

Bridgetown State History Conference

Workshop - tracing WA emigrants and descendants – prior to the goldrush era 1890

At the start of this workshop, you will be asked to indicate whether you:

1. Are beginning your family history search,
2. Have researched some of your family history, but have hit roadblocks, or,
3. Have researched your family history extensively and are thinking about writing your family story.

Aboriginal family history. Records show that many First Nations people are connected to early WA families. How can we explore these links?

- Along with other sources, we will explain how to access the Aboriginal research unit in the State Library – what are these records and what can they tell you?

Immigrant history. There were distinct groups of people who arrived from overseas before 1890. Broadly speaking they are:

- People with capital : land grant settlers.
- Indentured servants : the first skilled workforce.
- Government officers : land grant settlers.
- Asian workers : labour force.
- Charitable Institution sponsored immigrants (eg. Children's Friend Society) : labour force.
- Emigration Commission sponsored immigrants : families, single women.
- Male convicts, including Parkhurst Boys: skilled and unskilled labour force.

Sources of information about each of these groups will be explored. We will also touch on how to organise your research to write your family's story.

Bevan and Jennie Carter



Figure 1: Bevan and Jennie Carter

Bevan and Jennie Carter – biographies

Bevan has Science and Education degrees from the University of Sydney and qualifications in computing from Curtin University. He has lectured at TAFE in both the UK and in Western Australia and also taught senior high school maths and science. Bevan was mayor of the Town of Bassendean from 1997 to 2001 and from 2003 to 2005 was president of the WA Genealogical Society. He is currently convenor of the convict SIG group.

Since his retirement from teaching and local government commitments, Bevan has concentrated on environmental, family history and WA historical research and publishing. He is the author and co-author of several works, among them: *The vanishing floral heritage of the Swan Valley*, *Robert Brown botanist with Matthew Flinders*, *Nyungah land: records of invasion and theft of Aboriginal land on the Swan River 1829-1850*, *From Norfolk poacher to Northam farmer: the life, time and descendants of Robert Carter and Phoebe Oxbury*.

Jennie has qualifications in history from the University of Western Australia and in library and archives management from Curtin University. She worked at the State Aboriginal Affairs Department, where she established the Aboriginal Family History programme, before joining the J S Battye Library of West Australian History in 1998, first as the manager of the State Library's archival collections, then as Director of the Battye Library, and lastly Battye Historian/Librarian.

After leaving the State Library she and Bevan established a historical research consultancy. Jennie is the author of *Bassendean: a social history 1829 to 1979*, and author with Bevan of *Settlement to City: a history of the Armadale district and its people* which was published by the City of Armadale in 2011 and *King Eddies: A history of Western Australia's premier women's hospital* (2016). She is currently co-editor and designer of *Early Days*.

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