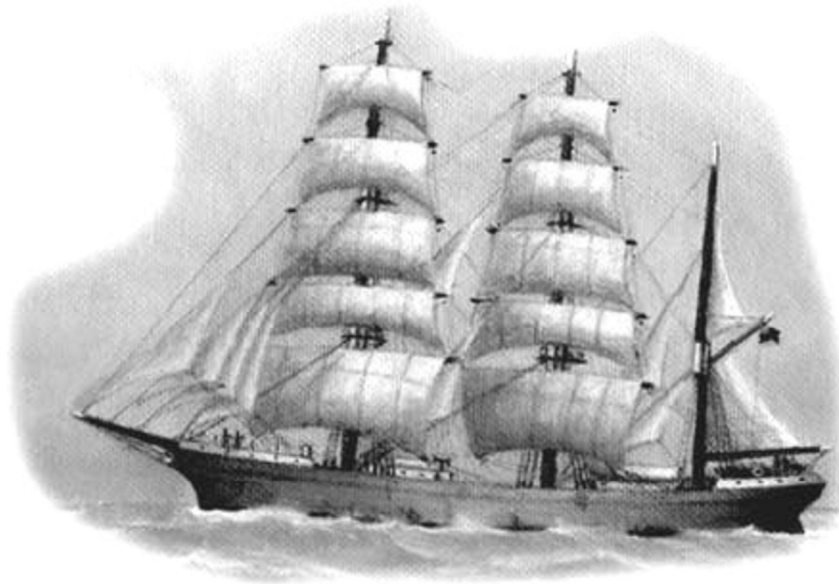


# The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 79 Autumn, March 2021 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
- You never know what you will find
- February Meeting—Inquest Records

Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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Anglesea & District  
**Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch**



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## Are You A Financial Member?

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?

Newsletter contact and research inquiries  
Contact: Pat Hughes pathugs1@gmail.com

**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](mailto:surfcoastfh@gmail.com)

Web: [http://vicnet.net.au/~angen/fh\\_home.htm](http://vicnet.net.au/~angen/fh_home.htm)

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](mailto:surfcoastfh@gmail.com)

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

### Meetings: History House Entrance 4

#### Thursday

**February 18th 10.00am**

Guest Speaker: Pam Jennings

Topic: Inquest Records

#### Wednesday

**March 3rd 9.30am return 4.00pm**

The Towns of Maud, Steiglitz & Meredith

Includes transport, morning tea, visits to court houses, talks by locals, detailed program and picnic lunch provided Cost: \$25

Walk or drive the Steiglitz historic triangle

Bookings essential 0448 526 311

or 0438 070 560

#### Thursday

**April 15th 10.00am**

Members show & tell. Bring along an item of family history memorabilia and tell us the story behind it (NOTE change to date)

#### Thursday

**May 13th: 10.00am**

John Stewart, "Searching for BDMs in Australasia online"

#### Thursday

**June 10th: Gay Bell,**

William Gay: "A bird of ordinary pretensions"

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Vice Chairperson

Website

Committee Member

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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

### Inquest records

For those who want to learn more about Victorian inquest records, PROV published an archival snapshot on its blog in November 2020. The article concerns records which record "name unknown" <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/name-unknown>. For information on exploring inquests and other coronial records at PROV, go to: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/inquests-and-other-coronial-records>

There are also two articles in the latest edition of *Provenance: the journal of the Public Record Office Victoria*:

- "Untimely ends": place, kin and culture in coronial inquests'. Go to: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/provenance-journal/provenance-2020/untimely-ends>
- 'Witnessing the familial: insights from inquest depositions and minding the gaps'. Go to: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/provenance-journal/provenance-2020/witnessing-familial>

### Writing family history

If you want to write about family members but don't know where to start, it might help to use some prompts. There are books that help you illicit information from relatives, or indeed draft your own autobiography. For example, *The Book of Myself: A Do-It-Yourself Autobiography in 201 Questions*, by Carl & David Marshall, published by Hachette Books.

### New PROV records opened 1 January

For a list of the latest files opened under Section 9, including prisoner records, mental health records, medical journals, divorce cases, court registers, and railway employee cards, go to: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/infamous-prison-escapee-and-first-mafia-murder-among-s9s>

### GSV changes location

The GSV Education and Research Centre is moving as of mid-February. It should re-open on 1 March under Covid restrictions: "Our new home is on Level 1, 10 Queen Street, Melbourne, just down the hill from where we are now on the east side of the road. There is access from both Queen Street and Bond Street (at the back of the building), where wheelchair access is provided. In between on the ground floor is a coffee shop!"

### Unlocking family secrets

An interesting blog post on the emotional impacts of genealogy research in TROVE: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/blog/2020/08/24/unlocking-family-secrets>

### Prison hulk registers

Ancestry has now added the UK Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books 1802-1869 to its collection of online data. Related data collections: England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892; UK, Licences of Parole for Female Convicts, 1853-1871, 1883-1887; and Australian Convict Transportation Registers – First Fleet, 1787-1788.

### Quote for this edition

"I did not look for skeletons in my family's cupboard, but once the cupboard was open, they simply fell out." [Graeme Davison: *Lost Relations*]

# You never know what you find or where you will find it

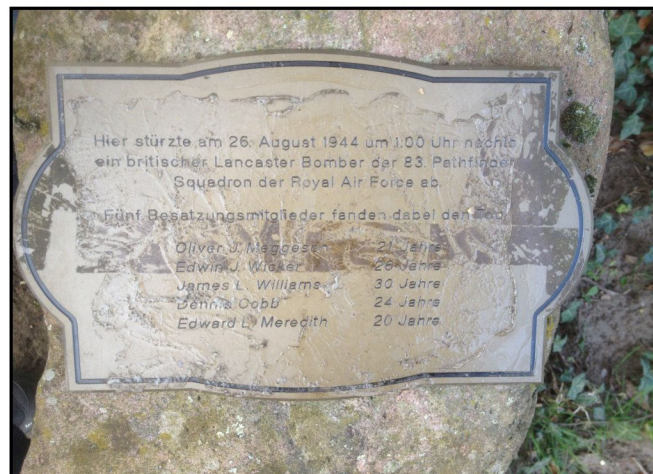
by Susan Clarke

My mother's first husband, Edwin Jack Wicker, was in the RAF during WW2, and he was killed in August 1944. They had been married for three years. I had plenty of information about Jack's death from research done in the 1990s when my mother donated his DFC medal and related papers to RAF Coningsby (home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight), Lincolnshire. The research included references in *The Bomber Command War Diaries: an operational reference book*, information from the Casualty file, a letter from Air Historical Branch (RAF), an extract from Bill Chorley's *Bomber Command Losses*, and the entry in *The War Dead of the British Commonwealth and Empire: The Register of the names of those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and are buried in Cemeteries in Germany*. I also had a photo of Jack's grave in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bavaria. To try to understand what Jack's experience might have been like, I had read Don Charlwood's memoir, *No Moon Tonight*. Charlwood was a navigator, as was Jack.

I decided to expand the research by reading about the squadron to which Jack had belonged at the time of his death. I started by looking at Wikipedia, which I thought might point me to other sources of information. To my complete surprise, there was a photo on the Wikipedia page of a roadside cairn in Germany bearing Jack's name.

I do not know if there are other such cairns in Germany, and I have not found out who was responsible for setting up the memorial, or when it was done. Its existence remains a mystery. Perhaps it has something to do with the two crew members who survived the crash, became prisoners of war, and were liberated at the end of the conflict.

I am left to wonder how my mother would have felt had she found out it was there.



83 Pathfinder memorial on roadside cairn at Heusenstamm, Germany

[source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No. 83 Squadron RAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._83_Squadron_RAF)]

Translation:

Here fell on 26 August 1944 at 1.00 o'clock at night

a British Lancaster Bomber of the 83 Pathfinder

Squadron of the Royal Air Force

Five crew members were killed

Oliver J. Meggeson	21 years
Edwin J. Wicker	26 years
James L. Williams	30 years
Dennis Cobb	24 years
Edward L. Meredith	20 years