



Newsletter # 8
March 2007

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group

PO Box 32, Elizabeth

South Australia 5112

Email: andfhg@yahoo.com.au

Website: <http://www.ozgenonline.com/~andfhg/>

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

\$2 entry fee for non-members

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Peter Applebee
Vice President:	Bev Burke
Secretary:	Margaret Flaiban
Treasurer:	Tammy Martin
Membership Coordinator:	Helen Stein
Committee	Jaquie Dennis Sandie Francis

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Ailsa Farrow to our group
as a postal member.

RAFFLE

Congratulations to Ron Teasdale and Alan Roberts who
won prizes in our Valentine's Day raffle.
Thank you to all who supported us.

***** SPECIAL EVENT *****

On Saturday 31st March we will be conducting our first Cemetery tour,
starting at the Salisbury Historical Society in Ann Street, Salisbury from
12.30. We will be visiting St Johns Anglican Cemetery in Salisbury, Zoar
Bible Christian Cemetery in Penfield and finishing at Willaston General
Cemetery in Gawler.

Cost will be \$10 per person. If you are interested please contact Margaret
on 8281 8431 or Jacqui 8380 8956 so numbers can be finalised before the
event.

*The group will not be held responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in this Newsletter.
All submitted articles and advertised offers of services are printed in good faith of accuracy.
The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammatical purposes if necessary.*

***FEBRUARY 2007 GUEST SPEAKER
ANDREW PEAKE – GOVERNMENT GAZETTES***

At our last Guest Speaker Evening Andrew Peake spoke about how useful the Government Gazettes are, and what information can be found in them.

Government Gazettes in South Australia started in 1836, were published weekly, and distributed to Government departments. At the end of each year they were bound into one or more volumes. The Gazettes were accessible at any government agency, police station, council or post office.

Some people are luckily enough to have obtained yearly volumes. Archive CD Books Australia are digitally copying and releasing each year on CD, and these are fully searchable as opposed to the indexes found in the back of the Gazettes which are not complete.

So even though the original copies may be difficult to search, they contain a wealth of information on the day-to-day life of the times.

Some of the information you may find in these volumes are

Police details, including escaped prisoners giving their physical description, robberies; lost and stolen, warrants issued prisoners released from jail and numerous other types of information. They also include name and place indexes.

Education details, including teachers, their salaries, how many students were enrolled and an average of how many attend regularly.

Postal details included lists of undelivered letters. When your name appeared on the list, you could go to the post office and collect your mail - unlike today where it is delivered to your door.

Andrew also spoke of the book by Georgina Bliss "*Deaths from the Government Gazettes 1845-1941*" and the web site where there is listing all the whalers from the government gazettes. <http://www.adelaideco-op.familyhistorysa.info/whaling.html>

Andrew spoke of his book Sources for South Australian History which is in the process of reprinting an update. He is now selling his earlier version for \$10 which can be purchased through the group. Please see Tammy if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Tonight we are having our second Family History Help Night .
We hope to be able to help out with your questions and "Brick Walls".

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If ever you would like a lift to a meeting please call  
Bert on 8254 7950 if you are from the Elizabeth area,  
or Margaret on 8281 8431

## 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.

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The Western Australian Genealogical Society have sent brochures of their
products: *Family Reflections, Western Ancestor Index, Convicts, First
Families and Marriage index 1915 - 1933.*
See Tammy if you are interested

1911 CENSUS

It appears that Downing Street are holding an online
petition for the early release of the 1911 census. Fewer than 3000 have
voted. Time runs out early March. Please inform your contacts as this is
not common knowledge.

Web site is <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/censusinfofreed>

I think all of us who are interested in family history ought to sign up!

HELP PAGE

Question: What are the GRO Indexes in England?

Answer:

The index shows in which period (three-monthly 1837-1983, annually 1984-2000) the birth, marriage or death was registered. It does not give the exact date. The microfiches are arranged in year groups. Most years (up to 1984) are divided into four quarters. You can usually have about five years' worth of births, marriages or deaths records, if no-one else is using them. The earliest records, up to the mid 1860s, are handwritten. They are more difficult to use, and are bulky, so only two or three years are issued at a time.

Marriages and deaths are usually registered in the three-month period when they occurred. However, a delay of up to six weeks is permitted when registering a birth. A birth in November or December of one year may be in the records for the following year.

- Births 1837 - 1911, child's surname and first names only. 1912 onwards, child's surname, first names and mother's maiden name.
- Marriages 1837 - 1911, there are two entries, one for each spouse individually. You can check who married whom by seeing whether the volume and Office numbers are the same.
1912 onwards, there are two entries, and the surname of the partner appears in each .
- Deaths 1837 - 1865, names only.
1866 - 1969, the age at death is given.
1970 onwards, the date of birth is shown.

All entries give the name of the register office which holds the original certificate; this is usually the same as the name of the town.

Although these are the official civil records, no system is completely foolproof. Spellings of surnames may vary. A fine had to be introduced in 1875 for non-registration of births, as people had been failing to register them. However, in the first few years of registration, when registrars were paid according to the number of births, marriages and deaths registered, some births were invented, and some records were 'poached' from adjacent registration districts!

Registration Districts

In the index the registration districts have reference number. A [mapping](#) of these to the names of the districts to which they refer is given by Mike Wheatley.

Index format

The detail on the index records varies slightly, depending on whether, its a birth, marriage or death. For example a birth record looks like:

Surname of parent	Name(s) or sex of child	Registration District	Vol Page
SANDHAM	Cicely Sarah	W.Derby	8b 493

In addition from Sept 1911 the mother's maiden name is also included.

A marriage entry is of a similar form:

Surname	Forename(s)	Registration District	Vol Page
Cross	James	Haslingden	8e 213
Haighton	Ellen	Haslingden	8e 213

These are examples from before March 1912 when the surname of the spouse also appears in each entry. These are actually examples from the 4th quarter of 1870, and in this case both surnames had to be searched to find the correct entry. When you start searching, you soon find it is quickest to find the uncommon name first and only when it is found look for the other in the same quarter. In this case Ellen Haighton is an uncommon name, whilst there were a number of James Cross's in each quarter.

Once you have found the entry you want, write it down exactly as it is written, as you must have it exactly correct if you apply for a certificate from the Family Records Centre. Do not forget to write down the year and quarter as well. In fact it can save a lot of effort to have a separate sheet of paper for each individual search you are making. Write on it whether it is a birth, marriage or death that you are searching for. Then carefully mark on it each year and quarter as you search it and note down all the likely references in full, even if they are not the exact ones you are looking for.

You will normally find that when searching the indexes you are trying to find a number of different items of information, in a limited time and probably in cramped conditions. If you have a complete record of your searches then if you have problems and have to resume your search later you will not have to repeat any work. This can be especially frustrating if you have to wait some time before you can book a session on a reader.

Once you have the index entry you will then need to obtain a certificate to get any more information than you had when you started. The only exceptions to this are:

- Age at death from June 1866
- Mother's maiden name in births from Sept 1911
- Spouse's surname in marriages from March 1912
- Date of birth in deaths from 1969

Contents of birth certificate

- District and sub-district where birth was registered.
- The place of birth. Either a street in a town but maybe just the name of the village in the country.
- Day, month, year of birth.
- Name of the child, or just the sex if no name had been chosen at that time.
- The name of the father and his occupation. This field is normally blank for an illegitimate child.
- The name of the mother and her maiden name.
- The date of registration.
- The name and address of the informant and either their signature or their mark.
- The name of the registrar.
- Any name given at baptism and entered after then being reported to the registrar.

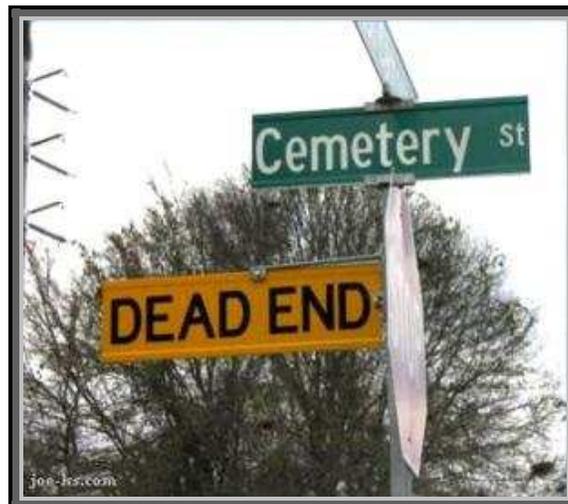
Marriages

Researchers have found from experience with marriage indexes before 1900 the number of unmatched pairs runs quite high. If the woman is a widow when she marries, she will most likely be using her previously married surname, not her maiden surname. Then on subsequent birth certificates her maiden surname will be listed. As an example: say a Mary Brown married a Joe Smith, her surname would be Smith on her next marriage certificate but would be shown as Brown on any subsequent Birth certificates.

If you request a marriage certificate from the details shown on the birth certificate - Mary Brown - the ONS will not produce a certificate if the person is shown as Mary Smith. The ONS also only tell you that the person is not Mary Brown, they do not tell you her name was Mary Smith! This re-marriage problem is often the cause when you cannot find a matching entry in the indexes, you are looking for a match with Brown when in fact she will be in the index as Smith.

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“Only in America”



This is an amazing story!!! You have to read this...it's true.

THE TABLECLOTH

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on Dec 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On Dec 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his

wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid