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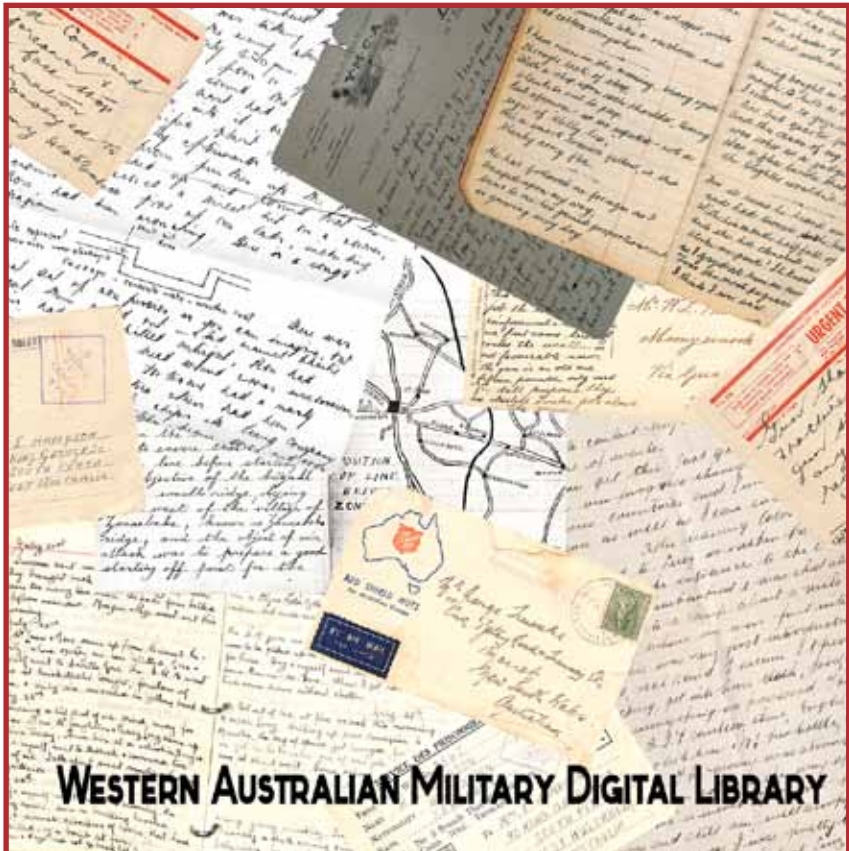
July 2021

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our July 2021 meeting

Angela Heymans and Gwyn Williams

Their words.....their stories



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY DIGITAL LIBRARY

Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. *Please see details on page 3.*

Objectives

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office, and of those activities of the Library Board of Western Australia concerned with the acquisition, preservation and use of archival and documentary materials.

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2020-2021)

President	Richard Offen
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Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Secretary	Cherie Strickland

Committee members Shirley Babis, Lorraine Clarke, Steve Errington, Neil Foley, Robert O'Connor QC, and Gillian O'Mara.

Ex-Officio Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)
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Views expressed in this *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

March meeting.

Tuesday 13 July 2021
Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Our speakers will be

Angela Heymans and Gwyn Williams

Their words.....their stories

*The Western Australian Military Digital
Library. www.wamdl.com.au*

Details of Angela and Gwyn's talk are on page 4.

After the meeting, members are very welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Nick Drew will take bookings on the night.

Problem with the stairs?

If any members have difficulty with taking the stairs to the fourth floor, please notify staff on either the ground floor reception desk or the Battye Library desk on the 3rd floor for access to the staff lift to the fourth floor.

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About the presenters

Angela Heymans and Gwyn Williams are the project coordinators of the Western Australian Military Digital Library, a project of the Military Special Interest Group of FamilyHistoryWA. They have been leading this project since its inception when the Army Museum of WA asked the Military Special Interest Group in 2016 for assistance to digitise the personal documents in their archives and make them publicly available. As project coordinators, they have been involved in all aspects of the project from establishing processes to digitise and store the images, to the development of a website as a platform for the images.

What is the Western Australian Military Digital Library?

In essence, it is an image based digital library showcased via a free and publicly available website. These images represent a community repository of military information and stories about individuals with a connection to Western Australia.

Reflecting its origins as a joint project with the Army Museum, the main source of the collection is records from the Army Museum's archives. These include nominal rolls, scrapbooks, unit histories and photographs. But the most significant items are in the Personal Document (PD) boxes. These PD Boxes hold the donated personal items of hundreds of individuals. Many of these items have not previously been published elsewhere. The records cover conflicts from the Boer War to the Vietnam War as well as military service during the interwar periods such as the Citizen Military Force.

To date, we have created approximately 40,000 digital images from the Army Museum collection of which about 4,500 have been uploaded to the Western Australian Military Digital Library.

The collection is however not limited solely to the Army Museum items. We are also digitising and including items provided by community members. This reflects the original intent of the project – to make publicly available military related documents associated with Western Australia. For families, this provides an opportunity to share their family history for the benefit of others and collectively adds to the stories of the individuals on the website.

On Friday 26 March 2021, in the Lecture Theatre of the Army Museum, the new Western Australian Military Digital Library website www.wamdl.com.au was officially launched. This marks a significant milestone in

the history of the project. The launch of the website has opened new avenues to promote the project, new opportunities for collaboration and for community input and engagement. Importantly, it allows for the many stories contained on the website to be accessed.

As we have got to know the stories within the records, we have realised how special the collection is. In choosing the name of the website and the project, we deliberately used the term 'library' in the title. It is a library in so many ways, a community archive and resource freely available, and a repository of stories. And importantly, many of the stories are told in their voices and words, telling of their experiences, their hopes and fears.

Meeting dates for 2021

14 September (AGM) - Kate Gregory and Denise Cook *History of collecting Western Australia*.

23 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function. Bill and Jenny Bunbury.



President's piece

Collecting the Unimportant

I have been an avid bell ringer since the age of eight and, strangely, it was ringing that started my passion for collecting books and documents.

Learning ring in a Kentish church on bells dating back to the eighteenth century made me want to know more about the history of these noisy objects and the ancient church towers in which they hung. Hidden away in a dusty corner of our local public library (a place I frequented a lot as a boy), I found a copy of John CL Stahlschmidt's *Church Bells of Kent*, published in 1887. This book became my bell ringing Bible and its loan was renewed so many times by me that they had to put a new 'Return By' sticker in the front!

Appetite whetted, I wanted to know more and began scanning second-hand book shops and jumble sales for any books, papers or photographs relating to bells and bell ringing to enable me to start a collection of my own. This collection now runs to over 500 items - all carefully catalogued you'll be pleased to know.

A few years later, a chance conversation during a bell ringing practice revealed an elderly ringer, who was 'having a clear out', had taken his significant collection of books and papers on bell ringing, some dating back to the early years of the twentieth century, to the council tip that very day. When someone asked him why he had taken them to the tip, he replied, 'I didn't think anyone would be interested in that stuff'. I almost wept!

Ever since that depressing evening some 50 years ago, I have always implored people, particularly those settling a deceased estate, to think very carefully before throwing out any documents, old books, etc., as what may seem uninteresting and trivial to them may be as gold dust to an historian or librarian.

The Collections Council of Australia's 'Guide to Collections Mapping' states,

Our collections represent the essence of the past, present and future memory of the country, they shape our psyche, record our diversity and development, provide insight into our national spirit, and inspire us for the future.

Nothing is unimportant.

Richard Offen



Vale Bill James

(6 February 1927-18 May 2021)

We were saddened to learn of the death of Bill (William John Justice) James. Bill and his wife Ruth Marchant James have been supporters of the Friends for many years and he will be very much missed. Bill served in the RAAF during WW2 and remained an RSL member right up to his death. Their close friend, Rob O'Connor paid tribute:

Three of Bill's strongest virtues were truth, honesty and loyalty. Bill loved everyone, and in return everyone loved him. It can truly be said that he never had an enemy in his life. He and Ruth met at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. He was immediately captivated by Ruth, telling me that he considered her "beautiful and cute". The feeling of attraction was mutual. They married at Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Cottesloe on 15 April 1950 [and] celebrated 71 years of marriage. ... He had a great sense of humour and loved telling his favourite jokes. Thank you, Bill, for sharing your life with us.

Our condolences to Ruth and their children and families.

Members' news

Welcome to our fellow Fellow

Joining the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) as a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia is FamilyHistoryWA (WA Genealogical Society). At a ceremony held on 20 May 2021 The Hon John Day MLA, Chairman of the Library Board, conferred the honour and read the citation:

Tracing the story of your family is a keen interest for many Western Australians. For more than 35 years, FamilyHistoryWA's dedicated volunteers have ably assisted tens of thousands of people with family history services at the State Library of Western Australia. In 2019-2020 alone, FamilyHistoryWA volunteers answered more than 2,000 public enquiries.

While supporting the research needs of family historians, FamilyHistoryWA volunteers have also mentored State Library staff to build staff skills and enhance staff knowledge and understanding of family history resources and research techniques.

Family HistoryWA's trusted collaboration with the State Library has also resulted in the successful presentation of forums and talks during National Family History Month plus other events such as family history fairs.



Left to right: Mike Murray, Lesley Silvester, Christine Harris, Lyn Watt, Heather Simon and Ian Simon. (State Library of Western Australia)

Importantly, FamilyHistoryWA volunteers have diligently created indexes to many of the resources that form the basis of family history research in the JS Battye Library of West Australian History. Many of the resources have now been digitised and are accessible to family historians across the world.

The distinction of Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia is conferred upon FamilyHistoryWA for their exemplary commitment to providing information and research assistance to family historians and for their outstanding 35 year partnership with the State Library of Western Australia.

The Friends of Battye Library warmly congratulate FHWA and its many dedicated volunteers who have given their time so generously over decades to assist people researching their families' stories.



Have you a story to tell?

[Bevan Carter has written another story of a Western Australian convict]

William Lyon - Northam identity

The 1924 funeral of a venerable 94 year-old Northam pioneer, William Lyon, was attended by several luminaries, including the Premier of Western Australia, Sir James Mitchell, the Mayor and Councillors of the town of Northam, and approximately 150 mourners. Lyon and Mitchell had become firm friends when James Mitchell arrived as the new Northam bank manager in 1890.

The second Premier, George Throssell, at one stage was Lyon's employer and in 1929 Throssell's son, also George, reminisced:

[Lyon] was a big strong man, self taught, a good reader and thinker. He was headman-in-charge, whose duties embraced the weighing-in of sandalwood, chaff, grain, etc., slaughtering of sheep, cattle and pigs and wool pressing, and in him my father found a boon companion, many of their summer evenings being spent together on the bales of chaff discussing the affairs of the nation, or devising means of furthering the interests of the Town. Wednesday and Saturday nights were invariably spent at the old Mechanics' Institute over a social game of draughts. [He] lived for many years, with his big family, in our old home. *[Northam Advertiser 18 June 1924.]*

William Lyon was born in Glasgow on 29 May 1830 and as an eighteen year old was there during the March 1848 riot of destitute unemployed workers. (Some of William's sons were prominent in trade unions in Kalgoorlie and Northam and his grandchildren had names like Viva and Unity reflecting the family's trade union politics.)

By 1849 Lyon had left Scotland and was in Wales, where he was arrested with six others on Isle of Anglesey and, as William White, was charged with burglary. All seven, including a young woman Jessie White, also from Scotland, were found guilty at the Beaumaris quarter



William Lyon aged 90. (Lyon Family)

Sessions on 1 January 1850 and sentenced to ten years transportation.

William arrived at Fremantle as William White on the *Sea Park* in 1854. He was granted his ticket-of-leave on arrival and with 50 others walked from Fremantle to the convict depot at York. The following year he was employed by Mr Delmage who had leased the Habgood property in Northam and William spent the rest of his life in the town. In 1861 he married sixteen year-old Susanna Carter, the daughter of convict Robert Carter, and the marriage certificate lists him as William Lyon White although all their fourteen children were to bear the surname Lyon.

After settling in Northam, William rapidly became involved in the tiny community. In 1864, he was a foundation member of the Mechanics Institute. Also in the 1860s he was one of the founders of the Northam Dramatic Club, the first performance of which was Gilbert and Sullivan's *Cox and Box*, which raised £7 for the Mechanics Institute Fund.

William was also secretary of the Order of Rechabites and a staunch member of the Temperance movement, to such an extent that Donald Garden, in *Northam: an Avon Valley history*, commented:

A syndicate of temperance advocates opened up the 'Temperance Town' estate, and perpetuated the total abstainers Byfield, Gregory, and Lyon in street names.

A fierce advocate for equality of opportunity, he became extremely upset when he was obliged to send his daughters, Lucy and Phoebe, to a girls' elementary school where he believed they received an inferior education. He insisted instead on sending his daughters to the boys' school and wrote a long letter to the editor of the *Western Australian Times*:

Your correspondent also says that he thinks the School Board was quite right in not allowing me to send my girls to the boys' school. Thus I beg to differ with him, for the 28th Clause of the Elementary Education Act compels me to send my child to an Elementary school; but the 29th Clause gives me (and very properly too) the choice of schools. [*Western Australian Times* 25 August 1876.]

His case eventually ended up in court and although the decision was given in his favour, the School Board in Northam adamantly refused to let Lucy and Phoebe attend the boys' school – which prompted other thundering missives to the press.

In 1910 his lucid memories of 55 years in Northam ran over two editions of the *Northam Advertiser*.

Bevan Carter



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most notable oral historians. This article is the 18th in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Charles Duncan (1911-2001) OH434

Charles Duncan was born in 1911 on the family property of 'Stoneleigh' in the Greenough district and 23 kms from Geraldton. He had three brothers and one sister and spent his young life on the property except for a short period of schooling in Geraldton and another at Guildford Grammar in Perth from the age of 15. There he found many students from his area, especially Northampton.

While going to school at Greenough, Charles remembered getting up in the dark to 'get the cows in ready for milking, and have them bailed up and cleaned down before I went to school.'

The land had been taken up by Charles' grandfather in 1857. An English-style home was built with an attic. In 1888, when his father was a young man, the 'big flood' occurred, in which lives were lost.

The family's farming interests included land at Greenough, Allanooka (hill of dogs) and Bootenal (pelican). The total area of the properties was 11,000 acres. Crops were grown, mainly wheat and oats for hay for use on his farm and for sale. Chaff was sent to the Murchison and was sold for five pounds a ton. Stock included horses, cattle, pigs and sheep. The family needed to be self-sufficient and made their own bacon and grew fig trees, grapes, oranges, lemons, watermelons and rockmelons. The family diet was added to with crayfish trapped a mile from their property. Charles remembered catching three dozen at a time in the days before limits were placed on such activities. For Easter and Christmas a bullock was killed and the meat corned before the days of refrigerators.

Up to 30 cows were milked at one time to provide milk for the family and to sell cream to Perth. Later a butter factory was built in Geraldton and the milk also went there. The family only milked during the winter months but milked two or three cows during the summer to provide for the family. Before refrigeration, cream could not be kept during the summer months.

Horses were broken in on the property and ploughing teams, mainly of Clydesdales, trained for sale. During the Great Depression, the family income was supplemented with bounties from foxes and kangaroo and rabbit skins.

Most of the work Charles did as a young man was checking on windmills, cleaning the troughs and shifting stock. Monthly sales were held at the Walkaway saleyards. He found the stock work 'pretty hard at times'. Shearers were paid to shear the sheep but Charles did the classing of the wool having taken a course in wool classing at Guildford Grammar School

Of particular pleasure for Charles were the Clydesdale horses on the property and he recalled having 'the best hunter in the district' who won at district shows. Horses were a vital part of farm life at the time particularly as during the Depression the banks would not advance any farmer the money to buy a tractor. Eight Clydesdales were needed to pull a disc plough, four in tandem. Ploughing 12 acres of land a day was considered a good day. The Depression also meant reduction in prices for wool and wheat.

The boys played cricket and tennis on courts and a pitch made by those participating, and also played badminton. Cricket was played with teams from Dongara and Geraldton. 'We used to pile on an old Chev truck... it was much more fun and kept the team together. With tennis, players hired the school bus.' Pocket money was earned by shooting foxes, as many as sixteen in one night. The Road Board paid two pound a head for foxes, which 'quickly dropped' to ten shillings. What was a 'plague or rabbits' in the district meant foxes multiplied. They could also sell rabbit pellets for four shillings a pound. Kangaroos were chased to kill for meat and to sell the skin which was worth 'nearly ten shillings'

In 1936 the *Stanford* was sunk on its way to Geraldton. It was a steel motor vessel built in Denmark for trade with Western Australia. It had discharged cement and coke at Fremantle before heading to Geraldton to unload the remaining cargo, including coke for the Wiluna goldmine and cement for Geraldton. It ran aground on the African Reef, 'about three miles out from the coast and probably about four miles south of the mouth of the Greenough River.' Fortunately, the passengers and crew were saved by the crew of the *Koolinda*. Charles remembered getting a lot of timber from the hatch tops and how his family would patrol the beach every couple of days and take three horses with them to drag any material found from the wreck to their property.



The Stanford on the rocks 1936.

(Malcolm Uren Collection of Photographs, Battye Library, SLWA, BA1116/81)

Charles served overseas during the war from 1941 and after the war, piping and windmills were very hard to get to tap into the plentiful supply

of underground water. Tractors were driven by kerosene which he enjoyed driving: 'It was a marvellous thing after looking after horses for years. You could just get on it in the morning and away you'd go.'

Charles married Ellen Clark [nee Faithful] in 1956 and adopted her daughter Robyn. A daughter, Lorraine, followed. Ellen died suddenly in 1966 which left Charles with the two girls. He remarried in 1973 to Faye McKinnon who had a daughter Sandra and a son Craig. At the time of the interview, Charles had retired from his farm and was living in Geraldton.

In finishing the interview, Charles commented that the most significant change in farming in his experience was the replacement of horse teams:

We had a mouldboard plough, of course, and we couldn't get very much acreage in because in these northern areas our winter is fairly short and you couldn't work the ground like it should be worked.

Other changes included better wheat varieties which matured earlier and yielded more. Barley crops were also added. Improved machinery meant full advantage could be taken of any crop grown. Fertilizer also played a big part.

As Charles recalled:

All the old families have practically gone from Greenough, there's only about three left. Some of it's owned by Americans, but today a lot of those people are coming back into hobby farms, say fifty, twenty acres ... and there's a lot more people there today than there was ten years ago.

After referring to the post office, police station and stores closing and that pigs were being kept in the school and old machinery was laying around, Charles appreciated the National Trust stepping in and cleaning up the place, 'which has made a big difference.'

Ronda Jamieson



Treasures from Trove **(and the Oral History Collection)**

[Heather Campbell is a researcher, historian, and author. This is the fourth in her series on delving into the wonders of the NLA's Trove database of Australian newspapers.]

The good old days?

Quarantine in Albany, Western Australia. July 1895.

By a quarantined passenger

[From the *Australian Advertiser*, (Albany) 31 July 1895, p. 3]

Some slight disclosure of the position of affairs at the above institution has come before the public, but a full account may be of interest. On Monday, July 8th, the *RMS Lusitania* arrived in King George's Sound from Colombo, flying the yellow flag. This alarming indication of ill-health on board was due to the fact that a case of disputed smallpox had been landed at the previous port under circumstances which I will proceed to state.



SS Lusitania Built 1871, Birkenhead, wrecked Cape Ballard, Newfoundland 1901, www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?153142 [not to be confused with *RMS Lusitania* sunk by a German U-boat in 1915]

On arrival at Port Said about a score of Assyrians were taken on board in the evening after dusk in the absence on shore of the captain and ship's doctor. No information was obtainable as to medical examination having been made. A cursory inspection by daylight revealed the fact that some of the children were covered with unsightly sores. No provision whatever had been made for the accommodation of these Asiatics, and for the first

night they had to sleep partly in open-berths with Europeans of the same sex, and partly on the lower deck. As was only natural, the Europeans objected very strongly to having these forced upon them. The next day better provision was made for them.

On June 22nd the 1st class smoke room, which is situated between the 1st and second-class decks, was fitted as a hospital, and one of the Asiatic children, said to be suffering from chickenpox, was placed therein. On the following morning the symptoms indicated smallpox. A special wardsman was appointed, whose duties took him backwards and forwards among the second-class passengers at frequent intervals. On June the 26th, however, as already stated, about midday, the child and her parents were removed from the ship. In the evening the smoke-room was cleansed and fumigated, the bedding being thrown overboard. There was no sign of any serious ailment on board during the passage to Albany. I should have mentioned that on June 23rd, as soon as there was grave cause for alarm, all the 1st and third-class passengers were vaccinated, exhausting

the supply of vaccine. At Colombo a further stock was obtained, and the rest of the passengers and crew, with the exception of the firemen, were operated on.

On arrival at Albany the pilot declined to come on board, and returned to port for the health officer, who, after a brief conversation with Dr Hudson, instructed that the passengers should be landed at the Quarantine Station in the ship's boats. A scene of the utmost confusion ensued. Boats were lowered, only light packages were allowed, two seamen were sent with each boat, and no responsible officer was placed in charge. The launch towed the first boat to within a hundred yards of shore and gave instructions as to landing. On arrival within a few yards of the shore it was found impossible to get nearer. The keeper shouted that it would be impossible to land without wading. The sailors and one of the passengers had to wade and by them a plank was secured and run on board and on this the ladies with trembling steps supported on either side by the heroes of the occasion passed safely to land. The next boat load was less fortunate; rowing about in a bewildered way, none of the occupants having any idea of the position of the station until they passed the launch on its return. They were then shown the direction of their destination and after a similar uncomfortable landing during a smart shower of rain those on board found themselves with their shipmates.



Lower Spencer Street and town jetty, Albany, 1900
Battye Library, SLWA b4309282_4

Now came an unwelcome surprise. It was found that the only accommodation on the rock was a small four-roomed cottage into which 31 passengers were expected to squeeze, nine being females. Two ladies from the first saloon with nurse and baby were allotted a lofty front room the roof of which is not in a perfect condition. A second room with single beds was set apart for the other five ladies.

Fifteen slept in the third room which was about 14 feet square, The remainder found rest as best they could on the kitchen floor or under the verandah exposed to the inclemency of the weather. There was nothing to be obtained on the station in the way of food and drink. The amount of bedding was also very deficient, many of the passengers having to solace themselves with their wraps and overcoats. No food was procurable until ten o'clock next morning, even the most delicate and the baby having to endure a seventeen hours fast.

After breakfast some of the passengers started to rig up tents with a material which only a Government would think of buying for such a purpose. The fitting up of these was attended with every imaginable difficulty, woodwork and lashing being very scarce and unsuitable. On the second night during the gale which occurred in the small hours the occupants of the tents found themselves without cover, the tents being blown away and they had to take up their beds and flee elsewhere for shelter. The kindness of the quarantine keeper and Mrs. Douglas induced them to place at the disposal of those unlucky ones three-fourths of their own cottage for which I think the Government ought to show their appreciation.

A further knowledge of limited resources of the station has revealed the inadequacy of the provision for water storage. There are only two tanks to catch the rain water from the main building and but for the frequent showers of the past week there would have been a water famine. The Government should at least supply four more similar tanks. Should a number of passengers be landed after the hot weather has commenced great suffering and discomfort would most certainly result. In connection with this it is a great scandal that there should not be bath rooms provided for both sexes. The importance of cleanliness especially when there is a suspicion of disease, cannot be too strongly insisted on. Certainly the proposed new building intended for the isolation of any cases that may arise, should have an adjoining bath room.

There is only one outdoor lamp on the station, making comfort after dark in the tents impossible. There should be separate rooms for saloon and steerage passengers in which they could sit in comfort in the evening. A pier or jetty for landing stores and embarking or disembarking passengers at any state of the tide in comfort and safety is an urgent necessity. A reserve of framed tents of sail cloth and other substantial material kept in readiness. The want of food and preparation for the reception of the passengers is undeniably due to the gross negligence of the Orient Steamship Company in failing to notify the Health Officer of Albany by cable that a case of smallpox had been landed at Colombo. Only half an hour's notice given to the Quarantine keeper of what he had to expect, a totally inadequate time for such extensive preparations as were necessary.

On July 18th those in quarantine had been dissociated from the diseased person for the full period of twenty one days, the limit assigned for the possibility of developing smallpox, But the period was prolonged to July 29th, on account of smallpox having again broken out on the *Lusitania* after she left Albany, although it is an undisputed fact that that disease is only infectious in certain stages. The best authorities assert that it cannot be contracted from persons in whom it is only latent. The loss to the passengers, individually and collectively, from a monetary point of view is very great, and it certainly seems only fair that the Government should defray the whole expenses of their maintenance during their compulsory

detention. Mr. Keyser, the Quarantine Officer, has done everything in his power to promote the comfort and well-being of the *detenis*.

I trust that the Government will not delay in taking steps to make provision so that the likelihood of similar discomforts may be done away with.'

Many erudite and learned people, including Edmund Burke, George Santayana and Winston Churchill, have said, in one form or another, that history repeats itself. This view is undoubtedly supported by a comparison of this article with the complaints of those quarantined by Covid restrictions in 2020/21, which suggest that 'similar discomforts' continue to be suffered.

Heather Campbell



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

WA Research Day

FamilyHistoryWA ran a very successful day-long seminar on Wednesday 2 June 2021. The Heritage Team gave a talk on resources available at the State Library.

Neville Green Collection

Renowned WA historian Dr Neville Green has offered more of his research and archival material to the State Library of WA, including a large slide collection of photographs taken during his time working in the Kimberley. Most of the material has now been collected and a volunteer is sorting through the material to be catalogued and digitally repatriated back to the Aboriginal community via Storylines.

Dr Kate Radio Series

Dr Kate Gregory continues her broadcasts on ABC and 6PR. Her latest interviews focused on the Mavis Phillips (nee Walley) Photographic Collection and the private archive of artist Kathleen O'Connor. Upcoming interviews will feature the book and original illustrations for *Little Bird's Day* by Sally Morgan. The art in the book was created by Johnny

Warrkatja Malibirr and the original pictures have been acquired for the State Library's Peter Williams Collection (art from children's picture books). Interviews are available to listen back to on the State Library website.

Library Board Awards

Family History WA were recently honoured as a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia for their long-term support of the State Library. The award was inaugurated in 1984 to recognise individuals and organisations who have made meritorious contributions to library services in Western Australia. The Library Board Award for Innovation and Collaboration was won by the City of Fremantle for their partnership with St Patrick's Community Support Centre to embed a Community Support Worker into the Library to provide direct engagement with people in the community experiencing disadvantage.

Disrupted

The Disrupted series of events has become a dynamic feature of the State Library's Engagement Strategy with a panel on the topic 'Right to Die' discussing the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation in WA on Tuesday 25 May. This event was attended by over 100 people. The Disrupted event 'Going with the Flow' was rescheduled to Tuesday 1 June, because of the Covid closure of State Library in April. Presenters Lucy Peach and Andrea Gibbs attracted a crowd of over 100 people to talk about periods and identifying ways that women can embrace their hormones to increase productivity and understanding of the menstrual cycle.

Digitisation

SLWA is digitising World War One maps, historic station maps of WA and WA music scores of old classics like *Flourish West Australia* and *The Golden West*. This will enhance access to the collection and WA heritage.

Third Floor Service

The State Library and State Records Office continue to deliver a shared service for Western Australian History research on the third floor alongside FamilyHistoryWA. The Leah Jane Cohen Room is now shared by both organisations as a research room for State Library clients accessing Battye heritage materials and as a by appointment service for clients accessing State Archives. Both organisations continue to evaluate

this service and adjust it based on client feedback and ongoing staff discussion. Micrographic equipment has been upgraded with a funding contribution from the State Records Office and they are also looking at providing self-service stations for their catalogue on the third floor. The next steps in the process will be training for staff of both organisations to increase the depth of knowledge about collections and archives to provide a better service to clients.

Events

Mavis Phillips (nee Walley) Collection

(Until Saturday 25 July, The Nook)

The Perth Centre for Photography in partnership with Community Arts Network and the State Library of WA are proud to present a unique collection of Aboriginal photographs taken by one of Australia's earliest photographers - the Mavis Phillips (nee Walley) Collection.

2021 Australian of the Year Exhibition

(5 June – 25 July, Ground Floor Gallery)

This exhibition celebrates the eight extraordinary state and territory recipients of the 2021 Australian of the Year Awards, including national recipient Grace Tame. The travelling exhibition from the National Museum of Australia was developed in collaboration with the National Australia Day Council.

Little Bird's Day – illustrations from the Picture Book

(11 June – 29 August, Story Place Galley, Mezzanine Floor)

Original artwork by Johnny Warkatja Malibirr from the award winning picture book *Little Bird's Day* - written by Sally Morgan and published by Magabala books. The exhibition was curated especially for children and families.

WA Reflections Generation Hi Fi

(Thursday 17 June 6 – 8PM, State Library Theatre.)

This screening and panel discussion is an opportunity to relive the heyday of Perth's rock'n'roll scene, and to learn how this historic period has been brought to life on screen. In partnership with Screenwest and Lotterywest.

WA Reflections: Murder on the Dance Floor

(Thursday July 08 6PM – 8PM)

Murder on the Dancefloor investigates one of WA's most infamous crimes: the murder of Cyril Gidley by his spurned lover Audrey Jacob at the Government House Ballroom in 1925. Film screening and panel discussion

Gooloolup NAIDOC Screenings

(Monday 5 July Wednesday 7 July Friday 9 July Saturday 10 July 12:30-1:30PM State Library Theatre)

In this weekday screenings program watch the docu-series *Bush Mechanics* (G) 25 min. In each episode the Bush Mechanics who come from the remote Warlpiri community of Yuendumu are presented with new set of mechanical challenges.

World Press Photo Exhibition

31 July – 20 August, Ground Floor Gallery

World Press Photo Exhibition 2021 world-wide tour showcasing the stories that matter with photographs from the 64th annual World Press Photo Contest.

New Acquisitions

Dorothy (Dot) Finney diaries

This collection consists of Dot Finney's personal diaries from 1964 – 2010. Each entry is about six lines of information detailing everyday life in Manning, WA.

Images of Art Deco Architecture and Delis, 2018-19

A collection of images of Art Deco architecture and delis around Perth & Fremantle, including suburbs north and south of the river, taken 2018-19. These photographs provide an important record of historically significant Art Deco buildings of the 1930s, many saved from demolition and now serving as theatres, hotels, apartments, arcades and shops, as well as homes. The photographs of delicatessens include the derelict, those still trading, and old delis renovated into residences or new businesses, demonstrating trends in re-purposing heritage buildings for contemporary use. This collection captures the social and cultural life of Western Australians as well as highlighting buildings of architectural uniqueness.

Percy Pearson Papers

Percy Pearson was a Christian church, community and business leader. He has served as Deputy Chairman of the Kingswood College Council,

as Chairman of the Australia Day Council of W.A. and was both a member and Chair of the Methodist Ladies' College Council. He was awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (Imperial) (CMG) for services to the RSL in WA.

Kitty Gitto Photographs

Kitty Gitto was involved in building the youth hostel at Stoneville with a group of other young women. This collection includes photos of young women at work in 1938, with various stages of construction of the log cabin with its 7' stone fireplace; the block and tackle used to lift the heavy logs; the iron roof lined with waterproofing Sisalkraft; a water tank; the cubby where the women could sleep two at a time, and an additional shelter they called the "cow shed".

Tracey Heimberger Collection

Tracey Heimberger collection of images of Roebourne people and places in the Pilbara, includes the Roebourne Cultural Group; Roebourne Art Exhibition; NAIDOC celebrations; Labor and union conferences; Ngurawaanaa Cattle Muster; heavy haulage transport; and local fauna. Most of the subjects in these images are Pilbara Traditional Land Owners captured as they participate in in community and cultural events or work on the land. Although the Library does not usually collect photographs of fauna, a few images of local bird life have been selected as Tracey is a passionate bird photographer. This is an interesting collection of miscellaneous images taken from the perspective of a regional Indigenous photographer, adding diversity to the Library's pictorial collection.

Nic Duncan Collection

A collection of contemporary images by multi-award-winning portrait and travel photographer Nic Duncan, including Warroora Station Shearing, and ANZAC Day at Murchison Settlement. The Warroora (pronounced 'Warra') series of images show the station owner Leonie McLeod and her family; and the Henderson shearing gang at work during the last shearing season in 2014. The Anzac Day images show the Foulkes-Taylor family of Yuin and Tardie Station gathered for the 2019 Anzac day ceremony at Murchison Settlement.

Far Photography Images

Vicky Funston is a British photographer and certified CASA Drone Operator based at Hillarys. She set up Far Photography in 2018 to create beautiful landscape photography art showcasing WA's spectacular

coastline. These images document coastal townships in south-west WA, and highlight the work of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at Lesmurdie. This small collection adds to the diversity of contemporary photographs.



State Records Office - News from the Archives

New State Records Office website

A reminder that the State Records Office has a new online home on wa.gov.au. The old website at sro.wa.gov.au has now been re-directed to this new home to make it easy to find the SRO. You can also search 'State Records Office' on wa.gov.au able to bookmark the new site for return visits. The SRO has updated most of the content on the new website and retired some material that hasn't been searched for some years. However, all the old content has been safely archived.

State Records Office Newsletter and Socials

The State Records Office's online newsletter is published every quarter. You can subscribe to the newsletter via the SRO's new website.

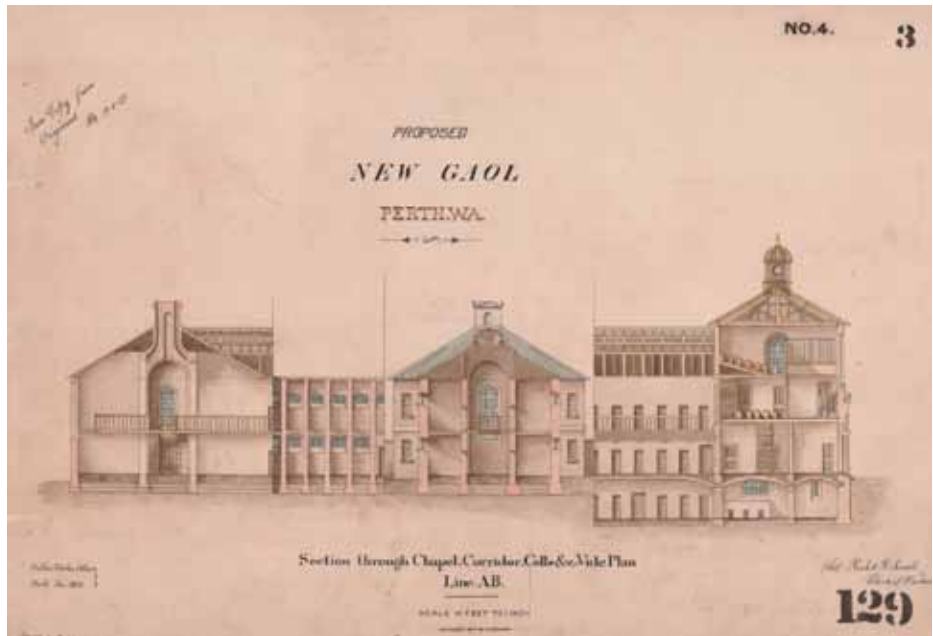
We've also been ramping up our efforts on Facebook and Twitter and we encourage readers to follow the SRO on Facebook and Twitter for some interesting stories every week. Over the past couple of months we've featured stories about design ideas for a 'new' Perth Town Hall, Australia's 'only recorded pirate' Black Jack Anderson, Jack Davis AM BEM, Graham Farmer MBE, and the unusual sports of Circlos and Vigoro – with some love from the Queensland Vigoro Association!

State Records Office on the airwaves

The State Records Office and State Library are continuing a regular chat on ABC 720 Perth called 'History Repeated'. Tune in Friday afternoons and look out for online stories on the ABC Perth Radio web site. The SRO and State Library are also sharing a regular chat with Harvey Deegan on 6PR on Sunday evenings 'Remember When' – taking it in turns every fortnight (once a month each for the SRO and State Library) with a new

story from the archives. You can also catch-up on these stories via our website at Stories from the Archives.

Damian Shepherd
Director State Records



Perth Old Gaol, Jewell's original drawings.
(SROWA AU WA S399- cons1647 00129.)

Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Subscriptions form
From 1 July to 30 June each year

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$ _____

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)

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If paying by cheque, please complete this form and send with your cheque to:

The Treasurer
Friends of Battye Library
PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

If paying by electronic direct funds transfer, our details are:

BSB Number – 016-185
Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
Account Number – 4220 58413

In the reference section, please use your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to ***membership@friendsofbattye.org.au*** with your online receipt number.

Afterwords

Who was John Gavin (or was he John Gaven)?

The question is not likely to come up in the Friends of Battye Christmas history quiz, but John Gavin is a significant figure in Swan River history. He won his place on the morning of Saturday 6 April 1844 when he was hanged for murder, the first European to suffer that fate. He was only fifteen, apparently.

His origins remain something of a mystery. We know where he came from, and how, when and why he arrived here, but not where or when he was born, not who his parents were.

His journey to Western Australia began in Birmingham one day in 1840 when, with two young friends, John Morgan and Patrick Marr, he stole a silk handkerchief from a man named Richard Carr. If this rings a bell you are probably thinking of *Oliver Twist* and the carryings-on of his new friend the Artful Dodger.

The authorities called it 'Larceny from the Person'. When the boys went to trial at the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions on 22 October 1840 their ages were recorded. Marr was eleven, Morgan was twelve and Gavin was thirteen. After a short trial they were found guilty, and each was sentenced to transportation for ten years.

On the following day the chairman of the Quarter Sessions wrote to the Marquess of Normanby, Home Secretary, recommending the trio as 'proper objects to be sent to the Prison at Parkhurst for the reformation of Juvenile offenders'. The Home Secretary agreed, orders were issued, and Gavin and his two accomplices arrived at Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight on 7 December. On arrival they recorded Gavin's trade – spoon polisher.

We next find the trio in the Parkhurst records on the night of the first English census, 6 June 1841. Nearly eight months after their ages were first listed they are still recorded as being 11, 12 and 13.

Two years later they were discharged. Marr and Morgan were sent to Van Diemen's Land but Gavin, described as having 'bad character and connexions', was sent to Western Australia as part of a new apprenticeship scheme. He arrived on the *Shepherd* on 26 October 1843. He had less than six months to live.

On 1 December he was apprenticed to John Pollard who was farming at

North Dandalup. On the morning of 21 February 1844 he killed John and Jane Pollard's son George with an adze. He was remanded for trial at the April Quarter Sessions and lodged in Fremantle Gaol.

In all the English legal records and newspapers his name is spelt Gavin. It is also recorded that he could 'read' rather than 'read and write'. But in February 1844, when he took up the quill to sign his deposition, in splotchy writing he signed himself 'John Gaven'. Taking their cue from this, in court records and newspaper reports he becomes Gaven.

In 1844, even murder trials were swift. Gavin's trial, conviction, sentencing, confession and execution were all covered by the *Perth Gazette* in



its issue of 6 April. He was tried and convicted on Wednesday, sentenced to death on Thursday morning, sent back to Fremantle Gaol later that day and hanged on Saturday, his hanging being delayed because Friday was Good Friday.

The place of execution was about ten yards on the left of the jail, looking towards the Church. The assemblage of people was not very great, and proper precautions for decent behaviour on such a solemn occasion, were taken and provided for, by the presence of the Constables and a detachment of Her Majesty's 61st L. I., who kept the ground. After death, an excellent mask of the face and cast of the skull were taken, for the purpose of furthering the ends of science.

Extract from *Perth Gazette* report.

How old was he? It is conceivable that he might not have known. In October 1840, court records gave his age as 13 yet, in December 1843 he told the Pollards he was 14. At his trial, newspaper reports described him as 'about 15 years of age'.

Gavin also has a tiny footnote in English history via the working man's Chartist Movement of 1839-40. Chartist headquarters moved to Birmingham in July 1839 where leaders, John Collins and William Lovett, were arrested for sedition. Rioting in the Bull Ring followed their release on bail, and many shops were looted. The charge sheet for the Warwick County Assizes on 27 July 1839 includes Collins and Lovett. They were jailed for one year. It also includes John Gavin, charged as a twelve-year-old shopbreaking Chartist. He was found not guilty.

Steve Errington

Membership Subscription (from 1 July to 30 June - GST inclusive)

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Pensioner / student / junior	\$15
Corporate	\$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, September (the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). They are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm, except for the November function which finishes around 8.00pm.

Newsletter

Three issues will be published each year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 5 February, 5 June, and 10 October. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au>

For comments, more information, membership forms, a copy of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Constitution, or to send articles and notices for the newsletter, please contact:

The editor, Jennie Carter at *bevnjen@gmail.com*

or write to:

The President
Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
P O Box 216
Northbridge WA 6865

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Opening hours Mon/Thurs 9.00 am - 8.00 pm
 Friday 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Sat/Sun 10.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Public holidays - closed

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au
Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room has co-located to the Battye Library, third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. To access these materials in the Leah Cohen Reading Room a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

As per usual times for SRO retrievals.

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- The hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain the same as Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia, formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS), are available to assist researchers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Specialist staff for Family History: for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email info@slwa.wa.gov.au.