

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 62 Summer, December 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 Raffle Tickets (major fund raiser)

SCFHG members have 3 raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper (\$2 each or 3 for \$5). Please sell these and return the ticket butts and \$5 to History House.

We have a wide range of indexes both Australian and overseas. We have internet access for researching.

Our equipment includes computers, scanners, printers, microfiche readers and an extensive library.

Need help with your research? Call in and we will help.

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

5a McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries:

Susan Clarke: Phone 0438 070 560

Forthcoming Meetings

DECEMBER - Christmas Break-up Meeting
10.00am History House, Christmas Quiz

JANUARY— No Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING - Thursday 9 February
10.00am at History House

Speaker: Pam Jennings

Topic - *Pioneer Families of The Otway's*

MARCH OUTING - Thursday 9 March

Tour of *Coragulac Homestead*

Leaves History House 10.00am

Cost \$40 includes transport, morning tea and lunch

Booking front desk or Jan 5263 3085



*Members and Visitors welcome to all activities.
No activities held days of code red or extreme fire danger*

If you would like the Newsletter on email:

send your email address to surfcoastfh@gmail.com

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Secretary

Treasurer

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EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES

John & Mary Kate Evans



In 1889 John Evans, a brash young teenager of nineteen, left the family home in Collingwood in search of adventure. Arriving in Anglesea River he talked his way into a job as a coach driver for Henry Bubb, fell in love with his surroundings, and stayed. In 1891, Mary Kate Symons, a sweet young sixteen year old girl from Boonah, rode her horse to Anglesea River and talked her way into a job at Mrs Murray's boarding house. There she met the handsome young and cocky coach driver when he pulled up his coach and four after the arduous twenty five mile trip from Geelong.

John and Mary Kate fell in love and on 18 February 1892 were married in Boonah at the home of the bride. They immediately moved into the bark hut on the partly-cleared 100 acre farm that John had just purchased, along with the coach business, from Henry Bubb. He was twenty-two and Mary Kate was seventeen. On the marriage certificate John's profession was proudly shown as *Coach Proprietor*.

John, born in Collingwood in 1869, was the eldest of eight children of Alfred John Evans and Annie Maria Saunders. Alfred, a compositor, arrived in Melbourne as a single man in 1865 aboard the *Prince of Wales* to join several of his siblings who had earlier arrived in Melbourne. Alfred and Annie were married in August 1868 at St Phillip's Church, East Collingwood. Annie's father was also a compositor so it could well be assumed that the Evans and Saunders families became friends through a work association.

Mary Kate, born in Garvoc in 1874, was the eldest of six children of John and Frances Jane Symons of Boonah. John Symons was the son of a stonemason who arrived from England in 1841. Frances Jane Symons (née Bellamy) was the daughter of a convict, Catherine Blunsom, who was sent to Hobart Town from Lincolnshire in 1842 to serve seven years for the alleged stealing of a trinket from her mistress. She married Samuel Bellamy in 1849 in Hobart Town then moved to the Barrabool Hills where Frances was born. Frances became the visiting midwife for an area from Bellbrae to Aireys Inlet and from the coast back to Boonah and Bamba.

Life on the farm was hard. John kept the coach business running but sold it in 1904. They cleared the land, and made an early living from selling produce, including milk, butter, eggs, bread and poultry to the holiday-makers and to Jackson's Anglesea Hotel. When water was in short supply Mary Kate washed the clothes in the upper forks of the Anglesea River. As the children started to arrive John built a new three-bedroom home up on the rise, renamed the property *The Wattles* and settled into farming. They survived drought and bushfires, including the fire in 1911 which destroyed most of their outbuildings and farm machinery. The phone was connected as soon as available and the phone book read *J & MK Evans, Farmers, The Wattles, Anglesea 2*. Of course *Anglesea 1* was the Hotel. *The Wattles* was never ever connected to the electricity system.

In 1916 John bought land and he and his sons built Anglesea's first General Store and Tea Rooms that were opened in 1917 and operated by his newly married daughter May and her husband Rueben Mousley.

John and Mary Kate had eleven children, all born in the farmhouse at *The Wattles* except the youngest who was born in Geelong. Most of the births were attended by the district mid-wife by name of Mrs Frances Symons, Mary Kate's mother. The eleven children were Alfred John (1893-1918), George Owen (1894-1961), May (1896-1944), Cecil (1898-1966), Hugh (1900-1967), Dorothy (1902-1966), Eric (1904-1962), Mary (1906-1949), Reginald (1909-1970), Annie Ruby (1912-1994) and Stella (1914-1991). In addition to farming John, now known as Hellfire Jack Evans, a man who could not tolerate fools, had contracts to supply firewood in Geelong, had a carrying business bringing building materials and other supplies from Geelong, sold bagged chaff, did contract ploughing and fencing, blacksmithing including shoeing of horses, trapped rabbits for the skins.

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The milk-round provided milk to the locals and holiday makers, and cream was sent to the butter factory in Geelong. This was all achieved with help from his sturdy sons. Mary Kate, now known to her peers as Polly, still made bread, and sold this together with eggs, butter, vegetables and chickens to the locals and the passing trade. The daughters milked about thirty-five cows, fed the pigs, chooks and ducks, the occasional sheep, and tended the vegetable garden. The two youngest daughters, Ruby and Stella, always laughed when they claimed they had both milked cows from the age of seven to the morning of their marriages.

With eleven children and no school in the area except the closest being at Bellbrae, Mary Kate took it upon herself to educate her daughters in reading, writing, arithmetic, needlework, cooking and domestic economics, and her results were very admirable with all the girls becoming very prolific readers, exceptional cooks, and prize-winning with their needlework. Needless to say the boys were left to fend for themselves. Except for the youngest, Stella, then thirteen, all were beyond school age when the Anglesea State School opened in 1927 and Stella was the only child to receive a formal education. Actually, that's not quite true as Eric, for eight weeks, at age eight, had ridden a white pony the seven miles to Bellbrae every day until it threw him. He walked home in the rain, contracted pneumonia, and decided eight weeks education was all he needed.



John and Mary Kate Evans with their extended family at the 1925 wedding of George & Annie

Entertainment was trips in the horse and buggy to visit friends, and dances at home. The big front room at The Wattles would be cleared of furniture, the floor polished, and friends from Anglesea, Aireys Inlet (the Andersons and the Luggs) and Bellbrae would arrive for the dance. Some of the Evans boys could play the accordion and the mouth organ and daughter Mary would play the piano. On Sundays, Mary Kate would harness up the horse and buggy and the girls would be taken to church, to the Presbyterian Church near the hotel. In later years, in the same church, the Baptist minister – The Rev Fred Wilkin, a family friend – would preach to the Church of England Evans family. Fred Wilkin also officiated at the weddings of the two youngest girls, Ruby (1934) and Stella (1935) at the Anglesea River Presbyterian church.

John's health started to deteriorate and he died in 1934 aged 65. By 1935 all the living children were married and had left the farm except for Reg, who with his new bride, Hazel, stayed on to help Mary Kate run the farm. With John deceased and the boys gone, and the income stream became somewhat deflated, Reg went off to work for the Country Roads Board returning at weekends to help out. Mary Kate and Hazel did get occasional help from nephews, and later from Tom Lugg, but by 1944, it became impossible to continue with the property. Tom and Bernice Lugg bought *The Wattles*, kept it for a few years and then sold it to Geoff Watmuff.

Reg built a new home and in early 1945 Reg, Hazel, their two sons, and Mary Kate moved into 89 Ocean Road, just a 100 metres or so from the General Store originally built by John Evans back in 1917. The rest of the family had

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NEWS AND RESOURCES

New Irish records online

The government of the Republic of Ireland has uploaded images of all historic vital civil registration records on its Irish Genealogy website. The records comprise births over 100 years old, marriages over 75 years old and deaths over 50 years old. The images have been attached to the existing index. Check new records released 8 September 2016 at www.IrishGenealogy.ie.

Back to Basics

Need to go back to basics with local research to see if you have missed anything?

PROV has developed an online exhibition called 'Lucy: A private life revealed through public records', which is intended as an educational tool for new family researchers. Go to <http://prov.vic.gov.au/research/family-history>

Are you stuck with your English research?

Highly recommended are two talks by leading British genealogist Else Churchill from the Society of Genealogists that are available on YouTube (FindMyPast webinars 2016):

[How to break down brick walls after 1837](#)

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FamilySearch webinars

FamilySearch now offers free webinars. There is an extensive range of topics organised by geographical region. See the list at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars. If you don't want to participate in the webinar, you can just download the handout.

Do you have ancestors from County Offaly?

A new online catalogue has been launched at Offaly History Archives to collate the catalogues of archival collections currently held in various repositories in County Offaly and elsewhere. The site contains many digitised resources. Go to : <http://www.offalyhistoryarchives.com/>

University of Tasmania (UTAS) Diploma of Family History

UTAS is now offering online study for a diploma comprising 8 subjects: <http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/diploma-of-family-history>

BDM records in Australia

See the Gould Genealogy & History News website for a comparison of when registration commenced in each state and territory. Also lists details of the privacy period, and cost of the BDM certificates: <http://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2016/09/historical-australian-birth-death-marriage-records/>

PROV exhibition

A new exhibition opened at the Old Treasury Building on 19 September 2016 entitled 'Wild Colonial Boys: Bushrangers in Victoria'. See details at: <http://www.oldtreasurybuilding.org.au/wild-colonial-boys-bushrangers-victoria>

STOP PRESS

Changes to UK GRO online birth and death indexes

Birth and death indexes can now be searched directly on the site and the entries will show mothers' maiden names on births and age at death on death entries back to 1837 (where that information is shown on the register). The FreeBMD and GRO indexes may differ because the GRO index has been created from the digitised records, i.e. it is not a copy of any existing index. For full details go to:

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/>

[most customers want to know.asp](#)

One-place studies: useful or what?

Susan Clarke

One-place studies are designed to gather historical records, memorabilia and stories about a defined geographical area in order 'to identify local families and analyse issues like occupational structure, life expectancy and geographical mobility'. They are therefore potentially a great source of assistance in tracing ancestors.



Two examples of websites which list one-place studies:

One-place Study Register Worldwide (which lists 101 studies in Australia, including Susie Zada's Geelong & District Study)

One-place Studies (which lists many studies in England, but also includes other countries)

One

But there may be other studies that are not registered. For example, in the course of researching my own family I came across really rich resources on a Shoreham-by-Sea website, but this is not registered.

In the case of English locations, a one-place study can encompass an area wider than a parish, taking into account the 'sphere of influence' for a particular place, and therefore include resources that fall outside and across parish and administrative boundaries. The study collates all records from various sources, for example parish registers and monumental inscriptions, as well as providing 'obscure' records, like those from private collections which might otherwise not be accessible to the family historian.

Significantly, a one-place study can provide local records and insights for the period before the Victorian efficiency of centralised record-keeping began, that is civil registration for births, deaths and marriages, and Poor Law requirements. Geographical mobility was especially important in the second half of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth when migration was happening as a result of the industrial revolution. A study which collates records and information about an area can therefore help to identify 'incomers' and 'outgoers' during this time of migration.

A one-place study usually includes photos of people and places, and a study may include sketches and other artworks relevant to ancestors. In providing the context for a place, for example in describing the local agriculture or industry, a study can also give pointers to other places to search, like the records associated with a particular economic activity. On a very practical level, a one-place study might provide contact with other researchers who are interested in the same families.

A one-place study is about more than local history – it is the combination of family history with local history. As Janet Few has indicated, it is about 'making connections, between inhabitants and locations, and between people, places and events' which is invaluable in tracing your ancestors.

Sources One-place studies website: <http://one-place-studies.org/>

Janet Few, *Putting your ancestors in their Place: A Guide to One Place Studies*, The Family History Partnership, Ramsbottom, Lancs

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One-place_study

One-place Study Register Worldwide: <http://oneplacestudy.org/world/>

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dispersed but Hugh, Reg, some of May's family, and some of Cecil's family stayed in Anglesea, the others were never far away – in Bellbrae, Torquay, Moriac, Colac, Geelong and Lorne. In fact a number of the descendants of Hugh, Reg, May and Cecil still live in Anglesea.

Mary Kate was active in community affairs including the Red Cross. In her later years she tended her wonderful garden at Reg's house, met with her numerous old friends and straightened out some of her grandchildren more often than not. Her health finally failed and she died on 07 September 1953. She and John, known in Anglesea as Polly and Hellfire Jack, are buried together in the Bellbrae cemetery. John and Mary Kate had 11 children, 32 grandchildren (15 still living), and at last count there were 87 great grandchildren, 163 great-great grandchildren and 64 great-great-great grandchildren. The Evans family can rightly claim to have an unbroken residency in Anglesea, from when John arrived 1889 to drive a coach, through to 2016 and continuing, with the names of Evans, Mousley, Bubb and Simmons still in Anglesea. With this continued permanent and unbroken residency of 127 years of the Evans dynasty the Evans family is one of the earliest Anglesea families