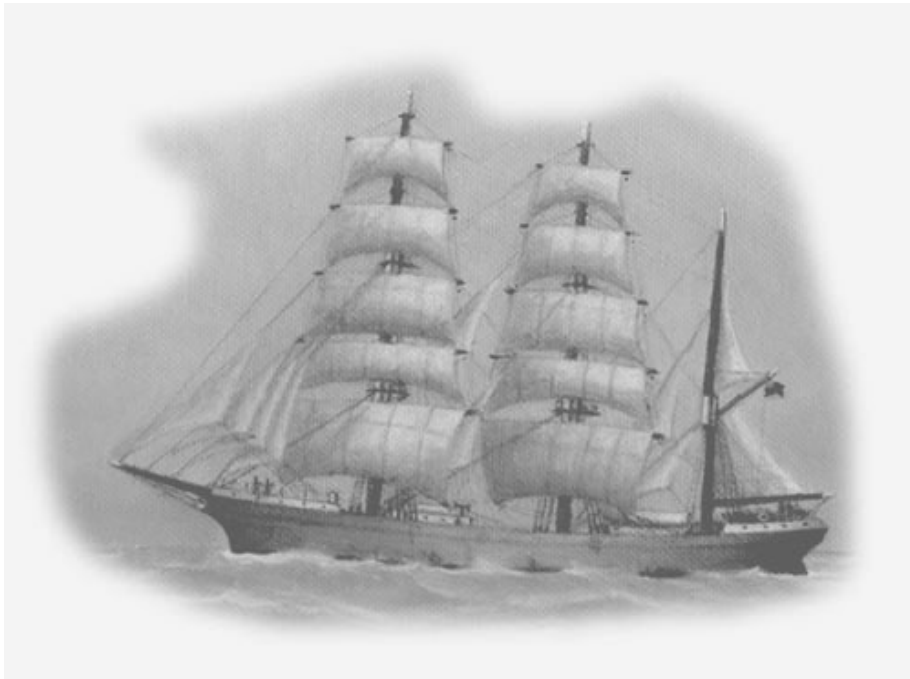


The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 55 Autumn March 2015 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



In this issue....

- Members Story—Grandma Dinning
- New Records
- Raffle results

Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch


Bendigo Bank

The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is housed in the Anglesea History House

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
History House

5 McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries:

Jan Morris: Phone 5263-3085
Surf Coast Family History Group
Email: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Meeting Thursday 12 March 10.00am

Organising a Family Re-union

Speaker: Margery Edwards

Outing: 16 April to Immigration Museum

**Exhibition Scots *Wha Hae* which reveals the
influence of the Scottish in Victoria.**

Bookings: Susan Clarke Phone 0438 070 560

Email: susanclarke3230@hotmail.com

Meeting: Thursday 14 May

Speaker: Martin Hooper

Honour the Fallen Soldier

Visitors welcome

**We aim to have interesting guest speakers
to talk on all matters of research**

Committee Members 2014 - 2015

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Website

Jan Morris: davejanmorris@bigpond.com
Susan Clarke: susanclarke3230@hotmail.com
Chris Guerow chrisguerow@gmail.com
Peter Matthews: matthews@melbpc.org.au
Gwen Morgan: (03) 5263-1865
Dulcie Quinlan: dulcieq@bigpond.com
Marilyn Robinson: (03) 5263-1338
Peter Matthews: matthews@melbpc.org.au

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

Grandma Amy Dinning's Very Interesting
Walkden/Dougan Ancestry by Laurel Rockliff

Our Grandma Amy Dinning's **Walkden and Dougan** forebears were quite an interesting bunch! Let me tell you about five of our direct ancestors, from our GGGG grandfather, down to Amy's father, our great grandfather Fred Walkden.

They include:a Caribbean Sugar Plantation Slave Owner.....a Pirateand slavery abolitionistan Educated Womanthe Czar of Russia's Master of Horses,and Temperance Teetotaler,and Bankrupt,and a Drunkard....or was he ?? I'll start by taking you back to the earliest one we know of .. in 1760. This is our g.g.g.g. grandfather - **Thomas Dougan**, a slave owner.

He had a sugar plantation in British Guyana in the Caribbean, and so no doubt owned quite a few slaves. He was, however, reported to be a very kindly slave owner. That's nice to know, isn't it, - our ancestor was one of the good guy slave owners!

The next generation down was Thomas' son **John Dougan**, - *our* g.g.g.grandfather. John was born 1765 on his father's sugar plantation. A younger son, he left home and forged his career in government, based in Caribbean island of Tortola.

If you're thinking pirates, you're right!. John Dougan was a pirate (aaaarrgh!) Well, okay., not quite Johnny Depp's "Captain Jack Sparrow", - our Johnny D. was actually a government sanctioned 'privateer' - The British Government gave him license to board enemy trade ships and take them as "booty", and he took many. However, to those ships he took, he was a pirate! This was at the turn of that century, 1800's, when England was at war with Napoleon's France.

John Dougan became anti-slavery, an abolitionist. He had a friend called James Stephen, who was a prominent anti-slavist and a member of a group called "The Saints" in England who were campaigning for the abolition of slavery. John freed his own slaves and joined in this campaign.

In 1822 John was commissioned by the British government to report on the condition of slaves in the Caribbean to support their Emancipation Bill. Slavery was eventually abolished in 1833, John's evidence having played its part. Sadly John never saw this through. He died in London in 1826.

In the next generation down the line we come to John's daughter, our g.g.grandmother **Mary Stephen Dougan**, born in 1804 on the island of Tortola in the Caribbean. When she was two years old, the threat of war with Napoleon in the region compelled John Dougan to hire a ship to send his family back to England for safety. England is where Mary grew up and was educated.

Mary's middle name is Stephen, - an odd name for a woman perhaps, but Mary's godfather was the aforementioned James Stephen, her father's abolitionist friend. This is where the name Stephen enters our family. (Leslie Stephen Dinning... Stephen Edwards..!) After Mary's father died in 1826, it fell to Mary to complete his report on slavery, and see it presented to parliament.

At only 22 years old at the time, this was quite an heroic feat for a young woman especially as she was under pressure to change it. This she refused to do. It would seem that Mary must have been well educated indeed (for her era) to be able to understand and present a document to Parliament, and of course we must believe (being her descendants!), she was ..ahhh.. highly intelligent !

Though her father was a very wealthy man in his early years, John Dougan died almost penniless. This cast Mary, her mother and sisters on very hard times. There is anecdote that they became teachers, and perhaps governesses, to earn a living. My conjecture is, that this may be how she met her future husband Richard Walkden, a rich widower with two small daughters. Mary married Richard in 1833. They are our g.g.grandparents.

So, the fourth of our ancestors in this tale is Mary's husband Richard Walkden, our g.g.grandfather. Richard was born in 1798 at Barton on Humber, Lincolnshire, where his family had the ferry crossing business, farmland, and horse breeding business. His parents were wealthy, but Richard made his own fortune providing horses for the Russian Army.

In the 1820s Richard became Czar of Russia's favoured horse breeder, - the 'Master of the Horses' - especially breeding Czar's racehorses. It is almost certain he 'hob-nobbed' with the (to page 4)

Czar, even dining with him on occasions. Richard returned from Russia a wealthy man in 1828, and took out the lease on a property called Pinner Park to the northwest of London. Here he raised his family: initially with his first wife Emily, and then with our Mary Stephen Dougan. However, he was not a good farmer and the place became run down, making insufficient income. He had to quit the lease in 1842. Census records show the family next in Wales. He also ran up debts campaigning and speaking at rallies for the anti liquor Temperance Movement of Father Theobald Matthew. All this contributed to his financial difficulties in the years around 1840. His debts finally caught up with him, and he did a stint in Lancashire Debtors' Prison in 1851.

To finance his release and emigration to Australia he *came to a deal* with his first wife's family and her legacy to their one surviving daughter Mary Anne. And this sounds very much to me like they may have wished him to 'get lost and never bother us again!'

So, in 1852 Richard and his family emigrated to Melbourne on board the historic ship 'Great Britain' on its Australian maiden voyage. Soon after arrival in Australia Richard "took up land near Tumut and started horse breeding with his elder sons. He was outspoken in local politics and affairs in Tumut. He retired to Melbourne with Mary and their sons Richard, John and Frank around 1858/59".

Richard died in 1880 at the home of his son Fred Walkden the Hansonville schoolteacher, and he was buried in the Greta Cemetary. The exact location of his grave is unknown, due to the relevant pages of the cemetary record book having been torn out. This act of vandalism is thought to be because several of Ned Kelly's family were also buried around the same time, and there was fear of *their* graves being desecrated if the locations were known.

Richard's wife, our *heroic* Mary Stephen Dougan, died in 1881 at the home of their daughter **Emily Mackie** in New Zealand. I have visited her grave at the Barhill cemetary, south of Christchurch... and in my opinion, she is still "heroic" - resting very uneasily in such earthquake prone ground !

(She had already in her life had her fair share of "rough rides" what with being born into a comfortably wealthy family, only to have her father lose his fortune compelling her then to having to make her own living; and then think she had struck lucky in marrying a well off widower - only to have him go bankrupt! It seems, no rest for Mary !)

Finally we come to Richard and Mary's third son, **Frederick Dougan Walkden**, our g.grandfather, and Grandma Amy Dinning's father. He was born in 1839 at the home *Pinner Park* in England. Coming to Australia he was employed in the 1860's to manage the *Airey Station* west of Aireys Inlet. He married Elizabeth Pearse of next door Angahook Station. After a few career moves, and adventures, he became the schoolteacher of Hansonville from 1880.. and he was *reputed* to be a bit of a drunkard ... (pause)....however, he actually had Huntington's disease.

- One of the symptoms of this disease is a similarity to drunkenness. Another mark of this disease is the high rate of suicide. Fred died in 1900 as the result of a *fall* from the St.Kilda pier. It was fairly certain that it was suicide. Huntington's disease is inherited from one generation to another, however, does not skip generations so you can only get it if your parent had it and can not pass it on if you have not had it... which makes us all safe, as Grandma Amy Dinning escaped it. At least two of Fred's children got it and one of his brothers had it. We don't know whether it was Richard or Mary who had it initially . Cranky Richard or seemingly or seemingly sane Mary.

At the time of his death Fred was a widower, and living in Melbourne with his children; one exception being his youngest, our grandmother Amy, who was fostered by the Baird family in Hansonville.

So... I'm sure you will agree that these direct ancestors of Grandma Amy Dining-Baird-Walkden, and of course ourselves, were quite a colourful lot!

Lauel Rockliff



Jan Morris & Lyle McConachy at the grave of Mary Dougan at Barhill, N.Z.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas Raffle as a great success, raising nearly \$2,000 for our group. First prize went to Paul and the second prize went to Dale McIntyre. Both winners received large Christmas hampers. Thank you to the members who gave time to sell tickets.

HONOUR THE FALLEN SOLDIER

Local author Martin Hooper, has recently written *Honour the Fallen Soldier*. He researched and wrote the biography of his uncle Reg. Hooper who died in the First World War. The book shows meticulous research and gives detail and explanations of many of the World War conflicts. We are fortunate to have Martin coming to speak to us for our May meeting.

LIBRARY NEWS

We sadly accepted the resignation of our librarian, Rose Johnson. We are indebted to Rose for her ten years of service maintaining the library catalogue. She put in a lot of time at the end of 2014 to make the holdings more accessible, and the records more user-friendly. We are grateful for her efforts and contribution to the group. New members Karl and Barbara Jacklin have kindly agreed to take over maintenance of the library.

VALE: ROBERT ARMSTRONG

It is with great sadness that we record the death on 2 February of Robert Bruce Armstrong, known as Bob or Army. Bob was an avid historian who spent much of his early life in Anglesea. He provided us with photos and details of early Anglesea families. Bob was descended from the Evans family who once owned *The Farm* now part of the Alcoa holding. His cousin John Evans is a resident of Anglesea. Bob was predeceased by his wife Ruth and one of his children. He is survived by three adult children .

NEW RECORDS AVAILABLE

Millions more Australian and New Zealand records on Ancestry

NEW

Sydney, Australia, Morgue Registers of Bodies, 1881-1908
New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Seamen, 1859-1936
New South Wales, Australia, Land Grants, 1788-1963
New Zealand Cemetery Records

UPDATED

New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856
Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922
New South Wales, Australia, Criminal Court Records, 1830-1945

THE 1939 REGISTER

The 1939 Register is being digitised and will be published within the next two years. It will provide information about over 30 million people living in England and Wales at the start of World WW2. The British government took a record of the civilian population shortly after the outbreak of World War Two. The information was used to issue identity cards and organise rationing. It was also used to set up the National Health Service. The 1939 Register is a fantastic resource for family history and social history research as it is the only surviving record of the population between 1921 and 1951. This is because the 1931 census was destroyed and one was not taken in 1941. To sign up to hear about the release of the register, go to: <http://www.1939register.co.uk/>

15 MILLION NEWSPAPER PAGES NOW DIGITISED!

The National Library of Australia now has the largest freely available collection of digitised newspapers in the world. The 15-millionth page went online on 8 December 2014 at the award-winning website [Trove](http://trove.nla.gov.au).

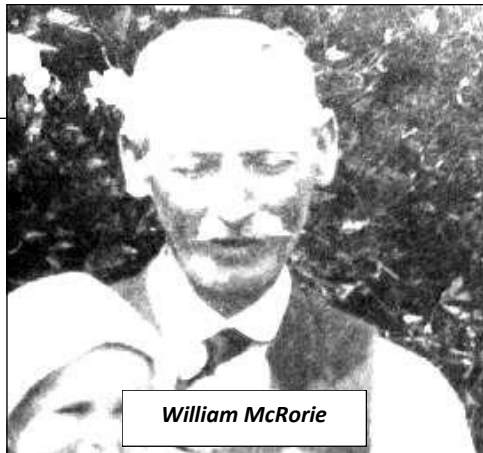
PROV: ACCESSING NEW FILES

As of 1 January 2015, a number of Section 9 files (closed "personal or private" records) are now open to the public. These files cover personnel records, medical records, police and prison records and case records concerning students, welfare recipients, children in government care or compensation claimants. The list of these files is available at:

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-pnly/section-9-files-now-open-for-viewing>

McRORIE

From *EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES* by Lindsay Braden



William McRorie

Back in 1920, the township of Anglesea in spite of being noted as one of the prettiest seaside resorts near Geelong, was not progressing as some would have liked. Pioneer settler George Noble still had plenty of land to sell, Charles Lane's coastal road was another four years away, and believe it or not there were less than twenty houses

periods - Anglesea really started to emerge after this with sales confidence.

With the development of our Family File project between both the Historical Society & ourselves, we are requesting family stories of people who live or have lived in Anglesea & District.

William McRorie's parents A.W. and E. J. McRorie, after retiring from rural life, acquired and occupied Morongo' from 1915 to 1919.

erected on the west side of the river - then Bill McRorie came and showed what could be done.

After retiring as a successful Grain Merchant in Melbourne, he launched into a new venture of presenting Real Estate as he had seen it done in that capital city - and then helped to finance the forthcoming sales. Even before living here permanently, he astutely purchased large blocks of land at both Anglesea and Torquay for cash, sub-divided these into smaller sites, and resold on easy terms.

Geelong Agents Frank Roadknight and Norman Belcher helped him with the selling side of his business. In those exciting years, an increasing number of subdivisions close to the River Esplanade were auctioned over the Xmas/Easter holiday

Bill married at Geelong on 28/11/1911 and lived in Orrong Road St. Kilda. His wife Mary Ann (who came from Aberdeen Street West Geelong), was the sister of the well known Geelong identity Harry Hooper, whose popular Grocery store was then in mid-town Moorabool Street.

Although Bill and Mary Ann purchased their Tonge Street land in 1918, it was not until 1924 that their timber house was erected, enabling them to come and absorb the pleasures of living at the coast..

At that time electricity had not arrived at the township, kerosene lamps were mainly used for lighting, the telephone was operator connected, and a wood stove was the way to cook. It was a great day

when water reticulation arrived at Anglesea - tank water had it's shortcomings. Bill and Mary Ann were inspired to plant a beautiful front flower garden. This splash of colour was even mentioned in the 'Addy' when the new tennis courts were opened at the nearby corner.

Bill McRorie was also a keen member of the local Progress Association. He had a busy time with this group in 1936 as Hon. Secretary of their Public Hall Investigation committee - unfortunately he died before construction of this community meeting place commenced. They both watched with interest as the new concept 'Four Kings' was built in 1946, and were narrowly missed by the savage bushfire one



McRorie's Tonge St. house

year later.

In 1948 the sun set on their time at Anglesea. Failing health caused them to depart for Geelong, and sell to the Salmons. McRorie Street (near the old School site) is named after them

L.B.