

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 69 Spring, September 2018 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

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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: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Susan Clarke: Phone 0438 070 560

SEPTEMBER Thursday 20 September 10.00am

Half Day workshop PROV Records

Speaker: Mark Grealy

Cost: \$20 includes morning tea and lunch

Mark specialises in school records.

OCTOBER Thursday 11 October 10.00am

Speaker from *Vanish*, an organisation that assists in finding children who were adopted, fostered, or

NOVEMBER Thursday 9 November 10.00am

Speaker: Neil Thomas

Topic: Cornish Families

DECEMBER Thursday 13 December

Christmas Breakup

Please bring a plate to share

Members and visitors welcome to all activities.

This newsletter is available electronically. If you wish to receive an electronic copy please email us on surfcoastfh@gmail.com

No activities are held on days of code red or extreme fire danger for the Central Region.

Committee Members 2018

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Website
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

Records added to GSV Cemeteries Database

Mildura cemetery headstones 1848 to 1983

Glenlyon cemetery register and index 1867-1983

Geelong Western cemetery: Roman Catholic headstones 2.12.1848 to March 1982

Wallan cemetery register and headstones 1854-1978

Geelong Eastern cemetery: Methodist headstones 1848-1962

School Days: Education in Victoria

A reminder that the exhibition 'School Days', developed by PROV and on show at the Old Treasury Building back in 2015, can still be seen on the Culture Victoria website. You might like to look at this before (or after) attending our September half-day event on PROV records, with special emphasis on those relating to schools. Go to: <https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/school-days-education-in-victoria/>

Newsletters from other societies

A reminder that electronic copies of newsletters from the following organisations can be viewed at History House on the 'cup cupboard' computer:

The Mail (Descendants of Convicts Group)

The South-West Genealogist (Warrnambool)

Deniliquin Newsletter (Deniliquin)

The following organisations provide hard copies of their newsletters, which are filed on the shelving above the computers:

Pivot Tree (Geelong Family History Group)

Ancestor (Genealogical Society of Victoria)

Thistle (Scottish)

Bridges and Branches (Echuca Moama)

Mallee Roots (Swan Hill)

Additions to Ancestry: Victorian BMD indexes & asylum records

Ancestry.com.au has added indexes to the Victoria Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages:

Victoria Births Index, 1837-1917

Victoria Death Index, 1836-1988

Victoria Marriage Index, 1837-1950

and added the Victoria Asylum Records, 1853-1940 (49,040 from PROV)

Millions of South Australian records added to FamilySearch

See: https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2018/06/millions-of-south-australian-records-added-to-familysearch/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NL811

Quote for this edition

'To be a successful genealogist you must assume nothing and be prepared to clear your mind of all preconceptions, while at the same time, and perhaps paradoxically, informing yourself of the historical legal system, the geography of the area, and the historical context.'

[Helen Osborn, *Genealogy: Essential Research Methods*]



Do you find researching at PROV confusing?

Do you know what to order before your visit?

Can you find the documents you want?

Do you need help researching at PROV?

If the answer is "Yes", come along to the half day Family History Workshop.

10.00am Thursday 20 September at Anglesea Community House

5A McMillan Street, Anglesea

Speaker Mark Grealy, expert researcher at PROV.

Mark will help us to know what to look for, how to look for it, and how to book it.

If you need more help, Mark will do the research for you (at a very reasonable cost).

Half Day Workshop \$20 includes entry, talk, morning tea and lunch.

Bookings at History House or phone Jan 5263 3085

Highly recommended!

The Hall family: more questions than answers

Susan Clarke

As part of the Family File project being conducted jointly by the historical society and family history group, I have been given the name HALL from Lindsay Braden's *Early Anglesea Families*. Compared with most of the other entries in the book, the one for Hall is relatively brief. It names Charles and his wife Ann Elizabeth with their death dates, and the fact that they were both born in England, and he was a builder who lived in Swanston Street. It details the land that Charles bought in 1885 in Camp Road (lot 10), and the fact that Charles erected a cottage which was destroyed by the 1898 bushfire. Finally, there is a reference to the fact that ownership changed to Miss Mary Hall in 1897. There are no photos accompanying this entry.

So who were Charles and Ann Elizabeth? And when did they come to Victoria? What was their life in Geelong? And who were their descendants?

Starting with Charles' death date, I found his will online at PROV. The beneficiaries, who were also his executors, were Ann Elizabeth Hall of Swanston Street, Geelong, widow, William Henry Hall of Spenseley Street, Clifton Hill, a teacher, and Mary Hall of Geelong, spinster. Locating Charles' grave at Geelong Eastern Cemetery provided the additional information that Mary Hall (daughter) died 4 August 1934, aged 85, so she was born around 1850 and did not marry. Searching for a death record for William Henry Hall, whom I presumed was her brother, I found that he died in 1928 at Clifton Hill, aged 80, and his mother's name was Elizabeth Ann Wilson. A newspaper article in *The Argus* 5 April indicated that he left by will dated December 1 1926, real estate of a gross value of L1,200, and personal property of a gross value of L1,024, principally to his sister. It therefore looked likely that William Henry had no dependents.

The next step was to find the marriage of Charles and Ann Elizabeth. Records on this continent proved fruitless, so I searched English records and found a marriage for Charles Hall in June 1846 to Ann Elizabeth Wilson at Marylebone, London. Lindsay's entry stated that she was born in London, so this all tallied. In the 1851 census at Orchard Street, St Marylebone, Marylebone, London were:

Charles Hall (34) – builder & house decorator, born Hinckley, Leicestershire

Ann E (28) born Marylebone

William (3) born Shepherds Bush

Mary (1) born Marylebone

Mary Gough, servant (21) from Berkshire

I remembered that the newspaper notice for Ann Elizabeth's death in 1902 mentioned that she died at her late residence, Orchard Cottage, Swanston Street, Geelong. Is it fanciful to speculate that they called their house in Geelong 'Orchard Cottage' after the street where they lived in London?

Now I knew where Charles was born I was able to search for his parents and his siblings. The baptism record for 15 October 1816 at Hinckley gave me the parents names: William (a grocer) and Sarah. These names tallied with the information on Charles' death record in Victoria, which provided the additional fact that Sarah's maiden name was Robbins. Charles' siblings were: Frances Storey (1802) [died age 6 in 1808], Mary (1804), Elizabeth (1806), William (1812), Frances Story (1815), and George (1818). In 1815 William's occupation was framework knitter, but in 1816 and again in 1818, he was a grocer. Why the change of occupation?

The timing of the change of occupation tallies with the following information gathered from the Leicestershire Industrial History website. Framework knitting was once one of the most important industries in the East Midlands. By the end of the eighteenth century, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire contained over 85% of all the frames in the UK. The industry began to decline after 1810 and in the second half of the nineteenth century, steam powered knitting machines allowed the industry to progress to a proper factory based phase.

So far I have not been able to establish whether Charles received an apprenticeship in building and house decorating, or when he moved to London. But the fact that his household in 1851 included a servant presumably means that the family was comfortably established.



Grave of Charles Hall at Eastern Cemetery, Geelong

So what of Ann Elizabeth's family? The 1841 census at Chapel Street, St Marylebone, Marylebone, London shows her with father, Henry Charles Wilson and mother Maria. Again, the father's name tallied with the information on Ann Elizabeth's death record in Victoria. The 1851 census established her father's occupation as 'superior registrar', so she came from an educated family.

Having established their backgrounds, I turned to arrival in Victoria and found the family aboard the ship Talbot in 1857. A newspaper item from the *Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser*, 2 September 1857 stated as follows:

GEELONG LABOUR MARKET

28 August

By the Talbot from Southampton, above 300 immigrants have come to hand during the week, making a total of nearly 700 arrived within the last 10 days. The demand is very limited and the new arrivals hang heavily on hand.

Wages are still declining and at present may be quoted as under.

[there follows a list of wages offered by skill, with and without rations]

Written by Alfred Fitchett, Victoria Labor Market and Shipping Office, Geelong

So how did Charles and Ann Elizabeth fare after they arrived in Geelong? And here's where the trail currently goes cold. I know that Charles had the property in Swanston Street by 1866 because there is a newspaper reference to council rates, but I have not been able to establish what buildings he worked on in Geelong. The only quirky reference I found to him is in a letter to the editor of the *Geelong Advertiser* that he wrote in 1876 about the deliberate poisoning of cats and dogs in the area where he lived!

As far as connection to Anglesea is concerned, the bushfire of 1898 was reported thus (February 10):

Whilst the hotel was still blazing, the fire pursued its devastating course and seized upon a weatherboard dwelling belonging to Miss Hall, but leased in connection with the hotel. The fate of the building was likewise speedily determined, no time being afforded for the rescue of the contents.

The site the family owned in Camp Road was sold to Mrs Alice V Jackson in 1916, and became part of hotel land. It was subdivided as part of Hallam Estate in 1949.

So the questions remain: why did Charles and Ann Elizabeth decide to emigrate? What activities were they involved in at Geelong? Were there no grandchildren? Obviously I need to dig deeper into the records at the Geelong Heritage Centre, but if, in the meantime, you have any information about this family, please let me know.

Sources

Leicester parish records in FindMyPast

Leicestershire Industrial History website: http://www.lihs.org.uk/framework_knitting_film.html

TROVE digitised newspaper collection

Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria website: <https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/indexsearch.doj>

PROV shipping records

Keith Cecil newspaper collection

BEARING THE ADDIS FAMILY NAME

We all know this prominent point on the Anglesea coastline. Like so many places it was given a family name.

Edward Brown ADDIS (1790-1866) was a naval man, entering the Royal Navy as a first class volunteer at just 13 years of age. In 1806 he was wrecked near Sicily when his commander and 396 of the crew were lost. After attaining the rank of Commander on the "half-pay" list in 1831, he emigrated to Australia later in the decade. In February of 1839 he bought land in Malop Street between Moorabool and Yarra



Streets. Appointed Magistrate later that year, he continued to sit on the bench until the 1850's. He was gazetted as a Commission for Crown Lands for the County of Grant in 1841 and also became Geelong's first Coroner. On close terms with Superintendent La Trobe, he took him to Boucher's lime kiln where the keys that became known as "La Trobes" were found. Among other positions held was a directorship of the Geelong branch of the Bank of Australasia. In 1844 he is said to have spoken in Parliamentary Session in Britain on the subject of the Barrabool tribe and when the Protectorate was abandoned in 1850 he was made responsible for local aborigines. So a man of many parts! He build "Laura Villa" on 25 acres of land purchased in 1839 on the north side of Aberdeen Street between Addis Street and Shannon Avenue. Eventually he and his wife returned to England where they lived at "Laura Villa", Newton Abbot, Devon, where he died in 1866. No family is known of.

Reprinted from "The Investigator"

DESCENDANTS OF CONSTABLE DAVID DIGBY 1833-1881

Jan Morris

At our recent Winter Feast John Digby spoke of his great great grandfather, Constable David Digby who lost his life on duty, when attending the grounded sailing ship *The Hereford* in 1881 at Anglesea. The story of the Hereford has been told in previous newsletters, but we did not know the story of David or his family until John spoke about them.

David Edward DIGBY was born in Galway, (West Riding) County, Ireland, on the 1 March 1830. His death certificate shows his father's name as Dunlop Digby with his occupation as Army Officer.

David Digby joined the Irish Constabulary on 12 July 1853. He served in Tipperary, North Riding County from 14 January 1854. His religion is listed as Protestant on his Irish Constabulary record. David was previously a carpenter. Carpentry seemed to run in the family as his sons Henry William and Alfred James were both involved in the timber industry. He resigned from the Irish Constabulary on 9 July 1857.

On 10 March 1856 in Galway, David married Ellen Jane Hoben who was born in 1836 in Birmingham England. Her father was William Hoben. Her sister Elizabeth Hoben also came to live in Geelong. Elizabeth did not marry.

Constable David Digby attended the grounded ship *The Hereford*, where he was drowned in 1881. He left a wife and eight children. His body was never recovered so there was no burial. However a death certificate was issued and he is listed on the Geelong cemetery records but no location is recorded as there was no body to bury.

The family that Constable Digby left behind when he drowned, was his wife Ellen aged 44, and his children David Edward 20, Elizabeth Jane 18, Georgina 17, Henry William 14, Alfred James 9, Ada Eleanor 7, Louisa Marian 5, and Reginald Charles 2. Two Children had predeceased him, both dying from diphtheria. They were George Dunlop, their first child who was born in 1858 and died in 1861 aged three and Albert George who was born in 1868 and died in 1870 aged two. There were 10 children in total.

Four of the surviving children did not have any children. Elizabeth, or Eliza as she was known, never married. She went to India when she was 20 years old and served as a missionary with the Church of England. The whole family had a very close association with St David's Church of England in Geelong. Georgina did not marry either. Her residence was *Toorong* at 258 Latrobe Terrace. This residence is still there. She is buried with her mother at the Eastern Cemetery. Henry's marriage was later in life to Emily Nicholls. There were no children of this marriage. He died in Bendigo aged 81. He was living at the Bendigo Benevolent Society and his occupation is given as labourer. His wife had predeceased him. Ada was another daughter who didn't marry. She was a highly respected teacher in Geelong. She died of pneumonia in 1900 aged only 27. She is buried in the Eastern Cemetery with her mother and sister Eliza.

Only two of David Digby's children still have descendants today. They were Alfred James Digby who married Annie Maria Renwood. They are the great grandparents of Sergeant John Digby and his six sisters. The youngest of David Digby's children was Reginald Charles Digby, who married Elizabeth Thorley and had three daughters. Two others, David and Louisa married but have no living descendants. The Digby name is only continued by our speaker John, who has three sons.

