



Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

Number 94

August 2015

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Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Saturday 19 September **A.G.M.**

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.

As with all our functions where catering is involved, we need some idea of the number of people attending the BBQ lunch prior to the AGM.

Please RSVP to 'BBQ' < piadgs@gmail.com > by Wednesday 16 September to assist with catering.

Saturday 3 October 1.30 p.m. Family Tree Maker Users Group.

The final session for the year. One of the topics to be covered will be "**Using FTM while Travelling**".

Don't forget that one-on-one training is available to both beginners and advanced users in the rooms via appointment through PIADGS. This training is available throughout the year

Saturday 28 November 12 p.m. Christmas lunch. The venue is as yet undecided. You will be notified as soon as a decision is made. This is a popular function. Do make a note in your diaries to keep the date free.

February 2016. We are hoping to have a speaker on Irish genealogy. More information closer to the date.

You know you are a Genealogy addict when....

.... Eenrum, Baflo and Groningen are household names, but you can't remember what to call the dog.

.... You would rather read census schedules than a good book.

<http://members.home.nl/sjouwke/genealogie/jokes.htm#addict>

25 July – Lucy Nuttall

Lucy Nuttall, branch manager of the Phillip Island Library, spoke about the wide range of on-line resources available to library members through the National Library, State Library of Victoria, and our local library. Library membership is free, and you can apply on line. Lucy's talk was greatly appreciated by the 27 members who attended.

If you were not able to be there on the day, and would like a copy of her hand-out, ask the person on duty in the rooms.



We now have digitized copies of ten volumes of the **Phillip Island rate books**, thanks to a grant from the Bass Coast Shire. Volume one covers the period 1872 – 1874, and volumes three to eleven 1882 – 1900.

Volume two has been damaged by mould, and needs conservation work before it can be digitized. We have applied for a grant for this to be done.

As a result of two other successful grant applications, 'The Genealogist', a UK website that has records not available on other sites, has been added to our resources, and we will be able to develop a new PIADGS website.

HOW TIMES CHANGE:

Researching the descendants of one of our early selectors, I found the following articles on 'Trove'.

**Police Seize Liquor—
Man Appeals**

On Saturday night Hindmarsh police seized 17 bottles of beer and five bottles of wine from premises occupied by Albert George Watt in Manton street, Hindmarsh. Watt applied to Messrs. L. J. Martin and J. Skinner in the Hindmarsh Court today for the return of the liquor, claiming that it was for legal purposes. The justices rejected the application, and ordered the confiscation of the liquor.

The News (Adelaide). Thursday 14 January 1932

Watts, who was a confectioner, had been charged with sly grog selling in 1931 when he sold a bottle of wine to a policeman, so perhaps the long arm of the law felt justified in keeping an eye on him, at least as far as liquor was concerned

Albert George Watts and Henri Horace Marsh, both of Manton street, Hindmarsh, were fined 10/ with £1 costs in the Hindmarsh Court today for having left stationary motor cars without lights on after the street lights had been put out.

The News (Adelaide). Tuesday 10 September 1935

No Wireless Licences

For having failed to have a current wireless broadcast listener's licence as required, the following persons were fined in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday by Mr. Morgan, S.M.:—George Brown, of Gibson street, Bowden, £3, with 10/ costs; Albert George Watts, of Manton street, Hindmarsh, £2, with 10/ costs.

Wireless Licence Inspector Shaw prosecuted.

The Advertiser (Adelaide). Thursday 2 March 1939

An Irish country schoolmaster being asked what was meant by the word 'fortification', instantly answered, with the utmost confidence, "Two twentifications make a fortification."

<http://www.iancantwell.com/humour.php>

RAISING A WRECK

GUNBOAT TO THE RESCUE

BURLESQUE SALVAGE WORK

COSTLY NAVAL METHODS

(by our Special Correspondent)

There was an old dredge called the Dandenong, which had lain for many years in the Yarra scooping up mud. Some people versed in such matters declared that the vessel was not worth the price of a dinghy, excepting for the boiler and crane, and that the hull was fit for nothing but firewood. But the naval authorities wanted a dredge for work at the naval base at Westernport, and they bought the Dandenong for £1,400. All the caulking had fallen out of the seams, but this did not trouble the authorities, and one fine morning the Dandenong was towed down the bay and out of the Heads. No sooner had she dipped into a fair seaway than her seams opened out, and she leaked like a basket, and began to settle down. An alarmed crew stood by the tow line with an axe, and they barely had time to sever it and make their escape over the stern in a dinghy as the Dandenong gave a final plunge and sank, just inside the entrance to Westernport. She went down in thirteen fathoms of water, between McHaffie's Reef and the beach on Phillip Island, about half a mile from the shore. This was on February 8. The tug returned to Melbourne, having placed a buoy over the wreck, and reported the total loss of the latest addition to the Commonwealth navy.

The authorities determined to recover the unseaworthy craft. Some fifty men were detailed for the work. They proceeded to the scene in the torpedo boats Countess of Hopetoun and Childers. After cruising about Westernport Harbour for three days, the buoy marking the scene of the wreck was located, and preparations were made for beginning the salvage. Headquarters were established at Cowes, on Phillip Island, and the torpedo boats "fussed" between that port and the wreck with a most businesslike appearance. A few fishermen and other nautical folk were very sarcastic regarding the salvage operations. They sneered because the torpedo boats collided with the diving boat and smashed away half her gunwale, rammed the wharf in making alongside on various occasions, thereby causing damage to both naval property and the pier, ran into a buoy which marked a dangerous shallow, and got stuck on sandbanks while casting off to proceed to the wreck.

Two divers accompanied the torpedo boats. One was the diving instructor to the navy, and by reason of his superior knowledge, he had to descend to the wreck by himself on almost every occasion, leaving the other man on the surface to descend to his help should he be in danger. The old dredge lay in what is regarded as the worst spot in the harbour, where the tide runs up to seven or eight knots, producing, in any sort of breeze, a fierce "rip" that is described as far worse than that at Port Philip Heads. Necessarily, therefore, the work was one of difficulty and danger. The diver found himself swept by the rapid currents and he was only able to go down for half an hour between the ebb and flood tides. He succeeded in getting a wire rope round part of the wreck, and fastening the end to a buoy on the surface, but during the intervals of descent the wreck stood on end from the bed of the sea, owing to the rush of the current, and the hawser was washed away from the hull. This experience was several times repeated. Had two divers gone down together, it is pointed out, one to the stern of the wreck, and one to the bow, they would have been able to connect two hawsers, and buoy them together so that they would hold like stays. Then the lines could have been made fast to a couple of barges at low tide, and at high tide they would have been raised above the seabed some 15ft., and the whole concern could have been towed inshore by a powerful tugboat. Such representations were made to headquarters, but the idea was rejected. A tug would cost too much, and another diver was not available.

The authorities, however, saw another way out of the difficulty, and the gunboat Protector, on her way from Adelaide to Hobart, was communicated with. She was ordered to proceed to Westernport, and lend assistance to the work of salvage. The Protector arrived in the harbour yesterday week. On the following day a hawser was passed around the wreck, and was made fast to the gunboat at low tide. At high tide the wreck was taken in tow, jumping and scraping along the seabed. She was drawn along for a hundred yards or so when there was a violent bump, and the hawser parted. Having done so much, the gunboat continued on her voyage to Hobart.

On Tuesday last the diver went below again to examine the wreck. When he reached the surface again he was, he was intensely amused. He found that the Protector had pulled the ancient dredge to pieces. The three weeks' salvaging had cost more than the rotten old vessel was worth, and ended all hope of raising her.

However, the men o' warships had been having a most enjoyable time, and were loth to leave the scene. There was yet hope that the anchor and cables might be recovered, and so

the two torpedo boats remained in the harbour, and the diver went down again every day, except when the weather was inclement. The torpedo boats are still engaged in the "salvaging".

But this break in naval routine has not been absolutely barren of good results. All the men aboard the torpedo boats declare that they have put on weight since it commenced. Holiday-makers, too, have derived great amusement from it. They enjoy trips to the wreck, and take snapshots of the divers in their picturesque costume.

The two torpedo boats have been down at Phillip Island for nearly a month, and the cost per day of running these tiny war craft, including coal, provisions, and salaries, amounts to about £25 each. In addition, the cost of towing down the two barges was £80 and four enormous beams of oregon, to assist "salvaging" operations, cost £100. Incidental expenses will run into another £100. Altogether it is estimated the salvaging will have cost the Naval department about £2,000. This, added to the cost of the ancient dredge, in the best instance, brings the total up to £3,400. The critics of our naval administration down at Westernport, experienced nautical men some of them, declare that the affair is nothing short of shameful. They declare that the dredge would in all probability have been safely raised and beached in three or four days by the aid of a powerful tugboat, three divers, and a couple of men with a knowledge of salvage work.

The Argus. Saturday 8 March 1913
Source: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

WISH LIST

- I want ancestors with names like Rudimentary Montagnard or Melchizenick von Steubenhoffmannschild or Spetzntatz Giafortoni, not William Brown or John Hunter or Mary Abbott.
- I want ancestors who could read and write, had their children baptised in recognised houses of worship, went to school, purchased land, left detailed wills (naming a huge extended family as legatees), had their photographs taken once a year - subsequently putting said pictures in elaborate isinglass frames annotated with calligraphic inscriptions, and carved valuable and informative inscriptions in their headstones.
- I want relatives who managed to bury their ancestors in established, still-extant (and indexed) cemeteries.
- I want family members who wrote memoirs, who enlisted in the military as officers and who served in strategically important (and well-documented) skirmishes.
- I want relatives who served as councilmen, schoolteachers, county clerks and town historians.
- I want relatives who "religiously" wrote in the family Bible, journalising every little event and detailing the familial relationship of every visitor.
- In the case of immigrant ancestors, I want them to have arrived only in those years wherein passenger lists were indexed by the National Archives, and I want them to have applied for citizenship, and to have done so only in those jurisdictions which have since established indices.
- I want relatives who were patriotic and clubby, who joined every patrimonial society they could find, who kept diaries, and listed all their addresses, who had paintings made of their houses, and who dated every piece of paper they touched.
- I want ancestors who were wealthy enough to afford, and to keep for generations, the family homestead, and who left all the aforementioned pictures and diaries and journals intact in the library
- But most of all: I want relatives I can FIND!!!!

Source: <http://members.home.nl/sjouwke/genealogie/jokes.htm>

Anne Jennings, Wolstanton:
*Some have children, some have none,
Here lies the mother of twenty-one.*

Anonymous, near Warwick:
*Poorly lived and poorly died
Poorly buried and no one cried.*

<http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>

Have you ever tried searching the newspapers on Trove for 'Cowes'? I was looking for articles relating to the Island between August and October 1915 for this edition of 'Reflections'. Having tried 'Phillip Island', 'Ventnor', 'Rhyll', 'Newhaven' and 'San Remo' as search terms, I then tried 'Cowes' – and got 28,688 results. Yes, you guessed it - the majority of the articles relate to COWS!

I had neither the time or the inclination to trawl through all those pages in the hope of finding something of general interest, but I did notice this one.

I know it's not family history, **BUT** I have a set number of pages to fill. **ARTICLES ARE NEEDED** – 2 lines to 2 pages in length. Anything relating to family history : how to, interesting people you have researched, problems you have encountered in your research. Anything you think might interest other members of our group. I have run out of material for 'Reflections'. **unless members send me articles for inclusion in 'Reflections', 'cows'. rather, than 'Cowes', will probably continue to feature.**

ESSAY ON COWS

A schoolmaster asked his pupils to write an essay on cows, and a farmer's son produced the following – or so it is said.

'The cow is a no-bull and kine-hearted creature. The man who looks after cows is called a cow-herd, but he is no coward who looks after cows. Cowes has a regatta every year, yet the cow is not a nautical animal. It is reported that the cow sat at the head of the table in the Ark – so say ark-cowologists – because she was the only animal that could calve. The cow is a good mother, and will look calfter her calf. Cows exist by means of oxygen in the atmosphere. I got this from a professor at Ox-ford. By the cow is the milk made. I know this to be true for I have seen the milk-maid by the cow. The cow has been introduced into song. There is an old song called 'The Soldier's Steer.' This was written in beef flat, as also was the very pathetic ballad, 'For Heifer and Heifer.' The cow's sex is sometimes rather complicated. To call a cow an ox is to make a bull. Crutches for cows are called acoustics. A cow likes resting. It will sleep in its shed and lie on the grass, but it will not stretch itself on a couch; it does not go sofa as that. A cow does not carry on an argument very obstinately; it will soon give whey. Cows seem to do pretty well, for even at death they generally manage to make both ends meat. I can't think cow it is that so many calves die young. Perhaps the butcher could re-veal the secret.'

Port Fairy Gazette. Monday 18 October 1915

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

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 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 has no value of money, nor can keep it when she gets it.

When testators make a 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 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 of 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 daylight robber. My association with this perambulating human vinegar cruet I consider to have cost me considerably over £400."

The Argus. Saturday 14 October, 1922

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

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

- Battle to farm : WW1 soldier settlement records in Victoria
<http://soldiersettlement PROV.vic.gov.au>
- Jersey Heritage catalogue <http://remote.jerseyheritage.org/>
- History of Scottish mining <http://scottishmining.co.uk/index.html>
- Irish genealogical resources <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/index.html>
- Scottish BDM exchange <http://www.sctbdm.com/index.php>
- Ireland reaching out <http://www.irelandxo.com/home>
- Discovering Anzacs. Personal stories of Australian & New Zealand service men & women through archival records. <http://discoveringsanzacs.naa.gov.au>
- Researching New Zealand soldiers
<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/researching-first-world-war-soldiers>
- Werribee – the area, its people and heritage
<https://www.flickr.com/groups/799686@N21/discuss/72157621764153791/>
- Churches in Oxfordshire <http://in360degrees.co.uk/oxfordshirechurches>
- Rodney Hall's mariners database <http://rmhh.co.uk/mariners.html>



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Reid, John & Chisholm, John | Ballarat - Golden city |
| Hilton, Phillip & Hood, Susan | Caught in the act. Unusual offences of Port Arthur convicts |
| Caire, N. J. | Views of Bendigo |
| Morris, Kenneth | Our school by the sea 1976 -1989 (Newhaven College) |
| Bevege, Margaret | Worth her salt. Women at work in Australia |
| Bate, Weston | Lucky city. The first generation at Ballarat: 1851-1901 |
| Appleyard, Reg | The ten pound immigrants |

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.