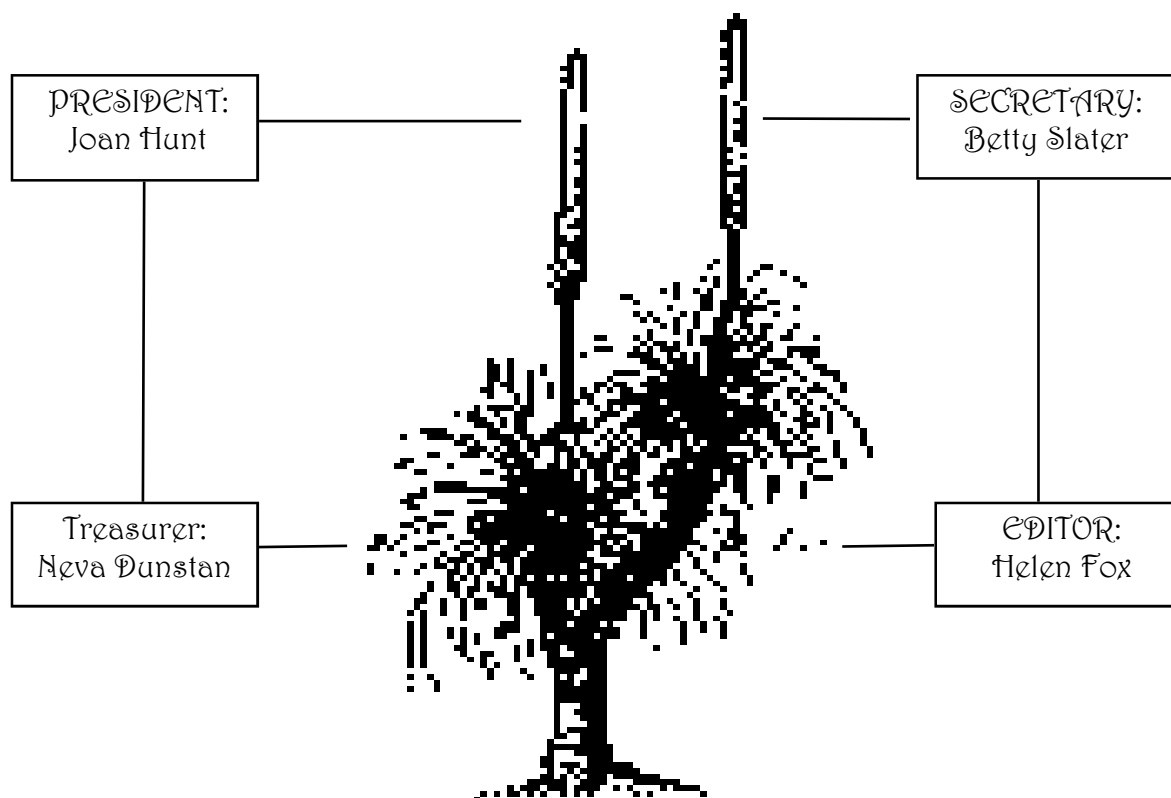


# BALLARAT LINK

August 2008 - No.158



The Ballarat & District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

# THE BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

P O Box 1809  
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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)

## Committee Members 2008 - 2009

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## Program 2008

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

<u>July 22nd</u>	Lauren Bourke, Regional Archivist, Ballarat Archives Centre. Family History using Resources at the Public Record Office Victoria
<u>August 26th</u>	Dennis Spielvogel. President of the Bungaree Historical Society. Dennis will speak about the life of his grandfather, Nathan Spielvogel, Ballarat's Famous Historian.
<u>September 23rd</u>	Jenny Carter from the G.S.V. "Ships Captains, Crews and Passengers into Victoria"
<u>October 28th</u>	Gary Powell. A member of BDGS who will speak about writing and publishing the book "Double Gold" which is centered around the 1870s farming diaries of Henry Prichard Parry, who settled at Mt Franklin in Victoria and farmed with his cousin William Roberts.
<u>November 25th</u>	Show and Tell and Quiz Night, with Special End-of-Year Supper

Visitors are most welcome.

No meeting December or January.

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**Contributions for November 2008 Link to be with the editor by the 25th October 2008**

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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

### “Women Should Vote on Equal Terms with Men”

This is what many women thought in 1891 when they took to the trains and the streets to get women to sign a petition which was presented to Parliament (unsuccessfully) in September of 1891.

The petition, with nearly 30,000 signatures, is about 260 metres long, with the pages pasted on to a fabric backing and rolled onto a cardboard spindle which rests in a Perspex stand. It is housed in the Public Record Office Victoria at North Melbourne.

The long document has been digitally transcribed by a small group from the Genealogical Society of Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (Joan Hunt was one of the transcribers), and can be searched on-line at:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/>  
As it is possible to search the database by place as well as by name, it is easy to get a list of all the women from a particular town who signed, and by entering Ballarat, Black Hill, Brown Hill, Newington, Golden Point and such places we have determined that about 1200 women with Ballarat addresses signed the petition.

Projects have started at Geelong (organized by Susie Zada), Williamstown (organized by Ada Ackerley), and Carisbrook district (organized by Daryl Povey), so we felt that it would be a great project for the BDGS members to join the project for Ballarat. What this entails is each member “adopting” a page which will have six women’s names and addresses on it, with subheadings under which to record their maiden name, and the full names of their father, mother and spouse, when and where they were born, and when and where they died.

If you are interested in helping with this project, just let me know by emailing me on [researchballarat@hotmail.com](mailto:researchballarat@hotmail.com) and I shall send you your “adopted” page with hints on how to go about researching the person. If you enjoy the project you could “adopt” as many pages as you like, as there are 384 altogether for Ballarat.

Joan Hunt

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## *The reason you should never throw out old magazines.*

By Bill Johnson, B.D.G.S. Member.

From the Fife Family History Society Journal of May 2001.

*The following article was discovered in the above magazine while reading through a heap of old magazines given to me by Betty Slater. I found myself concentrating on the articles referencing Australia and came across the following gem. Most of us have had some reliance on the Ballarat Courier for our research and know a little about it's founder but the following article give his parents and siblings names with a potted history. What we learn is he comes from a very clever and inventive family and it is no wonder his legacy still survives in Ballarat today.*

*Unfortunately no author of the article is given.*

### CHILDREN OF WILLIAM CLARK AND MARGARET CARMICHAEL

William Clark (1797-1871) was born in the parish of Olig, Caithness, the son of Kenneth Clark and Catherine Murray. The inscription on his headstone in the Dunfermline Abbey Churchyard gives his date of birth as May 3 1797. The IGI lists a William Clark, born to these parents on 5 April 1795, who presumably was an earlier child and died in infancy.

By the early 1820s Clark had made his way to Dunfermline and set up business as a bookseller and stationer, but the exact date is uncertain. His obituary in the Dunfermline Press gives the year as 1830; A.T. in his "William Clark: In Memoriam" (1871) gives the year as 1827, which would appear to be confirmed by an advertisement in the "Dunfermline Monthly Advertiser" of November 1 1836, which states that he commenced business "nearly nine years ago." However, an inspection of the Dunfermline OPR suggests it was earlier. On his marriage to Margaret Carmichael (1798-1874) he is described as a weaver; when their first child, William, was born on September 22 1822 his occupation is given as bookseller.

He began his bookselling business in a small way, and gradually added bookbinding. From his first shop, which was probably situated at 46 High Street, in 1839 he purchased the bookselling premises at 12 High Street (later renumbered 11 High Street) of the retiring Dunfermline stationer, James Davidson, who had advertised their sale in December 1838.

The following year he introduced printing, and on October 30 1840 he began the publication of the Dunfermline Journal, a small monthly non-political newsheet. Clark survived bankruptcy in August 1842, making an offer of 8s in the £ to his creditors, which was accepted.

From then onwards Clark went from strength to strength. By 1853 the Journal Office was found to be too small for the increasing business, and in that year 3 sons of the founder (William, Robert, and John) set workmen over to cover the court between the shop and the editorial offices, giving a floor space of 62ft x 16ft. In 1869 he took his 5th son, George, into partnership in the firm of William Clark and Son. He died on 15th June 1871 aged 74.

On December 28 1821 Clark had married Margaret Carmichael. They had the following children:

(1) WILLIAM CLARK jnr - born September 22 1822; died December 22 1900. Although apprenticed under his father in the bookshop, he was more interested in engineering - he was "looked upon as something of a mechanical genius" - and it came as no surprise when he left the business to become an auctioneer, which gave him more free time to devote to his engineering work. One of his inventions was a multitubular heater for heating large buildings by hot air. He also designed and built the Music Hall in Dunfermline. Agitation arose for such a building around 1850, and the Music Hall was opened by grand concert on 30th December 1852. Later the firm of William Clark and Son took a lease of the Hall and transferred their printing and publishing operations there in November 1898 and the building was to remain the Journal Office until December 1913 when the new proprietor, J B Mackie, removed to premises in Gibb Street, to the house where he had been born on June 2 1848. William Clark jnr was a member of the Town Council from 1876-1891, and Dunfermline's Dean of Guild in 1891.

(2) JANET CLARK - b August 2 1824; d October 21 1854; she married George G Liddell, auctioneer and accountant, who also appears to have helped out in his father-in-law's shop, for he is described as bookseller in the Census of 1851. Two children were born to them before his wife's premature death in October 1854 (she died in childbirth) - Margaret Clark Liddell and William Clark Liddell.

(3) ROBERT CLARK - b September 2 1826; d March 16 1902; after serving his apprenticeship under his father as a bookbinder, and later "at the case" in the Journal Office, he went to Glasgow and from there to Belfast, Dublin and London, before emigrating to Australia in 1854 on board the "Champion of the Seas;" from 1867 he was resident in Ballarat, where he founded and published the "Ballarat Courier."

(4) JOHN CLARK - b March 2 1829; d April 21 1904; served an apprenticeship to the stationery and bookbinding trades, but like his elder brother, William, he was also of an inventive frame of mind, and left the family business to concentrate on patenting and marketing his inventions. He designed the vacuum air *brake* on use on the Great Eastern Railway, patented a solid wheel for railway carriages, and discovered a way of extracting aluminium from clay; some of inventions he sold for a considerable sum of money.

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Others he parted with for nothing, but his penetrative mind led him into realms of discovery which did not prove pecuniary successful, and in the end he lost nearly all that he had earned; he died in Birmingham.

(5) LAWRENCE CLARK - b February 5 1831; d August 15 1916; left for Australia in 1854 with his brother, Robert, in the "Champion of the Seas," and was associated with him in the running of the "Ballarat Courier."

(6) CATHARINE MURRAY CLARK - b 1832; d February 22 1907; married Michael Chapman, mill owner in Milnathort.

(7) GEORGE CLARK - b 1835; d September 27 1908; a partner in the firm of William Clark & Son from 1869, he became sole proprietor in June 1871, on the death of his father; he "was more of a recluse than a typical man of business;" in March 1903 he sold out to his editor, Andrew S Cunningham, and retired to Montrose, where he died in September 1908.



## *Family stories in the National Archives*

The National Archives of Australia hopes its new book *Family Journeys* will inspire more Australians to track down their family histories in its vast collection.

'The book provides a glimpse at the wealth of family history information we hold and also has a chapter on how to start your own family history journey in our collection and beyond,' says Kellie Abbott from the National Archives who was the book's principal author.

'*Family Journeys* shows how records in the National Archives — such as a migration form, a hand-written letter or a photo on a travel document — can provide a connection with a parent, grandparent or other ancestor, and a fascinating insight into their lives.'

As well as using migration records, many family historians also find the service records held by the National Archives a helpful source of information. More than 376,000 service records from World War I are now freely available online.

The book tells the family stories of some well-known Australians to illustrate the kinds of

Actor Noni Hazlehurst whose parents arrived in Melbourne as 'ten-pound poms', along with other high-profile Australian's including television producer Annette Shun Wah, landscaper Jamie Durie and celebrity scientist Dr Karl Kruszelnicki are featured in the book

'Knowing something of your family background is immensely valuable,' wrote Noni Hazlehurst in the book's foreword. 'It provides a sense of connectedness with someone other than your peers and immediate family.'

The book also features families who are not so well known but whose stories make fascinating reading. They include the Casamentos, an Italian migrant family; marathon cyclist, inventor and patriot Ernie Old; the war bride mother and serviceman father of author and publisher Carol Fallows; and the Cubillo family, descended from Antonio Cubillo who arrived in Darwin from the Philippines and married Lily, a young woman of Aboriginal and Scottish descent.

Another story is that of war hero Hugo Throssell and his wife, the writer Katharine Susannah Prichard, part of whose story is held in ASIO files preserved in the National Archives collection.

*Family Journeys: Stories in the National Archives of Australia* (\$19.95) can be purchased online from the National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) and selected bookstores.

In conjunction with the book, the National Archives has also created a new website feature on tracing family history at [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au).



## **USEFUL INDEXES**

An index to CDs in English Genealogical Magazines has been published by the Narre Warren Family History Group.

It has been compiled from the CDs on the covers of the magazines Family Tree Magazine And Practical Family History.

## **CORRECTION**

In the last issue of Link Kath McDonald's "Ballarat Courier" Personal notes incorrectly gave the date range as 1878—1979. This should have been 1878—1879. Our apologies for this error.

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## *Tom Coward and the Gold Escort.*

I discovered my ancestor Tom Coward on the internet. He had disappeared completely from the family except for his name on the birth and death certificates of my great grandmother and her brother. There were no photographs and my grandmother, who often talked about her family, never mentioned him. After searching the birth deaths and marriages for all states and “googling him” a fascinating life story started to emerge.

An article appeared in the Adelaide paper Quiz and The Lantern on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1897 featuring an interview with Tom Coward. In it he tells of his experiences in the Gold Escorts from the Victorian diggings to Adelaide in 1852.

When the gold rush started in Victoria it created an exodus of men and money from the young colony of South Australia. In order to bring some financial stability the South Australian government passed legislation in early 1852 to authorise the establishment of an assay office and smelting facilities in Adelaide. The south Australian diggers were to be offered a much better price for their gold than they would get in Victoria. As a result the first escort returned to Adelaide on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1852 with almost 6000 ounces of gold. A total of eighteen escorts were made ending in December 1853. Tom Coward, a young police constable eighteen years old, rode in four of these in 1852.

He recalled that the police weapons were muzzle loading carbines, swords and holster pistols and that often after fording swollen creeks their powder would be wet. At night they slept on top of the gold dust and on one occasion he was rewarded by police commissioner Tolmer with ten pound for swimming a flooded river with a rope tied around his waist. The troopers also carried letters back and forth between the diggers and their families although as he said the writing was almost illegible after being carried through rivers. He once saw a man “with a shepherd’s pannican three parts full of gold telling a trooper to help himself to a nugget because he had brought him a letter from his wife”. He also recounted visiting a shanty to buy a bottle of rum which cost him 26 shillings. As he was a publican in later life this caused him to remark that he wished he could get that price at the present. On arrival back in Adelaide the escort paraded down King William street and was met by hundreds of people anxious for news. After December 1852 the Government provided a private escort as the city had been left short of police.

Tom’s adventures didn’t end there. He took part in exploring expeditions to the interior in 1858 and 1859. Coward Springs on the Oodnadatta track is named after him. He also served in the police in New South Wales where he again rode in gold escorts from Kiandra in 1861. He was promoted to sergeant and for three months served as a detective in the search for Frank Gardiner in 1863-4. While in New South Wales he met and lived with a young woman named Matilda Williams. They had two children, Thomas born in 1862 and Louisa in 1864. Three weeks after Louisa’s birth Tom resigned from the police force and left his family forever

Two months later he joined the Native police in Queensland. After being seriously injured while escorting a prisoner to Rock Hampton he travelled to San Francisco. He became a Goldfields Warden on the Normandy River in 1875. In 1874 he testified before a parliamentary select committee about his activities in the police and in 1880 about his time as a goldfields warden.

Tom married Millicent Deagon the daughter of the owner of Deagon’s Hotel in Sandgate, Queensland in 1879. They had three children. In later years the family moved back to Adelaide where Tom became the publican of the Prince Alfred Hotel in King William Street. He was a well known supporter of the proposed railway to Alice Springs and a frequent author of letters to the editor. He died in 1905.

His children in New South Wales never saw him again. Young Thomas died in 1903. Louisa lived to have quite a few adventures of her own before she died in 1941. She was my great grandmother. Matilda Williams married a sailor named Frank George in 1866. She died in 1882.

### **Sources**

*South Australian Police Museum South Australian State Library  
Victorian Historical Society  
NSW State Records Queensland State Archives  
Queensland Police Historical Society  
Birth Deaths & Marriages S.A., Qld, N.S.W.*

Ann Clark

### **MEMBERS ONLY**

Available to borrow :-  
Audio Tapes of Guest Speakers talks.  
Ph. Betty on 5331 7834  
or email at bslater@ncable.net.au

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AGM**  
**JULY 2008**

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual president's report of the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Incorporated. We are busier than ever, especially with the increased numbers of ways to access records. This has resulted in necessary support to one another in the way of learning about how to use to their best advantage the great resources such as ancestry.com, Australian electoral rolls on-line, freebmd, ordering both Victorian and English birth, death and marriage certificates on-line, familysearch's many extras, and so forth. The Society's library collection is now completely on-line and can be searched within the Regional Library's catalogue.

Our monthly meetings have provided us with a range of excellent speakers:

To start the twelve-month period we had Peter Griffiths at last July's annual general meeting, speaking on the Welsh on the goldfields, followed in August by Joy Roy who showed us how to research English, Irish and Scottish ancestors on the internet. In September Eric Panther talked about family history through postcards.

October Linley Hooper from the GSV Library told us about research treasures held there, and especially UK directories and electoral rolls.

November was our usual end of year show and tell and quiz night, with its special end of year supper, and including musical entertainment provided by Frank Callahan.

After the Christmas break 2008 burst upon us, with February: Tom and Libby Luke speaking on Researching Your Cornish Ancestors;

March: Yvonne Izatt from the International Settlers Group on Researching Non-British Ancestors

April: Liz Heagney who told us about the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War research relating to the memorial at Ballarat Gardens

May: Beverley Spinks from the Descents of Convicts Group on general convict history and those from Oxfordshire Assize Trials

June: Barbara Hawkins from the Port Phillip Pioneers Group speaking on Researching your ancestors who arrived in the Port Phillip District prior to the discovery of gold.

What has become a popular annual event is the Ballarat Family History Open Day on the first week-end of November, and in 2007 we had a very busy day with researchers, supplemented by the talk given by Joan and Betty on the various certificates from Australia and overseas, and the information that they contain.

Research income has been very strong, both in the interesting, sometimes fascinating enquiries as well as the payments the enquirers make. The work is often very time consuming and taxes all our brains as we try to find solutions to often very demanding problems. As convenor of the Research Team I am very grateful to Jenny Burrell, Neva Dunstan, Kath McDonald, Rene Rawson and Betty Slater who continue to do a great job for the Society.

Year in and year out there are members who work on behalf of the Society to help it maintain the exceptionally high standards in our community. They include most especially Betty Slater, our secretary, without whom the Society just could not function as it does.

Others who definitely deserve a special mention are Helen Fox, our editor of "Ballarat Link" who gets our special communication ready each quarter, full of reports and articles to aid us in our research. She is supported by Tricia Hilder and Jenny Colvin who keep the membership lists up to day and make sure the newsletter is received by us all by the due date. To Daryl Povey, our webmaster who is constantly monitoring our website and improving it almost on a weekly basis, we cannot express the extent of our indebtedness for a wonderful service.

Rene Rawson has excelled herself in seeking publicity for the Society, and obviously has created a very good relationship with the various media outlets in and around Ballarat. Members have helped promote the Society in other ways, including attending family history expos with our information and display booth at Stawell, Yarrowonga-Mulwala, and at Bendigo. And members attended the Country Groups meeting of the Genealogical Society of Victoria in May.

Extraordinary contributions to the work of the Society have been made by the Projects Volunteers. They are Mary Adriaans, Greta Bain, Jennifer Burrell, Janette Costin, Kath McDonald, Helen Dehn, Helen Fox, Helen McLaughlin, Gill McLaughlin, and last but by no means least, Meryl Rowse. These member-volunteers have put in countless hours indexing records, many of which have now been placed on our website, purely to make accessible the rate books, residence licences, newspaper personal notices, divorce records, and school registers that we all require in our search for personal details of our families.

We have no retiring committee members this year, but I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to work with our knowledgeable, experienced, and hard-working yet fun-loving members of the BDGS committee.

Around my dining room table each month there gather our vice-president Graeme Reynolds, secretary Betty Slater, assistant secretary Mary Adriaans, treasurer Neva Dunstan, editor Helen Fox, librarian Marie Murnane, publicity officer Rene Rawson, and committee member Barb Harris, to discuss the more mundane matters relating to the Society. Neva's husband refers to the committee meetings as "the scone meetings" because my husband Gary always provides a supper of fresh scones, for which we thank him, too.

This has been a great year, once again. Many thanks to each and every one of you, all of whom contribute to the healthy life of our Society and make it such a pleasure.

Thank you.

Joan E. Hunt

President

Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc.



## News from PROV

### **Family History Competition Winners**

Launched as part of the 2008 Ballarat Heritage Festival, family historians were invited to submit their most interesting family history story about their Victorian ancestors. The competition produced some real gems

Fifteen entries were received and reviewed and the judge's unanimous decision was to choose **Brenda Ryan**'s delightful account of "A childhood at Nazareth House, Ballarat" the reminiscences of Grace Ryan, nee Charlton.

"The brick wall comes down" the unraveling of an intriguing family history puzzle by **Val Weber** was a very close second.

Third goes to **Fiona Lane** and her tale about the life of "Annie Convary". Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all those that entered.

### **PROV Seminar Program July-Nov OUT NOW!**

The seminar program promises to be a fascinating one with fantastic insights into researching your Irish ancestors, wills and probates and property research. A seminar **Back to School: Education records at PROV** will be held at the Ballarat library on Wednesday 12 November. All seminars are free and bookings are essential.

The new seminar program is available at the Ballarat Archives Centre and on PROV's website: [www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)

### **Irish Day at PROV: Saturday 30 August**

This full day of seminars and activities at the Victorian Archives Centre will feature a number of talks relating to the Irish in Victoria, Irish music and a screening of the film 'The Man of Aran', facility tours and much more.

Details are available on the PROV Website and bookings for the seminars, walks and tours are essential. This day is presented with the support of National Archives of Australia and the Celtic Club of Victoria. See PROV website for program details and costs

### **Exhibitions at PROV**

#### **Property Research at the Ballarat Archives Centre**

This display will give you an insight into the research possibilities at the Ballarat Archives Centre. The display highlights many of the key records that can be used to research property in the Ballarat region. Some of these include rate books, township and parish maps and mining surveys. The display is on until September 2008.

**Currach Folk – Photographs by Bill Doyle** (An Australian National Maritime Museum travelling exhibition)

**14 July – 8 November 2008 Free exhibition**

Award winning photographer Bill Doyle's studies in the mid 1960s of Gaelic-speaking fishing and farming communities on the Aran Islands and the Dingle Peninsula of Ireland's west coast, with their distinctive currachs (boats). The images capture the hardship, dignity and humanity of people whose lives are shaped by the sea.

Lauren Bourke

Regional Archivist

Ballarat Archives Centre



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

**Visitors are most welcome.**



## ***OUR GUEST SPEAKERS***

### **May meeting:**

Bev Spinks from the Descendants of Convicts Group, a member Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, spoke at our May meeting about the various aspects of the lives of convicted prisoners transported to Sydney and Van Diemen's Land in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Among the many interesting facts she imparted were the following: many trusted convicts were given government jobs, and many were assigned to settlers as unpaid labourers. Those in the women's factory washed and mended prisoners' clothes. Convicts tried in the country areas of England were more likely to be reported in newspapers than those tried in London. Many people were sent to hulks prior to being transported, so their deaths (if they died before sailing) may be recorded along the south coast and the Thames estuary. Prisoners on hulks were listed in the 1841 and 1851 census, but often only initials are given. Ancestry.com has started entering details about convicts in England on the site. Many of the guards on ships and in prisons later retired and took their pensions in Australia, so ancestors in that category may be found in the Australian Joint Copying Project – this project was the filming of all records to do with early Australia that were kept at the National Archives, a full set of which is housed at the State Library Victoria. Bev explained that children who were in workhouses in England often were given at least some education and later put on board merchant or naval ships and taught a trade; those children may later have joined the Navy or may have returned to the workhouse.

### **June meeting:**

Barbara Hawkins explained the formation of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group which is a member Society of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. There are over 300 members of the group, who have been able to provide proof that they are descended from a settler in the Port Phillip District prior to it becoming the Colony of Victoria in July 1851. Barbara used a PowerPoint presentation to show images illustrating aspects of pioneer settlement in Victoria. She talked about the Collins settlement at Sorrento, the sealers and whalers along the coast near Portland Bay and Port Fairy, and the momentous settlement by John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner at the village that became the city of Melbourne. She recommended accessing the State Library of Victoria site to read Fawkner's reminiscences.

It was most interesting to hear the activities of the first settlers, building roads and bridges, clearing land and felling trees, being involved in social activities such as picnics, meetings and clubs. Details of the establishment of the Mechanics Institute, the Melbourne Club, and various churches were given. Barbara told us that she has thirteen pre 1851 ancestors herself, all of whom arrived between 1837 and 1849.

### **July meeting:**

Lauren Bourke is the Regional Archivist for the Public Record Office Victoria and Manager of the Ballarat Archives Centre, who spoke at the July meeting about resources available for family history research to be found at PROV. Lauren knew nothing beyond her grandparents at the time of starting her research three years ago, but in her PowerPoint presentation she showed the many records and services available to everyone, and which were of particular help in her own research. From shipping arrivals in Victoria, to finding family who were school teachers in both the State and Catholic systems, and including family who took up land and appear in the Land Selection Files, Lauren took us through to the discovery of child relatives who appear in the school files of VPRS 640 and 795, and the adult relatives who appear in the wills and probates. She explained that the Genealogical Society of Utah (also known as the Latter Day Saints) have been digitising all PROV wills and probates 1840-1925 which are now downloadable from the PROV website ([www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)), and which will eventually have an on-line index. Lauren also told us how she found a relative on whom a coroners inquest was held which she obtained a copy of and then checked the online index to hospital records, which in turn led her to the asylum records about that person. A less usual reference was in connection to a relative whose probate papers showed he was a Justice of the Peace. Having checked him in the Municipal Directories, Lauren was then able to find his registration as a J.P. in VPRS 266 at PROV. This was a most interesting and informative talk in which Lauren encouraged all researchers to come to Ballarat Archives Centre where the Reference Officers will assist with finding the appropriate indexes and records.

*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.*

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## ***HOW DO I FIND? SURNAME VARIATIONS***

### **Three Free Resources To Find Surname Variations**

If you have ever searched a database for an ancestor and did not find what you were hoping for, it is still possible that your ancestor is there. They may be "hidden" behind a variation of the surname that you had not thought of previously.

For example, Christian RASMUSSEN was listed in the same database with four variations of his surname's spelling:

· Rassmussen    · Rasmusen    · Rasmusson  
· Rasmusun

If I searched only by the one surname with which I was comfortable, chances are I would not find Christian.

Successfully searching databases and indexes requires the researcher to be creative. Put yourself in the census enumerator's shoes for a moment. He had a lot of work to do in a small period of time. I hesitate to believe that he would verify with each household that he spelled their names correctly. He probably wrote down the spelling of the name that was most familiar to him and moved on to the next house.

Fortunately there are some good resources available to help researchers come up with spelling variations.

### **MyTrees.com's Surname Variants**

At *MyTrees.com*, when you click on the **Name Variants** link on the home page (you might have to do a Control-F to find this phrase as it is easy to overlook) you get a screen where you can enter your ancestor's surname. Click on *Find Spelling Variations* and you will get a list of many other ways that the surname could have been spelled based on how the name sounds.

### **Surname Suggestion List**

This free software will also display other possible variations of surnames. We previously published information about it here.

### **Standard Finder**

This is a new project published by FamilySearch. Here, you can search for a surname and it, too, will return a list of other possible variations. *Click here*, and then scroll to the *Standard Finder* section.

If we are going to find our ancestors, we must develop creativity and imagination when trying to come up with variations for our ancestor's names. When we cannot think of all potential variations, *MyTrees.com*, *Surname Suggestion List*, and *Standard Finder* are good resources to turn to.

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## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

### *Dorset Online Parish Clerks*

Over 1 Million individual records available -

**Last update 21st June 2008**

An Online Parish Clerk (OPC) researches all the available historical data they can find on a parish, records are transcribed, and in order to promote further private research, are made **FREELY** available to any researcher. This will include census, parish transcripts, bishop's transcripts and churchwardens accounts, overseers accounts, land tax records, postal directory extracts, church & village histories, etc. An OPC is a volunteer and should not be confused with the civil Parish Clerk appointed by a Parish Council.

There are about 275 parishes in Dorset and we have data online for nearly all of them. If you would be interested in volunteering to help make these national records available to all, please click [here](#) for more information.

**[www.opcdorset.com/index.htm](http://www.opcdorset.com/index.htm)**

### *You can find unemployed in 1892*

Alison Armstrong wrote:

While 'Googling' a particular surname, I came across a website which lists some of the 13,000 unemployed men who registered with the Government Labour Bureau in Melbourne from June to August 1892. This project is part of a student's PhD research into Melbourne in the 1890's. I was lucky to locate my great-grandfather.

There is quite a bit of genealogical information on each person ; birth date, death, wives and children.

**<http://home.primusonline.com.au/jennyc/Melbourne/index.htm>**

### *You can search New Zealand Newspapers*

Papers Past contains more than one million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1840 to 1915 and includes publications from all regions of New Zealand.

[Nelson Examiner & New Zealand Chronicle](#)  
[Hawera & Normanby Star](#)  
[North Otago Times \(1883-1887\)](#)

Search the database at:

**<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>**

## *You can find Convicts on-line*

### **Convict transportation registers database**

The **Convict transportation registers 1787 - 1867** database has been compiled from the British Home Office (HO) records which are available on micro-film.

You can find details for over 123 000 of the estimated 160 000 convicts transported to Australia in the 18th and 19th centuries - names, term of years, transport ships, etc.

More information is available [about this convict database](#).

**Please note:** The original records on which this database is based is not an exhaustive list of all convicts sent to Australia.

[www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts)

## **CENSUS DATES:**

The 1841 census took place on 6 June when the population of England was 16 million. This census gives the name, age (rounded to the nearest 5 years for those over 18 years), occupation, and states whether born within the county of residence.

The 1851 census took place on 30 March when the population was 18 million. This census and succeeding years also show the relationship to the head of the household and the parish and county of birth.

The 1861 census took place on 7 April when the population was approximately 20 million.

The 1871 census took place on 2 April when the population was more than 22.5 million.

The 1881 census took place on 3 April when the population was about 26 million.

The 1891 census took place on 5 April when the population was about 29 million, and shows whether each person is employed or unemployed.

The 1901 census took place on 31 March when the population was about 32 million. The current population of England and Wales is about 56 million.

**Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc.**

invites you to the annual

## **BALLARAT FAMILY HISTORY OPEN DAY**

at the Ballarat Library  
178 Doveton Street, Ballarat

Learn how to research your family history  
*beginners & experienced – In Australia & overseas*

Computers – Microfiche – Indexes – Books

2pm Speakers: “*Researching Your Family History  
in Australia & Overseas especially Ireland*”

**11 am till 4 pm  
Sunday, 2 November 2008**

**FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME  
[www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)**



Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters  
<http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/>

A Database of all Victorian MP's since 1851  
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/re-member/>

The Workhouse  
<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/index.html>

1891 Women's Suffrage Petition  
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/>

Devon Family History Society  
<http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/>

Devon Heritage.  
<http://www.devonheritage.org>

Devon Parish, Non-Parochial and Civil Registers and  
Map of Devon Parishes  
[http://www.devon.gov.uk/parish\\_register\\_list](http://www.devon.gov.uk/parish_register_list)

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## RESEARCH

Vincent LAMBERT married Eliza SHIPMAN in 1845 in London. Children born England, Geelong, Ballarat.

Eliza LAMBERT b. 1862 married Benjamin HARRIS. Vincent and Eliza are buried in Ballarat Old Cemetery.

Vincent GERCOVICH married Winifred Rebecca BENNETT at St Alipius, Ballarat on 13 Feb 1867. He arrived from Yugoslavia on 12 Apr 1860 and may be the first Croatian immigrant to Australia. He is buried in Ballarat New Cemetery.

JOSLIN family arrived late 1950 as migrants from England and attended Wallinduc school near Cressy; Frank would like any information.

Hyman LEVINSON, jeweller of Ballarat 1860s-1870s, married Augusta JACOBS. Brother-in-law Emanuel STEINFELD. Details of business and photos wanted.

Benjamin (d.1903 aged 49 yrs) and Mary GAHAN (d.1898 aged 36 yrs), buried Ballarat New Cemetery with their daughter Eliza (d.1902 aged 7 yrs) – any information on Hannah GAHAN, first wife.

John Joseph “Jack” HAYES born Ballarat district 1870s, youngest of large family. All died in infancy except Jack who was last child born. Father died when Jack was 2 yrs.

William TODD born Alston, Cumberland married Agnes Eliza THOMPSON whose mother was Agnes TODD (William’s aunt) – lived Lexton St and Burnbank St. William died at Napoleons aged 44 yrs in 1912 and is buried in the Old Cemetery.

William James JACKSON b. 1818 & Maria (nee YOUNG), lived Ballarat 1850s. Their son William Robinson JACKSON & Maria (nee WATKINS), lived Ballarat 1890s

James Merrick Brighton TYLER OF Morrey & Tyler, 11-15 Bridge Street, Ballarat. Died 18 Dec 1918, aged 63 yrs, buried in the New Cemetery – any information.

Andrew & Johanna BLANCHE of Reservoir Hotel, Smythesdale. Andrew died at Gordon in a mining accident in 1881. Coroner’s inquest and details wanted.

James Wong LEPP married Bridget Madden (nee Donough). Children born 1862-1874; lived off Esmond St 1862-1878. Family owned Golden Point Hotel 1877-1892

William DAVIES b. 1825 Wales married Esther Mary ISAAC. Children born 1857-1878 all in Ballarat.

Thomas Isaac DAVIES married Alice Jane DOUGLAS, daughter of John Sword DOUGLAS of Smythes Creek dairy farm.

Henry VINCENT born 1822 Cornwall, died 1 July 1899. Wife Jane and son Thomas are buried in the Old Cemetery. Is there a relationship to Angwin family?

Henry HUTCHINSON, miner of Smythesdale, died in 1874 aged 57. Son Charles Herbert died in 1875 aged 5 years. Wife Harriet CALDECOAT – burial details wanted.

Winifred FIRTH, daughter of Edith Firth, was born at Smythesdale in 1903 – any information

Augustus COOPER died 1903, & Susannah (nee LEWIS) died 1902 – bur. CE area, New Ballarat Cemetery



### 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](mailto:researchballarat@hotmail.com)

or

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354

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### RESEARCH QUERIES

Please contact the research team at [researchballarat@hotmail.com](mailto:researchballarat@hotmail.com)



**BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC  
CASSETTE TAPES & SPEAKERS**



**BOX NO 3.**

**TAPES NO. 62 □ NO. 103**

<b>NO</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
62	28/02/1995	Elizabeth Downes	Field Officer CHHA □ Aspects of her work
63	28/03/1995	Ted Lynes	Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen & Women
64	25/04/1995	5 members	Memories from the War Years
66			Cattle of Culloden
67		Dennis Speilvogel	Photography & Preserving Photos
68		Dot Wickham	Creswick Hospital
71			Geelong & District History Group
72			Cornish in Ballarat
73		Laurel Johnston	Women of Eureka
74	27/07/1999	Ian & Marie Morden	Map Works
75			
76		Carolyn Broome	IGI
77		Joan Hunt	Fire Inquests
78	28/08/1979	Abraham Levy	Mayor Levy's Scrapbook
79	October 1979	K Holden	Side 1 & Part Side 2
80	October 1979	K Holden	Side 2
80	6/09/1979		PRO Laverton
81		J Chisholm	Ballarat Councillors
81		L Reynolds	Sunshine Railway Smash 1908
81	24/06/1980	Madorie Morgan	Wreck of Catamaque
81		A Howard & L Reynolds	at 3BA
82	24/06/1980	Madorie Morgan	Shipping etc UK (GSV)
83		John Barth	Research in Scotland
84	October 1983	Warren Shears	History of Ballarat Cemeteries
85		Lord Teviot	UK □ Questions& Answers
86	May 2001	David Beames	Ballarat Old & New Cemetery
87	24/10/2000	Dave Evans	Mining Accidents
88	April 2001	Joan Hunt	Irish Research
89	July 2001	Graeme Reynolds	English Census Records
90	March 1999	Edwina Shooter	BDGS □ Library Collection
91	26/03/2002	David Karmouche	Karmouche Family
92	25/07/2000	Diane Christenson	
93	24/08/1999	Jill Blee	Irish Research
94	22/08/2000	Graeme Reynolds	English Civil Registration
95	26/06/2001	Hedley Thompson	Ballarat Railways
96	28/05/2002	Daryl McLeish	"In the Beginning There Was Carisbrook"
97	23/10/2001	Gillian Thomas	"Vanish" □ Adoption
98	23/04/2002		Bendigo Library
99	8/08/2001	Frank Vagg	Wills & Administration
100	October 2002	Hazel Edwards	Writing Your Family History
101	October 2002	Hazel Edwards	Writing Your Family History □ continued
102	May 2003	Graeme Eyre	Eyres Business in Ballarat
103	March 2003	Max Harris	Photography & Oral History

**MEMBERS ONLY**

Available to borrow :- Audio Tapes of Guest Speakers talks.  
Ph. Betty on 5331 7834 or email at [bslater@ncable.net.au](mailto:bslater@ncable.net.au)

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

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

For a modest donation the B&DGS research team would take digital photos of headstones on request.

Enquiries to [researchballarat@hotmail.com](mailto:researchballarat@hotmail.com)

[www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)

## **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)

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

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or

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354

## ***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)

**Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:-  
[www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)**

**Webmaster:- Daryl Povey**

**Email :- [povey@sebas.vic.edu.au](mailto:povey@sebas.vic.edu.au)**

## **SEARCH LIST & INDEXES**

Dave Evans Mining Accidents Index

The Surnames List.

Ballarat School of Mines Entrance Book 1910-1914.

St Augustine's Orphanage — Geelong Admissions and Discharges 1856-1878.

## **MESSAGE BOARDS**

Australian (Ancestry.com)

FamilyHistory.com

GenForum

RootsWeb Email Lists

School Friends

## **ADVICE / INFORMATION**

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## **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](mailto:researchballarat@hotmail.com)  
Please include sufficient relevant details.

**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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**RESEARCH QUERIES**

Please contact the research team at  
researchballarat@hotmail.com

**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 \$10.00

Concession and Children \$7.00

**Enquiries:** Neva Dunstan - phone 5330 7005

**Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:- [www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)**

**Webmaster:- Daryl Povey      EMAIL:- [povey@sebas.vic.edu.au](mailto:povey@sebas.vic.edu.au)**



***Welcome to***

Fiona Lane of Ballarat.  
Norm Darwin of Ballarat.  
Shirley Pritchard of Brown Hill.  
Gabrielle Evans of Mt. Pleasant.  
Dennis Batty of Kyneton.  
Therese Svensson of North Bondi, NSW.  
Coral Walker-Smith of Mandurah W.A.  
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Joanne Mc.Guinness of Mt. Helen.  
David Callinan of Clunes  
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