## WANGARATTA THREADS

# The Quarterly Newsletter of the

## WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 101 February, 2015



#### **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 Australia.

#### email:

info@wfhs.org.au

#### Web Address:

www.wfhs.org.au



## **COMING EVENTS:**

# At our Society:

1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 Membership renewals due.

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2015** Nominations for committee positions due.

28<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Saturday at 2.00pm— Annual General Meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Rod Davis, the coordinator of the 'Life Stories' program held at St John's Retirement Village in Wangaratta.

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

# 26th to 30th March 2015

14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Canberra, ACT <a href="http://www.congress2015.org.au/">http://www.congress2015.org.au/</a>

# 22th May 2015

The Genealogical Society of Victoria is once again running a Research Workshop in Melbourne for GSV Member Societies' members. Bookings open Monday 13th April 2015. Call 03 9662 4455 or email <a href="mailto:gsv@gsv.org.au">gsv@gsv.org.au</a> if you would like to attend. Cost GSV members \$70; Nonmembers \$140.



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

CONTENTS:	
Coming events	1
Welcome to new members	2
Welcome to new volunteers	2
Have a query or wish to	2
make a suggestion? Membership	2
Committee members & others	2
Do you know of burials on farm land and along roadsides?	2
In Memorium	2
For Sale \$ Wangaratta Cemetery CD	2
DNA—the research tool that smashed a brickwall	3
Clarence Tasman Mummery	6
Postscript for Threads No. 97 Feb 2014- Thomas Harold Mummery	- 8
Found—a golden hoard under the floorboards	9
WWI film footage on youtube	10
Additions to the Library	11
Victorian place names	11
Contribution deadlines & publication dates	12

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- June Gotham
- Carol Snowling
- George Snowling.

## AND WELCOME TO NEW VOLUNTEER:

Ted Skahill

# 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
- Cheryl Price.

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and

Kenny Pty Ltd.

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.



# DO YOU KNOW OF BURIALS ON FARM LAND AND ALONG ROADSIDES?:

We hold some records of burials on farms in the district, but if you know of any such burial places please let us know so we can try and record names and locations. Contact us at <a href="mailto:info@wfhs.org.au">info@wfhs.org.au</a> or ring Cheryl on 03 5721 5906.



## IN MEMORIUM:

Former member Ina Audrey Campbell, late of Whitfield, passed away on 21st January 2015 at Wangaratta. Buried at Wangaratta Lawn Cemetery on 23rd January 2015.



# 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 <a href="http://www.wfhs.org.au/">http://www.wfhs.org.au/</a> or contact <a href="minfo@wfhs.org.au/">info@wfhs.org.au/</a>.

#### DNA - THE RESEARCH TOOL THAT SMASHED A BRICK WALL:

By Valerie McPherson with acknowledgements.

It seemed that my daughter-in-law's great great grandfather, **Thomas Charles Darrelle**, had no past. His traceable life had begun when he married Charlotte Holding on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1893 in Melbourne, Victoria. The marriage certificate said that he was a 28 year old Agent, born in Greenwich, England, with parents Thomas Charles Darrelle (Snr), an actor, and Margaret Collins. Witnesses to the marriage were employees of the Central Methodist Mission of Melbourne.

Thomas Charles Darrelle died 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1904 aged 34 yrs 9 mths from phthisis. Children listed on the death certificate were Reginald Thomas, (my daughter-in-law's great grandfather), aged 9, and Annie Margaret aged 7. Parents' names on the death certificate were exactly as given on the marriage certificate but some new information was that he had lived in Victoria for 31 years, thereby arriving when he was about 7 years old in 1872 or 1873. It was assumed that he would have been accompanied by his parents.

With all of this given information the search for his birth, his parents' marriage and his arrival in Victoria should have been easy.

#### This is where the brick wall became evident.

There were no registrations of death in Victoria for Thomas's parents and no records of them or Thomas arriving in Australia.

The search then shifted to England, the country in which it was said he was born. There was no registration of Thomas's birth, no registration of his parents' marriage and no trace of the family in the 1871 UK census.

## The brick wall had grown rapidly.

For years my daughter-in-law continued to look for this family, trying spelling variations, different first names and always looking for newly released records, hoping for more positive information, but to no avail.

Thomas's daughter Annie had married a Belgian sailor by name of August Ackein and emigrated to the USA about 1920. The 1930 US Census showed them living in Pierce, Washington State. By googling the name Ackein with Pierce she found Bob Aikein, a teacher. She emailed him, and yes, he was Annie's grandson. Although he knew nothing of his family history, Bob was able to send my daughter-in-law a photo of his grandmother Annie with his great grandmother Charlotte who was my daughter-in-law's great grandmother. It was lovely to have the photo but she was still no further towards unlocking the past on Thomas Charles Darrelle.

## Then a glimmer of hope - was this a crack in the wall?

While randomly playing with Google my daughter-in-law typed in the name "Thomas Darrell" and came across the manuscript "A History of David Brown" posted on the internet by John Griffiths in the previous month. Hi-lighted within this manuscript were the words "family recollections suggest the boy was known as Thomas Darrell" In one chapter of his manuscript, John Griffiths had drawn on the thorough and painstaking five year research by Anne Rooks in her family history "He Came on a Bullock Dray – To Start a New Life" - The Family History of Louis Fennell (Funnell). Anne Rooks is a descendant of Louis Fennell. This, in brief, is the story.

**Luke Thomas Funnell** was born 3 Mar 1858 in Sydney to Luke Funnell and Mary Elizabeth Brown who had married in Sydney NSW 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1857. It seems that Luke Funnell Snr left Sydney in 1861, taking with him his 3 year old son, and travelled on a bullock dray to Wangaratta, Victoria where he changed his name to **Louis Fennell** and set up a blacksmith's shop there in Murphy Street. His son was passed off as his orphaned nephew and his name changed to **Thomas Fennell**. His legal wife Mary Elizabeth Funnell had begun an affair with a James Midgely and had a child by him, supposedly in 1861, so it is not clear which one of them was the deserter.

#### DNA - THE RESEARCH TOOL THAT SMASHED A BRICK WALL cont:

The following year in 1862, Louis Fennell bigamously married Louisa Dive and subsequently fathered 11 children.

Wangaratta Rate Books 1864 and 1865 list Lewis Fennell, a wheelwright, in a house and shop in Murphy Street owned by Daniel Evans. The 1864 Rate Book is the earliest one in existence for Wangaratta and it and that for 1865, do not give an exact location for the property. Rate books for 1866, 1867 and 1868 list Lewis Fennell, a wheelwright, as the owner and occupier of premises at Section 1 Allotment 5. According to the Wangaratta Town Plan, Section 1 is bounded by Murphy, Reed, Chisholm and Ely Streets. Allotment 5 which is 500' x 100' runs from Reed (now Reid) Street through to Ely Street and its approximate present day location is on the west side of the Aldi store.



Blacksmiths and wheelwright display Wangaratta circa 1915. Museum Victoria Collection

Lewis or Louis Fennell does not appear in Wangaratta Rate books after 1868. He owned land in the Bundalong South – Peechelba East area and may have taken up that property about then.

The Fennell family maintained a strong connection to Wangaratta as Louisa's family (the Dives) lived in the town. The births of ten of Louis and Louisa's children up to 1887 were registered at Wangaratta. Wangaratta cemetery is the burial place for Louis 1906, Louisa 1922 and there are four recorded burials and possibly one other of their infant children.

But what of the little boy, Thomas Fennell or Luke Thomas Funnell? A local newspaper "The Federal Standard" in Chiltern, reported on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1867 that Thomas Fennell had attended the Wangaratta Police Court of 12<sup>th</sup> February where his "uncle" Lewis Fennell said he could not keep him from stealing and asked that his nephew be sent to the Sunbury Industrial School. The Court agreed to send Thomas to the Industrial School for 5 years and that his uncle was to pay 6 shillings and 6 pence per week for his keep. The Sunbury Industrial School had a poor reputation for care of its inmates and it may have been fortunate for Thomas that he was transferred to the training ship Nelson on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1868. There he received some instruction in basic education and in practical skills. At the end of 1871 he was licenced out to Mr Robert Singleton of Malvern, a civil servant and believed to be Secretary of the Railways. On 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 1872 Thomas Fennell was recommitted to the Melbourne Branch for a further 2 years under the care of Robert Singleton. It is not known why he was recommitted and no further official records could be found for Thomas Fennell.

Anne Rooks had contact with an elderly family member who was a grandson of Louis Fennell. He told her that Louis Fennell had brought up a child as his own and that the child used the name of Thomas Darrell. This story suggests that Thomas Fennell may have had some contact with his father and step siblings after leaving the employ of Robert Singleton.

# But why the change of name?

Having been so shabbily treated by his father, Thomas may have decided to create for himself a new identity. A famous actor & playwright George Darrell was in Australia in the 1870's, 1880's and 1890's. Would this actor have been Thomas's idol and the reason for him taking Darrell as his surname and for giving his imaginary father the occupation of actor?

#### DNA – THE RESEARCH TOOL THAT SMASHED A BRICK WALL cont:

## And so there were two Thomas Darrell(e)s, one with no past and one with no future.

Evidence seemed to support the theory that they were the same person. There was only one doubt. Luke Thomas Funnell, alias Thomas Fennell, had been born 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1858 whereas, according to the information given on his marriage and death certificates, Thomas Charles Darrelle had been born March 1865, a difference in age of seven years. Charlotte Holding had lowered her age considerably when she married Thomas Charles Darrelle, so perhaps Thomas had also lied about his age.

## The only way left to prove the connection was through DNA testing.

As there was not an unbroken male line in my daughter-in-law's family back to Thomas Charles Darrelle, she was unable to use the Y-chromosome test which is the preferred test. However, Autosomal DNA testing does not require a continuous run of male or female ancestors so this was the test chosen. My daughter-in-law's father, a great grandson of Thomas Charles Darrelle, and Anne Rooks' cousin, a great grandson of Louis Fennell (alias Luke Funnell) both agreed to submit cheek swabs for DNA testing.

After a wait of some weeks the results finally came with a match - the most likely relationship being  $3^{rd} - 5^{th}$  cousins.

# And the wall came crashing down.

## My daughter-in-law was ecstatic.

And it came with a bonus. She now has two new branches for her family tree, the David Brown family researched back to 1750 and the Funnell family which includes two NSW convicts, also researched back to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

DNA testing seems to be more readily available now and not as expensive as in the past. My daughter-in-law used a US company Family Tree DNA and ordered online the Family Finder test kits. Cost will be dependent on the exchange rate on the day but at that time she paid \$US129 per test. On the order form you specify the names and addresses of those you want tested. The test kits are sent direct and have instructions for taking the cheek swab and an address to post it back to the US. Postage is about \$15. The person ordering the test kits needs to have an email address and internet access in order to receive the test results. Close matches with other participants on the company's database will be flagged and may possibly lead to unexpected new research.

There are other DNA testing companies who do the same thing and it is advisable to search on the internet before making a choice.

Research by Elizabeth McPherson. <u>mcpherson24@bigpond.com</u>

"A History of David Brown (1750-1836) and Family" by **John Griffiths** <a href="http://www.davidbrown1801nsw.info/">http://www.davidbrown1801nsw.info/</a>

"He came on a Bullock Dray...to Start a New Life - The Family History of Louis Fennell (Funnell)" by **Anne Rooks** (self published).



#### **Further information on DNA:**

Website <u>www.eupedia.com</u> has good explanations of genetics and many maps of Europe showing haplogroup frequencies and distribution.

Website <a href="https://www.isogg.org">www.isogg.org</a> the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. See 'For Newbies' section.

#### **CLARENCE TASMAN MUMMERY:**

By Bev Smith

Clarence Tasman, known as Tas, was born 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1894 at Zeehan; the third of Isabelle McCreadie (nee Dods) and Christopher Stephen Mummery's four children. Tas was born during the six years his parents lived in Tasmania. When the family returned to the mainland they lived in Melbourne for a short time, then for some years his father managed the South Defiance Mine at Bullumwaal in Gippsland. Nothing is known of his school days, he may have started school at Bullumwaal.

Prior to 1914, Tas and his family had moved to Wonthaggi, there Tas worked as a clerk at the State Mine. He also joined the 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry. War was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1914 and recruiting for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) officially opened on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Nineteen-year-old Tas was one of the thousands of men who came forward to enlist during those first few days. His number was 59.



After initial training at Broadmeadows and attachment to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, troops boarded the A24 *SS Benalla* at Port Melbourne. It was not until mid afternoon the following day when the convoy set off on the six day journey to Albany, Western Australia. There they anchored in King George Sound for several days awaiting the arrival of other vessels. When the convoy left King George Sound Tas wrote '... on the 30<sup>th</sup> October we left Albany (Sunday morning) for Colombo. The Oronto was the first to move out, and we were next. It was a great sight to see them moving out in single line<sup>1</sup>.

During the next week, Tas celebrated his twentieth birthday, and on board they ran a sweep for the Melbourne Cup, Tas continues in his letter 'Well we are up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was an unique one, inasmuch as it was celebrated on the high seas. I was thinking of home as I suppose you were also of me. The birthday cake was conspicuous by its absence, although that didn't matter. When the Osterboy passed us we asked her who won the Melbourne Cup, and she told us Kingsburgh.'

On 9<sup>th</sup> November there was great excitement, when *HMAS Sydney* took off in a westerly direction, Tas wrote '... that they had sighted the Emden, near Kieling Island, and that the Sydney was going to attack her as soon as an opportunity occurred.'

By 2<sup>nd</sup> December the *Benalla* was slowly steaming up the Suez Canal. The convoy anchored in the Alexandria Harbour on 6<sup>th</sup> December and two days later the *Benalla* berthed and the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion were immediately transferred to a special troop train and taken on the 160 Kilometre journey across the Nile Delta to Cairo. They then started the 20 Kilometre tram journey followed by a 3 Kilometre march to Mena camp. It was early morning before the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived at Camp and when the sun rose, the tops of the three pyramids could be seen in the distance; it must have been a sight they never forgot.

Several months were spent at Mena camp while they continued their training. Over the weeks the emphasis in their training changed from drill to tactics. It was not all training; the troops were given leave to visit Cairo.

Word had been received at the end of January that the Turks were marching across the Sinai Desert with the aim of capturing the Suez Canal. Reinforcements were ordered to protect the Canal around Ismailia. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions were selected to go; the enemy was quickly repulsed, which unfortunately reinforced the commanders' view of the Turkish soldier as poor fighting value, a view that was to have dire consequences when the two armies next met at the Dardanelle's.

#### **CLARENCE TASMAN MUMMERY cont:**

Tas was promotion to Lance Corporal on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It was 4<sup>th</sup> April before they left the camp, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> they boarded the 8,000-ton ship *Clan Macgillivray* at Alexandria for the three-day journey to Lemnos Island. On the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> April, the invasion fleet set sail at 5.30 pm and anchored off Imbros Island that evening. At 3.30 am on 25<sup>th</sup> April, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion on board the *Clan Macgillivray*, were aroused and given a hot breakfast of bully beef stew, then half an hour later the order to 'fall in on deck' was given. Already they could hear shelling from accompanying battleships. The men were transferred to a British destroyer that came alongside. When it had steamed close to shore the troops climbed into barges. Soon after 7 am half of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed on the western edge of what is now known as Anzac Cove. They were joined by the remaining half of the Battalion at 9 am and by 10 am the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion had dug a series of trenches along Bolton's Ridge where its northern edge joined the plateau of Lone Pine.

Tas had been at Gallipoli less than a month when he was promotion on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1915 to Corporal. The battle of Lone Pine between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August was a major one in Australian military history; although the 8<sup>th</sup> were not directly involved they spent most of the time 'standing to' in support. On 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1915 Tas was wounded, receiving a bomb wound to the forehead; he was evacuated on the *HS Gascon* to Malta

It was not until 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 that he rejoined his Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir. Tas stayed with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion D Company, and on 20<sup>th</sup> February was commissioned Second Lieutenant. At the end of March 1916, the Battalion embarked on the *HMT Megantic* bound for Marseilles and the Western Front. Then there was a sixty-five hour train ride across France in carriages designed to carry horses. At the end of April they were at Fleurbaix and had their first encounter with the enemy when the Germans shelled D Company billets. The Fleurbaix was considered a quiet sector compared to some of the more volatile sectors on the Western Front.

In July the Battalion was marched to Albert only to find that there were not enough billets for the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. After a hot lunch, they were marched out to Brickfield where they bivouacked with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The following day orders were received for the attack on Pozieres. During the day the Officers visited the trenches the men would be occupying during the opening stages of the attack. Then under cover of darkness on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, the Battalion marched out to Sausage Valley and spent the rest of the night in old German trenches. Next day they were moved to trenches south west of the ruined village of Pozieres. D Company had the task of carrying up the water, ammunition and rations for the forward Battalions.

Tas was among several members who distinguished themselves during the first attack on Pozieres. On 12<sup>th</sup> August Tas was promoted to Lieutenant. The fighting continued, and on the night of 19<sup>th</sup> August, Tas, with Second Lieutenant Goodwin, ventured into no mans land to look for wounded comrades. They found badly wounded Pte George Grove about seven metres from the enemy parapet. They took turns to piggyback him to the trenches. Both were awarded the Military Cross for their bravery.

Tas was again recommended for bravery on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 for *Conspicuous gallantry in rescuing wounded at Pozieres.* On 9<sup>th</sup> September the recommendations were apparently combined and the Military Cross was promulgated in the *London Gazette* on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

By 31<sup>st</sup> August 1916 the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion were at Ypres in Belgium. At the end of February 1917 Tas was hospitalised with the mumps. When he returned to duty on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was at Dernancourt.

The First Anzac Corps with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Divisions was to attack through Polygon and Glencorse Woods. On 19<sup>th</sup> September the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion assembled at Zillebeke; they had rested for almost two months and were eager to assume the fight against the Germans and gain some ground. Despite the rain the battle over the next hours was one of their most successful. Tas was among the several officers listed as having acted with great valour. Their success was not without cost, the Battalion lost fifty-nine men killed; their highest single days loss during the entire war.

#### **CLARENCE TASMAN MUMMERY cont:**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September the Battalion arrived at Dickebusch (now Dikkebus). On the 27<sup>th</sup> September, Tas was recommended for the Bar to the Military Cross for *Great gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack and setting a splendid example throughout*.

Tas was again wounded and proceeded on leave until 10<sup>th</sup> October. When Tas rejoined the unit, they were at Renninghelst. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the battalion moved to Halifax Camp located near Dickebusch. Two days later the battalion was preparing to go back into the front line. Next day equipment was checked and parties were sent forward to reconnoitre the forward area. The Battalion War Diary records on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 that *Lieut C.T.Mummery, MC. Killed while carrying out reconnaissance of forward area.* Percy Lay described Tas as about the finest officer in the AIF. His death caused quite a gloom over the whole battalion<sup>3</sup>.

Tas' Record of Service indicates that he was east of Ypres and west of the village of Zonnebeke when killed. Map reference 28.D.27. He was buried where he fell, along with eight or nine others and their graves marked with wooden crosses. This ground was later lost to the Germans; when the war was over the search for graves began, but the markers on Tas' grave were lost during the German occupation. His name appears on the Menin Gate (panel 7) in Ypres, which lists the names of those who fell in Belgium and have no known grave.



Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**Postscript**. During a recent visit to the Battlefields in Belgium the most likely location of Tas field grave was identified in the small town of Zonnbeke. After a request to the Commonwealth War Graves for the names of the men located in the map reference area 28.D.27 and their burial locations in CWG cemeteries, two unknown Australian lieutenants were identified as possibly being Tas. One was buried in the Polygon Wood cemetery and the other in Tyne Cot cemetery. Tyne Cot is approximately a kilometre from Zonnbeke where Tas died. This unknown lieutenant may well be Tas, but we will never know for sure. While at leper<sup>4</sup> a wreath was laid at the Menin Gate in his memory.

- 1. The letters written by Tas quoted in the article are held at the Australian War Memorial, 2DRL548.
- 2. AWM4-8th Battalion War Diary, 20 October 1917.
- 3. Austin op. cit . P.170. Captain Percy Lay was the most decorated member of the 8th Battalion. During his service on the Western Front he was awarded the Military Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Military Medal and the Croix de Guerre
- 4. 'Iper' is the Dutch and only official name, but 'Ypres' is the French pronunciation and is most commonly used in English due to its role in WWI.



# POSTCRIPT FOR 'THREADS' NO. 97 FEB 2014—THOMAS HAROLD MUMMERY:

By Bev Smith

The same trip to the Battlefields included a visit to Mouquet Farm where Tom Mummery lost his life on 26th August 1916; and where his field grave was at Mouquet Farm quarry. Tom was later buried at the Pozieres British Cemetery, - Plot 1. Row J. Grave 3.

On approaching Tom's grave a small group of people could been seen close to where Tom's grave was. It was a young couple and their guide visiting the grave of Sergeant Herbert Claude Charmann, Bert, as he was known, was killed in action 23rd August 1916. Three days before Tom. Bert was also killed at Mouquet Farm. The similarities did not end there. Both Tom and Bert were in the 4<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcements of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, both came from North East Victoria, Tom from Myrtleford and Bert from Euroa. The young couple were visiting the grave of their great great Uncle Bert.

#### FOUND — A GOLDEN HOARD UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS:

From the book 'On This Day in The North East" by Graham Jones, 1989. Charquin Hill Publishing:

'Nov 5th 1906 – A Golden Hoard.

Over fifty years after the gold rush to Beechworth, diggers struck gold again, in a most unexpected place – under a house.

The house had been occupied by an elderly lady, the widow of former Beechworth storekeeper, Thomas Pratten, who kept a store near the old Coach and Horses Hotel.

In the cellar of her home, after her death, workmen found eight glass jars filed with sovereigns. Reports of the day suggest the biggest jar held eight hundred and fifty coins. The others held smaller amounts. The total came to over three thousand.

It was understood at the time that the lady only had one living relative, a teenage girl living in poverty in Melbourne.'

### The news of the find in 1906

That startling bit of news hit the newspapers of the day and you can read the full story on TROVE, '1906 'ROMANCE OF BURIED SOVEREIGNS.', *The Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times* (Albury, NSW: 1903 - 1920), 9 November 1906, p. 4, <a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article135740699">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article135740699</a>

The article explained that Mrs Pratten was the abovementioned widow and jars of coins were found in a chimney and in the cellar under the floorboards. Her deceased son Henry's widow, Emily, survived in Fitzroy Melbourne by taking in washing and ironing, and her daughter was able to earn a few shillings a week at hat making. As a widow, it was felt that Emily might marry again, but her daughter, who was the old woman's only grandchild and therefore her only descendant, inherited the fortune of £4526 [which is \$636,000 in today's money].

# Digging up what then happened

Such a story begs a follow up now that we have access to electronic records from 1906 and more recent times. It was found that the older widow was **Harriet Pratten** (nee Flintham) who died in 1906 at the age of 75 in Beechworth. Her two sons, **Henry Thomas Pratten** and **George James Pratten**, died at the age of 29 of typhoid. Henry in 1891 in Fitzroy and George in 1893 in Beechworth. Henry had married **Emily Louisa Clarke** in 1884 and had one child **Ethel Louisa May Pratten** born in 1889 in Fitzroy South. **Ethel** is the 17 year old child who inherited all that money.

Such a wealthy young woman must have been a desirable attraction, and Ethel married Edwin Henry Gray in 1911. Electoral records show that they lived at 128 Hotham St in St Kilda East—a more upmarket suburb at that time compared to 223 Fitzroy St Fitzroy where Ethel and her mother had lived. They appeared to live comfortably and had two daughters Edna May and Gwendolyn Thelma.

#### A sad ending

Death records show that **Ethel Louisa May Gray** died in 1959 at the age of 69. She died in the Mont Park Asylum for Mental Hygiene which was located in Heidelberg Melbourne. She died from an 'immediate cardio vascular accident' and suffered from Paraphrenia (a form of schizophrenia) for years. Ethel was buried on 2 March 1959 at the Melbourne General Cemetery in Carlton, in the same grave as her parents.



# WWI FILM FOOTAGE ON YOUTUBE:

Youtube has some original footage taken on the battlefield of WWI. The following may be of interest to you but they can be harrowing to watch.



Real footage of the WWI Battle of the Somme <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Tv5gBa9DQs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Tv5gBa9DQs</a>



Animals in WWI – a tribute <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\_L5tQerJwA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\_L5tQerJwA</a>

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

## **CDs**

1800 United States Census & National Index - set of 56 CDs

1881 British Census & National Index – set of 24 CDs

1881 Canadian Census - set of 3 CDs.

1891 London Census - set of 39 CDs

#### **Books**

'A Pictorial History of Bushrangers', 1968, Publisher: Paul Hamlyn.

'Beechworth at War: A Country Town Through Three Conflicts', 2013, Richard Patterson. Self published.

'Cracking the Code of Old Handwriting' 2011, Graham Jaunay, Publisher: Unlock the Past.

'Death Certificate & Archaic Medical Terms', 2011, Helen V Smith, Publisher: Unlock the Past.

'Macquarie Pen Anthology of Aboriginal Literature', 2008, Edited by Anita Heiss & Peter Minter, Publisher: Allen & Unwin, NSW.

'March of the Veterans. The Proud Story of the City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch', 2014, Howard C Jones, Publisher: Albury RSL.

'Migrant Sailing Ships From Hamburg', 1993, Ronald Parsons, Publisher: Gould Publishing Services, Sth Aust. (Note: Does not include those which landed in Sth Aust 1836-1860)

'Mt Carmel Convent & St Mary's School Reunion', Oct 1989. Rutherglen.

'Pastoral Properties of Australia', 1984, Peter Taylor, Publisher: George Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

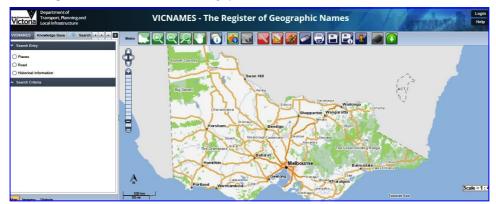
'Squatters of the Eastern Darling Downs 1840-1900s', Oct 22014, Diana J Beal, Publisher: Towoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society Inc.

'The History & Records of West Terrace Cemetery Adelaide', 1986, Andrew G Peake, Publisher: Tudor Australia Press, Sth Aust.

## **VICTORIAN PLACE NAMES:**

A 1994 genealogy magazine held an article describing the author's efforts to find out what the abbreviation place name 'COBB' stood for in Victoria. The author finally accessed the book 'Register of Place Names in Victoria', published by the then Vic Dept. of Crown Lands and Survey, and found that COBB stood for Cobbler's Gully.

Nowadays, you can access the Register online at the Victorian Government site <a href="http://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/VicnamesUI.jsp">http://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/VicnamesUI.jsp</a>



You don't have to login. You can go ahead and search the site. A search of 'places' containing COBB brought up 26 places both registered and historical, and each place is shown by its geographical position on an interactive map. A great resource for the family history researcher, particularly when trying to work out the meaning of an abbreviation and location of a place from Victorian BDM indexes.

Similar sites can be found for each of the States and also the UK – just Google.

# **WANGARATTA THREADS**

# Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

Copy deadline	Edition No:	for publication
19 May 2015	102	24 May 2104
19 August 2015	103	24 August 2015

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:

## **WANGARATTA THREADS**

P.O. Box 683

Wangaratta, Vic, 3676

Australia

# What is happening at WFHS

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