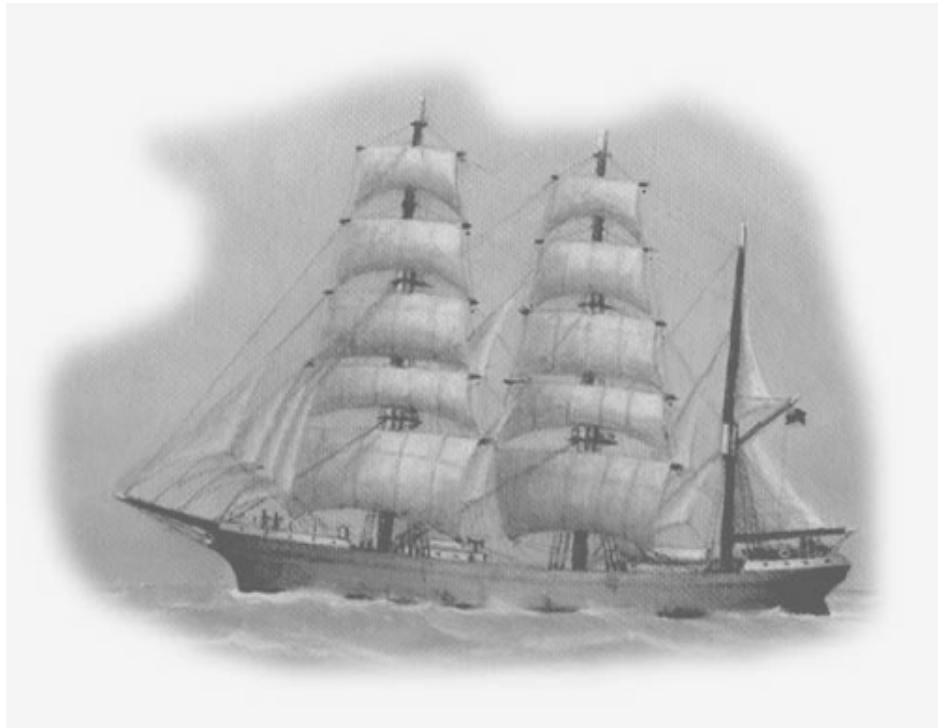


The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 53 Spring September 2014 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



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- News from Scotlandspeople
- Members Story
- Christmas Hamper

Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is housed in the Anglesea History House
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

History House

McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries:

Pat Hughes Phone 5289 6686

Peter Matthews Phone 5263 1686

Meeting: 11 September 2014

Thelma Western

"Her Approach to her Family History"

Meeting: 9 October 2014

"Annual General Meeting"

Members are Welcome to Join the Committee

Meeting: 13 November 2014

Family Tree Maker*

Meeting: 11 December 2014

Christmas Breakup with Lots of Fun

&

Lucky Dip

***to be confirmed**

**We are aiming to have
Interesting guest speakers**

**to talk on all matters of research
Please submit topics of interest**

Newsletter by email

Please forward your address if interested

Committee Members 2013 - 2014

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Librarian

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

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Peter Matthews: matthews@melbpc.org.au

Kathryn Feather: etame@ozemail.com.au

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articles published in this magazine

31,000 Soldiers' Wills are added to the ScotlandsPeople website

We're very pleased to announce the launch of 31,000 Soldiers' Wills on the [ScotlandsPeople website](#).

26,000 of these wills were made by ordinary Scottish soldiers who died in the Great War, and there are almost 5,000 from Scots soldiers serving in all theatres during the Second World War – there are also several hundred from the Boer War and Korean War, and others from conflicts between 1857 and 1964.

About the Soldiers' Wills

The soldiers' wills were usually found in pay books retrieved on the battlefield, recorded on forms in Army record offices in Britain, or in the absence of a will, in letters home in which soldiers might mention their last wishes.

Are these wills from all the ranks?

On the whole, most of the wills are for rank and file soldiers. The records are for soldiers up to the rank of warrant officer who were domiciled in Scotland, although they also include men who were promoted from the rank

Did all soldiers leave wills?

Not all soldiers made out wills, and not all have survived.

The new release is of wills that the War Office had finished processing, most of which were not recorded like the wills of civilians.

However, some were recorded in the relevant sheriff court records, and so can be found among the 10,000 or so wills of officers and men who died in World War One in the main wills in ScotlandsPeople.

What can I learn from these records?

You can find out the battalion, regiment, rank and service number of the soldier, as well as the name of the person who is the beneficiary of the will. You can also find out the date when the will was made and the date of death of the soldier.

Unlike recorded wills elsewhere in ScotlandsPeople, you can also see the handwriting of the person who made the will – something that many family history researchers find extremely poignant. And as is so often the case with historical records, the handwriting in these documents is often hauntingly beautiful.

How do I search the records?

There are various ways in which you can search these records. The most common way of searching will be by surname, first name and date of death. However, if you are vague on some of the details, you can always filter your search with the person's service number, rank, battalion, regiment, theatre and cause of death.

Are the records free to search, and how much does it cost to view one will?

The wills are free to search. The cost to view one Soldiers' Will is 10 credits (2.44GBP), or a 2.50GBP separate transaction. Typically, a Soldiers' Will document contains four images, including the envelope, but some records do contain more.

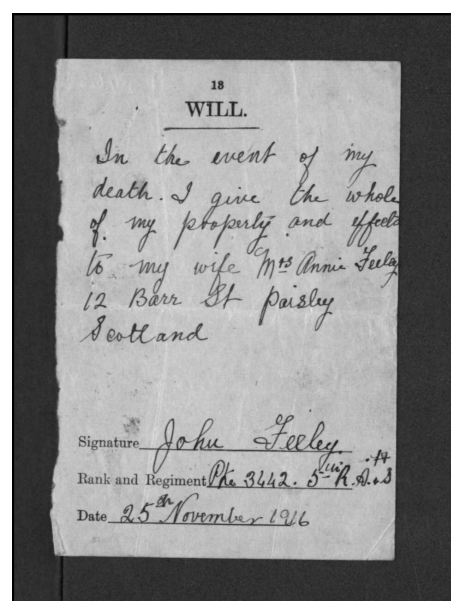
Doing a search for wills earlier than 1914 and later than 1948

The vast majority (26,000) of the Soldiers' Wills are from the First World War, and there are also nearly 5,000 from World War Two. There are also around 300 wills from pre-1914 conflicts, and a handful of wills for conflicts that took place after 1945.

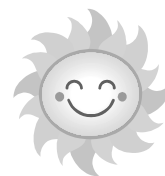
You'll notice that the drop-down menu for dates on the search page for the Soldiers' Wills only runs from 1914 to 1948. The reason for this is that in some of the pre-1914 wills, the soldier's date of death was not given. While the date of death is given in some of the post-1948 wills, not all of these later wills contain the soldier's date of death.

In turn, this affects how we index them and make them searchable on the website. So if you wish to search the wills from 1874 to 1914 and from 1948 to 1964, please just leave the date fields in 'default' mode – that is, do not choose any dates at all.

Picture: **Will example of John Feeley, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.**



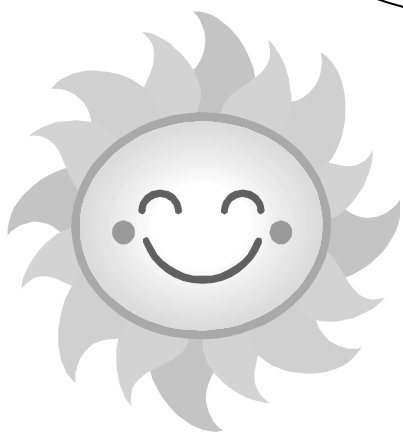
Bits of this
&
Bits of that



Our General Meeting on August 14th went down well with our members, when Mr. Mick Robinson from the Geelong Heritage Centre was very well received.

He had many stories to tell, lots of them humorous, so there was strong consensus that we would like him to come and talk to us again, and he is happy to do so.

Please can members show their support by letting our Committee know topics of interest from guest speakers?



Please can members contribute to our Newsletter, with family history items. We would love to read your story and see any family history related photo's
Please remember you never know who reads the Newsletter online
It is possible to solve mysteries & find new family members or link up with relations you've never met

Christmas Raffle

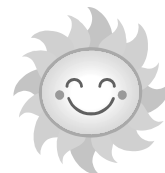
It is that time of year when we start setting up for our Xmas Hamper Raffle

This is our one and only yearly fundraiser

A Basket will be left at the

History House for any donations of none perishable Items

Thank You



*Members Story
Message from Mother*

Patricia Hughes

LOOK FOR ME IN RAINBOWS

Time for me to go now, I won't say goodbye

Look for me in rainbows, way up in the sky

In the morning sun rise, when all the world is new

Just look for me and love me, as you know I love you

Time for me to leave you, I won't say goodbye

Look for me in rainbows, high up in the sky

In the evening sunset, when all the world is through

Just look for me and love me, and I'll be close to you

It won't be forever, the day will come and then

My loving arms will hold you, when we meet again

Time for us to part now, we won't say goodbye

Look for me in rainbows, shining in the sky

Every waking moment, and all your life through

Just look for me and love me, as you know I love you

Just wish me to be near you, and I'll be there with you



Leah Agnes Hughes

Nee Talbot

Born 29 September 1922

Died 31 January 1998

Unity Mitford story-Taken from Wikipedia

Unity Valkyrie Mitford (8 August 1914 – 28 May 1948), **Unity Mitford**, was an aristocratic English socialite who was a devotee of Adolf Hitler.

Both in Britain and Germany, she was a prominent supporter of Nazism and fascism, and formed part of Hitler's inner circle of friends.

Unity was a member of the Mitford family, tracing its origins in Northumberland back to the 11th century Norman settlement of England. Her sister Diana was married to Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists.

Unity Mitford was the fourth of seven children born in London, England to David Freeman-Mitford, 2nd Baron Redesdale. She was conceived in the town of Swastika, Ontario where her family had gold mines.

Her siblings included: Nancy (28 November 1904 - 30 June 1973), Pamela (25 November 1907 – 12 April 1994), Thomas (2 January 1909 – 30 March 1945), Diana (17 June 1910 – 11 August 2003), Jessica (11 September 1917 – 22 July 1996), and Deborah (born 31 March 1920), later the Duchess of Devonshire.

The Mitford children lived at Asthall Manor in Asthall, Oxfordshire, and were educated at St Margaret's School, Bushey.

Her younger sister, Jessica, with whom she shared a bedroom, was a dedicated communist. The two drew a chalk line down the middle to divide the room. Jessica's side was decorated with hammer and sickles and pictures of Vladimir Lenin, while Unity's was decorated with swastikas and pictures of Adolf Hitler, a game that became deadly serious in later life.

Mitford was a debutante in 1932. That same year her elder sister Diana left her husband to pursue an affair with Oswald Mosley who had just founded the British Union of Fascists. Unity became a very extrovert member of the party, she used to go around in a black shirt uniform, and she used to turn up at communist meetings and she used to do the fascist salute and heckle the speaker.

Unity and Diana Mitford travelled to Germany as part of the British delegation from the British Union of Fascists, to the 1933 Nuremberg Rally, seeing Hitler for the first time. Mitford later said, "The first time I saw him I knew there was no one I would rather meet and this turned conviction into worship and she wanted to be near Hitler as much as possible".

Mitford returned to Germany in the summer of 1934, She set her mind on getting Hitler, and she discovered that Hitler's movements could be ascertained. You knew which café he'd be in, you knew which restaurant he'd be in, which hotel, and he would just go and meet people over sticky buns and cakes, and it was possible to meet him like that. Hitler and Mitford became close, with Hitler reportedly playing Mitford off against his new girlfriend, Eva Braun, apparently to make her jealous. Braun wrote of Mitford in her diary: "She is known as the Valkyrie and looks the part, including her legs. I the mistress of the greatest man in Germany and the whole world, I sit here waiting while the sun mocks me through the window panes.

At the 1939 Bayreuth Festival Hitler warned Unity that war with Britain was inevitable, Unity chose to remain in Germany. After Britain's declaration of war on Germany on 3 September 1939, distraught Unity took a pearl-handled pistol given to her by Hitler for protection, and shot herself in the head. Surviving the suicide attempt she was hospitalised in Munich, where she was visited by Hitler, despite the on-going war. He paid her bills and arranged for her return home.

In December, Mitford was moved to a hospital in Bern in the neutral country of Switzerland, where her mother and youngest sister, Deborah, went to collect her. In a 2002 letter to *The Guardian*, Deborah relates the experience: "We were not prepared for what we found - the person lying in bed was desperately ill. She had lost two stone was all huge eyes and matted hair, untouched since the bullet went through her skull. The bullet was still in her head, inoperable the doctor said. She could not walk, talked with difficulty and was a changed personality. She learned to walk again, but never fully recovered. Mitford returned to England with her mother and sister in January 1940 amid a flurry of press interest and her comment, "I'm glad to be in England, even if I'm not on your side" led to public calls for her internment as a traitor. Due to the intervention by Home Secretary John Anderson, at the behest of her father, she was left to live out her days with her mother at the family home at Swinbrook, Oxfordshire.

On 28 May 1948, Mitford died of meningitis caused by the cerebral swelling around the bullet. "Her sisters, even those who deplored her politics and hated her association with Hitler, mourned her deeply." She was buried at Swinbrook Churchyard. Her gravestone reads, "Say not the struggle naught availeth."