

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 64 Winter, June 2017 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



From painting by Geoffrey Soames

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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch



DON'T MISS THE WINTER FEAST

Thursday 13 July 11.00am Cost \$10 GOOD FOOD, GOOD ENTERTAINMENT

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

JUNE MEETING - 10.00am Thursday 8 June

Speaker :John McKay

Topic: *The Convict & the Orphan*

JULY COMBINED WINTER FEAST Thursday 13 July

Please note time 11.00am

Cost **\$10**



**Buffet
Lunch**

Speaker: Lindsay Smail

Topic: *Weather Wonders of Geelong*

AUGUST: 10.00am Thursday 10 August

Genealogical Society of Victoria Webcast –Ada Ackerly

Topic: "Not Just A Housewife! Women At Work in the 1700s & 1800s"

SEPTEMBER: 10.00am Thursday 11 September

Speaker: Susan Clarke

Topic: "On the job: - English employment and apprenticeship records"

Committee Members 2016 - 2017

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Website

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

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The Surf Coast 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

NEWS AND RESOURCES

National Family History month

August is family history month. To see what events are planned in Victoria and throughout Australia, go to: <http://familyhistorymonth.org.au/>

Shauna Hicks, Why You Should Repeat Trove Searches

Shauna Hicks is a prolific genealogy blogger. In her post on 2 May 2017 she reminds us why we should repeat searches, in this case in Trove:

<http://www.shaunahicks.com.au/trove-tuesday-why-you-should-repeat-trove-searches/>

The Red Cross' World War Two Wounded, Missing and Prisoner of War Cards

The University of Melbourne has made available online over 58,000 wounded, missing and prisoner of war enquiry cards through its catalogue. The cards are part of the historic records of Red Cross Australia that were transferred to the university archives in 2016. The online catalogue is at:

<http://gallery.its.unimelb.edu.au/umblumaic/imu.php?request=search>.

To find a card, just type the surname into the search box. There is an excellent article about the sort of information that the cards contain at:

<http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/archives/a-humane-and-intimate-administration-the-red-cross-world-war-two-wounded-missing-and-prisoner-of-war-cards/>

New book on Irish research

Claire Santry, author of the excellent online Irish Genealogy Toolkit that we discussed last year, has just published a new book *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide*. The publicity states that the book covers both genealogy basics and applying advanced research techniques to your family tree. See:

<http://www.shopfamilytree.com/the-family-tree-irish-genealogy-guide>

A reminder about where to find out what new records are available

Recently added and updated collections on Ancestry

To see what new collections are available on Ancestry.com, and what has been updated, go to: <http://www.ancestry.com.au/cs/recent-collections>. Select 'All countries' or a particular country from the drop-down box.

New historic records on FamilySearch

To see what new records have been released on FamilySearch on a weekly basis, go to:

<http://media.familysearch.org/>

Ireland-Australia Transportation Database

The Ireland-Australia Transportation Database at the National Archives of Ireland contains 38,907 records. Each record lists name, age, trial place and date, crime, sentence, ship, document reference and any comments. See <http://findingaids.nationalarchives.ie/index.php?browse=true&category=18&subcategory=147>

Research project

Alexandra Sanders, a fellow genealogist and Graduate Student Researcher from the School of Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, is completing research about the experience of doing genealogy in contemporary Australia. She is seeking participants for the project. Participation would involve two interviews with her to discuss your experiences of doing genealogy and creating a visual representation of your experiences, and keeping a diary to record your experiences over a four-week period. If you would like to become involved, contact Alexandra: asanders1@student.unimelb.edu.au

CORAGULAC HOUSE *Jan Morris*

Photos Bob Smith

Coragulac House was a wonderful surprise for us. Nestled at the foot of Red Rock, we were amazed to find this beautifully restored homestead in the middle of a paddock.

The homestead has been privately owned throughout its history. The current owners have opened the homestead to the public and we took advantage of this by visiting it for our March outing.

As we entered the homestead we were amazed by the majestic architecture of the entrance hall, with a six metre vaulted, cedar panelled ceiling. The original embossed wallpapers featured the Robertson's family crest. An Art Nouveau chandelier made a stunning centerpiece.



According to the Victorian Heritage Database, *Coragulac House* was erected in 1873/74 for George Robertson, son of pioneer settler William Robertson of Korangmorah. Architects Davidson and Henderson designed the original Victorian Italianate style bluestone mansion with florid early 20th century Art Nouveau additions being attributed to Melbourne architect Guyon Purchas.

The owner, Sharon was an excellent hostess, guiding us through the property and sharing the history of the home. We were most impressed by the more recent restoration work that has brought the house back to its former grandeur. We continued to make our way through each room soaking up the history of a bygone era. The Secret Room impressed us as we imagined the lady of the house retreating to this double-doored inner room.

Some areas, including the servant's quarters, are still to be renovated. The wine cellar with stone steps down into it, is huge, but not yet restored.

The furniture, although not original was well chosen to be in keeping with the period of the house. It was not the usual "look but don't touch" furniture but rather we were encouraged to sit on the chairs and we had the freedom to roam as we wished. There was actually one original item of furniture. That was the billiard table in the Secret Room. It was a full size table in perfect condition

Lunch did not disappoint either. We were provided with a variety of dishes in a hot buffet lunch, enjoyed by everyone.

Coragulac House and the nearby Glen Alvie homestead are the only two surviving properties of the once powerful and extensive Robertson pastoral empire.

Restoration work is by no means complete so we plan to visit again in a couple of years to view the progress. Sharon's husband still works in Melbourne full time, however her son helps her run the property. Thanks to Susan Clarke for organizing this outing.



SHARPE BREARLEY: THE EARLY YEARS Susan Clarke

In his book *Early Anglesea Families* (1999), Lindsay Braden includes an entry for Sharpe Brearley which contains the basic facts about his birth, marriage, death, children, address and occupation. Brearley was born in Yorkshire in 1827, married Jane Hillard in 1852, died on 27 April 1905 at the age of 78, lived at 75 Swanston Street, Geelong, and was a tanner. However, the entry in Braden's book is mainly concerned with Brearley's activities in Anglesea after he retired there when he left the tannery: the land he owned and the fact that his cottage, Merrimbula, was amongst the first dwellings to be erected in the area, his boatshed, and the subsequent subdivision of "The Brearley Estate".



Sharpe Brearley

But how did Sharpe Brearley come to build Australia's largest tannery on the south side of the Barwon River at Marshalltown, which employed 100 men? And what else is known about the man?

Sharpe Brearley was baptised in Hartshead, West Yorkshire on 15 July 1827, the son of John Brearley, a currier, and Hannah. ¹He arrived in Australia in 1848 as a single man at the age of 20 aboard the ship *Anna Maria*, and his occupation was listed as 'courier/shoemaker'. ²The fact is that the *Anna Maria* carried men removed to Australia under a specific convict transportation or 'exiles' scheme. Sharpe, who arrived with his older brothers Joseph and William, was one of those who came to be known as 'Pentonvillains' [see below]. An article in the *Leeds Times*, 24 October 1846 (under news for Bradford) tells the story:

STEALING WIRE – In June last, Messrs Bateman & Co had stolen from their warehouse, Low Moor, twenty-two bundles of wire; it was traced to the possession of Messrs Brearley, curriers and card makers, Liversedge, and two of them, William and Sharpe Brearley were tried for the offence last July Sessions and sentenced to seven years transportation. On Tuesday, another brother, named Joseph, who has since been out of the way, was brought up at the Court House, when the offence was clearly brought home to him, and he was committed to take his trial. [In the event, Joseph was convicted at Leeds in October 1846]

[Note: a currier is a specialist in the leather processing industry. After the tanning process, the currier applies techniques of dressing, finishing and colouring to the tanned hide to make it strong, flexible and waterproof.]

Sharpe married Jane Hillard in Melbourne in 1852. Jane was an Irish orphan. They established themselves in Geelong. They had 11 children: Annie (1853), Alfred Hillard (1855), George Carver Ramsden (1858), Robert Hillard (1860), John Albert (1862), Arthur Edward (1864), Walter Sharpe (1865), Alice Jane (1867), Adelaide Mabel (1868), Herbert Ernest (1869), Blanche Victoria (1872).

Sharpe and his brother Joseph set up business on the banks of the Barwon River in what became the Australian Tannery and, in 1880, Brearley Brothers Tannery Company. ³The tannery building is no longer standing. With business success came civic responsibility, and Sharpe was mayor of the South Barwon Shire from 1864 to 1866. Before retiring to Anglesea, Sharpe and Jane lived at Calder Park, Mount Duneed from 1887 to 1891.⁴



Sharpe Brearley's house, once in Camp Road, Anglesea

It is likely that recognition of his achievements meant a great deal to Brearley – in his will he starts by making three specific bequests. The first is to his son George Carver Ramsden Brearley and it is the 'Framed Illuminated Address presented to me by the Inhabitants of Geelong'. The second is to his grandson Cedric Royston Consterdine and it is the 'gold watch and chain presented to me by my men when leaving Brearleys Tannery'.⁵

1. "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, FamilySearch
2. Convict Index, Australia/u002cConvict Index/u002c, 1788-1868
3. Colleen Wood, 'Great Britain's Exiles sent to Port Phillip, Australia, 1844 – 1849: Lord Stanley's Experiment', p. 230, PhD thesis, University of Melbourne, 2014
4. 'Brearley Brothers', Mount Duneed History Group website: <http://mdpa.weebly.com/blog/brearley-brothers>
5. Will of Sharp Brearley, VPRS 7591/P0002 unit 376, item 94/615

The third is to his daughter Blanche Victoria Brearley and it is 'my silver candelabra'. The provenance of this item is not mentioned in the will, but likely it was the one described in a Geelong Advertiser article of 16 July 1877. That article entitled 'Presentation to Mr Sharp Brearley' stated that Brearley had intended to leave Geelong with the result that:

His friends could not allow him to leave the district, with which he had been so intimately identified for many years without in some way recognising in a substantial manner the value of a resident who would be missed ... A handsome silver candelabra was purchased from Mr Fischer, the jeweller, of Ryrie-street, and with an address that article of usefulness and ornamentation was presented to Mr Brearley at the Victoria Hotel ...

The presentation to Sharp Brearley was made because:

By his honesty and genial disposition Mr Brearley had won the best wishes of all in the district; they had every confidence in him, and to testify their full appreciation of his many excellent qualities they had chosen the candelabra as the most suitable present ... It was a gift that would show to Mr Brearley's children ... that their father had been esteemed among men, that he had been a useful citizen, and that the community in which he had resided had testified their belief in his upright career by making him a present which would always recall to memory the many friends he possessed.

Sharpe Brearley is buried in Eastern Cemetery in Geelong with his wife and three of his children who all died in infancy.

Pentonvillains

A Pentonvillain was a convict sentenced to transportation, but required first to serve eighteen months in Pentonville, Parkhurst or Millbank prison receiving moral and religious instruction and learning a trade, before being sent to the Port Phillip district in Australia on a conditional pardon. These convicts were required to remain in Australia until the period of their original sentence expired. PROV holds Notifications of Pardons of Exiles in series VPRS 89. The date range is 1844 – 1849, and you can view the digitised documents for eight ships online. The scheme involved 1739 'exiles', all male, with an average age of 22 years. Nearly all were literate, and many came from trade and manufacturing backgrounds. Most of their offences were crimes against property.⁶

There was public opposition to the scheme, and the State Library holds a cartoon and poem produced by Charles Norton in 1851 capturing the mood of public opinion which resulted in Governor La Trobe turning the boats north to Sydney.

Further information:: Ian Wynd, *The Pentonvillains*, Ian Wynd, 1996

6. "Pentonvillains", State Library of Victoria, <http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore-history/colonial-melbourne/convicts/pentonvillains>

MORE ABOUT OUR BATHING BOX

First it was a bathing box, then it was a ' newspaper collection depot for the scouts, followed by a store room for the Art House. Now it belongs to the Historical Society and after we have restored it to its former glory, it will become our Marine History display. The Surf Coast Shire moved the box, craning it onto the new footings. The window has been reglazed. A local plumber is replacing the roofing iron. We are currently sourcing second hands weather boards. One of our members Ryan McKnight is organising the paint. We are looking for volunteers to help paint the box.

We believe this bathing box was once near the river mouth and was owned by the Russell family. This box is much larger than most. The earliest record we have of ownership of bathing boxes is the 1900 rate books of the Barrabool Shire. Those people paying rates on the earliest bathing boxes were J Donaghy, W Higgins, W Hasty, A McMillan and J Parish. Many more people built boxes after that, as by 1930 there was an extensive number in the sand dunes.

Judith Laird has given us this photo taken from the beach. If anyone can identify who owned any of the bathing boxes please contact (Jan Morris 5263 3085)

RIGHT: The bathing boxes west of the Surf Club

