

**Please note.** For those who receive a printed copy of Bridges & Branches, a **Red Spot** on your newsletter indicates that at the time of printing EMFHG had not received your membership renewal for 2018-2019. Unfortunately therefore, this will be the last copy of *Bridges & Branches* you will receive until you are again a financial member. Please ignore this message if your payment has been made in the past two weeks.

For those who receive their copy by email please check to be sure that your membership is up-to-date or this will be your final copy of Bridges & Branches, until you are again financial.

### Moama Cemetery

The Moama Cemetery Working Group is still looking for information about burials at the Moama Cemetery. Of special interest is any information about those who are buried in unmarked graves in the Cemetery. If you can provide any information about anyone you know who is buried at Moama, especially those in unmarked graves please contact:- Anita Bartlett, PO Box 1343 Echuca 3564. or 0439992767



### HON PETER WALSH MP Member for Murray Plains

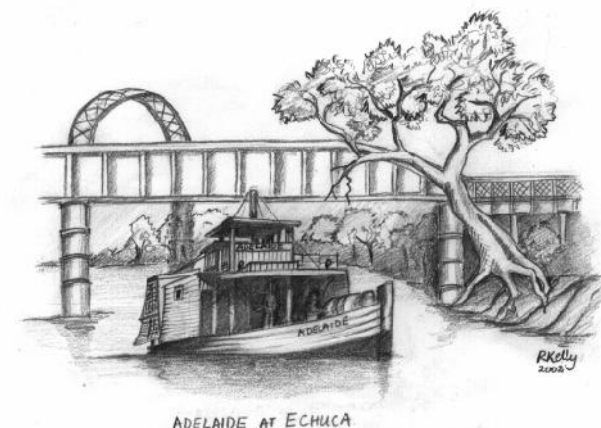
496 High Street  
ECHUCA 3564

Phone 0354822039  
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Authorised by Peter Walsh, 496 High St. Echuca, 3564

# Bridges & Branches

Number 111 September 2018



Quarterly Newsletter  
of the  
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY  
GROUP INC.

PO Box 707, Echuca, Vic. 3564

## Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

President: Judy McCleary

Vice President: Lorraine Haines,

Secretary: John Howe

Treasurer: Barbara Goldsmith

Librarian: Lorraine Johnson

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**The Monthly Group Meeting** is held in the Research Room, in Murray Esplanade - the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at 1.30pm. **The Monthly Group Activity Session** is held from October to March, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm, and April to September on the third Saturday at 1.30 pm **at the St James Parish Centre, Maiden St. Moama.**

Excursions can replace the Group Activity Sessions.

The **Research Room** at 9 Murray Esplanade, Echuca, is open and manned every Monday and Friday between 11.00am-3.00pm, except on Public Holidays. At other times contact Barbara (03) 5480 1501

## Towns /areas covered by the EMFHG Inc

**In Victoria:** Ballendella, Bamawm, Barmah, Echuca, Echuca Village, Kanyapella, Kotta, Koyuga, Lockington, McEvoy's, Millewa, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Restdown, Rochester, Roslynmede, Strathallan, Tennyson, Tongala, Torrumbarry and Wyuna

**In NSW** Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moama, Thyra and Womboota

The Editors welcome articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc. or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-  
ksdurrant1@bigpond.com or judymc@bordnet.com.au

voluntary car drivers, which has done a great deal to assist both the hospital and patients by transporting the latter to and from the hospital for either discharge or treatment. An ambulance for this work is now being constructed. Handicrafts taught to the patients by voluntary workers from the Country Women's Association and others; correspondence lessons with the supervision of a teacher from the Education Department - these are some of the activities that Miss Eakins has started." *West Australian Tuesday 2 December 1947*

In 1947, because of ill health, Aimée retired from her position at the hospital, but continued to live in Perth.

Now all that had to be done was sort out the New Zealand part of Aimée's story.

With assistance from other F.H members, the New Zealand records in the Family History Rooms was the next place to search. Entering Aimée's name into the births index, she appears in 1890, but her parents were, John Arthur Eakins and Amelia Margaret Davies, not George Reginald and Augusta Eakins. Her sister Isabella Jeanne 1889 and two brothers, Edward Arthur 1891 and Atwell 1893 both of whom died as infants, complete the family. It would seem that someone at the Bendiginnion or their correspondent just got it wrong.

John Arthur, sometimes 'Holmes' is added as a third name, had a very interesting past. He was at times listed as a Vet/Chemist (Bankrupt) or as applying for the licence of a pub. He was regularly advertising the sale of a variety of animal products.

In 1895 the girl's mother, Amelia Margaret (Davis) died at her mother residence, in Napier.

Just three weeks after the death of his wife, John Eakins left his two daughters with

their grandparents George and Jane Davis in Napier, and sailed on the *Tarawera*, arriving in Sydney, on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1895. From there he made his way to West Australia, possible in search for gold. It seems unlikely that he got past Perth, where he was in trouble with the law in June 1896, and on several other occasions that year.

In 1897 Isabelle was awarded a prize at the Napier School and by 1900 she was joined at school by her sister Aimée. In 1902 the girls grandmother, Jane Davis died at Napier, leaving the girls in the care of their grandfather. What contact there had been with Dr George Eakins, in Echuca, can only be guessed, but on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1904, Isabella and Aimée aged 16 and 14 years, sailed from Wellington on the *Victoria*, and after calling at several ports arrived in Melbourne. Later in 1904, they received prizes at both Christ Church, Echuca and the Echuca School. Between 1904 and 1909 both Aimée and Isabella's names appear in the Speech Days reports of the Echuca school, with Dr Eakins also receiving a mention in the reports.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1903, John Arthur Holmes Eakins from W.A. died at Norwood, South Australia. Perhaps he was aware that his daughter's grandmother had died, and he was planning to meet them. Further research has proved that John Arthur Holmes Eakins was in fact the younger brother of George Reginald Eakins, both of whom were born in Ireland the sons of Joseph and Isabella (Holmes) Eakins.

Aimee died in 1966 at Perth, Isabella had died in 1956. What seemed to be a straight forward project became a very involved chase, with a few questions remaining unanswered.

*Shirley Durrant*

Aimèe Eakins was 26 years old when, in Melbourne in June 1917, she enlisted as a nurse. Aimèe gave her address as 'Favershaw' William Rd Hawksburn, her place of birth as Napier, New Zealand and her Next of Kin as her sister Isabella Jeanne Doyle of 14 Hanover St, Nth Perth. All this seemed an interesting mix for a nurse whose name I found in the World War 1 honour roll in Echuca.

Dr George Reginald Eakins had been the doctor in Echuca for many years so when I selected her name, I thought it would be simple to research Aimèe, who I expected to be the doctor's daughter. With her sister Isabella, given as her next of kin, I expected to find that both her parents had died prior to her enlisting. Dr Eakins died in 1911, but I found that his wife Susan, did not die until 1929. So much for that theory. Following Dr Eakins' death, very extensive coverage was given in the local press both of the funeral and the memorial service which was held the following day. The only mention of his family was that he was survived by his wife and a son from an earlier marriage. While unsuccessfully looking for the marriage of Isabella Eakins and John Doyle, I discovered that in 1910 George Reginald Eakins married Susan Robertson. This sparked a memory, that the doctor had been involved in a messy divorce, and had later married his housekeeper. But I still had no evidence that Aimèe and Isabella were his daughters, or that he had been in New Zealand.

On her enrolment, Aimèe had stated that she had trained as a nurse at Bendigo, still on link with Echuca.

While searching Trove for further information I came across the following:- 'One of the most popular little nurses here in the Perth Hospital is Nurse Eakins,

daughter of Dr Eakins of Echuca, and she takes great interest in all things connected with t'other side. She just rushes "The Bendigonion" each week.'

'A letter from Perth' *The Bendigonion* 24 March 1914.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1917 Aimèe sailed from Melbourne on *RMS Mooltan* for Suez. After six weeks in Egypt she transferred on the *Gorgon* for Salonica, where she served until on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1919. Aimèe then sailed on the *HMAT Wongala* to London on leave. From London she left for home, on the *Bahia Castello* on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1919.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1919, her sister Isobel, a new way of spelling her name, had written to the department asking about Aimèe's whereabouts, only to be told that they did not have any record of Aimèe after she arrived in Salonica, but they would inform her when Nurse Eakins had been located.

In 1922, Aimèe collected her medals from Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, and some time after that, she moved to Perth, where her sister was still living.

In 1928, Sister Aimèe Eakins was appointed sister-in-charge of the Social Service Department of the Perth Hospital, a position she held for the next 19 years. On her retirement it was stated that "Sister Eakins had striven to establish the department on lines comparable with those of the big hospitals in the other States of Australia and she will leave a solid foundation for future work and expansion. Nowadays the medical social worker is an essential part of the hospital team and it is through Miss Eakins' efforts that trained staff from the Eastern States and England have been employed in the department from time to time."

"She also established an auxiliary of

As a family history group we have had another very positive year with the local cemetery project nearing completion, three very successful fundraising sausage sizzles, positive publicity through Bridges and Branches, our Face Book page and the local radio station. We have a current membership of 80 and a number of members who willingly involve themselves in the group's activities. The change of structure in our internal operation has been very effective. Members are able to access one meeting a month if they wish and also enjoy a monthly activity such as a guest speaker, a workshop or an excursion.

The excursions in particular have been a highlight of the year. Fortuna Mansion in Bendigo, Cavell Manor in Tongala, Noorilim Estate which is located near Murchison were all outstanding experiences for those who participated. Fortuna and Noorilim were stunning properties and Cavell Manor had a bush nursing hospital charm. All have very interesting histories. They were enlightening but also fun for the members who shared these experiences.

Our Research Rooms have been cleared of the termite infestation. In the last year the ants were poisoned and the floor was replaced. The new floor is Murray Pine which is one wood that the White Ants don't find palatable. The floor is quite a feature when one first walks into the rooms. Our Magazine, "Bridges and Branches" provides members with the

opportunity to write about their own family history. More of us should be seizing this opportunity to write stories about our ancestors and share those stories with a wider audience. At times we are contacted by people who have read one of the articles, and wish to add to the story or provide more information on the people in the story. Thank you Shirley for all the work you do in collating, editing and often writing stories for our entertainment. We are hoping for that WW1 book, so keep writing.

The group's web page, Hotmail account for email communication and research inquiries from the public and our Facebook page are still very effective communicative tools. They continue to be managed extremely well by members who are prepared to volunteer their time. John Howe is the web expert, managing Hotmail, the Facebook page and all the online correspondence as assistant secretary. Thank you for this and also your assistant treasurer's role too.

We are also well represented by the monthly radio family history segment with Val and Judy, who both love to talk about anything Family History. The group also raised its public profile during National Family History month last year by providing free research for members of the public in the Campaspe Library.

Barbara Goldsmith is our treasurer and our research officer, two demanding positions that she manages very well. The treasurer's job is not just balancing the books but

## 3950 Private John Thomas Splatt,

organizing the groups' finances covering membership, and monies for fundraising, as well as presenting a monthly report. Also Barbara keeps the membership forms and other family history sheets up to date.

Lorraine Johnson manages our library smoothly and efficiently. She catalogues books, CD's and magazines, which is a time consuming job. She also ensures the printers have ink and paper, as well as all the smaller sundries that are required in the rooms, from pens to rat sack. These are things we take for granted. Lorraine has continued the cataloguing of the Celebration Sheets, and she has also set up a data base of all the graduates from the two secondary schools in Echuca.

I have wondered whether our Projects Coordinator Anita Bartlett's middle name could be 'records'. Not only is she driven by cemetery records, but there are school and hospital records, as well as on line records to be catalogued. The small cemeteries project started in 2013 is close to completion and the compilation of the Moama cemetery records still continues. Working Bees too are organized by Anita, so thank you for all your work.

In the last year we have had a number of discussions with the Campaspe Shire about our Research Rooms. Firstly in relation to implementing a leasing agreement with them, which was discussed but there has been no action taken yet by the Shire. We can

only wait! The second discussion was about another Shire Proposal called the Port Precinct Plan, which according to shire sources was widely consulted on, with the current stake holders in the Port Area. One wonders how many of them are left to consult with according to the local Press. It seems that this project has become a "note" on the Shire's Minutes for the next year at least. As I said, 'we can only wait'.

Duty Roster People in the research rooms ensure that we continue to provide important support for our members, and others who seek assistance in their family history research. They are the positive public face of our organization. Thanks to every one of you.

We are also very fortunate that we have a dedicated group of people, who have worked as a team to provide excellent leadership through the Management Committee. They are essential in providing all the activities and communication channels for members. They also organise the fund raising activities so that our family history group is financially viable every year. Thanks to every one of you.

**Final thank you;** if I have overlooked anyone in the above report, this last sentence is to thank all members who have contributed to the group in any way over the last year. Happy researching to all members  
*Judy McCleary*

John Thomas Splatt, was born at Patho, near Echuca, Victoria in 1893 to parents John Splatt and Sarah Ann Hunt. He was one of 5 children and had 4 sisters, Isabella Jessie (Howard) 1896, Phoebe Ann 1895, died 1900, Janet Beatrice (Clissold) 1898, and Lyla Malvina (Murphy) 1901.

When he enlisted in Geelong, on 18th of July 1915 aged 21, he was single, and labourer, from Deans Marsh, near Lorne in Victoria. He became a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> reinforcements. He embarked on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1915, from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on the *HMAT Ceramic A40*.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was one of the first brigades to be formed, as part of the first Australian Imperial Forces, for service in the First World War. It was formed in Victoria, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Division 1. It took part in the landing at ANZAC cove on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915, and also took part in the fighting at Kristhia and Lone Pine, before withdrawing, to go to Egypt, to defend the Suez Canal, in December 1915. Then it went from there to the Western Front in France, in early 1916, where it took part in significant battles such as Pozieres, Ypres, Amiens and the Hindenburg Line. The Battalion was disbanded after the war.

John was reported missing in Action on

25<sup>th</sup> July 1916, but it turned out he was wounded with shell shock instead, so he rejoined his unit in France from hospital. He was wounded again in Action on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917, and transferred to Northampton War Hospital, Duston, England, with a bad gunshot wound to his right leg. On March 28<sup>th</sup> 1918 he proceeded back over to France, and on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1918 was wounded in Action, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, after being gassed, so he was admitted to the Lines of Communication hospital. He was discharged from hospital on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1918, and rejoined his unit on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918. He embarked to England for R.T. A and finally left Southampton, England on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1919, bound for Australia. He arrived in Melbourne, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1919, on board the *City of Poona*, and he was discharged from the Army on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1919.

He was awarded three medals: the British Star Medal, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

After the war, he returned to Deans Marsh, and went back farming again.

He died on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1960, aged 67 years, at Birregurra, Victoria.

He is buried in the Bamba Cemetery, Deans Marsh, Surf Coast Shire, Victoria, Australia.

*Sue Shaw*

The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years, which only proves that even in biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions!

**NEW TO THE LIBRARY**  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2018– 21st August 2018

**Books**

Donated by Brian Ellis\* Margaret Spedding # M.O'Brien +

2145	Winter-Irving	Victoria
2146	A Different Earth	Biography
2147#	Alan Thomas Scurrah	Biography
2148+	O'Brien Family	Biography
2149*	Escape From Rabaul	Militiary
2150*	Commendation US Navy Unit HMAS Perth	Militiary
2151*	From Riverboat to Iron Horse	Aust/Resources
2152*	In the Wake of the Coonawarra	Aust/Resources
2153*	The Mission Paddle Steamer-Etona	Aust/Resources
2154*	Murray River Pilot	Sth Aust
2155*	Where the Rivers Ran	Sth Aust
2156*	Where the Steamer Ran	Sth Aust
2157*	The River Boats	Aust/Resources
2158*	The Murray	Aust/Resources
2159	The History of Moira Station	Local

**Coming Events for 2018 –2019**

September Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Excursion Byramine Homestead

(Oldest homestead in country Victoria)

October Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker - James Lerk

The Cornish in Bendigo

November Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Breakup To be organised

**2019**

February Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker - John Gribben

March Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to be advised

April Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Excursion with John Gribben

May Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker - Mark Grealy Archival Access Vic.

**A Trip to New Zealand solves a  
“Brick Wall”**

On a recent trip to New Zealand’s North Island which included a visit to the Central Hawke’s Bay Settlers’ Museum, in one of New Zealand’s oldest towns, Waipawa (between Napier and Wellington), I solved a mystery of a child’s death. Elizabeth Jane Hastie was born in February 1878 at “The Brow” Kaikora, a sheep Station where her father William Hastie was the Manager.

Apart from a photo of her in the family album around 6 – 8 months old and the certificate of her birth, there was no other proof of her existence because all research regarding her parents, William and Mary Hastie (nee Hall,) showed that they did not have any children. I had not been able to find a death or a marriage for her in the New Zealand or Victorian BDM records, so I assumed that she had died as an infant, and that she could have been buried in an unmarked plot or buried on the farm. There was no reason for me to look anywhere else because the Hastie and Hall families lived in Victoria.

While at the CHB Settlers Museum enquiring for directions to find the farm that William had managed, from 1875 until his death in 1909 at the age of 60, much information was given to us. Most of this we had, except for a record of the death in Sydney of Elizabeth Jane Hastie on the 9 December **1879**, only daughter of William and Mary Hastie;

“Milbourne” Station, Kiakora aged 1 year 9 months. It turns out that the Museum holds an index of BDM’s of all local people from the Waipawa area from Australian Newspapers.

We did find the farm at Argyll East which is still called “The Brow”, and the old shearing shed that William built still stands, but there is a new modern home where their old house once stood. Mary Hastie died at Lower Hutt Wellington in 1944 aged 89 years and was interned with her husband in the Otane Cemetery (formally the Kiakora Cemetery). How come this child died in Sydney Australia? Information from Elizabeth Jane’s death certificate revealed that the informant was her Grandfather Benjamin Hall of Marrickville NSW. From here my search found her Grandmother, Elizabeth Hall (nee Mason) who had died at Petersham NSW in 1897 and is buried in the Rookwood Cemetery.

My question answered - Elizabeth Jane Hastie was visiting her Grandparents.

She had been in NSW 1 month and the cause of death was convulsions.

She was laid to rest in the Balmain Cemetery now known as The Pioneers Memorial Park.

The old theory – do not assume anything when it comes to family history!

*Helen Hastie.*

**From the Hawke’s Bay Herald Tues April 10 1877**

All persons found trespassing on Milbourne Estate, with or without dogs, shooting turkeys, pig hunting or in pursuit of game will be prosecuted. A reward of five pounds will be given to anyone that will give information leading to the conviction of person or persons so offending.  
Signed W. Hastie Manager.

## Louise Mack

### War Correspondent and Journalist-1870-1935

Louise was born Marie Louise Hamilton Mack on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1870 in Hobart Town. Her father was the Rev. Hans Hamilton Mack (d.1890), who was a Wesleyan Minister from Downpatrick, Ireland, and her mother was Jemima James (d.1930). Her parents married in Sydney in 1859 and had 13 children while they travelled across NSW and SA, because Hans was a travelling minister. The family settled in Sydney in 1882 and Louise and her sister Amy, who also became a well-known writer, attended Sydney Girls High School, where Louise became friends with Ethel Turner, who was later to become a well known writer. Louise began her working life as a governess and then contributed regularly to the Bulletin in the late 1880's, eventually joining the Bulletin staff. She wrote two teen novels in 1897 and 1898, and poems were published too in 1901. Although Louise married an Irish Barrister in 1896, she went to England in 1901 without her husband, and set about writing a novel 'An Australian Girl in London', while living on the breadline. By 1904, and due to the novel's success, Louise became a journalist with the Daily Mail and also published another book. She also wrote many successful serials for the paper that were later published as books. More novels were written, while Louise travelled to many places including Florence where she lived for six years editing a paper.

In 1914 Louise was back in England working as a correspondent for the Evening news and the Daily Mail. During the first weeks of WW1 she travelled to Belgium to report on the



Louise Mack

German invasion of the country. She spent some time in German occupied Brussels and then moved onto Antwerp, where she and two male journalists were caught in a bombardment of the city. They sheltered in a hotel cellar. The other journalists left the city but Louise stayed to report on the destruction and the invasion. Her newspaper reports were a graphic description of the carnage of war with headings such as, "Writing their Stories in Blood-German's Unforgivable Offences" and "Awful War- What a woman Saw". She describes how churches were desecrated by drunken German troops in the town of Aerschott. This included cutting off the head of the Madonna and setting fire to the figure of Christ. Louise describes the soldiers as 'fiends' after they shot the children of the town's Burgomaster, and executed a young couple after a German colonel was shot. She described

Victorian Government. Original trees include a Moreton Bay Fig, said to be possibly the largest in the state. Also Date Palms, Bunya Bunya, Hoop Pine, Kurrajongs, Citrus-scented Gums, Cedars, Elms and Oaks. These were planted shortly after the homestead was built in 1879 making them some of the oldest specimens in the country. Green lawns lead to the lake on the East side. An Italianate Garden, Rose Garden and Orchard can be seen. Native birds and mammals abound, and 75 acres of vineyards assist with the financial upkeep of the property.

Over the years the homestead fell into disrepair but has been fully renovated using the colours and features of the era, and beautiful furnishing and artwork complete the décor.

Afternoon tea was appreciated prior to our departure.

The day provided a unique opportunity to appreciate the architecture of yesteryear, and we should be grateful for the efforts of current and past owners for the preservation of this important historical building. Noorilim is classified by the National Trust, and is listed on the National Estates Register.

*Wilma Gamble*

## 2232 Private Peter Phyland

Private Peter Phyland was born at Gunbower in 1880 and went to school at Patho. His father Michael Phyland and his mother was Mary Ann Mullane, were farmers at Patho.

Peter Phyland enlisted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1916 in Bendigo. He was 36 at the time, single, and a farm labourer at Patho. He became a member of the 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion – 2 to 5 Reinforcements, and he sailed on board the *HMAT Orsova A67* on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1916.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion, nick named the Heidelberg Regiment, had the motto Swift and Bold (Celer Et Audax), It was an infantry battalion, and formed as a unit of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF in Egypt on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1916, as part of the expansion, of the Australian forces during the First World War. The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion took 15 battle honours during the war including: Somme, 1916- 18, Bullecourt 1917, Ypres 1917, Menin Road 1918, Polygon Wood 1918, Poelcappelle 1918, Passchendaele 1918,

Ancre 1918, Villers-Bretonneux 1918, Amiens 1918, Albert 1918, Mont St. Quentin 1916 -18, Hindenburg line 1916 -18, France and Flanders 1916-18, and Egypt 1916.

Peter Phyland continued in active service until the end of the war. He returned home to Patho, and back to working the family farm. He married Mary Harmen in 1919,

Peter Phyland passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1927 aged 47, while visiting his wife, when she was an inpatient, in a private hospital, in Koondrook after she had given birth to their fourth child. His cause of death was heart failure, caused by being gassed in the war. Peter was laid to rest after a short service in Koondrook, followed by a committal in the Echuca cemetery He was survived by his mother Mrs Mary Phyland of Brighten, and his wife and four children, whose ages range from six years old, down to two weeks old.

*Sue Shaw*

Arthur died on 24 January 1971 in Geelong and Mabel died in May 1977 in Melbourne. Arthur and Mabel had twin daughters.

7 Thelma Frances Mary was born on 14 July 1906 in Echuca, Victoria. She worked as a milliner. In 1933 she married James Amess Adam Lawrence, son of James Amess Lawrence (1870-?) and Florence Jane Adam (1870-1953). James was born in 1905 in Malvern, Victoria. James worked as an accountant. James died in 1970 in Katanning, Western Australia, and Thelma died about 1979, also at Katanning. Thelma and James had four sons.

8 Marshall Frederick Pomroy was born

on 5 September 1909 in Echuca, Victoria. Known as Fred he was a mechanic. He married May Victoria Lee in 1937. May was the daughter of William John Lee and Sarah Annie. Fred died on 8 October 1963. Fred and May had two children.

9 Clayton Frederick Parker was born on 22 March 1912 in Echuca, Victoria. Clayton worked as an architect. He married Rosemary Ellen Preston in 1939. Rosemary was the daughter of Thomas Preston and Gladys. Both Clayton and Rosemary died in 1996. They had three children.

*Lorraine Haines*

## Noorilim Estate

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June a number of members of the Echuca Moama Family History Group had the pleasure of a visit to Noorilim Estate in the Murchison district.

Noorilim was built by William Winter (later Winter-Irving) in 1879, after employing the services of architect James Gall. Noorilim is said to be possibly his finest work. It is in the Italianate Style, with two storeys, a tower and basement, the latter providing relief from heat in summer. He resided there for about 5 years before taking his seat in Parliament. It has had eleven owners over the years, the Thompson family purchased the estate in the 1975 selling to the Menzies family in 1998.

The Grand entrance hall was used as a reception room for gatherings, resplendent with a magnificent Minton tiled floor, etched glass doors and floor

to ceiling windows. At the end of the entrance hall is a red carpeted stairway dividing at a landing to each wing of rooms. There are ten bedrooms and fifteen fireplaces in the home. Ornate cornices and ceiling roses adorn the downstairs rooms.

Lighting for the first 100 years was by gas produced on the property, but in the 1990's the Thompsons installed electricity throughout the building. Tiled verandahs and balconies surround the homestead.

Noorilim stands on high ground close to the East side of the Goulburn River. The water supply was pumped from the river by means of a steam pump to an impressive water tower, from which the house and gardens were gravity fed.

About 20 acres of landscaped gardens surround the building, and are listed in the top 90 Historic Gardens by the

the truth about defeat...rape being used as a weapon of war, the plight of the local townspeople fleeing the city, and the many deaths inflicted on the locals and the animals. All of her reports were recorded on a portable typewriter she carried with her.

Louise finally escaped disguising herself as a mute hotel maid and carrying a false passport, she made her way back to London via Holland, thus avoiding being shot as a spy. She was the first woman war correspondent. This was so astonishing to have a woman cover a war that one Australian Newspaper thought she was a man referring to her as 'Mr Louis Mack',

because they did not believe her stories had been written by a woman. Of course her eye witness accounts of the German invasion, and her experiences as a war correspondent was published as a book –“A Woman's Experiences in the Great War” in 1915.

Louise's accounts were used by the Newspapers to mount a very successful campaign of anti-German propaganda, to encourage more enlistments by emphasising the atrocities committed in war. In 1916 Louise came back to Australia, and she travelled the country in 1917-18 speaking about her experiences, as well as raising money for the Australian Red Cross Society. She became a much sought after speaker until the 1930's, travelling the Pacific with travel talks and films for schools. She also published more novels and worked as freelance journalist. She died on 23 November 1935. Her life had been full of adventure and insecurity, but she was described as 'extroverted, audacious, unpredictable and a Bohemian'. (Nancy Phelan Australian Dictionary of Biography) She left no possessions. Louise's book is available online through bookshops.

*Judy McCleary*

## World War 1 Stories

Four years ago, it was suggested that as our contribution to the centenary of the World War 1, all our members should contribute stories of their families involvement in the war, which would be printed in Bridges & Branches. Whether it was stories of those who served in the armed forces or of those who kept the home fires burning, all their stories we believe, should be recorded.

For those who were looking for additional stories to contribute, the Honour Rolls throughout the area list many names, each with a story that could be told. The suggestion was, if we received sufficient stories by the end of the centenary, they would be published as a book.

At this stage we have received more than 60 stories, some quite short, and others long, but each has an interesting story to tell.

For those who are still thinking about their stories, there is still time to get your entries in, but it is hoped that they will all be finished by the end of this year. Thank you to all who have taken part already, and we look forward to reading the stories which are still to come.

## Frederick Parker Vize

Frederick Parker Vize, known to his family as Papa, was born in Sale where he spent most of his youth. He attended the Bairnsdale School of Mines and specialized in Art.

He furthered his interest in art through land and seascapes and earned his living by sign writing, coach painting, and general coach work, such as leather work and other arts associated with coach building and maintenance.

He married Mary Moriarty in Sale in 1892 where their first child Gladys was born. They left Sale around 1894 to take up a position of secretaryship to the Echuca Mechanics Institute, or as Art Master in the newly formed Echuca School of Arts, and subsequently Director of the school. I, (the author) have a painting by him dated 1893 painted, either in Bairnsdale or in Sale. I believe it to be one of his earliest paintings and possibly the only one to be dated.

They settled in Francis Street, Echuca where their family was to increase to nine children. Gladys and Mercy were to attend the Convent for free education in exchange for teaching the Nun's art.. The remainder of the children attended the

local state school, and later at the Manning Tree Road State School, Glenferrie.

During our parents stay in Echuca, Papa developed the School of Art. It was at this stage when the Department of Education became interested in the proposal of converting the school into a Technical College. This change ultimately happened. Papa was offered a position of Art Master at the Swinbourne Technical College in 1916, which he accepted. (Refer Book. Echuca Tech. College - Centenary Congratulations on 100 years of Learning.) The above book gives a good insight into the development of the School of Art during F.P.Vize's directorship.

Further to their sojourn in Echuca, Papa became the captain of the local rifle club, he was a proficient billiard player, and was secretary to the Mechanics Institute where he spent time as the librarian. He also experimented in the development of various art utensils such as :- plasticine, pencils and crayons. Some of these items went into production in Echuca with the assistance of Charlie and Edga. He was to further develop plasticine at our Glenferrie home and eventually sold out to the firm of Spicer & Detmold.



Cornelia Creek Homestead  
by Frederick Vize

It was during my stint as student at Swinbourne that I was taught by my father the subject of clay modelling. We have little, if any, evidence of his painting in Echuca. No doubt he had so many interests that there was little time to follow and extend his hobby. But after his arrival in Glenferrie, his hobby took off and produced many much loved paintings of bay, and especially bush subjects including nostalgic subjects around Lakes Entrance. His paintings

have been distributed widely within the family and sold to a number of friends at 5 pounds each. Following his retirement in 1931, Fred Vize settled down to a quiet life and concentrated on his chief interest - painting - until his death in 1954. His wife Mary had died about 1946 after a long healthy life. She appeared to be a really loving mother and devoted wife.

*Clayton Fredrick Vize*

## The family of Frederick Parker Vize and Mary Jane Brown Moriarty

Frederick Parker Vize was born in 1866 in Sale, Victoria. He was the son of William Henry Vize (1833-1878) and Mary Walker (1840-1930).

Frederick married Mary Jane Brown Moriarty in 1892 in Sale. Mary was the daughter of James Warren Pomery Moriarty (1832-1889) and Susan Brown (1838-1892). She was born in Heathcote, Victoria in 1872.

Frederick worked as an instructor in painting at the Echuca Mechanics Institute and later Swinburne Technical College in Melbourne. He was also an artist producing many paintings. Mary died in Melbourne in 1944. Frederick died in Melbourne on 9 December 1952.

Frederick and Mary had 9 children.

1 Eva Gladys was born on 20 November 1892 in Bairnsdale, Victoria. She married Rudolf Aleksander Ketonen in 1930. Rudolf was probably of Finnish background and worked as a ship's steward. Eva died on 24 September 1962. Eva and Rudolf had two children.

2 Vera Helen was born on 30 September 1894 in Bairnsdale, Victoria. She worked

as a milliner. Vera never married. She died in Balwyn, Victoria on 27 October 1958.

3 Sister Helen was born on 26 August 1897 in Echuca, Victoria. She married Tom Butler in about 1926. Mercy died in 1983 in Torquay, Victoria. They had one known child.

4 Charles Frederick was born on 31 March 1900 in Echuca, Victoria. He married May Margaret Walsh in 1941. May was born about 1904. Charles died on 24 March 1973 and May died in Melbourne on 8 December 1998. Charles and May had one known child.

5 Edgar Wilson was born on 14 May 1902 in Echuca, Victoria. He married Thelma Christina Henderson in 1941. Edgar worked as a hotelier. Edgar and Thelma had no children.

6 Arthur Frederick Parker was born on 9 June 1904 in Echuca, Victoria. He married Mabel Beryl Sennet, daughter of Ernest Ainsworth Sennet (1872-1936) and Mabel Jane Wilson. Mabel was born on 21 June 1904 in Albert Park, Victoria. Arthur worked as a dental operator.