



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 are held during the months of March, June, and September at the Family History Rooms, the Heritage Centre, Thompson Ave., Cowes (temporary rooms : 56 Chapel St., Cowes)

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COMMITTEE members for 2013 - 2014, as elected at the A.G.M. on 21 September , are:

President David Rathgen

Secretary Genevieve Hayes

Vice President Susan Lilley

Treasurer Julie Curran

Committee:

Jenny Adam

Pat Bowen

Jan Andrews

Gail Bridgeman

Liz Bowen

Helen Swaine

Welcome to the committee to Liz and Pat Bowen, and welcome back to Jenny Adam.

The barbeque prior to the A.G.M. was a great success.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 10 am – 3.30pm in our rooms, 56 Chapel St. Cowes

'What's new in Family Tree Maker 2014'

Doug Elms, president of VicGUM, will talk about the latest version of FTM in the morning, and the afternoon will a problem solving session.

Bookings: Please phone Genevieve Hayes – 5956 6340, or email 'FTM October' to
piadgs@gmail.com

End of Year Function : SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER, for lunch at 12 noon at the San Remo Hotel. We need to know approximate numbers. To confirm, please phone Genevieve Hayes – 5956 6340, or email 'End of Year' to piadgs@gmail.com. Also, let us know if you need assistance with transport.

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014 Scottish Interest Discussion Group: at 2pm. in the family history rooms

February 2014 European workshop. Date to be advised

March 2014 Irish workshop. Date to be advised

WHO CARES ABOUT PRESERVING OUR ANCESTORS' MEMORIES?

Genevieve Hayes

After a recent committee meeting a few of us started up a discussion about cemeteries. Why cemeteries? If you are interested in family history, then you know the answer!

One member talked about how she and her husband visited a local cemetery and agreed to share the search for relations' graves and organized how they would do this. The wife trudged around line after line of headstones, graves etc.. Suddenly she realized that she had not heard a word of discovery from her husband. Where was he? Had he fallen down a hole at the corner of a grave? Finally she found him – sitting under a tree – "it's too boring", he said! The wife continued on and found a relations' headstone, and was glad that SHE had continued the search.

My experience in Ireland was also shared with my husband, but had a different outcome. I have been fortunate to make contact with third cousins, whose ancestors remained in Ireland while their brothers came to Australia, and this is from whom I descend.

We visited the parents of these cousins while we were there, and they were able to tell exactly where my great great etc. grandparents were buried. It was an old cemetery out in the fields, in what was probably an old village, but was now reached by a narrow, overgrown track that led us to an old church, cemetery and the obligatory still-occupied farmhouse nearby.

We followed the instructions to find this important grave, wandered around and checked every grave, but it was nowhere to be found. I can only assume that it must be one of the headstones that lay collapsed on the grave and was unable to be read. So close but so far!

Our conversation in the rooms continued on to preserving graves. One member mentioned that she had relations who she had told that their mutual ancestors' graves were in a sad and sorry state. These relations were quite well off, and she thought they might show some interest and have the means to fix the problem. They said they would look into it, but nothing ever happened.

I have three graves that need the lettering made legible those of my grandparents, two maiden aunts and two bachelor uncles .I have had one quote – for approximately \$4.000 – which is not affordable to me! Fortunately I am in contact with twenty three cousins, some of which have the means, and I hope they will help me solve this dilemma.

Once these repairs are made, the graves will not need touching for a very long time, but what about all those other graves which have been neglected? How do we solve that? We all visit the graves of our ancestors, if we can find them, but who maintains them forever? Do we need to do so, or is it better, economically, to have ashes scattered? Who knows . . .

Please could you help? Looking for German Ancestors

David Rathgen

Kathleen called by recently and asked: "How do I go about finding my German ancestors?" In response I asked if she had the death certificate of her father? Unfortunately no, she did not have one as her father was well and truly alive and still very active! My apologies were profuse! However, we start from where we are, so we start to find our German ancestors the same as any other – with ourselves, then with our parents, and their parents also. Kathleen went in search of her father's birth certificate, then for her grandfather's death certificate. As Kathleen was a visitor to our island and as her grandfather was last heard of in Queensland. I suggested the following steps:

- Join the local Genealogy / Family History Society; their enthusiasm and experience will help.
- Get every detail of your grandfather you possibly can - and start by pestering your father, including your father's birth certificate!
- Find your grandfather's death certificate and take note of every detail, including who the Informant was. Find your grandfather's marriage certificate - go to Queensland Registrar of BDM; then check with Rockhampton cathedral(s) (where the family legend has it he married) and see if he was Catholic or Protestant?
- Search "Trove" for his name; restrict the search to Queensland first, then all of Australia after that – they may have publicized the marriage back then.
- If you can find free access to [Ancestry.com](#) (try your local library) then search for him there (restrict to Australian records only). Somebody else may also be searching for the same name.
- Write, phone or email the Queensland Genealogical societies and ask for their ideas and help.
- Two books on my shelves helped me a lot:- "How to trace your German Ancestors" by Owen Mutzelburg; and also "Finding your German Ancestors" by Ronald M Smelser. These are still available from various booksellers or through the Internet. (*Note, there are series of these for other nations – France, Italy, East Europe and so on.)
- Having done all that, check with "GenForum" on the web in case some else has already started a similar search. [www.genealogy.net](#) is a good German site (mostly in German, not English) once you know where abouts he came from. 'Hamburg' by itself is insufficient (-or at least in my experience it is!!)
- Oh! and one other brilliant idea is: join the GSV International Settlers' Group (Genealogical Society of Victoria) They have very helpful ideas and experiences.

Following our U3A Beginners' Classes, we now have some useful handouts in our rooms for starting an International Search.

Australians are individuals – we like to know about people in preference to places; in Europe, however, the place is probably more important than the person! Finding the location is essential to find the family.

Anonymous, Painswick, near Stroud, Gloucestershire:

*My wife is dead, and here she lies,
Nobody laughs and nobody cries:
Where she is gone to and how she fares,
Nobody knows, and nobody cares*

Mary Ann Lowder, Burlington, Massachusetts:

*Here lies the body of Mary Ann Lowder;
She burst whilst drinking a seidlitz powder;
Called from this world to her heavenly rest
She should have waited till it effervesced.*

William Green, Manchester:

*Here lies William Green, who died in Manchester, Sept. 18, 18____.
Had he lived, he would have been buried here.*

MYSTERY SOLVED ON ANCESTRY.COM.AU

Helen Swaine

The old saying of 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again' is very apt at times when searching for those elusive ancestors that seem to have vanished off the planet, as I discovered recently.

When I am doing my duty shifts in the Phillip Island rooms and I have no one to assist, I usually go onto the Ancestry Public Trees to see if there might be a new researcher looking for my relatives.

Last week I came across a Tree in the name of a relative of my husband and the information given on the Tree was so vague and also misspelt that I just had to send a comment to the person involved.

I said that I had a great deal of information about that family and if he/she was prepared to contact me on my home email I would see what I could do to assist. I sent this comment at 3pm and did not really expect a reply – this happens when people are all enthusiastic and join Ancestry for a 14 day trial, key in their details and then don't do anything else as a follow-up.

I arrived home at 4.15 pm, turned on my computer, and 'Bingo' at 4.30 I had a reply. This lady is the youngest daughter of 'Margaret' who disappeared from her home in Queensland at age 17 (in the 1950's) and moved to the southern states. Her family didn't know where she was and she did not keep in touch. She was pregnant to a married man who did not want anything to do with her. She married someone else who became violent when he discovered that the baby was not his. She moved to Melbourne and had a relationship with another man and had two more daughters. That relationship did not last, so 'Margaret' brought up her three daughters alone – she was very tight-lipped about her past, only passing on snippets of information. When she passed way in 2011 her youngest daughter was determined to trace her heritage but had no idea where to start.

For putting that small amount of information into the Public Trees on Ancestry I have been able to put her in touch with a real uncle, a half uncle and four half aunties and numerous cousins. I have emailed her photos and stories of her Grandparents and Great grandparents, and as you can imagine, she is over the moon.

It gives you a good feeling to be able to help someone in this way.

CURIOUS WILLS

In the will proved recently of a Welsh shopkeeper the testator directs, in making provision for his wife, that the benefit to her shall be doled out in the sums of 5/- or 10/- at a time, as his trustees may see fit, giving as his reason –

I have always found through my married life that she had no value of money, nor can keep it when she gets it.

When testators make personal mention of their wives in their wills they are usually complimentary in their terms but one testator, after complaining that his wife had called him an "old pig," left to her –

The sum of one farthing, to be sent to her by post in an unstamped envelope, thereby involving her (at the then current postal rates) In a charge of twopence for excess postage, and a special registration fee of eightpence, because the letter contained coin and was not sent registered.

Another testator left all his property to his daughter on condition that she paid to his son –

The sum of threepence halfpenny for the purchase of a hempen cord or halter for the use of his dear wife, "which I trust she may make use of without further delay."

A well-known railway official stated in his will –

That his estate would have been considerably larger if it had not been for his unfortunate marriage "with the cleverest known legal daylight robber. My association with this perambulating human vinegar cruet I consider to have cost me considerably over £400"

SENIORS WEEK

On October 8 David led a workshop on 'Tell Us a Story'



Standing: Helen Swaine, David Rathgen
 Seated: Pat Bowen, Liz Bowen, Deb Barrett, Robyn McKie, Colleen McCaughan and Lynne Moore

photo courtesy Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

PICTURESQUE VICTORIA.

BY TELEMACUS.

PHILLIP ISLAND.

There are three visits which must be made on Phillip Island—one to the Pyramid, already made, another to Cape Woolamai, and the third to the Nobbies, at the other end of the island. And all that is worth seeing is seen on the journeys these involve, for reaching the Pyramid its greatest breadth is crossed; it is indeed fairly divided by the Pyramid road, and the halves are bisected by the road to the cape. The hotels provide vehicles — stout and substantial waggonettes—with rather plough-horse cattle, for the roads are heavy in places, and the packing of the carriages when a big party proposes to move out is a work of art.

The Nobbies-road lies nearest to the western shore, skirting a fine round hill, the finest building site, I think, on the island where Mr. Richardson purposed to stay till he makes his last shift; and the township of Ventnor, which at present is nothing but a pleasant valley by the sea. Some wretched people have, I believe, been planning a township down there, with every acre subdivided into eight blocks, and streets and lanes laid out, and an evident intent to have a Prahran-like slum or suburb there. I do not think they succeeded very well. I hope they never will succeed. I think it should be enacted by law that outside the township of Cowes, and of Newhaven, perhaps, a less quantity of land than five acres should never be sold. One might imagine that nobody would be so foolish as to buy a quarter of an acre in such a place as Phillip Island, but it is hard to set a bound to the possible limits of human folly in the way of land speculation.

The Argus. Friday 17 April 1936
 Source: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

My hobby is genealogy. I raise dust bunnies as pets

FLOOR: The place for storing your priceless genealogy records

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

Boer War Memorial database project <http://www.bwm.org.au/>

Hidden lives revealed <http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/>

Information about children who were in the care of The Children's Society in late Victorian and early 20th Century Britain

History to Herstory. Yorkshire women's lives from 1100 to the present.

<http://www.historytoherstory.org.uk/>

Emigration from Cornwall <http://www.cornwall-opc.org/Resc/emigration.php>

Ireland Genealogy Projects Databases and links for all Irish counties . <http://www.igp-web.com/>

Who were Walhalla's people? <http://www.walhalla.org.au/news/0810Names.htm>

Julie recommends:

Famine Orphan Girls – Ships to Melbourne from Ireland

<http://www.familytreecircles.com/famine-orphan-girls-ships-to-australia-from-ireland-37811.html>

Ships covered are: Lady Kennaway (arrived 6 December 1848)

Pemberton (arrived 14 May 1849)

New Liverpool (arrived 9 August 1849)

Diadem (arrived 10 January 1850)

Derwent (arrived 25/26 February 1850)

Eliza Caroline (arrived 31 March 1850)

Irish Famine Memorial, Sydney <http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/en/>

Namessite <http://www.namessite.com.au/index.html>

This portal provides the ability for the general public to search and update information about people. It also allows the general community to add appropriate data to assist others in obtaining information.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

The rooms will be closed from 1pm **Saturday 21 December** and reopen on **Tuesday 14 January 2014**



Best wishes for a very merry
Christmas
and a safe and happy 2014

IGA COWES

Anyone shopping at the IGA Grocery store in Cowes, please give our **Shopper Number 595** and all credits will go to the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society Inc. It would be most appreciated by the Committee if you could spare a few points.

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