

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 68 Autumn, June 2018 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



From painting by Geoffrey Soames

In this issue....

- Upcoming Events
- News and resources
- Australian Connections of a Migrant
- A Soldier, Farmer & Road Builder

Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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Historical Society \$20 for the first family member and \$15 for other family members, Family History \$15 per family, direct banking BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 Or send a cheque made out to Anglesea & District Historical Society, send to PO Box 98 Anglesea 3230. Subs due 1 September

We have a wide range of indexes both Australian and overseas. We have internet access for researching.

Our equipment includes computers, scanners, printers, microfiche readers and an extensive library.

Need help with your research? Call in and we will help.

JUNE Meeting 10.00am Thursday 14 June

Speakers: Harry & Marilyn Wendt

Topic: Searching For War-torn Displaced Ancestors

JULY COMBINED WINTER FEAST Thursday 19 July

Combined meeting and lunch with Family History Group:

Cost \$10 Venue: History House Anglesea 11.00am



Speaker: Sergeant John Digby

Topic: The Hereford ship and the Digby family

AUGUST Meeting Thursday 9 August leave History

House 10.00am Cost: \$15 plus lunch at Mt Moriac Hotel

FILM: *Philomena* Bookings required

SEPTEMBER Thursday 20 September 10.00am

Half Day workshop *PROV Records*

Members and visitors welcome to all activities.

This newsletter is available electronically. If you wish to receive an electronic copy please email us on surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Wednesday by appointment

Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of the month

commencing at 10am at History House

unless an excursion has been scheduled

5a McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Susan Clarke: Phone 0438 070 560

Committee Members 2018

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The Surf Coast Family History Group does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in this magazine

NEWS AND RESOURCES

NSW Gaol Inmates/Prisoners Photos Index

Now available for free online: 46,000 records, mainly 1870 - 1930. The Gaol Photographic Description Books contain a photograph of each prisoner and the following information: number, prisoner's name, aliases, date when portrait was taken, native place, year of birth, details of arrival in the colony – ship & year of arrival, trade or occupation, religion, standard of education, height, weight (on committal or discharge), colour of hair, colour of eyes, marks or special features, number of previous portrait, where & when tried, offence, sentence, remarks, and details of previous convictions (where & when, offence & sentence). Go to:

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/gaol-inmates-prisoners-photos-index>

New name for AIGS

Family History Connections is now the registered business name of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.

<https://www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au/>

Vagrants and murderesses: Melbourne's criminal women

An interesting article about using the Victorian Female Prison Registers: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/vagrants-and-murderesses>

Geelong Honours Them

Geelong Regional Libraries recently launched a new website for a project entitled 'Geelong Honours Them'. The project aims to digitally capture and display the information held in WW1 honour boards located across the Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire geographic areas. Go to: <https://geelonghonoursthem.grlc.vic.gov.au/>

New Australian historical records on FamilySearch

- South Australia, Immigrants ships papers, 1849 – 1940: 11,748 indexed records added to existing collection
- Cemetery inscriptions, 1802 – 2005: 533,711 indexed records added to existing collection

Bailliere's Gazetteer

Many localities and pastoral stations are referred to and described in Bailliere's gazetteers, published for each colony in the 1860s and 1870s. Bailliere's gazetteers for New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania have all been digitised and are available online (free access) at archive.org: https://archive.org/details/library_of_congress. Bailliere's Gazetteer and Road Map, 1879 for Victoria is available through Ancestry.com: <https://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=60891>

Victorian BDM Place Name Abbreviations

When reading place names on the birth, death and marriage indexes it is often confusing. Many places no longer exist and often we only guess what the abbreviation stands for. We now have a copy of the BDM Abbreviations in our library. So check to ensure you have the correct place name when using the indexes.

Quote for this issue

The tag line of Family History Connections: 'Find the story, not just the person'.

FAMILY FILE

A small group work on a Thursday afternoon developing a database of people from Anglesea & District on whom we have information. This data base will give easy access to our books and files, allowing a researcher to quickly identify what information and photos are held about a particular person. This is a massive task, headed up by Peter Matthews with the assistance of Marilyn Wendt, June Ford, Pat Hughes and Susan Clarke. Others have also contributed.

Peter will demonstrate the data base, that is built on Family Tree Maker, at the June Family History Meeting.

Australian connections of a migrant (part 5)

by Susan Clarke

In 2015 when I started my newsletter series 'Australian connections of a migrant', I stated that when I began my family history research, I knew of only one connection with Australia. Along the way I had found three other connections, and wrote about these in subsequent newsletters. I concluded the series by saying it was possible that I would discover others. Below I describe another find.

A clergyman in rural Victoria

My husband's great grandfather William CLARKE became a Bible Christian, converted at the age of 14 in 1836, and received into full connexion as a minister in 1851. His brother Thomas Avery Clarke turned to a life as an Anglican clergyman.

In researching extended family, I discovered that Thomas and his children all devoted their lives to the Anglican Church in England. Daughter Ellen Allen Clarke never married, but on the 1911 census she is recorded in the home of her parents, with an occupation of 'Christian work in Parish'. In 1894, daughter Henrietta Partridge Clarke married Thomas Ableson HARPLEY, who was a Church of England clergyman. Daughter Harriet Avery Clarke had married into the same family in 1893 when she became the wife of Frederick Richard Augustus Harpley, another Church of England clergyman.

But the biggest surprise came when I turned up the following reference to son John Oswald Allen Clarke:

Adm. Pens. at CORPUS CHRISTI, Oct. 1, 1889. Of Devon. S. of Thomas Avery, V. of St George-the-Martyr (Rumworth), Bolton. B. Sept. 1, 1870, at Westward-Ho!. Schools, Church Institute Bolton, and Trent College, Nottingham. Matric. Michs. 1889. Ord. Deacon, 1896; priest (Ballarat) 1897. C. of Nhill, Victoria, Australia, 1896-1901. V. of Smythesdale, Australia, 1901-6. Disappears from *Crockford*, 1907.

(source: Venn, J.A., comp. *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, London, England: Cambridge University Press, 1922-1954)

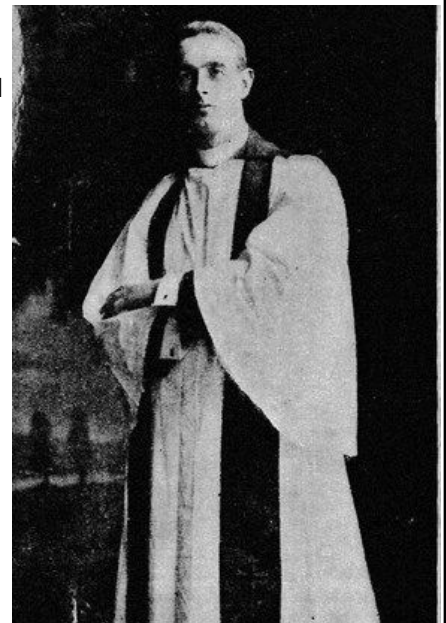
So John came to Victoria – Nhill and Smythesdale – what happened next? And why did he disappear from church records in 1907?

John was in England when the census was taken in 1891, but must have left soon after because a search of Victorian records showed that in 1892 he married Maud Augusta Hay SEAGROVE. A year later their daughter Violet Sybil Maud Clarke was born. Violet attended the Church of England Girls' Grammar School (Queen's College) Ballarat, where the Misses Larritt and Hayhoe were principals.

Sadly, it became apparent why John disappeared from church records in 1907, when I found the following newspaper report:

**KILLED AT A RAILWAY CROSSING
CLERGYMAN AND YOUNG LADY
Melbourne, March 20**

The Rev. John O. A. Clarke, incumbent of St Mary's Anglican Church, Smythedale, near Ballarat, and Miss Cotton, a lady friend, were driving over a railway crossing this afternoon, near Smythedale, when a mixed train ran into the buggy and smashed it to pieces. Mr Clarke and Miss Cotton were killed instantly. The bodies were carried some distance on the cow-catcher. Miss Cotton's body was found a hundred yards up the track lying in a pool of blood. The horse escaped unhurt.



Rev. J.O.A. Clarke

The driver of the train, Thomas Bourke, saw the buggy, which was hooded, approaching the line. He whistled, expecting the occupants would pull up. They, however, he says, paid no attention to the warning. The crossing is not obscured in any way.

The Rev. Father Barrett, of Smythedale, was riding on a bicycle almost immediately behind the buggy. He heard the whistle. Miss Cotton, who was 26 years of age, was a member of a well-known family at Linton. She had been on a visit to the manse and had accepted an offer by Mr Clarke to drive her home.

(source: *The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, 21 March 1906)

An obituary a few days later in the *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 24 March 1906, opened with the words 'The Rev. T. H. Clarke, Vicar of St George the Martyr, Rumworth, Bolton, has received a telegram from Australia intimating that his only son, the Rev. John Oswald Allen Clarke, had met his death by accident ...' Piecing together the minutiae of detail in some documents that persist, we can see from the probate record for John held at PROV that the telegram was factored into costs at L1 10s.

The Inquest Deposition Files, on the deaths of John Clarke and Miss Cotton, also held at PROV, show a concern with the hearing and eyesight of the deceased, as well as the safety of the railway crossing. The finding was that 'they each died from fracture of the skull, in the opinion of the jury accidentally caused by the said deceased being run into by the Linton to Ballaarat train'. The deaths were referred for information to the Secretary for Railways.

(source: VPRS 24/P0 unit 797, item 1906/41)

John died at the age of 35, and his wife and daughter went back to England. Violet's death was registered in East Preston area, Sussex in 1921. She was 27. Maud was on the electoral register for Lewisham until she died in 1932, aged 68. In the hope that I could find out more about John's life in Victoria, I contacted Woody Yaloak Historical Society, which is based in Smythesdale. To my delight I was told there was a photo of John in the community precinct building.

A visit to Smythesdale resulted in the photo of John in front of his house which is shown here, and photocopies of an obituary from *The Church Chronicle*, 2 April 1906, and one from the *Star*, 23 March 1906, another newspaper article, and John's death certificate. In addition to all these items, Margaret from the Historical Society showed me the site of the Anglican Church (no longer standing), and the railway crossing where the accident happened. The line closed to passenger services in 1972, and finally closed in December 1986, but it is now the Ballarat-Skipton rail trail. Lastly, Margaret took me to the cemetery and was determined that we should locate John's headstone, which eventually we did. What a productive visit!

Message of this story: it serves to illustrate how important it is to contact local historical societies that cover the area of your family history research.



Left:

Rev. J O A Clarke and his wife outside the house in Smythesdale with servant Sarah Groves. *Courtesy Woody Yaloak Historical Society*

A SOLDIER, FARMER & ROAD BUILDER - GEORGE FISHBURN

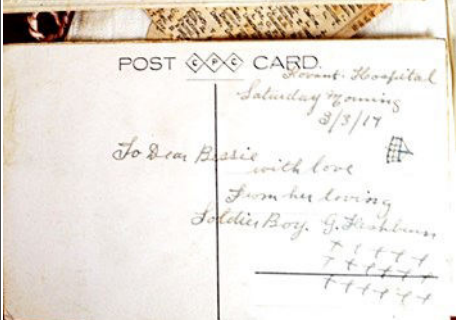
Jan Morris

On our outing at Modewarre we saw tree number 3 in the Avenue of Honour, dedicated to George Fishburn. It is 102 years ago that George enlisted in the army and went overseas as a soldier during WW1.

Life was never easy for George Fishburn. He was born in Nurmurkah in 1894, just one year before his father Stephen died, leaving the family in a desperate situation. His mother Louisa, was left with two very young children and there was a severe economic depression making it difficult for people to find work. Louisa, nee Larcombe, returned to her family at Modewarre where she had been raised. She had another son in 1899. Her children attended the nearby one teacher, bluestone school at Modewarre. George remained at Modewarre working as a labourer, until he enlisted in the army in 1916, as a 23 year old. George was a skilled horseman and worked also as a farrier. The love of his life was neighbor Elizabeth Parish whom he had gone to school with and whom he corresponded with during the war (see postcard below).



George Fishburn saw action at Ypres in Belgium and on the Somme in France. He trained for four weeks at the 19th Depot Battalion, Geelong. Embarking from Melbourne per Port Melbourne on 21st October 1916 he arrived in

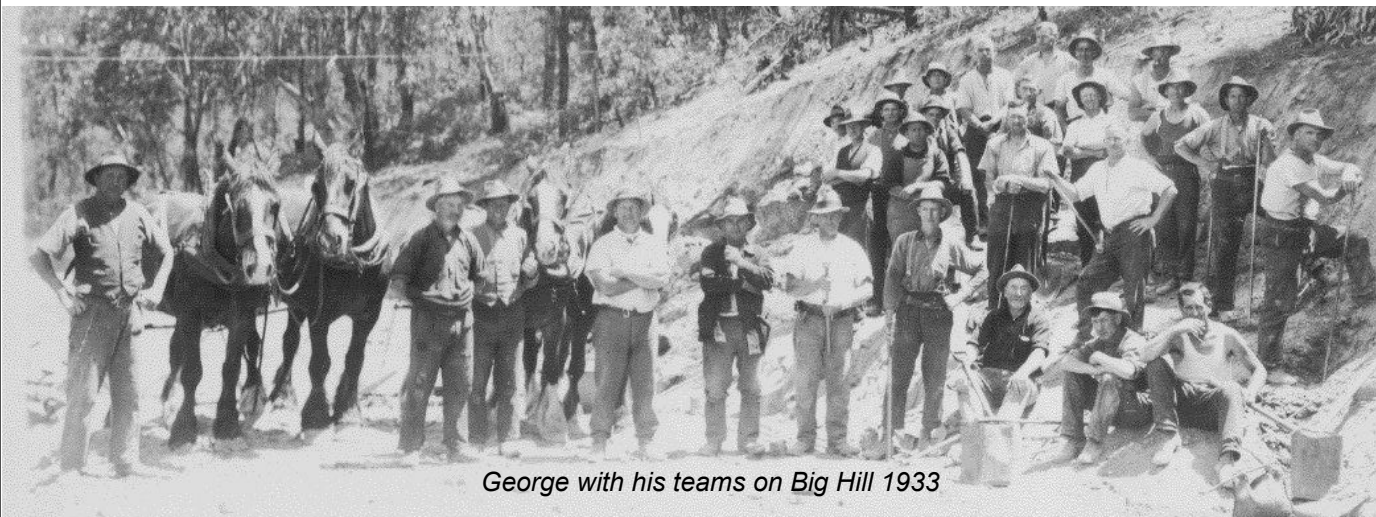


Devonport on 28 December 1916. Inflicted with influenza George was admitted to hospital before proceeding overseas to France on 5th April, 1917. He was transferred to the 29th Battalion, 10th Reinforcements the following week. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September. The offensive of 1918, however, had strained the AIF almost to breaking point. On 12 October the 29th Battalion was disbanded to provide reinforcements for other 8th Brigade units. George was transferred to the 32nd Battalion. The 32nd was resting and retraining out of the line when the war ended on 11 November 1918. With the gradual repatriation of men to Australia, George was transferred to the 5th Divisional Train on 9th January 1919 before returning to Australia.

Returning after the war George farmed at Mt Moriac as well as road contracting for the Barrabool and Winchelsea Shires. During the construction of the Great Ocean Road, George had several teams of horses working on the section between Eastern View and Big Hill. The construction of the Great Ocean Road was both dangerous and costly. George purchased a farm at Moriac under the *Closer Settlement* scheme including returned soldiers.

However like most *Closer Settlement* blocks, the farm was too small to support a family, so George continued to do other work to supplement his income. George married Elizabeth in 1920 when he returned from the war. He had corresponded with her while away (see card he sent to her). George and Elizabeth Fishburn had the following children: Rhoda Isobel 1921-2017, Thomas John 1921-1924, Keith George 1926-2013.

George also volunteered for the Second World War, enlisting at Winchelsea, he joined the 6th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps on 22 March 1942. He was discharged on 18 October 1945. By the time he eventually left the army he was 51 years old. George died in 1962 aged 68, his wife Elizabeth died in 1976. They are both buried in the Mt Moriac Cemetery. George's name is listed on the honour boards at St Saviour's Modewarre, Barrabool, and South



George with his teams on Big Hill 1933