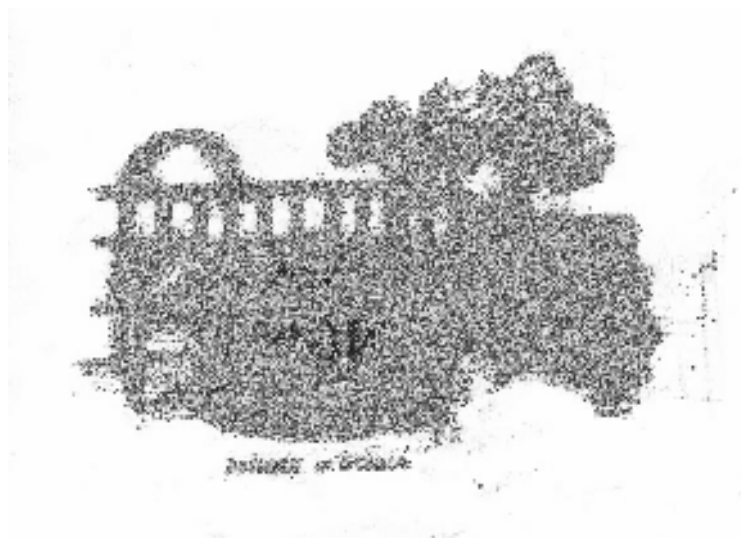


# Bridges & Branches

Number 63 September 2006



**NEWSLETTER  
of the  
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY  
GROUP INC.**

PO Box 707, Echuca, Vic. 3564

**Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc**

President: John Howe

Vice President: Lyn Bloomfield

Secretary: Marjorie Grant

Assistant Secretary: Pearl Collins

Treasurer: Beryl Peat

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Meetings held in the Community Health Centre, Martin Street, Moama, on the third Thursday at 8.00 pm from Sept. to Apr., and the third Saturday at 1.30 pm from May to Aug. No meetings Dec. or Jan.

**Minutes of meetings and notices.**

Any members who would like to be kept informed of EMFHG activities and receive minutes of the monthly meetings, news of new internet sites and notices of meetings, excursions etc please send your email address to the president, John Howe via the group's email address -emfhg9@hotmail.com

Also if you change your address to send details by email.

It has come to the notice of the Editorial Committee that some members have contributed articles for B&B which have never been printed. It would seem that there has been some hitch in the production line or our filing system. It would be appreciated if anybody who has submitted items which have not been printed, could contact a member of the committee to see if the item can be found, and if not it could be resubmitted. We apologise for the oversight.

Thank you to all who have responded to our appeal for items for this addition of B&B. We will actually go to print with a few cookies left in the cookie jar. Keep up the good work, we could always add another page if we had sufficient material.

The Editors welcomes 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 or for the opinions expressed.

Items can be emailed to:-

pcollins1@iinet.net.au or ksduarrant@ozsky.net or rrkelly@iinet.net.au

## Presidents Report

It's been a busy year for our group. Our Family History Research Centre has been very well patronized and a big thank you to all the volunteers who have been on the duty roster. I would like to take this opportunity to say, on behalf of all the members of the Echuca-Moama Family History Group, a huge thank you to the Management Committee for all the time and hard work they have put in to make our group one of the best family history groups. I don't want to take too long naming you all individually, we all know who you are, but I must single out life member, Pearl Collins, for her untiring effort in promoting our group in the community and replying to all the research inquiries we receive while still finding time to escort cemetery walks, conduct beginners classes and speak to other groups etc, just amazing.

On a sad note we reflect on the passing of a past member of your Management Committee, Barbara Hutchinson in April, a good friend to many.

The resources held in our Research Centre are expanding all the time both by group purchases and also by many donations by members for which we are very grateful. A garage sale was held in May, which raised \$275 for our group.

Guest speakers at our meetings over the past twelve months have included Glynn Brown from Wodonga FHG, Iris Pearce on being organised before carrying out research at GSV, SLV & PROV, Margaret Williamson came from and spoke on Pyramid Hill and Maureen Doyle and Pauline McIntyre of the Irish Ancestry Group.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 24 members participated on a Discovery Bus Trip to Melbourne of whom 22 visited the GSV Library where we were greeted by Eleanor Pugsley and volunteers who helped our group with their research which was very much appreciated. We are planning bus trip for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October, when we intend going to PROV.

As with any organisation, it is always a great pleasure to welcome new members of which we have had many this year, I hope that your time with our group is rewarding.

I have been representing our group as a member of the Echuca Community Hub/Library Consultative Committee, which has held many meetings to plan for a new Public Library in Echuca. It is planned that our group will have its own room (Family and Local History Research Centre) in the former IGA Supermarket building, which will become the Campaspe/Echuca Community Hub which will also incorporate the Public Library and Toy Library.

We thank the Shire of Campaspe for it's support of our group by providing us with our current home, including us in the new Community Hub and for the \$500 from the "2005/2006 Local History, Heritage and Genealogy Grants Program", which went towards the purchase of a new computer for our Research Centre.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best of luck with your family history research. We all spend hours searching records, where ever they may be, in the hope of finding that elusive ancestor, and what a pleasure it is to us all when we can add even one more name onto that ever spreading tree. I look forward to the future when the Family History Group's, Research Centre is located in the Community Hub in Anstruther Street, Echuca. Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

*John Howe President, E-MFHG.*

## Great Uncle Matthew McNair

My cousins and I grew up with the story that our grandfather's brother went to the Boar War, stayed in South Africa where he had a family.

I was unable to find any trace of him on the Boar War lists, so put him into the too hard basket. I now believe he may have gone to South Africa to work in the late 1890's like many other Australians and was not involved in the war.

Matthew Burnett (Bernet) McNair was born at Ceres, Victoria, Australia in 1868, the 8<sup>th</sup> child of James McNair (born Isle of Cumbrea, Scotland) and Margaret Russell (born County Antrum, Ireland).

He came to Wharparilla with his mother and siblings in 1874, and was amongst the first children to attend the Wharparilla West State School when it opened.

He married on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1901 at Addington, Durban, South Africa, Florence Irene Mabel Eatson, who was born in 1876 to James and Ellen Eatson of Chilsenham, England.

Matthew and Florence had two children, Kenneth Bernard born 1901 at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa and Dorothea born 14<sup>th</sup> January 1909.

In the 1940's Dorothea received a letter from Australia which she tore up saying she never knew her father etc. Her son picked up one piece with the name Hugh Turner McNair on it. This he kept until 1971 when he gave it to his cousin. It was over twenty years later this cousin visited Sydney and applied for Hugh's death certificate. He was shocked to find that he was a bachelor with no children. He then applied for his probate papers and found to his surprise all Hugh's brothers sisters, nieces and nephews named. Hugh had died intestate. Hugh was Mathew's younger brother. Actually looking for the

wrong man had saved a great deal of time and effort.

Matthew had died on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1934 at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne from appendicitis and post operative pulmonary embolus. He was a labourer living at Gordon House, Burke Street, Melbourne and died intestate.

The application for probate showed he had a bank balance of £177-6-7, a camera and personal effect valued at £7-19-9. His death certificate was blank for marriage and children.

It appears his Victorian family wasn't contacted and never knew of his return or death.

When his grandson found this information he wrote to all the McNairs in the Victorian phone book. My cousins Alan and John received one of these letters and phoned me. I was given the task of answering. After many letters and phone calls over several years we finally met one of Matthew's grandsons and two great grandsons in December 2001 when they visited Echuca.

There are still many questions - the answer to some of which, we will probably never know.

### Echuca Cemetery Walks

Cemetery walks are resuming on the second Saturday of each month commencing at 2.00pm (7.00pm December to March) from the main cemetery gate.

### Private Lives, Public Records

Would the person who borrowed the book Private Lives, Public Records please enter your name in the Library book.

One of mankind's greatest labour saving inventions today is tomorrow.

## The 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition.

An interesting recent find on the net has been the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition.

The petition was the result of the effort of a group of women with the aim of gaining the right to vote for Victorian women. Almost 30 000 signatures were collected from women across the state.

While there are some notable signatures on the petition, including Jane Munro, the wife of the Premier, the vast majority are the signatures obtained by going up and down the streets in Melbourne and in the towns across Victoria.

The original petition which is approximately 260 meters long and 200mm wide, is made of paper pasted onto fabric and is kept rolled on a cardboard spindle. The petition is in two columns, the Name and the Address. What you see is not a typed index but the actual signatures of the women and their

address in the order they were collected. Sometimes the address is just a suburb or town and sometimes the street is included.

The petition which is located at [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/background.htm](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/background.htm) and can be searched either by the name or address. Simply type the surname or town in the appropriate box.

On typing in Echuca 247 names came up with the more than half being from Echuca East. It is interesting to speculate as to why this is the case. Was it just that the East was more thoroughly canvassed for signatures? Or were the women in the East more aware of the injustice of the male dominated system, while the rest of the women of Echuca thought these things were best left to the men?

*Shirley Durrant*

## Research report

The following names have been forwarded to the Group for research. You are invited to respond by writing to EMFHG, P.O.Box 707 Echuca 3564 or by email.

- Alice Evelyn CLARKE (dau of James & Emma CLARKE) m John Alexander BROWN son of John BROWN and Jessie SIMMONS in Moulamein NSW 1884. Children mentioned are E. Maud, John, Violet Florence Victoria and another John. The family moved to W.A.
- BARTON Agnes d. 4.5.1925 aged 38yrs and husband Arthur d. 22.6.1925 aged 45yrs lived in Annesley St., Echuca
- Harry MIDDLEBROOK and Tom CRICK ex England working for a Mr HOOKER in the Bamawm area early during the Depression 1929
- TAIG Thomas m Emily Louise GARMENT in 1891. Esther TAIG b. Echuca 1895
- TYACK Thomas d. 1942
- QUIGLEY Edmond
- SHANNESSY Ellen
- OATAWAY / OATWAY James b. 1823 m Jane WESTLAKE ? place, children b. Heathcote and Inglewood.

## William Douglas

William Douglas was born in Armagh, Northern Ireland about 1796 and died at Echuca on 31 December 1876. His descendants claim he was Scottish rather than Irish and his Clan forbears might have been part of the 'plantation' under King James 1 who brought English and Scottish settlers in the hope of 'planting' friends of England on its doorstep - the north of Ireland.

A researcher in Ireland found him described as 'Linnen weaver, Journey man' in the 1821 Census and later documentation suggesting his employment as Land Steward (perhaps Rent Collector) for a Mr. Running who corresponded with him as late as 1870.

The potato famine brought extreme hardship to Ireland and much emigration. William, his wife Anne (Robinson) and three of their younger children, John, Jane and Robert, arrived in Port Phillip on the *Reliance* on 10 March 1850, elder son James having arrived in April, 1849 on the *Lord George Bentinck*. Another son, William, who was working in England, came separately.

Not long after their arrival they set off for the gold diggings in the Castlemaine area (Fryers Creek) where Anne died in February, 1853. William must have found some gold as he purchased 30 acres at Green Hill (near Kyneton) for 61 pounds 10 shillings at a public auction on 25 November, 1853 but did not settle there until about 1856. Son James also purchased land close to his father's at Green Hill.

Roads were necessary in the newly-occupied country and William became first president of the Metcalfe Roads

Board in 1860 and was President and a member until 1870. He was also Trustee of the Kyneton Mechanics Institute, active in the agricultural society and largely responsible for establishing and constructing a church, probably Presbyterian.

He moved in 1873 to live with a son at Pine Grove where he died in 1876. Of his descendants the most notable was daughter Jane's son, William Watt, who became Premier of Victoria in 1912. William left school at 14 but "...he had an extraordinary talent for expressing himself in clear and forceful language...and devoted his evenings to study and the culture of his oratorical talent..." He moved to Federal politics in 1914 and was Acting Prime Minister in Billy Hughes's absences, as in 1918 when he 'expressed the feelings of the Parliament in the hour of peace and victory'. William's son Robert served in the Maori Wars in New Zealand in the 1860s but returned to Victoria. He married Margaret McLennan and at Mitiamo and Calivil drove coaches for the Gold Escort and the Mail. James, the first of the family to arrive in Australia, married Ann McGregor. He remained at Green Hill until he moved to Tragowel in 1873. James was a leading figure in the Kerang and Tragowel districts and was given a bag of sovereigns when he left Kyneton in 1873. He was one of the first commissioners of the Tragowel Plains Irrigation and Water Supply Trust, constituted in 1886. When he left Tragowel he was given a public banquet and presented with an illuminated address in gold leaf. James's descendants are eligible to become members of the Port Phillip Pioneers group, as James arrived in

Victoria before 1850. His daughter Mary Ann married John Mowat at Tragowel in 1881. Both are buried in Echuca cemetery. William's son, William, married Agnes Norris and died in 1895.

Another son, John, married Mary Ann Green. Descendants attended the Metcalfe Shire Centenary Celebrations in 1960 where William's great-grandson Rev Athol Douglas McGregor delivered the Sunday Address. These descendants erected a headstone in William's memory at Echuca in 1988.

Information for the above was provided by his descendants- Adrian May, Pat

Ibbotson, Marion (McGregor) Lloyd, Daisy Newton and Margaret Ross.

Brian Hay 1 Glenquarie Place The Gap 4061 Q (07 3366 6360) [bnjhay@bigpond.com](mailto:bnjhay@bigpond.com)

*Just as an odd bit of trivia my Grandfather, Neil McKindlay was born at Pipers Creek, near Kyneton. His obituary, published in the Riverine Herald stated, "he was born next door to the house where Mr W.A. Watt the former premier was born."*

*Shirley Durrant*

**Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc.**  
**Committee 2006 - 2007**

**Executive Committee:**

*President:* John Howe

*Vice President:* Lyn Bloomfield

*Secretary:* Marjorie Grant

*Assistant Secretary:* Pearl Collins

*Treasurer:* Beryl Peat

*Management Committee:* Includes the Executive plus the following positions:-

*Librarian:* Carol Miller

*Research Officer:* Pearl Collins

*Editor Bridges & Branches:* Shirley Durrant

*Webmaster:* Robyn Kelly

*Education/New Members:* Pearl Collins

*Guest Speakers List:* Claire Horsfall

*Publicity Officer:* Marjorie Grant

*Duty Roster:* Wilma Gamble

*Newsletter Pack Co-ordinator:* Betty Harrison

*Cemetery Walk:* Shirley Durrant

*Excursions Organizer:* Helen Hastie

*GSV Rep:* Peter Garfield

*Social Secretary:* Wendy Hicks

*Public Officer:* Helen Bennett

*Friends of the Library Reps:* Carol Miller & Helen Bennett

***To all Genealogical, Family History and Historical Groups***

Often in our incoming mail is a notice of a seminar, workshop, discussion group, display, and such like. However the notice is for an event in less than a months time. At Echuca and Moama we need notice of at least 6 weeks and preferably 3 months to be able to present the information at the next meeting and in our newsletter. This enables us to give our members opportunity to take advantage of the offer to further their knowledge of family history and enjoy the company of fellow researchers.

Can we make a plea for flyers, advertising blurbs etc to be to us with at least a two-month space so we can respond to your offer, inform our members and take advantage of events well planned by your Group or Society. *Thanks Echuca Moama FHG Inc.*

## The Pasque Family, White Lies and Google

After many years of looking into my father's family tree, especially our convict ancestor, I decided to trace my mothers family as far as I could. This search led me back to a Heinrich Pasque who arrived in South Australia in 1876. Heinrich, or Henry as he began to call himself, arrived on the sailing ship *Lady Jocelyn* from Plymouth. In the ships log he is described as a miller even though family legend said he was a teacher from Alsace in what is now France. Pasque is a French word meaning Easter. In 1881, at Clare in South Australia, Henry married Elizabeth Ivey Moyses. Henry and Elizabeth had ten children. Six of these, all boys, survived. My great grandfather, Norman Henry, was the second eldest.

But where in Alsace did the family come from? Were there descendants still living there? For those who are unsure where Alsace is located it is west of the Rhine River which is now the border between Germany and France. From 1870 till 1918 Alsace was part of Germany.

I had Henry and Elizabeth's marriage certificate which told me little about Henry's origins. So I decided to use the internet. I typed Genealogy Alsace onto a Google search and came up with a natty website where you typed in the family name and it listed the number of people with that name in the province at the time you were searching. And I came up with nothing. Zip.

It was about then that I started to doubt the Alsace bit. When my Aunt showed me a certificate from when Norman crossed the Equator on the S.S. *Kaiser Wilhelm II* in 1891. I was convinced the Pasque's were French in name only.

How to prove it?

Back to Google and a search using Henry's Fathers name. On the marriage certificate

it was Ernest which I changed to the German Ernst. Then it appeared, in a record of famous authors. Ernst Heinrich Anton Pasque born Cologne 1821 died Darmstadt (south of Frankfurt) 1892. Baritone opera singer, librettist, author of historical novels and German!

The connection between the two proved easy to make. During a trip to Melbourne I went to the GSV and sat down with Yvonne Izatt. I explained the story and she quickly went to the only record needed, Henry's death certificate. Death certificates are usually the most unreliable record as the details are secondhand but Henry's eldest son Ernest got it right. Henry was born in Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany and his father Ernst was an Author. I now have a translated copy of one of Ernst's books and am considering learning German so I can read the seventy odd other novels he wrote.

Why the lie? Ten years after Henry's death in 1905 found the world at war and three of his son's joining up. Since their surname was French it was easier to say their father was from France and avoid spending the war in an internment camp. Edgar, the second youngest and just twenty one actually wrote that the family was French on his enlistment papers. Since Henry had a sister still alive in Germany who married and had children it is possible that cousin was fighting cousin on the fields of France.

Many thanks to Yvonne Izatt at the GSV for her assistance and to Guenter and Jenny Braun of Echuca for translations.

*Peter Garfield*

Life is like a grindstone - whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up, depends entirely on the material he's made of.

## My famous relative

For some years I have known that the Cornish inventor Richard Trevithick was a distant relation. As a member of the Cornish Association of Victoria and with the aid of their resources, I have come to know much more about this man. However, many things have been written about him personally, his Aunt Thomasine is my four times Great Grandmother.

Richard was born to Richard Snr and Ann Teague on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1771 Illogan, Cornwall, England. At school he was described as being 'disobedient, slow & obstinate' and his father called him a loafer. After these recommendations he was good at engineering even to solving problems that accomplished well-educated engineers could not. Some of his accomplishments were

- \* In 1801 he ran the first successful self propelled passenger vehicle
- \* In 1803 built a London road carriage
- \* In 1804 the first steam locomotive in Wales

\* In 1806 steam driven dredges on the River Thames

\* Lots of inventions and improvements to the mining industry especially in Cornwall and Peru.

Though Richard was good at inventing things, he was no good at money and he died as a pauper in 1833 in Kent. Many of his descendants and other distant relations have also become engineers or similar. Many of his family also would rather work with their hands than in an office. He has a memorial dedicated to him in Westminster Abbey in London.

For many years I had a dream (probably watching too much Disneyland) that some of my ancestors were Smugglers, maybe they were, I may never know but I'm now enjoying learning about the achievements of my ancestors and becoming more honoured to be descended from Miners and Agricultural Labourers.

*Wendy Hicks, 2 Rutley Cres Echuca 3564*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Beginner Classes for budding family historians.

Classes for Beginners in Family History have been running over the last few weeks at the Group's library. A more enthusiastic group would be harder to find. We welcome them aboard our membership train. Most are new to the interest, but some earlier members joined for a refresher.

Welcome to Brian Collis, Lucy Leitch, Judy McCleary, Stella Moore, Bert Smith, Bev Tavener, Jodi Twyman, Louise Driscoll, Pat Lake, Ann Luke, Joan Luke, Marlene McKenzie, Murray Painter, and Leanne Munro. Former members to take the class were Amanda Souter, Maureen Baker, Reg and Gayle Robins, Jan Hynes, Angela Berryman and a few current members- Neal and Rosemary Fraser and Gwen McDonald. Welcome all and thanks for your warm participation. You are easy to teach and you make it so worthwhile.

I have taken the classes to Shepparton and I did it 'seminar style' with two lessons on one day and a fortnight later a further two lessons on the same day.

*Pearl Collins*

## WEBSITE UPDATE

There have been changes to our WebPages. Always Check the *Whats New* page for website updates. Have a look and try out the links in the Trivia section. You can print a time line for yourself or one for Australia.

Echuca, Moama & District Church photos are being added, if you would like to add any others not listed contact Robyn [rkelly@inet.net.au](mailto:rkelly@inet.net.au) or EMFHG [emhg9@hotmail.com](mailto:emhg9@hotmail.com)

### Why should I refresh a Web Page?

Often when you visit a web page it may appear as though it hasn't changed since the last time you looked at it *even though* there may have been new items added and changes made.

This happens because when you visit web pages your web browser downloads it and stores it on your PC. When you 'go back' to the page, to save time, the web browser quite often loads the version it previously downloaded when you last visited the web site.

### How do I refresh?

If you are not getting the most up-to-the minute content from web sites you may need to refresh the pages cached in your web browser. If simply clicking your "Refresh" or "Reload" button doesn't work, try one of these: Internet Explorer (IE) v 4.0 and above

\* Hold down the control (Ctrl) button on your keyboard (Option key on Macintosh) while clicking on the Refresh button on your IE toolbar. This will reload the entire page, capturing the most recent file, or

\* Choose View from the menu bar and then choose Refresh, or Hit F5 on your keyboard, or

\* Click on the refresh button on the toolbar of your browser (i.e.- the one with

the two green arrows)

To make sure you get the current version, you should clear out IE's stored cache by: **Windows users:** from the View menu of the IE toolbar, click Internet Options, then click the General tab. In the Temporary Internet files area, click Delete Files, then click OK. Click OK to close Internet Options.

### Websites of interest.

The Argus – [www.nla.gov.au/argus](http://www.nla.gov.au/argus)

This extensive index covers only Victoria and National issues, editorials, letters to the editor, theatre and book reviews, literary contributions, features, biography & obituaries and Court cases. For detailed article see Ancestor Vol 28, no 2, pp 6-8.

Cornwall Information UK – <http://www.genuki.org/big/eng/Cornwall/Breage/index.html/> A very informative site worth a look.

New South Wales Archives – <http://records.nas.au/starterrecords/>

Click on *State Records*, click on *keyname search*, click on *search box* then type in surname to be searched. The result will depend on what records have been unloaded to the site. These may include ticket of leave, pardon details, shipping, photo's. Some records may be ordered from the site.

### NSW BD&M Online

Births 1788-1905, Deaths 1788-1975, Marriage 1788-1955, are now online at [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/Index](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/Index) These are only indexes but they give you a speedy access to the names and information to apply for the full certificate.



## MEMBERS' Profiles



Please contact EMFHG, Inc. for a printed copy of our newsletter if you would like to read our members profiles.

Fees may apply.

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing about.  
*Benjamin Franklin 1706-90*

## Triconderoga 1852.

When Hugh Fraser aged 21 and his sister Isabella aged 19 said their Goodbyes to family in Scotland, little did they know that they would be part of one of the most tragic voyages to Australia.

The *Triconderoga*, a double-decker ship left Liverpool on 4 August 1852 with 795 passengers on board headed for Australia. Provisions documented included over 36000lbs of flour, 12 000lbs of split peas, 6000lbs of raisins, 93cwt of sugar, 7000lbs of treacle, barrels of Navy bread, preserved beef and pork, canned soup and 400 gallons pickles. Previous voyages had left 25 000lbs of oatmeal and 3 chests of tea for use during this voyage.

Double decker ships like the *Triconderoga* had many problems at the best of times e.g poor ventilation, lighting and washing the decks wasn't normally undertaken as the water would leak between decks making it impossible to dry out. The lack of space for exercising added to the risk of disease in this continually polluted atmosphere. Dr Sanger the ship's surgeon reported the start of disease about 14 days after departure and with lack of medical supplies the disease flourished and it was reported that 100 passengers perished on this voyage. The bodies were bundled together in bedding and placed on mattresses to float away.

On 5 November 1852 the *Triconderoga* arrived at Port Phillip Bay flying the Yellow flag and the stench overpowering with stale urine, putrid ordure (sick) mouldy food covered with maggots etc. etc. Passengers were quarantined at Portsea, Vic. Make shift Hospitals were made in houses and the ship *Lysander* which sailed from South Australia to help. Further passengers and crew died while in

quarantine bringing the casualty total to 170. The *Triconderoga* finally arriving in Melbourne 22 December 1852.

Following this voyage and the tragic voyages of several other ships the Emigration Commission made the decision not to use double decker vessels in future.

A memorial has been erected in memory of those who lost their lives by the descendants of the *Triconderoga* Emigrants in the Point Nepean Cemetery.

1859 saw Hugh and Isabella reunited with their Father Hugh and 2 brothers Alexander and Donald (my Great Grandfather) and sisters Janet, Margaret and Mary arriving on the ship *Herald of the Morning* in Victoria. While most of the family moved to Timmering and Rochester, Vic. after disembarkment, both Hugh and Isabella who had already married, stayed in the Geelong area until the time of their death.

Hugh and Isabella finally being laid to rest at the Bannockburn Cemetery with their respective families.

*Neal S Fraser*

[rfraser@bordernet.com.au](mailto:rfraser@bordernet.com.au)

Phone 0417354499

*I spotted the town name Bannockburn as my Munro uncle is buried there.. His g'mother is Neal's g'g'father's sibling. The sibling's tombstones in Bannock are identical! Pearl Collins*

### Tongala News

Unveiling of plaques in the Tongala area by the Tongala Local History Group on the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2006

Launch of Wyuna History Book.

Ring Gloria Pell for precise times

Phone 03 5859 4229

## Two Branches Reunite Determination pays off.

John Hastie was born 1818 in Jedburgh, Scotland and married Elizabeth Jane Emerson at Warrenpoint, Down, Ireland in 1844. They had 6 children born in Ireland. (No 2 child died aged 9 months).

In 1854 John and Elizabeth and their 5 children came to Australia. They went to Ercildoun in Victoria where John was Station Manager for the Learmonth brothers. Here 3 more children were born.

In 1875 the Hastie family bought land and moved into the Ballan district in Victoria. Only three of John and Elizabeth's 8 children married.

No 4 – William married Mary Hall (from Victoria) at Ellington N.Z. in 1877. They had no surviving children.

No 5 – Samuel married Annie Emerson at Kew Victoria in 1904. They had 4 boys who all married (one to whom I belong through marriage).

No 8 – James married Catherine Mary Lovatt at Cobar NSW in 1887. They had 5 children. James died at the early age of 45 years at Forbes NSW in 1906 leaving Catherine with 5 children aged between 11 and 17 years. In 1908 the family moved to Sydney. 1963 was the last time contact was made between these two branches.

I have thought it a shame that such a small family tree had become detached, so I was determine to try and find who may be out there belonging to this branch.

Six years ago I started searching for grandchildren of James and Catherine in NSW by tracing what I could on the records. I made many phone calls and wrote many letters without success.

I decided our holiday to Queensland this year was going to take a detour to the north-west of NSW to find a property that was named as "usual residence" on a death

certificate for the third child of James and Catherine back in 1967, in the hope that the present owners of the property may be able to give me some idea as to where this family of Hastie's had gone.

Our first spot was the Cutterbri Wine Shanty (pub) for a cool ale. We left with directions to the property concerned and the phone number of the owner. That evening we phoned the owner who in turn gave us the phone number of a neighbour who was thought to still be in contact with the Hastie's . We phoned the neighbour and BINGO! We were given the phone number of our relative – a granddaughter of James and Catherine. I could not believe it!

A week later we spent two days at Kyogle NSW with 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and 4 great great grandchildren of James and Catherine. This visit led us to lunch with another grandchild at Armidale NSW. We are all very thrilled about the "find". Letters, photos and stories, many confirming theories I had, have been exchanged. Regular contact is being made by phone.

It was a holiday that unfolded beyond all expectations.

*Helen Hastie, Tongala, Vic.*

### **From the Librarians**

If a member has a particular CD/Book of interest for their research, it is suggested that if that member is prepared to contribute half the cost of the item, the Executive Committee would then consider contributing the balance, up to a total of \$600. An arrangement would be made so the member could have an extended loan of the item.

## From whence the Height family came

James Height and Rachel James were presumably married somewhere in England. They had several children and in the baptism index of Cambridgeshire, there are three children registered in separate years. These are noted as 1834 Joseph Height son of James and Rachel, 1836 Rachel Height, 1832 Thomas. This was in the parish of Elm in England. No age or occupation listed. William Height was not listed. How many other children were also not baptised here or elsewhere? There were no burials listed under Height in the Cambridgeshire index.

Listed in the Bedford district is the surname Height from the 1881 Census (I. G.I.)

Our line of Height descends from James and Rachel, directly through their son William who was born in Elm c 1831.

He and his first wife Sarah White immigrated to Australia in May 1853 on board *Derry Castle*. William was documented on the passenger list as being 22 years, an agricultural labourer of Wesleyan belief. His wife Sarah was 21 and they could both read and write. They went to Mr Hockin for a term of ten months and rations for £104.

William died aged 86 and on the death certificate is the fact that he and Sarah had at least one child before Sarah died. James Thomas Height aged 60 years in 1917. He would have been born about 1853, the year of his parent's immigration.

At this point it is found that our direct line comes from William's second marriage. He married Susan Magowan in 1860 at a Methodist Chapel in Chewton, Victoria.

Susan hailed from some place in or near Armagh, Ireland. She was living at Kyneton prior to her marriage to William. She was listed as being 18 years and

William as 29 years.

Witnesses of the marriage were Thomas and Maria Height. The minister of the proceedings being Michael Clarke.

The question is: What relation were the witnesses Thomas and Maria? Maria was Maria Cannon prior to her marriage to Thomas Height. This is deduced from a birth listed in 1858 at Forest Creek. The child died at one day. In 1862 another child was born to Maria and Thomas in Chewton called Thomas Height.

Back to the direct line: William and Susan had 11 children. Seven children survived into adulthood. They were Caroline Elizabeth born 1861 Castlemaine, Anna Jane born 1863 Yandoit, Harriet Maria born 1865 Sand, Robert William born 1868 Green Gully (his name is noted on Jack and Alma's marriage certificate as Albert William Height) Rachel Ada born 1870 Stra, Henry Alfred born 1872 Stra, Sarah Jane born 1875 Newstead. The children listed below did not live more than a few days, Susan Edith born 1877, John born 1880, Anne born 1881 all born Newstead and May born 1882 Carlton.

Question? Why did they go to Carlton?

Back to direct line: Robert William Height m Catherine Roberts in 1894. Catherine was born Campbelltown and was employed as a domestic. They were 26 (Robert) and 20 (Catherine) when they married in a private house in Campbelltown. Thomas James Cory was the Bible Christian Minister. The bride's mother gave written consent for the marriage and witnesses on the day were Catherine Jones and Margaret Griffiths.

Catherine's parents were Richard Robert and Margaret nee Jones. They were farmers and Robert's father was listed as a labourer.

Were the witnesses' aunties of Catherine's?

That's where we are up to, more info might be available if you are interested.

I am yet to find time to delve deeper into the mining accident of Robert William Height and the links in England. I am also keen to find a link between all the Height families in the Bendigo region as I believe they may all be related. They bred like rabbits back then so it will be hard.

I have made contact with a relative from a

William Thomas Height born Chewton who married a Margaret West born Nathalia. They have Height links in Wagin W.A. Not much has come of that yet.

If you have any info or anecdotes from the past please feel free to put pen to paper or email or telephone me at the below contacts

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Tongala 3621

Ph 03 58591139 / 0427 591 139

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\* \* \* \* \*

### Cootes / Coots / Coates ???

Can anyone help me over my brick wall?

The only thing my Aunts told me about Thomas Cootes was that he was a Garrison Soldier.

Marriage Cert. 386: 15<sup>th</sup> May 1849, Thomas Coots m Emma Collet at St John the Baptist's Church, Mudgee, NSW, was a widower.

I have map of land stated in his will... Lewis St, Mudgee. Section 11 allotments 3 & 4. (Cootes)

Death Cert. 004626: 31<sup>st</sup> May 1864... (transcribed as Coates) Thomas Coots died Mudgee. Death Cert. Informant was Thomas Fowler, Undertaker and Registration was Stafford Barnes, Chemist. Details included occupation butcher, born Newcastle upon Tyne, about 30 years in NSW, no children of this marriage and wife Emma Miles (not Collet as on their marriage cert.).

Will and Testament 6074: 19<sup>th</sup> May 1864...

This Will states Thomas Coots in the County of Wellington and Colony of NSW, Landowner. Thomas Coots left half of his Estate to his wife Emma Coots and the second half to be put into Government or Bank Securities, for the maintenance of his

adopted son Thomas Coots while under the age of 21.

This adopted son, my Great Grandfather Thomas Cootes m Elizabeth Johan Robertson at Registrar's Office Sydney, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1886. He died in Tasmania and normal residence was Kelly Basin, Tasmania. Thomas and Elizabeth Johan Cootes had four children between 1887 and 1901, 1. Thomas Robertson Cootes (my Grandfather) b Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW, 2. Mary Churchill Cootes, 3. George Frederick James Cootes, 4. Flora Eva Cootes all born Tasmania.

My Grandfather Thomas Roberston Cootes m Isabella Jane Wilkins St John's Malvern, Vic. and had five children, Melville Lyle Robertson Cootes, Ronald James George Cootes, Dorothy Joan Cootes, all born Malvern, Vic, Marjorie Isabelle Cootes b Tasmania, and Hazel Irene Cootes b Mathoura, NSW.

Does any reader of Bridges and Branches have any connection or information that may be helpful in climbing this wall of mine.

*Rosemary Fraser*

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0417354499

## Research Excursion

to

### The Public Records Office of Victoria

**When:** Saturday 28 October  
**Cost:** \$30.00 per person, BYO lunch  
**Time:** Leaving Echuca Railway Station at 7am  
Leaving PROV 3.30pm returning Echuca 7pm

**Reservations & Payment to:**

Helen Hastie 5859 0348 (to reserve seat)  
Seats will not be secured until payment is made.  
All payments to be made to Helen.  
Please place correct money in a sealed envelope with your name.  
If paying by cheque make cheques payable to E-MFHG inc

**Deadline:**

Money to be paid to Helen by 7<sup>th</sup> October

**Details:**

Shauna Hicks from PROV will be at the September meeting to tell how we can carry out our research using PROV records.

### Pew Sheets

Have you noticed that we are collecting pew sheets given out at funeral services, baptisms etc? If you have any sheets no longer required can you donate them to the library? There is a plastic container in the Group's Library and will be progressively indexed. This will give us dates of birth and death and other info. If you cannot find the container label them with the researcher's name. Thanks.

If undeliverable return to  
Echuca-Moama  
Family History Group Inc.  
P.O. Box 707  
Echuca Vic 3564  
Print Post Approved  
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