



Coladjins

Colac & District
Family History Group Inc.

Inc. No. A0022664A ABN 29618437272

Spring 2017 Issue No 102



1914-1918

Colac's First Ever

Weekend of Family History

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 October



THREE DAYS OF FAMILY HISTORY ACTIVITIES. SUPPORTED BY



Information

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almostforgotten1900](http://www.facebook.com/almostforgotten1900)

PRINTING OF THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has been kindly printed by the staff at the office of Richard Riordan MP, member for Polwarth. Thank you for your support.

Opening Times

Monday & Tuesday 10:00am to 2:00pm
Thursday, & Friday 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Sunday 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Closed: **Melbourne Cup Day** & Public Holidays
Out of hours opening by arrangement
\$10 fee applies

COMMITTEE

President: Joan Rowlands
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Treasurer: Merrill O'Donnell
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Research & Librarian: Robyn Currie
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Newsletter Contributions: Editor
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SPECIAL PROJECTS:

If you are interested in contributing information or learning more about these projects, please contact us for more details.

"Almost Forgotten" Project

Pre-1900 burials in the Colac Cemetery.
Who are they and what is their story?
Email: almostforgotten1900@gmail.com

"Duty Called" Project

A project to identify and acknowledge the local men and women who have "answered the call" in Wartime and in Peace.
Email: media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

QR CODE

Click on this Quick Response code to check out the latest on our website.



Cover Image

After a year of planning, our first ever "Weekend of Family History" is almost upon us. We look forward to meeting the visitors and locals who will attend our three days of interesting events. See the attached flyer for a round-up of activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKEND OF FAMILY HISTORY OCTOBER 20 - 22

**FRIDAY
20 OCTOBER**

WRITING WORKSHOP - HAZEL EDWARDS
“How to Write a Non-Boring Family History
 Boutique Writers’ Festival ♦ Expo ♦ Book Launch
 Announcement of Writing Competition Winner

**SATURDAY
21 OCTOBER**

FAMILY HISTORY EXPO - WITH VAFHO
 Exhibitors ♦ Speakers ♦ Photo displays ♦ Prizes
 Show bags for first 200 attendees

**SUNDAY
22 OCTOBER**

**HISTORICAL TOUR, CEMETERY WALKS
 FAMILY REUNIONS**
A day full of Family History Activities
 Visit the History Centre and take one of the tours



For full details of the weekend’s activities, see attached flyer. Please Follow, Like and Share our facebook page: www.facebook.com/colacdistrctfamilyhistory/ for more information and regular updates on exhibitors, speakers and the weekend’s events.

**TUESDAY
31 OCTOBER**

MEMBERSHIP DUE

A new, single membership fee was passed at the AGM this year to simplify our payments. The annual rate is now \$20 per person, payable by 31 October 2017. The membership form includes a special offer for 2018 calendar and a SURNAME REGISTER to help connect people researching the same families.

**TUESDAY
14 NOVEMBER**

GENERAL MEETING 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Members, friends and the general public are invited to attend our November meeting where we are fortunate to have Lorraine Smith as our guest speaker.



In 2014 a customer in Lorraine’s bookshop in Warrnambool found a sixteenth century manuscript inside a copy of Alice in Wonderland. Lorraine spent eighteen months researching this amazing find, and was able to track its movements from a town called Morley in Yorkshire to Warrnambool. She has now written a book “Journey of a Lost Manuscript”.



Photograph: The Age, September 10, 2016

**TUESDAY
5 DECEMBER**

CHRISTMAS DINNER (TIME & LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED)

For the last few years members of both the Family History Group and the Historical Society, co-tenants of the Colac History Centre, have come together, with their partners, to share Christmas dinner at a local restaurant.

**TUESDAY
12 DECEMBER**

VOLUNTEER AFTERNOON TEA 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

A thank you afternoon tea for all of our volunteers, which will incorporate a special unveiling of a plaque (*previously advertised for November meeting*).

FOOTBALL FINALS AND FAMILY HISTORY

When Joel and Scott Selwood lace up their boots for Geelong during September's AFL football finals, the sporting duo, together with their brothers Adam and Troy, can proudly trace their family roots back to very strong Colac connections.



James Walter Selwood, the great, great, great grandfather of the football brothers, arrived in Colac in March 1857, starting the long association with the district, which continues today. James was born in 1834 in London, where he learned the trade of a carpenter. He was employed as a cabinet maker, yet the lure of an adventure to Australia saw him decide to leave his homeland. In September 1856, James married 20 year old Deliah Kerrigan in London and, in December that same year, they boarded the ship *Admiral Boxer* as assisted immigrants bound for Geelong. Both James and Deliah could read and write and were listed as Wesleyan Methodists.

Within a week of arrival, James accepted the offer of Mr Thomas Gamble to go to Colac, where he was engaged on a salary of £104 a year. His first job was to do the wood work on the construction of the new Catholic Church in Chapel Street. These were harsh pioneer years and over the next eight years, seven children were born to James and Deliah, although one died as an infant.

By 1865, failing eyesight meant James was forced to give up his carpenter trade and land was selected at Yeo where the family farmed for several years before moving to Colac into a house in Bromfield Street.

James and Deliah were devoted members of the Colac Methodist Church. James possessed a natural aptitude as a teacher at the Sunday School, drawing on his experience as a teacher in one of the Ragged Schools of London. These were schools which provided free education, clothing,

food and lodging for children too poor to pay. In Colac, the students were always glad to see him *'for the loving way he spoke to them individually... and his manner of speaking endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.'*



James Walter & Deliah Selwood

Likewise, Deliah Selwood was praised as a lady of *'kindly disposition, of great perseverance, affording relief when she could and of sterling character.'*

When James' deteriorating eyesight caused him to give up his Sunday School teaching, it was said that *'his illness did not depress him, or mar his hopeful outlook on life'* and he retained his *'bright and cheery disposition.'* Indeed, he returned to his carpentry talents and he skilfully constructed a carriage gate, which was presented to the Elliminyt Methodist Church.

Deliah Selwood died in 1909 and James died ten years later. Both are buried in the Colac Cemetery, and although their deaths were deeply mourned, their legacy of involvement and contribution to Colac life continued through the following generations.

In 1917, Leslie Selwood, a grandson of James and Deliah, and the great grandfather of the Selwood football brothers, married Louisa Victoria Hering at the Church of Christ in Colac.

Born in Drysdale in 1893, Louisa came to Colac aged 16, where her widowed mother Ann, née Bennett, had married Robert Hunter, a long time employee of the Colac Council. With Les a stone mason, Louisa took an active interest in the Colac Church of Christ, the Ladies Guild and the Women's Christian Temperance Movement and she spent the rest of her life in Colac before she died in 1956 aged 62. At her funeral, she was remembered for her love of family and church and how *'she always time to help others in their need.'*

FOOTBALL FINALS AND FAMILY HISTORY continued



SELWOOD—HERING WEDDING, COLAC —E. Bugg Photo.

*Selwood -Hering Wedding Colac 1917 - E Bugg Photo
News of the Week*

Twelve years later, Les Selwood died and he and Louisa are buried in the Colac cemetery. It also cannot be forgotten that Walter Selwood, a

son of James and Deliah, was the first mayor of the Borough of Colac in 1938 and Selwood Street acknowledges the family contribution to Colac.

Whilst it may be claimed that the Selwood brothers obtain their football skills from their mother's side of the family, (mother Maree had three great uncles who played in VFL teams in the 1930s), grandparents Murray and Norma Selwood were always keen supporters of the Geelong football Club, often taking their young family to Geelong from Colac for Saturday matches. The boys' father, Bryce, was a distance athlete, running marathons and cross-country events and, in the year 2000, was a baton relay runner for the Sydney Olympic Games.

Win, lose or draw on AFL final's days, Colac can be proud of the part it played in the history of the Selwood football family.

STORY BY STEPHEN BROOKS

FOOTBALL WITH A FEMALE TOUCH by Robyn Currie

This year the inaugural Women's AFL team competition took place and was enjoyed by many. The women who took part worked extremely hard to deliver an excellent competition. Recently we discovered that a women's football match was played here in Colac on June 22 1963! Teams of the best women footballers from Colac and Coragulac met for a game at the Central Reserve, the match umpired by Geelong's John Devine.

Val Evans and Maureen Kenny captained the Colac girls, whilst Mary Mahoney and J. Watson led the Coragulac team. The match was in aid of the Freedom from Hunger campaign and the result was not released but Coragulac players claim to have won by two points.

Concluding the article in the *Colac Herald*, was written this: *All girls are expected to be at the ground at 1.15pm sharp and bring a plate of unbuttered scones.*

Hmm, not sure they still do that today!



Following the match, this photograph was published in the local paper. The two captains with guest umpire John Devine, ex Colac player and vice-captain of Geelong.

HAVE YOU "LIKED, FOLLOWED & SHARED" OUR FACEBOOK PAGES YET?

There are two facebook pages for the family history group and both pages are usually updated once or sometimes twice a week. Facebook.com/colacfamilyhistory/ is where we inform our members and anyone with an interest in the group, about what we are doing, who has recently visited, donations and additions to the collection and upcoming events. Currently almost 1000 followers.

Facebook.com/almostforgotten1900/ is a page mainly for stories from our Colac Cemetery Pre-1900 burial project. After researching a person's family history, we endeavour to put together a story of their life. A newer page, it is followed by 432 people.





WARNERS OF THE WARRIONS - A FAMILY'S DEMISE

The Warner Estate, established by Thomas and Hanora Warner near Corunnun in the 1850s was well regarded in agricultural circles. With a family of eight sons and two daughters, it seemed likely that the name would have a strong association with the district for many years, but due to misadventure and illness, that was all to change in just one generation.

Hanorah, the daughter of James O'Malley Walshe and Mary Dunn from Kinross, Moriac and Thomas moved to the Colac district with six children and by 1865, four more had been born.

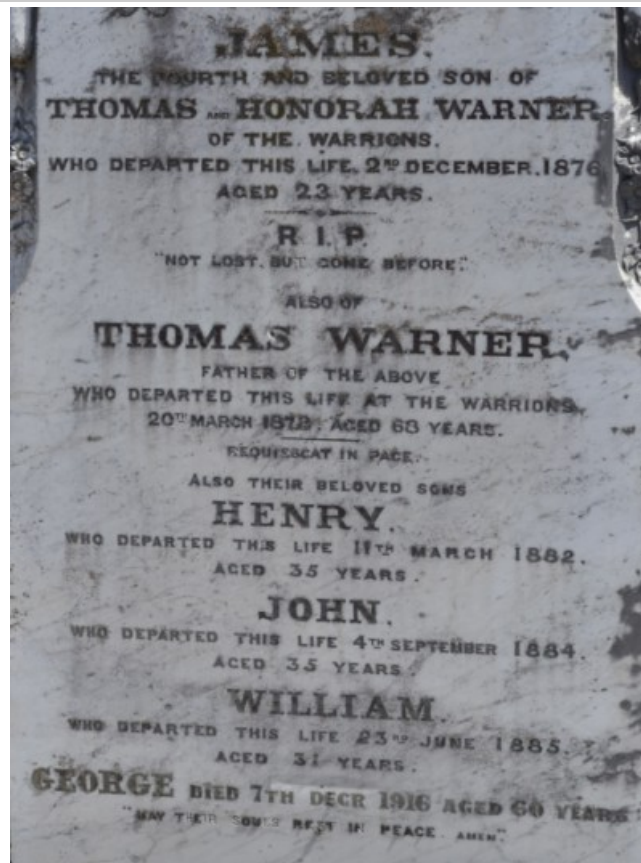
In 1876, the beginning of an horrific fifteen years, their 23 year old son James was working for Mr Finlay at Glenormiston when he fractured his skull and died after falling from a horse.

The grieving family buried James in the Colac Cemetery, and as if in anticipation of what was to come, his name was etched at the top of a tall tombstone leaving room for several more names underneath. In relatively quick succession, the names of his father and brothers filled the space.

The headstone does not tell the complete story however, but it does give an indication of the family's demise. Thomas, the father was buried in 1878, followed by Henry in 1882, John in 1884, and William in 1885.

The last name on the headstone is George, who died in 1916. There were three others from the family buried there however, who are not listed. In 1889, Frederick, died in Geelong and their mother, Hanorah's death from English cholera two years later evoked a touching tribute in the local paper that chronicled their lives.

"It will be remembered that until about three years ago Mrs Warner and her family were the genial proprietors of a comfortable homestead situate near Corunnun, having occupied the property since the late Mr Thomas Warner became possessed of it in the early days of the district. ...she was a kind-hearted and good-natured woman and was much esteemed for her



amiable qualities. Mrs Warner had eight sons and two daughters. The two latter are still alive but six of the eight sons, together with their father have gone to their eternal home.

"Circumstances of a painful nature have overshadowed this family, that dread disease consumption having claimed no less than six of the members for its own. Five stalwart, and to all appearances, healthy sons, as well as the father, have been borne to the Colac cemetery. Another son met his death in an unexpected manner in Queensland some time ago".

Sadly two months later, Thomas Jnr succumbed to tuberculosis leaving George and his two sisters, Mary Gibson who died in Sydney in 1910, and Frances Elizabeth Warner, whose fate we are yet to discover. George died in 1916, is buried in Colac and named last on the headstone.

MY DNA JOURNEY by Therese Moloney

Over the past two years I have been having a lot of fun researching my family history, but that fun has increased twofold since submitting a simple [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) DNA test. My reason was that I thought it would be interesting to be matched up with relatives who have also done the test.



The test requires you to spit into a tube. The spit-filled tube goes into a zip-locked bag, then the zip-locked bag goes into a pre-paid mailing box which you send back for testing.

In 6-8 weeks you receive an email with the results. My ethnicity results were no surprise: 69% Irish, 21% Europe West and 10% other. We had always suspected our family name Bouchier had French connections. Along with the other ethnicity results came an extensive list of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th cousins etc. with contact details. This is where the fun began.

I will give you just one example of the many contacts I have made on this journey. One of the

first connections was with an unknown 4th cousin, Donna Wellington. It turns out Donna lived in Houston, Texas. A closer look at our family trees established 'Harney' as a common surname. She was able to tell me that her great-great grandfather William Harney was born in a small village in Corderry, Tipperary, Ireland before immigrating to America in the 1840's. That is all she knew about his family.

Well where was my great-great grandfather Edmund born? Corderry, Tipperary, Ireland also. I was able to tell her that William and Edmund were brothers! Edmund remained in Ireland. Edmund's son (my great grandfather) Patrick Harney, immigrated to Australia in the 1870's. Donna and I have remained in contact, sharing photos and stories and planning to meet one day in Corderry, Tipperary, Ireland.

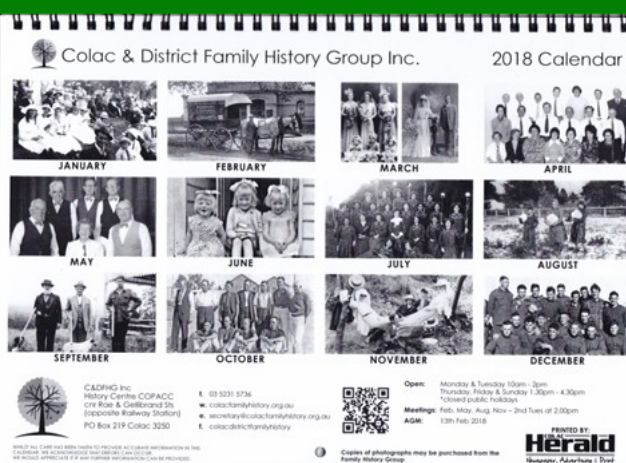
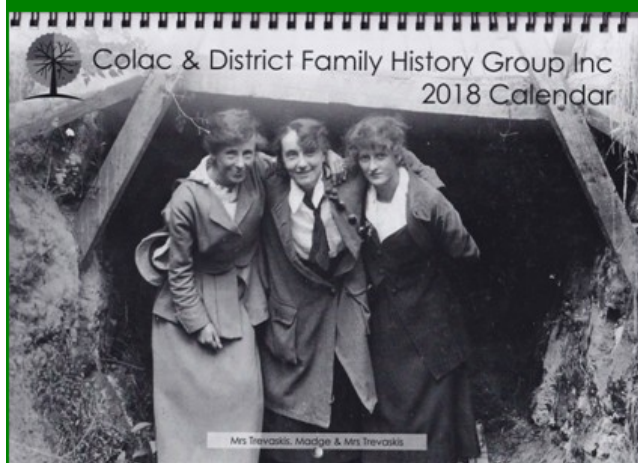
I am steadily working my way through my list of matches. Only one person on my contacted list remains a mystery, thus far. It is a person known to me, who is not related (so I thought).

This person has popped up as my 3rd cousin. We are both baffled by our connection. We are very happy to be cousins though!

If you are wondering whether you should take a DNA test I would say yes, that is if you are wanting to know more about your ethnicity, and if you like the idea of connecting with relatives from all over the world. If you don't like uncertainty and "oh no" moments then perhaps you should not.

Editor: You can go in the draw to win a DNA kit by booking your Family History Expo ticket before September 30.

2018 CALENDAR



Retail Price \$15 Members' Price \$10 (postage \$3 extra)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SHIRE SUPPORT FOR EXPO



Colac Otway Shire CEO Sue Wilkinson and Cr Kate Hanson recently presented funding from the 2017 Community Grants program to assist with the cost of the Weekend of Family History in October. We are grateful for the support of the Shire and other sponsors Photograph, Sue Wilkinson, Our president Joan Rowlands, Cr Kate Hanson and project co-ordinator, Merrill O'Donnell

VOLUNTEERS RE-ACQUAINTED



Raye, left, and Margaret family history group volunteers

The Family History Group is currently undergoing a surge in new memberships and we are delighted that some of our new members are keen to assist as volunteers. At times that comes with added, unexpected bonuses. Raye, who has been volunteering for several months, recently sensed a familiarity about a new volunteer, Margaret. It eventuated that they had

known each other, many years ago in a different place and different circumstance.

After some reminiscing and laughs, they have teamed up and become a dynamic duo, interpreting and entering records onto the data base and undertaking other tasks.

Raye is currently putting the finishing touches to "Our Pioneer Stories", a book mainly comprised of stories that were entered into our recent writing competition. The launch of the book will be one of the features of the Boutique Writers' Festival, Friday 20th October.

Margaret is busy compiling a PowerPoint presentation of Wedding, School and Family photographs from our collection and from the recent "Fill in the Gaps" appeal. When it is finished it will be on display in COPACC on the in the History Centre window.

FILL IN THE GAPS - PHOTO APPEAL



During July, August & September, we ran an appeal for photographs of Schools, Weddings and Family Groups to help "Fill the Gaps" in our collection. We need the photographs to mount a display that will be on show during the Weekend of Family History in October.

The response from our members and the public in general has been much greater than we expected and we are very grateful. Ros Smith's husband had been a teacher in and around Colac for many years and she kindly brought in all of his school, individual class, and teacher group photographs to be scanned.

We also had people drive from Melbourne with photographs and stories and we will be featuring some of those stories in future newsletters.

WHAT'S HAPPENING continued

ANTHROPOLOGY IN VICTORIA



Heather Threadgold, past student of the Colac High School and currently an anthropologist studying for her PhD at Deakin University, gave a talk at our August meeting.

Heather is studying Indigenous landscapes which involves working out how various sites fit into the landscapes. There are three main layers of the landscape; geological, Indigenous manipulative and European manipulative, but closer to cities there is also the effect of urban sprawl.

There are fifteen sites in Victoria which she is investigating. These include stone sites - stone arrangement, stone agriculture, stone shelters and oven sites, as well as other sites, for example with scar trees. The anthropologist treats the sites

sensitively and respects the original owners' privacy. There are sites in the Stoney Rises, around Mt William and Boort.

The presentation was a fascinating insight to local studies being undertaken to understand the historical use of our land in Victoria from evidence still around today.

IT'S NOT ALL WORK

Volunteering at the Family History Group isn't all work. We always make time to have lunch together and have plenty of time for a chat and a few laughs. Doug our newest volunteer, doesn't seem to mind holding court over lunch, even though he is well outnumbered. Apart from keeping everyone entertained, Doug has a variety of skills and is learning some new ones. He is a very welcome addition to the group.



A regular Tuesday lunchtime at the Family History

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer but are unsure if you have the skills required, come along and have a chat to us. We have a variety of jobs to do and always welcome new volunteers.

A SURPRISING AND DAUNTING DISCOVERY

Christina had been to the Family History Group some time ago, looking for assistance on how to find her father's war records. He had served in the Second World War and was never one to talk about his service in any detail.

The reference to the record was found, however it was not yet available to view on the National Archive Australia (NAA) website.

After further investigation, it was discovered that the fee to have the records digitised to view on-line was now \$75.90 a huge, recent increase.

We suggested to Christina that she should ask other family members to contribute to the cost as a copy of the record would benefit everyone.

Christina came back recently for assistance to

order and pay for the record to be digitised and had brought her father's birth and death certificates with her.

Our researcher noticed that her grandfather had also been a soldier and in fact would have served in the First World War. His record was found and downloaded. He had enlisted in 1915 and served through to 1919, fighting on many of the battlefields where others perished.

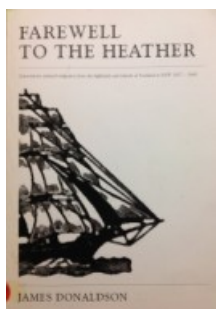
Tears welled in Christina's eyes and ran down her cheeks as she recognised the names of places where the allied forces had endured horrific conditions and suffered severe losses.

Her grandfather had participated and survived this significant event in Australian history.

FROM THE LIBRARY by Librarian Robyn Currie

Recently I was asked why we need to have a range of titles on our library shelves, some of which are not directly related to people's lives in Colac and District.

To understand where and under what conditions our ancestors come from, it is helpful to have titles on both the history and geography of their former homelands. For example, *Hall's Ireland, 1841*. Hall, S. C. and Mrs. (see review below), and



Farewell to the heather; an account of the government assisted immigrants from the highlands and islands of Scotland to New South Wales, 1837-1840.

To understand what was happening in Australia and in particular, Victoria, at the time of the immigrants' arrival, it is useful to have good resources on our shelves for members to dip in and out of. For example, *Colonial frontiers and family fortunes; two studies of rural and urban Victoria*, 1989, Beer, Jane et al; and *Visit to Geelong and the western district of Victoria in 1846*, Lang, John Dunmore; with an introduction and notes by Ian McLaren

Information on conditions for immigrants can be read about in books like *Single & free; female migration to Australia, 1833-1837*; and *A place to lay my head; immigrant shelters of nineteenth century Victoria*; and *The long farewell*, 1981, Charlwood, Don.



Reading titles like *Designing place; an archaeology of the Western District*, will give an idea of what the landscape was like through the Stoney Rises and surrounds and will support understanding of how the first people (or aborigines) lost their livelihood and land when white settlers took over.

MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

At C&DFHG we receive many magazines and journals which include stories from family researchers. These experiences may not be too dissimilar to our own families and also help us to write our own interesting family histories. Check out the latest magazines in our new display area.



Current magazines and journals on bottom shelf of the book stand

The library catalogue is being added to the database and is available for members to search by keyword or title and author just as in other libraries. For browsers, a colour system guides the reader to subjects of interest.

BOOK REVIEW "Hall's Ireland, Mr and Mrs Hall's tour of 1840"

Maybe these two volumes are the equivalent of the Lonely Planet Guide of pre famine Ireland! Journalists Anne Maria and Samuel Carter Hall toured Ireland more than once, but the original work was written about 1841 and was added to in later editions.

As they journey through the counties, the reader is given a detailed description of the topography of the land, of the castles, churches and other buildings and, in many cases, the livelihood and folklore of the people. The Halls lived very comfortably in England and although born in Ireland, may have written from a biased point of view. However, as they described their interactions with a variety of people, on the whole they saw

the Irish as happy people, even when they lived in very harsh circumstances.

There is a comprehensive index in the second volume to the books to help locate places, people and some social commentary. For example the entry under "Eagle's Nest" includes - condition of schoolhouses, paucity of books, improved standards of teaching, etc. whilst under "Secret societies" there is reference to 'Whiteboys', 'Oak boys', 'Peep-o-day boys', and more. The book is illustrated with black and white engravings from the time.

For those of you with Irish ancestors, you may find this book an interesting travel story or useful reference to the background of your forebears.

Remembering our WW1 Servicemen and Servicewomen

JEAN MATILDA STANBURY



Jane 'Jean' Matilda Stanbury was born in 1882 in Colac, the second daughter of Frederick Stanbury and Susan Watkins.

In May 1917 Sister Stanbury responded to the call for service abroad and joined the Australian Army Nursing Service.

Prior to enlisting, Jane had nursed at Derrinook, Dr Brown's Private Hospital, after completing nursing training at the Colac Hospital.

Sister Stanbury was aged 34 when she embarked on the RMS Mooltan, departing from Melbourne on June 12, 1917 and served in Salonika and England. At Christmas in 1918, the Colac community selected Jane, along with several other local nurses serving abroad, to receive a special Christmas box filled with donated gifts.

The newspaper appeal for items for the boxes stated, "No-one deserves to be thought of more than those brave girls who have risked their lives in their devotion to duty and desire to help their

countrymen, who have been maimed and broken in battle." The sought-after items were: perfumes, toilet soap, boiled sweets, toilet powder, note paper, pins, hairpins, tape and any little gift or ornamental to remind them of the thoughtful and grateful friends at home.

Jane returned home in May 1919 and was discharged as medically unfit a month later.

By 1924 she was nursing at the Bundoora Convalescent Farm and later was Matron of the Bundoora repatriation hospital.

Jane retired to Colac in 1949 and lived with her younger sister, Margaret at 91 Armstrong Street. She died in Colac on August 20, 1954 and is buried in the local cemetery with her sister Margaret.



Adelaide, SA. June 1917. Group portrait of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) sisters from Qld, NSW, Vic, and SA, bound for Salonika, Greece on the RMS Mooltan. Jane is 8th from left, front row, next to male officer, Lieutenant Pollit AWM photograph

MERGE OF HISTORY CENTRE LIBRARIES

We have decided to merge the libraries of the Colac Historical Society and the Colac Family History Group. It will mean less duplicate purchases, a broader selection for all members to peruse and creates a lovely, one spot research area. The merge will take a while to happen but why not come in soon and browse the collection? Many titles are available for loan. We are open 5 days a week, at varying times, but closed Wednesdays and Saturdays



The new combined library area, a welcoming place to browse the collection

Memories...



★ THESE Colac elderly folk above were a few of more than 200 who enjoyed a special Christmas party at Colac Civic Hall on Saturday. They are—left to right—Mrs. F. Warren, Dennis Street; Mrs. J. Reid, Bromfield Street; Mrs. A. Wilkie, Jennings Street; Mrs. A. Williamson, Armstrong Street; Mrs. E. Vosey, Bromfield Street.

These ladies, Colac Herald, 12th June 1960, were all born before 1900, and at the time of the photograph they were all widows. Scratching the surface just a little bit has unveiled some interesting stories.

We are keen to hear from relatives or anyone who knew, Florence Warren nee Nicholls, d. 1975 aged 90, Elizabeth Agnes Reid nee Patrick d. 1976 aged 97, Marion Davidson Wilkie nee Thomson d. 1976 aged 87 and Ada Mary Williamson nee Patrick d. 1971 aged 82 and Elizabeth Grinter Vesey nee Gray d. 1985 aged 92.

Please contact research@colacfamilyhistory.org.au or write to C&DFHG PO Box 219 Colac 3250. Thank you.

Thank you to these organisations for their continued support



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<http://www.parsarnerwebdesign.com/>
Ph: 0448 468 924

Colac Otway Shire
2 - 6 Rae Street Colac Ph: 03 52339400



COLAC Herald The Colac Herald
37 - 41 Bromfield Street, Colac Ph: 03 52315322

DISCLAIMER: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the committee does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed