Demolishing Brick Walls

Shauna Hicks www.shaunahicks.com.au

Shauna Hicks

Introduction

- What are brick walls?
- Suggested solutions
- Sources for inspiration
- Serendipity
- Case study
- Conclusion



What Are Brick Walls?

- Where you can't proceed
- Missing the information
- Information isn't there
- Someone disappears
- Someone just appears
- Anything that stops you progressing



Suggested Solutions

- Name variations
- Spelling variations
- Anglicised & foreign names
- Skeletons in the family
- New indexes, databases
- New online resources



More Suggestions

- Advertise your brick wall
 - Family history newsletter, journal
 - Listserv, forums
 - Nings, websites, blogs
 - Talk to others
- Explore collateral lines
 - Photos and other family memorabilia



Name Variations

- Both given and surnames
- Nicknames
- Unusual names
- Aliases
- Maiden names for children's birth entries



Spelling Variations

- People were illiterate
- Difficulties with accents
- Indexing errors
 - Poor handwriting
 - Old styles of writing
 - Judy Webster *Using and Compiling Indexes*
 - http://www.judywebster.gil.com.au/methods.html

Anglicised & Foreign Names

- Both given and surnames
- Can be any non English speaking culture
 - European or Chinese common in Australia
- ◆ Chinese look under A for Ah but also check under the other initial not consistent



Skeletons in the Family

- Everyone has them
- Places to look
 - Court of Petty Session records
 - Gaols and prisons
 - Asylums and hospitals
 - Insolvency and bankruptcy
 - Inquests (suicides, murders)



New Indexes, Databases

- How to find out and keep up with new info
- Social media Facebook, Twitter
- Listservs, forums, RSS
- Family history/genealogy societies journals and newsletters
- Google

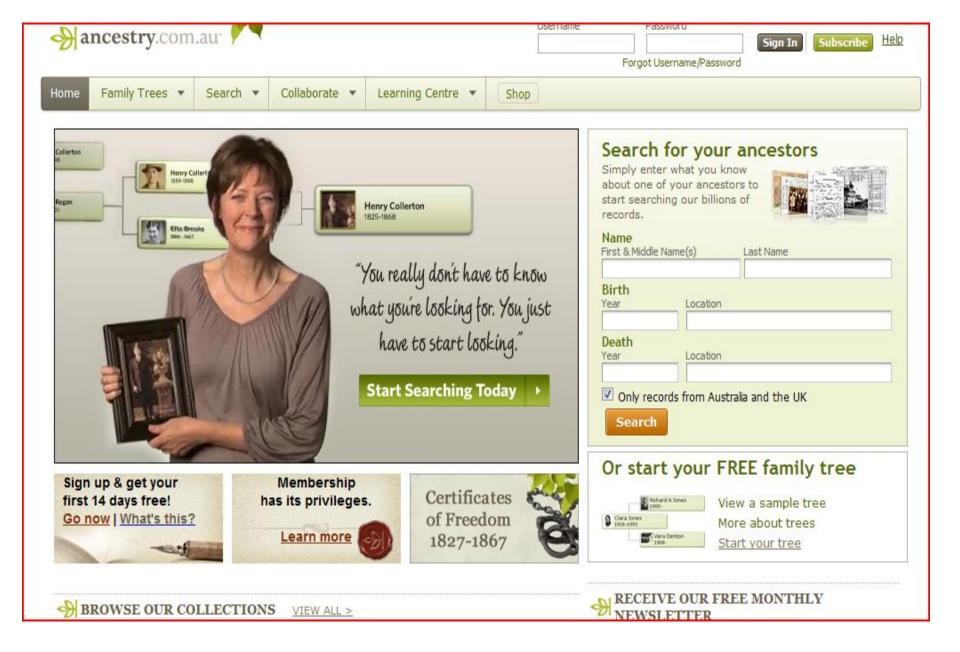


New Online Resources

- World Vital Records Australasia
 - http://www.worldvitalrecords.com.au
- Ancestry.com
 - http://www.ancestry.com.au/
- FindMyPast
 - http://www.findmypast.co.uk/home.jsp
- TROVE
 - http://trove.nla.gov.au/









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Find your ancestor within our vast collection of family history records.

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First Name

* Last Name

UK Family history records

- the only complete 1841-1911 census collection online
- the most complete online index of BMDs (1837-2006)
- parish records for baptisms, marriages and burials dating from 1538
- migration records including 24 million passenger list records

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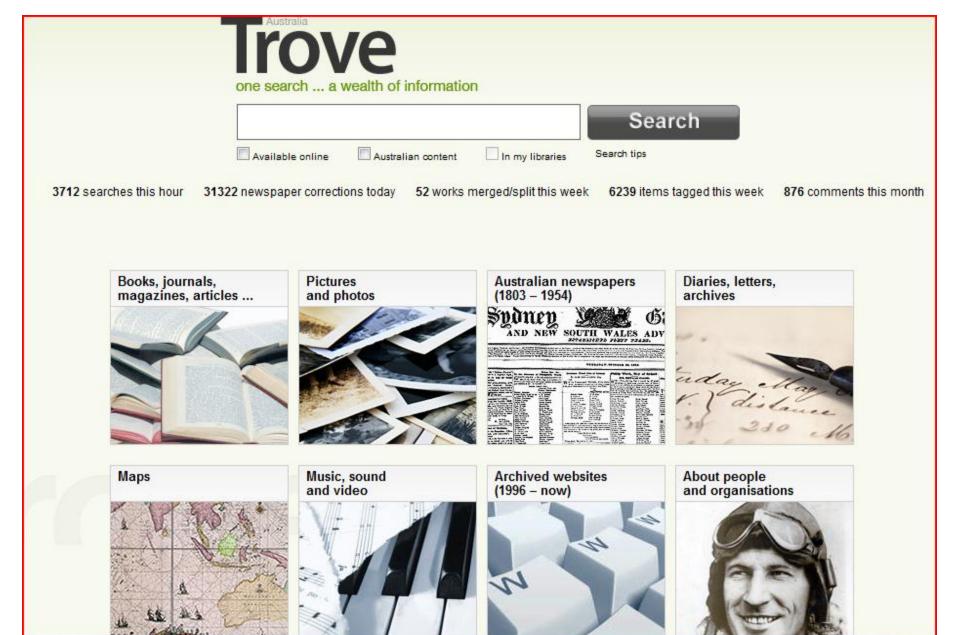
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- State Library New South Wales
 - http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/





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Library news

Wolfgang Sievers work goes on show

Copies of the work of acclaimed industrial photographer Wolfgang Sievers are now on show on the Fourth Floor of the National Library of Australia.

- posted on: 2 March 2010

Dunera Boys exhibition opens

A special tribute exhibition to the group of wartime internees who became known as The Dunera Boys is now open in the Visitor Centre, Ground Floor.

- posted on: 12 February 2010



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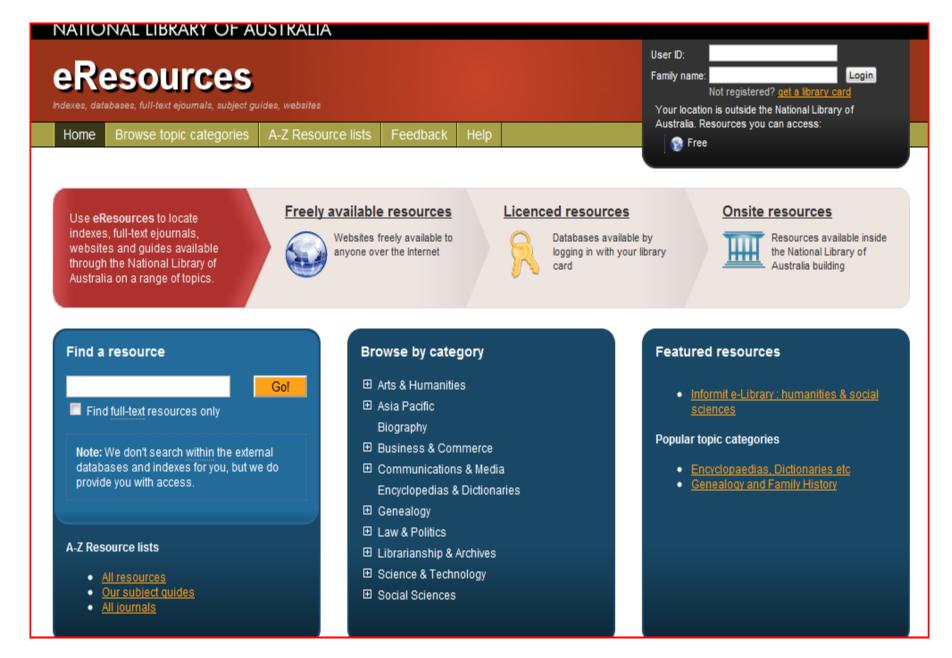
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Genealogy (Vic)

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- ⊞ Science & Technology

150 resources found



1. A2A: Access to Archives

Great Britain. Public Record Office: The A2A database contains catalogues of archives held across England and dating from the 900s to the present day. These archives are cared for in local record offices and libraries, universities, museums and national and specialist institutions across England, where they are made available to the public.

2. ACT Electoral Rolls 1916-1967

ACT Heritage Library: The A.C.T. electoral rolls for the years 1916, 1917, 1928, 1935, 1943, 1949, 1955, 1959 and 1967.

3. W ACT Memorial

ACT Government: The ACT Memorial honours men and women who have an association with the ACT and who served in conflicts, peacekeeping missions and related service throughout the world, some of whom paid the supreme sacrifice. The Memorial has two parts: the physical Memorial, located opposite Civic Square on London Circuit, and this web site, containing a database of names and information about the people honoured by the Memorial. The website contains a database of people associated with the ACT who are eligible for the Roll of Honour and Commemorative Roll of the Australian War Memorial. It includes those who died during or as a result of war, warlike operations, peace-keeping missions, as the result of military service, or on humanitarian

Our subject guides

"Cemetery records: print resources"

The National Library has a large collection of cemetery records for regions throughout Australia.

"Australian family history and genealogy: selected websites"

This resource contains links to a variety of information relating to family history and genealogy including guides, indexes and digitised images of documents. It also provides links to other informative sites and contact with other family historians via indexed family trees, mailing lists and bulletin boards.

"Australian birth, marriage and death records at the National Library of Australia"

This is a listing of indexes held at the National Library of Australia.

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 ⊞ Communications & Media Encyclopedias & Dictionaries

□ Genealogy

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Genealogy (Australia)

Genealogy (NSW)

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Genealogy (QLD)

Genealogy (SA)

Genealogy (Tas)

Genealogy (Vic)

Genealogy (WA)

- ⊞ Science & Technology
- ⊞ Social Sciences

131. Tasmanian Federation Index: Births 1900-1919; Deaths and Marriages 1900-1930

Archives Office of Tasmania: Contains records of births, deaths and marriages registered in Tasmania, including war deaths (WWI) of those who enrolled in Tasmania to serve with the Australian Imperial Forces and who died in service. Compulsory registration in Tasmania was introduced in December 1838. AVAILABLE IN THE MAIN READING ROOM INTERVIEW ROOM or IN THE NEWSPAPER READING ROOM ON JUKE BOX PC.

132. Tasmanian Pioneer Index 1803-1899

Archives Office of Tasmania: Index to birth, death and marriages registered in Tasmania from 1803 to 1899. Church records for baptisms, marriage and burials 1803-1838 and official birth, death and marriage records 1838-1899. Full certificates are available on microfilm in the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room at MfmN 220.

133. N Times Digital Archive [1785-1985]

Gale Group: The Times Digital Archive has millions of articles from the London Times. The entire newspaper is captured, with all articles, advertisements and illustrations/photos divided into categories to facilitate searching.

134. W UK Outbound Passenger Lists 1890 onwards

Find My Past Ltd.: Produced in association with The National Archives (UK), this database, available through the ancestorsonboard.com website, features BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for long-distance voyages leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1909. Coverage will gradually expand to 1960. Search for records of individuals or groups of people leaving for destinations including

records for regions throughout Australia.

"Australian family history and genealogy: selected websites"

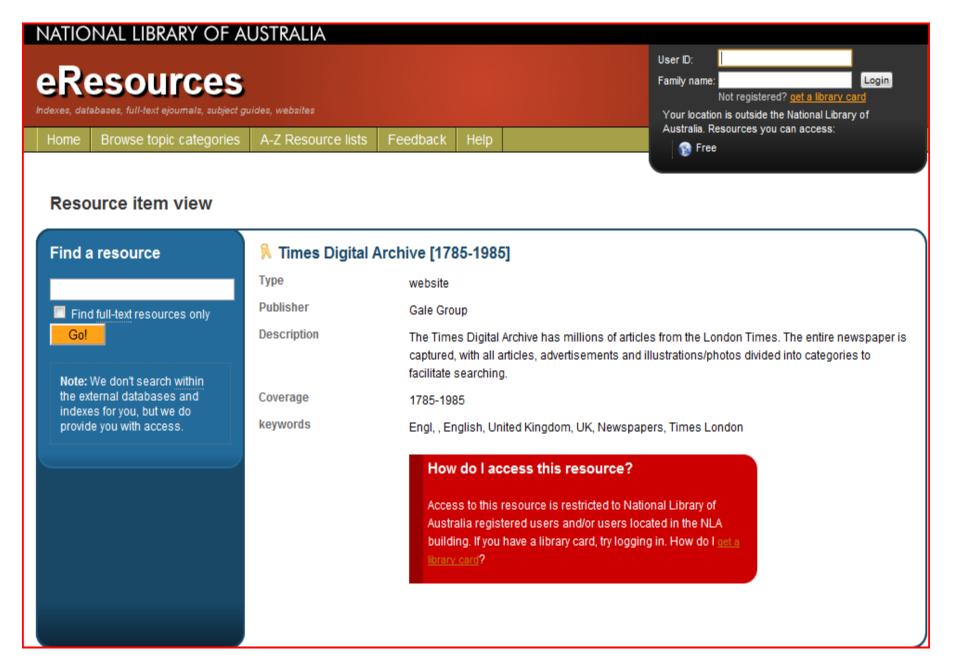
This resource contains links to a variety of information relating to family history and genealogy including guides, indexes and digitised images of documents. It also provides links to other informative sites and contact with other family historians via indexed family trees, mailing lists and bulletin boards.

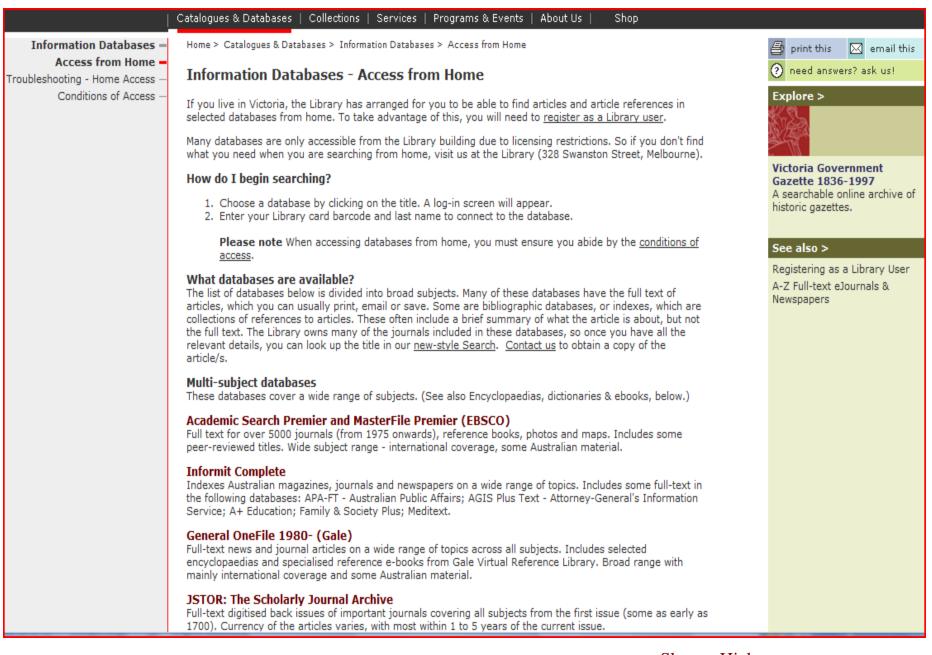
"Australian birth, marriage and death records at the National Library of Australia"

This is a listing of indexes held at the National Library of Australia.

"Family history sources in the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room"

A guide to Australian and selected overseas genealogy resources, including births, deaths and marriages







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Electronic Resources

These internet links and databases can help you find information on your research topic by providing references to web content, journal or newspaper articles, or to other sources such as reports, conference proceedings and government publications. To only view databases or links, **search** for your subject and select either **Databases only** or **Links only**.

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To use the online databases, you must be a New South Wales resident, registered as a State Library client and agree to the following Conditions of Access.

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- Arts [View all]

Sources for Inspiration

- Blogs
 - Brick Wall Solutions (Unlock the Past)
 - http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/blog/category/brick-wall-solutions
- Nings
 - Genealogy Wise
 - http://www.genealogywise.com/
 - Looking 4 Kin
 - http://looking4kin.ning.com/









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What is Unlock the Past?

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- A publishing brand watch for important new guide books during 2010
- A major go-to place for resources

HAVE YOUR SAY

What genealogy program do you use? vote now!

Brick Wall Solutions

BRICK WALL SOLUTIONS - STILL LOOKING FOR JAMES HENRY TREVASKIS (1839-?)

Posted 14 Feb 2010

In previous Brick Wall Solutions blogs, I have written about my success stories. This time I am writing about a brick wall that has yet to crumble. I certainly hope that someone reading this blog has the answer or clues that I can follow up on. Other family members, as well as myself, have tried many times over the last thirty plus years to solve it but without success.

My gg grandfather was James Henry Trevaskis born in St Hilary Cornwall in 1839.

Shauna Hicks's blog 1 comment Read more

BRICK WALL SOLUTIONS - THE SEARCH FOR HELEN CARNEGIE CONTINUES

Posted 28 Jan 2010

In my Brick Walls blog on 28 November 2009, I first wrote about my search for my gg grandmother Helen Carnegie. We left the story with my believing that Helen was an alcoholic prostitute who had probably died in an asylum. I had finally found a reference to her death under the name of Helen Chick and I was eagerly waiting to receive the death certificate.

Shauna Hicks's blog Add new comment Read more

BRICK WALL SOLUTIONS - WHO WAS CHARLOTTE KOPITTKE?

Posted 13 Jan 2010

When I started researching my family history seriously in the mid 1980s, I knew that what was recorded on birth, death and marriage certificates was correct.

My grandfather Gustav Kopittke arrived in Brisbane in 1876 from Germany via England accompanied by his parents, Daniel and Charlotte Kopittke, and his younger sister, Auguste. I knew from my father's birth certificate that his father was born in Schwartow, Hinterpommern.

Eric Kopittke's blog Add new comment Read more

COMMENTS

Helen Carnegie

by Visitor (not verified) - 20 Feb

I am trying to figure out the lineage for John Gordon of Cairnburrow who married Helen Carnegie in Scotland in 1590. According to the website for Glenbuchat (Glenbucket) Castle, the castle was built on the occasion of the marriage of John Gordon of Cairnburrow and Helen Carnegie. I thought I might turn up some information about John by looking for more information about Helen Carnegie. On the Glenbuchat site, she is identified as the daughter of Sir Robert Carnegie of Kinnaird in Angus who had been an ambassador in the French royal court. In 1701, this castle apparently came into the possession of a different branch of the family, the Gordons of Knockespock.

Obviously, I am working in a different era than the one that yielded information on your Helen Carnegie. I am wondering if you have any thoughts on how I might get through my brick wall.

reply

Helen Carnegie married 1590

by Shauna (not verified) - 6 Mar

Yes it is earlier than the era I am researching. Have you also tried looking for more information on Sir Robert Carnegie as something might mention his son-in-law John Gordon. You say that you have already traced Helen, well I would try the father next. Tracing collateral lines can often throw up information that you won't find just doing direct lines.

I assume you have looked for traditional records like testaments, sasine registers, registers of deeds, service of heirs etc. I'm a fan of *In Search of Scottish Ancestry* by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards but there are lots of Scottish how-to books that might suggest sources for Scotland in this early period.

Good luck

Shauna

Brick Wall Solutions - Still Looking for James Henry Trevaskis (1839-?)

Posted 14 Feb 2010

In previous Brick Wall Solutions blogs, I have written about my success stories. This time I am writing about a brick wall that has yet to crumble. I certainly hope that someone reading this blog has the answer or clues that I can follow up on. Other family members, as well as myself, have tried many times over the last thirty plus years to solve it but without success.

1 tweet

My gg grandfather was James Henry Trevaskis born in St Hilary Cornwall in 1839. He married Ann Semmens in 1859 in Perranuthnoe, Cornwall and they had three children James Henry Trevaskis (1859), Nicholas William (1861) and Annie (1863).

In 1864 they decided to emigrate to Australia and arrived in South Australia on 20 December 1864 on board the **Rockcliff.**They went to live in Moonta where James Henry found work in the copper mines. Less than three months later his wife Ann died in March 1865 leaving him with three young children.

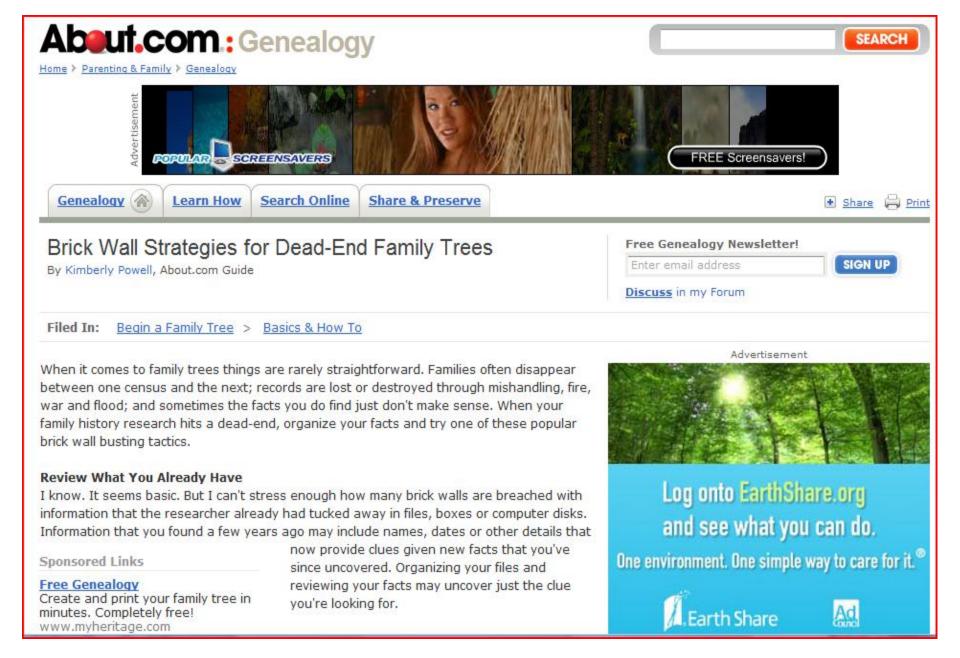
Six months later he married Elizabeth Rosewarne in Wallaroo in September 1865. Their first child, Dorcas Trevaskis was born in Moonta in June 1866.

Some time after Dorcas' birth the family made the decision to move to the new copper mines in Queensland at the appropriately named Copperfield, near present day Clermont in central Queensland. Here their second child John Trevaskis was born in June 1868.

Financial reports of the Copperfield Committee of Works published in the *Peak Downs Telegram, Clermont, Copperfield and Springsure Advertiser* in October 1868 mention a contractor named Trevaskis employed sinking a well.

Assuming this is my James Henry, then these are the last references to him. Searches for his death certificate or a record of burial have been unsuccessful despite a number of descendants researching this family. No one has been able to confirm his death or explain his disappearance.

We assume his death between October 1868 and November 1873 because his wife Elizabeth remarried as a widow to George Guy in Copperfield in November 1873. So somewhere in that five year period James Henry Trevaskis died in Copperfield. The Copperfield cemetery records have no record of a James Henry Trevaskis being buried there and, as Elizabeth remarries in Copperfield, we assume that the family did not move from these during the five years in question.







My Groups (9)





Brick Walls we all have them

this done/ Who has hit a brick wall?

116 members

Latest Activity: Mar 2 who has pulled down a brick wall and how was



White Family Genealogy

34 members

Jarvis/ Jervis

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England

Latest Activity: 4 hours ago

Research your White families, no matter the spelling variant. Post your questions or findings in teh group discussion forum. See the group topic that...



Wiltshire Ancestors

50 members

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This group is for anyone with ancestors from the county of Wiltshire in England.



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280 members

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This group is for those who of us who are interested in writing out our genealogies and family histories for ourselves and/or others, in any form.



Ireland and Irish Ancestry

Latest Activity: Nov. 29, 2009

758 members Latest Activity: Mar 2

This group is for anyone interested in Irish Ancestry.

Surname JARVIS, JERVIS particularly in



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357 members

Lakaak Aakii iikii ahaa ahaa



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Shauna Hicks

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Comment by <u>Liz Loveland</u> on February 14, 2010 at 4:51pm
I've had heaps of brick walls, some I've solved, some I never have. A common way for me to successfully solve them is to do more work trying to trace collateral lines, as oftentimes they will turn out to have clues that I hadn't found in my direct line research.



Comment by Shauna Hicks on February 14, 2010 at 3:00am

Just posted another Brick Wall Solutions blog on Unlock the Past only this time I don't have the solution. My gg grandfather James Henry Trevaskis disappeared/died in Copperfield, Queensland (near present day Clermont) between 1868 and 1873 and all efforts to find him have been unsuccessful. Read the full story here and any clues/solutions would be wonderful. Thanks



Comment by <u>Carmel M Reynen</u> on January 28, 2010 at 5:33am Shauna

Charles is in Emerald in Queensland up until 1925 1903 being the earliest meaning he would have been at least 21 in 1903. He seems to vanish after that in the Electoral rolls anyway.

Hope you can sleep tonight!!



Comment by Shauna Hicks on January 28, 2010 at 5:02am

Just posted the second instalment of my Brick Wall Solutions blog on my search for Helen Carnegie http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/blog/7/2010/brick-wall-solutions-search-helen-carnegie-continues

I thought her death certificate would give me the answers - all it has done is given me another 40 years to try and account for. Certainly gives meaning to the phrase - don't assume anything!



Comment by Pamela Ann Drake on December 29, 2009 at 10:37am I'm also trying to find out who the parents were of William Drake,Sr. who was born circa 1760 in Bucks Co.,PA. In 1780 he married Elizabeth Hinkle in Frederick Co.,MD. Two of his brothers,Thomas & David Drake married two of Elizabeth's sisters,Sarah & Margaret Hinkle as well.

Genealogy & Family History Network @ Looking 4 Kin

Helping hands helping one another with our family history & genealogy research.

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Welcome to Genealogy & Family History Network @ Looking 4 Kin, Shauna Hicks! Here are a few things you can do right now...



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Your Page

Content

Genealogy Chat



Please be sure you drop into Looking 4 Kin Genealogy Chat

Part of the original Looking 4 Kin

Welcome

Welcome to Looking 4 Kin Genealogy and Family History Network

(part of the original Looking 4 Kin Genealogy Links & Chat)

I believe there are great possibilities here for sharing information and communicating with family and friends. This is a great social site to just discuss your family history, to try and trace your ancestors or to ask questions about genealogy research, to ask for advice or a lookup.

Editing Or Adding To Your Profile Page:

Shauna Hicks

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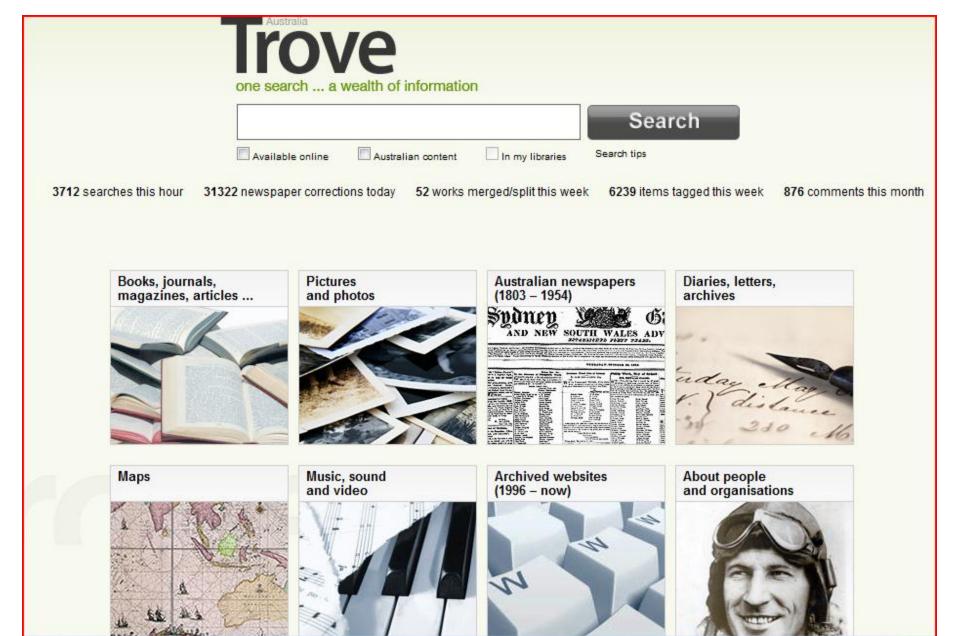


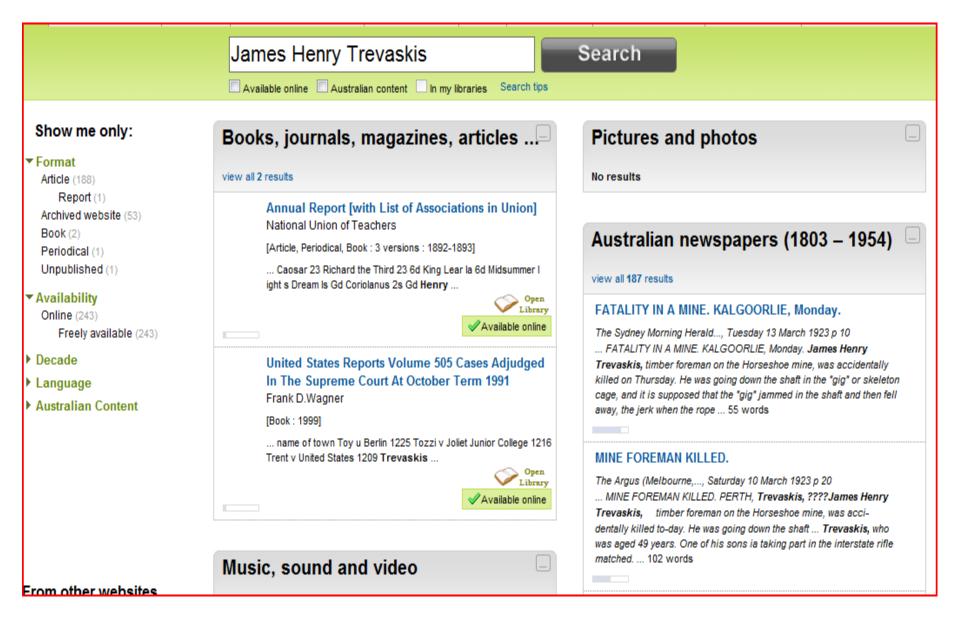
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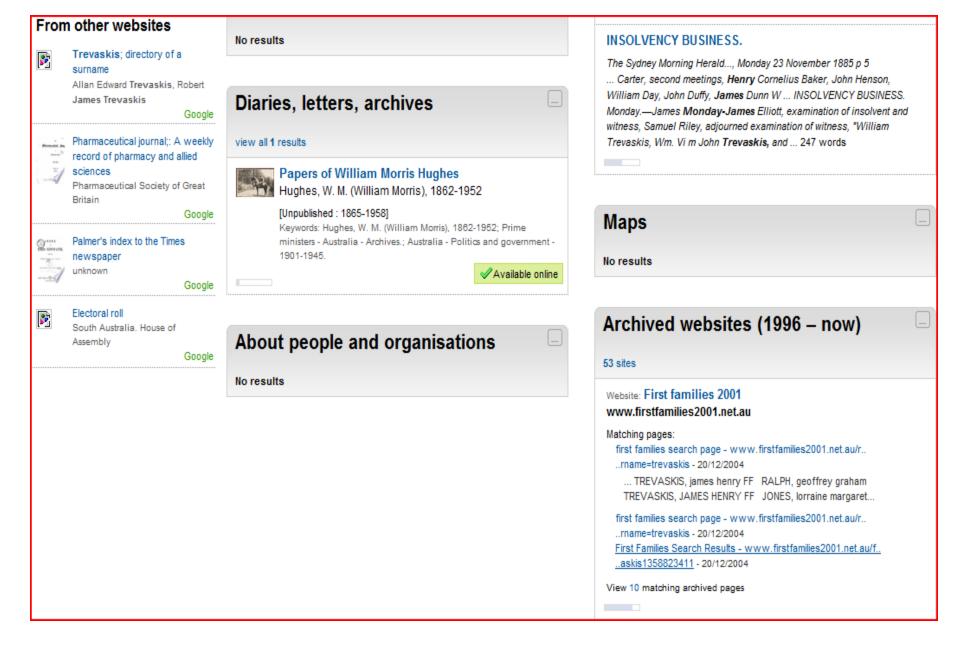
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Robert Prince & Elizabeth Lillian Muir looking for the marriage records of Robert prince b 1885 Newfoundland Canada and his wife Elizabeth Lillian Muir b 1880 Ontario Canada i Started by john armstrong	23	1 day ago Reply by Just M
Brick wall - McGeachie family Buffalo NY Does anyone have information about the McGeachie family of Buffalo, NY? My aunt Bertha Fraser married George McGeachie	17	1 day ago Reply by Alan Fraser

Serendipity

- According to the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of serendipity is 'the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy and beneficial way'.
- In other words, a fluke, luck
- Search every index/database you just never know







Website: State Library of Victoria www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au Matching pages: THE GOLDFIELDS PETITION 1853: NAMES 0t2 www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/sl....mes/pet_0t2.htm - 7/9/2004 ... [TREVASKIS] Henry [TREVILLION] Henry [TRIPET] Thomas [TROFFER or TROSSER] John [TROFTA] Jack [TRONCHET] E... THE GOLDFIELDS PETITION 1853: NAMES 0t2 www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/sl....mes/pet_0t2.htm - 7/9/2004 THE GOLDFIELDS PETITION 1853: NAMES T5 www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/sl....ames/pet_t5.htm - 7/9/2004 View 4 matching archived pages Website: Life on the goldfields www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au Matching pages: THE GOLDFIELDS PETITION 1853: NAMES 0t2 www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/sl....mes/pet_0t2.htm - 5/5/2004 ... [TREVASKIS] Henry [TREVILLION] Henry [TRIPET] Thomas [TROFFER or TROSSER] John [TROFTA] Jack [TRONCHET] E... THE GOLDFIELDS PETITION 1853: NAMES T5 www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/sl....ames/pet_t5.htm - 5/5/2004 View 2 matching archived pages

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Henry McAuley. Alexander Watt, John ... 102 words Corrected most recently by B.P.Quirk on 2010-03-01

Google

Case Study – Helen Carnegie

- The whole story is in the Brick Wall
 Solutions blog my search over 32 years
- ◆ The answer was in a 5 minute search of *World Connect*
- But how many people use it?





Shauna Hicks History Enterprises

Names: 607,286,062 Surnames: 5,269,405 Databases: 426,339 Nothing found matching your search criteria									
Surname carnegie Exact Given Name helen omit livi Birth Place omit bla Birth Year Exact Death Place omit bla Death Year Exact Marriage Place omit bla Marriage Year Exact Fuzzy Search (uses soundex) Search	Spouse alexander miller ferguso Skip Database Updated Within Forever Has Descendants Has Notes Has Sources								

Results 1-1 of 1												
	Birth/Ch	Birth/Christening Death/Burial				Order	Other					
Name	Date	Place	Date	Place	Database	record?	Matches					
CARNEGIE, Helen	1862		23 DEC 1946	Brisbane.Qld - Reg 1946/BOO9756	kenalice2		Census					
Father: John CARNEGIE Mother: Helen STRATTON Spouses: Charles Wadmore CHICK, Alexander Miller FERGUSON Newspar												

RETURN OF PRISONERS TO BE DISCHARGED FROM HIS MAJESTY'S PRISON, ROCKHAMPTON, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1904.																	
											COLOUR OF		WEIGHT.		s ns.		
Name.	Where Tried.	Date of Discharge.	Offence.	Date of Sentence.	Sentence.	Native of	Age.	stature.	Make.	Complexion	Hair.	Eyes.	On Admission.	At time of sending in this return.	Previous Conviction	Remarks.	
		1904.		1904.			Yrs.	Ft. in.						8t. lb.			
Charles Anderson	Rockhampton	1 Aug.	Breach of the Railway By-	2 July	1 month's imprisonment or £1 8s, 3d, fine and fare	America	25	5 61	Slight	Black	Black	Black	9 6	10 5		Vaccination-mark right arm; Ame	
Ellen Chiek, alias Ferguson	Barcaldine	6 ,,		7 Мау	3 months' hard labour	Scotland	42	5 5	Stout	Fresh	Dark- brown	Brown	9 4	9 51		Cataract on both eyes.	
	Rockhampton	10 ,,	Drunkenness and obscene language	11 April	2 months' imprisonment or £2 fine on each charge (cumu- lative)		37	5 0 ³ / ₂	Medium	ditto	Auburn	Blue	9 0	8 81	10	Sear left shin; tattooed ring or right hand.	
Thomas Rees	Longreach	13 ,,,	Indecent exposure	14 June	2 months' hard labour or £4 1s. 1ld, fine and costs	Queensland	36	5 6%	ditto	ditto	Dark .	Grey	10 2	10 5	15	Left arm broken and deformed- two fingers; two scars left si scar on top of left hip; and arm; slight blue scar right eye	
Eugene Forrest	Rockhampton	25 ,,	Stealing from the person	26 Feb.	6 months' hard labour	ditto	22	5 5%	ditto	ditto	Sandy	Hazel	9 1	10 3	***	Scar under right knee.	
John Barber, <i>alias</i> John Edward Barber	ditto	26 "	Unlawful destruction of property	27 June	2 months' hard labour	Victoria	39	5 111	ditto	ditto	Dark	Brówn	10 121	11 71	15	Scar on back of head; scar over rig mark on right temple.	

QLD Police Gazette 1904

Then looked for death of Helen Chick in the QLD BDMs online, found reference and purchased death certificate. Gave reference to second husband Charles Wademore Chick and it was him I was looking for when I searched WorldConnect – his unusual names.

Further Sources

- ◆ SHHE Resources Presentations
 - http://www.shaunahicks.com.au/resources/
 - Asylum Records
 - Behind Bars: Convicts & Criminals
 - Online Trends in Family History



More Sources

- Gateway Sites
 - Cora Num Web Sites for Genealogists An Australian Gateway Site
 - http://www.coraweb.com.au/
 - Cyndi's List Genealogy Sites on the Internet
 - http://www.cyndislist.com/
 - Google Your Family Tree by Dan Lynch



Hit a Brick Wall?

When all else fails . . . here are ideas for a few things to keep you busy while you look for the next research avenue to follow.

Related Categories

- Chat & IRC
- Female Ancestors
- Handy Online Starting Points
- Magazines, Journals, Columns & Newsletters
- Newspapers
- ROOTS-L & RootsWeb
- Societies & Groups
- Surnames, Family Associations & Family Newsletters
- Unique Peoples & Cultures

Enter for a chance to win \$20,000 Ultimate Family History Journey™

- 500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems
 A book by the Publishers of Family Chronicle Magazine.
- About.com Genealogy Brick Walls How to Get Through Them
- Ancestry.com Learning Center Learn More
 Thousands of FREE, searchable how-to articles from Ancestry.com publications such as
 Ancestry Magazine, the Ancestry Weekly Discovery and the Ancestry Monthly Update.
 - Explaining Your Brick Walls Can Bring Them Down
 - Finding Your Own Genealogical Muse Article by Drew Smith.
 - Follow Every Thread
 - A Fresh Start on an Old Problem
 Article by Juliana Smith.

Conclusion

- Brick walls can be demolished
- Need time, perseverance, luck
- Keep rechecking new sources
- Share your story
- Don't give up!

