



SOUTH GIPPSLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Inc.



JUNE 2013

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 02

President's Report...

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter. I trust that you will find some articles and items of interest. Thank you to those members who have contributed to this edition and to David who so expertly compiles the newsletter each quarter.

At the March meeting Zoe and Helen demonstrated the wonders of the Flip Pal Scanner. It is a very versatile tool for scanning and preserving documents. Members also continued indexing some of the books in the collection that are without an index. This will be of great benefit, in the future, when searching for a name.

In April the meeting was held at the local public library where members were shown the online databases (Findmy Past, Ancestry and British newspaper archive) that are available for use within the library.

In recent weeks I have attended the Open Day at the Public Record Office, the Member Societies' annual meeting at the GSV, and the VAFHO state conference in Ballarat. The PROV open day on April 20 saw hundreds of people attend the various sessions and tours on offer over the course of the day. Topics ranged from 'Caring for your family archives' to 'Melbourne's criminal history' to 'Searching wills and probate records'.

The theme of the VAFHO state conference (4th-5th May) in Ballarat was most appropriate: 'Under the Southern Cross: a goldfields experience'. Speakers touched on a wide range of topics from the Irish and Chinese on the goldfields, aboriginal people on the goldfields, early needlework samplers, the early years of the Horticultural society in Ballarat and the footy tribes of Ballarat. The committee charged with planning the conference is to be congratulated for organising such an interesting and informative weekend.

Our own seminar on Saturday May 18 was attended by more than 60 people. It was a most informative day with four

very interesting speakers. Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian from the State Library of Victoria, gave an overview of the resources found in the Genealogy Room and online. Check out the library's website: www.slv.vic.gov.au and in particular the 'Family matters blog' for news relevant to family historians.

Jenny Harkness gave a most helpful overview of the website FamilySearch which is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Resources on this site are free. If you haven't used FamilySearch before it is well worth looking at. The web address is: <https://familysearch.org/>

Professor Janet McCalman is with the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne and she spoke about the work which is being undertaken to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men, women and children who were transported to Tasmania. The website: <http://foundersandsurvivors.org/> provides further information about this most interesting project.

The final speaker for the day was Susan McLean and she gave an overview of the Scottish census and how the records can be used to their best advantage.

Thank you to Marg for all the work she did in organising the speakers, preparing the flyers and certificates, to George for setting up the technology, Joan, Denise and Ken collecting the cash, to Helen for organising the supplies and to the willing band of helpers who provided the yummy soup and delicious slices as well as keeping the kitchen going throughout the day. It was a great team effort. Thank you.

Remember that 'In genealogy a step backwards is progress'!!!

Wishing you success in your searching,
Rosemary Abbey.



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SOUTH GIPPSLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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ABN 22573024137. A0022359S.

Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sggs/index.html>

MEMBERSHIP

The **YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE** (due at the Annual General Meeting in August) is:
SINGLE - \$30. COUPLE - \$40. STUDENT - \$10
and includes four newsletters.

The **JOINING FEE** for new members (other than students) is **\$10**.

Meetings held in the months of February to May and September to December will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Historical Society Rooms, McCartin Street, Leongatha.

Meetings held in the winter months of June, July and August will generally be held on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise notified) at 1.30pm in the Historical Society Rooms.

**The rooms are open for research
every Thursday and Friday
between 12 noon and 4pm**

The cost of self- or assisted research for non-members is **\$5 per visit**. If you join within a fortnight of the visit, the \$5 will be deducted from your membership fee.

Help from our Research Officers is available at **\$10 per query** plus stamped addressed envelope. Send your query to Post Office Box 395, Leongatha, Victoria. 3953.

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Rosemary Abbey (03) 5662 3059
Vice-president	Joan Lehmann (03) 5674 3400
Secretary	Anne Larking (03) 5662 2087
Minute Secretary	Zoe Baillie
Treasurer	George Jenkins
Program	Margaret Pegler
Librarian	Alison Marshall
Research	Marion Moon
Indexing	Elke Holm Faye Marshman
Co-opted members	Helen Ebury and Geoff Robb
Hospitality	vacant
Newsletter	Rosemary Abbey (03) 5662 3059 Ken Swadling (03) 5659 8239 David Tattersall (03) 5662 2387

Recent Library Acquisitions



“Water Races and the Mines of the
Toora District” by Coleen Bower.



SGGS PROGRAM FOR 2013

Sat. June 15, 1.30pm: Show and Tell. Bring a photo, book, or item of importance to your family and speak briefly about it.

Sat. July 13, 1.30pm: Podcast from the GSV.

Sat. August 10, 1.30pm: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Thurs. September 12, 7.30pm: Three members speak about their families.

Thurs. October 10, 7.30 pm: Class on computer programs - War records, World Connect, PRO Vic., Trove, etc.

Thurs. November 14, 7.30pm: Speaker.

Wed. December 11, 6.30pm: Christmas dinner at Bair's Hotel.

(NOTE: The Saturday dates for May and June are not the second Saturday in the month, as these clash with Mothers Day and the Queens Birthday weekends).

The South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions expressed, or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter. The editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/letters etc. due to limited space.

Reminder!

Research Enquiries

The South Gippsland Genealogical Society offers a Research Service for people unable to visit our room. However, please note that we are only able to research our own holdings and those of the local municipal library. The fee for this service is \$10 per hour.

Please mail your research queries, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the society's Research Officer.

South Gippsland Genealogical Society
PO Box 395
LEONGATHA. VIC. 3953.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Many thanks to members who have contributed articles to this edition of our newsletter. Please keep them coming - you never know who else is out there reading the newsletter who may find they can be of assistance to you in your research.

Contributions may be typed, handwritten, saved on a memory stick or CD and left at the society's room, or mailed to:

PO Box 395, Leongatha, Vic. 3953

or preferably sent direct via email to:

Rosemary Abbey - roseabbmaillist@yahoo.com.au

Ken Swadling - kenswadling@yahoo.com.au

David Tattersall - mushroomcrafts@dcsi.net.au

Please make note of the deadlines for the coming editions of the newsletter.

David Tattersall.

COPY DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER

February meeting for the March newsletter

May meeting for the June newsletter

August meeting for the September newsletter

October 31 for the December newsletter.

Dysentery Epidemic Killed Many in the 1700s - 1800s

In the 1700s-1800s, dysentery was a disease causing many deaths, possibly including some of your ancestors or other relatives. In fact, in some areas in Sweden 90 percent of all deaths were due to dysentery during the worst outbreaks. A new doctoral thesis in history by a researcher at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, presents demographic and medical history of the disease.

Dysentery has almost disappeared in the Western world. Yet prior to the decline in infectious diseases, among causes of death in the 1800s dysentery was a major killer. While this study focused only on Sweden, similar problems existed throughout Europe and North America.

You can read more about the study in Sweden at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121025095407.htm>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
December 2012 Vol 12, No. 12.*

Royal Air Force Muster Roll 1918 Now Online

Findmypast.co.uk has just published a list of Royal Air Force servicemen who were with the service when it was formed on 1 April 1918. This collection contains records for more than 181,000 men and can tell you vital information about your RAF ancestors, including:

Job in the RAF (trade classification); rank; date and terms of enlistment; and rate of pay.

The men included in these records originally joined either the Royal Flying Corps or the Royal Naval Air Service. These organisations were merged to form the RAF in 1918.

You can search the Royal Air Force Muster Roll of 1918 at:

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/military/raf/indexes>

- Previously published in QFHS Newsletter September 2012 Vol 12 No. 9.

BOOK REVIEW

"UK TIMELINE FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS"

By Smith, A., & Bertram, N.,

Pub. The Book Forge, UK., 2012.

(Available from the GSV Bookshop, \$20 (\$18 for members) + \$3 postage.).

You're born, you die...and the bits in between are for family research! So say the authors of this thin guide which lists what genealogical resources may be available in the UK and when they started. Coverage is from 1066 to 2011. It also contains an aide memoire for all those historical dates we forget - which will put family ancestors into an historical context and may help answer that intriguing question: what events inspired our ancestors to come to Australia?

Here's a sample of part of the contents from a random page opening:

1845 Kelly's Directories begin, which supplement the information given in other directories with lists of some individuals.

1845 The Great Hunger begins in Ireland. Ireland lost 16% of its population between 1845 and the end of the famine in 1852.

1845 The first Medical Directory is published with names, addresses, qualifications and other details on general practitioners.

1846 Samuel Lewis's Topographical Directories of Scotland and of Wales published.

1847 to 1865 Griffith's Valuations Lists record every land and householder in Ireland, with a description of their property.

1847 Assisted emigration to Australia begins.

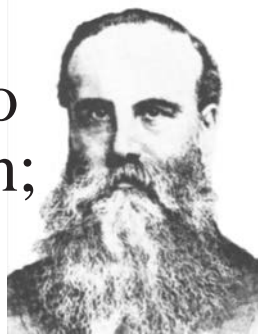
1847 A typhus epidemic kills more than 30,000.

1848 to 1850 A cholera epidemic claims 52,000 lives.

1849 Civil registrations of births and marriages begins on the Isle of Man but was voluntary.

These pages also list the main acts passed by parliament plus the accession of prime ministers and monarchs, and the occurrence of natural disasters.

James Mirams - From farmer to Parliamentarian; From boom to bust.



James Mirams

James Mirams was born on 2nd January, 1839 in London, England. He arrived in Australia in 1850s when his father, Rev. James Mirams, was appointed Minister of the Congregational Church in Collins Street, Melbourne.

James Mirams tried dairyfarming at Braybrook, but all his cattle died. He became a school teacher in Fitzroy, and later opened a newsagency in Collingwood. He was elected to Parliament in 1876 for the Collingwood seat as a protectionist and land reformer.

James Mirams established the Premier Permanent Building Society, and when he lost his seat in Parliament in 1886, he decided to build new premises for the Building Society at 229 Collins Street Melbourne. This building was very ornate with elevators operated by gas engines, and gas heaters in every office. The building was demolished in 1964.

With lots of money coming into the Building Society, James Mirams and James Munro (who became Premier of Victoria) built the Federal Coffee Palace (no alcohol permitted), with 500 bedrooms. In March 1897 it became the Federal Palace Hotel Ltd. with a liquor licence.

James was buying lots of land around Victoria, using money invested by people in all the companies he was setting up. In the 1880s the financial situation was getting shaky, and in 1890 he filed for liquidation. His personal estate finally paid 2d in the pound on his total debts.

The Premier Building Society was then liquidated. The directors were sent to trial and James Mirams was sent to prison for 12 months. As a concession, the judge ordered that his beard should not be shaved off, and that he should be imprisoned at Sale instead of Pentridge. For years after, he protested his innocence, with letters to papers, and books written on the subject.

James Mirams died on 21st June, 1914.

Further Reading: "The Land Boomers" by Michael Cannon.

This article was written by Fay Boag. James Mirams is her great great grandfather.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

Have you ever come across documents issued before the 1950s and wondered why an Australian's nationality was given as British? For example, the attestation papers of servicemen from World War 2 contained a box for citizenship which was always filled in as British. It was because, if you were born in Australia of Australian parents before 1949, your nationality was British, not Australian. It wasn't until January 26, 1949, when the Nationality and Citizenship Act was passed, that the status of Australian citizen came into being.

SCOTLAND'S STORIES

An interesting website to check out if you are interested in the history of Scotland, is <http://www.nts.org.uk/scotlandsstories>

Scotland's Stories is an exciting new project the National Trust for Scotland has developed using new media to bring Scotland's heritage to the widest possible audience.

A total of twenty stories are told using a mixture of sound-recording, photography, video and special effects. Each story will be told by Trust staff, enthusiasts or volunteers who work with the National Trust for Scotland.

They aim to give an insight into the secret stories of Scotland - the behind the scenes activities that happen on a daily basis, but which the visitor might not come into direct contact with. They share the personal enthusiasms and thoughts of those who work for the Trust and help to maintain its properties and estates.

They tell Scotland's Stories online through two approaches: soundslides and vodcasts.

Soundslides are a new story-telling approach through a series of images and a spoken sound-track taken from on-site recordings, without a narrator. Soundslides have a broad appeal, both for existing members but also for those planning a visit to Scotland and a property managed by the National Trust for Scotland. They provide individual insights which are not only visually sumptuous but through narrative and sound effects aim capture a sense of place and purpose.

Vodcasts are the video equivalent of a podcast and will combine video with on-site interviews on contrasting subjects.

Scotland's Stories will provide an engaging insight into the passion and commitment of the people who look after Scotland's heritage.

Assisted Immigration 1848-1912

Queensland State Archives has released a new index that provides direct access to digital copies of the original shipping registers for passengers and vessel arrivals arriving in Queensland 1848-1912. Enjoy searching at: <http://bit.ly/POINTP>

There is also a short video on the website demonstrating how to use the new online index at: <http://bit.ly/Ui0Wez>.

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SCOTTISH POST OFFICE DIRECTORIES ONLINE

The National Library of Scotland has more than 700 digitised Post Office Directories available online, spanning 1773 to 1911. These directories are similar to city directories on other countries: residents are listed with their names, addresses, yearly rent or values, and (in many cases) occupations.

The Post Office Directories are available at: <http://digital.nls.uk/directories/index.html>

-Previously published in QFHS Newsletter, Aug. 2012.

Visit to the Dodd family graves

Contributed by Rosemary Abbey

The first meeting this year for members of the South Gippsland Genealogical Society was held at the home of Marie and Terry Murphy at Dumbalk in February.

On their property are the graves of members of the Dodd family who were early settlers in the district.

Emily Susan Dodd

Died at Mirboo North on 14th June 1890, of influenza and bronchitis. Born in London, Mrs. Dodd was a daughter of Susan Hampstead and George Crichton, a merchant. Some 28 years of her life had been spent in Victoria, during which time she had married Frank Dodd at Echuca. Her life was not an easy one; no less than 15 children were born to her throughout her marriage, two of whom died young and were buried in isolation in the rugged bush of Gippsland. At her death she was recorded as being buried 'near Mirboo' by Benjamin Walter Benn; but other sources say she was buried near her sons on the bank of the Tarwin River, a more likely scenario.

(Information taken from: 'Lonely graves of the Gippsland goldfields and greater Gippsland' by J. C. Rogers and Nelly Helyar)

James Grayson Dodd

Died in Melbourne 12 November 1880, of dental irritation. Infant son of Emily Susan Crichton and Frank Dodd, selector of Mirboo.

The sad story of this infant's death is best told by his father:

'This baby not being strong, it was decided to take him to Melbourne for medical advice. This meant carrying the child on horseback thirty miles to Morwell, and then the long train journey to Melbourne. The mother was away a fortnight and sent word to say that the child was doing well, and to meet her on a given date at Morwell. I, the father and husband, riding into Morwell, leading the spare horse. Imagine the shock I received when the mother put into my arms the body of the child – it was dead. It appears that the little fellow had had a relapse, and actually died in the mother's arms while attending Dr. Lloyd's surgery. The doctor gave a certificate of death, and the mother not having any friends in Melbourne and knowing that I would expect to meet her in Morwell that night, brought the child up in her arms, no one in the carriage knowing that the child was dead. Surely, an ordeal few would like to experience. The next day, Saturday, the journey out into the bush was made. I had to carry the child in front of me on horseback, and had to get off the horse in several places and walk down the hills, they being too steep to ride down. On Sunday morning a coffin was made of blackwood slabs; the grave was dug by Mr. Edward Hughes and another, and thus on Sunday afternoon, 14th November 1880, away from the pomp and ceremony and the busy throng the little chap was laid to rest on a high bank of the Tarwin River.'

(Information taken from: 'Lonely graves of the Gippsland goldfields and greater Gippsland' by J. C. Rogers and Nelly Helyar and 'The Land of the Lyre Bird').

William Ernest Dodd

This little fellow, born at Elmore, died at Mirboo, of inflammation of the lungs, on 2 December 1880. He had been ill for a week, but saw no medical man. Son of Emily Susan Crichton and Frank Dodd, selector.

Frank Dodd recalls the event. 'A week after the burial of James Grayson Dodd, my eldest son and I took away the first of the bullocks, which had been brought in some nine months before. We were away for a fortnight, and on returning home found that my youngest boy, who had not been strong from birth, and was two years old, had sickened and died. Thus



Members of the South Gippsland Genealogical Society viewing the Dodd family graves.

again the mother had been practically alone when the second child died. Again on a Sunday, this boy was buried beside his brother, on a high bank of the Tarwin River.'

(Information taken from: 'Lonely graves of the Gippsland goldfields and greater Gippsland' by J. C. Rogers and Nelly Helyar and 'The Land of the Lyre Bird').

John Goldsmith

John was a native of Wexford, Ireland. He came with his sons to the Mirboo North district during the late 1870s. His death occurred following a urinary complaint, and he was buried on the bank of the Tarwin River by John Thornton. His son, George Goldsmith and a neighbour witnessed the sad event.

Frank Dodd recalls 'In April, 1888, the old grandfather died, and, having expressed a wish some time before to be buried alongside my two boys (James and William Dodd) along the banks of the Tarwin River, his wish was carried out. One of the grandsons, James Goldsmith, went to Mirboo North for the coffin. It being winter, and the roads very bad, he essayed to pack the coffin down on horseback. Being of an awkward shape, it would not ride properly, and so gave a lot of trouble to balance it. In one place it capsized, and in putting it right again Jim lost his boot in the mud and could not find it. When he arrived at the house where the old man was lying, it was just dark. After the necessary duties had been performed, a number of young men took turn about to carry the coffin to the grave. The night was dark, and torches made of bark were lighted to show the way. When the graveside was reached it was found that the side had started to fall in, and this was propped up by palings on one side and staved across. The coffin had to be lowered end on, and young F. C. Dodd being the smallest of the party, was let down into the grave so that he might lift the coffin along the bottom of the grave. This was no easy job, and, when completed, he looked up to see the faces around the grave peering in, and his father holding a lighted lamp so that the clergyman could see to read the burial service, rather a trying ordeal for a lad of fifteen or sixteen years of age.'

(Information taken from: 'Lonely graves of the Gippsland goldfields and greater Gippsland' by J. C. Rogers and Nelly Helyar and 'The Land of the Lyre Bird').

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

- Online Resources - Part 3 -

(Due to the large number of online sites available, the list has been divided into several parts.

Part 1 was published in our December 2012 Newsletter, and Part 2 in March 2013.)

The interest in Australian military history and research continues to grow at an astonishing rate, and with it comes the many resources which are available online. There are many small, but useful and fascinating military websites.

This list is not comprehensive but it will give a variety of links which may be useful when researching an Australian who was in the military.

Military Historical Society of Australia

<http://www.mhsa.org.au/>

The Military Historical Society of Australia's aims are the encouragement and pursuit of study and research in military history, customs, traditions, dress, arms, equipment and kindred matters; the promotion of public interest and knowledge in these subjects, and the preservation of historical military objects with particular reference to the armed forces of Australia.

World War Two Nominal Roll

<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>

The World War Two Nominal Roll was created to honour and commemorate the men and women who served in Australia's defence forces and the Merchant Navy during this conflict.

National Archives of Australia

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

The NAA holds records about service in the Australian defence forces from Federation in 1901. Click on the Service records link under Using the Archives to find out how to access records relating to the Australian Army (Army), Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and other records relating to wartime service. Digitised copies of first Australian Imperial Force (AIF) personnel dossiers (WW1) are online (free) and many of the WWII service records have been digitised and are online. If a record is not online copies (hard or digital) can be requested for a fee (\$25).

Queensland War Memorial Register

<http://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au/>

This Queensland War Memorial Register is dedicated to the memory of the fallen and those who served Australia in the Armed Services. The Register honours service personnel that were drawn from Queensland communities.

Russian Anzacs

<http://russiananzacs.elena.id.au/>

During the First World War around 1000 Russian born servicemen fought in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). They were the largest national group in the AIF after British, New Zealand and Canadian born servicemen. Besides ethnic Russians these Russian born Anzacs included members of a score of different ethnic groups who lived in Russia – Finns and other Scandinavians, Estonians, Latvians, Germans, Lithuanians, Jews, Poles, Byelorussians, Ukrainians, Ossetians, Georgians, Tatars, as well as Western European nationals born in Russia or posing as Russian subjects at enlistment. Their story is told on this website.

Queensland WWII Historic Places

<http://www.ww2places.qld.gov.au>

Between 1942 and 1945, Queensland became a support base for the war effort in the South West Pacific. With the rapid capture of Singapore by the Japanese forces and the subsequent bombing of Darwin and Townsville, Queensland felt vulnerable and many anticipated invasion. Fortifications, airfields and civil defence became an immediate priority. This website maps more than 1000 sites around Queensland of military significance during WWII.

SA and NT War Memorials

<http://www.tributesofhonour.info/>

There are over 5000 photos linked to over 1700 memorials on this site, which is dedicated to the people listed on the South Australian and Northern Territory War Memorials.

South Australians at War

<http://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=833>

Nothing can describe the trauma, courage, humour, loyalty and despair of war more evocatively than the words of people who have lived through them. Within the collections of the State Library are thousands of stories of the sacrifices and contributions South Australians have made to international conflicts.

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/veterans/veterans-heritage/victorian-war-heritage-inventory2>

This database contains information and images of sites relating to Victoria's war history including war memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration. It does not currently list moveable heritage objects such as honour rolls or museum collections.

Victorian Military Vehicle Corps

<http://www.vmvc.org.au/index-1.html>

The VMVC is a non-profit club run by enthusiasts of ex-military vehicles. The club is based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. New members are welcome. The club will provide friendship, technical help and fun!

Victorians at War Oral History Project

<http://www.victoriansatwar.net/>

Over the last century Victorians have played an important role in serving their country during times of peace and war. This website records the experiences and recollections of twenty Victorians through a series of interviews and the presentations of related material held in the State Library of Victoria's special collections.

World War I Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians

<http://www.ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/>

This site is dedicated to commemorate the lives of South Australians those who served in the Great War in pictorial form.

The Story is in the Telling

Contributed by Ken Swadling

As genealogists we are in a constant search for family information and over time we manage to amass a surprising amount of it. And of course we don't want to keep the information to ourselves – we like to share it with other interested parties, particularly other family members.

However, it's simply not enough to pass on snippets of information by word of mouth. Our ancestors' stories deserve to be recorded, particularly for those generations which will follow ours. Remember how little information you knew when you first started your research? Well, you've done the hard work; let future generations benefit in ways that weren't available to you. The best way to do that is to write a family history narrative. The story's not just in the research – it's in the telling.

Some people baulk at this idea, believing they don't possess the skills to do justice to their story, but it's easier than most people may think. Like every other skill, writing is a matter of practice; your first draft will never be your last. And if you're a reluctant beginner, there are resources that can help.

For example, "Writing Life Stories" by Bill Roorbach (Writer's Digest Books, 2nd ed., 2008, \$25 plus postage from the Genealogical Society of Victoria), is an excellent guide to beginners from Chapter 1 "Getting Started" to Chapter 11 "Getting Published", with lots of exercises designed to help you form ideas and develop writing skills.

Other, equally helpful references are available through our local West Gippsland libraries:

Edwards, Hazel: "Writing a Non-Boring Family History", (Call No. 929.1 EDWA).

Kyle, Noeline, "Writing Family History Made Very Easy", (929.1 KYLE).

The GSV has also published a regular series, "Getting It Write", in Ancestor, copies of which are held in the SGGs library. The earlier editions are probably more useful for beginners, especially Vol 28 No 1 March 2006.

If you're having trouble getting started, here's a suggestion. Choose an ancestor with an interesting background. Examine the information you've found out about that person, and pick the most interesting item in their story. Then write a paragraph describing that incident. This will be the first paragraph in your intended narrative and should be aimed at enticing readers to read the story that follows. Here's an example:

In 1877, Constable John Stubbs of the Queensland Police Service was transferred from Gilberton to his next post at the gold mining settlement of Kingsborough, in North Queensland. For John, his wife Margaret and their two children, two-year-old Bessie and Herbert, a babe in arms, the only way of reaching their remote destination was on horseback. John and Margaret took turns in carrying Bessie on their saddles as they rode, while Herbert travelled in a gin case on a packhorse. It was a slow and difficult journey climbing over the steep mountain ranges and camping out at night in the largely unpopulated bush. But this was only one of many hardships John and his family would have to overcome in the course of John's career in policing colonial Queensland.

When you've finished your initial paragraph, put it aside for a day and go back to it as often as necessary over several days. Rewrite it. Massage it. Expand on it. Use a bit of literary licence. Don't be afraid to ask others for their opinion and reaction to it. Then go on to the rest of the story.

That first paragraph will be a story in itself. Don't keep it to yourself. Why not publish it in the SGGs newsletter? Whether you publish or not, if you need editorial assistance, the newsletter subcommittee members (Rosemary Abbey, David Tattersall and Ken Swadling) will be only too happy to assist.

Go on. Have a go.

Digitisation of First World War Unit Diaries

The National Archives UK is currently digitising part of the WO 95 record series, which consists of unit war diaries from the First World War. The series is one of the most requested in the reading rooms in Kew, and digitising it means the diaries will become more accessible by publishing them online. The series is extremely fragile, so essential conservation work is being carried out while it is digitised.

The war diaries research guide explains the importance of these records for researchers at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/british-army-war-diaries-1914-1918.htm>

You can read more information about the project at: <http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=21929>

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- Card Making Supplies and much more



By Authority of H.M. Government of Queensland
DUTIES OF MATRON

1. The duties of Matrons chiefly consist in the care and supervision of those single females on board who are going out not under the care of their parents, or of some near relative. They have also to take the general oversight of what is connected with the comfort and safety of the female part of the passengers, and, especially of the children. Their duties to be discharged under the general supervision of the Surgeon-Superintendent.

2. Arrangements are made for the separation of the single female compartment from other portions of the ship, and with keeping them free from intrusion, and from unnecessary association with the other passengers. It will be the Matron's most important duty to see that the separation is preserved.

3. The young women under the Matron's care must retire to their own sleeping-places early in the evening, before dark, the exact time to be determined by the Surgeon-Superintendent; and it will be the Matron's duty to see that they are all there at the time fixed. Exceptions to this rule may be made by the Surgeon-Superintendent when he finds it desirable, but under strict rules for the protection of this class of passengers. If it is found necessary for their health that they should be on deck at any hour in the dusk of the evening the time must be marked by the ringing of the Ship-bell as the sign for their retirement. No one is to be permitted, on any account, to go into the place in which the single females have their berths after the time named, except other females, or the Surgeon, when his professional services may render it necessary. In this case it will be the Matron's duty always to be present.

4. A box containing articles for the use of the hospital, and materials for sewing for the employment of females is placed on board and it will be the duty of the Matron to provide anyone desiring it, with the use of these materials for filling up their leisure hours, as well as to see that the young women under her immediate charge are thus employed at suitable times. All persons receiving the materials for their employment must be made to understand that the Matron is responsible for the production of the articles made from materials thus supplied, and should anyone decline to act on this, it must be reported to the Surgeon-Superintendent. The articles thus made will be distributed at the end of the voyage, being given in the presence of the Immigration Agent to the parties by whom they have been made, should they have conducted themselves well.

5. The Matron is required to assist in teaching the girls to sew; and should she be competent for the duty of the management of the school, also will be required to act as Schoolmistress, and will receive particular instructions as to plan of teaching from the Surgeon-Superintendent.

6. Lessons from the Bible – taken from the Gospels, the Psalms, and the historical portions of the Old Testament – must be daily read, without comment. No catechisms must be learnt, and no books containing the creed of any particular denomination of Christians must be taught in the school, or in the evening classes.

7. Any clergyman or other passenger, being a moral and religious person if allowed by the Surgeon-Superintendent, may, with the permission of their parents, take any of the children apart from the rest, and give them religious instruction according to their own denominational faith. A Sunday School will be established, where the girls and boys will be taught together. If desired by the Superintendent, it will be the duty of the Matron to assist as one of the teachers. The children attending the Day School must be encouraged to attend also at the Sunday School.

8. The attendance of the girls at the Day School must be entered every day in a book kept for that purpose. Tickets must be given for early and regular attendance, for general good behaviour, and for diligence. Six prizes will be given to the most deserving of the girls on arrival at their destination.

HENRY JORDAN,
Agent-General for Emigration for Queensland
QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICES
2, Old Broad Street, London

FLORA GRACE RICHARDSON -

AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE

Contributed by Margaret Pegler

Flora and Stewart Ferguson lived in Yallourn and Morwell for many years. Flora died in 1967, aged 83, having lived a quite adventurous life. She had twice left her native England to live in the new world, had married twice, and had lost a son and a husband in the same year.

Henry Richardson married Charlotte Ellen Winter in 1872 and they had a family of at least eight children. The youngest of these was Flora Grace, who was baptised at Ripple, Kent on 29 June 1884. On the 1901 Census, Henry, Charlotte and Henry jnr are at Uphill, Kent and Henry is a cowman (cattle). Flora is now 16 years old and is living away from home and working as a servant in Ripple, Kent.

By 1916 Henry, a farmer on his own account, is listed on a Canadian Census in Calgary, East Alberta with his daughter, Mary, and son, Henry, a farm labourer. His wife, Charlotte, had died on 9 April 1910 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Next door are Henry's daughter Kate and her husband, Fred Marsh. Henry's entry lists an arrival year in Canada of 1908, so presumably several family members came with him – or joined him later.

This would account for Flora's presence in Canada and her marriage to William Ennoss there before 1911. Her death certificate gives her age at marriage as 26 years, which suggests a marriage year of 1910. The couple is recorded on the 1911 Canadian Census living at 164 Pine St, Brockville, Ontario. Their first child, Doris Amy Ennoss, was born there on 30 January 1911 and their second, Harold William Ennoss, on 12 September 1912. Their second son died on 13 April 1915, having lived less than one year.

William had about 12 years' experience in the English Army and on 3 November 1914, he signed enlistment papers to join the 21st Battalion of the Canadian Infantry. He was a teamster by occupation, living at 63 Water Street, Brookville and his next-of-kin was his wife, Flora Grace Ennoss. The 21st Battalion sailed for England aboard the "SS Metagama" on 6 May 1915. They trained at the West Sandling Camp until they left for France on 15 September 1915. There they served in the Canadian 2nd Division, 4th Brigade and returned to Canada in May 1919.

Unfortunately William was not among those who returned. The war diary of the 21st Battalion records that in November 1915 they were fighting in the areas of St Eloi, Ridgewood and La Clytte in Belgium and spending considerable time in the trenches. The entry for 27 November 1915 reads:

"Enemy fairly active shelling us with 52 rounds. Battalion snipers report one hit. Enemy seen during day walking up trench at 08A17. All wearing grey uniforms & caps – one being blessed with a sheepskin collar. This was a bad day for the Battalion having 6 killed including one officer and our artillery retaliated quite heavily on the

Huns & obviously doing a great deal of damage." Sergeant Ennoss was one of the six casualties. He is buried in Plot I N 8 in the Ridgewood Military Cemetery and a Memorial Stone marks his grave. The cemetery is 1 mile SE of Dickebusch and 3.5 miles SW of Ypres, Belgium. This meant Flora lost a child and a husband in the one year.

Stewart, the son of Joseph Ferguson and Agnes Gardiner, was born on the 18 June 1884 in Dalrymple, Ayrshire, Scotland. However, on 17 December 1914 he enlisted in the A.I.F. He saw action in Gallipoli, Egypt and France and from 28 September 1917 he was at the No 2 Company Depot at Weymouth, England. After further service in France he left England on 9 March 1919 on the "Kashmir" and arrived in Melbourne on 30 April. He was discharged from the AIF on 20 June 1919.

In the March quarter of 1918 Stewart married Flora Grace Ennoss at Weymouth, Dorset. This corresponds with the time he spent at Weymouth Depot and Flora must have returned from Canada sometime after William Ennoss' death in 1915. In May/June 1918 Flora replaces Stewart's mother as his next-of-kin on his Army records and her address was East Street, Chickerell, nr Weymouth, Dorset.

While Stewart was still overseas, Flora and her two children, registered as Ferguson, migrated to Australia. They arrived in October 1918 aboard the "Patria". Her change of address to 30 Cliff Street, South Yarra is noted on Stewart's record and this corresponds with her entry on the 1919 Electoral Roll. On 7 January 1919 Flora requested a £32 refund for the passage money for herself and her two children. Her address was 8 Portland Place, South Yarra.

After he was discharged Stewart and Flora are recorded in 1919 living at the Military Camp, Seymour. In 1924 they are at 31 Greig St, Footscray and by 1936 they had moved to Banksia St, Yallourn. In 1949 they lived at 140 Mary Street, Morwell, where they remained. Stewart died in 1958 and was cremated at Springvale on 3 January. Flora died on 28 December 1967, aged 83, and was also cremated at Springvale.

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SEARCHING FOR AUSTRALIAN MILITARY ANCESTORS? TAKE A NUMBER...

If you are researching the activities of an Australian soldier who served during the two World Wars, you may encounter some confusion with Army numbers, Regimental numbers and Unit numbers.

WORLD WAR 1

In World War 1, there were no conscripts. Every Australian who enlisted in the Army was a volunteer who served in the AIF, which is the abbreviation for Australian Imperial Force, not Australian Infantry Force, as some people think. We were very British back then.

Every unit had its own regimental numbers. So when the AIF was raised in 1914, the first soldier who enlisted in each unit was given the regimental number 1, the second was given regimental number 2 and so on, until the unit attained its full strength. In an infantry battalion, there were about 1000 soldiers, while in a Light Horse Regiment there were about 500. Officers were not given any number; if an enlisted man was commissioned from the ranks, he dropped his regimental number.

Don't be confused if you come across two soldiers with the same regimental number; they will belong to different units.

This numbering system also allows us to deduce some interesting information. You can get some idea of approximately when a soldier enlisted from his regimental number. For example, Michael William Cain was allocated the regimental number 3471 when he enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment in October 1917. This tells us that, not only was he a late enlistee, but since his unit's strength totalled 500, it must have had almost 700% turnover in three years of war. They would have been in the thick of the fighting. By war's end, there were very few soldiers in front line units with single or double digit regimental numbers.

WORLD WAR 2

In World War 2, Australia had two armies: the Australian Military Force (AMF) and the Second Australian Imperial Force. The AMF were all conscripts and were called up to serve only on Australian soil, while the 2nd AIF were all volunteers and served in Australia and overseas. By the time the 2nd AIF was formed on 15 September 1939, the system had changed from regimental numbers to Army numbers, based on states of the Commonwealth. From his Army number, you can tell which force a soldier served in and in which state he enlisted. Queensland AMF numbers started with Q, New South Wales with N, Victoria V, South Australia S, Western Australia W and Tasmania T. AIF members had a similar system but their numbers had an X after the first letter: QX, NX and so on. Some young men were called up into the AMF as soon as they reached military age, but a great many of them then transferred into the AIF. They would have had two Army numbers, for example one starting with V and a different one starting with VX. After they joined the AIF they dropped the AMF number.

Units also had a numbering system, based on membership of the AIF or AMF. The numbers of units in the AIF were preceded by 2/, as in 2/42nd Battalion, whereas AMF units had no such prefix, as in 59th Battalion. Any unit with the 2/ prefix was the World War 2 reincarnation of its World War 1 counterpart.

As usual, there are exceptions to every rule. The 39th Battalion, an AMF unit restricted to service in Australia, distinguished itself against the Japanese on the Kokoda Track. However, Papua and New Guinea were Australian protectorates and were classed as Australian soil.

British Army Service Records from 1760 to 1902

Findmypast.com, has recently added 20,000 British soldiers' records from the Royal Hospital Kilmainham from 1771 to 1822, along with several thousand other significant military documents, to its collection of historical records.

The records show details of soldiers, including their height, weight, colour of hair and eyes and any distinguishing features such as a tattoo or scar, as well as where they served and their regiment.

These records are invaluable for anyone researching Irish or British ancestry and looking for vivid details about their ancestors.

Available via subscription at:
<http://www.findmypast.com/>

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British Soldiers, American Revolution

Anyone interested in American history might enjoy this online blog, entitled British Soldiers, American Revolution. It details the experiences of many of the enlisted men who were part of the British government's effort to hold onto those thirteen rebellious North American colonies.

It is possible you could find an ancestor listed in the British Soldiers, American Revolution. Regardless of whether or not your own ancestor is listed, reading the articles will provide great insight into the harsh conditions these men endured and will give a greater appreciation of the lives they led. British Soldiers, American Revolution can be found at: <http://redcoat76.blogspot.com/>.

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
February 2013 Vol 13, No. 2*

HISTORY

History is the distillation of rumour.

- Thomas Carlyle, 1837.

Surname Extinction

The Guild of One-Name Studies has identified that many traditional surnames - some of which date back to the Domesday Book - are becoming extinct. See: <http://bit.ly/107OaTG>

The Galton-Watson process models family names as patrilineal (passed from father to son). Offspring are randomly either male or female, and names become extinct if the family name line dies out. Holders of the family name die without male descendants.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galton%E2%80%93Watson_process

This process estimates that most surnames die out after around 30 generations. This raises the question of "How long is a 'generation'"?

See: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation>

According to Ancestry.com, a calculation based upon "three generations per century (33 years each) for male lines and 3.5 generations per century (29 years each) for female lines" leads to much more accurate estimates. See <http://ancstry.me/TTCHbd>

Using these numbers there have been fewer than 70 generations in the Common Era.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era

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January 2013 Vol 13, No. 1*

OTHER IRISH WEBSITES

<http://www.irishlivesremembered.com/> - this one offers a free monthly magazine

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

-Previously published in QFHS Newsletter, Aug. 2012.

British Columbia Releases Birth, Death, and Marriage Documents Online

Full digital images of the original records of births, deaths and marriages in British Columbia are now available for free of charge through the Royal B.C. Museum and B.C. Archives websites. The new release offers full images of the original document.

About 700,000 images have been scanned, including births from 1854 to 1903, deaths from 1872 to 1991, and marriages from 1872 to 1936. Phase 2, scheduled to soon be completed, will add more images and information, including pre-1872 records and deaths overseas during the Second World War.

You can read more in an article at: <http://bit.ly/UkdYbD>

*-Previously published in QFHS Snippets
January 2013 Vol 13, No. 1*

FEE UPDATES

Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Please be advised, from Sunday 1 July 2012, the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM), will have a new fee structure.

The updated list of the fees for BDMs products and services can be viewed at :

[http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/BDMContentSite-PDFs/\\$file/VicBDM2012FeeSchedule.pdf](http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/BDMContentSite-PDFs/$file/VicBDM2012FeeSchedule.pdf) and is available for your information.

If you have any queries regarding the new fees email bdmdeaths@justice.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Erin Keleher, Director & Registrar.

IS ROMANCE CONTAGIOUS?

Contributed by Margaret Tattersall (nee Elliott)

An aspect of my family tree research that really interests me is the number of brother/sister marriages that have occurred between families in the past. By this, I mean siblings from one family marrying siblings from another family.

Between 1914 and 1924, my family tree on my paternal side has four brother/sister marriages in the one generation. These marriages involve members from three families.

Lilian Elliott married Adam Vogele in 1914.

Edward Elliott married Barbara Vogele in 1919 at Eaglehawk.

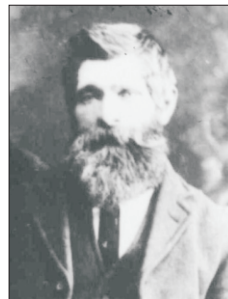
Christian Vogele married Vera Williams in 1922 at Sebastian.

Catherine Vogele married William Williams in 1924 at Sebastian.

Of the thirteen children born to each of the Vogele and Elliott families, nine from each family reached maturity and married. I have few details from the Williams' side, so cannot quote statistics for them.

My research shows three of the marriages took place in the Sebastian/Eaglehawk area, and all siblings appear also to have been born and raised in this area.

The Sebastian/Eaglehawk area is north of Bendigo and was a thriving gold-mining district in the late 1800s.



John Adam Vogele

(Married at Sandhurst 1882.)



Sophia Rayner



Charles Vogele

(Married at Bendigo 1882)



Annie Rayner

John Adam and Charles Vogele were brothers, and they married the two Rayner sister, Sophia and Annie. John Adam and Sophia were my grandmother's parents.

KELVIN JOHNS

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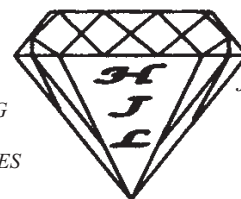
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