Demolishing Brick Walls: Tips & Tricks

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http://diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com



Introduction

- What are brick walls?
- Did you create the wall?
- Golden rules of genealogy
- Serendipity
- Online resources
- Last thoughts



What Are Brick Walls?

- Where you simply cannot go back any further
- Information just not there blank fields on certificates
- Missing information, missing records
- Someone disappears
- Someone just appears
- Too many suspects (common names)
- Anything that stops you progressing



First Questions

- Did you build the brick wall yourself?
- Are you following the golden rules of genealogy?
- Are you just using indexes & transcripts?
- Need to look at certificates & original documents
- People make mistakes!



Golden Rules No 1 & No 2

- Always work backwards from the known (yourself) to the unknown (forebears)
- Never believe everything on a birth, death or marriage certificate
- Information is only as good as informant's knowledge
- Birth & Marriage certificates perhaps more reliable than Death certificates – but not always!



in the State of Queensland

BIRTH in the District of BRISBANE in the State of Queensland, 1934 Registered by George Porter Registrar-General Marginal notes (if any). 43401 1 Number 2 When and where born 10 July 1934 Lady Bowen Hospital Mervyn John Male PARENTS. Father-5 1. Name and surname of father .. John Martin GUNDERSON 2. Profession, trade or occupation Labourer 3. Age. 4. Birthplace 25 years Brisbane Queensland 6 1. When and where married . . . | 3 February 1934 Brisbane Queensland 2. Issue—living and deceased Deceased 7 l. Name and maiden surname of Kathleen May formerly Carnegie 23 years Brisbane Queensland 2. Age. 3. Birthplace INFORMANT. Certified in writing by 8 Signature, description, and residence K.M. Gunderson, Mother, of informant 186 Juliette Street, Greenslopes WITNESSES. 9 1. Medical attendant 2. Nurse Nurse Brown 3. Other witness to birth ...

L Harold William Tesch

REGISTRAR.

10 1. Signature of Registrar

11 Name, added after registration of birth

2. Date. 3. Place of registration ...

do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a register of births 7kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate.

G. Porter

Brisbane

16 July 1934

Extracted on 19 May 1977

Registrar-General.

19 06 Registered by Thor		ornhill Weedon	Registrar-General			
Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number	4746				
	2 When and where married	11 July 1906	Brisbane			
	3 Name and surname	Bridegroom	Bride			
		James CARNEGIE	Mary FINN			
	Ser Ser					
	4 Condition	Bachelor	Spinster			
	5 Birthplace	Brisbane Stanley Queensland	Nambour Canning Queensland			
	6 Profession, trade or occupation	Seaman	X 18 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
	7 Age	25 years	20 years			
	8 Usual place of residence	Brisbane	Bowen Terrace Brisbane			
	Parents— 9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname	John Carnegie	John Finn Sarah Fegan			
	10 Father's rank or profession	Sailor	Laborer			

according to the rites of the Roman

Date of registration 14 July 1906

Catholic Church

Married at Dora, Gotha Street Brisbane

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of

In the presence)

This marriage)

was solemnised

between us

of us

Thos.M. Cronin Rosie Finn

J.Carnegie

Mary Finn

STORANDIZATION MOCOUNTEN

Exd. by

James B.Breen Officiating Minister or Registrar

Harold William Tesch

Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate.

Extracted on 28 July 1977

Golden Rules No 3 & No 4

- Never completely trust the spelling of surnames, place names etc
- Always check given name and surname variants when researching
- Possibly the most common reason why ancestors cannot be found



Name Variations

- Both given names and surnames
- Abbreviations Wm, Thos, Margt etc etc
- Nicknames my Pearl turned out to be Maria!
- Aliases and de facto relationships
- Maiden names for children's birth entries





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What is a One-Name Study?

How to Join

About the Guild

http://one-name.org



Variants: This study is registered for the variants Peplar, Peplow, Peploe, Peppler and Peplo. I also consider Pepelowe, Pepplow, Peplow, Peplow, and anything that has 2 P's separated by a vowel and followed by an L. I do rule out those names that end in 'ski' and Peplaus are on the fence. Because there is such a variation even in the life events of a single individual, I have a tendency to refer to the name as Peplxx. I am always surprised by the suffix.

Distribution: Peplxxs are everywhere but usually in small numbers. There appear to be both Peplows and Peplers from the beginning of surnames in both the British Isles and Germanic regions. Groups migrated from both countries to the Americas and Australia. One Germanic Pepler wandered down to South Africa very early and nearly all of that name there can be traced back to him. The large question unanswered is if there is a connection between the British and Germanic families. The earliest Peplers in Britain are around Wiltshire and London, the earliest Peplo??s around Shropshire and London. In Germany, Peplo??s are in Pommern near Ruegan and Pepplers are more in the Baden area.



The Surname Society

Why Join Us? Surname Studies News Study Stories Events Church Marriage Finder Forums Members Only &

Welcome to The Surname Society – the place for surname studies



Across the world, there are a vast number of people studying surnames. Some research independently, while others collaborate in various groups, associations and societies. In 2014, The Surname Society was founded as a not-for-profit entity by a worldwide group of experienced genealogists. Focussing on single surname studies, the Society meets the needs of researchers in the world of family history and genealogy as it evolves in the 21st century.

The vision of the Society is to connect like-minded people by providing up-to-date facilities which enable members to share knowledge, data and good practice with others. The society is entirely online and allows members to register worldwide and limited studies. Collaboration is both facilitated and encouraged as it is the core ethos of The Surname Society.

http://surname-society.org











Welcome to the Society for One-Place Studies website



There are many individuals, societies and groups across the globe researching the people of a community within the context of the place they live. The vision of this Society is to bring together those like-minded people and provide a platform for members to share good practice, ideas and methodology in one place, as well as promote the research being undertaken on their study area.

A charitable organisation founded in 2013 by six dedicated family and local historians from three continents, the Society is run by volunteers in order to advance the education of the public in one-place studies. Information and further advice is available to all, though members will have access to a wide range of enhanced benefits.

The Society welcomes members from around the world with an interest in one particular place, whether it is a street, village, hamlet or town. Registering a study area (or areas) is optional, though recommended if members are active in their research

http://one-place-studies.org



Anglicised & Foreign Names

- Both given names and surnames
- Non English speaking cultures Europe, China etc
- Chinese look under A for Ah but also check under the other initial – not consistent
- My Norwegian Aose died as Mary and Andreas as Andrew

Spelling Variations

- People were illiterate, difficulties with accents (Union turned out to be Onion)
- Indexing errors
 - Poor handwriting
 - Old styles of writing
 - Judy Webster Using and Compiling Indexes
- Remember to use wildcards





Finding local, interstate and overseas folk mentioned in Queensland's historical records Google™ Custom Search

Search

© Copyright, <u>Judy Webster</u>

Why I use and recommend FindMyPast

<u>Home About What's New | Articles Family tree Indexes My other sites Photos Publications Research Services Tips</u>

You are here: Home Page > Tips > Tips on old handwriting & using indexes.

Site navigation tips

Using and Compiling Indexes

"Judy Webster, a keen family historian, has compiled and published many indexes. She has also been employed by Qld State Archives to help with guidelines and data entry/checking for their indexing projects. On this page she shares practical tips based on her own experience."

- · How to avoid the traps involved in using indexes.
- How to <u>compile a good index</u> (advice for individuals, genealogical groups, family history societies, historical societies and local studies librarians who want to index various types of material).
- How to publish and promote your index.

Traps involved in using indexes

These **rules for using indexes** have been selected from a list reported to be from the 'Genealogy Week' section of *Antique Week* and attributed to James L. Hansen of the State Hist. Soc. of WI, USA.

- An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.
- It doesn't matter how you spell the name, it only matters how the indexer spelled it.
- In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel or consonant.
- If you haven't found it in the index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in the index. You cannot conclude that it's not in the record.
- Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.

To that list I would add:

www.judywebster.com.au/methods.html

Revenue from ads goes to Kiva

Why I use FindMyPast

Family Tree Diagrams

myheritage.com/Fa...

Create Your Family Tree Free Today! Free and Easy to Publish and Print



Find Your Genealogy.



Displaying 21 to 40 of 145



List report
 Detailed report

Detailed report

Select	Series no.	Control symbol	Item title		Date range	Digitised item	PDF	Item barcode	Format
	B883	QX10064	JAMES JOHN JAMIESON : Service Number - QX10064 : Date of birth - 11 Dec 1908 : Place of birth - SYDNEY NSW : Place of enlistment - TOOWOOMBA QLD : Next of Kin - JAMES J Access status: Not yet examined Location: Ca		1940 - 1947			4826086	
	B883	<u>QX7440</u>	JAMES JOHN: Service Number - QX7440: Date of birth - 30 Apr 1913: Place of birth - BRISBANE QLD: Place of enlistment - BRISBANE QLD: Next of Kin - DOYDEN HELEN Access status: Not yet examined Location: Ca	ınberra	1940 - 1947			4826996	

Name – John James Carnegie

Married sister – Helen Dryden

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au





Spelling Didn't Matter To Our Ancestors — Wild Cards to the Rescue



O f Share

0

Tweet

⊠ Email

Share

□ 0

Like

g+1

Our ancestors often used a variety of spellings for their first names and surnames. You can use wildcards with the Exact filter selected to find unusual spellings of names.

There are two wildcard characters:

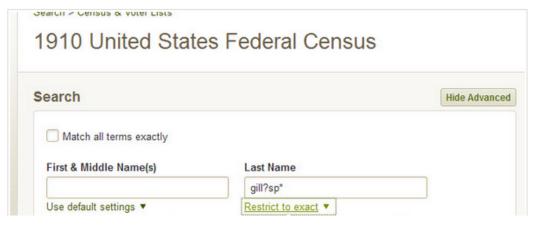
- · ? (question mark): matches one character which can be anything
- · * (asterisk): matches 0 to N characters

So if you enter Sm?th* you can match Smith, Smyth, Smithe and Smythe

Ann* will match Ann, Anne, Anna, and Annabelle

My maiden name is Gillespie, and it is very often spelled: Gillaspie, Gillispie or Gillespie or even Gillespy.

I can use wildcards to match a variety of combinations.



About the Ancestry.com.au blog

Here you will find informational, and sometimes fun, posts from the folks behind the scenes here at Ancestry.com.au. We hope you'll notice just how passionate we are about family history and about the products we're building to help connect families over distance and time.

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http://blogs.ancestry.com/au/2014/03/20/spelling-

dient-matter-to-our-ancestors-wild-cards-to-the-rescue

Golden Rule Nos 5 & 6

- Always have at least two separate sources of proof for each event
- Don't blindly trust other people's research always check it yourself
- Remember that everything is only speculation until verified



Citing Your Sources

- Record in detail where you find information original records, published information & websites
- Cite it clearly so that you and others can also find it, either now or in the future
- You will not remember where in a few years/decades time



Golden Rule No 7 & No 8

- Always photocopy or digitise certificates and important documents and leave the originals in a safe place – multiple copies means greater safety for your research. Backup, backup, backup!
- If a document exists, read it!
- So obvious, yet people miss vital clues eg informants, witnesses, addresses, significance of dates etc
- Re read later as it may mean more when your knew more

Golden Rule No 9

- Join at least one family history group, genealogical society or historical society
- Either near where you live or where your ancestors lived
- Why many benefits of membership



Membership of Societies

- Many benefits
 - Members only services
 - Access to a library/ subscription databases
 - Knowledgeable volunteers/ members
 - Regular meetings, guest speakers
 - Seminars, workshops, conferences
 - Newsletter/journal
 - Website



Golden Rule No10

 Share your information and documentation (copies only) with other researchers

- Ensures your research is not lost or forgotten
- Who inherits your family history research?



Common Search Mistakes

- Start with yourself and work back, step by step, certificate by certificate
- Otherwise you may end up tracing the wrong person
- My great grandmother was Elizabeth Judge, she married under that name but it was not the name she was born with!

www.shaunahicks.com.au/old-research-new-resources-fresh-eyes

Someone Disappears

- 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)



Someone Appears

- Probably skeletons again
- Hiding a convict background
- Hiding an illegitimate birth
- Fostering or adoption
- Deserted a wife and family someplace else

Serendipity

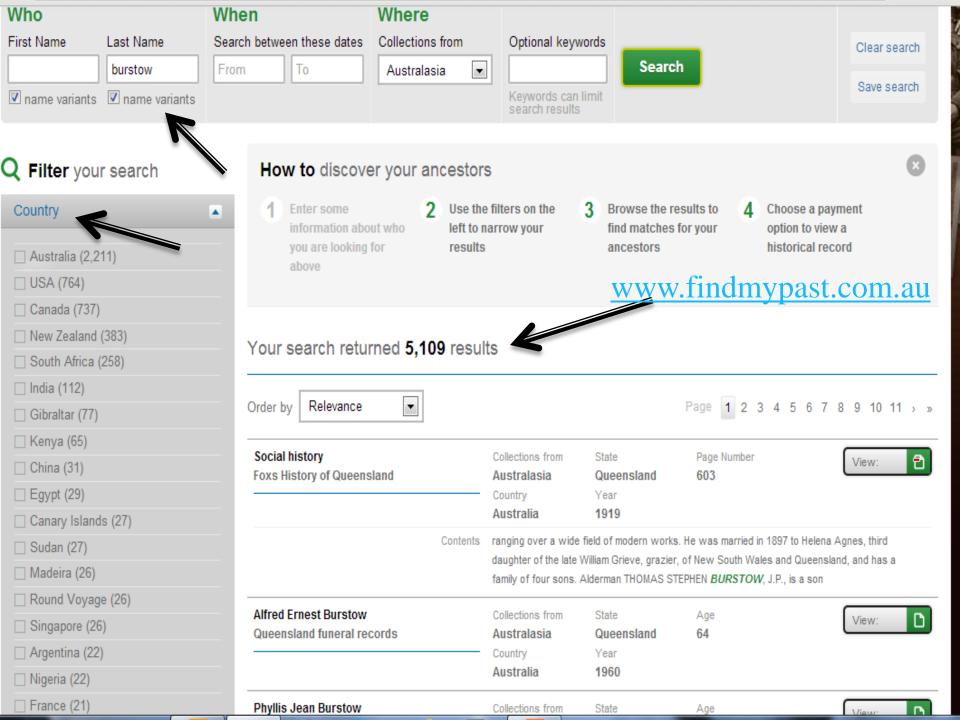
- According to the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of serendipity is 'the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy and beneficial way'
- In other words, a fluke, luck
- Search every index/database you just never know



Online Resources

- Ancestry.com Australia
- FindMyPast Australia & New Zealand
- FamilySearch
- Trove and Papers Past
- Changing all the time!





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Family Tree Memories Search Indexing













Search



Family Booklet

https://familysearch.org





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Research By Location

Click an area of the world to start researching in a specific location.



Find a Collection

Researching within a specific collection? Find it here.

Collection Title

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-

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

DECEASED ANCESTOR'S NAME

First Names	Last Names	

SEARCH WITH A LIFE EVENT:

Birth Marriage Residence Death Any

Birthplace		Birth Year (Range)		
		From	То	

SEARCH WITH A RELATIONSHIP:

Spouse	Parents	Other Person

RESTRICT RECORDS BY:

Location	Туре	Batch Number	Film Numbe
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Country State or Province

https://familysearch.org/search



Country	State or Province			
New Zealand				
Filter by collection: Sho	owing All 7 - Show Top 5			
Title ▲		Records	Last Updated	
☐ BillionGraves Index		364,106	01 Jul 2016	ര
Find A Grave Index		388,404	12 Jul 2016	6
■ New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Passenger Lists, 1839-1973		7,255,820	16 Apr 2014	0
New Zealand, Archive	es New Zealand, Probate Records, 1843-1998	340,066	21 May 2016	0
New Zealand, Auckla	nd, Albertland Index, 1862-1962	22,759	29 Oct 2015	0
New Zealand, Auckla	nd, Waikumete Cemetery Records, 1886-1948	27,054	30 Apr 2016	0
New Zealand, Centra	l Otago, Cemetery Gravestones, 1861-2009	12,739	10 Jul 2013	0

New Zealand Image Only Historical Records



Can't find records for your ancestors when you search? Try our collections that haven't been indexed yet. Select a collection to start browsing the images.

*= Recently added or updated

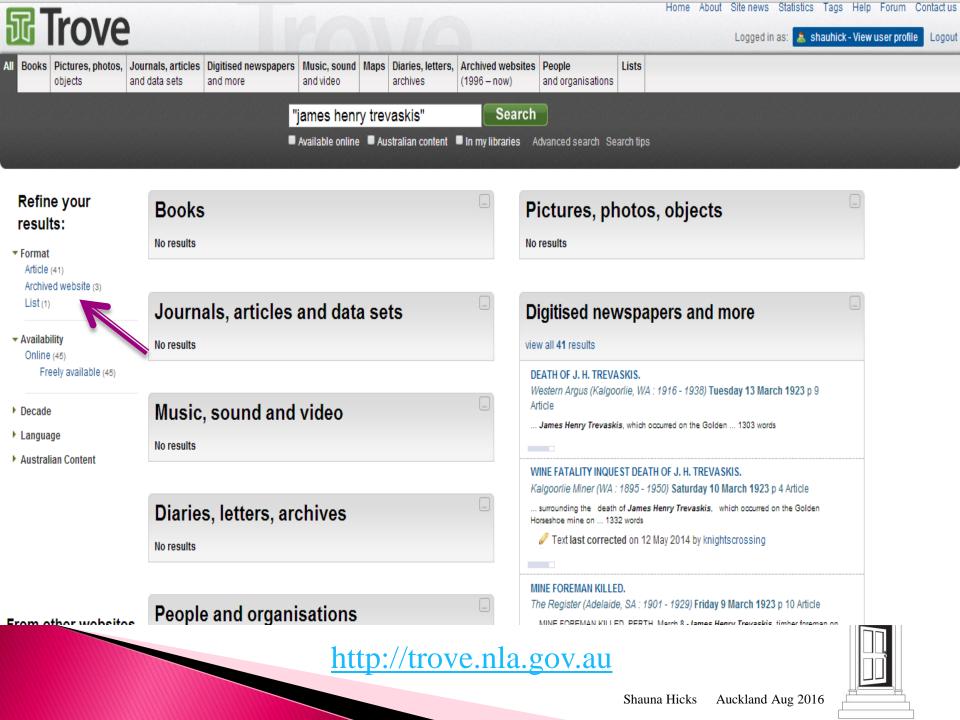
Other Images Last Updated

New Zealand, Auckland, Port Albert, Membership Lists and Minutes from the Church of Christ, 1875-1926

108 04 Nov 2015 🙋



https://familysearch.org



Refine your results:

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- Availability
 - Online (3)
 - Freely available (3)

http://trove.nla.gov.au

Archived websites (1996 - now)

3 sites

Website: First families 2001





First Families Search Results - www.firstfamilies2001.net.au/f....askis1358823411 - 20/12/2004

... Family Member Details Surname: TREVASKIS Given Name(s): james henry Birth Details Birth County, Region...

Website: Diary of an Australian Genealogist

diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com.au

Matching pages:

Diary of an Australian Genealogist: My F... - diaryofanaustraliangenealogist....y-families.html - 10/1/2014

... Still Looking for James Henry Trevaskis (1839-?) WALKER – New South Wales and Middlesex, England...

Website: Genealogy & History News: genealogy and history news and product announcements for Australians

www.gouldgenealogy.com

Matching pages:

Unlock the Past Cruise Speaker Profile: ... - www.gouldgenealogy.com/2013/07... ..ioks/index.html - 13/11/2013

... or future) would you most like to meet? Wow what a tough question – I would start with James Henry Trevaskis my...

Genealogy & History News » GeneralUnlock... - www.gouldgenealogy.com/categor....feed/index.html - 13/11/2013
Genealogy & History News » History and G... - www.gouldgenealogy.com/tag/his...

Genealogy & History News » History and G... - www.gouldgenealogy.com/tag/nis.. ..feed/index.html - 13/11/2013

View 5 matching archived pages

Keeping Up With What's New

- Social media Facebook, Twitter, Google +
- Listservs, forums, blogs
- Webinars, podcasts
- Family history/genealogy societies journals and newsletters



Case Study - Helen Carnegie

- The whole story is in a number of blogs recording my search over 32 years
- The breakthrough was in the Queensland Police Gazettes on Findmypast
- The final answer was in a 5 minute search of World Connect
- But how many people use it?



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Name.	Where Tried.	Date of Discharge.	Offence.	Date of Sentence.	Sentence.	Native of	Age.	stature.	Маке.	Complexion	Hair.	Eyes.	On Admission.	At time of sending in this return.	Previous Conviction	Remarks.	
		1904.		1904.			Yrs.	Ft. in.					St. 1b.	St. lb.			
Charles Anderson	Rockhampton		Breach of the Railway By-		1 month's imprisonment or £1	America	25		Slight	Black	Black	Black	9 6	10 5	,	Vaccination-mark right arm; Ame	
Ellen Chiek, alias	Barcaldine	6 "	laws Vagrancy	7 Мау	8s. 3d. fine and fare 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)	Ireland	37	5 0 ³ / ₂	Medium	ditto	Auburn	Blue	9 0	8 81	10	Scar left shin; tattooed ring or right hand.	
Thomas Rees	Longreach	13 ,,,	Indecent exposure	14 June	2 months' hard labour or £4 ls. lld. fine and costs	Queensland	36	5 63	ditto	ditto	Dark	Grey	10 2	10 5	15	Left arm broken and deformed— two fingers; two scars left st scar on top of left hip; anch	
Eugene Forrest	Rockhampton	25 ,,	Stealing from the person	26 Feb.	6 months' hard labour	ditto	22	5 5½	ditto	ditto	Sandy	Hazel	9 1	10 3		arm; slight blue scar right eye 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 11½	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

- •Searched for death of Helen Chick in QLD BDMs online and purchased death certificate
- •Gave reference to second husband Charles Wademore Chick
- •His unusual names led me to think about WorldConnect



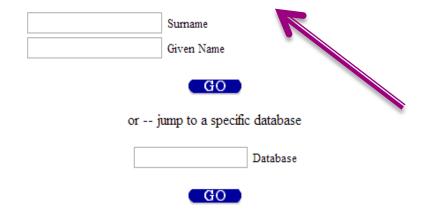
Last Name

Search Family Trees at WorldConnect

First Name

Advanced Search

More than 640 million names on file



or -- find a database by keyword(s)

Submit Your Family Tree To WorldConnect



Also, go here to update or correct your existing Family Tree

Click here to access the old standard and advanced tree upload and edit tools

FAQs and HELP

- WorldConnect FAQS
- What is a GEDCOM?
- How to use WorldConnect
- Protecting the privacy of living relatives
- Contacting family tree submitter

State ▼

- · How to submit files via the mail
- RootsWeb's HelpDesk

http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com

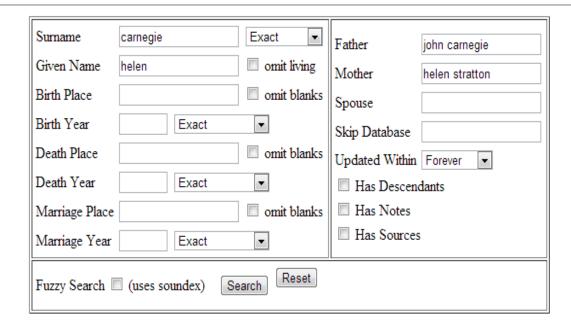


RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project Global Search

Names: 688,225,774 Surnames: 5,821,133 Databases: 437,399

Results 1-1 of 1

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	kenalice3		Census		
Father: John CARNEGIE Mother: Helen STRATTON Spouses: Charles Wademore CHICK, Alexander Miller FERGUSON									





WorldConnect Home | WorldConnect Global Search | WorldConnect Help



More Resources

- CoraWeb Helping You Trace Your Family History in Australia and Elsewhere
- Cyndi's List Genealogy Sites on the Internet
- Google





Helping you trace your family history in Australia and elsewhere

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Choose a category on the left. Some categories can then be filtered by region or subcategory, just click on the yellow folder at the top. You can filter further if there is a + (plus sign) next to the yellow folder.

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New Sites

Catholic Heritage - Network of Archives and Libraries of the Catholic Church



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- History NZ
- Websites NZ

Find Birth ①× Records Online

familylink.com/Birth... Easily Search Historical Birth Records By Names, Dates and More.



www.cyndislist.com/new-zealand





Search Cyndi's List

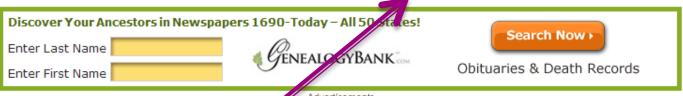
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Browse New Links

Submit a New Link

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.

Category Index

- Articles
- Cluster & Collateral Genealogy
- Educate Yourself
- Help From Others
- Mailing Lists, Newsgroups & Chat
- Miscellaneous
- Publications, Software & Supplies

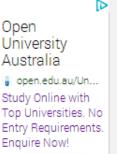
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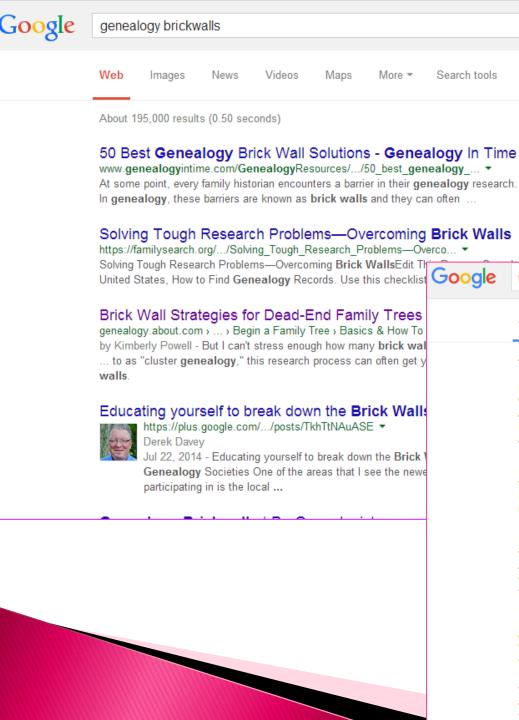


- Brick Wall
- Genealogy
- Family Tree





www.cyndislist.com/brickwall



www.google.com.au

genealogy brickwalls new zealand

News

About 53,600 results (0.80 seconds)

Images

Genealogy News - GenealogyInTime Magazine

Maps

www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html •

A major new family history software package just launched this week. second GenealogyInTime Magazine collection of genealogy brickwall solutions. than 500 different websites in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Shopping

More ▼

Search tools

CoraWeb - Societies and groups

www.coraweb.com.au/categories/new-zealand/societies

Items 1 - 9 of 9 - Southland branch - New Zealand Society of Genealogists Go to Site ... site includes members' genealogy interests; family stories and brick walls; ...

Genealogy Search Australia - Free Genealogy and Family History ...

www.genealogysearchaustralia.com.au/ <

Australian Genealogy and Family History Search Engine and Directory free search for the ... Genealogy Ireland · Genealogy New Zealand · Genealogy Other Countries ... more obscure or hard to find sites that may break down your brick walls.

Gore Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

gore**genealogy**.weebly.com/ ▼

Website of family and local historians and the member's genealogy interests; family stories and brick walls; branch newsletters and resources. Also a link to a ...

Trace your Family Tree Online | Genealogy & Ancestry from ...

www.findmypast.com.au/ -

Trace your ancestry and build a family tree by researching extensive high records, census. Flectoral

Last Tips

- Advertise your brick wall
 - Family history newsletter, journal
 - Listservs, forums
 - Websites, blogs
 - YouTube, Flickr, Pinterest
 - Talk to others
- Explore collateral lines
- Do a one name study!



Letters Home – My Irish Families



This week's blog is my contribution to the Carnival of Irish Heritage & Culture, 18th edition

With four gg grandparents born in Ireland it is no wonder that I am interested in Irish heritage and culture. Of the four it is only my gg grandmother Maria Jeffers who gives me any real insight into her life back in Ireland. However, I will also outline the other Irish gg grandparents just in case someone else is interested in those families.

Maria Jeffers arrived in Brisbane in 1864. Maria (daughter of Isaac Jeffers and Harriet Ballantyne) was born in Portadown, County Armagh in 1844. Maria came to Queensland, Australia on board the *Legion of Honour* in 1864. She married Adam Johnston (see below) in 1864 in Brisbane, Queensland. In later life she had a close friend Abraham Francis and she is seen with him in this photograph.

Of my four Irish ancestors, Maria Jeffers is the only one known to have kept contact with her family back in Ireland. A few surviving letters to and from one of her brothers who stayed in Portadown confirms this. The letters were in poor condition with pages and pieces missing and had been given to one of Maria's



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Conclusion

- Brick walls can be demolished
- Follow the golden rules
- Think laterally
- Need time, perseverance, luck
- Keep rechecking new resources
- Share your story
- Don't give up!

