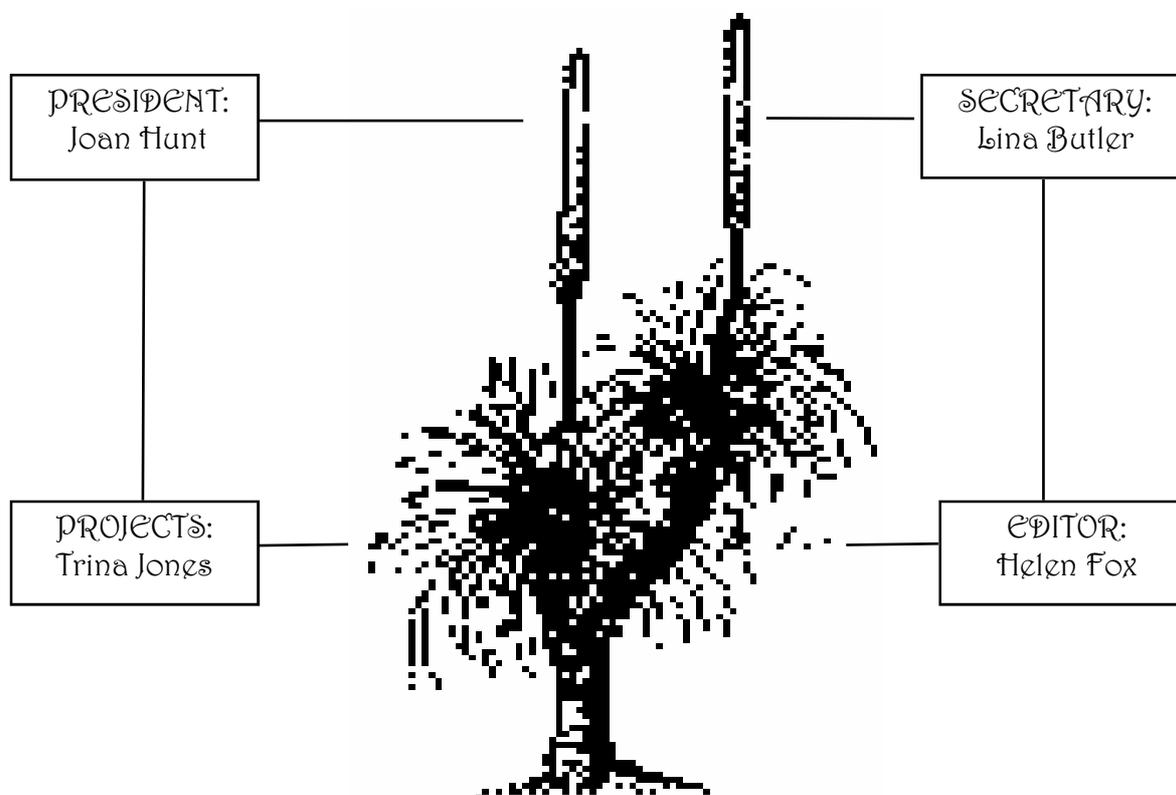


BALLARAT LINK

February 2006 - No.148



The Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.

THE BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

P O Box 1809
Ballarat Mail Centre
Vic 3354
Australia

www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

researchballarat@hotmail.com

Published February, May,
August and November.

ABN 40 041 783 778

ISSN 0819-7199

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)

Committee Members 2005 - 2006

President	Joan Hunt	joanhunt@netconnect.com.au
Vice President	Graeme Reynolds	
Secretary	Lina Butler	linakev@netconnect.com.au
Assistant Secretary	Gayle Sellars	gaysel@ncable.net.au
Treasurer	Neva Dunstan	demons@netconnect.com.au
Librarian	Betty Slater	bslater@ncable.net.au
Research Co-ordinator	Joan Hunt	joanhunt@netconnect.com.au
Publicity Officer	Rene Rawson	rene1@tadaust.org.au
Projects Officer	Trina Jones	tljones8@iprimus.com.au
Link Editor	Helen Fox	helen1940@hotmail.net.au

Program 2006

February 28 Joan Hunt will speak about researching your family history, for beginners and experienced researchers, using usual and unusual resources.

March 28 Jeff Atkinson, author of "Mary Proctor", to speak about researching convict history.

April 2 (Sunday) Guided tour of the Chinese section of Ballarat Old Cemetery, with Jim Quinn, at 2.00pm

April 25 Excursion meeting, to the Gold Museum, Ballarat, for a talk by Roger Trudgeon, President Ballarat Historical Society, about the Society's collection, and tour of the exhibition.

May 23 Susan McLean, Vice-President, Genealogical Society of Victoria :- Scottish family history research.

June 27 Dr Judith Buckrich, Development Officer, RHSV to speak about their library and research collection.

July 25 (A.G.M.) Helen Harris, OAM, Secretary of the Victoria Police Historical Society, to speak on Cops and Robbers: - Researching 19th century police and criminal records in Victoria.

August 22 Betty Slater :- Family history research for the beginner and the experienced researcher.

September 26 Michael Taffe :- Records and research information available in the Ballarat Catholic archives.

October 24 Speaker from the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies :- AIGS Research Library.

November 28 Show and Tell and Quiz Night, with Special End-of-Year Supper

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.

CONTENTS

Regular Features

Cemetery Tours	9
WWW Genie Links	10
News from PROV	13
PROV Research Tips	13
Research Queries	14
New Members	15

Special Features and Articles

Joseph Comb	4 to 7
Aussie Words	7
Book review - Mary Proctor	8
News Flash	11
A Letter from the Goldfields	12

Contributions for May 2006 Link to be with the editor by the 21st April 2006
Email address:- helen1940@hotmail.net.au
Phone (03) 5344 9440

Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:-
www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au
Webmaster:- Daryl Povey
EMAIL :-
povey@sebas.vic.edu.au

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

Dear members,

Happy new year, and I hope that 2006 will extend your family history research in an interesting and fruitful way.

Our final meeting last year was great fun, and Betty surpassed her many previous achievements with a beautifully decorated and delicious Christmas fruit cake for us to enjoy as the centrepiece of a lovely supper.

The Yarrowonga-Mulwala Family History Expo was a great success, where the Ballarat Genies were well represented by an excellent display staffed by Betty, Neva, Helen and me. Satisfactory sales were made and we helped with a number of enquiries.

The next display day we attend will be at Geelong on Sunday 19 February, when the Geelong Heritage Expo will be held at the Geelong Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street above the Geelong Library opposite the Art Gallery, from 11am till 4pm. All welcome.

We have gained some excellent publicity for Part 2 of the Ballarat East Petty Sessions Index on microfiche, with a full page article written by Jenny Burrell appearing in the magazines published by the Genealogical Society of Victoria, the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, and the Public Record Office Victoria publication PROactive. Consequently, the orders are starting to come in, and that is great encouragement to the Project Team volunteers as they continue on with the next major index.

Under the leadership of Trina Jones, the volunteers have almost completed transcribing the thousands of signatures, occupations and addresses on the petitions signed by Ballarat residents in the early 1860s, and checking has begun. These petitions are to be found in the Ballarat City inwards correspondence housed at the Ballarat Archives Centre of the Public Record Office Victoria, in VPRS 2500/P0. There were so many petitions, covering so many years, that Trina had to decide upon the boundaries, beginning in 1860 and continuing until the end of 1866. This is a wonderful project, as many of these people living in Ballarat during that period will not appear in directories or other name lists.

You will see that we have an interesting and wide-ranging itinerary of guest speakers to assist you with your family history research at our monthly meetings. Most of these speakers have many years' experience as researchers behind them, and will inspire you to explore avenues you had not realised were available, I am sure.

So, all the best as we enter 2006,
Joan

Joseph Comb *Ballarat's first town clerk*

On the 14th January 1856 Joseph Comb was appointed town clerk at an annual salary of £200 on the casting vote of the Chairman of the Ballarat Council James Oddie. The other appointment at this meeting was a building surveyor James Baird. The names of these two long serving officers appear frequently in VPRS 2500/P0 Council Correspondence which is in the process of being indexed by volunteers at the Ballarat Archives Centre of the Public Records Office of Victoria. They were the executive officers who laid the foundations for the City of Ballarat and both have streets named after them to the east of the Ballarat Old Cemetery either side of the railway line. Unfortunately neither of these gentlemen rate a mention in the history of Ballarat which was commissioned by the Ballarat City Council in 1978 but they do appear in earlier histories such as *History of Ballarat* by WB Withers published in 1870 at which time both the town clerk and building surveyor were still serving in their original positions.



Comb Street, between Crompton and Macarthur Streets, Ballarat North

Shortly before his resignation in 1870 Joseph Comb made the remark that a quarter of a million pounds had passed through his hands. He was in charge of the offices and dealt with the financial affairs of the municipality which by 1870 were becoming precarious because of the huge overdraft and contingent liabilities. The council was committed to expensive projects such as the construction of water reserves and the building of the third and present day town hall but the major difficulty was a loan for the building of the Daylesford Road to the Bungaree Road Board. The Ballarat Council guaranteed this loan in 1867 but Bungaree defaulted on the repayments and Joseph Comb was required to attend the Supreme Court in Melbourne on the 15th of understand how unpopular their late innovations are,

March 1870 in the case of 'The Mayor etc of Ballaarat versus The Bungaree District Road Board'.

Just two weeks earlier in a letter dated 2nd March 1870 the Mayor Thomas Cowan had written 'with much pain' to Joseph Comb requesting his resignation, as a council resolution had instructed the mayor to do so. It seems that Joseph may have held onto the position until the following year when *The Ballarat Star* of 9 May 1871 reported as follows: "The City Council yesterday voted £800 - £200 cash and £600 by bill at six months - to be placed in the hands of Messrs R Lewis and James Oddie, trustees, to be invested for the benefit of the family of Mr Joseph Comb, who now retires from the office of city-clerk. In connection with the proceedings, the members of council moving in the matter spoke of the ability and honesty displayed by Mr Comb during his fifteen years of office as town and city clerk."

The same edition of *The Ballarat Star* also reported: "The election of a clerk for the Ballarat City Council in the room of Mr Joseph Comb, took place on Monday, when there were fifty-three applications opened. As may have been anticipated, the choice of the council soon fell upon a select few, when the voting commenced and when two had to be put to the vote they were Mr Richard Ford and Mr Thomas Morres. The vote was at last in favour of Mr Richard Ford, who is to resign all his present offices, and commence his new duties within a week."

A week later a letter to the editor of *The Ballarat Star* of 17 May 1871 by 'Ajax' began: "Sir, - Some weeks ago I had the honor to call your attention to the then premeditated, and since perpetrated, act of flagrant injustice of the City Council, viz, the exacted resignation and subsequent compensation of the town-clerk."

'Ajax' was critical of the council but not of Joseph Comb -

"I do not wish to insinuate by this that Mr Comb is not entitled to consideration at the hands of his townsmen for his long and honest servitude; but it is to be regretted that the consideration should take to all appearance the shape and hue of hush-money from the people's representative. It is now currently reported, and as implicitly believed, that the offer of £800 to Mr Comb is to insure his silence on that very fishy affair, the "Grimmitt slaughter-yard business," and other matters, that it is not politic to be made public."

In his concluding statement, 'Ajax' wrote, "I trust that when the members of the council thoroughly

to avoid the threatened impeachment, they will at once, and with good grace, rescind them.”

So Joseph Comb’s ‘golden handshake’ became a matter of public controversy and on the 22 May 1871 *The Ballarat Star* reported that Councillor WC Smith had given notice of motion to rescind the vote of £800. He also proposed calling a public meeting of ratepayers to consider the council vote.

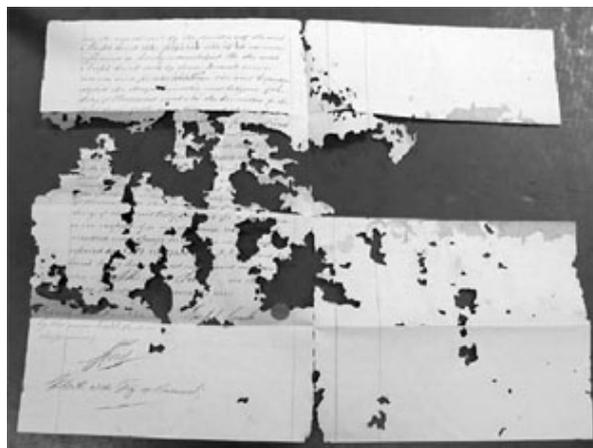
The Ballarat Star stated that, “... we have no doubt that the generosity of the burgesses would have acted fairly by an old officer who, whatever were his foibles, did not betray his trust so scandalously as some men in office have. Whatever the late town-clerk was, he was honest, and that is, we are sorry to say, something noticeable in these times. The burgesses would remember also that their late officer is past his youth, and has a wife and family dependent on him and in taking leave of so old an official, they would not weigh with carping niceness or a too rigorous equity his claims upon their consideration, but would be inclined to do the handsome as well as the reasonable thing.”

The editor of *The Ballarat Star* also speculated that, “The burgesses may say - “Well, we have just seen go out of office our old town-clerk, who was with us from the beginning; we will say nothing of what might have been, but will mark our sense of a man who never tampered with our funds, if he was sometimes remiss in his office, and we will give his wife and little ones some token of our respect for honesty in money matters in an age when swindling, embezzlement, and robbery are not too severely regarded.” All other considerations apart, so old an official would had he been a civil servant, have been entitled to a retiring allowance. ... We advise the council ... to comply with Councillor Smith’s motion [to] suspend the vote and to convene a meeting of burgesses for the purpose of having the matter disposed of by a vote of those who have to find the money.”

The size of the payout was questioned when many people were experiencing financial hardship due to a downturn in the economy. It is likely that a compromise was reached but the year of the following document is not certain. It appears to 1870 but 1871 may make more sense.

On the 16th of May ‘last past’ Joseph Comb signed a release and did ‘forever discharge the corporation styled the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Ballarat’ from further liability on the

consideration that a sum of £460 pounds be paid to trustees James Oddie and Robert Lewis at the Request of and by the direction of Joseph Comb. This was thought to be the equivalent of his annual salary at that time.



PROV VPRS 2500/P0 Unit 20 Ballarat Council Correspondence, legal document dated 16 May last (1870 or 71) signed by Joseph Comb and Richard Ford who succeeded him as town clerk. This document carries a red wax seal and is in very poor condition.

What amount of money Joseph Comb actually received, if any, is a matter for speculation but he was certainly not wealthy. For the rest of his life until his death on the 14th March 1890 at the age of 71 years Joseph Comb remained in Ballarat but lived well away from public life.

Obituary of Joseph Comb

The Ballarat Star 13 Mar 1890

“A well-known resident of Ballarat, Mr Joseph Coombe (sic), first municipal clerk in the city of Ballarat, died at a late hour on Friday night after a lingering illness. For a long while past the deceased had been in poor circumstances, and he was at times compelled to seek assistance from the friends of early days. When in good health, and when things fared well with him, Mr Coombes (sic) was physically a splendid specimen of manhood, and many in Ballarat have expressed regret at the great change brought about in his appearance by declin-



Ballarat Old Cemetery Block B where the grave of Joseph COMB, Ballarat's first CEO, remains unmarked.

Letters of administration for the estate of Joseph Comb, who died without leaving a will, show that his only asset was his wooden and brick house in Errard Street. This was sold and the proceeds were distributed to his widow (£170) and four children who each received £85. Probate was declared on the 26th of October 1892 more than two and a half years after his death.

Joseph Comb was born in Guildford, Surrey, England and immigrated to Victoria at the age of 35 years in November 1855 on the *Queen of the Seas* to join his brother, Thomas Satchwell Comb, resident of Ballarat, printer and later proprietor of the *Evening Post*.

On 22 Jan 1862 Joseph aged 42 and a bachelor, married a 23 year old widow, Annie Maria Rosemann (nee Westwood). Joseph stated that he was the son of a Baptist Minister although across the marriage certificate is written, 'No religious declarations made.' They were married in the house of Mrs Moile, Sturt Street, Ballarat, according to the forms of the Presbyterian Church.

Joseph and Anna Maria had five children:

- 1 Emily Annie Comb b 1862 Ballarat, m 1881 Stewart Monteith King.
2. Walter George Comb b 1864 Ballarat, m 1899 Cottesloe WA, Maud Mary Unwin. Walter died 4 Mar 1910 aged 43 of the Perth suburb of Claremont, buried Karrakatta Cemetery WA.
3. Charles Joseph Comb b 1866 Ballarat. (Informant at his father's death aged 24)
4. James Comb b 1869 Ballarat, died aged 2 hours, 6 Dec 1869, Errard Street Ballarat and lies in the same grave as his father.
5. David Comb b 1871 Ballarat. (Informant at his mother's death aged 44)

When Joseph's widow Annie Maria Comb died on the 6th of April 1915 aged 72 years, a magisterial inquiry found that her death was due to natural causes. Her son David who lived with his mother at 303 Windermere Street South stated that she had been ailing for many years with spinal and stomach troubles and had been confined to bed for the past twelve months. She had refused to be taken to the hospital and when a doctor attended her on the morning of her death she had already passed away.

A letter from Dunedin, New Zealand, from a family descended from Joseph's brother Thomas Satchwell Comb said that Thomas had immigrated to Victoria aged 27 years in 1843. To his first wife Catherine Ann (nee Barbor) he had at least 6 children and to his 2nd wife Ellen Rebecca (nee Dean) he had another 8. It is thought that there was a total of 17 children, 11 of whom died in infancy.

Joseph Comb was the last of six to be buried in the same grave in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. First was Ellen Comb the six month old daughter of Thomas Satchwell Comb in 1859, followed by Catherine Ann Comb (first wife of Thomas) aged 36 years in 1861, George Alfred Comb aged 6 mos in 1867 and Ernest Albert Comb aged 13 mos in 1869 (both sons of Thomas and his second wife Ellen), and James Comb aged 2 hours s/o of Joseph and Annie Maria Comb. Anna Maria Comb was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery. It seems that her surviving children left Victoria.

Thomas Satchwell Comb left Ballarat about 1870 for Bendigo where he became a gold smelter. The NZ branch of the family immigrated in 1900.



References:

- *Ballarat Old and New Cemetery Indexes.
- *Ballarat Post Office Directories, 1857, 1862, 1866, 1875, 1894, 1896.
- *The Ballarat Star, 9 May 1871, p2; 17 May 1871, p3-4, Letter to the Editor; 22 May 1871, p2, Editorial; 15 Mar 1890, Obituary.
- *History of Ballarat, WB Withers, first published 1870, facsimile edition 1999, Ballarat Heritage Services, p 153, appointment of Joseph Comb.
- *PROV, Unassisted Immigration to Victoria 1852-1923, fiche 100, page 001, arrival of Joseph Comb.
- *PROV, VPRS 2500/P0, Item 20; 2 Mar 1870, resignation request; (undated) resignation; 14 Mar 1870, Supreme Court attendance; 16 May 1870/71 settlement.
- *PROV, VPRS/P2, Unit 347, File 50/202, 26 Oct 1892, Probate.
- *PROV, VPRS 24/P0/920, Inquest Deposition Files 1915/104.
- *Spielvogel Papers Vol 1 third edition, 2004, Ballarat Historical Society, p 135, appointment of Joseph Comb.
- *The Town Hall Ballarat 100 years, 1970, Mary Sandow, Ballarat City Council, p 7 reproduction of a letter by Joseph Comb, 12 Feb 1856; p 22 Joseph Comb's remark about a quarter of a million pounds.
- *Victorian BDM Indexes, marriage certificate 1862/654, death certificate 1890/21446.

Jennifer Burrell
jburrell@netconnect.com.au

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.

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1809.
Ballarat Mail Centre
Vic 3354
Australia

AUSSIE WORDS

The evolution of the swimming costume from neck to knee to Speedos and then back to Ian Thorpe's full bodysuit, also reflects evolving cultural attitudes in Australia. In early years of the twentieth century swimmers were required to wear a costume that went from the neck to the knees and swimming at some beaches was banned between the hours of 6am and 7pm. In those puritanical days a typical women's swimming costume might consist of a full skirted, knee length dress, long bloomers and stockings.

Australia's Annette Kellerman pioneered the brief one-piece swimming costume while performing high dives at the Melbourne Aquarium in the early 1900's. Everywhere Kellerman went her swimming costume attracted much attention and controversy and in 1907 she was arrested on a Boston beach for wearing a one-piece swimming costume.

In these years Australian swimmers had a number of words to describe what they wore in the surf including **costume**, **attire**, **gown**, **trunks** and **suit**. The word **togs** became synonymous with "swimming costume" by about 1930, but started life as an abbreviation of sixteenth-century criminal slang **togeman**, meaning "coat".

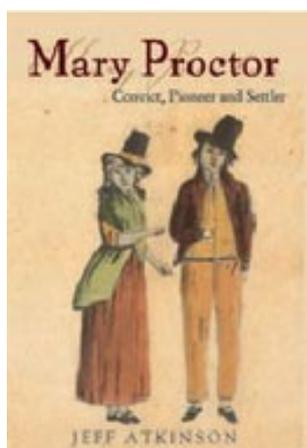
Togeman itself comes from the Roman "toga" or "to cover".

In 1928 the McRae Knitting Mills in Sydney began manufacturing woollen swimming costumes known as **Speedos**. The company produced a knitted navy-blue woollen one-piece swimming costume in the same style for men, women and children. Because the Speedo style of costume proved practical and comfortable in the surf and in the swimming pool, they soon became the most popular swimming costume for Australian men and boys. The Australian tendency of shortening or modifying words is evident in the words **cossies**, **swimmers** and **bathers** to describe the article of clothing worn when swimming and there are many other colloquial names for swimming costumes.



BOOK REVIEW

Mary Proctor - Convict, Pioneer and Settler by Jeffrey Atkinson.



200pp, & 16pp illustr., bibliography, appendices, index. Published by Rosenberg Publishing, PO Box 612R, Dural Delivery Centre 2158 NSW, RRP \$29.95.

The great value of this book is its ability to extend our understandings of the lives of people who experienced the major events of nineteenth century Australia: immigration, the convict system, and the central Victorian goldrushes.

These very ordinary people are often poorly represented in historical works. However, by setting the story of his great grandmother within the geographical, social and economic context of her life's adventures, the author provides his readers with an opportunity vicariously to share and thereby come to appreciate better those experiences which were common to the ancestors of so many Australians of the 21st century.

Drawing upon every possible historical resource, the author builds word pictures of the countryside in the fens of Anglia, life on board the hulks, the Female Factory in Hobart Town in the 1820s, the early years of Melbourne, and life on the goldfields, and illuminates attitudes of local communities towards illegitimacy, cohabitation without marriage, and other social irregularities both in rural English villages and colonial settlements of early Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart.

Mary Proctor, convicted of receiving stolen wearing apparel in Nottingham, was transported in 1822 to Van Diemen's Land, arriving at Hobart Town in February 1823 aboard the *Lord Sidmouth*. William Fitches, who was found guilty of stealing pigs from a farmer in Lincolnshire, disembarked from the *Caledonia* at Hobart Town in November 1820, and endured a punishment of 200 lashes just six weeks later for stealing iron and lead. The couple met and had their first child in 1825, marrying in 1828 at St David's Anglican church in Hobart Town, while Mary was still serving her 14-year sentence.

By 1841 Mary and William had nine surviving children and took up land on the north coast at Emu Bay where the city of Burnie later developed. The family came to Melbourne in 1845, where Will Fitches died in 1852, and their family grew to adulthood, establishing themselves in relationships, employment and local community activities, both legal and illegal. By 1860 Mary and her youngest child settled at Happy Valley on the Woody Yaloak goldfields south-west of Ballarat, joined by several of her sons and their families. She died in her cottage aged 85 years in 1887 and is buried in Linton cemetery.

The excellent footnotes at the end of each chapter provide many clues for other family and local historians to pursue leads of interest, following the many themes within which the story is told of this ordinary woman who lived through most of the nineteenth century. The story is well told and is an important source reference.

(Reviewer - Joan E. Hunt)



Charges for HELP WANTED Queries.

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)

MEMBERS ONLY

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

CEMETERY TOURS IN BALLARAT

The Ballarat & District Genealogical Society will be conducting Cemetery Tours during the Begonia Festival held 9th –13th March 2006.

Tours will be conducted at the Old Cemetery on the Thursday 9th March at 11am, Saturday 11th March – 1.30pm at the New Cemetery, and Sunday 12th March – 1.30pm at the Old Cemetery. The tours take two hours and on a hot day a hat and bottle of water is recommended. Fees for the tours are \$6.50 for Adults, \$4.00 concession and children.

The aim of the tours is to give the visitor a picture of life in the 1850's in the gold rush days to the development of Ballarat as the city it is today.

There are many people buried in the Old Cemetery who give the visitor a picture of life in Ballarat at the time of the discovery of gold.

The graves of the soldiers and miners who died at Eureka are the most noticeable. However other graves broaden the picture. There is the ordinary miner, the doctor who played a major role at Eureka, successful businessmen – one being a butcher who became a hotelkeeper, the property owner who became our first millionaire and the fascinating story of a successful music business which had its beginnings in the goldfields.

The legal fraternity is represented with a “Rumpole of the Bailey” like figure and a connection with the bushranger – Ned Kelly, as well as a connection to the exploration of Australia.

Both cemeteries have large Chinese sections; the New Cemetery Chinese section surrounds having recently been upgraded in consultation with the Chinese community. The trials and tribulations of the Chinese during the gold rush is a separate story in itself, one that we endeavour to touch on.

There are Jewish sections in the two cemeteries, the one in the Old Cemetery is visited and gives an insight into the contribution made by the Jewish community to the development of Ballarat.

The New Cemetery does not draw the same number of visitors, however those who do visit always find it just as interesting as the Old Cemetery and it has its own features as well.

The New Cemetery was declared open in 1867. Maybe it should be called the “Newer” cemetery.

The tour takes the visitor to the graves of musicians, a school teacher, founder of Ballarat's newspaper, a Chinese Protector and policeman connected to the bushranger –Kelly, and other members of the legal profession. Businessmen are represented and sportsmen. The graves of James Oddie and Martin Hosking are in the New cemetery – well known philanthropists. The stories of women whose graves are visited are fascinating. One is said to be the first white child born in Ballarat and it is the aborigines' involvement with her, which is most interesting. The grave of the discoverer of gold is visited and the grave of a man who gave up trying to find gold only to return to mining in a big way, after his sons found gold while “wagging” school!

These are some of the ninety graves visited in the Old Cemetery and seventy visited in the New Cemetery.

As the saying goes “ There are two things in life we cannot avoid – death and taxes”. As far as death goes, here in Ballarat, if we have chosen to be buried, we will be keeping interesting company in either one of the two cemeteries!

Neva Dunstan

CEMETERY TOURS

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc

BALLARAT OLD CEMETERY
Cnr Creswick Road & Macarthur Street
BALLARAT NEW CEMETERY
Cnr Lydiard & Norman Streets

All Tours depart from Front Gates
of the Cemeteries and take approximately two
hours to complete.

Entry

Adults \$6.50

Concession and Children \$4.00



WWW Genie Links

Koorie Genealogy

For people of European descent a significant step is to discover the original arrival in Victoria and to locate the ancestral village in the old country. Likewise for Koorie people, the aim is to establish their origins in a particular place. This may be one of a number of reserves, missions, or a pastoral station where their ancestors were first given a surname, usually of the property owner.

Missions and Reserves (Victoria)

http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/general/missions_and_reserves_background/default.htm

Here you will find a map, background information and a timeline. There is also a link to contact details for The Koorie Family History Service.

Norman Barnett Tindale

<http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/page/default.asp?site=2>

At the South Australian Museum is an account of Tinsdale's work and map of Australia-wide indigenous tribal areas and language groups at the time of European contact.

I am told that there are cultural reasons for the scarcity of internet sites which record the genealogy of Aboriginal families in Victoria. Family connections are personal matters which are still very much an oral tradition. Like many non-Koories there are people who are sensitive about sharing such knowledge outside the family group. However, there are Koories who are curious about their origins and do research their family history using government records. For such people the following three sites at the Public Records Office of Victoria Online would be helpful.



Koorie Records Unit

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/events/kru.asp>

This is a special unit for the location of Aboriginal records at the Public Record Office of Victoria.

'Koorie People and Places' is a research pathway to follow for family history.

Finding Your Story

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/findingyourstory/faq.asp>

This is one long page of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about records relating to the Stolen Generations.

Tracking the Native Police

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/nativepolice/home.html>

This online exhibition is about Victoria's well-documented Koorie Police Force from 1837 to the 1850s. It includes the story of Dana's Native Police Corps 1842—1853 and another on Patrolling the Goldfields. Digital images of documents and paintings illustrate the stories.

Indigenous Australians at War

<http://www.fortunecity.com/meltingpot/statuepark/620/index.html>

Here Garth O'Connell (Munro) shares information he has compiled about indigenous servicemen in various conflicts.

Aboriginal People in the Victorian Colonial Forces

<http://users.netconnect.com.au/~ianmac/aborigin.html>

This is part of the Defending Victoria website hosted by Ian McFarlane.

Koori & Aboriginal History on Rootsweb.com

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~nuttall/links/koori.htm>

Links to various indigenous cultural and historical resources including [extracts from the 1841 diary of George Robinson's, Protector of the Aborigines](#). There is also a link to AUS-KOORI Mailing List where you can search and browse messages from the archives and place your own enquiry.

Hidden Histories

http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/hidden_histories/

At the Museum of Victoria is a collection of eleven Koorie oral histories.

While sharing family history over the internet is not a common practice in the Koorie community there is a notable exception by Ivan Sanders.

Mannalargenna Resource Page

http://ivan.wys.com.au/sub_pages/dollyroots.htm

This site tells the story of Darymple Mountgarret BRIGGS also known as 'Dolly Dalrymple' (c1808-1864) and includes a long transcription of The Briggs Genealogy from *The Tasmanian Aborigines and their descendants : Chronology, Genealogy and Social Data* (1978) by Bill Mollison and Coral Everitt. The descendants of John BRIGGS and his aboriginal wife moved from Tasmania to Victoria in the 1850s and generally married people of aboriginal descent.

Helen's Koorie Genealogy

http://member.melbpc.org.au/~kennethb/Helen%27s_Homepage.html

As a baby Helen was taken from her mother Nellie DARBY who had also been separated from her family and sent to a government institution. The story contains a heart wrenching letter written by Nellie's grandfather from Lake Tyres Aboriginal Station in 1930 in an attempt to regain custody of his three grand daughters. Helen and her husband Greg Baldwin have compiled a number of Koorie genealogies and from this site there are links to more than thirty related surnames.

The Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative

does help with family history enquiries. Anyone who would like to investigate possible local Koorie connections in their family tree should contact Vicki Peart on 5331 5344.

Jennifer Burrell

jburrell@netconnect.com.au

DEFINITIONS

Genealogy:

Study of human pedigrees with particular emphasis on names and dates.

Family History:

The study of human experience and the history of related people, generation by generation.

NEWS FLASH. 1852

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS SOLVE GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES.

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry HYDEN-WELL sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church -- either in a different faith or in a different parish.
Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years -- just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Weekly E-zine
28 December 2005, Vol. 8, No. 52
(c) 1998-2005 RootsWeb.com, Inc.

A Letter from the Goldfields

The following letter was sent to Daryl Povey by Jane Worlock in England.

The letter had been sent to George Worlock in Gloucestershire in 1855 from Alma Diggings (near Maryborough). It describes mining and conditions on the goldfields at the time.

George was the Great Great Grandfather of Jane and had been born in 1796 in Wotton Under Edge and farmed at Codrington in Gloucestershire

Dear Friend.

I have at last made up my mind to write you a few lines and I can assure you it is with a great deal of pleasure as, I thought but the other day that I never should have it in my power to do or ever see you again. I have had the Colonial fever and a bowel complaint that carried off several of my shipmates and many others that I know but thanks to the Almighty, I am almost well again. I thought I should get a little money and come home, I never thought the one that gave it me could take it away I thought if I did not spend it I was alright, but in came 3 Dockers and they soon made the nuggets fly. I had one 21oz that I thought I should bring to England but thank God I had it to pay as there is no friends here, everyone for his self and the biggest rogue - the best man, that is the principle that the colony is carried on, by most people rich and poor. I am happy to say I have never wanted for anything since I have been in the colony, although I have seen more in want than ever I have in England. I have many times thought of you staying in England, I would rather live in England with one meal a day, than here with all the best in the world as there is no comfort to be had here day or night, for by day you are poisoned by dust and flies and by night perhaps nearly blown out of your bed, if it may be so called. Although I have got a feather bed, I cannot sleep. There is no society for anyone, no one to speak to except a few transports, that is the leaving men of the colony, such as old Chilcott. He is a very good ---ment of the colony in every respect, so you can judge what sort of society it is here, for one and all of those get drunk every day. I cannot describe the women to you better than, you know what Mrs. Chisalm sent out here. They have been brought up on the diggings and made to keep a sly grog shop and you know what they will do when they have access to the bottle. Get drunk altogether and many of the poor things

have their grave dug before they left England.

I should not advise anyone to come out here, although I do not wish to keep them away but I am sure there is nothing to be obtained here but at the risk of your life and hard work and no comfort. You would be surprised perhaps if I say I work 60 or 70 feet underground and have got to sink the hole first. I can assure you that it is the case, one sometimes would sink 10 or a dozen of these and not see gold. I have got a hundred pounds and obliged to spend it nearly all before I could get any more, so you see its not all profit. The hole is sunk like a well on, a chain of 24 feet square. You must not have any more than that at any one time but you can sink as many as you want. Where you have sunk one of these holes you try 3 or 4 inches of dirt at the bottom, it is put into a tub and washed so as to wash off the dirt and leave the gravel in the bottom and from thence into a tin dish and divide the gold from the gravel, if there be any. If not you must wash it so before you can tell. So you see what work it is to get gold. I have sunk 10 or 15 before I have seen it and perhaps many around me getting it. I am thinking I shall send you and your dear wife a small nugget, so as you can say you have got some, as I may never have it in my power to bring it personally. If so I have to be more pleased to do so in a larger quantity wont if not to be a pleasure to me once more to see my friends in England all well, which I hope very-much is the case now. God grant I may be alive to see you all again soon. You please give my kind regards to all friends. I hope all the Dear Children are well and happy as that is much better than wealth. --- I hope you will write to me, as you can tell me of old friends around, which I should like to hear. I cannot tell you anything of anyone you would like to hear a word about.--- You will please direct to Newton Brothers General Store, Prahran, near Melbourne that will find me, if please God. I hope you will get this scrawl as you will be amused with it and excuse it, as you must know we have no table to write upon, ground for the floor and 100 miles to post. So you see it is no joke to write! You must please accept all the blessings and good wishes the world can afford, not forgetting your dear wife, from yours truly

P. H. Brain.



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

The next 5 years of the Outwards Immigration Index 1857-1861 is now online - index now covers 1852-1861 and during that period 282, 616 people left Victoria for overseas or other colonial ports. Tracking the Native Police is our new online exhibition launched in November. People and Parliament: Landmark Decisions 1855-2006 is our current exhibition at North Melbourne and there is an online component on the website. In early February we are expecting our 30,000th visitor to the North Melbourne reading room. Due to the popularity of digital cameras in the reading rooms, we have ordered an additional digital camera stand for North Melbourne and a digital camera stand for the Ballarat reading room. The Guide to Land Records at PROV is progressing well through the writing stage and it is anticipated that this will be available for sale towards the end of 2006.

Visit PROV at www.prov.vic.gov.au

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES
\$20 PER HOUR — non members
\$10 PER HOUR — Members

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

PROV research tip
by Shauna Hicks,

Have you an ancestor who was in Victoria before 1840? Have you checked Historical Records of Victoria, an 8 volume work on early Victoria. Volume 8 is a cumulative index to the first seven volumes which reproduce every available official document that survives from the first years of the Port Phillip District, 1835-1840. There is a separate index of Aboriginal Person Names.

There is a set of Historical Records of Victoria in each PROV Reading Room and the eight volumes are:

Vol 1 Beginnings of Permanent Government.

Vols 2A and 2B The Aborigines of Port Phillip 1835-1839.

Vol 3 The Early Development of Melbourne 1836-1839.

Vol 4 Communications, Trade and Transport 1836-1839.

Vol 5 Surveyors' Problems and Achievements 1836-1839.

Vol 6 The Crown, the Land and the Squatter 1835-1840.

Vol 7 Public Finance of Port Phillip 1836-1840.

Vol 8 Cumulative Indexes.

In Volume 3 for example, you can find a copy of a map of the first land sale in Melbourne in June 1837 and all the personal names on the map are listed in the index. This is also true for later land sales up to 1839. In that same volume you can find an entry from the Melbourne Court register for 12 Feb 1838 describing how two convicts absent from work received 50 lashes each. The unlucky men were Edward Steel (Guildford, 1827, 14 years) and John Hornby (Princess Victoria, 1834, life). Baptisms, marriages and burials are also recorded and indexed so if you have someone in this very early period, don't miss checking out Volume 8 of Historical Records of Victoria.

Unfortunately the Preface to Volume 8 does not actually state how many index entries there are in the volume but there are 210 pages of names so you would expect to find some reference to your early Victorian family, wouldn't you?

If there are any success stories from this PROV Research Tip, I would really like to hear about them. Please contact me with your success story at shauna.hicks@dvc.vic.gov.au

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.

Thank You



News from the Library Betty Slater - Librarian

To begin the New Year I want to bring to your attention some of the resources that the BDGS provides for Members only.

We provide a good coverage of material for pursuing your Family History via the Newsletters and Magazines that we purchase.

Ancestor - The quartley magazine of The Genealogical Society of Victoria.

The Genealogist - Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies magazine.

Irish Roots and The Family Tree Magazine are overseas publications that contain a wealth of information on most subjects of interest to any one researching their family tree.

Members may borrow these resources using the red book to record the details. If anyone wants information on how to do this please contact me.

I have listed a few items that may be of interest to some of you.

For anyone planning a trip to Ireland I recommend an article by Paul Gorry describing The FREE Genealogy Advisory Service. It may be found in issue No 53 First Quarter 2005.

Issue No 54 Second quarter 2005 page 21 has some good information regarding Newspapers for research, data bases, published indexes and abstracts, on-line resources that may be of value to Irish Family History researchers.

The Family Tree Magazine Vol 21 No 3 January 2005 lists some out pensioners of Chelsea Hospital 1810 1824. This is the second article on this subject, the first appearing in December 2004 issue.

Paul Mansfield wrote an article on the importance of newspapers to the family historian for the June 2004, Vol 21 No 5 edition.

March 2005 has a follow up regarding "The Scotsman" a national newspaper began in 1817 which gives details of the web site, <archive.scotsman.com> which has virtually every issue up to 1900 digitised and available on-line.

April/May 2005 Vol 21 No 6 has the story of Millbank Penitentiary which was a depot at which convicts were mustered from other prisons all over England and Wales prior to their transportation to Australia.

November 2005 has some excellent on-line sites on British emigrants to India.

The other resource I want to mention is the British Census that are on the Members only computers. We purchased the Index to the 1891 census for all of England and Wales, as well as this there are a large number of Parishes from various counties that have come via the CD's accompanying the Family Tree Magazine. So check them out.



RESEARCH QUERIES

HORSELL 1849, Eaglehawk near Bendigo – details of historical society wanted, re gggrandmother's wedding dress.

NEAL, Jane, daughter of John and Joanna Neal, may have been christened at Ballan on 25 November 1851
CHISHOLM, LYLE, MELDRUM, MUNRO families of Ballarat in 1850s and 1860s – shipping, burials, general information wanted (enquiry from England).

IRVINE, Peter and wife Flora (McLaurin) of Piggoreet 1860s and 1870s (enquirer to visit Ballarat from SA in Jan 2006).

KELLAS, Ann married Samuel Allardyce who killed his brother-in-law George Thomson on 25 Oct 1881; enquirer wants coroners' inquest.

FERGUSON, Dugald, died 10 August 1913 probate papers required.

USHER, Dr Joseph Francis (1832-1909), buried Old Ballarat Cemetery; requires headstone inscription.

McDONALD, general enquiry about joining BDGS, research in Ballarat and Clunes;

WRIGHT, George, Kezie and children, who lived at Bullarook, Kingston, Mt Prospect – wants details of books about history of those places.

MOFFAT, William John Woodburn, who ran a coachbuilding and wheelwright business in Ballarat in 1870s. His two sons William and David trained in the business. Any information re business required.

MULLIN. General enquiry about how to access shipping records for this name

ELRINGTON, John, whose ancestor's sister was Adam Lindsay GORDON's grandmother and whose family lived in Creswick in 1860s-70s.

WEIR, Duncan and Elizabeth ANDERSON, who arrived Ballarat in 1850s. Entries in Ballarat East Petty Sessions index

NUNAN, John and Johanna and their children. Researcher wants shipping information and residence in Ballarat details.



**11TH AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS ON
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY DARWIN 2006**
to be hosted by
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY INC**

1 - 4 JUNE 2006 IN DARWIN
REGISTRATION BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE

Early Bird Registration \$398 closing 11 March 2006,
Late Registration \$465.00

**Four full days of an impressive line up of speakers, includes lunch, morning and
afternoon team**

**11 Keynote papers, papers – 34 sessions on a variety of subjects 5 workshops - six
overseas and eighteen Australian speakers.**

Make this an all-round experience of a great congress and a holiday to remember

For Northern Territory tours and accommodation information:-

- Talk to a Territorian on 136768 or, from New Zealand 0800 448882**
www.travelnt.com
- www.tourismtopend.com.au Tourism Top End**
- enquiries@territorydiscoveries.com.**

Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc
Post Office Box 37212 WINNELLIE NT 0821 Australia
Email: congress11@austarnet.com.au
Website: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~genient>

Telephone 08 89817363 or Fax 08 89817383

ANCESTORS

1 SELF
2 PARENTS
4 GRANDPARENTS
8 G. GRANDPARENTS
16 G. G. GRANDPARENTS
32 G. G. G. GRANDPARENTS
64 G. G. G. G. GRANDPARENTS
128 G. G. G. G. G. GRANDPARENTS
256 G. G. G. G. G. G. GRANDPARENTS

Monthly 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.

RESEARCH QUERIES

Please contact the research team at
researchballarat@hotmail.com

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

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

If undelivered return to
**Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.**
P.O. Box 1809
Ballarat Mail Centre, 3354
“Ballarat Link”
Print Post Approved
PP349122/00011

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**