

Merle D Grinly, *Queensland Ship Deserters 1861-1911*, Gould Genealogy & History, Adelaide, 2011, ISBN: 978 1 921807 268, \$24.50, CD ROM.

Merle D Grinly, *Queensland Transmissions of Real Estate by Death 1878-1940*, Gould Genealogy & History, Adelaide, 2012, ISBN: 978 1 921807 244, \$49.50, CD ROM.

Merle D Grinly, *Wallangarra Quarantine Registers 1918-1919*, Gould Genealogy & History, Adelaide, 2011, ISBN: 978 1 921807 244, \$24.50, CD ROM.

I've known Merle since the late 1970s and it is a pleasure to review her latest publications now that I'm back in Queensland. As a former employee at Queensland State Archives I'm familiar with the records that these CD ROMs index and it's great to have easier access to the information within the records.

*Queensland Ship Deserters 1861-1911* contains approximately 3,800 names and lots of people I meet often say they had an ancestor who jumped ship. The majority of ships were immigrant ships and it is quite probable that the sailors also wanted to stay here once they experienced Queensland's sunny blue skies.

The index gives surname, given names but more usually just an initial, age, ship and date of desertion and occupation on board ship. The information varies over time and sometimes there are additional remarks or a record of punishment if the offender was returned.

This is definitely an index to check if you suspect an ancestor may have jumped ship at a Queensland port. I don't have anyone who jumped ship so I couldn't search for any personal examples.

*Queensland Transmissions of Real Estate by Death 1878-1940* is a compilation of indexes published regularly in the *Queensland Government Gazette* and can provide good clues to real estate held by families. Information given includes name of deceased, address and occupation for males and for females it is name of deceased, marital status and if married the husband's name, address and occupation. Other information includes the name of claimant, address and occupation and if the claimant was a married female, her husband's name, address and occupation. The date of a will or other probate information such as letters of administration are given and finally the date and page number in the *Gazette*.

There are almost 67,500 entries referencing over 200,000 names of deceased persons, spouses and claimants and can lead to discovering more information on deceased ancestors. I have lots of Queensland families so it was with great pleasure that I did some quick searches for my family names.

My GGG grandparents John and Helen Carnegie appear in this index and it tells me they were both living at Toorbul and John was an oysterman. The claimant for John was his widow Helen and their daughter Clara Stanley Davis wife of Charles Davis was the claimant for John. The dates of their wills and the death dates are given and if I go to the *Queensland Government Gazette* reference I will learn details of the land transmitted in both transactions. Some of this information I had already extracted from probate and land files at Queensland State Archives years ago but looking at other index entries I can see how this index might give you easier access into a range of other records.

For example I haven't done as much research on the Burstow family (now the subject of a one name study) and the entries for Mary Ann and Thomas Stephen Burstow give me other family names and addresses that I can follow up as well as the information in the *Gazette* itself. Just about every family name I entered returned some family members so it will take me a while to go through this resource and follow up the new leads.

*Wallangarra Quarantine Registers 1918-1919* is an interesting publication that highlights the strict health regulations in place to contain the outbreak of pneumonic influenza in 1918-1919. Border camps were established to keep all people entering Queensland in quarantine for a period of seven days. Information provided includes the name of the person, occupation, address, the date they left Queensland, whether married/single or widow/er and the camp number and Queensland State Archives reference number. The registers themselves contain signatures, remarks and other details.

Just over 2,500 people are listed in the *Wallangarra Quarantine Registers 1918-1919* and I wasn't aware of anyone in the family being quarantined there but I had a quick look just in case. Indexes like this allow us to learn things about the family that we might otherwise never have known about. However, I didn't turn up any likely family members but if you had family travelling into Queensland during this time, then it is definitely worth checking.

I also like to browse indexes like these as sometimes a name will come up that is associated with a family but it is not one that we might actively search for. I've often found great information on collateral lines this way so remember to think broadly when searching especially if a database is not too large. Another fascination is looking at people's occupations and where they are from and it is all too easy to go off on a research tangent!

The nice thing about publications on CD ROM is that they don't take up as much space on the bookshelf and you have greater searching capacity. These three indexes are a great addition to resources for Queensland family history research and they are quick and easy to use as highlighted in my quick searches above. Check them out and see if they fill in any of the blanks in your own family history. Happy searching!

All publications are available from [Gould Genealogy & History](#).

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