

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 76 Winter, June 2020 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



From painting by Geoffrey Soames

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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 & your name 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.

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

Email: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

The Surf Coast Family History Group

All meetings, activities and open times are dependent on government restrictions. We will always work within government guidelines.

Currently all bookings for speakers have been cancelled or postponed. When we are allowed to have meetings and outings again, we will notify all members.

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

No activities are held on days of code red or extreme fire danger for the Central Region.

Web: http://vicnet.net.au/~angen/fh_home.htm

Committee Members 2018/2019

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer
Vice Chairperson

Website
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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

Research hint from Traces magazine

Military registers for Mothers' and Widows' badges have all been digitised and can be viewed via the National Archives of Australia's RecordSearch catalogue (recordsearch.naa.gov.au). Click 'Advanced search' and type Series (e.g. MT1384/2) and Control (e.g. BOOK 69) values into the relevant fields.

For Mercantile Marine applications, use Series A11788 and add the individual's name in 'Keywords in title'.

Benefits of GSV membership

The GSV is now making the following available to GSV members from home:

- FindMyPast
- MyHeritage
- TheGenealogist

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

Benefits of Family History Connections (formerly AIGS) membership

Members can access MyHeritage from home through the Members Area. See:

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

State Library of Victoria online

SLV is scheduling online events, including some on family history. Go to:

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on>

National Library of Australia Digital Community

The NLA has made a short video to help users explore the online library. Go to:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/stories/news/2020/03/23/temporary-building-closure>

British History Online

To 31 July 2020, BHO is making all transcribed BHO content freely available for individual users. This adds 200 volumes of primary materials. Read more at:

<https://blog.history.ac.uk/2020/03/british-history-online-makes-all-research-content-free-to-individual-users/>

What's On-line talks at TNA (UK)

Free: I booked for the talk on migration records. Took place Friday 24 April at 11.00pm. I am a night owl so it worked well for me! There were technical problems at the start because this was the first of such offerings from TNA. Hopefully those problems will be ironed out for future sessions. The speaker was the expert in the field and the examples of documents that he showed were extremely interesting. There was a Q&A session at the end.

Check out other offerings at: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/>

Quote for this edition

Gill Blanchard on writing family history:

'If you have been rigorous in your research, made it clear when you don't know something and used authentic secondary sources to build your background then you can be confident that you have produced something that will stand the test of time.'

[Gill Blanchard, *Writing Your Family History: A guide for family historians*]

Robert Jordan – a man of a “retiring disposition”

by Chris Davis, Maree Davis and Susan Clarke

The newspaper article in August 1894 which announced the death of Mr R. Jordan opened with the words “In the death of Mr Robert Jordan, one of the kindest men and a faithful servant of the borough for over thirty years has passed away.”

The article goes on in high praise of this gentleman, listing his copious contributions to the Borough of Queenscliff and its community. Robert Jordan is Chris Davis's paternal Great Great Grandfather, and what a great character for Chris to have in his family tree!

This story came to light when the Historical Society visited Fort Queenscliff last November.

In the museum, there was a sizeable display about Robert Jordan featuring his commissioning warrants because he commanded at the fort over the period 14 March 1871 to 30 November 1884. Jordan was appointed to command at Queenscliff, as a Lieutenant at 4 May 1865.

He was a member of the Volunteer District Staff, and as a member of the Royal Victorian Regiment of Artillery, belonged to the 2nd Brigade, South Grant, Queenscliff Detachment. The display states simply that Jordan conducted the first school at Queenscliff and was also town clerk for a while, in addition to his military appointment in the Volunteer Artillery Corps. But the newspaper article about his death provides much more information.

Queenscliff Sentinel, Drysdale, Portarlington and Sorrento Advertiser, Saturday 11 August 1894:

He was a man of scholarly attainments, and many are the kindly acts which will be remembered of him. The late town clerk was of a retiring disposition, but underneath a modest and guileless disposition, there was an upright, intelligent, and genuine character.

Chris in front of the display at the Fort Queenscliff Museum



Jordan was a staunch member of the Church of England:

He was for some time secretary of St George's, organist, and choir instructor, and up to the last took special interest in the little Springs church, where he acted as organist, and his daughters as Sunday-school teachers.

Robert Jordan, who was born in Dublin, Ireland in August 1825, arrived in Victoria in 1857, with excellent teaching credentials. He was appointed as teacher in the Richmond denominational school, and after two years he was appointed head master at the Queenscliff denominational school. When Queenscliff became a borough in 1863, he was appointed town clerk. He was also appointed clerk of petty sessions, and fulfilled many other community roles: registrar of births, deaths and marriages, secretary of the public library and reading room, and membership of the local Cosmopolitan Freemasons' Lodge.

Given his position in the community, no wonder this gentleman's funeral was “largely attended”, despite the fact that friends of the deceased declined a military funeral, and tried to keep it as private as possible.



Are you thinking, “what can I do”?

A lot of us are feeling the effects of being in isolation having to stay at home because of the Virus Covid 19.

Why not enjoy this time by researching your Family History?

It is sometimes a concern the costs that are involved to do this because of the subscriptions and joining fees that you must pay when you might only use them once or twice. When doing research we need family history sites that give us indexes with names, places, and dates. We will give you a few tips on the best free Websites you can use for your research. Firstly, the general rule is to get as much information as you can. Start with yourself, ask your parents, grandparents and any family member that can provide you with information.

If someone was born and lived in Australia we generally need Australian indexes such as Birth, Marriages and Death records. Wills and probate all help to give details that help us to build on our research and create a family tree. Immigration records also come into it because if we or our ancestors came from another country these records would tell us when, whom and from where they came. The Public Record Office in each state gives free lookups but if you need to order a photocopy or digitised image there would be a fee, it just depends on how many pages or copies you order.

List of Web addresses for Public Record Offices in Australia

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.sro.wa.gov.au/state-records-office-western-australia>

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

<https://archives.sa.gov.au/>

<https://australiapublicrecord.com/tasmania/>

<https://australiapublicrecord.com/queensland/>

National Archives of Australia is a very useful site and you can download a lot of records, but you pay a fee for documents ordered

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch.aspx>

familysearch.org is a Website that covers the world

It is a goldmine of information and it is free

FamilySearch is packed with parish records, censuses, and many other crucial resources both for seeking ancestors in the British Isles and from nations all around the world.

The site is open to everyone. You can start searching right away and explore the global range of digitised records and indexes.

In addition to the record collections, there is also lots of useful background information.

For instance, you may find a wiki page with historic information about the very village your ancestors lived in, and the records that you might search. There are also free tutorial resources and digitised ebooks to read. Plus, you can create a free online family tree, and add to it as you learn more about the generations on your family tree.

The National Archives (UK): free digital downloads

While the Kew site is closed, signed-in users can download digital records for free.

Read more at: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>

Research in the United Kingdom

FreeBMD

www.freebmd.org.uk

Birth, marriage and death indexes are crucial building blocks to help you trace your family tree. The trick is to know your registration district, over time districts changed and unless you know the update you could use the wrong name and this can cost you and waste your time by ordering wrong certificates.

On FreeBMD you can search the indexes for England and Wales, going back to 1837, and get the vital reference numbers you need to order birth, marriage, and death certificates. Take note: that from Sept 1911 they include mother's maiden name in index of birth registrations.

The link below will help you. The booklet is a very handy tool, if you have several different places you need to look up.

Registration District lookups: <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/>

A useful handbook to get is "A Handbook to the Civil Registration Districts of England and Wales"

by Brett Langston ISBN 0-9540911-1-6

Once you have explored FreeBMD, don't miss its free sister projects FreeCEN (www.freecen.org.uk), which aims to transcribe British censuses from 1841-1891

FreeREG (www.freereg.org.uk), for parish register transcriptions.

The records on FreeBMD, FreeCEN and FreeREG have been created by dedicated volunteers so have been created to an extremely high standard – all the better to help you find your family members.

GENUKI

www.genuki.org.uk

GENUKI – is the UK and Ireland Genealogy gateway site – and is a massive online genealogy encyclopedia. Search for the location your ancestor once lived in and find out about the family history resources for that county. GENUKI covers England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Alternatively search by subject to learn about a specific type of historic record that will help you research your family history. Plus, there are links to further useful family history websites.

Online Parish Clerks Websites. There are many Parishes online all free lookups.

Web address: https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

Don't forget to use maps when you are doing research overseas

<https://www.google.com/maps>

(All sources: www.google.com.au)

Surf Coast Family History Group Inc

We give free access to Ancestry when attending our library, unfortunately our library is closed until the shutdowns are lifted, so we would like to help our members by offering lookups for information on your family history.

We will do free look ups for members. Simply text Pat on 0491609940 or send an email to phugs@outlook.com

with details of lookup that you need and Pat Hughes will do a search for you.