



NEWSLETTER

No. 39
OCTOBER, 1988.

Genealogical Society of Victoria
Mid Gippsland Group

Chairman : Mr. G. Sephton, Boolarra 051 - 696285
Secretary : Mr. F. Robinson, Mirboo North 056 - 681433

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER :

Although attendances at our August and September meetings were disappointing due to the onset of winter ills and trips to Expo., the members who were there managed to enjoy themselves. In August, we swapped information on our English County Historical Society connections (See members County interests Page 3). In September Ian McGown entertained us with an interesting talk on "The degree of Certainty" in relation to genealogical research.

SEMINAR REPORT :

Our Seminar held on 8th October was a great success with regard to the quality of speakers but was disappointing in the small number in attendance.

Our speakers were :

MR. ALAN BOX : Military Records for Genealogists

Alan is a member of the Military Historical Society in Australia and also Great Britain. He is a lecturer in Education at G.I.A.E. Churchill. His talk concentrated on the literary sources available on military services involving Australians. He was most entertaining and explained the various books with relevant personal comments on individual people portrayed in the volumes. Because he concentrated on Soldiers from Gippsland, he generated considerable interest from the audience.

MRS. MARGARET BURNS : Holdings of the Public Records Office

Margaret works in the Archives section of the P.R.O. and looks after reference services. Her talk dealt with the vast amount of records available, the methods and size of the storage area, the procedures involved in retrieving the information and other services supplied by the P.R.O. Interspersed with the talk were some case histories demonstrating how various records can be used to document a person's progress through life and provide some thought provoking moments for the researcher.

If the amount of interest in the publications of the P.R.O. holdings is any guide, I feel they may be inundated with visitors during the next few weeks.

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MR. JACK MILLER : Background and Aims of the International Settlers Group.

Jack is a committee member of the International Settlers and is also a council member of the G.S.V. where he acts as the Country Groups Liaison Officer. Jack's talk which focussed on settlers from outside the British Isles, was most enlightening. The problems facing people researching in Europe make the torments of English researchers pale into insignificance. Still, just as the research is so much harder, the rewards, when they come, are to be enjoyed so much more. The International Settlers Group are more than willing to assist any genealogist contemplating European research.

MRS. FRANCES BROWN : An Ordered Approach to Storing and Retrieving Information.

Frances is the genealogy and local history librarian at the state library in Victoria. She spoke on methods of researching in libraries and how to store the information once you have it home. Two books "Family and Local History Sources in Victoria" and "Family and Local History - An Ordered Approach Toward Publication" of which Frances is the co-author of both, were displayed and discussed. They were seen as "must haves" for genealogists, particularly for beginners.

All speakers made reference to the fact that a number of names, joined by lines, is only the skeleton of a family history - when you have enlarged the characters by use of available records and put "flesh on the bones" Genealogy has its impact.

We felt it an enjoyable day, in a very practical venue, not to be missed next year.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS :

South Gippsland Group, G.S.V.
FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR with JANET REAKES.
Thursday 10th November 1988 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Mechanics Institute Hall, Leongatha.
Cost \$15.00 Contact : Rosemary Abbey
(056) 623328, a/h (056) 623059
Topics : Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates/Parish Registers/
English records of the rich and poor.

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For upcoming Authors : PUBLISHING INFORMATION DAY.
Saturday, 19th November 1988 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education
Switchback Road, Churchill.
Cost \$20.00 - Morning and Afternoon tea provided B.Y.O. lunch.
Topics : Layout/Typefaces/ Choice of paper/ Photo preparation
Cover Design, etc.
Contact : Meredith Fletcher, Centre for Gippsland Studies
Gippsland Institute. (051) 220356.

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COUNTIES OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS AND MATERIAL AVAILABLE :

- Barbara White - CORNWALL - Family History Society
 Nos. 43-48 Mar 87 - June 88
 - Members Interest Directory.
- Florence Butcher - ESSEX - Family Historian Aut.86 - Spring 88
 BEDFORDSHIRE - F.H. Society Spring 87-Summ. 88
 " - 1851 Census Biggleswade
- Jean McNally - GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Mar. 87 - Dec. 87
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE - Spring 87 - Aut. 87
 - Members Interest Directory 1984
- Sandra McGown - SCOTLAND - Gen. Society.
 Reference Numbers to leaflets
 available.
 - List of Genealogy sales for Countie
- Ian McGown - CORNWALL - Members Interest Directory 1984
 Secty. of group provides information
 - Lists from Cornwall Records Office
 - Cornwall Domesday Book.
- Shirley Connaghan - IRELAND - Info on maps
- Dawn Cowley - NORTHUMBERLAND/
 DURHAM - F.H.S. Journals 1981-84
 NORFOLK - Record Office Holdings
 SCOTLAND - Civil Parish Maps for Scotland
 DEVON - F.H.S. Members Interests, 1982
- Greg Sephton - LANCASHIRE - Liverpool Family History
 Soc. Magazines - Sept. 85 - currei
- Don McReadie - CORNWALL
 WILTSHIRE
 IRELAND
- Frank Robinson - NORTHUMBERLAND/
 DURHAM

THANKS FLORENCE!

Florence Butcher has kindly donated a microfiche of
 the Essex Members Interest Directory to our Library.

THE BICENTENARY PIONEER REGISTER :

We have been given an orderform for this Register which
 contains genealogical details of 500 Pioneers who arrived
 in the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemens Land
 between the years 1788 and 1820, plus their children and
 grandchildren. Limited run of 1000 copies.

Price : \$33.00 plus \$5.00 postage (Victoria)

The Bicentenary Pioneer Register, P.O. Box 307,
 Spt Junction, 2088.

RESEARCH :

We have received a research query from Mrs. Colleen Pounsford who lives in New Zealand. She is searching for family of WILLIAM JOHNS, 1863 - 1911, HARRIET JEFFREY, PETER THOMAS JEWELL all of whom lived in and around Walhalla.

Also, Colleen will be pleased to do reciprocal research in New Zealand. She can be contacted :

Mrs. Colleen Pounsford,
180 Soleares Avenue,
Mt. Pleasant, Christchurch 8,
New Zealand.

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We have also received a letter from :

Leanne White, Chief Researcher,
Family Research Group,
14/33 Victoria Avenue,
Penshurst, 2222.

She writes she has access to St. Catherines House indexes to births and marriages for England and Wales and will research the records available at the Archive Office, N.S.W., Mitchell Library and State Library.

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A SOMEWHAT MACABRE FINAL SNIPPET :

July 1791 :

Patrick Burn, a person employed to shoot for the commanding officer of the marine detachment, died this month and the hut that he had lived in was burnt down in the night a few hours after his decease, by the carelessness of the people, who were Irish and were sitting up with the corpse. With much difficulty it was saved from the flames and not until it was much scorched.

From "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales"
Page 171 by David Collins.

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CORRESPONDENCE :

All correspondence should be addressed to our Secretary Mr. F. Robinson, 8 Baths Road, Mirboo North, 3871.

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Contributions are accepted in good faith by the Newsletter Committee and we do not accept responsibility for accuracy of information or opinions expressed.

Compiled for the MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP, G.S.V. by the Newsletter Committee, Greg and Lyn Sephton, Carol Furmston.
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