

# BENDIGO GENEALOGIST

*Bendigo Family History Group Inc.*

[www.bendigofamilyhistory.au](http://www.bendigofamilyhistory.au)

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## **DNA Special Interest Group Bendigo**

The DNA group continues to meet monthly and has provided a great opportunity for participants to learn more about Ancestry tools, DNA Painter and Gedmatch.

Many participants have found new connections, both in Australia and Overseas and we continue to support each other with developing new skills.

Our group will continue next year and participants will be notified as soon as dates are confirmed.

Anyone interested in a DNA test, where to get a test, what company to select or understanding how it may help to confirm branches in your current tree, or break through those stubborn brick walls are welcome to contact us via email or during a Wednesday or Saturday library session.

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## **State Library of Victoria (from webpage) [www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au)**

Do you want to discover more about your ancestors and how they lived their lives?

In this online workshop, you'll take the first steps to exploring the secret stories in your family's history. You will:

- learn the principles of family history
- learn how to access a wide variety of research resources
- be shown how to bring your findings together to tell your own family history story

The workshops will be run by staff in the Digital Access and Family History Team.

Recommended for beginners.

24 January 2023 10am to 11am

## **Office Bearers 2022**

<u>AREA ADMINISTRATOR PAM KEOWN</u>	<u>SECRETARY KATH MARTIN</u>
<u>TREASURER DAVID COTTON</u>	<u>PRODUCT SALES RITA HULL</u>
<u>FILING CLERK DARYL READ</u>	<u>HOST &amp; VISITOR WELCOME KATH MARTIN</u>
<u>LIBRARY ASSISTANTS CO-ORD ANNETTE DELANEY</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR EILEEN GORMAN</u>
<u>RESEARCH OFFICER DAVID COTTON</u>	<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS RITA HULL</u>
<u>PROGRAM &amp; PUBLICITY ANNETTE DELANEY</u>	<u>COMPUTER SERVICES EILEEN GORMAN</u>
	<u>WEBSITE MANAGER ANNETTE DELANEY</u>

New email address – [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)

### **Area Administrators Report –**

Bendigo Goldfields Library Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December last date for 2022  
First day Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

2022 has been a year of full service to the community.....no COVID lockdowns. Research at the library and through email requests have continued pretty much as normal.

Annette's monthly discussions and guidance with DNA, has been well attended and most enjoyable. DNA is an ongoing mystery for lots of us, but when through using it, a family member is proven. it is amazing and a great way to smash that "brick wall".

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their work during the year. With the help of Garry Fitzgerald, Annette has been adding more to the web page and Facebook.

Do have a Merry Christmas and I wish you all a Happy and healthy 2023.

Pam Keown

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*EDITOR– Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor at [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au) or by post to Bendigo Family History, PO Box 145, Bendigo VIC 3552 The BFHG reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject contributions. [Disclaimer – all articles](#) are accepted in good faith. The BendigoFamily History Group Inc. and members do not accept any responsibility for correctness of any articles submitted therein.*

## SCOTTISH NONCONFORMIST CHURCHES

Since the 1560 Reformation the **Church of Scotland** became the State church, known locally as the Kirk. These records are readily available on the IGI and several computer databases.

But within the Kirk there were two differing factions.

A/ The Presbyterians who believed the congregation should be able to choose their own ministers

B/ the Episcopalians who believed on top-down hierarchical control with bishops, archbishops and the monarch in overall charge.

One of the many reasons King Charles<sup>1</sup> lost his head was because he tried to enforce the episcopal system in Scotland. King Charles<sup>11</sup> on his restoration made the same mistake which led to a time when some Presbyterians could be shot on sight as traitors.

Thirty years later and a change of king and the situation was reversed.

After many squabbles and splits within the Kirk a big “disruption” exploded in 1843. The evangelicals under the leadership of **Thomas Chalmer** walked out of the General Assembly taking a third of the Kirk ministers with him and forming the **Free Church of Scotland**.

Twelve years later when civil registration commenced the Kirk was forced to hand in its registers as State records but not the nonconformist Presbyterian bodies (until 1929).

### **Chalmer’s Church on the Bendigo Goldfield**

The Presbyterians miners in Bendigo were divided in their allegiance between the two divisions, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland, but when the original committee of Bendigo Presbyterian men looked around for a minister they wrote to the Free Church in Melbourne.

Everyone was living in a tent and the mud was 6 inches deep, but by 1854 the committee had bought a rough slab blacksmith’s shop and set it up for a church and school room. In accordance with the principals of the Free Church it accepted no Government funding even though the other six schools in the district did so.

The Free Church of Scotland, a branch of the Presbyterian Church, was often referred to in the local newspaper reports as **Chalmers Church**, Thomas Chalmers being the leader of the break-away group seeking independence from any outside influence.

The first minister of St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Bendigo was the Rev James Nish, and he was followed in January 1890 by the Rev Adolphus Summer Cloud James (Yes he was born on a ship called “Summer Cloud”).

The Rev A.S.C. James stayed in Bendigo till 1902, he was a great orator and a popular preacher who built the congregation up to great strength.

Unfortunately when he left to take up a call to Chalmers Church in Sydney he took the Bendigo Presbyterian marriage registers with him and they are now lost for ever. Why he did so we will never know, except that in that period his first wife died and he remarried a local widow.

So if you ever find reference to Chalmers Church in Bendigo think ‘Presbyterian’.

**The missing book is for marriages between 15<sup>th</sup> August 1888 (no 941) and 20<sup>th</sup> January 1903.**

Reference;- St Andrew’s Church Bendigo , by Margaret Temple Ben 410

## What is PHTHISIS ?

Pronounced "tie-sis" it is often called consumption, tuberculosis, TB, or wasting disease on early death certificates.

It was not until 1882 that a scientist, Robert Koch, discovered that tuberculosis was caused by a bacteria which could be transmitted from person to person.

That left the other deadly cause - of foreign matter breathed into the lungs, now known as silicosis, the cause of hundreds of deaths amongst the miners.

Some doctors were slow to use the new knowledge and some doctors filled in pneumonia as the ultimate cause of death even though the patient was known to have suffered with lung disease for years, so death certificates do not always show a reliable diagnosis.

In Bendigo "miners' phthisis" was so common that in 1903 local Friendly Societies called a state wide conference on the problem of proper ventilation of the mines, but without anti-biotics little could be done for the sufferers.

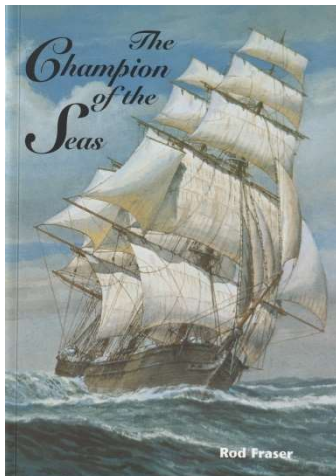
On several occasions we have been contacted by researchers trying to find the answer to how many miners died of lung disease but the answer is "we will never know".

Reference; AUS 311

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## BOOK REVIEW

AUS 579      *The Champion of the Seas*    by Rod Fraser



This ship was one of the magnificent clippers often depicted in full sail in romantic paintings. Between 1854 and 1868 she carried 5,300 passengers safely to Melbourne, all of whom are listed in the book. There is also enough detail contained in the diaries and log books included to answer any questions about any of her 15 voyages.

Most important, and new, are the crew lists. Everyone has heard tales of men who "Jumped Ship". Here are the names of over 700 seamen, their age, town of birth, previous ship, date of joining this ship, and date of discharge or desertion. About 60%-70% were legally discharged having signed on only for the voyage to Melbourne, and no doubt some signed on again for the voyage back home, but of those listed as deserted we are given a date which is very handy for consulting Police Gazettes and newspapers for more personal detail.

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## IMMIGRATION FREE FOR ALL

For centuries anyone could travel and settle in Britain with no passport, no visa, no letter of introduction and yet claim protection of the British parliament and its laws. This attitude did not change until 1905 when the Aliens Act introduced immigration controls and it has undergone several changes since.

The new 1905 British law was the result of the unrest in Europe and the movement of thousands of people who, it was feared, would take jobs and lower living conditions particularly in the larger cities.

Passports for British citizens travelling abroad came into general use in 1915 under a separate law.

Lists of passengers leaving Britain 1890-1960 for overseas destinations are may be found on Ancestry, Find My Past, and The Genealogist.

Australians were automatically considered British citizens and were free to come and go.

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## RESEARCH QUERIES

November 2022 seeking clues for the following.....

WILLIAM CECIL (Dodger) **JONES** was a member of the CFA (Country Fire Authority Victoria) in Bendigo the 1930's. We do not know which brigade he was a member of.

A descendant has several medals that "Dodger Jones" won and we seek info on what they were for.

STEPHEN CHARLES **HUGGINS** known as CHARLES HUGGINS farmed for many years around Bridgewater, Mysia and Fernihurst until he moved to Bendigo in 1925 and died in Bendigo August 1934 aged 89. The Bendigo Advertiser has an interview with him on 17 Sept 1932 that states he was a member of The Rambler Club and affectionately known as "Father of the Club"

We think this means he was an elderly person rather than a long time member of the Ramblers.

We seek information on THE RAMBLERS CLUB....formation and who, what, where and why did they Ramble ? Do they still Ramble? It is likely that they were formed when cycling started c 1875.

TROVE has numerous mentions and they appear to be involved in cycling and snooker. Perhaps they cycled in summer and snookered in winter? It would appear they were an all male social club.

FREDERICK **HULLS** married DORETTA **MEYERS** at All Saints Bendigo in 1857. Her parents are listed as WILLIAM MEYERS and LOUISA **KERICK**. There is no indication of her age or birthplace but it is believed she was born in a German speaking part of Europe c 1840 and came to South Australia mid 1840's. When Doretta died in Bendigo in 1912 her father is said to be Wm MEYER and mother LOUISA HIERIG.

Frederick and Doretta had 11 children in and around Bendigo from 1858 to 1880 Epsom, Huntly, White Hills, Redcastle and Sandhurst. Frederick died 1884 at White Hills. VIC BDM index for these births has the mothers name as DONETTA , MYO, MYER, MIAH, MEYER ,MYERS, MYALL and MILL. A lovely example of the variations in spelling in early Sandhurst. Names associated with the family are MORTER, HARROWER, FOGARTY, MOFFATT, BROWN and TOBIN.

What we are trying to find out is who are Doretta's parents to tie her in with similarly named persons in South Australia.

## Johnson and Fitzgerald

JOSEPH JOHNSON and CAROLINE FITZGERALD married in Newington district of London in qtr Dec 1850 volume 4 page 461. Newington is a London suburb south of the river Thames and in the county of Surrey. We have tried to find them in UK census of 1851 but no luck yet.

Joseph and Caroline with children Rebecca aged 5 and Jane an infant migrated to Melbourne on board ship "James Fernie". It left Southampton 14 Dec 1856 and arrived Melbourne 12 March 1857.

Vic BDM index of 1858 has a death of a Jane Johnson aged 2 born "SURR" and this gave us the clue to search in Surrey (London)

We have not yet been able to find out what became of Rebecca aged 5 in 1857.

Joseph and Caroline had the following children in Victoria taken from Vic BDM index

Robert 1859 nothing found after this

Henry b1863 died 1888 Fitzroy. TROVE notice in The Age 31 Aug 1888 has him as stepson of J E Burkill.....see below.

Mary Ann b 1864 died 1939 Fitzroy married 1888 JOSEPH SIMMONS....need to follow up on several children

William John b 1867 mar 1895 EMMA LARK...children Alfred b/d 1897. Herbert William b 1899 needs more work and investigation of William John 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage 1921 to AGNES ELIZA ANN MOXHAM

Joseph George b 1870 died 1871 & Catherine b 1872 died 1873

Harriet Louisa b 1875 died 1960 mar 1<sup>st</sup> 1896 THOMAS HENRY MARTIN... children b1899 William Clarence d1979, Clifford John b/d 1902. Carol b1904 ?,Cyril Jos b 1905 d 1906, Graham Humphries b 1910.

Thomas Martin died 1910 and Harriet then married in 1912 to ROBERT MELLODY.

Joseph Johnson died Vic 1877 .Vic index has his parents as Henry Johnson and Rebecca Fletcher then CAROL JOHNSON re married in 1880 to JOHN EDWARD BURKILL/BURKHILL. She died in Fitzroy 1907 aged 80 as Carol Burkhill with a father listed as "Fitzgerald" and mother as "Murphy".

David Cotton Research Officer Family History Connections Bendigo 20 Nov 2022.

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**2023 Meetings** held in Bendigo Regional Library Hargreaves St entrance, in Meeting room 1 and commence at 2pm. All are welcome to attend a gold coin donation is appreciated.

Refreshments available.

- February 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Gail White President of FHC to update members on 2023 program and activities
- March 18 Trove – understanding and exploring new possibilities since the updates.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> Public Records Office Victoria – Finding your way around. Speaker TBA
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Chinese in Victoria