



NEWSLETTER

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Genealogical Society of Victoria
Mid-Gippsland Group
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Frances Brown
Genealogy & Local History Librarian
State Library of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

THE CITY'S WICKED PAST

NORMAN ABJORENSEN digs beneath new respectability to Melbourne's blackest slum.

A city block which was for decades in Melbourne's history regarded as its blackest slum area is undergoing final transformation into solid respectability. The area, bounded by Lonsdale, Spring, Little Lonsdale and Exhibition streets, is to be the home of Commonwealth departments and Telecom. Once it was infamous for houses of ill repute. Here, for years, was the first red light district of Victorian Melbourne. Here, also, was the first multicultural mixing pot where newcomers found a home, along with their exotic cultures, in an alien land.

On the 21 January 1898, Inspector Curran and Senior Constable Canty, Russell Street Police, reported on brothels in the block:

Brothels in Lonsdale Street

6 & 8 Lonsdale, occupier Mary Baker; three girls in the house, very often at doors; been brothel for many years.
10 Lonsdale, occupier Mary Vernon; one other prostitute, not well conducted; has been low class brother for years
14 & 16 Lonsdale, occupier Maud Miller & Scotch Maud; four girls, well conducted, door always closed; brothel for 11 years.
18 & 20 Lonsdale, occupier Ada Whatman; one or two girls nearly always at the door; brothel for 15 years; two or three girls.
22 Lonsdale, occupier Dolly Harrison; has one prostitute, sometimes at the door; brothel for some years.
24 Lonsdale, occupier Margaret Gordon; not well-conducted, and often at the door; brothel for many years
23 Lonsdale, occupier Bertha Morin; well-conducted, owner only occupant; has been a brothel for 15 years.

Brothels in Exhibition Street

218 Exhibition, occupier Annie Buckley; well conducted, but prostitutes very seldom at gate; brothel for over 20 years.
258 Exhibition, occupier Emman Westcott; one or two prostitutes often at door; brothel for years; low class.
266 Exhibition, occupier Rachel Smith; low class brothel, often at the door; two prostitutes reside on premises.
272 Exhibition, occupier Mary Ann Gordon; well conducted, no prostitutes outside; brothel for many years, "short term house".
314 Exhibition, occupier Jane Emerson; low class brothel, often at doors; has been brothel for over 20 years.

Article from The Age
Feature Section

IN AND AROUND RECORD REPOSITORIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Compiled by Rosemary Church and Jean Cole
Edited by Avril Cross
Published by Family Tree Magazine
Second edition 1990.

This is a detailed guide to the procedures and facilities of over 200 repositories which hold archives and local history collections.

Available at The G.S.V. Library.

AUSTRALIAN REGISTER OF THOSE KILLED IN ACTION OR P.O.W.S WHO DIED OVERSEAS.

James McClelland is compiling the above register and is particularly keen to receive names from Thnbyuzant (Burma), Kanchanaburi (Thailand), Pusan (South Korea), Yokohama (Japan), Singapore, Lae, Rabaul & Port Moresby, Ambon (Jakarta) and others in Greece, Crete, Lybia, Egypt, Syria, France, Holland & Germany.

The address is:

James McClelland
1 Silverdale Rd
Silverdale NSW 2750

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REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES FOR TASMANIA.

The new postal address is:

GPO Box 198
Hobart TAS 7001

SOUTH AUSTRALIA GENEALOGY INC.

The new postal address is:

GPO Box 592
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B.D.M FOR QUEENSLAND

Fee increase

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Compiled for the Mid-Gippsland Group - The Genealogical Society of Victoria by the Newsletter Committee.

Mrs. Karen Healy and Mrs. Laraine Ramselaar.