

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2012 Issue 7

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Editor:

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

My fondest hope is that "Roots" may start black, white, brown, red, yellow people digging back for their own roots. Man, that would make me feel 90 feet tall.

Alex Haley

Next Edition due:
December 2012

EDITORIAL

No Editorial this quarter as I'm trying to save space by cutting down the pages from 12 to 8

MY FAVORITES—WEBSITES ON GENEALOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Last month I suggested that we share the genealogical websites we have amongst our favourites (IE) or bookmarks (Firefox). So far no one has sent any to me so you are going to get mine!

ANCESTRY24.COM [<http://ancestry24.com/>]
I'm sure we all know this one and have used it at some time. Certainly it has a wonderful collection of data even if its search engine is irritating. When forename and surname are entered [e.g. Derek Pratt] all entries containing "Derek" and "PRATT" appear. For example I was looking up Daphne Rudd the other day and I was given a lot of Kimberley baptisms where one of the Baptism party had the name "Daphne" and the family lived in Rudd Street! There are ways of working around the problems but perhaps the search engine needs to be more user-friendly. Having whinged, I must say I go there at least once a week because of its huge amount of data available.

ANGLOBOERWAR.COM [<http://www.angloboerwar.com/>]
This is a very useful site if you are searching for anyone serving in either British or South African regiments and units. If you know your ancestors regiment you can check the Nominal Rolls but names from the nominal rolls digital images have not been transcribed and do not appear in the sites search index so it means loading the image and searching page by page.

SA Genealogie on fotki.com [<http://www.fotki.com/sagenealogie>]

This is a website of photographs of a huge variety of things historical in South Africa ranging from Anglo Boer War Concentration & POW Camps, Cemeteries, well just go and have a look at the lo-o-o-ng list on the left hand side of the page and start exploring.

Cape Death Notice Index on e-Family [http://www.e-family.co.za/cdni/cdni_index.htm]

It is such a pity that the Cape Death Notice Index project was never completed. However, it is still worthwhile popping over here and just checking for your recent ancestors. It lists the people who died between 1950-1959 (these are now also available at the Cape Archives) 1962, 1978-89, 1994, 1998-2001. I'm not sure if Ancestry24.com has got the missing years but at least this site is free.

e-family Home page [<http://www.e-family.co.za/>]

This is very much a one-stop site for a variety of data. It includes collection made by Delia Robertson, Nolene Lossau, Sha Redfern, Ellen Stanton and Tobi Swarts. It is always worthwhile checking here just in case...

Also on this site are a few full family
(Continued on page 5)

Famous Families in Census Records: No 1: Agatha Christie

I was reading the autobiography of the author Agatha Christie last month when I came across an interesting piece of dialogue which attracted my genealogical interest:-

I don't know how old Nursie was when she came to us, or why my mother should have chosen such an old woman, but she always said:

'From the moment Nursie came, I never had to worry about you—I knew you were in good hands.' A great many babies had passed through those hands—I was the last of them.

When the census came round, my father had to register the names and ages of everyone in the house.

'Very awkward job,' he said ruefully. 'The servants don't like you asking them their ages. And what about Nursie?'

So Nursie was summoned and stood before him, her hands folded in front of her snowy apron and her mild old eyes fixed on him inquiringly.

'So you see,' explained my father, after a brief resume of what a census was, 'I have to put down everyone's age. Er—what shall I put down for you?'

'Whatever you like, Sir,' replied Nursie politely.

'Yes, but—er—I have to know.'

'Whatever you think best, Sir.' Nursie was not to be stampeded. His own estimate being that she was at least seventy-five, he hazarded nervously: "Er—er—fifty-nine? Something like that?"

An expression of pain passed across the wrinkled face.

'Do I really look as old as that, Sir?' asked Nursie wistfully.

'No, no—Well, what shall I say?'

Nursie returned to her gambit.

'Whatever you think right, Sir,' she said with dignity.

My father thereupon wrote down sixty-four.



Agatha Christie as a child

With my interest piqued I immediately signed up to findingmypast.com and entered Agatha Miller (Agatha Christie's maiden name). I duly found the information for three censuses (1891, 1901, 1911). These proved quite a few fallacies that we, genealogists have to be careful of.

Fallacy Number One: Family Tradition

In 1891 Agatha was only seven months old, so this story must have

been "Family Tradition" handed down to Agatha as she got older. This, of course, has a lot in common with what Helen Robinson shared with us in August about "sins of omission". Here is the transcription of the 1891 Census record:

1891 census

Address: Ashfield, Barton Road, Tormoham, Torquay

MILLER, Frederick A., Head, Married, M 44, 1847, No occupation, New York, U S A

MILLER, Clarissa M. Wife, Married, F, 36, 1855, Dublin, Ireland

MILLER, Margaret F., Daughter, F, 12, 1879, Torquay, Devon

MILLER, Louis M., Son, M, 10, 1881, New Jersey, U S A

MILLER, Agatha M.C., Daughter, F, 7m., 1891,

Torquay, Devon

ROWE, Jane, Servant, Single, F, 40, 1851, Cook

Domestic Servant, Poundstock, Devonshire

LEWIS, Susan, Servant, Single, F., 57, 1834, Nurse

Domestic, Lulsley, Worcestershire

RATCLIFFE, Jane S., Servant, Single, F, 30, 1861, Parlour

Maid Domestic Newport, Devonshire, Barnstaple

FROUDE, Charlotte E., Servant, Single, F, 22, 1869,

Housemaid Domestic, Torquay, Devonshire

Piece: 1702 Folio: 13 Page: 20 Registration District:

Newton Abbot Civil Parish: Tormoham Municipal

Borough: Torquay

Address: Ashfield, Barton Road, Tormoham, Torquay

County: Devonshire

Susan Lewis is obviously "Nursie" but contrary to Agatha who said her father wrote down sixty four, Nursie's age is given as fifty seven years.

Fallacy Number Two: Census Records are primary records.

Even if Agatha's father, Frederick, exaggerated Nursie's age in the story he told his daughter when she was a bit older, when it comes to records of servants, collected by the Master of the House there can be errors where the Master of the House has no concern for the accuracy of ages and backgrounds of servants. I've seen this so often – downstairs staff having a variety of ages and birthplaces over the different Censuses (or is it Censi?).

Even in Agatha Christie's case we have the Cook, Jane Rowe. In 1891 she is listed as 40 years old who was born in Poundstock, Devon. Ten years later – in 1901 – she is still the cook with the Miller family but her age is not ten years old but nine years older—49 years old from Jacobstowe, Devon. Finally in the 1911 Census she is listed as 58 years old – so once again ten years pass but she is only nine years older! Her birth place is still Jacobstowe, Devon.

So, did Jane modestly reduce her age by one year each census? Or did her employer, who filled in the Census forms, just estimate age?

Moving back to Agatha's own life story, I found her in Findingmypast.com :-

Civil registration event: Birth

Name: MILLER, Female (unnamed)

Registration district: [?] Newton Abbot

County: Devon

Year of registration: 1890

Quarter of registration: Jul-Aug-Sep

Volume no: [?]5B

Page no: [?]151

Her autobiography does tell that only on the way to her baptism were her forenames decided on.

Three years after the Census 1911, Agatha MILLER got married in Bristol:

Civil registration event: Marriage

Name: MILLER, Agatha M C

Registration district: [?] Bristol

County: Gloucestershire

Year of registration: 1914

Quarter of registration: Oct-Nov-Dec

Spouse's last name Christie

Volume no: [?] 6A

Page no: [?] 161

Name: CHRISTIE, Archibald

Registration district: Bristol

County: Gloucestershire

Year of registration: 1914

Quarter of registration: Oct-Nov-Dec

Spouse's last name: Miller

Volume no: 6A

Page no: 161

Agatha's courtship was very turbulent and contrary to all advice she married on Christmas Eve, 1914 Archibald

Christie, an aviator in the Royal Flying Corps. The couple had one daughter, Rosalind Hicks. Agatha's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was published in 1920. When Archie was offered a job organising a world tour to promote the British Empire Exhibition the couple left their daughter with Agatha's mother and sister and travelled to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

The couple learnt to surf prone iat

Muizenberg, South Africa and in Waikiki became some of the first Britons to surf standing up!

In late 1926, Agatha's husband, Archie, revealed that he was in love with another woman, Nancy Neele, and wanted a divorce. On 8 December 1926 the couple quarrelled, and Archie Christie left their house Styles in Sunningdale, Berkshire, to spend the weekend with his mistress at Godalming, Surrey. That same evening Agatha disappeared from her home, leaving behind a letter for her secretary saying that she was going to Yorkshire. Her disappearance caused an outcry from the public, many of whom were admirers of her novels. Despite a massive manhunt, she was not found for 11 days.

On 19 December 1926 Agatha was identified as a guest at

the Swan Hydropathic Hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, where she was registered as 'Mrs Teresa Neele' from Cape Town. Agatha gave no account of her disappearance. Although two doctors had diagnosed her as suffering from psychogenic fugue, opinion remains divided as to the reasons for her disappearance. One suggestion is that she had suffered a nervous breakdown brought about by a natural propensity for depression, exacerbated by her mother's death earlier that year and the discovery of her husband's infidelity. Public reaction at the time was largely negative, with many believing it a publicity stunt while others speculated she was trying to make the police believe her husband had killed her.

In 1930, Christie married archaeologist Max Mallowan after joining him in an archaeological dig. Their marriage doesn't appear in the British GRO index so presumably they married out of the UK.

Some forty six years later her death can be found on findingmypast.com

Civil registration event: Death

Name: MALLOWAN, Agatha Mary C

Registration district: [?] Wallingford

County: Berkshire

Year of registration: 1976

Quarter of registration: Jan-Feb-Mar

Date of Birth: 15 September 1890

Volume no: 20

Page no: 3305

Unfortunately, Probate records on ancestry.co.uk do not go as modern as 1976 – I would love to know how much her estate was!

Do you have a well-known British celebrity you would like to find out more about? Let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Some of the above information was taken from Wikipedia



Agatha Christie and her second husband Max Mallowan

Tombstone - and QR codes—are forever

LONDON: Funeral directors are giving headstones a rather modern makeover—by making them interactive.



Barcodes are being placed on the gravestones to allow visitors to find out more about the person laid to rest there. When scanned on a smart-phone, the square codes—known as Quick Response or QR Codes—launch a website which contains a biography of the deceased.

Loved ones can use a password to create and update the website and add more comments or memories as time goes by. The codes enable people to learn more than just the person's name and the date of birth.—Daily Mail

Divorce at the Cape – Changing forename in England?

I was asked to research a friend's family. "There's a lovely juicy divorce in it!" she told me. Sure enough, I found the divorce listed online in the *Cape Times* REPORTS ON ALL CASE HEARD IN THE SUPREME OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH, 1895. The case was RUDD V. RUDD, heard on 1 May 1895.



A house in Rudd Lane
Oudtshoorn

It was an action for divorce brought against Edward Augustus Rudd, of Oudtshoorn, by his wife for a decree of divorce on the ground of his adultery. Mrs. Jacomina Josina Rudd, of Oudtshoorn, the plaintiff, said she was married to defendant in 1881. There had been eight children, six of whom were still

alive, all minors. At the latter end of 1894, her husband was often away from Oudtshoorn. He first went to Cape Town in July, and returned in a short time; then left again, and remained till about the end of September. He was also away in November and January. They were married in community of property. She brought into community £600 and a life-interest, with certain property inherited from her father. Defendant was now an insolvent. She said she intended to make a living by taking in boarders. Her mother was going to help her by building a house for her at Oudtshoorn. She wished for the custody of the children.

Edward Foley said he kept a boarding-house in Loop-street. About October, 1894, defendant came to his house with a woman he knew, named Mrs. Polly Farrance. She had been a servant at Claridge's Hotel. Defendant came and said the woman was his nurse, and had to attend him as he was ill. He hired a room in which was one bed. He said he was unable to sleep at nights and the woman had to look after him. He had no suspicions at first, but one morning about 8.30 he happened accidentally to go into the room and saw them lying in bed together. He turned the defendant out of the house at once. The woman had no money and nowhere to go, and she was retained as a servant. The next time he saw Rudd was late one night when, from what he had heard from a servant, he went to the room of a woman, Miss Francis Dick, who had just come from England, and found Rudd lying on one of the beds in the room. The woman had lodged at his house a week. She did no work, only drank. When he got to the room he found the door locked, and when he knocked the light was blown out. He asked the woman if anyone was in the room with her. She replied, "No." He demanded admission. He waited ten or fifteen minutes, and was then allowed into the room, and found Rudd lying dressed on a bed.

The Chief Justice said, sufficient proof of adultery had been given. A decree of divorce with costs was granted, plaintiff was to have the custody of the children, defendant to have access to them at all reasonable times and places.

Marriages Mar 1897 (>99%)

DICK	Frances Mary L	Pancras 1b 208	info	G
Rudd	Edward Augustus	Pancras 1b 208	info	G
Taylor	Edgar	Pancras 1b 208	info	G
Turner	Elizabeth	Pancras 1b 208	info	G

The descendants of those six children wondered what happened to their great grandfather after the divorce. They believed he had returned to England. I searched the FreeBMD site for Edward Augustus RUDD and found a marriage in the Pancras Registration District in London as follows

So it looks like Edward Augustus RUDD and the lady, in whose room he was caught committing adultery, were married.

I then searched the 1901 Census and found an Edward RUDD who had been born in the Cape Colony, living at 27 Orchard Place, Southampton. He was an "inspector of sheets" for the London & South West Railways. But the problem was his wife wasn't Frances RUDD as I expected but Emily RUDD! Emily claimed that she had been born in Bath, Somerset.

That started my detective mind going. Had Frances decided to change her name to Emily – perhaps after been

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

named in divorce proceedings it was a good idea. So I search for a Frances DICK being born in Bath, Somerset. There were no Frances DICKs born in Somerset. Was Emily another woman complete? Did I have the wrong Edward RUDD?

The 1911 Census seemed to confirm that I had the right RUDD because it gave him now as "Edward A. RUDD" born in the Cape Colony.

I had also found a Death Notice at the Cape Archives for a Thomas RUDD who had been born in Hackney London in 1803 who had two children, Edward A RUDD and Lucy P J RUDD – so it looked like my Edward RUDD had been born in the Cape Colony. In the "where born" column in the 1911 Census for Edward there was written, "Brt Subject – by parentage" which seems to confirm both his father's London birth and his own Cape Colony birth.

But the 1911 Census still had his wife as Emily born in Bath, Somerset. The two censuses had a discrepancy in their ages 1901 said Emily was 33 years (born 1868) while the 1911 Census had her as 39 years (born 1872). Four years is quite a big discrepancy. The 1911 Census also gives years married and next to Emily it said "14 years" which, of course, takes us to 1897, matching the FreeBMD marriage.

I found no Death Registration for an Emily RUDD (or at least none I could be sure about) and none for Frances RUDD (in case she had gone back to her old name); nor any records for Frances DICK.

So still a mystery – Did Frances change her name? Where and when did she die? Where and when was she born – really in Bath, Somerset? Was that made-up? Did I have the right marriage in the first place? Well, the jury is still out as "Genealogical Detective Pratt" tries to find more evidence. Any help from readers would be appreciated.

Derek Pratt



St Jude's Anglican Church, where most of the RUDD children were baptised

(Continued from page 1)

trees, a useful Primer (in case you are just starting your South African family tree). Go and explore what else you can find.

Inventories in the time of the VOC [http://www.tanap.net/content/activities/documents/Orphan_Chamber-Cape_of_Good_Hope/index.htm]

I don't have ancestors who were at the Cape during the VOC but if you do this is a fascinating site with the transcripts of the inventory of many of the Dutch settlers. I entered MARNITZ and it gave me a long list of what this family owned etc. Wonderful transcripts if your family has Afrikaans names in it.

National Archives [<http://www.national.archives.gov.za/>]

It is from this website that you can search NAAIR - no, not a body hair remover, but **National Automated Archival Retrieval System**! I'm pretty sure that all of you have been here. Like all government offices – sometimes it work brilliantly other times it just dies. Useful to get all the References before trekking off to the Archives.

Surveyor's General Website [<http://csg.dla.gov.za/esio/searchproperty.jsp>]

This website requires you to know the erf number of property but once you've entered that at this website you will get a diagram of the property. My property in Fish Hoek shows all the measurements of all the property around my erf. Try it – not much on family names but interesting when going through an old estate file to see a plot of the property inherited.

South African War Graves [<http://www.southafricanwargraves.org/index.htm>]

Similar to the Commonwealth War Graves site this offers information on SA War dead graves. For example I have a distant grand-cousin who died in German South West in 1915. He is buried in Windhoek. I can request to see a photo of his gravestone from this site.

Home Affairs – Marriages: [http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/status/get_maritalstatus.asp]

Unfortunately you can only get the marriage date not the spouse's name when you enter an ID number. I have a wedding coming up and when I entered the groom's ID number it said he was married! I also have his Supreme Court's divorce papers so I'm not sure on the accuracy of this site.

SA Genealogy [<http://www.sagenealogy.co.za/>]

This is Sharon Warr's website. Some useful information but mainly links and ads for Scribes CDs

Well, while doing research for this article I've found a few more sites but perhaps you could tell me your favourites!

Derek Pratt

A CURATES TROUBLES

In the first place, I want to know why church carpenters make the kneeling-boards at the reading desks with such utter disregard to the conformation of the human leg. A Curate's leg is human – very human. For twelve months I have alternated between slipping down, till my head was lost in the big prayer book, whilst I felt as if in a douche-bath, and perching myself up like a frog on the look-out for flies. If I knelt up all the time, my back ached. My back is not strong. If I let myself gently down into a state of occultation, people libellously said I was asleep. Fanny said it looked irreverent. N.B. Fanny could not see me when I subsided below high-water mark. She liked to see me. She said so.

Talking of marks; there are book-markers. I wonder who first invented these infer - - I beg pardon- those in famous machines for the confusion of curates. They are sweetly pretty. Fanny's were. I tried to use them. For her sake; that was how she put it. But they acted like half a dozen pairs of braces mixed up among the leaves of the prayer-book. If one was in the right place it never would work with another that wasn't. The psalms interfered with the collect, and the collect clashed with the litany; and both objected to the Athanasian Creed. I was always reading in wrong places and tearing the book to get the right ones. My conscience tells me that I did incalculable damage to that portentous volume. At last I managed it. I stowed all the book-markers away by themselves out among the Thirty-nine Articles, and, barring an occasional loss of place, and substitution of morning for evening service, and vice versa (I am so fond of classical quotations), got on pretty well, I used to star it at the neighbouring village church sometimes, when I got a Sunday out. It led me into difficulties. In the first place, Fanny said I was "wandering." I thought I was, mentally, sometimes. I have wandered, alas! Bodily and mentally now.

The first church I officiated in was Stickyford. There they were very correct, and had the altar on a "foot pace." In plain English, there was an unnecessary inequality of six inches in the limited amount of floor I had to stand on. I forgot this, and came down with a gasp in the middle of the

Fourth Commandment. It shook me. I suppose I was "wandering" then. I only wanted to get my pocket-handkerchief. I had a cold. I often have colds, and they always come in the longest places, like the Fourth Commandment. The doctor said it was nervousness. It felt to me like tickling.

Then in the pulpit there was an elaborate brass desk that worked up and down with complicated machinery. I am tall. Fanny says graceful. Some persons allude allegorically to a lamppost. They are rude. That desk at Stickyford brought my manuscript about the level of the lower part of my stomach. I cling to my manuscript, and dislike rant. The fact is, I am not equal to it. In a misguided moment I tried to alter the desk, and the whole top came off in my hand. I turned a screw with the other hand, and then nothing would persuade that refractory top to go on again. I tried it, and it wobbled. If I had left it, it would have fallen over and hurt an old lady. My manuscript did, but that (in Fanny's silk velvet case) was not so heavy. I need not say I was covered with confusion. I blush very readily. That is not a pun. I hate puns. I felt like an ecclesiastical Marius among the ruins, and the clerk had to come up and repair the thing with a hammer before I could get on. I needn't say it ruined the sermon. I never officiated at Stickyford afterwards. I never shall again, or anywhere else. I am reckless, as I think I said before, and, when my moustache has grown, I shall turn bandit or pirate or I would if the sea agreed with me.

– Colburns New Monthly Magazine.

The New Monthly Magazine was a British monthly magazine published by Henry Colburn between 1814 and 1884



The new curate being inspected by mother and daughters

MEETINGS LAST QUARTER

JULY 2012

In July Derek Stuart Finlay gave a talk about Colonel Jack Rose, a pioneer in motorised military transport in both the First and the Second World Wars.



It was a fascinating journey (excuse the pun) though Jack Rose's life touching on his family as well as his achievements in the sporting arena particularly cycling.

Colonel Rose helped to organise the transport in the German South West Africa and the German East Africa Campaigns during WWI. In the Second World War he was able to get the different

motor car factories to produce trucks and vehicles suitable for the campaigns in North Africa. He retired aged 66 but only died in 1973 aged 93. He and his wife had lived in Beau Soliel house in Wynberg—now a music school.

Trovato House. Having heard her talk about the ghost therein I viewed the house completely differently on my way home up the Trovato Link which I believe will be the name of the novel.



AUGUST 2012

In August we were privileged to sit at the feet of Helen Robinson and be enchanted by her story-telling about Wynberg families.

Her talk could be divided into two parts. The first dealt with the truthfulness of family history. She spoke about the "sins of omission" where families leave out the nasty bits—pretending they just didn't happen. She also brought up what were primary documents and are not. Death Notices appear to be, but being filled in soon after the death of a loved one and the family all traumatised and blatant errors occur—are some of them intentional or not, one wonders.

The second part of her talk she spoke about her new venture of writing a novel. Needless to say her historical inclinations led to her writing a novel about residents at

SEPTEMBER 2012

For our September meeting we tried the idea of having a sort of round-table discussion where questions from the floor could be brought up and people in audience could attempt to find answers or make suggestions where solutions might be found.

David Slingsby asked me to sit up front with him and try to stimulate the discussion. I really enjoyed my self up front there—I did warn him that I talk too much and he might have to shut me up occasionally but we were very fortunate to have Jaco van der Merwe attending and many of the questions dealt with Cape Archives issues and Jaco really was the expert supplying the answers for us.

I don't know how you, the members, felt about the event. Do send a 'Letter-to-the-Editor' giving your opinion on whether we should do this again.

CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

WEBSITE:

<http://www.family-history.co.za/>

Contains lots of interesting and useful information

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Third Saturday of each month at St John's Church Hall, Wynberg

COMMITTEE 2012-13

CHAIRPERSON:

David Slingsby

SECRETARY:

Ann Smythe

TREASURER:

Vacant

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Lucille le Roux

WORKSHOP CO-ORDINATOR

Lois Harley

WEBMASTER

Eric Settle

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

In 2012 Lois Harley is scaling back on Workshops because of her own other commitments but she is doing an ongoing workshop on Practical Family History for U3A

Back Page Humour:



THE CENSUS PAPER.

Absent-minded Householder (who takes his duty very seriously). "AH, MARTHA JAMES—ER, WIDOW?—ER, AGE? M'M—THIRTY-FIVE M'M—MALE OR FEMALE?" Cook (indignantly). "FEMALE!"

Cartoon from "Punch", nineteenth century

See article on Agatha Christie on page 2

