

Newsletter:

The Genealogical Society of Victoria, Mid-Gippsland Group.
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Chairman: John Pattison, Traralgon Vic.

N^o 11. JUNE 84

THE GENEALOGIST'S NIGHTMARE.

The following extract is reportedly taken from a parish register in Parma Valley, Italy:

"I married a widow with a grown-up daughter. My father fell in love with my step-daughter and married her- thus becoming my son-in-law, and my step-daughter became my mother as she was my father's wife. My wife had a child which, being the brother of my step-mother, became my uncle and at the same time the son-in-law of my father. My father's wife also had a child, which became naturally, my brother and I his grandfather, as he is the son of my daughter. At the same time, my wife is also my grandmother, as she is the mother of my mother. I, my wife's husband, am also her grandson. And as the husband of a grandmother is a grandfather, I suppose I'm my own grandfather!"

LUNACY.

Having trouble of late in locating the whereabouts of an ancestor? Can't find a death date? Can't find a place of burial? Or his or her name in any current directories? Family members have heard no mention of the person concerned!

Have you thought to search the indexed register of lunatics or the register of Inquests? It may be well worth a try.

All said lunatics (a great percentage only being alcoholics), whose death occurred in asylums were subject to an automatic coronial inquest.

A case in point was an identity from Geelong. Suffering the agony of a crushed leg, he was admitted to the Geelong hospital where the offending limb was amputated. The shock that followed sent him reeling into a fit of lunacy. The local constabulary were called upon to drag the poor unsuspecting victim (patient) to the Kew Lunatic Asylum, where in appalling conditions and with primitive treatment he existed for only a month before he died.

After an inquest was held, the reasons for his death and previous illness established, the body was transported by train from the asylum to the Geelong Eastern Cemetery for burial.

The above incident took place in 1876, however, prior to this, and in the earlier days of the colony, treatment of the insane was even more severe, as is indicated from the following report.

"By definition lunacy was the kind of insanity which was interrupted by lucid intervals, and was formerly supposed to be influenced by the changes of the moon. Idiocy was the name given to a congenital and extreme deficiency of intelligence. In 1852, controlling the violence of the insane was a specialised task, which led to ingenious structures and clothing to prevent injury to the patient, the attendant or the bystander. Treatments were based on hope and faith, rather than knowledge, and while ingenious treatments were often drastic, e.g. the pouring of cold water over the patient secured in a tub, up to 300 buckets full, in the cause of improving the sanity of the patient; or the rapid whirling around of seated or lying patients to change the normal rhythmic passage of the blood."

Taken from the June 1980 Geelong Historical Magazine - Investigator.

The existence of Lunatic asylums and institutions were rife during the pre 1900 era and the whereabouts of some of these were (Major), Yarra Bend, Kew, Sunbury, Ballarat, Ararat, and Ballarat. (Minor). Lara, Mt. Ida, Brighton, Merton, Northcote, Bendigo, Cremorne, and Carlton/Collingwood.

The indexed register of lunatics is available from the P.R.O. in book form at Laverton. (May possibly also be on microfilm at the City Office, Please Enquire.)

MAY MEETING.

An attendance of 45 members and visitors at our May meeting proves beyond all doubt the ever growing interest in Genealogy.

One unfortunate aspect to family research, however, is the ever increasing cost in the purchase of birth, death and marriage certificates which is seemingly a prohibitive factor in the extension and completion of most people's research.

Our group has recently corresponded with the Minister for Property and Services in an attempt to point out the definite need for the release of a pre 1900 index to births, deaths and marriages presently held by the Government Statist.

A reply from the minister instituted little response to our plea, and in turn our Group has written to all local members of parliament in a further attempt to create an awareness of the unavailability of this index, and of the ludicrous situation presently concerning this index in Victoria.

As Victoria is fast approaching its 150th Centenary we urge all members, interested persons and associated groups to band together and continue to apply pressure on the appropriate authorities for the release of this index.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

'Kapana', A Place on the River. (Barraclough Family History.) By Linda Barraclough & Josianne Smith. Donated by Linda Barraclough The Barraclough Family Tree (chart).

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Journal. September 1983. Donated by Laraine Rameslaar.

'The Twelve Mile Peg' Boolarra 184-1984. By Roslyn Carstairs.

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. G. Sephton. This soft covered book of 100 pages and a number of photographs, deals with the settlement of Boolarra and the outlying districts of Budgerree. Included are selectors names, and details on the Boolarra school, church, town, sporting bodies, scouting, fire brigade, town council, and other miscellaneous data. The only criticism of the book is the lack of an all important index.

The Genealogist March 1984.

Child Welfare Institutions in Victoria.

Index to the photographic portraits of the explorers and early colonists of Victoria listing date of arrival in the colony of Victoria. (Known as Chuck's portraits.) Mr. Chuck arrived in Melbourne in 1863 and established a studio in Royal Arcade, specialising in portraits of men. Photo prints of these portraits may be obtained from La Trobe Library.

1851 Dorset Population Directory. An alphabetical directory of Dorset is being compiled from 1851 census microfilms. It is hoped to publish it at about £10.00 per copy if there is sufficient support. For information:-

Mr. K. Jenkins, Frome Cottage,
28 Dorchester Road, Frampton, Dorchester,
Dorset, DT2 9ND, U.K.

Ancestor.

CANBERRA.

The Canberra & District Historical Society and the Heraldry & Genealogical Society of Canberra are preparing a biographical register of the A.C.T. as part of the Bicentennial History program.

The area of coverage: within 50 km. of the centre of Canberra It will cover, in 4 parts, the period 1824 to present.

Enquiries and information: P.O. Box 488, Manuka, A.C.T. 2603.

CENTRAAL BUREAU VOOR GENEALOGIE - Holland.

In the Central Bureau for Genealogy, founded in 1945, most of the private and State owned collections have been brought together and made available to amateur and professional genealogists alike.

These collections include:-

-the documentation section:

*the registration cards of all the municipal population registers for each person deceased in The Netherlands since 1939 (these cards give all the relevant data about the person concerned, his or her parents, marriage and children - if any).

*millions of newspaper cuttings, so-called family announcements about births, marriages and deaths, (from ca. 1795 up to now.)

-the genealogical library:

*thousands of family histories, genealogical compilations, monographs, yearbooks and periodicals, both Dutch and foreign.

-genealogical manuscripts:

*over 55,000 files containing compiled genealogies, notes, biographical data, etc., originating from the work of hundreds of amateur and professional genealogists.

-the records section:

*card indexes, microfilms and copies of thousands of registers of births or baptisms, marriages and deaths in the Netherlands, the former Dutch East and West Indies and German Border areas.

*copies of the 19th century lists of Dutch emigrants.

*microfilms of the famous Walloon card indexes containing baptisms, marriages, etc., of Huguenot communities in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

-heraldry:

*books and manuscripts on heraldry in general and family coats of arms in particular.

*the "Muschart" card index of armorial bearings found on seals in the archives.

Our library contains moreover reference-books of all kinds, works on topography, history, chronology, etc.

Address: Central Bureau voor Genealogie,
P.O. Box 11755,
2502 At The Hague,
The Netherlands.

LOST A TOWN?

Are you looking for a town or place which has been renamed or disappeared since the early days of the Australian Colonies? This book may help?

A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies, 1848, By William Henry Wells.

It lists all the places in the colony at the time giving locations and information. Available at the G.S.V. Library, Block Arcade, Melbourne.

THE BASIC SOURCES FOR MANX ANCESTRY OR THE ISLE OF MAN.

The Basic Sources

Records of Church of England baptisms, marriages and burials in the Isle of Man have been kept since the early seventeenth century, the earliest records being in 1611 (baptism), 1629 (marriage) and 1610 (burial) and it is to these basic sources that the researcher addresses himself. The original registers are usually in the custody of the parish clergy and it is necessary to make an appointment with the Vicar or Rector to consult original records, for which a fee may be payable. These records, however, are often fragile and in some cases the researcher may find the faded writing difficult to read.

However, in the late nineteenth century, all the Manx parish registers were called into what is now the General Registry in Douglas, and were transcribed in full. These books of transcripts may now be consulted at the General Registry, Finch Road, Douglas, together with the later civil registration records of births, marriages and deaths. The compulsory registration of births and deaths commenced in the Isle of Man in 1878. Prior to 1878 such registrations were voluntary and although there are some registrations dating back to 1849, they are relatively few in number. Records of marriages in Registrar's Offices, non-conformist churches and Roman Catholic Churches are also held from 1849.

Address: The Genealogy Registry,
Finch Road,
Douglas,
Isle of Man.

Manx Museum Library

An alternative place of study is the Manx Museum Library. The parish register transcripts, with other records of genealogical importance were microfilmed in the 1950's by the Society of Genealogists of the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints, and copies of these films were deposited in the Library. As it is also the chief centre for both the public and private records of the Isle of Man, it is the most convenient centre in which to extend your search from the parish registers to the other papers which may assist you. There are principally the enumeration books of the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses—which list all persons on the Island on a given day in each of these years, wills and other testamentary records from the seventeenth century onwards which often describe family relationships and give vivid and personal insights into the manner in which our ancestors lived, and the Manorial Roll, a record of Manx landholding which is very informative.

Address: Manx Museum Library,
Kingswood Grove,
Douglas,
Isle of Man.

Remember, in writing, please include
2 international coupons.

INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX. - The 'Mormon Index': What does Mean?

This Index has been compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the 'Mormons'. Known officially at first as the Master File Index (CFI) and now as the International Genealogical Index (IGI), it is an increasingly accessible and useful research tool. However, it is still limited in its coverage as not all parishes are included and entries should be checked against the original record for accuracy and extra details. Basically it covers the years 1538-1837, baptisms and marriages, but care should be taken as not all years in each parish between those dates are necessarily included. The English Counties, Scotland, Ireland and Wales are all indexed separately.

The information is available on microfiche (a microfiche simply means a small card) and each of these - a piece of film the size of a postcard - contains 356 reduced pages of names which can be read with a special viewer, or enlarged and printed. Some of the information to be found on each page is as follows:

Other/Mother or Spouse. Spelled according to the original record. Male/Female of Husband/Wife. The initial letters of these words are used in this column and describe the person concerned. M or F concern a christening and H or W a marriage.

Event (Christening) or M (Marriage) or, rarely, one of the other initials shown at the bottom of each page.

Event Date. Day, month and year of the event (birth, christening, marriage, census or probate.) Dates are arranged chronologically. Note that christening dates, not birth dates, are generally given.

Parish. This is where the event took place, not necessarily where the parties lived. Remember that not all parishes are included. If the event took place in a Nonconformist chapel this is indicated, otherwise a parish name alone means the event took place in the Church of England. If there are two almost identical entries, it may mean either that an older child of the same name led young, or that the information came from two different, disagreeing sources.

The Mormons gather information about their ancestors so that they can identify them as separate and definite individual people, which includes records of christenings and marriages. A vicarious ordinance of baptism (baptism by proxy) is then carried out on their behalf. This does not, however, make them members of the Mormon Church. The date in the column indicated when this ordinance took place in one of their Temples, and the letters following the date are an abbreviation of the Temple's location (e.g. LD is London). If the word 'CLEARED' appears in this column, it indicates that approval for the ordinance has been given but not carried out. If the word 'INFANT' appears, it means that the child may have died before the age of 8 years, precluding the vicarious ordinances.

This stands for Endowment, which is perhaps best explained as a sort of confirmation.

Mormons believe that families are an eternal institution, to be enjoyed beyond the veil (after death); thus husbands are sealed to wives and children to parents. Again carried out in their temples it does not necessarily have any efficacy.

Batch. Information for the Index comes from several sources, though mainly from original parish registers or other registers or copies, or from Mormons researching their ancestors themselves and submitting their names to the Mormon church. If the batch number begins with "A" and the years in the preceding columns are between 1842-1970 there is a Family Group Sheet in the Family Group Records Archive (FGRA). If the third digit is a number beginning with a 7 or 3 or less then the data was submitted by a Mormon; the code of

the number is translated thus -

7206329 means that the data was submitted in 1972 (first two figures) on the 063rd day of that year and the material can be found in the 29th batch with that reference.

If the third number is 4 or more, the data was from another source; e.g. 725--- is from the Gibson Marriage Index for Oxfordshire. Batch numbers beginning with the letters C, M or P indicate that the entry is from the Controlled Extraction Program of the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Serial Sheet. This is the page number of the batch, for complete identification of source.

Useful Addresses. Information about the records of the FGRA and the submitters of the other information entered by individuals (see above) may be obtained from: Patrons Division, Genealogical Society of Utah, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, U.S.A. Full details of the entry, including batch number and microfiche sheet number should be quoted.

MAPS FOR THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

19th century maps in particular are very useful to the researcher. They show names and places which had disappeared by the 1920's. Originals are often difficult to obtain and very expensive into the bargain. Parish maps are even rarer, and those which show boundaries are a real find. Highly recommended to the Genealogist, both experienced or just starting, are the following two series which have proved indispensable to family history enthusiasts as well as the local historian.

1. The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA publish a series of maps of each county in England, Wales and Scotland which give the name of every parish, show parochial boundaries, probate jurisdiction in colour, and dates of commencement of registers. They are of uniform size (17 x 14") and are priced at £2.00 each (post free).

2. David and Charles (Holdings) Ltd, Newton Abbot, Devon, have available reproductions of all the Victorian Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales (not Scotland) in the one-inch to the mile series. Printed originally between 1805 and 1873 and measuring 30" x 40" when unfolded, they provide a very accurate record of the counties. You can, as on the latest maps, find the names of farms, woods, parks, etc., now long since built over or changed out of recognition. The country is divided into 97 maps (numbered 1 onwards) but if you write in and ask for the maps covering a particular town or county these will be supplied. For example, four maps cover the county of Hertfordshire (62, 63, 71 and a little piece of 72). They are priced at £2.25 each, including postage and packing.

Hertfordshire is particularly rich in early maps and descriptions and listings of them from the earliest times. The Hertfordshire Library Service through "Hertfordshire Publications" republished in 1980 Andrews and Dury's map of the county of 1766 at a real rock bottom price of £3.00. There are still some available. David Hodson listed all known maps extant in his "Printed Maps of Hertfordshire 1577-1900" (1974), a book which can be found in nearly all public libraries.

Alan Ruston.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA. Policy statement on Society's Research Activities on behalf of members and non-members.

The following policy decisions apply to research activities undertaken by Head Office and each Group of the Society, by way of provision of guidance or assistance to be given by them to members and non-members.

A. The Society's overall objective in relation to provision of assistance with research to members and non-members is as expressed in para 2 (a) of the Society's Memorandum of Association which reads as follows:

"2. The objects for which the Association is established are:

(a) to promote and encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry and allied subjects, and to assist members and others in genealogical research."

Some of the other activities promoted by the Society, to give effect to that objective, are set out in following sub-paras of para 2, principally 2 (b) to 2 (g), of the Memorandum of Association.

B. Head Office and Groups seek to handle requests from members for research guidance and/or assistance as far as practicable within the Society's staff and library resources. This means they will not undertake research at outside repositories on behalf of members. However, Country Groups which lack their own library resources may, at their discretion, use such sources as are appropriate.

C. Every member requesting such assistance must state his/her full name, address and membership number and provide stamps and self-addressed label or envelope for return of an interim or final reply as the case may be. Where photocopies, microfiche prints or other copies are able to be supplied to members, early payment for these (as notified) is required.

D. Head Office and Groups may decide to provide research guidance and/or assistance to non-members as far as practicable within the Society's staff and library resources, provided this can be done without prejudice to the handling of requests from members. This means they will not undertake research at outside repositories for non-members. However, Country Groups which lack their own library resources may, at their discretion, use such sources as are appropriate. Additionally, non-member enquirers are encouraged to join the Society before any detailed research assistance is provided to them. Payment is required to cover the cost of photocopies, microfiche prints or other copies able to be supplied to non-members, plus a commission payable to the Society, as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.

E. The Society's Executive Committee submits recommendations to the Council from time to time regarding the rates to be charged for research and other time involved in handling non-members requests for assistance, plus the amount of commission to be charged.

F. The Society's research staff provide their services on a voluntary (unpaid) basis, except that they are re-imbursed for the cost of fares entailed in connection with their research duties.

G. Applications are accepted from professional researchers seeking to advertise in the Society's journal 'Ancestor' subject to the understanding that the Society does not accept responsibility in respect of the provision of services by such persons to any member or non-member who decided to use their services. (See disclaimer published at head of editorial page of each issue of 'Ancestor'.)

H. Each group provides Head Office with quarterly statements of research conducted by it with members and/or non-members. These statements are submitted for the quarters ended March, June, September and December each year.

I. Members and non-members are not permitted to use the Society's records or machines for unduly long periods at a time, to the disadvantage or inconvenience of other members or visitors seeking to use them.

WELSH RESEARCHER.

Mr. Basil Twigg,
Gwynfe,
Caradog Road,
Aberystwyth,
Dyfed. SY 232J7. Wales.

Mr. Twigg is a professional researcher who is presently engaged in writing a book on Welsh genealogy.

Please Note: No recommendation is made as to the competency of this researcher and that any arrangement made is on a purely private basis.

HELP WANTED

Mrs M. Belden of 31a Melbanke St., Portland, 3305., is presently seeking details of George Edwards, born in 1848 in Devonshire, England, and the son of John Edwards and Elizabeth Gale.

George Edwards arrived in 1857 on the "British Empire". He later married Emma Hund and came to reside in the Gippsland region. Nothing else is known about him. If you can help, or have any details of George and Emma Edwards please contact Mrs Belden direct.

BRITISH SOURCES.

Record Offices: How to find them, by Jeremy Gibson and Pamela Peskett, second edition, 40 pages, published 1982 by the Federation of Family History Societies, 96 Beaumont Street, Milehouse, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3 AQ, England.

A copy of this very useful guide to English and Welsh County Record Offices with detailed location maps, telephone numbers and other useful details which enable potential visitors to locate and travel to these record offices with the minimum of time and effort. Copies available from the Federation for £1.75 posted to Australia.