which children were vaccinated for smallpox, and in Germany, they made three little cuts or incisions, one above the other, not like they do here with the round poking," and, "When he says he is looking for a place in St. Louis, he means he is looking for a job. That's how we said it." What a blessing.

Third, family stories were told but I could not find to verify great-grandfather and great-grandmother's marriage record or their son's birth record. Late one sleepless night, propped up in bed with my reading light on, I poured over the letters in the three boxes on my lap. I was noting the dates and franking on the envelopes, trying to put them into some sort of order and silently cursing my husband's uncle, as he had just told me, "Those old letters? Mom kept them in the attic and on rainy days we used them to play school and made paper planes out of them, sailing them out of the attic windows into the mud. There were a bunch of them at one time." Ugh! I removed them from the box one by one. The bedside light struck the bottom of the box from a side angle and all of a sudden I noted a line of stitching - black box outside and in, black bottom, black stitching?

All envelopes immediately came out and in the bottom I found, form-fitted and hand made so perfectly as to fit the box bottom so tightly that it took a letter-opener and tweezers to get beside and gently lift out a black leather pouch that held. It contained the marriage certificate and birth certificate. They showed that grandpa was well on the way when the couple used

great-grandpa's railroad passes and eloped to a town where no one knew them. How they explained this 10-pound child's premature birth is unknown. The beautifully decorated, elegantly written marriage certificate could not be displayed on the wall, for folks were known to count months on their fingers and they might talk.

For grandpa's entry into World War II to train American pilots, and with his "German sounding last name," great-grandma had to do a lot of things, one of which was to file a delayed birth certificate. I found it right away and it, of course, contained "the" family history, doctored to fit the need.

My mother-in-law got the biggest kick out of this, as her mother-in-law was so prim, proper, and always such a perfect lady. She'd died in the early 1950s and for 50 years the family had passed the boxes around from Arkansas to Florida to Maryland and back to Florida, stored in great-grandma's dresser, without finding that "hidden treasure."

After all these years, we finally unraveled the threads of the ERION/KAYSER/BODISHBAUGH family story. (Had to do it -- pun intended!)

## HELP PAGE

Question: Where can you find Immigration records?

Answer:

[www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/boundforsouthaustralia.htm](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/boundforsouthaustralia.htm)

313 Index – Assisted passengers to South Australia on microfiche a copy is held at Playford Family History Library

[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) National Archives of Australia for immigration from the beginning of Australia and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dicummings/images/ships/saships1852.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dicummings/images/ships/saships1852.htm)

[search.atomz.com](http://search.atomz.com) – convicts in WA

All states have their own libraries so check these out. There are numerous sites I have only selected a few mainly for South Australia some of these sites do link to other states

## MURPHY'S LAWS OF GENEALOGY

1. *The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.*
2. *When at last after much hard work you have evolved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."*
3. *You search ten years for your grandmother's maiden name to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic.*
4. *You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.*
5. *The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.*
6. *Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.*
7. *John, son of Thomas the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at the age of 10.*
8. *Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.*
9. *Another genealogist has just insulted the keeper of the vital records you need.*
10. *The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.*
11. *The only record you find for your great grandfather is that his property was sold at a sheriff's sale of insolvency.*
12. *The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end line has been lost due to fire, flood, or war.*
13. *The town clerk to whom you wrote for the information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.*
14. *The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.*
15. *None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have names written on them.*
16. *No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in a will.*
17. *You learn that your great aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "Somewhere in New York City."*
18. *Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.*
19. *The 37 volume, 16,000 page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.*
20. *You finally find your great grandparents' wedding record and discover that the bride's father was named John Smith.*

## SCHOOL RECORDS

The records of schools can be useful supplements and substitutes to others for the pursuit of genealogical research, and have considerable value for family history purposes in their own right. A list of London School Records is available.<sup>27</sup>

Schools were required to keep certain records under various school codes. For example the Elementary School Code, 1903 laid down that all schools should have (a) registers of admission, progress and withdrawal (b) attendance registers and (c) a register of summaries. Other ordinances laid down that each headmaster should keep a log book. It was specified that records were to be kept for not less than ten years after the last entry had been made in them. Unfortunately, many head teachers over the years have used this, salvage drives and general clear-outs as excuses for wholesale destruction of these invaluable sources. However, mercifully, a very large amount of material remains.

The information to be contained in the records was specified. Entries in admission registers were to be made for each child on entry to the school. Each entry had to contain an individual reference number, date of admission, full name, name and address of parent or guardian, whether exempt from religious education was claimed, date of birth, last school attended prior to this one, date of leaving school. Secondary school admission registers also usually give any educational attainments such as certificates, and brief details of immediate future career, be it higher education or a job. Most admission registers consist of long lists of entries (sometimes with integral indexes), each entry spreading over a wide double page. Some (especially later) ones, however, are much more lavish with space and have a page for each pupil.

For example, Robert William Cushion, pupil number 276 was admitted to a Fulham infants' school on the 20th March 1905. His father was Robert Cushion of 103 Clonmore Street; he was not exempted from religious instruction. He had been born 7th July 1899, had previously attended Holy Cross School, Fulham, and was discharged 25 July 1906 on moving to the junior mixed school.

Admission and discharge registers are a very useful supplement to the Register General's records, helping identify a correct individual back from their first job, through a series of schools, and obtaining confirmation of father's name and various addresses which may enable other sources to be tapped.

Registers overlap and all should be searched for any individual. Often a register covering a period when a school is known by one name, has been deposited and allocated a reference denoting a different name. All possible school names need to be researched.

Log books were to be kept up daily with the 'briefest entry to specify the progress of the school or its teachers'. They are generally stout bound plain line notebooks. Considerable details are given of the comings and goings, shortcomings and illnesses of staff. Rather less appears on individual pupils, though very informative items do occur. All manner of material may be found in log books. Surprising snippets of information appear: 'it was very foggy this week, so many pupils absent'; 'Her Majesty Queen Victoria died today; God Save the King'; 'all the desks broken into and Flower Festival money stolen'. Though not usually as directly genealogically useful as admission and discharge registers, they do give the flavour of the school which a person of interest attended.

Though for most schools, admission and discharge registers and log books are the only records to survive, a wide variety of miscellaneous records may be found more sporadically. The most common miscellaneous items are punishment books. Rather surprisingly, it seems there was no requirement to keep such books until after the Second World War, and even then, survival is poor. They list the name (and sometimes age) of the pupil, date of punishment and punishment given. In most schools, corporal punishment was the norm, though a few even at an early date had apparently abandoned its use, and detentions, and other non-physical punishments are recorded in the punishment book.

The vast majority of London school records are held at London Metropolitan Archives, where such records were deposited for schools closing before 1990. Most there, are in the official series of school records, though the records of some parish schools are to be found listed with the parish records. If a school was amalgamated with another school, the successor should have the records or know where they are. Since 1990, however, Borough Archives are receiving new deposits of school records. In any case, Borough Archives should not be neglected, as they are likely to have material of interest to anyone researching a school within their area.

Private schools have generally retained their own records, though a number have deposited their older records at LMA or Borough Archives. Church of England schools records may also be found not only at LMA and the appropriate Borough Archives, but also at the Church of England Records Centre, Galleywall Road, Bermondsey.

All official school records containing personal information at LMA (with insignificant exceptions) are closed for a period of 65 years, **apart from** admission and discharge registers, which are closed for 30 years. This closure period dates from the last entry in the register in question which may, unfortunately, lengthen the period substantially. Consideration will not be given to breach this closure for genealogical research, though it may be possible for people who need access for legal reasons, such as those wishing to prove their own birth date for pension purposes and for whom other sources have failed. However, all admission and discharge registers at LMA have been filmed and are readily available on open access there. Periods of closure in Borough Archives vary quite considerably, and must be investigated in each case individually.

“It is said to be a true Cockney you must be born within the  
Sound of the Bow Bells”

The Bow Bells are to be found in the church of “St Mary-Le-Bow” (Bow Church). Cheapside, in London. The steeple, which is over 222feet (68m) high, was constructed by Christopher Wren when he rebuilt the church after the great fire of 1666.

The Crypt of the original Norman Church, with the arches (bows) for which the church is named, still stands.



