

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 47, Autumn, March 2013 edition

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

Inverlochy Log



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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:

Pat Hughes Phone 5289 6686

Peter Matthews Phone 5263 1686

March 14th Meeting: Doug Stirling

“Building the Great Ocean Road”

April 11th Meeting: John Stewart

“Using Trove”

May 9th Meeting: Pam Jennings

**“Loch Ard Disaster and
Geelong connections”**

We are aiming to have guest speakers

to talk on Australian

Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Cornish

And European research.

Please submit topics of interest

Committee Members 2012 - 2013

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Librarian

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

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responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of
articles published in this magazine

The Devon North Store

This is the story of what is now a vacant block of land.

The history of this site begins in 1856 when George Wood (*brother of my great grandfather Charles Wood*) selected a parcel of land in North Devon across the road from the property his father Francis Wood Snr (*my great/great grandfather*) had selected the previous year. 1887 the family financed the erection of a store on part of Georges Selection to be operated by his niece Mary and her husband William Hair.



The Devon North Store – circa 2008

The site, on the corner of Tarra Valley Road and Water Hole Flat Road was deliberately chosen as George had already established a butchers shop on the opposite corner of Water Hole Flat Road earlier in the 1870's. We can probably all remember butcher shops in the past having sawdust on the floor but it is interesting to note that in this shop and I guess many other butcher shops of the era, the walls and ceiling were also packed with sawdust as a means of keeping the building cool.

The store and attached residence was constructed by Mary's brother Francis Jnr (*My Grandfather*) who apparently was the carpenter in the family.

The store opened for business on 24th July 1888 and along with the butcher shop was to provide the basic needs of the district for many years to come.

The store also became the community hub of the neighbourhood and even featured late shopping nights (*and we thought this was a modern practice*). Local youths would gather to play quoits and darts and other social games of the era and of course meet the local girls while their parents shopped.

In June 1891 a Post Office was established in the store and in 1950 a manual telephone exchange was installed. A requirement of the telephone authority at the time was that the name North Devon be changed to Devon North.

Members Story: By Colin Wood

Two other memorable additional services followed soon after.

The first was the installation of a Petrol Bowser.

Although the availability of petrol was of great importance to the local farmers in the area, it was the arrival of the second item that really created excitement among the younger generation.

This was the introduction of ice-cream to the already extensive range of treats available at the store.

The ownership of the store passed through a number of operators during its long history, there being 13 in total. The owners that I particularly remember from my childhood in the 1940's when visiting my cousins during school holidays were Mr & Mrs Waggon. I well recall going into Yarram on Fridays (*market day*) with Aunty Maisie in their 1925 Dodge which my uncle had converted into a ute and on the way home we would call into Waggon's store to pick up the mail and papers. This was a true old style store with the straw brooms and all manner of goods for sale displayed on the veranda and of course the petrol pump.

I have no recollection of the butcher shop. It must have ceased operating well before my visits to the area but I believe the remains of the building existed into the 1960's when it was demolished to make way for an automatic telephone exchange.

The store finally closed for business on the 19th January 1979 as it could no longer compete with the shops in the

nearby town of Yarram.

It continued to be used as a private residence until one fateful day in February 2009 - a day also well remembered by people closer to Melbourne - that being the "Black Saturday" bushfires.

Although the devastation in the Kinglake/Marysville area was of extreme proportions and therefore received the bulk of the media attention, it must be remembered that other areas far removed from this area were also hit by fires on this same day. At Devon North the fire swept along Bolgers Road destroying a number of houses on the way, yet leaving others untouched, such was the speed and ferocity of its progress. The Devon North store was one of the unlucky ones, perhaps due to its age and timber construction. Only the two chimneys's remained a sad loss of a symbol of a past era.



The Remains of the Devon North Store after the "Black Saturday" bushfires

(Note the sign at the front reminding all that it was a Total Fire ban Day)

The site of the store, once proudly standing on the corner of Tarra Valley and Waterhole Flat Roads (Now renamed *Bolgers Road*), has now been completely cleared and fenced. It can be seen in this photo that the adjacent properties were undamaged by the fires of Black Saturday. It will most likely be replaced by another holiday home for people far removed from the area and who have no knowledge of its history.



Current satellite vision of the Devon North store site

Even back in the time when I spent my school holidays at Devon North wealthy professionals were purchasing small acreages of land to establish farmlets. My Uncle, who had little regard for people who had not been born and raised in the country, referred to them as “Collins Street Farmers”.

The laneway opposite Bolgers Road (as seen in the satellite image) provides access to “Blue Gum Park”, the northern part of the property my great/great grandfather originally selected in 1855.

The butchers shop referred to earlier would have been on the opposite corner of Bolgers Road.

The third proprietor of the store, Mr Dan Fahey had a son, also named Dan, who operated a Blacksmith shop on the property immediately behind the store, a very important service facility in the earlier years.

This small but important commercial hub of the Devon North district has now been completely erased.

Such is Progress.

Colin wood

*Early historical data for this article came from a Booklet titled **“The Devon Run”** written by my Aunt Mrs Else (Joy) Wood (Nee Low)*

What's New in Genealogy

New UK Collection | UK Civil Divorce Records

Recently added to the site are more than 68,000 [UK, Civil Divorce Records, 1858-1911](#) — legal records that were made as part of divorce cases. These records provide accounts of the claims and counter-claims that led to the marriage split. They may also provide additional information that can help grow your tree including the date and place of marriage, names and birth details of children and a copy of the marriage certificate.

[Warwick, England, Burial Slips from Warwick Cemetery, 1859-1968](#)

When space for graves ran out in churchyards, people turned to municipal cemeteries like Warwick Cemetery, which opened in 1859. The burial slips in this database record more than 100 years of interment details for Warwick Cemetery.

FamilySearch.org has made a generous donation of \$250,000 to support this community effort to the War of 1812 “Preserve the Pensions” Digitization Fund. These 7.2 million images, among the most requested documents at the National Archives, are part of an industry effort led by the Federation of Genealogical Societies that will provide free online access to these important historical records. By visiting the [War of 1812 Pension Applications Files](#), you can view, free of charge, all images that have been placed online so far. For anyone who would also like to donate to this worthy cause or get additional information, visit the <http://www.preservethepensions.org/>

UK – A collection of the National Archives historical criminal records is going online at FindMyPast. There are some 518,000 records dating from 1817 to 1931. Eventually, the collection will consist of some 2.5million records. Notwithstanding the sordid details, prison records in general can be very interesting to genealogists. They often contain a physical description of the individual and sometimes even include a photograph back in the days when photographs were rare (the irony being the criminal had their photograph taken when in society only the very rich could afford a photograph).



Early UK prisoner photographs. The prisoners held up their hands for the photo so that the police could see if they had all their fingers and to distinguish any marks on the hands, such as tattoos.

Christmas Raffle News

Winners are:

1st Prize Catherine-Ticket No-F055

**Catherine Kindly donated the prize
to a needy family in Anglesea.**

2nd Prize-Norma Roper Ticket No-F204

3rd Prize-Pat Hughes Ticket No-A085

**Thank you to all who donated items, bought tickets
and those people**

Who put their name on the roster to sell tickets.

A job well done.

**A huge thank you to all
who helped to make this a great prize.**

We have guest speakers every second Thursday of the month at 10.00am

Why don't you join us, we have morning tea a chat and talk about family history.