

Newsletter No. 11 - July, 1983

All family history researchers must have wondered at some stage about the reason their ancestors left their homes, families and way of life to face the hardships of a voyage of many months duration with its risks of fire, fever, storms and shipwreck, to settle in a primitive country 13 thousand miles across the world. Of course, many had no choice and arrived in chains, but for the majority, the decision to emigrate, to begin a new life must have been fraught with heartbreak and doubts.

This topic was brought to mind after reading Don Charlwood's book "The Long Farewell, Settlers Under Sail". The fly cover states "Don Charlwood, drawing upon a wealth of contemporary records - diaries, letters, publications - evokes their (the emigrants) experiences: the physical dangers, stresses, boredom, personalities and hopes of the travellers on their way to a new life". The book covers every aspect of life on board an emigrant ship, from building the ships down to intimate details.

Some very interesting reading and splendid background information to your research. I wonder how many people today would have had the courage to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors?

OVERSEAS NEWS

Change of address for English Birth Certificates:

The Registrar General,
General Register Office,
Smedley Hydro,
Birkdale, Southport,
Merseyside, PR8 2HJ, England.

Cost of Full Certificates (correction from April Newsletter)

England and Wales: Birth Certificates	9.60	
Death Certificates	9.60	
Scotland : Birth, Death & Marriage Certs.	4.60	35p. postage
Northern Ireland : Birth, Death & Marriage Certs.	3.50	35 p.postage
Irish Republic : Birth, Death & Marriage Certs.	2.50 (Ir.)	50p. (Ir.) postage.

A note of interest

"Families in North Scotland" Genealogical Group will place a query notice in their newsletter for 50p. Write to: Brenda Cowper,
31 Bloomfield Place,
ABERDEEN, Scotland.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record.

The Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record is a non-profit, independent research unit established to co-ordinate and compile biographical and genealogical details about Australians. It will also be the name of the published work of the Project which will be issued as a multi-volume set of reference books of lasting value and will be a fitting way to commemorate Australia's Bicentennial in 1988.

Biographies will be compiled from two major sources.

- (a) Information submitted by descendants or other interested persons,
- (b) From the transcription of major source records by the Projects research team.

You are invited to participate. Your participation, information and sponsorship will aid the creation of a series of reference works of national importance. To assist with administration costs a small annual fee is charged for Associate Membership, \$4.00 p.a.

Costs

- a pocket biography on persons living in Australia before 31st December 1841 - free
- pocket biography on persons living in Australia after 1841 - \$15.00
- concise biography - \$30.00 per half page
- \$55.00 per full page
- photograph - \$15.00

Registration forms are available by post from 'Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record', P.O. Box 795, North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060.

The Boer War

'Records of Australian Contingents to the War in South Africa' is a book compiled and edited for the Department of Defence by Lieut-Colonel P.L. Murray R.A.A. (Ret) and contains the names of all men in Australia who enlisted to fight in the Boer War.

The book is divided into states and further divided into Contingents so, if the contingent is not known, it is necessary to search each Nominal Roll to locate your ancestor. This doesn't take long and is well worth the effort as information listed includes clothing provided, details of Departure and Return, Promotions and gives an outline of the movements of the contingent during Service. The book is available for viewing at the Latrobe Library.

War Graves

Commonwealth War Graves Commission,
2 Marlborough Road,
MAIDENHEAD, Berks. SL6 7DX, England.

Write to the above for photographic orders of war headstones or plaques (currently 75p. each) and information on War Graves in Europe (France, Belgium etc).

Western Australia

The 'Western Ancestor' reports the good news that the Western Australian Genealogical Society is to be issued with copies of the indexes, in microfiche form, from the Registrar General of Western Australia. This will cover births from 1841-1895, deaths and marriages 1841-1896. It seems that these indexes are to be issued only to the W.A.G.S., however, their society will assist country and interstate members with research queries.

Shipping Records in Western Australia.

As there is only a small, incomplete index of passenger arrival to W.A., the W.A.G.S. is, at present, working to complete this index which is expected to take several years. As they are completed the card records are to be filed at the W.A.G.S. Library and another set at the Batty Library.

Western Australian Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 7, West Perth W.A. 6005

VICTORIAN NEWSPlace Names of Victoria.

Have you spent valuable time searching for a place name which does not exist on the map any more? Les Blake has written two books which will help sort out the confusion of places which have changed their names over the years. "Place Names of Victoria" and "Place Names of Australia" should be available from your library or through your inter-library service.

Reduced Old Days

Announcements from Rules For Clerical Staff, issued by a Sydney firm of Ship Chandlers in 1852.

On the recommendation of the Governor of this Colony, this firm has reduced hours of work and the Clerical staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Clothing must be of a sober nature. The Clerical staff will not disport themselves in raiment of bright colours.

3. A stove is provided for the benefit of the Clerical staff. It is recommended that each member bring four pounds of coal each day during the cold weather.

4. Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30 a.m. and noon, but work will not, on any account, cease.

5. Boys and Juniors will be responsible for the cleanliness of the office. Brushes, brooms and scrubbers and soap are provided by the owners.

6. The Owners hereby recognize the generosity of the new labour laws, but will expect a great rise in output to compensate for these near Utopian conditions.

Extract from "New Idea", November, 1982.

Public Record Office.

A very successful meeting was held in May, when many members and visitors attended to hear Mr. Don Grant from the P.R.O. Here are some snippets of information from the night :-

- Important to always do your homework before visiting the P.R.O. ie. country of origin, approx. date of arrival.
- Assisted passenger lists from U.K. - 1839-1871 are indexed and usually give considerable information.
- Unassisted passenger lists from U.K. to 1876. Lists for 1877-1878 will be on the shelves soon. Information contained in these lists vary. No records after 1923 - these are held at the Australian Archives branch at Brighton.
- Naturalization indexes are held from 1851-1920's for non-British emigrants. Indexes give reference numbers to the Australian Archives National records.
- Foreign shipping inwards - records held, not indexed.
- Inquest records give date of death, depositions from relatives.
- Probates are indexed.
- Passengers from American Ports are indexed 1852-1855.
- S.A. pioneer lists 1836-1845 and 1845-1886 available.

Note - always check every variation of spelling when searching a name in the P.R.O. indexes.

Exiles - were convicts who were given a free pardon on condition that they did not return to England until the term of their sentence had expired. As Victorians refused to allow their colony to become a penal settlement, convicts were granted a free pardon before landing in Victoria (Port Phillip), and therefore, came as free men or 'exiles'.

The P.R.O. is located at 1a Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

The Hours are 9.30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday

9.30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday.

Closed between 12.45 and 1.30 p.m. DAILY

Latrobe Library.

Biographical Index - Staff at the Latrobe Library are compiling a biographical index which is of tremendous benefit to genealogists. Hundreds of names have already been indexed from various reference books, newspapers etc. and the list is steadily increasing as work continues.

One of the books indexed and included in the Biographical index is 'Records of Pioneer Women of Victoria' 1835-1860. It was compiled by the Historical Committee of the Womens Centenary Council and published in 1937. Some valuable information is included with each entry, and also the name of the person who entered the biography.

Shipping Indexes - Have you checked the Latrobe Library's shipping indexes for information on the ships which brought your ancestors to Australia? The Library has several collections of shipping photographs including many emigrant ships, all indexed. These photos can be viewed and copies ordered at \$4.00 per copy, plus postage. Lloyds Shipping Registers (at the main Library) give details such as the size of the ship, builders, owners, facilities or lack of same, registers etc.

Office of the Government Statist

A double dose of bad news from this office (is there ever any other sort from this Department?) The whisper in the wind is that the price of Victorian certificates is to rise yet again. Also the waiting period for a certificate is now 3-4 weeks. In answer to a telephone query to this office I was told

that there is now an increased workload for the staff since the new passport regulations became effective (ie. a birth certificate is required when applying for a passport).

LOCAL NEWS

Bus Trip to The G.S.V.

Many of our members travelled, by bus, to Melbourne on Saturday June 18th for research at The G.S.V. Library and the Latrobe Library. Everyone spent an enjoyable day, however, several left The G.S.V. with the hope that a friendly smile and helpful attitude will be added to the list of requirements for some voluntary librarians !

Church of The Latter Day Saints, Traralgon.

Good News ! The latest 1961 microfiche is now available for viewing at the Church of Latter Day Saints, Kosciusko Street, Traralgon. Library hours are:

Monday 1-4 p.m.
Friday 7-10 p.m.
Saturday 1-5 p.m.

It is not necessary to make an appointment and a donation covers their fee. Two microfiche readers are available (no print out). The staff are also able to place orders for indexes from St. Catherine's House, England, census microfilm or any other requirements available through their Church.

New Books

Members at the July meeting of The Mid-Gippsland Group agreed to the Book Buying Committee purchasing new books for our library. As a result the following books are now available for borrowing:

"Irish Genealogy" - A Record Finder	Ed. Donal. F. Begley
"The Surnames of Ireland	Edward MacLysaght
"S.A. Records prior to 1841"	E.A.D. Opie
Chris McClelland's 1983 Address Book for Historians and Family History Searchers.	Basil Cottle
"Penguin Dictionary of Surnames"	Kenneth Cox.
"Band of the Penguin" - History of Yarram & Dist.	Kenneth Cox.
The First Fleeters) List of convicts, marines, seamen, officers, wives,	
The Second Fleeters) children and ships.	
"World Wide Family History"	Noel Curner-Briggs
"Family History"	
"Scottish Roots"	
"Our family tree"	

Private Libraries

A list of reference books personally owned by members of The Mid-Gippsland Group is being compiled for borrowing by other members. The idea is that these books be made available for borrowing by other members, with the owner's approval, of course. Members are asked to make a list of reference books they are willing to lend to other members and hand it to our Librarian, Caya Rogers.

Penalty - Books are borrowed from our Mid-Gippsland Group library for one month only - if not returned by the following meeting a fine of 50¢, per book, per month is levied - FOR EVERYONE - "Conscience money" will be gratefully accepted by our Librarian.

Editorial: Lyn Gorman
Julie Stevens
Frank Robinson