



**ANGLESEA FAMILY  
HISTORY GROUP**

**NEWSLETTER NO.5  
FEBRUARY 2000**

**EXCUTIVE**

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**NEWSLETTER**

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**GROUP MEETS**

**2nd Thursday of the month**  
**10am**

**Historical Society Museum**  
**McMillan Street Anglesea**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Subscription for year 1st June to 31st May  
Single or Family.....\$12  
This is in addition to membership of the His-  
torical Society.....\$8  
Subscriptions include four issues of the His-  
torical Society's and Family History Group's  
Newsletter  
Membership half price within six months of  
renewal date.



## FROM METHUSELAH TO ME

There is an entry in the 1851 English Census for a farm called "Crownick", which was situated in Restronguet Road, in the parish of Mylor, Cornwall. Those in residence on the night of the Census were a widower named John Stevens, listed as Head, being a 57 year old farmer of 51 acres; a son John, aged 27 years and employed at home; a daughter Harriet, aged 22 years, house-keeper, a son, James aged 14 years, and a grandson, John Woolcock, aged 11 years, the last two being unemployed and living at home. All these family members were said to have been born in Feock, Cornwall.

Two years later on 15th. March, 1853, John, the son, married Elizabeth Martin at St. Gluvias Church Cornwall. Elizabeth was the eldest daughter of Methuselah Martin, ( a very distinctive name, coming through to him, generation by generation from his Gr.X 5 Grandfather, Methuselsh Phillips) and his wife, Ann Pascoe. Elizabeth had been baptised on 9th. June 1822 in Ponsanooth where her father was listed as a carpenter.

Soon after this marriage, John and Elizabeth set sail for Victoria, they may have come separately. However they came, I have not been able to locate the ship or ships they arrived on. I have evidence that on 24th. July 1854, John paid 26 pounds to Mr. Wood for rent of a premises in Geelong, where John commenced a grocery store. ( I have in my possession a book into which John wrote his purchases, and also kept a running list of " goods taken on account" by customers for quite a number of years. On 24th. August 1854 bore their first child, a son, William Penrose Stevens. Family Myth said that Elizabeth had William on the journey out, and her first action on arrival was to have the baby baptised in St. Pauls Church, Latrobe Terrace, Geelong. The baby was indeed baptised in this church, but on 3rd. October 1854. (The birth certificate states William was born in Latrobe Terrace, Ashby, John being listed as a storekeeper).

I am not sure when this family moved to Ballarat, but they certainly did although John continued to be a trader, listed as a Butter Merchant, and regularly did a selling trip from Ballarat to Lethbridge, selling butter and other perishables. By the 1880's John received a very healthy sum from Royalties from the Young Band and Albion Freehold Company. (Gold mining).

Following William, came a daughter, Elizabeth who did not survive, then another son, John in 1857, Emily Jane 1860 and James 1862. The family lived in

this son John who became my Grandfather. His father John died in Ballarat 22nd. September 1891 aged 68. His "rank" on the death certificate lists him as a miner.....I do not think he ever went down a mine. His wife Elizabeth managed to survive her husband by quite a few years, dying at the age of 94, in 1916, at Ellendale, just outside Ballarat, whilst visiting her daughter.

My Grandfather John Stevens lost a leg whilst he was a youngster, my mother always told me he had lost it as the result of an accident at a Sunday School Picnic. An older cousin recently told me he lost the leg whilst skylarking on a dray, I guess it still could have been at a picnic !!! It appears that the lack of the leg certainly curtailed his obvious love for sport, however he seemed to derive great pleasure from being connected with sports teams. He managed football teams, umpired cricket matches and generally participated as much as he was able.

John did a boot making apprenticeship at Jago's in Skipton Street Ballarat, and in 1880 together with another Cornish connection named Oliver he started a boot factory named Oliver and Stevens ( the factory is still manufacturing boots in Ballarat today although the Stevens family left the firm when my two male cousins wanted to follow other professions. )

Grandfather John married Alice Phillipa Pearse on Thursday 16th. January 1896. Phillipa was the daughter of Richard Pearse ( who was mayor of Ballarat for three terms ). John and Phillipa had three living children, Alice May 1897, Clifford John 1900 and my mother Elsie Dorothy 1903.

On my recent trip to Cornwall, I paid a visit to 'Cronick Farm', the family now in residence told me their family had been the farmers for several generations and it had come through the female line. Since returning home I have looked at the 1881 census, what a lovely surprise to find that my Gr Gr Grandfather, John, the Head in the 1851 Census was still alive, now listed as 89 years and living with the son James, who was now a 44 year old farmer, married with four daughters. I certainly do speculate that one of these daughters might be the link to the present "Family" (I am awaiting some possible confirmation of this.

**I think we all know who Methuselah was , but did you know who "me" was.....our own member Marjory Hanson.**

## STORAGE OF DOCUMENTS

By now most of you will have Certificates of Birth , Death and Marriage for part of your line. These need to be kept in not only in a safe place, this is of course after photo copies of them have been made, and you know exactly how to get them should you get a call with information, but also need to be kept in some order of ancestral lineage.

It is entirely up to each and every individual as to how they best do this as long as they are in an order that you can understand and relate to. Many keep all information, line by line following on each other in large self sealing photograph albums. These are quite suitable so long as you don't need to keep removing items as you will find that eventually the sealing page will not stay down. Also, they do need to be large enough to take the many certificates you will acquire over the years. Some of these are quite large ( particularly the Victorian ones ) and therefore need to be laid in flat out — If you fold them they will not only become tatty, but you will need to take them out each time you wish to read them.

Many people use the plastic envelopes, these are obtainable from stationers and news-agents, make sure you get the copy proof type otherwise the information on your certificates could finish up on the inside surface of the envelope, and they are the cheapest also.

One annoying aspect for many of us having come across an old newspaper cutting somewhere and to find the person who cut it out did not bother to date it. Don't do the same thing yourself, if you keep an article or cutting of any description, write on it in a convenient position, what date it was published and from what source. This advice also goes for photographs.

To many of us, if only a death notice carefully cut out many years ago had been dated, we would know the date of death of that particular ancestor.

All important documents should be copied and the originals stored in a safe place away from the copies, I knew first hand of a professional researcher who did not bother to do this, she had her car stolen just before leaving for a genealogical conference, she recovered her car but everything in the boot was missing, years and years of work gone.



Now that all the holidays are over , the grandchildren have gone back home and to school we should all be able to concentrate on our family history. The research rooms have been open most Mondays and Fridays but are not being used as much as we had hoped for, I don't think we had any visitors at all during the holiday period, it is obvious that people don't know we are here a lot of thought must go into advertising ourselves better!!! What are the suggestions???

We are now on the net so that may help, our address being [www. Vicnet.net.au/~ angen/ fh.htm](http://www.Vicnet.net.au/~angen/fh.htm) have a look and see what you think.

We have purchased more research data, namely Cheshire Marriages, GRD on CD\_ROM (not working at this stage) and the Pioneer Registers For N.S.W. are on order

The February meeting will be held on Thursday 10th. At 10 A.M.