

# WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

## WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 91 August, 2012



### OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week  
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
11.00am to 3.00pm.

### LOCATION:

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
100-104 Murphy Street  
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.  
(above Visitor Information  
Centre)

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

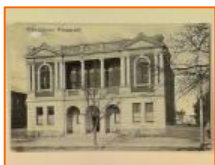
P.O. Box 683  
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676  
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### email:

[info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)

### Web Address:

[www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)



### COMING EVENTS:

#### SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2012

**MEMBERS MEETING at the RSL Club 1.30 to 3.30pm where Norm Fearn, Secretary RSL, will show us around their museum after a brief Members Meeting. Afternoon tea will be provided. Lift access so no stairs to climb. Location: 1 Victoria Parade off Reid St, Wangaratta.**

#### MONDAY 1ST TO THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER

SENIORS FESTIVAL. There will be lots of free events, also tickets go on sale on Monday 10 September at the council offices for specific events. Pick up a brochure at the tourist centre, Wangaratta library or council office, or see <http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/council/news/2012-Seniors-Festival.asp>

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12 & 13 OCTOBER 2012

DENILIQUIN NSW GENEALOGY MUSTER.

Two days of Speakers and Exhibitors. Cost \$10 per day. Speakers on NSW and Vic library archives and records and lots more. Brochures available in our library or see <http://members.bordernet.com.au/~denifhg/genie%20muster.html>

**TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2012** We will be closed for Melbourne Cup day.

#### 4th to 5th MAY 2013

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS. Conference in Ballarat. Full conference program & registration form will be available from 1 October 2012. More details to come. Ph 03 4308 0454.



### NED KELLY'S REMAINS:

Good news for the descendants of the Kelly family now that Ned Kelly's remains are to be returned home.



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## 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 and Anne  
Davidson.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- \* Heather Lane
- \* Peter Gay
- \* Jan Lindsay
- \* Russell Hill
- \* Carolyn Foote
- \* Adrian Williams
- \* Aileen Caldwell

## 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

The computer swallowed Grandma,  
Yes, honestly it's true!  
She pressed 'control and enter'  
And disappeared from view.  
It devoured her completely,  
The thought just made me squirm  
She must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.  
I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the internet  
But nothing did I find.  
In desperation I asked Mr Google  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found online.  
So, if inside your 'inbox',  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'copy scan' and 'paste' her,  
And send her back to me.

*Author: Valerie Waite*

*Contributed by Wilma Maidment*



## SAVING A HEADSTONE FROM THE OLD EAST WANGARATTA CEMETERY:

*By Dianne Lewis, the author of the following article which appeared in the Ancestor, Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Summer 1986/7, p. 32:*

'In late June 1985 I received a letter from Mrs. Iris Hutton of Armidale, N.S.W., asking if I could arrange the removal of a headstone from the old East Wangaratta Cemetery to the Wangaratta General Cemetery. The new Hume Freeway was going through the site and fears were held about vandalism. The headstone of John Dunkley and his wife, Ann McEwan, was one of two surviving stones at the cemetery, the other one was in the name of Matilda Lindsay nee Dunkley. This unusual request made me realize how little I knew of my ancestors, and since August I have been busy delving into their past.

The task at hand caused a great deal of planning, as I had to be sure all parties who had an interest in the cemetery were consulted. The first task was to inspect the headstones, and not knowing where the cemetery was, I called on the Wangaratta Shire Offices to find out where it had been established. I then drove out the Ovens Highway and spoke to a Mrs. Thomas, on whose property the cemetery is located. She was most helpful and showed me the site and the two headstones.

I approached the North Eastern Historical Society to tell them of my intentions, and asked for comment. I also wrote to the Health Commission in Melbourne. They told me the Wangaratta East Cemetery was not situated on Crown land, therefore the Health Commission had no control over what happened to the monuments. In view of the fact that the headstones could be vandalized once the Freeway had been constructed, the Health Commission agreed with my intentions to have the headstones removed.



The next trip was to the Wangaratta General Cemetery to establish where I was going to place the headstones. Old records were looked at by the sexton Mr. Jackson, and the site was decided on. The time for the big moment finally arrived! Everything was ready and the strong arms for the lifting were organized. But then we found we had an unexpected problem. A crop was growing in the paddock surrounding the site and we needed to wait for it to be harvested so that we could get our trailer in.

Christmas came and went and finally on January 14<sup>th</sup>, all was in readiness. Four friends, James Read, Brendan Collier, Brian Humphreys and Stuart Goebly went with me to the old cemetery. We found the headstone of Matilda Lindsay leaning against a tree, but were unable to discover John and Ann Dunkley. Luckily for us, Mr. Thomas, the owner of the land, was able to take us straight to the place where the headstone was lost in loose grass.



While the men struggled with the two headstones, I was busy taking photographs to mark this rare occasion. The trailer was loaded up with Mr. Thomas also being a wonderful help, and we set off to the General Cemetery. Arrangements had been made to leave the cemetery open and we were able to steer the trailer up to the grave site. Unloading, fortunately, was much easier. I had decided to place the headstones on top of the grave of Alexander Somerville Dunkley and his wife Zillah.

We all found it a fascinating experience being able to ensure that another piece of history has been preserved.'

## LETTERS SEEKING YOUR HELP:

'I wonder if your society would help me find a long lost friend and my bridesmaid who was possibly born in Wangaratta. Her name was **Valerie McPherson** and I met her when we were both doing a post graduate year of staff nursing at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria. I was married to a John Arthur Richards in 1962 and Val was my bridesmaid. Val was to marry some time later, however I have no record of her married name and she would not know my name is now Kate Bowes. I live in Western Australia and often wonder about her. I know it may be difficult to contact her, but maybe you can be of some assistance if her family still live in Wangaratta. Thanking you in anticipation. Kate Bowes.'

*Ed: If any of our readers is able to help, please contact the Secretary, Cheryl Price, on 03 5721 5906 or [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)*



'I have recently started researching the family tree, specifically the **HOAD** families in the Wangaratta area. These families are related to my **HOAD** families from the Manning River area. If you can help, please contact me, Coral Phillips, of 355 Willarong Road, Caringbah South NSW 2229.

[coral@oxeng.com.au](mailto:coral@oxeng.com.au)'



### 'Ovens District Hospital's Great War Nurses:

On Remembrance Day, Sunday 11 November 2012, the Beechworth Health Service will unveil a plaque commemorating WW1 nurses who trained at the Ovens District Hospital, a forerunner of the current service. These resolute women, most of whom saw more than two years active service abroad, nursed on hospital ships and troop ships as well in general and stationary hospitals and casualty clearing stations in Egypt, England, France, Greece and India.

Beechworth Health Service is keen to invite family members to the ceremony. On their behalf, family and social historian Anne Hanson, ([annehanson1@bigpond.com](mailto:annehanson1@bigpond.com) or 0419 31 8880) would like to make contact with the families of:

- \* **Marie McNaughton Cameron** b. Wagga Wagga, 1877; daughter of Duncan and Flora Cameron;
- \* **Emily Grace Chappell** b. Yarrawonga 1889; daughter of Arthur Chappell and Deborah Beaumont;
- \* **Alice Donnes** b. Benalla 1876; daughter of John Donnes and Agnes Miller;
- \* **Eileen Hughes** b. Dunkeld 1885; daughter of William Joseph Hughes and Annie Branston;
- \* **May Humphrey/s** b. Pleasant Creek 1877; daughter of George Humphrey/s and Rachel Atcheson/Atchison;
- \* **Frances Lillian Mackay** b. Nhill 1888; daughter of Finlay Charles Mackay and Rebecca McKinley;
- \* **Flora Melville** b. Brunswick 1877; daughter of Donald Melville and Catherine McKay;
- \* **Sybil Janet Orr Newton** b. Beechworth 1888; daughter of Robert Llewellyn Newton and Janet Orr Wilson;
- \* **Elizabeth Rothery** b. Whitehaven, Cumberland, England 1882; daughter of Joseph Rothery and Mary Jane Turner. Died Beechworth 15 June 1918;
- \* **Alice Mary Rowand** b. Oakleigh 1889; daughter of James William Rowand and Margaret Walker;
- \* **Miriam Welshman** b. Yackandandah 1883; daughter of Arthur Cromwell Welshman.'



**GENEALOGY BLOOPERS:** Actual requests received by the Family History Department of the LDS Church. These are extracts from REAL letters:

- I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family. He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
- My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
- The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn—what do you think?
- I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.
- Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success.

*Ed: Source for the above—Victorian G.U.M. Inc NEWS, Sept 2012, Vol 29 No. 1*



## POINT NEPEAN QUARANTINE STATION, VICTORIA:

By Val McPherson

Situated in Point Nepean National Park and recently opened to the public, the Point Nepean Quarantine Station is a place of outstanding historic significance. Established in 1852 it was the major place for quarantine purposes in Victoria until 1979 and closed in 1980. The site was later used by the Army as the Officer Cadet School from 1952 – 1985 and as the School of Army Health from 1985 – 1998. In 1999 the Quarantine Station buildings were used to accommodate Kosovo refugees.

The arrival of the sailing ship *Ticonderoga* at Port Phillip Heads on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1852 after a voyage from Liverpool during which 100 people had died, necessitated the opening of the Quarantine Station at Point Nepean. The site had already been selected to replace the former quarantine area off Point Ormond near modern-day Elwood, but no ships had actually been directed there before the arrival of *Ticonderoga*, flying the yellow flag and with more than 300 very ill passengers.



Hospital 2

The yellow flag is the universally recognized sign of quarantine dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Ships flying the yellow flag were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing at their destination. The word quarantine is derived from the Italian words *quaranta gioni* meaning 40 days.

Building of the impressive accommodation and hospital buildings at Point Nepean began soon after the arrival of *Ticonderoga*. From 1858 – 1859, five two storey buildings were constructed from local sandstone. Hospitals 1 and 2 on the hill initially housed ill passengers and suspected infection cases, while the three buildings on the flat accommodated the healthy passengers. In the early 1870's this was changed to a class separated system with first and second class passengers on the hill, steerage class in Hospitals 3 and 4 on the flat, and Hospital 5 was for isolation cases. These five bay facing buildings of the early Point Nepean station form the oldest extant institutional complex in Victoria with examples of several methods of construction and styles.



Bath block & disinfecting building and boiler house

A cemetery was created to bury victims from the disease plagued vessel *Ticonderoga* in 1852 but the location proved to be unsatisfactory due to its close proximity to the Quarantine Station complex. It was relocated in 1854 to the west of the station and now known as Point Nepean Cemetery. One hundred burials took place in the original cemetery. Heaton's Monument, constructed in a rare Victorian - Egyptian architectural style in 1856-58 from rendered sandstone, commemorates the names of those buried there.

continued next page

## POINT NEPEAN QUARANTINE STATION, VICTORIA cont:

In 1900, in response to the threat of a plague epidemic originating in Hong Kong and Bombay, the first buildings of the Disinfecting and Bathing Complex were built. These buildings served as a model for a series of similar complexes constructed throughout Australia from 1912 during a decade long quarantine upgrading programme. From the early 1900's luggage from quarantine ships was transported from the jetty by a tramway system and hauled through the disinfection area. Passengers were also given a disinfection treatment which involved them entering at one end of the building where they were stripped of their clothing, proceeding into the bath area and then receiving clean clothing before exiting the other end of the building.



Infected luggage receiving store



Interior of disinfecting building and boiler house

If any of our ancestors was unfortunate enough to arrive in Port Phillip on a ship flying the Yellow flag, then this would be the place where he or she first stepped onto Australian soil. Even if you have no direct or indirect connection to the Quarantine Station, the pleasing blend of architectural features from both Victorian and Federation periods, and the prominent positions of the buildings overlooking the bay, give the site a sense of heritage and make it a picturesque place to visit.

*Reference: Parks Victoria website and brochure.*



## HANDY RESEARCH SITES:

More information has arrived on this South Australia website <http://www.familyhistorysa.info/>

Familysearch website: These are miscellaneous Australian genealogical records. This material is handwritten or typed on index cards and images of those cards are given. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://www.familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1538298>

Familysearch website. Records from the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. The collection contains land, school, court, and occupation records. This collection is being published as images become available so it's still under development. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://www.familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1935075>

Index to the admissions books of the Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum <http://www.fredwalter.com/infirmary/>

List of Institutions/homes in Australia <http://www.hotkey.net.au/~jwilliams4/homes.htm>

Port Phillip District and Victorian Settlers indexes <http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/PPDindex.html>

Australian Family History. Victualling list 1821 Sydney NSW <http://www.angelfire.com/folk/victlist/>

## EXILES SENT TO PORT PHILLIP AND THE OVENS VALLEY—CONVICTS BY ANOTHER NAME:

By Cheryl Price

Convict transportation to the colony of NSW was ceased by the home government in 1840, the year the last transport of convicts were shipped to NSW from the UK. Or so the inhabitants of the colony were led to believe.

Van Diemen's Land was the only colony still receiving convicts from Britain's prison hulks at this time and a new system was introduced with a period of detention at Norfolk Island (a then dependency of Van Diemen's Land), good behaviour led to a period in the probation gang in Van Diemen's Land and from there a probation pass which allowed them to hire themselves out to the settlers; then came the 'ticket of leave' which gave greater freedom of movement and finally a conditional pardon which made the convict a free person within the confines of the island until the time of the original term of transportation had been fulfilled. But by 1844 this system created great financial hardship for the colony as poor economic conditions of the 1840s left destitute many of the processed convicts who subsequently had to rely on the public purse to survive.

The home country was aware of some of these problems and in the 1840s Pentonville, Parkhurst and Millbank prisons were opened in England where 'better quality' inmates served their period of detention for 18 months and then were sent to Van Diemen's Land to the probation gangs and so on with the promise of eventual freedom and employment. The governor of Van Diemen's Land was concerned that on their arrival they would be placed among convicts of a lower or less advanced stage which would undo all the good that Pentonville etc had provided and the high unemployment in the colony would lead to a growing thieving population.

A simple solution was found. The home country decided that the better class of prisoner who had spent time in Pentonville, Pankhurst and Millbank prisons would not be transported as convicts at all. They would be sent to the colonies as exiles with 'free' pardons.

The people of Melbourne, 10,000 at that time in 1845, objected strongly to what they believed to be the recommencement of the transportation of convicts to the colony of NSW, and so the 1700 exiles, with 'conditional pardons on arrival' were shipped outside of Melbourne to Geelong, Portland and Williamstown where they were employed as cheap labourers by squatters; found employment as skilled tradesmen; or made their way to Melbourne causing some concern to the community.

George FAITHFULL, a pioneer of the Ovens Valley, was one of those squatters who employed exiles. George, or his agent, met up with officials at Geelong wharf and selected the following young men who arrived on the ship *Joseph Somes* on 24 September 1847. They were employed to be general servants for six months at £20 p.a. each and were brought to the Ovens:

- \* James BELLEW. DOB 1831. Sentenced at Wigan Boro', Lancashire for 7 years for stealing rope and prior conviction. Received at Millbank Prison 7/5/1846 where he was taught the trade of tailor. Single, reads and writes.
- \* John BILLINGS. DOB 1828. Sentenced at Leicester Boro' on 5/1/1846 for 7 years for embezzlement. Received at Millbank Prison on 26/1/1846 where he was taught the trade of a tailor. Single, reads and writes.
- \* John BLACKBURN. DOB 1829. Sentenced at Leeds Boro' on 4/3/1846 for 7 years for stealing 15lb weight of port. Received at Millbank Prison 24/3/1846 where he was taught the trade of a tailor. Single, reads and writes.
- \* James BRAMSDEN. DOB 1830. Sentenced at Portsmouth Boro' on 5/1/1844 for 10 years for stealing biscuits. Received at Parkhurst Prison on 18/3/1844 and was taught the trade of a carpenter. Single, reads and writes.
- \* Henry WILLISCROFT. DOB 1831. Sentenced at Worcester on 27/2/1844 for 7 years for stealing a rabbit and a pair of boots. He was received at Parkhurst Prison on 25/4/1844 where he was taught the trade of a tailor.

The next edition of *Threads* will follow the lives of these young men after their arrival in our district.

The names and details of exiles are listed in the book *Convicts of the Port Phillip District* by Keith M Clarke, 1999, CPN Publications, Fyshwick ACT. Other sources are: *The Pentonvillians* by Ian Wynd of the Geelong Historical Society, 2011. *Convicts & the Colonies* by Professor A G L Shaw of Monash University; 1966, Faber and Faber London. *The Convicts Ships 1787-1868* by Charles Bateson, Brown Son & Ferguson Ltd, Glasgow, 1969. All these books are held in our library.

## WANGARATTA THREADS

### Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No.:</u>	<u>for publication</u>
19 November 2012	92	24 November 2012
19 February 2013	93	24 February 2013

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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What is happening at WFHS

Check it out..... [www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)