

NEWSLETTER NO. 5 May 1982

As genealogy becomes increasingly popular we often meet people who are keen to research their family tree but don't know where to begin or how to go about it. Our mid-Gippsland Branch has planned a night especially for beginners in Genealogy at our meeting on June 24th. Your friends, relatives and anyone interested would be most welcome to attend and would find the evening very interesting and helpful.

BUS TRIP TO G.S.V.

Several of mid-Gippsland members and their families took advantage of the bus trip in March to the G.S.V. Library. Mr. Tony Miller welcomed us and gave us a "guided tour" of the library to explain what information is available and where to find it. We had varying degrees of success (or luck) with our research but all agreed it was a worthwhile and enjoyable trip. Our sincere thanks to the G.S.V. and particularly to Tony for making the library available after hours for our benefit.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Michael Dempsey was our guest at the March meeting and was able to answer our questions regarding the Government Statist Office where he was a former employee. As many know the frustration of receiving an official "No record available" from the Statist Office, Mr. Dempsey was able to reassure them the records are very thoroughly indexed. Where a record cannot be found the information is checked and rechecked and it is most unlikely a record or certificate could be lost. Each year, beginning from 1853 (when registration became compulsory) is individually and alphabetically indexed, and in the case of marriage records they are indexed under the names of both parties. (Previous to 1853 only church records are available).

PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS

The good news is that N.S.W. is to allow public access to pre-1900 records of births, deaths and marriages. The records will be microfilmed and made available to the public as soon as possible.

Tasmania already has public access to their records and it has been announced that similar access is to be granted in S.A. and Queensland.

The bad news is that Victorian certificates are very costly and we do not have public access to records. Public access in N.S.W. was achieved through strong representation to the State Government and local M.P.'s by Genealogical Societies and their members.

Petitions calling for public access to Victorian records are circulating and these can be obtained from our secretary, Miss Karen Dush.

EARLY CHURCH RECORDS

N.S.W.	1788-1856	QLD	1829-1856	W.A.	1829-1841
VIC	1837-1853	S.A.	1836-1842	TAS	1803-1838

These records are held by the Offices of the Government Statist and Registrar General in each state.

PRICE INCREASE IN ENGLISH CERTIFICATES

As from April 1st 1982 the cost of a full copy of a birth, death or marriage certificate will be -

£ 5-10 for Scotland
£10-10 for England and Wales

This includes airmail postage to Australia.

ANCESTORS FOR AUSTRALIANS

A revised edition of Ancestors for Australians is to be published and the G.S.V. would welcome any ideas and suggestions.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY

The circulating library of G.S.V. books is to become a reality. This library means that groups of books from the G.S.V. library in Melbourne will be circulated between the various country groups. Only those books which have a duplicate copy at the G.S.V. library will be in circulation. This will be a tremendous boon to country genealogists and we look forward to it.

LOCAL LIBRARIES

Don't ignore the services offered by your local library. Your librarian will be happy to make enquiries if you require a particular book not available from your local library, and arrange to have it sent from another library if possible. A small fee to cover postage may be requested.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP LIBRARY.

Bartholomew	- Clan map of Old Scotland	Don. Mrs. J. Douglas
Electoral Roll 1974	-McMillan	Don. J. & L.E. Ramselaar
Federation of Family History Societies		Don. Mrs. J. Graham
Index In Connection with Alambec East Cemetery		Don. Mr. F. Robinson
Register of Burials - Willow Grove 1898-1980		Don. Mrs. I. Arnott

THE BOER WAR

With the tragic subject of war filling our daily newspapers it is appropriate to note a recent publication written on the Boer War which may be of benefit to genealogists. "They Proved to All the Earth", by John E. Price contains records of the Victorians who died through service in the Boer War.

The Weekly Times (April 21st) contains an article written on this book. It states:

"Australia sent 16,175 volunteers and 16,000 horses....Total casualties were 1400 men of whom 518 were either killed or died of disease. For their gallantry, the Australians won 524 decorations, including 6 Victoria Crosses.

Of the 518 men who died in S.A., 262 were Victorians. And it is to their memory that John has directed his time,..... to compile the book in which their names, place of origin, regiment, date and circumstances of their death and final resting place is listed. Also listed, where possible, is the war memorial on which their name is recorded.

Most of the names are of young men from the country."

"They Proved to All the Earth", is obtainable from John E. Price, Villa 7, 16 Barrett Street, Cheltenham, Victoria. 3192. Price \$8-00 plus postage and packaging of \$1-00.

AUSTRALIANS AT WAR

Apart from the two Great Wars in which more than a million Australian servicemen and women took part, Australia (or before Federation, the States), has sent troops to the Sudan (1885); Boer War (1899-1902); Malaya (1948-60); Korea (1950-53) and Vietnam (1957-75). As well, Australian troops have fought in some lesser-known campaigns. The earliest one covered at the Australian War Memorial, where the deeds and deaths of Australians at war are recorded, is the land war in New Zealand (1863-72), when 2500 Australians helped put down the Maori uprising. Then there was the Boxer Rebellion in

China (1900-1901), where contingents from Victoria and N.S.W. were sent to help the British cause. In 1919, Australian troops, with those from the U.S., Britain and France, were sent to North Russia to help protect supplies during the Russian Revolution.

"The Weekly Times" April 21st 1982

CORRECTIONS

1. Errol Lea Scarlet's book "Roots and Branches" is not available through the G.S.V.
2. "Vision and Realization" is again available from the Government Printing Service. (cost around \$20-00)

These points were drawn to our attention by the secretary of the G.S.V., Mr. Daryl Wight who has been asked to speak at our July meeting. Topics will be "English records", and "Port Phillip Era pre 1851". We appreciate the interest taken by Mr. Wight in our newsletters.

MOST COMMON SURNAMES

Anyone who has searched the Parish Records on microfilm for an "uncommon" family name will spare a sympathetic thought for anyone researching from this list of surnames. Compiled in 1853 it lists the most common surnames in England and Wales in order of frequency. Our information states "No national figures have been obtained since, but the overall picture is unlikely to have changed".

1. Smith	14. Wood	27. Clark	40. Parker
2. Jones	15. Thompson	28. Cooper	41. Clarke
3. Williams	16. Hall	29. Harrison	42. Cook
4. Taylor	17. Green	30. Ward	43. Price
5. Davies	18. Walker	31. Martin	44. Phillips
6. Brown	19. Hughes	32. Davis	45. Shaw
7. Thomas	20. Edwards	33. Baker	46. Bennett
8. Evans	21. Lewis	34. Morris	47. Lee
9. Roberts	22. White	35. James	48. Watson
10. Johnson	23. Turner	36. King	49. Griffiths
11. Wilson	24. Jackson	37. Morgan	50. Carter
12. Robinson	25. Hill	38. Allen	
13. Wright	26. Harris	39. Moore	

OVERSEAS TELEPHONE BOOKS AND DIRECTORIES

Members report success in contacting distant relatives from checking names and addresses in overseas telephone directories, particularly where families live in a small town or village. Consulates may be helpful in providing information from the telephone directories, however we suggest you check the Latrobe Library first.

NEWSLETTER

We hope you find our newsletters interesting and worthwhile and welcome your contributions. It would be appreciated if those people who are unable to regularly attend our monthly meetings could contribute \$2-00 p.a. to help cover the cost of posting your newsletters.

Treasurer: Mrs. Mavis Lynch,
37 Elizabeth Street, Traralgon.

GENEALOGY. YOUR ANCESTOR AND CEMETERY RECORDS.

When asked why she attended so many funerals, the old lady dressed in mourning black replied, "Well, if you expect people to come to your funeral you should attend theirs". (Common courtesy, you see.)

And from the elderly Gent describing the death of his best mate, " I dunno what

he died of but it wasn't nothing serious". The best mate died all the same and there is a 99% chance that he was buried in a cemetery. (The other one percent being buried in bush graves or other out of the way places.)

There is a better than even chance that a headstone was erected in memory of the deceased, and this is what the Genealogist is mainly concerned about. Armed with a pen, a notebook and strong stick to beat off all uninvited reptiles, the Genealogist will set forth in the happiest frame of mind to find and copy all details of his ancestors gravestone. Oblivious of all dangers and elements, eyes riveted to headstones. The headstones which frequently suffer the problems of faded names, no names at all, dates indecipherable through age, and words distorted and covered with years of growing moss and lichen.

The Genealogists nightmare being the smashed and vandalised headstone. Or the biggest shock, when no headstone for the ancestor can be found at all, which usually results in the Genealogists walking around in a stunned manner, muttering something about Great Grandfather being too poor to have a headstone "put up." (Perhaps the village gossip was right after all.)

But then a glimmer of hope invades the dulled mind. Perhaps he is not buried in this cemetery after all? The Genealogist with raised hopes and tired family heads in the direction of yet another cemetery. (The hunt goes on).

Most cemeteries are usually reasonably easy to walk in and present no problems. There is, of course, the odd cemetery which is almost inaccessible. Such is the one at Walhalla, situated at the side of a very steep hill, necessitated by the lack of flat ground. It is definitely recommended that this cemetery be perused in daylight hours. Such an activity taken at any other time could result in a fall by the Genealogist, in which case, he would be sure to roll to the distant road at the foot of the hill, causing grievous injury. Such an injury would no doubt enhance his possible permanence in the said cemetery. Such is the life of all good Genealogists.

But on the serious side. (All Genealogists being very serious, of course.) Cemeteries are a very important area of research for the Genealogist and family historian alike.

In recent years, but more so lately, Genealogists, individuals, and other interested people have been involved in the copying of headstones (transcribing of headstones) and of cemetery registers. These records when completed, are sent to a central location, usually the Genealogical Society of Victoria, or some other Society where they are indexed and stored in readiness for the use of the researcher.

Cemeteries recently transcribed and indexed in the Gippsland area are - Sale, Moe, Warragul, Trafalgar, Willow Grove, Bairnsdale, Hazelwood, Walhalla and Aberfeldy. All these records are available to be read at the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Copies of the Moe, Sale, Willow Grove, Trafalgar and Aberfeldy records are presently held by the Mid-Gippsland group.

There is no time like the present for transcribing cemetery records and we ask our members to be continually on the look out for such relevant information. And, in particular, we ask our members to send in as much information as possible concerning the lone graves. The known whereabouts of such graves and the information about them will be lost to future generations if something is not done NOW.

Mrs. J. Rogers has a particular interest compiling a list of lone graves and would welcome any stories, information or the whereabouts of any lone graves in the mid-Gippsland areas.

QUERIES

1. BALLI - The family Balli emigrated in the 19th century from the Italian speaking part of Switzerland to Holland. Marten Sikke Balli, born in the Hague, 13th November, 1923 and married in the Hague 28th September, 1949 to Jenneke Krijtenberg, emigrated with their family on 2nd May 1952 to Newborough. The couple had a son, Ferdinand Balli, born 5th April, 1950 in the Hague.
- Contact Secretary, Karen Bush (051) 27 6178
2. Information is sought on the descendants of Timothy KENNEDY (son of Patrick and Mary Ann Kennedy) born approx. 1785 at Limerick, Ireland and of Catherine MACKAY (dau. of Kenneth Mackay and Sally McFarlane) born at Glasgow 13th May 1813 and lived at Assynt, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. Timothy and Catherine

married at Sydney on 20th April, 1839. They lived at Snowy River Manaroc, N.S.W. until 1846, coming then to Tarraville, South Gippsland. Their children were:

1. Mary Ann born 1840.
2. Michael, born approx 1842, married Mary Ann Duke(s) and had Alex, Catherine, Thomas, Mary, Michael, Julia, John, Lil, Tim, Pat, Arthur.
3. Timothy (a twin) born 1844, married Louisa Milton and had Ellen, Timothy, Daniel, Mary Louisa, William and Emily.
4. Daniel (other twin) born 1844.
5. Sarah Ann born 1847, married William Moulden and had Mary Ann, James William, Daniel, Alexander, Sarah Ann, Emily and Catherine.
6. Catherine, born 1849, married Alfred Henry Appleyard and had Mary June, Sarah Ann, Ellen, Alfred, Kate, George, Robert, Alexander, Emily, Timothy William and Florence.
7. Alexander, unmarried.
8. Dolina Margaret, born 1851, unmarried.

- Contact, June M. Douglas, Lot 2, Crosses Road, R.S.D. Traralgon. Ph. (051) 747624

NEXT MEETINGS

MAY 27: Moe Cemetery Transcripts

June 24th - Beginners Night.

July 22nd - Guest Speaker, Mr. Daryl Wight.

8 pm at the Moe Regional Education Centre.

Editorial Committee: Lyn Gorman
Julie Stevens,
Frank Robinson