

# RBDM Family History Journal



## Issue 4: March 2014



Welcome to the fourth edition of RBDM's *Family History Journal*, the quarterly newsletter which keeps you up-to-date with the latest developments in our family history research service.

Firstly, I'm delighted to report that during the last three months we have made more than 100,000 digital records available as downloadable images, including our First and Second World War death registrations.

In this issue of *Family History Journal*, Adrian Harrison concludes his feature on Nobby, the little township on the Darling Downs, with a look into the controversial life of another notable local Sister Elizabeth Kenny. We also revisit our ever popular item on unusual deaths from the RBDM registers; this time we highlight strange deaths caused by our friends from the animal kingdom.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and please feel free to [forward it to interested friends](#) and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive future issues and news updates.

David John  
Registrar-General

## In this issue



### More than 470,000 records made available as images in three months

These include records for 3,500 Marine births, 15,000 WW1 and WW2 deaths and many more 'Brisbane' and 'Country' deaths. There are now over 1,000,000 register images available.



### Cute but deadly—killer animals!

We revisit some strange causes of death recorded in the RBDM archive. This time we specifically look at unusual deaths caused to Queenslanders by our animal friends; from one of the tiniest insects, a bee, to one of the largest mammals, an elephant!



### Take a walk on the wild side—wildcard searching

In the last issue of *The Family History Journal*, we looked at niggly names; in this issue we take a walk on the wild side by looking at how to get the most out of using the wildcard character in searches.



### Bringing hope—Sister Elizabeth Kenny

What links Hollywood actor Alan Alda, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Nobby Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association? The answer is Elizabeth Kenny, a pioneering nurse from the Australian bush who developed a controversial method for treating polio victims.



### Building a Brisbane icon—the story of the Story Bridge

The Story Bridge looms large over the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Brisbane. We look through the RBDM archive to see what records exist about this iconic structure and the men who built it.



### A tree on ANZAC Avenue—remembering Queensland's first casualty of the Great War.

We remember the sacrifice of the thousands of Queenslanders who died in the First World War through the Blake family who lost three sons; one of whom earned the unenviable title as Queensland's first casualty of the Great War.



### Queensland State Archives autumn update

Queensland State Archives in Runcorn is a great resource for the family historian or anyone interested in Queensland's history.

Find out what's on at the State Archives this autumn.

## Over 470,000 records made available in three months

RBDM are proud to announce that we have uploaded more than 470,000 new historical images to the online registers over the last three months. These include records for 3,500 Marine births, 15,000 World War One and World War Two deaths—for service personnel who enlisted in Queensland and died on active duty—and many more 'Brisbane' and 'Country' deaths. There are now over 1,000,000 historical images available for you to order and download.

Below is a comprehensive list of image releases since the start of the digitisation project. Many more will be released soon. Date ranges highlighted in yellow are new i.e. they have become available since the release of edition three of the Family History Journal.

	Category	Prefix	Date Range	No records
Births	Existing early birth records		1829-1890	236297
	Brisbane	B	1891-1901	22396
			1901-1915	40023
			1912-1914	39538
	Country	C	1909-1912	40593
			1912-1914	39538
			1914-1915	17264
Marine births	M	1856-1912	1623	
Deaths	Existing early death records		1829-1890	104622
	Brisbane	B	1891-1916	32503
			1916-1927	33040
			1928-1938	37004
			1947-1953	32993
			1966-1971	40999
			1971-1975	40495
			1975-1979	40411
	Country	C	1890-1898	38118
			1898-1906	37602
			1906-1914	38506
			1914-1915	6635
			1916-1923	37313
			1923-1930	37729
			1931-1938	37451
			1938-1945	36935
			1945-1952	31855
			1965-1970	39165
			1965-1979	41400
			1970-1975	41017
Marine deaths			M	1865-1916
WW1 deaths	F	1922-1923	9591	
WW2 deaths	S	1941-1956	4911	
Marriages	Existing marriage records		1829-1889	47595
Totals	Existing digital records available			778512
	New records available			470396
	Total digital records available			1248908

## Cute but deadly—killer animals!

In previous issues we have documented a number of deaths recorded in RBDM's archive attributed to our animal friends. These have included deaths caused by centipedes, snakes, crocodiles, sharks and even a cassowary. In this issue we list a few more unusual deaths recorded as being caused by animals in Queensland; from one of the tiniest insects, a bee, to one of the largest mammals, an elephant!

We'll start off in the sea. The Australian box jellyfish (*Chironex fleckeri*) is often referred to as 'the world's most venomous creature'. With as many as 15 tentacles stretching up to 3 metres in length, each packed with around 5000 stinging cells it's a formidable creature. It can kill a healthy adult in minutes and has more than 70 recorded deaths in Australia to its name. One was an Italian cane farmer, Salvatore Cantarella from Lower Tully. Boxing Day 1934 was hot and steamy in North Queensland and Salvatore was cooling off with a refreshing swim at Coogarra Beach near the mouth of the Tully River when he screamed and was seen to jump bodily out of the water. His friends dragged him unconscious to the shore and he was rushed to Tully Hospital on the back of a truck. Unfortunately, he was dead on arrival. Welts from tentacles could clearly be seen on Salvatore's body and it was reported in the local paper—and on his death certificate—that he had been stung by a Portuguese man o' war, better known in Australia as a Bluebottle\*; however, these rarely cause death and then only in the very young, old or infirm—Salvatore was a fit and healthy 32-year-old cane farmer. His death was later attributed to the more venomous box jellyfish.

\*The Portuguese man o' war isn't technically a jellyfish although it acts in the same way, capturing and killing prey in its venomous tentacles

216	26 December 1934	Salvatore Cantarella	Male 32	1 Stung by Jelly fish (Portuguese man o' war) (1) 2 days ago 2 Sp. in the (2) Dr. A. R. Downes and (3) 2nd medical examination by Dr. A. R. Downes on 26 December 1934 (4) Report of one local official of the Tully Hospital 9 January 1935	Alfred Lalor
	Lower Tully and Tully	Farmer	Sp. in the		

**Above:** Salvatore Cantarella, a cane farmer in Tully, was killed on Boxing Day 1934 rather ironically by a box jelly fish sting. The record states it was a Portuguese man o' war but these creatures, better known in Australia as Bluebottles, rarely kill and certainly wouldn't kill a 32-year-old cane farmer.

Another creature that packs an unpleasant sting is the bee; however, a bee sting is not something we think of as fatal. When 30-year-old Edwin Davies, a cotton farmer from near Monto, returned home for his tea in April 1932 he mentioned that while he'd been out picking cotton a bee had stung him in the throat. Some time later Edwin jumped up gasping and holding his throat; he died of asphyxiation just 10 minutes later. He had apparently had an allergic reaction to the sting and his throat had swelled up choking him to death.

Another creepy crawl—*I* advisably don't say insect—that is recorded as causing death is everybody's outhouse nightmare, the red-back spider. While there have been no known deaths from red-back spider bites since anti-venom was introduced in 1956, their bite is very poisonous and potentially fatal to small children and the elderly.



**BEE STING IN THROAT  
DEATH IN QUEENSLAND.**

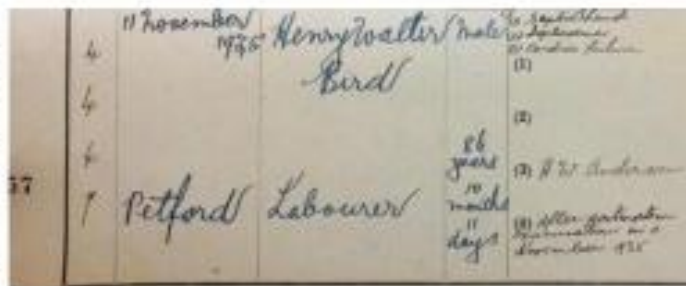


Brisbane, April 1.  
Edwin David Davies died suddenly at Malgoidie, near Monto, last night as the result, it is believed, of asphyxia, caused through a bee sting in the throat.

**Left:** Edwin Davies's death registration shows he died of asphyxiation and interestingly says 'no poison detected'. **Right:** The Kalgoorlie Miner newspaper for April 2 1932 mentions it was caused by a bee sting, something corroborated by the findings of the subsequent inquest.

Fourteen fatalities have been attributed to red-back bites in Australia since records began; one was poor old Henry Bird, just short of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday (the papers give his age as 77) who lived in Pettford on the Atherton Tablelands west of Cairns. Bitten on the hand on 11 November 1935 he died from the effects of the bite soon after.

DIMBULAH, November 12.  
Mr. Henry Walter Bird, senior, a well-known resident and pioneer, died last night. He was bitten by a red-back spider. Deceased had been living at Pettford for the last four years.  
Deceased, who was aged 77, is survived by a wife and a grown-up family.  
The body was conveyed to Mareeba for burial.



**Left:** Death by red-back spider as recorded in the local newspaper. According to RBDM's records the paper got his age wrong. **Right:** The entry for Henry Bird which doesn't mention the spider, just that he had a septic hand and died of a heart attack—both are consistent with a venomous spider bite.

Moving a few more steps up the evolutionary chain we come to mammals. With more than a cry in the dark to what was to happen to Azaria Chamberlain\*, the RBDM records recollect a four-year-old boy as being taken and eaten by dingoes in 1912. Little Harold Holliday lived in Booyall near Childers within a dingo's howl of Fraser Island. On 18 August 1912, he went missing from the scrub near his home and was never seen again. He was just a few days short of his fifth birthday. Search parties combed the area but could find no trace of Harold, however, what they did find were ferocious packs of dingoes roaming the bush. In early September, as no trace of the boy could be found, the police concluded that he had been taken and eaten by a pack of ravenous wild dogs.

\*In June 2012 a fourth inquest into the death of Azaria Chamberlain, who went missing from an Uluru campsite in 1980, concluded that Azaria had been taken by a dingo; during the inquest much was made of attacks on children on Fraser Island. Following the inquest the cause of death on Azaria's death certificate was officially changed to read 'As the result of being attacked and taken by a dingo'.



**Left:** How the Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA) for Saturday 7 September 1912 reported the young boy's death from a dingo attack. Note that the newspaper got the name wrong, reporting is as Harold Halliday. **Right:** Harold Holliday's death registration says he died 'on or about 18 August 1912' with the cause of death 'Lost in bush'. The registration was made in

1914, two years after Harold had been taken by dingoes.

It's not just native animals that have caused deaths in Queensland. Exotic animals brought here for our entertainment have also notched up their fair share of kills. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Wirth's Circus was a household name across Australia. Touring up and down the East Coast on specially chartered trains, the circus would regularly pop up in capital cities to coincide with major events such as the Melbourne Cup, Sydney's Royal Easter Show and the Ekka.



**Left:** A Wirth's circus elephant helping workers load the circus train's railway trucks at Lismore in 1925. **Right:** A poster advertising the circus is coming to town, attractions include boxing ponies, the worlds only bucking elephant and 'six funny clowns'. Wirth's proudly billed themselves as a 'Royal' circus as during a tour of England in 1898 the future Edward VII came to see the show. We assume his mum, Queen Victoria, was not amused!

Photo: John Oxley Library - Image number: 6646-0001-0013  
Poster: Tasmanian Library - Image AUTAS001128189677

One of the big draw cards was the menagerie of animals which travelled with the circus, particularly the elephants which not only starred in the show but were employed hauling carts, erecting tents and loading and unloading the heavy equipment from the circus train. However, weighing between 2 and 5 tons the elephants took some handling, something one circus hand, a 37-year-old New Zealander from Invercargill called Harry Dale, found to his cost in 1909.

In late June, the circus had been appearing in Childers and Harry was using one of the show's elephants—Toby, who despite her name was a female pachyderm—to load heavy timbers onto a railway truck in the station's goods yard. According to accounts Harry had been particularly cruel in his handling of the elephant, hitting her repeatedly with a spiked hook used to control the giant animal. Toby suddenly decided she had had enough and turned on her keeper. In the words of *The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People* dated 3 July 1909 the elephant 'crushed the unfortunate man with its massive head, almost flattening the keeper's body against the side of the truck'. Toby repeatedly butted the keeper until other circus hands managed to drag him away. Most of Harry's ribs were broken in the attack and he died of his injuries at the scene. Toby—who it was reported had already killed two previous keepers—was, according to the papers, to be destroyed<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> It appears that Toby, despite now killing three of her keepers, managed to avoid a trip to the knacker's yard. Wirth's prevented their troublesome—and valuable—elephant from being destroyed and under the headline 'DEATH OF A



**Above:** Harry Dale's death registration. He is listed as a labourer with Wirths' Circus and the cause of death is given as 'Accidentally killed by elephant' at Childers railway enclosure.

While Wirths' Circus gave its last performance in Brisbane in May 1963, one of its rivals, Bullen Brothers Circus, continued on. In the late 1960s, Bullen's diversified into the safari-park business, opening a string of parks including one south of Brisbane. Bullen's African Lion Safari opened its gates in Yatala in 1969 and initially proved a roaring success, if you pardon the pun. However, workplace health and safety wasn't one of the park's priorities and tragedy struck in 1973 when a young keeper, 20-year-old Peter Taylor, was tragically killed.

The safari-park concept was for people to drive through fenced compounds and gawp at the wild animals from the safety of their car. Keepers drove around the park in distinctive zebra striped Jeeps and were encouraged to interact with the animals for the visitor's entertainment. On this occasion Peter Taylor left the relative safety of his Jeep to pat a tame lioness. Unfortunately while doing so two less tame lions attacked him from behind, killing him and partially eating his body in front of the horrified Hill family who were visiting from Victoria.

## LIONS KILL, EAT MAN NEAR BRISBANE

**BRISBANE, Monday.** — A man was killed and partly eaten by lions at a tourist resort near Brisbane this afternoon.

He was Mr Peter William Taylor, 20, an employee of the African Lion Safari, at Beenleigh, about 30 miles south of Brisbane.

DEATHS in the District of BRISBANE, in the State of Queensland, Registered for Civil Affairs Service.		
1. Name	ASLOR	
2. Date, day and place	8 October 1973	McGillivray Street, Yatala
3. Date and place of birth	10089 WILLIAM TAYLOR	York, Queensland 20 years
4. Sex and age	Male	
5. Cause of death	Blood loss Multiple lacerations	
6. Name of the doctor	L.S. HILLMAN	
7. Name of the informant	1967 800146	
8. Date of the registration	9 October 1973	

**Left:** The succinct Canberra Times headline for 9 October reports the rather unusual death. **Right:** Peter Taylor's death certificate. The cause of death is given as blood loss from multiple lacerations. The place of death is given as, Bullen's African Lion Safari Park, Yatala.

Amazingly this wasn't the first time a keeper had been seriously injured at Bullen's—a 16-year-old park employee had been mauled in 1971 but survived—nor did it deter visitors, queues of Valiants, Toranas, Kingswoods and Falcons continued creeping across Yatala's savannah until Bullen's African Lion Safari finally closed its gates in 1988.

**CIRCUS ELEPHANT:** The Sydney Morning Herald for 30 April 1915 reported Wirth's 'principal performer in the elephant's act', Toby, 'valued at £2000', as dying of old age at the ripe old age of 80!



## Take a walk on the wild side—wildcard searching



In the last issue of *The Family History Journal*, we looked at niggly names. In this issue we take a walk on the wild side by looking at how to use the wildcard character in searches. The wildcard character '\*' or asterisk—typed from a standard Query computer keyboards by pressing 'Shift' and the number 8—can be a real help in searching if you not sure of the correct spelling of a name. The wildcard can be entered after a series of letters in any of the name fields. Remember, there has to be at least one letter before the wildcard and no letters after it.

Entering the wildcard will find names that start with an exact match of the letters entered before the '\*' wildcard symbol but have any combination or number of letters after the '\*' wildcard symbol. So, if you want to search for a person you think was called 'Reed' but you're not sure of the spelling—it could also be spelled Reid or Read—you can just enter 're\*' into the last name field (and the appropriate date or date range) to search for the record.

Your search will retrieve every last name starting with the letters 'Re/re' (the search facility isn't case sensitive). So as well as Reed, Reid and Read you may also get Reading, Redmond, Reilly, Rees, Reardon, Remington, Regan, etc. It doesn't matter how many characters there are after the '\*' wildcard symbol, so you will also pick up double-barrelled names (also known as hyphenated, composite or double surnames) such as Read-Edwards or **Rees-Williams**.

### Search births

You must fill in at least one name field and either the Date of birth OR the Date of birth range fields to get results.

Last name:

re\*

First name(s):

Jennifer

Father's first name(s):

John

Mother's first name(s):

Elizabeth

Current birth search range is from 1829 to 1914.

Date of birth:

1900

Entering **re\*** will search for any births

For 1900 with a last names starting **Re**

**Reed**

**Reid**

**Read**

**Reading**

**Redmond**

**Reilly**

**Rees**

**Reardon**

**Remington**

**Regan**

**Rees-Williams**

What it won't pick up is if there is an alternative spelling with a different letter preceding the '\*' wildcard symbol, so in our example the search won't pick up the alternative spelling of Reed/Reid/Read with a silent 'W', Wreid.



Due to the way the names have been indexed the search may also find some names with prefixes before the Re\*, for example the Dutch name De.Reider or the German name Von Rein although not the Irish O'Reardon or the Scottish McReady. If you are searching for a person you know has a prefix to their last name, you are better off including the prefix as part of your search.

The wildcard character '\*' works on any of the name fields in the search engine, so as well as the 'Last name' field you can also use it in the person's 'First name' field and their father's and mother's name fields; however, you can't use the wildcard in any of the date fields; although you must enter some date information with your search. Be warned that a broad wildcard search may return too many records for the system to display, resulting in a 'system timeout' and an error message asking you to refine your search. For example, a last name wildcard search of 'S\*' will attempt to find and display every last name starting with 'S' recorded during your requested date period. As this includes Smith<sup>1</sup>—the most common surname in Australia—this could be thousands of records.

The system can display up to 1000 records from a single search and up to 250 records per page, however, even if the system can display your search there may be too many records to easily find the record you are looking for. Wildcard searches therefore work best when you have other parameters to narrow the search, a first name, a parent's name or a fairly narrow date range for the event; the maxim is the wider your name search, the narrower your date search has to be.

If the system displays too many records to easily find the record you are looking for, a good tip is to sort the records. To do this, simply click on any of the column headings to sort into that column order. For the year of registration the search results will be sorted into chronological order—date order—with the earliest date first. If you click on first name, last name, father or mother's name, etc the results will be displayed in alphabetic order; this can't be reversed but you can skip to the end (by clicking on [End>>](#)) to effectively reverse the order; for example, if you are looking for someone called Zimmerman, as in our item about the Story Bridge.



### Finding records for a person's siblings

*Searching with an exact surname in the birth index across a 20–30 year date range, and then sorting the results by father or mother's name, is a great way to group and find the records of a person's siblings. This is how we found the brothers of Ernie Blake for our item about Queensland's first Great War casualty.*

Remember, searching the index is free and you can't break the RBDM search engine! So as with other features in the online index, if you are unsure or can't find a record, try, try and try again! Experiment with the wildcard and search feature and if the person you are looking for was born, married or died in Queensland, you should eventually find the record you are looking for. Until next time, happy searching!

<sup>1</sup> The most common Queensland surnames for births in 1900 were 1.Smith 2.Jones 3.Williams 4.Brown 5.Wilson 6.Anderson 7.Johnson 8.Taylor 9.Campbell 10.Ryan 11.Kelly 12.Walker 13.White 14.Murphy 15.McDonald 16.Harris 17.Martin 18.Clark 19.Thompson 20.Collins 21.Walsh 22.Scott 23.Thomas 24.Stewart 25.Davis

## Bringing hope—Sister Elizabeth Kenny

Story by Adrian Harrison

What links Hollywood actor Alan Alda, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Nobby Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association? The answer is Elizabeth Kenny, a pioneering Australian nurse who in the days before vaccination developed a controversial method for treating polio victims. Sadly this formidable woman, feted in the United States, is barely known in her native country.

I first heard of Elizabeth Kenny when I was on the trail of Steele Rudd late last year. The little township of Nobby on the Darling Downs, where she lived and where she is buried, is as proud of its association with Sister Kenny as it is of Steele Rudd. There is a small museum dedicated to her work, a road and park named in her honour and Kenny pictures and articles adorn a wall in historic Rudd's Pub, which I confess is where I first came across this fascinating woman.

Elizabeth Kenny was born in Warialda in northern New South Wales on 20 September 1880. She was only 9 when the family moved to the Darling Downs, first to Clifton, then just another 5 kilometres up the road to Nobby. Despite limited schooling and no formal medical training, at the age of 17 she decided to become a nurse. Kenny didn't let her lack of qualifications deter her, she simply designed herself a uniform—complete with fetching cape and cap—got a local tailor to run it up and started practising; riding on horseback to give her services, without pay, to anyone who called for help.

She was supported in her work by Aeneas McDonnell, a Toowoomba doctor, who provided advice and guidance by telegraph. In later life she claimed to have received training at Toowoomba General Hospital and a private hospital in New South Wales, although there is no evidence for either. These claims were most likely to give her controversial polio treatment credibility; a highly intelligent woman, it appears Kenny simply learned by experience.

At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century polio was one of the most dreaded childhood diseases, although fairly rare in Queensland. The only treatment was immobilising the stricken child's body with a plaster cast or metal brace to stop the limbs deforming. One day in 1911, desperate to help a child struck down with the disease, Kenny improvised, treating the child's paralysed limbs with hot towels, powerful massage and manipulation to keep them mobile; to her surprise the child recovered. It was a technique she subsequently perfected in the 1930s as her controversial polio treatment.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Elizabeth Kenny volunteered to serve as a nurse, and despite her lack of formal training was accepted into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF); nurses, like soldiers, were badly needed and not too many questions were asked about qualifications<sup>1</sup>. She served on 'dark ships', transports that sailed without lights from Australia to England carrying munitions and troops and returned packed with wounded soldiers. The outward journey was fraught with danger as the ships were legitimate U-boat targets, while many were sunk on their return journey; the sea-lanes were seeded with mines and even the Red Cross flag

<sup>1</sup> After her death—following queries from various biographers and journalists—the Australian military conducted a confidential investigation into how an unqualified nurse had managed to join the AIF. Documents from the investigation can be viewed in her AIF records.

was no guarantee the ships wouldn't be attacked by hostile submarines<sup>1</sup>. Kenny survived 16 round trips and in 1917 earned the title 'sister', a title she used for the rest of her life even though she wasn't entitled to it outside the military<sup>2</sup>.



**Above:** Elizabeth Kenny's military service also proved controversial. In later life she claimed to have been wounded by shrapnel in the left knee on 'special duty' in France; a claim often repeated in biographies. After her death, the *Minneapolis Tribune* investigated a number of her claims, and this 1955 reply to Kenny's niece—who had written to the military to try and substantiate her aunt's claims—states that there is no record of her ever having served in France. In fact there is no record of her ever having been wounded either. Nor had she run a Military Hospital in Brisbane, which was another of her more fanciful claims while in America.

After the war 'Sister' Kenny returned to nursing, and supervised a small temporary hospital in Nobby for the care of victims of the 1919 influenza epidemic. In 1926, a family friend's daughter, named Sylvia, was badly injured when she fell into the path of a horse-drawn plough. Needing intensive emergency treatment Kenny strapped the little girl to a cupboard door for the 40 kilometer journey to Toowoomba. Sylvia recovered, partly because her injuries weren't worsened due to being totally immobilised on the bumpy journey to hospital. Kenny, never one to miss an opportunity, improved her improvised cupboard door stretcher for use by local ambulance services. She patented the idea and for the next few years she marketed it as the 'Sylvia Stretcher' in Australia, Europe and the United States.

In the early 1930s, Queensland suffered record numbers of polio cases and an epidemic swept Brisbane during 1932 leaving a shocking number of children paralysed. In response Kenny perfected the massage and hot compress technique she had used in 1911, initially treating victims in temporary polio clinics in Townsville and Brisbane. Success with a number of well-publicised cases—she was a great self

<sup>1</sup> In November 1916, the *Titanic's* sister ship *Britannic*, which had been converted into a hospital ship earlier in the war—it had been repainted white with a large red cross on the side—was either torpedoed or struck a mine while crossing the Mediterranean.

<sup>2</sup> In civilian nursing the title 'Sister' is reserved for senior qualified nurses.

publicist—gave her wide acclaim and people flocked to her clinics. She published a book about her work and permanent Kenny polio clinics were soon established in a number of Australian cities to treat victims and train health professionals in her techniques. She even traveled to England to set up a clinic in South London, her fare paid for by English victims' parents.



John Oxley Library record numbers: 171527 and 92896

**Left:** Portrait of Sister Elizabeth Kenny taken in 1917 shortly after she had been promoted to 'Sister'. **Right:** The Elizabeth Kenny Clinic which stood on the corner of George and Charlotte Street, Brisbane, opposite the government printing office which is the current home of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The polio clinic was opened in 1935 and was also used as a training centre for the Kenny treatment.

However, despite its popularity her treatment remained at odds with the medical establishment who were still firm proponents of encasing paralysed limbs in cumbersome splints or plaster casts, and Kenny came under increasing criticism. In the late 1930s a Queensland Government Royal Commission was set up to evaluate her work—which the government was now funding—and produced a fairly damning report, labeling it 'a grievous error and fraught with grave danger'; however, despite the criticism people with children struck down by the disease continued to seek her help.

In 1940, she was invited to America—which was being ravaged by an ever worsening polio epidemic—to present her treatment at various doctors' symposiums. Here too she was at odds with the medical establishment but the Americans proved more open to her controversial techniques and soon a number of prominent physicians were championing her and her treatment. Dismayed by increasing opposition in her native country she decided to remain in the US, living there for the next 11 years and establishing the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis as well as a string of Kenny Treatment centre's across the country. Offering hope in a time of great fear, she was hailed a heroine in the US and became a major celebrity, showered with honours and acclaim<sup>1</sup>. Kenny wrote her autobiography, *And They Shall Walk*, in 1943, was featured in *TIME* magazine and received the ultimate American accolade, having her story made into a Hollywood movie, *Sister Kenny*, starring Rosalind Russell released 1946.

<sup>1</sup> In a 1952 Gallup poll Sister Kenny edged out former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as the most admired woman in America!



**Left:** A poster for the 1946 RKO film 'Sister Kenny', starring Rosalind Russell and Alexander Knox. Russell won a best actress award in the Golden Globes for her portrayal of Elizabeth Kenny in the film and was nominated for an Academy Award for the role, although she was pipped to the Oscar by Olivia De Havilland. **Right:** Elizabeth Kenny's recently restored grave in historic Nobby cemetery where she is buried next to her beloved mother.

In 1951, having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Elizabeth Kenny returned to Australia to little acclaim. She died in Toowoomba on 30 November 1952 and was buried next to her mother in the little cemetery in Nobby. The funeral service was attended by the American Vice-Consul and her coffin was draped with the Stars and Stripes. In the same year as Kenny died the first effective polio vaccine was tested, and as it became widely available in the late 1950s her treatment became increasingly redundant.

**Above:** Elizabeth Kenny's death registration. Her occupation is listed as Nursing Sister even though she wasn't entitled to it in civilian life. Note that by the 1950s registers were no longer handwritten but completed by typewriter.

In Australia, there is still debate as to whether Sister Kenny was a saint or a charlatan, however, her technique—which would now be termed a form of physiotherapy—certainly helped alleviate paralysis in many victims treated in the early stages of the disease, and there can be little doubt she gave hope to thousands of desperate families whose children had been struck down by polio. There are many people, particularly in America, who would swear they owe their lives to Sister Kenny, the self trained nurse from the Australian bush.

So what's the link with Alan Alda, FDR and the Nobby Branch of Queensland Country Women's Association? Alan Alda—best known for his TV roles in *M\*A\*S\*H* and *The West Wing*—was struck down by polio at the age of seven and in his autobiography *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed* cites sister Kenny's treatments for his complete recovery from the disease. FDR, probably the most famous person to suffer from polio, was a firm supporter of Sister Kenny and she dined with the president at The Whitehouse<sup>1</sup>. In 1925, Sister Kenny was responsible for forming the

Nobby Branch of Queensland Country Women's Association and became its first president, donating some of the profits from her 'Sylvia stretcher' to the CWA. The Nobby branch of the CWA still meet at Kenny House, they hold her official papers and have done much to keep her memory alive.

If you visit Nobby you can visit the 'Sister Kenny' memorial museum by asking for the key from the bar staff at Rudd's Pub, which is located near the junction of Tooth Street and, not surprisingly, Sister Kenny Street.

Nobby's historic cemetery—on Mount Kent Boundary Road—is also well worth a visit. As well as Sister Kenny there are a number of ornate historic graves, including a headstone to Victor Denton, which was the first heritage listed War Memorial erected in Queensland. Victor, a Trooper in the Second Light Horse, was shot in the chest in Monash Gully in Gallipoli on 31 May 1915. He died a few hours later in the Australian casualty clearing station at ANZAC Cove. He is actually buried in the cemetery next to the beach on Gallipoli.

## Building a Brisbane icon—The story of the Story Bridge

Story by Adrian Harrison

In previous *Family History Journal* articles, we have mentioned the Story Bridge on a number of occasions as the iconic structure looms large in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Brisbane. It was suggested we look through the RBDM archive to see what records exist about the bridge and its construction.



Motor cars, trams and horse-drawn carriages jostle for space at the north end of Brisbane's Victoria Bridge in 1926. It was increasing congestion on what was then Brisbane's only fixed river crossing that elicited the plan to build a string of new bridges across the river, including one at Kangaroo Point.

State Library of Queensland  
Image Number 19806

Due to the growth of vehicular traffic in Brisbane after the Great War, during the 1920s plans were drawn up to build a string of additional bridges across the Brisbane River. The city had only one fixed river crossing, the Victoria Bridge, which although largely re-built following the floods of 1893, was already hopelessly congested. By the start of the 1930's a lack of public funds meant construction had begun on only one of the planned bridges, the Grey Street Bridge<sup>1</sup> providing a bypass from the busy station at Roma Street to South Brisbane.

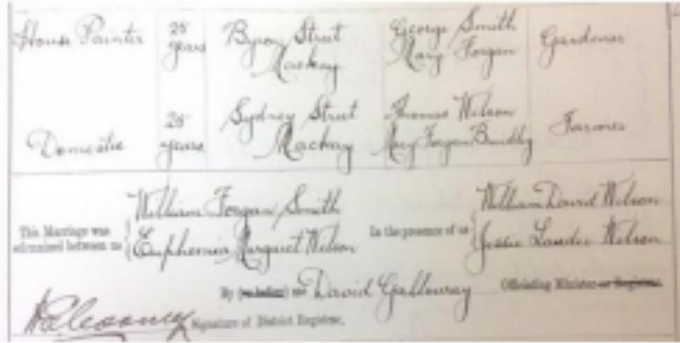
In 1932, the same year that the Grey Street Bridge finally opened, William Forgan Smith's government swept to power in Queensland. It was the height of the Great Depression and more than 30 percent of Queensland's workforce was unemployed. Heavily influenced by Keynesian economics, Forgan Smith set about tackling the State's crippling unemployment problem by instigating an ambitious program of public works. A number of major construction projects were initiated, including the building of Somerset Dam<sup>2</sup>, the development of the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus and the resurrection of the plan to bridge the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point.

<sup>1</sup> The Grey Street Bridge was renamed in July 1955 in honour of William Jolly, the First Lord Mayor of Greater Brisbane City Council who had been in office during the bridge's construction. Jolly had died a month earlier in May 1955.

<sup>2</sup> Work began on the Somerset Dam in 1935 but due to workers being diverted to the war effort it wasn't finished until 1955.



Queensland State Archives Item ID: 1154822



**Left:** William Forgan Smith, Premier of Queensland 1932–1942, turning the first sod of the Story Bridge construction project, 24 May 1935. Standing next to him—Union Jack in hand—is the bridge’s designer John Bradfield. Forgan Smith resurrected the plan to build the bridge as a means to provide much needed jobs during the Great Depression. A Scottish immigrant born near Dundee, he died in Sydney in 1953. **Right:** RBDM holds his marriage record from Mackay which shows he had a meteoric rise. When he was married in 1913, just a year after emigrating from Scotland, his occupation is given as house painter and his bride, Euphemia Wilson, is registered as a lowly ‘domestic’. Two years later he was the MP for Mackay, and 17 years after that the painter and decorator from Dundee had risen to become the Premier of Queensland.

Fresh from his work on the iconic Sydney Harbor Bridge, Queenslander John Bradfield was commissioned to design and oversee the building of the new bridge. He went back to his original idea for Sydney Harbour, which had been for a cantilever structure similar in design to the bridge recently built across the Saint Lawrence River in Montreal, Canada.

REGISTRATION of BIRTH in the DISTRICT of QUEENSLAND, in and where the following year of record will be the Year stated by the 18th Section of 28th Statute.

NAME	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	REGISTRATION OFFICER
John Bradfield	M	1866	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1867	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1868	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1869	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1870	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1871	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1872	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1873	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1874	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1875	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1876	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1877	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1878	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1879	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1880	Sandgate	John Bradfield

NAME	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	REGISTRATION OFFICER
John Bradfield	M	1866	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1867	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1868	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1869	Sandgate	John Bradfield
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John Bradfield	M	1871	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1872	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1873	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1874	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1875	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1876	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1877	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1878	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1879	Sandgate	John Bradfield
John Bradfield	M	1880	Sandgate	John Bradfield



Queensland State Archives Item ID: 1137563

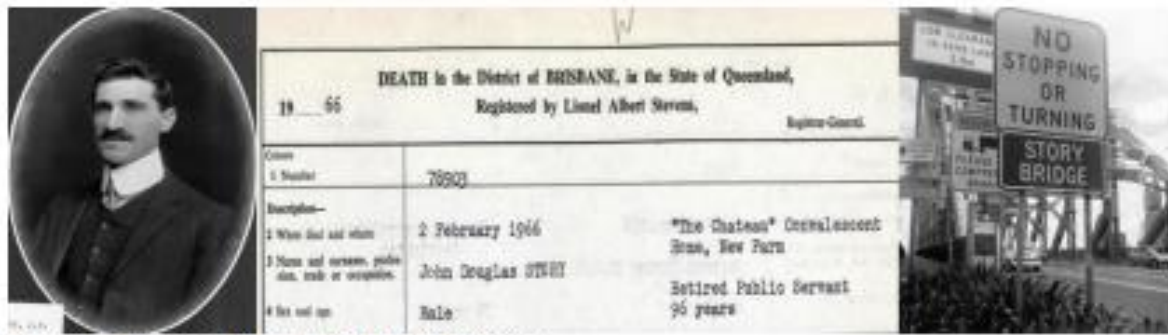
**Left:** John Bradfield’s birth entry in the RBDM files. As noted before, most biographies state he was born in Sandgate on Boxing Day 1867, however the birth entry states he was born a year earlier in 1866, although the birth wasn’t registered until November 1880, 13 or 14—years after the event. The main road across the Story Bridge was named the Bradfield Highway in his honour. **Right:** On 7 July 1938, designer and consulting engineer of the Story Bridge, John Job Crew Bradfield (right) inspects construction accompanied by Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, the Governor of Queensland, who would officially open the bridge two years later.

Unlike the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which was largely fabricated in England, two Queensland companies, Evans Deakin and Hornibrook Constructions—Hornibrook’s had previously been responsible for building the Grey Street Bridge—won the tender to build the new crossing at Kangaroo Point. On 25 May 1935, Premier William Forgan Smith himself turned the first sod of what was then known as the Jubilee Bridge in honour of King George V who celebrated his silver jubilee (25 years as king) in 1935.

Great state. Great opportunity.



The government officially changed the name to the Story Bridge in late February 1937<sup>1</sup> in recognition of the services of prominent civil servant, John Story, who had been a long time advocate of the bridge project.



Picture: State Library of Queensland Image No 65748

**Left:** A portrait of the civil servant after whom the Story Bridge was named, John Douglas Story, taken during 1925. **Middle:** John Story's death registration. Like Premier William Forgan Smith who initiated the project, Story was a Scot, born in Edinburgh in 1869. He was a prominent advocate of Forgan Smith's major public works program and was instrumental in initiating the Kangaroo Point river crossing. He died in Brisbane in 1966 at the grand old age of 96. **Right:** In recognition of his work the bridge was renamed after him in 1937 and still proudly wears his name amongst the plethora of traffic signs.

At the height of construction more than 400 workers were employed building the bridge, both on site at Kangaroo Point and in a purpose-built factory at Rocklea where much of the steel fabrication work was undertaken. Three workers are recorded as dying while engaged in construction, all from falling from the bridge. The first was a 46-year-old German immigrant Hans Zimmermann, a steel erector from Cleveland who on 22 November 1937 slipped from the girder he was working on, falling 75ft to the ground.



**Left:** Hans Zimmermann's record shows his occupation as Bridge Worker. In the duration of illness the registrar has annotated the entry with 'Fell from Kangaroo Pt Bridge'. Note this is a scan of a repaired register; reinforcement has been stuck to the page binding to preserve it. **Right:** The Cairns Post for 23 November 1937 reports the first bridge fatality.

The second casualty was 45-year-old carpenter Alfred Jackson of Coorparoo. On 7 February 1939, Alf was erecting scaffolding with another man when the plank he was standing on gave way, falling 110ft into the Brisbane River below.

<sup>1</sup> Some sources claim the bridge was only renamed the Story Bridge on its opening in 1940 but from the newspaper articles this is clearly not true. All the construction fatalities refer to it as the Story Bridge and an irate R.H. Miller of Kelvin Grove had a letter printed in the Courier Mail on 2 March 1937 complaining that the renaming of the bridge was a direct insult to the memory of the recently deceased King George V.

He survived the fall and was hauled unconscious from the river by a boatman employed to recover and recycle rope and planking that fell from the construction work. Sadly, Alf died four hours later in Brisbane Hospital from massive internal injuries.



**Above:** The death registration for Alfred Jackson an English immigrant from Liverpool who died from massive internal injuries sustained when he fell from the bridge into the river. The cause of death is recorded as 'Fall from height'. Again the coroner has added, this time in the 'Sex and Age column' the faint pencil annotation 'Fell from Story Bridge'.



State Library of Queensland Image 185055



State Library of Queensland Image No APE-075-0001-0017

**Left:** A view of the Story Bridge under construction taken from the north bank looking down river. The two arms reach out toward each other across the Brisbane River; a crane perched on the end of the southern arm. The two sides were not joined until 28 October 1939. **Right:** A breathtaking image taken in 1938 of the Story Bridge under construction. A team of riggers perch precariously on girders high above the Brisbane River. Behind are the Wharves on Eagle Street. In the top left of the picture you can just make out the clock tower of city hall, until the 1960's the tallest building in Brisbane.

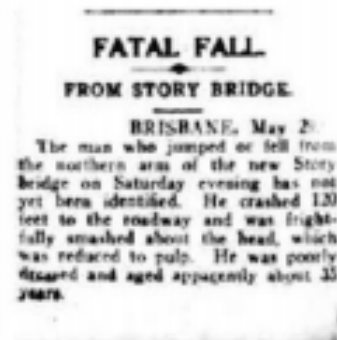
The last construction casualty was a young Ipswich man, 26-year-old Arthur Wharton, a boilermaker's assistant. Wharton had previously been hailed a hero, twice clambering down through the lattice of girders to rescue fellow workmen who had fallen and were left hanging precariously within the structure. On 6 December 1939, Wharton was working with another man riveting girders high above the Brisbane River<sup>1</sup>. This involved heating rivets until they were nearly molten and hammering them into place before rounding off the end with a pneumatic riveter. Unfortunately, Wharton struck his own knee, staggered backwards in pain and slipped from the girder he was standing on. His workmate, a Mr Kleyemeyer, grabbed him but couldn't hold on. Poor Arthur plunged over 120ft, disappearing into the swirling waters below. His body was recovered from the river a number of days later.

<sup>1</sup> More than one and a half million steel rivets hold the Story Bridge together.

Arthur Wharton was so well-thought-of that his fellow Evans Deakin bridge workers donated half a day's pay to help support his young widow, Pat, and the couple's baby daughter Margaret. Incredibly, some workers survived falling from the bridge; some like the ones Arthur Wharton helped save, landed on girders or planking further down the structure, while at least one bridge worker survived a fall all the way down into the river.

Many references—including Wikipedia—claim four men died building the bridge. This is apparently incorrect. While a fourth man did die during construction, he wasn't employed building the bridge. On the evening of Saturday 28 May 1938, a man jumped or fell from the incomplete northern arm of the bridge—the gap between the two arms wasn't closed until 28 October 1939—onto the roadway below. The body was so badly disfigured it initially couldn't be identified. All authorities could ascertain was it was a man of around 35 years of age. Four months later, the body was positively identified as 29-year-old Albert Young from Millaa Millaa on the Atherton Tablelands, who had disappeared on 1 May 1938. According to his parents, who identified the body from clothing and a scar on the body's index finger, Albert was apparently fascinated by mechanics and engineering. It was surmised he had travelled down to Brisbane and was on an unofficial tour of the construction site when he fell.

1937		DEATHS in the District of BRISBANE			
No.	Where and When Died.	Description.	Cause of Death.		Occupation, Description, and Address of Deceased.
			(1) Name of Death.	(2) Description of Death.	
40136	6 December 1937 Brisbane River	Arthur Mackay Wharton Rivet Heater	Drowning	Arthur Ernest Wharton	Certified in writing by Arthur Ernest Wharton 50 Hammarket Road Windsor



**Left:** Arthur Wharton's death registration gives his job as Rivet Heater, the job he was doing when he fell from the bridge and states he died from drowning. Again the entry has been annotated with 'FELL FROM STORY BRIDGE.' **Right:** The Cairns Post for Monday 30 May 1938 reports the mystery of an unknown man who fell or jumped from the uncompleted bridge and was 'frightfully smashed' making the body unrecognisable. The dead man was identified four months later as Albert Young from Millaa Millaa.

Today, memorial plaques on the Story Bridge commemorate the great and the good, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson the Governor of Queensland who opened it, John Bradfield the bridge's designer, even the two construction companies who built it. Next year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of construction. Wouldn't it be fitting if the brave men who actually built the bridge, and particularly the three who lost their lives engaged in its construction—Hans Zimmermann, Alfred Jackson and Arthur Wharton—were remembered with a memorial plaque too?

Several pictures used in this item were kindly provided by the State Archive of Queensland's from their excellent online exhibition of images of the Story Bridge. This includes photographs of dignitaries, the steel fabrication workshop at Rocklea, views of the bridge under construction and even blueprints of deck details—it's well worth a visit.

## The trees on ANZAC Avenue

### Remembering Queensland's first Great War casualty

If you have to travel from Brisbane to Redcliffe, take State Route 71—ANZAC Avenue as it's better known—rather than the highway and look at the trees that line the road. They stand as a living memorial to the thousands of Queenslanders who gave their lives in the First World War, and one is very special, planted in remembrance of Queensland's first Great War casualty.

In the period after the First World War a grief stricken country erected thousands of memorials to the fallen. These were places for people to mourn loved ones who at best were buried on the other side of the world and at worst had no known grave at all. Most were sombre sculptures, diggers in slouch hats with their heads bowed; however, some were more utilitarian—halls, swimming pools, hospitals and roads—their construction providing much needed work for the unemployed soldiers who had returned. One of the most poignant was ANZAC Memorial Avenue, the 18 kilometre road that connects Petrie in North Brisbane to Redcliffe on Moreton Bay. Built by ex-servicemen, the road was lined with 1700 trees funded by public donations at a cost of £1/1s (just over \$60 in today's money) per tree, and each could be dedicated to a fallen digger.



*Left: The original sign at the beginning of ANZAC Memorial Avenue, the road that connects Petrie in North Brisbane to Redcliffe on Moreton Bay. At the bottom it says 'In honour of Queensland's fallen soldiers, please help to protect the trees.'*

Picture courtesy of the North Pine Historical Society MBRC Library Service P1276

One donor was Mary Uhlmann who paid for trees to be planted in memory of her three half-brothers killed during the war; Ernest, Walter and Frederick Blake from Norman Park in Brisbane's south. Walter and Frederick were both killed in 1915 on Gallipoli. Walter was shot in the face during the landing at ANZAC Cove on April 25, his unit—the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion from Queensland—were the first to wade ashore at 4.30am. He recovered only to be shot again, this time in the back, at the start of the August offensive to break out of the ANZAC beachhead. Walter again recovered but was recorded as being killed in action on 2 November 1915. The day after Walter was wounded for the second time, 8 August 1915, his brother Fred Blake was killed on the slopes of Gaba Tepe during an unsuccessful and costly<sup>1</sup> attempt to take the high peak that loomed over the ANZAC beachhead.

Their other brother Ernest 'Ernie' Blake was even more unlucky; he earned the unenviable title of being Queensland's first Great War casualty. Ernie had joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in February 1913 at the age of 21. Soon after finishing his training he was sent to England to join the crew of the *AE1*, Australia's first submarine. The *AE1*, with her sister boat the *AE2*—in the navy submarines are termed boats not ships—were being built for the Commonwealth Government by the Royal Navy at a cost of £105,000 each.

<sup>1</sup> The attack up the steep slope of Gaba Tepe cost 765 Australian casualties, with the 15<sup>th</sup> battalion in which Fred Blake was serving when he died reduced to just 30 percent of its normal strength in the attack.

1922 F729	Frederick Alfred Herbert	Blake	Edward Henry Blake	Mary Nichols ** late Stratford	<a href="#">Order</a> ➔
1922 F729	Ernest Robert	Blake	Edward Henry Blake	Mary Nichols ** late Stratford	<a href="#">Order</a> ➔
1922 F733	Weber Henry	Blake	Edward Henry Blake	Mary Nichols ** late Stratford	<a href="#">Order</a> ➔

**Above:** The death index registrations for the three Blake brothers killed during the Great War. Their step sister, Mary Uhlmann, who had them commemorated with trees along ANZAC Memorial Avenue, was Mary Nichols daughter from her first marriage to Charles Stratford. Note the registration code 'F' denoting an AIF death from the First World War. Find out more about RBDM's World War One casualty records.

Based on an existing design of British E-class submarines, the *AE1* and *AE2* were small and technologically crude by contemporary standards as, unlike Germany, Britain still concentrated on developing the might of its surface fleet.

Ernie joined the boat when it was commissioned into the RAN on 28 February 1914 and was a member of the Anglo-Australasian crew—made up of 14 Australians, one New Zealander and 20 British submariners—who sailed in the *AE1* on an epic 20,000 kilometre maiden voyage from Portsmouth in the UK to Sydney. The two submarines were greeted with great excitement when they sailed into Sydney Harbour on 24 May 1914; however, while bringing the *AE1* and *AE2* half way round the world was hailed as a great feat of seamanship, both submarines broke down on the voyage and had to be towed for long stretches of the journey. It was possibly a portent of future tragedy.

Ernest is listed in the crew as a stoker although on a submarine this is a misnomer. While most ships in 1914 were still steam driven, and incredibly, there were steam driven submarines used during the First World War<sup>1</sup>, the *AE1* was powered by diesel engines on the surface and electric motors powered by batteries when submerged. However, although they weren't shoveling coal, the stoker still toiled away in the boat's cramped and sweltering engine room, the air rank with diesel fumes or toxic gas if sea water seeped into the battery compartment.

Following the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, the *AE1* and *AE2* were dispatched from Sydney to German New Guinea as part of a combined Australian naval and military expeditionary force tasked with capturing the enemy colony. The troops landed at Rabaul on 11 September to be confronted by a small garrison of German and Melanesian troops. The defenders put up a brief yet fierce resistance, killing six Australians—Australia's first casualties of the war—before surrendering<sup>2</sup>.

On 14 September, a day after the official German surrender, the *AE1* left Rabaul harbor accompanied by the destroyer *HMAS Parramatta* to patrol Cape Gazelle to the south. At 3.20 in the afternoon *Parramatta* lost sight of the *AE1* in the haze and the boat was never seen again. Despite numerous searches no trace of the submarine was ever found and she was listed as lost with all hands. An investigation surmised that it had sunk during a practice dive either due to technical difficulties or from hitting one of the many uncharted reefs that dotted the area.

<sup>1</sup> During the First World War the British had a fleet of 17 large K-Class submarines which were powered by steam turbines when they were on the surface.

<sup>2</sup> Although there were comparatively few casualties, the battle for New Guinea was historically significant as Australia's first battle as a sovereign nation.

The disappearance was Australia's first major loss of World War I, earning poor Ernie the unenviable title of Queensland's first Great War casualty<sup>1</sup>. He was just 22 years old.



**Above:** One of the last pictures of the AE1 taken on 9 September 1915—five days before the boat disappeared—from the bridge of the cruiser HMAS Encounter. The vessels rendezvoused off Rossell Island to exchange mail before proceeding north to Rabaul. It's evident just how small the boat was, just 55 metres long and less than 7 metres wide, yet 35 men were packed inside alongside the engines, electric motors, batteries and torpedos.

Picture: Australian War Memorial Image A02604

The AE1's sister sub the AE2 went on to achieve legendary fame for its operations in the Dardanelles at the start of the Gallipoli campaign in which Ernie's two brothers were killed. On the night of the landings AE2 became the first submarine to break through the Turkish defenses protecting the Narrows and reach the Sea of Marmara, torpedoing a Turkish gunboat along the way. While AE2 was picking its way through the minefields, just a few miles over the peninsula at ANZAC Cove the landings were going badly and many in the commanders wanted to abandon the bridgehead. News of the AE2's exploits was used by British General Sir Ian Hamilton to buoy his fatigued troops, issuing the following order:

*'the Australian submarine has got up through the Narrows and has torpedoed a gun boat ... you have got through the difficult business [landing on the beaches], now you have only to dig, dig, dig, until you are safe'.*

Purportedly, it is from this order that Australian troops gained the nickname diggers, although other theories to its origin abound.

The AE2 remained at large in the Sea of Marmara for five more days disrupting Turkish shipping and preventing reinforcements reaching the Gallipoli peninsula before sustaining irreparable damage while under heavy fire. The submarine was scuttled and the crew surrendered. The wreck of the AE2 was located in June 1998; however, despite many searches—the last by an RAN expedition in 2007—the wreck of the AE1 has never been found.

Ernest Robert Blake<sup>2</sup> is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial in the UK which commemorates all sailors from Britain and the Empire killed in World War One and who have who had no known grave. Memorials to the 35 men who perished in the AE1 have also been unveiled in Barrow-in-Furness in the north of England, where the submarine was built, and Sydney's Garden Island naval base.

<sup>1</sup> There is another Queenslanders listed as part of the AE1's crew, John Moloney, a stoker like Ernie Blake. The naval record records John Moloney as born on 25 January 1889 in Capalaba, south-east of Brisbane; however, RBDM has no birth record for anyone with this or a similar name born within 10 years of 1889. As the record states he enlisted in Victoria, RBDM do not hold a death certificate for him.

<sup>2</sup> Some lists of AE1's crew show his name as Ernest Fleming Blake; however, his RBDM birth and death certificates show his name as Ernest Robert Blake.

Like Ernie, his older brother Fred also has no known grave and is remembered on panel 45 of the Lone Pine Memorial on Gallipoli<sup>1</sup>, while Walter is buried in Shell Green Cemetery, just a few hundred metres from Lone Pine; the family were sent a photograph of his grave, while his meagre possessions—which comprised a chocolate tin, some postcards, coins, letters and a leaf—were sent to his girlfriend in Bowen. All three brothers are remembered on the Honour Role at Morningside Methodist Church.



**Left:** The certificate sent to the Blake Brother's half sister Mary Uhlmann in recognition of her donation of three trees on ANZAC Memorial Avenue. The certificate is now held by North Pine RSL Sub-Branch at Kallangur. **Right:** The death register entries for Ernie Blake and his brother Fred. The record mentions Ernie was 'probably drowned' at sea aboard the Submarine AE1.

The fact that two of the brother's had no known grave while the other was 15,000 kilometres away in a remote and then inaccessible part of Turkey, motivated their half sister, Mary Uhlmann, to buy trees on ANZAC Avenue to remember them—the living trees a more appropriate memorial than lifeless names carved in stone.

It's fitting that as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the ANZAC landings work is underway to re-plant trees and update memorials along Brisbane's Anzac Avenue in preparation for the road's re-dedication next year. The sacrifice of the Blake brothers, and the thousands of others like them, should never be forgotten.

[Find out more about The Anzac Memorial Avenue Centenary Project.](#)

[Find out more about the North Pine Historical Society who provided invaluable help in the preparation of this article.](#)

[Find out about the State Archives upcoming seminars about researching First World War records.](#)

<sup>1</sup> The Lone Pine memorial carries the names of 4900 ANZAC troops who were killed on Gallipoli and have no known grave. More than half the allied graves on Gallipoli are unknown and more remains are discovered every year, nearly 100 years after the battle.

## Queensland State Archives autumn update

### Events at the Queensland State Archives

#### Seminars

##### [Morning tea with Director Collections and Access](#)

**10 am to 11 am, Tuesday 1 April 2014**

Come and have a cup of tea or coffee with your fellow researchers and Kit Kugatoff, Director Collections and Access. Share your stories on research undertaken at Queensland State Archives. Entry is free. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email [info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au).

##### [Using microfilm and indexes workshop](#)

**8.30 am to 9.30 am, Wednesday 9 April 2014**

New microfilm equipment and Public Search Room computers have been installed by Queensland State Archives to provide enhanced functionality for researchers.

Learn to use the Archives' new microfilm equipment, including scanning and saving records to USB from microfilm. The session will also teach you how to use our new Public Search Room computers which provide access to the catalogue, the Archives' website, the Internet and our indexes.

You will be required to bring your own USB device.

Entry is free. Bookings essential due to limited places for a maximum of eight attendees. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email [info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au).

##### [Getting started with research](#)

**10 am to 12 noon, Tuesday 22 April 2014**

Find out about resources available at Queensland State Archives and learn how to use the collection to meet your research needs.

This workshop, presented by one of our experienced reference archivists, will provide you with the basics you need to start your research at Queensland State Archives and how best to find the information you are seeking.

This session includes a short tour of Queensland State Archives.

Entry is free. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email [info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au). If you are unable to attend this workshop, please view the PowerPoint presentation on our [website](#).

##### [Voyages to Queensland](#)

**2 pm to 3 pm, Tuesday 6 May 2014**

Was your relative an early immigrant to Queensland? Have you ever wondered about their voyage to Queensland?



As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, Queensland State Archives is presenting the seminar, *Voyages to Queensland*. Come and learn about:

- the conditions of immigration and the characteristics of various categories of immigrant
- the luggage limits and clothing requirements for immigrants
- the different types of voyage reports held at the Archives
- accessing records relating to immigration.

Entry is free. For more information, and to book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email [info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au).

## Other historical events

### Seminars at Caloundra Family History Society

#### **Thursday 10 April 2014, Caloundra Family History Society**

Queensland State Archives will present three seminars for the Caloundra Family History Society.

10.45 am - 12.30 pm: *Deciphering old handwriting skills workshop*

1 pm - 2 pm: *Getting started with research*

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm: *Working for Queensland: Professions, trades and jobs*

To book, contact the Caloundra Family History Society on 07 5493 1197.

### First World War records

**23 April 2014, Brisbane City Council Library, Nundah**

**29 April 2014, Redland City Council Library**

**25 May 2014, Genealogical Society of Queensland**

Come along to one of the abovementioned venues for a seminar on First World War records. Experience the impact of the war through the many non military records held in Queensland State Archives' collection and learn more about the Queensland effort during the First World War. For more information, and to book, please contact the library or organisation hosting this event.

### **More information**

Want more information on Queensland State Archives' events? Visit our website at <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Whatson/Pages/Default.aspx> to find out more about Queensland State Archives' internal and external events program.

## Join our Twitter followers



RBDM has its very own Twitter account. To keep you up to date with the latest developments in family history research follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RBDMQLD>.

Note this item was not a story but a link to RBDM's Twitter account.

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