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**THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY INC.**

*The Family History Place*

PATRON - His Honour the Honourable Austin Asche AC QC

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Edmund Charles Wellington Woodward Johnson.

My Uncle Ted—A Man I Never Met

Johnson Park in Nakara, a suburb of Darwin, is named in his honour.

## **PATRICK BRENNAN**

**28<sup>th</sup> April 1869 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1940**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1891 Patrick was best man for his cousin Hugh McKittrick when he married Monica Gardner in Reefton.

### **Inangahua Times 7 May 1891 pg 2 –**

The paper reported the marriage as this –

Mr. Hugh McKettrick and Miss Monica Byrne were united in the holy bonds of matrimony yesterday. The Rev Father Rolland performed the service and the church was crowded with well wishers for the happy couple's future. Mr. P. Brennan, jun., was best man and Miss Mary Clerkin, bridesmaid.

In the Inangahua Times on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1891 it was reported that a meeting of the shareholders of the Golden Hill Gold Mining Company had been held at the Stevenson's Hotel on the previous night. Mr. J. Auld had been appointed the legal manager and the directors would be Beeche, A. Collings, E. North, Grieve and P. Brennan jun.

### **Inangahua Times 2 September 1891 pg 2**

A numerously attended meeting of shareholders in the Golden Hill Gold Mining Co. was held in Stevenson's Hotel last night. Mr. J. Auld was appointed legal manager, and Messrs Beeche, Collings, A. E. North, Grieve, and P. Brennan jun. were appointed directors, with Messrs Joynt and Cooper auditors. Subsequently a meeting of shareholders in the golden Bar was also held when Mr. Collings was appointed legal manager, and Messrs G. B. Shepherd, McHugh, Cook, Quigley, and Auld directors, and Mr. Joynt auditor. A meeting of directors in each Company will be held immediately, and a plan of working both properties will be decided upon.

The next month, October, Patrick witnessed a signature on an application for registration of a mining company. He was still working as a clerk for his father.

There was an advertisement in the papers on the 3rd February 1892 for Patrick holding his own auction of household furniture, he must have gained his auctioneers license at some point although no notice in the papers could be found. Later in the year in October he sold his auctioneer's license to James Billet. James Billet then transferred the license to Patrick snr as James was leaving the district.

After the death of his father, on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1893, a notice was placed in the paper notifying the public that Mr. P. Brennan, junior, was now managing his late father's business and there was every probability that he would succeed to the secretaryship of the various companies connected with the office.

Patrick jnr. was now running the office and notices dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 1893 started appearing in the papers. Others dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1894 had him noted as manager and stating he would be auctioning off forfeited shares. He would have had a tough time with taking over his father's business as it was not in a good state of affairs as the following notice showed.

In the District Court of Westland (Being A Local Court of Bankruptcy) held at Reefton notice was given for four cases to be heard on the 24<sup>th</sup> Day of January 1894 one of which was for estate of his late father Patrick. The estate of Patrick Brennan, of Reefton, Auctioneer was declared bankrupt.

From Patrick's mother's inquest report, printed in the newspaper, we learnt that Mary was admitted to the Hokitika Asylum at some point in 1894.

The Inangahua Times reported on the 22 October 1894 the cricket season was opened with a scratch match with some effective bowling done by Brennan and Knell. This could have been any of the Brennan brothers. They played

another scratch match on the 27<sup>th</sup> and another was planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, results printed on the 10<sup>th</sup>. More investigation needs to be done to confirm which brother it was, although further notices suggest that more than one brother played.

**Inangahua Times 22 October 1894 pg 2**

The cricket season opened on Saturday with a scratch match, the sides being captained by Messrs Knell and Malloy respectively. The Knellites went first to the wicket and knocked up 80 runs, their opponents only managing to score 54. There were some clever exhibitions of play, the bowling of Messrs Brennan, and Knell being very effective. There will be practice every Saturday afternoon for the future.

**Inangahua Times 25 October 1894 pg 2**

A scratch cricket match was played yesterday between sides picked by Messrs Knell and Brennan. The former made 119 runs of which Knell contributed 34 and Wicken 41. The Brennanites ran up 116, the chief scorers being McGuillicuddy 26, and Brennan 32. On Saturday next teams will be picked again.

**Inangahua Times 29 October 1894 pg 2**

Cricket

Messrs Thomson and Knell picked sides on Saturday last for a one innings match. The play showed a marked improvement upon that of the previous week, as may be seen by the scores appended:

Thompson's side.

Doherty, run out,	0
Thompson, b Knell	1
Lockington, b Knell	32
McNeil, b Aiken	2
Lecher, b Knell,	0
McLusky, lbw	13
Hall, b Knell	4
Wilson, c Doherty	5
Ferguson, retired hart,	0
O'Neill, not out,	0
Marr, b Knell,	0
Dunn, 1 b Knell,	0
Byes	13
No Balls	1
Knell's Side.	72
Knell b Lockington	30
<b>Brennan</b> b Thompson	6
Wicken, b Ferguson	3
Mulvihid, b Thompson	8
Milne, b Thompson	4
Davis, b Ferguson,	8
Patten, b Lockington	4
Kettelty, not out,	25
Dunbar, b McLuskie	4
Docherty, b Lockington	1
Aiken, b Thompson	2
Byes	12
	107

A match, Married v. Single will be played next Saturday.

**Inangahua Times Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 1894 pg 2**

A meeting of the General Committee was held at Dawsons Hotel last night, Messrs Knoll, Thompson knowsley, Jackson, Brennan, Aitken, McClusky, Doherty, Kettlety, and Wilson. The rules drawn up by the Management Committee were read, confirmed and agreed to. Proposed by Jackson, seconded by F. Knell that the rules be printed. Proposed by F. Knell, seconded by McLusky that Mr. Knowsley be a member of the Management Committee vice F. Knell, resigned:— Carried. Proposed by F. Knell, seconded by H. Kettlety that G. Thompson, be Practice Captain for ensuing season— Carried. Proposed by Doherty seconded by Brennan that the Secretary write to West Coast Association stating their decision to join the Association:— Carried.

**Inangahua Times 10 November 1894 pg 3**

The following scores were made yesterday in the scratch cricket match.

Thompson side, Knowsely b Wilson, 15; Thompson run out, 1; Williams b Brennan 1; Hindmarsh not out 37; T. Malloy c J. Doherty 0; O'Neill b Brennan 6; Mears b Allan, 3; McSherry b Brennan, 0; Jackson b Brennan 0. Total 63.

Brennan's side - Brennan not out 57; J. Doherty c Mears, 10; Wilson b Thompson, 1; H. Doherty bowled, 0; John Malloy c North, 1; Allan c Hindmarsh, 4; McClusky c Hindmarsh, 4; W. Cochrane c Hindmarsh, 2; Cameron c North, 1; Guinness c Hindmarsh, 3; Stoddart c North, 9. Total 92.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1894 about sixty couples attended a fancy dress ball held in the Theatre Royal. A Mr. Brennan attended but not in fancy dress.

In January 1895 Patrick resigned his position as manager of the Progress Company. He gave them a month's notice from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1895 to find a new manager and elect new directors. At a special meeting of The Alexander Gold Dredging Company it was decided to sell the claim and dredge in 1894 He had already resigned from being manager of Sir Charles Russell Gold Mining Company in March 1894. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1895 Patrick resigned from the Dillon Gold Mining Company. With the Lord Edward Gold Mining Company he was only an acting manager and a new manager had been appointed at some point during 1894.

It could only be found where Patrick had been manager for the following companies:

Sir Charles Russell Company.

Alexander Gold Dredging Company

Progress Gold Mining Company

Dillon Gold Mining Company Ltd

Lord Edward Gold Mining Company Ltd (Acting Manager)

The Inangahua County Council held a meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January 1895 and gave permission once again to Patrick to take out an Auctioneer's license. Being a mining manager was not making him any money.

A notice was placed in the paper stating that Mr. Fenton 'on account of having taken over the management of the Progress Company, will for the future occupy for the purpose of business the building in Broadway lately tenanted by Mr. P. Brennan.' Patrick had vacated his father's premises; this was only two years after he had taken over his father's bankrupt business.

Patrick Brennan married Catherine Maria Ryan on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1895. The paper for the next day is missing and hence no report of the marriage could be found in the papers. From Catherine's Death Certificate the marriage took place in Wellington, New Zealand and sometime after this they made their way to Western Australia.

Shipping records for when Patrick and Catherine made their way to Western Australia could not be found.

Patrick took over the running of the Commercial Hotel in December 1895 from the owners Richard Fagan and his wife when the Fagan's decided to take a holiday. See the separate story on the history of the Commercial Hotel. In December 1895 the Town Clerk placed a notice in the local papers requesting volunteers to join the Kalgoorlie Fire Brigade and Salvage Corps. One of the men appointed on the committee to form a salvage corps was a Brennan but whether this was Patrick is unknown. It took until April 1899 for the properly organised salvage corps to be arranged. The first meeting of men interested in joining occurred on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1899 in Brennan's Commercial Hotel. The point of the group was to save property at outbreaks of fire.

The first meeting of shareholders in the Kalgoorlie Brewing and Ice Company was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1896 at the Australia Hotel. It was decided at the meeting that Mr. Biddle and Mr. Brennan would be auditors for a fee of £5 5s each per audit.

In the Kalgoorlie Licensing Court on Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1896 Mr. Pilkington appeared on behalf of the Kalgoorlie Licensed Victuallers' Association having been instructed by Messrs J. P. Lee and P. Brennan of that association to oppose the license applied for by A. Solomon on the grounds that he had no title to land. The hotel proposed was a large building to be built on Town lot 110, Duggan Street but Mr. Lee objected on the grounds that such a large and commodious building was not required in Kalgoorlie. Mr. Brennan, licensee, of the Commercial Hotel was asked to prove further that hotel accommodation was not required in Kalgoorlie. The bench adjourned for four weeks asking for changes to the plans, they were inclined to grant a license for a building made of wood and the rooms were too small.

A St. Patrick's day sports day was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1896 and conducted by a Mr. J. Miller. The publican's booth was auctioned off and Mr. Brennan of the Commercial Hotel missed out on it after spirited competition with Mr. Rosenthal of the Exchange Hotel.

Patrick signed a petition dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 1896, for the Ratepayers of the municipality of Kalgoorlie asking that a public meeting be called to discuss: 'The advisability of trying to secure the survey of the Railway Line to Black Flag, Broad Arrow, and Bardoc from Kalgoorlie, as being nearer than a junction from the Menzies Line, and enlisting the support of the residents of those places in a request of this nature to be laid before the Premier'. The mayor, John Wilson set a date the 1<sup>st</sup> April at 8 p.m. at Quigley's Hall for the meeting. He became a member of the resulting committee.

The Prospectus of the Kalgoorlie & Boulder Co-operative Butchering Co., Kalgoorlie, W.A. was printed in the Kalgoorlie Miner on the 14 April 1896. Provisional Directors of the company would be P. Brennan Esq., Commercial Hotel, Kalgoorlie, H. Ley Hancock, Esq., Manager Golden Zone, G.M.C., John Middleton, Esq., manager Maritana Ext'd G.M.C. and John O. Summers, Esq., Kalgoorlie. Company was formed to supply the town of Kalgoorlie and Boulder and surrounding neighborhoods with a constant supply of fresh meat at the cheapest rates. They also intended to supply the surrounding mining camps in the outer lying districts of Kalgoorlie. Two and half thousand shares were offered at £2 each. The shop was to be on Hannan street. A meeting of shareholders was then held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Patrick's Commercial Hotel and shareholders were requested to pay the allotment fees as the business was expected to commence within a few days. On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> May, at the general meeting, with Patrick chairing the meeting, he was elected as one of the directors of this company. The company was to commence business the following Saturday or Monday.

Patrick donated £5 5s to the Brunner Relief Fund in May 1896. He again donated another 5 guineas on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. The final meeting for this fund was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June at the Commercial Hotel and a total of £510 12s 3d was raised, a deduction of £50 2s for expenses was made leaving a net balance of £460 10s 3d. Thanks was given to Quigley and Brennan for providing their hotels for meetings and assistance in other ways.

## BRUNNER RELIEF FUND

'On the 26<sup>th</sup> March a fearful explosion of firedamp took place in a coal mine at Brunner, in New Zealand, whereby thirty five women have lost their husbands, 170 children have lost their fathers, and twenty three single men, who probably helped others, were killed.'

The Brisbane Courier Qld Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1896 pg 4

The members of the Brunner Relief Committee met at the Commercial Hotel on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1896 to thank all those who had been connected with the committee Mr. F. Kelsall the hon. sec., who was presented with a heart-shaped opal breast pin. Mr. Fred Harrison, chaired the meeting, made a speech thanking various people and concluded by thanking their host, Mr. P. Brennan. 'The chairman, who, knowing him from his infancy, assured his hearers that he was a 'chip of the old block,' or in other words the son of one of the most sterling mining men in New Zealand, and whose death a short while back caused profound regret in every mining centre throughout that colony. Messrs Davis and O'Brien also bore testimony to the great respect entertained towards Mr. Brennan. Mr. Brennan suitably replied, thanking those present for their feeling references to the memory of his late father.'

Patrick was director of the Hit or Miss North Development Syndicate, Gold Mining Lease No 2000 consisting of 24 acres, situated at Hayes' Find, and adjoining on the North, Hit or Miss Mine. The prospectus was advertised on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1896.

A meeting was held at the Commercial Hotel in June 1896 to form a cycle club in Kalgoorlie to be known as the Kalgoorlie Bicycle Club. To celebrate the formation of the club it was decided to hold a fancy dress football match between teams selected from residents east and west of Maritana Street. They would also hold a 'Mugs' bicycle race and a smoke social and concert evening. Patrick was elected as one of the vice presidents.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1896 Patrick served on a jury, which consisted of three men, an inquest held in the Warden's Court on the body of a child where it was suspected that something dishonest had happened at the birth and death of the child with respect to the registration, the body was exhumed.

Kalgoorlie Racing Club held their first annual meeting on the 13th August 1896 with a large attendance. This time Patrick did have control of the publican's booth. The day was such a success that it was decided to hold another day of races on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In February 1897 Patrick paid £122 10s for outside gates, £200 for the inside publican's booth, £22 for inside refreshment stall, and £1 for the luncheon booth.

There was only one Patrick Brennan noted in the post office directories in 1897 and he is listed as living at the Commercial Hotel, Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie. As these were printed in February of each year from information collected the previous year they were basically a year behind and they were not very accurate as not everyone was listed in them. There was no directory for 1896. As the population of WA had almost doubled between 1895 and 1897 it was decided to publish the books each year from then on. In 1898 there is another Patrick Brennan who is part of the Brennan Bros. group, drapers, in Maritana Street Kalgoorlie. Patrick only appears in the books in connection with the Commercial Hotel until 1904 with the only change being in 1903 the address was changed to 248 Hannan street.

Not sure if this is the correct P. Brennan.

A Notice of Application for Gold Mining Lease No 3505 was inserted in the Kalgoorlie Miner 25<sup>th</sup> August 1896. The land was known as Mount Frayne, situated 2 miles E. of Lease 777e, containing 24 acres, commencing at datum line S.E. of block applied for. There were four applying for this lease; W. N. Frayne, P. Brennan, E. H. Derrington, and W. J. Nock

In September 1896 in the Kalgoorlie Local Court Patrick took Mr. Peters to court to recover £2 6s in respect of damage done to a quantity of hops which he had stored at Mr. Peters shop. The board had been removed which had allowed mice to enter and spoil the hops. As it was corn shop Mr. Peters remarked he could not keep mice out of his store. The judge ruled in Patrick's favour with costs.

### **Kalgoorlie Miner 13<sup>th</sup> October 1896 pg 2**

Birth – Brennan – At East Perth, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the wife of Patrick Brennan, of Kalgoorlie, of a daughter.

Her birth is registered as Kathleen Mary, to Patrick Brennan and Kate Maria Gertrude Ryan, Reg no 1944, year 1896, Perth

Why Catherine's name has been changed is a mystery as nowhere else has her name been recorded with the middle name of Gertrude. Maybe Patrick made an educated guess on the day of filling out the form. On other occasions she referred to as Kate.

### **West Australian 10<sup>th</sup> December 1896 pg 4**

At Perth, on December 9, Kathleen Mary, the beloved infant daughter of Patrick and Catherine Brennan, of Kalgoorlie.

### **Kalgoorlie Miner 11<sup>th</sup> December 1896 pg 2**

Death – Brennan – At Perth, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, Kathline Mary, beloved infant daughter of Patrick and Catherine Brennan, of Kalgoorlie

Her name in the papers was printed incorrectly. Her death is registered as Kathleen Mary, aged 2 months, to Patrick Brennan and Katherine Gertrude Ryan, Reg no 1714, year 1896, Perth.

Her death certificate was purchased which revealed that she died at a private hospital run by Miss Jane McKimmie 64-66 Hill Street, Perth. Kathleen died of Marasmus which is malnutrition occurring in infants and young children, caused by an insufficient intake of calories or protein and characterized by thinness, dry skin, poor muscle development, and irritability. In the mid nineteenth century, specific causes were associated with specific ages. In infants under twelve months old, the causes were believed to be unsuitable food, chronic vomiting, chronic diarrhea and inherited syphilis. Between one and three years, Marasmus was associated with rickets or cancer. Her parents names were given as Patrick Brennan, hotel keeper, and Katherine Gertrude Ryan. The death certificate recorded that Kathleen was buried on the 10<sup>th</sup> December at the Roman Catholic Cemetery Perth. She is buried at the East Perth cemetery details as follows:

#### **BRENNAN**

**Given Name:** Kathleen Mary

**Date of Death:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 1896

**Date of Burial:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 1896

**Place of death:** Perth

**Age:** 2 months

**Mother:** Catherine Maria Gertrude nee RYAN

**Father:** Patrick Brennan

**Parents Comments:** Kalgoorlie

**Location of grave:** Roman Catholic

**Registration Number:** Perth 1714

**Newspaper Notice:** 10/12/1896 The West Australian pg 4

**Birth Details:** 1896 Perth

There is no headstone to mark where she is buried and no grave ID is given and hence it is not possible to know the exact position of her grave. Her grave would have been marked with a white wooden cross which has long since

rotted away.

A letter written by an 'Old West Coaster' (Mr. W. A. Jones) was printed in the Grey River Argus 7<sup>th</sup> November 1896, New Zealand Papers, in which he mentioned Patrick – 'Pat Brennan has a good hotel, and is doing a large business. He also is legal manager for several mines. He and his wife are in excellent health, and to all appearances Brennan is a prosperous man. P.S. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, Mrs. P. Brennan of a daughter. Both doing well.' They did not know that a month later Patrick's daughter had passed away.

The birth of Patrick and Catherine's first child Kathleen Mary was also reported in the New Zealand paper the West Coast Times 7<sup>th</sup> November 1896 – Brennan – At East Perth, On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the wife of Patrick Brennan, of Kalgoolie, of a daughter.

## **MY UNCLE TED A MAN I NEVER MET!**

Edmund Charles Wellington Woodward Johnson was born in Hobart Tasmania, on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1896 and spent his childhood years at Strawn & Queenstown on the west coast of Tasmania.

Ted was the eighth child of thirteen natural and four adopted children born to Fred JOHNSON and Emma nee WOODWARD, so I imagine life would not have been dull in this large household.

Ted and his siblings attended the local school; leaving when they finished primary school.

My mother was a year older than Ted and from her recollections they spent their weekends and holidays with their parents picnicking. Bushwalking to a creek or spring or over to the coast where they fished or played together on the rocks. On one occasion they were walking the narrow track, their Dad in front with his gun, the children eldest to youngest following single file, and their mother; at the rear carrying the baby. Rounding a bend a large kangaroo blocked the way; it grabbed my grandfather and with arms wrapped around each other they were bouncing and jumping in circles. The children thought they were dancing and were screaming with laughter. Tiring of the affray the kangaroo let go and bounded away, while father remonstrated with the eldest ones and his wife for not helping him get rid of the animal earlier. After that when something was said or done to recall this episode and their father was present furtive looks and muffled giggles would pass between them. If he was absent they would re-enact the great pantomime holding each other laughing and bouncing around in circles.

Papers written by his mother stated that he had been a boy scout and a Scout Cadet.

Eventually in 1911 they moved back to Hobart where Ted was employed at J Walsh & Sons, Stationary Warehouse and Manufactory business. When they were leaving Tasmania in 1912 a letter of recommendation was given to him; stating he had been employed as a message boy for the past eight months, and during this time had proved himself to be an active and obliging boy always punctual and willing and was leaving of his own accord.

The Northern Territory Government was donating land to people with families to encourage settlement. My Grandfather applied and won a parcel of land on the Daly River south of Darwin that the Northern Territory had donated. The adult children staying in Hobart waved goodbye to their parents their four youngest siblings when they left Tasmania on the sailing ship 'Airlie', to forge a life for themselves in the Northern Territory. On arrival they stayed at a local hotel for three days while supplies and tickets on a local ship to the Daly River were bought. After an arduous journey they arrived at their destination and were met by the local policeman and other residents of the area. The after arriving by horse and cart the next day they began construction of fences, sheds, a house, and garden of vegetables and fruit trees to supply the household before they could sow their peanut crop. They employed a lot of aboriginal men and women of the Brinkin tribe both to work in and outside the house. One day when the adults were employed at the stockyards a belligerent Aboriginal called at the homestead demanding one of the girls go with

him as his wife. When she refused he began abusing her; so my mother and her younger sister Eileen holding a shotgun pushed the girl inside and accosted him. While he was brandishing his spears and threatening them one of the other girls went out the back and made smoke signals for alert the men. Mother used to tell people she thought her brother Ted who was 16 years old and an accomplished horseman looked magnificent as he raced ahead of the others, his horse jumping fences and other obstacles to arrive there and force the hostile man to leave.

Eventually my family had to abandon peanut farming. Unfortunately the cost of conveying the crop to market rendered the endeavour financially unfeasible, so they moved back to Darwin in 1915. Ted's sisters Bessie and Eileen both married and younger brother Len went to work on an outback station as a stockman. From his attestation papers Ted was employed as a blacksmith striker, who I assume was his uncle William Drysdale.

In 1916 the Australian Government was calling for more men to bolster the dwindling army battalions that were desperately short of men so Ted 19 years old, his cousin and countless others from around the nation enlisted soon after.

The army described Uncle Ted as 5 foot 3 and half inches tall with black hair and greyish brown eyes and of Presbyterian religion.

Darwin volunteers were conveyed by ship to Queensland to join other battalions and receive training.

Ted and his cousin Matthew joined the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarking on a ship 'HMAS Borrara' England. Unfortunately I have none of Uncle Ted's own words to describe the voyage from Australia to England. The diaries of other Australian servicemen describe the journey as often tedious and hot and the men were drilled and instructed in the roles they were shortly to play. The rest of the time was passed writing letters, reading or playing cards until being offloaded at Plymouth.

After two months they boarded "Princess Clemintine" for the journey to France, landing at Etaples. They then marched to the battlefields that were covered in lifeless tree stumps, mud, slush, shell holes filled with water and sometimes snow.

I know only snippets of Uncle Ted's service beyond this point. Much can be gleaned from the records and diaries of other personnel, but little that pertain directly to my uncle. What I do know I will endeavour to share.

1. His cousin Matt was killed at in September 1917 and lies in an unmarked grave in Dernacourt.
2. Later in the battle at Passendale Ted was awarded a Certificate of Congratulation by the Brigadier General commander of the 12<sup>th</sup> Aust Infantry Brigade and I quote, "when all his company stretcher bearers were killed he volunteered, and his gallant work, in both carrying and dressing the wounded, he worked unceasingly under heavy machine gun fire and showed great determination.

Recommendation for Edmond Johnson to be awarded a Commander in Chiefs Congratulatory Card

Service Number 2189, Rank: Private, Unit: 47th Battalion, Date of Award: 16 October 1917

3. Uncle Ted sent a postcard home that contains a poem, the first verse stating.

"Oh Mother." How I miss you, to leave you was a blow

Far worse than facing Germans, because I love you so,

The greatest blow I could receive was leaving home,

Because I grieve on leaving one and all.

4. Imagining the ever present water and mud over one's shoes and sometimes up to their waist, fleas infesting their bodies and rats gnawing on all their belongings, would have seemed too great to bear. However in reading the units' daily diary of the events as they unfolded, the writer describes the men marching cheerily to the front lines and at night sitting in the trenches with feet sore from standing in knee deep water all day they were conversing cheerily.
5. Uncle Ted aged 22 years was killed in action on 28 March 1918, and lies in an unmarked grave next to the railway line in Dernacourt.
6. In a letter sent to my Grandmother following his death Corporal A M Anderson corresponded that Uncle Ted was a machine gunner in the company and in every action had displayed unusual qualities of cheerfulness under hardship and coolness in extremity. In his last fight that was against tremendous odds he was in command of the team and the confidence he inspired in his men went far to holding the enemy in his sector in the line.

Sadly his surname is misspelled on the war memorial in Darwin and when his mother pointed this out to the Council she was told it would be too costly to change it. However my nephew, Robert Shewring, in Darwin has told me that he has been working to have it changed and the Council is now going to delete all names and add missing names and redo those that were incorrect. Johnson Park in Nakara, a suburb of Darwin, is named in his honour.

Ted a man who I had never met remains in my heart and I honour him for his humanity, love of family, and country.  
RIP

Joy Davis Member No. 295.

## **A SONG**

**By Gary Luck Reprinted with permission.**

**If you wish to hear the song this can be emailed.**

My Dad was in Darwin with the Army on 19 February 1942. He never talked much about the war but on a train trip across the Nullabor with him in 2003 for some reason he opened up a bit and started telling me little bits and pieces about the bombing of Darwin and what it was like in those hellish days. With the bit of information he gave me from what he could remember I made some notes and decided that I should try and turn his recollection into a song so that some of these memories would not be lost. I hope I have done him proud. I called it 'Blood on the Frangipani' after the tropical flower my Mum loved the best.

Preamble

My father, Stanley Edward Luck VX 21737/3520 fought in the Second World War. He was a gunner with the 2/14 Field Artillery when he arrived in Darwin in July 1941, courtesy of an army transport truck, stopping only for two pots of beer at the Tennant Creek pub to celebrate his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on the

way there. He was present during the bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 and in subsequent days. He was guarding Parap airfield when the first bombs hit shortly after 10am. He was later to fight against the Japanese Army on the Kokoda Track. I dedicate this song to him and to all the others, both service and civilian, that were there in Darwin on 19 February 1942. This is their story. Lest We Forget. Gary Luck, February 2012.

**ÓBLOOD ON THE FRANGIPANI**  
**(WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN)**

**Words and Music by Gary Luck**

**VERSE ONE**

I WAS STANDING AT THE CORNER OF THE PUB ON CAVENAGH

IT WAS ALMOST 10 AM AND MEN WERE WAITING AT THE BAR

WHEN I HEARD A SIREN WAILING AND A DRONING FROM AFAR

RED ZEROES COMIN IN FROM THE BLOOD OF PEARL HARBOUR

**FIRST CHORUS**

THEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

WE FOUGHT THEM FROM OUR **ROOFTOPS** WITH MATES THAT I ONCE KNEW

BUT IF YOU WEREN'T IN DARWIN HOW COULD YOU HAVE A CLUE

WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

**VERSE TWO**

AND A LONELY WIRRAWAY SCRAMBLED FOR THE SKY

IT NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO CHALLENGE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO FLY

SHE WAS BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS RIGHT BEFORE MY BLOODY EYES

AUSTRALIA WAS AT WAR AND DARWIN WAS THE PRIZE

**SECOND CHORUS**

THEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

WE FOUGHT THEM FROM OUR **TRENCHES** WITH MATES THAT I ONCE KNEW

BUT IF YOU WEREN'T IN DARWIN HOW COULD YOU HAVE A CLUE

WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

**VERSE THREE**

AT THE END OF STOKES HILL ROAD SIXTEEN WHARFIES LAY

THEIR BODIES BURNT AND BATTERED IN THE FIRE AND OILY HAZE

WHILE OUT THERE ON THE HARBOUR THE MANUNDA WAS ABLAZE

AS THE PEARY AND NEPTUNA DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE WAVES

**THIRD CHORUS**

THEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

WE FOUGHT THEM FROM OUR **BUNKERS** WITH MATES THAT I ONCE KNEW

BUT IF YOU WEREN'T IN DARWIN HOW COULD YOU HAVE A CLUE

WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

#### **NARRATIVE**

***"ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1942, 188 JAPANESE AIRCRAFT BOMBED AND STRAFED DARWIN IN TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS. THEY KILLED OR WOUNDED OVER 600 PEOPLE AND THE ATTACKS WENT ON RIGHT ACROSS THE TOP END FOR ANOTHER 21 MONTHS. DARWIN ITSELF WAS BOMBED ON 64 OCCASIONS. NEWS OF THE ATTACKS WAS CENSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT PANIC IN THE SOUTH."***

#### **VERSE FOUR**

DID THEY KNOW IT IN THE SOUTH WHAT WE ALL WENT THROUGH

DID IT SPREAD BY WORD OF MOUTH THE THINGS THAT WE ALL KNEW

THE DAY THEY BOMBED OLD DARWIN TURNED THE TOP END UPSIDE DOWN

BUT THE BATTLE LINES WERE DRAWN AWAY FROM BRISBANE AND THE SOUTH

#### **FOURTH CHORUS**

THEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

WE FOUGHT THEM WITH OUR **BROOMSTICKS** FOR THE LIKES OF ME AND YOU  
AND YET HERE IN AUSTRALIA DID WE REALLY HAVE A CLUE

ABOUT THE BOMBS THAT RAINED ON DARWIN IN 1942

#### **VERSE FIVE**

AND I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE OUR BLOOD ON THE FRANGIPANI

OR TEARS STREAMING DOWN THE FACE OF A DEAR OLD CHINESE NANNY

AS THE TRACER BULLETS SCREAMED FROM THE CANNON ON THEIR

WINGS

AND RIPPED OUR FLESH AND BONES APART - TORE AT OUR HEART

STRINGS

#### **FIFTH CHORUS**

COS THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

WE FOUGHT THEM WITH **LEE ENFIELD** FOR THE LIKES OF ME AND YOU

AND YET HERE IN AUSTRALIA DID WE REALLY HAVE A CLUE

WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

#### **FINALE**

WHEN THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON DARWIN IN 1942

#### **AD LIB**

AND I HOPE - I NEVER SEE - OUR BLOOD ON THE FRANGIPANI

## **THE LOST ANCESTOR by Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

### **Book Review by Mim Regan**

The initial plan to read Nathan Dylan Goodwin's new book THE LOST ANCESTOR, a Genealogical Crime Mystery, slowly and methodically, went out the window after the first chapter. I was immediately engaged and the race was on to find out what had happened to Mary Mercer when she disappeared in 1911. A word of warning...don't start reading this book if you have any other important matters to attend to as it is difficult to put down.

Once again, this book, the second in the series (hopefully) of Morton Farrier, a likeable Forensic Genealogist, is intriguing and very captivating. He uses a huge range of research tools to piece together the past, in a fast moving plot with a variety of interesting characters. If only we could all use flash backs in our own research.

Not only technical skills are used including computer research with emails, DNA, BDM, Census, Immigration and Military records both in UK and Canada, but also websites like Ancestry and Message Boards. He also uses...and enjoys...hands on research such as newspapers, old books, interviews, letters, jewellery, and actual visits to old houses and graveyards and personal interviews, and even letter writing and handwriting evaluations. A whole scope of research to solve a brick wall mystery. It keeps you guessing "What Next".

There is nothing like a dying man's need to know the past, a sustained element of danger and the main character's own family secrets, to make a book successful. This book THE LOST ANCESTOR has such positive energy, enthusiasm and momentum that it leaves the reader demanding more.....Book 3 soon please.

## **HELP! Historical and Genealogical Truth.....How do I separate fact from fiction. by Carol Baxter**

### **Book Review by Mim Regan**

I had just found another generation of my ever growing family that no one else had done any research on and was knee deep in bits of paper, envelopes, and photocopied sheets that would make no sense to anyone else. All that mattered was my new "Rock Goddess", born in 1773, mother of nine children in eleven years, and an author. Just amazing. Her first book was written in 1800, the second in 1817. In the meantime she translated a book from French to English. This was the same time the rest of my family were eating potatoes, turning to crime and signing their names with a cross. This new hero had knocked the Baby Murderer off the most interesting list in my family.

Taking a break from my frantic and disorganized research, I read the book HELP! Historical and Genealogical Truth. How do I separate fact from fiction? by Carol Baxter. It was published 2015, and printed in China by [www,leverageworldwide.com](http://www.leverageworldwide.com). What perfect timing! Suddenly all those bits of paper had to be looked at in a new light. It was "a reminder not to automatically trust what we read in authored works: in books, articles or even government websites."

It became important to recheck sources. The section in the book on PRACTICES was a fantastic help, stressing the need of full references and documentation. Oh, if only I had done that first. The book is a great reference, clearly set out, logical and interesting with terrific examples of the author's own research making the message clear.. It stresses working from 'Beliefs to Truth". I started my research again, looking from a new angle. The Summary Checklist in the book kept me on track...Organization Set Me Free!! I kept hearing " Whose Voice Are We Hearing?" as I checked my notes. "Historical records are not produced to help genealogists to trace their families." How True!

The gaps in my " Rock Goddess's life" are now better understood after researching the times in England's history. More sound advice. What would a widow of 36 with nine children do? Interestingly enough, along came husband number two from the Isle of Man with enough money to enable her to finish her book before they separated. " Knowledge empowerment isn't limited to the broader historical context. There are worlds within worlds." Read

more history books. My kind of advice! Another one was "If there are two or more competing theories the simplest explanation is to be preferred" (Ocklams Razor) I think that this advice is very liberating....no more complex conspiracies.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to read this great book at such a perfect time. As the author says "Genealogy is a hobby and meant to be fun." It is also time consuming, sometimes rewarding and interesting, involving no housework, gardening or walking two fat dogs. Ponder these great words of the author 'I leave you to walk hand in hand with your ancestors to take pleasure in discovering their historical journeys." I am off to skip with my "Rock Goddess".

## **STARTING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

### **From The Library and Information Service of Western Australia – Information Sheet.**

Genealogy is the charting of a family's descent through a chronological record of births, marriages and deaths. This is the bones of your research. It consists of a record of names, dates, places and relationships, through which one can compile a *Pedigree Chart* or a *Family Tree*.

In the process of your research you will amass a lot of other information which fills out the lives of the people you are researching and the conditions under which they lived. This is the flesh on the bones of your research. It changes your ancestors from a set of facts into real, live, interesting individuals and is the material of *Family History*. GSNT has a massive collection of books, which includes shipping, convicts, Australian States, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland and many others

You do not require any special skills to do family history research, but there are certain basic rules that you will find helpful to follow. Our library has many guide books available to help with your research.

#### **GROUND RULES:**

Write out everything in pencil. This makes it easy to correct your mistake and only pencils are used in our library.

Always work from the known to the unknown. Start with yourself and work back to your parents, grandparents and so on. A systematic approach brings best results and saves time.

Prove each step as you go. Unless you do this you may finish up following a line of descent that is not yours and waste a lot of time.

Be methodical. Keep a record of the source of your information so you can refer back to it later. Include a reference to the information you have found.

Set up a filing system that makes it easy not only to store your data but also makes it easy to retrieve it. There is no 'right way' for this, only one that is 'best' for you.

Store original documents, photographs, etc in a safe place where they will not deteriorate. Acid free albums, acid free glue and copy safe plastic envelopes should be used. Never use sticky tape. Make copies of your original documents, one to use as a master copy and another to use with your research information.

There are two forms, which are internationally recognised, for recording your research data:

**A PEDIGREE CHART:** This charts the direct line of descent of a family. Enter the data you know in pencil, record dates as e.g. 11 Jan 1885. This avoids any confusion.

**A FAMILY GROUP SHEET:** This records all the basic data on a family group such as father, mother and children. There is also room on the form to record the source of your information. Record the female line with their maiden name.

***The GSNT library has Pedigree and Family group sheets available for 50cents a copy.***

## IRISH ROOTS by John Grenham

A huge change is coming soon for everyone involved in Irish genealogy. By summer 2015, the National Library of Ireland will have a dedicated website making its collection of Catholic parish register microfilms freely available online. These records are – by a long way – the single most important source of historical Irish family information, one of the greatest legacies of the Catholic Church to Ireland.

It is important to understand precisely what the website will do. The library's aim is to reproduce on the internet the service already available to the public in the microfilm reading room in Kildare Street in Dublin, where images of 98% of parish registers before 1880 can already be viewed by anybody, without payment or membership or proof of identity.

The new site will offer precisely the same (sometimes frustrating) opportunity to look at (sometimes blurred) photographic reproductions of the original records. But instead of having to travel to Dublin from Buncrana or Ballyment or Boston, you will now be able to view them online. With this service, the Library is simply taking at face value the work 'National' in its own title.

What are the implications? Clearly, once these images are as easily available in Salt Lake City and Bangalore as they are in Dublin, swarms of transcribers will descend. Ideally, the results will be free, though some transcripts may sit behind paywalls. On the other hand, there will be nothing to stop any local history society in the country from just putting a transcript of their own parishes online. The more the merrier.

Some opposition can be expected. The existing transcription-only service at rootsireland.ie will protest loudly. But would they not be better advised to use the images to improve their own offering and increase their head-start on competitors?

It is almost impossible to overstate the importance of what is about to happen. When the Irish public service gets things right, it can get them spectacularly, gloriously right.

irishroots@irishtimes.com    <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/>

## WEB SITES

**State Library of South Australia**  
**Savill Index of *The Advertiser* Funeral Notices**  
**1971 – 2014**  
**Alphabetical lists**

**Note:** From 2005 the Index incorporates private funeral services, many of which did not appear in the Funeral Notice columns of the Advertiser. Entries marked "Y" in the "Death Notice" column will be found in the Deaths Section of *The Advertiser*.

<http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/savill/index.html>

Barkley Regional Council in the Northern Territory.

Cemetery records online

The front page of a newspaper.

# THE DAILY EXPRESS

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916

\$0.80

- Since 1802

## Over 5000 Australian troops killed within one day



Australian Officers being interrogated by their German captors.

The attack took place 16 kilometres from Lille, between the Fauquissart- Trivelet road and Cordonnerie Farm, an area overlooked from Aubers Ridge to the south, Fromelles, France.

Directed against a strong German position known as the Sugar Loaf salient, the battle was an attempt to stop the Germans moving troops away from the Battle of the Somme that was being fought fifty miles to the south of Fromelles.

Small parts of the German trenches were captured by the 8th and 14th Australian Brigades, but, devoid of flanking support and subjected to fierce counter-attacks, they were forced to withdraw. By 8am on

20 July 1916, the battle was over. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, rendering it incapable of offensive action for many months; the 61st British Division suffered 1,547. The German casualties were little more than 1,000. The attack was a complete failure as the Germans realised within a few hours it was merely a feint. It therefore had no impact whatsoever upon the progress of the Somme offensive "Should I be spared to return to you I will be able to recount to you what war is like, not the glory of it but the horrors of it,"

J.M.Holgate  
Reported by Dakota Pope

## The Battle Of Fromelles

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, many lives were lost as the battle of Fromelles began between Germany, Britain and Australia.

A seven-hour preparatory bombardment deprived the attack of any hope of surprise, and ultimately proved ineffective in subduing the well-entrenched defenders. When the troops of the 5th Australian and 61st British Divisions attacked at 6 pm on 19 July 1916, they suffered heavily at the hands of German machine-guns.

*"I cannot help thinking of those awful nights and day I spent on No- Man's Land. For companions I had 2 yards from me a dead comrade and 5 yards behind me a Sergeant with a smashed hip unable to move. All through the nights and day the cries of the wounded for water and food were awful to listen to and each time they were heard the zip-zip and ping of bullets would come in the direction of the cries- an example of German brutality." Sgt. Arthur Crewes*



Australian troops of the front line in a trench during battle