



# NEWSLETTER

NO. 48 JUNE, 1990.

Genealogical Society of Victoria  
Mid-Gippsland Group  
P.O. Box 767  
MORWELL Vic 3840

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Greg Sephton, Boolarra 051 69 6285  
**SECRETARY:** Miss. Melinda Van Klaveren 051 74 5452

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## REMINDER:

To all members of The Mid-Gippsland Group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria, that our Annual General Meeting is to be held next month on the 26th July, 1990 at the Monash University of Gippsland. Could members please bring a plate for supper.

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## PORT ARTHUR LISTS CONVICTS

Having a convict ancestor may not match the clout of owning a luxury car or mansion, but there is no doubt that an ability to trace your origins back to Australia's days as a penal colony is often seen as a status symbol. Visitors to Tasmania may now be able to determine once and for all if there are any convicts in their family tree. The Port Arthur Historic Site Authority has developed a data base listing the names of 60,000 convicts, or almost a third of those shipped out to the colony. Although only 12,500 were dispatched to the confines of Port Arthur, one of Tasmania's most popular tourist attractions, the authority says the data base is the most comprehensive in Australia. Listings detail the crimes and sentences of the transported men and women along with a personal description of them. Visitors need only have a hint of the convict in the family and a little basic information about them to check details on the data base. Most of the listings were a gift to Australia from the Irish Government in 1988 and another 20,000 names were provided by Steven Nicholas, author of *The Convict Worker*. The cost of using the data base is included in the \$7-50 entry fee to the Port Arthur site.

"The Sun", Friday, 11 May, 1990 - Travel Section

Submitted by Mrs. Shirley Connaghan.

# Morwell's the scene of quiet revolution in land information



RITA Kaczowski (left) and Kathy Angus of the Land Information Centre in Buckley St, Morwell, deal with a land title search for a customer on the Landata system which is the recently developed Government computerised land information service.

A QUIET revolution in immediate access to land information has been evolving in Morwell for the past months.

Landata, as the service is known, is a co-ordinated land information system developed by the State Government which is available in Morwell. It gives access for anyone to detailed information on property that was previously available only from the Land Titles Office and the Valuer-General in Melbourne.

The Land Information Centre in Buckley St can provide the public with copies of titles within 48 hours, give access to status on property dealing, give property evaluation statistics and help with personal conveyancing.

Applications for birth, death and marriage certificates can be lodged and paid for there; it has the most comprehensive Australian map sales service available and also provides a lamination service for valuable documents, prints plans and photographs that need protection.

Manager Ron Livingstone said the office had been set up in 1959 for political reasons to provide work for unemployed women. The office started with six typists and originally serviced the needs of the land titles office in Melbourne. It now has a staff of 37. Not until about two years ago had it serviced the needs of the local community but now the whole focus of its activity is changing to allow it to concentrate on clients in the Latrobe Valley.

Private searchers and other users now have access to Victoria's land index of about three million land titles by simply providing the proprietor's name,

the lot/plan number or the volume/folio number of the title.

Searches are of especial interest to buyers of land who want a complete set of facts on the block including rating records and the last sale price. A photocopy of the title and of the property plan could be also be obtained from Melbourne on request at the Morwell office.

Charges range from \$2 to \$14 depending on the depth of information that is requested.

The Land Information Centre has also become an agent for the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

"We'll take applications over the counter, take the money and give a receipt for it and fax the application to Melbourne. The certificate is then mailed out from Melbourne. The difference between this system and the old system where you had to get an application from the post office and then mail it to Melbourne with a money order, is that this is a lot quicker," Mr Livingstone said.

The other major service supplied by the centre is detailed maps of every corner of Victoria on a scale of 1:25,000 (1mm to 25 metres) for \$5.30 each. These include outdoor leisure maps ranging from the Bogong Alpine area to Wilsons Promontory National Park. The maps highlight walks, trails, camping areas, wineries and warn of hazards. Geological survey, electoral and topographic maps are also available.

Mr Livingstone said an aerial photography service was also being planned but had yet to come on stream.

The  
Latrobe  
Valley  
Express

Thursday

3 May 199x

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Submitted  
by  
Lorraine  
Ramseelaar.



### Ashes Of The Dead To Be Lost

The ashes of more than 1000 people are expected to be lost forever before the end of the year. The remains of 1060 people at the Springvale Crematorium will be discarded if relatives cannot be contacted to renew memorial tenure fees. The Catholic Church was outraged at the move, believed to be the first time in Victoria people's remains have been discarded without relatives' knowledge. The Vicar General of the Archdioceses in Melbourne, Monsignor Hilton Deakin, said discarding ashes without relatives' approval was not giving the dead the "time-honored respect" they deserved. Crematoriums were not "considering the emotional needs" of the families if they gave up searching for the executor of the will, Monsignor Deakin said. But the crematorium's assistant manager, Philip Tocknell, said the graveyard had to continue to generate income to ensure the maintenance of paidup plots. The 1060 dead will not even be registered in the crematorium's book of remembrance, as a fee is required. The ashes of those cremated between 1955 and 1960 when the crematorium first introduced its 25-year memorial tenures, will be the first used as fertiliser in the crematorium grounds. The crematorium has already held ashes in storage for up to nine years after the tenures expired, but since 1981 it has failed to contact 80 per cent of the deceased people's relatives. Mr. Tocknell predicted the crematorium would be forced to discard the remains of more than 1000 people every year due to the difficulty in contacting relatives 25 years later. Sadly, even if relatives were contacted, the crematorium must obey the orders of the will's executor - regardless of the wishes of the rest of the family, he said. He described the 1955 decision to impose tenures as "economics for prudent crematorium management". The community has to accept either we run out of income and become badly overgrown like some country cemeteries, or have tenures and maintain the ground in its present condition," he said. Mr. Tocknell said the crematorium made every effort to contact families. "But what we tend to find is that people think 25 years will never arrive and some tend to have forgotten".

"The Sun", Saturday, May 19,1990 - Page 18.

Submitted by Mrs. Shirley Connaghan.

"CHARACTERS OF WILLS"  
Written by Mrs. Dawn Cowley

**RICHARD DAVIES**

Richard Davies  
b. 1856

Richard Davies - an enigma. Did he exist? A great deal of effort has been expended in an attempt to ascertain whether or not there was a Richard born to William and Emmeline.

Mention is made of a child named Richard on three of the seven official documents to which I have had access, the three being the birth certificates of three of the subsequent six children born to the parents. There is no record of the birth of such Richard, but that in itself is of no great importance, as there is likewise no record of the birth of James (born a year before Richard) or Charles (born two and a half years after Richard). As these were the first three of the Davies children born in Australia, it may have been ignorance on the part of the parents as to the requirements of official registration which caused this omission.

The birth certificate of the fourth child born in Australia, Walter Henry, does not name previous children, but states that there are four boys and two girls. This does not allow for Richard. However the birth certificates of the next two children, Alfred and Albert, introduce him to us!! Under the heading "Issue, living and deceased" is the following:

On Alfred's certificate:		On Albert's certificate:	
Mary Ann	14 years	Mary Ann	16 years
John	13 years	John	15 years
William	11 years	William	13 years
Emelien	9 years	Emelien	11 years
James	7 years	James	9 years
RICHARD	6 years	RICHARD	8 years
Charles	3 years 6 mt	Charles	5 years 9 mt
Walter Henry	2 years	Walter Henry	4 years
		Alfred	2 years 3

mt

The next child born to the family was Francis Arthur, and no mention is made of Richard among the previous children. The father of the children, William Henry Davies was the person providing the information on all of these certificates.

Next born was Edwin, with the informant being Richard Watkins, a friend from Dromana, and again Richard does not appear among the previous children. We then look at the birth certificate of the last born Emmelien. The

information on this certificate was supplied by the father William Henry, and again we find Richard taking his place in the family, now listed as aged 16 years. Each listing of Richard and his age is consistent with him having been born in 1856. It seems unlikely that such consistency of detail would be apparent when Richard is recorded, if hea was a figment of someone's imagination. However I can provide no logical reason for exclusion on the occasions when his father has been the informant.

The death certificates of both William and Emmeline list the names and ages of their children. Here again there is no refernce to Richard, although listed is Emilien, the daughter who died at the age of fifteen. It can therefore be presumed that had Richard died by this time, he would still have been recorded as deceased.

A search of the indexes to deaths in Victoria pre 1896 has been made and there is no record of the death of any such possible Richard.

After exhaustive enquiries, these are the facts of the matter so far as I have been able to discover. On this stated evidence I invite you to draw your own conclusions.

I would be interested in hearing some opinions on this situation - any ideas on follow up research would be much appreciated.

Submitted by Dawn Cowley  
Takamuna  
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Newborough Vic 3825

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#### DENILIQVIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

A letter from the President - Peter Mills.

The Deniliquin Historical Society has transcribed and compiled cemetery records for the following cemeteries:

Vol.1. Masthoura and McLaurin private	39 pages
Vol.2. Moama	98 pages
Vol.3. Moulamein, Tooleybuc and Wanganella	38 pages

These three volumes are compiled alphabetically in two sections. Section one, Shire burial records, section two, headstones transcripts. These volumes are for sale at the following prices:- Vol.1. \$8-00, Vol.2. \$15-00, Vol.3. \$8-00. Postage and handling for the three volumes, \$5-00. The Society is at present transcribing the Deniliquin Cemetery, which is large and would not be completed before the end of 1990. Also, the society has compiled from the Perrin Burial Records for the period 1866 to 1972. These records do not cover the complete burials in the cemetery.



SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP.

At the meeting on 23 March 1990, 30 members of GSV elected the Group's Committee for 1990/91:

Chairman and Editor	John Hosie
Hon. Secretary	Wade Buchan
Hon. Treasurer	Ian Sinclair
Committee	Bill Clarke
Committee	Kath Myles

The aim of the Group is to promote research into Scottish Family History and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish and Genealogy by means of meetings, lectures and a newsletter. Membership is open to financial members of the GSV or affiliated Genealogical Societies who are interested in Scottish Family History. Membership fees are \$6-00 for the year 1990/91 commencing on 1 July 1990. Application forms are available from GSV Library or on request from the Secretary. Please enclose self addressed envelope and address all correspondence to the Scottish Ancestry Group, c/o GSV, 5th Floor, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000. **DO NOT ADDRESS AS SAG.** There will be four meetings a year to be held on the 1st Sunday in the months of February, May, August, and November commencing at 1 pm in a place announced by way of the newsletter and the noticeboard in the GSV Library. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings.

Members Interest Directory.

The form to capture information for our Members Interest Directory relating to our Scottish ancestors is completed and is available in the GSV Library. Please fill out one and return to Scottish Ancestry Group c/o GSV.

"THISTLE" Scottish Ancestry Group  
A Special Interest Group of The Genealogical Society of  
Victoria.  
Newsletter April 1990 Vol.1 No.1.

**ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP.**

If you are interested in joining the Scottish Group and/or the Members Directory, please see Karen Healy for forms.

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

Compiled for the Mid-Gippsland Group - The Genealogical Society of Victoria by the Newsletter Committee.

Mrs. Karen Healy and Mrs. Laraine Ramselaar.