



KITH 'N' KIN

The Newsletter
of

The West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc

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Issue 57 October 2006

Meren's Musings

I am very proud of the West Gippsland Genealogical Society and am proud to be the President of such a warm friendly and welcoming Group. The establishment of this Society has been due to many members past and present who have freely given of both their time and skills. Their ideas and hard work have helped to develop a Group where everyone is welcome to come, to use the library resources, obtain assistance from other members and welcome to join with our guest speakers on meeting nights.

We are lucky to have many volunteers, who for the improvement of the Society give of their time and skills. This helps to spread the work load, gets more members involved in the Group, and helps other volunteers to not feel that they are under pressure or overloaded with the Group organisation and activities. I would encourage anyone who can spare just a small amount of time to become involved in the Group, as you will not only learn more about family research from others, it also helps build new friendships.

The challenge we face as a Society today is to continue to provide interesting speakers, lots of resources in our library for both computer literate and computer illiterate people and to encourage new members into our Group. I would like to encourage you all

to take your love of family history to the next level and share it with an outsider so that our Group will continue to develop for the betterment of ourselves.

Meren Perry

President

BOOK LAUNCH

At 8:00 pm

Thursday 30th November.

Danny's The Venue

Logan Park

South Road

Warragul

Members to bring a plate of supper please.

Please note that this night will replace our meeting for November.

DAVIES DITTY

*The difference
between a
successful person
and others is not a
lack of strength,
not a lack of
knowledge, but
rather a lack of
will.*

WGS 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.

Welcome To New Members

438 Donald Grogan
439 Heather Hicks
440 John Michau
441 Kerry Gowans
442 Lynne Kimm
443 Glenda Buckingham

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	

A CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE.

WHERE? AT THE BOOK LAUNCH

Donation of goods can be left at Collins Book Shop
In Warragul before the 24th November.

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.

(Continued from Issue 56)

Sunday Jan. 9th. Awoke rather better this morning, after a sleepless night. Gale continuing as fierce as ever. Went on deck this morning; was a beautiful sight, one that a regular landsman has given a wish to see. The ship being tossed about first one side, then on the other. The water coming over her and drenching everyone on deck to the skin. The Captain has not been able to take a good observation for 7 or 8 days and is anxiously wishing to get a good view of the sun. To do so, we are still going 9 or 10 knots an hour with close-reefed topsails and steering east.

Monday Jan. 10th. We have had a very bad night; many could not sleep for the rocking of the ship. I was up all night myself and saw a fine sight in the morning of a stormy sea with hail storms, and the sun rising; all combined, made it the most delightful as well as a grand spectacle. Everyone on deck was obliged to hold on by ropes as the vessel was rocking like a cradle. I thought myself, she would never recover herself sometimes, and to see the waves rise in mountains high all round was a sight I had long wished for, as words could not convey any idea of the scene. Toward 1 or 2 o'clock, the storm abated and the sails were again set and the wind and the sea went down and continued so at this time. 9.30 p.m. We all expect a little sleep tonight. We had a good observation today and were in Lat. 39, Long. 21, just past the Cape, going 10 knots an hour steering E. S. E.

Tuesday Jan. 11th. Wind steady, all sails set doing well. Nothing of any interest occurred today. Wednesday Jan. 12th. Out 11 weeks,



William Hickman Mason

saw many porpoises today. Many people anticipate getting to Pt. Phillip in 3 weeks but at least I say 1 month. Fine weather, many people on deck enjoying the air about the same as our own summer. Thursday Jan. 13th. 11 a.m. Fair winds, going very well, 9 or 10 knots steering E.S. I suppose we are about 2 hours before you in time in the longitude 28 E., if so, market will be about began and all life will be seen through the streets, perhaps frosty and cold and wet and windy; if so, I wonder if you will be thinking of me, as it is, I am on the deck without coat writing and thinking of M??? and wishing she were with me, as the prospects seem to brighten up every fine day and fair wind. I do not think so much of home as I thought I should and I think a deal more of other friends I have left behind. If I may guess I should say Mr. Terry Nicholls, Richards, Allen, Brittan, Kairi, Harris, Monks and many others are often bringing my name in question, more especially on Saturday morning when Lloyds paper comes, to see if there is any news about the *SOUTH SEAS*, as they did when the *MATHEW WILKES* went out. I hope also George Corbett visits you now to put you all in kind of me with his boys and all.

Has Mr. Hawks gone to America yet? Friday Jan. 14th. Wind all day till evening then calm. Great amusement with catching albatross, a large white bird with wings 10 or 11 ft. across. They were caught with a hook and bit of fat pork and were easy caught. Also 2 vessels in sight. One expected to be the *Banshee* that we left at St. Yago. Thought of speaking to one and hove to, but she would not come near to us so we went on. Saturday Jan. 15th. Wind from N.E., steering S.E. 8 knots. Man named Collins died this morning about 2 o'clock. Has left a young wife on board to mourn his loss, which she does very much. He was buried about 11.30 with the Roman Catholic service. An American, we ask by flags what ship. Answer by flags, *ALSOP*. After a while they came closer. We then ask where from and where bound. Answer: from New York to China - out 69 days. They then came within hail and wanted to know what we are and where bound. Tell them, to Pt. Phillip, *SOUTH SEA*, from Liverpool. They then leave us behind sailing, as they are not so large as us, and a merchant man. About 2 o'clock a child died, named Punt. The second child belonging to the same parents. They are both in great grief over it. They have only one living now. It was buried about 8.00 tonight. The wind changed and we had to put the ship about, steer S.E. Rain coming on.

(Continued on page 4)

Monday Jan. 17th. A calm. No wind till night when a gale sprang up at about 2 o'clock.. Tuesday morning, 18th. One of our stun sail booms was carried away and the sailors, in calling the other watch out, aroused some of the passengers, who awoke in fright and began to cry out the ship was going down because they happened to put their leg into a tub of water in the dark. Steering E. by S.

Wednesday Jan. 19th. Began to get the passengers' luggage out again. Weather fine till night then a thunderstorm came on with lightning and rain, tho. sea quite calm. Out 12 weeks or 84 days.

Thursday Jan. 20th. No wind until night when a severe breeze came and made us take in sail. The passengers' luggage was out of the hold in the tween decks and made many concerned for fear that it should knock them about. There was also a deal of rain.

Friday Jan. 21st. A man died about 2 o'clock this morning, a brother of Mr. Hayward, buried 11.00 a.m. The luggage was stowed below today and very glad the passengers are, for they had to scramble over boxes to do anything at all.

Saturday Jan. 22nd. No wind. A great many albatrosses caught; about 18 or 20 with the hook. I also shot 3 of them towards night. The wind freshed up. Many anticipate being there in 3 weeks from now. Sunday Jan. 23rd. found me not at all well, having caught cold from leaving off my flannel waist coat, because it is as much as you can do to keep them clear of scotch greys. I only left it off for one day; but the wind is very cold and pretty fresh. Better than to have had it for a .

Monday Jan. 24th. Not much better in health. Wind still good. Steering E by S. Sale taken today of Mr. Sims. It realized altogether about 19 pounds. It will be sent home to his friends in Scotland, as he had no friends or relations on board.

. Tuesday 25th. Wind still good. Steering S E by E. Not any better in health. Today, very bad headache which I attribute to change of diet and want of exercise. Wednesday Jan. 26th. Out 13 weeks or 91 days, during which time what scenes and circumstances taken place on board this ship. Many of them I have taken notes of and many I have thought worth while, but through all, the Captain seems to care very little about the comfort of his 2nd cabin and intermediate passengers. For instance, there are no water closets for the females, but those used by the steerage are not kept any way clean or fit for any decent person. There, the decks are not kept fit for any one to walk on and anything put on them

to fill them up and obstruct the way. Nor are the gangway ladders fit to pass up or down, only to the Poop Deck and, if anyone is ill and wishes a little brandy, he cannot get it, but can only get rum, and that by praying and paying. Also if you want anything cooked besides just the regular meals, you must pay the cook for it as much as it is worth. There are also next berth to mine, steerage passengers and intermediate in the same berth. The lamps of the ship are all broke and no covering at all to them. The glass is out of all the skylights on the deck and in wet weather we are all in the dark because they are covered with tarpaulins. They have also to pump the ship twice a day as she makes 23 inches in 12 hours.

Thursday Jan. 27th. Rather better in health this morning, thank God for it. Ship rocking about, I cannot sleep at night; they fill up the empty water casks with salt water to make her more level.

Friday Jan. 28th. A squall came on during the night and caused us to take in sail but the wind died away during the day and the atmosphere was damp and wet all day. Decks are very wet and dirt from the pigsty is all over them. We have now very little poultry left and 6 pigs with 7 sheep. 1 was lambed on board and is doing very well. Wind getting up towards night. No observation today.

Saturday Jan. 29th. Wind good this morning, going very well. Long. about 78 or 80. Tea and coffee given out for a fortnight instead of a month. Rain came on about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Towards evening, the wind rose and it blew very hard.

Sunday 30th. Today the ship began to creak and groan, so that service was not held until night and then below. The Captain's wife was this day confined of a daughter who, with the mother, are doing well. Monday Jan. 31st. Wind still blowing, I can scarcely walk about and cannot sleep. We are going about 10 knots an hour Long. 91 E. Lat. 43 S. Mr. Brown is as usual very saucy to many of the passengers who say he shall pay for it some way or other.

Tuesday Feb. 1st. No wind today. Foggy weather and cold. Steering S.E by E. The Royal Yards and sails took down and stowed away, not to be used again on voyage. Quarrels with Mr. Brown and cook and fireman and the sailors' grog stopped too all for a time.

(To be continued in February's Newsletter)

Recent Library Acquisitions



Cat No.	Title	Author	Medium
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2.220The Catholic Church in Warragul DonationBook

10.188	Cornwall Family History Society Publications Price List Pub. 2006	Cornwall Family History Society	C D
2.221	Bunyip Mechanics' Institute Hall 1906-2006. Donated by author Denise Nest	Nest, Denise	Book
3.436	The Land Tax Register and Valuation for Victoria 1888	Archive CD Books, Australia	C D
11.53	Second Australasian Scottish Genealogy Conference : conference notes	Scottish Ancestry Group	Book

Australian Cemeteries

Donnybrook (Kalkallo) Cemetery

On the 10 th September, 1857 a request was made to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Victoria for land to be set aside for a proposed cemetery at Donnybrook. Following this request and a favourable response from the Commissioner, a further communication was made on the 18 th August, 1859 by the then newly identified Trustees for the proposed cemetery noting that two acres of land for use by each denomination have been set aside, plus a further two acres held in reserve for "*the internment of Strangers*", making a total of 10 acres of land for the cemetery.

The original Trustees were:

- William Wilson Presbyterian,
 - Edward Wright Methodist,
 - George Abbot Snr Episcopalian, and
 - John Trainor Roman Catholic.
- John Trainor was the Chairman of the group.

Donnybrook Cemetery can be found by driving up the Hume Highway from Melbourne to Kalkallo, pass Donnybrook Road on the right, and then turn into Malcolm Street and the cemetery is directly ahead, about 200 metres.

In June, 1980 a report was written by Mr A. Joseph on the cemetery for the Public Health Division. It was noted in the report that:

- fencing was virtually non-existent
- 22 headstones and monuments remained,
- the cemetery reserve is largely overgrown with weeds and shrubs
- there was no official plan of the cemetery and the burial register was noted as being incomplete.

PROGRAM for 2006

February	23	Transferring Film and Slides to DVD	Stuart Earl from Tusk Design
March	23	Beginners' Night - bring a friend	
April	27	Port Phillip Pioneers	Barbara Hawkins
May	25	How and why they came to West Gippsland	Patrick Morgan AGM
June	22	Military History	Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith
July	27	Walhalla	Brian Brewer
August	24	Convict Ancestry	Geoff Atkinson
September	28	Ask Before it's too Late—an Introduction to Oral History	Beryl O'Gorman
October	26	Ephemera	Ed Jewell
November	30	Launch of Pioneer books	Danny's the Venue Logan Park South Rd Wgl

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

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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 Christine Mason
Telephone: 03 5623 1348

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