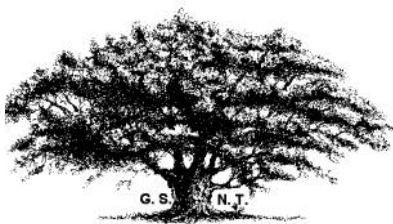
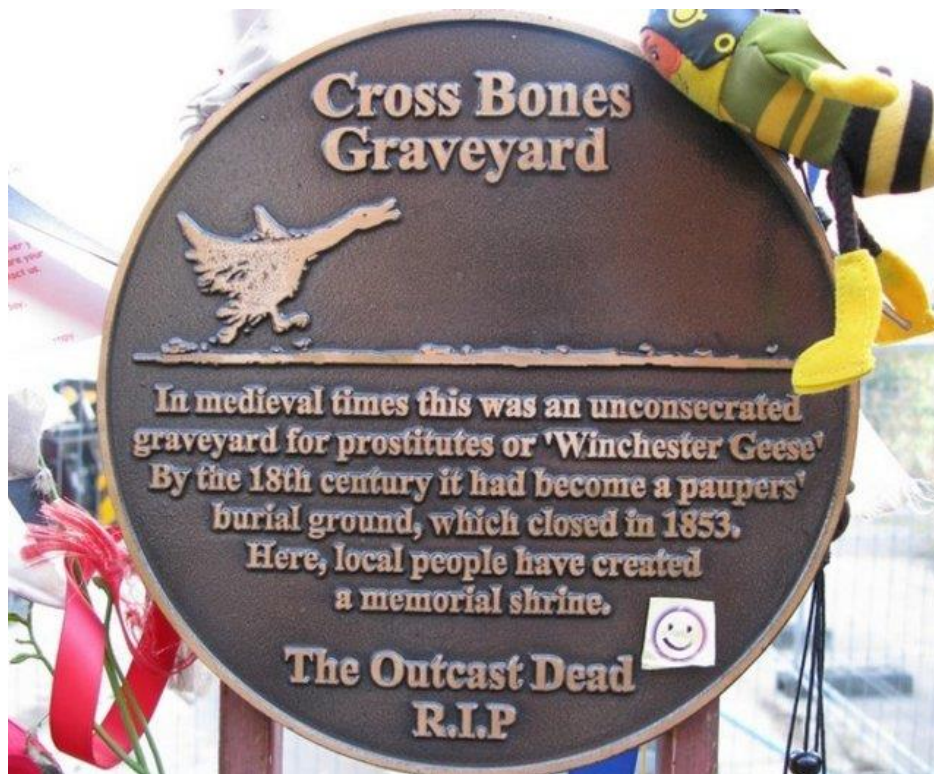


# progenitor



**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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<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
Cross Bones Burial Ground—London	1
Book Review	7
A Mystery Solved – Don't always believe your ancestors	9
Trivia Time!	12
Black Death in Queensland	13
Brisbanes Lost Plaque Cemetery	16
Surviving Epidemics	27
British Southern Whale Fishery—Crew Lists	28
Colonial Frontier Massacres in Australia Project	29

**FRONT COVER:** Plaque on the gates of the Cross Bones Burial Ground

### **Cross Bones Burial Ground – London Burial ground of the ‘Winchester Geese’**

#### ***History***

Cross Bones is a disused post-medieval burial ground on Redcross Way in Southwark, South London. Up to 15,000 people are believed to have been buried there. It was closed in 1853.

Cross Bones is thought to have been established originally as an unconsecrated graveyard for prostitutes, or “single women”,

who were known locally as “Winchester Geese” because they were licensed by the Bishop of Winchester Henry of Blois to work within the Liberty of the Clink. The area lay outside the jurisdiction of the City of London and as a consequence became known for its brothels and theatres, as well as bull and bear baiting, activities not permitted within the City itself. By 1769 it had become a pauper’s cemetery servicing St. Saviour’s parish.

An archaeological dig by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in 1992 uncovered 148 graves in Cross Bones, dating from between 1800 and 1853. Over one third of the bodies were perinatal (between 22 weeks gestation and seven days after birth). A further 11 percent were under one year old. The adults were mostly women aged 36 years and older.



Cross Bones Gate, September 2014

## ***Origins***

John Stow, in his *A Survey of London* (1598), made mention of a “Single Woman’s Churchyard” in Southwark, near the Clink:

*Next on this (west bank of the Thames) was  
sometimes the Bordello, or Stewes, a place so*

*called of certain stew-houses privileged there, for the repair of incontinent men to the like women ... I have heard of ancient men of good credit, report, that these single women were forbidden the rites of the church, so long as they continued that sinful life, and were excluded from Christian burial, if they were not reconciled before their death. And therefore, there was a plot of ground called the Single Women's Churchyard, appointed for them far from the parish church.*

It was mentioned again in 1795 in a history of St. Saviour's, Southwark:

*Our readers will remember that, in the account we have given of the Stews on Bankside, mention is made of a piece of ground, called the Single Woman's Burying Ground, set apart as the burial place of those unfortunate females; we are very much inclined to believe this was the spot, for in early times the ceremony of consecration would certainly not have been omitted; and if it had been performed, it would doubtless have appeared by some register, either in the possession of the Bishop of Winchester, or in the proper ecclesiastical court. We find no other place answering the description given of a ground appropriated as a burial place for these women, circumstances, therefore, justify the supposition of this being the place; for it was said, the ground was not consecrated; and the ordination was that they should not be buried in any spot so sanctified.*



*The disused burial ground is on the left*

The antiquarian William Taylor wrote in 1833: “There is an unconsecrated burial ground known as the Cross Bones at the corner of Redcross Street, formerly called the Single Woman’s burial ground, which is said to have been used for this purpose.” By 1769 it was being used as a cemetery for the poor of St. Saviour’s parish. Up to 15,000 people are believed to have been buried there.

### ***Closure and sale***

The graveyard was closed in 1853 because it was “completely overcharged with dead”, and further burials were deemed “inconsistent with a due regard for the public health and public decency”. According to Southwark writer John Constable, the land was sold as a building site in 1883, prompting an objection from Lord Brabazon in November that year in a letter to The Times, asking that it be saved from “such desecration”.

Constable writes that the sale was declared null and void the following year under the Disused Burial Grounds Act

1884, and that subsequent attempts to develop the site were opposed by local people, as was its brief use as a fairground. After removal of remains to the parish facilities in Brookwood, Surrey, the site was covered in warehousing and other commercial buildings.

### ***Excavation***

Excavations were conducted on the land by the Museum of London Archaeology Service between 1991 and 1998 in connection with the construction of London Underground's Jubilee Line. Southwark Council reports that the archaeologists found a highly overcrowded graveyard with bodies piled on top of one another. Tests showed those buried had suffered from smallpox, tuberculosis, Paget's disease, osteoarthritis, and vitamin D deficiency.

A dig in 1992 uncovered 148 graves, dating from between 1800 and 1853. Over one third of the bodies were perinatal (between 22 weeks gestation and seven days after birth), and a further 11 percent were under one year old. The adults were mostly women aged 36 and older.

### ***Depictions in media***

Beginning in 1996, Constable began to publish *The Southwark Mysteries*, a series of poems and mystery plays. The work has been performed in Shakespeare's Globe and in Southwark Cathedral. Interest generated by *The Southwark Mysteries* inspired the Cross Bones Halloween festival, celebrated every year since 1998 with a procession, candles and songs.

In August 2019, English singer-songwriter Frank Turner included a song about Cross Bones, call "The Graveyard of the Outcast Dead", on his album *No Man's Land*.

An informal local group, Friends of Cross Bones, has

campaigned for a permanent memorial garden. The network liaised with Bankside Open Spaces Trust during 2013-18 to create and maintain a community garden of remembrance dedicated to the 'outcast dead'. The current garden is a result of hard work of the Friends of Cross Bones for 20 long years. The graveyard gates are permanently decorated by a changing array of messages, ribbons, flowers and other tokens; a short memorial ceremony is held at the gates on the 23rd of each month in the early morning.

Source: Cross Bones

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross\\_Bones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_Bones)





# BOOK REVIEW

FAMILY HISTORY For Beginners and Beyond  
16th Edition The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra  
Inc.

Published 2020 Edited by Danny O Neild

1SSN 1329-9999

Printed in Australia by the National University Printing Services  
Action, ACT 2601



"Where has this book been all my life? It is amazing, obviously perfected over the years, being the 16th edition! It contains all you need to know in one book, almost like a kitchen whiz.....no need for all those other books. Its content is exceptional but the sheer, physical presentation of this book is inspired. Whoever thought this up is to be congratulated.

On first appearance it seems to be one of those hard copy books that will lose pages the more it is used but NO! The spiral pages make this such a workable reference book. It can be opened right up safely and firm enough to be propped up near your computer. The whole of the page can be seen without causing any damage to the integrity of the book itself.

The glossy pages, illustrations, highlighted tips, clear headlines, font, tables, and clear numeration of the pages all make this a very accessible book. Already I have spread the word and my friend in SA has ordered a copy.

Now the content of this book will blow your mind. It is clearly set out and vast, covering so many areas of research. Amazingly it makes that daunting area of DNA clear and even makes FamilySearch seem usable. It explains different resources in each state and Territories and expands what is available overseas. Yes, even the dodgy area of Irish resources. It is great to see European countries included but a joy to see a chapter on Indigenous Family History Research. Well done.

All this and more in one book. I have just lugged all my reference books from Darwin to Perth when really I only needed this book, It is a gem. I find it breathtaking that this outstanding book has been produced, published and released into the world without more fanfare.

by Mim Regan

# A Mystery Solved – Don't always believe your ancestors

By Ruth Sheridan

She always claimed she was born in Inverness and with a surname like Gordon, who was to question that. A descendant, spent years searching for her in Scotland to no avail. I, another descendant, searching in Trove found clues to a different origin.

Mrs William Deacon (nee Gordon) was mentioned in her brother's death notice in Launceston's Daily Telegraph on 4 May 1888:

GORDON – On the 24th of April, at the Launceston General Hospital, of typhoid fever, Richard Gordon, only son of Richard Gordon, formerly of New Town and brother of Mrs

NAME,	<i>Gordon Richard</i>	No. 1039.
Trade	<i>Plumber</i>	<i>Deacon</i>
Height	<i>5 ft 4 in</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age	<i>31 yrs</i>	
Complexion	<i>Fair</i>	
Head	<i>Round</i>	
Hair	<i>Brown</i>	
Whiskers	<i>none</i>	
Visage	<i>Oval</i>	
Forehead	<i>Narrow, high</i>	
Eyebrows	<i>Brown</i>	
Eyes	<i>Grey</i>	
Nose	<i>Straight</i>	
Mouth	<i>M. W. habitually open</i>	
Chin	<i>Long</i>	
Remarks	<i>Small scars on rt. elbow - small bro mole on rt. cheek. hair mole on chin.</i>	

Number	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
399 3338	28 April 1856 St George	Richard Gordon Mary Walker	37 25	Frederick C. Gordon Minister	<i>Frederick C. Gordon</i> <i>Mary Walker</i>	<i>Frederick C. Gordon</i> <i>Mary Walker</i>	28 April 1856	<i>Frederick C. Gordon</i> Minister

Married in the Church of St George according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Banns by  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us *Richard C. Gordon* { In the Presence of } *John Caplan*  
*Mary Walker* { of us } *Hannah C. Gordon*  
*Minister*

William Deacon, Scottsdale, aged 29.

So, Ellen's father was Richard Gordon. Searches in Trove for him revealed many articles. He was mentioned as a convict arriving on the Augusta Jessie in 1835.

My search then moved to Linc Tasmania (libraries.tas.gov.au) which proved invaluable in showing Gordon's convict indent, his marriage certificate, record of conduct and information about his children. He had been convicted at Cambridge Assizes for horse stealing and it not being his first offence, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

There was also information about Ellen's mother, Mary Walker and her arrival on the Duchess of Northumberland on 21 April 1853 on a charge of stealing clothes. Her sentence was 7 years.

Another record in the Tasmanian Pioneer Names Index caught my eye. It was the application

CONVICT DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM.

The Governor approves of the Child named in the Margin being admitted into the Queen's Asylum, at the expense of the Imperial Government.

Name *Ellen Gordon*  
 Age *7* years *7* months *7* days  
 Religion *Church of England*

*Approved*  
 Controller-General.  
 Controller-General's Office,  
*6 July* 1856

The Superintendent  
Queen's Asylum.

by Richard Gordon and Ellen (Mary) Walker for admission of their three children Ellen (7), Richard (5) and Mary Ann (2) to the Queen's Asylum Orphanage in 1865. Further documentation shows that the children had shortly afterwards been delivered to the orphanage by a neighbour, Smith, utterly destitute as their mother had died and their father was incarcerated.

Back to Trove for all those articles mentioning Richard Gordon.

I matched many of these with his conduct record, discovering that he re-offended many times variously being charged and/ or convicted of abuse towards his overseer, disobedience, pilfering, absconding, insubordination, housebreaking and finally assault and theft whilst armed. The punishments inflicted by authorities (hard labour, solitary, chain gang and lashes) did not appear to have any effect.

Mary, too, was in strife. She was punished for being drunk, absconding, refusing to work and using indecent language.

With this background it is no wonder that my 2x great grandmother did not want to remember or share her origins!

*Sources:*

<i>Trove</i>	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/</a>
<i>Linc Tasmania</i>	<a href="https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx">https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx</a>
<i>Convict Records</i>	<a href="https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/duchess-of-northumberland">https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/duchess-of-northumberland</a>

*Founders and Survivors Storylines Mugsheets*

[http://www.founders-storylines.com/mugsheets/convicts/profile/ai27226/richard gordon](http://www.founders-storylines.com/mugsheets/convicts/profile/ai27226/richard%20gordon)



## Trivia Time!

Do you know what these are?



Do you know what the following words mean?

**Taphophilia**

**Genesomnia**

**Coimetromania**

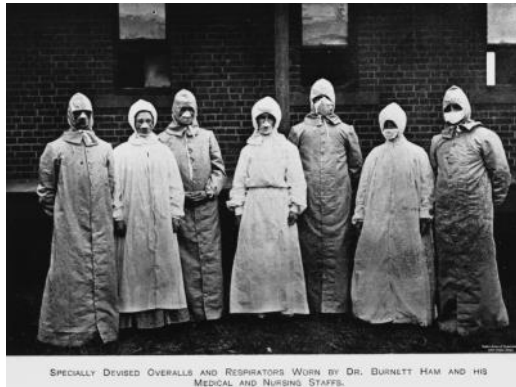
No.....Answers on page 31 and 32

# Black Death in Queensland

By JOL Admin | 12 September 2008

Did you know?

Outbreaks of bubonic plague, spread by rats and introduced by ships from overseas, were common in Queensland at the turn of the century.



*Maryborough Outbreak (Primary Pneumonic Plague), May/June 1905. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 53460*

The first known case of plague in Australia was reported in Sydney in January 1900. The first case in Queensland occurred in Rockhampton in April 1900 and not long after cases arose in Townsville and Brisbane.

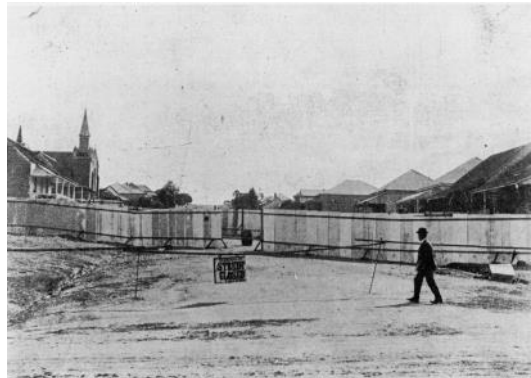
The first victim in Brisbane was a carter named James Drevesen, who worked at the wharves and lived in Woolloongabba. He was admitted to the hastily built Colmslie Plague Hospital. The Drevesen's house (pictured) was cleansed and fumigated, bed linen and curtains burned, and an iron stockade was erected around the property and two neighbouring houses.



*Timber residences in Hawthorne Street, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland, where the first case of Bubonic Plague occurred in Brisbane.*

*The house on the left of the photograph was occupied by James Drevesen, the first patient. Drevesen was a van driver employed to remove goods from the wharves where dead and plague-infected rats were found. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 47425*

*Quarantine barricade around houses in Hawthorne Street, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland, 1900. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 47426*



During the 1900 epidemic there were 136 identified cases of plague infection in Queensland. Fifty-seven of these cases perished. The majority of the 136 cases were male, with 114 males compared to 22 females. Brisbane registered the most cases with 56 infections and 25 deaths, followed by Townsville with 37 cases and 9 deaths, Rockhampton with 36 cases and 21 deaths, Cairns with 5 cases and 2 deaths, and Charters Towers and Ipswich both with 1 case but no fatalities.

For the next nine years epidemics occurred each year and were confined to ports. The only inland centre which had the plague was Ipswich. Measures taken to combat the disease included



the surveillance of vessels arriving in the state, the destruction of rats, the establishment of isolation hospitals and special provisions for the disposal of the dead. Plague victims who succumbed to the disease were wrapped in sheets soaked in carbolic acid and their coffins were slaked with lime.



*Destroyed rats during the bubonic plague in Brisbane, Queensland, 1900-1902. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 108588*

After 1909 there were twelve plague-free years. This led to a slackening in the regulations and a man died of plague suddenly in Brisbane in 1921. This outbreak caused sixty-three deaths. The last case of plague was reported in Queensland in 1922.



*Nurses tending to isolated plague cases, Maryborough, 1905. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 168821*

Source: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/black-death-queensland>

# Brisbane's lost plague cemetery: Who is buried on Gibson Island?

**Stories of the Brisbane men, women, and children who were struck down with the plague in 1900 and buried on Gibson Island. Photo essay by Tammy Law.**

By Danielle Cronin  
MAY 23, 2019



*Almost 60 people died in the 1900 plague outbreak in Brisbane. Some were buried on Gibson Island before the "inhumane" practice was abandoned. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

A grief-stricken sister had a simple plea. She petitioned officials to allow her to travel to Gibson Island and place a wreath on her brother's grave after he suddenly fell ill and died. Officials rejected her request.

It was one of the 57 plague deaths recorded in Brisbane during the 1900 outbreak. In that year, at least 16 plague victims were interred on the low-lying island before the practice was abandoned partly because it was deemed inhumane.

The precise location of the graveyard and how many victims

were buried there is unclear but these men, women and children are among the number based on reports at the time.

### **Body taken on plague boat for burial**

Wrapped in a sheet covered with “corrosive sublimate and placed in a coffin filled with quicklime”, Richard John Joseph Shanahan’s body was transported on the plague boat for burial on Gibson Island.

There was “some delay” in identifying the case because the 18-year-old was suffering from a strain caused by using dumbbells when he went home sick from work at the rear of Quinlan, Gray and Co's premises at Petrie Bight.

The teenager lived in Gibbons Street, Woolloongabba - close to James Drevesen, the first person reported to be infected with the plague in Brisbane in the 1900 outbreak.

### **Umbrella mender succumbs to black death**

Plague victim Hugh McTafferty lived in a “squalid-looking” home - which was “poorly furnished and undoubtedly dirty” - in Spring Hill.

The umbrella mender shared a weatherboard tenement, on the corner of Boundary and Bradley streets, with his wife when he fell ill and was taken to the Colmslie Plague Hospital. He never recovered, with his body interred on Gibson Island with other plague victims.

*Sources: The Week May 25, 1900, The Queenslander June 2, 1900, Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser May 22, 1900, and Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs General Advertiser May 22, 1900.*



*High fences restrict public access to the highest point of Gibson Island where the plague victims were buried, according to records. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

## **Cancer sufferer struck down**

W.E. Walker's health had been failing for years, forcing him to quit his long-held position as a state school teacher then his role with the Department of Public Instruction.

The unfortunate man, who lived in Robert Street, Kangaroo Point, and was aged in his 60s, was suffering from tongue cancer when he was struck down with the plague and died.

He was buried at Gibson Island, leaving behind a widow and grown-up children.

*Sources: The North Queensland Register May 28, 1900, The Brisbane Courier May 22, 1900, Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser May 22, 1900, Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs General Advertiser May 22, 1900, and The Telegraph May 21, 1900.*

## Dead at the hospital gate

It was feared Thos Moroney could choke because his throat was so swollen.

The unemployed blacksmith, who lived in Rode Road, Heidelberg Estate at Nundah, had travelled in the “railway van” to Brunswick Street about 7pm before concerned friends bundled him into a cab bound for Brisbane General Hospital, believing it would make him more comfortable.

As the vehicle arrived at the hospital gate, the plague victim died and his body was taken to Gibson Island for burial.

*Source: The North Queensland Register May 28, 1900, The Telegraph May 22, 1900, Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser May 22, 1900, Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs General Advertiser May 22, 1900, and The Week May 25, 1900.*



*While Gibson Island is an industrial hub today, there are reminders that it was once thickly covered by vegetation. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

## **‘Lunatic’ dies of plague**

“lunatic” William Lee from the Townsville-Chartiers Towers area was buried on Gibson Island after he was struck down with the plague.

William Lee arrived in Brisbane on the A.U.S.N. Company's steamer Arawatta and was placed in quarantine, where he died.

The vessel was “thoroughly fumigated”.

*Sources: Western Star and Roma Advertiser May 23, 1900 and The Queenslander June 2, 1900.*

## **Insurance inspector leaves behind a wife and child**

Before Edward Henry McGregor could be moved to hospital, the insurance inspector died from the plague.

He left behind a widow and one child who were quarantined in their home off Main Street, Kangaroo Point, because the residence was deemed “remarkably clean” and suitable for “proper isolation”.

His body was taken on a special plague boat to Gibson Island, where he was buried.

*Sources: The Telegraph June 12, 1900, The Telegraph June 13, 1900, Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette June 14, 1900, and Evening News June 13, 1900.*

## **‘Young man Jones’ dies**

Jones, a single man aged between 18 and 20 years old, worked at a factory on the city wharf and lived with his parents in Cordelia Street, South Brisbane, when he was struck down with the plague.

He was taken to the Colmslie Plague Hospital where his 11 contacts - his mother, father, sisters and brothers - were also placed under quarantine.

The young man was buried on Gibson Island, which already contained several graves.

*Sources: The Telegraph June 13, 1900 and The Brisbane Courier June 12, 1900.*

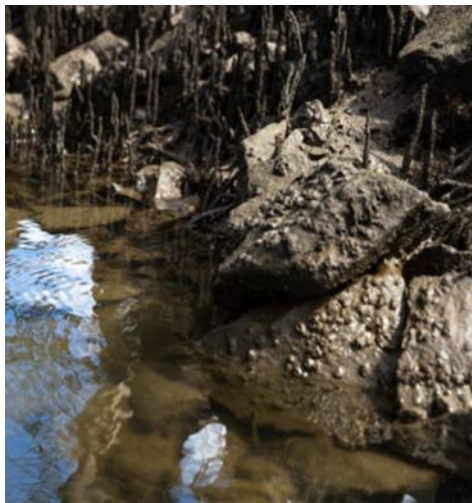
## **Grocer suffers sudden attack**

James Lawrence Tranberg was “attacked suddenly” by the plague and died in hospital, leaving behind a wife and a child aged one year and seven months.

The 28-year-old ran a grocer and produce dealer business from one floor of his family home on Brunswick Street, midway between Brunswick Street Railway Station and Leichhardt Street.

As his wife and child were under quarantine, arrangements were made to bury their loved one on Gibson Island.

*Sources: The Telegraph July 3, 1900, The Telegraph July 4, 1900, and The Queenslander July 7, 1900.*



*Axe work and fire were used to clear a section of Gibson Island so plague victims could be buried in 1900. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

## **Lizzie dies in the ambulance**

After suffering a seizure, Lizzie McLean was placed in a “special ambulance litter” to convey the gravely ill woman from her home in Logan Road, near Stones Corner, to the Colmslie Plague Hospital.

The ambulance was close to Woolloongabba when the young woman died and her remains were taken to the North Quay Wharf, where she was placed on the “plague boat”.

Miss McLean, who worked at Huet's bag and bale store in Roma Street, was buried at Gibson Island.

*Source: The Brisbane Courier July 5, 1900.*

## **The neighbours**

After his neighbour Mrs Roche died from the plague and was buried on Gibson Island, 12-year-old Oliver Goldsmith Lonergan suffered the same fate.

The boy had been unwell for more than a week with a sore throat but was seemingly on the mend before his condition took a turn for the worse and he died.

He lived in Bowen Street, Spring Hill, with his father, mother and sister, as well as two boarders who were all placed in quarantine.

*Sources: The Brisbane Courier July 17, 1900, The Telegraph July 16, 1900, and The Queenslanders July 14, 1900.*



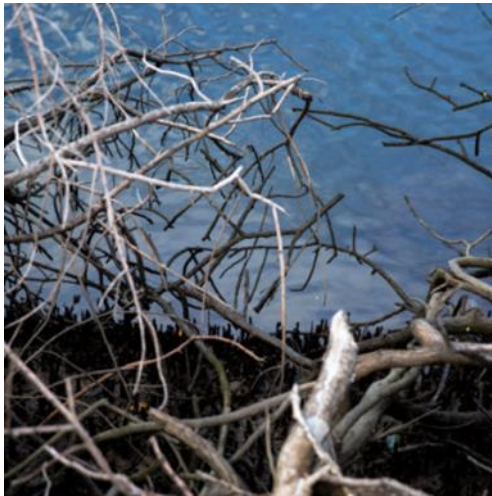
## Grief-stricken sister denied access to grave

A grieving sister's request to visit Gibson Island and place a wreath on her brother's grave was rejected because port office officials could not provide a launch.

John Mannion, 26, lived in St James Street, off Mountjoy Street, Petrie Terrace, and worked as a bag and bail merchant in the city.

One day after work, he was unwell but "no one apprehended the true nature of his ailment", which turned out to be the plague.

*Sources: The Telegraph July 7, 1900, The Queenslander July 14, 1900, and The Telegraph August 16, 1900.*



*In 1900, the burial party could face treacherous conditions when they tried to reach Gibson Island near the mouth of the Brisbane River. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

## **‘Character of the district’ buried on Gibson Island**

Plague victim Jemima Warnock was described as a mendicant who professed extreme poverty but owned a parcel of land next to the “filthy hovel” where she lived.

“She was the character of the district, roaming about, always accompanied by a host of nondescript dogs, the butt of the children, and the remark of all.”

Ms Warnock, whose “wandering, exposed, comfortless sort of life” had potentially weakened her constitution, died at the General Hospital and was buried at Gibson Island.

*Source: The Telegraph August 22, 1900 and The Brisbane Courier August 23 1900.*

## **Toddler falls victim to bubonic plague**

Another little victim of the bubonic plague was buried on Gibson Island on September 13, 1900.

Gladys Ballard, 3½ years old, was taken to the Sick Children’s Hospital while suffering from the illness and died about midnight on September 12.

She had lived in Baroona Road, Rosalie, with her parents and four siblings.

## **Father of two dies at hospital**

John Daniels, 65, was the second reported plague case in Brisbane.

Described as a commission agent who lived in a skillion room at a house in Arthur Street, New Farm, Mr Daniels had been admitted to hospital and was receiving treatment when he died.

The 65-year-old, who lived with his wife and two children, was buried at Gibson Island.

*Sources: The Telegraph October 9, 1900 and Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser October 11, 1900.*

## **Weeks after drawing her first breath, she drew her last**

Twenty-four days after the most recent Brisbane resident was struck down with the plague, seven-week-old Lucy Stone became ill, was taken to the General Hospital and died from the disease.

Six people had contact with the infant, who had been boarded out with a family living in Clarence Street, South Brisbane.

Little Lucy was buried at Gibson Island.

*Sources: Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser October 11, 1900 and The Sydney Morning Herald October 9, 1900.*



*Three men lived on this “ghastly spot in the thick of the mangrove scrub” and their sole task was to bury plague victims in 1900. CREDIT: TAMMY LAW*

David Fihelly was set to join their number. The plague boat was readied to ferry the teenager's body from North Quay Wharf to the island near the mouth of the Brisbane River.

But authorities had an 11th-hour change of heart, placing David's body in a coffin at the wharf and transporting him to Toowong Cemetery, where he was buried alongside his late father, Cornelius. Teenager David Fihelly's final resting place at Toowong



*Teenager David Fihelly's final resting place at Toowong tery. Credit: Tammy Law*

The family home in Wedd Street, Spring Hill, was fumigated. David's mother and six siblings Catherine, Michael, Margaret, Cornelius, Annie and John Arthur - a founder of the rugby league code in Queensland who represented the state and the country before he served as the member for Paddington in Queensland Parliament - were dispatched to the Colmslie Plague Hospital and placed under quarantine.

It is unclear why authorities ignored the policy for dealing with plague victims in David's case but the Fihelly family's political clout is referenced in reports from the period.

Source: <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/black-death-in-brisbane-the-lost-plague-cemetery-20190515-p51nr3.html>

# SURVIVING EPIDEMICS

By Ruth Sheridan

Your ancestors were skilled at surviving epidemics

On her way home to Tassie  
Alma Bird was quarantined  
Seven days on the *Wainui*  
Back then in nineteen-nineteen  
The ship, a first-class hotel  
She said, best holiday yet.

When the influenza struck  
Meth went to his grandmother  
At Breaksea Island lighthouse  
Isolated from the shore  
Protected from infection

Carol left her Melbourne home  
In nineteen-thirty-seven  
When polio became rife  
Off to Tassie with rellies  
Bass Strait now the barrier  
Quarantined on an island  
Until some three months later

But what are our choices now?  
Will Covid break the pattern?

## British Southern Whale Fishery: Crew Lists

The British Southern Whale Fishery voyage database includes information about all known British southern whaling voyages from 1775 to 1859. The Crew database, which is primarily the work of Dale Chatwin, contains nearly 14,000 entries for men who served in the British Southern Whale Fishery between 1775 and 1859.

<https://whalinghistory.org/bv/crew/>



*"South Sea Whale Fishery, Amelia Wilson and Castor off the Island of Buru," a coloured aquatint engraving by T. Sutherland of a painting by William John Huggins, 1825.*

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whaling\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whaling_in_the_United_Kingdom)

### Mapping frontier massacres

Northern Territory atrocities are being included in the University of Newcastle's frontier massacres map, a project that has won a 2019 Walkley Award and digital cartography awards.

The project is being led by Professor Lyndall Ryan and supported by funding from the Australian Research Council.

Northern Territory researcher Dr Robyn Smith said it was impossible to enter all massacres on the map because so many of them took place in secret.

"But people often talked about them long after the event when fear of being held to account had waned or the principal perpetrators had died," she said.

She said perpetrators were a mix of police and civilians, principally but not exclusively pastoralists.

"Mounted Constables William Willshire and Erwein Wurmbrand were particularly brutal in Central Australia and Willshire was later posted to the Victoria River district where he wreaked similar havoc," she said.

Evidence, too, is a problem.

"People were very careful about destroying evidence.

"The preferred method was to build a huge fire and throw the victims' corpses on to it, often with the corpses of cattle so that any skeletal remains were indistinguishable.

"The general rule was to leave no witnesses," she said.

She said shootings and poisonings were included on the map.

“There is evidence of flour and horse meat poisoning.

“There were attempts to poison people by steeping tobacco in strychnine, too. That made them extremely ill, but there appear to be no deaths arising from it,” she said.

Dr Smith said the massacres team was keen to hear from anyone with information that might meet the criteria for entry on the map.

Details of the project, including the criteria and how to contact researchers, can be found on the web site:

<https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/>





## ANSWERS

These arrangements of porcelain flowers or ornaments found on early graves are called **IMMORTELLES**.



An immortelle is a long-lasting flower arrangement placed on graves in cemeteries.

They were originally made from natural dried flowers (which lasted longer than fresh flowers) or could be made from artificial materials such as china and painted plaster of paris or beads strung on wire arrangements.

Unless made of a highly durable material (e.g. china), they would often be enclosed in a glass container (known as globes) to protect them from the weather. In some cases, they were embedded into the grave itself (e.g. on the concrete over the grave) while others were merely placed on or by the grave.

In [Life on the Mississippi](#), [Mark Twain](#) comments on burial practices in [New Orleans](#):

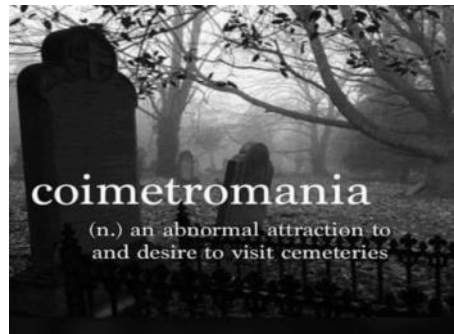
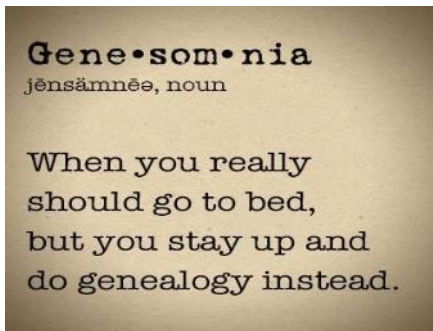
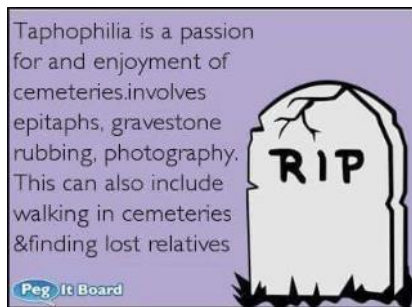
*"They bury their dead in vaults, above the ground. ... Fresh flowers, in vases of water, are to be seen at the portals of many of the vaults: placed there by the pious hands of bereaved parents and children, husbands and wives, and renewed daily. A milder form of sorrow finds its inexpensive and lasting remembrancer in the coarse and ugly but indestructible 'immortelle'—*

*which is a wreath or cross or some such emblem, made of rosettes of black linen, with sometimes a yellow rosette at the conjunction of the cross's bars—kind of sorrowful breast-pin, so to say. The immortelle requires no attention: you just hang it up, and there you are; just leave it alone, it will take care of your grief for you, and keep it in mind better than you can; stands weather first-rate, and lasts like boiler-iron."*

Immortelles were popular in Australia in the early 20th century. Being more expensive than fresh flowers, immortelles were normally left on graves by close family. They were purchased from undertakers.

In recent times, plastic flowers have replaced immortelles as a long-lasting flower arrangement for use with graves. Therefore, immortelles will mostly only be seen on older graves.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immortelle\\_\(cemetery\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immortelle_(cemetery))



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- includes 4 hours Research - available to those living beyond Batchelor in the Northern Territory and includes all States & ACT

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