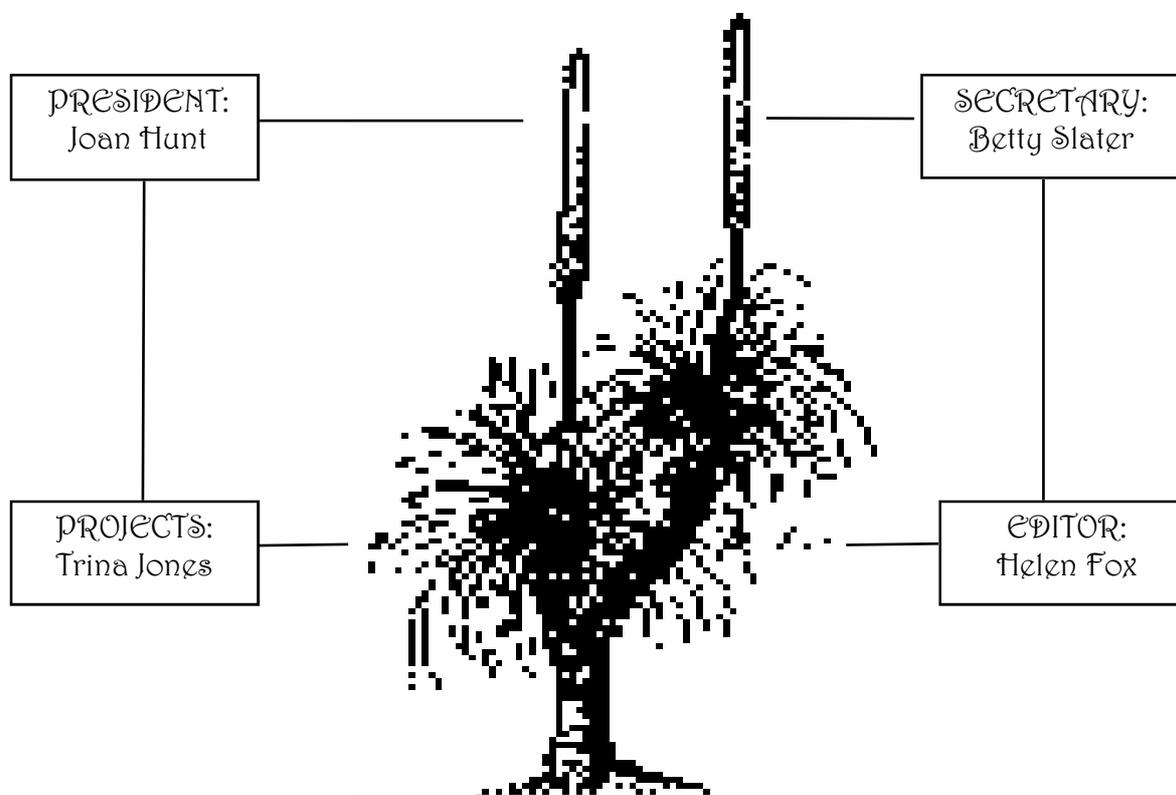


BALLARAT LINK

November 2006 - No.151



The Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.

THE BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Australia

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The Society's Library is housed in the Australiana Room, Ballarat Central Library, 178 Doveton Street North, Ballarat 3350.

Australiana Room open for "members only" every Friday evening 5pm - 7pm.

Certain books from our collection can now be borrowed by members for 1 - 2 weeks, between 6 - 7pm on Friday evenings.

Membership

Single Membership:- \$25.00

Family Membership:- \$35.00

Overseas membership:- \$25.00

Membership year from 1st July to 30th June (Half price after 1st Jan)

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Program 2007

February 27th Ballarat Old Cemetery visit with Neva Dunstan. Meet at 7.30pm at the Cemetery gates corner Creswick Road and Macarthur Street. At the conclusion of a guided tour the monthly meeting and supper will be held at the Ballarat Central Library Meeting room.

Suggested program—to be confirmed

March 27th Linley Hooper, GSV - UK directories & electoral rolls.

April 24th Irene Fullarton, GUM - Internet research sites.

May 22nd Eric Panther - Family history through post cards.

June 26th Lenice Stuchbery - Cornish or Cornish research.

July 24th To be advised

August 28th To be advised

September 25th To be advised

October 23rd To be advised

November 27th Show and Tell and Quiz Night, with Special End-of-Year Supper

Visit our web page for an update on above program

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Ballarat Central Library, Doveton Street Nth, Ballarat. 7.30pm.

Visitors are most welcome.

No meeting December or January.

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Contributions for February 2007 Link to be with the editor by the 15th January 2007

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DISCLAIMER

The Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of statements or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in this magazine.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members and readers,

While Joan is in Europe, my role as Acting President includes the pleasure of writing for this column.

The Ballarat Heritage Weekend, prelude to the 10th World Conference of Historic Cities held at Ballarat, provided the context for the launch by Ms Catherine King, MHR for Ballarat, of the CD of extracted headstone transcriptions and registers for Ballarat Old and New cemeteries and the Crematorium. At the launch, Mr Clive Luckman of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc, President, noted that the headstone transcriptions revealed the C19th love of the place of origin evident by the recording of the birthplace, immigration and native culture. Many researchers who lose the trail of an ancestor in the 1850s find that the lure of gold, perhaps Ballarat, offers a second hope to return to the search. The CD encompasses one of the most significant records for research. Thank you to all those who have worked on bringing this project to fruition.

Cemetery headstones provide one aspect of culture and context. Many family historians and genealogists appreciate the need to establish the factual information and assemble this material into a coherent account of the individual or generation. Such an account may accommodate inconsistency and uncertainty. Jane Sullivan's Making a fiction of history *The Age* (21 Oct 2006) pp. 12-13 offers some insightful remarks about context. Kate Grenville's *The Secret River* (2005) a novel featuring William Thornhill, evolved from writing a historical account of one of her ancestors, Solomon Wiseman. The work related to her doctoral thesis *Solomon Wiseman: history into fiction*. Kate's work *Searching for the Secret River* (2006), detailed her quest among the usual genealogical records to identify Solomon. Some might accept that Solomon's story could be developed into the novel pertaining to the life of William. Unwittingly, Kate stepped into the history wars. Governor Arthur Phillip had reported an incident of contact between an aboriginal and him at the Hawkesbury River in 1788. In the novel Kate transferred this incident to another place and thirty years later. The essence is the acculturation of 1788 during the earliest contacts between the British settlers and the local aboriginals has been set into another period and place. Although the art of the novelist rewards those who write creatively, show a capacity to imagine and place themselves in the unusual positions, the more significant criticism has focused on the recent preference of the novelist to write of the past and to place a different emphasis on the facts. Kate Grenville earned more criticism by adding that a novel could be a new way to approach history. Perhaps other authors might adopt this approach. It can offer a new, complex dimension to understanding the context of the past.

Best wishes for Christmas, the New Year and success in research.

**GRACE JENNINGS CARMICHAEL,
1867-1904**

While on a trip through Orbost a few years ago, my friend Robyn stopped at the Sensory Garden there and found scattered among the flowerbeds plaques containing poetry. For some reason she was particularly struck by the poems of Grace Jennings Carmichael. Robyn later asked me if I could find a book of her poetry, a task which was right up my street as I love prowling around online catalogues of antiquarian bookshops.

While on the internet I hunted round for some biographical information about her, and was intrigued to find that Grace Carmichael had been a nurse, and had worked in the first Children's Hospital in the 1890s when it was in Carlton. Grace had written a book of stories about her experiences in the 1890s, called *Hospital children: sketches of life and character in the Children's Hospital, Melbourne*. This was rather spooky, as my friend Robyn, who found Grace's poetry so moving, is also nurse and works in the present Royal Children's Hospital.

Hospital children was first published in 1891, but was republished in 1991 with a short biography of Grace. Grace was born at Ballarat on 24 February 1867, the daughter of Archibald CARMICHAEL and Margaret Jennings CLARKE. The Carmichaels married in Victoria in 1861, and four children were registered: Elizabeth Margaret, b 1864, Daylesford; and Grace Betsy, 1867, Margaret Janet, 1869, and Janet 1870, all born in Ballarat.

Goldfields conditions were difficult for young children. Elizabeth Margaret died aged 1 in Ballarat in 1866, and Margaret Janet died in 1869 aged nine months. Their father Archibald died in 1870 at the age of 51, leaving his wife Margaret with at least three small children. I can't help feeling there may have been others not registered, given the gap between the marriage in 1861 and the first registered birth in 1864.

The young widow remarried in 1875 to Charles Naylor HENDERSON, who from 1879 was the manager of Orbost Station, thus Grace Jennings Carmichael spent most of her teenage years in Orbost, and probably began writing poetry there.

Grace began her nursing training at the Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children in 1888 when she was 21, and her descriptions of the children in the hospital and their families who floated fecklessly in and out

of the Wards are minutely and poignantly recorded in her book.

In 1895 she married Henry Francis MULLIS, an architect. Their first child, Francis Geoffrey Mullis, was born in Adelaide in 1896. Soon after, according to the biographer, the Mullis family travelled to England. In London suburbs there were two more sons born, and a little girl, whose births and some deaths, were indexed online in Free BMD:

1898 Mar Qtr birth - Thomas Keith MULLIS, registered Kensington

1899 Dec Qtr birth - Archibald Keith MULLIS, registered Lambeth

1902 Dec Qtr birth - Audrey-Grace MULLIS, registered, West Ham

1904 Mar Qtr death - Grace Elizabeth J MULLIS, registered West Ham

1904 Sep Qtr death - Audrey Grace MULLIS, 0, registered Stepney

The biographer says 'There, the much loved nurse and poet who once brightly recommended that all nurses should be "full of cheerfulness and hope", fell into the direst poverty and despair.' Grace is believed to have died of pneumonia in a workhouse in 1904. Henry Mullis, it was said, disappeared without trace, and Grace's three surviving little boys were left destitute in the workhouse. It was said that the boys were later transferred to the Northampton workhouse.

It is not clear what the circumstances were surrounding Grace's death – there was often an infirmary associated with a workhouse, so that she might have been in the infirmary at the time of her death rather than an actual inmate of the workhouse. It is, however, entirely possible that she and the boys had been abandoned before this time.

In one of her poems, entitled *A Woman's Mood*, in which the woman describes her loneliness and pain, the final stanza reads:

*It may be, dear, when the sequel's told
Of the story, read to its bitter close;
When the inner meanings of life unfold,
And the under-side of our being shows-
It may be then, in that truer light
When all our knowledge has larger grown,
I may understand why you stray to-night
And I am left, with the past, alone.*

Reading *Hospital children* some ten years after they were re-published, I thought it would be interesting

to see what light could be shed on the Mullis family in England through the 1901 Census and other online indexes.

I found them living in Lambeth in the County of London:

Henry F MULLIS, aged 41, born Northampton, Merchant in Steel Goods
Grace E J MULLIS, aged 34, born Australia
Francis G MULLIS, aged 4, born London
Thomas C MULLIS, aged 3, born London
Archibold K MULLIS, aged 1, born London

The fact that Henry Mullis had been born in Northampton seemed to have some connection with his sons ending up in the Northampton workhouse. Looking for Mullis in the 1881 Census in Northampton, I found:

Towcester Rd, Hardingstone, Northampton.

Thomas MULLIS, Head, 50, b Harbury, Warwick, retired butcher

Harriett MULLIS, wife, 47, b Duston, Northampton

Francis H MULLIS, 21, Architect & Surveyor, b St Sepulchre, Northampton

Annie GIBBINS, servant, 25, b Preston Cape, General servant.

Without consulting the workhouse records, it is impossible to say precisely how events transpired, but it is possible that after Grace's death in 1904 Mullis took the three little boys – Francis Geoffrey, 8, Thomas Keith, 6, and Archibald Keith, 5, to his parents in Northampton.

In 1901 Henry's parents were recorded living at Duston, St James, as Thomas Mullis, aged 79, born in Wawick, Harbury, retired pork butcher, and Harriet Mullis, 66, born at Northants, Pushen.

However, the Free BMD also revealed the death of a Thomas Mullis, aged 73, registered at Warwick in the March quarter 1903. The widowed Harriet may have taken the boys for a time, but in the June quarter of 1907 the death of a Harriet Mullis, aged 72, was registered at Gloucester.

The Free BMD Index does seem to indicate that Mullis hadn't entirely vanished – there is a marriage recorded of a Henry F MULLIS in Islington in the September quarter of 1910.

The biographer in *Hospital children* says that after six years in the Northampton Workhouse, Grace's sons were brought home to Melbourne in 1910 by

It was said that they dropped their father's name and adopted that of their mother, Carmichael.

This certainly proved to be the case. In fact, they also dropped the use of their first names. Not so long after their sad life as virtual orphans in England, the Great War began, and almost as if to show that they didn't hold a grudge against the Motherland, Geoffrey Francis Carmichael and Keith Carmichael enlisted in the 1st AIF. Keith named his younger brother Rupert Carmichael as his next of kin. These records were located on the National Archives of Australia website.

Both the young men served overseas and returned to Australia, though Keith was gassed in France in 1918 and died at the comparatively young age of 59, while Geoffrey lived until age 82.

In 1927 a headstone in the form of a white marble book was erected above Grace's grave in the Wood Grange Park Cemetery. The words upon one page were "A Wattle Day Tribute. To the memory of Grace Jennings Carmichael, an Australian poetess", and on the opposite page was carved a spray of bush wattle, and the words from her own poem,

*"Ah, little flower I loved of old,
Dear little downy heads of gold."*

An online biographical dictionary commented that a selection of Grace's poetry was published in 1910, and in 1937 a plaque to her memory was unveiled in Orbost, the one in Ballarat being a replica, and placed at the public library in 1938 with two of Grace's sons present at the ceremony.

Originally placed in the foyer of the old library in Camp Street, Grace's Ballarat memorial is now to be found in the Australian Room of the new Ballarat Library. Gwen Bayley of Ballarat Genies very kindly tracked down the plaque for me, and took a photograph of it. Gwen described it as "quite large, about 28 inches by 15 inches wide, totally in black (marble or slate?) with a beautiful carving of Grace's head on the top, with these words underneath:

*GRACE JENNINGS CARMICHAEL
POETESS*

BORN AT BALLARAT 1868

"The night is here!

O let us lay in calm

Life's care away".

RA Crouch, Donor.

R A Crouch, a son of Ballarat, is described as “A federal politician, a soldier, an historian, a collector, a patron of the arts”. He gave bequests to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, and provided funds for statuary in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.



"Photo by Gwen Bayley 2005, digitally altered by Lenore".

There is a photo in the State Library of Victoria collection showing a Mr Keith Carmichael at the Back to Orbost celebrations in 1937 – probably when the Orbost plaque was unveiled.

I have made enquiries about the white marble gravestone at the Woodgrange Park Cemetery, but it appears that the cemetery is now owned privately by developers, and a lot of the cemetery has been cleared. It seems unlikely that the gravestone has survived.

In 1986 Ian McLaren published a book called *Grace Jennings Carmichael: from Croajingalong to London*. The information in that book formed the basis of the biographical notes in the 1991 edition of *Hospital children*. There is a copy in the Reference collection of the Ballarat Library, which includes a bibliography of her work.

In an effort to locate a Carmichael family historian, a Google search turned up quite a few interesting sites, including some statements from witnesses to the

death of Scobie prior to the Eureka rebellion. One website says:

Archibald Carmichael, a digger and butcher who had a claim with Scobie, which was next to the claim worked by Lalor & Timothy Hayes, attended the Scobie inquest. He deposed: 7th October 1854 at Eureka ... I am a digger and have a butcher shop near the Eureka hotel. I was called up between one and two o'clock last night by the last witness Martin. He said he thought deceased was murdered. I went to where deceased was lying I looked at him and said I thought he was gone. Deceased was lying in a smooth open place within yards of a tent and about sixty or seventy yards from the Eureka hotel. I went for Dr Carr leaving the last witness with the body. No one was there when I first arrived on the spot. Dr Carr came back with me and we removed deceased to the Eureka hotel. The door was opened for us at once by two men I do not know.'

So I give the challenge to the Ballarat Historians – was Archibald Carmichael, partner of Scobie, present at one of the seminal episodes in the history of Australia, the father of the still loved poetess, Grace Jennings Carmichael?

My thanks to Gwen Bayley for tracking down the memorial plaque in the Ballarat Library, and to Joan Hunt for checking the McLaren reference, also at the Ballarat Library.

Sources available if required

Lenore Frost



Ballarat East Petty Sessions Series VPRS 290/P

Part 1, 1858-1889.

Price is AUS \$35 plus \$5 postage & handling.
Set of 15 fiche, approx 55,000 names.

Part 11, 1890-1921.

Set of fiche, containing 70,000 names
Price is AUS \$45 plus \$5 postage & handling.

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Keeping in Touch
(by Tricia Hilder)

My grandfather, Michael Dudley Flinn, was a hoarder. Luckily for me, he kept many of the letters that his mother Frances Flinn, nee Dudley, had received while living in Carlton during the second half of the nineteenth century. Michael would never meet his grandfather, William Dudley, of County Cork, Ireland or his uncles who went to the United States, but he treasured their letters and passed them on to his daughter. When I started researching my family history in 1985, I transcribed these letters, forty pages in all, fully aware of how fortunate I was to have such wonderful “flesh” to add to the bones of my family tree.

Following up on the information in the letters, I found that three Dudley sisters came to Australia between 1857 and 1859. Their widowed father, William Dudley, their brothers George and William Jnr., and their youngest sister Susan went to New York. There was one more brother, Christopher, who made it as far as Willenhall in Staffordshire where he died at the age of twenty-five, leaving a wife and two children. It has been my ambition to trace the descendants of all seven Dudley siblings so that I can share these letters and continue the theme that is common to all of them – the importance of staying in touch with one another.

In 1998, a researcher at the Californian Genealogical Society was able to give me details of George’s family. They had settled in California, while his brother William and sister Susan had remained in New York with their families. I then started searching on the internet for a descendant who might carry his great-grandfather’s name. After a few false starts, I made contact with a George Dudley who was just moving from California to Arizona and, after an information exchange, we established that we were, in fact, cousins.

In early 2001, George and his wife Eileen came to Ballarat for a visit and, after they returned to the US, I started corresponding with George’s brother, Chuck Dudley, who has a great interest in family history. I learned that Chuck and George had a great-aunt, also called Frances Dudley, a daughter of the original George Dudley, and she too was a hoarder. When Chuck went searching in the cracker tin in his trailer (yes, that’s what he said), he found letters and cards from one Dudley to another dating from the 1890s through to the 1950s.

They even included a 1956 Christmas card from the descendants of Christopher who had died in 1862 in England. What fun we have had sorting out who was who. There was one from the 1930s in which the writer said that she knew about the three sisters who had come to Australia and how she would love to try to find their descendants, but to do so would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

In 2003 Chuck and his wife Judy came to visit and spent three weeks touring Victoria and Tasmania with us. Since then, we have found many other Dudley cousins throughout the U.S. and Australia using such sites as Rootsweb. Then, last month, I had an email from Chuck, in which he mentioned that some of the descendants of William of New York, were coming to California with their wives to meet the west coast Dudleys in November 2006. When I discovered that the Arizona Dudleys, the West Virginian Dudleys and the Utah descendants were going to be there as well. I realized that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

So now I have passport and a ticket and in the words of the goldminers of 1849 -

“I’M OFF TO CALIFORNIA!”

A Prayer for Genealogists

*Lord, help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.
Lord, help me trace the ancient roads
On which my fathers trod
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.*

*Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dusty manuscript
That’s safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt;
Lord, let me bridge the gap that haunts
My soul when I can’t find
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine*

Curtis Woods

Printed in “Scots Link” February 1989

WWW Genie Links

Tasmania

In 1839 Van Diemen's Land was the first Australian colony to introduce civil registration of births, deaths and marriages. Prior to that from 1803 to 1839 there were church records of burials, baptisms and marriages. An application form can be download and posted to obtain copies of entries from **Tasmania Department of Justice: Births, Deaths and Marriages** <http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm>

To reach the stage of knowing names, dates and places there are several excellent websites to help family historians with research in Van Diemen's Land, known as Tasmania from 1856.

Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database
<http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au/menu.aspx?search=8>

It is stated that this is not a direct index to records but it does contain a large amount of information (not necessarily verified) about Tasmanian pioneers and family groupings.

No distinction is made between relationships and officially recorded marriages. The basis for these presumptions are church records of christenings. This is one of the best searchable name indexes included at the following site.

Archives Office of Tasmania Online
<http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/nameindexes>

Here you will find an index of 76,000 people - convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land. Beginning in 1804 to the end of transportation in 1853 and to 1893 for locally convicted convicts. There are also indexes to Convict Applications to Marry (1829-1857), Census records (1840s and 50s), Wills (1824-1989), Naturalisations (1935-1905) and Departures from the island (1817-1867).

Genseek Jenny Fawcett online indexes
<http://www.genseek.net/index.htm>

Allow plenty of time to browse this huge Australia-wide collection of indexes, historical articles and transcripts. Items added relatively recently include more BDMs and passenger lists gleaned from colonial newspapers and an index to insolvencies in VDL/Tasmania 1835-39 and 1847.

The navigation of the many different categories is straight forward but the subject matter can be searched by Name, Ship or Place if you are in a hurry.

Australian Passenger Indexes (by state)
<http://www.genseek.net/pass1.htm>

This section of Jenny Fawcett's website is the most likely place to find people leaving VDL primarily from the port of Georgetown/Launceston for the Western District ports of Port Fairy and Portland Bay as well as to Port Phillip and Westernport in the period from the late 1820s to the late 1840s. These trips across Bass Strait were just stages of longer intercolonial and international ships' voyages. Many of the ships' lists are for crew as well as passengers.

AUS-Tasmanian Genealogy
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~austashs/index.html>

This searchable site by Meryl Yost of Launceston provides useful information and resources for people researching Tasmanian history and genealogy.

The site has grown rapidly with contributions from researchers. You may discover people who are researching the same name as you and if you are having trouble finding out how your ancestors arrived in VDL you can add them to the unknown arrivals 'Swimmers List'.

For issues relating to Tasmanian genealogy and history you could join the mailing list of 700 subscribers.

The Links and Resources pages direct you to further information such as Burials, Tombstones and Memorials which sounds promising but apart from the **Southern Regional Cemetery Trust** (Cornelian Bay) online search for burials, and some of the North West Coast Cemeteries, most of the information is about Tasmanian cemeteries in general.

State Library of Tasmania : Images Search
<http://images.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/>

This website has a wonderful collection available online of 6000 historical images of Tasmanian places, people and artefacts.



**Decisions of the Nineteenth Century
Tasmanian Superior Courts, published
online by the Division of Law, Macquarie
University and the School of History and
Classics, University of Tasmania**
<http://www.law.mq.edu.au/sctas/index.htm>

The site begins with the first decisions of the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land, commencing in 1824, up to 1842. It provides a comprehensive collection of more than 1800 court cases sourced from newspaper reports and archival documents. Searches can be made by an alphabetical Subject Index or by Case Index.

One example from 1839 was a case where William Roberts of Sorell received an unlikely sentence of four years at Port Arthur for receiving three stolen hogs. Four depositions and cross-examinations, as reported in the Hobart Town Advertiser, give full details of the case.

Jennifer Burrell
jburrell@ncable.net.au

What's New at PROV
by Shauna Hicks,
Senior Manager Access Services

Crown Land Guide update

PROV staff are working on a guide to make crown land records more accessible. A draft guide has been completed and been through an initial editing phase. It is now out for feedback with both staff and public users providing us with comments. The project has led to other resources being given to PROV and these include the Historic Plans on microfiche now available at the North Melbourne reading room and we have also been given a set of digitised parish plans which we are looking at making available in the reading rooms and also hopefully on our website. Stay tuned.

Another new venture with crown land records is name identified data for some series - VPRS 624 (3,739 names), VPRS 10192 (462 names and only T-Z), VPRS 10197 (860 names) and VPRS 745 (752 names).

Go to the PROV website www.prov.vic.gov.au and go to Access the Collection. Go to the Searching screen and select Find By Number and enter 624 or one of the other numbers. Hit Search and then select Accessing the Records. Then select Items in this Series and then Search this Series. 65 hits. You can also enter a parish name if you are doing a local area study.

Outward Passenger Lists Indexing Project update
Our volunteers are really progressing this index and the new release which is due in December 2006 will be for 15 years not the usual 5 years we have been achieving during the busy gold rush years. This will take the index from 1852 to 1876 so make a note in your diaries to look at this index again in January 2007. We usually launch the new release during the Volunteers Christmas Party in recognition of the fantastic work they do for PROV.

New PROVguides

(all available online at www.prov.vic.gov.au in Access the Collection)

During the year we have published a number of new guides including:

- * Ships Crew No 49
- * Locating and Copying Ships Passenger Lists No 50
- * Public Works Department - Building Services Agency Plans No 28

PROV guides revised include:

- * Digitised Records and Online Indexes No 23
- * Ordering Wills and Probates Online No 68
- * Reading Room Services No 1

New Indexes Online

(all accessible through PROVguide No 23 in Access the Collection)

- * Index to workers at the 1888 International Exhibition - VPRS 840
- * Equity suit indexes 1884-1922 - VPRS 12024/P1
- * Applications for old age pensions 1902-08 North Melbourne - VPRS 13353
- * Building Service Agency (BSA) - 230,000+ plans and drawings of public buildings (Public Works Dept)

Shauna Hicks
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A Reminder to members that they are required to show their membership card in the Library to obtain access to the Society's computer/CDs and the research material that is kept in the filing cabinet.

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

August meeting.

Betty Slater spoke about Family History giving many hints and clues about starting and continuing research.

Betty's first hint for beginners was that you should start with yourself. Gather all the known information about yourself then your parents. Obtain copies of BDM Certificates and search for wills, probates, inquests, obituaries, monumental inscriptions and shipping lists. She showed examples of certificates pointing out the information you can obtain from them but emphasised that while certificates are very important you need to be careful and confirm the information they contain as they are not always accurate.

Betty listed and expanded on many of our resources which are housed in The Australiana room of the Library including many microfiche sets, hard copy and CD's – with information from all states and overseas. The Library has many newspapers on film and while most are not indexed, they are a great source and really valuable. You can find information about the weather, crops, the life and times our ancestors lived in, photos and descriptions of events, Obituaries, Judicial and Law, accidents and much more. Betty also suggested reading relevant reference books and magazines.

The experienced researcher will be ready to research overseas. Betty suggested that a good place to start is the LDS Family History Library where you can order copies of films of actual registers. The internet is a good source. <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>
<http://www.kindredkonnections.com>
<http://www.ancestry.com>

Records are available with many of them being free to search. You can write away to obtain certificates. Using the free census page you can follow what has happened to your family. They are only indexes so you still need to order the film to view the information. Again, Betty showed many examples of her own findings from the internet and overseas and gave us many hints on how to search these records. She amused us with stories of her disappointments and achievements but also showed us that results are possible of her disappointments and achievements but also showed us that results are possible.

In closing, Betty mentioned the AR collection of books and pictures which is worthwhile checking and Edith and Simon, the library AR staff are very experienced and are there to help. BDGS also has experienced researchers who can lend a hand and so you can go a long way with our own AR collection.

September meeting.

James McKinnon is currently Manager of Public Programs and has worked at Public Records Office for 21 years. He spoke about researching at both PROV and the Geelong Heritage Centre. Ballarat and Geelong, while having some indexes to records held at PROV, hold many local records covering their own areas, such as local government, courts, municipal and private records.

Public Records Office of Victoria.

James listed records commonly used at both Ballarat and Melbourne such as BDMs, Passenger lists, index to wills, probate, pastoral runs, indexes to criminal trials and wills. There are some differences so it is a good idea to check Ballarat lists/index before going to Melbourne PROV. The PROV catalogue of the whole collection is available online at <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au> and there are copies at both reading rooms.

James showed examples of indexes available online and how to order via the PROV website. He also explained some PROV guides showing Guide 23 which lists Digitised Records and Indexes available online and Guide 63 which is a guide to ordering Wills and Probate Records.

Geelong Heritage Centre.

James gave a brief history of the centre which was established in 1979 and then known as the Geelong Historical Records Centre. It was renamed in 2003 to the Geelong Heritage Centre. It was appointed a place of deposit in 1988 and is the largest regional archive and historical resource centre. It holds many records including Municipal Records, such as rate and minute books, as well as Archival records from businesses, clubs, churches and individuals. It is a reference library with a huge range of books which include the former Geelong Family History Group library material. There are newspapers, maps, plans and photographs and several Special Collections which can all be of help in your research.

Access is available via their webpage or [http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services In Geelong/Archives](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services%20In%20Geelong/Archives).

There is also a link through PROV webpage

<http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au>

(public records only) where you can view samples of Geelong website and search the collection.

James noted that it is important to note the GRS No. if going to Geelong to search and also to ring first as some records are stored off site. James finished by saying that the Geelong Heritage Centre is unique in Victoria, being an invaluable centre for research in the Geelong area.

October meeting.

Michael Taffe of the Ballarat Catholic Archives spoke about the records and research information available at the centre. He explained how family history research can be enhanced by using these historical archives and outlined the main records available which are sourced from the sacramental records. Only baptisms and marriages are kept and they are kept at the Parish office where the event took place but because of Ecclesiastic privacy laws, which were in place long before State privacy laws, these records may not necessarily be available to anyone. There are also various Holy Orders that are kept at the Diocese.

Michael receives many enquiries and where possible always refers them onto the relevant Parish, however he stressed that as well as giving relevant dates and places, it is important to state the relationship between the people concerned because if there is no connection, access to the records may be denied. There is another problem that may arise and that is the problem of boundaries. Victoria has 4 administrative areas, these being the dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst, Sale and Melbourne. The boundaries of these areas have changed over the years sometimes making it difficult to find that missing marriage or baptism.

Michael also showed some examples of secondary sources that can be of help with research. He brought along 1 book (of 30) of an Index of the Catholic Newspaper, The Advocate, which ran for 120 years; a parish 'box' which holds information relating to a particular parish and an intricately designed and embellished card, signed by people of the day, to accompany a gift. Other items that are held at the centre include photocopies of old Melbourne records, Catholic Journals, Books, Parish newsletters, a photograph collection (uncatalogued), scrapbooks, diaries, personal papers, manuscripts, and a card file of names from the Eureka story. Michael and the Archive centre are currently on the move. Over the next 18 months the records will be housed in a new centre in rooms above St Patrick's Hall. There will be ample space for records and researchers and Michael said he would be pleased to see us there.

RESEARCH QUERIES

Please contact the research team at
researchballarat@hotmail.com

Ballarat Cemeteries CD

Included on the CD are current maps of the Ballarat Old and New Cemeteries showing location of the various sections.

A total in the order of 30,000 of records will now be accessible in a searchable database available on CD-ROM.

These include 70,000 for the Ballarat New Cemetery (1867-2005) plus headstone transcriptions and 25,000 cremations for the Ballarat Crematorium (1958-2005).

The Ballarat Old and New Cemeteries registers show: Name, Age, Date of burial, Residence, Occupation, Area, Section, Location. There is also a useful key to the abbreviations used in the remarks.

The Crematorium register shows: Name, Age, Date of death, Date of cremation, Residence, Name of applicant, Memorial location.

Enquiries to:-

<http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ballarat-cemeteries-cd.htm>

Orders for the Ballarat Cemeteries Index CD can be made with payment of \$49 plus \$6 postage and packaging to:-

Ballarat & District Genealogical Society, PO Box 1809 Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354.

OR

The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000



L-R:- GSV President Clive Luckman, MHR for Ballarat Catherine King, Lois Reynolds, BDGS Vice-President Graeme Reynolds at the CD launch.



NEW IN THE LIBRARY 2006

(by Betty Slater - Former Librarian.)

Microfiche

Victorian Shipping – Passenger Lists outward to NZ
Parts 1 – 3, 1852 - 1870
Miscellaneous Tasmanian Parish Records –
Country 1837-1972
Miscellaneous Tasmanian Parish Records -
St David's Hobart 1890 – 1927
Index to more Tasmanian Convicts,
Papers re convict ships 1814-1845
Wills at Land & Deeds Office Wellington NZ
Deceased Persons' Estates Canterbury NZ
1887-1914
Intestate Estates NZ Gazette 1843 – 1869
Public Trust Deceased Estates Canterbury NZ
1901 – 1958
Deceased Estates NZ Gazette 1866 – 1900
Canterbury NZ Death Duty Registers Index
1867 – 1914
Index to Tasmanians in Victorian Police Gazette
1853 – 1893
Convict Records Parkhurst Reg Index WA
Convict "R" Series
Ticket of leave occurrence books
Convict Reg Alpha Index Pt 1
Ticket of Leave Registers
AJCP P Com Reg Index to Reels 5971 - 5991

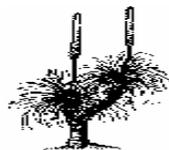
CD's

GRD 2006
W.A. Marriage Index 1915 – 1933
Tasmanian Convicts
Anglican Marriages Alexandra & Yea
Early Australian Electoral Rolls Vol 2
Index to Newspaper Deaths in Victoria
NZ Electoral Roll 1893
Index to Newspaper Deaths in Vic 1998 - 1992



Books

GRD 2006
Hospital Children
Reg of the Session Churches in Scotland
The Parish Registers & Registrars of Scotland
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Registers
A Touch of Homebush
Coburg between two creeks
Tracing your Scottish Ancestry
Gathering of the Clans-
Scottish Ancestry on the Internet
Bacchus Marsh A Pictorial Chronicle
Melton – Plains of Promise
The First Residents of Melbourne's Western Region
Historic Buninyong Walk
Bendigo – The Golden Age Retraced
Historic Maldon
Maldon & Tarrangower Diggings
Mt Macedon, Its history & its Grandeur
1836 – 1978
Life & Death in the Age of Sail
They Came in Hope –
Evans –Criddle Family History
Glimpses of Early Sunshine
Henry Handel Richardson Memorial
In The Performance of Duty –
[Stavely, Brown, Presland]
A Russian Presence –
History of The Orthodox Church in Australia
125 History of the Ballarat Fire Brigade
Conserving our Cemeteries – [National Trust]
11th Australian congress papers from Darwin 2006
Tracing your Irish Ancestors 3rd Ed [John Grenham]
Brown Hill –
Halls & Progress Association
Post Offices
Transport
Toll Gates
Churches
Roads & Toll Gates
Police Stations
Boundaries of Brown Hill
Schools & Kindergartens
Sports, Recreation, Swimming etc
The Garvies of Mineres Rest FH
Bungaree Cemetery Up-Date
1980 – 1998[Joy Vandenberg]
Ballarat Courier BDM'S etc1974, [Marilyn Miller]



Cold Turkey - My 12 Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me, I'm glad we brought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard as we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas we entertained the people from next door, the turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old – we finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried, but we were nice and warm inside, we ate our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died, the children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles –fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince, when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

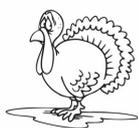
Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed – the dog had run for shelter, I served up turkey pancakes, with a glass of Alka-Seltzer.

On day nine, our cat left home – by lunchtime Dad was blotto, he said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our home made brew), as if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting, the mince pies were as hard as rocks and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips. The guests had gone – the turkey too – and we dined on fish and chips



Source unknown



Argus index

A good site for research is the Argus index 1870-1879. The Argus was the major news paper in Melbourne until the early 1950s.

Coverage for country areas was usually taken from local papers and families weren't likely to put a death notice (for a rural based person) in the Argus until around the 1920s, but it is a wonderful resource that can lead you to larger articles in local papers.

Of course if there was an inquest or something else sensational happened in a country area it was likely to make the news in Melbourne.

Hard copy of the indexes before 1870 and after 1910 (for a few short years) is available at places like Universities.

They are great for local historians.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/argus/>

Planning a visit to Ballarat to make use of our Research Library?

Do you think you may need help with or advice about using our material and equipment?

Please contact our Librarian in advance so that arrangements can be made to have one of our members available to help you on the day of your visit.

CONTACT

Betty Slater - researchballarat@hotmail.com

or

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354

MEMBERS ONLY

Microfiche and Reader available to borrow.

- Vic. BDM's
- Vic Pioneer Index
- Ballarat Old & New Cemeteries
- Consolidated Cemeteries (Ballarat District)
- Ballarat Base Hospital Admissions
- Consolidated Schools (Ballarat District)

HELP WANTED

Members are entitled to 1 free entry per year. Please quote Membership No.

Member additional queries and Non Member queries may be submitted at a cost of \$10.00 per entry.

This will cover a query of up to 140 words in length. (Approx 13 x A4 lines of print)

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

\$20 PER HOUR — non members

\$10 PER HOUR — Members

Research enquiries may be forwarded to the Society's Research Officer C/O our Postal Address or researchballarat@hotmail.com
Please include sufficient relevant details.

ENGLAND IN THE 1500'S

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about life in the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth...

Now, whoever said that History was boring!!

MEMBERS ONLY

Available to borrow :-
Audio Tapes of Guest Speakers talks.
Ph. Trina on 5339 6170

RESEARCH

Research queries – can you help?
(Contact the Research Team for details)

CAUSON Geoffrey John – awarded City Council Scholarship in 1951 – any details appreciated.

SADLER William James (born 1832-33 in Chelsea, London) married RYAN Mary (born 1838 in County Clare, Ireland). Wanting to trace the marriage which was held in Ballarat in August 1857.

HORNEMAN Henry Jacob Stewart – Head teacher at Rural School No 87 Campaspe, now Dean Primary School. Photograph of school required.

WILMOT James – missing. Died prior to 1901 but was in and around Ballarat area at some stage. His wife died in 1902 and is buried at Kew.

BUNGAREE . Is there a written history of Bungaree or any details of the saw mill that was there?

BROOKING Richard, died 1893. His wife Jane MORTIMORE , died 1878 – any details appreciated.



CEMETERY TOURS

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc

BALLARAT OLD CEMETERY (Cnr Creswick Road & Macarthur Street)

1 and 2 hour tours available.

Eureka graves tour.

Jewish section tour.

1 hour Sunday afternoon tour requires a booking at the Information Centre.

BALLARAT NEW CEMETERY

(Cnr Lydiard & Norman Streets)

1 and 2 hour tours available .

Tours are conducted:-

1. During the Ballarat Begonia Festival.
2. On request for community or school groups.
3. During Eureka week in December.

Tours are conducted throughout the year but preferably not during the winter months.

Entry

Adults \$6.50

Concession and Children \$4.00

Enquiries: Neva Dunstan - phone 5330 7005

Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:- www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Webmaster:- Daryl Povey EMAIL:- povey@sebas.vic.edu.au



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