

WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 103 August, 2015



OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

LOCATION:

1st Floor
100-104 Murphy Street
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(above Visitor Information
Centre).

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www.wfhs.org.au



COMING EVENTS:

At our Society:

19th September 2015, Saturday at 2.00pm— Members Meeting.

Following our Members Meeting, our guest speaker **Mark Grealy of Archival Access Victoria** will give a presentation on the records held at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) and how to access them.

Mark's website is <http://www.archivalaccessvictoria.com/>

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

1st to 15th October 2015: Seniors Week in Wangaratta and surrounds. You may be interested in the 'Magical History Tour'. Full program is available on the Rural City of Wangaratta website <http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/recreation-leisure/events/seniors.asp>

17th October 2015 EXPO at Seymour, Victoria:

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations is running a Family History Expo at Seymour on 17th October 2015, 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Seymour Club. Cost \$15 per person.

See <http://www.vafho.org.au/>

LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR FOR 'THREADS':

After five years as Editor, a 'fresh face' is needed to put 'Threads' together. So if you would like to take on all or part of the newsletter, or would like to find out more about it, ring Cheryl on 03 5721 5906 or email info@wfhs.org.au

 Find us on
Facebook

: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wangaratta-Family-History-Society-Inc/678865085537215>

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- Val McPherson
- Elaine Jones
- Paddy Milne
- Christine Heard
- Peg Templeton.

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- ✿ Nancy Upfield
- ✿ Marion Stewart
- ✿ Ruth Kneebone.



FOR SALE \$ - WANGARATTA CEMETERY CD:

Our Society is reducing stocks and selling Wangaratta Cemetery CDs which contain burial and headstone transcriptions at a reduced price of \$50 ea (including packaging and postage). Original price was \$77.

Download the order form from our website <http://www.wfhs.org.au/> or contact info@wfhs.org.au.



HAVE A QUERY OR WISH TO MAKE A SUGGESTION?

Contact:

- * Ray McKenzie, President, on 03 5721 7553; or
- * Val Brennan, Vice President, on 03 5727 6229.

You can also email us on info@wfhs.org.au.

MEMBERSHIP:

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$25
Joint Full Membership	\$35
Single Pensioner	\$20
Joint Pensioner	\$30
Newsletter only	\$12

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT OUR SOCIETY:

Council Administrators visit:

The Administrators of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Ailsa Fox, Irene Grant and Rod Roscholler, as well as Ruth Kneebone, Director of Corporate Services, visited us on 16 June 2015 to have a look at what we do and find out more about our Society. They also had a look at the work we are doing for the Council (Rate Books and Wangaratta Cemetery data) and met some of our members and volunteers.

Their visit followed on from the visit by the CEO of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Brendan McGrath, together with the council archivist Karen Chetcutti on 20th April 2015.

Promotion of our Society:

Following Council visits, a number of strategies to promote our Society to the community have been undertaken:

- an article published in the Council's Winter Edition newsletter 'Community Matters',
- link to our Society's website placed on Council's website,
- Information about our Society as well as a link to our website and email placed on visitvictoria website,
- inclusion in events for Seniors Week, and
- signage out the front of our building is being investigated.

OUR VISIT TO THE BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP:

The Benalla group kindly invited our members to visit them on 20 July where we were made most welcome by their friendly and hospitable members. The Mansfield Family History Group were also invited. We all had a great time catching up with what's been happening, checking out the Benalla FRG research resources and admiring their online promotion. Thank you to Mary Millar, President of Benalla FRG, Bill Willett, Secretary and Meredith Tolliday, Promotions, and members.



**PROFESSOR RICHARD GRAHAM HAY (DICK) COTTON, BAgSc PhD DSc AM.
10/11/1940 TO 14/6/2015:**



Richard Cotton grew up in Wangaratta on a 40-hectare orange farm in South Wangaratta which his parents bought in 1938. His father Graham died when Richard was three, and his mother Esther Isobell continued to live on the farm until she died in 1991. Both Graham and Esther Isobell Cotton are buried in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Richard was the Director of the Genomics Disorders Research Centre at Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital and he catalogued all the human gene variations that cause disease and made this information available to clinicians, patients and researchers, free of charge.

Richard continued to own the South Wangaratta farm and was involved in the protection of the flora and fauna of the Warby Ranges. To read an obituary about Richard Cotton see <https://www.hgsa.org.au/hgsanews/obituary-prof-richard-cotton>



MARGARET TOYLAAN ALLEN (nee AH KET) DIED 16th JULY 2015, AGED 94 YEARS:

Margaret was the daughter of William Ah Ket who was born in Wangaratta in 1876 and was the first Chinese Barrister in Australia; a prominent figure in the history of the Chinese in the early years of the last century; and a leader in the campaign for the rights of Chinese and other non-European immigrants.

Margaret was a foundation member of the Chinese Australian Historical Society and was very active in its early years and later honoured as a life member. She completed an Honours Degree at Sydney University with a thesis on the adaptation of Chinese Religion in Australian society.



MILAWA CEMETERY:

We now hold many records of burials at the Milawa Cemetery in Victoria. These records have been compiled from headstones, obituaries, death certificates as well as information collected many years ago by Betty Kay.

Kerrs Rd, Milawa 3678, Rural City of Wangaratta
GPS -36.438213, 146.437807
Earliest headstone 1860.



ADA HOCKING. THE ABANDONMENT AND DEATH OF HER CHILD:

In January 1895 a young woman, **Ada Hocking**, was charged at the Tallangatta Police Court with abandoning her infant. She had recently taken proceedings against a young man named Matthews, residing at Tallangatta Creek, for the maintenance of the child of which she swore he was the father. But the Bench dismissed her case in the absence of evidence as to the paternity of the child.

After the case was dismissed, Ada walked to Mrs Matthews place (the mother of the young man Matthews) and left the child on the doorstep.

Later in the day, Mrs Matthews laid a charge against Ada of abandoning her infant. And once again Ada was before the court. The reason Ada gave as to why she left the child on the doorstep was that Mrs Matthews was the child's grandmother (according to Ada's solicitor) and had agreed to pay 5 shillings per week for the child's support. In the witness box Mrs Matthews explained that she agreed to pay the money so as to save her family the disgrace if the case went to court. The Bench held that there was no abandonment of the child and the defendant, Ada Hocking, was discharged.

Ada Hocking was not going to give up on seeking maintenance for her child and establishing paternity in the eye of the court.

She once again brought proceedings against young Joseph Matthews for maintenance in February 1895. On opening the court proceedings, Ada deposed 'I am an unmarried woman. In January 1894 I left Chiltern and entered the services of Mr E Kirk, publican, Bullwah. The defendant and I kept company and he used to come and see me at the hotel. On 6th January I was reading a paper in the kitchen when the defendant came in and assaulted me. He pulled me about and had forcible connection with me. He said he would marry me in two months.'

And so the case went on with much made of whether Ada was later on given ten pounds and a letter by young Joseph Matthews; who witnessed the letter being received by Ada in the mail; what happened to the letter. The postmistress, publican and his staff were cross examined, and even the child was viewed to see if there was any resemblance to the supposed father. Ada admitted she had given birth to another child and had denied this at the previous hearing. That child did not live with her and she did not know where it was, only that she knew it was still alive.

The case dragged on all day until the Bench made a decision that Joseph Matthews should pay five shillings per week to the clerk of court Tallangatta and to find within three days twenty five pounds surety for compliance with such order in default that he be imprisoned until he finds such surety.

But what then happened to the child at the centre of this case? That child was **George Sydney Hocking** born in 1894 in Chiltern and his birth was registered in Wangaratta. His father was recorded as 'unknown' and his mother as Ada Hocking.

That little boy died in Tallangatta on 15 May 1897 at the age of two from scalds and shock which he suffered for three days. Ada Hocking was recorded as the mother but no mention was made of a father. The informant on the registration certificate was William Rapsay 'friend' and the child was buried the next day in the Tallangatta Cemetery.

There may be more about the death of at least four other young children of an Ada Hocking, but that would be another story.

Sources: Newspaper 'Wodonga and Towong Sentinel' available on TROVE. DIGGER BDM. Death Certificate of George Sydney Hocking.

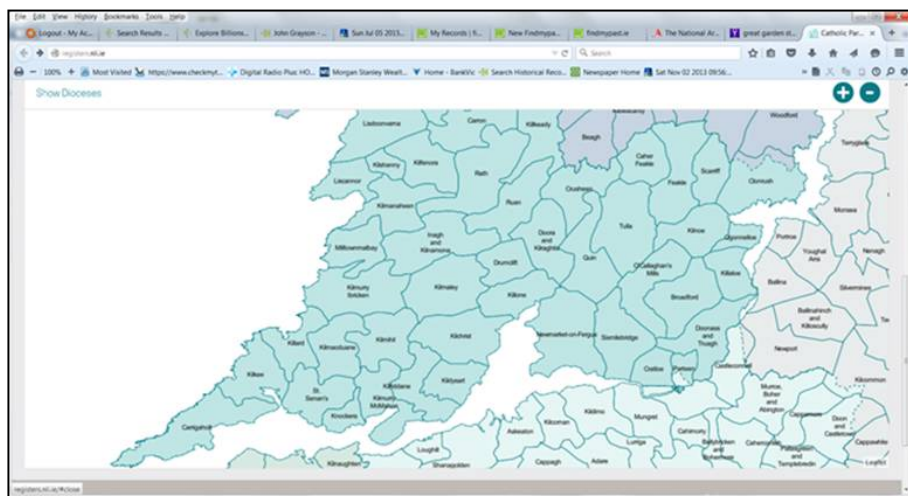
IRISH INTERNET SITE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH:

By Georgina Cusack:

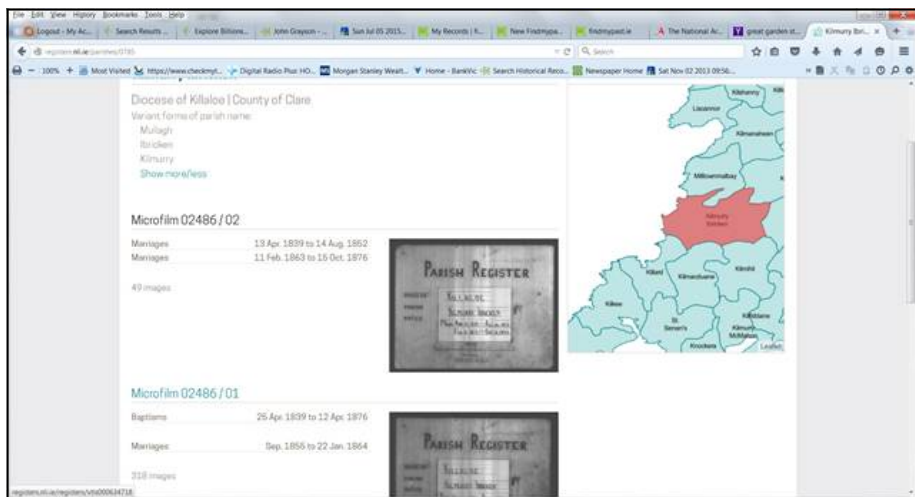
Just advising that the National Library of Ireland have now made their whole series of Catholic Parishes Baptisms and Marriages available to search online at the link below. I have also done screen shots to explain a couple of hints to make it easier to search.

<http://registers.nli.ie/>

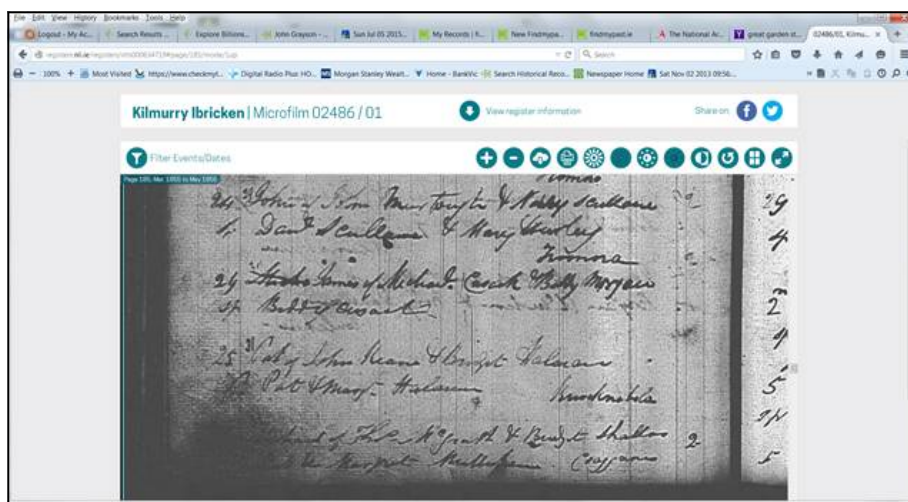
Click on the map in the approximate area that you wish to search. As you click and zoom in the Parish starts to appear and you then enter the parish name in the Parish search above the steam train.



Click on the search button and it will take you to the films available.



Scroll through and select the film you wish to search.



If you know the approximate dates you wish to search, you can use the filters to get to the page faster. However, an automatic date and page number appears at the top left corner of each page which is excellent to aid in knowing where you are at any time. Best of luck with your searching.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

On the fileserver in the 'V' drive then 'Cemeteries' – Publication 'In Memoriam' by the Victorian Department of Health, 2014. Provides information on all cemeteries in Victoria.

Books

'A Few of The Few. Australians and the Battle of Britain', Dennis Newton, publisher: The Australian War Memorial, 1990.

'A Tale of Two Schools. Boggy Creek 1885-1897 and Willow Bank 1942-1951', Author and Publisher: David Evans of Myrrhee.

'Australian Aviators', Jane Barnaby, Publisher: Cassell Australia, 1973.

'Centenary. Bulloo Shire-Thargomindah 1880-1980' Published by Bulloo Shire Council Queensland. 1980.

'Lachlan Landmarks. Bushranger Sites of Mid NSW', Author and publisher: Kevin J Passey, 1986.

'Letters From The Front. Part 1 Gallipoli', compiled by Ian Charlton, 2015

'Mudbricks, Medicine & Memories. History of the Thargomindah Hospital 1888-1976', Elizabeth Pyke, Publisher: The Bulloo Shire Council, Queensland.

'Outback Women', Melissa McCord, Publisher: Doubleday Australia NSW, 1986.

'Saunders Family', compiled and published by Brenda Cooke for family reunion at Tungamah.

'The Genealogist's Internet. The Bestselling Guide', 4th edition, Peter Christian, Publisher: The National Archives', 2009.

'The Saint Bernard Story' (High Plains of NE Victoria). Author, publisher and year unknown.

'The Treasures of Gapsted' by Arthur L Clarke. Self published.

'Through Their Eyes. A Glimpse Into The Lives of Women From Benalla & District', Authors and Publishers: Maree Hanlon and Pam Herbert, 2013.

'Whorouly Remembers. ANZAC Day 100 years on Saturday 25th April 2015', Authors: the senior students of Whorouly Primary School, Publisher: Whorouly Memorial Park Committee, 2015.



From Twisted Twiggs

WANGARATTA THREADS

Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No.:</u>	<u>for publication</u>
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19 February 2016	105	24 February 2016

Disclaimer: All information contained in this edition is published in good faith with every effort made to validate fact, circumstance and source. *Ed.*

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WANGARATTA THREADS

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Australia

What is happening at WFHS

Check it out..... www.wfhs.org.au