



Reflections

Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

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From Elaine Alexander (President) Our Treasures, Troubles and Tea afternoon (23rd March) was a great success. Members entertained us with tales of family and childhood. Some of the treasures were beautiful pottery, fossicking finds, christening gowns, handmade apprentice metal objects, an original naval record, pocket watch and velvet paintings. A sumptuous afternoon tea was followed by a discussion of research problems. Thank you to those who attended and to the committee who provided the food, lovely crockery and set up the room. **We hope to hold another social occasion in June where members can enjoy meeting with other researchers in a friendly atmosphere.**



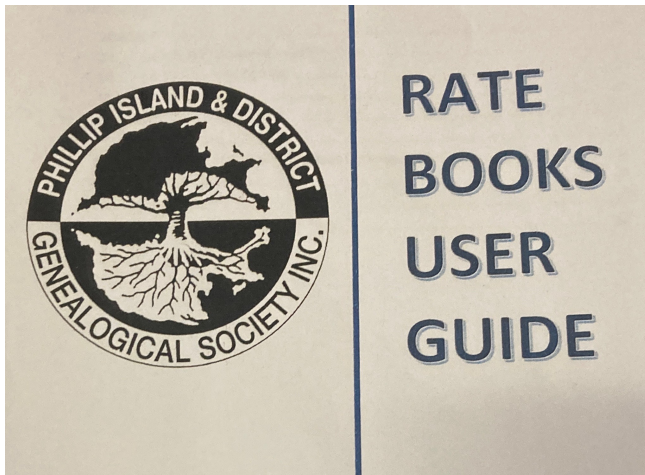
Family History Tips, Hints & Helps Utilizing Unclaimed Letter Lists in the Newspapers

Did you know historical newspapers published a **list of names** for those with unclaimed letters at the post office? These lists can provide valuable clues when researching your ancestors.

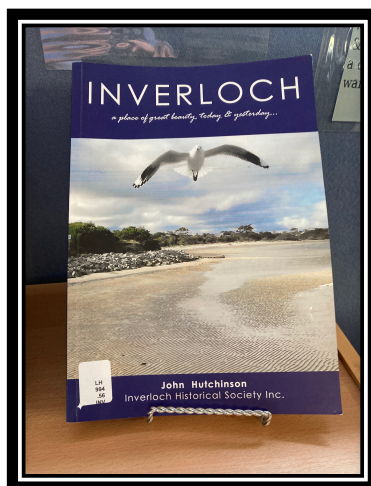
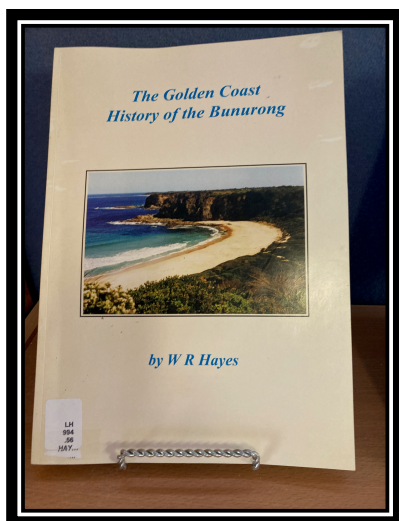
**(GSV e-News) 4 million
German marriage records**

MyHeritage has added a large collection of marriage certificates from **North Rhine-Westphalia** from **1874 to 1899**. This unique collection is provided by the Landesarchiv NRW, and comprises almost 4 million searchable individuals. The collection contains scanned images of the original records.

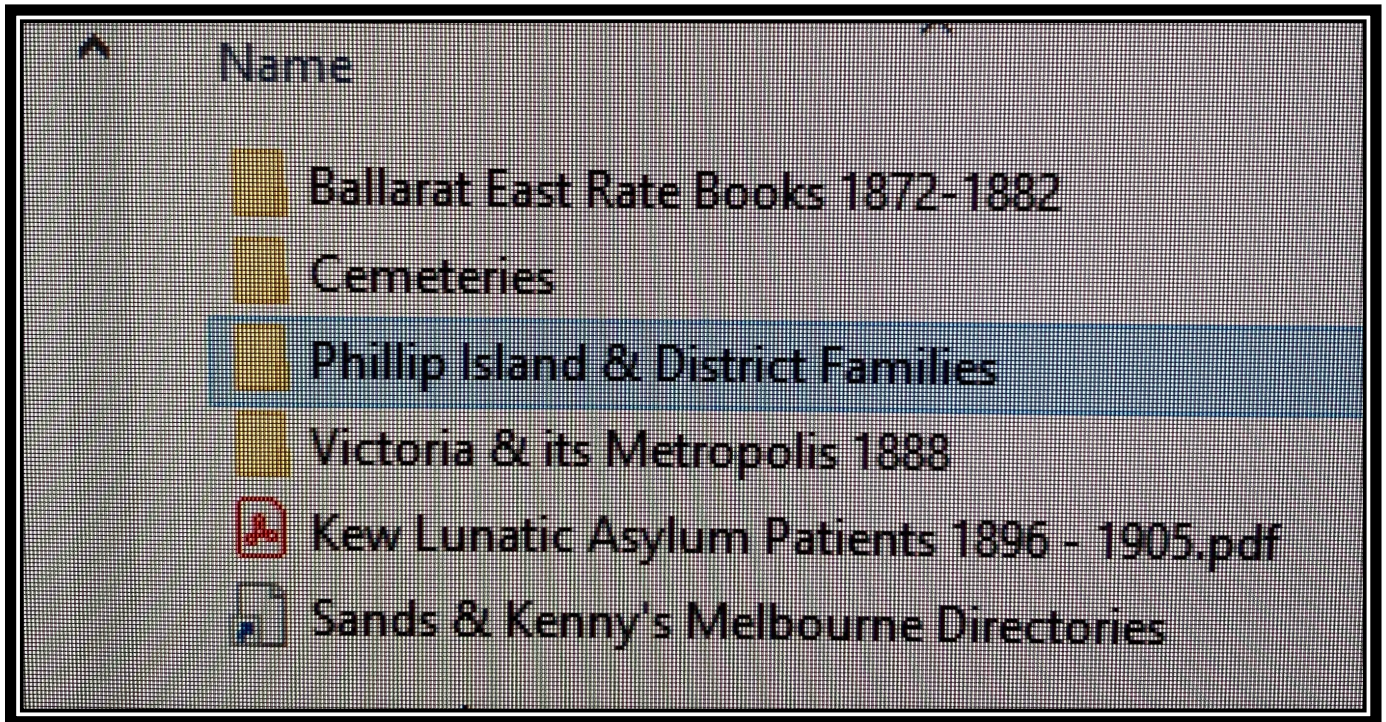
Researching local Phillip Island Settler families? Check out the Rates Books on computer 2 Or see Gail (Librarian) for a look at the hard copy versions. Gail can be found at the Rooms on a Thursday morning (10am - 1pm)



Have you checked out the Library lately – did you know you can borrow any of the books on the shelves. A couple of books have recently joined the collection:



What else can you find on Computer 2:



Not many of us are mathematicians, so we have a difficult time figuring out the date of birth when given only the death date and the age given in years, months and days. There is a way, however, to determine this necessary piece of genealogical information.

There is a formula known as the "8870 Formula" which is explained below:

Let's say you have the death date of an ancestor as 6 May 1889, with the tombstone note that he was 71 years, 7 months, and 9 days old at the time of death.

Write the date as 18890506 (1889 May 6)
subtract - 710709 (71 yrs. 7 mos. 9 days)

the result 18179797
then subtract - 8870

resulting in 18170927 (date of birth = 1817 Sep. 27)


As found in the Sept./Oct., 1991 and
Mar./Apr., 1992 issues of Everton's
Genealogical Helper

On Facebook? Got an old photo you cannot date? Check out

Genealogy CLUES- Dating Old Photographs

This is a private group with over 23,000 members.

Once you have joined the "page" you can upload a photo and ask for help from their experts in identifying the date.



Family Tree Maker® Users
Harriet Girdley · 8 h · 🗨️

SPIDER-MAN ALERT!!

I know you've all been warned about scammers, but unfortunately one can be quickly "ensnared" by unauthorized support! To launch a session with the legitimate **Software MacKiev-authorized Live Chat**, please refer to: **Guide 1.07** or the **FEATURED Live Chat** thread for a link! **REMEMBER**: they are available 24/7, their support is **ALWAYS** free, and it is a computer-based session and **NEVER** by phone.

How about you bookmark this link in your browser for the next time you need FTM technical support: <https://www.mackiev.com/techsupport/ftm/livechat.html>

Perhaps you saw Jan L Fisher's earlier post (subsequently removed) where she "raved" about what she thought was Live Chat support for quickly resolving her request for a software reinstall on her new computer. As many of us read her post, it mentioned a 'telephone call' that immediately turned-on our "Spidey Senses" (like Spider-Man's supernatural ability to perceive danger) that something was amiss.

Per Jan L Fisher: "The scammers are tricky! When I Googled Family Tree Maker yesterday, I came up with a site that looked very like the MacKiev site ... it even had a Live Chat box that popped up and looked similar, except there was no "Request a Transcript" option to check. And that's where my problem started. The site I Googled looked amazingly real, so don't be fooled like I was. It made for a very stressful few hours and I can't say enough about the amazing volunteer administrators of the Family Tree Maker Users group and the recovery support provided by MacKiev Live Chat."

Some Free Genealogy Websites:

FreeBMD (<https://www.freebmd.org.uk>)

FreeREG (<https://www.freereg.org.uk>)

GRO BMD Indexes after 1837 - Births give mother's maiden name
(<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>)

FMP - all indexes are free and it's possible to utilise these to build a family
(<https://www.findmypast.com.au/page/free-ancestry-records>)

National Burial Index (<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/projects-nbi>)

QLD BMD indexes (<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research>)

TINSTAAFL - <http://tinstaafl.co.uk>

James Morrison of The Waterman's Arms

Pamela Rothfield

For most Australians, the name James Morrison brings to mind jazz music. However, to the residents of Griffith Point (now San Remo) in the 1870s, James Morrison was a respected publican and shopkeeper.

Born in Scotland in 1830, James Hunter Morrison was the son of a stonemason. He moved to Australia from London, where he had trained as a baker. In 1857, James and his wife Mary arrived in Australia, settling in Prahran where he worked as a baker and grocer. His rivalry with another baker, F. H. Cornell, led to several confrontations, one of which ended up in court on 24 March 1870 after Cornell accused James of striking him with a whip. James denied the allegations but was found guilty, fined 20 shillings, and ordered to pay costs of 23 shillings and sixpence. Later that year, James faced financial ruin and declared insolvency with liabilities far exceeding his assets. Nevertheless, he cleared his debts within a year.

By the early 1870s, James had turned his fortunes around, becoming a storekeeper and baker in Griffith Point. In December 1873, he secured a Publican's License and opened The Waterman's Arms Hotel, a nine-room establishment that also included a grocery store. At the time, only two other hotels existed in Griffith Point, The Pier, owned by John Cleeland and a smaller accommodation house likely to have been called Bergin's Hotel.



Griffith Point was bustling at this time due to coal mining in the area. A jetty facilitating the transporting of coal was built in 1874. At the same time Thomas Bergin was in a spot of bother in the courts facing conspiracy to fraud charges and in July of 1874 the Sheriff in the colony of Victoria offered for public auction, “the whole of the stock in trade of a storekeeper and publican, including book debts, and also defendant’s interest in a publican’s licence.”

James Morrison passed away at his hotel on 21 March 1875 due to diabetes complications. With no local cemetery, his body was transported across the channel to Phillip Island for burial—a challenging journey of eleven kms on the rough, unmade track.

James left his estate, valued at over £300, to his wife Mary; the couple had no children. It is believed that Mary eventually sold The Waterman's Arms to Thomas Bergin, after which it became known as Bergin's Hotel and later, the San Remo Hotel. The building was extensively renovated but still stands today, albeit with a different facade.

It remains unknown if the musician James Morrison has ever performed at the venue that shares his name.



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.