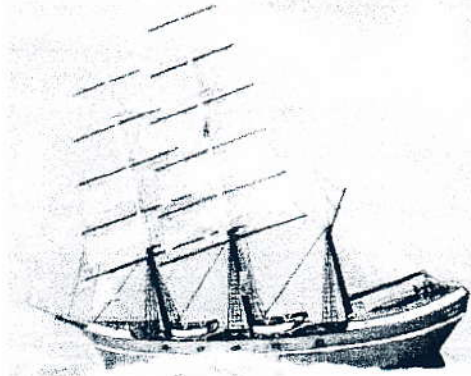


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The Newsletter of the Anglesea Family History Group

(A sub group of the Anglesea and District
Historical Society Inc.)

Spring Edition No. 16 (2002)



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Meetings

2nd Thursday of the month
commencing at 10am at the
Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230
Visitors most welcome

Library And Research Facilities
Monday 10am-2pm
Friday 10am-12noon

The Anglesea Family History
Group does not hold itself
responsible for the accuracy of
the statements or opinions
expressed by authors of articles

Forthcoming Meetings And Trips

Thursday 10th October
Annual General Meeting

Speakers Beryl and Brian O' Gorman
Subject How to put your family story in print

Thursday 7th November
Trip to the Immigration Museum

Thursday 14th November
Old Pharmaceutical Remedies

Thursday 12th December
Christmas Party Meeting
Fun meeting with prizes and awards

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Our major fund raiser for the year is the
Christmas Hamper Raffle and we request all
members help to make it a success. We have
enclosed 5 tickets with the newsletter for you
to sell as many as you can.

Tickets are \$2.00 each. Cash and tickets to be
returned to the Treasurer Thelma Western.
Donations for the hamper may be left at the
Museum on or after 10th October 2002

Stop Press

We have finally purchased a Micro Film
Reader which is now located in the museum.
Next year we plan to acquire new information
on film for our records.

Dorothy Hutton's Family History Story



Dot Hutton joined the Family History Group last year after visiting the Angair Flower Show. After looking at the Historical display, she took advantage of the microfiche of family records available for the public to assist them in how to go about finding their family trees. Pat Hughes subsequently assisted Dot showing her how to put the records together. The story that emerged was fascinating and Dot has been kind enough to permit us to print her story for the group.

My Father's Family

I knew vaguely that my father's family had at some time been in the Geelong region. The story however was scrambled, confused with gold rush legends with vague marriages and odd children.

The data bases (Pioneers and Digger) unfolded a clear and accurate record.

My father's great grandfather came from Scotland and settled in New Zealand.

After two years he moved on to Australia bringing with him his wife and baby son with the same name as his father (hence much confusion).

They settled in Fyansford and the original William Sutter is buried in the Geelong West cemetery in an unmarked grave in the Presbyterian section. I began a memorial fund to have a plaque made to mark the grave. The family were very supportive financially and in early May this year thirty family members gathered for a simple ceremony to dedicate the plaque. I had a pamphlet printed with the arrangements for the day and have since been able to identify other branches of the family so only one of the four branches is unknown to us. This is the Dyson family which I have yet to research.

My Mother's Family

This task of finding my mother's family was much more of a challenge and I began with no information and at first an extremely confusing situation. This is a story of generation after generation of children being moved across families, living in orphanages and by some miracle surviving. The outcome of this story is that now I have a family (not all of it) on my mother's side. That sounds simple but it is amazing given the vacuum I have lived with for many years.

My mother died just ten days after I was born and it was the year Singapore fell to the Japanese and the bombing of Darwin. They were dramatic times. My father had enlisted and had two small children on his hands and now a delicate baby who was not expected to live. He gave the two small children to his sisters in rural Victoria and put the baby in foster care in Melbourne. He did not intend to see the baby again.

The foster parents named the baby after it's mother. I grew up strong, active and healthy, in a happy family with two older sisters and an older brother. I remember being happy and loved, but this was not to last. My father returned from the war, married again and by the time I was six and one half he had collected his two children from his sisters, had a fourth child by his new wife and another on the way. He had settled down to being a responsible father and businessman making ends meet after the war. Pressure was brought to bear on him and one day he took me away from my foster parents. I did not know him, his new wife or the children and the settling period was made more difficult by the arrival of a new baby.

I mourned the loss of my foster parents and I did not know my real sister and brother and while over the years I grew closer to them, there was always the loss of the family I believed was mine. I was not allowed to go back and was told the foster family did not want to see me. I felt awkward when in my teenage years I finally visited them a few times .

I always held the memory of the happy times close to my heart, but as I grew older and into my forties I thought maybe I had made those memories up, that I had fantasised the happy family ,because as a child at primary school I was not very happy.

A vacuum was created about my mother. One wedding photo was given to us of our mother standing alone. We were told no stories, she had no personality, no personhood, no friends and no relatives. We only knew she was an only child of an only child so relatives would be sparse, but surely not non existent.

After meeting with Pat Hughes I set out to look for somebody who would talk about my mother. I also hoped that I might find that my foster parents were distant relations and that I may find them again. I followed up many dead ends and searched the death notices in old newspapers. I phoned people with likely names and finally reduced to phoning people with the surname, of witnesses on a marriage certificate. A contact from Canberra sent me a bundle of papers including a chapter from an historical book which describes my great grandfathers activities in Violet town. He sent me a letter from a very distant relative but it was weeks before I tried to find the author. I phoned the directory for his number and when I identified myself the response was astonishing. This person was a cousin of my biological mother and had been looking for me for fifty four years and was in frequent contact with my foster sisters.

The excitement, the tears and laughter rippled around the family. They had never stopped loving me and had not recovered from losing me. Despite the gap of fifty four years I only had to fill in the details of their lives. We now see each other nearly every week. One lives in Geelong the other in Melbourne. I have now an expanded family on my mother's side and I am accepted as part of the family. I now meet people who knew my mother although the photos are still very few.

The family that fostered me were very special in their ability to love people and it is that loving that is so special now.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday 10th October 2002. Nominations are required for up to eight members of the Committee and will include the positions of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Journal Editor, Librarian and Record Keeper.

If you would like to join the Committee for the coming year, or nominate a person you should complete the nomination for office form and pass it to the Secretary Marjorie Hanson on or before 26th September 2002.

Nomination Forms may be obtained at the Historical Museum or from the Secretary Marjorie Hanson.

Anglesea Family History Group

Notice of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Anglesea Family History Group to be held at the Historical Society and Family History Club Rooms, McMillan Street, Anglesea on Thursday 10th October 2002. at 10am.

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting..**
- 2. Report on the year by the Chairperson.**
- 3. Receive and accept the Financial Statements for the past 12 months .**
- 4. To elect all Office Bearers and Members of the Committee.**
- 5. Move and adopt the rules for the Group.**
- 6. Any further business that can be raised at an Annual General Meeting.**

Trading Table

We propose to have a Trading Table at our annual meeting. Therefore if you have any items or food you can donate to the table please bring it along to the meeting.

New Members

We extend a welcome to Julie and Daryl D'Costa. They are researching the Hall family who originally came from England and Wales.

Trip To The Immigration Museum.

The group is going to visit the Immigration Museum in Melbourne on Thursday 7th October 2002. We plan to car pool to the South Geelong station and travel by train to Melbourne. The Immigration Museum is only a 10 minute walk from the station. The cost will be approximately \$15.00 which includes train (seniors card) and entrance fee. There is a café at the Museum that provides light lunches. The group will meet at 8.30am at the Historical Museum before departing for South Geelong.