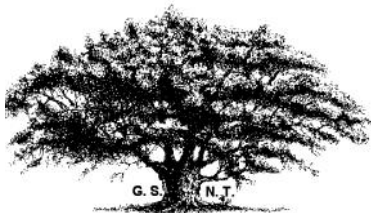


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# progenitor



**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
INC.**

*The Family History Place*



## **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC**

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# PROGENITOR

## THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC.

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**FRONT COVER:** Vestey's Meatworks c1920

## VESTHEY'S TANK

*Chris Renehan from Moonbeam Design Darwin  
Collected all the information contained in the following article  
With assistance from Graeme and Esther Townes.  
Photographs by Chris Renehan*

Vestey's tank was originally constructed as a water storage facility for the Vestey's Meatworks. The Tank has since been converted into an undercover gymnasium and open air auditorium and assembly area at Darwin High School.

Vestey's Tank is located on Lot 4248 Town of Darwin. The tank is located at Bullocky Point, Atkins Drive within the Darwin High School and formerly the site of the Vestey's meatworks.

## **A History of Vestey's Tank**

The idea of building a meatworks in Darwin was first proposed during the South Australian Administration. In 1894 the Government Resident proposed a Freezing Works, as did Goldsborough Mort & Co. but South Australia was reluctant to commit yet more money to its 'white elephant in the north'.

However the Commonwealth Administration of the Northern Territory which commenced in 1911, brought with it a number of new policies that were to affect Darwin and the local community. Foremost amongst these, was the White Australia Policy and the zeal with which that policy was pursued.

The Commonwealth did not see the Chinese playing any great part in the development of the Territory. Early in January 1911 a ministerial direction deprived the Chinese wharf labourers of their jobs and shortly afterwards all the Chinese cooks employed by the Overland Telegraph line were sacked.

When the Territory was taken over by the Commonwealth, there were a number of Chinese gardens in existence around Darwin. These gardens supplied the inhabitants with green vegetables and fruit. Gardening by Chinese, however was not encouraged by the Administration, and soon all these operations ceased.

The Chinese had held leases on and close to Bullocky Point for many years. Records show that these leases were cancelled in 1914 even though the rents had been paid up to 1915. After almost 40 years of occupation, the lessees were dispossessed with no recompense for improvements made to the blocks.

The leases were put up for public sale in July 1914, the purchaser being required to erect a freezing works and pay a bond of £1000 to the NT Administration well beyond the reach of the Chinese market gardeners.

However two years earlier in June 1912, the Northern Territory had received a visit from a Mr Frederick who was representing an "English Syndicate" which was interested in establishing a meatworks in Northern Australia.

Four sites were discussed, and Frederick in the company of the Administrator (Dr Gilruth) inspected the Bullocky Point site. Frederick appears to have been swayed by Gilruth's recommendation of Bullocky Point as an appropriate site.

On the 30 January 1913, the Cabinet decided not to entertain Mr Frederick's proposals and the Administrator was advised on 1 February 1913 that freezing works would be constructed by the Government.

On 20 March 1913, Mr CA D'Ebro, a licensed Architect and Civil Engineer stated that he was willing to inspect and prepare the necessary plans for the design of a modern freezing works.

Charles Abraham D'Ebro was well known within Government circles. In 1893 he had invented an improved water module or delivery regulator for regulating the discharge of water from water channels, and in 1895 he had made application for Letters Patent for an invention described as 'An improved apparatus for solar distillation'. He was also a pioneer in the structural use of re-inforced concrete.

On 30 April at the direction of the Minister for External Affairs (Mr Thomas) the Secretary saw Mr D'Ebro and asked him to quote a price which would cover a visit to Darwin, inspection of the site, preparation of sketch plans, and collection of all materials sufficient to enable him to prepare plans etc. if, after the elections, it was intended to proceed with the works.

On the 1 May, 1913 Mr D'Ebro stated that he was prepared to carry out the work for a fee of £250 plus reasonable travelling expenses. The total amount paid to Mr D'Ebro after completion of his visit was £346 / 3 /- . Mr D'Ebro left for Darwin on 20 May and duly presented his report and plans in September 1913.

However in June 1913 the Fisher Labour Government went out of Office and was replaced by the Cook Government. Mr Thomas was succeeded by Mr Glynn as Minister for External Affairs.

It was the policy of the new Government that the works should be erected by private enterprise and negotiations were re-opened with Mr Frederick in July.

By September 1913, the Minister had a cable sent to London advising Mr Frederick's principals that although the Government had intended to themselves construct and manage a freezing works in Darwin, they were now prepared for it to be constructed along the lines suggested by Frederick.

In December 1913, Dr Gilruth sought clarification from the Minister as to whether the freezing works was going ahead. In reply, he was advised that the policy of the Government was to secure the erection of freezing works by private enterprise.

During the negotiations which followed, the Government agreed amongst other things to

- provide a site for the freezing works,
- grant a site of suitable area for workmen's homes,
- provide special railway facilities (a siding to serve the plant and 'special insulated trucks with ammonia pump to keep meat hard during transit')
- furnish an adequate fresh water supply for use of the works and residences of the employees.

Further negotiations saw the Government agree to

- bore for water at or near the works and
- empower the Company to supply electric light and power to Darwin.

For its part, the Company agreed (amongst other things) to commence the erection of the Works by 31 December 1914.

By 19 March 1914, the Company had availed themselves of D'Ebro's plans for a outlay of £350 and agreed to proceed with the site selected originally by Gilruth and Frederick and recommended by D'Ebro, after it was inspected by Sir William Vestey.

By 4 July 1914, Gilruth wired External Affairs that

*Vestey has personally examined various sites and arrived same conclusions as myself Bullocky Point*

*best every way particularly point of view sanitation and water supply stop.*

The letter which Gilruth sent to External Affairs confirming the telegram, added that;

*the land applied for is in my opinion admirably suitable as a site for freezing works. It is close to the Railway line, and can readily be drained into the sea, while it is sufficiently distant from town, and in such a locality as will not make the erection of the works thereon, in any way objectionable to residents.*



*Construction of Vestey's Meatworks 1915*

Although building of the works commenced in December 1914 and 500 men were employed on the project, it was found impossible to commence slaughtering and freezing operations in April 1916 as was originally planned. The War had caused delays in the delivery of essential materials and there was a prevalence of labour disputes. The cost had blown out to £700,000 and the installation of a new water supply had to be postponed because of the impossibility of securing the necessary pipes.



The supply of adequate water at the site proved to be a very expensive oversight on the part of the developers. Despite Sir William Vestey noting during his inspection that there was a good water supply this was not the case. The Chinese market gardeners who were in occupation of Bullocky Point during Vestey's visit, carefully husbanded their water and used a system of terrace irrigation to obtain maximum benefit.

In Oral Histories held in NT Archives, townspeople of that era claim that;

*the Meatworks was built in the wrong place. It never had enough water. It depended on rain and sea water.*

In a memorandum to the Prime Minister dated 25 July 1916, the Minister for External Affairs claimed that

*the supply of water for the Freezing Works at Darwin is serious and urgent.*

He went on to say that six bores had been put down, of which two were failures.

*The others can supply only 17,000 gallons per day, a quantity insufficient for the domestic requirements of the employees and staff. Whereas the Works when in operation will require 200,000 gallons per day.*

He suggested that a joint agreement be made between the Government and the Company to bring water into Darwin from a creek about 13 miles from Darwin, supplied by springs which will give about 2,000,000 gallons of good water daily. The land on which the creek was situated had recently been acquired by the Northern Agency Ltd who were acting in conjunction with Vestey Brothers.

He sought Cabinet approval

- for the Company to construct the works at an estimated cost of £40,000 with the Government to refund the Company half the cost of the works monthly as the works proceed

- the water to be equally available for the town and the Company
- the cost of towers, reservoirs and reticulation to be borne by the Government and the Company on their respective lands
- the company to control the works
- the control of works not to be vested in the local Council for say 25 years, or until the Darwin Municipality contains a population of 25,000 white inhabitants
- the company to charge 10% on working expenses for cost of management
- and the water to be the absolute property of the Government and sold by them.

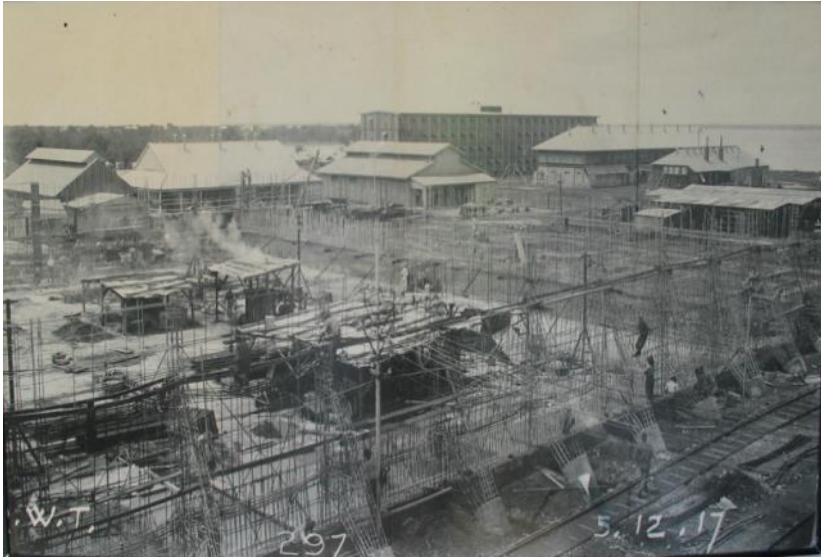
Cabinet approval was given on 26 June 1916, but in his memo to the Minister for External Affairs, the Prime Minister referred to the cost of bringing water to the Works as £60,000 with Vestey's to advance the money, the Government to maintain the works and pay 4.5% on the Capital invested.

Up until this time the Freezing Works had been relying on a large circular concrete tank near the present Bowling Green (now the site of the passive recreation lake, known locally as Vestey's Lake.). It has been described as;

*A big tank in the ground. Cemented in. Vestey's used it for washing down. It had a big pipe out to sea. At high tide, the sea water came in. Then the gates closed.*

A desalination plant was also used to augment supply.

Work commenced on the structure known today as 'The Tank' about mid November 1917 and by 23 November 1917 the drains were in place. Shortly afterwards the foundations were laid and on 5 December 1917 a superb photo was taken showing the steel reinforcing of the walls and buttresses. On 16



*Construction of Vestey's Tank showing steel reinforcing formwork.  
5 December 1917. NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, Image No 297.*

February 1918 a further photo was taken showing the completed tank about half full of water.

The pictures taken during the building of the Tank show an above ground steel reinforced concrete structure with externally buttressed walls and built in two sections.

It is approximately 80 metres by 40 metres with a height of 6.5 metres. When full, the Tank held almost 5 million gallons.

The Tank displays considerable technical innovation and achievement, with the sand and gravel being crushed from rock on site. It is amongst the earliest substantial uses of reinforced concrete in the Northern Territory; it is one of the largest above ground concrete tanks built before the end of World War I, and is of a distinctive rectangular shape.

The usual method of concrete construction in the early part of the 20th century was to;

*lay a 6 inch layer of concrete along the wall area. Then big rocks were placed on the 6 inch strip, then concrete was poured all around them and vibrated.*

*There was no sand or gravel on a job. Men quarried big rocks which were put through crushers until it was sand or gravel as the case may be. Once a pour started, the men had to work straight through. It was not uncommon for men to work 36 hours without a break. They worked until the pour was completed.*

Much has been written about the friction between Union members and the Company at this time, but it would seem that the NT bureaucrats were also making life difficult for the company.

The Lands and Survey Department on 28 December 1917 took issue with Vestey's for not complying with the terms of their lease. In reply the Company claimed that;

*the Flood Gate was in the course of construction, but owing to the urgent necessity of providing water, men were taken off this work and put to completion of the tanks. On completion they will again be put on to the erecting of the gate .*

A section of the workforce was also involved at this time in making bricks for the mess and canteen. The clay for the bricks came from an area between Fannie Bay Gaol and the former Golf Links. It travelled down a light tramway, following the contours of the land. The kiln was situated in an area that is now used by Darwin Sailing club as a 'hard stand' for yachts. The diggings left a series of little lagoons, which is now Lake Alexander. The brickworks had been established in the 1870s by David Daniels to provide bricks for the Government Stamp Batteries on the gold fields.

Despite all the difficulties, the works finally opened in April 1917 and processed 18,911 head of cattle up until August, with the first shipment of frozen meat dispatched on 13 December 1917. The company was so elated that it engaged a photographer R. Rohrer, to provide photos to accompany the Administrator's 1917 Report.

But the euphoria was short lived. The works did not open for the 1920 season and it did not open for the 1921 season. A variety of reasons have been put forward for this. The Administrator (Staniforth Smith) attributed it to a shortage of shipping following the War. However the bulk of the Darwin meat was used to fill contracts to supply troops, and as the War had finished, there was no further need for beef and the bottom dropped out of the market.

The meatworks remained closed until the 1925 season when it opened briefly as a boiling-down works and almost 10,000 head were boiled down for tallow. It never re-opened.



*Operational Vestey's Meatworks (circa pre 1920)*



*Vestey's Meatworks also showing living quarters prior to 1920*

With its closure, more than three quarters of the population found itself unemployed. As families moved away from Darwin in search of work, the Parap School (which had been opened in 1917) was closed, and as the number of secondary students dropped from 125 to 15 in 1925, the High School ceased to offer secondary education.

The town fell into a malaise, and many Darwinites claim that the Great Depression actually started in Darwin in early 1920s, and spread to the rest of Australia by 1928-29.

Although the meatworks had ceased operations, the site was still occupied by the Company who proceeded to manage their many interests in the Northern Territory from their Bullocky Point base. During the period 1925-1939 locals used to surreptitiously use the Tank as a swimming facility.

*Children used to swim in the big tank at Vestey's. They were always taken by a neighbour and weren't allowed to go on their own, as it was quite deep.*



*Residents swimming in the Tank 1956*

With the closure of the meatworks, water was no longer being pumped from Howard Springs to fill the tank and locals had to once again rely on galvanised iron rainwater tanks and bores.

On 29 March 1929 the Government Resident (R H Weddell) received a petition signed by 427 residents and directed to the Minister for Home and Territories requesting;

*that a water supply for the Town of Darwin be fully investigated and the construction thereof be undertaken as early as possible.*

The signatories were also;

*anxious to impress that the danger of a serious water shortage and contamination of the meagre supply is now more imminent than ever before.*

Mr Weddell duly forwarded the petition as requested, however the Government in Canberra remained inactive up until War clouds loomed on the horizon in 1938.

After discarding Howard Springs, Berry Springs and Lake Deane as possible sources, Dr Woolnough the Government Geologist settled for the Manton River. A pipeline and dam across the Manton River were hastily constructed and water was fed into the Tank on Vestey's Hill. Meanwhile members of the Darwin Mobile Force which arrived in Darwin in 1938 were billeted in the disused meatworks. It didn't take the soldiers long to climb the tank in order to have a swim.

The Army commandeered the site (Town Lease 43) and took control of everything that went in and went out. Vestey's bridled under these strictures and their relationship with the Administration was further strained when in 1942 the NT Administration sought to increase the rent from £30 (set in 1915) to £81. On 30 December 1942, their agents the Australian Investment Agency wrote to the Administrator (CLA Abbott) in Alice Springs, seeking relief from their rents because;

*the land is situated within what is known as the Battle Area which was taken over by the Military Authorities under National Security Regulations.*

Administrator Abbott's reply was hardly sympathetic

*You are no different to others who have been similarly occupied by the Military Authorities. The decision of the Valuer stands.*



*2-15th Battalion & bren gun carriers at meatworks  
showing the Tank to the right of the photo*



In his 1944 Report Brisbane Town Planner RA McInnes recommended the demolition of Vestey's meatworks. Although he suggested that;

*the land adjacent to the meatworks, known as Vestey's Beach be used for recreational purposes because it was low lying and contained a large salt water reservoir,*

he made no recommendation for the Bullocky Point site.



*Meatworks site in disrepair showing the Tank to the right of frame 1956*

Shortly after McInnes presented his report to the Government, another plan was developed along similar lines to McInnes' by three Defence Force personnel, and their report contains the first evidence of Bullocky Point being considered as a school site.

The years after the War saw the meatworks occupied in some form or another. By 1952 it was largely residential and Administrator Wise explained that;

*because of acute building shortage, almost the whole of the meatworks buildings have either been let by the housing section or are being used by the Northern Territory Administration.*

However, it was Acting Administrator Reg Marsh who was responsible for the cancellation of the suburban subdivision of Bullocky Point and reserving it for education. He stated that Darwin needed a High School and the site was a beautiful one offering the potential of sporting grounds on either side.

Demolition of the meatworks commenced in 1958. The site was cleared for the new High School, except for the Tank, which was kept to be used as a water supply in case of emergency.

The present High School buildings were completed and students occupied them on 3 October 1963.

The students had barely settled into their new building, when on 4 November 1963 girls in a Geography class on the top floor noticed the water 'sloshing' in the Tank. The Australian Geological Survey Organisation's Seismological Centre claimed it to be;

*one of the largest intermediate-depth earthquakes of the century and was felt throughout northern Australia and parts of Eastern and Western Australia. Swaying of tall buildings was reported from Perth and Adelaide.*

Hearn and Webb in their paper published in the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America in 1984 claimed that;

*the magnitude of the earthquake was 7.8 and the intensity and geographical extent were unusual for an intermediate-depth earthquake.*

The NT News reported that;

*thousands of people ran out onto the streets as buildings swayed and cracks appeared in some; telephone and power lines were cut; cracks appeared in the Post Office, the Administrator's Offices, Government House, the High School and Parap School.*

Despite extensive damage around Darwin,

*the Tank remained intact and not a drop of water was spilt, even though it was sloshing right up the sides from one end to the other.*

Darwin continued to experience earth tremors (and still does) as the northward subduction of the Indian-Australian plate continues. Another quite strong tremor was felt on 29 October 1974. This one measured 6.5 and although no damage was done to the Tank, Government Officials wondered how long it would be before the tank's walls gave way, causing massive damage to the new school.

*Despite extensive damage around Darwin,*

*the Tank remained intact and not a drop of water was spilt, even though it was sloshing right up the sides from one end to the other.*



*Aerial View of Darwin High School showing the Tank  
1979*

Darwin continued to experience earth tremors (and still does) as the northward subduction of the Indian-Australian plate continues. Another quite strong tremor was felt on 29 October 1974. This one measured 6.5 and although no damage was done to the Tank, Government Officials wondered how long it would be before the tank's walls gave way, causing massive damage to the new school.

As with all Government decisions, 'hasten slowly was the motto'. Finally in 1980 as work was under way with the construction of the Museum in the disused quarry to the north of the Tank, the decision was taken to drain the Tank. The water poured from the Tank, straight down the hill, into the quarry washing away the foundations workmen had just set for the Museum. The site was cleared of the devastation and a second set of foundations was laid.

Now that the Tank was empty, consideration was given to knocking it down and building a covered gymnasium and games area on the site. In 1980 during a discussion in the Science Faculty, Terry McClafferty asked 'why don't they just put a roof on it?' and so the idea of using the Tank was born.

The idea for re-use of the structure was put to the next General Staff Meeting, Terry, as the Staff Representative on the School Council, was directed to present a case for re-use of the Tank. The concept of a gymnasium/games area in one section, combined with a swimming pool in the other was enthusiastically received, but foundered because of cost.

About 4 years later, the concept of re-use of the Tank was re-visited by School Council. Graeme Townes who had been a member of the Council when the idea was first raised, undertook to work up some drawings that might be affordable. His idea of a games hall/performance area with the eastern section only, being roofed gained universal approval. Work on the project commenced in 1986 and was completed in 1987. Historic events such as breaching the walls were extensively photographed, as was the roofing, and the laying of the new 'state-of-the-art' rubberised floor, which caused some anxiety.

The liquid was a technological innovation. In temperate climates where it had been tested, the compound set in a week. It had not been tested in the tropics and three weeks went by before the compound showed any signs of setting. Meanwhile there was much consternation as the cost had been some thousands of dollars and it looked as if the floor would have to be re-done with wood.

The Tank had its formal opening in 1988, but was well in use both by the School and the community from the day the workmen finished in 1987. There was great demand for the Tank as a venue for social occasions such as balls, which drew large crowds. In fact it was the only venue at the time, capable of accommodating such numbers.



*With a roof now attached, the tank was officially opened as the school's new gymnasium in 1987. (ABC Rural: Matt Brann)*



*View of the Tank following conversion into the Gymnasium (1989).*

## **The Structure of Vestey's Tank**

Vestey's Tank is a large above ground steel reinforced concrete structure with externally buttressed walls built in two sections. It is approximately 80 metres by 40 metres with a height of 6.5 metres.

The Tank has been substantially modified since originally built and now has a very different function to that for which it was built. The eastern section has been roofed and converted into a gymnasium for use by Darwin High School students. The foyer of the gymnasium displays historical photos of the tank dating to the Vestey's meatworks. The western section remains open and has had sections from the northern and southern wall removed to create an outdoor amphitheatre area.

Although the function of The Tank has changed most of the original fabric remains, except for those sections concrete removed to create entrances for the gymnasium and amphitheatre. The adaptation of the eastern section into a gymnasium has involved the addition of entrances and roof beams to support the roof. The inside has also been modified to lend use as a gymnasium.

Overall the structural integrity of the tank is sound although some deterioration is evident due to the rusting out of the steel reinforcing that has caused expansion and cracking of concrete. Deterioration is primarily due to the concrete being produced with locally sourced sand off the beaches with a high salt content. Salt content and years of weathering has caused the steel reinforcing to rust, expand, crack and exfoliate the concrete. This type of deterioration is most evident along the exterior vertical buttressing and horizontal beam running around the middle of the tank.



*Profile of the concrete wall showing steel reinforcing visible in the open air portion of the Tank (western section) where sections of the south and north wall have been removed.*





*Left: Sign on northern wall, part of the eastern section adapted for the gymnasium.*

*Right: Entrance into the gymnasium section of the Tank. Note the steel reinforcing rods and exfoliated concrete above entrance.*



*Left: Fire Door Exit for eastern section adapted for the gymnasium. Note the steel reinforcing rods and exfoliated concrete on adjacent buttress.*

*Source: NRETAS (2010). Vestey's Tank: Background Historical Information. Prepared by the Heritage Branch, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport, Darwin.*



# THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOREVERMORE

## Four Territorians who never survived the Great War: 1914-1918.

*By Norman S Cramp.*

### **Charles George Chapman**

Charles Chapman, the son of astronomer Professor Robert William Chapman, CMG., MA., BCE., and FRAS., and Eva Maud Chapman of the Adelaide University South Australia, was born in Adelaide South Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1891. At the time of his birth and when Charles enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) his parents and he resided at the High Street, Burnside, Adelaide.

Charles studied surveying and graduated from the Adelaide University and was registered as a qualified Surveyor in Adelaide in January 1913 and took a position with the NT Lands and Survey Department that year. After arriving in Darwin, he carried out surveys of land sections at the Daly River, one of which Albert Borella VC., MM. MID., during the initial agricultural development of the region. He effected a traverse of the Daly River to Brooks Creek in 1914 during the period of Ryland's administration of the Lands Department. He served in the role of Surveyor until 1914 at which time he enlisted in the AIF for overseas service.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914 at the age of 23 years. He was posted to E Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (a South Australian battalion). He embarked for overseas service on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1914 aboard the troopship *Ascanius* (A11). He was discharged from the AIF on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1915 due to gaining a commission with the Royal Engineers, Imperial (British) Army. He was Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery and was killed at Basra, Iraq on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1916.

He was awarded all three British World War One (Great War) Medals and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Dead panels 5 and 61 in the Iraq Memorial. His name lives on in Chapman Street, Rapid Creek being named in his memory and honour.

## **Percy Davies. Service Number 21469**

Percy Davies, the son of Sam Stephen and Kate Mary Davies, was born at Walsall, England in 1892. It is unclear as to when Percy and his parents arrived in Australia but it is known his parents were residing at 16 Denmark Hill, Upper Hawthorn, Victoria in 1915 when Percy enlisted in the AIF, although Percy nominated Sam Stephen Davies of **Pine Creek, NT** as his next of kin on his Attestation to Enlist in the AIF form.

Percy was employed as a Labourer prior to enlisting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1916 at Darwin, NT (later confirmed at Brisbane) at the age of 23 years. He departed Darwin as a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> official contingent in October 1915 and was attached to the 35<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battery of the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, AIF with the rank of Gunner. After completing his basic training in Brisbane, he embarked for overseas service from Sydney on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1916 aboard the troopship *Argyllshire* (A8).

After arriving in England and completing his final training he was posted to the Western Front in France. He served with the battery during the fighting around Bullecourt, France, in October 1918 and died of wounds suffered there on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. He was buried in the British Cemetery, Bullecourt, and is commemorated on the wall of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, the British War Cemetery Bullecourt and the Darwin Cenotaph.

Davies Street in the Darwin suburb of Moil is named in his honour.

---

*The Northern Territory Archive Services (NTRS) has a file of Chapman's correspondence during this period, reference NTRS 2660.*

*NAA: B2455, DAVIES P: SERN 21469: POB Staffordshire, England: POE Brisbane QLD: NOK (F) Davies Sam Stephen.*

## **Edmond Johnson. Service Number 2189.**

Edmond (Ted) Woodward Johnson, the son of Frederick and Emma Julietta (nee Woodward) Johnson, was born at Hobart,

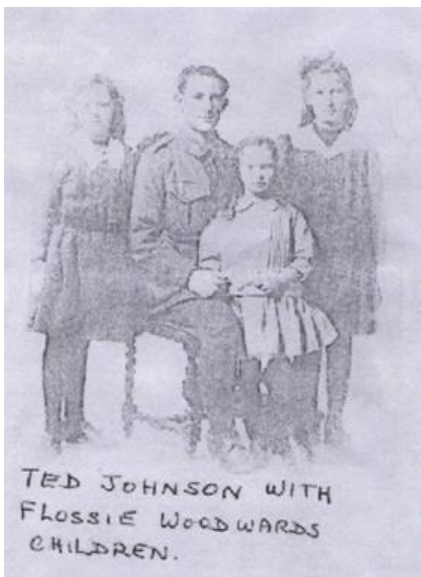
Tasmania in 1897. Edmond's father, Frederick, was a train driver prior to he and Emma coming to the NT to take up a section of farming land on the Daly River. Edmond accompanied his parents and lived with them on their Daly River farm until 11<sup>th</sup> March 1916 when he enlisted in the AIF at the age of 19 years.

Prior to enlisting, he was employed as a Blacksmith's Assistant and after enlisting at Darwin, and nominating his parents who were residing at the 2 ½ Mile, Port Darwin as his next of kin, Edmond shipped out to Brisbane to undergo basic training before embarking for active (overseas) service. Following the completion of his basic training, he left Brisbane for Europe and the war aboard HMAS *Boorara* on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916. At that time, he was ranked Private and was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 47<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion.

He served all of his war on the Western Front in France and was killed in action at Dernancourt, France, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1918. His body was never recovered and as such he has no known grave. However, he is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial Villiers-Bretonneux Memorial, France, the Australian War Memorial Honour Wall Canberra and the Darwin Cenotaph (although his name was incorrectly spelt until 2015).

Edmond was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Congratulatory Card British, the British War Medal and British Victory Medal following his death, however, his medals never made it back to Australia. All of his personal effects were lost at sea when the ship transporting them, His Majesties Australian Transport (HMAT) SS. *Barunga* (A42) was sunk by a German torpedo on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1918.

Johnson Park in Darwin is named in his memory and honour.



*Edmond (Ted) Woodward Johnson with the children of Flossie Woodward.  
(Source: Edmond Johnson, Territory Stories, Northern Territory Library)*

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NAA: B2455: Johnson, Edmond: SERN 2189: POB Hobart TAS: POE Darwin NT: NOK (F) Johnson Frederick.  
'Edmond Johnson', Territory Stories, Northern Territory Library. Also see 'Edmond Johnson', NT Pioneer Register 4100, Genealogical Society of the NT.  
*Northern Territory Dictionary of Biology*, p. 306.

## **John West Middleton. Service Number 683.**

John West Middleton, the son of his Mother Salome Middleton of 79 Mayow Road, Sydenham, London, England, was born at Shanghai, China in 1882. He arrived in Sydney, Australia, aboard the SS. *Beltana* on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1913. Prior to moving to Australia, John Middleton had been school boy at the University College School, London, England where school archives records show he was a student from 1910-1912.

John was keen boxer pre-war with one of his bouts, with L. Ferris being recorded in the Darwin newspaper, the Northern Territory Times and Gazette on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1914 (page 7). The

match was scheduled between Middleton and another boxer J. Lavery who failed to appear for the fight. Ferris stepped into the ring in Lavery's place and the fight was on. Although being a 'no-decision' fight, both men put on a good fighting encounter and were heavily applauded at the conclusion of the match.

He left the NT for Sydney on the S.S. *Montoro* on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1914 and was never to return. He enlisted in the AIF at Green Hills, Queensland, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1915, reportedly at age 23, and in his Will, he left all of his possessions to his friend Private Frederick George Woods of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. He had previously served for six months in the Thursday Island Cable Guard before enlisting, at which time he put his age up to do so. He was in fact 18 years of age when he enlisted and embarked for overseas (active) service from Brisbane, Qld, on board HMAS *Aeneas* (A60) on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915. Barely 20 days after enlisting and, one would imagine, with only a modicum of basic training under his belt. He disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt and was transferred to the AIF's Mena Camp, Cairo, within sight of the pyramids.

After arriving in camp, he trained with his Unit, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, at Mena Camp and was later posted to Gallipoli. He served on the peninsula until 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915 when he was shot in the head and died instantly. He is said to have been buried at Chalak Dere Cemetery, Gallipoli, about 1.5 miles north of ANZAC Cove, however, page 22 of his AIF service file records he was buried in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli. In 2019, the author of this article located his grave in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli. One interesting point regarding John West Middleton's grave is that his headstone reads 'Believed to be buried in this cemetery.'

John West Middleton is commemorated on the Darwin Cenotaph.



*Left: John West Middleton's grave in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey. (Source: Author's collection).*

Northern Territory Times and Gazette, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1914, page 7.

'John West Middleton', Territory Stories, NT Library.

NAA: B2455, MIDDLETON, JOHN. SERN 683, POB Shanghai, China, POE Green Hills, QLD, NOK (Mother) MIDDLETON, Salome.



# UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN A SOLDIER

BY Clive Sanders (From Facebook)

Unless you've been a soldier,  
You just won't understand.  
The things that we have seen and done,  
In the service of our land.  
We have trained to live in combat,  
To cope with awful sights,  
That shouldn't be seen by anyone  
And keep you awake at nights.

We don't discuss the wounds we have,  
To the body or the mind.  
We just put our hurts behind us,  
And turn our memories to blind.  
We are proud we served our country,  
And remember those we lost.  
For the freedom that you have today,  
They paid the awful cost.



# Fun Facts About Family Search

Family Search has the largest collection of free genealogy records on the internet thanks to the dedicated work of thousands of volunteers. With the latest large release of 72 million records last week, Family Search has reached a very important milestone. Volunteers have now transcribed over 500 million genealogy records online.

We thought we would celebrate this important milestone by compiling some fun and interesting genealogy statistics about FamilySearch (courtesy of FamilySearch and Alexa the internet traffic people):

## History

- FamilySearch was launched in May 1999.
- There are now a total of over 1 billion names in the database.

## Volunteers

The year 2006 was when the FamilySearch indexing project really took off. That year the volunteer indexing project was migrated to the web (previously, it was a CD-ROM based system).

- Since 2006, a total of 548 million records have been indexed by volunteers via the web interface.
- There are 127,000 active volunteers.
- The average volunteer indexes 2,169 records.
- Each record is double keyed (two people independently enter each record; any discrepancies go to a third person for arbitration).



## New Records

- A total of 186 million new records alone were added in 2010.
- There are currently 100+ different index projects in progress from around the world.
- Records are now indexed in 11 languages (Portuguese and Polish were added in 2010).

## Users

- FamilySearch gets over 50,000 visitors per day.
- The average visitor to FamilySearch looks at about 20 pages.
- Each record on the website has been viewed an average of 5 times.
- A total of 1.2% of all global internet users visit FamilySearch (by comparison Ancestry, the largest genealogy website, is visited by 7.1% of all internet users).
- About 77% of visitors go to the main website and around 16% of visitors go to the pilot website. Just 6% of visitors go to the lab website.
- FamilySearch has over 1 million registered users.

Source: [http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2011/Q1/Fun\\_Facts\\_About\\_FamilySearch.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2011/Q1/Fun_Facts_About_FamilySearch.html)



# The Lost, Macabre Art of Swedish Funeral Confectionery

**These beautiful mementos of mourning have all but disappeared**

*by Sam O'Brien October 29, 2020*



Attendees at the funeral of Adolf Emanuel Kjellen, in the autumn of 1884, received beautiful, solemn keepsakes. Small, sugar—sculpture doves perched amount black lace and fabric flowers, all affixed to pieces of black paper. Inside each elaborate wrapper was a morsel of hard candy. Some mourners even flipped such mementos over and left “wrenching inscriptions. Adolf’s mother, Maria, wrote the following :

*“Our beloved son Adolf Emanuel died on October 28—  
Maria Gustaf Kjellen.”*

Today, Marias somber sweet belongs to Stockholm’s Nordiska Museum, as part of their collection of Swedish funeral confectionery. The candies were part of a larger 19th century trend among the Swedish upper class, in which families distributed ornately decorated candy at important events. In addition to funeral candy, there was intricate wedding, baptism, and anniversary confectionery. For these happier occasions,

the wrappers featured bright colours and images such as babies, crowns, or pink ribbons.



*Adolf Emanuel Kjellén's elaborate funeral confection. ULF  
BERGER/NORDISKA MUSEET*

But funeral confectionery design was often downright . There may have been sweets inside the wrappers, but the candies did little to sugar-coat the sad occasion, with wrappers carrying lithographs of skulls, graves, and skeletons.

*“The thinking was, ‘ We’re dealing with death here and great loss,’ so visually the expressions were gloomy and morbid,”*

says Ulrika Torell, a curator at the Nordiska Museum and the author of *Sugar and Sweet Things: A Cultural Historical Study of Sugar Consumption in Sweden*.

*“You were not making something milder than it really was.”*

Take, for instance, the candy that marked the passing of “Mrs Svedeli” in 1844. Its wrapper depicts a skeletal figure snipping the strings of time with scissors. If the message wasn’t clear enough, it also features a scythe resting beneath an hourglass.



*This candy label does not hold back, with its image of a skull and an hourglass. THOMAS ADOLFSSON/ NORDISKA MUSEET*

Even children's confectionery didn't shy away from the stark finality of death. According to the inscription on a candy wrapper, Ernst Axel Jacob von Post was

*"baptised in distress"*

shortly after he was born on May 3, 1871, and died the next day. Attendees at his memorial received sweets enrobed in white paper—a common colour denoting a child's death—with a glossy black label that bore a tombstone and a skull and crossbones.

*"Think of death, the hour strikes!" reads this piece of candy.*

*KAROLINA KRISTENSSON/ NORDISKA MUSEET*



The symbolism of the beautifully designed confections was far more important than the sweets inside. As sugar was a valuable commodity, the candies were precious objects meant to be treasured, not eaten. Typically, the sweets themselves were a mixture of sugar and tragacanth—the gum like adhesive that bound the sweet together. According to Torell, some confectioners would even use chalk or other cheap materials in the candies to reduce costs, thinking no one would eat it.

*“They were hard like stone. There are stories of children who made a terrible mistake and tried to eat these candies,”*

she says. Not only was eating funeral confectionery ill-advised, it was also often considered disrespectful.



*Some wrappings included wax figurines, such as this hand clutching a fabric flower. ULF BERGER/NORDISKA MUSEET*

By the end of the 19th century, funeral confectionery had spread throughout Sweden, from the bourgeoisie in the cities to the peasants in the countryside. When beet sugar became increasingly available and inexpensive in the late 1800s, the once opulent commodity became more accessible. As business boomed, an entire industry sprouted up around ritual confectionery. Many Swedish confectioners took annual visits to printers in Germany and France to stock up on supplies for their wrappers. Pre-printed images also allowed lower classes to make their own candy and purchase labels from their local confectioner.

These imported labels led to a distinct shift in the candy's imagery. Taking a turn for the rosy and religious, the artwork saw its skulls, coffins, and graves replaced by angels, Jesus Christ, and the Virgin Mary.

*"The images became more anesthetized and standardized expressions for grief,"*

Torell says.

*"You could see the modernization of mourning with these mass produced images."*



*Black tissue paper with fringe and a cross-holding saint at its center. COURTESY UPPLANDS MUSEET*

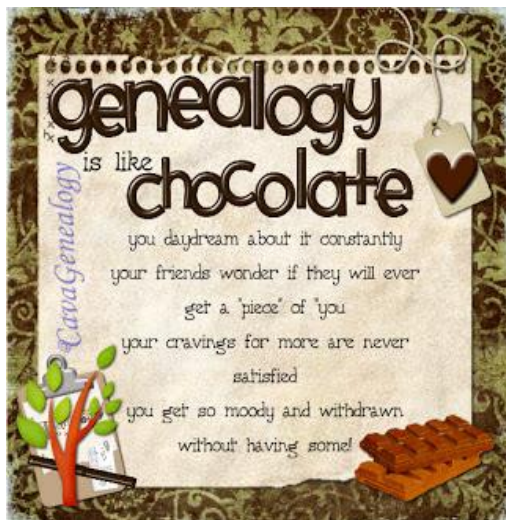
As sugar became commonplace, it lost its ritual significance. You no longer needed to wait for a special occasion to bring out sweets. Swedish funeral confectionery, as a practice, started to fade in the 1920s and 1930s, dying out completely by the 1960s. Today, it has all but disappeared. The only place you're likely to find these confections, with their creased paper and fading skulls, would be inside a museum or in an elderly Swede's attic. But they highlight a unique period in Sweden's history, when sugar held immense symbolic power.

*"They are so full of concern and love,"*

says Torell.

*"It was a time when everything was so expensive. So a little sweet with black paper, shining with a cross and a Madonna, it was really something special."*

Source: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/swedish-funeral-confectionery>



<https://caiteile.com/2014/01/24/friday-funny-grandma-and-the-family-tree/>



# **The tradition of ‘Groaning’ and ‘Death’ Cheeses**

Food has featured widely in superstitions relating to life and death across the UK and Europe. In Denmark for example, it was customary for a mother to place a selection of amulets over the door of the baby’s room. These would include a cutting instrument made from steel (that’ll end well), salt, bread and garlic. Such a combination was believed to protect the child from evil spirits.

In Scotland, the treatment of food immediately after a death in the house was paramount. Aside from opening windows to allow the soul to escape, all foodstuffs had to be covered, filled or placed beside iron; this included drinks, especially whisky. According to the work of Cailleach’s Herbarium, this was enforced, ‘least death infect them and remove the “toradh” (fortune) from them. Iron is the same protective measure used to prevent the sidhe (good folk).’

However, of all foodstuffs, cheese is a reoccurring theme. In J Brand’s snappily-titled ‘Observations on the Popular Antiquities of Great Britain: Chiefly Illustrating the Origin of Our Vulgar and Provincial Customs, Ceremonies, and Superstitions’, he introduces the concept of a ‘Groaning Cheese’.

‘Against the time of the good wife’s delivery, it has been everywhere the custom for the husband to provide a large Cheese and a Cake.’

In a rather cruel reference to the mother’s pains in childbirth, ‘Groaning Cheese’ gained its name through the ‘mother’s complaints at her delivery.’

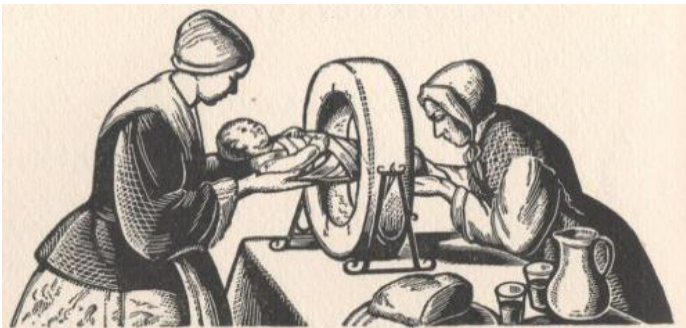
However, such provisions were not for the mother, and certainly



not to be eaten by any of the family. The cheese, being a large wheel, was brought into the household following a birth and stored safely, until the child's christening.

While the name of the cheese originated in the north of England, its usage spread countrywide. As recorded in Oxfordshire,

*'It is customary to cut the Cheese in the middle when the child is born, and so by degrees form it into a large kind of ring, through which the child must be passed on the day of the christening.'*



#### GROANING CHEESE

This was a large cheese, so called from its being in old days supplied by the husband against the time of his wife's delivery. At the birth of the child it was cut in the centre in such a way that by degrees a ring was formed, through which the child was ceremonially passed on the day of his Christening. The custom is described by John Brand in his *Observations on Popular Antiquities*, Vol. II, edited by Sir H. Ellis, 1841.

Source: <https://www.thecourtyarddairy.co.uk/blog/cheese-musings-and-tips/andy-kathy-recreate-age-old-passing-baby-cheese-tradition/>

Hence, the need for a rather large wheel of cheese. Pushing a child's head through a Babybel is rather less dramatic and might not have the same desired effect.



*Owners of The Courtyard Dairy, Andy and Kathy Swinscoe re-enacting the tradition.*

Source: <https://www.thecourtyarddairy.co.uk/blog/cheese-musings-and-tips/andy-kathy-recreate-age-old-passing-baby-cheese-tradition/>

In other parts of England, the first cut of this cheese following the birth is chopped up into little bits and ‘tossed in the midwife’s smock’ in order to make young women dream of their lovers.

Another alternative from the north of England was to take the cheese from the first cut and place it under the pillows of young people; once again, to cause them to dream of their lovers.

Cheese, however, was not just linked to birth. In Welsh funerals of the 18th century, before taking the body to the church, it was customary to give a poor person of the parish some money, bread, drink and a cheese with a coin stuck in it.

In the Encyclopaedia of Superstitions, Folklore and Occult Sciences, a Scottish superstition is recorded that covers both ends of life. When a child was born, a cheese was made which remained untouched for the duration of their life and is first cut at the individual’s funeral. To accompany this, a local wealthy man will bring large amounts of wine, a glass of which is placed on the coffin. The wine within this is then referred to as ‘dead wine’, whereby, ‘the mourners approach, take the goblet in their hands, touch the coffin with it, and drink the contents to a future meeting with the departed.’

In Macedonia, another folk belief was recorded whereby

mourners at a funeral would eat pastry, bread and cheese, in order to dream of the deceased.

While the practise of keeping a cheese for your funeral has long passed, some rare examples of the practise still remain.



In the home of Jean-Jacques Zufferey in Grimentz, Switzerland, his basement is filled with racks of centuries-old cheese, withered and brittle from years of moisture loss.

Gastro Obscura visited Grimentz and interviewed the custodian of the village's cheeses, whereby

he spoke of his local traditions; traditions that sound not dissimilar to those of the UK.

'In a historically poor area, "leaving enough" required advance planning. "There was the 'cheese of the dead,'" explains Zufferey. "Everyone had a wheel of cheese so that they had something to serve at their funeral." When the inevitable time came, the chiseled cheese was washed down with vin des glaciers, the local wine.'

Amazingly, the tradition of the cheeses was all but forgotten about by the community and by Zuffrey's family. That was until his grandmother died in 1944 and his father found two old wheels of cheese in her basement. Thankfully, they were preserved and over time, the family added more wheels, building a large collection and preserving a long-dead tradition.

As sure as night follows day and death follows birth, cheese will be there. Watching. Waiting. Maturing.

Source: <https://burialsandbeyond.com/2020/03/24/death-cheese-a-short-history/>  
<https://burialsandbeyond.com/2020/03/24/death-cheese-a-short-history/>

# THE “CORNISH-BORN SOUTH AUSTRALIANS” PROJECT



Over 10% of people living in South Australia today have an ancestor who migrated from Cornwall in the United Kingdom, more than twice the percentage that settled in any other Australian State or Territory. Many of these came in a response to vigorous recruitment campaigns in London and Cornwall, seeking a wide variety of skilled tradespeople and labourers in the State's early days. This was especially true of miners after rich deposits of copper and other ores that were found as early as 1841.

The recruiting campaigns were very successful, as evidenced by the large numbers of Cornish people who arrived on South Australia's shores within the colony's first 50 years, and contributed significantly both to agricultural expansion and the colony's growing wealth.

Over the past several years, [GenealogySA](#) has assembled very comprehensive databases of both the early German and early Irish settlers, each with well over 20,000 entries. Now, with the Cornish-born South Australians (CBSA) Project, the aim is construct an equally large and comprehensive database of people who were born in Cornwall (before 1900) and emigrated from their birth country to South Australia, along with their spouses and families and the first-generation of their children. This data will be of invaluable use to family historians in South

Genealogy SA have provided forms for compiling this information along with “How to” examples and guides which can be found on their website.

- Overview of the Cornish-born South Australians Project
- Guide to completing the form

If you have further inquiries regarding the Project, please feel free to contact the Society.

Sue Lear, President, Genealogy SA

Jan Lokan, Project Leader CBSA

ph: (08) 8272 4222

email: [saghs.cornishlead@saghs.org.au](mailto:saghs.cornishlead@saghs.org.au)

<https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2020/11/the-cornish-born-south-australians-project/>



# NEW FREE EMAGAZINE – IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

Posted by [Alona Tester](#) | Aug 17, 2012

I know this won't be news to some readers, but please bear with me, as I'm writing this for the benefit who have missed the news. June 2012 saw the release of a brand new magazine "Irish Lives Remembered".



Issued monthly, this is not only an awesome new mag that is dedicated to Irish genealogy and history, but in this day and age of 'thinking green' this magazine is environmentally friendly too as it is an eMagazine, meaning that it is available to read online on your computer, mobile device or tablet, and best of all, it is **FREE**.

To check it out, you can go to ...

<https://irishlivesremembered.ie/>

If you'd like to make sure you're up to date with the latest news in the world of Irish genealogy, have a look at the Irish Lives Remembered eMagazine.

Happy Researching.



Source: <https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2012/08/new-free-emagazine-irish-lives-remembered/>



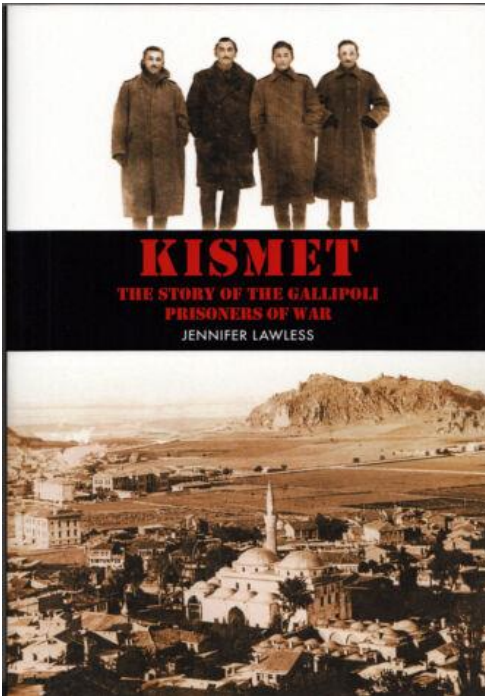
# BOOK REVIEW

*I first met Jenny Lawless at the Australian Government's Summer School for Teachers of Australian History held in Canberra in January 2008, when we discovered that we had a mutual interest in Gallipoli prisoners of war. She was researching the experiences of the Gallipoli prisoners after capture and I was researching John Irving Beattie who had sailed from Darwin early in 1915 to enlist.*

Judy Boland  
March 2016

## ***Kismet: the story of the Gallipoli prisoners of war***

**by Jennifer Lawless**



*Kismet* is an account of the experiences of 67 Australian soldiers captured by the Ottoman forces at Anzac during the Gallipoli campaign. Doctor Jennifer Lawless has leveraged a wide range of sources to collate a comprehensive account. She researched deeply in the Turkish archives and visited many former prison camp sites.

Most of the prisoners of war (POWs) were paid to work on the railways in Turkey, building a line from Berlin to Bagdad. Contrary to popular belief, they were not poorly treated. While Lawless found

some embellished their writings as they wanted “revenge on the people who had held them captive”, there were many examples of kindness, and for POW officers the biggest problem was boredom.

Over the years of research, Lawless came to know the

personalities well and developed a few favourites. One of those was Lieutenant Leslie Luscombe who would send money anonymously to the men to buy food. He wrote a book about his experiences, entitled *The Story of Harold Earl, Australian*.

The lower ranks lived in camps with communal eating arrangements, and although they were required to work, they also had access to alcohol and brothels. Cultural misunderstandings were frequent. The Australians were expecting the Turks to be “little squat, dark men with moustaches”, mistaking the “European-looking” soldiers for Germans.

Used to a diet rich in meat, the Australians were unimpressed by the Turkish menu of vegetables and legumes they considered “food you would feed the chickens on”. “They were not starving and they were not beaten to death”, Lawless writes, but of the 67 POWs, 24 (36 per cent) died, half in Turkish field hospitals from their wounds and the remainder from the epidemics raging through the country at the time.

Lawless is the History Inspector for the New South Wales Board of Studies and is responsible for the development of history syllabi in New South Wales. Lawless has written over a dozen history text books used in Australian schools and *Kismet* was originally her doctoral thesis – hence the academic flavour.

*Kismet* includes a few black-and-white tables and maps in the text as well as 12 pages of black-and-white images. There are extensive notes on sources and a bibliography, as well as a comprehensive index. Six appendices cover a literature review on Australian World War I POW books and articles; a profile of the 67 soldiers; the Hague Convention of 1907; the Turkish manual concerning the handling of POWs; resident patterns for individual camps; and a summary of the health of the 43 POWs who survived.

*Kismet* does not include the experiences of the 32 crew members of HMAS AE2 who were captured on 30 April 1915, or the Australians that were captured by the Ottomans during the Mesopotamian campaign. The account would have been more complete if it had additionally included the other Australians who



were POWs to the Ottomans.

**For those with an interest in the POW experience, *Kismet* is highly recommended.**

Australian Scholarly Publishing: North Melbourne; 2015; 270 pp.; ISBN 9781925003611 (paperback); RRP \$39.95

## Golden Rules of Genealogy



1. **There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.
2. **Research from a Place of "I Don't Know."** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.

3. **Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I'll admit I was a name collector and would "dump" almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been "grafted" on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online family tree program.
4. **Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on Facebook or ask a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.
5. **You Can't Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won't complete itself. Commit yourself to move from "obsession" to "reality." Remember: A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.
6. **Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I'm not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not "educated" per se, but they had "street smarts" and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn't just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.

7. **You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become “possessive” of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd great-grandparent is likely the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can’t take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.
8. **Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online in a Facebook group or in-person at genealogy conference, it is likely you’ll already know someone. Being “genealogy nice” is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are inter-locked and a genealogist can’t always go it alone.
9. **Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don’t hold data “close” to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance: Don’t let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.

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