

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

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

FIELD TRIP! TO THE STATE LIBRARY... OCTOBER 11TH
Car pool or train, contact a committee member for details.

Members training Day... 1st November, 9am till noon.

Learn how to better use the library's facilities.

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.

NOW DUE!

Membership fees 2002/2003: Single \$25; Family \$30 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".

In This Issue:

Presidents Report.

Thorpdale and District Cenotaph Transcriptions.

Members Profile: Ray HOUGH.

Book Review: So Tall the Trees.

Lists of local Inquests.

Contributors:

Ron Pratt, Sandra Dumble, Helen McLennan, Ray Hough, Kaye O'Reilly.

President's Report Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. 2002-2003

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by since I volunteered to act as President for Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.

I have enjoyed being part of the group this past year but due to various outside factors have probably only served to run the monthly meetings. I managed to miss several committee meetings by simply forgetting to make a note of them in a prominent position.

Meetings throughout the year have been well attended with a larger attendance for some of the guest speakers.

JULY Jean McNally gave an interesting talk on information available at LDS and how best to access these records.

AUGUST Due to last minute cancellation by guest speaker, some members described successes and failures in their searches for family histories.

OCTOBER Bob Jones explained new additions to the library and how to access same. This session was also run one Saturday morning with a good role up of non-members.

NOVEMBER I gave a brief rundown on actions taken before, during and after the holding of the 'Treadwell Family Reunion' at Geelong during October.

FEBRUARY David Grant on Masonic Lodge records and how to access these records.

MARCH Meredith Fletcher speaking on the research she carried out for her book "Digging Up People For Coal". Meredith also made some interesting observations about Yallourn.

APRIL As the meeting was held the day before 'Anzac Day', members brought memorabilia of their relatives war service. Some very unusual history was on display.

MAY Peter Lendon (Bookbinder) created great interest as he told us of the history of bookbinding from early handbound books to mass produced machine printed books of today. He showed examples of old books showing changes that slowly evolved using leather and later cloth, and period when each style took place.

JUNE John Leckie (LV Funeral Services) detailed records kept by his company and details needed to be forwarded to Melbourne for the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Most early funeral and burials were carried out by General Carriers and others, funerals not being their main business. Many of these earlier funeral services failed to keep very good records which can make research difficult.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all committee members and any others for their help which has been vital to the running of the group.

Sandra, our Secretary, the real engine of the machine. Kaye for the excellent Newsletters, despite the lack of contributions from members. David, our Treasurer, who kept us in the black. Bob, Librarian, Wes, Webmaster and Claire, research.

Ron Pratt

July 24, 2003

"WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS"

**Julie Hall, Melodee Farrugia, Dianne Terry, Debra & John Evans,
Yolanda Reynolds, Joan and Donna-Ann Callanan**

http://www.interment.net/data/aus/nsw/orana/wellington/wellington_gen/index.htm

Total records = 3,900. Wellington General Cemetery, Wellington Shire, Orana, New South Wales, Australia "The present monumental cemetery adjoined the earlier pioneer cemetery which was ruthlessly and almost completely destroyed to make way for the highway. It contains memorials dating from the early 1870s. One grave is actually dated 1850 but an attached plaque states that, for some reason not explained, the remains of the occupant were exhumed some 74 years later.'

Members Profile: *Ray Hough*

When and why did you start on your family history?

Although I didn't start researching my family history until mid to late 1990's, the seed was sown in early 1990 when my cousin visited from WA while he was researching our mothers' family. This started me thinking how little I knew of my fathers family (my father died when I was still quite young). I still never got moving until I received from my sister a copy of my parents wedding certificate. I have since also researched my wife's family.

What names have you researched?

Hough, Heywood, Williams, Oliver, Harvey and Smith for myself. Curtis, Smith, Troake, Coles, Coxhead, Harris and Howes for Junie.

How far back have you researched?

I have not searched as far back as some of our members, but I have gone as far back as I wanted to, to give my grandchildren some idea of their roots. 1803 would be about the limit of my research overseas, as the next generation migrated to Australia. I wanted to tell my grandchildren more about their ancestors within Australia.

Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?

John and Mary Vagg, on my mothers side, arrived in Melbourne in 1840 (researched by my cousin) however the earliest that I have personally researched were John and Mary (nee Harvey) Oliver who arrived on the Salsett in 1841.

Who is your favourite ancestor?

This is a difficult question, although I suppose my Great Grandmother Elizabeth Heywood would be one who stands out as she travelled out to Australia on her own to marry John Hough and they were married in Bendigo three days after she arrived in Melbourne, surely one who knew her own mind and didn't waist time.

What is your most interesting find so far?

As I had no contact with my fathers family, due to him dying while still a young man, and finding out that his family moved to WA when dad was very young. I was amazed to find that my grandfather had still been alive when I was married, but unfortunately died 12 months later. I discovered that he had been married twice. I also discovered that my great grandparents were not content to stay put in Bendigo but in fact my grandfather had siblings born in Tasmania and in of all places New Zealand. Lack of modern transport such as we have didn't stop them from traveling back in the 1800's.

If the wish fairy could give you the answer to one question what would it be?

There are many questions that I would like to know more about, but two that stand out are when and where were my fathers maternal grandparents, George Williams and Elizabeth Smith, married? And exactly who was Junie's convict ancestor and what happened to him.

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THORPDALE CENOTAPH INSCRIPTIONS

THORPDALE & DISTRICTS

tribute
to its heroes
who made the
Supreme Sacrifice
in the Great War
1914-1919

For
King & country

THORPDALE

CORNTHWAITE, W. M.
De MELKER, H.
HARRISON, H.
PAKENHAM, A. E.
RODDA, W.
RODDA, W.
SNOWBALL, J. H.
WALL, G. S. L.
WILKINSON, C. P.
WILKINSON, F. S.

TRAFALGAR SOUTH

BICKERLY, W.
GERLACH, J.
HAWKINS, G. H.
INNMAN, J.
PONTER, A. W.
RADFORD, E.
SMITH, W. C.
SIBLEY, D.
TAYLOR, A.

AIF

CHILDERS

BALDIE, W.
BROMFIELD, C. F.
BROWN, W.
CANTWELL, P.

DICKINSON, H. S.
GORMAN, M. E.
MAYO, G. J.

PAVITT, G.
PEARCE, R. A.
WELLS, J. C.

In recognition & remembrance
of Australian servicemen who
served in KOREA, MALAYA, BORNEO
And VIETNAM.

K. I. A. 1939 – 45
J. TATTERSON
J. FISHER
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Contact: *Leonie Robinson*

17 Gibson Street, MOE 3825

Phone: 03 51274442 Mobile: 0411034681

LIST OF NARRACAN & YINNAR INQUESTS

| NAME: | PLACE: | AGE: | YEAR: | OCCUPATION: |
|--------------------------|----------|------|-------|---------------|
| GREENE, Lucy Ethel Maude | Narracan | 5m | 1887 | Infant |
| SOMMERS, Annie Clara | Narracan | | 1890 | |
| NEIL, Elsie Jane | Narracan | | 1890 | |
| JOHNSON, Ida | Narracan | | 1892 | Infant |
| FAWKNER, John Alex | Yinnar | 37 | 1883 | Labourer |
| LUSCOMBE, John | Yinnar | | 1888 | |
| CLARK, Bartholomew | Yinnar | | 1889 | |
| HAWKES, George | Yinnar | | 1890 | Farm Labourer |
| LYONS, John | Yinnar | | 1896 | |

Six of the above deaths were attributed to illness or disease, with one suicide and one due to falling from a horse.

LIST OF GLENGARRY & MORWELL INQUESTS

| NAME: | PLACE: | AGE: | YEAR: | OCCUPATION: |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|-------|----------------|
| BALL, Elizabeth | Glengarry | 75 | 1885 | |
| MARSTIN, Charles | Glengarry | 26 | 1892 | |
| SALTER, Rodger William | Glengarry | | 1892 | |
| JONES, John | Glengarry | | 1893 | |
| DONALDSON, Grace | Morwell | 18 | 1881 | Unmarried |
| MCMILLAN, Roderick Welsley | Morwell | | 1882 | Shire Engineer |
| MURDOCH, William McCrae | Morwell | | 1885 | |
| MANTON, Henry Rose Aitken | Morwell | 48 | 1885 | Farmer |
| JOPE, Arthur John | Morwell | | 1888 | Child |
| O'SULLIVAN, Patrick | Morwell | | 1888 | |
| ROFF, Henry George | Morwell | | 1888 | Boy |
| JOHNSTON, Margaret | Morwell | | 1888 | Child |
| LEECH, William Joshua | Morwell | | 1888 | |
| DOYLE, David | Morwell | | 1889 | |
| SAMUELS, Mary Emily | Morwell | 19 | 1890 | Servant |
| LOBLEY, Caroline | Morwell | | 1891 | |
| WALSH, Patrick | Morwell | | 1898 | |

Three of the above deaths were attributed to falling from a horse, two train accidents, two suicides, three drownings, one accidental shooting, one fall from a tree, with the remainder due to illness and disease.

LIST OF MOE & DISTRICT INQUESTS

| NAME: | PLACE: | AGE: | YEAR: | OCCUPATION: |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|-------------|
| BROWN, George | Moe | Little | 1877 | |
| STANTON, John | Moe | 28 | 1877 | |
| MCCARTHY, Denis | Moe | | 1882 | Labourer |
| WILLIAMS, John | Moe | | 1883 | Labourer |
| CARROLL, John Thomas | Moe | 5y 6m | 1883 | |
| PEARSON, Alexander | Moe | | 1884 | Labourer |
| MCKENZIE, George | Moe | | 1886 | |
| MARTIN, William Harvey | Moe | 12 | 1886 | |
| MORRIS, Thomas | Moe | 47 | 1886 | |
| BARTLETT, Mabel A | Moe | 4y 9m | 1887 | |
| GADD, Charles | Moe | | 1887 | |
| BUTLER, Edward | Moe | 42 | 1888 | |
| WINDMILL, Albert Lionel Picton | Moe | 36 | 1888 | |
| NICHOLL, Charles | Moe | 80 | 1888 | |
| DUNCAN, Alexander | Moe | 48 | 1889 | |
| CONLEY, Francis | Moe | | 1889 | Boy |
| FORREST, John | Moe | | 1891 | Coal Miner |
| HEARLE, Charles Jewel | Moe | | 1891 | Teacher |
| FALKNER, John | Moe South | | 1891 | Labourer |
| ROSS, John | Moe | 36 | 1892 | |
| MCCABE, John | Moe | | 1892 | |
| AH, Sing | Moe | | 1896 | |
| SIMPSON, James | Moe South | | 1897 | |

Six of the above deaths were attributed to accidents with trains, two from falling trees, three suicides, one was kicked by a horse, one from falling earth, and the remainder due to illness and disease. *Sandra Dumble.*

BOOK REVIEW PLUS

'So Tall the Trees'

A history of the Southern Districts of the Narracan Shire.

Written by *John Adams.*

In its centenary year, 1978, this shire council marked the occasion with the publication of its history. It records the growth of townships such as *Trafalgar, Yarragon* and *Thorpdale* along with the story of the draining and settlement of the *Moe* swamp. There is an account of the discovery and development of the black coalmines of *Coalville* as well as one on the brown coalmines of *Yallourn North*. There is something of interest on just about every town in the area. The council encourages readers to use the book to investigate their local history and use it to write their own. I found the book easy to read with historical elements presented in such a way as to make one forget they are reading history.

I had asked my mother why we moved from the farming district around Bunyip to Moe. 'For the housing' was her reply. In 1953 she had just had her 4th child and we were all living in a two-roomed house in Vervale.

Chapter 13 details reports from the Housing Commission on the growth of Moe as the dormitory town for Yallourn. " 'large areas of bush lands have been acquired here and practically a new town will be created in which 600 houses are proposed, mostly for coal production and electrical workers, transport men and others directly or indirectly connected with the new development in the area'. In June 1952 the Housing Commission celebrated the opening of the 1000th home, by 1956 1500 homes had been completed", and I was living in Moe. *The 2001 census tells us that the City of Moe now has 5381 houses, however after numerous phone calls and a check on the internet I was unable to find out how many were actually built by the Housing Commission.*

The Bibliography offers the reader some great research options. I took myself off to the **Public Records Office** to look at the *Selectors files* of the *Lands Department* after reading the following story. Although I wasn't as lucky finding anything as good as this I am now able to piece together My Great-Great Grandfathers movements in the later part of the 19th century.

'Many selectors were constantly finding it necessary to ask for time to pay their rent to the Lands Department'. When pressed for his rent in May 1883, Isaac Davies of Allambee wrote to ask for extra time as he had had an accident. He had actually cut off his fingers. Again in 1884 he wrote and said "The Government must still hunt a poor man to death for the rent. Well now, I reduced myself and family to dry potatoes and I rushed what produce I had into the market, sold it for half value. If I could keep it for a time it fetch twice the value but the rent must be paid. Well I succeeded in getting the rent ready, when now one of my children fell while getting the cattle to be milked. She is lying here between life and death for want of medical assistance. We have no roads, no means of getting a child out with broken bones. The only way of getting her out is to strap her on a horse. I made the attempt to try and get her to Melbourne Hospital but it could not be done. She would be dead before I would get her a mile from this place but these are the kinds of roads we have, Now I have to pay 5 pounds to get a doctor besides other things this required..... The Government is quite ignorant of our struggles and situation out in this forest. I have done all in my power, half staved the family and sold my produce at anything I could get. I cannot let them die to send the money to pay the rent." Chapter 3 of this book has loads of tales like this one.

When researching land records at the Public Records Office you need to start with the reference number on the original parish map. For J McMillen those are 31/5126 while the smaller block when enlarged reads 1773/19.20. For A McKinnon the number is 31/825.

Kaye O'Reilly

NET & NEWSLETTER NEWS

OF INTEREST FROM NEWSLETTERS IN 2001

The following articles were found while browsing through past editions and may be of interest to some members.

South East Family History Groups Newsletter, November 2001

Names in the SE of South Australia 1868 (Penola, Narracoorte, Robe)

The Pivot Tree, Geelong Family History Group, October 2001

Deserters & discharged seamen 1851-1853. Seafaring edition of their newsletter.

Yarram Genealogy Group Newsletter, October 2001

Obituaries in the Foster Mirror 1959, 1964, 1972, 1980, 1985.

The Family Link, Sale & District Family History Group, October 2001

List of lonely graves in the Wellington Shire (Part 1).

Ibis Heritage, Kerang & District Family History Group, October 2001

List of Kerang Inquests 1840-1985.

Sandra Dumble

HELEN'S FINDS

English Sites from The Genealogist, June 2003 page 447.

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/> One of the best sites seen for a while. A library of historical directories hosted by the University of Leicester.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dadds/MERSYSIDE.index.html> A good census site if you have Liverpudlians.

Australian Sites

<http://www.fcmp.com.au/> Rotating Gif's make this site slow to load. Search Fawkner Memorial Park, Northern Memorial Park and Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery. Click on deceased inquiries to go to search page. The result of my inquiry reads: Fawkner Crematorium And Memorial Park wishes to advise that the **cremated** remains of the late **Richard John Fitzgerald** aged **80** are located at **H C Curwen-Walker Gdns. Tranquillity Roses Bed 1 Position 73**. They even give you a map to find the site.

SANDRA'S PICK

<http://slv.smedi.a.com.au/> The Melbourne Leader Newspaper digitisation project.

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Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.,

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