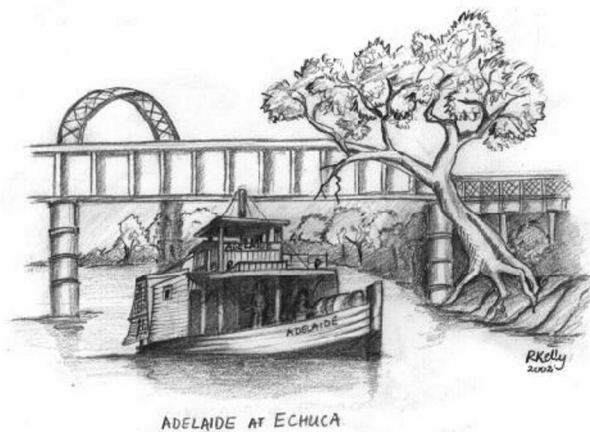


# Bridges & Branches

Number 75 September 2009



**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: Shirley Durrant  
Secretary: John Howe  
Assistant Secretary: Rosemary Fraser  
Treasurer: Sue O'Loughlin  
Librarian: Lorraine Johnson

Editorial Committee: Pearl Collins, Shirley Durrant, Robyn Kelly,  
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**Meetings** held in the Community Health Centre, Martin Street, Moama, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm from September to April, and the third Saturday at 1.30 pm from May to August. No meetings December or January.

The **Research Room** is open and manned every Monday, and the first and third Friday of each month from 11.00am-3.00pm, the third Sunday of each month from 1.00pm - 3.00pm

At other times contact Pearl Collins for information.

**Echuca Cemetery,  
Monumental Transcripts  
& Index to Burials.  
1860 - 1998.**

Set of 9 fiche, \$40.

Complete index to the eleven volumes of burial records, 11 000 names, with full transcriptions of all headstones to 1998

**Echuca District Hospital  
Admission Books Index.  
1882 - 1931**

Set of 4 fiche, \$30

Approx 18 000 entries

Information includes full name, age, year, result, place of birth, place of residence.

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 nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-  
pcollins1@iinet.net.au or ksduarrant@ozsky.net or rrkelly@bigpond.com

## Annual report from the President

The Echuca-Moama Family History Group has had a very positive year by increasing our membership, responding to more inquiries and continuing with the preservation of local records. We are still comfortably housed in our 'palatial' residence the old Murray Hotel, and we are still attracting a solid passing trade of researchers. We have continued with the roster system of opening the rooms every Monday, the first and third Friday's of the month and every third Sunday. A small and dedicated band of members volunteer to cover these days and I hope that more of the members will find the time to offer their services this coming year, as this roster duty is a great way to meet people and develop more rapport with other members.

Our membership has increased so that at the end of June it was 147 members. We have continued to be a group who are characterised by friendliness, and helpfulness, with a dedication to the pursuit of family history. During this year we have continued with classes in family history, research for the public, through the website and the mail, and for the first time we offered a workshop for Senior's in October for Seniors Week that was sponsored by the shire.

Research has been one of the major sources of revenue this year and there are an enormous number of inquiries through our website each month, as well as those by letter or in person. Pearl Collins has provided her clients the best possible service in this area by spending many, many hours carrying out thorough research. She has been joined in this endeavour by Rosemary and Neil Fraser who have taken over her work load when she was unavailable because of health

issues. Rosemary and Neil have provided the same thorough research to the public. They will continue to do research for postal inquiries, and Rosemary is now collecting the mail too. Other members have continued to help the public and members while on duty in the rooms each week. There are the essential tasks that many of our members do each week without public recognition, so thank you to the people who cut out the newspaper cuttings, namely Leo Pain, Pearl Collins and Betty Harrison. Betty also organises the news packs that circulate around the members. There are also the people who do the filing every week in the rooms, but particularly Pearl and Lorraine Haines.

Our research has been enhanced considerably with the purchase of more resources that were chosen at our September meeting last year. The resource renewal process is managed by Lorraine Johnson, our librarian and her thorough work, firstly compiling the list with the assistance of other member's recommendations, and secondly her excellent presentation of what we needed at that meeting when the list was finalized, makes our purchase of resources a very smooth process. We have also had substantial donations of books made to us by individuals and the local Secondary College, and these donations have been incorporated by Lorraine Johnson into our library. Lorraine should be congratulated for her work as she also completes many smaller jobs that most members take for granted and organises the Christmas hamper raffle which was very successful last December. We also have other smaller fund raisers, such knitted items, jams and preserves for sale and the members who have made

these items are greatly appreciated.

Our physical resources have been enhanced by the addition of five new LCD computer screens. Three were purchased with money we received from the Federal Government's Volunteer's Grants Program and the committee decided to purchase two more, so that there are uniform screens on all of the computer's in the main research room. All of the computers in the main room have XP on them, and we have tried to install as many programs as possible on them. Chris Buckley has used his expertise to update programs on these computers and he has donated two Computer towers, (central processing units) so that our computer resources are the best they have ever been for our members. We are grateful to Chris for his work.

Bridges and Branches our quarterly magazine continues publication under Shirley Durrant's skilful collation and editing. Pearl Collins and Robyn Kelly are great proof readers for the magazine before it goes to print. We publish about 220 copies of our quarterly magazine of which 90 are forwarded to Family History Groups throughout Australia. We are now sending copies of B&B to members by email. Shirley and John Howe who manages our email correspondence have facilitated this new distribution. John has also continued in his role as secretary for the group and provides detailed and accurate records for all to read. Robyn Kelly, who manages our website, is to be congratulated as last October we received advice from Genealogy Search Australia, (GSA) that they had indexed our website and we were congratulated on "a great family history website". This was wonderful

news as GSA is the largest family history search engine in Australia. It also means that this listing will generate more visitors to our website. Robyn has also updated our Group Manual with assistance from the committee.

Recently we applied for funding from the Echuca Moama Community Enterprise Small Community Grants Program funded by the Bendigo Bank for the restoration of the Moama Cemetery Records. A thorough application was written by Anita Bartlett after the sub committee, of Shirley Durrant, Pearl Collins, Chris Buckley and Wendy Hicks contributed many suggestions. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in obtaining funding, but the project will continue and alternative funding will be sought. When the project is completed it will be a significant contribution to the history of the district. Anita has also completed a digital record of the Echuca Cemetery Records too. This has been a large task and we appreciate what Anita has done.

We have three committee members who will not continue next year. As you know Marilyn Wicking has resigned as treasurer because she moved to Bairnsdale. During her time in the group she put together a consolidated index of indexes, named in her honour as the "Wicking Index". Marilyn also managed our finances very well as our treasurer in the last year. Marcia Burnie, our Vice President, and Marie McDonald, our guest speaker organiser, are not continuing, so thank you both for your work on the committee and your contribution to the group. All the Committee members should be congratulated for the work they do every month at the committee meeting and in

the organisation of the group events. They give generously of their time and this means that the monthly meetings are well organised and interesting for all the members who attend them. They are a great team. We had a very interesting excursion to Heathcote this year organised by Helen Hastie and a cemetery walk for members before the March meeting which was so successful that another is planned in the future.

Unfortunately the big news at the moment is the announcement that the Shire has put a halt to the new Community Hub project for the next three months while a financial review of the project is undertaken. The statement that, the review wants to establish whether the 'project meets the council and the community needs', seems to me to be broad enough to find reasons to put a halt to the original project. Another statement in the announcement

was more alarming in that it stated that there might be 'other less costly solutions' possible. It seems that there is not much optimism about the project going ahead. We are lucky to have our present location and are grateful in this present climate. This is not the most optimistic note on which to end my report, but we must realise that the times are difficult at the moment financially in the community. We should always remember that we have a comfortable 'home' and the support of the Shire. We can still continue pursuing our passion of researching the past and providing a lasting legacy for the future by building on our historical resources.

Thank you to all members for your support of the committee and myself as president.

*Judy McCleary 2009*

### **Moama Cemetery Information Day**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October between 10.00am & 4.00pm**

As part of the project to identify as many as possible of those who have been buried at the Moama Cemetery, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009, the Echuca Moama Family History Group, will be holding an "Information Gathering Day" at the St. James' Hall, in Maiden Street, Moama.

The Group is inviting everyone who has knowledge of people who have been buried at the cemetery, especially those in unmarked graves, to come along and help to fill in the many gaps in the Cemetery Records. Of particular interest, is the period between 1940 and the mid 1970s when the headstones seem to be the chief source of information in the records.

If anyone has certificates, documents or paper cutting, please bring them along, there will be copying facilities available so that all the information can be recorded.

#### **New Members**

Junenne Beasley  
Joan Matthews  
Raymond Riordan

Kerry Gibson  
John Naughton  
Alison Simson

Alexis Lehmann  
Harley Nicholls  
Elena Turner

Welcome to you all.

## **JOHN BARRY/BERRY** **40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot.**

Maria Island is situated off the eastern coast of Tasmania. Today, it is well regarded as a National Park where visitors enjoy bush walks, bird-watching and the stunning scenery. In 1825, a penal colony was established on the island by Governor George Arthur to ease the pressure on Hobart Town. The convicts were engaged in timber-cutting, shoe-making and cloth production. The main settlement was at Darlington but when Port Arthur was established, the small penal colony on the island was closed in 1832. My GGG. Grandfather, John Barry, came to Sarah Island with the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot on his Tour of Duty in Australia from 1823-29. He is my earliest known ancestor to arrive in Australia. Given that I have three convict grandparents who arrived in the 1830s and 1840s, it was interesting to find one who came out on the right side of the law. Actually, he was the law!

John Barry (the family has since clearly written the name as Berry on certificates) joined the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment, in Dublin on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1813. He was stationed in Ireland at Athlone and Mallow, then Plymouth in England before being sent to Brussels in 1815 where the regiment played a distinguished role in the Battle of Waterloo. They were personally ordered to advance by the Duke of Wellington and charged, defeating the French infantry in front of them and recaptured La Haye Sainte. Reports record that the Regiment lost 25% of its number that day and were hailed for their "steadfastness and discipline".

In 1816-17, the Regiment were posted to Glasgow where John married Sarah

Leckie on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1817. A son, James, was born at Greenock near Glasgow, around 1820. Their second son John (my GG. Grandfather) was born near Strabane, County Tyrone in Ireland around 1823. It seems clear from army records that Sarah did not follow her husband overseas but remained near Strabane in Ireland. A guest speaker on Irish records- Irene Fullerton-established that there was a townland record for a Barry family in Strabane so perhaps Sarah remained there with family. Certainly the life of an army wife in the C19<sup>th</sup> was very harsh and not one to relish with two young children in tow. Soldiers were actively discouraged from marrying.

I will briefly explain his sons' stories before continuing with John Barry. We know little of what happened to Sarah but her two sons both arrived at Port Phillip as Bounty Immigrants aboard the *Catherine Jamieson* on 22 October, 1841 having sailed from Leith, Scotland. They gave their native place as Tyrone and both could read and write. (It is at this stage that Barry is written quite consistently as Berry.) On February 18<sup>th</sup> 1847, John Berry married Jessie Cameron, native of Argyll, at St. James Church in Melbourne. His brother, James Berry died tragically as a result of a threshing machine accident near Lorne in 1861. He was survived by a daughter Eliza, who gave birth to triplets named Hope, Faith and Charity, all of whom died. The sons were aware of their father's occupation and key details, recording them on various certificates many years later, establishing that they knew of his travels to Australia. Perhaps

they were encouraged to follow in his footsteps...

To return to John's Barry senior's story, he sailed to Australia with the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment in 1823 on the ship *Medina*, with 177 Irish convicts on board. He spent time at Parramatta, Bathurst and Moreton Bay before embarking for Van Diemen's Land in 1825. He spent almost a year at Maria Island with shorter periods at Port Dalrymple, Longford and Clyde (NSW). The Regiment performed a variety of duties such as establishing and maintaining the Mounted Police, constructing fortifications, attending fires, assisting police, acting as guards, manning coastal defences and dealing with aboriginal resistance.

John Barry's regiment was posted to India in late 1828 although he did not arrive at Bombay until the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 1829. He then served in India for nearly nine years where he was based at Bombay, Poona, Colaba and Deesa. During this time, he had several stays in

hospital. It had been a demanding life and the harsh Indian climate also took its toll.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1838, he boarded the *Boyne* with a group of fellow soldiers classed as "invalids and men for a change of climate" and set sail for England. However, he was never to see his home or family for he died on board ship on April 27<sup>th</sup> 1838 and was buried at sea.

In many respects, it is a sad story and the life of both this Irish soldier in the British Army and the wife and sons he left behind, was a challenging one yet it also brought opportunities. I learned most of this story from my cousin Brian Peter Bond, who excitedly emailed me some time ago to tell me of his discovery that John and James Berry's father had been here long before their arrival in 1841. A detailed account of John Barry's story and the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment can be found via his home page.

*Kaye McFarlane*

### O'Dwyer Family Gathering

Leslie Ronald O'Dwyer was a small boy of about 9 years of age when he accompanied his father, John O'Dwyer to the Colac train station. The family lived alongside the railway station and Les was able to race home to wave his Dad off on his journey to places unknown.

This was the last time Les saw his father, Matthew John O'Dwyer, D.O.B. 29.04.1903

The O'Dwyer family of Edward Thomas (Ned) & Johanna Quinlan (John's parents) are having a re-union in Victoria at the Coonawarra Resort, Stratford on the weekend of 9-11<sup>th</sup> October for anyone who is related to the family, to get together and share stories before we all forget them.

Pat Jacques phone (03) 51 458 287 or Jo Flynn (03) 9804 8804 are taking bookings for the event, if there is anyone out there who might be related and would like to come along and find the rest of the clan, please give the girls a call to organise getting together.

## A Face From The Great War.

Thanks to the internet we now have a face and facts for my Great Uncle Alex. A portrait of No 6268 Pte Alexander Stewart Fraser held at the Australian War Memorial along with several other in depth articles tell the story of his short life of twenty-three years. The most touching of these is the copy of his enlistment to serve his country with the hard cold fact stamped across them "KILLED IN ACTION".

Alexander Stewart (Sandy) Fraser was the ninth child born to Donald and Elizabeth (nee Stewart) Fraser. He was the youngest brother of my Grandfather John Alexander Fraser.

Alexander's family (Grandfather Hugh and his five children including Alexander's father Donald aged sixteen arrived in Melbourne 5<sup>th</sup> November 1859 as Unassisted passengers on the ship *The Herald Of The Morning* from Scotland. The family settled in the small community of Timmering half way between the larger communities of Rochester and Kyabram. Three generations of Frasers lived and farmed the same property for over one hundred years but unfortunately Alexander wasn't to be one of them.

The 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1916 saw a young man of fresh complexion fit for active service awaiting call up to enlist for overseas service.

Alexander Stewart (Sandy) Fraser born Timmering Victoria 1893, Occupation: Farmer. Eyes Grey. Hair Dark Brown, Height 5 feet 8 inches, Weight 227lbs.

The last time his mother Elizabeth, his five brothers and three sisters saw this healthy young twenty three year old was 11<sup>th</sup> September 1916 when he joined the 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion on board HMAS *Euripides* in Melbourne headed for

England shores. After training in England he joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1916. He was killed in action at Lagnicourt, France on 23rd April 1917. Pte Fraser has no known grave and his name is commemorated on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial, France. Here on this memorial are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and all have no known graves. Back home in Australia we are proud to have witnessed local memorials with his name along side other family members who fought in the Great War. Our personal memorial is in the form of a plaque placed on the grave of his parents Donald and Elizabeth Fraser at the Rochester Cemetery.

"THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR  
EVERMORE"

*Neal Stewart Fraser*

### **IN MEMORY OF**

Our brave men  
Who paid the supreme sacrifice  
Fighting for God, King & Country  
In The Great War  
1914 - 1919  
JACKSON E.L.  
FRASER A.S.  
CAMPBELL W.  
HARPER J.  
LAMB V  
SLY S.A.  
ROBINSON G.W.  
REID A.  
JULIEN A.

These names are from the Memorial Board in the Timmering Presbyterian Church. The final service conducted at the Presbyterian Church Timmering on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and the planned 'Back To Timmering' October 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 prompted me to write this article.

*NSF*



**Echuca - Moama Family History Group Inc**  
**Office Bearers 2009 - 2010**  
**Executive Committee**

*President:* Judy McCleary

*Vice President:* Shirley Durrant

*Secretary:* John Howe

*Assistant Secretary:* Rosemary Fraser

*Treasurer:* Sue O'Loughlin

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

*Librarian:* Lorraine Johnson

*Research Officer:* Rosemary Fraser

*Research Officer, email:* Pearl Collins

*Webmaster:* Robyn Kelly

*Editor Bridges & Branches:* Shirley Durrant

*Speaker Co-ordinator:* Phillip Johnson

*Education Officer:* Judy McCleary

*Publicity Officer:* Marjorie Grant

*Duty Roster:* Shirley Durrant

*New Members:* Pearl Collins

*Excursions Co-ordinator:* Helen Hastie

*Committee People:* Lorraine Haines & Wilma Gamble

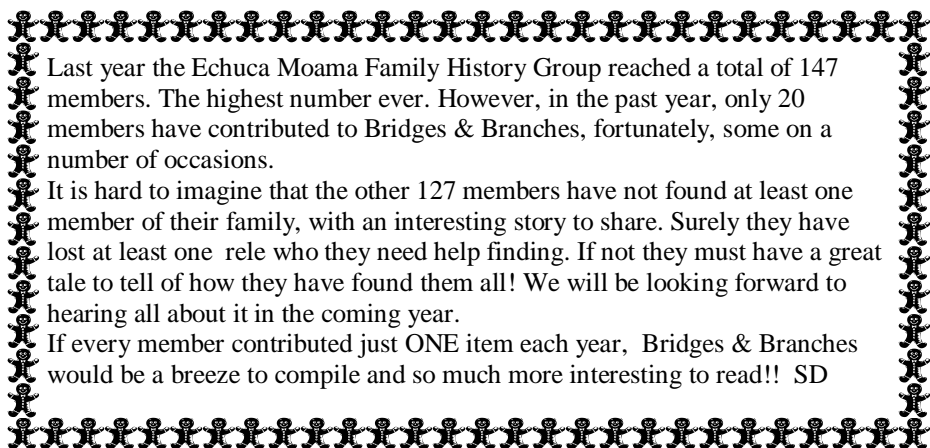
**Other Appointment**

*Public Officer:* Helen Bennett

*Newsletter Packs:* Betty Harrison

*GSV Rep:* Phillip Johnson

*Social Secretary:* Wendy Hicks



Last year the Echuca Moama Family History Group reached a total of 147 members. The highest number ever. However, in the past year, only 20 members have contributed to Bridges & Branches, fortunately, some on a number of occasions.

It is hard to imagine that the other 127 members have not found at least one member of their family, with an interesting story to share. Surely they have lost at least one relative who they need help finding. If not they must have a great tale to tell of how they have found them all! We will be looking forward to hearing all about it in the coming year.

If every member contributed just ONE item each year, Bridges & Branches would be a breeze to compile and so much more interesting to read!! SD

**Coming Meetings**

7.30pm 15<sup>th</sup> October

David Cotton from Bendigo AIGS

7.30pm 19<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Break-up,

Award for a Christmas Card with a story

My Convict Ancestors – Pride or Shame  
Primmer/Murphy and Johnson/Witt

Charles Primmer, a Bricklayer and Calico Glazier, from my maternal side of the family was tried at the Old Bailey London during the Fourth session on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1815, Middlesex Goal Delivery. He was sentenced to life for stealing a watch valued at 6/-, chain valued at 2/-, seal valued at 7/-, key valued at 10/- the property of Walter Evans. Charles Primmer arrived in Sydney on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1816 aboard *Ocean 1* and his Convict Indent states that he was 5'4½" tall with dark ruddy complexion, brown hair and brown eyes.

There are three entries for Ticket of Leave Passports for Primmer, Charles, the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1843, 11<sup>th</sup> December 1844 and 8<sup>th</sup> October 1846 all on the recommendation of the Queenbeyan Bench. Also T.O.L. #27/545 no date listed

Continuing from my maternal side are James and Catherine Murphy with children Patrick and Roseanna (Rose) arriving aboard the vessel *Argyle*. The barge *Argyle* departed from Plymouth 12<sup>th</sup> December 1838 arrived in Sydney 1<sup>st</sup> April 1839. They came as assisted migrants (Marshall Migrants); John Marshall was the Emigration agent. They left the older children, William, Bridget and James in Ireland. Shipping indexes show James and Catherine "were of good character, in good health, and could both read".

Some of the Primmer children, according to family stories, had their birth registered as "Murphy" because of the stigma attached to being a child of a convict. There may have been other reasons. However today it is probably with pride we claim "Convict Ancestors" as opposed to today's criminals!

Continuing on my maternal side, James Murphy came from Dealstown County Meath, Ireland and "Summerhill" in County Meath was the birthplace of Catherine. Her headstone in the Gegezderick cemetery, Berridale, reads "Catherine Murphy, wife of James Murphy, died at Woolway, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1868, aged 82 years. Maiden name, Fitzgerald, native of Summerhill, County Meath, Ireland"

Although other members of the Murphy family are also buried at Gegezderick, no record of James can be found.

The paternal side is not to miss out. William Johnson was born in 1815 in Canfield, Essex and was tried, together with William Turner, at the Old Bailey on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 1836. They were indicted for stealing on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1836, 72 yards of printed cotton valued at £21.7s, the goods of George Mead. They were both sentenced to transportation for seven years.

William Johnson arrived in Port Jackson on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1837 aboard the *Mangles*.

Charles Witt was born 1826 in Longstanton or Long Stanton, Cambridgeshire, England and arrived in Australia with his wife Margaret on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1855 aboard the *Ascendant*. However there appears to be a Long Stanton in Lincolnshire, so I don't know.

Should any reader have any hints or contacts I would be pleased to receive them as my research continues.

My email address is  
philandbren@bigpond.com

*Phillip Johnson*

## MEMBERS' Profiles

For privacy reasons the details on this page have been deleted. Please see printed copy for details.

This is one was heard on Father's Day - There was a father who, trying to keep his son occupied, cut up a picture of the world into jig-saw pieces. Soon afterwards, his son brought him the puzzle, completed. Surprised, his father asked him, "How did you get this puzzle back together so soon?" His son replied, "Well Dad, there was a picture of a man on the other side - so I just put the man right, and that made the world come right!!"

A mistake is only proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something

## Lost Waldemar Westergaard

I have a missing great great uncle, Waldemar Westergaard (the "W" could be a "V" - they are interchangeable in Danish) who disappeared from the Danish West Indies between 1850 and 1855, he was born in Copenhagen 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1831. I suspect that he may have gone to the Californian goldfields and could have ended up in Victoria. I know I am clutching at straws but I have exhausted all other possible avenues and am now following up any possible lead

in the hope of finding him. I have been told that at one time there was a person with the surname, WESTERGAARD, living at Echuca - possibly a boat builder. I wonder if any of your members have any knowledge of him that they would be prepared to share with me?

Ian Westergaard  
New Zealand  
Email - <ian.westergaard@ihug.co.nz>

## Can You Help

The Family History Group has become aware of two burials at the Tatalia Cemetery, and they would like to hear from anyone who knows where the cemetery was situated.

A newspaper cutting states that Anton Holschier was buried at Tatalia in 1916 and according to the Deaths at Moama Index, in January 1886, Eva Wilkins, the daughter of the school teacher, George Wilkins was buried at the Tatalia Cemetery.

The Tatalia School opened in 1874, just the second school after Moama, to open in the area. The brick building had a school room attached to the four-roomed teacher's residence, and was situated just off 24 Lane, on land now occupied by the Rich River Gulf Club. As the number of pupils fluctuated over the years the school closed and reopened on several occasions, finally closing in 1941. A small plaque marks the site of the school and residence.

The first church service was conducted at Tatalia was in 1869 by the Wesleyan Church, in a building Close to the Murray River. In 1900 a weatherboard church was built near the Tatalia School, off 24 Lane. This Church was moved to the corner of Thyra Road and Hillside Lane in 1917. In about 1930 the church closed and a row of trees is all that remains to mark the site.

In the early 1900's tennis courts were made near the Tatalia School and Church where social tennis was played for a number of years.

With the school, church and tennis courts situated off 24 lane it would seem likely that the cemetery was also in this area.

The property from which the district derives the name was spelt Tattaila, and over the years both spellings have been used. In about 1930 the spelling of the name of the school, was officially changed to Tatalia and that spelling has generally been used since.

The Family History Group would like to hear from anyone can identify the site of the cemetery.

*Shirley Durrant*

## The Port of Echuca

How many hotels has Echuca? Well, once the river traffic was so great here that the settled residents and the ever-moving river navy supported 80 hotels at the one time. The grandest of them were on the Esplanade. Nowadays the bulk of the traffic is carried by rail. In 1885, 47 boats were in commission trading at this port, and they handled 93 000 bales of wool. This year there are but 11 boats active in local water, and just 2 000 bales were shipped.

Alfred Deakin, when speaking of Irrigation and Transport some 40 years ago, said that from Albury to Mildura, within 20 miles of the stream on either side, there could be settled in prosperity, twenty million people. Border railways and locks are bringing this project nearer visualization, but the solution will be the completion of the Hume Reservoir. In 25 years time, the Riverina and the north of Victoria will resemble countries bordering the Danube, the ports of which shelter the crafts of all nations.

Twenty-four years ago, on the NSW side, land could be given away - with difficulty on the part of the donor; in 1910 it was sold for 18/- (\$1.80) and acre; just before the Border Railway Agreement, it reached £12-10-0 (\$27); immediately after the Act, it jumped to £27-10-0 and is now £30 (\$60).

We are living in the most prolific shipbuilding area ever known in this hemisphere. On Echuca slips, 71 boats (including 35 barges) which are still classed as in A1 order on the "Register of Australian Shipping" were laid down; while on the Moama slip, 21 boats (of which 9 were barges) had their birth, and all these are still in their prime. The Moama slip was opposite the northern end of the present wharf. The record tonnage for a barge was

the *John Campbell* of 243 tons at Echuca and the paddle steamer *Dora* 6 tons.

Captain Lubert, born in France, came to Australia in 1880 and worked on a Government snagging steamer on the Goulburn, Murray Murrumbidgee and Darling rivers. He visited Echuca between the years 1882-84. There was both fun and loneliness on the old river streamers. When in the almost constant state of being "40 miles from anywhere" the Captain filled his time with some skilful handwork. His rugs, sown with worsted on canvas, and as bright, as soft, as cosily warming as brand-new ones, were made in 1898, and have won certificates of merit when compared with finest tapestry and needlework at various shows.

Along the banks strayed diverse prospective meals for hungry sailors; Kangaroo-tail soup was common-place when potatoes were a luxury. Fish, 12 to 20 lbs were easily caught and were kept fresh by tethering them to the boat until needed. And ducks! The crew have to shoot a way through them to allow the boat to pass. Coming up-stream to Echuca one Tuesday, the snagging steamer passed the *Korong* going down. The Government boat left Echuca at 9.00pm on Wednesday, and travelled to Wilcannia, 1 000 miles away via Wentworth, by 11.00am on the following Wednesday; and despite the *Korong* taking a short cut made for boats of shallow draught, the commercial boat was beaten easily. How the stokers worked in those days of honest rivalry as speed-kings!

*(The above story, author unknown, was printed in the 1928, The Boomerang, the Echuca High School's magazine. The EMFHG would welcome any further copies of the magazine to add to their library.)*

## Great great grandmother, Helen Stevenson McLay

My great great grandmother, Ellen (Helen) McLay was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1827 at Balfon Scotland. She was the youngest of William and Elizabeth (Gilfillan) McLay's four children. William died soon after leaving Elizabeth with the four young children. About the same time the younger of the two sons also died. The family always said that Elizabeth was a capable manager, which was supported by the obituary which appeared in the *Balfon Observer* following her death. She was described her as "the greatest reformer in the Parish ...Her death is considered a severe stroke to the well-informed in the village"

After her mother's death, Helen sailed from Liverpool on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1854 on the *Sir Charles Napier*, arriving in Geelong on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1855. A large proportion of the passengers on the ship were single women who were listed as Ag. Servants. Helen was engaged as a servant by Dr Stoddarts at Colac. While visiting friends in Melbourne, Helen met James McKindlay and they were married at Bulleen on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1857. Elizabeth, the first of their seven children was born at Bulleen in 1859. Helen and James then moved to the Kyneton district where three children were born at Pipers Creek and the last three were born at Barfold.

In the 1870's James selected land at Womboota, north of Moama, and he and three of the older children moved north to live on the blocks, and to build a house. Helen and the younger children stayed on the farm at Barfold, so the children could continue to attend school. When the land at Barfold was sold Helen and the children moved to NSW. After James died in 1900, Helen and her single daughter retired to Heygarth St in Echuca. They were joined in 1908 by Helen's youngest daughter who had been left a widow with three daughters. Amongst the possessions which Helen brought with her from Scotland were two books. One was *The Housekeeper's Receipt-Book or Repository of Domestic Knowledge*. It had been owned by her mother in 1819 and contains all the information any prospective wife would need to know. There are recipes for everything you might like to cook from Potted Pigeon to French Rolls, and a great variety of wines to brew. You can learn how to manage the dairy, the poultry, the bees, and a month by month guide to managing the garden. Then there is the medical section, budgeting, and a miscellaneous section which contains an amazing collection of hints. It even included directions on how to make a copy of a letter. The second book is a small note book in which Helen's mother had recorded a variety of information she thought worth knowing. In it Elizabeth explains how to tell the day of the month without a calendar. In 1851 she wrote, "The present year began on a Wednesday so will the first of October you'll find if you try, the second of April as well as July. The third of September which rhymes with December, the fourth day of June and no other remember, the fifth of the Leap month of March and November. The sixth day of August and seventh day of May, show the first of the year in the name of the day. But in Leap year when Leap month was duly recorded these month dates will show not the first but the second.. She includes the number of verses, chapters and books in the Bible and says that eating raw potato will cure scurvy. They are both very special books to have.

*Shirley Durrant*

## New to Library — 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009 – 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

Items donated by the following members as indicated Wendy Hicks \*; Heather Rendle +; Lorraine Johnson #; John Howe <; Pearl Collins \*\*; Alex Kent >; Ruth O'Connor ^; Margaret Smith >>; Glennys Main ##; Merrilyn McClean <<;

### C.D's

193	Passenger Arrivals at Port Phillip 1846	1 CD
194**	Cobb Family	1 CD
195>	Chathan, Kent, England Baptisms 1820-1830	1 CD
196>>	St Andrews Registers	1 CD
197^	Cemeteries of South West Victoria	1 CD

### BOOKS

<u>Accession No.</u>	<u>Title &amp; Author</u>	<u>Located</u>
1473*	Bal Maidens by LynneMayers	English
1474+	Walls Of Fire by Joyce Hammond	Local
1475#	Early Pioneer Families of Victoria & Riverina by Alexander Henderson	Vic
1476<	Mooroopna to 1988	Vic
1477<	Kilmore on the Sydney Road by Maya V. Tucker	Vic
1478<	Grapes and Gold by Arthur Kuehne	Vic
1479	A Colonial Woman by Patricia Clarke	Biographies
1480	Office of Australian War Graves	Military
1481	Marched In by Lurline & Arthur Knee	Local
1482>>	Indexed Records of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Echuca, by Margaret Smith	Local
1483<<	In Search of South Africa by H.V. Morton	Sth Africa
1484<<	Lift up your Hearts by Alfred Phillips	Vic
1485<<	Cemetery Websites by Marion Boyd	Aust
1486##	Gwendoline Mierisch – Her Story by Gwendoline Mierisch	Biographies
1487##	Smithy the true story by Ward McNally	Biographies
1488##	My Journey 1910-2000 by Shannon Smith	Biographies
1489##	Flight into Hell by Hans Bertram	Biographies
1490##	Kimberley Warrior by John Nicholson	Indigenous
1491##	River Girl by Glenda Andrew	Indigenous
1492##	Mother & Daughter by Sally Morgan	Indigenous
1493##	Arthur Corunna's Story by Sally Morgan	Indigenous
1494##	My Place by Sally Morgan	Indigenous
1495##	Diary of a Welsh Swagman by William Evans	Biographies
1496##	The Old Melbourne Goal	Vic
1497##	Dictionary of Australian History by Brian Murphy	Aust1
498##	1000 Famous Australians	Aust
1499##	The Cambridge Encyclopaedia by Susan Bambrick	Aust
1500##	That's Our Aust House by N. Hudson/P. McEwan	Vic
1501##	Heritage Victoria	Vic

**Wanted**

For our newer members: We would like to index and file copies of service leaflets eg funeral, marriage, baptism and naming sheets. Anything with names on them! Already they are proving useful as I noted a member referring to them the other day. I was glad we could help. Several members have been having a clean up and we have them years old. It doesn't matter. Not everyone places an advert in 'The Riv' at the time.

**For Sale.**

**Echuca - Moama Family History Group publications**

Pioneers of the Echuca & Moama Districts ~ Pre 1900, 45 district families  
Pioneers of the Echuca & Moama Districts ~ Pre 1925, 53 district families  
Pioneers of the Echuca & Moama Districts ~ Pre 1940, 52 district families  
\$12 each plus P & P

**Gone Missing!**

For those who read the newsletter packets, please remind yourselves to look under oddments at home and help us find missing packs. They are an excellent resource for the researchers and members alike. Please pass them on.

**Please note.** A Red Spot on your newsletter indicates that at the time of printing EMFHG had not received your membership renewal for 2009-2010. Unfortunately therefore, this will be the last copy of Bridges & Branches you will receive until you are a financial member again. Please ignore this if your payment has been made in the past two weeks.

If undeliverable return to  
Echuca-Moama  
Family History Group Inc.  
P.O. Box 707  
Echuca Vic 3564  
Print Post Approved  
PP 331766/00012

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