

Reflections

Newsletter of the
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Genealogical Society Inc.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are planning a Family Tree Maker problem solving session in March. Further details will be sent out later.

WEBSITE

We have received a grant to create a new website so that we can provide current information for our members and the public. It will also advertise events, include interesting articles, and give research hints. A new Facebook page is also planned.

Recommendation for a **Forensic Genealogy book series** by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Discovered by an ad from Gould Genealogy, I am finding this series of novels very enjoyable and addictive reading. It relates to my love of family history research and I have found a few hints as well! His books are easy to read and alternate between the past and the present. They are available through inter-library loan from My Community Library www.myli.org.au (Baw Baw, Bass Coast and South Gippsland), Gould Genealogy Store and can be downloaded to Kindles through Amazon.

There are 11 books in the series. You can download his first book The Asylum (short story) for free from the author's website –

www.nathandylangoodwin.com (Books tab, then Forensic Genealogist Series and follow prompts)

Happy reading! Lynne Saunders

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered radio. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

School Boy Howlers (source unknown)

Saturday 4 February. Pre Special General Meeting BBQ

The BBQ was an enjoyable social gathering for those who were able to attend.



DID YOU KNOW?

That the phrase 'God bless you!', uttered when a person sneezes, derives from the 6th century? It was believed that when a plague-stricken victim sneezed, death was imminent.

Cleugh, James. Loved locked out. A survey of love, licence and restriction in the Middle Ages. (1963)

A LOCAL HISTORY - Thomas Cameron Hull, Esq.

Pamela Rothfield

Phillip Island and District Historical Society



A beautifully illustrated copy of a Certificate of Appreciation dated June 27, 1896 came to the surface in the Society's collection during the pack up and relocation of the Society's historic collection. This certificate was honouring Thomas Cameron Hull, Esq. acknowledging him as a 'firm friend and, in a word, a true man in every sense'.

The wording on the certificate describes Mr Hull as a good neighbour and states that during his nine years of residence on Phillip Island, his esteem and regard had been 'deservedly won'.

The document (left) was signed by nineteen upstanding local gentlemen, including many of the Island's 'aristocracy', such as William Harbison, John Cleeland, Solomon West, John West and Joseph Hoddinott.

So who was Thomas Cameron Hull?

Aside from a scant entry in the San Remo Police Court records three months before his departure from the Island, when he sued Henry Smith, a local boatman from Cowes, for insulting behaviour, there is almost no evidence of his existence on Phillip Island. (By the way, Henry was forced to pay a fine of 20 shillings with an additional 2 shillings and 6 pence costs for the abuse.)

Thomas Cameron Hull was born on the ship *Osceola* which arrived in Adelaide in April 1851. He was the son of Adam and Elizabeth Hull - their second born child. Descendants of Adam Hull suggest that Adam was a philanderer – having had at least 19 children by five different women – in fact three of his children were born in the same year. Elizabeth eventually developed dementia, which possibly served as an escape from the reality of her life with Adam.

Such was the environment that Thomas was born into.

In Adelaide in 1868, at the age of seventeen, Thomas married a woman, Catherine, who was 14 years his senior. They had three children together, however, by about 1883 they had entered into a formal 'Agreement of Separation'.

Thereafter Thomas together Annie Stewart moved to Victoria from South Australia, where they married in Melbourne under the name of Thomas and Annie Cameron in 1887. On his marriage certificate Thomas records himself as a bachelor without children and his father as being 'William Cameron Dec'd.', whereas in fact his father, Adam Hull, was very much alive. This distortion of the truth was no doubt due to him not being officially divorced. It is unknown if Annie was aware of this deception. Thomas' occupation was a farmer at the time of his marriage to Annie.

It was in 1887 that Thomas and his wife Annie moved to Phillip Island where Thomas took on the role of farm manager for William Harbison's extensive landholdings.

Whilst on Phillip Island, Thomas and wife Annie had four children, however it seems that Annie made the arduous journey back to her sisters in South Australia to give birth to a number of them. Interestingly, it appears that the surname Cameron was used only on the



A Young Thomas Cameron Hull

birth record of their first child, thereafter the remaining three children received the Hull surname, including his daughter, Hilda Mabel, who was born on Phillip Island in 1890.

Despite these documentary transgressions, during his time on Phillip Island Thomas obviously displayed great character and honesty, and earned the trust and respect of those esteemed gentlemen of Phillip Island who conveyed their appreciation of his service to the local community upon his departure in 1896, by the presentation of the Certificate.

After the presentation Thomas and Annie and their five children moved to Toongabbie, just north of Traralgon, having purchased a property called 'Ferny Estate' where he ran sheep and cattle. Thomas also became a much-loved member of the local community there. A few years after moving into the district, he is reported to have accommodated a distressed farming family in a three-roomed cottage for six months as well as providing them with '100lb of flour, a bag of potatoes and 100lb of meat free of charge'.

His generosity and empathy for those in need would have once again earned him the respect he had received on Phillip Island.

In 1903 in neighbouring Glengarry, a banquet was held in Thomas' honour by members of the local community to 'show the respect in which he was held by the people of Glengarry for the honorable way in which he had carried out the recent election for the Toongabbie Riding of the Rosedale Shire.'

Despite attempts by his opponent 'to blacken Mr Hull's character', Thomas lost his bid for the council election by only ten votes. At this banquet, after many speeches of support, the organising committee presented Thomas with a handsome marble clock, with a brass plate "Presented to T.C. Hull, Esq., by friends and supporters in the 1903 election of Rosedale Shire."

His supporters, of course, hoped that he would contest the next election.

Unfortunately, five months later at 5pm on March 16, 1904, Thomas was critically injured as his horse drawn buggy was hit by a train at the Toongabbie railway crossing. He died five days later of serious head injuries. Thomas was only 53 years old and left no will. After his death Annie returned to South Australia and then another story began as to who was the rightful widow of Thomas Cameron Hull,, Esq.



Annie Hull (nee Stewart)

Phillip Island's artist of brush and palette fame (Mr. G. Whaley) is also of an enterprising turn of mind, judging by his latest development. On the foreshore at Cowes for some weeks he had been at work building a house-boat in which he purposed taking excursions to Woolamai and elsewhere, when they come on visits to the island. The house-boat will be furnished with a cabin containing bunks to hold several persons, and all the necessary etceteras that go to make a floating house a comfortable home for the time being, have been arranged for by Mr Whaley. Some very nice examples of the latter's brush have been on show in several of the business houses at various times throughout the year. To say that he is an enthusiast in portraying the beauties of nature on canvas is putting it very mildly. Cape Woolamai with its magnificent scope for the painter appeals strongly to Mr Whaley. We wish him every success in his enterprise.



Text: Frankston and Somerville Standard. Friday 11 May 1923

Photo: C. K. Newman

CUT OFF WITH A SHILLING

This phrase, rather old-fashioned now, was a favourite of irate fathers in Victorian novels, as was the practice - or atleast the threat - of disinheriting the prodigal son . . . and occasionally a wayward daughter.

A common error is to say *cut off without a shilling*. But, with or without, why the *shilling*?

Most probably because of a widespread but mistaken belief that complete disinheritance was illegal in English law - that some token bequest must be made to an eldest child or atleast one's eldest son. If that were omitted, it was thought, the disinherited son could invalidate the will by alleging that his father must have been of unsound mind when drawing it up.

A shilling legacy was thought to be large enough to make the will legal - and it was certainly, like the traditional farthing damages in libel cases, small enough to be derisory.

Kahn, John. The Cat's out of the bag. The stories behind some everyday expressions (Reader's Digest, 1989)

GENEALOGY POX

WARNING – VERY CONTAGIOUS

SYMPTOMS: Persistent complaint manifesting itself in need for names, dates and places. Patient usually has a blank expression and is sometimes deaf to spouse and children, has no taste for work of any kind, except for feverishly looking through records at libraries and societies. Has compulsion to write letters.

Has been known to swear at postman when he leaves no mail. Frequents strange places, such as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas and makes secret night-time telephone calls, and hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self, and has a faraway look in eyes.

TREATMENT: No known cure.

Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse. Patients should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is that the sicker the patients gets, the more he or she enjoys it

Source unknown

Obviously written pre-computers – but still relevant!

FREE INTERNET SITES

If you have German ancestors, you might find it helpful to visit the Lutheran Archives page:
www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/lutheran-archives

New Zealand: Otago & Southland Presbyterian Baptisms & Marriages
<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/archives>

Database of passengers that arrived in South Australia between 1836 and 1964
<http://passengersinhistory.sa.gov.au/about>

Chinese Heritage Interest Network
chinese-heritage.tripod.com

Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria (CAFHOV) – an organization established to provide a forum to investigate, study and document Chinese Australia.

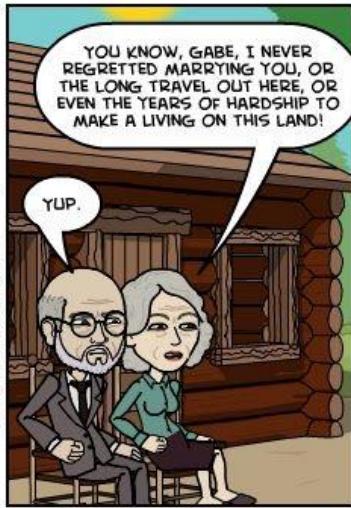
www.cafhov.com

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

would be the outcome of the day's work was beyond the expectations of Mr. Jenner, more particularly when there was a probability of the day turning out wet after the downpour of Sunday, which was continued up till daylight on Monday. But the day turned out fine and favourable in every respect, for even the mosquitoes—which are usually extremely active after heavy rain—suspended operations, so as to in no way impede the progress of the good work. In all, thirty single horse loads and six from 2- to 4-horse loads of wood were carted in and stacked in the Presbyterian church grounds, preparatory to being cut up into stove lengths. The ladies of the committee provided afternoon tea for the workers, and Mr. C. Williams expressed the committee's thanks to all who had given their services, as well as those who had donated the wood. Mrs. A. Smith took numerous photographs of the teams arriving and the immense pile of wood, with the workers in the foreground. It is hoped that this splendid and practical way of helping the hospital will become an annual one.

Frankston and Somerville Standard. Wednesday 11 February 1925

GENEAPALOOZA



BY ESTO FRIGUS

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.