



# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

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PRESIDENT : DAVID RATHGEN 0411 118 706

SECRETARY : TOM CAULFIELD 0419 922 362

Postal Address: PO Box 821, Cowes, Victoria. 3922

E-mail: [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)

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

Forums are held during the months of March, June,  
and September at the Family History Rooms,  
the Heritage Centre, Thompson Ave., Cowes

Reflections Editor: Jan Andrews

5678 2124

E-mail: [janani@waterfront.net.au](mailto:janani@waterfront.net.au)

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Christmas End of Year Function** : Saturday, 8 December 2012, for lunch at the San Remo Hotel. 12pm for 12.30. A la carte menu. Please RSVP to Genevieve by 1 December at [gen\\_bob\\_hayes@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gen_bob_hayes@yahoo.com.au), or phone her on 5956 6340.

### **Family Tree Maker User Group.**

Thanks to Doug Elms and the forums we have held with special attention to 'Family Tree Maker', we now have a User Group dedicated to this computer program. Thank you Suzanne Hayes (0418 512 404) and Genevieve Hayes (0418 545 569).

Details of the first PIADGS Family Tree Maker User Group are as follows:

Date : **Saturday, 17 November 2012**

Time : **1.00pm to 4.00pm**

Venue : **Heritage Rooms (opposite the PIADGS rooms)**

Cost : **Free to Members; \$5.00 for Non-Members**

Users attending are asked to bring along their laptop computers, internet connection, the necessary cables, etc, and family tree documentation. **Please remember to run a "back up" of your Family Tree Maker data prior to attending the User Group.**

We will attempt to get through as many issues on the day to get you started or problems that you may be having. Feel free to notify us in advance of any particular issues and/or problems that you may be experiencing in using Family Tree Maker.

Please RSVP your attendance to [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) by 26 October 2012.

### **Special Interest Groups (SIG)**

There may be others interested in a particular area of study – Ireland and Europe come to mind. Please email David Rathgen (President, 0411 118 706) or Tom Caulfield (Secretary 0419 922 362) at [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) to let us know of your willingness to have a SIG. There seems to be a number of members tracing their roots into Ireland or Continental Europe – France, Germany, Holland, Poland and Italy come to mind – feel free to tell us of your interest.

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Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough we are all related

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Contributions are accepted in good faith and the Newsletter Committee do not accept responsibility for accuracy of information or opinions expressed.

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## FAMILY TREE MAKER SEMINAR Saturday, October 6.

Held by popular demand, and again a great success. Many thanks to Doug and Lorna Elms for the time and effort they put into these sessions.

These photographs were taken by Suzanne Hayes during the lunch break.




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### MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

Cemeteries in County Kerry <http://www.kerrylaburials.ie>

This website is intended to be the first port of call for anyone thinking about searching for or making contact with birth and adopted relatives or researching an adoption that took place in the UK <http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/default.htm>

The Find & Connect Web Resource is for Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and everyone with an interest in the history of out-of-home 'care' in Australia.  
<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>

Somerset parish registers [http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ian.sage/PR/pr\\_index.html](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ian.sage/PR/pr_index.html)

Irish town-land maps <http://www.pasthomes.com>

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### INTENSIVE HUNT ON ISLAND

#### For Escaped Prisoner

#### — Eludes Captors in Scrub

The search for Leopold Hughes, aged 24 years, who absconded from the McLeod penal settlement, French Island, on Sunday night, became more intense last evening, when three employees of Mr. Sambell, of Ventnor, Phillip Island, surprised the man in their hut on Mr. Sambell's property.

Returning to the hut about 8 p.m., Mr. Otto Burkhardt and two boys found a man dressed in a grey suit, heavy boots, and a felt hat on the point of leaving the hut with a quantity of clothes containing 13 in money. While Mr. Burkhardt ran 200 yards to Mr. Sambell's house, and informed the Cowes police, the boys demanded the return of the clothes and money. The man dropped the articles, and ran into dense scrub near the beach.

A search party composed of two officers from the penal settlement and First-constable McGrady, of Cowes, rushed in a motor-car to Ventnor, but, although they saw the flashing of a torch in the scrub, they were unable to find the fugitive. When the torch flashed, less than 40

yards from him, one of the penal officers ran into the scrub, but he fell into a deep drain and lost his torch. Then he ran into a wire fence, and after climbing over it he ran into another fence. Hughes escaped, but the searchers expect to capture him to-day.

In an attempt to delude the searchers Hughes apparently constructed a raft from a wool-press, stolen from the house of Mr. Richard Scott, of French Island, on Tuesday night, and set it adrift. Then he attempted to row to the mainland in a boat stolen from Mr. Hunt's property of Tankerton, French Island, but he was driven on to Phillip Island. The raft was found early on Wednesday morning near Tortoise Head, where the boat was later discovered on Wednesday night. Hughes must have rowed for ten miles while a strong tide was running. His escape is regarded as the most determined ever made from the penal settlement.

A large quantity of food was stolen from the house of Mr. Carl Bussell, at Ventnor, on Wednesday night. As all boats and wharves on Phillip Island are being carefully watched, the fugitive will experience great difficulty in escaping to the mainland.

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## SET IN STONE

Ray Astbury

I've been a non-active member of PI&DGSI for five or six years, as many of you would know from my popping in to have a friendly chat every now and then.

In my early days being such a novice and I still am, those dutiful ones who spent so many hours manning our office, Jan, Jenny, Coral and dear Roz showed me the way around the place when I developed the urge to check out some of my ancestral relatives.

It's getting on three years now that my wheat farmer cousin talked me into doing a trip to England and Scotland and it's nearly that long since I agreed with my aforementioned friends to write about my quite amazing experiences. So, here we go girls, another quite incredible tale for you to add to your no doubt ever growing long list.

After looking around London doing the usual Red Bus tours and paying a visit to see some friends in Wales our trip then took in visits to Cheshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire in England and Ayrshire in Scotland. On this occasion I will cover very broadly my experiences in Staffordshire, my great great grandparents William and Elizabeth Astbury having departed from there on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1849. The ship they sailed on with their six children was the Nelson. There is of course a wealth of information about all that involved their departure and their arrival in Australia.

Apart from the work that was done at PI&DGSI I was fortunate enough that our family has had the benefit of some excellent investigative work carried out by past family historians. However as we all find there are always a great many gaps, which can often be filled in if we go looking. In my case for those who would like to read on, I believe I have been fortunate in making a substantial contribution, particularly where gaps are concerned.

It was late July, summer in England and what a summer, when my cousin and some friends from Wales dropped me off in the main street of Stone in Staffordshire. In order that I could unload the luggage I'd carted along with me I needed to quickly find myself some accommodation. Being a bit of a novice I soon learnt that the go was a backpack with the bare necessities, a change of underwear, water and a snack. Without much trouble I found the loveliest little place, it was called Mayfair House and the proprietors, the Greens were to be the most wonderful of hosts.

Mark Green was a dapper gentleman and as luck would have it, he happened to be the immediate past mayor of the town who could tell me a great deal about the district. Stone would have a population of some fifteen thousand, insufficient unfortunately these days to keep the magnificent old railway station manned. Mayfield House backed onto the canal which Josiah Wedgwood was instrumental in building. This was needed so that he could safely ship his wares from his Barlaston pottery down to London. The highlight of my visit to Wedgwood's pottery was the dinner set on display with the inscription 'Astbury'. Wedgwood actually married his cousin in St Mary's Church located in the town of Astbury across the border in Cheshire however it is more likely that the name Astbury on the dinner set was due to a connection Wedgwood had with the Astburys, also involved in the pottery industry and famous for the Toby Jug.

Some years prior to leaving on my trip I had been told by family historians not to expect too much if ever I were to go to Staffordshire looking for buildings or memorabilia. These cousins had all been headmasters at Victorian High Schools and in their retirement had spent a creditable amount of time checking the family history. They had visited St Michaels in Stone and were told the same as I was soon informed, that the Astbury's had their own box pew and their association dated back to the sixteenth century. They had also established that the Astburys had leased Meaford Farm for about two hundred years which involved seventy year leases. They leased the farm from the Jervis family who resided at Meaford Hall a stately old building which I got to visit. One of the Jervis family became Lord St Vincent and it was on one of his voyages to Australia that Jervis Bay was named after him. Bear in mind these people lived just a short distance, like five minute's walk from the Astburys which in my wanderings between Stone and Barlaston over a period of some four or five days needless to say I found mind boggling.

William and Elizabeth Astbury my great great grandparents left Stone to come to Australia when apparently he was excluded from his father's will. It is said that he was considered the most industrious of the children and that he could fend for himself. Elizabeth was a governess and that might explain how so many Astburys came to be teachers. I might move on but should say that this part of the family's history, as with many many others who came to Australia in the early to mid eighteen hundreds makes for very interesting reading. An addiction of mine.

Within a day of being in Stone I found any number of people who were only too happy to drive me about the place. Amazing. The first big discovery I made, while driving along the outlanes off Meaford Road, by accident I might add, was a very old sign 'Meaford Farm' and about a hundred yards back off the road a lovely old home and cattle sheds. One might imagine how my heart leapt. However I had this uncanny feeling, no, it might not be. My newfound friend Gordon looked at me unmistakably concerned. He hesitated and then informed me that I ought not get too excited

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because he seemed to recall, not that it existed but that there was another Meaford Hall. Hmm. Quite amazingly and something that matched what my family historians had found was that there was in fact just down the road a Meaford Hall but an 'Old Meaford Hall' which Gordon and I visited. This was a very old stately building which dated back doubtless before the sixteenth century. So everything seemed to fit my scene.

On my last day in the Meaford area I was walking along Meaford Road towards Meaford Hall, much more well known than 'Old Meaford Hall' which I had visited in company with my friend Gordon who lived nearby. The sunlight streamed through the magnificent old trees and foliage as I wandered along and I mused over how two centuries earlier my ancestors had probably done likewise. There were few buildings along the road at least nothing that would match a farmhouse where a large family not to mention it's maids and farmhands all resided. Anyway, I had been told by those who had been there a few years earlier that nothing remained so I resolved to put out of my head any unexpected discovery.

I must have been getting close to Meaford Hall I began to think, when up the road there appeared a tavern. It was an Inn and was called The Lakeside Tavern. Out the front on a bench there sat a chap whom I engaged in conversation for probably no more than ten minutes. His name was Peter and I quietly sat and told him what I was about. He mentioned that his ancestors had lived in the area also. He wished me well, saying, "Meaford Hall is just a few minutes walk for you now." "Enjoy your walk". There was something very strange about that encounter. Why I'll never know but for some inexplicable reason we exchanged email addresses. Anyone interested can walk in my footsteps by simply going into Google Earth and punching in the key words Meaford Road, Barlaston. About five minutes walk up Meaford Road from The Lakeside Tavern Inn (Meaford Farm Lower) you will come across Meaford Hall the history of which makes for very interesting reading.



When I arrived back in Australia I began corresponding with my acquaintance from the Lakeside Tavern meeting, Peter Hancock. Some weeks passed by and out of the blue Peter forwarded to me an 1831 map of the Meaford area. I looked at it with a degree of astonishment for on that map there appeared only one building in the vicinity of Meaford Hall and that was Meaford Farm (Lower). Obviously many generations of Astburys along with their farmhands had resided here for two hundred years. The Lakeside Tavern being the only building of this vintage nearby to Meaford Hall had to be Meaford Farm. I consulted with my family historians and they agreed that this map Peter had unearthed was irrefutable evidence of the existence of Meaford Farm Lower. And now, having walked right on past, I can't of course wait to return there.



Another good friend forwarded on to me the 1841 census and on the very same page were listed the occupants of Meaford Hall and Meaford Farm which included William Daniel's mother and some of his brothers and sister and at Meaford Hall some of the remaining Jervis family and servants.

So within a couple of kilometres there were in fact two Meaford Halls, one being called Old Meaford Hall and two Meaford Farms, Upper and Lower. This just goes to show how our search for information about those who went before can lead to something quite profound.

There is one regret I have about this exercise and that is not having the time and I suppose the will to fill in the thousand gaps to this very brief account of what for me was indeed a wonderful experience.

And as for Peter Hancock, I now correspond with him a couple of times a week.

Photos of the Lakeside Tavern: <http://www.yell.com/s/pubs-barlaston.html>  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lakeside\\_Tavern\\_-\\_geograph.org.uk\\_-\\_275893.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lakeside_Tavern_-_geograph.org.uk_-_275893.jpg)

It takes about five or six years for a tree to produce nuts, but this doesn't apply to a family tree

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## CITING OUR SOURCES

### “Sighting our Sauces”

**David Rathgen**

This is an edited version of the talk I gave at the September Forum.

#### **Introduction:**

Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society, Inc. has adopted a Copyright Policy which requires all our members to work towards an acceptable standard with regards to acknowledging other people's copyright and when claiming copyright ourselves.

Each time any volunteer or member uses our rooms and signs their attendance, they are agreeing to adhere to the Society's policy with regard to copyright and the need to cite the sources of their findings.

The need for this policy and this practice has been well described by others. This presentation was made using their experiences.

For example: "Are You a Genealogist, or Just a Collector of Genealogy? My Plea for More Citation of Primary Sources" *This page Copyright 2005 W. Scott Simpson*. Scott Simpson discusses the difference between one who simply collects genealogical data (names, dates, places) and one who makes an effort to understand and explain the links between various people and their ancestors. (see the article in full at [freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vaginealogy/sources.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vaginealogy/sources.htm) 13 Apr 2005)

Marty Grant makes some helpful analogies when we make an assessment of the value of the information we discover on the net, and how other people may assess our work when we publish our findings:-

- **Primary Evidence - From the horse's mouth.**
- **Secondary Evidence - From someone who knew the horse.**
- **Tertiary Evidence - From someone who heard of the horse.**
- **Family Tradition - Grandpa always said that [the horse] ...**
- Cyndi's List - Citing Sources
- **"A Note about Sources,"** by Marty Grant *on www.martygrant.com*

#### **Why do we need to make this effort?**

- Accuracy e.g. the 'Lindsay DNA project' – when compiling my mother's family tree I came across this website. It only allows contributions that are accurate and can be verified.
- Verifiable – cite your sources so that others can check for themselves.
- Integrity – our personal worth is at stake, we need to demonstrate (by citing our sources) that our word is good value and reliable. Don't be afraid of owning up to be the author, the compiler, the editor or whatever, of the work you do (e.g. the Family History of ...); supply a place (e.g. Cowes) and a date (e.g. 2012)
- Reveals where we left off – our children and grandchildren may be curious to know why we stopped at whatever point we did, and thus curious to know where to find our more. By citing our sources we make it possible for them to continue where we had to stop.

#### **How to record sources:-**

- Use your computer's 'Sources' menu: this makes life simpler.
- I use 'Family Historian' 'Family Tree Maker' and other computer programs have similar features to help us compile our list of sources.
- It permits me to "Add: Sources Or Tools: Set automatic Source Citation" this speeds up the whole process.

#### **How to Cite our Sources: Use this basic order:-**

- Author, *Title*,
- Publisher,
- Place of publication,
- Date of publication.

Be consistent – this means that if you use one style to describe the author, use the same style for every author. Whichever style you adopt for the Title, or the Publisher and so on, use the same style all the time.

Here is my own family history book. Whenever we describe our source for the first time, make it as complete as possible.

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- Author: David Rathgen,
- Title: *Going Well, a History of the Papanui Rathgens*;
- Publisher: Rathgen Enterprises,
- Place: Camberwell,
- Date: 2001.

**Subsequent instances may be abbreviated to:-**

- Rathgen, *Going Well*, 2001.

**Books to avoid.**

My German host showed me a manual he had bought from a stall in a local shopping mall. It is a compilation of various papers purporting to show various connections to our family name. It is pretty useless because it has so little information.

- Author: (anon)
- Title: Ratjen Chronik
- Publisher: unknown
- Place: not known though it is written in German
- Date: unknown

That is a fine example of a report we should never use, simply because there are too many unknowns in it. Your work may also become 'suspect' simply because we avoid supplying the sources we use, and we may avoid acknowledging our own work.

**Journals are slightly more complex, but still follow the same basic order, with an additional piece of information called an identifier:**

In the first instance, be as complete as possible:-

- Author (of the article you have found)
- Title: (of the Article)
- Title of the journal where you found the article: 'Ancestor: Quarterly journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc'
- Identifier: vol 31 Issue 2 July-August 2012
- Publisher: © The Genealogical Society of Victoria, Melbourne,
- (page numbers if needed).

In subsequent uses this can be abbreviated:-

- (Author & Title) 'Ancestor' GSV, August 2012. (page numbers)

**In the next edition of Reflections, I will draw attention to citing from computer based data bases and similar references.**

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### **Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery: our backyard**

Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society is calling for submissions for the second in its series Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery:our backyard.

We are now calling for submissions to be received by 1 December this year. Stories about your relative, or friend, are to be approximately 1,000 words maximum. Please send photos separately as good quality jpgs (at least 300dpi).

We will not be including any of those from the first book. However, as this book is in a different format from our Darling Downs Biographical Register series, we will be happy to include people from those books, providing of course that they are buried in 'our backyard'.

If you have any questions, please contact.

Marionne Diggles  
 Hon Sec  
 Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Soc Inc  
 PO Box 2229, Toowoomba BC, Qld, 4350  
 Email: [tddfhs@westnet.com.au](mailto:tddfhs@westnet.com.au)  
 Website: [www.tddfhs.org](http://www.tddfhs.org)  
 Ph: (07) 46 347 377

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I don't know who my grandfather was; I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1809-1865

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