

The Genealogist

FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE

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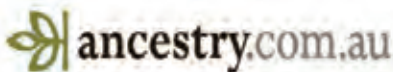
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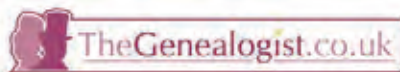
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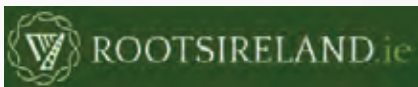
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From the President



Sometimes it takes a seismic change in our lives to reassess what is important to us. The virus this year has certainly achieved this rethinking. Family, friends, face-to-face communication and socialising have all reached new importance in our lives. Nearly everyone I know, including me, has made use of the technologies available to communicate with each other, and they have proved invaluable. It has made me think how our ancestors communicated, particularly those who left their homelands and settled so far away, when letters took months to arrive (this is not the place for me to comment about Australia Post). The news of births, deaths and marriages were out-of-date, but even so, how our families must have longed for any news from home or from the colonies.

FHC has made use of Zoom for presentations and meetings, and so many members have commented on how they have never been able to visit Blackburn, and what a bonus this extra service has been for them this year. We plan to keep these, and more, videos and notes available in the Members Area for the future

It has been wonderful to have so many family history resources available online during the past months, and I have made all sorts of discoveries and broken down a major brick wall. Of course, many resources are not free, but the money I have spent on pay-to-view databases has been justified in my mind by the money not spent on dining out, haircuts, petrol etc. I have also found so

much more that I need which is not on the internet – I have a pile of catalogue entries printed to view material in person at the Public Record Office (records not digitised); the State Library of Victoria (a manuscript diary); several historical societies (both town and country); and last but not least, the FHC Resource Centre (several books, a few CDs and even some fiche)

Repeat after me “It is not all online”. I have had some angry moments too, checking online family trees. I can’t help myself occasionally, and then I remember why I shouldn’t - they raise my blood pressure and make me cry out aloud “No. That tree is all wrong!”

On a happier note, we are all looking forward to a brighter happier 2021 when FHC can operate normally again. See you there!🍷

- Gail White

Council for 2020-2021

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Secretary	Pauline TURVILLE

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Research	Jenny WYKE
Facebook	Linda FARRELL & Carolann THOMSON
Website (General)	Linda FARRELL
Website (Members area)	Gary FITZGERALD

FHC RESOURCE CENTRE CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

16th December 2020
through
11th January 2021

**Merry
Christmas!**



VicGUM is a not for profit organisation which provides technical support to its members with their use of family history software.

VicGUM members receive a monthly newsletter, connection to Gumnet (which is a member's only web based chat site) and ongoing technical support.

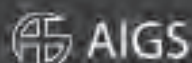
Our regular user group meetings for FTM and Reunion are now being held using Zoom. This allows any interested member to log in.

Monthly events are also scheduled to be held using Zoom. They will be recorded and will be viewable by members through the member's section of the website.

For details of member benefits visit the web site:

www.vicgum.asn.au and join on line

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Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc.



Luton Hoo Hotel dining area
Bedfordshire

Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire

Carolann Thomson

The site of Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire has been settled for centuries and ownership has passed through more than one family¹. Several houses have been built there, with the present building begun in the 18th century. Its completion was interrupted by two devastating fires; the second of these destroyed almost all of the house and its vast contents. The original gardens were landscaped by Lancelot “Capability” Brown and included lakes created by damming the local river. The house was rebuilt in the mid nineteenth century, looking much as it does today.

In 1903 the house and extensive grounds were purchased by Sir Julius WERNHER. He and his family filled it with a vast and important collection of tapestries, porcelain and furniture. The house was used as Eastern Command HQ during WW2, and tanks built in Luton were tested in the grounds.

Today the house is a luxury hotel and spa, complete with golf course. It has been restored using the original plans and refurbished extensively, including Giulio BERGONZOLI's statue The Love of Angels which appears on the cover of this magazine. The surrounding estate is still owned by the WERNHER family. ☞



Luton Hoo Hotel exterior

¹Thomas HOO, Baron of Hoo and Hastings was the last of his family to live here. He died in 1455, after which the estate passed through the ROTHERHAM and NAPIER families. A descendant, Francis HERNE, sold the house in 1763 to John STUART (British PM 1762-62). It was rebuilt after a fire in 1771, then sold in 1848 to John Shaw LEIGH after a second fire, five years earlier.

The Accidental Bigamist

Robyn Watters

*'I am going away for good. You will find tea on the stove.'*ⁱ

This note was left by Tessie for my great uncle Joseph to find after he came home from work. It was transcribed in their divorce papers of 1935 and signalled the end of their marriage. A more practical and less prosaic final message would be impossible to find.

The build-up to this sudden departure had been long in coming. Joseph Thomas OAKLEY was twenty and Theresa Veronica (known as Tessie) YEE KEE, apparently of part Chinese-extraction, was sixteen when they married in 1911 at St. John's Church of England, Melbourne.ⁱⁱ Joseph's relationship with Tessie YEE KEE would have been outré in those days, as was the ex-nuptial pregnancy that resulted in their son being born later that year, saved from illegitimacy by their hasty wedlock.

Given their ages, Joseph and Tessie had to have parental consent to marry. Whilst Joseph's father Cornelius OAKLEY was noted as having given permission, TESSIE had a Justice of the Peace do so. Perhaps her family disowned her for her youthful indiscretion and did not attend her marriage. Witnesses also included Joseph's mother Dora (nee McGRATH). Tessie, sixteen, pregnant and likely removed from her own family and heritage, married into the large working-class OAKLEY family.

Tessie's young husband Joseph was himself born ex-nuptially and his parents, Cornelius and Dora OAKLEY, were probably trying to prevent history repeating itself by facilitating the young couple's marriage. It is unlikely that Joseph and Tessie knew the real reason for the urgent impetus for them to marry; a very personal reason for Joseph's parents. A very secret secret.

Joseph's parents were not married when Joseph and his next five younger siblings were born. His parents Cornelius and Dora eventually married at the Free Christian Church at 448 Queen Street, Melbourne on Saturday, 12 January 1901, ten years after his birth. The notorious Holt's Matrimonial Agency, of the same address, advertised an immediate, some may say downright hasty, and discrete method of marrying using their associated Church. No notice was needed, witnesses could be provided and a range of wedding rings, of all sizes, could be purchased on the spot. In other words, the Church offered a quickie marriage with no or few questions asked. On Cornelius and Dora's marriage certificate they left a blank column requiring them to list any children they had. This was despite them already having six children together! Naturally the witnesses to their marriage were James and Annie HOLT of Holt's Matrimonial Agency and not family or friends. A very quiet wedding indeed.ⁱⁱⁱ

In order to take advantage of the Victorian legitimation law which allowed for ex-nuptial children to be legitimated, Cornelius and Dora had to marry. The parents had to have no legal impediment to their marrying at the time of their child's



Dora Madeline OAKLEY (nee McGrath) and her six oldest children in 1899
Joseph Thomas OAKLEY, her eldest child, is standing at left.

birth and they also had to register the birth within six calendar months of the passing of the law or within six calendar months of the marriage. Additionally, the parents had to sign a statutory declaration that the child was theirs. So four factors were at play before legitimation was granted to an ex-nuptial child; only then could the parents apply to have their child's birth re-registered which conferred legitimation on the child.^{iv}

In Joseph's case, his father was not listed on his birth certificate of 1891.^v He apparently remained un-legitimated as his birth re-registration has never been found. His five younger siblings were re-registered. Why was Joseph left disadvantaged? This may be because Cornelius was not his father, or because Cornelius was married to someone else at the time of the birth, or because Dora was not free to marry when he was born, being under-age when she gave birth. Dora could not marry unless permission was given by her guardian or by a Justice of the Peace. Dora was brought up by her grandmother Mary MUNDY and perhaps this informal arrangement was insufficient for legal purposes. Of course, none of these possibilities may apply. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. There may yet be found a re-registration of Joseph's

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The Accidental Bigamist

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Tessie YEE KEE

Photo courtesy of her great granddaughter Kristine STEPHENS née OAKLEY

birth. So when Tessie Yee KEE became pregnant, Joseph's parents Cornelius and Dora would have been very keen for the young couple to marry so they didn't have to execute a furtive marriage similar to their own.

Tessie's parents must have been deeply saddened by their daughter becoming pregnant to Joseph Oakley and married at sixteen. Joe GOON and Emily KILEY married when Emily was seventeen and pregnant with Tessie. It is interesting to note that Tessie's surname on her wedding certificate is YEE KEE, not reflecting the last name of either of her parents. It must have seemed that history was repeating itself with a forced relationship between Tessie and Joseph even if the couple was in love. Neither of Tessie's parents were witnesses at the ceremony. Perhaps they did not attend.

It seemed that the romance which had blossomed between young Joseph, a cigar maker and Tessie, a cigarette maker, was destined to sour given its inauspicious start. A second son had been born in 1914 to the young married couple, but by 1920, cracks were showing in the marriage with Tessie finding companionship with other men. In July 1922, their marriage was over for good. It had lasted for about eleven years. The two sons stayed with their father and had sporadic contact

with their mother over the coming years according to both the divorce records. According to family memory, Tessie did take the boys with her when she left Joseph and the three of them lived with her new partner but he didn't want the boys there. They returned to live with their father and sporadic contact was made, information which aligns with the divorce records.^{vi}

In 1933, Tessie asked Joseph to instigate divorce proceedings for desertion and the Decree Nisi was granted on 17 September 1935 and the Decree Absolute followed on 18 December 1935. The boys remained with Joseph.

By 1935, Joseph married for the second time, thirteen days after his divorce was made Absolute.^{vii} This was a relief as on his marriage certificate Joseph erroneously noted his divorce as Absolute three months before it actually was, and he risked bigamy if he had married two weeks earlier. Elizabeth Kinsella LYSAGHT was three years younger than Joseph and their marital union was apparently successful enough for Elizabeth to join him in the same grave seventeen years after his death in 1959.^{viii}

What became of Tessie? According to Joseph's divorce affidavit, she had asked Joseph to divorce her in 1933. Joseph noted that she was living in Elwood with "friends". She was in fact living with her future husband in a de facto relationship. In 1935 Tessie was so keen to marry Thomas Patrick BRADY she inadvertently committed bigamy by 'marrying' him one day before the divorce became Absolute. She 'married' in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Elsternwick.^{ix}

Bigamy had and has great legal consequences. Inheritance, social security and taxation were but some of the areas affected. This information caught up with Tessie as she made a second attempt at marrying Thomas in 1938, this time at St. Columba's Roman Catholic Church in Elwood. Incredibly, on her second marriage certificate with Thomas BRADY, Tessie repeated the same erroneous Decree Absolute date as on her first bigamous marriage certificate with him! She simply failed to understand that she had the wrong date. This was despite knowing that she had to marry again because she'd married one day too soon the first time around!^x

Why did Tessie get it wrong twice? She was able to sign her name on her three marriage certificates, one with Joseph and two with Thomas, but she would have had limited schooling. The legal niceties perhaps escaped her. Oddly, Tessie's bigamous marriage was not officially cancelled by the Victorian Government Statist until *after* the second (and legitimate) marriage to Thomas.

Rebecca PROBERT, the UK's foremost expert on family law history confirms that the

1935 marriage would of course have been void, but since she was free to marry at the time of the 1938 marriage then this would have been a valid marriage. The timing of the cancellation would not make any difference to the validity of the 1938 marriage – a

void marriage is automatically void from its inception without any declaration to this effect, but the declaration did at least ensure that there was no ambiguity as to the date of the marriage.^{xi}

Tessie got over the line as legitimately married to Thomas BRADY on the second attempt despite putting the wrong date (again) of her Decree Absolute on the certificate. It is what lawyers call a form over substance error and did not strike at the heart of the legitimacy of the marriage. Phew! Tessie, Joseph and Thomas might have been bemused or perhaps indifferent to find that their marriage certificates were brought to the attention of a world legal authority on bigamy over eighty years later.

Tessie was to live a very long life, dying in Elwood at age ninety-four in 1998. Her second husband Thomas BRADY had died many years earlier in Pearcedale in 1961 but they were still married and living together in Elwood at the time of his death. They had no children. She was the informant on his death certificate.

Her death certificate is barren of information, clearly the informant, her godson Ron, knew almost nothing about her background. Indeed one may question the truth of his responses on Tessie's death certificate. Her children are not listed and only one marriage, that to Thomas BRADY.^{xii}

Tessie left no worldly goods to her grandchildren (her sons predeceased her) and left the bulk of her estate to her godson Ron who was living with her in Elwood at the time of making her will. Her godson Ron is also mentioned on Tessie's grave plaque. These actions validate her distant relationship with her sons (in line with Joseph's divorce affidavit) and her sons' children.^{xiii}

Family memory however does demonstrate that there was some contact between Tessie and her sons Joseph junior and George. Joseph junior visited her occasionally and George visited her more often. Joseph junior's children Sue and Kevin had been told that their grandmother had died when their father was young. Sue and Kevin met their grandmother for the first time after their father's funeral to which Tessie had sent flowers. Flo (Joseph junior's wife and thus Tessie's daughter-in-law) and Sue went to visit Tessie as a courtesy. Apparently, she was disinterested in photos or discussion about the family. She repeated that God had been good to her.



Theresa (YEE KEE/OAKLEY) BRADY's plaque at Cheltenham Memorial Park
Photographed by Robyn Watters

Tessie also met her granddaughter Sue at her other son George's funeral. Tessie sat at the back and cried. There was no conversation with any of the family that day and it was the last time there was any contact with her. It appeared to Sue that her grandmother Tessie did not want a relationship with her grandchildren.

What can we learn from Joseph's shared grave? Joseph's second marriage proved lasting and the LYSAGHT family he married into were willing to share their final resting place with him. They must have found him a satisfactory son-in-law and accepted his two sons from his first marriage.

Via marriage, Tessie YEE KEE anglicised herself first as Tessie OAKLEY and then as Theresa Veronica BRADY. From being bi-racial in the slums of North Melbourne, working in a cigarette factory, becoming pregnant at sixteen and enduring a shotgun wedding, she left behind her former life and was 'very satisfied' as Mrs. BRADY of Elwood, home duties. Tessie cut off her blood line from both her attention and ultimately, her worldly possessions. She re-made herself and integrated her life with that of her second husband and her in-laws. She lived to a very great age. It appeared that she never looked back.

Volition plays a large place in happy relationships.☺

ⁱ Public Record Office of Victoria Divorce files and cause books VPRS 5335 P0005 Volume 6 Divorce record of Joseph Oakley and Tessie Oakley Victoria, 1935, Suit 430

ⁱⁱ Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate 3244/1911

ⁱⁱⁱ Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate 1731/1901

^{iv} The Victorian Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1903

^v Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Birth Certificate 2156/1890

^{vi} Public Record Office of Victoria Divorce files and cause books VPRS 5335 P0005 Volume 6 Divorce record of Joseph Oakley and Tessie Oakley Victoria, 1935, Suit 430

^{vii} Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate 12398/1935

^{viii} The Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust deceased search record Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, Plot 101891

^{ix} Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate 12522/1935

^x Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Marriage Certificate 5564/1938

^{xi} Rebecca Probert, email to author dated 7 November 2016

^{xii} Death Certificate 23712/1988 Theresa Veronica Brady

^{xiii} Public Record Office of Victoria, VPRS 7591/ P14 Unit 62, item 1002/307

Finding Amelia

Kim Crane

My great great grandmother Jeanette WHITE was born in London on 19 November 1835. She lived to a ripe old age and died in Williamstown Victoria on 11 September 1935, two months shy of her one hundredth birthday.

I was lucky enough to have a copy of a marriage certificate handed down from my great uncle Paul which showed that her parents were George Henry WHITE and Mary Ann COOK. They were married at St Martin in the Fields in Middlesex on 27 December 1831. George was 41 and Mary Ann was 17. I was able to find the family on the 1841 Census: George (a tailor), Mary Ann, and two children Jennett (sic) aged 6 and Ann aged 4. By the 1851 Census, George has been widowed and his children are Jeannette (15), Ann (12) and Amelia aged 9.

In 1855, Jeannette and her sister Ann arrived in Melbourne on the *Calliance*. The shipping list shows Janet WHITE and her sister Anne. They were young women of 20 and 17 respectively. The following year, in 1856, George WHITE died in England. What happened to Amelia?

On and off I searched for her in various lists and indexes. Eventually I found her on the 1861 Census, boarding with another family and working as a dressmaker. It seemed she followed her father into his trade. There was no sign of her on the 1871 Census and I wondered if she had followed her sisters to Australia? I found her in shipping index as Emilia WHITE, even though the actual log showed her as Amelia. She was on board the *Fabia* in 1869, listed as a cook. At this point the trail went cold as there was no record of her in Australia.



Front: Jeanette MEGGS (née WHITE)
Standing L-R: Daughter Emily Alice Amelia COSTELLOE (Née MEGGS), grandson Francis COSTELLOE holding his son Wilfred COSTELLOE

While reorganising my records, and looking again at all the research over the years, I went back to the shipping log to see if I had missed something. There, in faint pencil next to her name, were three tiny words “died at sea”. A magnifying glass made all the difference! Further research uncovered the fact that she had died in childbirth.

Meanwhile her two sisters had settled into life in Australia not knowing the fate of their younger sister. Jeanette WHITE had three children, two illegitimate sons (whose mother was named Jennette WITE on the indexes) and a daughter whom she named Emily Alice Amelia. Her American husband Augustus MEGGS was said to left behind a daughter Emilie, thus my great grandmother Alice was given the names of two lost but not forgotten relatives, her half sister and her aunt.☺

FOLLOWING THE FLOCK, a lesson in what not to do.

Betty Horskins

I am a retired professional genealogist who for 35 years ran her own business. I would not have lasted 35 days without accurate well-researched material and referenced sources. I am a former Reference Officer at the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) helping people with their family histories, some so fanciful at times I found it difficult not to smile. I was also a lay reader for the recently released 434 page PROV Guide to Land Records with an acknowledgement to me. I was on the Council of the AIGS, a library volunteer and have by invitation participated at Open Days, and spoken at seminars. I was also a volunteer at the GSV. I have taught classes, written material for magazines and where possible, when requested, I assist the Waverley Historical Society. For friends 80th birthdays I have used my skills to create "life books" – which is all about them, and they were much loved.

Back in 1974 when I began my family history it could only be done by having to visit the various Archives, going into the Public Record Office and the State Library of Victoria, to the Victoria branch of the National Archives, then at Brighton, or to other places that might hold records. For interstate or overseas information it was letter writing and more letter writing. There were no birth, death or marriage indexes. The only way to obtain a certificate was to guess a possible date, pay the Registry fee and they would look 5 years either side of given date. If found, the certificate was forwarded, if not half the fee was returned. There was no microfiche or film, just printed material. I am pleased it was the way it was because family historians of the time learnt bit by bit as each new record became available, some still on paper but most now on the new microfiche or microfilm. It was exciting. The AIGS library was in Lavelle Street, Blackburn, when the Registry released their first index on microfiche. The index was primitive but was still exciting.

In the early days I completed several courses with Mrs. Marjorie MORGAN OAM who possibly ran the first such course, as well as a Port Phillip Pioneers course with Marjorie, my family having arrived in 1838. Later I went back to school and did HSC with one of the terms being Early Pioneers of Melbourne. I loved these courses and am pleased to say I passed very well.

When I joined the AIGS they were renting a church hall in Hartwell, I was Member Number 1628. Their holdings were so few they could have, if they had wished, stored their entire holdings in a large box. There was very little to be had at the time, and what is now available is amazing. I also joined the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), which was of course in the same situation in their tiny rooms in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Such was family history then, but for me it also meant that when I found

something it was more than likely correct for it was a printed list etc. from Parishes, State Governments, Archives etc., not someone's poor standard of research by finding a "name" on the internet and deciding that will do, and often not having any idea of history nor consulting any other type of record. These days you just click a button..... but is it the correct button?

During this self-isolation I decided that I would go back over some of my own family history and have a look at what people have put on the internet sites. I have now looked at a combination of Ancestry and MyHeritage and Google sites to see what is on-line. So interesting. So good. So badly wrong. I have listed some of the stupid, as not only can you have a laugh, but also see how the Number 1 rule of true research is **never believe other people's work until proven**. There is no such thing as instant genealogy.

Between these search sites to date, with very little effort, I have so far found 16 references for just one branch of my people and only one person has quality research and has done a marvellous job. I shall not refer to him again as he is not part of these examples of shoddy research. I quickly realised that sheep have followed other sheep until there is now a whole flock of them, 15 in all. A couple of their published sites, as a family history, sadly have comments from people such as "thank you for your work as I now know about my ancestors." Or "you have put so much into finding our ancestors". It is a shame as these happy people are unaware that they still don't know about their family, since much of what they have read is not true. For the three families shown below, not one person has bought a certificate, despite their birth, marriage and death certificates all being beautifully documented. Nor has anyone looked at wills, shipping, newspapers, cemeteries etc. Definitely no one has checked Google for background such as official histories of people and places; and certainly not on TROVE, as each of the three have wonderful obituaries and various articles in general. Nor have any of these 15 "researchers" referenced their findings. Each of the three below are written about in the history books of their area, one with photographs; a great deal of information is also held in the relevant local Family or Historical Societies as well as suburban libraries. I found their documents and true history, so why haven't these people? One "researcher" even stated that buying certificates was costly so wouldn't bother with them. The prime documented resources for all true family histories are such certificates and other official material. Near enough is not good enough.

Continued over page>

Following the flock...

Continued from page 9

Some of the ridiculous mistakes are recorded below.

Ancestor 1. Thomas.

- i.** Thomas was born in Victoria in 1808. That's 27 years before Batman & Fawcner arrived and Victoria was first settled. If this information was correct, as three other "researchers" claim, you wouldn't have to research him because his history would be in countless books. He'd be the most famous person in the Colony. He was born in 1808 but in England.
- ii.** He was baptised 4 years before he was born, and if Thomas's mother was whom one researcher indicated, it meant that Thomas was born 31 years before his mother. Simple maths would eliminate her.
- iii.** He arrived in this country on half a ship. Double named vessel but only half ever used.
- iv.** Apparently the place Thomas settled was named after him, despite in 1849 the NSW Government Gazette declaring its correct name which was many years before Thomas arrived.
- v.** That Thomas must have been rich because he voted in the 1856 Victorian Elections. A simple Google search explains the rules of the day. For the common man to be eligible to vote, there is quite a long list. Some of them being *by paying ANY amount to the public revenue or holding a Miners Right*, being a storekeeper, occupying the waste lands of the Crown etc. As it happens, Thomas was often in the Debtors Court.
- vi.** Thomas was born in Ireland. This is incorrect as he was born in London, England, both words on all certificates. He died in Victoria with his death certificate very clearly written "Born London, England". Three of his (Victorian born) children's birth certificates have it clearly stated that their father was born in London, England. He signed as the informant on each.

Certainly a guess is cheaper. I can see how this has come about due to questions asking his Native Place (Limerick). But native place is not necessarily the same as place of birth. If it were, then some peoples Native Place would be most interesting. Native Place is where you and/or your family resided which may or may not be the same as place of birth. I was born a long way from where I lived. Why? Because in her last week of pregnancy, my mother was staying with her mother.

- vii.** Thomas, when old and feeble, somehow got back to England so he could be recorded on the 1881 census then he hurried back to Victoria to die not long after and be buried in the wrong cemetery.

Ancestor 2. Peter.

- i.** One person has Peter born here as the son of his brother and sister-in-law. His brother and family arrived here in 1839 but said son Peter was born in England in 1812 and arrived in South Australia in 1840, then Victoria in same year. If born here in 1812, he also would have in 1835 welcomed both Batman and Fawcner on their arrival. Maybe he knew Thomas?
- ii.** After Peter and his family arrived in South Australia, one of his two sons died. Not one of the 15 researchers have mentioned any of this. The children are on his death certificate plus years in the Colonies and their names. One person has him arriving in Victoria in 1850. Listed on the index are Peter's three other children, all born in Victoria well before 1850.
- iii.** Peter married three times, the first twice in England. No one has mentioned his first wife and only few mention his second wife who came out with him. What these so-called researchers record about his marriages is far too messy to explain here as it would take forever, except I read that he married his third wife 5 years AFTER he died.
- iv.** Peter died in Melbourne but one person has him dead where he was born. Why? They did not look at the top of the index page under the column where it clearly states "where born", but has taken it as "where died".

Ancestor 3. Dennis.

- i.** Every one of these 15 sheep has Dennis born in Victoria. He was baptised here but born in Wiltshire. It is B on the Birth index. Granted that is possibly confusing, but not if they held any of his other certificates or even looked at his death index entry with his age, and then done their maths. Granted ages can be incorrect but often they give a clue to birth year. With 15 sheep following each other it is obvious that not one of them has actually done any Family History research, that is the story of a family. They only have a sort of a genealogy and that is the BDMs of people. Genealogy and Family History are not the same. The first is the cold hard facts of BDMs without anything about those ancestors' lives. The second is genealogy *plus* the life and times of a family.
- ii.** When Dennis married here in Melbourne, researchers have his wife born in Wiltshire. Not so. She was born in Melbourne and is listed on the Victorian index. So they have Dennis born in Victoria when he wasn't, and his wife born overseas when she wasn't. Excellent research?
- iii.** Nothing about her arrival as her parents are not mentioned. They, without any children, arrived in Sydney

and a few months later came onto Melbourne. Her parents, after being poor labourers in England, did so well in Victoria that they donated part of their farm land for a church. No mention of that, which of course was a big event in their lives. Part of this family knew Ned Kelly as they lived near him. An interesting bit of family history but not mentioned. If newspapers had been read, then there would have been a history of their lives.

iv. Dennis unsuccessfully stood for Parliament and he was feted when he retired from his occupation, but there is no mention of this.

v. Dennis is named on a local council memorial but nothing is written about that.

vi. Dennis and his wife died in Victoria and each of their death certificates lists 16 children, but only 14 are shown on the Victorian BDMs. On both Dennis' & Jane's death certificates the first child listed was named Denis Joseph with nothing more known. No mention is made of this in these "genealogies". Both Dennis and his wife's death certificates clearly state all their details. At one stage this couple were for 3 years in South Australia where one son was born and he is on the South Australian Birth Index. This has been completely ignored. The details are very clearly on their death certificates. I am indeed fortunate that my family were very good at accurately recording their certificates details.

At least it has given me a laugh. As I said *never trust other people's research until proven*. This is not research, it's

guessing and that is **not** research. Do these people assume that because its on the internet it must be correct? People who evidently have no documentation, who cannot add nor subtract, with no idea of our history nor even ask Google for help. People who possibly happily think by publishing their so called research they have added to the history of the early settlers in Australia. Sadly they have in fact damaged it with their misleading writings. It also shows how these internet sites accept anything sent to them, no matter the quality of the content.

I have had a number of clients who have asked me to repair their family histories which have been done by others. They ranged from the odd mistake to one I re-did twice just to satisfy myself that I was correct, since I could not believe what I had read. My client asked me could she visit me at my home as there was no way she could explain by letter or email what was wrong. How right she was. It was perfect up until Great Grandfather died because he had documented it all. Then it won the Family History Gold Medal for Unbelievable Garbage and that's all you could call it, garbage.

If these examples have alarmed you, then please always check the sources and references of every online record for your family. Don't accept anything at face value, just because its there. Please don't become one of the sheep and follow the flock.

Happy researching.🌀

Earl Roberts

Gail White

Sometimes you come across the most unexpected items in the newspapers digitised on Trove, like this one I discovered during the lockdown. It was written by a cousin at the age of twelve. Perhaps her parents helped her to write the letter, but as Gregor's article in the September issue (*Ancestors in the Grampians* - Vol XVII, No 3) showed, children could be thoughtful, serious and eloquent in their writing. Aunt Connie must have read many such as this:

The Late Earl ROBERTS

Evelyn JACKSON, who lives at 61 Primrose Street, Moonee Ponds, write: - Dear Aunt Connie, I have taken the liberty to write to you about the late Earl ROBERTS. Full of honor, one of the greatest and best-loved of Britain's soldiers, Field-Marshal Earl ROBERTS died of pneumonia on November 14, near

Boulogne, in France, whither he had gone to visit his old friends of the Indian Army. He was born at Cawnpore, Indai in 1832. He fought in the mutiny of 1857 (where he won the VC) in the Abyssinian War of 1867, the Afghan War of 1878-80, and the South African War of 1900. He has been Governor of Natal, Commander-in-Chief in India, Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, and Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. In his later years he consistently urged the establishment in Britain of universal military service. He was also a powerful temperance advocate. I am 12 years of age.

Earl ROBERTS was Frederick Sleigh ROBERTS, and English soldier, born in Cawnpore in 1832. He was created an Earl in 1901, and retired from the military in 1904. He died while visiting troops in the field in France.🌀

Attwood Lane

This lane commemorates the lifetime contribution of John Attwood to the community of Murrumbreena. Affectionately referred to as the

“Unofficial Mayor of Murrumbreena”

Born and raised in Murrumbreena, John was a paperboy at the Newsagency located across the road at 456 Neerim Road from the age of 12. He was then manager for 10 years, before purchasing it with his wife Myra in 1963. In total, a working life connection with the Murrumbreena community for over 72 years.

A staunch community advocate, John has sponsored many community organisations. He has led many community projects including being one of the founding directors of Murrumbreena Bendigo Community Bank.

As Colin Smith’s landmark book on Murrumbreena quotes “One of Murrumbreena’s finest... where would Murrumbreena be without John Attwood?”

Dedicated on 6th August 2017

Attwood Lane Memorial Plaque
Dedicated 6th August 2017 to John Attwood

Neighborhood Treasures

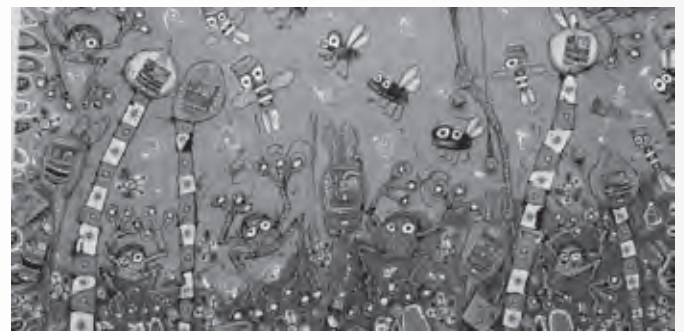
Kim Crane

A walkway close to the Murrumbreena station is dedicated to a local man, John ATTWOOD, recognised for his long association with his community. A plaque placed on the wall of a bustling café at one end of the pathway includes the following information:

“ATTWOOD LANE. This lane commemorates the lifetime contribution of John ATTWOOD to the community of Murrumbreena. Affectionately referred to as the “Unofficial Mayor of Murrumbreena”. Born and raised in Murrumbreena, John was a paper boy at the Newsagency located across the road at 456 Neerim Road from the age of 12. He was then manager for 10 years, before purchasing it with his wife Myra in 1963. In total, a working life connection with the Murrumbreena community for over 72 years.

A staunch community advocate, John has sponsored many community organisations. He has led many community projects including being one of the founding directors of Murrumbreena Bendigo Community Bank.

As Colin SMITH’s landmark book on Murrumbreena quotes “One of Murrumbreena’s finest... where would Murrumbreena be without John ATTWOOD?” Dedicated on August 6, 2017.



Attwood Lane, Murrumbreena history mural “Frogtopia”
One of two by Anthony BRESLIN

Further information about the ATTWOOD family is held by the Glen Eira Historical Society. Trove includes an article which recounts John ATTWOOD being robbed at gunpoint and being taken for a ride in his own car before the robbers fled¹.

The walkway includes two artworks by Anthony BRESLIN² which show something of the history of Murrumbreena when it included swampland and frogs. The name Murrumbreena is derived from an Aboriginal word *mirambeena* which may have meant “land of frogs”.³

¹<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110851177>

²Information panel: Anthony BRESLIN, Australia 1966. “Frogtopia”, acrylic paint on multi panels 2.8m x 2.8m Glen Eira City Council Art Collection.

Around the Groups 2020

Available to all
FHC members
& the community

RESEARCH SERVICES at the FHC Resource Centre

Please check the details including contacts, dates and times of meetings as there are changes. If in doubt, contact the Resource Centre for confirmation.

Contact details:

Early Victoria & Tasmania

Convenor: Marion Taylor
metaylor.1938@gmail.com

Meetings:
1st Saturday of the month at 10am (Feb-Nov)
RSL Clubrooms, South Parade, Blackburn

Midlands

(Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire,
Shropshire, Warwickshire,
Worcestershire and others)

Contacts: Rosemary Allen
rallen@melbpc.org.au
and Denise Probert
dpr85736@bigpond.net.au

Meetings:
4th Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm (Feb-Nov)

Ireland

Contact: Russell Cooper
coop.gen@optusnet.com.au

Editor: Lesley Haldane
lesleyjoe@iinet.net.au

Meetings:
2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm (Feb-Nov)

London & Home Counties

(London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,
Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex)

Contact: Rob Owers
rowers@bigpond.net.au

Meetings:
2nd Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm (Feb-Nov)

Northern Counties

Convenor: Rosemary Allen
rallen@melbpc.org.au

Meetings:
3rd Friday of the month at 2pm (Feb-Nov)

South West England (Including Hampshire and The Isle of Wight)

Contact: Jill Davies
jilliandavies52@optusnet.com.au

Editors: Pam Bunney
mpbunney@bigpond.com
Rae Alexander
raelesalex@yahoo.com

Meetings:
2nd Friday of the month at 2pm (Feb-Nov)

Scotland

Meetings:
2nd Sunday of the month at 2pm (Feb-Dec)
*Please contact the Resource Centre with
any questions.*

Eastern Counties

Convenor: Barbara Alderton
balderton@vraustralia.com.au

Editor: Judith Cooke
judithvc@primus.com.au

Meetings:
3rd Monday of the month at 1pm (Feb-Nov)

If you are finding that you are stuck and can go no further, perhaps our researchers may be able to assist. Our group are very experienced and have years of researching behind them, so are in a great position to help.

We have four different Research Services available to members and family historians alike: Research, Look-Up, One on One Assistance, and "Family History Data Entry"

Research

Undertaking requests by researchers
Members \$25, Non Members \$40 per hour.
(The minimum initial charge is two hours per person).

Look-Up

We look up nominated records for you
Members: \$12, Non Members \$20 per look up.

One-on-one Assistance

You can meet in the Resource Centre for a one or two hour discussion with a researcher.
Members \$25, Non Members \$40 per hour.

Family History Data Entry

Person must have Ancestry program and be willing to allow Editorial rights to the researcher to undertake this task. (Note: applicants must be prepared for the many hours required to have this done for them)
Members \$25, Non Members \$40 per hour

Why do we have a two hour minimum?

Consider that researchers have to read your research request, understand just what you want, in many cases, check the information provided, do the search, then write up the findings.

All monies received for Research Services are donated directly to the FHC Resource Centre. If you would like to join the list of our many satisfied clients, please go to the FHC website www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au, then select Research for full information and application forms.

Alternately contact the FHC office.

Any queries can be sent either by e-mail to research@familyhistoryconnections.org.au or mail details to the Research Co-ordinator, FHC, PO Box 339, Blackburn, Victoria, 3130.

We look forward to assisting you in your family history quest in the near future.



Black Thursday (Engraving)
Myers, Harold Godfrey and Ashton, Julian Rossi, 1851 - 1942, (engraver.) & Cameron, T.W., (slide maker.) (1900). Black Thursday. (State Library of Victoria Collections)

A Blaze of Green

Cheryl Mullins

This story is based on my ancestors who lived in the Plenty Valley area in the 1850's. My g-g-grandmother was an "Irish Orphan". They lived in what is now known as Arthurs Creek on land owned by Patrick REID.

On Thursday 6th February 1851 there was a huge bushfire after which the day came to be known as Black Thursday. The fire started in the Plenty Ranges and then continued unrestricted across the top of the Melbourne northern suburbs over to the Mornington Peninsula and also down towards Geelong. Ships had to anchor in Bass Strait for fear that their sails would catch alight from embers. The red glow could be seen from Van Diemens Land (Tasmania).

I do not know exactly how my ancestors escaped the fire but the Plenty River was a well known water source and the Plenty Gorge would have provided the safest refuge in the area with its high walls. The fire started in the Plenty Ranges, caused by a fire left untended by tree cutters.

I have read about the fire and attended a discussion at the State Library regarding the painting by William Strutt "The Black Thursday Fires 6th Feb 1851".

The wind was getting stronger and hotter. The washing dried as soon as Maggie hung it on the line, flapping in her face as she put the pegs in. She'd left baby Jamie inside where the air was cooler and he was out of the

wind. Everything was dry around the hut. The grass was brittle and nearly white; no green to be seen anywhere. Even the leaves on the trees were dry and grey as they twisted in the wind.

Grey like the sky today. She could see the sky was darkening with huge black clouds. Perhaps a storm was on the way? 'A blessed storm bringing rain!' she thought. 'That's what we need!' But the Boss said it was clouds because of the heat. He said it was 113 degrees! So hot! Everything she touched burned, she couldn't breathe. Not like home.

No, not like home. Maggie remembered her Mam saying there was too much rain but home was so green! How she missed it, green trees with green grass underneath. Here there was only rain like that in winter, the rest of the year it was dry and dusty. She couldn't get used to the dry but she'd have to, there was nowhere else to go, everyone at home had died.

Maggie was glad she'd met James in the tent city in Port Melbourne three years ago. She was only seventeen, straight from Ireland. She was part of the Irish Orphans scheme, picked out of the Workhouse to come to Port Phillip and start a family of her own. She wouldn't have survived otherwise. Her Mam and Da were dead in the famine.

The Surgeon on the ship and the Matron had given the girls good food to fatten them up before they arrived in Hobsons Bay. She was so gaunt when she climbed aboard the *Pemberton*, but when she arrived months later in the new country she found her clothes were tighter. She was here only six months, working as a servant in a house in Collins Street. She and James got to know each other quickly. They were married in 1850 in St Frances Church. He was an ex-convict who'd had a hard life but he was good to her. Mrs REID, the lady she'd worked for, sent them up here to the new house in Arthurs Creek, to work for her husband the landowner. Maggie worked in the house, James worked on the land.

'Maggie!' James was racing in the gate startling her out of her memories.

'There's a fire in the bush coming this way. We have to get to the river at the Gorge. Cover yourself and the baby with the shawl and let's go!' He pushed her towards a couple of horses pulling a dray. She turned and rushed inside, picked up the baby and shawl and ran. The cart was full of children, deathly silent, covered with cloths, towels, anything to protect them from the heat.

She looked back. The clouds had turned red and towered above them. She could feel their heat, even as the driver drove the horses away, as fast as they would go. Men and women with heads covered, pushed the cart and dragged the frightened, jittery horses onwards. All around was black dirt and dust swirling in the air. The hot wind flung the dirt into her face. It took her breath away, she couldn't breathe. She kept the baby covered, held him tight.

They came to a steep road. The driver shouted, 'I have to stop here, I've got to get others. Go down the bank and you'll come to the river. Get in it and stay there 'til the fire passes.' They were facing a deep gorge with a narrow path working its way down to a river. The children and their mothers clambered down the steep bank. They all slid into the cool wetness. Maggie saw it wasn't deep but at least it was water!

The fire thundered above them. It roared like a great raging bull, red and black with a hot wind pushing everything over. It came closer and closer. Maggie held her baby tightly, "I hate this land!" She screamed out.

The mothers were terrified as they watched the fire burn to the top of the gorge then, turn away, looking for more fuel. Seeing the fire turn and leave, Maggie calmed a little. She fed the baby under her shawl by holding him on her breast, high up in the water. Everywhere was smoke. It was suffocating, her eyes stung, she pulled the wet shawl over her baby's head to protect him from the smoke. Crash then thump! She could hear the burnt trees falling.

The flames, having now moved further down the gorge, left them alone. Hours it seemed they waited until they heard a voice from above, 'Anyone down there?' They clambered up to the top of the bank. The women helping each other and their children until they reached the top. Maggie hadn't seen anything like it before. Everywhere looked like hell, nothing left, nothing standing. Black and hot, hot smoking dirt. 'How are we going to live?'

People returned to their properties but mostly there was nothing left. Everyone worked together and arranged for buckets of water to be collected from the river. Maggie and James were given tents, so they stayed a few weeks by the river, James helping others to build shelters until timber could be found to build homes again. They waited until they could go back to the property they called home.

Then the clouds came again. They were dark, reaching right up above her, like last time. She was afraid of the clouds and what they may mean. Soon though, Maggie found the air was cool and damp, a bit like her Irish home. She held on to the baby. Then, rain! In big heavy drops at first, landing on the tent and the dry earth. It fell heavily, washing ash into the creeks. Finally the rain stopped. The air smelled clean and fresh. Everyone laughed and danced in the rain not caring if they got wet, just enjoying the feel of cool water on their skin.

When Maggie and James eventually got home, they found the big house had gone, their hut too. All that was left was black, the trees and even the dirt. James set up the new tent where they'd built their hut. She tried to keep the tent clean. Every day she swept the ashes from the dirt floor. She cried when she was on her own with her baby and James was out working on the land. Maggie wrapped little Jamie in a clean blanket given by the missus.

One bright, sunny day, she carried her baby outside the tent and they walked across the black dirt but now in the cool fresh air. She saw something sticking up, out of the black, something green. A little shoot, a leaf on the side of a blackened stump, as green as her home in Tipperary. A blaze of green growing from the black ashes of the fire. They were going to survive. ☘

References

- Port Phillip Pioneers Group – "Black Thursday Fires 1851"
- Trove newspaper reports 6/2/1851



64 Glorious Residential Sites
CANTERBURY
FRONTAGES TO PROSPECT HILL ROAD



27 Shop Positions
East Camberwell
FRONTAGES TO RIVERSDALE ROAD



124/422
10701 9277

AUCTION, SATURDAY, 26th MARCH, 1927

At 3 o'clock

IN A SEATED MARQUEE

On the Estate

A TIP-TOP ESTATE ON THE TIP-TOP OF A TIP-TOP DISTRICT

If it really money wanted to erect a good home on a bad allotment. You must build as that your house will appear even better than it really is, because of the allotment of land it is built on; on the other hand, quite plain looking houses when placed on a good allotment appear to be far superior than they really are. It is in your advantage to select a good allotment for appearance sake.

If you want to live in a beautiful suburb, abundantly supplied with Nature's gifts and charm, which is already famed for its healthy atmosphere and inspiring surroundings, then build on Hassett's Estate. Here you have all conveniences, and you are right on the tram track and close to the Canterbury Railway Station. Should you not be prepared straight away to build, you should not let this opportunity pass, as very shortly we expect land of this class to be unobtainable except at very fancy prices.

THEREFORE BUY ON HASSETTS ESTATE

BUY NOW ON HASSETTS ESTATE

—ON—

SATURDAY, 26th MARCH



£10
Per Lot

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20/-
Per Lot

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—ON—

SATURDAY, 26th MARCH

COGHILL & HAUGHTON
79 Swanston St., Melbourne (Cent. 2793)

AUCTIONEERS:

Branch Offices at Canterbury (Phone 59) and Heidelberg (Phone 34)

Hassett's Estate Auction Flyer
26th March, 1927

The home in Hassett's Estate

Judith Lesley

This Estate has been referred to as Hassett's Paddock and variously listed as being in Camberwell, East Camberwell and Canterbury. I contacted the Camberwell Historical Society and received information relevant to a land sale in the 1920s but information also about assessments conducted much more recently by the City of Boroondara. The subdivision of Hassett's Estate is now considered to be an area of significance, with a Heritage Overlay Number 191 (HO191). In 1991 re HO191 there is information about 'one Michael J HASSETT residing in Matlock Street Camberwell (in the Directory of 1900) while sale posters told of the HASSETT family's long tenure in the area'. Were they like so many early people, involved in self-sufficient farming having cleared the land in order to do so?

The Argus of 13 June 1908 includes a reference to an auction 'At Hassett's Paddock, East Camberwell at three Building sites'. Early days... It seems that the largest and most significant auctions were sold well after the war, including Catherine Street, Elphin Grove, Quantock Street and some in Riversdale Road, when Camberwell was expanding to the east. Major sale dates were May 1924 and March 1927.

The principal boundaries of the third section of the Estate sold in 1927 were, to the north, some allotments on the south side of Prospect Hill Road and in the south, allotments in Riversdale Road. To the east was Griotte Street, and the westerly boundary was Hassett Avenue, meaning the lots available were in the sections of streets east of it, those west already included in the previous sale.

The Grand Auction on Saturday 26 March 1927 was 'the third section; the final section; the best section' to be held 'at 3 o'clock/ on the Estate/ in a seated marquee'. The advertising brochure gushed on 'a tip top estate on the tip top of a tip top district'. There is more enthusiastic vocabulary such as 'a beautiful suburb, abundantly supplied with Nature's gifts and charm, already famed for its healthy atmosphere...' before progressing to practicalities. 'Here you have all the conveniences [sewer, power, water, gas, telephone], and you are right on the tram track and close to Canterbury Station...'

If you were looking for land at the time – the language was enticing. 'Get on the Wattle Park electric tram at Princes Bridge and ask to be put off at Hassett Street... I believe that my parents were there. And later that same year they were married.

I have located the first Directory reference in 1930 to the proud owners of a home in Alta Street nearer to its eastern end. This street is cut through west to east, one street down from Prospect Hill Road which is nearly at the top of the hill. The earliest view from the back verandah looks south over paddocks that would develop into residential housing in Maysia Street and Cooba Street; and there, carefully recorded photographically by my father, is the electric tram running in Riversdale Road.

(Photographs reproduced with this article are from copies provided by State Library Victoria to which I have gifted the originals.)

The house, I can best describe (with reference to published information including *What house is that* published by Heritage Council of Victoria) was constructed as a type of bungalow (perhaps with other influences), one of the styles that were popular in this estate. *Enc Britannica* describes the bungalow style as 'a single storied house with a sloping roof, usually small, often surrounded by a verandah...'. My parents' home had two bedrooms. There was a low-fenced unroofed constructed area in front of the lounge room, leading from the roofed porch protecting the front door.

With a red terracotta tiled roof, and chimneys for the kitchen, dining room and lounge room, it was a solid house with walls that were double brick. It took a few days to really warm up in summer, and then SO LONG for it to cool down. Externally the brick walls were covered with a rough-cast finish. This was a course plaster surface that consisted of lime and sometimes cement mixed with sand. It was near to white in colour and required maintenance with a product called calsomine – a type of 'wash for walls...' which was painted on. This fresh brightness of the walls was contrasted with the quite dark green of the wooden frames of the windows, the paint being made by Bristol.

At either side of the house entrance, as part of the low-fence or wall edging leading to it were two short brick pillars. These were filled with enough earth to support the planting in each of a cypress tree, barely discernable in the photograph. On entering this home through the dark stained timber and glass panelled door, on the hall wall opposite was a large print of a painting of an avenue of cypress trees receding into the far distance. It was like a trompe d'oeill, deceiving the eye about the real depth of the small home. Had the original been painted in Tuscany?



Exterior of the authors home in Hassetts Estate
Photograph taken by the authors father

The two front rooms were the main bedroom, and the lounge room that had double doors connecting it to the dining room. Although small in area, the house had enough light with these connecting doors, and the door at the front entrance, in that they were glass panelled. The heavier curtains in the photograph are patterned but in the long plain but textured heavy curtains that I remember, hung at the end of each trio of windows, the main decorator colour was deep blue. These windows were each double hung, their upper sections in diamond shaped glass pieces held together with lead lighting, and a quite deep window sill that as a small child I actually climbed up to, despite the few ornaments on display. My mother was less than pleased. At least I had not wanted to lick the lead-lighting which, I now

Continued over page>

Interior of the authors home in Hassetts Estate
Photograph taken by the authors father



The home in Hassett's Estate

Continued from page 17

understand did present a concern in those days. Across each set of windows was a fine curtain for privacy during the day. Some 20 years later when rationing of clothing and material eased, my mother made new curtains on her treadle Singer sewing machine using mosquito netting. The white colour of this netting not fitting into the colour scheme, mother then dyed them with tea.

The deep blue of the remembered heavier curtains was the predominant colour replicated, particularly in the edging of each carpet piece. Wall to wall carpeting was unknown, and patterned carpet pieces were contrasted by the dark hard varnish called japanning on the wood floor edges. The deep blue was repeated in the linoleum in the kitchen. Linoleum was made of a preparation of linseed oil and powdered cork on a canvas backing. This biodegradable material was probably warmer too, than the much later vinyl that was cheaper to produce, but made of toxic chemicals.

My father's main concern in the garden was the self-sufficient provision of food. There were fruit trees and vegetables, a banana passionfruit vine on the back fence and the tough buffalo grass to mow. There were other trees too like the silver birch; but Mother planted violets, and pretty annuals like phlox, primulas, and primroses; and antirrhinums which were such fun with a finger in an upper section of a flower, and one in the lower it was like a mouth. Mother knew that the method used to keep hydrangeas blue was to dig old nails into the soil. I used to think that my parents between them could do anything to maintain the house and the garden. One day a bird fell down the lounge room chimney (not alone in being frightened) and subsequently my engineer father made some sort of cap on the chimney top to prevent such an incident happening again. My father took many photographs of the house both inside and out, but these did not include the kitchen, laundry and toilet which each opened onto the back verandah or of the bathroom.

My mother did so much knitting and sewing, AND she had to manage the inside cleaning; the routine after lunch was to dry mop all the dark stained floor edges that so readily seemed to show dust. In the kitchen, the single sink with its cold-water tap, was porcelain, and over the sink stretched a gleaming long slim copper outlet pipe from a small electric hot water heater. A piece of Velvet soap in a long-handled soap holder moved rapidly back and forth creating a froth, was used for washing the dishes, first the cleaner cups and last the heavier greasy pans. The dish draining section larger on one side of the basin, was grooved in order to facilitate the water draining back into it. This was made of wood - necessitating scrubbing with a brush and a product like sand soap until it looked nearly white. The lino had similar management, but on hands and knees. A scrub first, maybe a vinegar and soap solution unless it was a traffic area, followed by the hard work of applying the wax.

The bathroom too, had a water heater with a gas pilot light that needed lighting before use. It was cylindrical in shape, standing on a wooden supportive structure, with a spout over the plug end of the bath, and somehow connected overhead to the showerhead at the other end. This might sound so old fashioned today when such amenities are the expected norm, but in the day it was such an advance on washing in a basin, and after drawing water from a well in the first place. There was a small hand basin in the corner of the room, and between the two windows with heavy patterned glass for privacy, both on latches, there was a shelved medicine cabinet. Cleaning of the bath and basin was done using kerosene.

In *The Argus* of 31 July 1935, quite a long article was headlined: '*Cost of Roads on Hassett's Estate/ Owner Who Paid in Full/ Council Charged With Trickery*'. Reading on it seems that there was a commission appointed to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the construction of private streets in Camberwell. The *Hassett's Estate Betterment League* representative stated that they had asked for macadamised roads... that the proposed thickness of the concrete-seven inches should be reduced to save costs... (The enquiry was adjourned...). In the 1991 citation for HO191 *Hassett's Estate and Environs Precinct Extension* - regarding Alta Street it states that 'The street has a concrete roadway...'

Earlier than this report *The Argus* property writer in the issue of 4 May 1956 wrote that 'Camberwell and Canterbury are among the few suburbs of Melbourne which can claim to be almost completely residential'. The *City of Camberwell Urban Conservation Study 1986, 1991 for Precinct 15, Hassett's Estate* concludes 'Hassett's Estate with its range of 1920s-1930s house styles, concrete roads, roadway plantations, and custom-made lighting, was one of the outstanding subdivisions of 1920s Camberwell and inspired much of the later building form, subdivision and street design for the suburb. Historically the estate exemplifies the high-quality estates of the eastern suburbs...' In the 2015 *Heritage Policy Statements of Significance* for City of Boroodara about HO191 Hassett's Estate, additional information includes 'The place retains a consistency gained through municipal by-laws on house siting, lot sizes and materials... The estate is... conspicuously geared to commuting, fronting a tramline and located quite close to a railway.'

One of the first homes to be built on land in the third subdivision, so thoughtfully developed and cared for by my parents, was in this highly regarded Hassett's Estate.☺

NOTE:

In the article "Rain, hail or shine, the washing was on the line", published in the previous edition of this magazine (Vol XVII, No 3), I was concentrating on laundry work, referring briefly to the Estate on which my parent's home was built. I misinterpreted information about what was considered a 1920s Estate, ie that it had its first sale in 1920. During research for the article above, I discovered that while most of the Estate was indeed sold in the 1920s, the first very small sale was much earlier.

GRAND AUCTION SATURDAY :: 26th MARCH, 1927

AT 3 O'CLOCK

IN A SEATED MARQUEE

ON THE ESTATE

HASSETTS ESTATE EAST CAMBERWELL, CANTERBURY

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OVERLOOKING THE RIVERSDALE GOLF LINKS

64
Glorious Residential
Allotments



27
Shop Positions



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17 Reasons why Family History is good for you

If you're a die-hard family historian, this article isn't for you. Why? Because you already know how awesome researching is, and in reality you're probably like me, and can't understand why everyone isn't in to it.

Alas, they aren't....so for everyone else, let me give you some personal reasons as to why I believe family history is good for you.

- THE EXCITEMENT

- When you do family history you will make the best friends, both with others who are researching as well as newly discovered extended family.
- We all know about the genealogy happy dance, don't we? Excitement = dancing.
- You will discover the truly amazing lives that your ancestors lived, the highs and lows, the good and the bad, You will come to 'know' them, and appreciate that they are a part of what made you an individual.
- You know all those family traits everyone has?you may well find out who to blame for yours.



- THE EXERCISE

- Genealogy is outdoorsy. We like visiting cemeteries for hours, and this is super great for the step count.
- The effort involved in clearing overgrowth in cemeteries...
- Did you know that genealogy is great yoga? After sitting at your desk for probably too many hours, you'll get up and stretch up or bend to get to books, folders or records, which no doubt are heavy, so you could count that as weight lifting too (bonus!).
- Have you heard of the genealogist's sprint? That is when you're at a library or archives and need to go to take a break, but don't want to lose your desk ... so, you literally sprint. Great cardio!

- THE SKILLS

- You'll become the king or queen of organisation (well, that's the theory anyway). As researchers we acquire so much information, often on paper as well as in electronic form, all of which needs a good filing system to keep it retrievable. Over time you will learn to become organised. You must!
- Geography. Yes, seriously. I promise you will become a whole lot better at geography, at least in the areas your ancestors came from.
- And history. You will learn history. You have to know what happened, and where in the world, to put your family history in context.
- If your family is from a non-English speaking country, you will amaze yourself by learning enough of the language to be able to read genealogical documents. And for other words and phrases we always have Google Translate and Babel Fish to help where needed.
- After spending weeks scrolling through census, parish records and wills, you will be 100% more proficient at reading anyone's handwriting! All those census enumerators and parish priests certainly gave us a challenge.
- You'll learn new words like taphophilia, centimorgan and ahnentafel and come to understand archaic language in medical and occupational terms that were used back in the day. Thank goodness for old dictionaries.
- You will develop a better memory. True! You will be remembering names, dates and facts of your ancestors in no time, and you'll quite likely remember them better than you remember the birthdays of those still living.
- You will become a bit of a sleuth, a detective, discovering what records are where, and how they are likely to help, then making considered responses based on the evidence.

The combination of skills, exercise and excitement that family history creates really does makes researching a worthwhile endeavour. Wouldn't you agree? So if you have been thinking of getting started ... wait no more. Do it now, for you, your family AND your health!

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About the Anglican Archives

Hazel Nsair & Leonie Duncan, archivists



Anglican archivists Hazel Nsair and Leonie Duncan
Inset: old baptismal records. Source: *The Gippsland Anglican* Vol 116, No1 Feb 2019

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne archives are located at 1/59 Scotchmer St North Fitzroy. In 2016 we moved to a new purpose-renovated building, with humidity controlled storage and a small reading room for researchers. It is a great improvement on the very very small musty attic that we were in before, behind St Paul's Cathedral!

Each Anglican Diocese in Australia has different rules for its storage of Archives. In the Diocese of Brisbane and the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn, all parish records and registers are held in their Diocesan Archives, which makes it easier for researchers. The policy of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is that the church that created the record holds the record. So in Melbourne, we only hold some records of various parishes, as Parishes are encouraged to hold their own archives and to give them to us, when they can't or prefer not to, look after them. For researchers, the parish is the first port of call.

When a parish closes or amalgamates with another parish (which is the usual case) the records are sent to the combined church. Since the new Archives Centre has opened, we are receiving more records from the closed parishes than we previously did, and I assume this will continue as the Centre becomes more well-known. This means that records are in many and various places, which makes looking for baptismal, marriage and funeral records in Melbourne very tricky.

In 1853, the Registrar-General's Department was established under the provisions of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act (1853) with the introduction of compulsory registration of all births, deaths and marriages. All churches in the colony were required to send their pre-1853 registrations to the Registrar-General's Department, however records show that this did not always happen. By the time of compulsory registration in 1853 there were already 22 districts with churches and clergy, of whom only 5 clergy could perform marriages. All these churches were part of the Diocese of Melbourne until other Dioceses were formed. The Diocese of Ballarat was formed in 1875, the Dioceses of Bendigo, Gippsland and Wangaratta in 1902.

The State Library of Victoria has a lot of information about church records at

<https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/victorianancestors/church>; as does the Public Records Office of Victoria at <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/early-church-records-added-our-collection>

Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) became the first diocese to be established in 1842 and mainland Australia established its dioceses in 1847, divided into Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Newcastle.

Prior to the arrival in 1847 of Bishop Charles PERRY, Victoria's first bishop, Bishop William BROUGHTON was

the Bishop of mainland Australia from 1836. His Letters Patent created him Metropolitan or See of Australia and Bishop of Sydney, although Van Diemen's Land had been given its own Bishop in 1842. Records created before 1851 are held at the Archives of the Diocese of Sydney. The bad news about that is that these Archives are generally closed as the Archivist is too busy to answer enquiries.

In July 1851 Victoria was constituted a separate colony, distinct from New South Wales, after the arrival of Bishop PERRY. He discovered that there was one over-burdened cleric in Melbourne and one each in Geelong and Portland. PERRY had brought with him from England three clergy and three lay (ie not ordained) workers, thus with those already here there were nine people to minister to a district as large as Great Britain. Ministry often required clergy travelling miles to minister in buildings including private homes, barns etc. It was common practice for an area to establish a schoolroom first before having the resources to build a church.

Bishop PERRY aimed to form districts in the bush, each under the care of its own resident clergyman. For example, when Rev W. SINGLETON was appointed as clergyman, he held alternate Sunday services in the town and he visited distant settlers' stations on the other Sunday. Bishop PERRY also decided to employ missionary clergymen who should itinerate through the bush and carry the ministration of the Word and the Sacrament, in others words, travel through the bush and give the bread and wine, marry, bury or baptize as required.

At the Melbourne Archives we are happy to help people looking for family history but we don't have many parish records. We mainly hold correspondence between parishes and the Diocese, discussing plumbing, stipends and various issues relating to their parish. We hold all the records, ie marriage and baptismal registers for a small number of

churches. We also hold early baptismal registers for most of the Melbourne hospitals: the Alfred, the Children's Hospital, St Vincent's, the Melbourne, and a few esoteric places such as British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. We have a few diaries and a large number of parish histories. If your relative was involved in a church, they might be mentioned in these. If your relative was an Anglican clergyman in Melbourne, there is a reasonable chance we have a file on him and sometimes even a photo.

We deal with quite a few enquiries about adoptions, Mission babies homes, schools and boys' homes etc. Although we have records about these places, we have very few that actually list the names of babies or students. Our records are mainly correspondence between the Diocese and the organization, discussing buildings, finance etc.

We also hold a small collection of published material by and about Melbourne Anglicanism, which is most useful for people doing social research of early Melbourne. This collection is listed on Trinity College's website. We hold *The Church of England Messenger* (now *The Melbourne Anglican*) from 1850, *The Anglican*, an Australian Anglican newspaper, from 1952, *The Australasian Church Quarterly* from 1910 to 1972, *The Victorian Churchmen* from 1890 to 1913, and various *Crockfords* from 1865.

Currently our database is not on the web, but we are hopefully that some funding will allow us to put it up for people to see what we have. We are focussing on listing our holdings so that researchers know what is there. We have not had any need to scan documents to date as it seems pointless to have a small amount of items scanned and searchable, and boxes and boxes of records that no one knows about. Scanning is for the future. We welcome your enquiries and hope we can help your research.✉

Found While Walking?

Have you been walking in your neighbourhood and discovered some hidden treasures this year? Certainly there are some beautiful and quirky gardens, a collection of cats and dogs interested in the increased passing foot traffic, and sometimes a reminder of times past. If you find something intriguing, perhaps a commemorative plaque or a set of gates from a stately home long gone, why not do a little research and share your new-found knowledge? Trove will often be a great starting point.

Include plaques and transcribe them for your article. A photograph will help someone else follow your footsteps and highlight your find.

Send all contributions to the Editor by email, at editor@familyhistoryconnections.org.au.

St Kilda Cemetery

Carolann Thomson

One of the oldest cemeteries of Melbourne is to be found in Dandenong Road St Kilda, easily identified by its high red brick walls and sea of monuments and mature trees. It covers a wide block of 18 acres¹ and is bounded by Dandenong Road, Hotham Street, Alma Road and Alexandra Street. My family lived nearby in Alma Road, and it became a part of the landscape of my childhood. It was the source of much make-believe and mystery, said to be haunted, and thus of course to be avoided. As an older and wiser student of family history, the grand old cemetery is no longer forbidding and its treasures invite me in.



Alfred DEAKIN
National Archives of Australia, A5954:1299/2

As part of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT), the records of the Cemetery may be easily searched online. Type in a surname in the appropriate field, agree to the terms and conditions, and if you are successful, a list of possibilities awaits you. Clicking on an individual entry will give you more information about the deceased, including the location of the grave. I have yet to find any family buried there, but would love to find someone with a headstone, or better yet, guarded by one of the angels I used to see from outside the fence.



Baron Von MUELLER
Latrobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria H4146

A wide variety of important people are interred in the Cemetery and there are any number of fine monuments to discover along the wide internal paths. Notable burials include several Premiers of the State, including Victoria's first, Dr William Clark HAINES, Alfred DEAKIN, the second Prime Minister of Australia, Albert JACKA VC, Baron von MUELLER, artist Sybil Mary Frances CRAIG, and Sir Norman BROOKES and his wife Dame Mabel BROOKES. A more comprehensive list of interments and monuments is published by SMCT and includes a map to guide the curious on their walk².



William Clarke HAINES
Latrobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria H29447

¹<https://smct.org.au/our-locations/about-st-kilda-cemetery> (Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust)

²The Who's Who of St Kilda Cemetery pamphlet published by Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.



Letter from England

Peter Bennett

pkbennett@btinternet.com

Covid rumbles on, and there is no sign here that it is going to end any time soon. Indeed, as I write this going into winter, it is taking off and we are seeing more restrictions being brought in. Although some record offices are open again, there are pretty drastic reductions in the service.

At my nearest record office, in Oxford, I could book, a week in advance, one or two sessions of two and a half hours each, on separate days. All documents I want to see have to be reserved in advance. The card indexes are closed off. I have a list of documents I would like to see, so a visit is possible, but just a single short session makes it quite unattractive. At this stage I will wait in the hope that things improve.

It is much the same at The National Archives, although you can get a full day there. However, the places available go quickly so you have to be prompt to make a reservation.

Not that these UK restrictions are going to bother most of my readers, for travel is fairly impossible right now, and I'd be surprised if there were any who are thinking of a research trip any time in the foreseeable future.

As mentioned last time, it is worth keeping an eye on your favourite places, for some free access is available. You can still use the digitised collections of The National Archives, and here in Oxfordshire we have free home access to Ancestry until the end of the year in an arrangement with our county library service. It's good news for me, as it includes Australian records.

Another downside of the present situation has been the noticeable watering down of records added to Findmypast and Ancestry. That is not to say there have been no useful additions, and some will prove to be very useful indeed, but there have not been as many.

There are not many records available for civil servants, but now the top echelons can be traced via the Imperial Calendar, an annual directory now on Findmypast. These run from 1767 to 1973 and although they give little in the way of detail, you will at least be able to see what positions people held.

For quite a few years now we have been able to search the London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin 'Gazette' online, via the official site, <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/> Now Findmypast has incorporated these indexes and images into their own site, so results will come up when you make a

search there. These have records of huge numbers of people, from 1665 to 2018. You will find bankruptcies, probates and all sorts of things recorded there.

Some years ago I mentioned the indexes and images of Welsh probate records via the National Library of Wales. This is a free resource, so of huge interest to those with Welsh ancestry, not forgetting those with Herefordshire ancestors, who might also turn up here.

So when I saw that Findmypast had released 'Welsh Probate Records 1544-1858' I thought this was just another duplication. Useful, but we would much rather see more original records. However, these are different.

This collection is actually abstracts of the records, which appear to come from the Latter Day Saints. Each record has the vital information of date and court, along with details of the beneficiaries. So the real value lies in the fact that these are now on Findmypast and all the names, including legatees, have been indexed.

The thorough researcher will go to the original record, at www.library.wales/discover/library-resources/wills but these transcripts will reveal so many more names.

There have been some useful parish registers added recently too. Another group of records we have been able to search for some time are those for the Medway area of Kent. Medway Archives Centre has had their parish registers online for some years, but they have not been indexed. Now Findmypast have added indexes to these records to their own site, incorporated into their Kent baptisms, marriages and burials.

So anyone with ancestors in the Medway towns, including Chatham, Gravesend and Rochester and the parishes nearby, now has a very useful extra source. Once you have the transcript you can go to the local archive site, <https://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> to see the original entry. It's long-winded, but you get there in the end.

Findmypast are also adding to their Surrey collections. They have put over 450,000 burials from transcripts provided by the West Surrey Family History Society. Unfortunately the parish list does not state which parishes are covered.

Continued over page>

Letter from England

Continued from page 17

They are also duplicating Ancestry's Surrey parish registers, with baptisms, marriages and burials from over 100 parishes. They are from the collections at the Surrey History Centre and come with images from the original registers. It's a duplication, but each makes a new index, so one site's error might be corrected on the other.

Findmypast have a much wider coverage of Roman Catholic records than Ancestry, and they have added another fifty thousand plus baptisms from Southwark. Although Surrey, this collection includes places in Kent. It was nice to find a relative of mine there, and someone who is proving very difficult to pin down. Now I have another record of her - it all adds to the story and perhaps one day I will discover more about her.

And now to Ancestry. They have added a large collection of baptisms, marriages and burials from non-conformist chapels in and around Bristol. There are Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist, Quaker and Roman Catholic records, and others. They all appear to come from Bristol Archives.

In 1837 all nonconformist registers were supposed to be handed in to the Registrar General, and are now at The National Archives, and widely indexed and available online. But many were not surrendered, and a lot of those are now in local record offices together with post-1837 records, often not available for online searching. This collection appears to be more of these, and there are entries from the 17th to 20th centuries.

They should be a good place to find some of those Bristol ancestors whose vital records have not been discovered from other sources.

Ancestry also now have parish registers from Westminster, just as Findmypast has for some years. This is a massive collection, but as with others like this we now have two indexes of the same records, always a good thing. And it means that Ancestry's 'London' coverage is now fairly complete.

For those with criminal ancestors, Ancestry now gives us the Newgate calendars from class HO77 at The National Archives. These, mostly printed, are lists of prisoners tried at Assizes or Quarter Sessions, and give name, age and occupation, as well as details of the crime and sentence.

They run from 1785 to 1853, so not quite the period of transportation to Australia, but you will find some of your convicts there and perhaps a little more detail. With luck some lucky researchers will find that they do have someone who fell foul of the law after all! There are often very good records of anyone convicted, so they are well worth looking for.

Ancestry have been loading up Lancashire records for some years now, and their latest offering are electoral registers from 1832 to 1935. These will doubtless duplicate some of the electoral registers on Findmypast.

Elsewhere, The Genealogist has added a large collection of poll books, dating from 1747 to 1930, from thirteen English counties, plus Bath and some from Scotland. There are close to 300,000 names, so someone is going to discover a little about their ancestor.

They have also added the tithe maps of another nine counties, with links to the apportionment books. These will give you specific details of where your ancestors were living, a great supplement to census records.

So although I said at the beginning that new records were slowing down, there are some very useful new ones to work through. I live in hope that we will soon be back to our libraries and record offices, although I would not like to put a date on it.

I wish you all the best with your research, and that my readers keep well. These are tough times indeed. ☹️



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A Youthful Diary

Geoff Brown

On Thursday 1st January 1863, a youth residing in Melbourne began writing a diary. The name of the writer is not recorded anywhere within the diary, however he does leave several clues to his identity. Who was this youth? Where did he live? What does the diary reveal? What became of him? Why has the diary been kept in the family for over 150 years?

The period covered by the diary is six months from 1st January 1863 until 30 June 1863, January being the only month to have an entry recorded for each day. Of the 181 days, 57 days have no entry and every other month apart from January has one or more entries covering several days. The diary is very difficult to read as the spelling is original, punctuation non-existent, capital letters freely scattered about. Many pages are over-written horizontally and vertically.

Thursday January 1st 1863

Rose at ½ Past Seven O'Clock.

Weather was rather dull in morning but inst turned out fine in the course of the day. I have I confess omitted one month of my diary But today being the 1st day in the new year I hope I shall turn over a new leaf. I have made up my mind to keep to several rules which I have made of my own free will of my future conduct which as follows

1stly never to enter a Theatre Except it be for religious Purposes

2dly never to take intoxication Liquors Except it be for medical Purposes

3dly never to smoke

4tly not to keep late hours Except it be necessary

5tly to devote a certain time every day to the reading of my Bible

6 and lastly to obey my parents"

The weather to day was delightly to day for a Pic nic. I joined a Pic nic of about 40 which consisted of a class of the Sunday school teachers and the choice of John Chearer Lizzie Anne and Mark and 6 friend Anne & myself. We started By the ½ Past nine train to Brighton. The place which was chosen for the Pic nic arrived at about ½ past ten. Was busy till about ½ past 11 preparing for lunch and putting things right at about ½ 11 O'Clock we all sat down to lunch after that then the sport of the day commenced which consisted of all kinds of amusements such as Dancing signing resort at 2 O'Clock had Dinner I think we all spent the rest of the day very agreeably. had tea about 5 O'Clock did not break up until the last train call arrived safe

Ret to Rest 2 O'Clock

This entry indicates he may have written an earlier diary which is supported by the Contents page stating that the diary commenced on 1st January 1862, Wednesday, but the first entry is twelve month later. What happened to this earlier diary is unknown.

The question of who wrote the diary is partly answered in the diary entry for 20th April, 1863, when the writer states "*finding I had nothing to do of importance I thought it would be chance*

to give a sketch of my life." In the entry he states that he was born at Rothbury on 7th October 1847, where his father was carrying on the business of grocer, draper, saddlery, and in 1852 the family migrated from Liverpool aboard the *Ellen*. Also mentioned are Mr Harry HUNTER and Mr JOHNSTONE, two of his father's employees who came on the same ship to try their luck at the goldfields. Although these details still do not confirm the author's identity, a look at the passenger lists for the *Ellen* reveal that Luke FORSTER, 37, plasterer, was accompanied by Mrs FORSTER (33), Margaret FORSTER (9), Eliza FORSTER (7) and William FORSTER (5). Next listed after the family is Henry HUNTER (24), painter. Also listed is Robert JOHNSTON (23) tea dealer.¹ This is sufficient family information to be able to link the diary to my great grandfather, William Mark FORSTER. The names of his siblings agree with those recorded in the diary and other information is consistent with known family history. Interestingly, he understates his age by exactly one year, his birth certificate showing his birthdate as 7th October 1846ⁱⁱ, but other details agree with the diary.

Where did he live when writing the diary? Various entries confirm that he was living in his parents' home. The 1863 Sands & McDougall directory records his father, Luke FORSTER, saddler, residing at 29-31 Little Bourke Street East, Melbourneⁱⁱⁱ. This address had been the family home since 1853. The location was on the north side of Little Bourke Street, later known as Post Office Place, between Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street. The site is now occupied by the Emporium complex.

What activities does a sixteen year old youth record in his diary? Apart from mundane information such as when he awoke and when he "returned to rest" the diary documents a wide range of activities. A typical entry reads:

*"Wednesday January 28th/63**

Rose at about 7 O'Clock. The weather still continues fine. And as the Southly Breeze blows through the Town it is a great change to hot winds of late rather busy during the day. Mr ARMSTRONG called up from Schnapper Point (Morrington) report all well. In the evening Mr STRONG called to his appointment as so we at wonce proceed on our tack We did not call on many of the scholars but of them that we did We had very satisfactory answers as regards sending thar children to School as they have neglected it lately Ret home at about ½ 8 O'Clock attended Chines classes

Mr STRONG till 11 O'Clock

Ret to Rest at about 12 O'Clock

All well"

Other entries state he had left school a year or two previously, and after working in an office for a short time, was working on his own account, apparently as a commission agent. He frequently rode to Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) in the evening to visit friends. He was in a band, but tended to neglect band practice. He had close contact with the Chinese community, counting among his friends Ah Mouy, or Ah Moy, and frequently mentions visiting the Chinese camp and

taking Chinese lessons. (Among the papers with the diary are two un-named photos of his Chinese friends.) He journeyed to Schnapper Point, either by coach or boat, sometimes accompanied by family members, where he stayed with friends. On one occasion he went shooting “and I conted our game shoot upwards of about 100 Parots.” He frequently attended Sunday school, church, Paddies Market and the Royal Polytechnic Institute, an entertainment venue.

Another entry reads:

*“Saturday Apil 18th 1863**

Rose at about ½ Past 7 OClock.

The weather since I wrote my last diary which was on Tuesday the 14 inst Weather has been delightfull rather cold in the morning slight fogs and dews little rain fell on Thursday but of no acc I have been rather busy in my business this week On even on Monday Tuesday Friday and tonight I have been spending the evening at the royal Politechal Inittute. As place which I think any young man might venture to spend an evening it is situated in Bourke St East. it contenst as much the same as that of amusem I might venture to say it because you have the bennit of lectures which consisted of this week lectur on lectrisity phreogly silk worm all of which were very inissin and instructive Thar was also Balloon singing laughing Gas which I took it had the effect of giving me a desire to run it took 3 men to hold Me And the last the dissolving view I think is as an institution which is highly worth supporting I have endeavoured to get some of the Chinese to join which I succeeded in however as I am getting I think I should say no more at present I shall say mor upon the subject I now Ret to rest All Well

Had a trip to Williamstown the after”

Also mentioned are public occasions such as the lying in state of BURKE & WILLS, which he visited on 5th January, and their funeral on 21st January; the wedding of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, which was celebrated on the 18th May, 1863, some months after the actual wedding on 10th March, 1863, due to the time taken for the news to reach Victoria; and the Queen’s Birthday.

What happened to William in later life? At age 19 he set himself up as a manufacturer of old tom gin^{iv} and then a wine & spirit merchant.^v On 1 September, 1869, he married Mary Jane MCLEAN (1849-1908) at Woodford, New South

Wales^{vi}. One family story was that he was introduced to his wife by a missionary who was returning from China on the same vessel as William and his father.^{vii} The couple settled in Melbourne^{viii} and after the birth of their first child they relocated to Auckland New Zealand in 1871^{ix} where they had two more children. The family returned to Melbourne in 1874, where William joined his father in the saddlery business, L. FORSTER and Sons at 29-31 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne.^x The family settled in Toorak and had another ten children. All but two of their children survived to adulthood. In 1883 William commenced the Try Society,^{xi} an organisation aimed at helping under privileged youths, which continues to this day, now operating as Try Australia. Mary Jane passed away on 19 August, 1908, at Toorak.^{xii} William re-married on 2 February 1910, to Mary Alice GOWDIE (nee CROOK),^{xiii} the widow of Samuel Hunter GOWDIE who had accompanied William to Auckland in 1871^{xiv} when he set up a branch of the family business there. William had one son from his second marriage. On 6 June, 1921, William passed away at his home in Auburn Road, Auburn, Vic.^{xv} His funeral was attended by many of the old boys of the Try Society, plus some members of parliament and the Mayor of Prahran, the address being given Mr W. H. EDGAR, M.L.A.^{xvi}

The queries raised at the start of the article have now been answered; the name of the youth who wrote the diary was William Mark FORSTER (1846-1921); he lived in the heart of Melbourne at 29-31 Little Bourke Street East; he ventured widely about Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula and had close contact with the Chinese community; details of his later life have been found.

The only question remaining is “Why has the diary been kept within the family for over 150 years?” It has been handed down to the eldest child of each generation, together with other papers relating to the FORSTER family, and is now held by my cousin in Tasmania. The highly valued diary is the snapshot of the early years and interests of a man who later became a businessman and prominent philanthropist in Melbourne during the latter part of the 19th century and early 20th century, and established an organisation that continues to this day. His philanthropic activities were considered so significant that he has an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, of which his now extensive descendants are rightfully proud. ☺

ⁱP Public Record Office, Victoria. VPRS 7666; Series Title: Inward Overseas Passenger Lists (British Ports) [Microfiche Copy of VPRS 947]

ⁱⁱGeneral Register Office, England. Birth Certificate, December quarter 1846, Rothbury, Vol 25, page 385.

ⁱⁱⁱSands & McDougall’s Melbourne & Suburban Directory for 1863, page 9.

^{iv}Leader, Melbourne, 8 April 1865.

^vSands & McDougall’s Melbourne and Suburban Directory for 1867, page 9.

^{vi}Marriage Certificate, New South Wales 1869/3285.

^{vii}<https://taggerty.net/the-story/the-forsters-of-rothbury/> (Sighted 6 Jun 2020)

^{viii}The Argus, Melbourne, 13 Sep 1869.

^{ix}The Argus, Melbourne, 27 July 1871.

^xThe Argus, Melbourne, 19 Sep 1874.

^{xi}<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/forster-william-mark-3554>

^{xii}Death Certificate, Victoria 1908/8170.

^{xiii}Marriage Certificate, Victoria 1910/88.

^{xiv}State Library Victoria, Melbourne, Records of the William Forster Try Boys’ Society 1887-1986 Manuscripts Collection MS9910 Box 41

^{xv}Death Certificate, Victoria 1921/5998.

^{xvi}The Argus, Melbourne, 9 Jun 1921.

Chasing an Inheritance

Denise Probert

Alice BRIARS and Richard BEARDSWORTH were my 7x great grandparents. The background to their marriage is an interesting one.

In August 1734, Edward BOARDMAN of Preston in Lancashire paid a bond to the clergy to marry Alice BRIARS also of Preston, in the location of the parish of Blackburnⁱ. His co-bondsman was Richard BEARDSWORTH. Edward and Alice's marriage took place in Brindle, Lancashire on August 17, 1734 by licenceⁱⁱ. A marriage by licence, although expensive, ensured privacy for the service and was a quick way of getting married. The bond also provided certainty to the potential bride. Reasons for privacy might be an older man marrying a much younger woman, or vice versa, or a servant could marry a master. A couple could marry away from their parish homes and curious neighbours, or a Nonconformist couple might not be attending the Anglican church to hold bannsⁱⁱⁱ.

Alice was aged about thirty-one^{iv}. Edward was a widowed yeoman with one surviving son, William BOARDMAN, probably from a relationship with Elizabeth WARBLETON^v.

By December 6th of the same year, Edward of Witton Lancashire must have been feeling poorly and so wrote his will^{vi}. He was "aged" of "sound and perfect mind and memory" but "somewhat infirm of body". He left his son William, if still a minor, to the care of his "loving wife", and one third of his considerable property to his loving wife for the term of her life. Edward had land in the villages of Witton, Livesay, Mellor, Horridge and Withnell in Lancashire as well as in Grindleton, Yorkshire.

Two BOARDMAN nephews, William and Robert were to have legacies of £40 and £20 respectively by the May Day following Edward's death. A clause stated that Robert had to quit the land he farmed from his uncle by the May Day and any monies owing would be forgiven only so long as he were to "peaceably" give back the farmland he was renting and repay the rent arrears and any debts owing, otherwise this was to be deducted from his legacy.

Another nephew John BOARDMAN was not to receive any legacy but was to be forgiven all the rent money he owed so long as he quitted the land he was renting from Edward "quietly" and peaceably. Edward's kinsman John BOARDMAN of Withnell was to receive £10. Edward's brother Robert BOARDMAN was to get his wearing apparel and all debts forgiven.

The witnesses to the will were Hugh LONGTON, John AINSWORTH and Richard BEARDSWORTH, all of whom signed their own names. Richard's signature is bold and large. The executors were Ralph WALMESLEY and William SANDERSON. Two weeks later on December

21st, 1734, Edward was dead. The couple had been married only four months.

On Christmas Eve, three days after Edward died, Richard BEARDSWORTH, then a twenty-two year old husbandman of Blackburn, placed a £20 bond to the Bishop of Lancaster to marry the newly widowed Alice BOARDMAN also of Blackburn^{vii}. His co-bondsman was his father Samuel. It was specified that the marriage could take place in either the parishes of Blackburn or at Brindle or Penwortham, Lancashire. The groom was guaranteeing that there was no impediment to the marriage and avoiding the time-consuming publicity of calling wedding banns. Edward HESKIN and Edward MARTIN signed and witnessed the bond. Father of the groom, Samuel BEARDSWORTH, signed with a cross. The legs of the "R" in Richard are now thick and sturdy with ink. On January 6th 1735, Richard BEARDSWORTH and the widowed Alice BOARDMAN married by licence in the Penwortham parish where Richard was born and his father was still living^{viii}.

Edward BOARDMAN had been a Protestant as shown by his bequest of £30 capital to create interest for a stipend to support the dissenting minister of Tockholes in Lancashire. He was also public spirited as he left money to be distributed to the poor and forgave his brother any debts. According to Edward's will, Alice was to have the sole guardianship and tuition of her stepson William during his minority (until he turned 21). Alice was to have one third of Edward's "Messuages, Lands, Tenements and hereditaments and of the Rents Issues and Profits of them" for her life. His son William was to have the other two thirds. Alice was to have the use of one fourth "of all the Rest Residual and Remainder of all my Goods Chattles and Personal Estate" for the term of her life and William the rest. There was no restriction mentioned whatsoever about Alice losing her inheritance should she remarry.

Despite the clarity of the will, obtaining an Inventory from the executors William SANDERSON and Ralph WALMESLEY of the goods and chattels Alice had inherited proved very difficult. She took them to court on February 12th 1735. William SANDERSON and Ralph WALMESLEY counterclaimed that on New Year's Eve the previous year, 1734, the widowed Alice BOARDMAN had stated that if she should "intermarry" with the said Richard BEARDSWORTH she would forfeit all her right interests, claims and titles under Edward's will. The two executors stated that all this was "true, publick & Notorious" with "a publick voice & fame" and that "the said plaintiff knows [this] in her conscience to be true". They asked for the case to be dismissed.

Peregrine GASTRELL Esq, Bachelor of Laws the Lord Bishop of Chester, demanded that the executors appear in "Calhall Church of Chester upon Thursday the fourth – day

of July next [i.e. 1735] at the usuall hours of hearing. Causes there to Exhibit personally upon their oaths a true full and perfect Inventory of all Singular the goods chattels rights & credits of the said deced wch have formed To their hands knowledge or possiton and to render a tre Just & lawfull Account of their Admton [administration].”

With no Inventory produced by September 25th, 1735 Alice went to Leet Court to try to get the executors to “Exhibit an Inventory” of the “Goods & Effects” of the deceased Edward. Alice propounded and alleged that William SANDERSON and Ralph WALMESLEY “refused or neglected” to produce an Inventory of the goods and chattels on her behalf and herself and the six year old minor (her stepson) William. Alice stated that they were delaying in not settling their amounts fairly and justly, moreover that this was “Publick Notorious and true” and that the Executors “know have heard & believe in their Conscience to be true.”

Alice also claimed that the Executors had, since the death of Edward BOARDMAN, “very much Imbezled & Consumed the Goods and Effects of the Said Deceased which have come to their hands and possession”. Furthermore Alice alleged that the above facts were “publick notorious & [had] comon voice & fame to this the pish [parish] of Blackburn & other places adjacent.” Alice asked that her legal costs be paid.

In March 1736 there was some agreement between the warring parties of Alice BEARDSWORTH versus SANDERSON and WALMESLEY. Alice now had three cases against the executors “in the Court of Chancery held for the Dutchy of Lancaster”. All parties agreed to save legal costs and pursue one cause in Chancery.

I do not believe that a copy of the Goods and Chattels Inventory survives, but I presume that Alice finally received one. Alice and Richard had four children^{ix}. Alice outlived the younger Richard, who died in 1778 aged 65^x. Alice lived to the considerable old age of 89^{xi}.

How do you spell that?

The challenge of finding ancestors is increased when names appear to “change” when in fact it is just a different way to spell the same word. Consider this quote from Michael GANDY’s 1993 book *An introduction to planning research: short cuts in family history*” cited by Frances BROWN in an article in 1995:

‘Don’t insist on certain spelling forms. Say the name out loud in the accent of the area then pretend you’re an old gaffer with no teeth. Now be a deaf, indifferent clerk who doesn’t come from the area and thinks he hasn’t got time to waste on yokels. His pen scratches and he’s got the beginnings of arthritis or palsy. Then let the ink fade for 200 years and get the register transcribed by a beginner, typed up by someone who was watching television and spot checked by someone who thought it was probably all right so why bother. A computer with a blip prints it out and Bob’s Your Uncle – lost forever!’

This article first appeared in *The Genealogist*, Vol 8, No 4 (1995) and can be read in full in the bound copy in the Resource Centre.

The information is as true now as ever it was.🔗

ⁱMarriage Bonds and Allegations, Cheshire, 1732- findmypast.co.uk

ⁱⁱLancashire Anglican Parish Registers, Brindle Parish, ancestry.com, BMBs.

ⁱⁱⁱFamily Search Wiki modified on 26 December 2015. Accessed 17th April 2015. Marriage Allegations, Bonds and Licences in England and Wales.

^{iv}Burial certificate, Lancashire Parish Registers, Blackburn, Lancs Archives, ancestry.com Lancashire BMBs.

^vParish register for Penwortham BTs, Lancashire Anglican Parish Registers, ancestry.com

^{vi}Probate 1736 Edward Boardman of Witton, Lancs, Cheshire, Ref. No WCW/Disputed Probate Papers, Lancashire Archives.

^{vii}Marriage Bonds and Allegations, Cheshire, 1734, findmypast.co.uk

^{viii}Registers (Marriage Collection) of Lancashire, the Parish church of Penwortham, ancestry.com

^{ix}St. Mary the Virgin Baptisms, Blackburn parish registers, LDS Film 1278778 Lancashire on line parish clerks.

^xLancashire Parish Registers, Blackburn Parish BTs, Lancs Archives, ancestry.com Lancs. Anglican parish registers

^{xi}Burial certificate, Lancashire Parish Registers, Blackburn, St. Mary the Virgin, Lancs Archives, ancestry.com

The Kendall connection with Australia

Edward Kendall

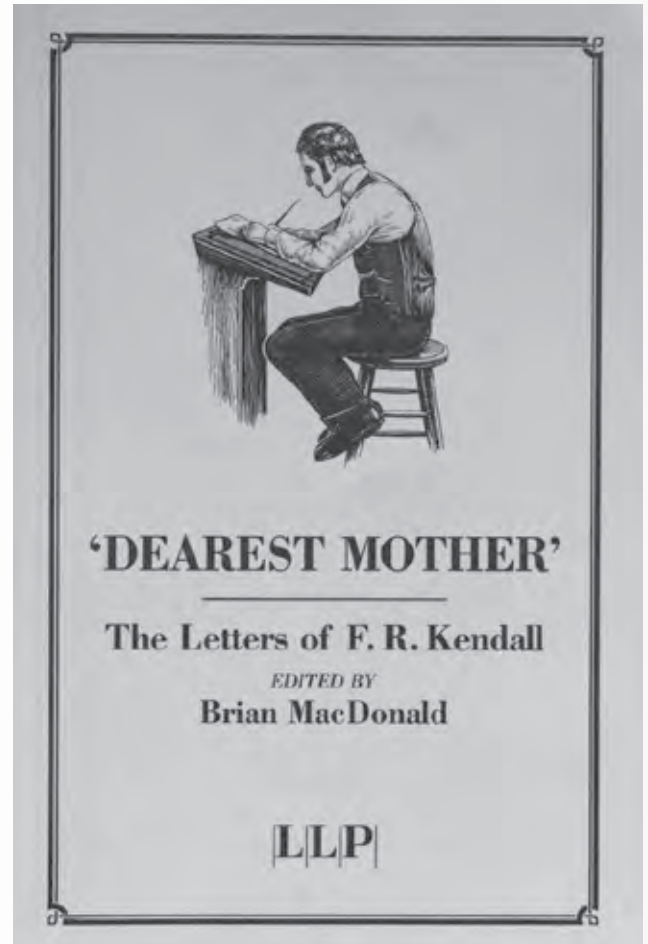
As mentioned in Brian MACDONALD's "Dearest Mother"¹ my great-great-grandfather Franklin Richardson KENDALL was the P & O Agent in Melbourne. His appointment there began in January 1865; his earlier postings had been February 1858 Bombay (salary of £240 pa), August 1859 Singapore (£375), September 1863 Hong Kong (£500), March 1864 Calcutta and October Bombay again (£600). His appointment to Melbourne raised his annual salary to £900 and on 30 April 1867 he married at 'St John the Evangelist, Toorak, Bourke, Colony of Victoria' my great-great-grandmother Frances (Fanny) FLETCHER. She was the daughter of the Rev William Kew FLETCHER, Senior Chaplain of the Cathedral Bombay ('an ascetic with a cold exterior, but with a warm heart') and granddaughter of the Rt Rev Thomas CARR, 1st Bishop of Bombay. They were twenty-eight and twenty-seven respectively, and had evidently become acquainted during KENDALL's service in Bombay.

KENDALL's marriage produced four sons and a daughter, born when the family were living near Melbourne. They first lived at a house called 'Longfield' on the Toorak road near South Yarra Station but in 1875 they moved to another home at 16 Murphy Street, South Yarra. The brother's round-robin correspondence is full of reminiscences of the three elder brothers about their early days in these two homes and also contains press cuttings about my great-great-grandfather's life in Melbourne.

An aspect of my great-great-uncle Ed's life is recorded in his 'Round Robin' contribution of July 1923:

'Sydney is undergoing great changes. The city underground railway bridge is progressing gradually and is making a mess of many parts. The harbour bridge is just about to be started and sundry buildings are being resumed in order to widen streets which will not carry the increased traffic. Verily Sydney is a wonderful city.'

Of my great-great-uncles, Ed was the only one to reside as an adult in Australia. He went out in 1896 to Sydney with the Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Company, and in June 1906 he was transferred from Sydney to the company office in Melbourne having in the meantime married Min whose family lived in New South Wales. His son Colin was born in 1909, but in June 1911 Ed resigned from the Company and moved back to Sydney to join a partnership marketing Swedish lorries and cars. This does not appear to have been a great success and in 1914, with the outbreak of war, his business interests changed from vehicles to property. He and his family moved around in Sydney until 1922 when they all went 'home' on leave, after which he left Min behind in Europe and returned with Colin to Australia, Ed living in digs in Sydney Golf Club while Colin went to boarding school. On Min's return to Australia, they moved into a house which was



Dearest Mother: the letters of FR Kendall
Edited by Brian Macdonald, Lloyds, London 1988

profitably sold in 1926, Ed earmarking the proceeds to send Colin to Oxford the following year and the family moving into a rented flat. Min also went to England to be with Colin when he was at Oxford, while Ed persevered with his business interests, again moving into Sydney Golf Club. All this is extensively covered in the 'Round Robins'. With the Great Depression killing his business activities Ed finally rejoined his family in London, hoping to return after the end of the recession, but he never did.

Other relations, though not KENDALLs, also settled in Australia, following Sir John FRANKLIN's appointment as Governor of Tasmania in 1836. Great-great-grandfather Edward KENDALL RN had accompanied FRANKLIN on his 2nd Expedition to the "Polar Sea" 1825 – 1827 and before his death in 1845 had been P & O Agent in Portsmouth. While he never travelled to Australia his obituary records that he had "projected a plan for the Company for extending steam navigation to Australia

and printed a pamphlet describing the proposed route and arrangements". His wife, Mary Ann KAY, was the daughter of the sister of FRANKLIN's first wife, and her brothers William and Henry KAY came to Australia during FRANKLIN's time at Hobart with his second wife Jane from 1836 to 1843.


The elder brother William KAY, having trained as an engineer, came to Tasmania in May 1842 at FRANKLIN's invitation and was appointed Architect; this resulted in allegations of nepotism. Although these were thought to be unfounded, controversy ensued, and he was promoted, demoted, and re-promoted Director of Public Works during the years 1844 to 1858 after which he returned to England. He married in April 1845 and had a daughter Clara born in 1849. He was noted for his musical soirees and his most notable work was Government House in Hobart, built between 1853 and 1858.

The younger brother Joseph Henry was a naval officer and scientist and a member of the Antarctic expedition of 1839; he prepared the magnetic observatory in Hobart in 1840 and remained there in charge. After 1853 when the Navy withdrew support from the Observatory, he was promoted Captain on the retired list (1865) holding various appointments, and became Clerk to Victoria's Executive Council. He married in October 1845 and had a

daughter Rosina born in 1860, and died at South Yarra on 17 July 1875. It is thus very likely that the family were at my great-great-grandparents' wedding in April 1867. Both Rosina and her cousin Clara feature in the 'Round Robins' and Rosina was my great-grandfather's godmother. Rosina married and lived in Melbourne with her family, but Clara, who stayed in England, was never married.

Joseph KAY (1775 – 1847), who was Sir John's brother in law through his first wife, was a notable architect and inter-alia, the designer of Pelham Crescent and the Church of St Mary in the Castle, Hastings. The 'Round Robins' frequently refer to the legend of the "KAY fortune" which it was held should have devolved on to Franklin KENDALL but was thought to have gone to the JUPPs, other descendants of the architect.

The most famous Australian KENDALL, Henry KENDALL the poet, is referred to in my great-great-uncle Ed's August 1928 'Round Robin' contribution:

'Henry KENDALL was most certainly of our stock. His grandfather Thomas came out here in 1814 as a missionary. Can you imagine any man actually adopting the name 'Clarence' yet Henry did so. It would have been bad enough to be christened Clarence, fancy adopting the name of your own free will.' 

¹Dearest Mother: the letters of FR Kendall edited by Brian Macdonald, Lloyds, London 1988

Workers on one of Victoria's oldest pastoral stations "Glenaroua"

Lucille Andel

There are many and varied sources available when researching the backgrounds of our ancestors. However it is often difficult to trace the movements and employment details of our ancestors who were working on station for early squatters. While looking at records for a member of the Write Now group, the probate papers of William HAMILTON, the squatter at Glenaroua were examined. William was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland in July 1797, arrived in Tasmania, and went to New South Wales in 1827 before travelling overland to Victoria. He had 76,000 acres in the Dalhousie rural district, along the old Hume Highway,

on Sugarloaf Creek adjoining Pyalong. The district was also known as Mollison Creek. It is now Broadford, part of the Mitchell Shire. At the time of his death, HAMILTON ran over 10,000 sheep plus cattle and horses on his properties. BILLIS & KENYON state that William HAMILTON owned Glenaroua from October 1838 to October 1882, and Pyalong from February 1866 to June 1870.

When HAMILTON died in June 1872 he was a widower.

Continued over page>

Workers on one of Victoria's...

Continued from page 33



The Homestead of Glenaroua
Owned by William HAMILTON from October 1838 to October 1872

His then bluestone homestead Glenaroua, near Kilmore, consisted of six bedrooms, dressing room, drawing room, nursery, library, servants room, kitchen, storeroom, lumber room, stable and coach house, a blacksmiths shop, meat room and cellar. There was other property at Pyalong and on his death he had mills at Broadford and Seymour, land at Tallarook, and real estate in Alma Road and Inkerman Street in St Kilda, and at Brighton, plus a good share portfolio. His only son William Campbell HAMILTON, born in Argyle NSW, had died in 1834 in his forty-eight year, without children.

When the probate papers were lodged, all the workers on the properties who were owed wages at the time of HAMILTON's death in 1872 were listed along with the amounts owed to them. ⚙️

Ah Con	£2.15.11
BELLOW, J	£4.14.10
BRADSHAW, J	£8.1.6
BRIDGE, J	£2.18.6
BROWN, J	£14.8.2
COALSTONE, R	£7.15.0
FLEMING, R	£10.4.3
HAMILTON, E	£42.5.9
HENDERSON, J	£2.19.2
HUDSON, W	£-.19.10
JOHNSON, J	£11.10.0
JOHNSTONE, G	£4.17.4
LENNON, D	£6.9.0
LUGG, W	£3.12.1
McDONALD, M	£8.0.6

McISAAC, A	£96.13.04
McISAAC, J	£11.2.0
McKAY, A	£83.19.5
McMURROUGH, M	£9.6.0
McPHERSON, A	£16.18.7
MUNROE, M	£2.10.9
NEWMAN, M	£8.13.4
PATTERSON, J	£25.16.0
SINCLAIR, H	£20.9.3
SULLIVAN, M	£15.9.3
THOMSON, A	£31.12.7
THORNTON, T	£5.0.1
WILSON, C	£16.19.0
Yah Yow	£1.15.8
Yon Yee	£3.18.1

The probate papers revealed the following unpaid accounts:

BEALE, John	£10.16.0
BOWER, M.W	£17.11.9
BROCK, Dr	£50.0.0
HEATH & LYONS	£45.11.0
HUDSON, Geo	£73.9.1
KERR, Wm & Co	£97.19.2
KINNEAR, Geo	£5.6.0
NUGENT, John	£17.8.8
WARREN, James	£19.14.7
WRISEL, J.P	£47.6.6

Sources:

VPRS 28/P2 Unit 10 File 10/350
Place Names of Victoria by Les BLAKE, Rigby Ltd 1977

Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip by R.V BILLIS & A.S. KENYON, 2nd edition 1974

Losing days

Carolann Thomson

Where did the year disappear to?

In 2020 it seems we “lost” more than a few days as time seemed to stand still for most of the year, at least in Victoria. In 1752, we really did lose time, 11 days in fact...

The present system of dating originated thus: the Roman era began with the foundation of Rome in 753BC. By 46BC, owing to various imperfections, the Roman Calendar had fallen into confusion and Julius Caesar reformed it. The year 46BC was therefore made to consist of 445 days and is called “the Year of Confusion”. Thereafter, every year consisted of 365 days except that every fourth year was a leap year. This Julian (or Old Style) Calendar remained in general use in Europe until 1582.

By 1582 there was a difference of ten days between the Julian and the tropical year. In that year, Pope Gregory XIII ordered that October 5th be called October 15th, and that, of the end of the century (00) years, only the fourth should be a leap year. This Gregorian (or New Style) Calendar is still in use. It was adopted by Italy, France, Spain and Portugal in 1582, Prussia, Switzerland, Holland,

Flanders and German Catholic States in 1583, Poland in 1586 and Hungary in 1587. The German Protestant States and Denmark waited a further 120 years and adopted the Calendar in 1700, followed by Japan (1872), China (1912), Bulgaria (1915), Turkey (1917), Yugoslavia and Rumania (1919) and Greece (1923).

In Sweden the change was made between 1700 and 1740 by the omission of 11 leap year days. In Britain, America and the Colonies, the change was made in 1752 by renaming September 3rd to September 14th. At the same time, the beginning of the official year was changed to January 1st instead of March 25th which was the date of the vernal equinox when the Julian Calendar was introduced.☞

(Reprinted from Everyman’s Dictionary of Dates, BUTLER, A (1987) in Vol VI, No 10 of *The Genealogist*)

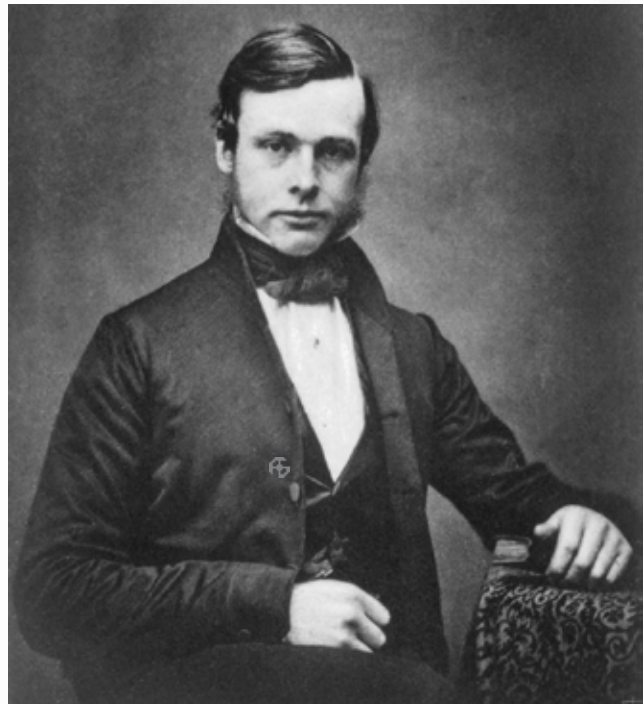
Advances in medicine

For most of the nineteenth century, the importance of cleanliness and antiseptic practices were either unknown or ignored, and even as late as the 1880s were only used by a handful of surgeons and physicians.

In 1865 after reading Louis PASTEUR’s 1861 findings in France, English surgeon Joseph LISTER, aged thirty-eight, discovered the value of carbolic acid as an antiseptic in treating compound fractures. Following on from his discovery, he developed a sprayer that created a carbolic mist, thus inaugurating the era of antiseptic surgery.

In 1876, Robert Wood JOHNSON of JOHNSON & JOHNSON, after hearing an address by England’s Joseph LISTER, developed the first ready-to-use surgical dressings, wrapped in individual packages and suitable for immediate use without the risk of contamination. The company began operations with fourteen employees on the fourth floor of a former wallpaper factory.☞

(Source: The People’s Chronology 1994, in *The Genealogist*, Vol IX, No 2)



Joseph LISTER
English surgeon. responsible for the development of early advanced antiseptics

The Drunken Captain and the irate passenger

Helen Doxford Harris

This story really begins with the accidental discovery of a file in the Colonial Secretary's Inwards Correspondence (VPRS 1189) at the Public Record Office. At the top of the file was a petition from Dorothy MARRIOTT, but let her tell her tale of woe...

The humble petition of Dorothy MARRIOTT, wife of Joseph MARRIOTT, Master Mariner, humbly sheweth: That your petitioner's husband Joseph MARRIOTT, Master Mariner, is a native of Sunderland where he resided many years and carried on business there as a Bacon Factor and was much respected by his fellow townsmen;

That having become owner of a vessel called the *United* he made arrangements for proceeding with her to this Colony and she was accordingly laden with Cargo and Passengers from the Port of Liverpool to Melbourne;

That many circumstances occurred during the voyage causing your petitioner's husband much annoyance and anxiety arising from which he was brought into a very nervous state of mind and from this cause he imprudently departed from his usual temperate habits;

That on approaching the land your petitioner's husband became very much excited and had the misfortune to run his vessel on shore (but no loss of life or property arose) and thereby laid himself open to a prosecution for negligence and was tried and convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment, about two years of which is unexpired;

That your petitioner arrived in this Colony about 8 months since and is now quite unprotected and dependent solely upon her own exertions for a maintenance;

That during the incarceration (sic) of your petitioner's husband his property has been so much depreciated as to render him almost penniless; That your petitioner is fully aware of the necessity of enforcing the Law and she can with great confidence assure your Excellency that her husband has sincerely and bitterly lamented the accident that occurred, and has by good conduct and example endeavoured to make reparation for his past offence;

That your petitioner would beg to appeal to the Officers of Penal Establishment to report to your Excellency as to the conduct of your petitioner's husband during the period of his imprisonment;

That the long incarceration has seriously affected the health of your petitioner's husband which is daily becoming worse and is now very precarious.

Your petitioner therefore most humbly and earnestly prays that

your Excellency will deem the punishment already inflicted upon her husband sufficient to meet the justice of the Law and again reminding your Excellency of her own unprotected state, the unfortunate position of her husband, the loss of his property, his penitence of the past and the humble assurance to your Excellency that your petitioner confidently expects that the future career of her husband (so long as the Almighty is pleased to spare him) shall be that of a respectable citizen. Your petitioner ventures to implore a remission of the remainder of the sentence and that your Excellency may be pleased to order the release of her husband.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dorothy MARRIOTT (Mrs MARRIOTT, Belle vue House, Victoria St., North Melbourne)

Included with the petition was one from Joseph MARRIOTT himself, requesting that his ticket of leave, granted 10.2.1855 be converted into a free pardon. Letters in support of his application had been collected by Mr KENT of Messrs WERE, KENT & Co., Melbourne. They were from people who had known the offender in Sunderland and were now living in Melbourne. The following names appear:

☞ Joseph John SMITH, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

☞ WS HETHERINGTON, agent for J MAXWELL, Newcastle

☞ Edward SWAN, plumber and brazier, Collingwood

☞ John DOUGLAS, Collingwood

☞ William MOFFITT, builder, Victoria St., N. Melb.

☞ WGR STEPHINSON, grocer, Brunswick

☞ W STEPHINSON, sign-writer & gilder, Glasgow Place, Drummond St., Melbourne

☞ John BUNTER, master mariner, South Yarra

☞ Thomas PEARCE, Fulton Chambers, late PEARCE & THACKRAY, timber merchants, Sunderland

☞ Thomas Brown YOUNG, Collingwood

☞ Michael CLARKE, Primitive Methodist Minister, Smith St., Collingwood

Governor Charles HOTHAM requested a report on the case from the penal authorities and, in due course, John PRICE, Inspector-General, replied. His lack of support for the petition resulted in HOTHAM's reply "I am very sorry I cannot remit the sentence."

Although the arrival of the *United* is recorded on the Ships Inward Listing at the PRO, there is no surviving passenger list. From the former it was ascertained the ship had arrived from Liverpool on 23 July 1853.

There was another means of tracking down details however. *Sailing ships, shipwrecks & crime in the 19th century* is a listing of details relating to the above found in Supreme Court Records 1840s-1860s by Jean UHL. The book was published by the AIGS in 1985. Upon referring to the publication, I found the relevant reference number, and called up the file from the PRO. From this I ascertained that the ship had run aground on the "Great Sands in Port Phillip Bay" on 16 July, and spent eight days on the sandbar. MARRIOTT had insisted on taking over control of the ship from the chief mate Alexander BLACK and, because of his drunken state, had miscalculated the direction and caused the grounding. Philip Dixon Hall HARDY, barrister, had been one of the passengers. To smooth over the incident MARRIOTT had promised recompense to the passengers, but failed to provide it. It was then that HARDY notified the authorities, resulting in the court case. The only other witness was Joseph JAMES, commission agent, Richmond. MARRIOTT was duly tried at the Melbourne Criminal Sessions on 16 September 1853 with "wilfully damaging his ship". He was found guilty and sentenced to three years "on the roads".

The trial was reported in *The Argus*, 17 September 1853. MARRIOTT's prison details are also recorded in the files at the PRO, but that's another story!

This article first appeared in *The Genealogist*, Volume VI, No 6. 

Ed. Note: Using Trove, further details of the accident which befell United came to light in a lengthy article entitled "What may happen to a man in Victoria" in the Ballarat Star, Tuesday 16 June 1868 and similarly in a letter to The Age published the day before and subsequently in the Portland Guardian & Normanby General Advertiserⁱⁱⁱ. Captain MARRIOTT had just been

appointed as a magistrate in Portland and was compelled to defend his character in relation to the 1853 incident, details of which had been brought up in an attempt to discredit him. Several statements were published in his defence including from his body servant in 1853, William HETHERINGTON, the Harbour Master William NICHOLSON, and two crew members. All were in support of his innocence, suggesting that he had been a victim of circumstance and discrediting passengers, and had been a scapegoat for a bureaucratic tussle over identifying and rectifying navigational hazards in Port Phillip Bay. Captain MARRIOTT lived in Portland for thirty-six years and held a number of official positions including that of Mayor. He died from complications of influenza in 1891 and his obituary in the Portland Gazette ran to almost a whole column.^{iv} He seems to have made good on his wife's assertion that he would be a respectable citizen once released from prison.

ⁱNla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle 113845004

ⁱⁱNla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle 176997759

ⁱⁱⁱNla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle 64690193

^{iv}Nla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle 65388946



MEMBERS SERVICES

FHC Education Events

Bookings are essential for ALL classes. Contact the Resource Centre during office hours, ph. 9877 3789 or email info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

All classes are at the resource centre unless otherwise stated. Cost of seminars and workshops is \$15 for members, \$17.50 for GSV and CAV members and \$20.00 for non-members unless otherwise stated.

Friday Education Program

Friday Insite Talks

Please note that the Insite Talks will resume onsite when restrictions allow but are continuing offsite and online. Access video recordings through the members area of the FHC website.

More topics added each month.

Sunday Talks 2021

The highly successful DNA workshop program will continue into 2021.

A mixture of online and face to face classes are planned, depending on restrictions.

Details will be available from the Office in 2021

Starting Family History

These comprehensive free classes for members and non-members alike will resume in the Resource Centre when restrictions allow. Members will be advised of new starting dates. Bookings are required but ARE NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME.

Please contact the office on 9877 3789 or email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Interest Groups

Currently there are Members' Interest Groups for:

- Early Victoria and Tasmania
- Eastern Counties
- Ireland
- London and Home Counties
- Northern Counties
- Midlands
- Scotland
- South West England

2021 ONLY:

Fees will apply if you join a different Interest Group in 2021. Ongoing members will not be charged a fee to remain in their current Interest Group.

Resource Center Services

Will Transcription Service

Transcribe and decipher old Wills

⌘ \$25/hour for Members

⌘ \$40/hour for Non Members

Certificates and Wills

FHC operates courier facilities for a fee for:

⌘ BDM England and Wales from 1837

⌘ Wills in England and Wales, 1858-1995

Sterling Cheques

UK cheques to a value of £100 are available for a service fee

Library Holdings

⌘ Widest collection of English and Welsh parish & county records in Australia [includes Will Indexes, Parish Registers, Poor Law Records & Apprentice Records]

⌘ Australian Records & Family Histories

⌘ National & Parish Records of Scotland & Ireland

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⌘ Irish Griffiths' Valuation & Tithe Applotments

Research Service



The Research Team is keen to help you with your family history and continues to offer its services while restrictions limit your ability to visit the Resource Centre in person.

One-on-one assistance has been temporarily suspended but enquiries are always welcomed by the team.

Direct your enquiries to research@familyhistoryconnections.or.au or mail to the Research Co-ordinator at PO Box 339, Blackburn 3130.

Bendigo Family History Group

Area Administrator: Lyn FRISWELL
Ph (03) 5446 9474
www.bendigofamilyhistory.org

The Bendigo Branch meets 3rd Saturday of the month at the Bendigo Library, Hargreaves Street entrance.

Speakers begin at 2pm, followed by refreshments.

FHC Membership 2021

**Please note that there will be no fee increase for 2021.*

Memberships are per calendar year and therefore fall due and are payable on 1st January each year.

Joining Fee Per address and to be added to the fees quoted below	\$20.00
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Full Member – Individual	\$100.00
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Full Member – Concession	\$90.00
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Family Member – Individual	\$55.00
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Family Member – Concession	\$45.00
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Family Members must reside at the same address as the Full Member. They do not receive a copy of our magazine, *The Genealogist*.

Overseas Individual Member	\$100.00
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The following do not require the Joining Fee to be added to the subscription. Please use the same application form.

Magazine Subscription – Australia (4 editions)	\$70.00
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Magazine Subscription – Overseas (4 editions)	\$110.00
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Interest Groups	\$20.00
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Life Membership – Individual	\$1500.00
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Life Membership – Family (2 persons)	\$1800.00
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Resource Centre Visit (for non-members)	\$20.00 or \$10.00 after 1.00 pm
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If the visitor takes out a membership on the day of the visit, the fee paid is deducted from the joining fee.

Gold members, Life members and Patrons will not receive a membership renewal notice. If they wish to join (or rejoin) an interest group they should contact the office.

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Resource Centre Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	10.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday Evening	7.00pm - 10.00pm
Friday	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Saturday	10.00am - 4.00pm
3rd Sunday of the Month (May to October)	12 noon - 4.00pm

Closed on Public Holidays and during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

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Contact Office Manager for current rates.

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At any time you may request access to the personal information that the Institute holds about you and advise us of any inaccuracies.

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- process your renewal/application;
- mail your copy of *The Genealogist*; or provide information about services offered by the Institute.

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Joining fee only \$20
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