

NEWSLETTER

No. 33

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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

The last two meetings have been fairly quiet with both nights being workshop nights followed by a formal business meeting. The workshop time has seen a lot of action on our micro-fische reader and many people making good use of our library.

SEMINAR : A Day Well Spent!

46 people had a valuable day listening to four speakers at our Seminar on 12th September.

Dawn Cowley : Planning a family Reunion.

Bruce Fullerton, G.U.M. : Family History using computers.

Lucille Andel : Researching family history in Tasmania.

Marion LeCheminant : Australian Bicentennial Historic Records Search.

Each speaker held our attention and there were many pens hard at work taking notes. (Our Library has audio tapes of talks given on Saturday together with those of our previous Seminars - they are well worth borrowing.)

Displays by the 1850's group, Booksellers including our Nelly Helyer created much interest.

Thanks to all who organised the day and helped with the catering.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY:

"PLACE NAMES OF VICTORIA"(Microfiche) by Les Blake

"DEADLY DETAILS" A guide to causes of death listed on Certificates.

"FAMILY REGISTRY INDEX" (Microfiche)(Family registry (or members interests) of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.)

"A GUIDE TO THE N.S.W. ARCHIVES KIT." Don. Nelly Helyar.

"PROPOSED ADVICE TO MINISTER DEPT. PROPERTY AND SERVICES"
On review of Public Records Policy. March 1987.

NEWSLETTERS - from several groups.

ECHUCA GROUP : Members Interests Directory, 1986.

"FAMILY TREE" Magazine - Monthly to April, 1987. (English)

"YOUR FAMILY TREE" - May 1987. A new magazine for genealogists. Published in Australia. Features Scandinavians - why they came: Scandals and Scoundrels by Janet Reakes: Make an audio-visual family record: New Guinea records: Family Seeker lists.

Thank you to the many people who donate material to our library.

VALE :

Johannes (Hans) RAMESLAAR

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death on 6th September of Hans - our fellow member (also of G.S.V.) at the age of 42.

Sympathy is extended to his wife Laraine and children Andrew and Joanne.

A Keen Genealogist.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ???

Dawn Cowley

As genealogists, we are all aware of the importance of oral history as a means of gathering information relevant to our research of our ancestors. How often, too, are we reminded that we must not assume this information to be accurate but that it must be verified where possible by consulting cold, hard recorded data.

The following short passage was forwarded to me in writing by a distant family member when she heard that I was planning a family reunion. She sent the story in good faith and no doubt believed it to be the truth. However, I had done my research on the family concerned - though a consultation with the shipping information of their voyage to Australia was all that was needed to disprove this story. The embellishments and exaggerations contained in this short paragraph obviously make it a far more exciting story than the facts which I have placed in brackets where clarification is necessary.

"Edward (his name was Edmund) Jessup and his wife Maria Crack sailed with five children (they sailed with two children). The ship was the Marco Polo (it was the Australia). It missed the trade winds and was becalmed in the Indian Ocean for nine months (the entire voyage last only three months). One hundred children started the journey (close!! 110 children sailed from England) and only eight survived (six children died on the voyage, as did two adults - a grand total of eight deaths from 471 passengers). While bread lasted children survived. When biscuits fed to them they died of malnutrition or scurvy (neither listed as a cause of death of any of the eight children victims). Edward and Maria arrived with only their eldest child Alf (they arrived with eldest child Sarah Ann. Son Thomas had died on the trip)."

The rest of the story is equally exciting, but rest assured, I will check it thoroughly before giving it too much credence.

SOME FASCINATING FAMILY RECORDS - SHARED :

Alma Glover has two interesting documents from her ancestors which make fascinating reading. She summarises them below :

The Will of WILLIAM WATSON of Scotland :

William Watson was my Great-Great-Grandfather who died in 1810. His Will was not finally settled until 1983, due to many factors.

Agnes Craig, his second wife was much younger than he and she did not die until 1940 having exercised her right to live in the family home until her death, also deriving income from the estate.

My Paternal Grandfather was the eldest son of the first marriage, his mother's name was Janet (nee JACK) and his name was James Watson. James came to N.S.W. about 1884 to work at the Shale mines at Joadja Creek near Mittagong and his wife Davina Isobel (nee BURT) came out later with the two eldest children Janet (my grandmother) and her sister Jane (about 1886).

As the inheritance was to go only to "bloodline" on settlement, my ancestors including all that line being deceased, my sister and I each received a cheque for £15 odd each.

The Journal of JOHN GEORGE ALLBEURY b. 1826 - d. 1887 :

John George Allbeury was my Maternal Great-Grandfather. He was, for many years Superintendent of the Sailor's Home Spencer Street Melbourne prior to his death in 1887.

His diary tells his exploits on arrival in Australia. Afterwards of special interest is the time spent in the gold fields.

Also of great interest is his early life before he left for Australia working in the Fish Industry.

The seven surviving children of the family were orphaned when their Mother died about a year after John George Allbeury - Harriett Ann (nee Goding) Allbeury was a native of England. My grandmother was the youngest of the family and was 7½ years old when orphaned.

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A News Item taken from "Your Family Tree" -

The N.S.W. Registry has released microfiche covering B.D.M's from 1900-1905 at \$75.00 per set.
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IS YOUR NAME "DOUGLAS" OR "DRYSDALE"?

On the Twentieth Day of May. One Thousand Five Hundred
and three Years

"We Thomas, William and James Douglas, Sons of the departed Thomas Douglas of Brushwood Haugh in the Parish of Drysdale Shire of Dumfries, left our native place for the reason here assigned, viz : -- Defending on just and lawful rights against our unjust neighbour, Johnston of Greenstone-hill who being determined to bring water to his Mill through our property, and having obtained leave of his friend the King, (James IV) began his operations on Monday the 16th May. We prevented him by force.

The next day he brought twenty of his vassals to carry on the work. We with two friends and three servants (eight in all) attacked Johnston with his twenty and in the contest, fourteen of his men were killed, along with their base leader: --

A report of these proceedings was carried to the King and we were obliged to fly--(the tocsin being sounded.) We took shelter under the shadow of the Ochil Hills in a lonely valley on the river Devon.

After having lived there two full years, we returned home in disguise but found all our property in the possession of Johnston's friends and a great reward being offered for our lives. We having purchased a small shot called the Haugh of Dollar and changed our names to the name of our native parish and are clearly in mind to spend the residue of our days under the ope of the Ochils and wish the name of Drysdale to flourish in the lonely valley. The King passed through this with his Court on the 12th Day of June 1506, going from Stirling to Falkland -- dined on Halliday's green (an eastern neighbour) but we were not known."

The above has been preserved among the descendants of Thomas, William and James Douglas (now known by the name of Drysdale.) copied at several times by different individuals--first by Symon Drysdale of the Haugh of Dollor in the year 1620, by Robert Drysdale of Tillicoultry in 1708, by John Drysdale Dunfermline in 1835, by James Drysdale Dunfermline in 1838, by John Drysdale Montrose in 1841, by John Drysdale Coalsnaughton in 1866.

And printed in this form by Thomas Drysdale Gillespie at Kilbirnie, in 1869 and again at Redding near Falkirk in 1874 and 1885.

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Did you hear that Alex Haley wanted to commit suicide?
He found out he was adopted!!!
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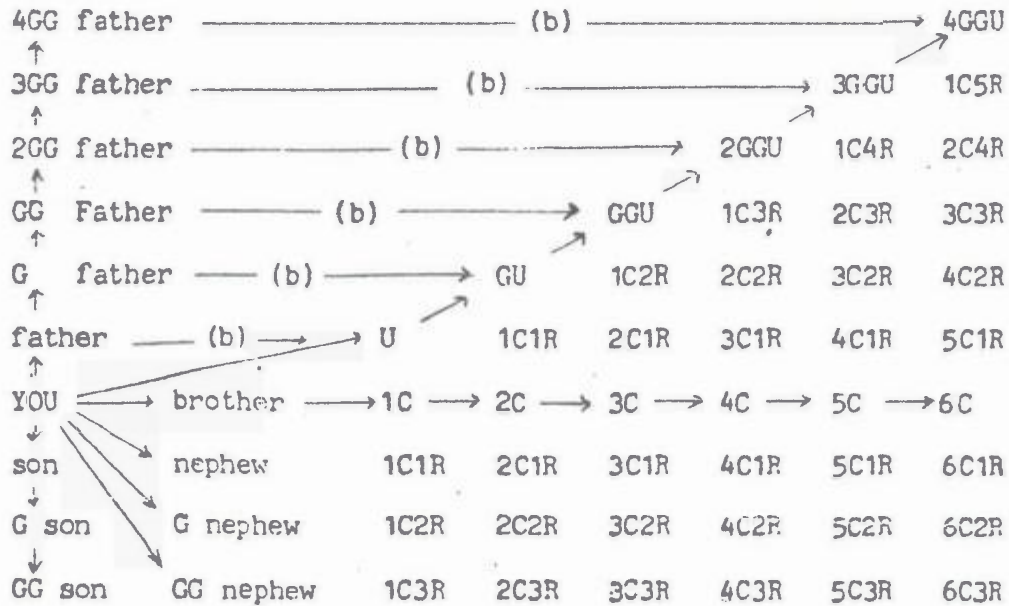
IT'S ALL RELATIVE :

A number of our newer members have been confused with trying to work out the relationship within their own families.

The following table may be of assistance:

Example - Your father's first cousin is your 1st cousin once removed (one generation away from you) and not your second cousin. Your grandfather's first cousin is your first cousin twice removed (two generations away from you).

C = cousin B = brother GGF = great grandfather
 U = uncle GF = grandfather 2GG = great great grandfather
 R = removed



INTERNATIONAL SETTLERS GROUP:

A note attached to the April newsletter of this Group brings to our attention, the following :

1. If your roots lie in South-east Germany or Western Poland, a note to The Secretary of the S.O.R.B. Committee, Mr. John Noak, P.O. Box 297, Heidelberg, 3084 could be beneficial to your research.
2. An index in respect of Non British Vessels is being compiled. If you would like to assist in either compiling or providing information, please write to The Secretary, Jean Martindale, International Settlers Group, c/- 252 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000. (enclose S.A.E. please).



BEGINNER'S CORNER

* When requesting information by mail, enclose either a stamped self addressed envelope, or if you hope for a larger amount of material, then stamps and a manilla envelope, or sufficient stamps to cover the cost of a larger envelope.

* Always obtain a quote on any service or research you wish to have conducted on your behalf. It is too late to object once the job has been done!!

* Historical Societies can be most helpful when the subject of your research has been a pioneer or long standing resident of a specific area.

* The information on any official document is only as accurate as the person providing the information (the informant). For example a mother or father is more likely to provide accurate information than a brother-in-law or friend.

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IRISH RESEARCH :

If you are interested in researching Irish Ancestors, we have been advised of the following addresses :

Room 16, Floor 9,
37 Swanston Street, Melbourne

also :

Wild Geese Research Services,
P.O. Box 129, Hawker, Canberra, A.C.T. 2614.

(send S.A.E. for a list of available information)

Interesting point : The name "Wild Geese" is that given to those who fled Ireland to escape persecution and "sold their sword" in Europe to the highest bidder.

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Quote : Don't be afraid to ask a dumb question, it's better than dumb actions!

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