



# A.N.D.F.H.G. Inc. News Sheet

## Issue 94 – Feb. 2018

### ELECTED COMMITTEE 2017-2018

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Peter Applebee
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Ivan Randall
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Suzanne Smith
<b>TREASURER</b>	Suzanne Smith

### GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>MINUTE SECRETARY</b>	Tammy Martin
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Jeff Cook
	Helen Stein
	Ian Cowley
	Margaret Flaiban

### APPOINTMENTS

<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Margaret Flaiban	<b>FAMILY TREE MAKER CONVENER</b>	Peter Applebee
<b>DOCUMENT SCANNER</b>	Sharon Norman	<b>LEGACY USERS GROUP CONVENER</b>	Shirley Bulley
		<b>AUDITOR</b>	Shirley Bulley

### **Feb. Calendar**

Thursday, 1 February  
10:00am -4.00pm  
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Monday, 5 February  
7:00pm - 8.30pm  
Legacy Users Group Meeting

Thursday, 8 February  
10:00am -4.00pm  
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 10 February  
1:00pm - 4.00pm  
Committee Meeting - Research Day

Thursday, 15 February  
10:00am -4.00pm  
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 17 February  
1:30pm - 3.30pm  
Family Tree Maker User Group Meeting

Thursday, 22 February  
10:00am -4.00pm  
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 24 February  
1:00pm - 4.00pm  
Carolynne Bird- Forensic Hand Writing

### **From the Committee**

Hello Members and a very Happy New Year!

It seems an age ago since we had a newsletter but now that Christmas and the beginning of a New Year is behind us, we can look forward to concentrating on our family histories once more. The second half year of the group's activities will be outlined in future newsletters and bulletins.

While we are on the subject of the second half of the financial year, could we please remind members who have not yet renewed their subscription to please do so, which will ensure you receive your regular Newsletter and Bulletins. Otherwise your email address will be deleted from the list by February.

Our Guest Speaker for February (SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY) will be Carolynne Bird from Forensic SA, speaking and showing us how forensic handwriting is a very important and vital tool in tracking down criminals with lots of examples going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. CSI comes to Salisbury! Well worth a visit !

This month's newsletter has some great stories, showing social history at its best and worse, especially about Mr Eternity of Sydney, so please take the time to read on. A big thank you to the contributors of these stories especially to Heather Milhench who always seems to have some interesting facts on hand. Thank You Heather. If you think you have an interesting story to share, then please contact a committee member, or just pop into Ann Street on a Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. depending on the weather. If the temperature is around the 36° mark, then the volunteers make the decision to close early.

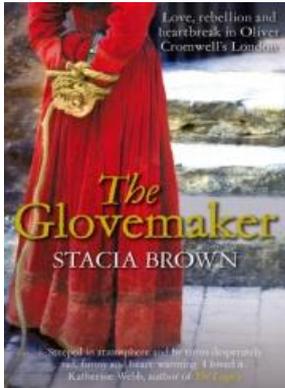
Happy Hunting !

### Disclaimer

The Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter

## BOOK REVIEWS

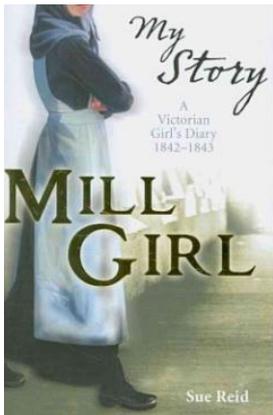
This month we have something different in the way of book reviews, especially about historical novels. "The Glovemaker" is not part of our library, but can be obtained through the SA public library system.



"The Glovemaker" by Stacia Brown. This is a most compelling read, set in 17<sup>th</sup> Century London during Cromwell's reign and the cruel legalities of law and religion of the time. Rachel's life as a Glovemaker's assistant is lonely until she accidentally meets Walwyn, who is a pivotal organiser of The Levellers which believed in sovereignty, equality and religious tolerance, having their meetings mostly in London Inns and taverns. Walwyn is married with 14 children but tries to spend as much time as possible with Rachel. Subsequently there is a child of this relationship and Rachel is condemned to death for secretly burying her dead, illegitimate newborn. The plot is based on historical incidents, and

one of the book's many joys is the way the motives of the families weave together, especially the domestic scenes of the private investigator. This book has a surprising twist near the end, which as the saying goes "I didn't see that coming!".

Well worth a read.



Our second book review is "Mill Girl" by Sue Reid.

If you have Manchester cotton mill workers in your family tree, you will find the descriptions and facts in this book a little confronting. Set in the early Victorian era of 1841 to 1843, 13 year old Eliza has to leave school and earn her keep in the cotton mills. These long hours of concentration and dangerous work takes its toll on all factory workers, together with the Chartists movement and subsequent uprisings. This is written in the form of a diary and gives the reader a vivid insight into the turbulent life in general in the North of England. This book is part of the ANDFHG library.

## Eternity

**Arthur Malcolm Stace was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1885** and died 30 July 1967. He was known as '**Mr Eternity**' and was an Australian soldier. He gained fame in and around Sydney by writing the word "[Eternity](#)" in beautiful copper plate writing with chalk on the footpaths in and around Sydney and Parramatta from around 1932 to 1967.

Stace was born in Redfern, a poor suburb of Sydney the fifth child of William Wood Stace (who was from Mauritius) and Laura Stace (née Lewis), a child of alcoholics, and was brought up in poverty. In order to survive, he resorted to stealing whatever he could and searched for scraps of food in bins.



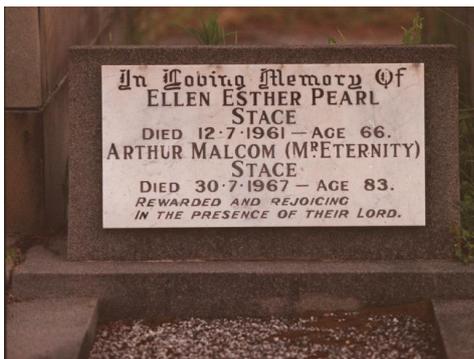
Arthur had no formal schooling and by the age of around 12, he was working in a coal mine and

Disclaimer

The Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter

somehow was made a Ward of the State. As a teenager, he became an alcoholic and by the age of 15 he was in gaol. Afterwards, he worked as a "cockatoo" or a look-out for a Two Up School. In his twenties, he was a scout for his sisters' brothels. In March 1916, at age 32, whilst working as a labourer he enlisted in the AIF 19th Battalion, entering with the 16th Reinforcements, service number 5934. He suffered many bouts of chest infections which ultimately led to his medical discharge on 2 April 1919.

In August of 1930, Stace attended a sermon by a Reverend Hammond at the St Barnabas Church in Broadway which was to change his life. Hammond spoke about the notion of Eternity which inspired him to convert to Christianity. Two years later he was further inspired by the preaching of John Ridley, the evangelist who said "Eternity, Eternity, I wish that I could sound or shout that word to everyone in the streets of Sydney". This decided Stace's fate as he felt a calling from God to write the word 'Eternity' wherever he could. Even though he was semi-illiterate and could only manage to write his name, the word came easy to write. He tried to write "Obey God" and "God or Sin" but he always reverted back to the single word Eternity. A few mornings a week for 35 years, Stace left his wife Pearl early to go into Sydney and chalk the word "Eternity" on footpaths, railway station entrances and anywhere else he could think of. It is estimated he wrote the word 500,000 times. The Sydney City Council had certain rules about defacing pavements, similar to graffiti – he was brought to the attention of the police around twenty times, but his response was that he had permission from a higher source. Most of his graffiti words were washed away.



He was interviewed about his life in 1956 by a newspaper reporter and in 1963 some photographs were taken of him with chalk in hand.

His wife Pearl passed away in 1961 and Arthur left their Pyrmont home into a nursing home. He died of a stroke in 1967 at the age of 82. He bequeathed his body to the Sydney University and his remains were buried with his wife at Botany Cemetery.

There are only 3 places in Sydney where the word "Eternity" is written but only one is an original. This is inside the bell in the Sydney GPO Clock Tower which was dismantled in WWII. When rebuilt in 1960, the bell was brought out of storage and inside the word was written in Stace's chalk. How he managed to write inside this bell is a mystery. Another 'original' is written on his grave and also a wrought aluminium replica is embedded in the footpath near Town Hall Square.



As a tribute to the man known as *Mr. Eternity*, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was lit up with the word "Eternity" as part of the celebrations for the beginning of the year 2000 New Year celebrations.

---

Sources : Arthur Stace - Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\\_Stace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Stace)

Mr Eternity – the Story of Arthur Stace <https://www.biblesociety.org.au/mr-eternity/>

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au> New South Wales Births Marriages Deaths



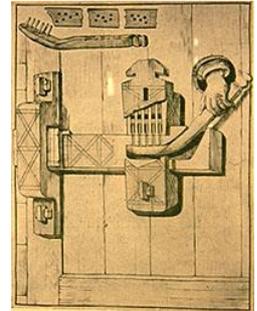
## OPEN SESAME



With today's rapid advances in technology it might not be too long before voice recognition will enable us to use Ali Baba's well known command to open doors. So – before the conventional locks and keys disappear completely - let's have a look at some of their history.

The earliest known wooden lock was discovered in a security gate in the Khorsabad Palace of Sargon II, who reigned from 722 to 705 B.C. in Assyria.

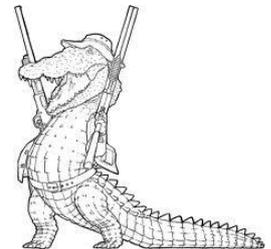
It was similar to this wooden cane-tumbler gate lock and was the forerunner of the pin-tumbler type which is still used today. The mechanics of various locking mechanism can be quite detailed – and probably of little interest unless you are a locksmith – so we'll concentrate on some other aspects of this topic.



The Romans produced the first metal locks and bronze keys which have been dated around 3<sup>rd</sup> C AD. They also made very small locks with keys which could be worn on the finger like a ring.

Locks and keys are mentioned frequently in the Old Testament but, over the years, other methods have also been used for securing valuable objects.

It is reported that the Indian Emperor of Annam sealed his prized possessions in large blocks of wood, which were then submerged into pools in the palace grounds. The 'guardian angels' assigned to protect the Emperor's valuables were hungry crocodiles and it seems that these reptiles had to be drugged or killed when the Emperor wanted to retrieve his possessions!



Around 333 B.C. - during Alexander of Macedon's campaigns against the Persian Empire - Gordius, King of Phrygia, is reputed to have relied entirely upon an intricately woven knot of cornel bark to secure the shaft and his special chariot body together. The legend is that a prophecy foretold that whoever could untie the knot would go on to rule over Asia. It appears that Alexander at first attempted to untie the knot but, when unable to do so, drew his sword and cut through it instead. This has led to the expression "to cut the Gordian Knot" – meaning a bold decisive action when milder measures fail.



In more recent times the art of picking locks has gained quite a lot of publicity - including the 'lock controversy' associated with the 1851 Great Exhibition in London. At that time there was a great deal of rivalry between lock manufacturers, including the British Bramah company and Day & Newell of New York. Charles Hobbs, a representative of the U.S. firm

claimed he could 'defeat' the best of Bramah's locks and after 24 days, in the presence of judges, he successfully opened the lock with a key he had made. This led to accusations that it was a fluke but then Hobbs locked, unlocked and relocked the

Bramah with his key again. The British were forced to admit that Hobbs had exposed a weakness in their locks and he gained great publicity for Day & Newell.

The well known English lock manufacturer, Jeremiah Chubb, fared better when his detector lock design was challenged by a convict on one of the ships in Portsmouth Harbour. The convict had been a lock maker and claimed that he could pick any lock. Chubb offered a reward of £100 and the Government promised a free pardon to the convict if he was successful but, after trying for several months, the convict gave up his attempt to open the Chubb lock. Perhaps he was just trying to delay a 'trip' to Australia!

Sources:

<http://www.locks.ru/germ/informat/schlagehistory.htm>

<http://science.jrank.org/pages/3989/Lock-Key-History.html>

*Heather Milhench © March 2013*

## **Family Tree DNA Will Never Sell Your Genetic Data**

A lot of negative, and often misleading, publicity concerning home DNA testing has been floating around the news services this week. In an effort to clear the air, Family Tree DNA has issued the following statement:

HOUSTON, Nov. 28, 2017 /PRNewswire/ — Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), a division of Gene-by-Gene Ltd, the first to market with a consumer oriented genealogical DNA testing kit and the only genealogical DNA testing company with its own state-of-the-art genetics laboratory, is telling consumers they will never sell their genetic data in a consumer awareness campaign entitled “Can the Other Guys Say That?”

“We feel the only person that should have your DNA is you,” says Bennett Greenspan, President and Founder of Family Tree DNA. “We don’t believe it should be sold, traded, or bartered.” According to Greenspan, “the value of DNA testing is that the DNA test can tell you things about yourself that you cannot determine by looking in the mirror. It allows you to interrogate the history book written in your cells.”

The media campaign comes at the start of what is traditionally the biggest selling season of the year for genealogically focused DNA testing companies, reminding consumers who flock to genealogical sites to purchase their holiday gifts that, “Finding your roots is fun, but not all DNA test companies are created equal.”

Other DNA testing companies are, in fact, selling consumers’ genetic data to pharmaceutical companies for a profit. While these companies claim to remove personally identifying information prior to selling the data, the question, says Greenspan, is whether consumers feel the sale of their genetic data is “part of the deal [they] really thought [they] were signing up for when [they] ordered a simple DNA test for genealogical purposes.”

You also might want to view the video at: <http://bit.ly/2k7bghY>. Also, you might want to read *No, law enforcement won't use your Ancestry.com or 23andme DNA kits for investigations* at: <http://www.wcpo.com/news/crime/no-law-enforcement-wont-use-your-ancestrycom-or-23andme-dna-kits-for-investigations>.

Source: Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter

## Are You A “Trash Genealogist”?

Written by Dick Eastman.

**NOTE:** *I originally published this article in this newsletter in 1998. Yet it is still a problem today. It surfaced again in an email message I received today from a newsletter reader. I receive similar messages most every week from concerned genealogists who don't like to see online “fairy tales” in **user-contributed information** that is published in genealogy web sites. I expect to re-publish this article every year or two until the problem is solved. (I don't expect it to be solved during my lifetime, however.)*

While I am ranting and raving about genealogy home pages, I'll describe another “problem.” This problem has existed for hundreds of years on paper. In more recent years the problem has spread to the International Genealogical Index, the Ancestral File and, more recently, to many CD-ROM disks containing collections of family trees submitted by some company's customers. However, the recent proliferation of personal web pages has magnified the issue still further.

I can go to almost any Internet search engine today and within a very few minutes find hundreds of “genealogy fairy tales” online. I can find claims of births in Massachusetts or Virginia in the 1500s or in Utah in the 1700s. Time and time again, I see claims that a girl gave birth at the age of three or perhaps at the age of seventy-three. Twelve-year-old fathers also are common in online genealogy home pages. Doesn't anyone ever check this stuff?

Please use the “sanity checks” built into the better genealogy programs! The exact name of this feature may vary from one program to another, but all the better genealogy programs have the capability to find suspicious data within a database. These built-in quality checks will quickly identify questionable data, such as very young girls or elderly women giving birth. If your program identifies such data, examine the evidence closely. Do you really believe it? And do you really want to put that information on the World Wide Web or on some genealogy CD-ROM with your name listed as the person who supplied this questionable data?

If you place genealogy fairy tales on the Web or elsewhere, are you labeling yourself as a “trash genealogist?” Please remember the three most important words in genealogy: “verify, verify, verify...”

**Final Comment:** *These so-called “sanity checks” were already built into the better genealogy programs in 1998. Yet it is obvious that many so-called genealogists are not using the software tools they already have! Before you upload your family tree information to any web site, please run a “sanity check” on your information! Then correct the problems **BEFORE** uploading.*

Source: Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter



Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc.

Committed in Promoting Family History Research