

NEWSLETTER:

No. 17. AUGUST 1984.

Genealogical Society of Victoria, Mid-Gippsland Group.
Secretary: Dawn Cowley (Mrs) 051 271780, Newborough, Vic.
Chairman: John Pattison, Traralgon, Vic.

JULY MEETING

Again our average attendance was around forty, and on this occasion we were entertained by G.S.V. President, Brigadier E. Compton, with a lively and interesting talk on the various aspects of English research.

Brigadier Compton spoke on the availability of parish registers and their contents. He made references to the many almost illegible entries on one hand and the beautiful copperplate writing on the other. From the registers he was able to deduce the lifestyles and types of people from those times long gone.

Amidst the entries there were a number of references to base born children, and again those who had the word "pest" entered against their names. They had perished from the plague.

And sadly enough in other areas of research a great number of foundling children were mentioned. Some, mere infants, discarded like unwanted poor baggage, and in some instances found in the gutters or streets, to be named perhaps after the street in which they were found, or possibly named after a patron saint of the times, or yet again after the person who found them. What incredible history these parish registers reveal!

JUNE MEETING

Meetings of our Group continue to be interesting and varied. At our June meeting our personal treasures were brought out of storage and their stories told at our "Show and Tell" night. Some beautiful and very interesting pieces were displayed and admired, and the interest shown in a meeting of this type ensures another similar one in the future.

One of the most unique items of early heritage to be displayed was a well restored, lovingly tended, impressive sized and antiquated "barn door hinge". The hinge to all accounts is in the future, to be displayed by the caring recipient on his lounge room wall.

"Just goes to show how history can hinge on a barn door".

PRE 1900 INDEX

In an effort to gain support on the issue of public access to the indexes to pre 1900 births, death and marriages, letters were sent to six Gippsland M.P.'s outlining the issue. Support has been gained from these six M.P.'s in attempting to persuade the Government to allow this access.

It is hoped that all groups are working at putting pressure on the Government, as nothing is to be gained by sitting back and waiting for someone else to do the work. This access would be of benefit to genealogists, so we must make a concerted effort to gain this result.

Why not sign a petition, or write personally to your M.P. in your area?

MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP SEMINAR

Our seminar is planned for Saturday the 15th of September 1984. It will commence at 9-45 a.m. and finish around 3-30 to 4.00 p.m.

The speakers booked for the occasion are:-

1. Joan Wills of the G.S.V., speaking on her roll as a research officer.
2. Linley Hooper, speaking on the holdings of the G.S.V.
3. Des Regan, a talk on Irish research.
4. Colin Holt, research into Cambridgeshire.

The fee for the day will be \$5 per person, and please remember to B.Y.O. your own lunch. Hopefully again we will have an array of books on display and for purchase. All arrangements are yet to be finalised, but keep the date in mind for an interesting and educational day.

GENEALOGY CAN BE HABIT FORMING

Here it is at last ! for all you patient connoisseurs of fine wit.

Warning: GENEALOGY POX (very contagious to adults)

Symptoms: Continual complaint as to the need of names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and court houses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears mailman doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places - cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange far-away look in eyes.

Treatment: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner of the house where he or she can be alone.

Remarks: The usual nature of this disease is -the sicker the patient gets - the more he or she enjoys it. For this disease there is no known cure.

FURTHER LIBRARY ADDITIONS

4th National (British) Genealogical Directory. 1982-83.
Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society Newsletter.
Glasgow and West of Scotland Members Directory-September 1983.
Heritage Week(magazine) April 1984. By National Trust of Aust (Vic).

A QUICK QUIZ

Do you have the following in your family background ? (just wondered).

A Fellmonger, a Cooper perhaps, or maybe a Boniface, or even a Scourger.

COUNTY CLARE HERITAGE CENTRE

The Clare Heritage Centre in Corofin is compiling a unique genealogical record of the County which is proving of great value to descendants of County Clare emigrants tracing their roots. Using B & M registers, poor law valuations and even shipping logs, workers at the centre are compiling an index of all people in the County from 1818 to 1900. They have so far been able to trace quite a lot of descendants, and through contacts in Australia have found out a lot about how emigrants from Clare arrived there.

For further information on these records write to:-
Nadise Cleary. The Clare Heritage Centre. Corofin, Co. Clare, Ireland.

It would also be a wise move to enquire as to any search fee which may exist for these records.

BALLIERE'S OFFICIAL POST OFFICE DIRECTORY OF VICTORIA

Contents of the directories: The directories contain the names, residences and occupations of inhabitants of the colony, arranged both alphabetically and according to locations, with cross references. Additional information about Government institutions, public instrumentalities, and municipalities is provided.

Series covered are: 1869, 1870, 1871-72, 1875 and 1880-81.

WISE'S VICTORIA POST OFFICE DIRECTORY

The directories contain the names of householders, their residences and occupation in the colony. The arrangement is both alphabetical and regional. Additional information covers businesses, trades and professions, pastoral and agricultural listings; banking, finance, legal, ecclesiastical, insurance, educational, medical, horticultural and viticultural entries.

Series covered are: 1884-85, 1888-89, 1891-92, 1893-94, 1895-96, 1897-98, 1899-1900.

Both the above series have been recently released on microfiche. Our Group last month purchased the full set of both series and they will be made available on restricted loan from our library.

LIBRARY REMINDER

While our library is functioning satisfactorily remember to please return books on due date. And when returning books please hand them to the librarian direct to have them checked off. Returning books without seeing the librarian only creates extra confusion all round.

A FINE of 50 cents per book per month will be imposed on all overdue books.

Non-members are not permitted to borrow books, but are welcome to view all books and other material on meeting nights.

NOTICE TO AUTHORS

The authors of Victorian histories that are considered to be suitable for school libraries are advised to send review copies of their books to;

Officer in charge, Library Services,
Education Department, 449 Swanston Street, Carlton, 3053.

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Morwell Historical Society which has not been active since 1974 is being reformed. Meetings will be held on the third Monday in the month at Morwell Neighbourhood House, 2 Doolan Street, Morwell.

Further information from:-

Jill Cain, Victoria's 150th Anniversary office at Traralgon. Phone: (051) 74-1565 and Lyndley Watkins (051) 34 5988.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS

The Institute of Mental Health Research and Post-Graduate Training hold copies of the original entry books and registers of the majority of early institutions and lunatic asylums in Victoria. If seeking information on a particular inmate, please write direct to:-

Private Bag No. 8 P.O. Parkville, Vic. 3052.

A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE !

From the "Newcastle Daily Journal", Saturday 12th January, 1967:

"Edward Thayes and Miss Helen P Jellman attended by Mr Austin Humphrey and Annie E Crause went to St Paul's Church, the former to get married and the latter to act as groomsman and bridesmaid. They all stood up before the alter and the officiating clergyman, the Rev. Mr Dunn, supposing that both couples were to be married requested the gentleman to join hands with their respective ladies, which was done, and in a very short space of time the four were made two. The situation being fully realised by the latter couple, they concluded to accept what they could not very well help, and all adjourned to their boarding house quite pleased with the result of the preacher's mistake".

CERTIFICATES FROM ST. CATHERINE'S HOUSE

From 1st of April 1984 birth, death and marriage certificates cost £10 (approx \$A16.50) including postage. Delivery will take about three weeks from receipt of request.

Address: General Register Office, St. Catherine's House,
10 Kingway, London WC2B 6JP.

Across the counter charges have increased to £5.
Compulsory Civil Registration of births, deaths & marriages started on the 1st July 1837 for England And Wales only.

CERTIFICATES FROM IRELAND

Birth, death and marriage certificates are available from: The Reistrar-General, Custom House, Dublin. The cost is two Pounds, 25p plus postage (plus 75p if a five year index search is needed). Compulsory registration commenced on 1st January 1864. registration of Protestant marriages commenced 1st April 1845. General searches will not be undertaken by the staff. A search will be made if sufficient information is given: names in full, date and place of event. Names of the parents should be supplied when applying for birth certificates.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

At last our long awaited copy of 'Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip' has arrived. The book by R.V. Billis and A.S. Kenyon was originally written in 1932 but was re-issued in 1974 with ammendments. The first half of the book deals with an alphabetical listing of pastoralists active in the early Port Phillip area. Included here are extra biographical remarks about the pastoralist concerned, while part two deals with the name and whereabouts of the particular cattle runs. The acreage of each run is stated, and the date in which the pastoralist took over the run is given, included is the date of cancellation etc.

Editorial:-

J. Rogers.

J. Stevens.

F. Robinson.