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Newsletter No 35 October 2007

SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc. (pages 1 - 6) SHEPPARTON HERITAGE CENTRE inc. (pages 7-10)

SFHG Report:

Another end of the financial year has passed and the Shepparton Family History Group continues to prosper. There has been a steady flow of people through the rooms and requests for information on families who once lived in the area.

Members appreciated the support that was received for the visit from PROV. The talk given at the Shepparton Library by James McKinnon on "Wills, Probates and Letters of Administration" was very informative and enjoyed by all who attended the seminar.

More interesting and informative events are to be held during the next year and these include the GMAGS Expo on 17th November at Mulwala and the visit by the Mornington Peninsular Family History Society early next year.

Office Bearers 2006-07

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Eileen Torney (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)
- Garry Wallden (vice President)
- Betty Foster & Fay Botheras (Research Officers)
- Eileen Torney (Librarian)

S F H G Coming Events

GMAGS Expo Sat 17th November 2006

The eighth annual **Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups** is here once again. It is essential that all members support this very worthwhile day to ensure that it continues to be a major Family History Expo in the Murray Goulburn region. (See attached flyer)

Venue: Club Mulwala

Time: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Cost: \$ 10 (includes guest speakers)

Raffle tickets available for \$250 fuel voucher from SFHG rooms.

Christmas Break Up

All members are invited to the Heritage rooms on Sunday 17th December for afternoon tea and chat, from 1.00 pm, for our Christmas break up. Please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share. We look forward to seeing you.

For those who can't be there we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

COMING EVENTS

At our recent PROV seminar held at the Shepparton Library we handed out survey forms to gauge the interest in conducting an outing to the Public Records Office Victoria for a day of research and a tour of the centre. Nearly all the people who returned the forms were in favour of the trip.

We would like to thank those people for taking the time and effort to help us in the survey.

We will notify all the respondents with further details when we have organized the trip.

Wendish Society Visit

The Wendish Society will be visiting Shepparton on March 8th and 9th 2008. We will be organizing an evening with the group and invite everyone interested in attending to contact us.

Coming events cont'd

Bendigo Expo

The SFHG will once again be taking part in the Bendigo Family History Expo which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 2nd March 2008 at the Leisure Centre, Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat. We will be displaying a range of our records as well as having our local history books for sale.

This expo is always a great opportunity to find information pertaining to the goldfields area of Victoria and beyond.

VAFHO State Conference

The Victorian Association of Family History Organizations in conjunction with the South Gippsland Genealogical Society inc are holding their 6th Victorian Family History State Conference on May 2nd, 3rd & 4th 2008 at Inverloch Victoria.

Contact: robert.cl@optusnet.com.au

\$\$\$\$ Membership \$\$\$\$

Members please note that annual subs are now due and payable to the treasurer.

P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.

Single \$25.00. Family \$45.00.

Don't Forget

• **Members only research days.**

The first odd dated Sunday of each month is set aside for research by our members. Come along between 1.00 and 4.00pm and make use of your facilities at the Welsford st rooms.

• **Maguire College Free Internet Evenings.**

The fourth Tuesday evening of each month from 7.00 to 9.00 pm is reserved for a Family History oriented internet evening. Danny and Bill make their time available to explain the vast internet options available for everyone researching their family history. Learners are very welcome.

**** Holiday Opening Times**

The research rooms will be open on the 19th December, then closed until Wednesday 9th January. Enjoy the Christmas break and come back refreshed and we will see you in our rooms in the New Year.

County Kent Family History?

Gillian Rickard from Kent Family History Society England will be speaking at the Yarrowonga Family History rooms on Saturday 17th February 2008.

Further information: rekrpj@bigpond.net.au

Library Acquisitions

- Central Goldfields Cemeteries: Headstones Register and Photographs
 - Amherst
 - Bridgewater
 - Carisbrook
 - Coghills Creek
 - Eddington
 - Majorca
 - Natte Yallock
 - Newbridge
 - Bealiba
 - Inglewood
 - Maldon
- "Buried by the Sea" Williamstown Cemetery
- "Convict Records in Australia" Cora Num (updated version)
- "Family History 1800—1980". Perry Family
- "The Early Families of Whroo" (donation)
- "Whroo Remembered" (CD)
- "Melbourne Directory 1893". Sands and McDougall (CD)
- South Australian Death Registrations 1916—1972 (CD)
- South Australian Marriages 1917—1937 (CD)
- 134 Cemeteries of South Western Victoria (CD)
- "Solving the Mystery -The birth of Catholicism in Tatura"
- "Tallygaroopna & District. Times and Tales"
- "Private Lives, Public Records" (donated by PROV)
- Upotipotpon School Register
- Parliamentary Papers to the Colony of Victoria 1852-1869 (CD)

Research Requests

Names requested for research during May-October included:

History of Shepparton High School, Grantham and Lemnos Booklet, W H Bond, M Guymmer, A Winchester, Riley/Lynch, Quinlan, Pryde, Day's Mill Kinsey, St Germain's School, J Kinkaid, Frew, St Patrick's Moorilim, W Galt, Shepparton Butter Factory, Cruickshank, Kerwin, W Irving, Maskell, Holloway, Colliver, J S R Hall, Collins, Harris/ Neighbour, Collett / Mason, Roscoe / Ruscoe, Pura / Dempster, Dainton, Holland, McCarron, Dunlevy, Sinclair, Andrews, Godwin, Keith Jones, Storey, Currie / Palmer.

MEMORIES of SHEPPARTON

Heather Gribben and Ada Ludlow have written accounts of their family memories of Shepparton in the early part of the 20th century. The following articles are extracts from their recollections.

“Recollections of a Shepparton Girl” by Heather Gribben

About 1920-21 Mr W.N McMillan built the Lyric Theatre in Maude Street, and was still showing silent movies. During this time alternate entertainment was sometimes performed on the stage.

The first Choral Society in the Goulburn Valley was formed by Mr. and Mrs. Konig senior at their home in Orrvale about 1923 and called The Orrvale Choral Society. Two of the first members were John, my father and Mr. W. S. James. Mr. James lived in a house in Benalla Road just off Archer Street. He had a pony and gig and he used to pick up John on the corner of Old Dookie Road and Wheeler's Lane and take them to Choral practice at Konig's home in Orrvale. This went on for about one year until another man became associated with the society. This man's name was George Cronk. He had a carrying business and had just purchased a motor van. The back part of the vehicle was wired in and had two lift out seats along each side and facing each other where the passengers would sit. On practice night he used to leave Maude Street in the van first to pick up Mrs. O. A. Hicken at the McDermott house further down Maude Street (today is where Maude's tea rooms are). Mrs Hicken was related to Mr. McDermott. Mr. Cronk would then turn into Knight Street to collect Mrs. Roy, then drive towards the showgrounds to pick up Mr. W. S. James, and lastly on to Old Dookie Road to pick up John McNeill on the Wheeler's Lane corner.

Soon after, a choral Society was formed in Shepparton. This mainly consisted of Shepparton people. Members included:-Marj and Mary Guthrie, Mrs. Ida Ghent, Mr. Wes Rimes, Mr. Ray West, McKenzie Paul, Nena Bowyer, Stan Ghent, J.P. McLennan, Cath Crilley, Vic Mills, Dolly Pink, John McNeill, Fred Morrish and others, and the stage at the Lyric Theatre had to be altered for the advent of the talking pictures, which eventually put an end to the live entertainment. Mr. John Pick (Senior), estate agent and mayor, and sometime artist, painted all of the backdrops for the production.

Much was happening in the Shepparton district during the years 1910-1920. The first Shepparton racecourse was situated in Archer Street south, a little north of the Broken River and back towards Channel Road. This was a full size course and owned and operated by the owner of the Shepparton Cordial Factory in Welsford Street and today where the Civic Centre is situated. The proprietor was Mr. Dick Darby. The races were well patronized on Wednesday half holiday. Mr. Mathew Dunstan was a butcher in High Street and he later purchased the land where the race course had been in Archer Street. Later he sold this land and purchased the corner store belonging to William McDermott, and consequently this became known as Dunstan's Comer. Mr. William McDermott was considered one of Shepparton's leading citizens at the time and owned one of Shepparton's first motor buggies (A Continental car). Some other cars of the time were:-Clement Bayard, Renault, Angus Sanderson, Fafnair and Benz (but not Mercedes Benz).

Mr. W. N. McMillian the new owner of the talking pictures had come to Shepparton about 1912 and taken over a small bakery opposite to the Old Agricultural High School in Fryers Street by 1914 he had purchased the Star Bakery which was part of the Star Theatre complex. The theatre was used for all types of concerts, but not for movies.



Old Shepparton High School c 1912

John remembers that his father, Hector, had a silk bell topper hat (which was kept in a fabric box) and which he had worn to church back in Glasgow before immigrating to Australia, but when he came to Australia he wore a cap. The bell-topper was always in demand for dress ups and fancy dress balls.

In 1920 John had a friend, the local chemist Mr H.E.S Bird. Mr. Bird had brought a new Mitchell car and with his family, his wife, daughters Marion and Nancy, and son Bob, had asked John and another family friend Miss Crissie to go to Melbourne for the day to see His Royal Highness, The Prince Of Wales, who was appearing on the dais at the Exhibition Building. Miss Crissie ... father had a saddlery business in Numurkah, but she had come to Shepparton to a new job with the National Mutual Life Insurance Company. By the time that the travellers had reached Pretty Sally hill, the car had broken the back axle. Mr. Bird rang the Melbourne distributors for a new axle and one duly arrived a few hours later by train to the nearest Railway station, with a mechanic in tow. Such good service. After the new axle was fitted they proceeded to Melbourne in time to see H.R.H who had come to Melbourne on the battleship Renouen. Mr. Bird lived in Corio Street and he had one of Shepparton's few tennis courts at that time.

By 1923 Shepparton had the Shepparton Brass Band and the Shepparton Model Band Mr. R.J. McCasskill was the conductor and also conductor of the Shepparton Choral Society.

Also performed in Shepparton in the early years was HMAS. Pinafore, the Pirates of Penzance and the Geisha Girl and Mikado by the local choral society.

In 1910 there was the Miller store in Wyndham Street and just opposite to the National Bank of Australia. By 1922 Mr Miller gave money to fund the Miller homes in Wyndham Street north, and fronting through

to Maude Street. These homes were for aged people. Later Miller's store became McLennans store.

There have been many business and people of the time mentioned but there were many more that my father knew, or knew of, in Shepparton from 1910 onwards. Some would be Sutherland and McFarlane solicitors, Henry Young shoeing forge Welsford Street, Percy Hume stationary, W.F Bowen funeral director, Duddings pianolas, Col Colliver Toska Studios, G.W Ross veterinary, R Oswald livery stables, T.J McIver tailor, Mr Daish butcher, R.Longstaff shopkeeper, Mr.George McCracken hotel, Mr.George Thorn, Kittle Bros. funeral directors, Dr Gaze, Mr. Caleb Rowe, Rev George Paul, Mr Joseph Hillier, O.R Radley carrier, Mr. A Palmer, James Scott Emporium, Voumard's Jeweller, R Canet Cycles, Dr. Cook, Mr. McAlpine grocer, Smith's boot palace, Halpins sports store, Mr.Chew Herbalist, Mr.Bartels, Mr.G Billingham farmer, McPherson tailor, J.E Byass, Mr R.F Young musician, Mr Thistleton, Mr Geo North farmer, Mr. W. Banner, E. J Maltby hotel, Mr. R O Lilly music and of course many, many others.

- 1925 MARRIAGE -

Lydia May Lyttleton Florey came to Shepparton from Northern New South Wales in the early 1920's to work. She already had a sister Marion, (Mrs. Roly Long) living in Marungi Street Later she met my father John McNeill through the Baptist Church. Both mother and father were members of the church choir and father was involved in music for many years. They were married in April 1925 by the Rev H.G Scholfield Mrs.W Cronk worked and presented the bridal veil and was also responsible for all the necessary floral work for the wedding.

From the Shepparton News Of 1925

Mother "wore a dress of white crepe-de-chene with georgette overdress, draped at each side and finished with pearl ornaments, the sleeves also trimmed with pearls. The hand worked veil was held in place with a pearl and diamente ornament on silver lace. She wore a string of pearls and diamond ring and carried a bouquet of white cactus dahlias and roses. The bridesmaid was Miss Lily McNeill, sister of the bridegroom, who wore pink and a gift of a wristlet watch. The trainbearers were Olive and Nessie Long, nieces of the bride. Mr.Ben Adams, brother of Mrs Whitfield of Shepparton was the best man. Mrs H.E.S Bird played the wedding march on the organ and the choir and guests sang "Oh Love Devine". During the signing of the Register, Mr G Long sang "Because" and Miss Beryl Cronk hung an ornamental horse shoe on the bride's arm. Mrs Roly Long, sister to the bride, was the hostess at the wedding reception held in the Sunday school at the rear of the church. The couple left for Euroa in Mr W Cronk's car on their way to Sydney for the honeymoon."

Father had built his new home, working at night and on Wednesday half holiday. He made all of the furniture for their new home, even a draughts table. He told me that he used to enjoy many a game with a friend called Sandy Nichol who was a brother of Mrs. Jock Grey (also Scottish people). Later he bought a pianola and there were many happy hours spent in the sitting room playing a selection of rolls.

Shepparton in the 1930's,

by Ada Ludlow

The Una Hospital used to be on the block between Marungi and Welsford Street, bounded by Nixon Street and a lane at the back.

The Queens Gardens was fenced when we were young. The Men's Bowling Club and greens were at the southern end of the gardens, on Welsford Street. Darby Bros. soft drink factory was where the Soldiers' Memorial Park is today.

Some businesses in Wyndham Street, from the gardens to Fryers Street, were Mr. Colliver, photographer, Mr Burns, Dentist, Mr. Ghent, Chemist, Every's Book and Paper shop, Cawthray's grocer, McCauley's butchers, Victoria Hotel.

Across the road was Mrs Chamber's delicatessen, Bullock's Dress Shop and the State Bank.

Across Fryers Street, still in Wyndham Street was the Tarax Bar on the corner, Callender and McPherson Tailors, John's Jewellers, a hairdresser, Lunn and Holmes tailors,



Shepparton's first car. 1904 Oldsmobile

Photograph from Shepparton Past and Present"
by V E Vibert

Williams the Shoeman, and McLennans had a large store nearly opposite the Post Office. Martins had a saddlery shop in Fryers Street, next to the Tarax Bar.

Jimmy Chuck had an ice-cream and lolly shop in Fryers Street, where Camera House is today. One of his daughters, Mary, taught piano and played in a local dance band.

There was Mackie's lolly shop opposite the State School, in Fryers street where La Trobe University is today. The cattle yards used to be where the RSL is now (Knight/Welsford St.) and the town tennis courts were across the road in Knight Street.

Ludlows had a dairy in Maude Street, where Galways is. Beside the dairy there was a fernery, with tables and chairs, to sample the lovely ice-cream that was made at the dairy.

The High School in Hawdon Street was called the Junior High School back in the thirties. It only consisted of two forms; was a much smaller building then, just the central part of the present building.

The Senior High School was in Fryers Street next to the old State School, where TAFE is today.

Coulstocks had a Sheep Skin store opposite Darby Bros in Welsford Street, where there is a car park now.

Mr. Voumard had a jeweller's shop in Wyndham Street about opposite Johns the Jewellers.

Fairleys had a large store on the corner of Maude and Fryers Streets.

Recent Events

Benalla Family History Group Open Day

2nd June 2007

Under the umbrella of GMAGS (yes it did rain that day), the Benalla F H Group hosted an open day for all the member societies to come and see their rooms, do some research and look at their very extensive collection of records on paper, CD's and microfiche. It was a great opportunity to speak with members of the group, renew friendships and discuss family or local histories.

We were treated to morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea to keep our energy levels up and we thank the Benalla group for their very warm welcome.

Public Records Office Vic Seminar

4th August 2007

To celebrate National Family History Week we were delighted to host an afternoon in the Shepparton Library and our guest speaker was James McKinnon, Manager Public Programs, PROV. The subject was Wills, Probate and Administration Papers. About 55 people attended the seminar, we thank James and the PROV for presenting us with an informative and interesting afternoon. James presented our group with two copies of "Private Lives, Public Records" in appreciation of our work in arranging the seminar. We hope we maybe able to have another PROV information day next year.

Thank you to Libby & the other staff at the Library for all their help in hosting the afternoon.

**** There is a lot of information to be found in the Wills, Probate and Admin papers, we have the Index on microfiche at our rooms which will provide enough detail to be able to order records either on line or at the PROV. The digitizing of wills is continuing and many are now available to view on line at the PROV web site.

Victorian Association of Family History Organizations inc Wodonga Seminar

1st September 2007

"Diverse Deathly Details" was hosted by the Wodonga Family History Society inc and was not as morbid as the title suggested. The wonderful speakers were Anne Burrows-State Library, Jenny Harkness-VAFHO president, Shauna Hicks-PROV, Dot Wickham-Social historian and researcher and Dr Peter Prideaux -GSV.

Several SFHG members attended and approximately 50 people were in attendance. We were well looked after by the Wodonga FHS who kept us fed and watered all day. Congratulations to VAFHO for the great day.

Mansfield Historical Society Open Days

27th -28th October 2007

Our members and members of other GMAGS groups were very pleased to be invited to Mansfield to see their new rooms which have been recently opened at the old Mansfield railway station. The area includes a train carriage at the station displaying lots of historical information including photographs from the making of the "Man from Snowy River".

Saturday started with a cuppa for the travelers then a tour of the rooms, the carriage and a look over the new Information Centre next door. Then it was back to the platform for a delicious BBQ lunch provided by the MHS followed by a tour of the Mansfield Cemetery to view the headstones of some of the notable and not so notable "residents". We saw the graves of Lonigan, Scanlan and Kennedy, the three policemen killed by the Kelly gang at Stringy Bark Creek on October 26th 1878. The tombstones were erected as gifts from the Victorian Government. Some of the group found graves of family members buried at the cemetery.

A tour of the town followed before our very enjoyable Saturday evening meal at the historic Delatite Hotel.

Daylight saving and rain greeted us on Sunday morning as we ventured to Marty Briscoe's extensive private collection of "just about everything". How one person could collect, house and display such a variety of old machinery, household goods etc we could only wonder.

A trip to Jamieson and the Court House Museum followed. This historical Court House, built in 1864, has been restored and now houses a great collection including an original local newspaper article on the killing of the Police at Stringy Bark Creek. The newspaper had been found during some house renovations.

Next stop was the Jamieson Hotel Brewery where we enjoyed lunch and plenty of chatter about the weekend and of course family history. A tour of the brewery room followed where we learned the fine art of special beer production before making our way back home.

Thank you to the Mansfield Historical Society for a very pleasant weekend.

South Australian transcription agent appointed

SAGHS research service has been given permission to transcribe BDM certificates.

Births 1842-1928, Deaths 1842-1967 and Marriages 1842-1937 can be transcribed. Current fee \$11.00.

Email: saghs.research@saghs.org.au

BOOKS FOR SALE

HISTORY OF SHEPPARTON 1838 to 1938

by WS James

A listing of Shepparton's history from the explorers, squatters and selectors through to closer settlement and irrigation. Also detailing the development of education, business, religion, social institutions, charities and sporting clubs in our area.

Limited number of original books available.

Price: \$ 50.00 (This includes additional names index booklet)

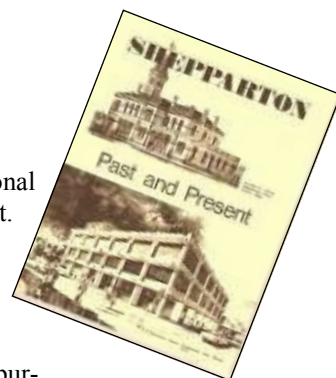


SHEPPARTON Past and Present

by V E Vibert

From the Aborigines through to planning for Shepparton's International Village. This book has many photographs and sketches of Shepparton's past.

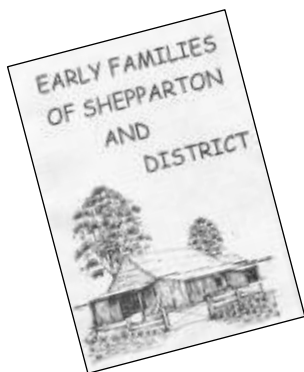
Price: \$3.00



EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT

Book 1 "Early Families of Shepparton and District" is available to purchase from the SFHG. There are 135 family stories from early days in the Goulburn Valley.

Price: \$25.00

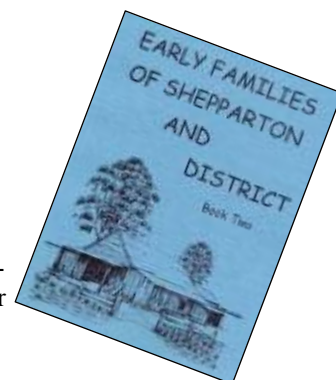


EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT

Book Two

Book 2 compiled by the SFHG contains 70 stories, over 50 photographs and also articles of historical value relating to the beginning of the irrigation scheme in the Shepparton area in the early 20th century. It is a valuable historical reference and social history of life in the Shepparton area prior to the 1930's. The index contains some 700 entries.

Price: \$20.00



Shepparton Family History Group inc

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 Post: P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton. Vic .3632
 Internet: www.vicnet.net.au/~shepjh email: shepjhg@fastmail.fm
 Meeting Times: 8.00pm Third Wednesday of each month at the SFHG Club Rooms
 Research Times: Every Wednesday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.
 Even Dated Sundays 1.00 to 4.00 pm.
 Odd Dated Fridays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

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