

WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 93 February, 2013



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
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.
(above Visitor Information
Centre).

POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 683
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676
Australia.

email:

info@wfhs.org.au

Web Address:

www.wfhs.org.au



COMING EVENTS:

At our Society: -

Thursday 1st March 2013 - Membership renewals due

Membership renewal forms have been mailed to all members. Remember you can pay via Internet Banking Transfer to the WFHS bank account if you wish.

Friday 8th March 2013 - Close of Nominations

for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) Committee positions.

Members, please consider becoming a committee member to help in the running of the Society. If you are interested, a nominator and seconder can be arranged for you - just contact the Secretary.

Saturday 23 March 2013 - Annual General Meeting

2.00pm in the Jean Rankins Research Library.

Our guest speaker will be Glenn Bouchier of Mason Park Funerals of Wangaratta who will give a talk about his industry.

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

'Claim the Day' Sunday 24 March 2013 at the Vine Hotel

To share memories of life & times at *North Wangaratta*. 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Contact Margaret Pullen on 5721 2605.

Whitefield Cemetery Sunday 7 April 2013, 11.30am

Official ceremony to recognise the creation of a memorial to the Chinese Pioneers of the King Valley from 1896-1926. RSVP Helen O'Donoghue 03 5729 3537 email helen.odonoghue@hotmail.com.

Wangaratta Heritage Festival - 18th April to 19th May 2013

Various Arts, Cultural and Heritage events will be held. In addition to our Society's normal open days, we will be open each Saturday from 11.00am to 3.00pm during this period. Free research for visitors during these open days. We will also be conducting internet sessions on family history sites at the Wangaratta library.

Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) conference Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 May 2013

The 8th Victorian State Family History Conference, *Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfields Experience*, will be held at the Australian Catholic University (Aquinas Campus), 1200 Mair Street, Ballarat, Victoria.

See website <http://vipsinc.wordpress.com/conferences/>.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

- * Trevor Sheridan.



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.



MEMBERSHIP:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OTHERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553
Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229
Treasurer: Val McPherson 03 5752 1222
Secretary: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- Dianne Cavedon
- Beverley Greskie
- Christine Heard
- Elaine Jones
- Penelope Redpath

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and Kenny Pty Ltd

Public Officer: Cheryl Price

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

Council Grants – Received a grant for new widescreen monitors to assist in project work.

Local History Grants 2012/2013 – An application has been submitted to support new digitising works.

Library - Continuing the review of books and supplementary files in the Research Library.

Research – A steady flow of research requests through visitors to our Library and via the Website.

Projects -

Wangaratta Cemetery Index and Images CD2 – Database check against Registers and CD1 ~ 70% complete. In house testing & Memorial Imaging scheduled for 2013.

Eldorado Cemetery Database and Register Images completed. Memorial Images and Site Map currently being checked.

Chiltern/Springhurst/Rutherglen Cemeteries CD –Currently contains about 7,000 names. Editing & matching register images in progress.

New digitising works about to commence Tarrawingee Cemetery Registers & Memorials, Whitefield Cemetery Registers.

School records for Cornishtown, Springhurst, Boralma –Completed, awaiting digitisation & distribution.

IRISH FAMINE ORPHANS WHO CAME TO NORTH EAST VICTORIA:



This cartoon, appearing July 15, 1848 in *Punch*, appears to be anonymous. It portrays a poor family in Ireland and a prosperous family living abroad. Notice the strained inclusion of a shovel among the prosperous family, a symbol of labour. The entire caption reads "Here and There; or, Emigration a Remedy."



One solution to the problem of overcrowding was to send some of the girls overseas. However, in order to prevent people from entering the workhouse for the sole purpose of obtaining assisted migration, the offer was limited to those who had previously been resident in the workhouse for at least one year. Young female orphans (and 'young' was a very elastic term when applied to single females) were considered the most suitable candidates for emigration to Australia. They would help redress the gender imbalance and, in the long term, normalise the social composition of the populace. In the short term, they would fulfil the need for domestic servants, although that did not always work out as planned.

The Australian Monument to the Great Irish Famine (1845-1848) <http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/en/>, located at the Hyde Park Barracks, on Macquarie Street, Sydney, contains a database of those young girls who came to Australia. A few of those girls spent their lives in the local community of North East Victoria and a brief story about two of them is shown here.

Mary TOYE of Donegal, Ireland

Mary arrived in Melbourne in February 1850 on the ship *Derwent*. She was 16 years old and was born in Sacker (Sockar) Donegal and came from the workhouse in Donegal Letterkenny. On her arrival she got a job working for Thomas Robinson of Lonsdale St Melbourne as an apprentice for £8 for 12 months. She could neither read nor write and her religion was Roman Catholic.

Mary married John CORMICK at St James Church of England in Melbourne on 3 August 1853, and one of the witnesses to her marriage was Bidy Hamilton who also arrived on the *Derwent*. Mary and John soon followed many others to the goldfields of Victoria where their following children were born. Surnames have different spellings which may indicate that neither parent could read or write: -

According to the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, during and for some time after the famine years, Irish workhouses were severely over-crowded. In 1849, 250,000 people were being accommodated: by June 1850, there were 264,048. Although the death rate in these institutions was high - 283,765 died in the years 1841 to 1851 (of whom 138,576 were of children under the age of fifteen) - so many destitute people clamoured to be admitted that there was rarely room to spare. One of the biggest problems facing the guardians was how to cope with 'the permanent dead-weight' - a phrase applied to those young people who were likely to remain in the workhouse for a long time.

Normally designated orphans, many still had one, and sometimes both, parents still alive, but once they entered the workhouse they were regarded as the wards of the Poor Law guardians, to be disposed of as the guardians saw fit.

- * **Elizabeth Cormick** born 1854 in Avoca (mother shown as Mary Toy).
- * **John Cornick** born 18157 in Beechworth (mother shown as Mary Toy).
- * **Rebecca Cornock** born in 1860 in Indi (mother shown as Mary Toye). Died in 1888, age 27, Chiltern. Married name Parker.
- * **Mary Cornock** born 1857. Married John Rogers of Chiltern.
- * **William Cornock** born 1870.

Mary's husband John died in 1862. She may have had another child as there is a birth record for Isabella Cornick born in 1878 in Eldorado (mother Mary Cornick, father unknown) but this child is not mentioned on Mary's death certificate.

Mary married again in 1881 when she would have been 47. Her husband was Michele Cashga from Malta. He died in 1888 at the Beechworth Benevolent Asylum when he was 88 years old. Why Mary married an 80 year old man is a mystery but it may have been for financial security and/or Mary may have been his housekeeper at the time. There weren't any children from the marriage.

Mary Cashga died in 1902 in Chiltern and is buried in the Chiltern New Cemetery, Section H, R.C. Plot 43 Her death certificate (Mary Casgha) states she was 72 (but she may have been 68). Her occupation was described as Domestic Servant, her father was recorded as John Toye and mother unknown. In her will she left everything to her daughter Mary Rogers of Chiltern and her son John Cornock of Rutherglen - to be shared alike. The proceeds were real estate to the value of £100.

Catherine FORAN of Waterford Town, Ireland

Catherine arrived in Melbourne in 1849 on the ship *New Liverpool*. She was 15 years old and her parents were listed as John Foran and Mary Bergin. Her religion was Roman Catholic. Some time after her arrival she took the ship *Raven* to Portland Victoria where she was employed by James Hill at Belfast (Port Fairy) at £8 per 12 months.

Catherine married Robert Collins on 15 October 1852 when she would have been about 18 years old. They had one child—Catherine Elizabeth Collins born 25 December 1854 in Warrnambool, Vic. But Robert died soon after in 1855.

Catherine later married Richard Parsonage Jepson in 1855 and they had five children whilst moving around N E Victoria:

- * **Henry Jepson** born 1860 Yackandandah, Vic. He died in Brighton, Vic in 1931 at the age of 71.
- * **Richard Foran/Henry Jepson** born 1862 Yackandandah, Vic.
- * **Charles Jepson**. Can't find a birth record but his marriage record to Mary Ann Mahon in 1889 says he was born in Bright, Vic. He died in Echuca, Vic in 1926 age 63.
- * **Emily Jepson**, born 1867, Albury NSW. She died in Brunswick, Vic in 1955, age 88.
- * **Louisa Jepson**, born 1870, Albury NSW. Died in 1897 and is buried at Greta in the same grave as her half sister Catherine Elizabeth.

Catherine Elizabeth Collins, the daughter of the first marriage, married James Tanner of Wangaratta in 1874 and a long line of their descendants lived and worked in the district for many generations and continue to do so. Some of the family names of their descendants are TANNER, BLADES and STURROCK.

Catherine Jepson nee Foran died on 22 June 1910 at the age of 61, and is buried in the Benalla Cemetery, Vic.

Sources: Public Records Office of Northern Island; Vic BDM, Public Records Office of Victoria, Vassar College Ploughkeepsie, USA; records of the Australian Monument to the Great Irish Famine; and *The Blades Family* family research undertaken by Bill & Susan Middleton.

IN MEMORIUM:

Barbara Burns was a former member of our Society and has recently passed away. Barbara used to cook and provide produce for the street stalls we ran in the past, and her husband Allan used to repair our computers.



NEW LIBRARY BOOKS:

Ellen: A Woman of Spirit by Noelene Allen, published by Network Creative Services P/L, 2012.

A very readable, well researched and moving account of the life, family, times, tribulations and spirit of Ellen Kelly, mother of Edward (Ned) Kelly.

Mountain Muster by Ian Stapleton, 2012.

Ian Stapleton's sixth and final book in a series on the Characters, Pioneers and Pioneering women in the Victorian High Country.

Where Her Strengths Blossom: A Story of Anastasia (Anna) McPartland, author and publisher John Martin McPartland, 2012.



EQUIPMENT FOR 'SALE' TO MEMBERS:

Following the arrival of our new office chairs, a tidy up of a cluttered corner was made and unwanted equipment removed which are now available for members to 'buy' for a gold coin donation. The equipment is listed below and is stored offsite. If you are interested, please ring Cheryl on 03 5721 5906:

- 2 overhead projector screens and 1 stand
- 1 Lexmark scanner
- 1 monitor stand
- 1 white board and 1 cork board.



CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE:

Val Brennan has updated our website with news of meetings; update of projects; and copies of some past editions of *Threads*.

NEWLY OPENED RECORDS AT THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA (PROV):

Hundreds of records relating to Victoria's history, including family history, have been made accessible from 1 January 2013 as part of the Public Records Office Victoria's annual opening of official records.

75 year old records including Criminal Trial Briefs, Melbourne Divorce Case Files, Central Registers of Male Prisoners, registers of patients from a number of hospitals and asylums have all become available for public access.

A range of court records from 1913, 99 years from when they were created, will provide researchers with new found knowledge on Victoria's court systems in the early 20th century. These Court records include Melbourne Children's Court, Ballarat Courts, Geelong Courts and several Melbourne metropolitan courts including St Kilda and Northcote. The full list is available on the PROV website http://prov.vic.gov.au/wp-content/files_mf/2013recordopenings.pdf



DRY AND WET WEATHER:

Its been so hot and dry in the district for such a long time that this photo taken in the 1930's of flooded Wangaratta CBD (corner of Reid and Murphy St) is almost fanciful:

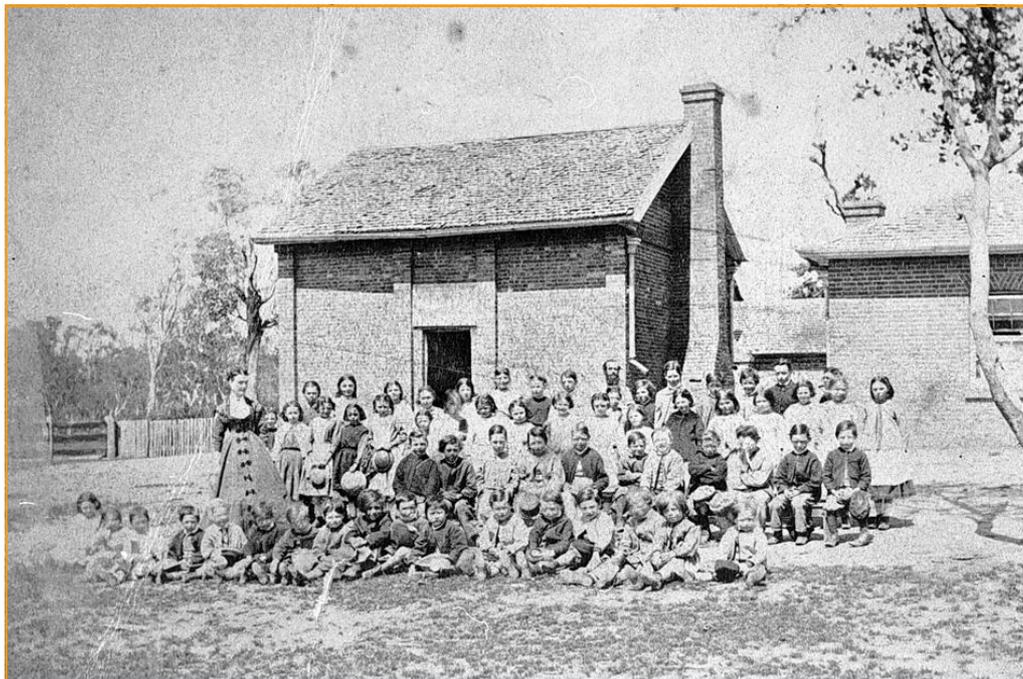


Acknowledgement: The Biggest Family Album of Australia, Museum Victoria—acquired from Rita Morrison 1988.



OLD SCHOOL DAYS IN WANGARATTA:

Now that the new school year has started, it's a good time to reflect on what happened amongst students and staff in the early years at State schools. Information has been gleaned from the many good publication on Wangaratta schools and some snippets have been added to flavour the story.



The building above is claimed to be part of the first original 'state' school at Wangaratta and was opened on 1 September 1862, or was it one of the two new class rooms added at that time? Mr Edward Picken Date, head teacher, and Miss Hastings are show in the photo with their pupils. Photo Acknowledgement: The Biggest Family Album of Australia, Museum Victoria—acquired from Margaret Pullen 1988.



The picture above is purported to be the Wangaratta State School in 1865. Mr Edward Picken Date was the head teacher. The school was demolished in 1877 and the new school, no. 643, was built in its place in Chisholm St. Photo Acknowledgement: The Biggest Family Album of Australia, Museum Victoria—acquired from Margaret Pullen 1988.

OLD SCHOOL DAYS IN WANGARATTA cont:

Although a picture of the original 1848 school is not available, D M Whittaker in his publication *Wangaratta 1824-1838-1863* lists the 16 pioneer students who attended Mr Bendall's slab structure school in 1848 at the Ovens Crossing. They were Ann & Joseph Capsticks, Sarah & Elizabeth Clark, Eliza & Charlotte Grimshaw, Elvira, Cordelia & Edgar Larkings, Sarah & James Orr, George & Rueben Vincent, Thomas & George Worcester, and Eliza Wye. The school closed after Mr Bendall drowned when attempting to cross the Ovens. Other schools followed but were short lived until the school pictured on the previous page was built.

The 'new' school



The new Chisholm St School, no.643, above was built in Wangaratta in 1877 to accommodate 422 pupils. It's still a primary school today. Picture acknowledgement: Picture Victoria.

The following snippets of information are taken from the publication *A History of the State Primary School No. 643 Chisholm Street Wangaratta 1850-2000*:

- * Miss Fairhall commenced duty at the school in July 1889 as First Assistant. A complaint was made to the Education Department claiming she was caning girls as well as boys. In 1891 the headmaster was transferred to Prahran and left Miss Fairhall in charge, however parents and the Borough Council disputed this decision expressing concern that the school was being run by Miss Fairhall and five pupil students (four of them female). Months later a new headmaster was appointed.
- * Sgt Steele spent many an hour trying to catch some of the Chisholm Street pupils who raided the Chinese gardens over the King Bridge. He was often called to the school to intervene between irate market gardeners and daring would-be thieves. In the late 1870s the two children of Sgt Steel, who was involved in the hunt for the Kelly gang, were a popular source of information to their fellow students.
- * An application for a rifle rack to hold 30 rifles and a rail for 30 hooks for the belts at a cost of £2 was sent to the Department in 1892.



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Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No.:</u>	<u>for publication</u>
19 May 2013	94	24 May 2013
19 August 2013	95	24 August 2013
19 November 2013	96	24 November 2013

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

Return Address:

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P.O. Box 683

Wangaratta, Vic, 3676

Australia

What is happening at WFHS

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