

Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A00238876

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PRESIDENT : DAVID RATHGEN 0411 118 706

SECRETARY : GENEVIEVE HAYES 5956 6340

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

E-mail: 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,
56 Chapel St., Cowes

Reflections Editor: Jan Andrews

0434 637 205

E-mail: janani@waterfront.net.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are held at our rooms, 56 Chapel St., Cowes

Saturday 20 September

12 pm BARBEQUE LUNCH. Salads, bread, tea & coffee provided. BYO meat and alcohol / soft drink.

2 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's that time of year again, when we ask all members to have a say in deciding who will run the family history group for the next year. If you want to influence the direction that our group takes into the future, come along and vote for the people who you think will do the best job – or stand for election yourself.

Saturday 4 October Family Tree Maker Users Group. Final session for the year

Mrs Sally Horne et al, Kent:

To the memory of my four wives,
Who all died within the space of ten years;
But more partickler to the last, Mrs Sally Horne,
Who has left me and four dear children;
She was a good, sober and clean soul,
And may I soon go to her. AD 1732.
Dear wives, if you and I shall all go to heaven,
The Lord be blest, for then we shall be even.
William Joy Horne, Carpenter.

Joseph Jones, Wolverhampton, 1690:

Here lies the bones, of Joseph Jones,
Who ate whilst he was able;
But once o'erfed, he drop't down dead
And fell beneath the table.
When from the tomb, to meet his doom,
He rises amidst sinners;
Since he must dwell, in heav'n or hell,
Take him - which gives best dinners.

<http://shadowsofetime.co.nz>

Do check our **web page** : www.piadgs.org.au for the latest news from the Group

IGA COWES

It would be appreciated if members and friends could do an occasional / regular shop at the local Cowes IGA store, and use our **Shopper Number 595**. We have been able to take advantage of an occasional \$25 voucher to buy supplies for our BBQs and afternoon teas

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

As this month is the centenary of the outbreak of World War One, I decided to search *Trove* (the National Library of Australia website) for the months of August to December 1914, for any mention of Phillip Island and the war.

I found two mentions of Phillip Island. The first, reported in several country newspapers, was the contribution to the Lord Mayor's Fund by Phillip Island residents of £114/14/-

The second was in what seems to have been a regular column in the *Argus* – '*The Passing Show*', by 'Oriel' :

THE DAY'S DOINGS OF A HUMOURIST

Having mobilised my wife and daughters, and supplied them with food for 12 hours, and seen the jobbing gardener throw up entrenchments where he was putting in a fruit tree, I entrained for town. The first man I met was Lyre Bird, and I told him I'd put my family on a war footing at home. He said it was a happy thought to get our women ready to fight and even the children. They could start practising rifle shooting in the back yard between hanging out the clothes. We agreed that the idea was quite a brain wave that ought to be copyrighted at once.

Then we adjourned to a neighbouring canteen, and he showed me with corks and matches how the fighting was going on. Presently in came Sy. Smith. "Have you heard the latest?" says he. "My greengrocer who supplies Lieutenant Colonel Bluebottle was told by his cook, who heard it from the housemaid, that a fleet of 150 vessels was off **Phillip Island**. It was night and foggy at the time, but the fishermen are sure they saw them. Don't breathe a word," and we said we wouldn't, but I saw Lyre Bird sneak off at once to spread it round town. Not to be done, I said I'd heard not an hour ago from the office boy connected with a firm of city merchants that the head partner had received a private code message that the Chinese Sea had been set alight by the enemy, but not to mention it for a month, as the censor was a great friend of mine, and it might get him into trouble. Then we parted and as a matter of duty I told all Lyre Bird had told me, and of course added a bit of my own, just to polish it up.

Don't think I've ever enjoyed a day so much. When I got home I found my wife at the telephone, listening in a dreadful state of mind to all the yarns I had started in town. How I did laugh! What price me for a humorist?

From the same column:

WAITIN' AT THE GATE

Every day during the week crowds of volunteers for the expeditionary force have stood patiently waiting their turn outside the barracks gate.

I'm only one of a weary crowd, one of
a patient mob,
Waitin' 'ere since nine o'clock fer the
country to gimme a job.
Waiting for the sarjint bloke ter 'oller
out me name.
An let me 'ave jest 'arf a chance ter
take a 'and in the game.

Yes, we're all waitin' at the gate
Easy wit yer shovin', mate!
There's dozens still before
I gits near the blighted door
So I'll jest keep on an' wait!

There's some of us, judgin' by their looks,
is blanky millionaires,
And others wots 'ad to walk ter town ter
save the flamin' fares,
There's Sticks an' Gloves from Collins Street,
there's Grass Seeds from the Bush
There's some like me as used ter be the pride
of a Bourke Street push

An' we're all waitin' at the gate
From early in the mornin' up till late;
But I'd sleep 'ere 'alf the night
If they only let me fight
So I'll jest keep on an' wait!

There's some as say them German coves
might cast a greedy eye
Upon our shores an' come along an' creep
in on the sly
But when our army pushes orf, they must
leave some behind,
So when they comes up 'Obson's Bay, I'll
take me oath they'll find

That we're all waitin' at the gate
An' I tells yer one thing straight
If the Kaiser an' 'is kin
Are waitin' to get in
'E can jest keep on an' wait!

JOHN STEPHEN COOLAHAN MC

Gail Bridgeman

JOHN STEPHEN COOLAHAN MC (known as Stephen) was born in November 1881 in Tamworth, NSW. (His surname is miss-spelt on the NSW BDM as **Coolalan**). He enlisted in the Australian Army for WW1 on 13 December 1915 in Sydney.

In June 1916 John graduated from Duntroon Military College in Canberra as a 2nd Lieutenant. He embarked for the war on 8 November 1916 on the ship *SS Port Nicholson*. He was thirty five years old, single and his occupation on enlistment was a *salesman*. His next of kin was his mother, Mrs. Maria Coolahan of *Latonaville*, St. George's Crescent. Drummoyne.¹



Stephen Coolahan

John joined the *4th Infantry Battalion -22nd Reinforcement* and in April 1917 he was sent overseas to France. In July 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant. John was first wounded in October 1917 and he was nominated for the Military Cross. He was repatriated to a hospital in England to recover and then returned to active service in France in March 1918.



Military Cross

On 26 March 1918 Stephen was awarded the Military Cross ² for "*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer by great exertions got his machine guns and ammunition into position in rear of the objective as soon as it had been gained. He showed splendid pluck and cheerfulness under very heavy shell fire. Through his grip of the situation he rendered great assistance to the battalion commander by the splendid manner in which he handled his guns and by his promptitude in opening fire, which prevented the counter attack from developing*".³

The Military Cross is second only to the Victoria Cross as an award for bravery and was only awarded to officers at that time. John also received the *British War Medal* and the *Victory Medal*.

1st Anzac Corps, October 10, 1917.

DEAR COOLAHAN,—I write to congratulate you very heartily upon the award to you of the Military Cross in recognition of your gallant service in the attack on Westhoek on September 20. I know what untiring energy and courage you displayed in getting your machine guns with ammunition in position immediately in rear of the final objective, and handled them with great effect. Your dashing leadership and promptitude in engaging massing enemy troops helped materially in preventing the development of counter attacks, while your coolness and bravery under heavy fire set a splendid example to your men.

Thank you so much for your good work, and with good wishes for the future.—Yours sincerely,
W. BIRDWOOD.

Tribute to Lt. Stephen J. Coolahan from General W. Birdwood

John was wounded again in April 1918 while in the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion and he was taken as a prisoner of war by the Germans.

He died of wounds on 3 May 1918 at Valenciennes, France aged thirty six years.

1. University of NSW AIF Project

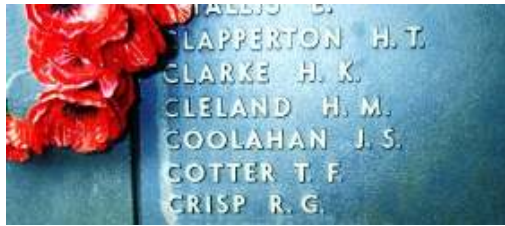
2. National Archives of Australia

3. *Commonwealth Gazette* No. 110, 25 July 1918



He was buried in the *Valenciennes Communal Cemetery* (Plot V, Row D, and Grave No. 23) in France by the Germans who also returned his personal effects to the A.I.F. in London.⁴

John is commemorated at the Australian War Memorial *Roll of Honour* at Panel 175



Gravesite of Lt. John S Coolahan MC in France

In the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918 - Volume 5: the Australian Imperial Force in France during the main German Offensive, 1918* by C E W Bean, John is mentioned twice.

1) *'The Germans also were evidently doubtful as to the line held. In the small hours of the 6th Lieut. J. S. Coolahan - big, brave, rawboned Irish-Australian of the 5th Machine Gun Company- is said to have collided in the dark with a German outside the support company headquarters. "Coolahan grabbed the Jerry," wrote Captain V. B. Portman, "and threw him into the 'bivvy like a bundle of skins.'" Next morning a party of Germans appeared on the edge of the German part of the wood, but was quickly dispersed.*⁵

2) *The Germans annihilated the extreme flank of Portman's company, but did not press on, as they might have done, behind the remainder. Lieutenant Coolahan, who, with a runner, Private Callaghan, accompanied this flank in order to find a place for a machine-gun, was mortally wounded. The gun-crew, anxiously waiting in rear of the wood, saw his runner coming apparently "from the back of the enemy. Coolahan had sent him to fetch Corporal Noble, in charge of the gun. He got through, but Noble, returning with him, found their officer apparently dead. Callaghan was killed; Noble, wounded, returned to his gun - two other crews of the 5th Company tried with fire from farther back to prevent the Germans from entering the southern edge of the wood, and probably they delayed the movement.*⁶

| Sheet II (SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II). | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Regiment or Corps | | 5th MACHINE GUN BATTALION. | | Regimental Number | | |
| *Substantive Rank | | LIEUT | | Christian Name | | |
| *Acting Rank | | COOLAHAN | | John Stephen, | | |
| | | "M.O" | | | | |
| * To be entered in pencil in full-time statements. | | | | | | |
| II | | III | | IV | | V |
| Reason | | Authority of Part II of Order | | Place of capture | | Remarks, and date of capture |
| 15.8.18. | | A.I.F. Hd Qrs | | Reported Prisoner of War Germany. | | London |
| 19.8.18. | | " " " | | " " " | | " " " |
| 29.8.18. | | Letter from Central of War | | Ref. Ord Nohelen France D/O 8/988 10.8.18. DO. 10/387E. | | Frie. of War: now reported Prisoner of War 29.8.18. in German hands. |
| G.O.C. det. of 28.8.18. | | Reported died whilst a prisoner of War in German hands. 3.8.18. from wounds in Rt lung. & side of breast at Kriegelassuratt Valenciennes, France. | | 3.8.18. | | G.I.B.L. 2844. 27.9.18. |
| | | Buried Ehrenfried Valenciennes, France, by German hands. | | | | |
| <i>W. J. [Signature]</i> Officer i/c Records Admin. Hd Qrs. 28.8.18. | | | | | | |

4. Australian War Memorial, *Roll of Honour*

5. Bean, C E W. *Official History of the Australian War of 1914-1918*, Vol. 5, footnote on page 504

6. Bean, C E W. *Official History of the Australian War of 1914-1918*, Vol. 5, page 509

“PATENT CURE FOR A CROSS WIFE”

On the March day in 1863 when the Prince of Wales married Princess Alexandra, the public holiday was celebrated in Keighley, Yorkshire, by a procession through the streets. Fifty men rode in wagons and carts carrying porridge pans, cans, and other household utensils. Afterwards they went into the Royal Oak Inn at Damside and sat down to a dinner of roast beef and nearly a hundredweight of plum pudding.

They were members of the Keighley Hen-Pecked Club, the pots and pans representing ‘the insignia of their order’. Their dinner was provided by their Grand Master, landlord of the Royal Oak, Henry Hargreaves Thompson, better known as ‘Harry Tap’.

Harry Tap had founded the Hen-Pecked Club around 1862, it’s rules comically couched in the language of the friendly societies of that time :

‘Every member of this Club shall work from six o’clock in the morning till nine at night, and fetch the various articles required for household management’

‘Resolved, that he shall go to bed exactly at ten o’clock, and rise at half-past five in the morning, in order to light the fire, sweep the hearth, and make everything ready for the reception of his wife’

‘Instead of the practice of joining a social company over a pint of good beer on a Saturday night, to enjoy himself, he shall black his own and wife’s shoes, go errands, get his supper, and go to bed’

‘The best eatables of every description that can possibly be procured for money must be bought for his amiable wife, while he quietly sits down to a mess of oatmeal porridge, a plate of hasty pudding, or a red herring’

‘All the money which the utmost efforts of our industry can realize, shall be at our wives’ disposal, for the purpose of pleasure trips to Morecombe Bay, or any other place’

Members of the Hen-Pecked Club could hope for a measure of protection. So long as the husband was doing ‘everything proper according to the Rules’, he was not to be ‘annoyed in his household duties by his wife, but be allowed to perform them in a manner worthy of the name of the Society’.

An unfairly scolded member could apply for the loan of a ‘wife-taming cradle’, invented by Harry Tap who had awarded himself a leather medal for it! This was six feet long by two feet wide, on big circular rockers, having a ‘sliding board at the top, which will reach as far as the shoulders, and effectually prevents the occupant from getting out’. The idea was for the husband to fasten his shrewish wife in it (‘if the occupant be of small stature, some bolsters and cushions must be places at the foot of the cradle, so as to keep her snugly in one position’) and give her a rocking.

Of course, it was all in fun – there is no record of anybody actually using it – and lent itself to continuing jokes. ‘Owing to the many applications for the cradle’, states one annual report, ‘we have resolved that every member shall have it in his turn except in cases of urgent necessity.’



FAMILY TREE MAKER USERS GROUP

Another successful Family Tree Maker User Group was held on Saturday, 2 August 2014. The day commenced with Doug Elms helping some of our members with FamilyTree Maker queries. A new member to PIADGS, Christine O'Donnell, was welcomed and introduced to members of our Family Tree Maker User Group.

The afternoon focussed on "Using Charting in Family Tree Maker" with Doug going through the charting process and the different styles of charts that are available through Family Tree Maker.

A special thank you was made to Doug Elms for encouraging and supporting our Family Tree Maker User Group and also for offering his time to help members of our group.



Our next Family Tree Maker User Group will be held on Saturday, 4 October 2014, which will be the last session for the 2014 year.

Members are always welcome to contact Genevieve or myself to catch up in the rooms if they need any extra help with Family Tree Maker.

Suzanne Hayes

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

www.firstworldwar.com

Long long trail <http://www.1914-1918.net>

Fighting the Kaiser. Coburg and the First World War
<http://fightingthekaiser.blogspot.com.au/>

Murphy's register. Records & photos British & allied forces to 1935
<http://www.militaryarchive.co.uk/the-rolls/sources.html>

Victorian soldier http://www.militaryheritage.com/vic_sold.htm

3000+ interviews with & reports on WW1 prisoners of war (British)
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline.pow.asp

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Ellinbank 1874-1974. A history of Ellinbank and district

Hayes, W. R. The golden coast. History of the Bunurong

Lindsay, Patrick Spirit of the digger : then and now

Lyons, F. S. L. Ireland since the famine. 1850 to the present

Peck, Harry H. Memoirs of a stockman

Wright, Ken Mackenzie A land fit for heroes. The story of the soldier settlement of Red Cliffs after World War 1

Wilde, Sally History of Prahran. Volume 2 1925-1990

Noble, W. S. Strzeleckis. A new future for the Heartbreak Hills