

~Furphy Murrurs~



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Newsletter No 38 May 2009

SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc. (pages 1 - 6)
SHEPPARTON HERITAGE CENTRE inc. (pages 7-12)

Shepparton Family History Report

A number of activities have been undertaken by our group since our last newsletter.

Over the years our computer numbers have grown from one very slow machine running Windows 3.1, with various other purchased or donated computers gradually being added. The result has been a number of computers all differing in their operating system's, method of operation etc with some CD's only able to be used on certain machines.

Recently we received the news that our application for a grant in the Federal Governments FAHCSIA Volunteer Grants Program 2008 was successful. This has enabled us to purchase a number of new networked computers which should mean that anyone doing research will be able to work on a similar computer each time they visit our rooms. The computers will all be linked to our central photocopier / printer / scanner giving us much greater flexibility with less printers to maintain.

Two tier shelving is planned for our research room. This will house the computer modules, freeing up the working space around the monitors and also give us some much needed extra bookshelf area.

Some members are working to tidy up the library area, rebinding the indexes, rearranging files and books to make better use of valuable space.

The City of Greater Shepparton council have recently installed a reverse cycle split system air conditioner in our research room. This will be a great relief to members and guests, especially during the hotter months, as our room was getting very cosy during summer when the single fan battled to keep a large number of people cool.

Several of our members spent many hours collating information for the Shepparton High School reunion, a more detailed report is included later in this newsletter.

This year denotes 25 years since the formation of the Shepparton family History Group. The initial members must be amazed at the change in research methods over this time. Those early times of spending days staring at a microfiche reader, sometimes trying to decipher poor quality script writing and writing all the results into paper notebooks or waiting for weeks to receive a certificate by mail, are now almost a memory as computers, CD's and the internet have revolutionized family history research and record keeping. The original members still joke about packing all our records into a shoebox when they had to move to a new premises. Our library now consists of several hundred CD's, and numerous bookshelves filled with information collected, collated, indexed and catalogued over those 25 years.

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts,
but remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking.

Recent Events

Annual GMAGS EXPO Nov 2008

As an active member of the Goulburn & Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups, the SFHG were again fully involved in making this event a very successful day.

Jenny, our New Zealand researcher was kept very busy with enquiries from the public about their New Zealand connections. Our growing collection of N.Z CD's is proving to be very worthwhile. The laptop and printer is an invaluable research tool for our group at these family history expos.

Wendish Heritage Society Visit

On the long weekend in March we enjoyed the company of eleven members of the Wendish Heritage Society of Australia, several even travelling from South Australia. The society exists to collect, preserve and research Wendish and German family history, culture and heritage.

After visiting the Tatura museum on the Saturday they invited our group to join them for the evening meal at the Terminus Hotel. A brief, but very interesting and informative, outline of Wendish history gave us all an insight into their history before migration to Australia.

Sunday morning saw our visitors arrive at our rooms for morning tea, family history research and a tour of the Heritage centre.

In the afternoon Kerry conducted a guided walk at the Shepparton cemetery, pointing out the various graves of prominent former citizens.

We thank the Wendish society for their company and a very enjoyable weekend. Our group is now in a better position to inform people researching their Wendish heritage.

Bendigo Family & Local History Expo

We once again travelled to Bendigo for this event, it proved to be quite a successful day with some book sales and queries about our local school, shire and cemetery registers.



Scottish Family History Day

More than thirty family history researchers enjoyed an afternoon at the Shepparton Library on Saturday 2nd May. Scottish Ancestry group's John Blackwood expertly conducted an afternoon's insight into "Researching your Scottish Ancestors". Researchers from beginners to the more experienced heard of the

various ways to gather information.

Some of the subjects covered were;

Civil Registration, Old Parochial Registers (OPR's), Census Records, Testaments and Legal documents, Monumental Inscriptions and Web Sites of Interest (including Scotland's People).

The well planned and easy to follow "Power Point" presentation brought forth questions and discussion from the audience.

A small presentation was made to John to thank him for his willingness to travel to Shepparton to give country people access to his extensive knowledge on Scottish family history.

Afternoon tea and a chat concluded the day.

We would like to thank Libby for allowing our group to use the great facilities of the Shepparton library.

Adrian Twitt Guest Speaker

Adrian's recently published "Harvest Home Anew" told the story of his grandfather, Henry Twitt who came to Australia from England alone at the age of 16.

Adrian gave us details of his research at Somerset House and help from family contacts. This was a fascinating story of how Henry selected land and became more prosperous than would have been possible for him in England.

A copy of the book is now available in our library.

Coming Events

National Family History Week 2009

1st to 9th August

"Hospital records on the Goldfields" will be the theme for a talk to be given by Lis Allan, FGSV, Dip F.H.S, at the Shepparton Library on the 1st August, 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Lis is a family historian with a keen interest in the goldfields records, a member of the Maldon Museum & Archives and very experienced researcher.

This will prove to be a very interesting day and perhaps you may find reference to your ancestors through these hospital records.

We like to bring recognised speakers to the Goulburn Valley to benefit family history researchers and your support for them is greatly appreciated.



A family reunion is an effective form of birth control

GMAGS 10th annual Family History Expo

Mark the calendar now!

Saturday 21st November 2009

Venue: Club Mulwala

- Great Speakers
- Many Exhibitors
- Door Prizes
- Goodie Bags
- Fuel Raffle
- More details Oct newsletter

VAFHO State Conference

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations state conference will be held in **2010** from May 28-30 at Club Mulwala. The theme will be "The Border and Beyond". Family historians please mark this date in your diary. Further details will be in our October newsletter.

Wodonga Family History Celtic day

25th July 2009. 9am-4pm for anyone with an interest in Irish, Scottish or Cornish ancestors. See www.wodongafamilyhistory.org or contact: P.O Box 289, Wodonga, Victoria, Australia. 3689.

Stawell Biarri Group for Genealogy

Family History Expo covering Western Victoria and South Eastern South Australia held at the Town Hall, Main st Stawell, on Sat 10th and Sun 11th October 2009 from 10am to 4 pm.

Maryborough Family History Fair

Sunday 30th August 2009 10 to 4pm at the Maryborough Resource Centre, cnr Nolan and Alma Streets, Maryborough. \$2.00 admission.

- Family History Groups
- Internet Access
- Great Raffle Prizes

Photo Restoration

We have been in contact with a professional photograph editor who has offered to run a hands on two day workshop using the Adobe "Photoshop" software. It would be held in our rooms where we have access to several computers but participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops if possible.

The cost would be approximately \$50 with a limit for the workshop of 10 participants.

To register your interest or for further details: email shephfg@fastmail.fm or ph: Garry 58283236

Barbara Joyce Mitchell (Berry)

20.12.1933—7.5.2009



It is with deep regret that we record the passing of one of our longtime members.

Barb was always willing to help members with family history problems or advice, this lovely lady had a smile for all.

When we were unable to access our rooms several years ago Barb immediately invited the group to hold our meetings at her home and she enjoyed that immensely. Barb's ill health at times meant she was unable to join us for meetings at the rooms and so it was of mutual benefit to all.

Barb's pride and joy was the publication of her book on the Berry family, the culmination of many years of research. Her donation of this book was a welcome addition to our library.

Her family say she will still be looking up there for any elusive Berry relations.

Our deepest sympathy to Karen, Wendy, Ross and family.

Library Acquisitions

CD's

- *Footscray Cemetery Register & Memorial Inscriptions*
- *New Zealand Burial Index Version 2*
- *New Zealand Society Genealogists Index Vol 5*
- *Essex Phillimore Parish Records Volumes 1-4*

Books

- *Something Quite Noble*, G V Grammar School
- *Bullockies, Draymen & Horsemen of Early Geelong, Vol 1 1837 to 1859*
- *Bendigo Advertiser Index of Funerals, Inquests, Accidents & more 1854 - 1871*
- *A New Beginning*, William and Eliza Thorn
- *Harvest Home Anew*, Adrian Twitt
- *1910 to the year 2000*, Charles Gerrish
- *Back to Numurkah 1970*
- *Shire of Marong 1864—1964*
- *The Way We Were*
- *Parish of Youanmite History*

Micro Fiche

- *All Saints Church of England Bendigo*

I only trace my family history so I will know who to blame.

Making "The News"

Shepparton News Item 14/4/1908

Shepparton has just had a big advertisement as a health resort. It seems that people simply will not die there, and as a result the trustees of the local cemetery are in a pretty pickle. Their bone-yard is earning nothing, and it has been found necessary to cut down the grave-digger's wages from 36s to £1 till such time as the people start dying again. The trustees blame the shocking falling off in business to the recent sanitary improvements in Shepparton.

Possibly all this is a cunning scheme on the part of the trustees. Sick and frightened people all over the country, reading that there is no dying in Shepparton, will rush there, and the sudden invasion of cripples and chronics must presently result in a boom in burials. As things go, however "as poor as a Shepparton undertaker" threatens to be incorporated into the language as a most popular figure of speech. We reminded a theatrical manager of the dilemma of the Shepparton cemetery trustees and he retorted-"How the deuce can they expect the place to pay when they admit only dead-heads?"

Shepparton News Item 19/5/1893

MY ACCOUNTS

ALL ACCOUNTS owing to me to 31st December 1892, have now been in the hands of those for whom intended for some considerable time, and I must confess to a sense of surprise at the comparatively poor response they have elicited. Fortunately, there are many who make it a point to be prompt in their payments, and I take this opportunity of cordially thanking such for their consideration, and assuring them that the remarks contained in this notice do not apply to them. There are many others, however, who receive their accounts with indifference, never troubling with the indifferent matter of settling up. To such as these is this notice intended, and although police court prosecution is foreign to my policy, my ledger shows so many hardened sinners in this respect that I have definitely arranged that all accounts OVER TWELVE MONTHS will be sued for if not paid by the end of the present month and REMEMBER I MEAN IT!

JOSEPH MARCHANT. 1/5/93.

I AM OFF TO LONG'S,
The cheapest house in Shepparton,
For a Pair of New Boots and a paper.
All the Melbourne daily and weekly papers supplied at Melbourne prices.
BOOTS and SHOES from 2s upwards. Bicycles and Tricycles supplied on time payment, at Melbourne prices. Agent for Victoria Fire Insurance Company and Rubber Stamps.
A. R. LONG, Wyndham street.



Shepparton News
Item 26/6/1884

Shepparton News Item 2/4/1886

The name of the postal town now known as Sheridan will, from the 8th April, be altered to Kyabram, and the present post office designated Kyabram, will be altered to Kyabram West.

Shepparton News Item 28/5/1886

We have received a copy of the first number of the "Kyabram Union". The reading matter produced is good enough, and the display of advertisements excellent: but the paper is so wretchedly printed that one's patience becomes exhausted in perusing its contents. We have no doubt this defect will be overcome in due course, and trust that the career of our contemporary will be a highly prosperous one.

Please Note: PROV Reduced Access

As a result of building works, the Victorian Archives Centre Reading Room will be closed to the public on Saturdays and Mondays between 1 June 2009 and February 2010.

Library Display

An outstanding display, during the month of April, to commemorate our 25th anniversary was featured at the Shepparton library. Thanks to Kerry for her great effort in publicising our Shepparton Family History Group.



New Zealand Research

For anyone who has hit "The Wall" with their NZ research we have an experienced researcher who is available to help you. A research fee will apply and an appointment will be necessary.

Contact: Jenny at SFHG.

Shepparton Cemetery Columbarium

The Shepparton Cemetery Trust now has a new Columbarium garden in an area close to the existing Columbarium wall. Past and present trust members have toiled hard to construct a peaceful environment for grieving relatives and friends.

The garden gives people an alternative resting place for loved ones ashes. They can now choose between plots, tombs, columbarium wall or garden.

My ancestors wandered lost in the wilderness for forty years because even in biblical times, men would not stop to ask for directions. Elayne Boosler

Ancestry.com

We have been delighted by the news that the Shepparton Library have on trial, for the month of May, access to the well known genealogy web site Ancestry.com.

Some of our members have been fortunate enough to have already found some ancestors from the British census. Australian electoral rolls are another great source of information.

Our group hope that this trial will be extended to be permanently available at the library.

1911 British Census online

This is a great new resource for those seeking links to English and Welsh ancestors.

www.1911census.co.uk/

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held at 7.00 pm, July 15th, 2009 at the Welsford st rooms.

Members and guests are cordially invited to attend and participate in discussion on the progress of the Shepparton Family History Group.

Appeal for Marysville History

An article in the VAFHO newsletter is appealing for old photographs or memorabilia of Marysville to assist in the rebuilding of the Marysville Historical Society collection which was completely destroyed in the bushfires on Black Saturday.

Anyone with artifacts or images to be copied can contact: info@ballaratheritage.com.au
or gaturnbull@yahoo.com.au

Research Request

McHugh Patrick & Bridget (nee Byrne) m Co Galway Ireland 1861. Settled Clunes, Vic. Family: John (b1863) m Nora Wallace, Martin (1865) m Marg Delaney, Catherine (1867), Peter (1868-70), Theady (1870), Michael (1862) m Bridget Hassett, Patrick (1874) m Bridget Hayes and Peter (1878-1891).

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

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

Members please note that 2009/10 subs are due in July and will be payable to the treasurer.

P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.

Single \$25.00. Couple \$45.00. Joining Fee \$5.00

Shepparton High School Snippets

The centenary celebrations for the Shepparton High School were conducted over the weekend of April 17th to 19th 2009. More than 800 people en-



The First Shepparton High School, Fryers St Shepparton joyed the celebrations starting with Friday afternoon's registration followed by the evening launch of the centenary book. Saturday's activities included a district bus tour, roll call at the school assembly hall and centenary dinner at Eastbank. A Church service on Sunday morning followed by a concert then a sausage sizzle to close the weekend's celebrations.

Amongst the older students were several 90 plus year olds, one starting at S.H.S in 1922.

Former principal Allan McLean was quoted in "The Shepparton News" as saying "It showed what a special place the school has in the history of the city and it's residents."

Mr. W.H.Callister was Headmaster from 1913 to 1924. During this period the enrolment increased to more than 200.

Mr. Scott, appointed as H.M in 1925, introduced the "House" system to the school. "Callister" house being named after the former H.M. The other houses being; "Sutherland", "Rodney" and "Goulburn".



"The Shepparton News" Item 3rd June 1926

Obituary — Mr. W.H.Callister

No words at our disposal can express our regret at the death of Mr. W.H.Callister, who passed away last Monday evening at his late residence, 52 Alexandra Av, Canterbury, at the age of 62 years. The funeral took place at Creswick yesterday, and was attended by a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends, among the latter being Mr. W Gilchrist, manager of the Shepparton High School farm, who was closely associated with the deceased during his twelve years in Shepparton, and whose grief, when he learned his old friend had died, was extreme. Many beautiful wreaths covered the coffin, one of which was sent by the Shepparton High School and another by the High School Council.

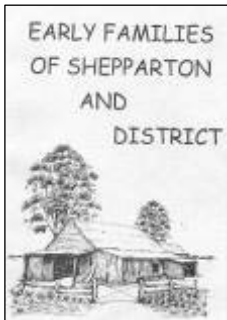
It cost me \$15,000 to do my family tree. \$1,000 for research and \$14,000 to keep it quiet.

Scottish Family History Research Web Sites

- Scotland's People www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (OPR's, Civil BMD's, Censuses, Wills & Inventories)
- Scots Origins www.scotsorigins.com (IGI, LDS Catalogue)*
- General Registry Office Scotland www.gro-scotland.gov.uk (Civil Registration, Census, F H Records)
- Scottish Archives of Scotland www.nas.gov.uk (Fact sheets, Catalogue, General info, Digital archives)*
- Scottish Archive Network www.scan.org.uk (On-line catalogue, Digital archives)*
- GSV Catalogue www.gsv.org.au (Members section with access to the entire catalogue collection)

* Free view sites

BOOKS FOR SALE



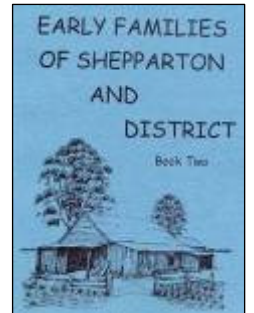
EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT

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



Buyer Beware

We know that the internet bookstores such as Amazon.com can be a valuable source of supply for someone who wants that old book which has gone out of print, but we also know the slogan "Buyer beware". A quick check of the secondhand market has shown me that the book Early Families of Shepparton and District published by the Shepparton Family History Group is available at prices ranging from \$67.56 to \$133.71, without any clear indication of which volume it refers to and no indication of the contents.

On the other hand, if you look up the website for the Shepparton Family History Group, you will find that we have new copies of Volume 1 for \$25 and Volume 2 for \$20 each, plus postage and packing, and the full table of contents of each book is on our website.

Now there's a bargain!

Shepparton Family History Group inc

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Internet: www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh email: shepfhg@fastmail.fm

Meeting Times: Third Wednesday, 7.00pm (May-Sept), 7.30pm (Oct-Apr), at the SFHG 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.
First odd dated Sunday 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm (For Members Research Only)