

Mid Gippsland
Family History Society
Logo

ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

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Please include a S.A.E.
together with a check or
money order for \$10

Issue # 118 February - April 2003

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs/>

Meetings:

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each Month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance at the rear door of the Moe Library, Kirk Street Moe. Our Library will be open at 7pm with meetings commencing at approximately 7.30pm.

Membership fees 2001/2002: Single \$20; Family \$25 payable in July.

Library Hours:

Our Library is open to the public on *Wednesday Afternoons between 1pm and 4pm*. Volunteers from our group are available to assist with research at this time. The Library is also available to members at all times that the Meeting room has not been booked by other organizations. (Check with the Public Library Staff) The library is available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Fees: Gold Coin donation per visit for non – members.

Research:

There is a research fee of \$10 plus a stamped addressed envelope for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Please direct all enquires to The Secretary P.O. Box 767 Morwell 3840 and mark the envelope "Research Enquiry".

Newsletter:

Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editor takes no responsibility for submitted items.

In This Issue:

Erica & Trafalgar Cenotaph Inscriptions.

Member Profile: Robyn Byrne. Mr G. L. Romeril: A teacher recalls.

From The Narracan Shire Advocate: Moe Football Club,

The Death of Mr. Irving Bishop, A Strange Fatality -- 'McLeod',

A Discovery of Human Remains, Gold in Moe? A Concert for Mr. Holtham.

Beginnings

From 'The Narracan Shire Advocate', Regarding the **MOE FOOTBALL CLUB**

Saturday April 6th, 1889

We are pleased to note that, in view of approaching season, the subject of forming a football club in Moe has been receiving consideration at the hands of the local votaries of this manly and vigorous game, and we trust that in due course a meeting will be called, the club properly organised, a convenient ground secured and put in good order, and then we shall no doubt be able to take our part with credit to the town in any matches that may be arranged with other clubs.

Saturday April 27, 1889

Moe Football Club: A very enthusiastic and well attended meeting was held at Semmen's Moe Hotel on Saturday evening last for the purpose of forming a football club in Moe. About 20 intending members were present, Mr. Coleman being voted to the chair, who explained that the matter had been taken up with great warmth by business people and others, inasmuch as the secretary, Mr. R. J. Martin, who had actively canvassed for subscriptions during the day, had received support to the extent of over £6, so that under such auspicious circumstances there was no reason why Moe should not have a club that would be alike a credit to themselves and the town they represented. The election of officers for the ensuing twelvemonths was then proceeded with, and the following gentlemen duly elected:-- President: Mr. A. A. M'Phee. Vice-presidents: Messrs. S. W. Brooke, G. F. Nethercote, D. Semmens, R. B. Davies, M. Hennessy, J. Buckland, J. Hasthorpe, and J. M'Donald. Secretary: Mr. R. J. Martin. Treasurer: Mr. C. W. J. Coleman. General committee: Messrs. T. Watson, A. Carrington, G. Cooper, A. Doherty and M. Brenneck. Match committee: Messrs. C. W. K. Coleman, T. Sullivan, J. Watson, G. Cooper, and M. Davitt. It was found that the requisite number of players to take part in a match had already joined, and hopes are entertained that several more names will shortly be added to the list. It was resolved that the subscription to the club should be for hon. Members 5s., playing do., 2s. 6d. The subject of colours caused some discussion, and it was eventually decided that they should be red, white and black, all players to procure the guernsey (sic). A motion was passed instructing the secretary to wait on the council and obtain particulars in reference to the use of part of the racecourse reserve on which to play matches. It was arranged that a scratch match should be played at Hennessy's paddock the following Saturday (to-day) and to hold a general meeting in the evening. In reference to the challenge received by the secretary from the Trafalgar club, it was decided to accept it for some future date, so as to allow time for practice.

A Meeting of the Moe Football Club was held on Saturday evening last, At Semmens's (sic) Hotel. Mr. R. J. Martin occupied the chair. The object of the meeting was to elect a captain and vice-captain for ensuing season, and to make arrangements to hold a plain and fancy dress ball, the proceeds of which are to be devoted towards the expense of clearing the clubs ground.

For the position of captain Mr. C. W. J. Coleman was elected, defeating Mr. J. Watson by a narrow majority. However it was unanimously decided to elect the latter gentleman as vice-captain.

Moved by Mr. Brenock, and seconded by Mr. Watson, that a plain and fancy dress ball be held on the 17th of May. Carried.

It was decided that the general committee make all the arrangements for carrying out the ball.

On the motion of Mr. C. W. J. Coleman, seconded by Mr. T. Watson, the secretary was instructed to write to the football clubs of the surrounding district, informing them of the clubs intention to hold a ball on the 17th inst, and asking for their support. Mr. J. Watson moved and Mr. Blake seconded, that the club apply for Mr. Thew's band, or some other competent musicians, to play for the ball on the 17th inst.

A motion was passed instructing the secretary to have tickets for the ball printed immediately; also that an advertisement be put in the Moe and Morwell papers.

Moved by Mr. A. Doherty, and seconded by Mr. M. Brenock, that every provide himself with a ticket, all tickets double. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

A football match has been arranged for Saturday next between the Moe Football Club and the men employed at the Swamp Works. The Moe team will be chosen from the following, who are requested to be in attendance at the Club Hotel corner at 2p.m. sharp. :-- J. Watson, J. Hayes, T. Watson, W. Robinson, A. Doherty, R. Fry, G. Cooper, Waters (sic) F. Savage, R. Martin, Barrett, M. Brennock, H. Stewart, C. W. K. Coleman, J. Robinson, McDonald, W. Aitken, W. Whittaker, L. Doherty, A. Hasthorpe, G. F. Nethercote, P. Blake, J. Moore, T. McDonough, E. J. Cooper, T. Sullivan, P. Hayes, H. Staff, J. Staff, and A. Perry. Mr. Martin secretary, expects soon to have on hand the requisite number of guernseys for the club.

Member's Profile

Robyn Byrne

When and why did you get started on your family history?

I got started back in 1987. I was doing my Diploma in Education and there were no jobs in Melbourne and plenty in the country so we toured some country schools. I was billeted out with an elderly teacher who lived out of town and while the rest of my course mates were in Shepparton partying I was being introduced to family history. The teacher's wife had a set of Victorian BDMs on fiche and asked if I knew anything about my family history. I only knew that my grandfather was born in Lakes Entrance and his parents' names. That night we found a whole lot of Egan /McDougalls and I was hooked.

What names are you researching?

From my mother's side of the tree: EGAN, COLAHAN, RAWSON, CAUSLEY, MC DOUGALL, and COLEMAN. And from my dad's: TURNBULL, COLLET, SKIDMORE, SINGLETON, O'SHEA, HARNEY, YULE, and LECKIE.

How far back have you searched?

Mostly I am still stuck in the 1800s, as I have not made a serious attempt at overseas research. There is still so much to find out about my ancestors' lives in Australia.

Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?

My maternal 3rd great grandparents, Peter EGAN and his wife Margaret (COLAHAN) arrived in Sydney in 1838 on the Glee Maiden. They were natives of Lawrencetown, Galway, Ireland. My 4th paternal great grandfather, Thomas SKIDMORE, according to his death certificate, arrived about 1822, but I have not yet confirmed this. The rest of the mob generally arrived in the 1840s-1860s.

Who is your favourite ancestor?

Nana Babe, my paternal great grandmother. She was born in North Melbourne, Florence Vera COLLET, in 1889, but everyone called her Babe. She was first married at 15, divorced and then married my great grandfather at 23. She had lots of brothers and sisters but her father only claims two and her mother's death certificate says she had no children! Her mother went off and married someone else when Babe was only eight. Anyway Babe seemed to lead an exciting, if rather shifty, life for a woman of her time. She ran a number of businesses in North Melbourne, including a hairdressers and fish and chip shop. She was on first name basis with police and crooks alike. She dragged my grandfather and then later my Aunty around businesses in Chinatown. She had many acquaintances and there always seemed to be some strays living in the family home. These are just parts of her life that I have picked up but I am sure there are many more details and stories to come.

What is your most interesting find so far?

My 3rd great grandfather died from injuries sustained in a drunken family feud that took place at their camp on the goldfields near Maryborough in 1862 He was initially buried and believed to have died from more natural causes but when the law heard rumours of the feud his body was exhumed and a new certificate issued. One of his sons was tried for murder but was found not guilty.

If the family tree wish fairy would give you the answer to one question. What would that be?

As with everyone there are heaps of questions to be answered but if I could be granted the answer to one question it would be 'What happened to my great great grandfather, John COLLET?' He was born in France, married (1856 Melbourne) and had a number of children. By 1872 his wife remarried as a widow. So far I have not been able to find any record of his death. The date his wife was widowed, as stated on her second marriage certificate, was 1863 but he appears on the birth certificate of a daughter in 1869. ??? This has really got me beat.

Members take note:

This is your Newsletter... Why not use it to help in your research? *We need your article NOW*
Deadline for articles is the first Wednesday of February, May, August, and November.

Want your newsletter e-mailed?

Members, Societies or Groups may register to have their Newsletter sent via E-MAIL.

If you would accept an e-mail version of the Newsletter please register with "The Secretary", Sandra Dumble whose address is on the front page.

ERICA CENOTAPH

Situated in front of the Erica Public Memorial Hall

In Recognition of all Australian / and Allied Forces personal / who served during wars,
peacekeeping / and emergency confrontations / in particular those from Erica / and district
/ may they never be forgotten / Lest we forget.

Lest We Forget

1914 – 1918

H. Boyd/ B. Schroader/

In Recognition & Remembrance / of Australian Servicemen who / served in / Korea,
Malaya, Borneo / and Vietnam /

1939 – 1945

G. McNeal / M. Mitchell / I. Brodic / R. Kerr / P. Graham / N. Comden / I. Johnson /



Transcribed and photographed by *Kaye O'Reilly*

TRAFALGAR CENOTAPH INSCRIPTION

Erected by the residents of

TRAFALGAR

in memory of the men
of this town who made
the Supreme Sacrifice

in the Great Wars
1914-1918
and
1939-1945

S. ATKINS
O. B. ANDERSON
M. BYRNE
F. CAIN
T. W. ERRINGTON
F. FAULKINER
G. H. FECHNER
C. W. GIBLETT
F. C. GILBEE
C. J. HEYWOOD
G. J. HILLIS

J. E. HILLIS
S. C. HENRY
F. JONES
G. T. KELLAS
H. LYNCH
C. F. LUCAS
M. MITCHELL
T. L. MURRAY
J. MACKIE
R. McCROREY
E. McDONALD

G. W. NICHOLAS
B. F. NICHOLAS
J. H. PUGH
S. RANKIN
T. W. H. RAEBURN
W. F. SKINNER
J. TATTERSON
A. KENNY
V. C. CAUDION

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

J. E. ASHBY
F. W. ADAMSON
R. J. BROWN
J. M. N. DOUGLAS
C. H. DUSTING

L. F. GIBSON
C. FOLLETT
R. J. JOHNSON
D. JOHNSON

N. KELLAS
H. J. MARTIN
L. J. PATTLE
A. V. QUIRK

Transcribed by Sandra Dumble

TEACHER RECALLS KELLY WARNING

When Mr G. L. Romeril, 65, of East Brighton, began teaching at Loyala, near Mansfield, more than 40 years ago, he was warned not to say any-thing against the Kellys.

Loyola was "Kelly country". Now retired after 50 years with the Education Department, Mr. Romeril recalled today that his wages when he began teaching as a monitor 50 years ago were £12 a year. As he became a pupil teacher, he received £30. "Of course, chops were 1½d. a 1lb then", he explained.

In 25 years he taught at 14 country schools. He remembered clearly his first lesson. An inspector gave him a nail and said, "Talk on that".

USE OF THE STRAP

On teaching, Mr Romeril believes:

That a certain amount of strap is necessary, but children should be led and not driven.

That homework three nights a week is necessary

(or it becomes irksome when required later for higher studies).

That there are too many counter attractions for the modern student. He cannot impart the zest to his studies that his father would have done.

That teaching is much easier because of the motion picture and the radio.

That correcting is the hardest part of a teacher's life.

Mr Romeril said that he did not put any of his children to teaching because he could see no future in it. "But all that is altered now," he added.

And the future? "It probably will be fowls for me now from now on", he said.

Article appeared in The Herald, Page 2, Saturday, April 2, 1949 at the time of George Leopold ROMERIL's retirement after 50 years with the Victorian Education Department.

George Leopold was my Grandfather --- Sandra Dumble.

Taken from 'The Narracan Shire Advocate'

Printed and published in Moe

GOLD DISCOVERY NEAR MOE.

Moe was suddenly awakened into life and action during the past week when on Tuesday evening it became known that two men, employed on the Moe Swamp, had rushed of to Tanjil to secure miners rights from the registrar, Mr. Williams, with the object of pegging out a chain to seek for gold not far from the present site of where the excavation works are now going on. It would appear that one of these men had been doing a little quite fossicking in a blind gully in Dr.

Lloyd's property, and had got results which, he thought, warranted the above course. He has since been very reticent about the exact spot where he got the dirt from which contained the alleged sample of gold, and although a great number have visited the spot and tried it, very little more than the mere color (sic) has been obtained. The discovery is laughed at by many practical men, as the country is so very unlikely. Perhaps something more tangible will be known by next issue.

A Strange Fatality -- 'McLeod'

It is our painful duty to chronicle the death of a member of a very old Gippsland family which took place at Strathavon, (sic) the residence of Mr. A. A. McMillan, a brother in-law of the deceased. We, of course, refer to Mr. John Campbell McLeod. The deceased gentleman was 68 years of age, and his death was the result of a buggy accident, which took place some months ago. A strange fatality seems to have followed the four brothers of the family. Mr. Norman McLeod met with his death through his horse falling on him whilst riding into Bairnsdale. Mr. Donald McLeod took a fit whilst riding in a cab in Melbourne, and died before medical aid could be summoned. Mr Chas McLeod, after landing a party of friends from a buggy in Ballarat, was thrown through the horses bolting, and killed on the spot, and as we remarked before the subject of our present notice also died from the effects of an accident

:-- a strange chapter of coincidences. -- 'Gazette.'

A Very Strange Tale...

The Death of *Mr. Irving Bishop*

London 16th May

A painful sensation has been caused by a statement that Mr Irving Bishop, the well known thought reader, whose death was recently announced to have followed upon an attack of hysterical catalepsy, was not actually dead when the *post mortem* examination was commenced, and that he was absolutely dissected alive.

London 18th May.

Consequent on the sensational statements which have been made to the effect that Mr Irving Bishop, the well known thought reader, was dissected whilst he was in one of the cataleptic trances to which he was subject, the authorities have ordered an official enquiry to be held into the case. The doctors who made the autopsy have been arrested and liberated on bail.

Discovery of Human Remains

On Sunday last, while a man named Richie, in company with others were wallaby hunting on the estate of Mr. McKinnon, South Warragul, about 15 miles from Warragul, they came across a human skeleton lying on a cattle track. Information was at once sent to Constable Maher, at Poowong, who went to the scene of the discovery. On arriving there he made a search for some article which, possibly could lead to the identification (sic) of the deceased, and found a strap in a perished condition, also a buckle, and the lower jaw of the deceased, which had evidently been dragged away by a native cat a few yards while the body was in a state of decomposition. No traces of a blanket, billy, pipe or knife, necessaries carried by those on tramp, could be found. The boots of the deceased, which had suffered by exposure, the uppers ... being asunder from the soles, were in a position as to warrant the assumption that the deceased had expired while in a kneeling position. The *Independent* says: -- The finding of the body recalls to mind an incident which took place some two years ago. Mr. Aikman and his family were coming from church, and when near the Mechanics' Institute they saw a man in a nude condition run into the scrub. He appeared to be insane and quickly disappeared into the scrub, leaving his clothes on the edge. Search was immediately made, but, owing to the density of the scrub, it was found impossible to do so thoroughly, and it was reluctantly given up. In the thickest part of this scrub the body was discovered, and it is supposed that the poor fellow in a fit of *delirium tremens* ran into the bush and perished from hunger. An inquest will be held, but no additional light is likely to be thrown on the matter, as there is no clue to the identity of the deceased.

A concert for Mr. W. H. Holtham

A concert of a very pleasant character was given at Coalville on Wednesday evening last, the object being to bid Mr. W. H. Holtham, Wesleyan Home Missionary in charge of the Thorpdale Circuit, farewell on his departure to Traralgon, and at the same time to make him a presentation of a purse of sovereigns, subscribed by his numerous friends in Coalville and other places. The presentation was made by Mr. Wm. Burns, manager of the Moe Co.'s mine (who occupied the chair in the absence of Mr. John Stephenson, of "Tipton Vale"), and in presenting Mr. Holtham with a purse of 11½ sovereigns, conveyed to that gentleman the sentiment of deep regret with which the people viewed the departures of such a willing and able servant of their common Lord and Master, and all wished him a fervent "God-speed" in his future labors (sic). Mr. Holtham in an earnest address returned thanks, and then introduced his successor, Mr. J. W. W. Smith, who also spoke for a few minutes in a way that appeared to comment him to those present. The following program was given during the evening :-- Solo (instrumental), Mrs. Wm. Burns ; solos (vocal), Miss Lithgow (2), Doctor Norris (2), Mr. A. Hender (2), Mr. Robb, Mr. Lindsay, and Master W. Ashton ; duet, Mr Hender and Miss Gibson: first and last act of "Hamlet", Mr. J. Burns ; recitations, Mr J. Lithgow, Mr. O. Easton ; address, Mr. Taylor ; comic reading, Mr. H. David. A fair audience assembled, and marked their appreciation of the rendition of the various items by hearty and well merited applause.

Taken from 'The Narracan Shire Advocate'

Printed and published in Moe

Lemons Recipes--- 1889

Baked Lemon Pudding ---

Put the thin rind of a large fresh lemon into a pint and a half of milk. Let it soak for a while, then boil it, and pour while hot over ½ lb. of finely grated bread crumbs; add 1½oz. of fresh butter, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, and three eggs well beaten. Pour the mixture into a buttered dish, and bake in a moderate oven for three-quarters of an hour.

Boiled Lemon Pudding ---

Chop 6oz of beef suet very finely, mix with it ½ lb. of bread crumbs; ½ lb. of sugar, a teaspoon of salt, the rind of two large lemons chopped small, The strained juice of one, (lemon) and two well beaten eggs. Pour the mixture into a buttered mould, plunge it into boiling water, and boil it quickly and continuously. Serve brandy sauce with it. If preferred one oz. of ginger or ½ lb. of chopped figs may be substituted for the lemon rind, but the juice should not be omitted. Time to boil, four hours.

Lemon Rock Biscuits---

Rub the yellow rind of two fresh lemons with a ¼ lb. of loaf sugar. Powder it and mix it gradually with the white of an egg whisked to a fine froth; beat thoroughly. Butter some writing paper, place it on an open tin, drop the mixture upon it from the end of a wooden spoon in rock like shape, and place it in a cool oven to dry. Time, half an hour to beat the sugar and egg.

Lemon Peel to Keep for Use---

Lemons should be kept in a cool, dry place, and each one should be hung in a separate net, for if they touch one another they will spoil. The rind may be grated, put into jars and covered with either salt or sugar, according to the nature of the dish for which it is afterwards to be used.

Lemon Marmalade---

Slice the lemons very thin, only take out the seeds; add three pints of cold water to each pound of fruit after being cut into pieces; let it stand for 24 hours; boil it until tender, pour into an earthen bowl until the following day, weigh it, and to every pound of boiled fruit add 1½ lb. of lump sugar; boil the whole together till the syrup jellies and the chips are rather transparent.

How to Eat Soft Boiled Eggs

If you didn't know before!

The very nicest way of eating a soft boiled egg is from the shell, says 'Table Talk' of Philadelphia.

Place the small end of the egg into an eggcup, or you may stand it in a small napkin ring. The large or butt end of the egg should have the shell removed from it; then if you take away a small piece of the white you have ample room for salt, pepper, and a small piece of butter, which may be mixed with the egg without difficulty. Long handled porcelain teaspoons are the nicest and only proper things to serve with boiled eggs. Soft boiled eggs may also be eaten from a heated egg glass, the egg being opened carefully and turned into the glass. Salt, black pepper and butter are the proper seasonings.

Funniosities

April 27th 1889

"What is the price of that tea," she asked of the guileless grocer.

"One half a crown marm," was the response.

"Is that not to steep?" was the next question, and the g.g. replied: "Yes marm, that's what they do with it."

Magistrate (to woman): "You admit that you hit your husband with a stove lid, and yet you claim there are extenuating circumstances governing the case".

Woman: "Yes sah, dey was extenuatin' sarcumstance.

De stove lid warn't hot."

"My friend, do you search the scriptures?"

"Yes been searching 'em all morning."

"And did you find anything consoling?"

"You bet; I found a lot of postage stamps I left here last winter."

Why men whistle---

It is simply the noise which proceeds from a vacant mind.

The importance of grape Jelly?

There had been a runaway. A pair of horses were down, a carriage smashed to pieces, and the driver and a lady lay groaning on the grass with their hurts. The street car stopped and many got off to render aid. Among those, who stood on the rear platform were two ladies, one of whom held up her hands in horror and exclaimed: "Mercy on me! but what an awful, awful affair! It is dreadful. But how long did you say you boiled your grape-jelly, Mrs Smith?"

A Cold Day in June

29th June 1889

The weather during the last few days has been very boisterous, rain falling with very few intermissions during the time mentioned. Yesterday was one of the coldest days experienced during the winter.

Cliff Huggers, in the Tambo Valley.

April 13th 1889

Bees seem to thrive particularly well in the Tambo Valley, and apparently have multiplied to such an astonishing extent that swarms cannot any longer find hives in hollow trees. Travellers on the Tambo Valley road will notice attached to the cliffs of slate, out of which the road has been cut, about a dozen hives of bees clustering round the honeycomb, which has been hung from the overhanging crags. The fact of the busy little workers having been enabled to thrive in so comparatively exposed situations furnishes an idea of the extreme drought which has prevailed during the summer in Gippsland more especially in the country between Bairnsdale and Omeo.

NET & NEWSLETTER NEWS

Helen's finds from the Newsletters

Swan Hill Genealogical Society Inc. has issued their Research Directory for 2003.

South Gippsland G. S. Inc.: **BBC History Online**, covers a wide range of history topics, www.bbc.co.uk/history

There's a message board, www.bbc.co.uk/messageboards/ and a newsletter at

www.bbc.co.uk/history/newsletter_about.shtml

South East F. H. G. Millicent SA: State Library of South Australia, <http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au> The Mortlock library South Australia database can be found under the catalogues tab on the home page. It allows you to look for information related to people and topics and has recently been updated so that there is much more available for you to search.

Family History and Genealogy in Australia, <http://members.ozemail.com.au/%7eleadbeater/> South Australian pioneer arrivals can be found under contents in the left column. You will be able to find lists of immigrants arriving in South Australia pre 1836-1840.

The Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide Records are online at: www.centennialpark.org

Victorian G.U.M. Inc News: The World War 2 Nominal Roll is now available on the internet at:

<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/> The site contains information from the service records of some one million individuals who served during World War 2. Once you find an individual service record you can print a Certificate of Service if you wish. They also have a very good article on "Using Acrobat Reader" and another item on "Portable Document Files from Genealogy Programs".

A number of Scottish databases and books are accessible at: <http://www.scotsfind.com> There are no products for sale at the site, no ads etc. Access to databases requires registration and that you have Acrobat Reader on your computer. (The databases are in PDF format).

In The Black Sheep - Journal of EGFHG, there is an Obituary to Janet Elizabeth Reakes 1952-2002, the well known genealogist, author and speaker on genealogy, written by Dr Majorie Newton. This article is on Janet's website <http://www.familytreeresearch.net/>

From *The Reefs Rumblings* - Stawell newsletter, comes a website for Old News Copy for an index of the Victorian Police Gazette and many old newspapers: www.oldnewscopy.com

Wes Says

A very important family history research facility is now available on the internet. The first Melbourne newspapers are now available for viewing on the internet. Known originally as the **Port Phillip Herald**, the first 40 years, 1840 - 1880 have now been digitised and can be viewed at: <http://www.portphillipherald.archivepublisher.com/> and click on the link to search. Each search covers a 5 year period with a results summary listing dates only. To view details requires a registration fee of US\$6.75 (AU\$11.73 approx.) for one week or US\$16.75 for one month. There is also a very handy save search facility which allows you to resume your search at the same place after going off line. Many more newspapers can also be searched by clicking on new search and selecting from the list.

Wes Halket

Sandra's finds

This information re **Freemason's** comes from the Narre Warren & District FHG's newsletter "Spreading Branches".

'If anyone has ancestors who were involved in Freemasonry in Victoria and they are seeking further information, write to:

Freemasonry, Victoria

Masonic Centre of Victoria

PO Box 154, East Melbourne, 3002

The Peninsula Past Times (Mornington Peninsula FHS) recommends the following site:

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org>

This is a digital library of historical directories which can be searched online. Directories, local & trade, from England & Wales (Pigot's, etc.) although not all counties are covered as yet.

Forgotten Favourites

Assisted Immigrants Indexes from the State Records of New South Wales.

Index to assisted immigrants arriving at Port Phillip, 1839-51

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/immigration/indexpphillip/search.asp>

Index to assisted immigrants arriving in Sydney and Newcastle, 1844-59

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/immigration/index1844-59/search.htm>

Index to assisted immigrants arriving at Moreton Bay (Brisbane), 1848-59

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/immigration/indexpphillip/indexmbay/search.htm>

Index to assisted immigrants arriving in Sydney, 1860-79

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/immigration/index1860-79/search.htm>

'What's on' at Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. Monthly Meetings

March 27th Speaker: Meredith Fletcher, from the Centre for Gippsland Studies.
April 24th Bring along your Anzac memorabilia.
May 22nd Speaker: Peter Lendon, from Yarragon Book Shop.

'Welcome' New Members

Ian HABERFIELD Brian & Vaughan KNOX Megan & Deborah SKINNER

MEMBERS FAMILY HISTORY

My Great Grandmother, Mary Ann **McKenzie** was born in Masadon, Victoria about 1861. A twin, she was the eldest daughter and second child of 13 to John Colin McKenzie and Mary Sophia **Standen**. Although she never had a profession I'm sure she was a great help to her mother in rearing her siblings, little sister Emma was just 3 years old when Mary Sophia married William Joseph Henry **Baxter** on May 10th 1883 at the home of her parents, in Jindivick. Her new husband Harry was a "sawyer at Jindivick" so you could presume he was working for John Colin at his Sawmill.

The newly weds settled in the Buln Buln area till after their first daughter Mable was born, in 1885. Ralph Colin was born in Carlton the next year. After the death of John Colin (Mary Ann's father) they moved to Kilcunda where their next four children were born, Ada, Zilla, Emma, and Sophia (married Stephen **McMillan**). It was in this time that Harry was "going about setting up saw mills". Arthur Henry, their last child, was born in Drouin. They stayed in the Gippsland area for the remainder of their lives, with Harry passing away at the Warragul Hospital on the 3rd of June 1843, at the age of 87. Mary Ann passed away in 1949 at Flemington.

Joseph Baxter, later known as "Harry", was born on the first day of July 1856 at his Grandparents farm at Mordialloc. He was the illegitimate son of Zilla Baxter the 17 year old daughter of Thomas Baxter and Ann Parnham. On his marriage certificate to Mary Ann, "Harry" states his parents as Thomas Baxter and Ann Parnham, when in actual fact they were his grandparents, who brought him up. On his mothers death certificate "Harry" isn't mentioned. His father (as passed down through the family and told to me by my Grandmother and also listed on his death certificate) is thought to be Benjamin Baxter of Baxter Flats. "Harry" is buried in the Drouin Cemetery.

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Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.,

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