



Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

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Opening hours: Tuesday 10 am – 1 pm
Thursday 10 am – 4 pm
Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

Forums: 2 p.m. on the third Saturday of March, June,
September at the Family History Rooms, the
Heritage Centre, Thompson Ave., Cowes

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GRANTS

We have been successful in our applications for grants from the Bass Coast Shire and Federal Government.

Thanks to the Bass Coast Shire, a new lighting rack will be installed above the computers, a buzzer on the door (no more 'surprise' visitors for those on duty), and new boxes for microfiche storage and covering materials purchased for our library.

The Federal Grant has purchased a digital camera and an Eye-Com Image Mouse. Long-time members will remember the huge cumbersome microfiche reader-printer that 'died' several years ago. The image mouse scans microfiche to a computer – no more expensive print-outs. Images can be saved directly to a thumb drive.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17th March : 10 am – 1 pm. Instead of a 'forum' we are holding a morning session when our new equipment and programs will be demonstrated. Morning tea will be provided.

As the 17th is St Patricks Day, bring along your Irish research problems – there may be someone in the rooms who will be able to help you.

PROV POD

We have had official notification from Lauren Bourke, Coordinator of Community Archives Public Records Office of Victoria, advising us that we have been accepted as a POD. That is a Place of Deposit. Places of Deposit are community facilities that the Minister for the Arts appoints to care for those public records not considered part of the state's permanent archives, but of local interest. As well as being cared for in a POD, these records are made available for research by group members and the general public. We will now be able to store records of temporary and local value, such as Water Board Rate Books, local Government draft minute books, visitors books, or pound registers etc. which have been approved for transfer by the Keeper of Public Records.

This is a significant step forward in helping our members and visitors gain access to records not normally kept in smaller Genealogical Societies, so we are very fortunate

We will keep everyone up to date as new records are acquired.

Jenny Adam
Vice President.

END OF YEAR LUNCHEON AT 'PINOS'



Sue Lilley, our guest speaker Bette Leone and David Rathgen

Our end of year lunch, organised by Sue Lilley for Saturday 10th December at Pinos, was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who were able to attend. A very nice roast dinner was followed by an interesting talk by Bette Leone on 'Some aspects of early Italian settlement in Australia'

For those with Italian ancestry, Bette has given us a copy of her talk and also her book 'How to trace your Italian ancestors for Australians and New Zealanders'. These are both in the library and can be borrowed.

ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL RECORDS

There is a website called <http://www.thewomens.org.au/PatientRecords> where you can view the Labour Ward Case Books online. Images of [Midwifery Book no 1, 1856-1876](#) are now available on line.

I was curious to find more information about my grandmother's birth. My grandmother was born on 31 October 1893 at the Royal Women's Hospital, so her birth details were outside the images available on-line.

Her birth certificate mentions no father, but I was wondering if there may have something written in the Labour Ward Case Book and the Birth Register. I emailed the Archives Office at the Royal Women's Hospital and they forwarded to me an application form to complete, as Freedom of Information applies to the release of certain birth information. I completed the application form and paid my fee. After a few weeks I received the information from the Hospital in relation to my grandmother's birth. Unfortunately, in this case no father's name was given, but the details provided were as follows:

Case No.
 Mother's Name
 Date of Admission
 Mother's Age
 Married or Single (in my case it was "Single")

Other details given include:

1. Previous history and physical condition of the mother.
2. The time labour started and ended, details about the placenta and membranes.
3. If the child was alive, the sex and weight,
4. Doctor's remarks. In this case, the doctor had stated "*on admission the babe was on the perineum. One suture*".

The transcript from the Birth Register contains the information that is then recorded on the actual Birth Certificate.

Suzanne Hayes

LOVES LOST AND NEVER RECLAIMED

An abbreviated article by Carolyn Webb printed in The Age November 21 2003

You remembered to call the doctor, the undertaker, organised the priest, the ceremony and the wake, but thousands of Australians forget, or neglect, to pick up their loved one's ashes after cremation, and it seems to be a growing trend.

A Melbourne funeral company has taken the unusual step of posting on the Internet the names of people whose ashes have not been collected.

Some of the 200 uncollected remains - listed under "lost relatives" date back as far as 1928.

The general manager of Fawkner Crematorium, the site of over 2500 cremations a year, said that in 15% of cremations the families did not pick up their loved ones ashes. Their policy is to keep the ashes for 6 to 9 months then contact the family. If they do not respond the ashes are then scattered at various locations around the Memorial Park.

Although there is no legal requirement many Melbourne Funeral Homes choose to retain the ashes of uncontactable relatives indefinitely, to keep faith with clients, whilst some scatter the ashes after a period of about 12 months.

The chief executive of The Necropolis in Springvale said "Some people don't pick up the cremated remains, others collect them and put them in a cupboard, on a shelf, in a drawer meaning to do something at a later stage, but they never do. Others go and scatter them off the local pier, on the football ground or in a favourite holiday area.

"One reason for the failure to collect them was distance - the kids live in another state and nobody is ever going to visit the cemetery, so why bother with the extra expense".

"Deciding what to do about the ashes of a loved one was very final and people might be very reluctant to have to make such a traumatic decision after an emotional funeral."

"There seem to be changing views on death - people think they are being rational and say they are not concerned about the body anymore - it's not really Mum/Grandma/Auntie, let's not worry too much about it."

What is your feeling on the subject?

Helen Swaine

CHICORY KILN AT PHILLIP ISLAND

The new chicory kiln lately erected at Cowes by Messrs. J. and S. West of that township was formally opened on Tuesday, June 4th, and to celebrate the event, about seventy of the proprietors' friends sat down by invitation to a sumptuous dinner at Mr. Bauer's Isle of Wight Hotel. The usual after dinner speeches were somewhat curtailed, as a ball was to follow the dinner, but the enthusiasm with which the toast of "Messrs. J. and S. West," coupled with "Success to their enterprise" was drunk, showed the esteem in which these gentlemen are held on Phillip Island. Mr. John West responded, and stated that he had been induced to erect the kiln owing to the loss entailed on the farmers in shipping chicory to Melbourne. The kiln is a handsome brick building, and contains



steam engine and all necessary appliances for cutting and drying the chicory on a large scale. The evening was spent in a most enjoyable manner, and the festivities did not conclude until daylight on the following morning, when the guests departed all declaring themselves gratified at the lavish hospitality of their esteemed hosts.

South Bourke and Mornington Journal Wednesday 12 June 1878
photo: The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser. 28 October 2009

People who depend on their family tree for status should shake it first

ELLEN WAYE

The name of Ellen Waye should be familiar to readers of 'Reflections'. Articles by Ellen have been in virtually every edition since September 1998. Sadly, we heard last December of her death in August 2011.

Ellen, a journalist by profession, a published author of historical fiction and a keen and knowledgeable genealogist, was always willing to help others especially those researching in Cornwall and South Australia, the areas of greatest interest to her. Her range of historical knowledge was amazing.

She joined our group in 1996, and was a regular visitor to the rooms. Her interest continued in later years when she was unable to drive over from Wonthaggi, with articles for 'Reflections' arriving by mail several times a year and occasional phone calls to me with comments on the most recent edition of 'Reflections'.

Ellens' final contribution is printed below.

Jan Andrews

While looking for something else, I found this in Lew Lind's *Historic Naval Events of Australia Day-by-Day*. '23rd March, 1882, The Melbourne Age stated that "the Russian Fleet was ready to pounce on the colonies" and would loot 10 million pounds from Melbourne and Sydney and 3 million from Brisbane.'

Russian scares were frequent in 19th century Australia, but this was a wake-up call for the Victorian Government of the day to complete what was started in the 1870's. Amongst my junk is a leaflet issued by the Victorian Tourism Commission, promoting tours to a man-made island visible through binoculars from the top of Arthur's Seat, Mornington Peninsula. This is South Channel Fort, one of two such proposed for Port Phillip to supplement Fort Queenscliff and the batteries at Point Nepean. The other, Pope's Eye, was never finished, but by the time South Channel Fort was ready for action in 1888, it was what we would call 'state of the art'. Besides being heavily armed, it had searchlights and was central to minefields. Electricity for the former and the galvanic batteries used to provide power for the minefield circuitry was generated on site by steam powered generators.

Alas, by 1888 it was a fort without an enemy. The Russian crisis reached its peak in 1885, throwing Melbourne into panic, but was settled far off-stage by diplomacy. When the next great, and real, crisis arrived in August 1914, the range and firepower of guns at both Queenscliff and Point Nepean was such that South Channel Fort had a mere token garrison. During the Second World War it was only used as a magazine for explosives to blast channels in Port Phillip. After that? It became strictly for the (sea) birds and seals.

Sources: As in text above, also my junk.

Ellen Waye

DID YOU KNOW?

The **lamprey** was a pet fish with the ancients. Antonia, the wife of Drusus, hung the gills of a lamprey with pearls and earrings; Licanius Croesas fed his lampreys in a vivarium; and Quintus Hortensius is said to have wept at the death of his dear fish. One of our kings (Henry I.) died from eating too largely of lampreys. By ancient custom, the city of Gloucester, as a token of their loyalty, present a lamprey pie annually at Christmas to their sovereign; this is sometimes a costly gift, as lampreys at that season can scarcely be procured at a guinea a piece.

According to "Notes and Queries", the common expression of "cooking your own goose" is thus explained:-

"The King of Sweden's Goose. The King of Sweden coming to a towne of his enemys with very little company, his enemys, to slight his forces, did hang out a goose for him to shoote; but perceiving before night that these few soldiers had invaded and set their chiefe holds on fire, they demanded of him what his intent was. To whom he replied, 'To roast your goose',"

Source: 'The Colonial Cookbook, subtitled 'Recipes of a Bygone Australia', edited by Alison Burt (Summit Books, 1970) A reprint of an early colonial publication, which is unnamed and unreferenced.

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

COWES. – During the recent exceedingly rough weather a three-masted schooner trading between Melbourne and Tasmania was compelled to shelter at Cowes. – Mr. W. Jeffrey, who has been an inmate of the Warley Hospital for six weeks, has been discharged. – A meeting of parents was held in the school on Wednesday to appoint a new committee. The following were elected:- Mesdames West, Watchorn, Messrs. Bryce, Smith, Bell, and with Mr. A. Calwell correspondent and Mr. J. Anderson chairman. – One of the boys from the Seaside Garden Boys' Home, Newhaven, fell from a tree, sustaining a broken arm and fractured pelvis. – Dr. McNamara is acting as locum tenens for Dr. Broome during his absence from Cowes. – During last week a visitor caught two large sharks from the pier. They measured 8ft. and 9ft. respectively. The larger one was marked and coloured like a carpet.

The Argus. Saturday 7 March 1925

COWES (PHILLIP ISLAND). – On Tuesday night a fire occurred on the farm of Mrs. Sarah Harris, of Ventnor, when a stack of 15 tons of hay, insured for £23, was destroyed. The circumstances are so mysterious that the matter has been reported to the police, and a request has been made that black trackers might be sent down. About a year ago Mrs. Harris suffered loss through a larger stack being burnt. This year's loss will be severe as on account of the ravages of the caterpillars hay is scarce. – The following has been elected on the Ventnor school committee:- Mr. W. J. Jeffrey (chairman), Mrs S. Harris, Mesdames R. Grayden and H. G. Jeffrey. Messrs J. Grayden, W. Jenner, and A Weil. – The Cowes school, after being closed for a week on account of breakdown in the health of the head master (Mr. F. Hatfield), has been reopened, Mr. G. H. C. Trengrove having taken charge.

The Argus. Wednesday 29 March 1922

Aerial Bread Delivery

Residents and holiday makers at Cowes, Phillip Island, were awakened on Good Friday morning by the droning of an aeroplane, and a favored few received "hot x buns" from the clouds. Mr H. McColl, baker and storekeeper, of Cowes, realising his inability to supply the needs of the large parties of campers on the Isle, arranged with Messrs. Borer & Co, the Port Melbourne bread manufacturers, to supply him with 100 large loaves and a bag of buns by aerial delivery.

Pilot Graham Carey, accompanied by Mr. H. Stranaghan, left the Port Melbourne aerodrome on Thursday afternoon with their novel cargo, travelling by way of Westernport. The airmen had a rough and bumpy flight, and in the vicinity of Mount Eliza it was a case of "What oh, Eliza!" Darkness setting in, and being unacquainted with the landing place at Cowes, they stayed at the Flinders Naval Base, Crib Point, for the night.

Resuming their flight next morning, the aviator flew across Westernport to Cowes in 10 minutes – the actual time for the entire trip from Port Melbourne being 35 minutes. A landing was effected about 7 a.m. on Mrs. Vaughan's property, and the first aerial bread delivery in Australia was thus accomplished. Mrs. Vaughan secured the first loaf.

Mr Carey remained at Cowes for the holidays, and gave exhibition stunts and also made a number of passenger flights.

The Frankston & Somerville Standard
Friday 1 April 1921

Source: <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

EPITAPHS

Captain Tully, Exeter Cathedral:

*Here lies the Body of Captain Tully,
Aged an hundred and nine years fully;
And threescore years before, as Mayor,
The sword if this city he did bear;
Nine of his wives do with him lie,
So shall the tenth when she doth die*

Malcolm Downie:

*Here lies interr'd a man o' micht,
They ca'd him Malcolm Downie;
He lost his life ae market night,
By fa'ing aff his pownie.
Aged 37 Years.*

Anthony Drake, Burlington, Massachusetts:

*Sacred to the memory of Anthony Drake,
Who died for peace and quietness sake;
His wife was constantly scolding and scoffin',
So he sought for repose in a twelve-dollar coffin.*

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Murray, Peter R. & Wells, John C	From sand, swamp and heath , a history of Caulfield
Fraser, Rod	The Champion of the Seas (1999)
Pike, Glenville	Queensland frontier
Francis, D.G.M.	Historic Kyneton. Guidebook and map with walking tours
White, Charles	History of Australian bushranging. Vol.2
Carter, I. R.	God and three shillings. The story of the Brotherhood of St Laurence
Adams, K. M.	Twentieth century Australia 1900-1960
Durbidge, Ellie	North Stradbroke Island
.....	South Australian story
Sydenham, Diane	Windows on Nunawading
Greenwood, Stephen G.	Ready, prepared! The history of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia from 1928-2008
Molitorisz, Sacha	Australian bushrangers. The romance of robbery
Brennan, Niall	History of Nunawading
Charlwood, Don	Wrecks & reputations. The loss of the Schomberg and Loch Ard
Leone, Bette	How to trace your Italian ancestors for Australians and New Zealanders
Moresi, Ada	Moresi family record
Leone. Bette	A talk on some aspects of early Italian settlement in Australia
Ioannou, Noris	Barossa journeys into a valley of tradition
Humphreys, Margaret	Empty cradles
Mitchell, Bob	1001 Life story questions

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

Mining deaths register: Central Goldfields of Western Australia

<http://www.outbackfamilyhistory.com.au>

Hebrides People <http://www.hebridespeople.com>

Genealogy in Time magazine <http://www.genealogyintime.com>

Early South Australian indexes.

<http://www.familyhistorysa.info/births-marriages-deaths/marriages.html>

Orphan School and St John's Park Precinct, Hobart. You can search this site to find out if you are the descendant of a child who at one time or another was admitted to the Orphan Schools

<http://www.orphanschool.org.au/>

Europe - databases, records and resources <http://www.genealogy.about.com/cs/europegenealogy/>

New Zealand - Links <http://www.genealogylinks.net/newzealand/index.html>

Northern Ireland Online Genealogy Centre <http://www.nireland.com/genealogy/index.html>
