



KITH 'N' KIN

The Newsletter
of

The West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc

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BOOK LAUNCH IS PIONEERED

November 2006 meeting saw the launch of the long awaited pioneer books of West Gippsland settlers. The release of the two books was the completion of 5 years of work by the book committee comprising Barbara Clayton, Heather Bullen, June Harvey, Sue Gorst, Faye Vandyke, Helen Langres and Bruce Johns with many others helping along the way. President Meren Perry commenced the evening by welcoming everyone and thanking the committee for a tremendous effort in producing these two books to complement the first original book "West Gippsland Settlers and Pioneers pre 1900". She then introduced the compare for the evening, Past President Bruce Johns. Bruce explained to the large crowd in attendance that, due to the huge response of submissions with many of these being pre 1900, that a decision was made to compile two books. Titled " West Gippsland Pioneers and Settlers Pre 1900" Volume two would be a welcome addition to Volume one and the other book titled 'West Gippsland Early Settlers, 1900-1925". June Harvey and Faye Vandyke were given the honor of launching the books to the guests. The book "West Gippsland Pioneers and Settlers, Pre 1900 Volume two" has nearly 600 families recorded. "West Gippsland early Settlers, 1900-1925 has over 400 families recorded. Throughout the evening, guests were also able to view a display of early photographs received by the Society. "West Gippsland Pioneers and Settlers Pre 1900 Volume two can be purchased for \$45.00 and "West Gippsland Early Settlers 1900-1925" retails for \$40.00 .



Book committee from left to right:
Barbara Clayton, Heather Bullen,
Sue Gorst, June Harvey, Bruce
Johns, Faye Vandyke, Helen Langres.

Photo with compliments of the "The Gazette".

DAVIES DITTY

*Never doubt that a
small group of
thoughtful,
committed people
can change the
world. Indeed, it is
the only thing that
ever has.*

WGGS Library Opening Hours

Wednesday to Friday 10 - 2pm
Second Saturday of month 10 - 3pm
Last Sunday of month 1 - 4pm
Meeting nights fourth
Thursday of month 6 - 7:30pm
Visitors welcome.

Committee

President	Meren Perry	Committee	
Vice President	Barbara Clayton	Avon Ballantyne	Marj Cowie
Secretary	Leonie Freeman	Gwenda Davies	Sue Gorst
Treasurer	George Elliott	June Harvey	Sue Hill
The Public Officer	Geoff Leunig	Christine Mason	Joy Watts
GSV Rep.	June Harvey	Heather Quirk	Faye Vandyk
IPP	Bruce Johns	Heather Roberts	
		Gerald Winter	

It's all relative on the web

FAMILY -tree fanatics whose ancestors emigrated from Britain by ship can now look up their relatives, life changing journeys on the internet.

Details of 30 million passengers who sailed out of Britain from 1890 - 1960 to destinations such as Australia, South Africa, North America and India are now online at www.ancestorsonboard.com.

The 1.5 million pages of passenger lists were previously available at the National Archives in Kew, southwest London.

As well as names, departure dates and destinations of each passenger, the records may also include address, age, marital status and occupation.

Visit the Society's

Web site

www.vicnet.net.au/~wggs

Diary of William Hickman Mason

Liverpool to Port Phillip 1852-1853

William Hickman Mason was the Great Grandfather of Ron Mason, husband of Member Christine Mason. He wrote the diary whilst on the way out to Australia from Birmingham, where he lived. He eventually settled and farmed at Yarram, Victoria, where he started a school and raised his family.

Wednesday Feb. 2nd. 98 days out, 14 weeks. Wind good, going 9 or 10 knots an hour. Steering E.S. Towards evening, rain and squalls came on. The sea running high. Weather cold.

Thurs. Feb. 3rd. Dimensions of cabin 6ft wide, 7ft 4" high, 5 ft. deep. 18 inches the bottom berths are from the floor. 2 feet. 6 in. the bottom of the top berths from the bottom of the lower ones and only 18 inches wide and 5 ft. 10 inches long for each person and there are 8 persons in my berth. Wind good all day. A man named Barnes, a steerage passenger, sent a notice to the Captain to say he should commence legal proceedings against him in Australia for an assault committed on Nov. 12th, and the Captain had it framed and put up on the Poop for anybody to read and make game of. A notice was also put up offering five pounds reward for a cheese having been stolen. Out 100 days.

Friday Feb. 4th. Almost a calm going about 4 knots. S.E. by E. Lat 43. Long. 106.2.

Saturday Feb. 5th. Scarcely any wind at all till night when a strong gale sprang and we were obliged to lay to under bare poles, not going at all.

Sunday Feb. 6th. Light head winds. Cold weather, steering S.E. A ship in sight, masts going same course as we are about 8 miles from us. Service on deck this morning at 10.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. I hope this will be the last Sunday on board the South Sea.

Monday Feb. 7th. Head winds, made very little way. Stormy and rain. No sugar for the

passengers who are greatly troubled over it. Mr. Ransford makes no excuse and says how can they expect any other wise and been such a long voyage; but the fact is the Captain is greatly to blame for bringing out extra no. of people and not victualling the ship properly accordingly.

Tuesday Feb. 8th. Wind good, going well. Very cold and damp. Many people laid up with rheumatics; one in our berth very bad with it. He cannot move up without assistance but thank God I have as yet escaped that affliction.

Wed. Feb. 9th. Out 15 weeks or 105 days. Good wind all day. Steering E by E. Many people losing things. One man lost his hatbox with his hat and many testimonials and money in it. He has gone round and searched all the berths in tween decks. The weather is very cold as yet, although so near the destined land. The contract tickets were shown to the Captain to know who are to stop at Pt. Phillip and who to Sydney.

Thursday Feb. 10th. Wind good. Going well. Steering E. by S. Up all the last night to attend on Schofield in our cabin. Went to bed and dreamt about Love St. I thought they were all offended as they had not received my letters and that Southall the brewer was sitting there in the kitchen, also saw Harriet and Matilda, but do not remember anyone else and when I woke up it was one o'clock and the savages in the second cabin had eaten all my dinner, a rather common occurrence if I happen to be a little behind time on going up. Not very well today and very tired of life on board the South Sea.

Friday 11th Feb. Wind good till night. Steering E by S rainy.

Saturday 12th Feb. No wind this morning. Steering E. by S. Fine day. Sun rather warmer. Many albatross about and still being caught in great numbers by the passengers and also a Dissatisfaction amongst the passengers on account of no sugar being given out. The Captain offers to give wines or spirits instead. Anchor cables out of hold and connected and many



8 William Hickman Mason

preparations for landing going on amongst all on board.

Sunday Feb. 13th. No wind, fine weather. Service at 10 and 5 o'clock. About 4 o'clock, a vessel came in sight. The Queen Sheba from Melbourne to Adelaide. Our chief mate went on board and found she had passengers from the diggings to their homes for the dry season is now on and they say provisions and lodgings are very dear and good wages given. The Hopewell, *Alipone*, *Condon Sarah Sands* and other vessels had arrived with many passengers.

Monday Feb. 14th. Sighted Cape Otway about 5 o'clock this morning. No wind fine weather; not going at all.

Tuesday Feb. 15th. Arrived at the heads at 4.00 a.m. and crossed the bar and took a pilot on board and arrived at Pt. Phillip at 9.30 a.m. Dropped anchor. The harbour is crowded with shipping waiting for hands. The scenery is very beautiful. William Town [sic] on one side and Melbourne on the other. The ships *Constance*, *Ben Nevus*, *Bombay* and many other ships lying here, lately arrived with many more deaths on board than we have had. Prices are very high for everything. To go ashore is 5 shillings each. Today I joined Mr. Black's party and signed agreement. Stopped on board until Sunday, getting luggage out of hold. Came ashore on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, 20th Feb. 1853. We are now living in tents at Canvas Town, Melbourne. In our party there are about 55 in all, men, women and children, about 30 working men. There is great difficulty in getting our luggage on shore and we also have to pay dear for it, about two pounds ten shillings for my boxes and myself. Wages are very good and lodging very high. Stone breakers and labourers get ten shillings per day, dock men fifteen shillings, carpenters thirty shillings and sawyers thirty shillings per day. A tent is about 3 shillings per week for ground and we have to burn wood and fetch water about a mile. Oranges one shilling and one and sixpence each. Apples one shilling a pound, potatoes, four pence a pound, tea 2 shillings per pound, coffee one shilling and four pence per lb., sugar four pence per pound, ale sixpence per glass and everything very dear. Many immigrants sell all the clothes they have as soon as they come ashore and they are to be brought [sic] cheap because they cannot take them with them to the diggings.

Some put them in storehouses and pay one shilling per week and keep only one change to travel with. The weather here is very warm and cold at night. The dust blows in regular clouds, smothering everything that is from under cover, and when the rain does come, it comes in torrents and almost drowns one. It is the most miserable place ever anyone came to for to bring a wife, and most that have brought, wish now they had left one behind. I am glad I left mine behind, as I can put up with things myself that she could not, as everyone here is on a level and Jack is as good as his master. Onions one shilling per pound, eggs sixpence each. The fact anyone can do well here and the reason why the friends of parties coming out here does not hear from us, is there is so much confusion on arrival, and things so expensive, that they are obliged to devote all their time in getting money and seeing all their luggage safe on shore, that they have no time to write nor place either to write in. I am at this time in a tent and amidst confusion and dust since I have been here. We have had a hot wind. It blew a regular hurricane and clouds of dust come with it, stopping all trade while it lasts, and almost blinds everything, and after that comes a drenching rain that wets the tents completely through and washes everything away. The Melbourne mail started to England today March 12th, Sunday. Yesterday we had heavy rains, today fine and warm. Have been here about 3 weeks and not got into any kind of settled state or been to the diggings. Began to fell timber this last week on the Government Road to St Kilda. 18th March. The company broke up entirely and each man at work on dry wages; hard to keep himself.

March 25th. No work. A bad land. Not slept in a tent since I have been ashore, but in a cart. Must write to G. Corbett and W. Parker. Wrote to Corbett in April. Bought a tent with B. Wakefield and J. Cox; gave nine pounds for it. Came down into the wood between Pahrnan and St. Kilda and Canvas Town and put it up by the saw mills and made it our residence. Have to get water from the swamps and wood from where we can. It is a very good tent and keeps out the wet. The only thing is we have to cook outside in all the rain which comes down very heavy sometimes - almost drowns us out. The mills are almost under water in wet weather. Another sample of bad management.

May 20th 1853. Mr. Black has sold the affair

(Continued on page 5)

altogether so we were told and we have to have fresh masters.

Mr. Harris from Forrest Creek came to see his brother Ben and stop a day or two. Have not wrote home since February, must write and tell them to send letters and newspapers and give them all the news of how I am doing and all about going to the bush on May 9th. Since we have been down here, our living on an average cost about fifteen shillings per week and live well. Mr. Harris has bought a few things off us that I brought out, and Mr. Chambers.

May 26th. Started up to the diggings with dray and two horses belonging to Mr. Palmer and Mr. Harris. Camped a few miles out of town that night. Next day got on very well, camped at Black Forest on Saturday night. Arrived at Barkers Creek on Friday 3rd June, where we lost our horses and stopped 4 days looking for them. Then paid a man to take me up to Bendigo where we arrived 9th June. Found that our horses had been stolen and sold here next day. Found one of them again quite by accident. I dug a small hole about 4 ft. deep and then the rain came and filled it in the night. Did not intend to dig as I had to watch the dray and could not leave it. The diggings over a large extent of country and a great

many people on them. The ground in some places had been turned and washed about 3 or 4 times and there is now little doing with few exceptions. Although the amount of gold sent down is good, it is from the number of people there, each sending a little. Started down on Sat. morning June 25th and arrived in Melbourne June 30th, Thursday, having been 5 weeks away, lost 2 horses, found one besides other misfortunes. Still I think I am satisfied about the diggings and have seen the country and hope it will be all for the best. Worked a short time in the wood for a Mr. Harris and then sold my share in the tent and bought another with Ben Wakefield and put on in Mr. Crawley's yard in Melbourne and went to work for him in a saw moulding mills on Aug. 8th.

Wrote to my Father, Sept. 12th by Mr. Bedford in *Roxburgh Castle*. Did not write by last overland mail. The *Shanghai* sailed in September. Wrote home November 22nd, 1853 by the *Shusan* to Father and Mrs-----

THE DIARY CUTS OUT HERE AND WE ARE TOLD THE REST WAS LOST.

Recent Library Acquisitions

Cat No	Title	Author	Medium
17.85	Linga a little longa	Yarrowonga Family History Group Inc.	Newsletter
4.9	The Stuff of Life : the family history of George Pearson Burvill and Violet Irene Moor. Donated by Member Phyllis Parish	Burvill, Pat	Book
5.140	Ballarat Cemeteries and Crematorium indexed transcripts of memorials in the old and new cemeteries and burial & cremation registers	GSV & Ballarat & District Genealogical Society	CD
23.41	Census of New South Wales November 1828	Johnson, Keith & Sainty, Malcom	CD
24.3	South Australian Deaths Registrations 1916 to 1972. Pub. Macbeth Genealogical Services 2006	S.A. Genealogy & Heraldry	CD
22.51	Tasmanian Federation Index Births 1900-1919 Deaths and Marriages 1900-1930. Pub. Macbeth 2006	Macbeth Genealogical Services	CD

PROGRAM for 2007

February	22	Scottish Research	Susan McLean
March	22	Police Historical Research	Gary Presland
April	26	TBA	
May	24	State Library	Anne Burrows AGM
June	28	Members problem night	
July	26	TBA	
August	23	TBA	
September	27	TBA	
October	25	TBA	
November	22	TBA	

Most meetings are held at 8 pm in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Old Shire Council Offices,
South-east corner of Queen & Smith Streets, Warragul, Victoria

Return address: PO Box 225

WARRAGUL VIC 3820

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The West Gippsland



Genealogical Society Inc.

THE WEST GIPPSLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC

Inc No. A0023591F

An inaugural member society of the
Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc

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*The Society accepts, in good faith,
information for inclusion in the newsletter.
However, it does not hold itself responsible
for the accuracy of information, opinions
expressed, or any outcome of the use of
such information.*

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Location

First Floor,
Old Shire Council Offices,
SE corner Queen & Smith Streets,
Warragul.

Opening Hours

Wednesday to Friday 10 - 2pm
Second Saturday of month 10 - 3pm
Last Sunday of month 1 - 4pm
Meeting nights 6 - 7.30pm

Visitors welcome

Librarian: Mrs Sue Hill
Telephone: 03 5623 1703 AH

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