



ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

ABN No. 88 735 748 406

P.O. Box No 767

Morwell 3840

Issue # 128 August 2005 – October 2005

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs>

"SUBS ARE NOW DUE"

25th ANNIVERSARY

27th November, Heritage Park at Moe

B.Y.O. Picnic lunch.

Check the Website for updates

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Please include a S.A.E. together with a check or money order for **\$10**

Meetings:

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each Month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance at the rear door of the Moe Library, Kirk Street Moe. Our Library will be open at 7pm with meetings commencing at approximately 7.30pm.

Membership fees 2005/2006: Single \$25; Family \$30 payable in July.

Library Hours:

Our Library is open to the public on *Wednesday Afternoons between 1pm and 4pm*. Volunteers from our group are available to assist with research at this time. The Library is also available to members at all times that the Meeting room has not been booked by other organizations. (Check with the Public Library Staff) The library is available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Fees: Gold Coin donation per visit for non – members.

Research:

There is a research fee, minimum of \$10 plus a stamped addressed envelope for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Please direct all enquires to The Secretary, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840 and mark the envelope "Research Enquiry".

In This Issue:

2005 Report, to the General Meeting. Members Profile: Bob Jones.

Local History: The early settlement of the Morwell area. Part 5

Pioneer Obituary: Jessie Goode. Members Interest updates.

Wrong Registrations and the Law, 1873. Country Codes.

The Argus and Criminal Research. Heat and Bushfires 1939

Contributors:

Bob Jones, Sandra Dumble, Kaye O'Reilly.

MID GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28TH JULY 2005.

Twelve months have once again passed and we look back at the achievements of Mid Gippsland Family History Society.

The library has continued to grow under the supervision of Bob Jones with the addition of books, microfiche and CD-Rom indexes. Computers have been upgraded and with the increased CD-Rom library, members found it necessary to appoint a Computer Co-ordinator to oversee the reorganisation and the ongoing efficiency. David Grant won the role and has embarked upon the job with enthusiasm.

The transcribing of headstones in local cemeteries has continued resulting in the addition of two new publications, Walhalla Transcriptions 2nd Edition and Boolarra Transcriptions and Register. Many thanks to the members who took part in the final proof reading excursion to Boolarra Cemetery in November of last year. The visit coincided with our final meeting of the year, which was held in the Boolarra gardens following a picnic tea.

Updating the Moe Cemetery Register for the Cemetery Trust has been undertaken on two occasions during the past twelve months, resulting in a donation to our bank account.

Local school records are once again being indexed with the completion of Knott's Siding and Yinnar Primary Schools. These schools have been recorded on CD-rom and are available in the library.

Editions of our newsletter, On Track, have been published and despatched quarterly. Emailing copies to other family history societies and members has helped to reduce the cost of printing and postage. Many thanks to Kaye O'Reilly, the Editor over the past twelve months, for doing such a grand job. Kaye has also been the Web Master during this time and has continually improved and added to our Web page. Visitors to the pages have been increasing, exposing Mid Gippsland Family History Society to a wider audience.

Monthly meetings have seen an emphasis on member's discussion rather than visiting guest speakers. Topics covered included Dawn's Family Photograph Patchwork Quilt, David's recollections of growing up in Yallourn, Family History Photographs and Your Earliest Ancestor. Guest Speakers were Joy Barrett, speaking on her journey of discovery in locating her husband's family and Jim Hood from the Traralgon Historical Society who explained their collection. Members also took part in a visit to the new Archives Centre in North Melbourne during November where we were given an overview on the repository and how to access records.

Wednesday afternoons have seen an increase in the number of people accessing the library for research purposes, which have kept the library duty volunteers, on their toes. Many thanks to all those who volunteered and served on the roster over the past twelve months. Well done.

Last but not least, thank you to all Committee members for their contribution. The year 2005 sees Mid Gippsland Family History Society celebrating it's 25th Anniversary in November and Dawn Cowley has volunteered to act as facilitator for the birthday celebration. Wes Halket has been co-ordinating the collection of Paul's Milk Bottle Caps, which has had a positive result, adding dollars to our bank account.

Looking to 2005/2006 it appears we can only get better. Well done to one and all.

Sandra Dumble
Secretary

MEMBERS PROFILE: *BOB JONES*

Where and why did you get started on your family history?

My interest in family history started about 30 years ago when my eldest daughter came home from school with some homework, which was to draw up a family tree. It was then that I realized how little I knew about my own family. I knew that my Father came out here to Australia from England in 1912 with his brother, sister, and parents. Rumour had it that one of Grandpa's brothers was a policeman. Rumour also had it that one of Grandpa's sisters married an Australian serviceman during the First World War, migrated to Sydney, and lived there. That was all I knew. No names. Nothing more. So it became my challenge to establish my Grandfather's full family. I suppose for the first 15 or so years I was rather spasmodic in my approach. But after I joined the club I believe I became a bit more diligent in my approach. As a measure of my success I have discovered that my grandfather did have a brother who was a policeman. I have discovered two other brothers and two other sisters. But I am no closer to discovering the Sydney branch now to what I was 30 years ago. But I am still working on it.

What names are your researching?

This is the problem. My main line is JONES, and to make it worse, from Middlesex. I have discovered that there are more JONES' in Middlesex than there are Irish in Dublin. Other names are TONKS, MARSHALL, HARDIE. They are the main names.

How far back have you searched?

I am back to about 1750's on a couple of lines, but that was information that popped up in front of me and I couldn't ignore it. I am not concentrating on the "going back" area at this stage. I am trying to get as much as I can back to about 1800, mainly Australian, before I start the overseas delving.

Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?

As far as I can tell, at this stage, my great-great-grandparents on my Mother's side. They arrived in 1849 and settled on an island in the Hawksbury upstream from Newcastle.

What is your most interesting find?

Undoubtedly old Charlie MEYER, my Wife's great-great-grandfather. He was quite a character and I have discovered quite a few references to him in various history books and newspaper articles from the Ovens area. He migrated from Germany in 1852, joined the Police Force in 1853 and was a member of the first ever contingent of Police into Wangaratta. He then served at Beechworth when he was present at the shooting of a miner, which caused big riots. He was also involved in the riots against the Chinese. Both these incidents have been written up in history books and in old newspaper articles

If the family tree, wish fairy would give you the answer to one question what would it be?

Just give me the details of my grandfather's sister, who migrated to Sydney, and I'll die happy.

Contact Bob: bevnbob@dodo.com.au

Place name search on the NET

<http://www.ga.gov.au/map/names/>

The Gazetteer of Australia contains over 310000 geographic names in Australia. A great resource for finding places, in your Family History. Just type the town name into the search square, and up comes an index of all the places, with that name. Click on the most likely and up comes a map showing the location.

The Genealogical Society of Ireland has posted their newsletters on the Net. "The Genie Gazette" The Society's Website is www.familyhistory.ie Amongst the articles in May's issue is one on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the European Flag designed by the Chief Herald of Ireland.

Index to the "Gippsland Heritage Journal"

An index to this journal is now on-line at <http://kapana.customer.netspace.net.au/GJournal.html>

The site is being updated so check here if it's "lost" <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~surreal/AVG/>

A great resource for your Family Histories based in Gippsland. Find something interesting? The Journal is available to read in the Morwell Library, Local History Section.

WANTED to BUY or SWAP

CORKSCREWS &
CAST IRON BOTTLE OPENERS
Contact Wes: mowesh@bigpond.net.au
Phone: (03) 5127 8934

Harking Back by Llew Vary.

Remembrances of a local man on the early settlement of
Morwell and the surrounding district as printed in the
Morwell Advertiser and Gazette
Beginning Thursday July 30, 1942
Transcribed by *Kaye O'Reilly*
Part 5

As I have records, showing the different business houses, and their occupants in the year 1878, and then again in 1886 two years prior to "The Great Fire of Morwell" which destroyed all the buildings between the Bank of Australasia and Rintoull's, I will commence from the beginning of the town in 1878, giving the names of the principal citizens in those days, and it often occurred to me that many of these would have made excellent characters for such writers as Charles Dickens, especially when one remembers John Rintoull, the Village Blacksmith, who's integrity, and ability at his profession was comparable with the character in the poem we often recited at school.

Edmund Kelleher, a typical old English Inn Keeper.

E. Rowell the tailor sitting cross-legs on the counter plying his needle and thread.

Geo. Holloway the bootmaker, with his sign – a wooden boot hanging over the footpath – and whose tap, tap, tap, well into the night, disturbing the slumbers of his neighbours and further adding to their discomfort by burning the scraps of leather, which permeated the air for miles around making the odour of the paper mill of today appear infinitesimal. And what a character would J. H. Buckley have been as "Dad" for Steel Rudd. But here again I am wondering and must get back to the inhabitants of Commercial Road.

Commencing at Henry's Coffee Palace on the corner where the Town Hall now stands. On the opposite corner of Hazelwood Road stood the Cricketers Arms Hotel. The first licensee was John Collier. The licensee was afterwards held by William Murdoch, Roger O'Flaherty, Henry Breed, P. Donovan, Geo. Millett, Chas. Smyth and Don McKay in that order.

Murdock's Hall, where A. L. Hare's garage now stands was built by Wm. Murdock in the days when he conducted the Cricketers Arms, and was the scene of many hilarious gatherings.

R. Stephenson, saddler, was where Les Hare has his office.

Next the Colonial Bank, now the National. Mr Henry McIntosh was the first manager.

Then John Rintoull, who bought the first township allotment.

After this came Tonkin the baker, and next door was Plumber the butcher, who managed for J. Pruden of Sale. This business was later conducted by Thomas Theobald, who was followed by C. W. Howlett, father of Ern and Harry Howlett of the Latrobe Jersey Stud.

Still going eastward was Martin the bootmaker, Carl Haiz the saddler, adjoining whom was the Bank of Australasia (At that time a wooden building). Between this and the hotel right-of-way, a Mrs Wilson kept a News Agency and fancy goods shop. Beside this, Fitzpatrick built his hotel, which was afterwards bought by William Murdock, a very enterprising townsman, as is shown by the fact that he re-built the hotel in brick, and also those shops known as Murdock's buildings, which stands between Nash's grocery shop and Bill Davey's Hairdressing Salon. This, of course, was after the Great Fire of Morwell, which destroyed the old wooden buildings in this section.

Passing the hotel we come to the Railway Store and Post Office, conducted by Charles Oxtoby Gilbert, father of the two highly respected residents of the town, in the persons of Messrs Arthur and Percy Gilbert.

This was the first post office and the post mistress was Miss Holland.

The Railway Store was situated where Sharpe's Emporium now stands. Later occupants of these premises were Tinker and Hutton.

John Quigley already mentioned in the article on Scrubby Forest, first owned the Club Hotel, and sold to Edmond Kelleher, who reconstructed it of brick.

Kelleher was a very popular host, who it was said, conducted his house very creditably.

Next was Donaldson's Store and drapery, now conducted by D. C. Mills and Co. Pty. Ltd. This business was purchased in 1894 by John Hall, who was considered one of Morwell's most generous townsman, and the avenue of trees in Hazelwood Road stands as a monument to his memory.

Across Tarwin Street on the opposite corner, where the Post Office now stands, was Callaghan's Hotel, afterwards delicensed, and became a boarding house, conducted by Mrs Gadd. Portion of this was used as a Court House.

In passing I might mention the present Post Office was built in 1891 and the first post mistress in this building was Miss Vigar.

Continuing along Commercial Road was a vacant block of land owned by John Kelleher, a brother of Edmund Kelleher, which was in later years purchased by Angus McDonald.

Then came Lewis Samuel's bakery, later owned by McDonald and Hone, Bakers and General Storekeepers.

Lower down the street was John English's store, which later became Cavanagh and Harris, Attached to this was a shop where E. Rowell tailored the suits for all and sundry. These shops were on the site now occupied by Peirson Bros., butchers, and McRoberts' produce store.

Next was "The Morwell Advertiser" and C. P. Nind was the Editor. This Journal was first published at the rear of John Rintoull's shop by W. Kemp and his brother in law, W. Secombe. The latter did not carry on long and

William Waldon took his place. The proprietors then became Waldon and Kemp.

Next to the paper office was a vacant block of land. Then our first medical man, Dr. Moir built a residence.

Dr. Moir started practice here in 1892, doing his own dispensing. He was a very capable medico and was a great acquisition to this district, as previously a doctor had to be brought from Traralgon or elsewhere. Like the proverbial Scotchman he had a slow sense of humour, but nevertheless he caused many a laugh especially with some of his antics on horseback. The doctor was by no means a finished horseman, and on more than one occasion when cantering along Commercial Road his cunning bay mare would turn sharply into Tarwin Street, to go back to her stable, while its rider wanted her to go straight ahead, with the result the doctor would slide off, at the same time clinging to the mare's neck to save his fall. He did not lose his temper on these occasions, but with a very scotch accent he would remark "She's a knowing brute; do you know she can even turn the water tap on when she wants a drink, but she doesn't turn it off."

September 24

We have now reached Chapple St., and on the opposite corner the new State School was erected. The first headmaster was John Irving, but in the writers day the master was Mr Tom Ferguson, with Gerald Gilbert the assistant. The sewing mistress was Miss Haiz and later Miss O'Toole, and the junior teacher, Miss Nellie Gay.

This finishes Commercial Road, so we must now return to the P. O. corner to glance down Tarwin Street. But before doing so I would like to mention the auctioneers in business at the time were Marriage, Orr & Co., whose business was later taken over by Geo. Earl, the mention of whom reminds me of a little incident that occurred in those days which might interest the sedate readers of today. Dick Fitzgerald and Geo Earl, (both quite respectable residents) each owned a racehorse and a friendly argument started as to which was the faster; as the discussion advanced a match was arranged and the race was to start from the Ridge and to finish at Murdock's Cricketers Arms Hotel, down Commercial Road. Geo. Earl was to ride his horse, and my brother Alf (then 15 years old) Fitzgerald's. Just prior to the race a thunderstorm turned the dust into mud. When the flag dropped Bro. Alf. Shot to the lead and so plastered the man following with mud, that he could not see, and consequently had no hope of getting the lead. When the race was finished, Fitzgerald rushed Alf. Round the back of John Rintoull's black smiths shop, and filled his pockets with old iron, so as he could make the correct weight. I might here mention that this Rustic Hamlet had no police protection at this period.

Tarwin Street could boast of several buildings, first Donaldson's brick store room as it was called because it was the first edifice erected in Morwell. Previous to being rebuilt, Henry Breed used it as a butchers shop for a time, and after it was used as a school room while the present State School was being constructed. The Gippsland Furnishers' premises are now on this site.

Next came Sharp the Chemist. Frank Holmes the Jeweller and locksmith. Somewhere jammed in here was a small shop where Geo. Holloway conducted his business as already mentioned.

After this came the post office store, so named when the postal department had been induced to transfer from the Railway Store in Commercial Road. What influence was used to bring about this transfer, is not recorded, but it was generally spoken of as a shrewd move on the part of the store keeper, thus making sure of some customers if it was only to purchase some postage stamps. The post mistress in these premises was Miss Murray.

Crossing to the opposite side of Tarwin Street, was Green's Drapery House, managed by Mr A. Gay, whose son Mr H. W. Gay, is one of our well known business men. On the death of Mr A. Gay, the present Mr A. A. Green took over the business and rebuilt the shop in brick and made it the up-to-date premises it is to-day.

A bakers shop, owned by a Mr Pierce was on the site where Mr W. A. Young's residence now stands, but this has long since been removed.

The Mechanics' Institute was on the corner of George and Tarwin Street, and the choosing of this site caused a good deal of hostilities, but as the ground was given by a generous donor, who had interests at this end of the town, and a Government Grant was procured, all opposition was swept aside, and the building was erected and served as the place of amusements and edification until a few years ago, when a mysterious fire reduced it to ashes, and the Town Hall was constructed. That stately edifice now stands as a monument to the committee, who fought so hard to raise the funds and make the necessary arrangements to have it erected.

Crossing over the railway line, Richard Date had a blacksmith's shop on the corner opposite the Methodist Church having moved from George Street, behind Murdock's Hotel.

William Tulloch had a carpenters shop where Trembath's Garage now stands, and between Angus' Timber yard, and the Latrobe Road, Thomas Theobald (the butcher) had his first slaughter yards.

The first racers were held adjacent to these yards.

Guthridge & Co. stock and station agents of Sale, built the sale yards in Buckley Street, and were later taken over by Mathleson & Davis. Apart from The brick yard in Jane Street, the rest of the north side of the railway was open paddocks.

C. W. Howlett had his slaughter yard in Parnell park, the land that is situated between Avondale Road and Commercial Road (west) and was so named by Mr Jeramiah Ryan, who later subdivided it into building blocks.

This article will be continued in the next Newsletter.

The Centre for Gippsland Studies at the Monash Campus, in Churchill is open to the public Mondays to Wednesdays, 9 - 5

B.M.D. WRONG REGISTRATIONS and the LAW.

A good deal of spurious sympathy and maudlin sentimentality has been called forth by the sentence of two years' imprisonment which the Chief Justice pronounced upon JOHN VINCENT TERRY after he had been convicted upon the clearest evidence of having made two false declarations under the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths Act. The propensity to gush, over a malefactor, or a misdemeanant, when he has sufficient address to pose himself as the "friend of humanity", and as the beneficent guardian and protector of wronged womanhood and injured innocence, is one to which weak minded and impulsive people are very prone. In the case of TERRY there does not appear to be any justification for this sickly sentimentality and these namby-pamby protests against the infliction of a well-merited punishment. His relations with the young girl whose child he registered were sufficiently indicated by the evidence adduced on the trial, and the plea which he put forward in mitigation of the sentence, namely, that he had a family of children who would be disgraced by his imprisonment, serves to place his whole conduct in a very peculiar light. The jury seems to have decided that he was the father of the-child, and all the surrounding circumstances confirm the presumption that he was so. He took a house for himself and his "missis," its mother; addressed her as his "wife," and spoke of her to the nurse, as "Mrs. VINCENT." Yet he professed to have caused the entry to be made in the register in ignorance of the child's paternity. The boy was registered as the son of JOHN and SARAH VINCENT, the maiden name of the mother being given as FOX, whereas it was in reality JENNER.

An offence of this kind is held to be equivalent to perjury in the eye of the law; and very properly so, Registration, to be of any value, must be accurate and authentic; and it's accuracy and authenticity can only be secured by subjecting all those who furnish, the information upon which these records are based to severe and deterrent punishments and penalties for making false statements. The public registers of a country have become, and will always continue to be, of immense value and importance, as connected with the rights of property, with the cultivation of social science, with the sanitary condition and the increase and distribution of the population. To tamper with documents of this kind or to connive at their falsification might be productive of serious injury to individuals and of great inconvenience to the whole community. Nor does it lessen the offence of which TERRY was convicted to assert that; inasmuch as the child died three days after it was born, no mischievous consequences could arise to anybody from the false declaration of its father. It is the integrity of the whole system which is

imperilled by allowing any infraction of the law to go unpunished, or to escape with the infliction of a trifling fine. And although the admirers of sentimental perjurers may shed tears of sorrow and sympathy over the incarcerated defendant, we have very little doubt that, with his sentence before their eyes, most persons who might be otherwise tempted to make a lying entry in the books of a deputy-registrar, will think twice before they encounter the risk of being imprisoned for two years in one of HER MAJESTY'S gaols.

Published in the Argus, 27th February 1873

Goldsworthy-Andrews Family Reunion

Louisa Goldsworthy of Redruth, Cornwall, arrived in Brisbane June 1874 marrying Robert Andrews (of Wigan, Lancashire) in Brisbane later that year. (Louise travelled under her mother's maiden name, Andrew.) Only four of Robert & Louisa's children survived infancy. Descendents and their families of these four are invited to a gathering from 9.30 am, **Sunday 11 September 2005** at St. Stephen's Anglican Church & hall at Newtown, NSW. These are Lillian & William Andrew, (& Lillian & Alfred Morris), Rose & James Weir, Violet & Albert Smylie, & Harold & Pearl Andrews. Louisa's brothers also eventually settled in Australia. Warmly invited to our gathering are descendents of John & Ann Goldsworthy, *James & Priscilla Goldsworthy & James & Kate Goldsworthy*), & David & Jessie Goldsworthy. Inquiries to June Cashman, 02 4821 0483, or check out our website, <http://www.davidcashman.com/goldsworthy%2Dandrews/>.

Inward Passengers from NZ

The PROV has added this index to it's on-line database of Unassisted Passengers

http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/Index_search.asp?searchid=23

Make use of the wild card for best results.

PIONEER OBITUARY: Jessie Goode.

A daughter, of one of the original farmers in Moe, died at her property recently aged 78.

She was miss Jessie Grace Goode of Boronia Glen, a farm on the Princes Highway, Moe. For the past 2 years the late Miss Goode managed the property after her brother died in October 1966. The late Miss Goode was buried at Moe Cemetery following a service at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, Moe.

Latrobe Advocate and Advertiser. Wed. Jan 1st 1969

Luxuriant and silky hair – Mrs S. A. Allen's World Hair Restorer acts upon the hair as does the dew upon flowers. You cannot be bald or grey, and neither time nor sickness can blemish, your hair, if you use it.

[ADVT. The Argus c1885]

**2005 MGFHS
Members Interest Directory
CORRECTIONS**

Address:

Rod Donnely: 6 Matlock Street
Newborough, Victoria, 3825
E-mail: roddon@iprimus.com.au

Ron Pratt: E-mail: bhf@datafast.net.au

Dianne Terry: McCOUGHTRY,
should be 1840's not 1940's.

Brian & Vaughn Knox: 530 Purvis Road
Moe, Victoria, 3825 bvknob@bigpond.com
BARTON, 1700, LINCONSHIRE, LIN, ENG
BARTON, ALL, 1700+, VIC+NSW, AUS
BROMLEY, ALL, 1700+, VIC+NSW, AUS
TRETHERWEY, ALL, 1700+,
CORNWALL, CON, ENG
TRETHERWEY, ALL, 1800+, VIC+TAS, AUS

NEW INTERESTS

BROWN; 1850; ABERDEEN; ABD; SCT
COSTER; 1800; BERKSHIRE; BRK; ENG
COUSENS; 1820; CORK; COR; IRL
COUSENS; 1820; LONDON; LND; ENG
FAULKNER; 1830; NORTHAMPTON; NTH;
ENG
HIVES; 1850; NOTTINGHAM; NTT; ENG
McNAB; 1800; PERTH; PER; SCT
MONKHOUSE; 1830; SURREY; LND; ENG
NICHOLSON; 1800; CUMBERLAND; NBL;
ENG

Member No. 41; Peter McNAB
RMB 3095 Walhalla Rd. Tanjil South 3825
Email: pjmcnab@net-tech.com.au

EXTRA INTERESTS

Member No. 29; B & V Knox
530 Purvis Rd. Moe 3825
HANDFORD; DEVON; DEV; ENG
BOWERS; NORFOLK; NFK; ENG;
HISCOCK; DORSET; DOR; ENG;
DARLINGTON; CHESHIRE; CHS; ENG
DARLINGTON; VICTORIA; VIC; AUS
KNOX; NORFOLK; NFK; ENG
POOL; STAFFORDSHIRE; STS; ENG
POOLE; STAFFORDSHIRE; STS; ENG

Australian surname interest lists
<http://www.list.jaunay.com/ausnames/>
<http://www.oz-gen.com/>
Hobart/Tasmania cemeteries: A list of names
<http://www.tasfhs.org/tamiot.htm>



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lynne BICKERS, Shirley ELWIS
Elizabeth JEFFERY
& Rhonda RAMSDELL

HELP WANTED

Thomas COLLYER was born 1818, in Wymering, Hampshire. After his parents died he came to Adelaide with his wife Thirza (Houghton) son Caleb & daughter Thirza. Thirza & her daughter died as the ship arrived into Port. Thomas married Christiana Clemens after she had arrived in Australia. He took her as his wife from the ship as he had a 3-year-old son to raise. They later moved to Geelong, Colac & finally Boolarra where Thomas died 1893 & Christiana in 1884. Their children were Ann (Mrs Geo Beard) Thos Clemens, Christina, Hannah (1. Mrs Stewart 2 Mrs Geo Firmin,) John, Emma (Mrs Kemp) & Eli. I would like to hear from any descendants. Elaine Kranjc.
63 Dunloe Ave, NORLANE 3214
Email: ekran@ncable.net.au

A PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS

by Ian Woolley

Lord, help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time,
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.
Lord, help me trace the ancient road
On which my fathers trod
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.
Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dusty manuscript
That's safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt.
Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
My soul when I can't find
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine



CRIMINAL RESEARCH USING “THE ARGUS.”

I recently found a reference to my 3rd Great Grandmother being in “The Gaol” Melbourne. After a visit to the Public Records Office of Vic. and a search of the Victorian Police Gazettes, I had found numerous references concerning both my grandparents, but of course I wanted more... The Gazette index of “Prisoner Discharges” gives, along with the release date and description of the person, in most cases, *the trial place and date*. Armed with this intelligence I headed to the City to check out Newspapers, for the places and dates mentioned. I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of detail regarding local and more distant crime in The Argus.

Criminal and crime details can be found under many and varied headings. Those listed below are just a few.

Law Reports & Notices.

County & Insolvent Court.

Melbourne General Sessions

Casualties and Offences.

Police Intelligence. Police.

Police City Court.

Sandhurst.

A.A.P. Telegraphs.

Telegraphic Despatches.

By Electric Telegraph.

Fatal Accident.

Inquests.

Examples of what can be found:

LAW REPORTS AND NOTICES: These are lists of criminal trials and detail names of defendant/s, their charge/s, with court type and place.

COUNTY COURT: Same as above, but can also give detailed case reports.

INSOLVENT COURT: Lists new insolvents and gives names, business and reason for applying for insolvency. Can also be found under "New Insolvents".

MELBOURNE GENERAL SESSIONS: “The following is a list of prisoners now in the Central Gaol awaiting trial at the Melbourne General Sessions, which commence in the County Court tomorrow:- Henry Hulbert and Selina Hulbert, unlawfully pawning. John Andrews, burglary. John McArdle, embezzlement. Ebenezer Griffiths, forgery and uttering a consent to marriage.”

CASUALTIES AND OFFENCES:

1. “The following persons were admitted to the casualty ward of the Melbourne Hospital on Saturday and Sunday:- Ann, Ryan, aged 32, residing in Gertrude-street, Fitzroy with a cut on her head, and a fractured nose, caused by a man having struck her.” Other hospitals are also mentioned.

2. “Henrietta Howe, wife of George Howe, saddler, 2 O’Connell-street Hotham, found the dead body of a female child in the street at 10 minutes to eight o’clock on Saturday morning. The only covering on the body was a copy of a newspaper dated January 8th. The police removed the body to the morgue”

FATAL ACCIDENTS:

1. A man boiled to death. A first hand account, concerning Robert Bell, who was steamed to death.

2. A Ship Captain Drowned. Bairnsdale. Monday. “Captain Dillon, of the schooner Glengarry, was drowned last night off Eagle Point. The schooner was being towed from the entrance. When off Eagle Point, the deceased was assisting, to lift the anchor on deck, when by some means he overbalanced himself, and fell into the water. A lifebuoy was thrown out, which he failed to grasp, and he sank. The police have been dragging today for the body. This was Captain Dillon’s first trip as the Captain. He had been formally mate of the schooner. It is stated that relatives of the deceased live at Melbourne.”

INQUESTS: Often under the single heading, but this topic is also listed under various descriptive headings.

SANDHURST: A regular heading in this paper, you can find all types of records here, including Inquest, Police, Case and Court reports. I detail this one as it is of interest in that it shows one of the meanings of “Idle and Disorderly”. “The district coroner held an inquest this afternoon in the Gaol, touching the death of a man named Robert Clarke, 56 years of age, who was admitted to the gaol on the 15th inst. being on remand, charged with being an idle and disorderly person. He had on the previous day applied for and obtained admission to the city look-up. He stated he was destitute, and was suffering from the effects of heavy drinking. After his admission into the gaol, *delirium tremens* set in. He rapidly sank, and died this morning.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES: “Victoria. Hamilton. Monday. A man named Neil Clark was bought up on remand today charged with stealing sheep belonging to Mr T.F. Cumming, of Stony Point. The investigation lasted all afternoon. The prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the next Warrnambool General Sessions”.

LARGER PROFILE CRIMES are listed under their own headings as in “The case of Messrs. Stevenson and Sons.”:- “In the district court, today, the case against Mr George Stevenson, of the firm of Messrs L Stevenson and Sons, of having defrauded the Customs of the duty on certain goods, will be commenced.” This Customs case carries over many issues, sometimes taking space over more than one page of this large 7-column newspaper.

The State Library of Victoria holds microcopy reels of the Argus while the Genealogical Society of Victoria has hard copies of most of the issues. These papers are also held in many other places. Members of the MGFHS will find that the Library in Monash University at Clayton is the closest to us. From the freeway, just turn left at Wellington Road, go over Springvale and Blackburn roads; the turn into Monash is from the right hand lane. Visitors parking is to the left once inside the grounds. Take along a USB micro drive and save time, as well as printing costs? *Kaye O'Reilly*

HEAT and BUSH FIRES

The Advocate; Friday 13th 1939

Throughout the holidays, hot weather, increasing the already dry conditions prevailed, and bush fires have caused great concern in many parts of the district.

On Boxing Day at Willow Grove, Mr R. Irvine, lost wood valued at £20.

New Years Day was extremely hot and there were bad fires at Coalville where 4 huts on a recently abandoned mill at Mr W. V. Mills' property were destroyed; and on Monday while Mr J Thompson and family of Thompson's Bridge Moe were away for the day his home and sheds were saved only by the strenuous efforts of Mr G Nardeno.

However, last weekend was reminiscent of the dark days of 1926 and 1932, and for several days the district was shrouded in a heavy pall of smoke. On Saturday night an east wind drove a fire flames of which rose high and travelled at an alarming rate through the bush country to the south of the Princes Highway. Soon after midnight, Mr J Watson's home was out of danger but neighbours assisted Mr S Gardner till 3 am to save his property, although Mr Gardner kept an all night vigil.

Sunday dawned the hottest day ever remembered here, the temperature being in the vicinity of 110 degrees. To add to the unpleasantness a strong north wind blew. Soon after midday the smoke became so dense that lights had to be switched on in houses and by car drivers. When returning to the Two Mile, after Church, Sister Flo. White was unable to get along the Moe-Coalville Road. She returned to Moe and raised the alarm that the fire had crossed the road and entered the grass paddocks. Mr D Kerr's home being menaced. The fire Bell was sounded, and members of the brigade and other volunteers went out.

The fire had ignited the hessian on a "Coolgardie" safe, and a tank stand, and was attacking the side of the house before its progress was retarded. The fact that there was a connection with a town water supply main was mainly responsible for the home being saved.

While assisting at Mr Kerr's home, Mr Jim Railton was warned of the danger in which his own residence was placed. The fire had continued across Mr Kerr's grass paddocks, and with the strong wind "jumped" the creek. Fire fighters were successful in preventing any serious damage, and the fire proceeded thru Mr A R Moore's slaughterhouse property to Moe East.

At Erica, the position was serious. Monett's mill, with its fourteen or more workers' homes and school, were destroyed. Fortunately, no lives were lost, the women and children having been transported to the Erica Hall.

At Knotts, the fire raged across the road, making it impassable, and no mails could be brought through by the service car. People from Ezard's, Amor's and Fullwood's mills were also brought to Erica, while those at other mills had terrifying experiences and had to shelter in dug-outs. At about 6 p.m. on Tuesday, it looked like the town would go, and residents were packing up. The flames leapt ten to twelve feet in the air at the rear of homes on the road leading up to the school, some of this bush having been burnt in a fire a few weeks ago.

Extra police and volunteers from Yallourn and Moe assisted the Erica police, forestry officers and local fire fighters, while assistance in the way of food and clothing has, we understand, been sent from Melbourne. Two members of the Red Cross were also sent to Erica.

The Erica Post mistress (Miss Hazel Binns) had a particularly hectic time, and had the assistance of Ivy Robins and Miss May Colman(?) (both having formally held the position of postmistress, and now on the staff of W. A. Purvis Stores Pty. Ltd.). All three worked at top speed throughout Monday and Tuesday, the extra heavy business causing some calls to be connected nearly 4 hours after booking. It was a decided help to all that the fires did not interfere with the main telephone lines, although some were crossed.

When some of the volunteers returned to Moe and Yallourn, at about 1 am on Wednesday morning, they brought with them to the Moe Hospital, Mr T Collis who, while fire-fighting had badly injured his hip. Dr Morris found the bone was badly bruised and ligaments torn. Mr Collis was allowed to return to his home on Thursday..

TIMBER & HOUSE BURNT

At the site of Monett's mill, 1,000,000 super feet of sawn timber, (valued AT £15'000) and 14 of the 17 houses thereabouts were destroyed.

The fire that on Wednesday swept down from the Tyers Junction destroyed the six-roomed farmhouse owned by Mr Ken. Markwick. Mr and Mrs Markwick, their two children, Mrs Markwick's mother (Mrs Harrison, aged 83) and about 20 other people, including Mrs Johnston (aged 63), the Tucker, Tudor and Foley families, and Mr Rod. Kerr were forced to enter and remain in the river for four hours. They were joined by Mr and Mrs Humphries and their two children who were camping at the bridge.

THANKS I desire to tender my sincere THANKS to all who came to my assistance and saved my home from destruction by fire, on Sunday 8th Inst. D. KERR. Moe South 10.1.39 *Transcribed By Kaye O'Reilly*