

Have you ever thought about the name 'genealogy'? Like most 'alogies', once you have come into contact with gene-alogy it will be with you forever. It is also contagious and is affecting more and more people in Australia every year. The most common symptoms of gene-alogy are an obsession with letters, postmen and mail, followed by frequent visits to libraries, cemeteries, and public record offices !!!

OVERSEAS NEWS

England

Research at the Devon Record Office.

The following genealogical services are offered by the Devon Record Office:

- (i) If the exact date of entry and the parish are known, a xerox copy can be made for 50p, the parish register or Bishop's transcripts permitting.
- (ii) If a more general search is required, it may be worthwhile to use the services of the genealogist on the staff of the Devon Record Office. A genealogist has been employed on a trial basis in order that genealogical and related searches can be undertaken on a paid basis. The fee is 5 per hour, payable in advance. The genealogist has direct access to collections in the Devon Record Office and Westcounty Studies Library. These collections include most Devon parish registers, census returns, tax and rate assessments and other inhabitants lists, trade directories, newspapers and comprehensive indices in both departments. There are no travelling expenses and a limited number of photocopies may be supplied where these can present the results of the search more economically.

To make use of this service send your remittance of £5 with concise details of the searches required to The Devon Record Office, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PO. Please remit in sterling or add £1 towards handling fees on each cheque. If, in the opinion of the staff, suitable material is not available, the whole remittance would be returned. Regrettably, partial cash refunds cannot be made.

English Census Records.

Essex has complete census for 1851-1871 except for Parishes which come into Essex in another county eg. Suffolk, Combs. Colechester library has 1841-1881 full county coverage as does Essex University library. In contrast, Suffolk R.O. has complete coverage for the whole county for all available dates.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Newspapers in Australian Libraries.

An informative publication, listing all newspapers which are available in Australian libraries, in 2 volumes.

Part 1 - Overseas Newspapers.

Part 2 - Australian Newspapers.

The second part, 'Australian Newspapers', lists the latest title of the newspaper, dates of publication, frequency of publication (i.e. weekly, daily), notes giving publication history, holders of microfilm history, newspaper offices' holdings, holdings of libraries.

Arrangement is alphabetical, by - name of State, then by town of publication, and finally by title. Cost is \$5-50 for two volumes and is available from National Library of Australia, Canberra.

Note: Part 2 is currently out of print and it is expected there will be, at least, a 2-3 month delay before it is available (i.e. June, July).

Census Records.

One of our members received this reply from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, after inquiring about census records for 1890-1900. There was only one census held in that period and that was 1891, but due to confidentiality reasons, all census forms with names and addresses have long since been destroyed.

Spelling? Spelling? Spelling.

Don't neglect alternative spellings for names when searching indexes to shipping lists, etc. Rack your brains to think out any possible misspelling, and, who knows! - you may strike gold! My lucky break came when I located Phyllis Gladstone under 'F' for Fillis Gladstone. Why hadn't I thought of that one? - Mrs. Dawn Cowley.

VICTORIAN NEWSGrave Reflections - From the "Maryborough Advertiser".

"Cemetery searching is not everyone's idea of a pleasant Sunday afternoon but at least two women, Jan Davidson and Helen Doxford (Harris) have found it a rewarding pastime." (Helen Doxford is also Supervisor of the Cemetery Transcriptions of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.) Jan Davidson and Helen Doxford found they shared an interest in cemeteries and decided to catalogue all known burial sites in various parts of Victoria. The result of their work, "Grave Reflections" Vol. 1, was published recently.

"Grave Reflections" is an alphabetical listing of burial sites with a selection of tombstones of interest. The first book covers the Central Goldfields area, including Amherst, Talbot, Avoca, Percydale, Carisbrook, Maryborough, Charlton, Dunolly, Stuart Mill, Tarnagulla, and others. The authors offer practical advice for cemetery searchers such as wearing boots to protect against mud in winter, snakes in summer and taking boards to facilitate getting near gravestones surrounded by long grass and blackberries. Also handy is chalk that can be rubbed against worn inscriptions to increase legibility.

The authors welcome correspondence on any of the gravesites and single graves. The book is priced at \$8-95 (plus \$1-50 postage) and a limited 1,500 copies have been published. They may be obtained from the authors at:

P.O. Box 92, Forest Hill. 3131

Public Record Office, Victoria.

Good news - for both family researchers and the staff at the P.R.O. The number of staff at the P.R.O. is to be increased by 6, making a total of 12. However, the bad news is that the freeze on correspondence with the P.R.O. remains at present.

The new system at the Public Record Office seems fair to everyone. Only one reel of microfilm at a time will be issued, and when that film has been viewed you must leave the reader and fill out a form for the next film you require. This enables someone else to use the reader, thus preventing one person from monopolizing the reader for what seems like hours on end. Congratulations to the P.R.O. on what appears to be a much more workable system.

Newspapers at the State Library.

Report from the December issue of "The Genealogist", the Journal of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. "A large number of Victorian and interstate newspapers are available in the form of microfilm on request at the La Trobe Library. However, some newspapers have not been microfilmed and are only available in their original form. The library staff have considerable difficulty in meeting the demand for the original newspapers and, therefore, have decided that requests for these items must be made to the library by telephoning (03) 669 9923 or (03) 669 9949 during working hours at least 24 hours prior to their being viewed". Country researchers write to the La Trobe Library.

Historical Resources of the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.1. Research Service.

To facilitate public access to the Department's historical information, a research service is available. Research is confined to the Department's own resources and charging is based on an hourly rate (\$10-00 per hour, as at February 1983). Important: Before requesting research assistance the enquirer must identify the person of interest. An ancestor's holding of Crown Land cannot be traced simply from a person's name.

The Department holds documents relating to leases and licences it has issued for Crown lands, and sales of Crown lands it has conducted. No occupancy details are held for land after the date of sale.

2. Parish Plans

The parish plan is the key to the Department's records system so an examination of the relevant plan should be the first step in any investigation of the Department's historical resources. The following details are recorded on parish plans:

- (i) The boundaries of Crown allotments.
- (ii) Allotment and section numbers which allow each allotment to be identified
- (iii) The name of the grantee
- (iv) The date of grant
- (v) Correspondence file numbers (where applicable).

Where the date of grant is not noted it can normally be assumed that the land was sold before the early 1850's.

Parish plans may be inspected at the Central Plan Office, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne, and at regional Land Offices. They may be purchased at the C.P.O. and the Map Sales Centre, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne.

3. Correspondence Files.

Correspondence files exist only where land was held under improvement leases and licences prior to being sold. All files refer to the post 1865 period and most post-date 1869. The files document proceedings leading up to the issuance of a Crown grant and normally include selectors' applications for land, licence and lease documents, details of land improvements, notices of rent arrears and miscellaneous letters.

The correspondence files are housed at the Department and at the Public Record Office, Laverton. Those held at the Department can be inspected by appointment. A fee is charged to cover administrative costs.

The location of files (whether at Treasury Place or Laverton) can be ascertained when inspecting plans at the Central Plan Office.

4. Sale Books

Sale books record sales by application or lot during 1860-69, and sales by auction from 1836. They detail the purchaser's name, the allotment acquired (allotment and section number, and parish name) the date of purchase and the price.

Sale books are not available for inspection.

ENGLISH RESEARCH SEMINAR.

The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies and the Genealogical Society of Victoria have combined to bring the noted English genealogist - Elizabeth Simpson - to Melbourne to lecture at a seminar to be held on Friday, 24th and Saturday, 25th June 1983.

Mrs. Simpson, a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, writes, teaches and lectures on family history and English local history. The seminar will consist of lectures by Mrs. Simpson on English Records, as well as a lecture by an Australian on the Australian Joint Copying Project. There will be ample time for questions, and afternoon tea will be served.

The programme presented on Friday will be repeated on Saturday; therefore, enrolment for one day only will be accepted.

Day 1 Friday 24th June 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm (doors open 12.30 pm)

Day 2 Saturday 25th June 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm (doors open 12.30 pm)

Venue National Mutual Theatre, 447 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Cost \$5-00 per person.

Since there is a limited number of seats available, bookings must be made by 1st June 1983 to the English Research Seminar, Room 6, 1st Floor, Block Arcade, 98 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne 3000. A stamped addressed envelope should be included for return of ticket(s).

Addresses of Family History Societies.

The March edition of 'Ancestor' contains a full list of the current addresses of member bodies of the Federation of Family History Societies, covering Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, America and others.

Country Groups Weekend Seminar.

The G.S.V. is planning a country groups seminar, probable date, last weekend in May.

LOCAL NEWS

Moe Cemetery Transcripts.

The transcribing of the headstones at the Moe Cemetery has been completed by our Mid-Gippsland members. The suggestion that members meet at the cemetery prior to our regular meeting, was successful and many willing workers arrived. However, many local Moe people are still wondering at the strange group of people who invaded the cemetery at 7.30 pm one night (or should that read the group of strange people...!)

The work is still to be typed and when completed a copy will be sent to The G.S.V. library in Melbourne, and another kept in our group library. Thank you to all those people who took part in this project.

One of our members, Mrs. Mavis Lynch, has begun the work of transcribing the Boolarra cemetery headstones. Also needed are volunteers to record the Gormandale cemetery headstones before that township is sacrificed for a power-hungry state.

Guest Speakers.

May 26th - mark this date on your calendar! Guest speaker at this meeting will be Miss Fiona Meyer from the P.R.O. Some members have already heard Miss. Meyer speak at Genealogical Seminars and report that she is an excellent speaker with a wealth of information.

A speaker from the Education Department will be attending one of our meetings later in the year to speak on records kept by the Education Department. Promises to be another interesting night.

Bus Trip

Another bus trip to The G.S.V. library is being planned for June. (date not yet decided). For details please contact the secretary, Mrs. Dawn Cowley Ph. (051) 27 1780.

NEW ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY.

- "The Pioneer Register" Vol. VI and Vol VII. - containing generalogical details of a hundred pioneers, their children and grandchildren.
 - compiled by Dr. C.J. Smee
Mrs. J. Selkirk Proves.
 - don. Mr. Don Macreadie.
- "The Scottish Genealogist". - Index 1978-81. Quarterly Journal of the Scottish Genealogical Society.
- "The Scottish Genealogist. Dec. 1982.

Editorial Lyn Gorman,
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