

PAULEEN CASS

Title

The marriage of local and family history: a bridge to the past. Use the combined skills of local and family history to draw past communities from the shadows.

Summary

The now small Queensland community of Murphys Creek was an important hub for the construction of the final leg of the railway up to the Darling Downs in the 1860s. Find out how the personal faces and events of this historic town were uncovered. Researchers will be able to apply similar skills to their family's own community of interest.

Abstract

Family history focuses on our own family's story through the generations and over centuries. Local history reveals the broader story of a community and/or region across time.

The marriage of research skills and interest in both local and family history draws from the shadows all those who contributed to the community over the generations, whether part of its long-term fabric or not. This gives us a more personal perspective of the changing face of a place, as well as its economic and social life.

This talk will focus on the stories and history of Murphys Creek at the foot of the Toowoomba range. Now a sleepy hamlet, floods aside, Murphys Creek was once a buzzing hub for the railway workers building the challenging line up the range to the interior of the new colony of Queensland. Travel with me through time to find more about the people behind this grand colonial adventure. We'll visit the cemetery (always fun), trawl Trove and look at the remaining historical artefacts.

Audience

Intermediate to Advanced