

NEWSLETTER no 26

June 1986.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - MID GIPPSLAND GROUP.

Chairman: Mrs. Dawn Cowley, 27 Shanahan Parade, Newborough. Vic. 3825. Phone 051-271780.

Secretary: Mrs. Karen Healy, 16 Retford Street, Newborough. Vic. 3825. Phone 051-272235.

OUR NEW VENUE.

Meetings are held in Room 209 at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Churchill, on the fourth Thursday of each month except December. Members are settling into the new venue and appreciate the extra library facilities. To enable meetings and supper to be over by 10pm. the meetings now commence at 7.30pm. Members wishing to use the library may do so at 7pm.

LIBRARY HOURS at G.I.A.E.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am. - 5pm.. Thursday and Friday ring Mr. David Tuck on 20313 to make arrangements for use of Mid Gippsland Group's material. Please take your Membership ticket when using Group's library materials.

May Meeting.

Our Chairman, Mrs. Dawn Cowley, was speaker at the May meeting asking 'Now that you have all that research material - What do you do with it?!' Mrs Cowley explained the filing and recording methods she has adopted in compiling her family history. These include allotting every member of the families being researched a number corresponding to their relationship to the first family arrivals in Australia; e.g. 1 and 1s. for husband and wife, 1/1 for firstborn child until a fifth generation could read 1/1/3/2/5. Dawn uses the numbering system to identify photographs and uses stick-on labels to record as much information as possible on the reverse side of photographs before filing them in family groups in paper bags in a dry dark spot. All interviews with family members are taped, carefully transcribed and often referred to when problems arise. She also uses a small tape recorder when researching newspapers as it is much quicker than transcribing by hand.

Melbourne Public Library: Hardcopy Newspapers.

Please note that as from 9th. June 1986 all hardcopy newspapers over 3 months old must be ordered in advance. Newspapers will be available as follows:

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Ordered by</u>	<u>Available</u>
<u>Overseas & Interstate</u>	<u>1pm.</u>	<u>6pm. Week days only.</u>
<u>Post 1920 Victorian papers</u>	<u>10pm.</u>	<u>10am. following day.</u>
<u>Melbourne papers (excluding</u>		
<u>Herald & Truth).</u>	<u>10pm.</u>	<u>10am. following day.</u>
<u>Pre 1920 Victorian papers</u>	<u>4pm.</u>	<u>4.30pm. same day.</u>

For Australians whose Ancestors were Irish. (Sydney Morning Herald 9/6 1986).

People with names like Gallagher, Burke, O'Flanagan, Doherty or Kelly could find themselves starring in a new series about their native land. Sydney producer Dick Dennison is looking for two people of Irish descent who will take part in a Bi-centennial documentary series about the Irish Down Under.

Dennison is hoping to find people with interesting family histories. The people he chooses will not only have their families' fortunes featured in the series as a parallel to broader history, they will also be flown back to Ireland to trace their roots there. He is particularly keen to find descendants of 'famine eviction' families especially descendants of the 47 families from County Donegal who were evicted in the 1860's by a British landlord. With the help of a relief fund, all these families were transported to Australia.

The series, which will be called 'Echoes of a Distant Drum' has been sold to the ABC and Irish television R.T.E. The series will examine the role of Irish women in Australia and will interview well-known Irish-Australians such as Sidney Nola, Paul Hogan and Susan Ryan. The first episode 'The Spirit of Rebellion' will examine protest movements in which the Irish were involved such as the 1804 convict uprising.

Anyone who feels they can provide an interesting history should write to

Professor Patrick O'Farrell; University of New South Wales; Kensington N.S.W. and send a 'one page history only' and copies of letters, photos and other useful evidence. Professor O'Farrell, a historian, is acting as consultant for the series.

Don't delay - filming starts in August.

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION.

Change of address. South Australian Genealogical Historical Society,
7 Maple Avenue,
Forestville. S.A. 5035.

For queries in N.S.W.. Sunday Telegraph "Help",
G.P.O. Box 7037,
Sydney. N.S.W..2001.

YALLOURN CEMETARY TRANSCRIPTION.

Transcribing the head-stones and plaques in the lawn section of the Yallourn Cemetery is taking longer than originally estimated and more volunteers are needed to complete this project. Bill White reports there are seven long rows in the Lawn Section which will take approximately twentyone hours of combined effort. If you are able to assist see Bill or Barbara at our meetings or ring them on 051-273466.

The next assignment will be to transcribe the information onto index cards so your assistance at working evenings will also be required. More details later.

MURPHY'S LAW on GENEALOGY. The document containing evidence of a missing link in your family will be lost through fire, flood or war. (1850's Group Newsletter).

THE MATHER FAMILY of YARRAGON.

(Contributed by Fay Davidson).

Jesse Mather (1847 - 1922), and Harriet Georgina Mather (nee Eyers) moved from their farm at Kaniva in 1898 and travelled to a rented farm at Ballarat. Ten year old Horace driving cattle set off first, then Mrs. Mather in a buggy with three other children followed by Jesse with a loaded dray. When the Government made land available for selection in a new area in Gippsland Mr. Mather applied and from a land ballot won an area to the north of the main drain at Yarragon.

The family again took to the roads. The cattle were now in good condition and better able to travel. Going through Melbourne was an ordeal as the journey had to be completed between 10pm. and 5am. while the trams were not running. Young Horace did a wonderful job and got them through as the first trams began moving.

Mr. Mather rented a nearby property and began building a 'wattle and daub' house on his own selection. The family moved into their home before it had doors or windows and there were no fences or sheds. They toiled from morning till night clearing land, burning logs, ploughing virgin soil and sowing grass seed by hand.

Many difficulties were encountered as roads were almost impassable and very boggy in places. Snakes and frogs were prevalent, and one year when a big flood was sweeping by the snakes made for a dry area, the bridge over the Main Drain served the purpose. One neighbour claimed that in one day he killed over forty snakes on the bridge,

Mrs. Mather was an expert butter-maker and the family were very pleased and proud when notified that her butter was being exported. It was decided that the minerals in the bore water she used for washing it helped to preserve it.

In 1916 the original 'wattle and daub' was replaced by a better house transported from Walhalla. From the new site there is a magnificent view of the flats with the Strzelecki Ranges in the background.

Of the children Ruth, born in 1893, married Alexander Young in 1916 and lived in the family homestead raising a family of two sons and two daughters. Ellen (Nellie) led a dedicated life with the Methodist Church when she became Pastor Ellen Jordan.

Fay Davidson is a great-granddaughter of Jesse and Harriet and would appreciate further information about Harriet's fame as a butter-maker. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 4, Yinnar. 3869. Phone 051-631306.

AM URGENT PLEA TO ALL MEMBERS.

This is your newsletter. Items of interest for inclusion in newsletters are URGENTLY required. Please hand to Mavis Lynch or Margaret Kilmartin at meetings or post to Secretary.

OVERSEAS TRIPPERS.

Ian and Sandra McCown are visiting Scotland; Julie Stevens has departed to do further research in England and Scotland. Don and Gladys Macreadie leave at the end of June for 3 months in the U.K. and Eddie Tunn is visiting family in Scotland.

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FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR.

Plans are well under way for our annual Family History Seminar to be held on Saturday 13th. September 1986 at the Regional Education Centre, Moe, commencing at 10am. Four excellent speakers have been engaged so you are urged to attend. In the past these seminars have proved invaluable in increasing our knowledge of family history research and how to solve that seemingly impossible problem. Cost of \$5.00 includes morning and afternoon tea. Bring your own lunch, cuppa available.

More details next newsletter.

CENTRE FOR GIPPSLAND STUDIES.

The Centre for Gippsland Studies was established at Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education in 1985 to promote activities which increase our knowledge of the Gippsland region. The Centre was allocated office space to house a special collection and reading room. The Centre is located near the study carrels near the library entrance and is run by David Tuck. (220356).

A large collection of books and a growing collection of non-book material such as journals, maps, newspaper clippings, photographs etc. are available for use by students, the general public and special interest groups may use the Centre. Material cannot be borrowed, though photocopy facilities are available. Local History is particularly well represented.

This special collection is 'closed access' which means you are not permitted to browse the shelves and filing cabinets for relevant items. Books are catalogued by the Library in the usual manner; non-book items are listed only by title in a separate catalogue kept in the Centre.

The Centre is anxious to increase its holdings and welcome previously unpublished written material from private collections. If you wish to retain the original copy arrangements can be made to have copies made.

Members will be able to use this material to up-date their knowledge of how their early Gippsland ancestors settled in and traversed this, at times, inhospitable corner of Australia. It speaks volumes for their fortitude and determination.

The Centre is open, Monday - Wednesday 9am. - 5pm. Thursday and Friday : by good luck or prior arrangements made with David Tuck.

Compiled by Mavis Lynch,

Newsletter Committee,