

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y

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

PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter



A photo of the Old Library, taken in 1964, recently sent to us by Barry Fox. Marg McCarthy remembers that a Mrs Symons was living there in the 1960s – note the washing on the line. How did the building survive? Another tribute to Derick Leather.

October 2015

Our August meeting took place on Thursday 19 August at 7.30pm in the Court House History Centre. Our guest speaker was Bret Weinberg, who lives locally and is researching the records of the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum. He gave us a fascinating illustrated account of the history of this venerable local institution, and what he has learned about its residents, and the Buninyong connections.

Our AGM is held on 22 October.

Welcome to our newest member, Gay Woodhams, from England, a member of the Butler family of the Navigators area.

Planting a memorial to Derick Leather

Our Society has been interested in the issue of making a fitting memorial to our founder Derick Leather since his death in 2012. Now, thanks to the initiative of Peter Hiscock and the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, this memorial is being achieved, with a working bee on Saturday 1 August 2015 to plant a grove of trees in Birdwood Park. Five beautiful advanced species of *Pinus Pinea* were planted on the hill, to link with the old pines on Mount Innes, and near the highway a grove of 15 advanced Scarlet Oaks.

Mount Innes has been an important landmark since the days of Rev. Thomas Hastie, who established the Presbyterian church and school on its slopes in 1847. Later the Borough of Buninyong Council placed a seat on top of the hill which commands an excellent view of the township, and this became known as the Mayoral Seat. In February 1893 George Innes, pioneer, bequeathed adjoining land to the citizens of Buninyong.

During World War One, this area was named Birdwood Park, after General Birdwood, Commander of the Australian forces in France.

The *Courier* of 21 June 1917 reported:

BUNINYONG. PROPOSED AVENUE OF HONOR A large, and enthusiastic meeting was held in the council chambers on Monday night to make final arrangements for Arbor Day, which is to be held on Saturday, 20th inst. when it is proposed to plant an avenue of trees in honor of the soldiers. Cr. Freeman, chairman of the Committee, presided, and explained to the new members the business transacted at previous meetings. Mr H. Noack reported that he and the shire engineer had that day inspected the different sites thought suitable for tree planting and the meeting decided to follow the engineer's recommendation – to start the avenue in Learmonth St. near the fire brigade and go west; also that 40 pine trees be planted on Mount Innes reserve.

An article in the *Courier* on 16 July 1917 refers to a Buninyong Soldiers' memorial as 'Birdwood Grove'. An agreement was reached, and trees were planted in the Reserve on Mount Innes. In 1918 the Shire Minutes record that fencing has been placed on Mount Innes to protect the soldiers' trees. (Shire Minutes, 4 July 1918). In 1919 the Empire Day Committee wrote to Council stating it wished to hand over 'Birdwood Grove' to the control of the Shire. (Shire Minutes, 4 April 1919). This is the first time the name 'Birdwood' is associated with the reserve in the Crown Land file. It was never officially designated.

In the 1980s the area around Hastie's Spring was cleared, and the area incorporated into the Buninyong Walking Trail, and later the Great Dividing Trail.

Vale Christina Hindhaugh

Christina died at the end of July 2015. We learned of her passing on 1 August, at the tree planting working bee, and members of the Friends of the Gardens, and the Historical Society who were present, shared warm memories of this vivacious, multi-talented woman who contributed so much to Australian life in her 71 years. Since retiring to Buninyong, she became a key member of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, and was active in community initiatives in Ballarat. Just last year, she was awarded an OAM for services to the community in Balmoral and to women in agriculture. We tender our deep sympathy to her husband Chris, a valued member of our Society.

Biographical Queries July-October 2015

CRESWICK – In 1842 the 16-year-old Henry Creswick managed the Campbell and Woolley store near Buninyong. The financial crash of 1843 wrecked Campbell and Woolley's business, and young Henry joined his brothers at Creswick, where they established a successful pastoral station. Later Henry was a founding member of the Victoria Racing Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club, and was an investor in Carlton and United Breweries. The family is celebrating the 175th anniversary of Henry Creswick's arrival at the Flemington Race Course.

EGGAN – Edward came from Scotland as a convict to VDL, and with his wife Catherine, both with conditional pardons, came to Melbourne in April 1851, just in time for the great gold rush. The family were in Buninyong by 1853, when Edward, a sawyer, purchased land on the outskirts of Buninyong. Edward and Catherine's baby Catherine was baptised at St. Mary's Geelong on 17 April 1853 by Father Horatio Geoghegan. Catherine was born at Buninyong on 3 January 1853. They had two other daughters. By 1854 the family had moved to Avoca, where a son was born. The family later moved to Deniliquin in NSW. Unfortunately Edward blotted his copybook, and was one of four men who held up and robbed the Bank of New South Wales in 1859. There is much about this robbery in the newspapers (TROVE) and this time his name was spelled Geaghan. John E.P. Bushy devoted a chapter to the robbery in his book *Saltbush County, a history of Deniliquin*.

McKIVETT/McKIVAT – LIVING AT Black Lead in early 1860s, Edward was a miner. From a family member in Katoomba, NSW.

SIMPSON – David Simpson, blacksmith, was buried in the Buninyong cemetery in 1869. From a Simpson in Cessnock NSW

TILLSON – William and Harriett (nee Gill) had a daughter born in Buninyong in 1857, who died aged seven months. Query from UK.

If anyone can help, please contact Anne at a.beggs-sunter@federation.edu.au

The 'Ancient Village'

Miner and Weekly Star, 6 January 1860

Article headed 'Buninyong'

We spent a few hours on Friday in the 'ancient village'. Its delightful quietude is a wonder, beside which that of the 'pivot' is a frenzy. The casual visitor from Ballarat delights in the calm beauty of the old township...The population of the municipality is estimated at 2000, but the number of substantial residences is far greater in proportion to the total number of dwellings than is the case in Ballarat. The homes of Messrs Bradshaw and Allen, Dr. Rankin, Mr Cogdon, Mr Shepherd, the Rev. Mr Russell and others, are such as Ballarat would be proud to number amongst its ornaments. Then the gardens full of flowers, vegetables and fruit trees...

Irish Catholic Registers on-line free!

Robyn McCormick wrote from Ireland recently:

I am currently in Kilkenny City and visited the Kilkenny Local Studies Library this morning.

The Library's genealogist told (and showed) me that the National Library of Ireland has scanned the original Catholic parish registers and put them on line free of charge in July 8, 2015. The web address is simply registers@nli.ie

It is not searchable by an individual's name but by Parish and year and by marriage or baptism. If you don't know the Parish there is a clickable map starting with the province then, depending on the province, expands to the county and then expands to the town. You then can choose a year and whether it is a marriage or baptism that you are looking for. Could have saved myself an airfare!

The images are scanned but apparently, if needed, the pages have been enhanced to improve their readability.

I thought you might be interested and that the members of the Historical Society may also be interested.

THE BUNINYONG TELEGRAPH, 1857-1908

In 1856 Samuel Goode established the *Buninyong Advertiser*, later *Buninyong Telegraph*. According to descendant Maurice Goode, it was a single page advertising sheet, a free paper that announced that as soon as the Buninyong public was ready to support it, it would be converted into a regular weekly newspaper.

Star, (Ballarat), 12 January 1857 – ‘our little neighbour Buninyong has now the honor of possessing a journal of its own; the advertising sheet which has been lately published there having been advanced to the dignity of a trim little weekly, under the title *Buninyong Advertiser*.

The *Argus* of 14 January 1857 notes its arrival on the journalistic scene, and it is mentioned in the *Ballarat Times* of 30 March 1857 as ‘living, but only just’. The *Ballarat Directory* of 1857 lists Samuel Goode, Advertiser Office, Buninyong. A Parliamentary Paper of 1857, investigating government payments to newspapers for advertising, mentions it. (Victoria. Parliament. Votes and Proceedings, Legislative Assembly, 1858/9, Vol. 1, p. 654) Mary Fortune, a writer, also mentions that she wrote articles for the *Advertiser* during her stay at Green Hills in 1857, and she felt it was ‘something the community could not have done without’. (*The Fortunes of Mary Fortune*, edited by Lucy Sussex, Penguin, 1989, p. 75)

Star 2 Nov 1857

THE BUNINYONG TELEGRAPH.-We have received the first number of a bi-weekly journal bearing this title. It is creditably got up for a first number, and seems to be carefully written. We wish it every success.

The 1858 Directory lists Samuel Goode as ‘Printer and Stationer’.

By 1866, his 20-year old son Thomas has taken over the mantle of printer. In the 1869 Directory there is an advertisement for Samuel Goode, ‘Accountant, Sharebroker and Commission Agent, Warrenheip St. Buninyong.’ Young Thomas was running the *Buninyong Advertiser*. By 1873 he was advertising the ‘Telegraph Stationary Warehouse’ in Warrenheip St., offering a large assortment of stationary and offering to undertake printing orders for mining companies. (*Buninyong Telegraph*, 29 August 1873.) In the 1875 Directory, Samuel is listed as a printer, Thomas as a

reporter, and Joseph as a printer, all at Warrenheip St. A decade later in 1885, Samuel is the only Goode listed in the Directory, still a 'printer, Warrenheip St.' By that stage his sons were seeking independent careers in the printing industry. Joseph John was a compositor, Thomas went to Queenscliff as a printer, and the youngest son Charles became a printer.

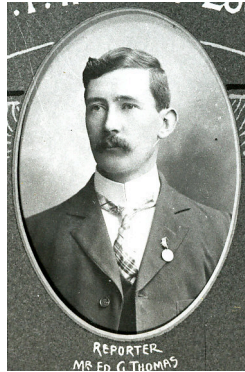
Samuel was shaken by the death of his sons. Thomas died in Melbourne in 1884. Joseph, who worked as a compositor for the Ballarat *Star*, died soon after.



Members of the Goode family outside the printing shop in Warrenheip St, c. 1870s

In July 1891 at the age of 71 Samuel sold the paper which he had owned, managed and edited for 35 years to John Thomas, and went to Wedderburn, where his youngest son Charles was proprietor of the local newspaper, the *Express*.

In 1891 John Stoker Thomas (who had been with Thomas Hiscock when he discovered gold in 1851) purchased the *Buninyong Telegraph* which his sons edited and printed. He attended Ballarat's Gold Jubilee in 1901, when he was living at Sebastopol. (Spielvogel, V.2, p. 96) His son Edward continued the newspaper until its closure.



Edward G. Thomas, reporter at the Borough of Buninyong, 1904



Warrenheip St early 1900s, showing the large premises of the *Buninyong Telegraph* on the corner of Forest St, opposite what is now the garage corner.

The last issue of the newspaper was produced on 3 July 1908, indicating that it was issued every Friday. E.G. Thomas was very active in the community, as assistant-secretary of the Australian Natives Association, and one of the best shots in the local rifle club, which was always well reported right up to the end of the newspaper. In fact the last issue reported that E.G. Thomas had won the Kerr Cup, and he had become a representative for the Royal Insurance Company.

Then came the devastating news on 5 August 1908 that the building was destroyed.

***Argus*, Thursday 6 August 1908**

NEWSPAPER OFFICE- BURNT.

BUNINYONG, Wednesday One of the oldest buildings in Buninyong was destroyed early this morning, when the *Buninvong Telegraph* office caught fire and was burned to the ground. The proprietor, Mr E.G. Thomas, lived in the premises at the rear of the printing establishment and at about midnight he was aroused by a crackling sound which he speedily recognised is being caused by fire. He had just time to rouse his sister-in-law and his little daughter, who were sleeping together, and get them out of the house, when the flames burst in from the office. The building was a large one and the reflection of the fire was seen in Ballarat, seven miles away. A few articles of furniture and some clothing were saved, but everything else was destroyed. The insurances amounted to 300 pounds on the building and plant and 50 pounds on the furniture. The policies are in the Victoria Fire Insurance office.

E.G. Thomas moved to Perth, and became a journalist with the *West Australian*.

The State Library of Victoria has copies of the *Buninyong Telegraph* from 1873 to its closure in 1908. Sadly there are no surviving copies of earlier copies. The Ballarat Library has a microfilm of the SLV copy.

COMING EVENTS

25 October – Buninyong Good Life Festival, De Soza Park (all day). This is the successor to the Gold King Festival, which was held in February from 1973 until recent years in February, and which was synonymous with Derick Leather.

1 November (Sunday) – Open Garden and Astrophotography, at the homw of Judith Bailey, Midland Highway Clarendon. Supporting the Clarendon Community Hub.

7 November (Saturday) – CHHA Meeting hosted by Buninyong and District Historical Society. 10.00am for morning tea. Helpers required please.

17 December (Thursday) – Our Christmas meeting.

Make sure you visit the Archibald Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat – great fun!