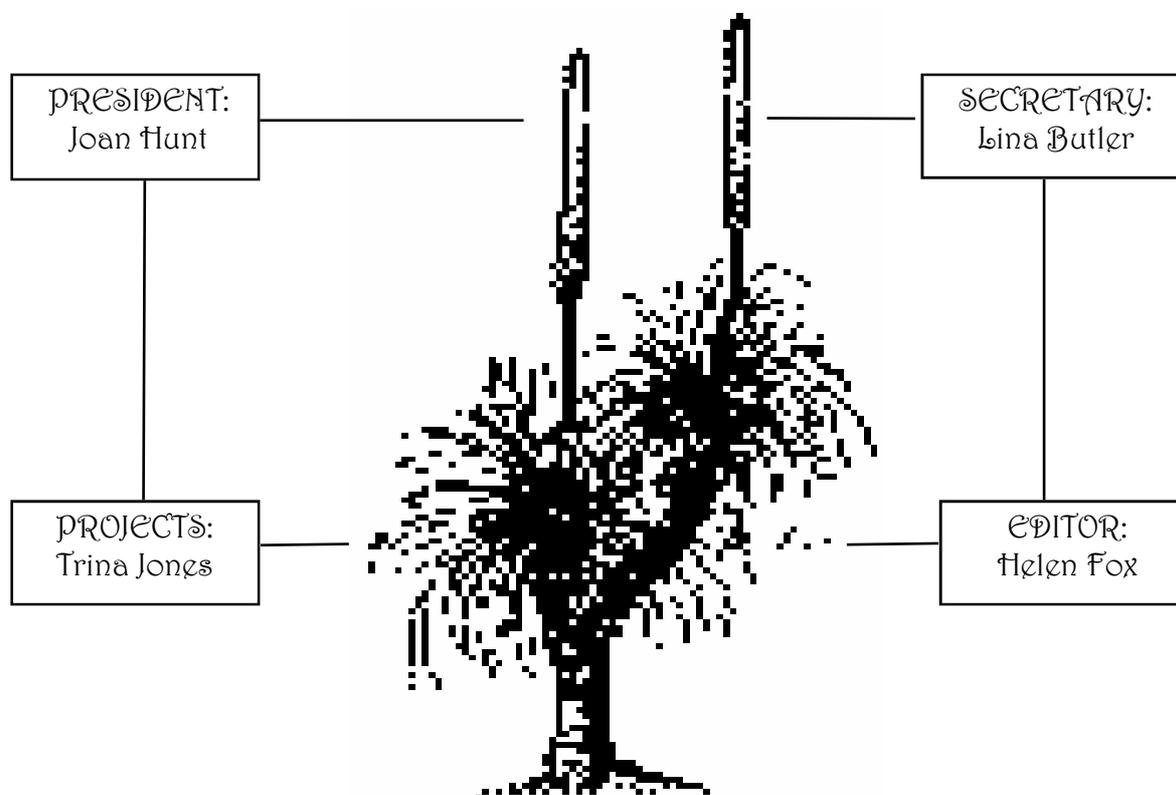


BALLARAT LINK

November 2005 - No.147



The Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.

THE BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

P O Box 1809
Ballarat Mail Centre
Vic 3354
Australia

www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

researchballarat@hotmail.com

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The Society's Library is housed in the Australiana Room, Ballarat Central Library, 178 Doveton Street North, Ballarat 3350.

Australiana Room open for "members only" every Friday evening 5pm - 7pm.

Certain books from our collection can now be borrowed by members for 1 - 2 weeks, between 6 - 7pm on Friday evenings.

Membership

Single Membership:- \$25.00

Family Membership:- \$35.00

Overseas membership:- \$25.00

Membership year from 1st July to 30th June (Half price after 1st Jan)

Committee Members 2005 - 2006

President	Joan Hunt	joanhunt@netconnect.com.au
Vice President	Graeme Reynolds	
Secretary	Lina Butler	linakev@netconnect.com.au
Assistant Secretary	Gayle Sellars	gaysel@ncable.net.au
Treasurer	Neva Dunstan	demons@netconnect.com.au
Librarian	Betty Slater	bslater@ncable.net.au
Research Co-ordinator	Joan Hunt	joanhunt@netconnect.com.au
Publicity Officer	Rene Rawson	geoffrawson2@hotmail.com
Projects Officer	Trina Jones	tljones8@iprimus.com.au
Link Editor	Helen Fox	helen1940@hotmail.net.au

Program 2006

February 28 Linley Hooper, Resources Manager, GSV :- UK directories & electoral rolls.

March 28 Jeff Atkinson, author of "Mary Proctor", to speak about researching convict history.

April 2 (Sunday) Guided tour of the Chinese section of Ballarat Old Cemetery, with Jim Quinn, at 2.00pm

April 25 Excursion meeting, to the Gold Museum, Ballarat, for a talk by Roger Trudgeon, President Ballarat Historical Society, about the Society's collection, and tour of the exhibition.

May 23 Susan McLean, Vice-President, Genealogical Society of Victoria :- Scottish family history research.

June 27 Dr Judith Buckrich, Development Officer, RHSV to speak about their library and research collection

July 25 Annual General Meeting. Helen Harris, OAM, Secretary of the Victoria Police Historical Society, to speak on Cops and Robbers: - Researching 19th century police and criminal records in Victoria.

August 22 Betty Slater :- Family history research for the beginner and the experienced researcher.

September 26 Michael Taffe :- Records and research information available in the Ballarat Catholic archives.

October 24 Speaker from the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies :- AIGS Research Library.

November 28 Show and Tell and Quiz Night, with Special End-of-Year Supper

Visit our web page for an update on above program

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Ballarat Central Library, Doveton Street Nth, Ballarat. 7.30pm.

Visitors are most welcome.

No meeting December or January.

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Contributions for February 2006 Link to be with the editor by the 15th January 2006

**Email address:- helen1940@hotmail.net.au
Phone (03) 5344 9440**

Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:-

www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Webmaster:- Daryl Povey

EMAIL :-

povey@sebas.vic.edu.au

DISCLAIMER

The Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of statements or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in this magazine.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the whole month of October the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society had on loan a touring exhibition from the Public Record Office Victoria. Called “Lucy: A Private Life Revealed Through Public Records”, this exhibition shows how PROV records can be used to research family history. The display was set up in the Australiana Room of the Ballarat Library where our Society’s collection is housed. It has been estimated that about a thousand people passed through the room during the period of the display. No doubt “Lucy” helped a great deal to promote the BDGS Family History Open Day which was held midway through the month, on Sunday 16 October (see article this issue).

In the two weeks leading up to our Family History Open Day we had a display in the window of the Ballarat Tourism Information Centre in Sturt Street, which was a great opportunity to promote both the Society and its services, and the Cemetery Tours. The display was arranged through our Cemetery Tours Co-ordinator, Neva Dunstan, and the material was prepared and provided by Jennifer Burrell, Joan Hunt, Neva Dunstan, Trina Jones, Betty Slater, and the Ballarat General Cemeteries and Crematorium.

Three days before the Open Day, Jennifer Burrell and Betty Slater were interviewed for about 20 minutes prior to the 11am news on ABC Regional Radio by host Steve Martin, presenter of the Mornings program. Jenny and Betty discussed on air the work undertaken by BDGS volunteers at the Ballarat Archives Centre of PROV over the past four years, indexing all 73 volumes of the Ballarat East Petty Sessions registers. Part one of the index was launched two years ago, covering the years 1858-1889, and the volunteers have now completed indexing the years 1890-1921 which completes all existing volumes of the series (VPRS 290). This was another highly successful promotion leading up to the Family History Open Day.

The BDGS committee has agreed to purchase sets of portable voice amplifiers for the use of tour guides at both Ballarat cemeteries, especially as the busy season is coming up, and Neva is organising several guided tours for the summer months, and is currently planning weekly tours on Sunday afternoons. The committee is also giving consideration to the purchase of lightweight portable display panels for use at fairs and expos. On 19 November Joan, Betty, Helen and Neva will be travelling to Mulwala to demonstrate the BDGS services at the Murray-Goulburn region family history expo, and the Society will be represented at the Bendigo AIGS expo in March 2006.

Have a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year season, and refresh yourselves for a busy, interesting, family history oriented 2006.

Joan



JOHN & ISABELLA LYNCH *A Ballarat and Smythesdale Family*

(Continued from issue 146)

Of the children who grew to adulthood, the eldest was John Lynch junior. Educated at Ballarat and Grenville Colleges, he became a surveyor and civil engineer like his father, and was engineer to the Borough of Smythesdale. He was captain of Smythesdale Fire Brigade for many years, captain of the Smythesdale Rifle Club, and a Justice of the peace.

He rose to membership of the Country Fire Brigades' Board of Victoria. He was originator and secretary of the Accident Fund for members of the Country Fire Brigades. When he died the flag was flown half mast on the tower of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade offices in Melbourne. He died aged 54 years, an unmarried man, on 12th November 1911 at Smythesdale, from heart failure and diabetes mellitus which he had suffered for ten years. He was last attended three days before his death by his brother Dr Peter Lynch, and was buried two days after his death at the family plot.

The second son of the family also survived, to become a doctor. He was Peter, born in 1858. He went to Melbourne and established a medical practice at 187 Lygon Street, Carlton.

Undoubtedly the most famous of the Lynch children was Arthur Albert, the fourth son, born on 16th October 1861. He was regarded by many as the most brilliant and versatile Australian of his time. While a child, he spent such a prolonged stay with his Scottish grandparents in Ballarat East that he developed a strong Scottish accent which amused his brothers when he finally returned home; presumably the stay in Ballarat East saved him from contracting diphtheria. Arthur Lynch became an outstanding runner in a period when Smythesdale was a centre for athletics.

Ferdinand Hauer, a draftsman whose nickname was "Fernal", was employed by John Lynch as his deputy mining registrar. In his memoirs, Arthur Lynch claimed that Ferdinand Hauer was useless to his father, who continued to pay him a salary by getting him to teach German to two of his sons, Paul and Arthur. As Arthur wrote, "That had an influence on my subsequent career".

There were a number of Germans in Smythesdale in the 1860s and 1870s, as indicated by the fact that there was a Lutheran church at the southern end of the town, and a Lutheran section in the cemetery where there are more than sixty burials of Germans.

One prominent family was headed by Philipp Hauser who ran the local grocery shop opposite the Post Office, where Ferdinand used to send young Arthur for purchases, all transactions to be conducted in German.

Arthur Lynch attended Grenville College in Ballarat as a boarder, where he matriculated for Melbourne University. In 1878 he began studying the certificate course in civil engineering there, finishing in 1882 with second-class honours. He gained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1885, then his Master's degree in 1887. He then left these shores for Europe, never to return.

Arthur Lynch was as fluent in French and German as in English. He was the first Australian student enrolled at the University of Berlin, where he studied philosophy, physics and psychology in 1888 and 1889. While in Berlin, he met Annie Powell an Irish student whom he was to marry seven years later.

He then lived in France, where he attended the University of Paris, gaining a diploma in electrical engineering, which he would have studied in French. In 1895, he married Annie, the daughter of Reverend John D. Powell, which Arthur later described as a union "that never lost its happiness".

He then went to London where, after a struggle, he became a journalist. In 1899 he received commissions from London, Paris and American newspapers to report for them on the Boer war in South Africa. He travelled on a German ship the "Hertzog" which was held up by a British warship outside Durban, but was allowed to proceed after investigation which also involved the questioning of Arthur Lynch regarding his intentions.

He met General Botha in Johannesburg, which resulted in his giving up journalism. He was given the rank of colonel and became the leader of the Second Irish Brigade, a motley band of about seventy volunteers of diverse nationalities. The brigade, among other action, was present at the skirmishing engagement that pushed back the Australian scouts advancing across the Klip River towards Baragwanath just prior to the fall of Johannesburg. After six months in the field, the Second Irish Brigade disbanded.

Arthur Lynch was sent to America to enlist support for the Boer cause but this didn't eventuate, and after the collapse of the Boer resistance, Arthur Lynch went to Paris where he resumed his studies in engineering and philosophy and began studying medicine at the Hospital Beaujon.

In the meantime a vacancy occurred in the constituency of Galway in Ireland and Arthur Lynch was asked to stand, and won the election by a big margin. The British Government immediately retaliated by issuing a warrant for his arrest on the charge of treason, which prevented him from taking his seat.

When the Boer War ended, Arthur Lynch thought the time seemed opportune to make a bid to return to England. However, when he arrived in England to take his seat in the House of Commons he was arrested at Dover on 11th June 1902 and committed for trial for high treason. After spending eight months in gaol Arthur Lynch was put on trial in January 1903, and was found guilty of taking up arms against his country and of ordering those serving under him to fire on British soldiers - and he was sentenced to be hanged.

After representations on his behalf, King Edward VII granted him a pardon, and the sentence of death was commuted to one of life imprisonment. But after serving one year of his sentence he was released in 1904 and granted a free pardon in 1907. Arthur Lynch took up medical studies at St Mary's Paddington, graduating from the University of London in 1908 as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.

He was elected again to represent West Clare, and this time took up his seat in the House of Commons at Westminster in 1909. When the First World War broke out in 1914 he offered his Services to the Australian Government but was rejected, possibly because of his age, now being 53 years old.

Then the British Government appointed him to placate the Irish extremists; in fact his specific task was to raise an Irish brigade to fight for Britain on the Western Front. This caused the Irish to turn against him, and he became so unpopular that in 1918 he lost his seat in Parliament. He retired from politics and concentrated on his medical practice as a physician and surgeon, and his studies in scientific and literary works. His practice and home was at 80 Antrim Mansions, Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, London.

He was the author of nearly thirty books, which included works as diverse as literary criticism, psychology, an attack on Einstein's theory of relativity, and love poetry, including two novels and five volumes of verse.

When Arthur died in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington on 25th March, 1934 at the age of 72 years, he was buried in London.

So, Arthur Lynch was a physician and surgeon, a civil engineer, an electrical engineer, a philosopher, an author, a journalist, a soldier, a poet, a politician. He was also the only Australian ever sentenced to death for high treason in England.

No wonder it was claimed by many at the time of his death that he was Ballarat's most brilliant son, and one of the most romantic and adventurous Australians of all time.

Thomas Lynch, the seventh child of the family and born on 17th February 1867. Thomas Lynch was appointed to the Engineering Branch of the Works and Water Supply Department in Perth, Western Australia in February 1896. He became an assistant engineer on 24th October 1906 at a salary of £250-£270; the last record of him is listed in 1914 at which time he would have been 47 years old. In 1911 he was living at 35 Outram Street, Perth, Western Australia.



*Surveyors clutching their tools of trade:
L-R: John Lynch jnr, Tom Lynch his brother, and
John Thomas Dalton.
(86/57.1) Courtesy WYHS.*

Isabella was born a year after the deaths of her seven brothers and sisters. She married Michael "Mick" Martin, a civil engineer who was articulated to her father in 1894. They had a daughter Mary Martin who became a nurse and lived at 11 Mary Street, Hawthorn. Isabella died when only 34 years old in 1907 and is buried next to the Lynch family grave at Smythesdale. Mary never married.

The thirteenth child, born in 1875, was Maurice Edmond Lynch. He studied medicine and took up practice in Collins Street, Melbourne with his brother Peter, living with him at 187 Lygon Street, Carlton.

John Lynch died at his home on 21st March 1906, aged 80 years. His wife Isabella had already died on 11th February 1900 when she was 62 years of age. They are both buried with their children. When John Lynch senior died he left property to the value of nearly £4000 which included the family home, 208 acres in Heytesbury, 37 acres in Frankston, a township allotment in Bundoora, as well as live stock, carriage, harness, furniture, money, life policy, shares, etc.

Although John and Isabella Lynch had a very large family of fourteen highly gifted, talented and clever children, it is highly likely that there is not one descendent alive today. That is the greatest tragedy in the sad story of the Lynch family

(Researched and written by Joan E. Hunt)



SURNAME INDEX
Ballarat East
Petty Sessions Registers
Part 2 1890 - 1921
VPRS 290/P Units 28-73

Part 1 provided an index of 55 000 names in the first 27 registers of the Ballarat East Court of Petty Sessions covering the years 1858-1889 when the goldrush immigrants settled into an organised society and built a prosperous infrastructure.

Completed in October 2005 and now available from the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society on microfiche is **Part 2** of the Surname Index to VPRS 290/P Units 28-73. It contains approximately 70 000 names and extends access to the interesting collection of tales of legal proceedings from 1890 to 1921 when the court was closed following the amalgamation of the Town of Ballarat East and the City of Ballarat (West). These years encompassed the financial crisis of the 1890s, Federation and the Great War.

The Ballarat East Court of Petty Sessions was held daily to deal with the Watch House list, ordinary Police Court business and Summons cases. It was also known as the Magistrate's Court or the Town Court, as opposed to the City Court. This was the lowest court in which justice was administered. Cases considered of more consequence were tried in other courts such as the Court of Mines, the Insolvency Court, the County Court or the Supreme Court.

The alphabetical database of Complainants and Defendants shows surnames and given names, title of complainant, unit number, item number and date (year, month, day). This information can be used to locate the original entry in the court registers which would show additional information as to the nature of the case, the decision, fees levied and remarks.

A list of the Police Magistrates, Justices and Clerks of Court who were involved in the administration of justice in the Ballarat Bailiwick is included in the preliminary information.

Also included in the thirteen page introduction to the new set of microfiche are two photographs (1901 and 1920) of the grand public buildings of Ballarat East which included the Library, the Police Station and the Town Hall where the Court was held. According to architect Wendy Jacobs, the complex of buildings was a fine example of 'Ballarat's renowned aspiration for civic amenity, and sharply contrasted with the early chaos of the nearby diggings and commercial activity on Main Street'.

This article includes some extracts from the introduction which provides general information about the subject matter of the daily court dramas and examples of the quaint wording of the nature of the Causes as they were recorded in the registers.

Carriers, Collectors of Marine Stores (bottles) and Pawnbrokers sought licences through the Court of Petty Sessions. Long lists of Hawkers and Peddlers with mostly foreign names made applications annually for foot licences or for horse and cart licenses.

The Ballarat East Town Council brought cases to court to uphold laws regarding dog registrations and the weights and measures used in shops as well as for the enforcement of safety regulations in factories. In 1900 a woman was convicted for taking care of 'an infant under 2 years for more than 3 days' which indicated that childcare was regulated by the Council at that time.

The List of Ratepaying Electors was regularly reviewed and names were expunged from the roll. for a variety of reasons including 'not naturalized', left the district' and a very blunt 'dead'.

Ratepayers appealed their rate assessments through the court and in January 1897 many voiced their objections by refusing to pay the charge to remove nightsoil from their tenements. Until 1896 people were charged if they neglected 'to bury freshly deposited nightsoil under at least 6 ins of earth'. The introduction of a paid pan service met with resistance and for a time the charges were withdrawn but in December 1897 there were 132 Defendants who had refused to pay for the weekly sanitary service. The year-long episode in the court heralded the doom of cesspits in the backyard.

Another public health concern was to control the spread of smallpox disease. Under the Health Act of 1890 charges were brought against a large number of parents for 'neglecting to cause a child to be vaccinated within six months of birth'. For genealogists the entries are interesting because the charge included the child's name and often the date of birth in Victoria.

Thousands of names of children and their parents can also be found in relation to the payment of child support, school truancy and admissions to institutions by officers acting for the 'Department of Neglected Children'. In the case of illegitimate children paternity had to be established to the satisfaction of court. Family historians looking for paternity clues should also search the registers in the months before the birth of the child in question because the indexing team found claims for confinement costs brought by the mother against 'the Defendant who is the father of the child she is about to bear'.

Of particular interest in the court register for 1912 were five pages with 35 names of men charged with a breach of Part XII of the Defence Act 1903-1911 for failing to render personal service without lawful excuse. Periodically there were other lists of Defendants who had failed to render army service to varying degrees. A typical decision was to be 'ordered into the custody of a Sergeant at Orderly Rooms Ballarat East to undergo the period of drill of 28 hours not rendered'. As a result of the high casualty rate of Australian troops in 1915, Universal Military Training for young cadets was suspended and compulsory military training ended on the 31st of March 1921, just two months before the amalgamation of Ballarat East and West Councils and seven months before the Ballarat East Court of Petty Sessions closed its doors forever.

Over the years the most commonplace court business was the recovery of small debts, petty theft, traffic offences involving horses, drays and bicycles, and the inevitably recurring 'drunk and disorderly'. Abusive, insulting or obscene language in a public place could result in a fine while convictions for assault attracted a harsher penalty. A ragbag of street offences included throwing stones to the danger of persons, rolling a cask on a footpath and playing a game of quoits to the annoyance of persons.

The great variety of unlawful acts included misdemeanours related to mining and liquor licensing, employing workers at below average wages, the occupation of Crown Lands, cutting firewood without a permit, 'maliciously destroying part of a tree' growing in a school reserve, discharging firearms, 'being found in a common gaming house' and even bigamy.

Charges of 'being found in a house frequented by persons with no lawful visible means of support' were associated with prostitution and usually attracted a term of imprisonment. Cases of 'carnal knowledge', some of underage victims, were dealt with in this court.

One long accusation was that the Defendant 'did most violently and maliciously threaten and declare that he would rip up the Complainant with a knife, that he would burn the house down, and threatened the Complainant with a large pair of scissors and will do him grievous bodily harm. The Complainant prays that the Defendant will be bound over to keep the

peace'. The clerk seemed to have had difficulty in recording all this detail grammatically but he did manage to convey a vivid impression of the incident.

Collectively, the entries in Part 2 of the Ballarat East Court of Petty Sessions registers are a narrative of the life and times of the citizens of the town for a period of three decades.

The establishment of Petty Sessions Courts all over the country marked the earliest attempts to bring law and order to settlements which experienced an influx of population. This was associated with the beginnings of local government which was provided with a source of revenue from the court for licence applications and fines. The lists of names in Petty Sessions Court registers are not likely to belong to the rich and famous. They invariably belong to ordinary people caught up in relatively minor court business on a certain date in a particular place.

Compiling an index of names found in the registers is time consuming but this is the best way to unlock a wonderful source of information for genealogists. Fortunately we can now share this resource for the entire 64 years of the operation of the Ballarat East Petty Sessions by means of Surname Indexes to Part 1 (1858-1889) and now Part 2 (1890-1921).

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

August meeting: - Vivienne Worthington

Vivienne spoke about the experience of preparing and publishing a book, which she wrote about her ancestors Anastasia and Samuel Withers and their family in Australia. Using beautifully prepared and illustrated overhead transparencies, Vivienne showed the steps she took in preparing her work. She highlighted the various important elements in a book, such as listing the illustrations and presenting a bibliography and a comprehensive index. The stages of the publishing process were outlined, with the essential but frustrating tasks of proofreading and redrafting several times, and rechecking of information, followed finally by the joy and pride in seeing the work in its published form.

September Meeting:- Suzie Zada

Susie shared with us experiences in researching houses, buildings and land in eight precincts in Ballarat over the past six months. Some of the valuable research sources that Susie illustrated included the subdivisions and sewerage plans from Ballarat Sewerage Authority, land titles and private subdivisions, Miles Lewis' Architectural Index, the value of probate which as well as the will can include the inventory of assets and liabilities, aerial photographs, newspapers for sales advertisements of estates, maps held at the State Library Victoria, heritage overlays, files at the Public Record Office Victoria for schools' histories which sometimes have petitions from parents showing maps with sites of houses, and so on.

Susie recommended "Australian House Styles" by Maisy and Ian Stapleton. Many great ideas were put forward by Susie, who was thanked by vice-president Graeme Reynolds.

November meeting: - Jim Quinn

In introducing his connections with Ballarat, he explained his children are 6th generation descendants from the Stout and Lingham families who settled in the 1840s. In his research into the Chinese of Ballarat every reference from 1850-1860s newspapers at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institutes was checked, and knowledge of the high degree of mining technology (especially in relation to water reticulation), health and sanitation, was built up. Most Ballarat Chinese lived in camps on the sites of Llanberis reserve, behind the Red Lion hotel, and where the original Ballarat Asylum was situated. Jim explained that most Chinese were sojourners; their intention was not to stay in this country but to return to their villages mainly in the Pearl River delta of Canton province.

This most interesting talk was followed by an offer by Jim to conduct a guided tour of the Chinese section of the Ballarat Old Cemetery. Details will be published in the next newsletter when a date has been set and details confirmed.

MEMBERS ONLY

Available to borrow :-
Audio Tapes of Guest Speakers talks.
Ph. Trina on 5339 6170

Report on 2005 BDGS Family History Open Day

Nearly 70 people attended the Family History Open Day held on Sunday 16 October in the Australian Room of the Ballarat City Library Ballarat, organised by members of the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society. The response, by both the general public and the Society's members, was beyond our highest expectations, and everyone is really delighted at the success of the special Open Day.

Experienced volunteer members were available to assist both beginners and advanced family historians to extend their knowledge of researching both within Australia and overseas, using computers, microfiche, indexes and books contained within the extensive collection of the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society. About 20 BDGS members contributed to making the day such a success, by setting up, catering, welcoming, advising, demonstrating, and generally facilitating the event. To everyone concerned we extend the warmest thanks of the Society.

As part of the activities in the afternoon we held an official launch by Ms Shauna Hicks, Manager Access Services, Public Record Office Victoria, of Part II of the microfiche indexing project completed by volunteer members of the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society. As a gesture of the Society's gratitude a presentation of a set of the microfiche index was made to all the volunteers who were involved in the project: Gwenda Bayley, Bev Beattie, Jennifer Burrell, Trina Jones (Project Co-ordinator), Kathleen McDonald, and Betty Slater. A set of the microfiche index was also presented to Shauna on behalf of PROV.

The index contains 70,000 names recorded in the Ballarat East Petty Sessions registers 1890-1921 (VPRS 290/P), and complements the first index of 55,000 names which covered the date range 1858-1889. Both indexes are available for purchase (\$35 and \$45 plus p&p).

Joan E. Hunt, President, BDGS

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES \$20 PER HOUR — non members \$10 PER HOUR — Members

Research enquiries may be forwarded to the Society's Research Officer C/O our Postal Address or researchballarat@hotmail.com
Please include sufficient relevant details.

Launch of the Ballarat East Petty Sessions Register Part 2

Shauna Hicks, Joan Hunt, Trina Jones



CEMETERY TOURS

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc

BALLARAT OLD CEMETERY

Cnr Creswick Road & Macarthur Street

BALLARAT NEW CEMETERY

Cnr Lydiard & Norman Streets

All Tours depart from Front Gates of the Cemeteries at 1.30pm and take approximately two hours to complete.

Sunday 27th November

Sunday 4th December

Entry

Adults \$6.50

Concession and Children \$4.00

Ballarat East Petty Sessions Series VPRS 290/P

Part 11, 1890-1921.

Set of fiche, containing 70,000 names
Price is AUS \$45 plus \$5 postage & handling.

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1809.
Ballarat Mail Centre
Vic 3354
Australia

WWW Genie Links

Chinese on the Ballarat Goldfields

Our guest speaker at the October meeting of the society was Jim Quinn from the University of Ballarat who spoke about the Ballarat Chinese. He alerted us to some amazingly detailed research into the Chinese who are buried in Ballarat - approximately 400 graves in the Ballarat Old Cemetery near Lake Wendouree and over 1000 in the Ballarat New Cemetery in Ballarat North. Numbers cannot be exact because so many Chinese were exhumed for their bones to be ritually packed and returned to their home province of Guandong.

“In the mid-nineteenth century over twenty percent of all males in the Ballarat district were Chinese. They outnumbered every other ethnic group except the English.”

This quotation comes from a book published in 1992 called *Fading Links to China: Ballarat's Chinese Gravestones and Associated Records 1854-1955* by Linda Brumley, Liu Bingquan and Zhao Xueru, History Department, University of Melbourne. There is an online version of this book at La Trobe University.

www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/brumley/brumley.htm

As the research developed, a series of databases was created containing burial, medical and inquest records of the Ballarat Chinese from the 19th century. These include Old Cemetery burials (470), New Cemetery burials (932), Ballarat Hospital admissions 1858-1880 (384) and inquests for Chinese in Victoria 1850-1880 (2041). The wonderful nature of this website is that the databases are dynamic and can be updated as contributions are received.

Highly specialised knowledge of Chinese spoken and written languages was required for attempts to correlate inscriptions on gravestones in the Ballarat New Cemetery with burial records, hospital records and inquests. Examples of this incredibly difficult exercise are given. In the course of the work to identify graves the Chinese section of the Ballarat New Cemetery was re-mapped and you will find this online as well.



One of the stories told on the site as part of the Chinese Heritage of Australia Federation Project is the family history of John ALLOO who married Scottish-born Margaret PEACOCK in 1856. An image of John Alloo's Chinese Restaurant, Main Road, Ballarat 1853 by goldfields artist ST Gill can be viewed on the National Library of Australia website.

nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an10236766

SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) has dedicated much webspace to our multicultural history and especially to the impact of the gold discoveries on Australia.

www.sbs.com.au/gold/

An interactive map of Australia links to stories of gold discovery for each state and can take you right to Ballarat which owes its existence to gold.

The section called The New Gold Mountain is the gateway for the Victorian gold-seeking Chinese who first arrived in 1853.

www.sbs.com.au/gold/story.html?storyid=45

Five links from here are entitled: Fear of the Chinese, Stereotyping the Chinese, Anti-Chinese riots and rorts, Restrictive immigration Acts and The walk from Robe.

Forgotten Faces: Chinese and the Law

www.prov.vic.gov.au/forgottenfaces/

This is an online exhibition at the Public Record Office of Victoria based on photographs of Chinese prisoners from the 19th Century with some background history. From here there are links to the Golden Dragon Museum at Bendigo and to Ballarat's Sovereign Hill which has reconstructed a goldfields Chinese village.

Further research into the Chinese population of Ballarat could be based on the Ballarat East Petty Sessions court registers (1858-1921) which are now fully indexed and available as two sets of microfiche. This index consists of approximately 125 000 names including a large number of Chinese. More details can be found as a featured link from www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Jennifer Burrell

jburrell@netconnect.com.au

What's New at PROV
by Shauna Hicks,
Senior Manager Access Services

The Public Transport Corporation Photographic Collection at PROV

The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) is a wonderful resource for photographic images and PROV has been steadily digitising the Historical Series of Glass Plate Negatives and placing them online for easier access. There are two easy ways into the online index.

1. Go to *PROV guide 23 - PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes* and go to Transport and Infrastructure and click on VPRS 12800/P1 Photographic Collection Alpha-Numeric Railway Negative Systems.

2. Alternatively it can be accessed from the Online Exhibitions page by going to the Images Online section and clicking on Public Transport in Victoria. The last step is clicking on the View Digitised Images Online link.

Either approach leads to the search screen, then in the Description field enter the term/s that you want to look for.

For example, if you enter Railway Accident the search returns 16 hits. The information includes the item number, a brief description from the departmental database and a thumb nail photo which can be enlarged by clicking on it. As it is a departmental database, there is no subject control over terms used in the database so that as well as accident, researchers need to think laterally and use terms like crash or wreck.

You can also enter place names and there are 79 hits for Ballarat and there is a wide variety of images ranging from steam locomotives, Ballarat station, time tables, tickets, the Ballarat workshops, official memorandums on the 1901 Royal Train and even a football team ca 1950-51.

Source: PROV, VPRS 12800/P1, Unit H2437



Do any readers recognise a face? If so, please contact me so that we can add the details.

Perhaps your relatives were involved in a railway accident and there is an incredible photo of the collapse of McCallum's Creek Bridge on the Ballarat Maryborough line with the train lying across the gully. Or did your relatives ride on the three horse tram in Ballarat as illustrated here?

Three Horse Tram Lydiard & Sturt Streets, Ballarat
Source: PROV, VPRS 12800/P1, Unit H5531

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MEMBERS ONLY

Microfiche and Reader available to borrow.

- Vic. BDM's
- Vic Pioneer Index
- Ballarat Old & New Cemeteries
- Consolidated Cemeteries (Ballarat District)
- Ballarat Base Hospital Admissions
- Consolidated Schools (Ballarat District)

A TEACHING CAREER
FROM 1915 TO 1978

(Continued from issue 146)

At Bunninyong I taught the infants until lunch and then Grade V for the rest of the day. It was a very depressing place to teach as my heart literally bled for many of the foster children who attended the school. These children were very badly treated by their foster families, who only considered them as a meal ticket. I stayed there for two years and then went to the Wal Wal School for a month where I boarded with the people who ran the post office and the store. They had a single daughter still living at home who was about my age and she and I became great friends and you really needed a friend in that very quiet place because Wal Wal had only had a railway station and a school and of course the post office. The big plus was that the school was just across the road from my boarding house and I did not have to travel vast distances every day to my work.

For entertainment we would walk to the station each night to see who got on and off the train. On Sunday afternoon we would walk a mile up a deserted road and return home. I loved the country children and enjoyed the school which took up most of my time. I have since been back there to find the house deserted and the school and the railway station gone but I did notice a new hall and tennis court, which unfortunately were not there in my time.

I was then sent to Rupanyup South School and arrived at a very lonely and isolated railway station to find that there was no one there to greet me. The stationmaster informed me that the people, who had always boarded the teacher, did not wish to do so any more as all their children had left school and as no other local family had volunteered for the job I was left standing forlornly on the platform surrounded by my luggage. Some time later the local postman arrived and after a three-way consultation on the station platform it was decided that the best thing for me to do was to go with him to the old place and see if they would board me until some other arrangements could be made. I was later dumped on a doorstep knowing full well that the family did not want me but I had nowhere else to go and as no other family ever did volunteer for the honour of having me, I had to be a burden on them for the whole term.

I thought that was bad enough but the worst was to come. I found I was expected to drive a horse and jinker to the school many miles away, but there was nothing I could do about it.

I was terrified of horses and had never driven one in my life. The youngest son, who was slightly retarded, harnessed up the horse and left it standing ready for me each morning and on opening the front gate for my nervous departure always gave the horse a slap across the rump with his hat to get it going, fully aware that it scared the living day-lights out of me.

I always felt that I was the object of his entertainment for the rest of the day. On arriving at school some of the boys would unharness the horse and put it in the horse paddock, which most country schools had in those days as the pupils had to ride or drive ponies long distances so as to get to school.

After school one of the big boys would then harness up the horse into the jinker before he went home and tie it up for me near the gate. One night the traces were not attached properly and on driving down the first hill the horse ran out of the jinker. I always had the feeling that he had been seeking revenge for some punishment I had handed out to him during that day.

Living on a wheat farm in the Wimmera was a very different life for me and I was never anxious to repeat the experience. There was a large family of men who ran the farm with the mother and many sisters managing the household. They even made their own bread each day with the aid of a plant, which was kept on the mantelpiece in the kitchen and fed each night with potato water. The men had huge teams of horses that needed to be looked after with great care so as to enable them to do the hard work that was expected of them. They got up at five o'clock each morning to feed and harness them so they would be ready early for a hard day's work. They then brought them back at noon to be fed and rested for several hours so as they could work them again later on in the afternoon. All the sons played football for the local team and that was the main topic of conversation at every meal. My only social outing was when they went to play for their team on a Saturday in some nearby town and I was able to hitch a ride with them to do my shopping. I only stayed there a term because one day the 'Teacher's Gazette' arrived and fell open on my desk showing that a position for a Head Teacher was becoming vacant at the Glenormiston South School. As my father's brother had a farm quite near this school, I applied for the post feeling that I would be assured of somewhere decent to board not realizing at the time that I would marry and spend the rest of my life in the district.

I started the last term of that year teaching at

Glenormiston South in the old Sunday school whilst the new school was being built. I moved to the new building at the start of the following year to teach about fifty children in eight grades as the sole teacher. I found the social life at Glenormiston very good after what I had experienced at my previous schools and I actually met my future husband at a card night held in the school.

Two years later I was appointed to the Noorat State School as Infant Mistress in a village three miles away and spent three very happy years boarding at Pine Cottage with the Smith family who lived just across the road from the school.

This was probably the happiest time in my teaching career as my boarding house was the social centre of the village, a place full of good food, music, and laughter and great companionship.

After I had been engaged to my future husband for four years I resigned from the Education Department in 1929. All teachers at that time were expected to give up their teaching positions on marriage.

At this time I was receiving the princely salary of twenty-five shillings a week and I had saved enough to buy a piano and a sewing machine to take into my marriage.

After thirty-five years of being a farmer's wife and rearing two children I was then asked to return to teach Grade IV at St. Thomas Catholic School in Terang. I was a widow by this time and had done some emergency teaching at the school prior to my employment. I moved back into teaching again as if I had never been away and taught large classes of fifty to sixty children at the grade four and five level. Never having had a driver's license, as I had always relied on my husband and family to drive me around, I then decided it was time to see if I could pass my test so after teaching school all day I took driving lessons two nights each week and eventually gained my driver's license at the grand old age of sixty one years of age.

I loved the children and took great pride in seeing them go on to bigger and better things in the world. I taught four mornings a week as a remedial teacher for my last couple of years and retired at seventy-five years of age due to ill health.

As I write this I am now eighty-three years of age and enjoying my second retirement with the feeling that I can look back on my wonderful career of teaching children for over sixty years.

(This story was compiled by Florence Charles from written notes dictated to her by her mother Reta McSween nee Quick some few months before she died in 1986).

DID YOU KNOW?

August Meeting

CORNELIAN BAY CEMETERY HOBART

20,000 photos in Church of England section alone
DVDs of both Church of England and Methodist
Sections for sale

Methodist Section includes: Scottish, Jewish, Hobart War Cemetery, Lawn Graves, etc.

See: <http://gravesoftas.dynup.net>
(Daryl has put a link on our page – Tasmania)

September Meeting

The GSV library has bound copies of most issues of the Argus (Jan 1858-June 1886) the Australasian (1866-1901) and the Port Phillip Gazette (1838-1841) on open access.

Please check the catalogue for details.
<http://www.gsv.org.au/>

October Meeting

That the following is a useful web-site link to research in New Zealand

<http://archway.archives.govt.nz/>

Planning a visit to Ballarat to make use of our Research Library?

Do you think you may need help with or advice about using our material and equipment?

Please contact our Librarian in advance so that arrangements can be made to have one of our members available to help you on the day of your visit.

CONTACT

Betty Slater - researchballarat@hotmail.com

or

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354



RESEARCH QUERIES

Norma May **ROBINSON** – death or funeral notice from “Courier” wanted.

Dugald James and Margaret **FERGUSON**, and his parents John and Sarah Ferguson, buried Egerton 1913 – any information.

John **SUMNER**, farmer and draper – any information, and where is Calstock?

Francis and Mary Anne **KENT** of Bakery Hill, went to NZ in 1875 – all details wanted of their time in Ballarat.

Owen **WILLIAMS**, of Ross Creek – any information about Williams family connected with Owen is wanted.

Photograph of wooden school with teachers and children assembled outside – identification required (Cardigan/Windermere state school about 1870s).

Brian James **BUTTERWORTH** 1937 Ballarat inquest into death wanted;

BLOORE, John Grosvenor m. May Johnson, chemist in Skipton St 1869-1914; **KERR, GEEVES, RADFORD**.

LALOR, Peter who was at Eureka – details wanted by Andrew Lalor of Wisconsin in USA.

SHEEHAN, Patrick, Governor of Ballarat Gaol who retired 10 March 1896 – any information available.

MURPHY, Henry Morgan, Police magistrate Ballarat 1907, lived at 1433 Sturt Street – is there a photo of this house? When was St Patrick’s College chapel built?

Please contact the research team at
researchballarat@hotmail.com

HOW DO I FIND?

SHIPPING

www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm

This site is a fabulous tool for finding where and when those ancestors came into the country.

It takes you through the changing legislation and gives step by step advice.

It also includes links to the major on-line shipping lists.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES

[State Library of Victoria](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/catalogues/index.html)

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/catalogues/index.html>

[Baillieu Library \(Melbourne Uni\)](http://cat.lib.unimelb.edu.au/screens/opacmenu.html)

<http://cat.lib.unimelb.edu.au/screens/opacmenu.html>

[LaTrobe University Library](http://library.latrobe.edu.au/search~b1o1cli1a1/)

<http://library.latrobe.edu.au/search~b1o1cli1a1/>

OLD HANDWRITING ASSISTANCE

The following links pertaining to handwriting can be useful to genealogists struggling to decipher documents:

Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting, 1500-1800, a practical online tutorial is available at the UK's National Archives. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/>

English Handwriting, 1500-1700. An online course. <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/index.html>

Need help with Scottish handwriting? See the "Online Tuition in the Palaeography of Scottish Documents, 1500-1750."

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

RootsWeb has a mailing list that may be of interest to researchers trying to decipher old English documents. http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Translations_and_Word_Origins/OLD-ENGLISH.html

A Reminder to members that they are required to show their membership card in the Library to obtain access to the Society's computer/CDs and the research material that is kept in the filing cabinet.

Betty Slater and Neva Dunstan preparing the display at the Ballarat Tourist Information Centre.



USEFUL INDEXES

150 million BMD records 1866-1920 have been transcribed on: <http://www.familyrelatives.org>

The website is dedicated to the research of forebears from England & Wales.

The site includes all known Civil Registration Index images from 1866 to 1983.

There is a fully searchable database for Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1866 to 1920 as well as 1984 to 2002 – over 73 years in all.

Free to subscribe to site. Search, then purchase 60 units for \$US10 which are valid for 30 days.

(Costs 2 units per transcribed results page)

First World War Index Sites

This online WW1 database returns a great deal of information on an individual and at the same time those personnel aboard the embarkation ship etc . <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/index.html>

The Genealogical Society of Victoria "Australia Remembers" (searchable database)

<http://www.gsv.org.au/crosses/CrossesA.htm>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission ("Debt of Honour Register")

<http://www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx>

Epitaphs of Australian & N.Z. soldiers who are known to have died at Gallipoli <http://www.anzacs.org/>

Officers of the A.N.Z.A.C. who died at Gallipoli <http://www.anzacs.org/>

The Australian Light Horse Association <http://www.lighthouse.org.au/toc.htm>

War in Papua New Guinea 1941-1945 <http://www.winterbotham.4t.com/custom2.html>

Defending Victoria <http://users.netconnect.com.au/~ianmac/>

The Sinking of the HMAS Sydney

http://www.naa.gov.au/publications/research_guides/guides/sydney/pages/chapter07.htm

Marriages in India Index (1855-1896)

The COMPLETE index to Bengal marriages 1855-1896 is now available

The total number of names on this site is now over 234,000 <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~clday/>



Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:- www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Webmaster:- Daryl Povey

EMAIL:- povey@sebas.vic.edu.au



Welcome to

Prof Tony Eggleton - Canberra

Mary Adriaans - Ballarat

Ina Pearce - Ballarat

Patsy Sheen - Ballarat

Claudie O'Leary - Blackrock

Sravan Pingali - Ballarat

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