

Descent



Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists

March 2019
Volume 49 Part 1

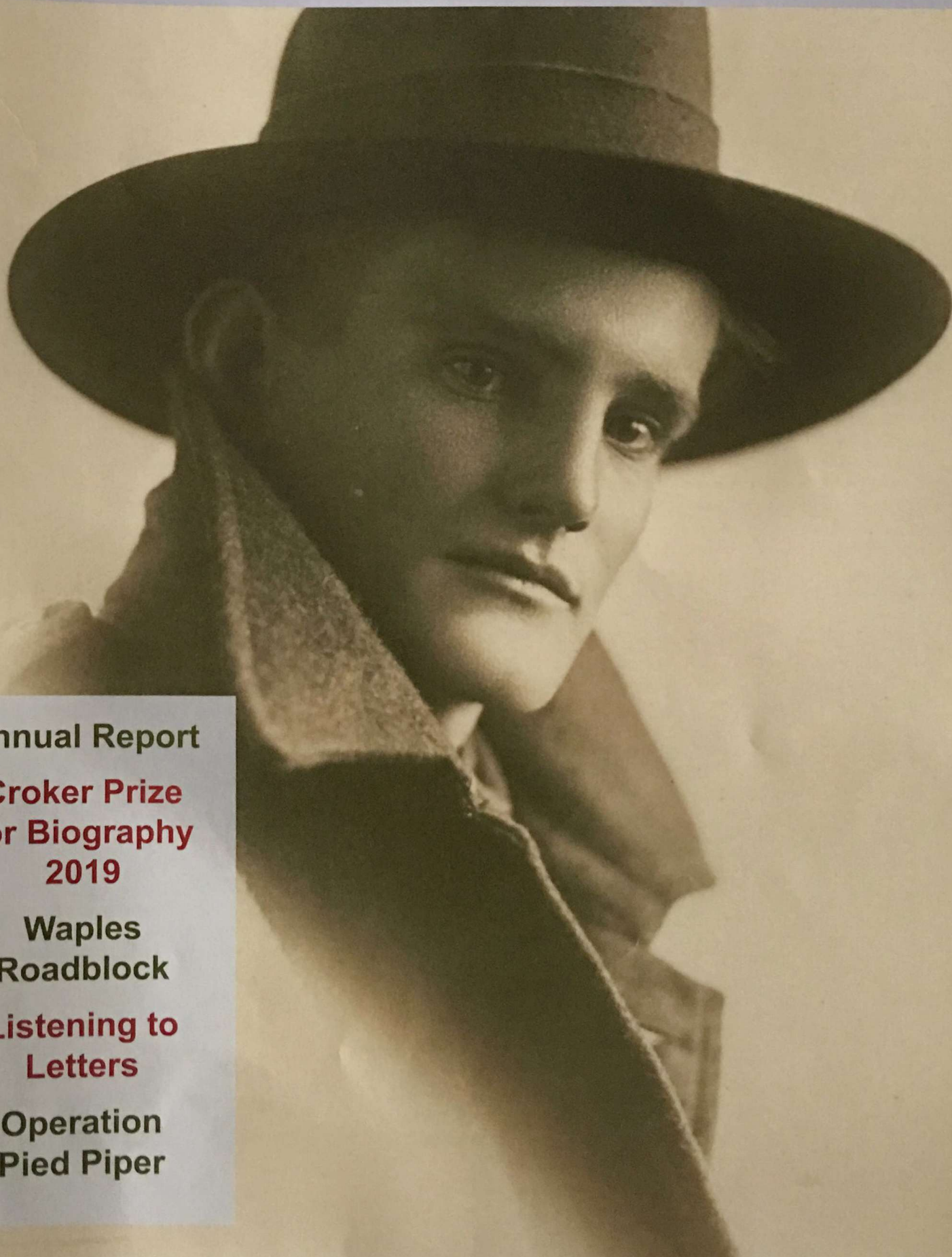
Annual Report

**Croker Prize
for Biography
2019**

**Waples
Roadblock**

**Listening to
Letters**

**Operation
Pied Piper**



The Waples Roadblock

by Jim Fleming (Member)

My research into the Waples family had been at a standstill for 35 years until a recent breakthrough enabled me to take that history back another two generations. This is how I overcame my Waples roadblock.

The problem

I started researching my family history 35 years ago. It didn't take me long to discover that George Waples was one of my GGG-grandfathers. To establish the identity of his parents, I obtained his marriage record and death certificate, but the information they contained did not enable me to go back any further.

He married Amelia Carlisle at Parramatta in 1835,¹ before the NSW law required civil registration of marriages which included details of parents' names. The parish register shows they were married by Reverend Samuel Marsden, and both signed the register with their mark because they were illiterate. There is no information about their parents.

George died at Mount Kembla in 1884 aged 77.² His son James recorded on the death certificate that George had been born in Northamptonshire (England) and that his father's name was John, but James knew nothing of George's mother. This death certificate implies that George was born in about 1807. However, none of the Northamptonshire baptisms from that time match these details. There are three possibilities in the relevant time-period, but one died, one lived out his life in England and the other's father has the wrong name.

George Waples birth possibility 1

There are a few Northamptonshire births around 1807 where the father is John, but only one is for a child named George. He was baptised at Whittlebury on 2 January 1814.³ However, it seems that this George Waples (aside from being several years too young for my George) lived out his life in England. He married Mary Clarke at Whittlebury on 27 September 1832⁴ and they had several children between 1837 and 1846. He is recorded at Whittlebury on the 1841⁵ and subsequent census records and therefore he can't be my George Waples.

George Waples birth possibility 2

A George Walpole was baptised at Great Harrowden on 18 March 1810⁶; but he died later that year.⁷

George Waples birth possibility 3

There is only one other possible candidate birth in Northamptonshire in the requisite time-period: a George Walpole, born 6 November 1806, was baptised at Finedon on 25 January 1807.⁸ However, his father's name was William, not John.

I realised the information George's son James supplied for George's death certificate could be wrong. It is indeed strange that James Waples knew his grandfather's name but not his

grandmother's. How confident was he that George's father was John?

Other researchers had concluded that the 1806 Finedon George Walpole (Possibility 3) was my George, but their reasons were never stated. If I was to deny James Waples' assertion on George's death certificate, I needed solid evidence.

Possible breakthrough

In 2018 I took a trip to the Illawarra to photograph the graves of several of my ancestors, including the grave of George and Amelia Waples at St Luke's Church, Dapto. I decided to check the parish registers for that church.⁹ These registers contain many entries for the Waples families and for the Jolliffe family into which George's daughter Susannah married.

While paging through the registers, I noticed an unusual marriage record (Image 1, below). It recorded the marriage of George Waples' daughter Elizabeth to Charles Waples from Northamptonshire! Could Charles be a relative? At 26, he would have been born in Northamptonshire in about 1844, making him about 37 years younger than George. He could be George's nephew or cousin.

I quickly recalled a well-known piece of advice to genealogists: if you hit a roadblock, try going around it. Could Charles Waples provide a way around my George Waples roadblock? In theory, if Charles Waples was, in fact, related to George, it may be possible to trace back Charles' line and (in doing so) stumble across George's line as well. It was worth a try.

Charles Waples (1841 – 1930)

I knew that Charles married Elizabeth Waples at Dapto in 1870. NSW records revealed that their first child, William, was born at Yass in 1871. Several children followed¹⁰ but there were no further records in NSW after 1885.

I did a nation-wide newspaper search on Charles Waples. Most of the hits came up in South Australia, so I switched my attentions to that State. This revealed another child: Ada (1889).¹¹

Charles died in Adelaide on 4 July 1922.¹² The stated age implied he was born in 1842 and records that he was born in an unknown town in England and he came to Australia at four years of age. Unfortunately, South Australian death certificates at that time did not require details of his wife, parents or surviving children.

I searched for his arrival in Australia in about 1846. I found that he was one of four children listed as accompanying his parents, John and Mary Ann Waples, on their arrival at Adelaide aboard the *British Sovereign* on 17 July 1847.¹³

Thanks to the comprehensive information in the St Lukes Marriage Register, I knew Charles Waples had been born in Northamptonshire in about 1844 to John Waples and Mary Ann Allan. This information is broadly consistent with Charles' death certificate.

Image 1

Names	Status	Born	Occ.	Age	Residence	Parents	Parent Occ.
Waples, Charles	Bachelor	Northamptonshire	Butcher	26	Wollongong	John Waples & Mary Ann (Allan)	Farmer
Waples, Elizabeth	Spinster	Wollongong	Farmer's daughter	22	Dapto	George & Amelia Waples	Farmer

Witnesses: George Hartley; Susannah Waples

John Waples (1813 – 1899)

So, I had established that John Waples was the father of the Charles Waples who married Elizabeth Waples at Dapto in 1870. But I needed to find where John Waples came from if I was to find a link to Elizabeth's father, George Waples.

I knew John married Mary Ann Allen (Image 2, below) and their son Charles was born in Northamptonshire in about 1842–1844. I found an 1836 Northamptonshire marriage for John Waples and Mary Ann Allen in Thrapston.¹⁴ Unfortunately, the record does not provide the groom's parents' names.

The 1841 census records the couple at Thrapston with their first two children, Mary Ann (4) and George John (2).¹⁵

Mary Ann Waples died suddenly in Adelaide in 1859.¹⁶ In the following year John Waples married Ellen Gifford.¹⁷

John Waples died on 21 Oct 1899 in his long-time home at Kensington (South Australia).¹⁸ Unfortunately, the death certificate does not provide his parents' names.

John Waples birth

According to their 1841 census record, both John and Mary Ann Waples were 25 years old, however in this census the age of anyone over 15 was rounded down to the nearest 5 years, meaning they may have been several years older than this, and therefore born earlier than 1816. Unfortunately, the census record does not provide the names of John Waples' parents.

So, I was forced to cast a wide net for John Waples' baptism record. I was looking for someone named John Waples, born about 1816, probably in Northamptonshire, possibly in Thrapston.

The record of Northamptonshire births for this period on Ancestry.com is quite extensive. A search for a "John Waples" birth around c.1816 provides 16 matches. Of these: nine died before our John Waples took his family to Australia in 1847; three died in England and all the others have a non-matching surname (Ibbolson, Ableson, Ables, Abliston). So, none of these is my John Waples.

But the Waples surname was often spelt "Walpole" in old records. A search for a "John Walpole" birth in 1816 ± 5 years provides

39 matches.²⁰ Of these: seven died before my John Waples took his family to Australia in 1847; eleven died in England; two married in England in 1872 and fourteen have a non-matching surname (Welbelone, Welbelove x 3, Wellbelove x 2, Woolfall x 4, Whilfield x2, Whalebelly, Wholebelly).

That left five possibilities:

1. John Walpole bap. 31 March 1820 Tinwell, Rutland (24 miles from Thrapston) f. William, m. Catherine²¹
2. John Walpole bap. 16 June 1812 Heigham, Norfolk (96 miles) m. Sarah Walpole²²
3. John Welpole bap. 21 December 1817 Earlham, Norfolk (96 miles) f. John, m. Mary²³
4. John Walpole bap. 7 July 1821 Filby, Norfolk (113 miles) f. John, m. Anne²⁴
5. John Walpole bap. 19 July 1813 Finedon (9 miles) f. Wm, m. Elizth.²⁵

John Waples birth possibility 1

John Walpole bap. 31 March 1820, Tinwell, f. William, m. Catherine

This John's parents are probably the William Walpole and Catharine Gibbons who married at Tinwell on 12 November 1805.²⁶ This family matches a family recorded at Tinwell on the 1841 census that includes William (60); Catherine (55), Benjamin (25), Mary (20), John (20) and Fred (4).²⁷

It seems likely that this John is the person who headed a household at Tinwell in the 1861 census.²⁸ That household consisted of John (41), his wife Mary A (40), his mother Catherine Walpole (80) and two children of John and Mary.

This John Walpole is recorded in England on both the 1841 and 1861 censuses, therefore, he cannot be my John Waples.

John Waples birth possibility 2

John Walpole born 16/6/1812 at Heigham, m. Sarah Walpole

This is probably the John Walpole who married Ann Rant (or Rent) on 8 November 1835 at St Martin at Oak Church in Norwich, Norfolk.²⁹ This couple is recorded (with three children) at Heigham on the 1841 census.³⁰ They are also recorded (with

Image 2 Marriage of John Waples and Mary Ann Allen ⁴⁷

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of <u>Thrapston</u>			
in the County of <u>Northampton</u>		in the Year 1836	
<u>John Waples</u>		of <u>this</u> Parish	
<u>Bachelor</u>			
and	<u>Mary Ann Allen</u>	of <u>this</u>	Parish
<u>of Sitchmarsh, Spinstee</u>			
were married in this <u>Church</u>		by <u>B. Green</u>	with Consent of
		this <u>fourth</u>	Day of
<u>February</u>		in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <u>thirty six</u>	
By me <u>H. Greenwood Vicar</u>			
This Marriage was solemnized between us		{ <u>John Waples & his wife.</u>	
		{ <u>Mary Ann Allen & her maid.</u>	
In the Presence of		{ <u>John Jones, Rhoda Jones</u>	
		{	
No. <u>139</u>			

four children) at 40 Halls Lane, Heigham, Norwich on the 1851 census.³¹ I conclude this John Walpole married at Norwich in 1835 and was in England in the 1841 and 1851 censuses and he cannot be my John Waples.

John Waples birth possibility 3

John Welpole **bap. 21 December 1817 at Earlham, f. John, m. Mary**
It seems likely that this John Welpole is the John Walpole aged 31 at Hellesdon on the 1851 census.³² Hellesdon is only three miles from his birthplace at Earlham. He is recorded on that census as an Agricultural Labourer, born at Earlham. He was married to Maria and had five children who were all born at Hellesdon.

Two other records also match: the marriage of John Walpole to Maria Armes on 19 April 1840 at Hellesdon³³ and the 1841 census records John and Maria Walpole at Hellesdon living with Mary Walpole (age 45; a laundress) and Charles Walpole (aged 14).³⁴ Mary would be his widowed mother and Charles would be his younger brother, born circa 1826. John Walpole and Maria are also recorded at 103 Lower Hellesdon (along with 9 children) in the 1861 census.³⁵

As this John Walpole is recorded as marrying at Hellesdon in 1840 and as being in England on the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses, he cannot be my John Waples.

John Waples birth possibility 4

John Walpole **bap. 7 July 1821 at Filby, f. John, m. Anne**
There are no John Walpoles at Filby on the 1841 or 1851 censuses. There is a 20 year old John Walpole recorded on the 1841 census as living with a wife Elizabeth and two children at Mattishall (31 miles from Filby).³⁶ I note that John David Walpole married Elizabeth Meachen on 21 Jun 1838 at Shouldham Thorpe (60 miles from Filby).³⁷ This family is also recorded on the 1851,³⁸ 1861,³⁹ 1871,⁴⁰ and 1881⁴¹ censuses. These censuses variously report that John David Walpole had been born at East Bilney (40 miles from Filby) or Mileham (42 miles from Filby). I conclude that John David Walpole is not the same person as the John Walpole who was born at Filby in 1821.

There is a John Walpole recorded as 25 on the 1841 census, living with a wife Williby and four children (and three other people) at Barton Turf (14 miles from Filby).⁴² He is recorded as having married Willoughby Neave at Barton Turf on 19 October 1834.⁴³ This family is also found on the 1851 census⁴⁴ which records that John Walpole had been born at Barton Turf. I conclude that the John Walpole recorded at Barton Turf is not the same person as the John Walpole who was born at Filby in 1821.

A five month old John Walpole was buried at Smallburgh on 3 December 1821.⁴⁵ This was five months after this John Walpole had been born at Filby, 13 miles away. This would explain why there are no apparent census records (or other records) for this child in later years.

I conclude this John Walpole died at the age of 5 months.

John Waples birth possibility five

John Walpole **bap. 19 July 1813 at Finedon (9 miles from Thrapston)**
f. Wm, m. Elizth

There are no 1841 or 1851 census records for a John Walpole that match this Finedon birth. The earlier mentioned 1841 census record (endnote 17) for a John Waples that is consistent with those facts. It is also consistent with the other known facts about my John Waples—his wife’s names and his children born before the 1841 census. Since the census is for a family that lived at Thrapston, it is also consistent with the John Waples marriage at Thrapston and the birth of his children at Thrapston.

There is no record for this family in the 1851 England census or later censuses. This is consistent if they had emigrated to South Australia.

I conclude that this John Walpole is recorded on the 1841 census as John Waples of Thrapston; my John Waples. Therefore, my John Waples was born at Finedon on 19 July 1813, father William, mother Elizabeth.

The Bishops Transcripts for Thrapston contain records of other children of William and Elizabeth Walpole. For example, there is a record of the baptism of John Waples’ brother George at Finedon on 25 January 1807. This is the record that was listed as the last possible candidate record for my George Waples’ birth.

Link to George Waples

The objective in tracing back the family of Charles and John Waples was to stumble across a link to George Waples who died at Mount Kembla in 1884. And success has been achieved! The evidence outlined above provides a very sound basis for concluding that John Waples (1813–1899) and George Waples (1806–1884) were brothers.

I conclude therefore that my George Waples was born at Finedon on 6 November 1806 to William and Elizabeth Walpole. His father was a mat maker. William Walpole had married Elizabeth Haseldine at Finedon on 9 December 1805.⁴⁶

Other researchers have reached the same conclusion, without stating their reasons publicly.

Postscript

Unfortunately, 19th century South Australian birth, death and marriage certificates contain much less information than similar certificates from other jurisdictions like New South Wales. Nevertheless, I ordered the certificate for John Waples’ second marriage.⁶² To my delighted surprise, when the certificate (below) arrived it did actually provide the name of John Waples’ father: William Waples.

This additional evidence confirms the outcome of the research outlined above. 🍷

No. 4 of 1861 District of Adelaide						
When Married.	Names and Surnames of both Parties.	Age.	Trade or Calling.	Residences at time of Marriage.	Names and Surnames of Fathers of both Parties.	Church, Chapel, or other place in which solemnised.
January 28 th	John Waples to Ellen Gifford	45 24	Farmer —	Hendlington do.	William Waples John Gifford	St. Paul's Church, Adelaide
11 9.1.1861				Name.	Trade or Calling.	Residence.

- ¹ NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate of George Waples and Amelia Carlisle (1117/1835 V18351117 19)
- ² NSW BDM, Death Certificate of George Waples (10220/1884).
- ³ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1912 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: Northamptonshire Anglican Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts. Norfolk Record Office, Norwich, Norfolk, England.
- ⁴ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1912 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: Northamptonshire Anglican Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts. Norfolk Record Office, Ref. 363P/7.
- ⁵ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1841. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1841. Class: HO107; Piece: 799; Book: 13; Civil Parish: Whittlebury; County: Northamptonshire; Enumeration District: 9; Folio: 22; Page: 15; Line: 1; FamilySearch roll: 438875.
- ⁶ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532–1812, Original data: Northamptonshire Anglican Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts. Norfolk Record Office.
- ⁷ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532–1812.
- ⁸ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532–1812.
- ⁹ Church registers of St Luke's Anglican Church, Dapto; St Hilda's Anglican Church, Katoomba [microform], Call No. 0271, Sydney, NSW: Society of Australian Genealogists, 1998.
- ¹⁰ NSW BDM, Birth Certificates of: William (19887/1871); Charles (21122/1873); Alfred (11567/1876); Amelia (12864/1878); Albert (14695/1880); Ruth (10849/1882); and Elizabeth (13474/1885).
- ¹¹ South Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Birth Certificate of Ada Waples (441/413).
- ¹² SA BDM, Death Certificate of Charles Waples (45/108).
- ¹³ "Shipping Intelligence", *South Australian Register*, 24 July 1847, p. 4.
- ¹⁴ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1912, Ref. 325P/13.
- ¹⁵ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census [database on-line], Class: HO107; Piece: 805; Book: 5; Civil Parish: Thrapston; County: Northamptonshire; Enumeration District: 9; Folio: 12; Page: 16; Line: 14; FamilySearch roll: 438878.
- ¹⁶ SA BDM, Death Certificate of Mary Ann Waples (9/73).
- ¹⁷ SA BDM, Marriage Certificate of John Waples and Ellen Gifford (45/233).
- ¹⁸ SA BDM, Death Certificate of Charles Waples (265/10).
- ¹⁹ Ancestry.com, search "John Waples", birth 1816, ± 5 years.
- ²⁰ Ancestry.com, search "John Wapole", birth 1816, ± years.
- ²¹ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1912.
- ²² Ancestry.com, Norfolk, England, Bishop's Transcripts, 1579–1935 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: Norfolk, England, Bishop's Transcripts, 1579–1935. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013.
- ²³ Ancestry.com, Norfolk, England, Bishop's Transcripts, 1579–1935.
- ²⁴ Ancestry.com, Norfolk, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Original data: Church of England Parish Registers. Norfolk Record Office, Ref. PD 190/3.
- ²⁵ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1912.
- ²⁶ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532–1812.
- ²⁷ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census, [database on-line], Class: HO107; Piece: 895; Book: 9; Civil Parish: Tinwell; County: Rutland; Enumeration District: 9; Folio: 3; Page: 19; Line: 6; FamilySearch roll: 474578.
- ²⁸ Ancestry.com, 1861 England Census [database on-line], Class: RG 9; Piece: 2311; Folio: 55; Page: 19; FamilySearch roll: 542952.
- ²⁹ Ancestry.com, England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: England, Marriages, 1538–1973. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013.
- ³⁰ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 787; Book: 7; Civil Parish: Heigham; County: Norfolk; Enumeration District: 16; Folio: 18; Page: 28; Line: 22; FamilySearch roll: 438869.
- ³¹ Ancestry.com, 1851 England Census [database on-line]. Class: HO107; Piece: 1816; Book: 7; Civil Parish: Heigham; County: Norfolk; Enumeration District: 16; Folio: 439; Page: 27; FamilySearch roll: 207469.
- ³² Ancestry.com, 1851 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 1811; Folio: 387; Page: 27; FamilySearch roll: 207464.
- ³³ Ancestry.com, Select Marriages, 1538–1973, FHL Film Number: 2262496, Reference ID: item 17 p 3.
- ³⁴ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 787; Book: 3; Civil Parish: Hellesdon; County: Norfolk; Enumeration District: 17; Folio: 8; Page: 11; Line: 1; FamilySearch roll: 438869.
- ³⁵ Ancestry.com, 1861 England Census, Civil Parish: Hellesdon, Ecclesiastical parish: Norwich. Class: RG 9; Piece: 1209; Folio: 57; Page: 21; FamilySearch roll: 542775.
- ³⁶ Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 780; Book: 9; Civil Parish: Mattishall; County: Norfolk; Enumeration District: 9; Folio: 29; Page: 35; Line: 1; FamilySearch roll: 438864, Enumeration District: 9.
- ³⁷ Ancestry.com, England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973, FHL Film Number: 2299169, Reference ID: item 12 p 2.
- ³⁸ Ancestry.com, 1851 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 1824; Folio: 217; Page: 44; FamilySearch roll: 207478.
- ³⁹ Ancestry.com, 1861 England Census, Class: RG 9; Piece: 1220; Folio: 7; Page: 9; FamilySearch roll: 542777.
- ⁴⁰ Ancestry.com, 1871 England Census, Class: RG10; Piece: 1821; Folio: 28; Page: 10; FamilySearch roll: 830840, Enumeration District: 20.
- ⁴¹ Ancestry.com, 1881 England Census, Class: RG11; Piece: 1951; Folio: 118; Page: 11; FamilySearch roll: 1341470.
- ⁴² Ancestry.com, 1841 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 784; Book: 3; Civil Parish: Barton Turf; County: Norfolk; Enumeration District: 2; Folio: 10; Page: 12; Line: 24; FamilySearch roll: 438866.
- ⁴³ Ancestry.com, Norfolk, England, Transcripts of Church of England Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers, 1600–1935 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2018. Original data: Church of England Bishop and Archdeacon Transcripts of Parish Registers. Norfolk Record Office, Ref. BT ANF 1834_a-c.
- ⁴⁴ Ancestry.com, 1851 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 1808; Folio: 194; Page: 13; FamilySearch roll: 207460.
- ⁴⁵ Ancestry.com, Norfolk, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–1990 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Original data: Church of England Parish Registers. Norfolk Record Office, Ref. PD 189/7.
- ⁴⁶ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532–1812.
- ⁴⁷ Ancestry.com, Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1912, Ref. 325P/13.

Jim Fleming

Jim is a retired Customs Manager and lives on Sydney's lower north shore.

He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists for 35 years.

Aside from genealogy he enjoys travelling and sings baritone in two choirs.

