

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y
Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>
PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter



This fascinating photo was published in the *Australian Women's Weekly* in 1962, and the caption interpreted it as 'Mining Camp in the Buninyong Rangers'. However the work of Alan Elliott from the Royal Photographic Society (Victorian Chapter), on Walter Woodbury, leads us to think this may well be Walter Woodbury's photograph of a Surveyor's Camp in 1853. The man on the left carrying a surveyor's chain could well be the Surveyor William Tennant Dawson, the man in the centre the chainsman, the Cook beside him, and on the right an assistant holding the theodolite. Thanks to Alan Elliott, we have a revealing collection of letters written by Walter Woodbury from Buninyong in 1853, while he was employed as an assistant to Mr. Dawson. Woodbury was also a pioneering photographer in Victoria. The location of the original photographic print is a mystery.

October 2009

Our AGM took place on Thursday 22 October. Bob Skewes was elected as our new President. Anne Beggs-Sunter, who was re-elected as Secretary, presented an illustrated talk about the development of the Geelong-Ballarat Railway, and some historical sources from the Internet which have enhanced this topic.

The Mysterious Registers of the Buninyong Presbyterian Church

Ever since this Society was founded in 1982, and we began to track local archives, there has been a mystery about the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials registers of the Buninyong Presbyterian Church. The Uniting Church Archives in Melbourne had no information about any registers from Buninyong, and we lamented the loss of such a precious historical record.

But a recent telephone call from Anne Levens at the Victorian Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths provided some important light. In 1853 the State of Victoria introduced an Act for the Civil registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, which came into operation on 1 July 1853. Before that, the only record was that kept by the churches. In 1898 the State introduced another Registration Act, requiring churches to pass over to the State a record of its registrations up to the end of 1852. The legislation should have said up to 1 July 1853, but this six months gap was not spotted, and so we have a problem locating births, marriages and deaths in the first half of 1853! It seems that the Rev. Hastie complied with the 1898 Act, just before his death, and sent the original registers to Melbourne, covering the period 17 March 1847 to December 1852. The last entry, appropriately, was for Hastie's own daughter Martha.

So now we can say definitely that the first baptism register for the Buninyong Presbyterian Church is in the safe hands of the Victorian Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. What of the registers after 1852? That still remains a mystery.

A DONATION OF DISPLAY CASES

We are grateful to Roger Trudgeon of the Gold Museum for offering us two surplus display cases. They are rather finely crafted wooden cases, which were procured by Peter Davies for an historical display at McDonald's on Bakery Hill in 1978. We don't know where Peter found them, but they have an interesting history through Bakery Hill, given that Anne was one of the 'Save Bakery Hill' Action Group in 1976 that managed to get McDonald's to redevelop an historical site, rather than knock it down. McDonald's did an excellent job of recycling the old buildings, with the expert advice of architect Ewan Jones. The franchise (Peter Davies) then put in an outstanding historical display, with some wonderful panoramic photos of Ballarat. (I like to visit McDonald's on Bakery Hill not for the food, but so that I can spend some time with those panoramic photographs)

Bob Skewes kindly offered his Alpaca float which proved an ideal transport for the display cases from Sovereign Hill to the old Court House. We will have to think about how we want to incorporate them into our displays.

Membership News.

We are delighted to welcome Colin Leigo from 'Moorland Downs', near Bourke in northern NSW as a new member. Colin is the great-grandson of Peter Leigo, who settled at Mount Mercer around 1860. His grandfather, one of four sons and two daughters, went to NSW as a young man, and his grandson raises Merino sheep in the same area. Colin and Beryl visited us on Monday 12 October and we were able to find quite a deal of information to help them. One of the daughters of Peter Leigo, Elizabeth, married John Mankey of Cargarie, and William Leigo married Pearl Sides of Grenville. The Leigo family were prominent in the Mount Mercer Agricultural Show, the Grenville Union Church and the Leigh Shire.

Yendon History Hunt

On Sunday 11 October a gathering of people interested in Yendon's history took place at the Yendon Recreation Reserve. Local residents Andrew Lee and Kay Paton organised the afternoon, and they are building up a collection of local materials. Anyone interested in the Yendon area can contact Andrew on (03)5341 7848

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES

September-October 2009

DILLON – John and Bridget with their sons Roger, Austin and Phillip settled at Hardie's Hill from the early 1860s.

HALSE – farming at Yendon, around 1900.

LEIGO –Peter Leigo of Mount Mercer, who married Helen Bell, was living in the district from c1860 until his death. Query from a descendant in NSW.

LOUGHNAN – This family was at Lal Lal in the 1860s, and James (engine driver) moved to the Elaine area around the time of his marriage at the Elaine Catholic Church in 1890

McGUIGAN – Sam was the station master at Navigators for 46 years. His wife Rose was the Post Mistress. Looking for any photos of the Navigators railway station or post office

MURDOCH, George – a printer, who was living at Green Hill near Buninyong in 1875.

ROBERTSON - Alexander Robertson and wife Dorothy nee Stoker were early residents of Buninyong from c1854..

SAW – Edward Saw with brothers Henry and Thomas were miners at Durham Lead in the 1860s.

MOORABOOL SHIRE HERITAGE STUDY.

The Moorabool Shire is undertaking a Heritage Study of the whole of the Shire, under the expert supervision of Heritage Architects Wendy Jacobs and David Rowe.

The postponed Community Workshop will be held at our Court House headquarters on Tuesday 24 November from 4.30p.m. to 6.30p.m. The consultants want to hear what we think is significant in terms of buildings, urban design, engineering infrastructure and landscaping. Please bring your thoughts.

EARLY SURVEYORS

It's always good to receive emails from people who have discovered something interesting in back copies of our newsletters. Recently we were contacted by a descendant of William Tennant Dawson, who was the district surveyor in charge of a survey of the Buninyong-Ballarat road in 1853. We now have a photograph of the surveyor.

COMING EVENTS

Buninyong Farmers' Market and Court House open, third Saturday of the month

25 October – Back to Steiglitz Festival – all day from 10.00a.m.

24 November, Buninyong Town Hall Court House, 4.30p.m. to 6.00p.m., community workshop on Moorabool Shire Heritage.

25 November. Uniting Church launch of Steeple Restoration Appeal. 3.00p.m.

29 November Picnic in the Buninyong Gardens, to launch the 150th Anniversary project.

NB. Membership fees are due from the date of the AGM. Form attached overleaf.

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Dear Member,

Annual subscriptions fell due at the October AGM. We invite you to renew your membership for 2009-10. Your membership is highly valued so that we can continue to collect and conserve the history of the Buninyong district, and advocate for the protection of our heritage assets.

Your subscription provides the following benefits:

- Opportunity to promote the study, recording, collection and preservation of the history and heritage of the area covered by the former Shire of Buninyong.
- Regular mailing of bi-monthly newsletters
- Regular bi-monthly meetings
- Excursions
- Free access to the Society's Research collection of documents, indexes and photographs.
- Opportunity to work as a volunteer indexer
- Opportunity to become a volunteer guide at the Court House History Centre

Please detach this section and return with your subscription to:

The Buninyong and District Historical Society Inc., PO Box 98, Bunintyong, 3357.

Subscriptions are due at the AGM October each year.

Subscription

Ordinary Members	\$25
Families	\$30
Students and Concession Card Holders	\$20
Corresponding Members	\$20

(A Corresponding Member is unable to attend meetings)

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s)-----

Address-----

Post Code..... Phone No.....

Email Address.....