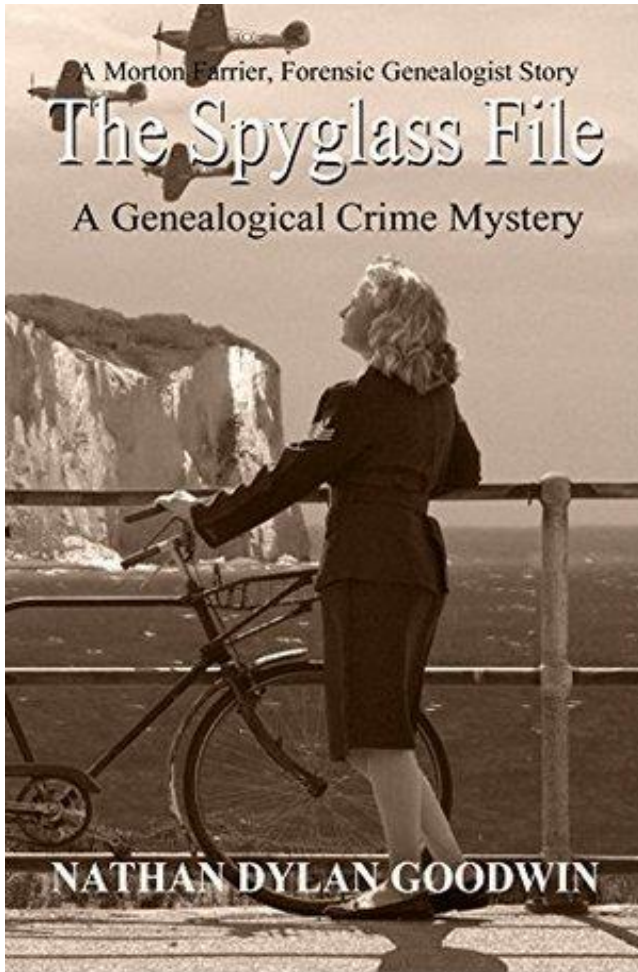


THE SPYGLASS FILE

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin.

A BOOK REVIEW THAT'S NOT A BOOK REVIEW



Floating around somewhere between Earth and Mars is the original review I did on Nathan Dylan Goodwin's latest wonderful book 'The Spyglass File' published in 2016. I had been eagerly awaiting this book next in the Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist story saga. This book is another very clever mystery, involving a huge range of research skills techniques and resources, set in the WW11 era, particularly involving the RAF.

Due to the efficiency of my 10 year old Tech Expert my emails were deleted to "make more room". Nathan the author of this terrific book, received my review but June, the Wonder Woman of the GSNT did not, so here's another try.

This book overlaps both the mystery Morton is trying to solve as well as his own search for his father. This book has great depth. It includes issues relating to Adoption Research as well as Military Resources that are available, both very complex areas. The book, as usual, includes a huge range of research – use of Family Records Centre, Children's Society of C of E

Waifs and Strays Society, Photographic techniques that are rapidly improving, Biographical Dictionary of Battle of Britain, Identity Card Register, RAF combat re-ports, War memorial etc. He uses DNA research, Town Clerks' Department Records, Parish Registers, and House Names, Wills, letters and diaries. New Technology is woven into the story. I was most impressed by the ability to enlarge photographs to the extent of viewing the smallest detail as well as the use of the wall of evidence to give a visual chart to use to solve the mystery.

Not only did I really enjoy reading this book but I must confess it led to weeks of research I did on my own dad and my father – in – law who were both, as young men in the RAAF in Europe. My dad was in Coastal Command and my father – in – law, a young 19 year old Uni student in Bomber Command. By using many of the research techniques used in this book, I was able to plot their time in overseas service. Having my dad's log book made his pretty straight forward but we were delighted to trace my father – in – law's time "viewing" Germany from a Lancaster Bomber as a wireless gunner. We were able to contact the Squad-ron's research guru, who even located a photograph of my father – in – law playing cricket for the Aussie airmen against the British opposition. What a thrill.

All inspired by Nathan's book.

Now, I'm so looking forward to the next one in the series – this time about 'The Missing Man', Norton's missing father. Now it just so happens that we also have a missing man in our family. How many weeks of no gardening, housework or dog walking will the next book take? This certainly won't be a 'mould free zone' but I can always blame Nathan Dylan Goodwin and his fantastic books – all in our fantastic library.

Mim Regan