



ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

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SPAM TRAP: replace [at] with @

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

Meetings:

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each Month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance via 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 2007/2008: 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 minimum research fee of \$10, plus a stamped, self addressed envelope, for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Cemetery Lookups

MGFHS charge a fee for lookups in their cemetery's.

For \$2 per name we will provide you with the register details plus a transcription of the head stone if there is one.

Please send a SSAE with your enquiry to:

The Research Officers, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840

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Contributors:

Elizabeth A. Curtin, Wes Halket,

Vicki Evans, Kaye O'Reilly

Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.
Writing Competition – 2007

THE REVEREND SAMUEL CHAMBERS KENT 1825-1911

A HISTORY OF A CONGREGATIONALIST MINISTER IN AUSTRALIA

By Elizabeth Ann Curtain (nee James)

Samuel Chambers Kent was born in the village of Wangford near Southwold (sometimes called Wangford Cum Henham), Suffolk, England in about December of 1825. He was baptized on the 2nd of January 1826 in the Wangford village Dissenting or Non-Conformist Church. His parents were Thomas Kent (sometimes written as Thent) and Susan Chambers (IGI Film Parish Registers).

His father Thomas Kent was the town baker. His mother Susan was a School Head Mistress. Their marriage registration on the 5th of March 1824 states both the fact that Thomas Kent was a baker by occupation and had come from the Suffolk town of Beccles and that Susan Chambers (his wife) had come from the Suffolk town of Henham (but may not necessarily mean that she was born there). The witnesses to the marriage were Samuel Bates and Ann Kent or Thent. The second individual most probably being a close relative on his father's side. The officiating curate for both the marriage and subsequent baptism was Reverend Christopher Smear. (d. Blything, Suffolk 1844)

There is a Susan Kent who appears on the 1841 census in the area of Wangford nr Southwold as a school head mistress. This appears to be the same person who later appears as a widow on the 1851 census in Ballygate St, Beccles, Suffolk as a Lodging House Keeper. It also states she was born in the village of North Tuddenham, Norfolk in 1797. Which is the only record that coincides with her 1869 death that states that she was 74 years old. One of the lodgers is a 61 year old woman supported by her friends whilst the other is a 21 year old English School Mistress. Susan was possibly training this girl in the teaching profession.

Samuel Chambers Kent appears to have been a highly educated individual and his father looks to have been largely uneducated, which suggests that he gained his early educational start or advantage and passion for education from his mother.

No other siblings have been picked up in searches of the records for this Kent family. Samuel's paternal grandparents seem to have been a John Kent (braisier-brass or metal worker) and Mary Leavold also of Beccles in Suffolk and both buried there. This grandmother dies in Beccles in 1865. The same year that he (Samuel) names his third son Arthur "Leavold" Kent. Arthur later becomes a clergyman in the Anglican church in the gold prospecting town of Tarnagulla, Victoria (The Welcome Stranger Nugget - the world's largest, was found nearby) and died in Brighton, Melbourne, Victoria in 1931. He had three children. The Kent family also seems to have an Uncle William Kent who became the mayor of the large East Anglican city of Colchester. So there seems to have been a bit of an ambitious drive in this family in previous generations.

The next stage of Samuel C. Kent's life sees his first marriage (of eventually three) in Lambeth, Surrey (now part of Greater London) in March of 1850 to Emily Deacon. The daughter of Frederick Deacon and Charlotte Maule. She was born in Leicester, Leicestershire, England in 1825.

Their first child (a son) Frederick Deacon Kent was born in March 1851 in Barnstaple, district of Braunton, Devonshire, England (FREE BMD). He later became a solicitor, having been educated at the University of Sydney. He died in 1925 at "Braunton" Torrington Rd Strathfield, North Sydney. (A mansion also designed by his brother).

Their second child (also a son) was Harry Chambers Kent also born in Barnstaple, Devonshire, England, in September of 1853. He was also educated at the University of Sydney and later became a Sydney and rural NSW architect of some renown. He died in Strathfield, Sydney NSW, Australia in 1938 ("Kelmswood" Redmyre Rd). Many of the buildings that he designed including the CBC Bank in the commercial heart of Sydney, Strathfield Council Offices, The Australian Catholic University's Main Campus (Mount Royal /Mount St Mary's) and a series of Rural NSW Banks including that of Parkes are all heritage listed. He was also a Strathfield Councillor and founding member of the NSW architects society.

This Kent family migrated to Australia in early - mid 1855. The records clearly show the father, mother and two sons.

The shipping records (PROV) show that they came to Australia on the ships "Pacific" into Melbourne in February of 1855 and then on to Sydney in March on the ship called "Governor General 111", finally arriving in Sydney in July of 1855.

The Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent was a Congregational Church minister. This is an important observation in the light of later events. He became the first minister or pastor of the Newtown, Sydney Congregational Church in 1856. Remaining in this position until his relocation to Melbourne in 1873.

He also became the first and founding Principal of Camden College (also in Newtown, St George, Sydney NSW, Australia) in the years from 1864 until 1872. This was the Sydney based theological college for the Congregational Church. These days it is known as the Uniting Theological College of Australia and is based in North Parramatta. They have all the records pertaining to S. C. Kent and a large oil painting of him (1864) in their library.

The Newtown Congregational Church is now a Greek Orthodox Church. Newtown High School is in the same area. Camden College became a Ladies College until it was pulled down in 1888. The site that it had occupied became high density housing allotments. Only the names of the streets i.e. Camden and College Streets, which intersect each other, are the remaining evidence that this institution existed in 19th century Sydney. There are also two Kent streets in this area of Sydney today, one or both being named for the Reverend S. C. Kent. "The Newtown Project" (Sydney Archives) makes mention of these on-line.

Whilst occupying these Congregational Church positions, The Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent and later his son Harry Chambers Kent came into contact with a number of well connected, influential and wealthy Sydney Congregationalists when they were on College Committees, Church Boards and Councils etc in the Newtown/Strathfield area. These prominent associates included John Fairfax-Sydney Businessman, John West - editor of the Sydney Morning Herald and retailer David Jones - names that we are still familiar with today. These men made substantial contributions to the church including providing land and money for church and college buildings and personally overseeing how the money was being spent. They were all in close and constant contact with the Reverend S. C. Kent during his time in Sydney. Later they kept a close association with his son, architect, Harry Chambers Kent.

During these Newtown - St George district years, more children continued to be born to the Reverend S. C. Kent and his first wife Emily and quite a few of them were lost in infancy or later. They were Agnes P (1855-58), Susan E (1857-87 Syd), Thomas B (1859-61), Edith Mary (1861-?) (m. Leslie), Sydney Maule (1863-76 Melb., Vic), Arthur Leavold (1865-1931 Brighton, Melb.), Florence E (1867-67) and Emily (1868-68 Sydney) This made a total of ten children from this first marriage, of which only five were to survive to adulthood. (Sydney Maule Kent died aged 13 in Fitzroy, Melbourne, Vic in 1876). (S. C. Kent also makes a mysterious journey to Brisbane via Sydney on the ship Egmont in May of 1876 aged 39 years. Further research needs to be done on the purpose behind this visit to see if it had any connection to the son's death).

Things were to take a dramatic turn for the worst for the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent in 1868. Not only did he lose his wife, Emily (nee Deacon), but also his youngest (infant) child from this marriage, also called Emily, at around the same time.

He couldn't have been too perturbed by Emily's death, or in those times the practicalities of looking after existing children over-ruled all sentimentality, because he promptly found and remarried a widow by the name of Charlotte Eliza Wilson (maiden name Chapman) on the 16th of December 1869 at the Newtown Congregational Church. She had been born in Parramatta, Sydney NSW to Charles Chapman (cooper - i.e. barrel maker) and Charlotte Williams in 1835. She had also previously been married to Andrew Wilson at the tender age of 17 years in 1853 in Sydney. Two daughters had been born into this marriage, Charlotte W. C. Wilson in 1854 (died the same year) and Catherine Ross Wilson in 1855 in Alexandria, South Head, Sydney NSW, Australia. This daughter later married 1. Joseph Robertson in 1875 in Melbourne, Vic., and 2. Joseph Lever in 1892? in Victoria. This is where my grandfather's middle name of Ross comes from, most likely. It is also part of my brother Ian Sandeman Ross James's (1965-) name. I actually suspect that's it's a Wilson family name and nothing to do with the Chapman's or Williams's. My father had always insisted that we were related to people by the surname of Ross. It was this insistence that made me want to investigate the Kent branch of the family tree in the first place, coupled with his mother's insistence that he was a cousin of Lance Ross and Charlie Kent who were at Wesley College (Melbourne secondary school) with him. "There are Kent's everywhere", she used to say.

The Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent and his new wife, Charlotte, went on to have five more children (all daughters). The first of these was Charlotte Maidment Kent 1870-1929 (died as surname "James" (sic Smith) in Warrandyte South, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia). She was my father's paternal grandmother. Her birth certificate states that she was born at Camden College, Newtown, St George District, Sydney, NSW on the 16th of October 1870. Her sister Olive Chapman Kent (m. Oldfield) then followed in 1872 at Camden College in Sydney.

THE REVEREND SAMUEL CHAMBERS KENT 1825-1911 -- Continued

The family then relocated down to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia in 1873. Florence Ethel Neda Kent 1874 (m. Rodda), Lillian Melbourne (or Melba) Kent 1876 and Charlotte Eliza Kent 1879-1962 (m. Davies) were all born there. The last child being born at 23 Smith Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Unfortunately disaster struck again for the Reverend S. C. Kent. This second wife (Charlotte Eliza Chapman/Wilson) died on the 27th of March 1879 from a pulmonary embolism following the birth of this last child. The child, a daughter also called Charlotte Eliza Kent was only two days old. I also now suspect that her daughter (from first Andrew Wilson marriage) Catherine Ross Wilson became the temporary mother of these five girls (half sisters to herself). I believe that Charlotte Maidment Kent (my father's grandmother) had put the Ross in as my grandfather Frederick James's middle name to possibly show admiration for this (half) sister's kind or responsible act.

The Congregational Church was, at this time, around the corner and down the road from their Smith Street house, in Victoria Parade, Melbourne. It is now a Greek Orthodox Church.

The Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent then married again, for a third time at the age of 55 yrs to Elizabeth Raymond Buxton aged 32 yrs. She was the daughter of Richard Raymond Buxton and Elizabeth Jane Buckhurst (her mother born in Ontario, Canada) and was born in County Kent in England. The Reverend S. C. Kent and his younger wife were married at Christ Church (Church of England) in St Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on the 10th of January 1881. No Children were born into this marriage. This third wife died at aged 46 years in 1896 in Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The inscription on her headstone actually reads in a very strange and cryptic way suggesting an unusual cause of death which would also warrant further investigation.

It seems to be from this 1881 marriage onwards that the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent changes his religious affiliations from being a Congregationalist Minister to a Church of England minister. He totally defects from the Congregationalist Church which doesn't bode well with his two sons in Sydney. He was based at St Silas Church of England in Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia for the remainder of his church career. His residence was at the parsonage next door in Bridport St. There is a very clear and detailed illustration of him on the State Library of Victoria's website (Picture Catalogue-Popular Preachers of Melbourne 1874). They also have five or six of his sermons and other writings (largely from his Sydney years) on file in their reading room. So if you're ever in the mood for a bit of 19th century biblical fire and brimstone, pulpit beating and moral reckoning - he's your man.

The Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent's will states that he spent his remaining years at No. 8 Murray St, Elsternwick, Victoria. He died on the 29th of November 1911 aged 85 years and is buried in the Church of England Section of the St Kilda Cemetery in Melbourne, Victoria. His will is an excellent example of 19th century primogeniture. The eldest son (solicitor) gets the lot, the other two sons rate a mention and the daughters never existed - well not on paper anyway. Makes you glad that you live now - not then and of cause that you were male rather than female.



NEIL MANSFIELD'S

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FOHBF Inc. PO Box 330, Keilor VIC 3036

"Please mention this advertisement"

WHAT'S NEW?

CHILDERS – THORPDALE CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS & REGISTER

Updated till April 2008

Our thanks to the Trust Secretary, Marlene Gorman, for allowing MGFHS to copy the register
This new publication is available for \$6 plus \$2 postage and handling
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs/publications.htm>



Bonnet's made by
MGFHS members

'ROSES FROM THE HEART'
<http://www.christinahenri.com.au/>

Convict Bonnets

Christina Henri still needs your help to make her convict bonnet project a success; bonnets are still needed to complete the project. When the full 25,566 bonnets are received the full installation will be exhibited.
If you are having any problems downloading the pattern from Christina's site, email [Kaye macore@tadaust.com.au](mailto:Kaye_macore@tadaust.com.au)



Elections are coming up
Please consider taking on a roll?

If additional forms are needed then visit our web site
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs/nomform.htm>

MGFHS ELECTIONS
AGM 28th August 2008

NOMINATION FORM 2008/2009

I (Print name).....
A financial member of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.,
Of (Address).....
Nominate **(Print name)**.....
For the position of

Signature of Nominee.....
Signature of Proposer.....

Positions Vacant: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, **Librarian, Web, Newsletter,** Publications officer, Research officer/s, Hostess, Computers, Committee member.

Forms: Can be submitted by *hand* to the Secretary, any time up to immediately before the AGM at the August meeting or by *post* to the Secretary, P.O. Box 767, Morwell 3840 two weeks prior to the August AGM.

Note: The Librarian, Web Person and Newsletter Editor ask for a rest, please consider running for their positions

GREEN and GOLD

By Wes Halket

From the time I was a small child, I had always believed my maternal ancestors to be Irish to the core, had all kissed the Blarney Stone (I am certain that is still correct) and were all of the Catholic faith. My mother came from a large family of six boys and six girls, all of whom lived in Bunbury W.A. Up until the time I started my family history research, all but one had passed on and I was left with many pleasant memories of shamrocks and shillelaghs. At home I would often hear my mother singing Irish songs like Mountains of Morn or The Wild Colonial Boy or talking about people kissing the Blarney Stone. I also knew my grandfathers were lifelong railway men and thought they came from Northern Ireland, chased out by the potato famine.

I was soon to learn that knowing of someone and actually knowing the truth about them are two different kettles of fish indeed. One other piece of vital information not in my possession at that time was that every one of my aunts and uncles were endowed with common use nicknames. Try finding someone called Mary who is only ever referred to as Manie, Cecil called Murton or Phyllis called Maude, believe you me it is not easy.

The enlightenment came with the Australian Vital Records disks. When casually researching something for a friend I entered my grandfather's name, and there he was- William Michael Morgan, b, 21 June 1857 at Green Gully, Muckleford, Victoria, f. George Morgan, m. Frances Harbrow, this information also led me to the marriage in 1852, of George and Frances in the Church of England at Brighton, Victoria. Later, the Victorian prisoner's index (George had spent 3 years in jail for stealing a horse) revealed he emigrated from Bristol England where he was born in 1823.

My daughter Debby was the one who found the Harbrow link in a book on Henry Dendy's immigrants. Frances had arrived in Williamstown with her parents William and Elizabeth Harbrow on the "Earl of Durham" in 1842 and would you believe they came from Sussex. Wow! What a shock, I was third generation Australian; the emerald green had just turned to golden yellow. Amazing, how come, had I been misled all those years ago?

Let's find out, let's be a proper family historian, assume nothing, determine facts, separate the fiction, don't throw it away, but keep it as future reference just in case some of it is true or close to the truth.

With my previous notes stuffed away in the useless drawer. I began my Aussie research in earnest. Soon I had William married 13 October 1883 in the Church of England at Nyngan, NSW to Julia Bradley, and as quick as You could say "Jack Robinson" I had 5 children b. N.S.W. George 1883, Gladstone 1884, Francis 1886, William 1888, Mary 1889 and John b. Victoria 1890. There was also another clue, two were born "At camp", others "on the Loddon" and Newcastle, a good indication of someone possibly working in railway construction.

Not finding any others born in N.S.W. or Victoria I finally turned to Bunbury where I knew my mother was born. The Vital records gave Doreen b. Bunbury 1903 and Cecil 1909, but where were the rest of them?

Years later I met my 90 year old aunt Doreen, (over a congenial glass of Scotch of course) a lovely lady who assured me that the family had always been catholic and the missing children were born in Bunbury, but that was about all the information I would get from her, because other stuff I had passed to her daughter was wrong and that was to be the end of the matter.

In desperation I visited the Catholic Church nearest to where the family had lived. Yes!!! I got the lot of them, all neatly printed out straight from the computer, Phyllis b. Picton 1895 and the rest all born Bunbury, Olive 1893, Sylvester 1898 and Philomena 1900. So much for the W.A. version of the Vital Records! I was now able to understand why my aunt Doreen had been a bit snitchy on me about the info I had passed on to her daughter. Having "Pommie" ancestors is bad enough "Ugh" but then being told they were also "Anglican" Too much for the soul to bear.

From Julia's marriage certificate I soon determined her parents Henry Bradley and Bridget O'Toole (What could be more Irish than that) and this led me to 10 children born in Victoria, John 1858, Henry 1860, Margaret 1863 d.1863, Julia 1864, Margaret 1865, James 1867, d.1868, William 1869, James 1871, Bridget 1874 and Ellen 1877. I soon learned that the Bradley's had come to Australia from Ireland in 1857 on the ship "Talbot" and that Henry was employed on the railways @ 11 shillings/day, where he remained until his retirement. Now we have the Irish connection. I think it fair to say that my grandmother Julia was most likely the strong Irish influence, despite being born an Aussie.

In Perth library is an old railway union magazine with an article on my grandfather William, a railway ganger, gave me his history from age 15 in N.S.W. through Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia to his retirement in Bunbury, a much travelled gentleman, often away from home for extended periods of time leaving his wife Julia to raise their large family, as was the time he left her with 10 pounds, went gold prospecting with 800 pounds and returned 6 months later completely broke.

My grandmother was a very remarkable much loved woman, with a great deal of influence on all the family, who, after raising 11 children, travelled to Victoria in 1927, took me from a doctor who said I would not live more than 24 hours, wrapped me in swaddling, fed me on condensed milk and nurtured me so well that I am here today more than 77 years later.



Welcome New Members

Ruth Cecko of Newborough
Doreen Anderson of Morwell
Raymond Jackson of Moe
Arthur Kirkbright of Morwell

Interesting Web Sites

Read the Port Phillip Herald from 1840 - 1902. The site is free to use but you do need to register as a user. You can search in 5 year spans. The pages come to your computer as pdf files that you can save to your hard drive to read at your leisure.

<http://www.paperofrecord.com/>

Australian obituary notices
<http://www.obituary.com.au>

The Necropolis Springvale
Email: enquiries@necropolis.com.au
Their web site is almost ... back
<http://www.necropolis.com.au/>

Documents found in English Parish collections, includes persons who were removed from one parish to another. Basically Derbyshire, records.
<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~spire/Yesterday/index.htm>

Create your own Family History Web Page easily at
<http://members.freewebs.com/>

NEW GROUP

Friends of the Orphan School
& St Johns Park Precinct. Tasmania.
PO Box 111, Moonah TAS 7009

For more information email:

friends.orphanschool.stjohnspark@gmail.com

Vicki's finds on the web

While on a Globus bus tour of Ireland we had an overnight stay in Sligo, County Mayo. Our tour guide, Patricia, mentioned that there was a law office with the name of Argue and Fibs. My wife and I took a before-dinner stroll and, sure enough, across the street from the courthouse there was a brass plaque on the wall next to the doorway of a law office that read "Argue and Phibbs."

-- Norm Lyons

Of course, birth and death dates in genealogy are important to have. While backtracking one family group, I came upon a death date entry indicating only that the man's demise was "None too soon."

-- Unknown contributor

New Additions to the Library

CDRom:

CarVilla Memorial Park Tasmania

War Census of New Zealand

Books:

Mirboo North Cemetery Register 1882 – 1978

Non British Research Starter Kits

Sale and District Pioneer Index 1838 – 1900

Return of the Bounty

For a full list of our holdings each computer (3) in the library now has the catalogue installed.

Publications for sale by Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. (MGFHS)

Address ALL enquiries regarding publications to The Secretary, Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.
PO Box 767 Morwell Victoria 3840 ALL checks to be made payable to Mid Gippsland F.H.S. Inc.

Books (postage cost on application)

Boolarra Cemetery Register 1887 - 1998,	plus Transcriptions	- 2005	\$16.50
Childers - Thorpdale Cemetery Register	plus Transcriptions	1879- 2008	\$ 6. 00
Gippsland Crematorium Register		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gormandale Cemetery Transcriptions	<i>NEW</i>	-2007	\$10.00
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1879- 1995	\$40.00
Moe Cemetery Register		1891- 1996	\$22.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1881- 1997	\$40.00
Narracan Cemetery Transcriptions		-2002	\$ 7. 50
Toongabbie Cemetery Register		1872- 1995	\$16.50
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions		1873- 1994	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Register		1887- 1995	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions		1886- 1994	\$22.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1872- 1994	\$60.00
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	Updated 2005	1869- 2004	\$16.50
Willow Grove Cemetery Register	plus Transcriptions	1898- 1993	\$16.50
Yallourn Cemetery Transcriptions		1930- 2000	\$50.00

Microfiche and CD'S are also Available

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

“Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editor and committee of Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc., take no responsibility for submitted items.”



Newsletter #139 ©

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