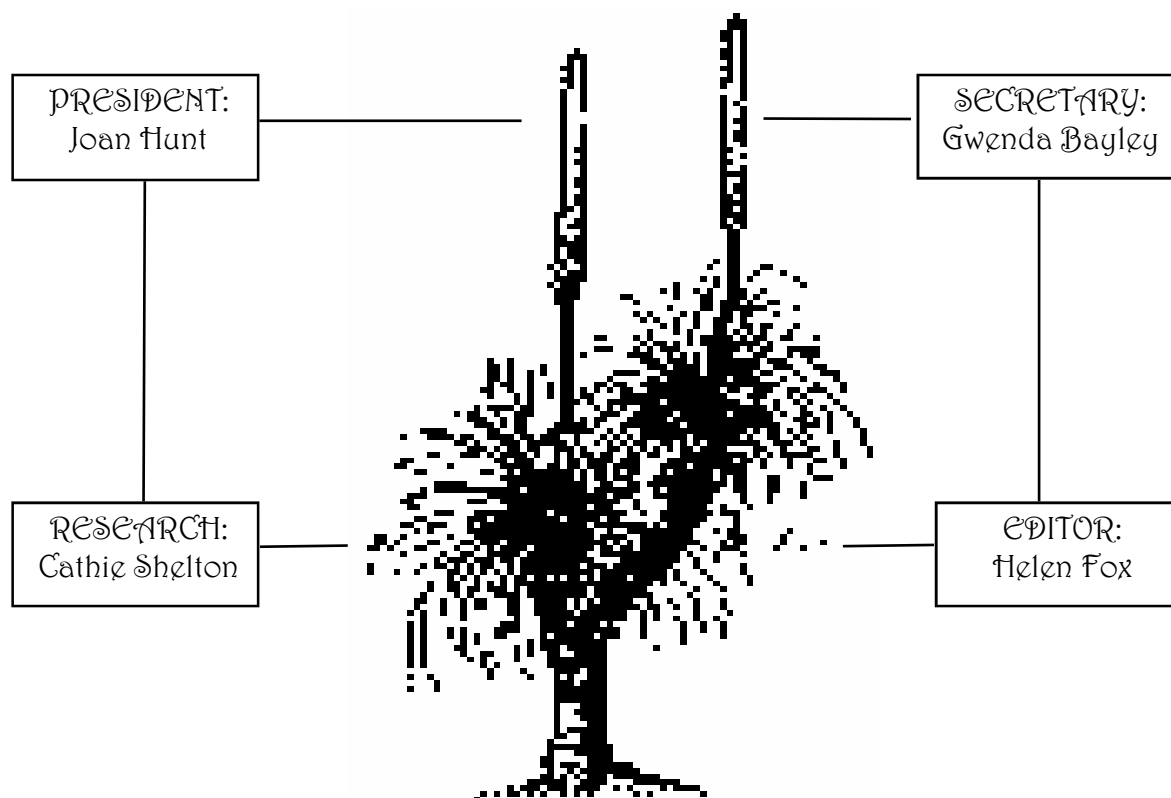


BALLARAT LINK

May 2005 - No.145



The Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.

THE BALLARAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

P O Box 1809
Ballarat Mail Centre
Vic 3354
Australia

ABN 40 041 783 778

Published February, May,
August, November

ISSN 0819-7199

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 2004 - 2005

President	Joan Hunt -	joanhunt@netconnect.com.au
Vice President	Graeme Reynolds	
Secretary	Gwenda Bayley -	bayley@netconnect.com.au
Assistant Secretary	Cheryl Briody -	briody@giant.net.au
Treasurer	Jan Drennan	drennan@qonline.com.au
Librarian	Betty Slater -	bslater@ncable.net.au
Research Officer	Cathie Shelton -	cshelton@bigpond.com
Publicity Officer	Neva Dunstan -	gillbury@hotmail.com
Projects Officer	Trina Jones -	tljones8@iprimus.com.au
Link Editor	Helen Fox	helen1940@hotmail.net.au
Membership Officer	Jenny Colvin	

Monthly 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.

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.

Program: 2005

February 22nd - Elizabeth Dowse (Sharp-Paul). Winner of 3rd prize in the 2003 Alexander Henderson Award with her book: "A Jackdaws Gleanings: The Dowse family of Wiltshire, England and Wexford, Ireland; 15th to 20th centuries"

March 22nd - Lenore Frost. Dating photographs by Fashion.

April 26th - Scott Brown. The Exiles.

May 24th - Les Holloway. Lake Wendouree and its ferries

June 28th - Betty Slater. Ballarat Genealogical Society library

July 26th - Annual General Meeting. Dr Liz Rushen—"An insight into researching women in family and local history"

Suggested program - to be confirmed.

August 23rd - Joan Hunt. Researching in England.

September 27th - Suzie Zada. Geelong Heritage Centre

October 25th - Jim Quinn. The Ballarat Chinese

November 22nd - End of Year breakup. Members show and tell.

CONTENTS

Regular Features

News from the Library	7
Did you know?	7
Research Queries	8
Useful Indexes	8
Guest Speakers	9
WWW Genie Links	10, 11
How do I find ?	13
New Members	15

Special Features and Articles

Robert Lewis—Ballarat's First Mayor	4, 5, 6.
Tours of the Ballarat Cemeteries	12,13
The March of Time	14, 15

Contributions for August 2005 Link to be with the editor by the 31st July.

Email address:- helen1940@hotmail.net.au

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 Research Officer 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

Cathie Shelton - cshelton@bigpond.com

or

PO Box 1809, Ballarat Mail Centre, Victoria 3354

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Ballarat & District Genealogical Society is keeping up its usual busy life, thanks to the commitment of many members. I do want to mention an activity that is thriving, thanks to Neva Dunstan and her band of dedicated volunteers, and that is the Cemetery Walks. Not only have the Cemetery Walks been a great means of promoting our Society, but have provided excellent public relations, and contributed healthily to the Society's coffers.

Our member volunteers have extended the indexing work done at PROV Ballarat Archives Office, which resulted in a decision to purchase three new laptop computers. The old one, used to create an index/database for the Ballarat East Petty Sessions Registers 1858-1889 and 1890-1920, is just about worn out and needed replacing. Cathie Shelton, our hard-working and talented research officer, had been taking notes in pencil and transferring those notes to her computer at home, and we realised how much better it would be for her just to feed all the research information straight into a laptop, so she got one, too. And the third laptop we bought to facilitate the entry of information being extracted from petitions to Ballarat City Council 1860-1865, which is our latest project, developed and supervised by Trina Jones and her growing group of volunteers.

One interesting segment of our monthly meetings comprises four parts. One is a presentation of Did You Know? which presents factual information which should assist in further extending research. The next is Useful Indexes which provides details of indexes that members may not know about. The third part is How Do I Find? which should facilitate looking up information on specific subjects. We also have a Questions tin, in which members are encouraged to write questions about aspects of their research with which they are having trouble. These questions are read out, and the members present collectively contribute their ideas and suggestions about how to resolve the problem. In each issue of "Ballarat Link", Editor Helen will reproduce the items from the information segment which have been presented at the previous three meetings, and we hope the details will be of use to at least some of you.

As you see from the reports on "Our Guest Speakers", they are presenting information at our meetings on valuable topics, and the large numbers in attendance show that members are finding our speakers both interesting and entertaining. Do let us know if there are specific topics that you would like covered and we will do our best to find speakers to fit. All the best with your continuing research,
Joan

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

Webmaster:- Daryl Povey EMAIL:- povey@sebas.vic.edu.au

Robert Lewis – Ballarat’s First Mayor

(Researched and written by Joan Hunt)

Robert Lewis was born 13 May 1816 at Llanilor In Cardiganshire, South Wales where his parents were farmers. His father, Lewis Lewis and mother Catherine Humphreys were married 7 May 1813 at Llanfihangel-Genau’R-Glynn in Cardiganshire and had a family of four children: John born about 1814, Robert born 1816, Mary born 1819, and Margaret born 1821.

With his unmarried sister Margaret, Robert sailed from Dartmouth, Port of London on 1 Jun 1853 on the “Gibson Craig”. He was then 37 years old and had been working as a draper. The thousand ton vessel under Captain W.H. Ellis arrived as a clean ship at Hobson’s Bay, Port Phillip on 23 August 1853. There were 142 males and 55 females on board with 45 infants and children, making a total of 242 passengers.

Upon arriving in Ballarat Robert Lewis went into partnership with another Welshman, Evan Rowlands, who was born 1824 and died 5 June 1894. Together they founded in 1854 an aerated water factory in a tent at the edge of Lake Wendouree. The site is commemorated in the name Lemonade Paddock, which Spielvogel identified as being at the corner of Wendouree Parade and Mill Street, in the present grounds of Nazareth House. Before long they had moved to the north-east corner of the intersection of Sturt and Dawson Streets. They made lemonade, soda water and ginger beer, and in 1858 introduced steam power and began to use Warrenheip spring water. In 1870 Rowlands & Lewis built and opened a new factory in Dana Street, where they churned out 3,500 dozen bottles per day using three double action soda water machines. The factory site is now covered by the multi-storey car park. Their factory venture was so successful that in July 1873 they opened works in Melbourne. Robert Lewis retired from the company in 1876, but by the time of his death in 1894 Evan Rowlands had factories in Ballarat, Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle. The company was eventually sold to Schweppes after the Second World War.

Almost from the day he arrived in Ballarat Robert Lewis showed his willingness to advance the charitable and public institutions of his adopted home. As a proud Welshman he was naturally a strong supporter of the annual Eisteddfoddan each St David’s Day,

and was both president and treasurer of the Eisteddfod committee. Withers tells us that the first Eisteddfod at Ballarat was held on Christmas Day 1855 in the Welsh Chapel which was then on the site of the engine-house of the Ballarat Fire Brigade in Barkly Street.

Robert Lewis became a Ballarat councillor in 1859, a position he held from then until his death, other than a short break of four years, part of which he spent travelling overseas. Lewis was elected chairman in 1862 so that when Ballarat West was proclaimed a borough in October 1863, as the last chairman of the municipality he was chosen first mayor of the borough. He was elected mayor again in 1871, by which time Ballarat West had become a City, and in 1881 he was elected to the mayoral position for the fifth time. Spielvogel credits him with replacing the wooden footpaths of the city with the basalt pavements.

Lewis, with a group of other men, started the movement towards the establishment of Ballarat Hospital, after the experience of not being able to provide hospital care for the wounded after Eureka at the end of 1854. He was a member of the first hospital committee, vice-president in 1859 and three-times president, and apart from two years was a committee member until his death. On 24 May 1869, celebrated as the Queen’s Birthday, Mayor Lewis laid the foundation stone of the tower and Alfred memorial wing which allowed a total of 185 bed patients on the site where the Ballarat Miners’ Hospital had been established in 1856 and added to in 1860 when it became the Ballarat District Hospital.



Robert Lewis
Photo courtesy of Gold Museum

As Mayor of Ballarat, in February 1863, Lewis presided over the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of the Burke and Wills monument. Thousands of onlookers crowded the footpaths overlooking the grassed median parkland at the Lydiard Street intersection with Sturt Street. It was the mayor's role to hand to His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly a large bottle which held current newspapers and money. The time capsule was inserted into a specially prepared cavity before a gang of workers, manipulating a crane, lowered a block of Ballarat basalt into place. Lewis then presented the Governor with a trowel made of pure gold extracted from Ballarat's rich depths, with which he made the customary token strokes before declaring the stone well and truly laid. Mayor Lewis hosted the Governor and his official party with honoured guests at an afternoon tea at Craig's Hotel following the official event.

Despite his family's connection in Wales with the Calvinist Methodists, Robert Lewis was actively involved in Christ Church pro-Cathedral, including the Sunday School, of which he was superintendent at the time of his death.

In February 1864 Lewis was elected to the Legislative Assembly to represent the constituency of Ballarat West, but remained in Parliament only nine months as he then travelled to Britain on a prolonged trip with Mr D. Jones. No doubt it was this trip which prompted his will being drawn up, dated 23 July 1864. The executors of his will were Evan Rowlands, James Oddie and Henry Palmer.

During Lewis' overseas trip it is likely that he visited his sister Mary at the 210 acre farm owned by her husband John Evans at Berthees, Langychaiarn, a few miles south-east of Aberystwyth in Cardiganshire on the south-west coast of Wales. By 1864 Mary and John Evans had three sons Evan, Robert and Richard, and two daughters Margaret and Catherine, no doubt curious to meet their uncle from the far-off country across the seas. Three more daughters were born later: Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. In his will Robert Lewis arranged that the annual income from his investments would go to his sister Mary throughout her lifetime, and after that to her children as they reach 21 years.

On 4 November 1859 at the Church of England parsonage in Avoca, Robert's sister Margaret who had accompanied him to Australia married Thomas Hawkins, a draper storekeeper from Cheshire in England, then living at Avoca.

They established themselves in Ballarat and lived in Victoria Street at least until the 1870s. At her marriage Margaret was a 38 year old single woman, and no children were born of the marriage. Margaret was also to benefit from her brother's investments according to the terms of his will.

Robert Lewis was a member of the inaugural committee of the Mechanics' Institute formed 20 April 1859, and maintained his connections to the end of his life. In 1871 he was president of the Orphan Asylum, established in 1865 in Victoria Street. He was a member of the founding committee of the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum, and was seven times the president, during which time his portrait was painted and hung in the board room. He was also on the first Council of the School of Mines. At the second meeting of the Ballarat City Rowing Club on 7 December 1870 Mr H.B. Chalmers, Mayor of the City, and Mr Robert Lewis were elected Vice-Presidents of the club. No wonder it was observed at the time of his death that his "face and figure are familiar to everyone who knows anything of public life in Ballarat".

Robert Lewis was for years a member of the Water Commission, and was one of three men appointed to the Commission by the Government. The Water Commission's office is in Lewis Street, a right of way which shows in its present form in the 1861 Ballarat plan. According to his obituary, Lewis Street was named in honor of Ballarat's first mayor, Robert Lewis, J.P., M.L.A.

Robert Lewis, during his terms as Mayor, showed Trollope around Ballarat in 1871, and hosted the royal princes Albert and George (later King George V) in June 1881, as well as other distinguished guests visiting the golden city.

When he addressed the gathering to celebrate the anniversary of the meeting of the first municipal council of Ballarat on 17 January 1881 he demonstrated his sense of history with these words: "Within the recollection of many living the ground we now occupy was a forest. Strangers who now visit us can see what has been done. Whether as councillors or citizens we all have reason to be proud of our city."

Lewis was certainly a great model for his countrymen to emulate.

His obituary refers to "his kindly face and native good humor" and as "one of the best-tempered of the early pioneers".

Weston Bate calls him "hard-working" and "a fearless, public-spirited Welshman", and writes of the Welsh in Ballarat as the most energetic self-improvers. Lewis was certainly a great model for his countrymen to emulate.

At 8.30am on Saturday 30 August 1884 a waiter at Lester's Hotel, 70 Sturt Street, where he had lived for some years, found Robert Lewis lying unconscious in his bedroom. Doctors Ochiltree, Whitcombe and Pinnock were called but he died around noon, the cause of death being given as sanguinous apoplexy, or stroke. He was buried with Masonic honors, the City Hall offices were closed all day, and all traffic in central Sturt street was stopped from 2 o'clock until the funeral procession had passed. The funeral cortege travelled from the Masonic Hall in Camp Street after tributes of respect were paid by members of Yarroewee Lodge No. 713 E.C., St. John's Lodge No. 427, I.C., and Orion Lodge No. 1153, E.C.

Robert Lewis, whose funeral was undertaken by Thomas Wellington, was buried in Grave 1 of the Avenue Section 3 of Ballarat Old Cemetery. His burial site is marked by tall pink marble obelisk bearing the simple inscription:
Sacred to the memory of Robert Lewis Died 30th August 1884 Aged 68 years



Ballarat Mechanics Institute
Photo courtesy of Gold Museum



Rowlands and Lewis Soft Drink Factory
Photo courtesy of Gold Museum

Specific references can be supplied by the author:
joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

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News from the Library Betty Slater - Librarian

Two new Indexes have been added to our Microfiche collection:

The Tetlow Index to the Robert K Cole Collection of Hotel Records, City and Suburban Hotels.

The Darragh Index to the Melbourne German Sick & Relief Society Membership 1861 – 1924.

They can be found in drawer 8.

The new desktop computer has been installed in the library. The first CD to be installed on it is *Tithe Applotment Books 1823 – 1838*. This is a unique Irish land survey taken as a way to determine the amount of tax payable by landholders to the Church of Ireland. The Tithe Applotment Books represent a virtual census for pre-famine Ireland. If you find an ancestor among the nearly 200,000 names listed you will learn the following:- Name, County, Parish, Townland and Year of enumeration.

This will shortly be followed by the Griffiths Valuation.

We already have the Tithe Defaulters on microfiche. If you are seeking Irish ancestors these three sources are worth looking at.

The new Library policy is complete and on display in the Library. This policy clearly sets out our position in the library and establishes ownership of the large collection of resource material gathered over the past twenty-seven years. It will be a valuable document for the guidance of the Society, and in particular the Librarian for many years to come.

I would like to extend my personal thanks and those of the Society to Graeme Reynolds for the effort has put into writing it.

Work is proceeding towards having our collection put onto the main library catalogue.

Betty Slater—Librarian



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.

Thank You



DID YOU KNOW?

FEBRUARY MEETING

The National Burial Index for England and Wales has 13 million entries on the Second Edition Ballarat & District Genealogical Society has the N.B.I.

Note:

Cornwall has 112,000 entries (none in 1st edition)

Nottingham has 281,000 entries (none in 1st edition)

Sussex has 316,000 entries (none in 1st edition)

London has 138,000 entries (none in 1st edition)

MARCH MEETING

The Education Department's Record of War Service Victoria 1914-1919 and Education Department Victoria War Service Record 1939-1945, published by the Education Department in 1921 and 1959.

The Dewey classifications to find these books in a library are 994.041EDU and 994.042WAR.

For anyone with a teacher in their family history who enlisted in the services these books are a valuable aid.

APRIL MEETING

A site for Norfolk with history, photographs and maps can be found on <http://www.oldnorfolk.net>

A site for medieval genealogy can be found on <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/>

with some very useful links

You can visit the Australian ANZACS in the Great War 1914-1918 website on www.aif.adfa.edu.au (database of more than 330,000 1914-1918 Australian Imperial Forces)

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)

Visit the Ballarat Genealogy website:-

www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Webmaster:- Daryl Povey

EMAIL :-

povey@sebas.vic.edu.au

RESEARCH QUERIES

At the moment I would like help with the following:

Photo's and information about Edward Morey, Mayor of Ballarat and William Kinsey Bolton, Lieut. Colonel.

Connections to the Chinnery family, publicans of Ballarat.

Connections to the Kincaid and Lythgo families in the area.

Photos and information about two Geelong College boys, George Munro and Billy Pearce who served in WW1.

Information about the lives of Flora McDonald and family in the Springs area.

Connections to John and Johanna (nee Kelly) Reidy.

Information about George Gibson Saddler died 1927 at Sebastopol.

Information about Barbara Fortune/Fraser/Stewart/May who lived in Ballarat for many years.

Connections to the Diver/McGeehan families in the area.

Connections to the Kiely/Gorman families of Ballarat.

Any help would be appreciated.

Cathie Shelton
Research Officer

cshelton@bigpond.com

or

PO Box 1809

BALLARAT MAIL CENTRE

Vic 3354.



The purchase of the laptop has certainly made the research job easier. I can take it to the library, the PRO or anywhere else I need it.

USEFUL INDEXES

FEBRUARY MEETING

Lenore Frost's early Port Phillip Records:

<http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/PPDindex.html>

Cemeteries & Cemetery Trusts in Victoria:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries/victoria.htm>

Borough of Hotham Council 1859-1887:

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/osella/web/index.html>

MARCH MEETING

Robert Cutter's Port Phillip Colony indexes:

Directory

Property Owners

Shipping

Convict Assignments

<http://home.webaxs.net/~rncutter/portphillip/portphillipcolony.html>

State Records New South Wales indexes:

Census records

Assisted immigrants 1839-1896

Insolvency

Railway Employees

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/indexes.htm>

APRIL MEETING

(Online Parish Clerks)

An Online Parish Clerk researches all the available historical data they can find on a parish, records are transcribed, and made **FREELY** available to any researcher:

(e.g., there are 559,000 names available so far just for Dorset)

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Lancashire, Sussex And Wiltshire

<http://west-penwith.org.uk/opc.htm> (Cornwall)



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.

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday 22nd February

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Sharp-Paul (nee Dowse) won third prize in the Alexander Henderson Award 2003 for her publication on her Dowse family entitled 'A Jackdaw's Gleanings: The Dowse family of Wiltshire, England and Wexford, Ireland, 15th to 20th centuries.'

Elizabeth spoke of her 69-year long journey in genealogy beginning in the 1930's and how research sources and facilities have changed over that time, noting some of the problems that faced a genealogist at that time. She found valuable use both in old fashioned sources such as libraries as well as computers and the internet. Elizabeth outlined the content of her book which concerns the paternal side of her family from 1492 to 1973, noting that "we all leave footsteps in the sands of time," saying that she found wills of particular value.

Another point Elizabeth made was about the importance of any published family history having an index, her own having taken over a year to compile. A system of numbering individuals known as the International Numbering System, used by Elizabeth, was explained. The few rules are as follows: the numbers double in each generation; the wife is 1 more than the husband; wives are always odd numbers. So:

	Paternal				Maternal											
Self	1															
2 Parents	2				3											
4 Grandparents	4	5				6	7									
8 Great g'parents	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15								
16 Gt gt g'pts	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Tuesday 22nd March:

Lenore Frost, Guest Speaker, spoke about how to date photographs by using the fashions of clothing, hair, and furnishings shown in the image. She used overhead projector copies of photographs, many from her own family, to illustrate changes to the shapes of sleeves and skirts, numbers of buttons on coats, hairdressing and bonnets, and details in the photographer's background, such as painted backdrops showing gardens through French windows or arches, all of which were linked to specific periods of time. Her talk was highly informative but also very amusing, and afterwards she helped a number of people to date photographs they had brought to the meeting.

Tuesday 26th April:

Scott Brown from the Public Record Office Victoria was to have been our guest speaker but unfortunately broke his hand and was unable to come. He was replaced by Joan Hunt, who is also employed by PROV. The Powerpoint presentation, prepared by Scott and Joan, gave an overview of the Exiles Scheme 1844-1849 from records held at PROV. Prisoners selected from the prison populations at Pentonville, Parkhurst and Millbank, meeting criteria such as having short sentences, showing good behaviour, and trained in trades needed in the colonies, were offered the chance to come to the colonies and receive a Royal Pardon upon disembarking, on condition that they not return to the United Kingdom until the expiration of their original sentence. There were 9 shiploads in the five years, making a total of 1727 Exiles. Case studies about a successful Exile and one who continued to offend were presented, using VPRS 19, 515 and 2877 records, to show the wealth of information available.



MEMBERS ONLY

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



WWW Genie Links

Case study in using online resources

In just a few weeks, with more than a modicum of good luck, one very happy Melbourne beginner has traced his paternal grandmother's family from Ballarat to their origins in Cornwall.

He began with some reliable source material about private schooling in Ballarat in the 1880s. The surname was not common and the family made a habit of using the mother's maiden name as a middle name so these factors hastened his progress.

This is a generalised version of online resources used to research this family.

Victorian Births, Deaths and marriages

www.dvc.vic.gov.au/bdm.htm

Certificates purchased online for \$17.50 arrived within two days. These were a 1907 marriage certificate for his grandparents, an 1897 death certificate for his great grandmother and an 1868 marriage certificate for his great grandparents.

Index of Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria from British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports 1852-1923

www.prov.vic.gov.au/access/online.htm

Twenty-three arrivals of passengers with that surname in the 1850s.

Online index for the Creswick & Clunes

Advertiser 1859-1865

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pobjoyoneill/CRESWICK.htm

Many references found for this family in Ballarat which can be followed up in the news paper on microfilm.

Australian War Memorial

www.ww2roll.gov.au/

Obtained the WW2 service record of a relative who was born in Victoria and enlisted in Queensland.

First World War Nominal Roll

www.awm.gov.au/database/133/index.asp

Found that his English-born grandfather served in the Australian army as a chaplain with the rank of Captain and returned to Australia on 8 August 1919.

NSW Online Historical Indexes

www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/familyHistory.htm

The death of his great grandfather was found in Sydney in 1909. The death certificate was purchased for \$24.00 over the internet and promptly snail mailed. This revealed two more marriages late in life so back to the NSW Online Historical Indexes where these were found as well as the deaths of the wives.

Archives Office of Tasmania - Index to Census Records

resources.archives.tas.gov.au/archcensus/default.asp

Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database

resources.archives.tas.gov.au/Pioneers/

By searching these sites one of two females with the same name in the Ballarat Hospital within two years of each other was eliminated.

Family Search in the UK

www.familysearch.org/Search/searchigi.asp?region=3

By now it was known that several branches of this family were Cornish. A gr gr grandmother had the relatively unusual given name of Mercy and her christening and marriage were found on the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Then the batch numbers were used to bring up all the entries for that surname in a given parish.

Typing in the surname and the 6 figure Batch Number beginning with either C or P will show all the christenings for that parish. Change the beginning letter to M and marriages will come up. This method produced great results for the families of both the husband and wife. Other unusual given names of Whearn (male) and the female Asenath in another line also in Cornwall were a big help.

GenUKI (Genealogy - United Kingdom Information) **Cornwall**

www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/Cornwall/

This revealed that the British Census returns for their parish for 1841, 1851 and 1861 had been indexed and were available online for free. By following the links the family groups could be traced over these decades.

Cornwall Online Parish Clerks

www.cornwall-opc.org/

Between 1851 and 1861 the father of the goldrush immigrant brothers died so an Online Parish Clerk will be asked to do a lookup for his burial.

Collaboration via email with cousins in far away places was a fantastic way of sharing family history information quickly. A new contact who had accessed a family bible was found in Melbourne and a sister-in-law in Tasmania produced a collection of old family photographs. This resulted in few dozen jpegs of documents and photos being transmitted through cyberspace. Distance is no longer the tyranny it once was and it was remarked that, 'This is getting to be quite an obsession. I can see how people get hooked on tracing their ancestors'.

Dating Old Photographs

www.familychronicle.com/dating.html

Here a start can be made with dating old family photos.

Genealogy.com

www.genealogy.com/users/

Family webpages have now been created on this site. The content includes stories, photos and certificates as pdfs created with a free application from www.fastio.com/

Google

www.google.com.au

This search engine was great help along the way for learning more about items as they came to light such as the 1853 Bendigo Petition, ships of arrival and Binnerton Manor in Cornwall.

Despite this remarkably rapid progress, it is not possible to rely solely on the internet for family history research.

Genealogical resources which are not online were also consulted:

Vic BDMs

CD Hatches Matches & Dispatches for Ballarat & District

Ballarat Old Cemetery Register

Gravestone inscriptions

Ballarat Directories

Ballarat Base Hospital Admissions Register

Victorian and NSW Probate Indexes

The Research Officer for the Ballarat & District Genealogical Society could help with all of the above but one thing you must do yourself is to chat with elderly relatives before all their stories and memorabilia are gone.

Jennifer Burrell

jburrell@netconnect.com.au



Gwenda Bayley, using one of the Society's three new laptops, entering data from the Ballarat East Petty Sessions Court Books at the Ballarat Archives Centre.

HELP WANTED

We have two indexing projects at the PROV at present.

They are Ballarat East Petty Sessions, Stage 2 - VPRS 290/P and the Ballarat Petitions - VPRS 2500/P.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this indexing or any future projects that we may commence please see me at the monthly meeting or email me on -tljones8@iprimus.com.au

Many hands make light work!

Trina Jones – Projects Officer, BDGS

TOURS OF THE BALLARAT CEMETERIES

The Cemetery Tour season for 2004/2005 is coming to a close, with winter approaching. This season has been satisfying and somewhat unpredictable and commenced with a tour during the 150th Celebrations of Eureka. Other years we have conducted a tour during Eureka Week with the usual preparations made, the weather reasonable, guides willing and waiting, only to see the commencement time come & go, while chatting and to go home because the interest was not there.

This time was different. We conducted the tour as part of the Eureka Celebrations with a huge lead up of publicity which went worldwide. The newspaper "The Age" and the local paper "The Courier" as well as other media concentrated heavily on Eureka in the lead up. This brought visitors to Ballarat for the celebrations from not only local areas but from major Victorian cities and country Victoria as well as interstate and overseas

As the 150th Celebrations were a special event a Eureka 150th Anniversary Cemetery Tour was put together comprising of graves with obvious connections to Eureka. The graves of soldiers and miners, Humffray, Scobie, Anastasia Hayes and Dr Timothy Doyle were visited as well as those who prospered in their businesses due to gold John Winter, Walter Craig, James Coghlan and Thomas Bath .

Various professions on the goldfields were represented by Government Employees John Green & William Rogers. Ministers of Religion Reverends Potter & Taylor & Father Kennedy. Building Contractor James Malcolm and Edward Towl – Pharmacy.

Thomas Waldie's grave was visited as a pre-gold pioneer along with John May in order to show what the conditions for the miners were like.

So we were prepared. On the morning of the 3rd December 2004 we conducted a school tour for 44 students from Heidelberg Primary School. These students had left Heidelberg by bus at about 3.30am to arrive in time for the Dawn commemoration at the Eureka Stockade at 5.45am. Our tour at 10am was successful with interested students. One little boy commenting at the end "It was more interesting than you'd think a cemetery tour would be".

In the afternoon, for the second time that day, Tour Guides Barbara Harris & Neva Dunstan along with Gayle Sellars and Ted Maidment arrived early, as is usual, at the gates of the Old Cemetery. Volunteers were ready to collect fees and the people came! Two hundred was a conservative estimate and after four introductory talks (at some stage Jenny Burrell takes a photo), the tour commenced. Tour guides, having to find suitable vantage places from which to speak at each grave, with louder voices than usual, treated the participants to the story of Eureka from the resting place in the Old Ballarat Cemetery of many of those involved 150 years ago. Participants were surveyed and it was found they came from Queensland, Hobart, Sydney, Adelaide, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, NSW Central Coast, country Victoria, Ballarat & surrounds, Melbourne & surrounds, as well as England and Ireland.

Preparations began in January for the tours to be conducted during the Begonia Festival with advertising in the "Ancestor", "Link", Television, local ABC Radio, local newspapers, local flyers and hopefully word of mouth.

Due to the shorter Begonia Festival, three tours were conducted, one in the New Cemetery and two in the Old Cemetery.

Numbers for the Begonia Festival Tours were down this year perhaps due to it being not very long after the Eureka 150th Tour. Once again we had more participants for the Ballarat Old Cemetery than we did for the New Cemetery. The New Cemetery has its own attractions. It's just as interesting and because it's hilly the views of Ballarat are spectacular and as the first burial took place in 1867 it is just as historical.



Neva Dunstan, Gayle Sellars and Annemaree Perry escorting a group during the Begonia Festival.

Thanks go to volunteers from the Society, Margaret Ranger, Ina Pearce, Marie Murnane, Joan Hunt, Lina Butler, Jenny Burrell & Stuart Masters who help at the gates. Thanks to tour guides Barbara Harris, Annmaree Perry, Gayle Sellars and Ted Maidment.

A delightful group of students from Villa Maria were taken on a tour and also a group from Ballarat & Clarendon College Junior School.

A tour for a Sydney Ladies Probus Group was arranged on Saturday 9th April for the following day when David Beames, the Manager of the Ballarat Cemeteries contacted me with a "Can you help, please?" As he was speaking the group were travelling up the Western Highway and he was requesting a tour as other plans the group had made had fallen through. Barb Harris & I obliged and at 9am Sunday morning we were taking a very interested group through the Old Cemetery. Their Bus Driver/Guide was very appreciative and impressed with our tour and we look forward to seeing him again, with another group.

A tour being arranged by a Guide from the Jewish Museum in Melbourne almost went ahead in early March but was cancelled due to problems they had and lack of numbers. It will now take place later in the year.

While doing research for this tour I met up with a descendant of Wolf Flegeltaub who is buried in the Old Cemetery. Wolf's daughter Nancy married Sidney Myer and although I was told this marriage did not last members of the Flegeltaub family are still connected to the Myer business.

For those interested in going on a tour we will conduct them for groups of 5 and above, at a time requested, however not during the winter months.

About one week's notice is requested in order to arrange a tour, as our guides are volunteers and are busy people. We have proved we are capable with groups of 50 plus and can if needed arrange tours in less than 24 hours! This is the exception to the rule however!

Entry \$6.50 for Adults, \$4.00 for Concession & children.

For enquiries phone 5332 8751
Neva Dunstan

HOW DO I FIND?

FEBRUARY MEETING

(Newspapers relating to the Western District available on microfilm at Deakin University Library)

The Age 1854-1872; 1890-1895

The Argus 1846-1957

Bell's Life in Victoria 1857-1868

Camperdown Chronicle 1885-1900

Colac Herald 1870-1900

Coleraine Albion and Casterton Advertiser 1868—1875

Geelong Advertiser 1840-1845; 1847-1851; 1856; 1900

Geelong Advertiser & Intelligencer 1851-1856

Geelong Chronicle 1861-1865 (partial)

Geelong Register 1865-1868

Hamilton Spectator 1870-1900

Hamilton Spectator & Grange District Advertiser 1860-1870

Warrnambool Standard 1872-1897

MARCH MEETING

(Victorian Place Names Abbreviations)

http://members.westnet.com.au/web/talltrees/resources/vic_abbr.htm

(Victorian Towns and Localities)

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~surreal/victowns/>

APRIL MEETING

(British and Scottish Wills online)

British website is:

www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
(then click on 'search the wills')

This site has over 1 million wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1384-1858 and a will generally costs £3.50. Not included are those wills proved in Church Courts in England.

Scottish website is:

www.scottishdocuments.com/
(then click on 'search the wills')

This site has over 520,000 wills proved 1500-1901 and a will generally costs £5.00.

Both sites allow you to pay online by credit card.

You will receive by email an electronic image of the original will within minutes.

Note that there are many hundreds of wills of people who died in Australia on both sites – they held property in Britain and Scotland.



THE MARCH OF TIME

At some stage of their quest to discover their ancestors, most genealogists spend considerable time roaming around cemeteries reading the inscriptions on headstones. Unfortunately the passing of time can obliterate this valuable information.

My family recently decided to renew the headstone on my paternal Grandparents grave in the Ballarat New Cemetery.

The first burial took place in 1938 after the death of my Fathers younger brother George Henry Harris who died in a rail crossing accident at Yendon. He was aged 16years. His parents were Richard John Harris born 24th August 1881 at Homebush Victoria. He married Florence May French at Maryborough Victoria on 20th February 1912. Florence was born at Avoca Lead 28th July 1889. They had 10 children and moved to Yendon in the mid 1920's where my Grandfather farmed, cut and carted wood and distilled eucalyptus.

After sixty-six years the stone and lettering were beyond repair, so my cousin Joy Hetherington arranged to have it replaced and wrote the following poem recalling memories about life at our Grandparents place at Yendon. The poem was read at the unveiling of the new headstone, which was followed by a gathering of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Betty L Slater

*Richard, Flo., and their son George are not here with us today.
Woodland's was their treasured home, until they went away.
They talk about "the good old days", these were the days they saw
Depression, wars, and ration books. "Good old days", I'm not so sure.*



*They worked the land with hands and backs, felling trees and baking bread.
And bringing up a family, what fun they must have shared.
To pause now and remember the times they must have had,
With all those rowdy kids around, it can't have been all bad.*

*I remember warm milk, squirted, directly from the cow straight down my neck,
He never missed, I often wonder how?
And who remembers "New Idea", and how grandma loved Mere Male.
It's rumoured that she sent some in, the money to avail.*



*Washing day was something, as a child, I found a treat.
Tubs of water steaming in the yard were quite unique.
Everything imaginable came out to have a wash,
It was bundled in the copper for a soak and then a scrub.*

*It was poked and stirred and prodded, to my horror, with a pole.
Then hoisted up into the air and evicted from the tub
Onto the line, which was a wire that stretched across the yard,
And there be left to blow and flap, which was the actual goal.*

*Was that the end of washing day? It certainly was not.
The water then was put to use, the floors inside to wash
Before it was discarded, and landed with a splosh,
Upon the sweet peas, roses and the famed forget-me-nots.*



*A huge grey rock stood near the path, just inside the gate.
The kids all climbed up to the top at a very rapid rate.
And big roo's sometimes came to graze, quite close to the fence,
And threaten grandma's garden, they should have had more sense.*

*I recall the "Coat of Arms", that hung in pride of place,
To move it from it's hallowed spot would soon bring you disgrace.
I never really understood its value, but today
I realise that history was what it had to say.*



*The pipe, I loved it. It smelt so good as smoke began to rise.
As grandpop sucked with all his might, the water filled your eyes.
Another thing that I recall, is something known as BEX.
To ease the pain it was dispensed from grand pop's bedside chest.*

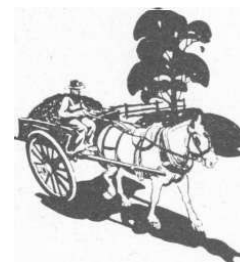
*Now there's a hymn that I recall, that grand pop used to sing.
"What a friend we have in Jesus.
All our sins and grief's to bear..."
These words when sung by someone now, remind me still of him.*



*The men were always hungry and looking for a feed.
The old wood stove was used to cook something to meet their need.
A stew or home made pasty, too big to fit the plate,
Were usually on the menu, heaven help those who came late.*

*Now grandma was a lady who dressed up and went to town.
To meet with folks, and have a chat, all of this was fine.
But grand pop didn't socialize with others in this way,
He much preferred to stay at home and sip a drop of wine.*

*I have some other memories from that far distant time,
Of cherry trees, and gooseberries on which we used to dine.
And an old brown horse called Blossom who used to pull the cart
Loaded with wood up to the gate, he always did his part.*



*Remember the old headstones that once resided here,
The letters mostly missing and the writing so unclear.
Well, it has been discarded, and dutifully replaced
With something new and splendid, that wears a brand new face.*

*We have the honoured duty, of christening this new stone,
For Richard, Flo and their son George, on this their temporary home.
And when they rise and see it, shining in the sun,
I bet they will be grateful for this thing we have done.*



*They'll smile and say, "we thank you", for this most generous thing.
And so I'll ask the children, if they'll kindly pull the string.*

Joy Hetherington 13/01/05



Welcome to

Colin Cowell — Ballarat
Penelope Hillam — Torrens Park, S.A.
Helen, Les & Gillian McLaughlin — Ballarat North
Lisa Booth — Sale



If undelivered return to
**Ballarat & District
Genealogical Society Inc.**
P.O. Box 1809
Ballarat Mail Centre, 3354
"Ballarat Link"
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