

NEWSLETTER

No. 31
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Genealogical Society of Victoria - Mid Gippsland Group
Chairman : Mrs. D. Cowley, Newborough 051 - 271780
Secretary : Mrs. A. Barr, Narracan 051 - 681237

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

The past two months have been very interesting for our Group.

On 26th March a workshop night followed by a very amusing account of our member, Eddie Tunn's recent visit to Scotland. His kinfolk could not understand why he wanted to travel fifty miles to look at records of dead relations. He proved the adage of third time lucky when his third visit got him into the Registry Office after rising at 6.00 a.m. and being on the doorstep at 9.10 a.m. Be warned - it pays to book in. It was nice to hear that Eddie now knows how many people are buried in the "McNabb" Family Cemetery when the old fisherman replied "All of them". It was clear he was out to catch more than fish.

On 23rd April we were given a talk on Copyright by Mr. Len Moore. He made us aware that the copyright act is far reaching and a good genealogist should be sure of their position before going into print and using information available from the many sources available to us.

The 30th April was a special guest night when Prof. Calvin Quayle, accompanied by his wife delivered a fascinating lecture on genealogy from the viewpoint of the Mormon Church and their records at Salt Lake City. Unfortunately the attendance was only fair for a speaker who provided an informative and entertaining evening.

Of special mention was the recording of dates : 10th February, 1852 instead of 10.02.1852 (Americans read this as 2nd October, 1852).

Also, people researching around 1752, be aware of the confusion created when the Julian Calendar was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar. (See page 2)

Trap for the unwary - "Family Bibles" are not always the "Gospel Truth" - check date of book in relation to the details supplied. Also study the writing - same hand, same ink could have been copied from somewhere else so may be doubtful!

Prof. Quayle mentioned that Americans are not keen on discovering "black sheep" in their family trees. One researcher found a forebear had been executed and wrote to the genealogist concerned stating "Your ancestor died whilst holding a seat of applied electricity at a Government Institution".

THE CHANGES TO OUR CALENDAR :

The GREGORIAN CALENDAR of to-day was a modification of the JULIAN CALENDAR which was based on the local calendar of the ancient city of Rome.

The days and months of the calendar are based on the phases of the Moon which control religious festivals while the year is defined by the seasons which control sowing and harvest times and dominate the economic life.

Julius Caesar, advised by Sosigenes, devised the "new" calendar which began on 1st January 45, B.C.

To bring the calendar back into line with tables drawn up in 325 A.D. by the Council of Nicaea (which stated that the vernal equinox should be on March 21st) Pope Gregory xiii made the day following 4th October 1582 the 15th Oct. The Gregorian Calendar was adopted almost immediately in Roman Catholic Countries but Great Britain and the American Colonies did not adopt it until 1752 when September 2nd was followed by September 14th. Russia adopted the calendar in 1918 while other countries waited until 1923.

Also the Roman year began on 1st March but changed this to January 1st in 153 B.C. However, England had December 25th as the years start until the 14th Century when it changed to 25th March. It was 1752 before 1st January was New Year.

So, if you are lucky enough to get your research back to 1752, beware of the date changes.

RESEARCH QUERY:

Shirley Connaghan is looking for descendants of HENRY VICCARS JUSTICE born 1830, Huntingdon England and migrated to Australia in 1854.

Married in 1856 to Margaret Le Guier (d 1874) at Castlemaine Victoria. Their nine children were all born at Elphinstone and Taradale Victoria.

Mary Ann Elizabeth	Emily Maud
Margaret Ethel	Catherine
Jane Eliza	Ellen Amelia
William Henry	Grace Eveline
Walter Staples	

Second marriage to Esther Maria (Maule) Jones at Paddington N.S.W. 1884.

Their two children Ernest Frederick and Roland Viccars were both born at Hay, N.S.W.

Henry (d 1903) and Esther (d 1912) are both buried in the Hay Cemetery.

If you can help, contact Mrs. Shirley (Justice) Connaghan,
29 Fairway Drive,
Yallourn Heights, Vic. 3825.

"LEST WE FORGET"

My Grandparent's home, like so many others, had the photo of a soldier hanging on a wall. I knew it to be "Uncle Will - he died in the first world war."

Recently I was handed a bag containing some of William's possessions returned to his family. Inside I found medals, a letter from his concerned Grandmother, his semaphore cards and a diary.

In his diary he mentions leaving Melbourne aboard transport s.s. "Wandilla", No. 3828 with 49th Battalion A.I.F. on 31st January 1916 heading for Egypt. "Must have another look at this fascinating country.." he wrote. From Egypt he went to France describing the countryside, the devastation and some German trenches. The last entry, 2nd September states "For the second time I'm at the front!"

Nineteen year old William was killed on 4th September 1916 but is now so much more than a photo and a name - thanks to my interest in genealogy.

Another Anzac Day has just passed and many of us have that branch on our family tree that comes to a sudden end. WILLIAM THOMAS HUTCHINGS and the tens of thousands like you - "Lest We Forget".

Lyn Sephton.

IN OUR LIBRARY:

Our library now contains a complete set of the "Boolarra Link" to date.

First published in 1981 it grew from the "Citizens and Ratepayers Association Newsletter" and is still produced quarterly.

It contains mostly items of a current nature, activities of Boolarra and district e.g. local groups, personalities, sport little of historical value - yet.

Future issues will be added to the library as they are published.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

I found a fascinating way to write the family history - In the "first person" as Kenneth Cox has done in his book "Father Was A Convict" available in the Morwell Library. It is written in sections broadly covering
1. His forefathers period in England: 2. The development of the family in Tasmania: 3. The years in Yarram, Vic.
4. Culminating in Melbourne. It covers the years 1811 to 1983.

It was an interesting book made more enjoyable by the manner in which it was written.

Greg Sephton



BEGINNER'S CORNER

by Dawn Cowley

Pick the brains and ask advice of other genealogists, particularly those in the group you join. You will gain enormous assistance from these people, as they vividly recall the early days of their research and are only too eager to help you.

Offer to pay photocopying costs, postage costs etc. for any information you are offered.

Keep a record of all mail you send and receive.

Do NOT destroy any mail relative to your research. File your letters in loose leaf binders.

Be specific when requesting information by mail. Six pages of a rambling family history and a vague query can be off-putting to even the most enthusiastic genealogist.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE GENEALOGIST WHO

- wrote to his local library saying "He had looked for his grandfather for twenty years. Is he in your library?"
- said "I am having a lot of trouble finding information on records which were not kept - can you help?"
- wrote asking "Could you please send me a copy of my ancestors?"

CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE :

We have practically exhausted our supply of material for your Newsletter. We need items for inclusion during the coming months.

Produced for the Mid-Gippsland Group G.S.V. by the Newsletter Committee : Greg and Lyn Sephton, P.O. Box 51, Boolarra, 3870.