



Colac & District
Family History Group Inc.

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Autumn 2018 Issue no 104



1914-1918



Colac Pioneer in Outback Grave

Almost 700 kilometres north of Adelaide, near the Birdsville Track, a half-submerged metal fence and small concrete headstone mark the final resting place of early Colac settler Phoebe Milner. Phoebe's interesting yet sad story emerged during research for the "Almost Forgotten" project. Born in Kent in 1815, Phoebe was the older of two children of Thomas and Phoebe Durling. Thomas died in 1837 and his wife Phoebe died the following year. It was a time when the colony of Victoria was in its infancy, offering hope of a bright future for young people like 23 year old Phoebe. In 1840 Phoebe joined the 273 other passengers on the barque *Orient* and set sail for Melbourne. Phoebe gave her occupation as general servant, could read and

write and her religion was protestant. The *Orient* also carried a mixed cargo which included a bull, cow and calf, and crates and kegs of champagne, flour, pork, hock, books, cotton goods, cordage, oatmeal and peas. Less than two years after her arrival, Phoebe married George Milner, a squatter from Orton, Westmoreland. The couple settled at Pirron Yallock Station where George developed a successful enterprise, specialising in horse breeding. Ralph and John Milner, second cousins of George, were also working at the station. In 1860, George a "well-known and highly respected gentleman", died of lung disease, aged 41 years. He was buried in the Colac Cemetery three days later and his grave was marked by a large obelisk memorial, clearly etched with details of his origins. *Cont. page 4*

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Opening Times

Monday & Tuesday 10:00am to 2:00pm

Thursday, Friday 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Sunday 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Closed Public Holidays

\$10 fee applies to open out of hours.

Contact details on the door at History Centre

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30pm

◇ Historical Society Meeting - Guest Speaker

All invited - See page 6 for details

Wednesday, April 25 Anzac Day

◇ Anzac Crosses at Colac Memorial

Tuesday, May 8 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm

◇ General Meeting

Guest Speaker, Mothers' Day raffle drawn

Friday, June 15

◇ Winter Newsletter

All contributions by June 1 please

PRINTING OF THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has been kindly printed by the staff at the office of member for Polwarth, **Richard Riordan MP**. We appreciate their generosity and support.

Newsletters from other Genealogical/Family History Groups

We currently receive digital copies of Newsletters from several other groups. If you would like to access these newsletters, send us an email with 'Newsletter' in the subject line. Each week a group email will be sent. You can opt out at any time. Email: secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au Alternatively, all newsletters are printed and made available at a specially designated area in the Family History Section for members to read.

QR CODE

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



Cover Image

Gordon Kay, who wrote about Phoebe's grave in 2010 for his blog, "Outback Australia", titled: Milners Drive up the now Birdsville Track.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Joan Rowlands has stepped down from the position of president of the Family History Group, which she has held for the past four years. During her term as president there have been many changes and memorable events.

Joan worked with the Historical Society and the Shire to negotiate a new, fifteen year lease which provides stability for both groups for the foreseeable future. She also has overseen a growth in both numbers of active volunteers and volunteer hours. During her time at the helm there has been a major upgrade in equipment and technology and a vast expansion of the digitisation of the records.

The group has also embarked on some major, long-term projects, including “Almost Forgotten - Pre 1900 Burials”, “Duty Called - Identifying our Servicemen, Servicewomen and Nursing Corps” and “Surname Connect”.

There have also been several new initiatives, including the introduction of a series of Saturday workshops, a story writing competition, cemetery walks, afternoon teas for volunteers and

many other one-off events. There was the 1914-1918 Commemoration, including “What We Did in the War” exhibition, “Last Man, Last Shilling” centenary, the Convict Bonnets luncheon and the Weekend of Family History to name a few.

At all times, the family history group has sought to work with other organisations, schools and businesses and we have formed lasting relationships with many different groups.

Joan co-hosted the unveiling of the memorial at Wylangta Cemetery, possibly one of the most satisfying tasks of her presidency. Dorrie Lawson, a foundation member of the family history group and a dedicated volunteer, had invested 25 years in gathering the history of the cemetery and information about the people buried there. Having already celebrated her 90th birthday, Dorrie did not believe the memorial would be constructed and installed in her lifetime.

On November 12 2014, Dorrie and two other long term members, Shirley Anderson and Molly Veale unveiled the memorial in front of more than a hundred people who had travelled from as far as Queensland to witness the event.

It has been a busy four years for Joan who will now be able to resume the hobbies and other activities that were put on hold during her presidency. We thank you for your service.

RETURNING AFTER A BREAK

After a break of four years from the role, we welcome Liz Spence back to the position of president for 2018-2019. Liz, who was previously president from 2007-2013, is a life member and has continued to be an active volunteer.



Passionate about all aspects of family history, Liz believes that it is in her blood. When she was young, her grandmother and mother enjoyed showing her their photographs and telling stories about the people in them. She is thankful that the different generations were wise enough to save the photographs and other small treasures that connect her family to their ancestors.

Even though it was later in life that Liz became active in family history, the importance of researching and recording the stories had been instilled in her from a young age and Liz enjoys passing her knowledge on to others.

Liz is looking forward to another productive year which has already begun, with a complete audit of the family history group collection underway.

The audit will be followed by a planning day, where members will be able to have input into the priorities of the group for the next twelve months. Liz has already signalled that she is keen for the major projects to continue, particularly for the photographic collection to be completely digitised, making it readily accessible.

Liz has researched several of her own ancestors for the “Almost Forgotten Pre-1900 Burial” project. It has now been running for almost three years, with approximately one third of the burials investigated. Liz is particularly pleased that the results will be useful for our group and will also benefit the Colac Cemetery in helping to make their records before 1900 accurate.

Also keen to have some social activities, Liz is interested in receiving suggestions from the members for outings or activities that the group could organise this year.

Colac Pioneer in Outback Grave

From page 1 - PHOEBE'S STORY

Phoebe's only sibling, John Durling was also in Victoria by 1857 and had married Jane Faulkner from Inverleigh. Although the couple were living in Berwick, it seems that the Phoebe and John were able to stay in contact. When John's wife gave birth to a son in 1859, he was named George Milner Durling after his uncle. Sadly the baby boy died that same year. In May 1860, when George was ailing with lung disease that was soon to claim his life, another child was born to John and Jane, this time a baby girl who was named Phoebe Milner Durling. Just four months after George Milner died, the death of five month old Phoebe was recorded.

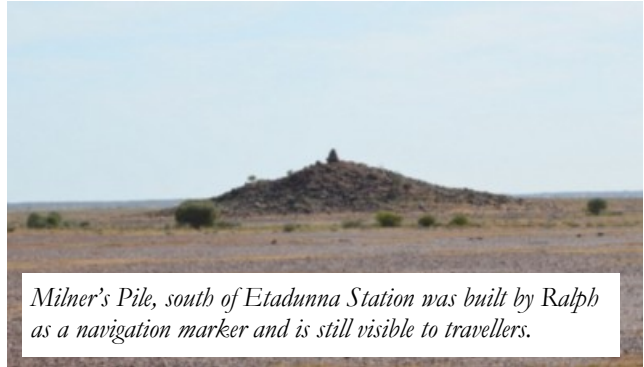
On the 20th October, at Inverleigh, of disease of the lungs, Phoebe Milner, daughter of Mr. John Durling, of Berwick, aged 5 months.

During this time, Phoebe would have received some comfort from Joseph Jewell Westwood, a travelling evangelist, who called on the Milner household on at least two occasions during his travels and held worship for the family and staff. In late December that year, while still grieving the deaths of her husband of eighteen years and her baby niece and nephew, Phoebe learned that Jane Durling, her sister in law, had died at Inverleigh on Christmas day

On the 25th ult., at Inverleigh, Jane, the beloved wife of Mr. John Durling, of Zion Hill, Berwick, aged 21 years.

In 1860 Pirron Yallock Station was purchased by Robert Calvert, nephew of John Calvert of Irrewarra and Ralph Milner's name began to appear in the newspaper advertisements and sales reports as the horses and other stock were sold. Around this time Ralph advanced Phoebe the funds to purchase Orton Cottage, a comfortable villa with thirteen acres of land, in Winchelsea. It is not known if she lived there, yet the cottage remained her property until many years after her death when Ralph put it up for sale. Phoebe next appeared in Clare, South Australia where on the 16th January, 1864, at the residence of William Davidson, Donnybrook, she married her husband's second cousin, Ralph Milner. The years between 1861 and 1864 are hazy, but it seems that Phoebe had stayed in the company of Ralph and his brother John. At the time of their marriage, Phoebe had reverted to her maiden

name and the marriage is recorded under Milner-Durling. (Durling). Soon after the marriage, Ralph and Phoebe set off with John on an ambitious expedition, attempting to drive the first mob of sheep from Adelaide to Darwin.



Milner's Pile, south of Etadunna Station was built by Ralph as a navigation marker and is still visible to travellers.

Following the path of explorer John McKinlay, the party reached Coopers Creek during a prolonged drought and remained there for seven years. Ralph had built a rock navigation marker called 'Milner's Pile' and Bucaltaninna station was established some 30km East of there. Due to the drought and lack of feed, Ralph moved the stock and soon after arriving at Killalpaninna, where a Lutheran mission had been established, Phoebe died. She was aged 53. Her remains were buried in a sandy grave and her details were etched on a white, dome shaped headstone, surrounded by a hooped metal fence.



Ralph and John returned to Adelaide and a few years later successfully drove stock from Adelaide to Darwin. A sad postscript is that on the second expedition, John Milner was clubbed to death by aborigines while he was tending stock.

(Thanks to Gordon Kay for assistance with this article)

Almost Forgotten

Pre-1900 Burials in the Colac Cemetery



GEORGE MILNER'S STORY

George Milner was raised at Longill Farm, Orton, Westmoreland. He was the fourth of nine children of Holmes and Isabel Milner. The family members' details and fate are all memorialised on the Milner headstone at Orton.



Recent photo of Long Gill Farm where George lived.

George was 21 years old when he travelled to Victoria on the *Westminster* in 1839, just one year before his future wife, Phoebe Durling arrived. The couple settled at Pirron Yallock Station, a few kilometres west of Colac. It was a vastly different landscape to Orton and George deemed it to be primarily suitable for horse breeding, stocking the land with all varieties from light and heavy workhorses to racehorses, and before long he was renowned for the quality of his stock. In 1849, Ralph, James and John Milner, grandsons of George's brother, sailed to Victoria



*Stony rises near the Pirron Yallock Creek at Milner's Station c1857
Eugene von Guerard National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne*

on the *Caroline Agnes* and worked with him at Pirron Yallock station. (James later married Colac girl Celia Moore and moved to Otago, NZ in 1859). George's nephew William Edmundson also spent time working at the station. He later married Eliza Peters, the widow of John D. Bromfield and was well-known throughout the district before his untimely death in 1887. Religion was important to the family and once a fortnight Mr Hiskens from the Methodist Circuit would hold services in the Milner home. In 1855 George Milner Esq. sold several draft horses at the Melbourne Horse and Cattle Market, raising the extraordinary average of £70 per head. His racehorses, Voltigeur, Peter Finn, Sarah Sands and Caroline, to name a few,



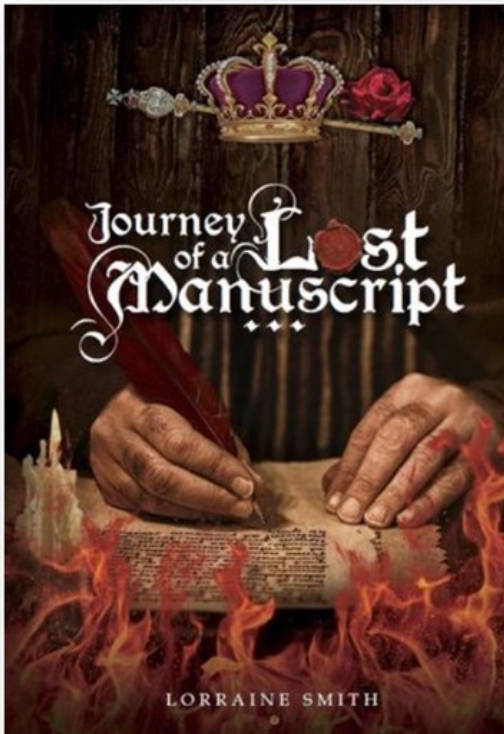
Headstones at Colac and Orton, UK record George's details

featured at races throughout the colony and he was awarded a gold medal for his horse Tramp at the Port Phillip Farmers' Society Show in 1859. George was just 41 when he died, in 1860, two months after contracting pulmonary disease, and was buried in the Colac Cemetery. There were no children from the marriage, although Percy Morton, the six year old son of a Melbourne friend, William Morton, was buried in the same location as George when he died in 1858 at Pirron Yallock. He is remembered on one side of the base of George's headstone. Another mystery to solve on another day!

CURIOUS MINDS SOLVE MYSTERIES

JOURNEY OF A LOST MANUSCRIPT

Lorraine Smith, a bookshop owner from Warrnambool, was the guest speaker at our final meeting last year. For those who were unable to come, you will be pleased to learn that she will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the **Historical Society** at the History Centre, **Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30pm** and everyone is welcome to go along and hear her story.



A customer in Lorraine's shop had been looking at an old copy of 'Alice in Wonderland' when she discovered, tucked between the pages, a folded item that looked like an old manuscript. Lorraine's curious mind got the better of her and the discovery sent her on an investigative journey that would take her half way around the world. In a book titled 'Journey of a Lost Manuscript' Lorraine has chronicled her own journey since discovering the Elizabethan manuscript in Warrnambool, and tracing it back to its place of origins, Gildersome, West Yorkshire. Fascinated by the original owners, Lorraine began to delve into their history and soon felt a real connection to the family. As well as being an interesting story, Lorraine will share information about the variety of research resources she used.

PHOTOGRAPH BEHIND FIREPLACE

When David Robinson found a copy of a slightly moth-eaten old photograph behind his fireplace, he was curious to find out the identity of the three people in it. Luckily there was writing on the cover which read, "*Love from Grace, Mac & Peter Sim to Grandma Sim. Mac & Peter aged 7 months*".



David discovered that Peter, one of the twins was actually John Peter Sim and found his story on "The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate" website.

On further investigation, Grace was found to be Grace Plowman who married John Percy Sim, elder son of Mr & Mrs P Sim of Ondit, on February 3rd, 1915 at Scot's Church, Melbourne. After their marriage, the couple settled at Balintore and on January 21st 1917, Grace gave

SIM.—On the 21st January, at Dr. Gibbs's private hospital, Colac, the wife of J. P. Sim, "Balintore," Ondit—twin sons.

birth to twin sons at Dr Gibbs' Private Hospital. The twins were Hugh McDonald Sim and John Peter Sim, but were known by the names Mac and Peter. Both of the boys were educated at Scotch College and later enlisted and served in the Second World War.

Peter and Mac moved to Western Australia, in 1946, acquiring farms and concentrating on wool farming. They were later joined by their parents, Grace and John.

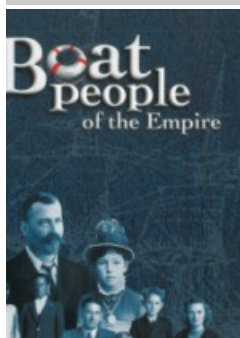
In 1964 Peter became a Liberal Party Senator and married Susan Clarkson, née Bennecke in 1968.

He remained in the Senate until retirement in 1981 and received a CBE the following year.

Peter and his parents spent the remainder of their lives in Western Australia and Hugh was in Portland, Oregon, USA, when he died in 1999.

Peter and Mary Sim, the twins' grandparents, and their aunt Nellie Bannister (nee Sim), remained in the Colac area and were well known and well respected throughout the district.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN - New Additions to the Library



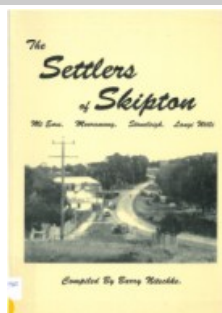
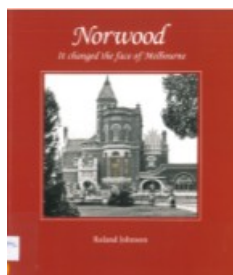
Boat people of the Empire;
Australian history from a family perspective. by Donald Grey-Smith.

Donated by the author, these are stories from members of his family who migrated from the British Isles to Australia during the colonial period.

Norwood; it changed the face of Melbourne

by Roland Johnson.

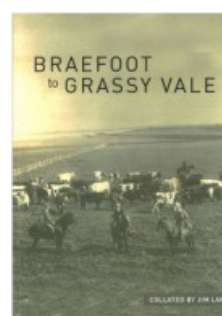
Donated by member Ken Riches. Mark Moss, first owner of *Norwood*, was a financier, sportsman and philanthropist. This book tells the story of the house and its people but is also a history of the settlement of Victoria.



The settlers of Skipton;
the story of the early years of Soldier Settlement on the Mt Emu, Mooramong, Stoneleigh and Langi Willi Estates, compiled by Barry Nitschke.

Hard times brought out the best of these men and women as soldier settlers, bringing up their families and farming in difficult and primitive conditions

Braefoot to Grassy Vale
collated and donated by Jim Lang. The result of many years of dedicated research, this book records the history of Alexander Lang, his family and their descendants who lived in the Colac district.



Digital Access to Sands & McDougall

“Where did my ancestor live?” This is a query we receive often at the Colac Family History group. We usually help members look through the early Colac Shire Rates that we have on the database and then show people the extensive local map collection so they can try to match any information received with the location.

Another way to find where your ancestors lived has just been made available. The State Library of Victoria and Melbourne University have digitised the **Sands & McDougall** directories.

The Melbourne History Workshop, part of Melbourne University, has a digital collection of every year between 1857 and 1880.

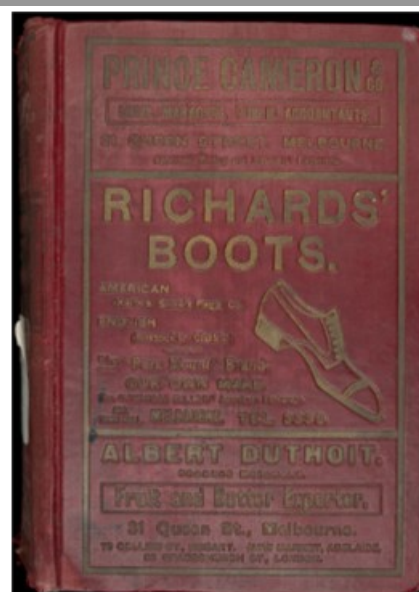
You can find this at:

<https://omeka.cloud.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne-history/about>

The State Library digital collection of the directories is from 1860 to 1974, with some gaps. This collection can be accessed at:

<http://cedric.slv.vic.gov.au/R?RN=319873096>

It was not compulsory to be listed in the directory and it is fair to say that most of the entries are male.



Once at this site, select Sands & McDougall from the menu, then choose the year bank that suits. Next click on the particular year you wish to use. You should now be at the Table of Contents.

Select from the contents what you want to search in. Mostly the information you are searching for will be found in the alphabetical directory. Click on the + sign to the left of the contents then choose the alphabetical part that matches the surname you are looking for and scan through the pages.

BITS & PIECES

Next time you call into to the History Centre, take some time to have a look at the collection of photographs we have on display around the walls. The photos were enlarged and mounted for our Weekend of Family History with a grant from the Colac Otway Shire Community Grants program. Doug and Liz spent several hours getting the display into position. The committee has provided a budget for the purchase of four or five new large family photographs to fill a gap on the end wall. We are always grateful for any photos of Colac district people to add to the collection.



Doug checking that the photos are straight



Recent visitors to the Family History Group, Ann and Kevin, met while they were volunteering at the Public Records Office. They soon found that their interest in family history wasn't the only thing they have in common. They also share some relatives through marriage. Ann made the trip from Melbourne on the early train, and returned in the late afternoon, while Kevin drove up from the coast to spend the day in Colac. Ann also volunteers at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, transcribing certificates among other tasks. Their connection to Colac is through the Parker Love and McCaffrey families.

Left: Kevin & Ann pictured during their visit

Margaret Thomas (right), reached her milestone 70th birthday recently and (although a little embarrassed), was delighted at the celebration. Margaret is a life member of the Family History Group and has served for many years on the committee and as correspondence person, diligently recording the mail.



Margaret provided this photograph (left) of some of her gifts, and we particularly liked the idea of the concertina photograph display that was made and given to her by a friend. The photos chronicled her life from childhood, through marriage, until now.

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED



Jill photographed with her certificate and the award

We always try to have a bit of fun as well as getting lots of work done at the Family History Group and this last couple of months has been no exception. One of our visitors donated a delightful little metal rabbit during her visit and we decided to make it into a perpetual award. The **“Rabbit Award”**, will be presented (with much fanfare) to a person who continually finds themselves burrowing down rabbit holes while researching.

Jill (right), an experienced researcher and prolific contributor to the “Almost Forgotten” project, was the obvious first choice. Jill has researched more than 120 pre-1900 burials for the project and (like most family history researchers), often gets distracted. On this occasion, her thorough research into the Frith family of Colac was well deserving of the inaugural presentation.

Family photographs wanted. Have you seen originals of these of the Inglis and Gainger family photographs? One of our members has these copies but they are poor reproductions. She feels sure that someone must have the original prints or at least a good digital copy of the originals. We are looking for interesting old family or group images for a display and both of these would be perfect. Please contact us on media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au if you can help.



MOTHERS' DAY RAFFLE

The Family History Group relies on membership and two major fund-raisers each year, as well as book sales, research and grants to stay in operation.

Each year at this time we ask members to donate a small item for our Mothers' Day Hamper and we provide books of 10 raffle tickets to be sold.

The hamper is usually valued at more than \$150.

You will receive a raffle book with this newsletter and we ask you to please return it by Monday, 7th May to be drawn at our next meeting on Tuesday 8th May

Thank you for your ongoing support

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED

STORIES OF OUR PIONEERS

If you missed out on contributing to the first volume of “Stories of our Pioneers”, we are now taking submissions to be published in Volume Two.

The same conditions will apply, although this time it is not a competition and there are no prizes.

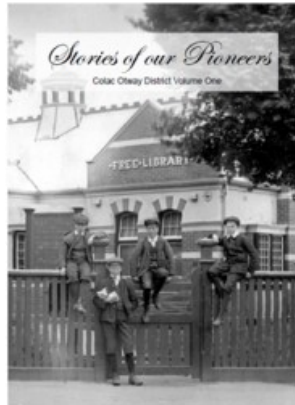
The subject of the story must have been born before 1900 and lived all or part of their life in the Colac Otway district and stories are between 400 and 1000 words.

There were more than thirty stories in the first book and the second book will be published when that number is reached again.

Which of your ancestors have you been inspired or fascinated by? Think about writing their story and having it recorded in history.

If you need help with researching some of the details of their lives, we have lots of resources available at the history centre and there are numerous resources on-line.

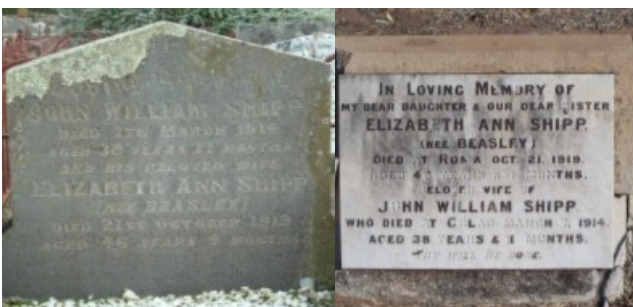
Application forms to have your story published in the second book are available by contacting: media@colacfamhistory.org.au or by calling into the family history group at COPACC during opening hours.



THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

One of our members, Pam Sell, came across this interesting situation - these headstones are in two cemeteries in different states.

The grey headstone is located in Colac and the white one in Roma Queensland. Both show the deaths of John and Elizabeth Shipp. John died in 1914 in Colac and is buried in the Colac Cemetery and Elizabeth died in 1919 in Roma.



DIGITSING THE COLLECTION

Recently three of our members attended a two-day workshop conducted by GLAMPeak (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums peak body), which was held at the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre. The workshop was part of *GLAM Peak Digital Access to Collections project*, and supported by the Federal government through the Catalyst Arts and Culture Fund. The content was aimed at organisations who are planning, or who have started digitising their collections. The structure of the program outlined a four stage procedure: Plan. Prepare. Digitise. Share.

Even though we have been working through our collection for several years now, the workshop provided an opportunity to learn how to develop a structured digitisation project and at the same time to exchange ideas with other similar groups.

The two days were full of activities, with several guest speakers, brainstorming sessions and



exercises to work on, as well as an extra, networking session. On the second day we were offered a tour of the archives, storage and reading room of the Geelong Heritage Centre prior to the training. Mark Beasley, manager, provided a detailed account of the new,

purpose built home of the Heritage Centre, and the planning and construction process. He also talked about how their volunteers work is allocated and the equipment they use.

The whole workshop was well organised and we came away with ideas of how to implement what we had learnt. The questions posed were:

Why are you digitising the collection?

Why the organisation wants to do this?

What will you digitise?

Which parts of the collections will you prioritise for digitisation first? Who will be involved?

A manual was provided to all participants and can be viewed at the Family History Group.

Report by Margaret Nixon

REMEMBERING OUR WW1 SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN

Commemorating the Centenary of World War 1 2014-2018

Archibald Donald (Don) McInnes survived the full term of World War 1, but years later suffered a tragic death, when he fell from a train near Cressy. Archibald, the third child of Peter McInnes and Mary Cameron, was born at Yeo in 1888 and grew up in a family of ten children, two of whom were adopted. His father, Peter McInnes was a teacher and also the manager of the Colac Pound for several years. Archibald served a four year apprenticeship with Mr R. Ledgerwood, but was working as a labourer when he “answered the call” and enlisted into the AIF on July 7, 1915. Recruitment training began at Broadmeadows camp and he transferred to the 10th Reinforcements of the 8th Light Horse on September 8, 1915. The following day he embarked at Melbourne for overseas service on HMAT A70 Ballarat. He served at Gallipoli and was there for the evacuation then joined the 8th Light Horse at Mudros being transferred to the 3rd Light Horse after spending a period of time in hospital. It appears from his Military Records that Private McInnes was a colourful character often coming to notice for being absent without leave and for refusing to obey lawful orders and for insubordination. The punishments were quite diverse, but did not seem to be a deterrent. Archibald served in many locations throughout France with the 10th Artillery brigade (late 8th Light Horse) as a driver. He was wounded, sustaining a serious gunshot wound to the left thigh and hospitalised at Bristol in England on October 26, 1918, shortly before the Armistice. Archibald returned to Australia on the City of York embarking from England on January 14, 1919 having survived more than three years of war. On his return, Archibald worked as a shearer and became well known throughout New South Wales and Victoria. He never married. There were “many beautiful floral tributes” following his death, and members of the Returned Sailors and Servicemen Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA), marched beside his hearse to the Colac Cemetery. Several of his “digger comrades” were the coffin bearers at the cemetery and in a touching tribute to his service to the country, the Last Post was sounded by Bugler Hugh Bartlett. *Lest We Forget.*

Story by Geoff McGuigan

Colac Cemetery staff are preparing for Anzac Day 2018 at the Colac, Beeac, Whoorel and Warncoort Cemeteries. The aim is to have an Australia flag on the grave of each person who has served in the Australian armed forces and nursing corps.

Over the last four years, they have worked tirelessly to identify all of the burials that qualify and each year more flags have been added as relatives, friends and acquaintances have come forward with information.



The number of flags has grown from 700 in the first year to at least 1100 this year and the cemetery staff, assisted by Colac College students will take a full day to put the flags in place. The flags will be on display this year from April 20 to April 30, and it is well worth encouraging friends and family to visit the local cemeteries to take in this moving tribute.

If you wish to provide the details of a person who qualifies for a flag and does not yet have one, an application form can be obtained at the Colac Cemetery or from the Family History Group, COPACC during opening hours, or by emailing: media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au. Cut off date is April 1 for flags for this year.

CROSSES FOR SOLDIERS

Beryl is once again preparing crosses for the Anzac Day service to commemorate each of the local soldiers who died in 1918. Crosses will carry the name and date of death of the soldier. At about 4am on Anzac Day, the crosses will be placed in the rose garden at memorial square.



Memories...



PREPARING FOR KANYANA

On March 5, 1958 the children of Colac held a great children's demonstration at the Western Oval and Les Wood took this photograph of Colac West school pupils rehearsing their moves. Following the display, The Colac Herald reported the event under the headline: ***"Spectacular Schoolchildren's Kanyana Display"***

If the success of Colac's Kanyana Festival can be judged by the spectacular display given by 3000 local school children on the Western Oval on Wednesday, then the festival will go down in history as a milestone in the development of the physical and cultural life of the community. The children performed brilliantly and created a standard for future displays which will be indeed hard to emulate. Miss Lee Gow, Physical Education officer from Melbourne, said at the end of the display that it was a credit to the children and their teachers that they could come together so perfectly when the only practice they had was as separate units in their own schools. Because of the unpleasant weather on the day of the mass rehearsal (the temperature was near the century) it was not possible to rehearse fully the items for each group and the children were brought into position on the grounds and marched off again as soon as possible.

There are possibly many of the people pictured still in the Colac area. If you are in the photo, or recognise someone, please contact us and let us know. Email: secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au or phone or call in.

Thanks to these organisations for their ongoing support



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