

~*Furphy Murrurs*~



Shepparton
Heritage Centre Inc
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Newsletter No 37 October 2008



Shepparton
Family History Group Inc
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www.vicnet.net.au/~sheph

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

SFHG Report:

Our group have had a very busy six months. In June the Women's Suffrage celebration, in conjunction with the Shepparton City Council (see report p 3), proved to be a great promotion for us with ample publicity in the newspapers, television and on radio.

National Family History Week once again raised the profile of our group encouraging people to research their family history. Several television programs are also helping to promote genealogy.

At a time when a number of societies are struggling for new members we seem to be the opposite and have had a number of new memberships in the past half year. Quite a few visit our rooms regularly and it is very pleasing to recently have three of these offering to volunteer for duties. We thank them very much.

The purchase of a new A3 photocopier scanner will improve our copying and printing facilities, being both a freestanding or computer driven device will be welcomed by all and make the newsletter printing far easier.

The purchase of a large number of Government and Police gazettes has allowed for easier searching of this vast resource of historic and genealogical data. Great demand on the two computers loaded with these CD's.

Two of our members have volunteered to help enter a list of Shepparton High School students names from rolls on to a data base in preparation for invitations to the upcoming centenary celebrations (see p 2).

A recent Shepparton News insert, "Healthy Wealthy and Wise" kindly promoted SFHG under the headline "Family History is alive and well".

At the annual meeting all office bearers were re-elected and are listed below.

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

GMAGS Expo Sat 15th November 2008

The ninth annual **Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups** will be held again at "Club Mulwala". In excess of 30 stallholders will be there and several guest speakers will once again make this a day not to miss for any one researching their family history. Many exhibitors from outside the Goulburn Murray area will also be attending. Enter this date in your diary now! Goody bags, lucky door prizes and the ever popular fuel raffle are all features of this great day.

It is essential that all members support this very worthwhile event to ensure that it continues to be a major Family History Expo in the Goulburn Murray region.

Keep up to date with the expo program at www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags

I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.

Vale Jim Richards

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Jim Richards on Friday June 27th 2008.

Jim was a regular member at our meetings and at the rooms, always happy to chat and impart his knowledge on anything Cornish as well as his many other interests. He was passionate about his Cornish ancestry and also mining engineering machinery.

Jim was generous with donations to our library, his "Log of Logs" book being a great reference for those researching shipping records.

Ill health forced Jim to retire from our group but not from his interest in family history.

A gentleman remembered by us all.

R.I.P. Jim.

\$\$\$\$\$ **Membership** \$\$\$\$\$

Members please note that 2008/09 subs were due in July 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 1.00 to 4.00pm is set aside for research by our members.

- **Maguire College Free Internet Evenings.**

The fourth Tuesday evening of each month from 7.00 to 9.30 pm is reserved for a Family History oriented internet evening. Maguire College staff make their time available to explain the vast internet options available for everyone researching their family history. Learners are very welcome.

New Members

The Shepparton Family History Group welcome as new members to our club:

Leslie Corrin, Noel Dealy, Lorna Gervasoni, Kevin Gray, Jan Gullick, Carol Mammone and Jeff McConnell.

We wish you all the best of luck with your research.

Research Requests

Several members are seeking information on:

Ford Benjamin b: 1835 Bandon Co Cork Ireland. Married Alice Edwards, b: Melb c 1855.

Davey Robert m: 19/1/1899 Catherine Carr Bendigo. Catherine died: Menzies W.A c 1910 ?

Swift James Auburn b 1909 Bairnsdale. Whereabouts unknown after 1930.

Contact SFHG if you can help, see page 6 for details.

Library Acquisitions

CD's

- **Government & Police Gazettes**
(Searchable, some years not yet available)
Port Phillip Gov Gazette 1847
Victorian Police Gazettes 1865 to 1900
Victorian Gov Gazettes 1851 to 1891
NSW Gov Gazettes 1832 to 1850
Queensland Gov Gazettes 1859 to 1865
S A Gov Gazettes 1841 to 1850
New Zealand Gazettes 1876 to 1886
- *Update of Western district cemeteries*
(donation)
- *New Zealand Society of Genealogy Index V5.*
(CD)

Books

- "Growing Up with Trees" by Aaron Feiglin
(Book) donation.
- *CWA Victoria: Diamond Jubilee March 1988*
- *Kyneton Primary School 1856—2006* by Rhonda Walker
- *Goulburn Valley Lodge of St. George No. 73 V.C. 1878 to 1978* by W Bro Dr F V Harder
- *The encyclopedia of League Footballers* by Jim Main and Russell Holmesby
- *Great Victorian shipwrecks of the 19th century*
(compilation of articles)

Maps

- Many early parish maps for the Goulburn Valley area have been donated.

Shepparton High School Centenary Celebrations.

All ex Shepparton High School students are invited to attend the weekend of celebrations from Friday April 17 through Sunday April 19 2009 marking 100 years since its inception as an agricultural high school in 1909.

Please register your interest now to help in the planning and catering for this event.

Further details available from Shepparton High School ph: 0358214322 or at

www.shs.vic.edu.au

WE NEED YOU !

Volunteers are an essential part of every organisation, if you can help with indexing, newspaper cataloguing or even being on duty during our open days, it will help to ease the workload on some of our overworked members and improve our club's resources.

Only a Genealogist could regard a step backwards as progress.

Recent Events

Women's Suffrage Event: 28th June 2008

The Shepparton Family History Group played an important part in the recent centenary celebration of Victorian women gaining the right to vote in 1908.

Our researchers compiled a brief biography on a number of women from Shepparton and the surrounding areas, who signed the original Suffrage Petition. Some of the names were found to be incorrectly transcribed, the correct names are on record at our rooms. The biographies were displayed in the Eastbank foyer together with the list of local signatories.

Banners were available to sign at the celebrations at Shepparton's Eastbank centre and these will be presented to parliament. We have photographed all the banners and indexed the names for our archives.

This day was a great opportunity to promote the Shepparton Family History Group and we would like to thank City of Greater Shepparton for the opportunity to participate in this great occasion. Thanks to Michelle for all her advice and help.

All the signatures on the original petition can be viewed at

www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition.

National Family History Week: 3rd-10th Aug 2008

A very successful open day was held at our rooms on Sunday 10th August. Publicity through local radio, newspaper and flyers generated enough interest to have the public waiting to check out our facilities and use our extensive library to research family names.

Our volunteers were kept busy answering questions, giving tips on research by computer, explaining our book library and providing afternoon tea, all the things they do so well with enthusiasm every time we are open.

Several new members were signed up on the day. We wish them good researching, may they find that long lost rellie.

Visit to Echuca Family History rooms

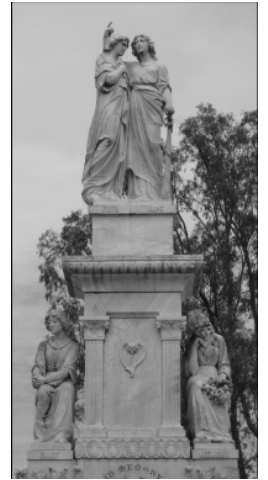
Six SFHG members travelled to Echuca to partake in a cemetery walk, research and a very pleasant day thanks to Echuca member Shirley. Pearl Collins had previously invited our group over to Echuca to see how their club functioned and to make use of their ample research resources.

After a morning tea we ventured to the Echuca cemetery where Shirley explained the meanings of

headstone symbols on the various graves of some of Echuca's early pioneers. Some of the magnificent memorials tell their own story just by knowing the meanings of their sculptured symbols.

The afternoon was for research at the spacious research rooms, one of our members coming away with many pages of precious findings.

This photograph is of the Falkiner memorial in the monumental section of the Echuca cemetery.



Coming Events

GMAGS EXPO

Saturday 15th November 2008

See article on front page and attached flyer.

Christmas Breakup

Sunday 7th December 1.00 to 4.00pm.

Afternoon tea to share at our rooms together with the Heritage society members. Please bring a plate. This is our normal members only research day.

Wendish Heritage Society Visit March 7th 2009

We have discussed with the Wendish Heritage Society a proposed visit to the Shepparton area early next year. Labour day weekend was set as a tentative date by their group.

The Wendish society exists to collect, preserve and research Wendish and German family history, culture and heritage.

Past visits by other groups to our district have always been successful, a great way to learn of their club activities, and generally have a social day or evening with like minded people.

We will let members know more details as they become available.

AIGS Bendigo Family History Expo March 15th 2009

SFHG will again be participating in this very worthwhile family history expo.

Book Launches

Harvest Home Anew: by Adrian Twitt will be launched at the Numurkah Library Thursday 13th November from 5.30 pm.

Parish of Youanmite History: by the Youanmite History Group to be launched at the Youanmite hall 1.30 pm Sunday 16th November.

The MILLER HOMES

Situated between Wyndham, Maude, Knight and Rea streets in Shepparton, the Miller homes are one of the district's better known places of self contained aged accommodation units. Few people are aware of the story and the person behind the building of these icons.

Extracts from "The Shepparton News" have provided us with the following information.

"The Shepparton News" 30/6/1919.

Alex Miller's Estate

The trustees have just advised the Rev R Taylor that they have accepted the tender of Mr M Chapman, of Shepparton, for the erection of the set of the Memorial Homes at Shepparton, and that the work will be taken in hand at an early date.

"The Shepparton News" 26/9/1932

Mr Alex Miller Founder of the "Miller Homes"

In a series of articles in the "Geelong Advertiser" by Mr J.H.Bettrell, appears the following reference to the late Mr Alex Miller, founder of the Miller Homes, some of which are a well known feature of Shepparton, where the late Mr Miller also had one of his branch stores in the premises now occupied by Mr J.P.McLennan:

On leaving school, the little boy, Alexander Miller, wishing to become a draper, entered the service of Messers Warren Hastings Brown and George Brown, whose business was established in Mercer St (*Geelong*). He remained with that firm for a long time and then he went with the firm of Messrs Hall Bros. He first started business for himself in West Geelong in premises known in after years as Mr Coxon's. Some time after he opened a drapery shop in Moorabool street.

He sold this business and went for a trip to the Old country. On returning, he bought back the establishment and afterwards he purchased Mr Hall's old shop which he demolished and erected on its site the splendid shop which is Mr Isings today. Throughout his life he was very fortunate in all his business ventures. Like Midas, everything he touched turned to gold. As time went on he opened businesses in several up-country towns, at Benalla, Echuca, Euroa, Shepparton, Numurkah, Maryborough and Rushworth.

For a long time before his death he had no shop in Geelong, but all his businesses were controlled, until he removed to Melbourne, from his office in Rannoch House which was under the guidance of his wonderful accountant Mr W.P.Thomas. By strict attention to business and owing to his industrious habits, he had at the time of his death ac-



Shepparton's Miller Homes

cumulated a very large sum of money.

Some time before his death he had started building homes for ladies who were getting up in years. Those in Chilwell were built first, and then those in Ashby. He also built some in Ryrie street at the junction of Sydney parade in memory of his sister, Mrs James, who had died. In this way he saw the happiness he had brought into the hearts of so many.

One day whilst travelling to Melbourne with a friend, the latter suggested to him that he should leave his money so that after his death his trustees could build more homes.

Since his death the trustees have built a large number of these homes. In Geelong there are 77 and they are being erected in every town where he had a business. Electric light, repairs, alterations, painting, and up-keep of gardens are paid for out of trust funds. The house is fully furnished, including crockery, bedding linen etc and when new linoleums or curtains are needed they are supplied. The inmates pay no rent, rates or taxes. Therefore the ladies living in the Miller Homes are among the happiest persons in Geelong. Mr Miller made it clear that these homes are not to be considered as charity homes but are for respectable persons who are not in affluent circumstances to whom rent would be a worry.

There is no grand monument to Sir Christopher Wren, who built St Paul's, London. "The vast bulk of that stupendous frame, Known by the Gentile's great Apostle's name." But in the crypt where he lies above his tomb is the legend (in Latin) : "If thou seekest his monument, look around"

So in Geelong and other parts of Victoria the "Miller Homes" stand as a monument to this benevolent man.

Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools!

A Survey of Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

An extract from: "The Village Burial Ground—A Survey of Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan, New South Wales" by Dr Margaret Park, Dr Peter Dowling and George Imashev, *Trust News Australia* Volume 1 No 4 May 2008, National Trust, pg 16-17

The decision to design and construct Australia's new national capital out of the landscape of the Yass / Queanbeyan region of New South Wales would forever link these satellite towns with the history of Canberra, its people and places.

One such place unequivocally linked, the Riverside Cemetery, was the first dedicated European burial ground in the area. As its name implies it is situated just above the Queanbeyan River, a factor which played an important role in the Cemetery's history which began in the mid-1840s.

Unlike most other histories, cemeteries document the lives of the rich and poor, the prominent and the humble. Cemeteries established in the nineteenth century contain the last resting place of a region's pioneers and as such contain a permanently accessible record of our cultural history.

Our Survey identified the graves of those pioneers who lived in a pre-1911 Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and who contributed to the district's social and cultural expansion. While the project was funded by the ACT Heritage Grant Program, its success depended on the cooperation of the Queanbeyan City Council as the custodians of the Cemetery. This assistance combined with the records available enabled us to locate the pioneers more easily.

What makes a pioneer? How do we judge who was a pioneer of Canberra and the ACT? Which generation of pioneering families to include? It was necessary to formulate a set of criteria. Firstly in order for people to be included it was essential that they "must have lived within the current border of the ACT". This identified 1,113 burials. Then they were required to be either in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* or had made some notable contri-



bution to the history, social or cultural development of the Territory and/or the National Capital/Federal Government, have a street or place named in their honour, or had a strong association with a place of heritage in the ACT. When it came to identification of family groups of pioneers, the original pioneering family should be included rather than subsequent generations. This resulted in a total of 56 ACT pioneers, many of whom were a husband and wife team.

Our project team, comprising an archaeologist, historian and heritage professional, recorded each pioneer's gravesite, assessed its condition and made recommendations on the future conservation and interpretation to the ACT Government and Queanbeyan City Council. An important aspect of these recommendations featured an identification program for the 'unmarked' pioneer graves. Included in the list of recommendations, apart from the conservation work is the erection of plaques and interpretation signs place at relevant sections and dedicated to all of the ACT pioneers as we fast approach the centenary of the establishment of the capital and its naming day between 2011 and 2013.

Goldfields Research by Bruce Manson

Our journey commenced at Talbot on market day, we arrived early in the afternoon and spent some time viewing the displays. We went to the large Amherst cemetery and had a good look over the headstones etc. At Amherst the only building left standing after the 1985 bushfires was the original school building, now a private residence.

Sunday morning we were at the Avoca Family History building at opening time. Their records covered entries of Amherst etc and we obtained the information that one child relation had been immunised but still three children died very young. We then went back to Talbot via Amherst, had lunch and visited the Heritage building and found there are two cemeteries at old Amherst, one directly opposite the school - only one headstone exists - in the middle of a ploughed paddock.

Monday was spent at the Ballarat offices of PROV and we were able to access all records, from there we went across the road to the library and did further research. Tuesday we again spent most of the day at PROV and the library and found a "new" relative, born in 1854, died in 1855, just before the mother was married, after arriving from England.

Wednesday we visited the Creswick cemetery then on to Castlemaine for lunch etc, to Bendigo Library - did not have time for much research but obtained some good ideas for further research.

Web Sites

- www.hotkey.net.au/~jwilliams4/homes.htm A list of homes and orphanages Australia wide.
- www.paperofrecord.com The Port Phillip Herald up to 1902 with over 21 million images.
- www.adelaideco-op.familyhistorysa.info Various South Australian historic records.
- www.necropolis.net.au/necropolis/ Springvale & St Kilda cemeteries are back online.
- www.findmypast.com/migration.jsp Emigrants leaving the UK 1890 to 1960. Free search.
- <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au/> Tasmanian convict database searching / viewing.
- www.awm.gov.au/redcross/ Australian Red Cross database for WW1 wounded or missing.
- www.nla.gov.au/argus/ Argus newspaper index from 1870 to 1879.

BOOKS FOR SALE



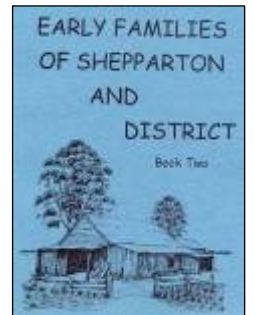
EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT

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/~shepfh email: shepfhg@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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