



KAREN'S GREAT GRANDMOTHER, HONORA CONNOR

# Ancestry

Karen Nelson likes to poke about in people's history (if they want)

I have been interested in family history for 40 years and have been actively researching mine and other people's family history for most of those years. I find it fascinating and to be able to identify your distant ancestors is very rewarding. Apart from the obvious uses of genealogy, medical histories of relatives can be very useful and important as we all get older.

From the smallest piece of information it is possible to travel centuries back in time. Some of the family history sites advertise that, "it's as simple as following the leaf" but it is absolutely not as easy as that. In fact it is very simple to go down the wrong tree and end up nowhere. I used the old microfiche at one time and have noticed since the advent of the internet, so many mistakes and false lineages are rife in the family histories I have re-researched. It's a bit like those people selling coats of arms in shopping malls — absolute rubbish and nothing whatever to do with family history.

## My grandmother

My third great grandmother, Honora Connor was a young nineteen-year-old Irish country girl who was arrested for stealing geese on the Mallow Road near Cork. She was

## WHERE'RE YOU FROM?

herding the geese along the road towards her family's small holding when the 'watch' (police) stopped her and upon inspecting the geese claimed they had been stolen. Honora was taken away and after a few months of waiting first in the prison at Cork, and then a few more weeks on a hulk moored in the harbour she was duly transported for seven years on the Convict Ship 'Palambam' in 1831. The horror and sense of loss this poor country girl and her family must have felt would have been horrendous.

Honora was identified as a dairy maid in other records and after spending considerable time at Parramatta's Female Factory, was eventually 'disposed of' to a Mr Hindmarsh of the Illawarra District, where she worked for some time as a dairy maid before receiving her ticket of leave and then her pardon. It turns out that the Braidwood Hindmarsh family is one and the same. It's incredible to think of it when I am having coffee at the Albion with Janine and Chantelle Hindmarsh — that we have that historic link.

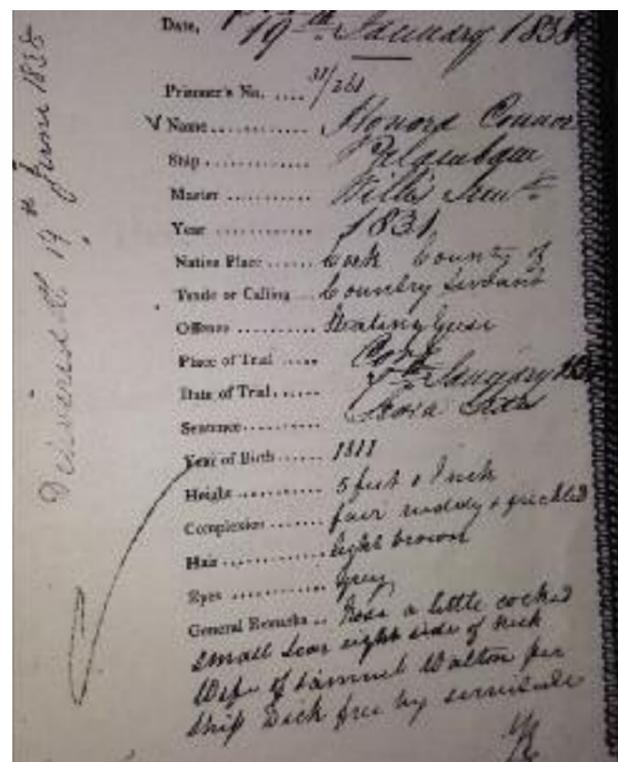
## Careful research

I've learned some very good lessons in doing research — to be extra careful and to not trust spelling. Names can be spelt so many different ways and yet be part of one and the same family. This is partly due to strong British, Irish or Scot's accents, clerical errors, mispronunciation or the simple inability to spell or write correctly.

We are the product of our ancestors. I think we should try to document as much of ourselves as possible so our great-great-grandchildren can know us. Medical information such as heart disease, cancer and mental disorders can be identified from our ancestors if we know who they were.

Don't believe all the hype around Ancestry.com. It is a wonderful tool if used correctly and carefully. But it's very easy to make mistakes and those mistakes can take you so far away from your true family line you might have to pull it down and start again. I have seen so many serious research errors when I do people's family histories where

GRANNY'S RAP SHEET.



## GIVE HER A MEDAL

they have been done by great aunty Dot or uncle Bill. Fixable but annoying.

I have travelled all through England, Ireland and Scotland collecting and researching families on both sides and you can feel the genealogy when you wander through the villages and towns of your forebears.

I love watching people thrill to hearing about their ancestors that they had no knowledge of and especially when I find photographs. I have learned to date photographs by clothing, stance or items in the photos.

Convict history is important to me. Poor souls chained to the bottom of smelly hulks. Convicts were worth nothing whereas slaves were considered a valuable resource.

Family history, genealogy and history is a detective game and is always thrilling, never losing its fun in the thrill of the chase. Realising your suppositions are correct when your eyes lock onto a name, date or place of birth and especially when you find someone. It's like they are beside you saying hello over the years. It's the best detective game ever.



Recently a friend gave me a First World War medal he bought at auction. The medal was lying at the bottom of an old wooden trunk and had obviously been through a fire at some stage for the medal is burnished and fire blackened.

After doing some simple research (30 minutes) I found it belonged to a Tasmanian Police Officer, Herbert Hynes.

Herbert was an Irishman born in Dublin in 1874, but spent the major part of his life in Tasmania as a Police Officer before and after the First World War. He took leave from the Tasmanian Police Force and joined the Army, as a member of the light horse Brigade and saw plenty of action in the middle east.

Upon returning to Tasmania and his profession as police officer, he rose through the ranks to Superintendent in Davenport. He married Emily but had no children.

I contacted the Tasmanian Police Museum who are looking forward to receiving the medal which they will have mounted along with his service history and replacement medals as part of a project that will see all the Tasmanian police officers who became soldiers from the First World War similarly honoured.

So, from some numbers and a name engraved on the side of an old fire-blackened medal we have caused a series of events to occur that has brought back the living memory of one Herbert Percy Hynes.

HERBERT HYNES BEFORE THE WAR ... AND AFTER.



## Christmas cheer to end the year.

As another successful year is drawing to a close, it is with gratitude that we take this opportunity to pass on our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing efforts and support over the months.

2016 has brought with it a list of new and exciting projects, continual growth throughout our region with a record number of enquiries received, top of the class and ever supportive trades men and women, team growth and development and yet again inspiring clients to work with.

For our efforts, we were awarded the **Managing Directors Award** for 2016, in recognition of a positive all-round attitude and approach to being a GHA Builder. This achievement is a true reflection of our commitment to you and our efforts to continue to build on and improve the energy efficiency of homes in South-East NSW.

It is humbling to witness the ever increasing interest in our region, it proves that our community is open to integrating simple yet effective methods into the design and build to create a comfortable and affordable way of living.

Our team deserves the greatest of thanks for their continual hard work and allegiance. They continue to deliver and are ever growing, as we are in knowledge, resources and support. The mateship between peers is second to none and each and every team member never stops short of the mark to get the job done.



This leaves us with you, our reason for doing what we do. Your interest in achieving a quality, energy efficient product and your ongoing faith in us to deliver for you is not only greatly respected, it keeps us coming to work each day. It confirms for us that we are on the right track and we will endeavour to continue to improve and deliver.

May you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

We will be finishing for the year on Friday 23 December and returning to work Monday 9 January. For anything urgent, we will be available on our mobiles, and will be checking emails when we can.

Merry Christmas,

**From Dan, Troy and the team at Green Homes.**

Vardanega Building Pty Ltd T/As Green Homes Australia South East NSW