

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 33, Autumn-May 2008 edition

(Sub group of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc.)

Inverlochy Log



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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is Housed in the Anglesea Historical Society Museum

McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.00am — 12.00pm
or until 2.00pm on request

Meetings

The 2nd Thursday of the Month
commencing at 10am at the
Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

enquiries:

Norma Phone 52616239
Pat Phone 52896686

Forthcoming Meetings

June Meeting: Lorraine Phelan
“Chain Migration”

July Meeting: Pam Jennings
“Land Records”

August Meeting: John Parsons
“It’s a small world”

September Meeting:
“Show & Tell”

Please submit topics of interest

The New Committee Members 2007-2008

Chairperson
Secretary

Treasurer
Librarian

Committee Member
Committee Member

Newsletter Editor/ Vice Chairperson

Norma Morrison: normamor@tpg.com.au
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articles published in this magazine

WALKDEN FAMILY AND THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

Submitted by Jan Morris

It was 1864 when love blossomed across what is now the Painkalac Creek. On one side of the creek lived the Pearse family, including twins Elizabeth and Sarah. Their father Tom Pearse (who is buried on the cliff-top near the Aireys Inlet lighthouse), was part owner of the Angahook Station or Squatting Run. Elizabeth looked out across the creek and dreamed of the future. It was on the other side of the creek that Frederick Dougan Walkden was managing the Ayreys Inlet Squatting Run. Aireys Inlet was sparsely populated. There was no lighthouse, no shops, school or other houses. This meant there were few suitors for a young lady. So when Fred, a young widower arrived at the Ayreys Station, Elizabeth's heart began to flutter.

Fred Walkden belonged to a family with a rich history. His mother Mary had been involved with her father's work back in London before she married. Mary's father, a solicitor, had been passionate about the abolition of the slave trade in England. Mary, like her father, believed no one had the right to own another person, and so she worked tirelessly to stop slavery.

In 1805 the English House of Commons passed a bill that made it unlawful for any British subject to capture and transport slaves, but the measure was blocked by the House of Lords. Some people involved in the anti-slave trade campaign argued that the only way to end the suffering of the slaves was to make slavery illegal. However it was not until 1833 that Parliament passed the Slavery Abolition Act, introduced by William Wilberforce. Just what was the connection between the Walkden family and antislavery.

One only has to glance at the names of the children and grandchildren of Mary Walkden to recognise many names from the anti slavery trade activists, known.

- Anna Venn Walkden and John Venn Walkden, Mary's two eldest children, were given 'Venn' as their second name, after the religious leader of the Clapham Sect, Anglican Vicar John Venn.
- Agnes Stephen Walkden was given the name Stephen after MP James Stephen who was a strong support the Clapham Sect.
- Frederick Dougan Walkden was named after Mary's father John Dougan, who freed his slaves in the West Indies. After returning to England he was commissioned by Lord Bathurst to report on the conditions of slaves in the West Indies. Owing to his ill health, it was his daughter Mary who completed the document which was presented to parliament. This document played a vital role in the abolishment of slavery in 1832.
- Walter Wilberforce Walkden was named after William Wilberforce and who led the campaign in the House of Commons.
- Percy Babington Walkden was named after Thomas Babington Macaulay, barrister and member of the House of commons, where he used his influence to help achieve the antislavery act.

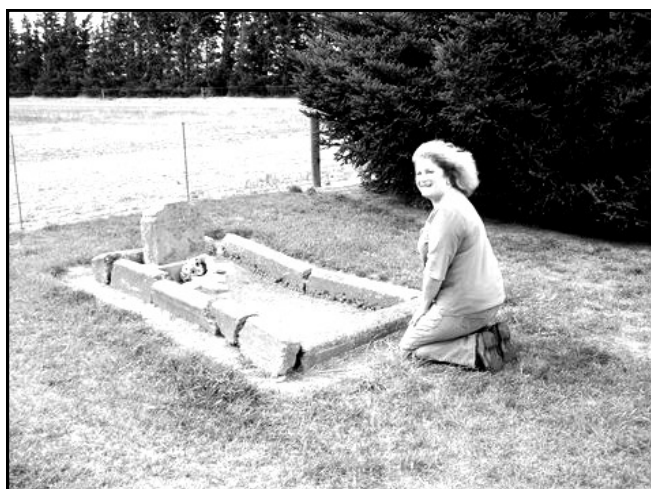
Cont..... *Submitted By Jan Morris.*

• Dougan Ravenscroft Walkden was named after Mr. HW Ravenscroft, an attorney who acted in what became the famous Mary Prince case.

The film 'Amazing Grace' tells the story of William Wilberforce working tirelessly to have the Slavery Abolition Act passed in both parliament and the House of Lords. If you watch this film you will recognise many names that were passed on to the Walkden children.

As for Mary, once the anti slavery act was passed her work was done. She was free to marry Richard Walkden and come to Australia on the ship 'The Great Britain' in 1853. Richard Walkden died in 1880 and Mary went to New Zealand to live with one her daughters. She died 10 months later and is buried in Rakaia. The daughter did not have any descendants so no one had visited her grave for well over 100 years until recently when her great, great grand daughter Laurel Rockliff went to Rakaia, New Zealand and was delighted to discover the Mary's grave was well maintained.

Photo below: Laurel Rockliff at the grave of her great great grandmother Mary Walkden at Rakaia N.Z.



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Emigration of Bannister Family

Submitted by Neil McDonald

Henry Bannister Snr. was born in London on the 10th May 1803. His father Charles George Bannister of Bristol was married to Sarah Kirby of Bath.

Henry married Mary Ann Walker on 26th June 1826 at St. Georges, Hanover Sq. London. Mary Ann, the daughter of Edward Walker of Worcestershire and Sarah Andrews of Hampshire was born at Middle Temple Lane, London on 20th June 1802.

They had three children:

Mary Ann Harriet born 12th Aug 1827, Middle Temple Lane London

George Charles born 22nd Sep 1830, London

Henry born 4th Mar 1839, Hampstead Road London.

Henry Snr. died at Hampstead Rd. in Nov 1843 and was buried at St. Giles in the Field, London. His occupation was given as Carver and Gilder.

George Charles Bannister married Rebecca Beavis on 26th Jun 1853 at St. Pancras Church, London and the next day made application for passage to Australia. On Aug 3rd they sailed from Southampton for Geelong, on the S.S. Credenda. George kept a diary of the voyage, excerpts of which were published in the "Age Saturday Extra" on 16th Jan 1988, as part of the "Tall Ships" celebrations. The passengers disembarked at Geelong on Nov 6th and George noted "the very nicely laid out place" and commented "everything is dreadfully dear". Their first child Rosina was born in Gheringhap St. Geelong on 9th May 1855, but by 1857 they were living in Ballarat where Rosina was tragically drowned, on 3rd November, in a waterhole at "the diggings". They had five more children, one of whom, Alfred Edmund Bannister, was the father of Owen Victor Bannister, who was a well-known identity in Lorne, where he retired in 1958 after, as a Soldier Settler, establishing successful orchards at Red Cliffs. Owen died in May 1992 at the age of 94 leaving many descendants, some of whom live in Lorne and Ocean Grove. The best known of these is Jenny Bannister the fashion designer.

Mary Ann Harriet Bannister married Edmund Juggins Hall on 17th Sep 1853 at St Pancras Church London. Their first child Charlotte Elizabeth was born in 1854. Edmund and Mary Hall had three more children in Geelong, where Edmund established a successful printing business. They have descendants still living in the area.

On the 14th Oct 1854 Mary Ann Bannister aged 52 the widow of Henry Snr. together with son Henry aged 15, and daughter Mary Ann with her husband Edmund Hall and infant daughter Charlotte, departed Plymouth on the "Medway" bound for Port Phillip, where they arrived in January 1855. The Medway was a vessel of 653 tons carrying 207 passengers under the command of Abel Mackwood. Henry Bannister was educated at the Royal Asylum of St Ann's Society Schools, Brixton, where he was introduced through Mrs. [later Baroness] Burdett Coutts. In January 1853 he was presented with a Bible for good conduct. After leaving school at the age of 14 he was employed by a London silk manufacturer for about 18 months before the family emigrated. Soon after arriving in Geelong

Cont.... *Submitted by Neil McDonald.*

He obtained employment in an auctioneer's office, but the lure of gold led him to Ballarat.

Although unsuccessful at the diggings he was appointed secretary of the gold mining company Inkerman and Durham. Prosperity in Ballarat was declining and he traveled to Sydney, in search of employment, but soon returned to Geelong resuming as an auctioneer.

On the 9th Oct 1860 Henry banister and Clara Rosalie Provost were Married at St Paul's Church Geelong. Their first child Clara Bartlett Bannister was born 29th Nov 1861 and the next year they moved to Melbourne. After a brief period Henry was offered a job as accountant with Patrick McDonald's wine merchant business and once more returned to Geelong, where he remained for the rest of his life. He became a well-known identity in West Geelong where he was prominent in community affairs.

In 1884 he purchased 4 acres of land in the Gladstone Estate, a new subdivision on the west side of Swampy Creek, and erected what was probably the first dwelling in that area. The location of his original land holding and house is now marked by Bannister Ave, Anglesea.



GREAT NEWS

We now have the Probate index for Victoria.

We do look ups

For details:

Contact Pat Hughes 03 52 896686 or email sehguh43@bigpond.com

New Acquisitions

Records on CD - Victorian Crown Grantees Index (Part 2) 1828 Census NSW, Cemeteries SW Victoria, South Cave Parish Registers 1558-1909, London Marriage Licences 1521-1869. Phillimore's Marriage Indexes for - Kent, Worcestershire, Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire

Book "Wimmera - a Regional History". By Les Blake.

Book "Gillipoli Heroes" By Graeme Massey.

New records added to Irish Genealogical Online Record Search System

The Irish Family History Foundation's Online Research Service (ORS) are pleased to announce the availability of the records of the **Co. Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society** covering the parishes and districts of county **Sligo**. This adds another 200,000 baptismal, birth, death and marriage records to our database.

Go to the following sites and login using your existing IFHF login details.

<http://sligo.brsgenealogy.com>

or search across all counties available at

<http://ifhf.brsgenealogy.com>

Remember that you can purchase and spend your credit at any of the IFHF online centers.

In the coming weeks we hope to add Graveyard Inscriptions and Census information to our data sources.

The Surf Coast Family History Group

For Sale:

**Schools of the Surf Coast Shire
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**Surf Coast Cemetery Records on
CD**

**Contact: Norma Morrison
Phone: 52 616239**

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OPEN UNTIL 2.00 PM IF REQUESTED ON THE DAY

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Surface Mail

If undelivered return to
The Surf Coast Family History Group
P. O. Box 98 Anglesea
Victoria 3230