

~Furphy Murmurs~



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*Newsletter No 50
November 2015*



SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

Shepparton Family History Group Inc report

Newsletter Number 50

The Shepparton Family History Group first started in 1984 and shortly after distributed their first newsletter. Now 31 years later Newsletter number 50 has been produced. A number of editors have been involved over the years each of them trying to keep our members, and others, abreast of the SFHG activities.

We are always on the lookout for more news items so if you have any items which would be of interest to other family historians, or even a request for help with your research, please forward your information to the SFHG (see page 8 for contact details).

RHSV / PROV Heritage Awards

The Royal Historic Society of Victoria in conjunction with the Public Records Office Victoria held their annual Heritage Awards presentation in October. The SFHG entered our third book in the "Early Settlers of Shepparton and District" series in the Best Publication category. This category also included entries from some very large publishing companies so the competition is very strong. We were not successful in gaining any of the awards but the publicity for our book, and for the SFHG, makes the experience very worthwhile.

VAFHO Family History Expo

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations held their Family History Expo on October 17th in Seymour. A last minute change of venue, due to a double booking, left the organisers with the only reasonably large area available being upstairs at the Seymour club. Although this was inconvenient for access and slightly cozy for the exhibitors and guests, the day was very successful and the organizers and workers are to be congratulated on their achievement.

Volunteer Grants

The Australian Government invited non-profit organisations to apply for Volunteer Grants through an open process under the Strengthening Communities – Volunteering sub-activity. The SFHG are applying for funds to finance the purchase of a new colour photocopier / printer. The grants will not be announced until June 2016 hopefully our present machine will be maintenance free until then.

Book Sales

"Early Settlers of Shepparton and District Book Three" continues to sell steadily in the twelve months since it's launch last year. The book may not have been produced without the assistance of a Public Records Office of Victoria "Local Histories Grant" which we received in 2013.

Christmas Break

Our rooms will be closed after Sunday 20th December and re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2016.

Past events

VAFHO Seymour Family History EXPO

A steady crowd of genealogists visited the VAFHO family history expo at the Seymour club in October.

More than 30 exhibitors were present to help with queries and to sell family history related books.

Four speakers gave very informative talks, they were Catherine Koning (surprises and mysteries I encountered while researching Dorothy Rudder's story), Neil Smith (Military History), Jenny Harkness (What's new in Family Search), Ben Mercer (Ancestry)



Kerry, Bruce and Bev waiting for the rush



Coming Events

Christmas break up

Members are asked to bring a plate along to our rooms for afternoon tea and a chance to catch up with fellow family history members on Sunday 20th December from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

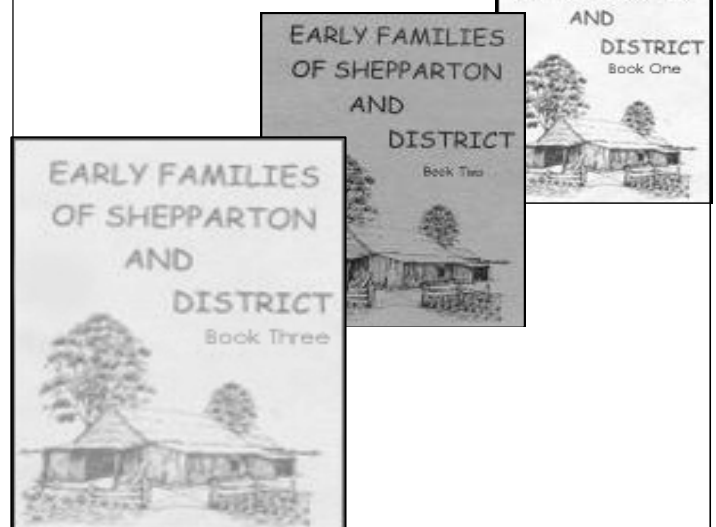
Our rooms will be closed after Sunday 20th December and re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2016



Recent Library Additions

- *The Historical Records of Victoria 1836 - 1839 Vol 3*
"The Early Development of Melbourne" Vol 4
"Communications Trade and Transport"
- *The Spirit Lives 100 Years of Anzac 2014—2018*
- *Our Liverpool Boys*
- *Our Gallipoli Boys The Centenary of Gallipoli*
- *Call the Nurse 85 Years of Bush Nursing in Violet Town. Researched and written by Robin Langvogt*
- *St Colman's College magazine 1975*
- *Memories of Merrigum*
- *Vintage Stories—150 years of Tahbilk*
- *Wodonga Yesterday*
- *Channels of Hope. The Naneela Timmering District Celebrates the Centenary of Irrigation and Education*

Early Families of Shepparton and District books
one, two and three are still available.
See page 8 for contact details.



Shepparton Jewish Synagogue



The former Jewish synagogue 1997

The former Jewish Synagogue stood near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Doyles Lane in Orrvale. A two room private home had been converted to a place of worship by a number of Jewish settlers from the Orvale district.

Eight families had arrived in the district in 1913, blocks of approximately 40 acres each were allocated to them. After dairy farming had been tried without success they established orchards on the blocks. The initial families were: B. Bendall, R. Beresinsky, B. Feiglin, M. Feiglin, S. Gorr, J. Moritz, H. Rosenbaum, I. Rubenstein.

A small block of land and a house were acquired by 1924 and converted to be used as the synagogue.

By the late 1950's many of the families had left the area and the Synagogue was closed. Over the next 40 years the building fell into disrepair and was eventually demolished in 1998.

A plaque to recognise the site of the Synagogue was unveiled by Mayor Dennis Patterson, Shirley Randles and Ina Clive on the 16th November 2015.

Our library contains a large folder titled "The Jewish Community in Shepparton", containing newspaper articles, histories, maps, addresses and other sources of information.

Please avail yourself of our large selection of magazines and newsletters.

These include the GSV Ancestor, Australian Family Tree Connections, British Family Tree as well as Victorian and interstate newsletters.

They are very informative and may help you solve some of your brick walls.

All these are available for loan to SFHG members.

PROV Reading Room Opening Hours

The Victorian Archives Centre reading room is open Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:30pm (excluding public holidays) and on the second and last Saturday of every month.

Record retrieval times are 10:30am and 2:30pm in the Reading Room. To have your records ready for viewing, order your items online by 8am (for 10:30am pick up) or 11.30am (for 2:30pm pick up).

The Ballarat Archives Centre is open 9:30am to 4:30pm Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Bendigo Regional Archives Centre reading room (BRAC) is open Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 4:30pm (excluding public holidays). The reading room is located at 1st Floor, Bendigo Library, 251-259 Hargreaves Street Bendigo.

St Vincent's Hospital WW1 Nurses

Information is being sought on the 64 nurses who trained at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne between 1902 and 1917 and served in World War One. They were between 21 and 45 years old and single or widowed. Most of them served with the Australian Army Nursing Service and went to England, France, India and Egypt as well as on to hospital ships.

St Vincent's Hospital Archive and Heritage Centre is documenting the lives of these nurses and is seeking information about them, especially after the war.

If you have information on one of these nurses then please contact the hospital archivist.

Email: barbara.cytowicz@svhm.org.au

British Census Dates

The England & Wales Censuses were enumerated on the following nights:

10 March 1801	27 May 1811	28 May 1821
30 May 1831	07 June 1841	30 March 1851
07 April 1861	02 April 1871	03 April 1881
05 April 1891	31 March 1901	02 April 1911
19 June 1921	26 April 1931	

Mystery Photograph

This recent research request to our group has posed the question of just who are the people in the photograph below. If anyone recognises the people or the location where the photograph was taken please contact the SFHG

“Hello,

Attached is an unnamed photo of a couple and I am wondering if it might be one of the McGUINNESS brothers, James lived in Benalla and owned the ROYAL HOTEL, Bridge Street West, Benalla with his wife Annie who later ran a wine bar/café there.

John MCGUINNESS married Margaret (KENNY) COUGHLAN and they had a hotel in Shepparton. During the 1880's the name was Coughlan's Hotel, then the Union Hotel and later Hotel Australia, in Fryers Street.

I am hoping that someone in your group may recognise the couple in the photo, or I would be grateful if you could ask your members if they had any clues as to the mystery couple.”



New Members

The Shepparton Family History Group welcomes our new members, Ted, Narelle, Peter and Andrew.

We look forward to seeing you at our rooms and successfully continuing your family history research.

Research requests

Recent surname requests to our researchers:

ALLCORN/BYRNE - Violet Town.

CUSSEN, Martin - Mooroopna, Shepparton, Tatura.

HUMPHREY, Thomas & Gladys Minnie - Canberra House - Shepparton.

WHITE, Henry Charles /SMITH,/BAKER, Mrs Frances - Shepparton.

WHITE, Alice Maud / RILEY, Frances - Shepparton.

BAILEY, Gerald & Kathleen - Orrvale.

GRAY Adam & families - Drumanure.

WHITEHEAD, Henry - Shepparton & Numurkah.

MOORE / FLANAGAN / KNIGHT - Kialla & Caniambo.

SHEPPARD, Sherbourne - Shepparton.

Do You Have a Favourite or Treasured Item?

We are always seeking articles for the newsletter. If you have a family story, a beautiful photograph, a treasured item or an unexpected research discovery please contact us to have it included in the next newsletter.

WW1 Soldier History Research

One of our long term members, Betty, has researched the WW1 death in Europe of her uncle, Leslie Joseph McCrabb. Born at Marungi, a small



village 25 km north east of Shepparton, Leslie the son of Joseph and Catherine McCrabb, was 21 years old when he enlisted at Numurkah in September 1916.

A single man, his will, signed in November that same year, several days before embarking aboard the Hororata bound for Plymouth, England, bequeathed his entire estate to his

mother Catherine McCrabb, .

Early May 1917, Leslie proceeded overseas to France with the 6th Battalion infantry A.I.F.

He sent the following postcard home from France dated July 9th 1917

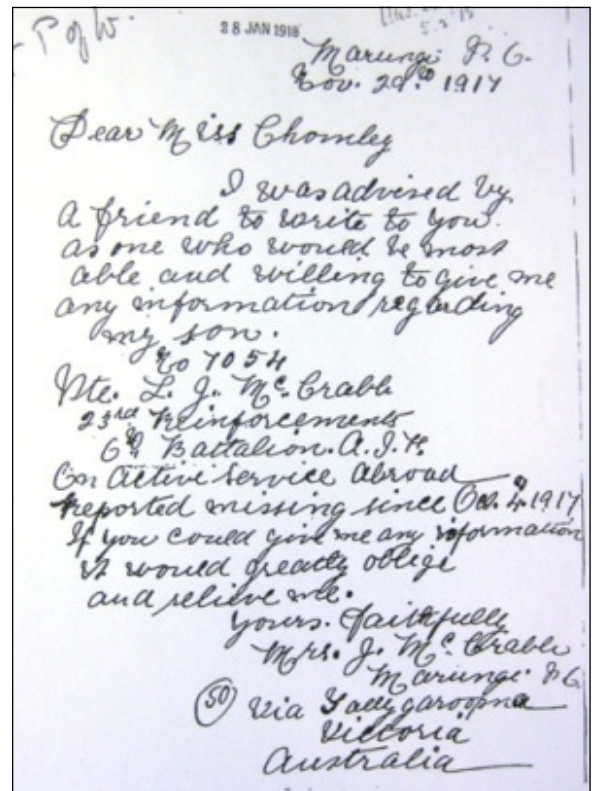


An entry in his Statement of Service, dated 4th October, 1917 lists Leslie Joseph McCrabb as missing.

The next entry for the same date is marked with a well worn rubber stamp KILLED IN ACTION, place France.

And so begins letters of correspondence between the Defence Departments and Leslie's parents.

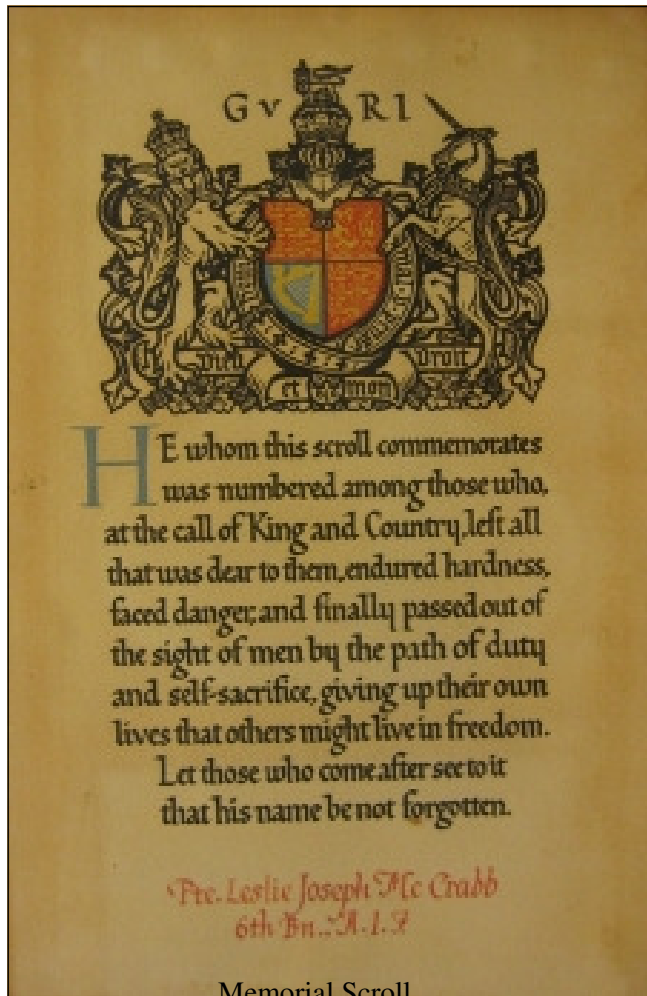
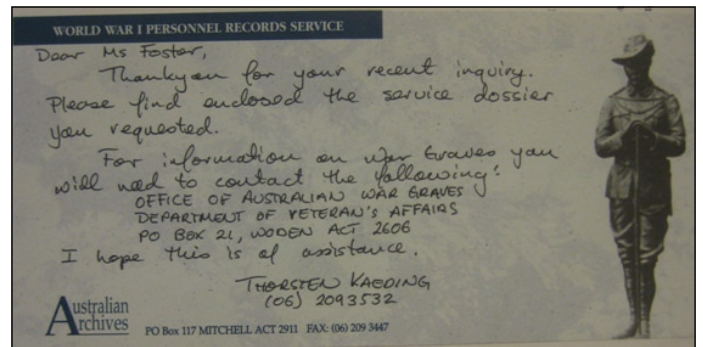
- November 29th 1917 Joseph writes the following letter in an attempt to find out more about his son.



- Feb 25th 1918. Joseph McCrabb requests an official receipt for death of his son.
- March 5th 1918. Unsigned letter from department stating Leslie's death confirmed by Commandant A.I.F. headquarters, London
- June 3rd 1921. An A.I.F. letter stating that the efforts of the Graves Services Unit have "been unable to obtain any trace of the last resting place of your son..." and "... I will be much obliged if you will let me have on loan any letters or communications that contain any reference to the circumstances surrounding his death...". A hand-written note reads "Reported killed at Passchendaele"
- June 17th 1921. A duplicate copy of the above letter is filled in by Joseph McCrabb, giving his address as Finley New South Wales and adding that he "cannot give you any further information whatever. My late son was killed on 4th October 1917. We think it was Passchendaele. We received no other word than defence cable."
- January 28th 1922. Joseph signs a Receipt Slip for a Memorial Scroll and Kings Message. He also receives a form to be signed;
 - For the Inscription on War Graves
 - For the Nation's Histories
 - For the Roll of Honour of Australia
 The form included the basic details of Leslie's Service as well as a section where a personal inscription could be included if Joseph "agrees to pay the cost".
- November 9th 1922. Joseph acknowledges receipt of the Memorial Plaque.

The round bronze Memorial Plaque is 120mm in diameter. It shows Britannia and a lion on the front and bears the inscription: "He died for freedom and honour". The full name of the dead soldier is engraved on the right hand side of the plaque. No rank, unit or decorations are shown, befitting the equality of the sacrifice made by all casualties. The shape and appearance of the plaque earned it nicknames such as the "Dead Man's Penny", the "Death Penny", and the "Widow's Penny".
(Transcript from The Australian War Memorial)

A request to WW1 Personnel Records Service brought the following response.



Memorial Scroll

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown. The memorial is located at the eastern exit of the town and marks the starting point for one of the main roads out of the town that led Allied soldiers to the front line. Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and built and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Menin Gate Memorial was unveiled on 24 July 1927.

Extract from Wikipedia



Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing



Leslie Joseph McCrabb's Memorial Plaque

DEBT OF HONOUR REGISTER	
In Memory of	
LESLIE JOSEPH MCCRABB	
Private 7054	
6th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F.	
who died on Thursday 4 October 1917 .	
Cemetery:	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIALleper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Grave or Reference Panel Number:	Panel 7 - 17 - 23 - 25 - 27 - 29 - 31
Location:	Ypres (now leper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk). Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.



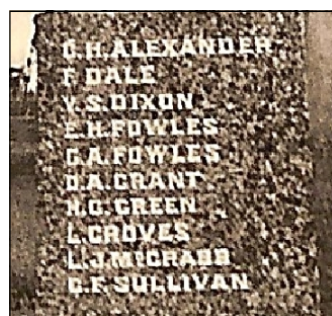
Shepparton War Memorial
and
Memorial Plaque



Several War Memorials in the Goulburn Valley list Pte Leslie Joseph McCrabb amongst the fallen soldiers of WW1.



An early photograph of the
Marungi War Memorial



The names of 10 local
Marungi men who paid
the supreme sacrifice in
WW1, including
L. J. McCrabb.

After contributing a photograph of Leslie to “Australia’s War Dead” project, Betty received a letter from the Vic Heritage project’s manager thanking her for her contribution to the project.

A request to the A.I.F Project for information resulted in a document précisising the history of the A.I.F.’s involvement in WW1 as well as documents listing the information available on the various rolls, embarkation, nominal, honour, post war deaths etc.

Betty’s further research included obtaining a replica copy of Leslie’s commemoration medals.

Anyone wishing to write up the history of a WW1 serviceman or servicewoman could benefit by following Betty’s research methods.

Soldier On: WW1 Soldier Settler Stories

WW1 Soldier Settlers features records from the state archives of Public Record Office Victoria revealing previously untold stories of the Victorian soldier settler experience.

This free exhibition features at the Old Treasury Building, Spring St Melbourne until August 15th 2016. Sunday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Across the Nullarbor

For anyone searching for a family tree member who seems to have just disappeared, any lead can be worth following up. An article in the August 2015 edition of Australian Family Tree Connections has a wonderful article, written by Betty Horskins, titled “People of the Nullarbor”.

As vast as it is, the Nullarbor holds lots of secrets regarding the amount of people who transversed this area. Gold discoveries in the early 1890’s drew many people across to West Australia, WW1 also saw many persons enlisting from there, the A.I.F. Project (<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/>) may help track down a soldier who may have been in this area.

The first trans Australian train line between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie was constructed between 1912 and 1917. Many people with a variety of occupations were needed for the construction and to keep the many small towns going. Teachers, store-keepers, builders, carpenters, rail workers, mid-wives, blacksmiths, whalers and fishermen (near the coast), were all gainfully employed.

These are but a few of the people employed so if you cannot find a relative then perhaps you should take a look at this fascinating article. There may be a lone grave or a small town cemetery as their last resting place.

So please don’t assume that very few people lived out there because you will be very surprised just who did.

Web Sites of Interest

Victorian BDM Historical Indexes Online are now free to search at www.bdm.vic.gov.au
Each result shows basic details.
Historical **Images** can be downloaded for \$24 each.
Historical **Certificate** for \$31 each.

The Find My Past website has **Historical Victorian Mental Health** records added to its list of records. They are indexed and can be viewed for free by registering. Many Irish names appear on this set of records. You may find a family name amongst these records, particularly if you find the name in an inquest. findmypast.com.au

TROVE

If you Sign up and then Log in to Trove it gives you the following advantages over a straight out search (without signing in).

Search within your libraries

Have a profile page to track your comments, tags and corrections

Organise content with your own tags

Contribute without completing a *captcha challenge*

Be ranked in the text correctors hall of fame!

Merge editions of books

Create lists of useful items you've found

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Membership

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Members please note that 2015/16 subs were due from July and payable to:

The Treasurer, P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.

Current membership is: Single \$25.00. Couple \$45.00. New member joining fee \$5.00

Renewal subscriptions can now be paid by direct deposit to our bank account. Please ensure that you include your surname and the word "subs" in the banking details box to help our treasurer identify the deposit.

National Bank Wyndham St Shepparton, BSB: 083894 Acc No: 03832 8159



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 only by our members.

Shepparton Family History Group inc

Address: 154 Welsford St. Shepparton (Cnr Welsford and High St)

Post: P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton. Vic .3632

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

General Meetings Third Wednesday **** 2.00 pm ****

Research Times Every Wednesday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

Even Dated Sundays 1.00 pm 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 SFHG members research only)

Shepparton Family History Group

2013-2014 Office Bearers

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Wilma Emmett (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)

- Garry Wallden (Vice President)
- Lorraine Waldron (Research Officer)
- Kerry Betts (Librarian)

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