

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 40, Autumn-March 2011 edition

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

Inverlochy Log



In this issue....

- Members Story
- Forthcoming Meetings
- Xmas Raffle Winner
- Scottish 1911 Census

Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is housed in the Anglesea Historical Society Museum

McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm
Wednesday by appointment
Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Meetings held on

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

Visitors Welcome

enquiries:

Norma Morrison Phone 52616239
Pat Hughes Phone 52896686

Forthcoming Meetings:

April Meeting
“Bring an Ancestor”
Members get 5 min to talk
about an ancestor

May Meeting
“Overseas research”
Pat Hughes

June Meeting
“Army records”
Jan Morris

We are aiming to have guest speakers
to talk on Australian
Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Cornish,
&
European research
this year

Please submit topics of interest

The New Committee Members 2010-2011

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Librarian

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Newsletter Editor/ Vice Chairperson

Norma Morrison normamor@tpg.com.au
Yvonne Schneider ymschneider@bigpond.com
Thelma Western thelwestern@gmail.com
Rose Johnson: justrose3226@hotmail.com
Chris Guerow chrisguerow@gmail.com
Kathy Feather: etame@ozemail.com.au
Harry Davies: bevhenry@netspace.net.au
Peter Matthews: Matthews@melbpc.org.au
Pat Hughes pathugs@bigpond.com

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

Anglesea's Forgotten Hero

Submitted By Robert Armstrong

**Evans, Pte. Alfred John, 3139, 58th Bn. A.I.F., K.I.A. Ville-sur-Ancre,
France 4th July 1918**

"The boys were splendid, particularly the 58th boys from Geelong under Captain Forbes Dawson. We did not know that there were three times as many Boches in their trenches as we had, but not withstanding that we hunted them out...."
(McMullin 2002, p459)

These words were spoken by Brigadier General H. E. "Pompey" Elliot on 4th July 1918 and were made in reference to D Company of the 58th Battalion when 80 rifles led by Captain Dawson successfully attacked the German posts as the feint for General Monash's battle for Le Hamel.

The diversion of 4th July 1918 and its importance to the success of the Le Hamel campaign is well documented, including that by C.E.W. Bean in Volume VI of *The Official History of Australia in the War 1914-1918*, pp 319-325, in which he notes:

"...the left company – Capt. Dawson's of the 58th - was carrying through a much more difficult task, and one of special interest inasmuch as this company's extension was greater than Australians had ever attempted in trench-warfare – 80 rifles attacking the German outposts on a front of 750 yards. (Bean, 1942)

This advance was where Pte. Alfred John Evans was killed in action by a German bomb (hand grenade), probably the first of 10 casualties suffered by the officers and 80 rifles of D Company. He was buried where he fell, the grave marked with a wooden cross, and the coordinates recorded.

Alfred John Evans was born in Anglesea River in his parents' farmhouse, "The Wattles", on 20 January 1893, the eldest of 11 children (10 of who were born at the farm) and first son of John and Mary Kate Evans. John, known to his friends as Hellfire Jack Evans, had lived in Anglesea River for several years earning a living as a coach driver for Henry Bubb. Mary Kate Symons, known to her friends as Polly, worked at Mrs Murray's boarding house. Prior to marrying Mary Kate on 18 February 1892, John bought Bubb's coach business and his 100 acre farm. He was 22 and Mary Kate Symons was 17.

On 23 October 1916, John Evans together with son Alfred and several of Alfred's brothers set out from the farm with a wagon load of firewood for the Belmont Hotel. It was always a two day trip, sleeping under the wagon at night, delivering the firewood and picking up various materials in Geelong to deliver back to the residents of Anglesea. While in Geelong Alfred took the "Oath to be taken by Person Being Enlisted", had his medical examination and was considered fit for active service.



Alfred John Evans
farmer of Anglesea River
Born: Anglesea River
b. 20 January 1893
Died: Ville-sur-Ancre, France
04 July 1918

Alfred reported to Royal Park on 01 November and was assigned to the 8th reinforcements for the 58th Battalion, also known as the Essendon Rifles. On 24 November Alfred was given home leave. The *Anglesea News of the Week* in the Geelong Advertiser reported that "*Private Alf. Evans of Anglesea was home on final leave this week*" and *News of the Week* for Jan Juc on 7th December advised:

Pte Alfred Evans (son of Mr J. Evans of Anglesea), who was home on final leave last week, was the recipient of a nice silver wristlet watch from the residents of Jan Juc and Torquay. Cr. G. Imer made the presentation on behalf of the subscribers and wished Pte Evans Godspeed and a safe return. Pte Evans responded.

Alfred departed Port Melbourne on the "A.7 Medic" on 16 December 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth on 18 February 1917. He joined the 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott and in April was hospitalised with pneumonia for over two months, his condition considered so serious that several telegrams were sent to his parents regarding his illness. He finally went to France at the end of August.

Between September 1917 and July 1918, the 58th Battalion fought at Polygon Wood (September 1917-January 1918), Villers-Bretonneux (February-May 1918) and what is known as the Defence of Amiens (June - August 1918) including Heilly, Dernacourt, and Ville-sur-Ancre where Alfred was killed in action on 4th July. He was buried 300 yards from Ville-sur-Ancre

The burden of advising the parents of Alfred's death fell upon the Anglesea River Postmaster, Rueben Mousley, a veteran of the Gallipoli campaign. He was also Alfred's brother-in-law, having married Alfred's sister May in 1917, and consequently the son-in-law of John and Mary Kate Evans.

The obituary appeared in the Geelong Advertiser on 20 July as follows:

Evans – On 4-7-18 No 3139 Pte A.J. Evans K.I.A. France. Beloved eldest son of Mary and John Evans, Anglesea, aged 25 yrs.

*Only a grave of a hero,
Only a mound of earth,*

*Far from the land of the wattle
A place that gave him birth.*

*Somewhere in France he is lying,
He answered his country's call,
He died an Australian hero,
Fighting to save us all.*

Inserted by his loving family

His personal effects received by the parents in March 1919 were simply 2 discs, 2 wallets, 1 testament, 2 note books, 1 book of post cards, 1 letter and 2 photos.

There is no known grave for Alfred. Along with the other 10,981 with no known grave, his name is recorded on a plaque at the Villers-Brettoneux Memorial in France. He is also remembered with honour in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and if you ever visit the Memorial take a moment of reflection and place a poppy by his name in Panel 165.

In the Civic Centre at Essendon (now Moonee Valley Council) Alfred is also remembered in the beautifully bound Memorial book along with names of those fallen members of the 58th battalion, The Essendon Rifles.

Alfred is not remembered in Anglesea. There is no monument, no park, no park bench, street or avenue named after him. The local sub-branch of the RSL has no knowledge of the history. After all he was the only person born in Anglesea to enlist in any war, and not only that he was the only person born in Anglesea to be killed in any war. He is not spoken of at the remembrances of Anzac Day or the Armistice. There is no photo of him at the RSL or in any other public building.

Several years ago the local authorities saw fit to remove the memorial cypress trees planted by the Anglesea community to honour the dead of the Great War.

In October 2006 the same local authority removed the big cypress tree from beside where the old Evans farmhouse stood. This was known to his parents, siblings, and nephews and nieces as Alfred's tree.

Let not his memory be erased from Anglesea's history.

References and Bibliography

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files:
www.awm.gov.au/redcross

Australian War Memorial, www.awm.gov.au

Bean, C.E.W., 1942, *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume VI, The AIF in France, May 1918 - The Armistice*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, pp 319-325.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, www.cwgc.org

Corefield, Robin S., 2008, *Give me back my dear cobbers, The story of the 58th and 59th Australian Battalions 1913-1942*, Corefield and Company, Lara, Victoria

Geelong Advertiser, 1916, *News of the Week*, November and December

Laffin, John, 1999, *The Battle of Hamel, The Australians' Finest Victory*, Kangaroo Press, East Roseville, NSW

McMullin, Ross, 2002, *Pompey Elliot*, Scribe Publications, Carlton North, Victoria, pp 458-459.

National Archives of Australia, www.naa.gov.au

Christmas Raffle Winners

1st Prize

Ticket Number: H 125

Mr Tom Radke

2nd Prize

Ticket Number: G 272

Mr Peter Matthews

**Thank you all
for your support**

**"Don't forget you can always
find the latest
about our upcoming
meetings on our web page."**

*The Anglesea & District
Historical Society Inc*

home.vicnet.net.au/~angen/



ScotlandsPeople
Connecting Generations

1911 Census - Coming Soon

The Registrar General for Scotland has announced that the 1911 census will be released on **Tuesday 5 April 2011**. This census details information collected from more than 4.7 million Scots – marking a century since the data was first gathered.

The records will include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census data will be presented in full colour rather than black and white.

It will cost 1 credit to view an index entry for the 1911 census. An image will cost 5 credits. Unlike previous censuses, the image spans two pages due to the additional questions that were asked about the fertility of marriage and the profession or occupation. Each page measures 34 cm long by 43 cm high so the images are best viewed on your computer screen or if printed, on size A3 paper.

Unlike previous censuses there are no plans in the immediate future to relocate the enumeration books to New Register House in Edinburgh because the books need 73.5 metres of shelving.

James Braid, the famous Scottish golfer and winner of five Open Championships was reported on 3 April 1911 in the Scotsman as having won a golf tournament in Hyeres and Costebelle in Spain. This means that he may have missed being enumerated in the Scottish census. Check out the answer yourself when we release the census on the 5 April.

Census

The census records information on the country's population and has been taken every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The returns of most use to the family historian are those from 1841 onwards. From 1861, the gathering of Scottish census material has been the responsibility of the General Register Office for Scotland. Records may only be inspected after 100 years, so the census returns presently available for public scrutiny are 1841-1901.

The census is essentially a snapshot of the people in a household on a given night and as such can provide details of a particular family and anyone else who happens to be in the house at the time, for example, servants, lodgers, or visitors. Census records can be used, not only to further your search for direct ancestors, but also to broaden your knowledge of the wider family and to bridge the gap between statutory and OPR records. They can also give an indication of how the family lived. Geographic mobility can be tracked through the given birthplaces, and social mobility through addresses and occupations.

The General Register Office for Scotland holds the census records for all Scotland. Online access to the indexes and images for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 are available on www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/.

You may also view transcripts of the 1881 (LDS) census.

If undelivered please return to:
Surf Coast Family History Group
PO Box 98, Anglesea, Vic 3230, Australia.

Inverloch Log - Quarterly Journal of the
Surf Coast Family History Group (Inc. A0009246F)