

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 60 Winter, June 2016 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

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The Surf Coast Family History Group

The Group is housed in the Anglesea History House, 5 McMillan Street, Anglesea.

WINTER FEAST

10.00am Thursday 14 July

Speaker: Bill Bubb

Memories of Anglesea

Bring a Friend

Cost \$8.00



Forthcoming Meetings:

JUNE OUTING - Thursday 9 June

Soldiers Settlers PROV exhibition
We will travel by train (use your free trip)
Sign up at History House

JULY MEETING—10.00am Thursday 14 July at History House.

Speaker— Bill Bubb, *Memories of Anglesea*

Followed by the usual **Winter Feast** (light hot lunch)
Cost: \$8.00

AUGUST MEETING - 10.00am Thursday 11 August at History House

Speaker: Cheryl Baulch - *Together They Served*

SEPTEMBER OUTING - 10.00am Thursday 8 Sept. leaves History House for Geelong Heritage Centre

*Members and Visitors welcome at all meetings
Bring your friends*

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

unless an excursion has been scheduled

5 McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries:

If you would like the Newsletter on email:

send your email address to us

surfcoastfh@gmail.com

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NEWS AND RESOURCES

Irish Genealogy Toolkit: <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/index.html>

This toolkit was reviewed at our April meeting. The website is very 'user-friendly'. It is useful whether you are new to Irish genealogy, or well experienced. The information is well written, and the site map provides a clear contents list.

National Family History month – August 2016

To search for local events and events which you can do at home, go to:

<http://familyhistorymonth.org.au/>

Family History Books on FamilySearch

https://books.familysearch.org/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=FHD_PUBLIC

Family History Books is a collection of over 200,000 digitised genealogy and family history publications. The book *The Parish Chest* by W.E. Tate is highly recommended in virtually every family history course on English records. This book is part of the Family History Books collection and therefore freely available to read online. Great! Its access rights status is 'public'. But note that some items can only be accessed from a Family History Centre because their access rights status is 'protected'.

Victoria's early history revealed through 'Letters to La Trobe' now available online

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/blog>

Did your ancestor write to La Trobe? To research the letters, search through series VPRS19.

Records from the Royal Children's Hospital dating back to 1870 are now at PROV

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/royal-childrens-hospital-records-transfer-now-complete>

Latest records include patient histories and nurse training records.

2016 Australian census

Tuesday 9 August 2016

As we approach this year's census date, it is timely to reflect on the use of census information by family historians. The FamilySearch website provides the following tips about searching English census records:

- Names may be misspelled – both Christian and surnames may have variant spellings
- Ages and birthplaces may not be accurate – consider who was reporting the information
- Relationships may not be expressed in terms understood today – regionally “in-law” and “step” are terms that have different meanings
- Jurisdictions changed – as populations grew and shifted, jurisdictions changed
- People may not be where they are expected – a disaster or plague may have forced a family to move

Pages may be unreadable – use “zoom” and other enhancements on digital copiers

(source: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Census)

Soldier Settler Exhibition

We are visiting this exhibition at the Treasury Building on 9 June. For a preview, go to:

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/blog>

Scroll down to the posting on 31 March 2016 entitled “WW1 in the Archives”.

The Wood family Beach House

By Colin Wood

The Wood family beach house was built by my father and his brothers but my limited information of its existence came from my mother. The family ties between my mothers and fathers families were quite close as two of my father's siblings also married two of my mother's siblings. To the best of my knowledge the erection of the beach house took place sometime prior to any of these marriages.

The Wood family farm was located north west of the township of Yarram (south Gippsland) and the nearest access to the ocean would have been at the western end of the Ninety Mile Beach and it is here that my father and his brothers chose to set up a base for family and friends to enjoy leisure activities by the ocean.

The sight chosen was ideally suited to their requirements – a level naturally grassed area nestled in a sheltered depression between two lines of sand dunes running parallel to the beach. Just a short 50 metre walk over the second line of dunes was the pristine beauty of the Ninety Mile Beach, one of the longest stretches of unbroken beach in the world (it is actually 94 miles long – 151 kilometres).

The area became known as Reeves Beach as in a previous era it would have formed part of Lake Reeve that had since dried up (Lake Reeve is the western most lake of the Gippsland Lakes system).

To gain access to the site it was necessary to negotiate a steep rise over the soft sand of the first line of sand dunes. This could only be achieved at the time by horses and light horse drawn wagons.



Of course one would have thought that such a magnificent piece of real estate as this would have required an equally magnificent structure to grace it. This early photo shows family members proudly posing outside their "pride and Joy", not quite what we would expect today but when related to the era must have been quite an achievement.

My father is on the right rear of photo

My mother is right front

Many enjoyable family gatherings took place at the spot in the following years. I recall my mother speaking fondly of riding their horses out into the ocean to the delight of both the horses and riders.

Unfortunately as is often the case various family members drifted away from the area and the beach house was no longer used by those remaining.

I was able to visit the spot in the mid 1950's with Nielma – my then wife to be- and was confronted with a rather sad picture.



Unfortunately several years prior to our visit to the spot oil exploration had taken place in the area and the drilling company had bulldozed a cutting through the first line of sand dunes to provide access for their drilling rigs. Needless to say the oil they were so desperately seeking was not land based but was finally discovered offshore in the nearby ocean.

The site now being accessible to both campers and the young local revellers our "Palatial Family Beach House" soon became a sad and sorry sight, as can be seen in the photo on the next page.

1929 My mother & my eldest brother enjoying the pristine waters of the "ninety mile beach"



Left: Nielma standing guard over the “family treasure” - 1956

The area today is a designated camping area, highly prized by surf fishermen. It even boasts a “pit” toilet. Those in the know arrive early in the holiday season to ensure securing their favourite Camping spot from the limited space available.



Surf fishing on the ninety mile beach

A later visit to the spot in 2011 shows no indication whatever that a building had ever been on the spot but the beautiful level grassed area still remains. I doubt that many current family members would be aware this piece of family history ever existed.



Left:: The Camping area today. The beach house would have been on the left of the photo.

go to :-

<http://discovery.natiuonalarchives.gov.uk/details//r/c14330>

WEDDING DRESS DISPLAY

There is a new (temporary) display in the museum at History House of a wedding dress on loan from member Maree Davis. The dress was worn by Maree's mother, Hazel Bishop, in 1939. Hazel was great granddaughter of Edward Bishop, Captain of the tall ship *Enterprize* a topsail schooner, from December 1839 to September 1840. He sailed between Melbourne, Launceston, Hobart and South Australia with cargo of sheep, flour, barley, apples, timber, tin, shingles or blankets – whatever was needed for the growing colonial settlements. In late 1835 the *Enterprize* had brought John Pasco Fawkner and other first settlers from Tasmania to what became Melbourne. A replica of the *Enterprize* was launched in 1997 and conducts regular voyages between Geelong and her home port of Melbourne Docklands. We are grateful to Maree for enabling us to host this display.



Maree beside the wedding dress displayed at History House

BOOK REVIEW

NIGHTINGALE by Fiona McIntosh

This novel, set in WW1 is, “An epic story of war and peace. A tribute to the lives lost in the war, but also to love itself,” (Australian Women Online). The story is of James Wren, an Australian Light Horseman from Farina, South Australia. Starting in Gallipoli he fights in many of the WW1 battles including the western front. His life is saved by Nurse Nightingale, with whom he falls in love. They are separated for years, not knowing what had happened to the other one. Like all good love stories, despite battle scars they reunite at the end of the war. This book is an easy read that is hard to put down, yet at the same time it gives an insight into battles and tragedies of WW1.

Highly recommended. This book is in the ADHS library.

JBM

WALTER HARRISON 1855-1928

by Jan Morris



In the first part of the 20th century Walter Harrison had a great influence on the emerging seaside hamlet of Anglesea. As a builder he built many of the early houses in Anglesea. The son of a dairy farmer, Charles Harrison and his wife Mary Wilkins, Walter was born in 1855 at Tower Hill just west of Warrnambool. In the early years of European settlement much of Tower Hill's natural vegetation was cleared. With a good permanent fresh water supply, the land was used for farming and quarrying. However in 1892 it became Victoria's first National Park, in recognition of its unique features

Walter was the youngest of three boys, registered in 1856, possibly the first opportunity the parents had to register them. They later moved to Geelong where they added two daughters to the family and another son that only survived a few weeks.

Walter became a carpenter/builder. He married Caroline Clarke in Geelong in 1881 when he was 27 years old. Caroline also came from Warrnambool. They lived at Belmont and had two daughters Ethel Elizabeth born 1882 and Ann Grace born 1885. Sadly Caroline died following the birth of Ann in 1885.

They were married for only four years, and Walter never remarried. Of his two daughters, Ethel married John Campbell in 1906. They had two sons Donald and Keith. Ann married Herbert Smith. They had four sons Clifford, Ronald, Maxwell, and Keith.

Walter Harrison, had been a widower for 29 years when he first came to Anglesea in 1914, to work on the construction of Harvey Sichlau's *Bon Air* home. His two daughters by this time were both married. From Lindsay Braden's research we learn that he lived temporarily in Harvey Sichlau's boat-house, that was described as being large and comfortable. Later in the same year Harrison erected a cottage for the Carrolls. This building was unfortunately burned to the ground four years later by the 1919 fires.



The Sichlau's *Bon Air*



The Webbs *Riverdale*

In 1915 Harrison was contracted to build Webb's new home *Riversdale* on the Esplanade, now Great Ocean Road. He had become recognized as an excellent builder who could be trusted. This was important as the owners were not Anglesea residents and could not supervise the building.

In 1916 Walter Harrison built the first section of *The Hut* for the Paton's. This consisted of a living room with a log fire-place, a kitchen, a dressing room and sleeping quarters. Also in 1916 Walter built a holiday cottage known as *The Shelling* for the Rev. J.A. Forest, a Presbyterian minister. Other houses built by Walter Harrison include *Claverly* for the Minifies and *Debonair* for the Tonges.

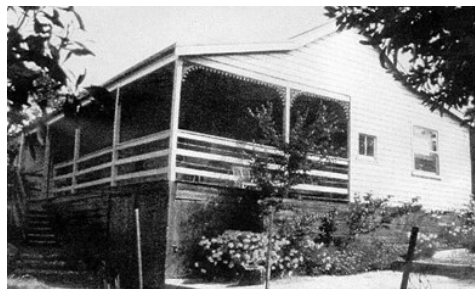
Spending so much time and effort in Anglesea, it is not surprising that Walter eventually purchased land himself at what is now 3 Tonge Street. Although being altered and added to over the years, this house still stands today giving testimony to the quality of work done by Walter.

The Geelong Advertiser reports on 17/12/1919 that George Noble and Walter Harrison saved the Anglesea bridge during a bushfire that destroyed many Anglesea houses. They continually bucketed water on to the bridge as spot fires were started by flying embers. Many people have recorded fond memories of Walter Harrison. Peggy Bunton in her book *The Hut* says that Harrison could not resist too much to drink if he visited the hotel, so he had a rule never to cross the bridge. Joan Murch recalled rowing down the river with her father to buy vegetables from Mr. Harrison's garden. Marjorie Minifie mentioned in her memoirs that Mr Harrison had a nephew, Mr. Tomkins, who was a ranger at the camping ground.

Walter Harrison died in 1928 in the Gipps Ward of the Melbourne Hospital, at East Melbourne. He is buried in the Barrabool Cemetery with his wife Caroline who died 43 years prior to him. Next time we are looking to name a new street, perhaps the name Harrison Street could be considered as fitting to recognize this early builder.



Paton's *The Hut*



Forest's *The Shelling*



Minifie's *Claverly*