



Cobram Genealogical Group

Cobram
Genealogical
Group Newsletter
Issue No. 18
September 2000

The Cobram group has continued to grow and change over the last 12 months, with new members joining our group and a changeover of executive this year. Our long standing President Jan Parker, Secretary Debbie Wright and Treasurer Shirley Frappell retired this year. They have done a wonderful job over the years and we really appreciate their work and efforts. It is hoped that myself and the new executive can continue their work as efficiently.

This year has again been a busy year with more trips to Melbourne visiting the Public Records Office, State Library and GSV. I'm sure everyone has gathered some valuable research from these trips and had some fun as well. We have also continued with our fund raising ventures, while putting on hold our Trivia night, the Little Tatts, and our Footy Tipping competition were both great fund raisers and we hope to continue with this next year. Thanks to Roy & Shirley Bowles and Rick Gardiner.

We have managed to purchase quite a few more CD's this year which have been of great benefit to our members. They are the South Australian Births 1842-1906, and South Australian Deaths 1842-1915, Immigration to Victoria 1852-1879, Victorian Inquest Index, and the Queensland Pioneer Index. So all our fund raising has made it possible to provide our members with many more resources that are much easier to access and we hope that everyone utilizes these resources.

We also now have a website so if you get a chance please visit the site and maybe you would like to put some surnames on our members interest list.
<http://www.anglefire.com/co3/cobramgenie>

John Close Convict 1789- 1842 by Nicole Close

"Hold me now. Hold me now, Till this hour has gone around, And I'm gone on the rising tide, For to face Van Diemen's Land"..... Van Diemen's Land, 1988, Music: U2, Words: The Edge.

These thoughts could have passed through the mind of young John Close as he left his homeland for good , to sail to penal servitude in Australia in 1820. John was a native of Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, England. He would have been born about 1789. As yet no record of his birth has been found.

John was charged with crimes detailed in several affidavits which were presented at the Worcester Lent Assizes 15 July 1820. His charges were for stealing three smock frocks of the value of fifteen shillings and one handkerchief the value of one shilling the goods of Henry Wheeler. One wooden bucket of the value of two shillings the goods of John Soule . One sheep of the value of fifty shillings the goods and chattels of William Payne. The witnesses were William Payne, John Hodges, Richard Minor, Joseph Orchard and Joseph Nicklin. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged

The notes written by the Clerk of the Court had him as guilty to be imprisoned in the gaol for a year and then to be discharged. A more preferable sentence. However he was lucky that the death sentence was later commuted to transportation.

His trade was listed as a Tailor. His gaol and Hulk report describe him as "orderly and industrious". He was transported to Tasmania aboard the "Medway". It sailed November 13, 1820 direct to Van Diemens Land in 120 days, arriving March 13, 1821. It embarked with 156 males and no females, and there were no deaths. - **Continued p4**



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Highlights

- ♦ *Bus Trip to Melbourne 14th October.*
- ♦ *Cobram Show display 28th & 29th October.*
- ♦ *Family & Local History Expo at Mulwala 19th November*
- ♦ *Genelogies at SDS School 8th December*

Taken from a GUMNET newsletter recently-

Hi Everyone,

After being on Library duty at the GSV (some volunteers forgot to turn up) yesterday and discussing some of our "missing" in Fife, Sct. with Joy Roy, who was also on duty, I thought this letter most appropriate!

"Dear _____:

I am your _____ (insert relationship) and living in the early 21st century (or late 20th, but let's not go into that right now) here in _____ (insert city/state/country).

I am sitting in front of a microfilm projector (I'll explain what that is in a later email) in a special library run by the LDS (nice people, but later on about them, too) trying to decipher the small and shaky handwriting of your parish's minister/vicar/curate (pick one). He must have been either vertically challenged or had palsy - because it's unreadable! At least I think it's your parish and I'm not even sure of the decade!

Thanks a lot for leaving such a good paper trail. (Sarcasm intended.)

According to family legend, you and your wife/husband (pick one) _____ (insert name) had _____ children, some of whom lived beyond infancy.

Yet not a single one was recorded in the parish records! I can't even find your marriage certificate. You two WERE married, right? Didn't you know that there would be legions of people like me fanatically spending their waking hours and small fortunes looking for any and all traces of your lives? Were you just stubborn, couldn't afford the fees, or not members of the Established Church?

You're wondering, "What's all the fuss about, we're dead as doornails?"

We're not sure, but I think down here we're infected with the same disease: "Rootsus Obsessionus." Of course, WE are going to leave better records

for our descendants! My husband/wife (pick one) doesn't understand this disease and wants to divorce me. I'm OK with that, really. Although I'd lose a spouse, I'd gain another family tree branch!

Anyway, I'm glad I was able to vent my frustrations upward. If I couldn't do that, I'd have probably popped the obnoxious researcher next to me who is right now translating an old record in German from the village of Schlippenzefallen - and out loud, for God's sake (oops!).

I have an idea.... When I'm "dead-on" (pardon the expression) to finding the correct record, give me some sort of sign. Make the projector bulb flicker twice. Or, if it must be done in the privacy of my home, I have a Labrador Retriever. Talk through her. That will get my attention for sure!

Thanks for listening. I'll be much better in the morning.... I'll be back at the library tomorrow night for Round 14, so catch me there.

PS: I'm the one with the REALLY bloodshot eyes.

Sincerely,

(Your name here)

Donna J. Douglass
Gig Harbor, WA . USA

Regards, Irene

From AFTC October 2000 Issue

Life Before the Computer

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor was a profanity
A keyboard was a piano!

Memory was something that you lost with old age

A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3½ inch floppy
You hoped nobody found out!

Compress was something you did to garbage

Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in gaol for a while!

Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long drive on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode!

Cut—you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu!

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead!



Charity Furber 1812- 1895 by Wayne P rimmer

The blessing of charity was bestowed upon her from birth, by her parents Thomas Furber, a labourer of Evercreech, Somerset, and his wife Ann Penhale, whom he had met and married whilst serving at St. Austell, Cornwall, in the Somerset Militia during the Napoleonic Wars. The family had since returned to Evercreech, where their daughter Charity was born on the 28th March, 1812, and baptised there at six weeks of age on 12 May. She grew up being the sixth of seven children. She was far too trusting by nature and soon found herself in a typically feminine predicament, giving birth to a son on the 10th November, 1831, when she was aged just nineteen. She had the ultimate revenge when she named the son after his father, forcing William Cox Burcombe to pay charges towards the birth, sustenance and maintenance for his child, of one shilling and threepence per week. Charity Furber did not escape the wrath of the parish overseers, as she was also charged to pay a portion of the child's upkeep, being levied at ninepence per week. Charity earned the money to support her child by working as a silkthrower in West End Town, Evercreech, a job which was restricted to daintily built girls with small hands and nimble, skilled fingers.



Charity gave birth to a further three illegitimate children, which no doubt, caused her great financial hardship. The overseers of the parish of Evercreech managed to relieve themselves of the financial burden of paying for her brood, by sending her off to the Union Workhouse in the nearby market town of Shepton Mallet, Somerset. At the age of 29, she was living there with her children, William 11, Jane 6, Henry 2 and John 6 months. She appeared to be taking the well trodden path of a fallen woman, cast out from her native village, and unable to ever return, because the parish could not afford to keep her. She was still living in the workhouse in 1846, and was joined by her widowed father, Thomas who died there as a pauper, aged 80, that year. However, Charity managed to free herself from the dank existence of the workhouse, and took up residence in Kilve Street, Shepton Mallet, taking in a lodger to help offset the expenses. In 1849, Charity gave birth to another illegitimate child, whom she baptised as Joseph Francis Chamberlain.

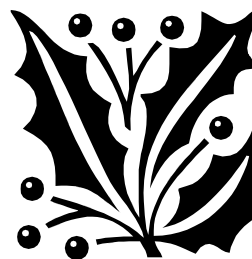
In 1851 she was working as a washerwoman, and the head of the household, living with her two youngest sons, John and Joseph, and a lodger Joseph Chamberlain. By 1855 she married the lodger and father of her youngest child, Joseph Chamberlain, in the registry office at Shepton Mallet. At last at the age of forty five, she had managed to attain a modicum of respectability as a married woman. She continued in her occupation as laundress, until 1861, when she was able to give up her work, and live from the income of her husband, a labourer. Charity continued to a loving relationship with all her children, and often received letters from her eldest son's family in Australia. In 1883 her husband, Joseph wrote to some of her grandchildren in Australia sending a lock of Charity's hair, and informing them that she was obliged to wear elastic stockings because of her bad leg. Two of her sons Joseph and Henry died soon afterwards, followed by the death of her husband Joseph, in 1891. Charity found herself widowed, old and alone, and was forced through poor circumstances to return to the Shepton Mallet Workhouse, to live out the remainder of her unfortunate but colourful life, which ended on the 22nd August, 1895

Genealogies

This year's meeting will be held on the 8th December, 2000 at the SDS School. Please bring a plate and a small gift to the value of \$5.

Categories

Federation Award:	Direct ancestor Born, Died or Married in Australia closest to 01.01.1901
Federation Fellow:	Most interesting profile of a direct ancestor in Australia 01/01/1901
Box Brownie:	Best Collection of Family photos.
Magna Carta:	Most interesting document referring to an Ancestor.
Newshound:	Newspaper item which mentions an Ancestor.
Heirloom:	Most interesting item owned by an Ancestor.
Lone Traveler Award:	Most Ancestors who arrived alone.
Link Age Award:	Greatest difference between Ancestral partners
Mother's baby, Fathers Maybe:	Most illegitimate ancestors in a 6 generation pedigree





President: Nicole Close Ph 03 5883 1985 Fax 03 5883 2634 closeup@cnl.com.au

Secretary: Barbara Coleman Ph 03 5874 5548

Research Officer: Shirley Bowles

Vice President: Gloria Primmer

Treasurer: Rick Gardiner

Cobram Genealogical Group meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, February to November at the Old School House, Punt Road, Cobram at 8pm.

Research room is open every Thursday 1pm to 3pm or by appointment.

Membership Fees

Joining Fee \$10.00

Ordinary Member Fee \$25.00

Non-member research at rooms \$5.00

Research \$5.00 per hour, Send ssae to above postal address



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He was assigned to a man by the name of Lt Col George Meredith, a Whaler, who took up land at Great Swanport in 1821. He is mentioned in a letter written by Meredith to his wife Mary on 15 April 1825. "Give orders that the Whaler's confine themselves to their hut & allow no one to enter Mary's - that ought to be your own private hut and compel Mary to prevent even Sharpe from entering it or it will by and by become a common receptacle for them all. Close & Mary cannot be united until a certificate of her husband's death is procured from England - she looks on the increase if so I suppose the way is for them to pledge themselves to marry as soon as the obstacle is removed & they must be considered man & wife. This appears to be the only way of reconciling what cannot be avoided". Mary Turner of Tipperary assigned to Mrs Meredith was probably the woman but as to whether the problem was resolved we do not know as John never married her. On April 20, 1829 he was reported by Meredith for being drunk and insolent on Easter Sunday, for this he was severely reprimanded. On April 20, 1834 he was reported for "Handing articles to the prisoners confined in the Watch House".

His reporting stations were listed as Richmond 17 June 1834, South Port Office 29 July 1834 and Port Arthur Office 21 February 1840. Administer B Bayley gave him a Conditional Pardon in August 1835. He was tried at the Supreme Court on June 5, 1839 for receiving 40 lbs of nails, the property of George Meredith, with a value of 20 shillings to be transported for 14 years. He was to be sent to Port Arthur for 12 months and conduct was to be reported.

A description of him was as follows:

Height - 5 foot 8 ¼ inches

Hair - Dark Brown

Eyes - Dark Brown

Age - 32 years

Trade - Tailor

Native Place - Newcastle, Staffordshire

Marks - scar left arm below elbow and one on right arm. Hannah Jackson on right arm.

Further records from New Norfolk Asylum June 1842. "John Close - Cost 4 shillings, per the *Medway*, period 2-25 June, responsible person - C. Glasey Esq. New Norfolk, Sickness - Peritonitis, date admitted June 1, 1842, died - June 25, 1842. It is likely he became ill and was taken to the nearest hospital, which was obviously the asylum. He was buried on 28 June 1842 at St Matthew's, New Norfolk, Tasmania, the burial service being performed by Reverend W Garrard.

On the 24 July 1832 in Sorrell, Tasmania John Close married Maria Kimber. John and Maria were married by Banns with consent of the Lieutenant Governor. The ceremony was conducted by James Norman. Neither could write so they made their mark. Maria was only quite young, 16 and the daughter of a convict herself from a family that were quite destitute so marrying John may have been a way of escape from the poverty of her circumstances.

John and Maria had 4 children John Thomas in 1833, Charlotte in 1835, Mary Ann in 1837 and Henry William in 1839. Maria must not have been missed John while he was at Port Arthur as she managed to give birth to a child in June 1841, the father being Henry Clack. She later married this man after John died. But that's another story!



Port Arthur, Tasmania
Last Century