

# **BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Reg. No. A0030085Y**

**Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>**

**PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.**

## **Newsletter**



**Launching the Buninyong Heritage Plaques project on 11 September 2013 – Anne Beggs-Sunter (Historical Society), Barry Fitzgerald (Buninyong Community Association) and Steve Falconer (Bendigo Bank), outside Adams's store.**

## **October 2013**

**Our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting is held on 17 October 2013, at 7.30pm. at the Court House History centre. Our Guest Speaker for the occasion is Dr. Stephen Carey, a lecturer in Geology at the University of Ballarat.**

The CHHA History Fair is on this weekend, 19 October, at St. Patrick's Hall, Dawson Street South, Ballarat. Admission is \$5, and there will be displays and information on the theme of multicultural Australia. The exhibition is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We are not involved, as we have our open day at the local Market on that day.

A New Ballarat and District Irish Club was officially launched on 13 October at the Old Colonists' Club. This Club will celebrate the Australian-Irish heritage of this district, and promote both social interaction and historical research. The founding President is Maurice Hanrahan, a member of the famous Hanrahan clan of Bungaree, who can claim an ancestor behind the barricades at the Eureka Stockade. If you are interested in becoming a member, which costs \$20 a year, please contact Anne Beggs-Sunter, who is proudly a founding member, representing her Irish ancestors at Clarendon.

The Westh family is holding a reunion at Buninyong on the weekend of 27-28 October 2013. The family were Cornish, and predictably, miners. The Secretary will host a walking tour for the family on Sunday morning 27 October. The family have arranged for a plaque to be placed on the previously unmarked grave of Cornelius.

#### **ACCIDENT AT THE IMPERIAL MINE, HISCOCKS 23rd June, 1891**

Early in the morning of 23 June 1891, a cave-in occurred in the No. 2 Tribute of the Imperial Mine at Hiscocks near the Buninyong cemetery. Two members of the party, James Brown of Buninyong and John James of Sebastopol, were trapped by the fall. **Cornelius Westh** of Buninyong was working nearby and when he discovered the fall of earth, gave the alarm to William Trelor, and together they worked to free the men. James Brown was freed soon after, and had only sustained minor injury, but desperate efforts continued to free the other man, with shifts working around the clock. At 3.30 p.m. the following day, the body of John James was at last reached. He had been a working shareholder in the mine for 16 years, and left a wife and daughter. He was a respected member of the Sebastopol Welsh Presbyterian Church.

An inquiry was held into the accident, and no criticism was made of working practices. John Magor, Manager, lamented the death of a good workman and shareholder.

(see *Buninyong Telegraph*, 23 , 26 June, 1891)

Cornelius Westh, aged 48, was presented with a medal from the Royal Humane Society of Australasia for his courage and humanity in attempting to rescue John James.

Cornelius Westh is first recorded in the Buninyong Directory of 1875 as a miner. In 1884 and 1890 he is recorded as miner, Palmerston St, Buninyong. He died in 1909 and is buried in the Presbyterian section of the Cemetery with some members of his family. His children moved to Gippsland and the Mallee, and eventually to Queensland.

## **175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Buninyong**

Our former Treasurer Pat Hope has alerted us to the important fact that this year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Buninyong. We will celebrate this at our December meeting.

## **Biographical Queries – it has been a very quiet period!**

**RICHARDS**, Charles – Miner at Durham Lead 1860s. From St. Ives, Cornwall, with wife Rachael they had seven children. Charles died in 1872, and Rachael in 1879, and are buried at Buninyong. Query from WA.

**SHARP**, Edward – an ex-convict from Tasmania, by 1849 he was employed as a shepherd on John Norman MacLeod's Borhoneyghurk station. With him was his wife Jessie, and they had two children baptized by Rev. Hastie in that year. Query from Melbourne

**SMITHERS**, Henry (alias Brown) – A negro, born c1827 Nova Scotia, Canada. Married Mary Ann Eddinsin Grafton, NSW, in 1862, and a daughter Nancy was born at Buninyong in 1863.

**SWINDLE**, John, was breaking stones at Corduroy Bridge in June 1858. Query from Qld,

## PLAQUES FOR OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

On 11 September 2013, an official ceremony was held in Learmonth St, underneath the verandah of the former Whykes Butcher Shop to celebrate the new historic markers for the 'ancient village'. 26 blue metal plaques have appeared on historic buildings in central Buninyong. This has been a project of the Buninyong and District Historical Society, in association with the Buninyong and District Community (formerly Progress) Association. We received grants from the Bendigo Bank and the City of Ballarat to enable the plaques to be manufactured in Ballarat, displaying historical information from our collection. The final part of the project added QR codes to some of the plaques, which allows people to use their mobile devices to find out more about selected buildings and businesses by accessing information on our web site. We are specially grateful to our webmistress Liz Lumsden for her technical support. The plaques are receiving favourable comment, and there are suggestions for more plaques to be included in the project.

### Harsh treatment of an ex-convict.

The following account of the trial of an ex-convict for theft at Clarendon, near Buninyong, in 1860, demonstrates the harsh attitude the judiciary took to ex-convicts. In the same day's sittings, another case of passing off a cheque led to a simple reprimand from the Judge, because the defendant was 'of good reputation'. The judge is our own Warrington Rogers, who was living in his new residence *Brim Brim* in Buninyong.

*The Star*, 7 December 1860

#### BALLARAT GENERAL SESSIONS.

Thursday. 6th December, Before His Honor Judge Rogers, Chairman, and B. S. Hassell. Esq- JP. Mr Nolan prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, and Mr Sherard attended as Acting Sheriff.

#### STEALING FROM THE PERSON.

Francis Fearn alias Michael Killy alias Joseph Rains, (37), a ticket-of-leave holder, pleaded not guilty to an indictment for stealing from one Alfred West. There was another count for receiving.



Alfred West said he was a laborer, living in October last at Stony Rises. Saw prisoner at Corduroy, who promised "to show him a nearer way to Buninyong." When about 200 yards out of the way he was tripped down on his back, and prisoner put his hands in witness' pocket and took out a cheque for £5 and some odd silver, another man having also assisted. Then prisoner and his accomplice ran away in different directions.

The prisoner, an old hand of twelve years date, amused the prosecutor and the Court by stoutly declaring that prosecutor was only just out of Pentridge stockade himself, and had not had time to earn a cheque.

Elizabeth Jones, residing at Corduroy, deposed that prisoner came to her place on that day, and said his mate had given him a cheque, and he wanted to know if it was the right one, and asked her to tell him the amount and name. She told him it was on the National Bank for £5. He said he came from Buninyong, and he asked her where Corduroy was, and she told him if that was so he must have come through Corduroy.

James Brown deposed that he saw prosecutor and his mate with the cheque at the Railway Hotel, Corduroy. He believed he saw prisoner go away with prosecutor and mate.

Detective Hyland deposed to the arrest of the prisoner with the cheque produced in his left hand pocket. Prisoner said he got it from a man at the Water Holes, but he would not say who the man was.

The jury having retired to consider their verdict found the prisoner guilty.

His Honor told the prisoner that the lenient system lately in vogue in the penal establishment had been thrown away upon him, and the sentence must be correspondent. Sentence, **Six years on the roads.**

Family history queries are showing that many ex-convicts from Van Diemen's Land passed through the old Buninyong Shire. Many were employed as shepherds or bullock drivers by the first settlers, who themselves came from 'over the straits', and many were drawn to the area by the gold rushes of the 1850s. The *Founders and Survivors* project, directed by Professor Janet McCalman at the University of Melbourne, has been tracking the experiences of the more than 70,000 convicts who were sent to Tasmania, and anyone with a convict ancestor should check the *Founders and Survivors* website. Janet McCalman believes that many ex-convicts ended their days in the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum.

## BRIM BRIM



View of Brim Brim and surrounds, circa 1900

The property was purchased on 15 May 1852, at the auction sale when John Highett purchased Lot 143 (5 acres) and Mary Kenworthy purchased Lot 144 (also 5 acres).

In March 1859, Lot 143 was sold to Judge Warrington Rogers, of the Court of Ballarat and Buninyong, at a cost of 125 pounds. Two years later, on 11 March 1861, the judge purchased Lot 144 for a sum of 140 pounds. It would seem that in this period the house was built on the block for the judge.

Family history of the Hull family suggests that Frederick and Sophia Hull had a refreshment establishment on the block before the judge built his house. The Rogers family had a child baptised at Holy Trinity Buninyong in 1864, but by 1870 Sophia Hull must have taken a lease over the property and started her *Lightside Academy* at Durham Lodge. The school closed in 1876, when her husband Frederick died, and Sophia moved to Ballarat, to live with her daughter Lucy and her husband Henry Smith.

Records show that Judge Rogers sold the property on 30 July 1870 to the Hon. William Carter, for 350 pounds. Judge Rogers's wife was a Carter. He continued to live here until January 1878, when he was dismissed by the Berry Government on Black Friday 9 January 1878. He left the government employ at this point and became a Q.C. in Melbourne.

Sometime in 1878 Mr Charles Marriott Watson, solicitor, took over the lease of the property. On Sunday morning 6 October 1878, when nearly everyone was at one of Buninyong's four churches, a fire broke out at the house. Mr Watson and his family were at church when Mr Conolly from the nearby Court House Hotel saw smoke and gave the alarm. The Buninyong Fire Brigade was summoned, and because its bell was not operative, the church bells of the Catholic and Wesleyan churches rang to call attention to the fire. The congregations rushed to help, but the building was well alight, and the whole of the building, built of stone and brick, was gutted, leaving only the bare walls. Mr Watson said neither the building – which he rented - nor the furniture were insured.

(*Ballarat Star*, 7 October 1878, *Argus*, 8 October 1878; *Buninyong Telegraph*, 9 October 1878) and the loss was estimated at £1,000.

The house must have been rebuilt by Mr Watson following the fire. In 1879, Carter's executors sold to Charles Marriott Watson. The 1884 Directory lists Marriott Watson, solicitor, at *Durham Lodge*.

On 23 November 1891, the property was sold to Dr. John Salmon, and for the first time the title mentions the name *Brim Brim*.

John Salmon was a bank manager. He died, aged 74, at Buninyong in 1898, and is buried with his wife Marianne, who died in 1911, aged 88. In 1894, John Salmon was a member of the Buninyong Horticultural Society. Norman Stanley Salmon was Captain of the Buninyong Rifles in 1905. The World War One Honour Roll records a number of Salmons - W.G., Killed in action, as well a G., J.S., R.A. and A.S. Salmon.

On 29 May 1919 the Executor of John Salmon sold the house to Henry B. George. On 1 May 1923, George sold the property to Ernest Grovener, agent. A brochure produced by the Buninyong and District Progress Association in 1923 to promote tourism to the area highlights the 'magnificent residence', *Grosvenor Square*, 'containing twelve large, lofty and well-ventilated rooms, and is surrounded by 10 acres of beautiful park-like grounds. It has water laid on from a permanent mineral spring, is lit by gas, has its own sewerage system, and has the telephone connected. It is the ideal place for Tourists, and the best accommodation is provided.'

Since then the villa and its extensive gardens have seen many custodians, including a period in the 1960s and 1970s when it was owned by the Ballarat Benevolent Homes. In recent years the house and gardens have been beautifully restored.

## **COMING EVENTS**

19 October – Market Day Buninyong,  
and CHHA History Fair at St. Patrick's Hall in Ballarat

27 October Buninyong Good Life Festival and Westh reunion

28 November – Visit from 90 senior citizens from Whittelsea. Guided tours at 11.00am and 1.30pm.

19 December – BDHS Christmas meeting, celebrating 175 years of Buninyong