

WANGARATTA THREADS
The Quarterly Newsletter of the
WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A002724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 96 November, 2013



OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

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

LOCATION:

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COMING EVENTS:

Sunday 1 December 2013

The Myrtleford Cemetery Trust, Chinese Victoria Memorial Foundation and SeeYup Society of Melbourne invites the members of Wangaratta Family History Society to attend the Dedication of the Chinese Memorial at the Myrtleford Pioneer Cemetery on Sunday 1st December, 2013 at 12.00 noon, and afterwards at the Uniting Church Hall, Albert Street, Myrtleford for a light luncheon. RSVP John Taylor 5752 1963 or Judy Whitmore 5751 1458.

**Our Society's Christmas get-together on
Saturday 7 December 2013, 2pm to 4pm**

Afternoon tea & short Members Meeting at 'The Vue' on the banks of the Ovens River (opposite the Sydney Hotel), Wangaratta. RSVP Dianne Cavedon on 5722 2607, email dcavedon@bigpond.net.au, or add your name to the list in our Library by Friday 29 November.



Closed over the Christmas New Year period

From Friday 13 December 2013, re-opening Tuesday 21 January 2014.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22 March 2013 at 2.00pm.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- ☼ Max Carmichael
- ☼ Bert Dyer (returning member)
- ☼ Lesley Stielow.



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: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary: position vacant

Other committee members:

- Val McPherson
- Elaine Jones
- Paddy Milne

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and
Kenny Pty Ltd

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.

*There are 3 committee positions unfilled.
If you would like to join please contact a
committee member.
You will be most welcome.*



PROJECTS UPDATE:

Wangaratta Cemetery / Burial Records
update & upgrade to searchable database.
Completion ~ Feb 2014.

Wangaratta Cemetery – photography of
Memorials to commence 2014 and link to
database above.

Eldorado Burial Records, searchable database
update & new map link.
Completion Dec 2013.

Tarrawingee Burial Records, imaged,
indexed and Memorials photographed ready
for database development.

Whitefield Burial Records (*Including Rural and
Lone Graves*) imaged, indexed. Headstones
yet to be photographed, in progress.

Greta Burial Records, imaged and
currently being indexed for progression to
database.

Springhurst Burial Register & Headstone
images being linked to index for database
development.

Chiltern Burial Register and Records images to
be linked to Index. Photography of Memorials
yet to commence.



MISSING BIRTH RECORDS:

THE BENDIGO ADVERTISER,

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1867.

The following 1867 newspaper article describes some of the mishaps which have happened in the past with official records of Victorian births, deaths and marriages.

A LOOSE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION.—Yesterday we were shown a few leaves, evidently a portion of a book, which purported to be the official registration of births for the district of Yackandandah for the year 1858. The leaves had been picked up in the street. If the other portions of the book have been equally well preserved, the legal records of births in that portion of the colony must be very incomplete. Seeing that there is a probability that at some future time the legal proof of the registration of a birth may be of great importance, such official neglect is deserving of censure.

According to the Victorian Department of Planning & Community Development, gold was first discovered in Yackandandah in 1852 and gold mining continued until it wound down in 1918, so the population of the area would have been quite substantial at various times during this period.

As a result of the above newspaper article, Digger records of Victorian births, deaths and marriages (see note 1) which were registered in Yackandandah for the years 1852 to 1862 were checked and it was found that from 1852 to 1858 inclusive, there were only 10 records of births. The following years show 78 births registered in 1859; 110 in 1860, 93 in 1861, and 122 in 1862. There are no death records during this ten year period so deaths were most likely registered in Beechworth. Records of marriages registered in Yackandandah only commence in 1870 so marriages may similarly have been registered in Beechworth.

When birth, death and marriage records are lost due to accidents, neglect or even conflict, it causes many a headache for family history researchers.

(Note 1: Civil registration of Victorian BDMs commenced in July 1853).



CENSUS OF YEARS PAST:

It was the first day of census, and all through the land each pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.

He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride, his book and some quills were tucked close by his side.

A long winding ride down a road barely there, toward the smell of fresh bread wafting up through the air.

The woman was tired with lines on her face and wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.

She gave him some water as they sat at the table, and she answered his questions ... the best she was able.

He asked her of children. Yes, she had quite a few - the oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red; his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.

She noted each person who lived there with pride, and she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.

He noted the sex and the age ... the marks from the quill soon filled up the page.

At the number of children, she nodded her head and saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.

The places of birth she "never forgot" - was it Beechworth? or Stringy Bark? or Collingwood ... or not?

They came from Scotland, of that she was clear, but she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such, they could read some ... and write some ... though really not much.

When the questions were answered his job there was done, so he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.

Now picture a time warp ... its now you and me as we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census and scroll down so slow as we search for that entry from long, long ago.

Could they only imagine on that long ago day that the entries they made would affect us this way?

If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel and the searching that makes them so increasingly real.

We can hear if we listen the words they impart through their blood in our veins and their voices in our hearts.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

'Born in the English Colony of NSW: 1811-1820'. Compiled, edited and published by Dr Craig James Spree, 2013. (Early records of NSW covering 1801-1810 is on order).

'Chinese Deaths and Burials in Harrierville, and Some Lonely Graves'. Author: Diann Talbot, 2012.

'From Drovers to Daisy-Pickers: Colourful Characters of the Bogongs'. Author: Ian Stapleton, 2nd edition, 2013.

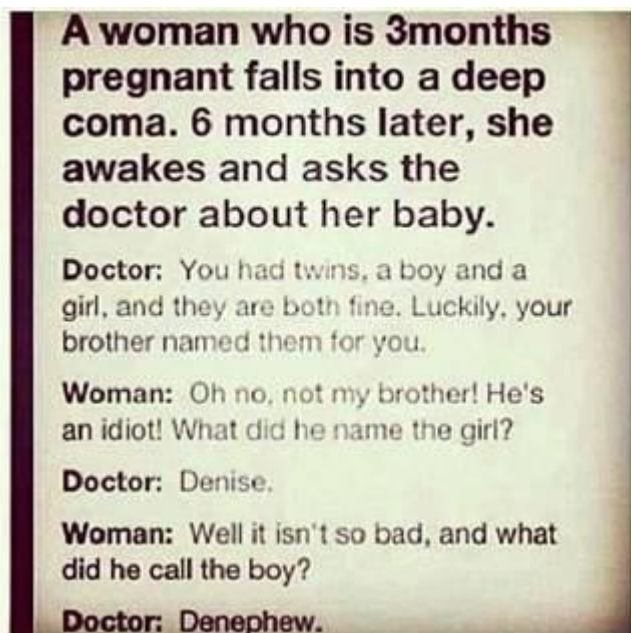
'Horsemen of the Outback: Their Spurs and Their Spurmakers'. Author: Don J Corcoran, 2nd edition, 2013.

'Unsung Heroes: Stories From the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre'. Selected and edited by Michael Winkler, 2013.

'Weatherbeaten Wisdom: Colourful Characters of the Victorian High Country'. Author: Ian Stapleton, 2nd edition, 2013.

SEEKING A BOOK:

We are still looking to locate and purchase 'Born in the English Colony of NSW: 1788-1800'. Compiled, edited and published by Dr Craig James Spree - which is out of print. If you know where to find a copy, please let us know on info@wfhs.org.au or contact a Committee member.



CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1918:

By Ray McKenzie

From 2014, the world will be commemorating the 100 years since millions of soldiers lived, died, and fought in the First World War. Every Australian was affected by the First World War either directly or indirectly and it is for this reason the year 2014 will be the start of a national commemoration on the 100th anniversary of this world event.

Our Society will be taking part in the commemoration and would like to publish members' stories of their families experiences at home or at war in *Threads* during 2014.

If you would like to contribute a family story, please let me or a committee member or the editor know any time over the next 12 months.



CORRECTION: The article titled 'My Grandfather, Soren (John) Christesen' in the last edition of 'Threads' should read 'My Great Grandfather, Soren (John) Christensen'. Similarly within the body of the article.



THE NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY 'Born in the English Colony of NSW: 1811-1820', is an excellent source for information.

For example, the book gives the following details on the birth of Joseph WARBY (sibling of Benjamin Warby who settled in Taminick on 23,000 acres and of whom the nearby Warby Ranges are named):

b. 7/11/1818; Baptised 6/5/1821; Christian name: Joseph; Father's Family Name: WARBY; Father's Christian Name: John; Mother's Family Name: BENTLEY; Mother's Christian name: Sarah; Marital Status: Free-by-Servitude married to Free-by-Servitude; Death date: 29/3/1899.

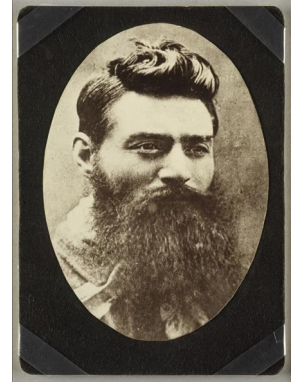
The above items underlined are the only ones available in the free NSWbdm website. The new book provides much more detail so it's well worth checking it out. And once we receive the earlier books covering the period 1788-1810 they will all be a great research resource.

NED KELLY SYMPATHISERS IN MY FAMILY: ORAL HISTORY TOLD BY RAY MCKENZIE

Reproduced by Cheryl Price

My family have lived in North East Victoria for over 160 years, farming in Meadow Creek, Hurdle Creek, Moyhu, Edi, King Valley and Laceby. During the time when the Kelly gang roamed in NE Victoria in the late 1800s, my family knew the Kellys as they had grown-up with them and provided hospitality and information to them either happily or perhaps in trepidation – it all depended. Some family members were Kelly sympathisers and were arrested and jailed for three months without ever being charged.

For those who are not familiar with the local term 'the Kellys', they were a gang of young men led by Ned KELLY whose family lived on the Eleven Mile Creek at Greta, NE Victoria. The Kelly gang (Ned KELLY and his brother Dan, Joe BYRNE, and Ned's friend Steve HART) roamed Victoria and part of NSW on horseback, working, receiving and selling stolen horses and cattle, and robbing banks. In October 1878 a fight broke out between the Kelly gang and four police at Stringy Bark Creek in the Wombat Ranges. Three constables - LONIGAN, SCANLAN and KENNEDY were shot dead and the remaining constable, McINTYRE, managed to escape. The Kelly gang were then declared killers and outlaws and a reward was offered for their capture alive or dead. In June 1880 the Kelly gang was overwhelmed by police at the Siege of Glenrowan. Dan KELLY, Joe BYRNE and Steve HART died at the Glenrowan siege but Ned KELLY was captured and subsequently tried and hanged in Melbourne in November 1880.



A studio portrait of Ned Kelly taken in jail the day before he was hanged

My grandfather, Frederick Porter, told me a few family stories about the Kellys and I would like to share them with you and also put them in the context of some of the police statements and reports of that time.

Pentridge prisoner Michael WOODYARD informed Benalla detectives in November 1878 that he 'knew the Kellys who had an uncle known as 'Blind Kelly' living in Yass'. He claimed he 'heard the Kellys say they would never be taken alive but if they did muck over the traps they would make for the Queensland Country.'

'Blind Kelly' is Jack KELLY who had a sister Isabella KELLY who married Patrick HART in 1844. They had four children, Mary (b.1844), Isabella (b.1845), John (b.1846) and Patrick (b.1847). Patrick died in infancy in 1847, the same year Patrick senior died. Isabella HART then married Edmund BOURKE in 1852 and came to live at 'Daisy Park' at Edi Upper, NE Victoria with her children, including her son John HART.

The police then interviewed Michael Woodyard in Pentridge Prison in November 1878 and took his statement. In the statement Woodyard says his 'proper name is Albert LAXON' ... and he has 'known the Kellys for about eight years and was living with them at the Eleven Mile Creek between Benalla and Greta for about two years until the time he got into 'this trouble''. He claimed that there were others involved with the Kellys and these were BURNS, SHERIFF (Sherritt), Jack LLOYD and perhaps one of the STRICKLANDS, and 'have heard them say they would take to the bush with the Kellys'. Woodyard stated that the 'Stricklands are living between Moyhu and the Upper King River. Stricklands mother is married again to a man called WOODS (WOOD). She is however still called STRICKLAND.'

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NED KELLY SYMPATHISERS IN MY FAMILY: ORAL HISTORY TOLD BY RAY MCKENZIE cont

Albert LAXON (alias Michael Woodyard) was one of the children of Maria (Mary) LAXON (nee Woodyard), and his father is recorded as Isaac Miller. He claimed in his statement to the police that he didn't know his parents and was raised by his Woodyard grandparents.

My Great Grandmother was Mary Ann McINNES (McGUINNES) and my Great Grandfather was John Henry WOOD (alias STRICKLAND, STRICKLING, BEAUMONT) who was a Kelly sympathiser, and the aliases were used to try and confuse the police and others. Even his children were baptised with different surnames depending on the alias being used at that time. And some of the children also adopted aliases:

- William Alexander WOOD – aliases Boxer STRICKLAND and William STRICKLAND (Kelly sympathiser and arrested for that crime).
- Phoebe STRICKLAND (known as WOOD). Married William ROBINSON from Whitfield, Victoria who lived six miles from the Kellys and grew up with them. They then lived at Oxley.
- Eliza WOOD. Married Frederick PORTER. These are my grandparents.
- Henry Duncan STRICKLING – alias Richard STRICKLAND (Kelly sympathiser and arrested for that crime).

My Great Great Aunt, Christina McINNES (McGuinnes), elder sister of Mary Ann WOOD (nee McINNES, also known as STRICKLAND), married Robert HART. Their daughter Mary Ann HART married John HART (son of Patrick and Isabella HART (nee Kelly)).

I was also told the above John HART was arrested as a Kelly sympathiser, and the police thought they had Steve HART. But one of the detectives recognised him and said he was John HART, stepson of Edward BOURKE of 'Daisy Park'. The detective put £2 in John's pocket and told him to go home and not tell anyone he was picked up by the police. The reason for this may have been because Edward BOURKE was a landholder of 700-800 acres and not a man to be crossed.

My Grandfather, Frederick PORTER, told me John HART (son of Robert Hart and Christina McInnes), William ROBINSON, Richard and William STRICKLAND, and Robert ELLIS all took off to NSW, and when the police went to Phoebe ROBINSON's house at Oxley she said 'they had all gone up to NSW shearing sheep'. That was a great joke amongst the family as not one of the boys could shear and they were nowhere near NSW but were in Victoria near Corryong.

When the police picked up the two STRICKLAND brothers, Isaac 'Wild' WRIGHT, a couple of LLOYDS and about 20 others, they were all locked up in Beechworth Prison, remanded every week, and held for three months without ever being charged as Kelly sympathisers. Several of these people were trying to run farms and small businesses.

Another story my Grandfather told me was - up in the hills at the back of 'Daisy Park', Richard STRICKLAND (his brother-in-law) had a hut which overlooked the valley down towards the Edi Post Office Hotel in Edi Upper, which was situated where Danny O'Donahue's dairy was opposite the Edi Upper hall. The Police paddocks were up the hill behind where the Edi Upper Hall is now situated. When the Kellys drank at the Edi Post Office Hotel, they would sit near the window which faced up the hill to Richard's hut, and if there was any police movement Richard would signal the Kellys using a kerosene tin flashing sunlight and they would finish their drinks and take off. There is now nothing left of Richard STRICKLAND's hut.

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NED KELLY SYMPATHISERS IN MY FAMILY: ORAL HISTORY TOLD BY RAY MCKENZIE

cont

In Dec 1878 a police report was made at Wallan Wallan police station (located near Kilmore, Victoria) that John HART and Robert ELLIS (alias WHITNELL) were attempting to sell suspected stolen horses at the public auction held at the hotel in Wallan. Robert ELLIS was arrested but a warrant for arrest wasn't issued for John HART as he claimed to be employed by Robert ELLIS and knew nothing about where the horses came from. (These two young men were cousins and John HART was my Grandmother's first cousin).

I hope you have found my Kelly stories to be of some interest and I suggest you have a read of Ned Kelly's 'Jerilderie Letter' which is most remarkable and of significant historical interest.

Notes:

- Police Statements and Reports came from the NSW Archives and the Public Records Office of Victoria.
- Jerilderie Letter. The State Library of Victoria describes this letter as follows: "Usually known as the 'Jerilderie letter'. Written by Joe Byrne at the dictation of Ned Kelly. Chronicles the careers of Ned Kelly and his gang from 1870 onwards. Includes a description of the shooting of three police officers at Stringybark Creek, Vic. in Oct. 1878. Cites cases of alleged police corruption and expresses pro-Irish and anti-English sentiments. Accompanied by a note, undated, on the letterhead of 'Wareena', Wangaratta, stating that 'This is the document given to me by Ned Kelly when the Bank at Jerilderie was stuck up in Feby. 1879'. The note was written by Edwin Richard Living who was a teller at the Bank of N.S.W. at the time of the robbery.' An image of the letter as well as a transcript can be viewed online at the State Library of Victoria <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>
- The book 'Ned Kelly's Last Days' by Alex C Castles, Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide, published in July 2005 by Allen & Unwin, is recommended by Ray McKenzie as an unbiased account of how the Judge, Attorney General and others made the law work for them. A very interesting read.



'THREADS' GOES WORLDWIDE:

Now that "Threads" is being published on our website, did you know that it can be accessed by others worldwide?

Recently a man from the UK emailed our Society to say that in an article published in a back issue of "Threads", he had found reference to one of his wife's missing ancestors and wished to correspond with the author. Val McPherson had written for "Threads", an article about her search for Hawthorn Stewart, a relative's husband, who disappeared from New Zealand early in the 1900's, ultimately to be found in Victoria Australia, with a new family, and having on the way, spent about ten years in England.

The email was forwarded to Val who was able to give the enquirer more information about Hawthorn Stewart as well as information about the four siblings who had also emigrated to New Zealand. She was also able to suggest to him, websites and other avenues of research in New Zealand.

This instance demonstrates the possible outcome of publishing your interesting or unusual research stories on the web where they can be viewed by others. An exchange of information with someone researching your family may provide what you need to bridge a gap.

THE STORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS ROBERT JOHN SUTER & EMILY IOLA BIRTWISTLE (Lela) OWEN, A CHELTENHAM COUPLE WHO WERE EVENTUALLY INTERRED IN LAND THEY ONCE FARMED:

By Georgina Cusack

My Paternal Grand-parents, **Robert John Suter & Emily Iola Birtwistle (Lela) Owen**, are buried in the New Cheltenham Cemetery in Cheltenham, Victoria in land that they once farmed. The story had been told to me by my uncle, **Robert William Thomas Suter**, known as **Roy**, and following his death in 1996, I found further references to this among his writings but not sufficient details to identify whether this was actually fact or fiction. My cousin and I therefore set out to clarify the details with the added incentive that the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. are currently in the process of writing the history of both the Old Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery and the New Cheltenham Cemetery and had requested that we write **Robert** and **Emily's** story to contribute to their book.

As a result, my cousin **Susan Walker** has become quite proficient at researching land titles at the Public Records Office, Victoria, as well as the titles office, and her research is invaluable in confirming the family story to be in fact correct. My contribution has focused on family history research of the **Suter** family.

Robert John Suter's parents were **Thomas George Suter snr** and **Rebecca Coburn**. **Thomas George Suter** was born to **Peter Suter** and **Ann Trout** at Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 28th November 1839. He was a grocer by occupation and travelled to Australia at age 18 years as an unassisted immigrant on the Countess of Elgin in February 1858. **Thomas** married **Rebecca Coburn** on 17th June 1875 at Rockbank station at the home of Rebecca's sister **Elizabeth Watson** and her husband **William Watson** who was then manager of Rockbank Station. At the time of his marriage **Thomas Suter** was a 35 year old miner from St Arnaud. **Rebecca Coburn** was born on 10th June 1850 at Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland to **John Coburn** and **Eliza Strain**. She travelled to Australia with her widowed mother and siblings as unassisted immigrants on the SS Great Britain arriving in Australia in October 1853.

Following their marriage, **Thomas George Suter** worked on roads construction at Donald in the Wimmera, then later as a forwarding agent before returning to mining at St Arnaud. He and **Rebecca** had five children: **Rebecca** born 18th April 1876, **Nellie** born 26th January 1878, **Thomas George** born 14th January 1882, **Robert John** born 29th October 1883 and **Harriet** born 26th September 1885. **Thomas George Suter snr** died at St Arnaud on 29th November 1886 at age 47 years. He was buried at the St Arnaud cemetery alongside their eldest daughter **Rebecca** who died at age 2 months. **Rebecca** had a further child, **Emma Bray Suter** who was born on the 7th January 1888.

Following **Thomas's** death, **Rebecca Coburn Suter** and the children moved to Melbourne in 1887 and lived at Camberwell Road Upper Hawthorn for a short time before purchasing a house at 7 Rose Street Hawthorn on 21st October 1887. **Rebecca** worked as a midwife in Melbourne but no details have been found as to when and where she trained, or if in fact whether she held any formal qualifications.

In 1905, **Rebecca** purchased a 5 room weatherboard house on 5 acres of land at the corner of Tent and Somerset Streets Cheltenham and four months later her eldest son, **Thomas George Suter jnr** who had served in the Boer War and was living permanently in South Africa, purchased an adjoining two acres of land. The reasons for the move to Cheltenham may have included her younger son **Robert's** desire to become a farmer as well as **Rebecca** wanting a healthier environment for her remaining children. Three years previously, **Rebecca's** 24 year old daughter, **Nellie**, had died of Phthisis at their Hawthorn home that was adjacent to dusty brick works. **Rebecca's** siblings and their spouses had also settled out of Melbourne, mainly in the Rockbank and Melton areas where they worked as boundary riders and stockmen on the **Clark** properties. Whatever her reasons, the Cheltenham land had previously been used for farming thus **Rebecca**, with her son **Robert John Suter**, commenced their dairy in about 1909. In April 1910, at the time of his marriage to **Emily Iola Birtwistle (Lela) Owen**, **Robert's** occupation was dairyman. They continued to run both properties as a dairy gaining experience with it. **Robert** and **Emily** had five children, **Robert William Thomas**, **Donald Harold Owen**, **Isabel Roberta St Margaret**, **Keith John Havelock** and **Lela Iola Suter**. Their children's birth records indicate that they moved from Cheltenham between Feb 1913 and Sep 1914.

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THE STORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS ROBERT JOHN SUTER & EMILY IOLA BIRTWISTLE (Lela) OWEN, cont:

It appears that **Rebecca** leased out the dairy following **Robert** and **Emily's** move. She relocated to her daughter **Harriett Edwards** and Harriett's husband **Joseph William Edwards's** home at their Havelock Icing Sugar and flour mill residence at 74 - 88 Mt Alexander Road, Flemington. **Rebecca** kept ownership of the Cheltenham farm until on 31st May 1917 it was transferred to her elder son **Thomas George Suter**. He disposed of **Rebecca's** 5 acres along with his own 2 acres on 23rd September 1927. Records indicate that the Crown took ownership of **Thomas George's** land on 14th July 1931 for the establishment of a new cemetery.

Rebecca died quite suddenly of Intestinal Obstruction and Peritonitis at age 70 on 15 October 1920 at Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds. She was buried in the Boroondara cemetery in Kew.

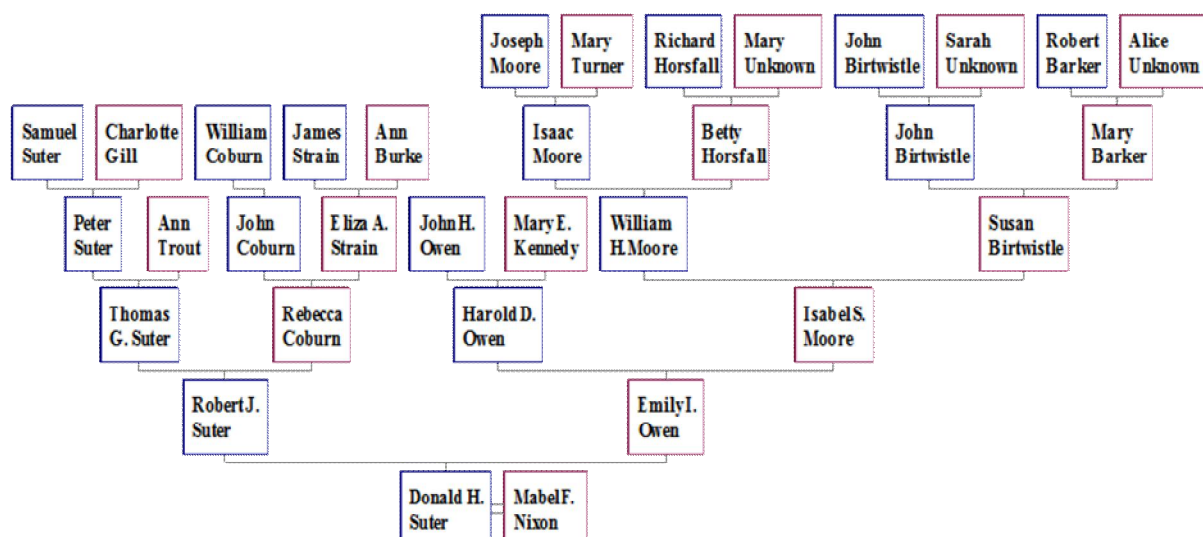
In the meantime, **Robert** and **Emily** moved to Cohuna in about 1913 to set up their own dairy farm. Following a disastrous dairy fire, they relocated to Lake Charm in 1918 where **Robert** branched out to growing crops. While there he purchased one of the newly developed H.V. McKay 8 foot harvesters and eventually used it not only on their own crops, but contract cropping as well. The farm at Lake Charm was neither large enough nor productive enough so the family relocated to Quambatook in about 1920 and stayed there for the next 19 years. **Robert** continued with cropping, as well as road and dam building and contract harvesting.

In 1939, the family decided on a change in direction and so purchased a bakery at Springvale. **Robert** showed great insight and was looking for a stable business which would guarantee a steady clientele. The bakery was in Springvale Road and consisted of a large two storey bakehouse with two "150 large loaf" ovens. It had a separate double fronted shop and accommodation as well as a further bakehouse and shop which **Robert** and his family subsequently opened as a cake shop and small goods business. **Robert** and **Emily** moved into their own home in St. James Avenue Springvale. By this time the family had seen that with the return of soldiers from the war there would be an inevitable building boom and timber would be required. They therefore purchased a second hand sawmilling plant and positioned it on land in Westall Road, Springvale. This business was still in operation at the time of **Robert's** death on 14th May 1952. He was buried in the Cheltenham Memorial Park in the Presbyterian section, "196" 5. **Emily** survived **Robert** for another 13 years and died on 1st September 1965. She is buried with **Robert** in land that they had in fact once farmed.

ADDIT: Two of the Robert and Emily's sons, **Robert William Thomas Suter** and **Donald Harold Owen Suter** relocated with their families to Wangaratta in 1959 and continued with the sawmilling tradition with the purchase of the South Wangaratta Sawmill.

History compiled by **Georgina Suter Cusack** with the assistance of **Susan Walker**, both direct descendants and Great Grand-daughters of **Thomas George Suter** and **Rebecca Coburn**. **Georgina** is a Grand-daughter of **Robert John Suter** and **Emily Iola Birtwistle Owen** and daughter of **Donald Harold Owen Suter**. His family tree is below.

Ancestors of Donald Harold Owen Suter



AN INTERESTING DAY IN SYDNEY:

By Val McPherson

If ever you have a spare day in Sydney I suggest a visit to Parramatta, one of the earliest settlements in the colony of New South Wales.

Our journey began at Circular Quay where we boarded the river cat ferry for a one and a half hour scenic trip up the Parramatta River, stopping at most of the river ports along the way to drop off or take on passengers. Upon arrival at Parramatta, a person was there at the terminal to hand out maps, give directions and to answer our questions.

We chose to do the 2.4km Harris Park Heritage Walk and to visit Elizabeth Farm, the home of Elizabeth Macarthur the wife of John Macarthur. It was quiet but we arrived just in time to join the conducted tour of the house.

The simple cottage was commenced in 1793 on a land grant of 100 acres. Over the next three decades the Macarthurs extended and refined their bungalow but since the 1830's it has remained mostly unchanged. Now in the care of the Historic Houses Trust Elizabeth Farm is a "hands-on" house museum where visitors can wander freely through the house and garden. With just enough furniture in each room to convey its function and character, the house is fully accessible – a museum without barriers.

The garden at Elizabeth Farm reflects two centuries of European tradition and includes some of the oldest exotic plants in Australia. The olive tree is believed to have been planted by the Macarthurs in 1805.

An adjacent Tea Room on the property served us a nice lunch before we commenced a further walk to the National Trust property, Experiment Farm Cottage

Experiment Farm Cottage is located on the site of the first land grant in Australia given in 1789 to former convict James Ruse after a successful experiment in self sufficiency to prove that the fledgling colony of NSW could feed itself. In 1793 James Ruse sold the land to John Harris (surgeon, magistrate, merchant and farmer) who built the cottage. The house is furnished with 1830's colonial furniture and a guided tour of the property is conducted by a National Trust volunteer.

Unfortunately time did not permit us to visit the third property in Harris Park. Hambleton Cottage built in 1824 by John and Elizabeth Macarthur as a second residence on their Elizabeth Farm estate, is in the control of the Parramatta & District Historical Society. The cottage allows visitors to experience domestic life in early 19th century Parramatta while viewing fine examples of Georgian architecture and detailing.

Parramatta wharf access is controlled by the tide and as it was low tide in the afternoon the first stage of our return journey was by bus to Rydalmere. There we boarded the ferry for another interesting trip to Circular Quay.

Another attractive feature of this trip is that as Seniors the journey to and from Parramatta was included in our Day Ticket costing \$2.50 for trains, buses and ferries.



Elizabeth Farm, Rosehill, NSW

HANDY RESEARCH SITES:

[Switching from PAF](#). How to get your PAF database into another application. Problems and Solutions. By Tamura Jones <http://www.tamurajones.net/SwitchingFromPAF.xhtml>

Digging up the **Old Melbourne Cemetery**. Latest news on this proposal shown here at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) <http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/digging-up-the-past-the-old-melbourne-cemetery>

List of Projects currently underway at the **Public Records Office of Victoria** <http://prov.vic.gov.au/community-programs/digitisation/projects-underway>

State Library of West Australia – The West Australia Post Office Directories 1893 1949. These directories provide information by locality, surname, Government service and by trade or profession. While its not possible to do a test search, finding listings by localities or surnames is easy using the contents pages. http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/guides/wa_history/post_office_directories

Connected Histories – British History Sources 1500-1900. This site is a major project partnership undertaken by many UK Universities and brings together 22 major digital resources for Britain 1500-1900. Search by names, places and dates. Many of the sites are free <http://www.connectedhistories.org/> For example, The Proceedings of the Old Bailey Online 1674-1913 can be searched for free <http://www.connectedhistories.org/resource.aspx?sr=ob>

The National Archives of Ireland genealogy website offers free access to searchable databases and images of the original records including census records 1901 and 1911. Tithe applotment books 1823-1837, soldiers' wills 1914-1917 and Calendars of wills and administrations 1858-1922. More will be added over the coming year including Nineteenth century census survivals, 1821-51; Valuation Office House and Field Books, 1848 – 60; and Census Search Forms for the 1841 and 1851 censuses <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>

Irish Genealogy – a free website by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht offers a 'one stop' search facility across multiple sites eg church records, census records, Australian transportation database 1791 1868 <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

Welsh newspapers online –Beta. A free online resource from the National Library of Wales currently offers searches, and access to, 420,000+ pages from over 40 newspaper titles 1804-1919. Collection still growing. http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=1514&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=5272

Chronicling America - Historic American Newspapers. This site, by the Library of Congress, offers free access to a collection of over 970 newspapers from 33 states published 1836-1922. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Papers Past contains more than three million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1945 and includes 83 publications from all regions of New Zealand <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>



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WANGARATTA THREADS

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