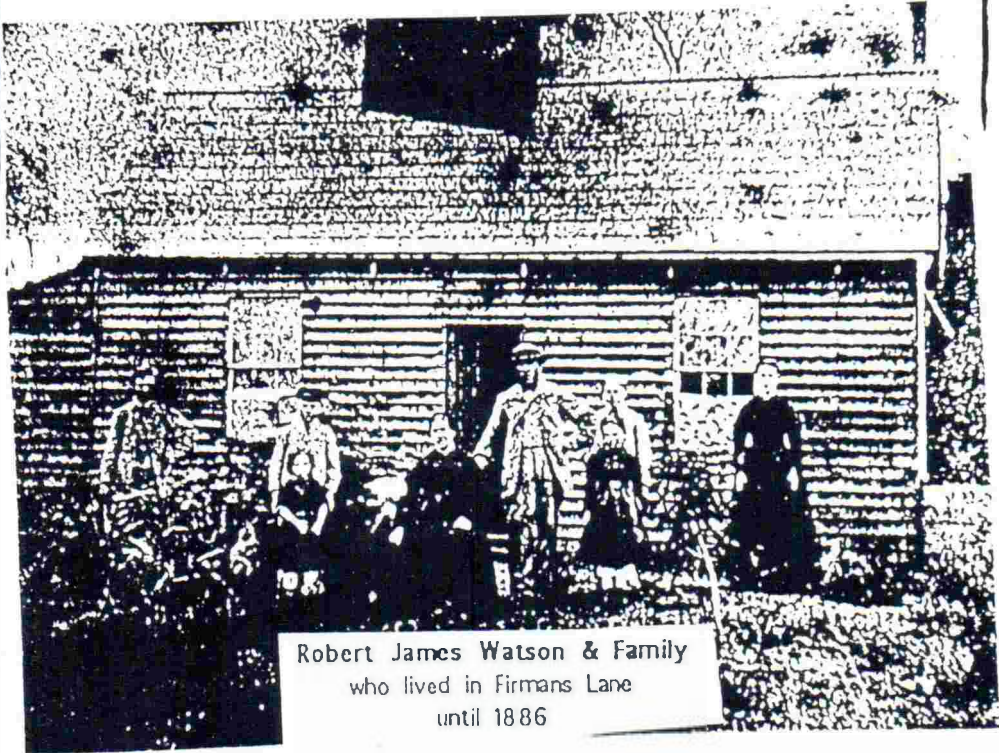


THE

Kensley, F

MID GIPPSLAND
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.
NEWSLETTER



Robert James Watson & Family
who lived in Firmans Lane
until 1886

ON TRACK

DECEMBER 1993

NO. 69

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1993-1994

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Claire Wood
SCHOOL RECORDS:	Anne Pawley
MISCELLANEOUS:	Michelle Freeman

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month except December, at the Moe City Library, Kirk St., Moe. The Library will open at 7pm, with the meetings starting at approximately 7:30pm.

There is a fee of \$5 for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Please direct all enquiries to The Secretary, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840, and mark the envelope "Research Query".

Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and, while every effort to ensure accuracy, the editor takes no responsibility for submitted items.

MEMBER'S PROFILE - CLAIRE WOOD

I was born in Echuca, one of six children of Denis and Ethna Wood (nee Ryan), and lived for the first seventeen years of my life in Bamawn Extension, about 10 miles from Echuca, on a dairy farm.

Wonderful place to grow up. Before the first World war, our place was part of an ostrich farm which folded when ostrich feathers went out of fashion. My father took up the farm as a soldier settler after the Second World War. His family had farmed for 2 generations in Pyramid Hill, with roots going back to Denbydale in Yorkshire and Ireland.

Before her marriage my mother was a teacher, and came from Mead, near Cohuna; Her mother was Irish; and, according to the Irish Branch of the family, was sent out to Australia because she was becoming dangerously political for the Ireland of the 1910s.

I lived a few years in Melbourne and Sydney, before coming to the Latrobe Valley in 1978. I am currently working in the Morwell Public Library.

I stumbled into family history through work, motivated by the need to look halfway intelligent when asked questions by family historians. The bug came later.

I joined the Society in 1991, and at the 1993 annual meeting became editor of the newsletter. I am researching the Wood & Turton families of Denbydale in Yorkshire.

THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN
(continued from the Oct. newsletter)
contributed by J. G. Rogers

Gippsland Guardian 8-10-1858

"...to hear that the mail due the previous day was almost lost within a few miles from Sale, on the Punt Lane...Mr Watson, hearing some faint cries for help went with the pontoon in search. He first found the horse and the mail bags attached, and afterwards, the mailman, nearly insensible from having being so long in the water".

Contract in 1859 to Lewis J. Michel, twice a week to Gippsland - £2,150.

Contract for 1860, twice a week to Jabez Jones and John Tunnel - £1648. - From Melbourne and Sale by way of Oakleigh, Dandenong, Berwick, Pakenham, and Rosedale. With a branch mail to and from Dandenong and Cranbourne.

The Traralgon Post Office was opened on 1st Jan. 1861 with Duncan Campbell appointed postmaster. Annual salary £10-.

Mail contractors for 1861 - (twice a week) L. J. Michel, G. Hughes (by transfer from Alex Watt Bowman) for £1470, and Jeremiah Conan, working for The Guardian, and who was noted for his attendance, general steadiness and good conduct.

Before the low level bridge was built where the present foot-bridge crosses the Traralgon Creek at the present day [1949], mails were sometimes floated across in a wash tub, and as many as 3 days mail have been detained at Morwell owing to the state of the river.

THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN
(continued)

Guardian 16-8-1861, complains -

"We are anxiously looking out for the English mail, but we suppose, as before, the contractors refuse to bring it overland, and we must await the arrival of the steamer to Port Albert. By what right a contractor refuses to bring a mail because it is heavy, I don't know".

Gippsland Times 2-10-1861 -

The postal communication between Sale and Melbourne is to be increased to 3 days a week, and the time of performance limited to 67 hours. George Evanson obtained the contract of £2015 per annum.

By this time the spelling of Taralgon has changed to Traralgon, and letters to the Mitchell (Bairnsdale) were carried from Sale by the constables on patrol duty once a week. One left Sale, and the other the Mitchell the same day, and they met halfway, exchanged mails and returned home.

Guardian 25-10-1861, complains -

"Communication from the Baws Baws and Russell Creek diggings - the Government seem to ignore the existence of these goldfields altogether, for although a post Office was applied for at the Moi (Moe), the application met with no success and should a digger wish to post a letter of importance he has the pleasure of walking to Traralgon and back, a distance of nearly 80 miles over very bad roads."

THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN
(continued)

Guardian 29-11-1861

"Contract won by George Evanson - 3 times a week for £1,800 ... he will require a great number of horses on full feed to perform the journey in 67 hours six times a week, and when the enormous cost of carriage to such places as Shady Creek is considered, I think the performance of the contract will be found to be mere throwing away of time and money.

Gippsland Times 7-3-1862, complains of the rough treatment received by the mails.

"Mr Leeson, the Postmaster at Sale informs us that the suggestion of the Postmaster-General - that persons writing to England should seal their letters with wafers, or use adhesive envelopes - is not adhered to in this locality. We have practical experience of the state of the state in which letters coming by the overland route, sealed with wax, arrive, and can state that it is the most injudicious method which can be adopted.

Sometimes the heat has melted the wax, and the letters possibly of the most private nature, are thus opened: at other times the seals of the letters have in their dissolved state, come in contact with the address of ours and almost obliterated it. For the purpose of safety to private correspondence we advise that the suggestion in question be acted upon."

(to be continued)

FROM THE LIBRARY

As this is your Library, we are trying to see that everything runs as smoothly as possible so that everyone gets a fair go. If there are any problems, suggestions, criticisms, or any ways to improve the Library, please let us know.

Jean, Rosemary and Shirley

LIBRARY RULES

The books belonging to our Library are only to be borrowed on meeting night.

OVERDUE BOOKS - \$2 per book per month will be charged, so please get somebody to bring your books back if you cannot make it to a meeting.

Only 4 books per month can be borrowed.

All members are asked to join Moe City Library, so that the checking of books can run smoother.

TAKING BOOKS OUT: Books must first be checked out with the Group Librarian, and then with Moe City Library Staff.

RETURNING BOOKS: Books are to be returned on meeting night, checked in with the Group Librarian, and then with Moe City Library Staff.

Between meetings, books are available for reference at Moe City Library during Library opening hours.

SEMINAR REPORT

- contributed by J. G. Rogers

September saw the Mid-Gippsland group once again host a very successful seminar.

Guest speakers included Ken Sherwin from the "Ship Lovers Society" who gave a lively discourse on life on board early migrant ships during the 1850s & 1860s.

Mrs Ada Ackerly spoke about her life as a single woman, "a business woman", living in Williamstown in the 1880s and running boarding houses and hotels.

From the State Trustees, Bill White detailed some of the methods he uses to find the nearest living relatives to someone who has died without leaving a will and naming a beneficiary.

The final guest speaker was Edna Taylor who gave a rundown on how best to use the latest International Genealogical Index.

The Macbeth's Genealogical organization once again supplied a fine selection of books and microfiche for sale, making our day even more interesting.

The seminar was held in the Moe City Reception Room, courtesy of the City of Moe. All in all, the day was a well organized and financially successful one.

Thanks go to the City Council, guest speakers, visitors from other groups, our computer people, Macbeths, members who assisted on the day, and last but not least, to our hard working raffle and catering people.

TRIPPING AROUND THE TRACKS

This is a new feature from other Society newsletters.
Thanks to Jean McNally for the name.

COLADJINS (COLAC - Winter 1993) are interested in receiving information about deaths, funerals, and commemorations in Colac and district between 1837 and 1933.

Bridges & Branches (Echuca - no. 14, Spring 1993) has available Echuca Cemetery Records from 1860 to 1925. 128 photocopy pages > \$30.

Seven Creeks Secrets (Euroa - June 1993)

Rules of the Tavern

4 pence a night for bed

6 pence with pot luck

2 pence for horsekeeping

No more than five to sleep in one bed

No boot to be worn in bed

No razor grinders or tinkers taken in

No dogs allowed in the kitchen

Organ grinders to sleep in the washhouse

(Lemuel Box's Inn)

The Pivot Tree (Geelong - Oct 1993) reprints the Board of Honour 1939-1945 of the Melbourne Harbour Trust which lists employees who joined the Defence Forces.

Victorian GUM (Oct 1993) reports a talk given by Graeme Taylor on how to manage data from the IGI CD-ROM.

(If you come across interesting articles or information from other Societys' newsletters, please let me know.)

A WORD ON COPYRIGHT

contributed by Claire Wood

Under Australian law, copyright ownership is granted automatically to authors and photographers when a literary or photographic work is created.

Unpublished or published is irrelevant. All books, articles, poems, letters, maps, photographs (etc.) are protected by copyright.

The copyright statement, with its C symbol, does not have to be included in the work for copyright to exist. (From the author's point of view, it is desirable to include it).

In general, copyright on published literary works lasts for fifty years after the author's death. Copyright on works unpublished at the time of the author's death, exists for fifty years after the date of first publication.

Copyright on photographs made before 1st May 1969 lasts for fifty years from the year the photographs were made. Copyright on photographs taken after the 1st May 1969 lasts for fifty years from the year in which the photographs are first published.

[The information contained in this article was largely compiled from "Coping with Copyright" (State Library of New South Wales Press, 1991).]

Extra Birth Death and Marriage Certificates no. 10 is now available for \$5 from Dawn Cowley, 27 Shanahan Parade, Newborough, Victoria 3825.

SALE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1878.

Business Notices.

W. T. SPROD,

Wholesale and Retail Grocer, Wine and Spirit Merchant,
HAS ON SALE—

FOR CASH

FLOUR (finest quality) ...	24s per bag.	SODA (BAKING) ...	3d per lb.
Do. (second quality) ...	21s per bag.	MUSTARD ...	8d ..
TEA, Good Congou... ..	1s 2d per lb.	SARDINES ...	5½d per tin.
CANDLES (sperin) ...	0½d ..	SALMON ...	10d ..
BACON	8d ..	WAX MATCHES ...	5d per doz.
CURRENTS	4½d ..	KEROSENE ...	2s per gal.
RAISINS	6d ..	Do.	15s per case.
TREACLE	3d ..	RICE	3d per lb.*
SAGO	3d ..	COCOA	9d ..
SUGAR	3d ..	SODA WASH ...	1½d ..
PICKLES	8½d ..	COFFEE	1s 3d ..
YEAST POWDER... ..	6d ..	VINEGAR	2s per gal.
BLUE... ..	10d ..	STARCH	6d

TOBACCO, 2s 2d, 2s 10d, 3s 4d, 3s 8d, 3s 10d, 4s, 4s 6d.
AND ALL GOODS AT EQUALLY LOW PRICES.

GIPPSLAND MART,
FOSTER STREET, SALE.

Bullheads, 3 lines, 11 shilling, 1 lb. 11 shilling, 1 lb. 110
each in 1872, 1 lb. 11 shilling, 1 lb. 11 shilling, 1 lb. 110
only 15. Black Sheep June 1921.



Please address all correspondence to: The Gippsland Family
History Society, Inc., P.O. Box 767, Horwath, Vic 3840.