



# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A00238876

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Opening hours: Tuesday 10 am – 1 pm  
Thursday 10 am – 4 pm  
Friday 1 pm – 4 pm  
Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

Forums are held during the months of March, June,  
and September at the Family History Rooms,  
the Heritage Centre, Thompson Ave., Cowes

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## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 23 June - FAMILY TREE MAKER WORKSHOP presented by Doug Elms  
at the Heritage Centre**

10 – 12 : getting started with Family Tree Maker; Overview of features

1 – 2.20 : sources, media, charts & reports; FTM & the web

3 – 4 : general issues, questions, user queries

Doug is currently President of VicGum, and a convener of the Monday night Family Tree Maker User Group meetings.

If you use 'Family Tree Maker' and would like a specific issue to be covered in the afternoon session, could you please let us know. Email your query / problem to [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) and we will forward it to Doug.

Everyone is welcome to attend any or all sessions. Entry is free to PIADGS members, but non-members will be charged \$5.00. Afternoon tea, and tea and coffee, will be provided.

For catering purposes please RSVP by Thurs 21st June either by telephone to 0411118706 or email [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)

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## COPYRIGHT

Your Committee is working on a Policy to deal with the proper use of Copyright. While this policy is in its formative stages, please make sure to give credit in your notes and especially in your final family tree, to all your sources of information. Be as complete and as accurate as possible making sure to include (where they are known) the Title, the Author, the Publisher, the Place and the Date wherever possible.

We will keep you informed as we go along to help you with this issue.

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**FOR SALE** - Ian Nicholson Log of Logs volume 2. Spine faded and several entries highlighted – otherwise a good copy. \$40.00

E-mail: [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)

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## Certificate for genealogical society

THE Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society has now become an official registered centre for the storing of public records.

Member for Bass Ken Smith last week welcomed the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society as an appointee to the Victorian Coalition Government's Place of Deposit network, ensuring the preservation of the town's historical records.

Presenting the society with a certificate in recognition of the appointment, Ken Smith said the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society had a wonderful collection of genealogical resources for family historians to access.

"Of particular significance are records relating to the history of the Bass Coast and Gippsland Region, Phillip Island, French Island and surrounding districts. The collection includes records of pioneer settlers, cemeteries, schools and early local newspapers," Mr Smith said.

Places of Deposit are community facilities that store and preserve public records of local significance and the network of these facilities is an important component of the Victorian Government's role in archiving the state's history.

There are now more than 150 community facilities across Victoria that have been appointed to the Places of Deposit network, to manage and preserve government records of significance that would not normally be kept permanently by Public Record Office Victoria.

All kinds of government records are accessible at regional Places of Deposits, and might include records such as water board rate books, animal pound registers and draft council minute books – all of which are invaluable to historians and genealogists alike.

The genealogical society now has the authority to safe-keep all records pertaining to the administrative history of Phillip Island.

This may include records from shire council meetings, church groups and other community organisations that have operated over time.

These records will be systematically filed and stored within the genealogical rooms in Cowes, but will be available for reference by the community on request.

"We are very excited by this registration as it creates a marvellous new dimension to our work as a genealogi-

cal society," said vice president Jenny Adam.

"It means that we can look after the secondary temporary archival records pertaining to Phillip Island.

"We are delighted to be responsible for preserving the township's archival treasures for the use and enjoyment of future generations," Ms Adam said.

In being awarded the certificate, this local group now becomes one of three within the region and one of 150 across the state.

It comes after a long wait which began last year with an application to the Office of Public records in North Melbourne to become a place of deposit (POD), and a subsequent visit by the office to ensure that all standards were satisfied.

"We now look forward to accumulating documents of local significance," Jenny said.

"It's all about making local history available to the community in which it is made.

"We can now go ahead and offer these resources," she said.

Mr Smith congratulated the local society on their achievement and in being selected to preserve such records and to keep the history of the island within reach of the local community.

"It's a wonderful recognition for Phillip Island," he added.

Jenny Adam described the passionate interest of all 63 members of the group and the range of skills and expertise that they each bring.

They belong to a growing and expanding network of groups involved in family history research.

Genealogical research is becoming a favoured pastime for all age groups and especially for those looking for an interest in their retirement years.

In the past 2 years, this society has increased its membership by fifty per cent.

The Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society is open to everyone in the community and is able to assist those researching their family history or looking for a starting point.

Their rooms are located in the Heritage Centre in Cowes, next to the library, and are open to the public on Tuesday and Saturday from 10am to 1pm, Thursday 10am to 4pm and Friday from 1 to 4pm, or by appointment.

To arrange such times or for further information contact president David Rathgen on 0411 118 706 or secretary Tom Caulfield on 0419 922 362.





**Vice president of the Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society Jenny Adam (centre) receives a certificate from Ken Smith MP (right) and Amy Egan (left) from the Office of Public Records, at a special presentation held recently in the society's rooms in Cowes.**

The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser. 15 March 2012

### **From the Scottish - Islay Rootsweb site in 2003 by Dixie Cutler**

I do agree that establishing an ancestor's age has to be done with caution and sometimes difficulty.

Ages given on a marriage certificate are sometimes questionable. No one asks for proof, so if you felt like being 23 instead of 27, why not!

Someone on this list once pointed out that many people were not sure of their ages. It was not that they had to be a certain age to vote or get a drivers licence - they had never had lavish yearly birthday parties or even a cake for that matter so by the time they were in their mid teens they simply did not worry about it. It did not really matter!

It may have been a general practice to baptize a baby as soon as it was born, just in case the poor child died, but that was not always the case. When I first found my GG grandfather was baptized in Bowmore in 1841 I assumed that would have been near his birthdate (although his marriage certificate would have made him older). I discovered that his actual birthdate was in 1831 and he was baptized 9 years and 4 months after his birth.

My own grandmother lied about her age for so long that when she was in her 80's she could not remember.

Birth places are suspect as well - my GGG grandmother was born and living as a child in Ireland in 1851. Later she is living in various places in Scotland and always listed as being born in that place. Did she lie on purpose or did someone else answer for her? Maybe every time the census taker asked "where were you born" she just said "Here" and he took that as the truth.

I think, for any ancestor born before civil registration (and maybe for some born later, whose gestation period was in question), it is best to assume that only a christening date with a birth date noted will be close to accurate. All other dates are probably to be taken with a grain of salt.

Let's face it, our ancestors never imagined that we would be seeking the truth about their lives all these hundreds of years later.

Would they have cared? Maybe but maybe not!

Helen Swaine

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## SEARCHING IN AUSTRIA AND GERMANY FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Australian searches for ancestors can be relatively straight forward – find the father, then the grandfather and so on; our attention is on the person. To find one's German or Austrian ancestors the importance of place cannot be overlooked. We still need to find the person, but to trace their background we must turn to the place.

Recently I visited and worked in Salzburg, Austria; while there I asked where and how one might go about tracing one's ancestors. There are no known voluntary family history societies such as ours (at this point someone is bound to prove me wrong – please do so!). Instead there are archive repositories where these records are kept, each repository having a slightly different and separate purpose.

To trace one's family connections in Austria and in Germany, first find out how you are connected to the migrant; then the place the ancestor was last known. To find that place may involve a study of European history. The impact of the various wars, revolutions, empires and fortunes upon an individual family's records may well account for where those records are kept today. Ignore general political or economic history at your peril: national boundaries are and have been quite fluid – the result of negotiation, take over, military might and the like. You may well find the name of the town or village where your ancestor was last known – but is that still the same name used today? Perhaps the village has now been absorbed by the neighbouring large city to become a suburb? Maybe the village at that time was part of one nation, but as a consequence of the last war or revolution it is now part of another nation.

Success in tracing one's family ancestors in Germany or in Austria depends mostly upon knowing the place where the ancestor was last known; and that may well depend upon the fortunes of more general European history. European history and our European ancestors' location is also vividly affected by their religious adherence. In Australia and New Zealand we take religion very casually and we treat religious adherence almost with indifference – not so in Europe even now.

Our ancestor's religious adherence may well play a significant part in their discovery: are they Catholic, Protestant, Jewish or independent? That aspect may also influence the discovery of their records.

### Place

When I first began to look for my German ancestors the only clue I had was that my grandfather had arrived in New Zealand some seven years prior to his marriage, and his last known address was "Burg, Germany." There are X number of places known as "Burg" in Germany; in New Zealand we assumed that "Burg" really referred to "Hamburg." By writing to the church authorities in Hamburg it soon became apparent that they had no knowledge of my family at all, however they kindly referred my enquiry to a researcher who happened to specialise in the State of Schleswig-Holstein. My family's name is extensive throughout Schleswig-Holstein and Northern Germany in general. These days the name has spread from Holland to the Baltic sea coast both in Scandinavia and in to Poland. My researcher knew of only one "Burg" in Schleswig-Holstein which he visited on behalf of another client. Quite by accident, he found my family name in the records of the Burg parish church.

These days Ancestry has a facility to show where a family name is concentrated – certainly within the USA, but also in Europe – use it.

When searching for the family of my great-grandmother, Leefmann, I knew (thanks to a copy of her Confirmation homework book) she had come from a particular town in Germany. There are 26 towns of that name in Germany – I wrote to each in turn until one replied offering further information about her.

In Austria I inquired at Salzburg among my friends – where are family archives kept and how does one access them? It took three attempts before I found the starting point at Standesamt Salzburg (Mirabellplatz). They understood my inquiry and directed me to the archive and statistical office known as the Haus der Stadtgeschichte. This archive was nearly the correct starting point. They were helpful in directing me to the Erzdiocese Salzburg in Kapitelplatz 7, near the main Cathedral (the Dom) of Salzburg. The office of the Erzdiocese (the Catholic Archdiocese) archive centre was very helpful. They handle these enquiries by phone, fax, email or regular mail – but the key issue for them is: which Place? If we know the Place then they can find the Parish. Once these are known then it is very straightforward to find the name and the dates requested within a specific Parish

### Religion

The Salzburg account above deals mostly with the Catholic records; my own family (from

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Schleswig-Holstein) were Protestants. I have no experience or knowledge of Jewish or Independent religious records.

We must bear in mind that Southern Europe is more likely Catholic, while Northern Europe is mostly Protestant. These are not now clear distinctions, only that in previous decades wars were fought and persecution encountered if one's family was in the "wrong" place. For example many people with my surname were in northern Germany in the 1830s and departed for places such as Australia in order to escape religious persecution. Similarly in the 1730s in Austria there were fierce religious persecutions against Protestants who were 'encouraged' to leave. Records of that migration are now found in the Salzburg Landesarchiv, Michael-Pacher-Strasse, 40, Salzburg.

Austrian Protestant records from 1849-1938 are found in the Lutheran church archives. For further assistance with Austrian records check out the Austrian Genealogy website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~autwgv/agsfrx.htm> known as The Exulanten. Another source is "A sourcebook for genealogical research: resources alphabetically by type and location" by Foster Stockwell (available on the web).

### **European History**

The impact of the two World Wars (1914-19 and 1938-1945) within Germany and Austria has had a profound effect upon how and where family records are kept. In particular Hitler's prejudice towards "real" Teutonic characteristics produced a large number of 'Familienbuchen' or Family History books. These were specifically researched and produced to ensure there were no unsavoury members within the past of any family. In my family there is one such book that was published in 1936 and is still available to the public (though harder now to find); there is also one extant version of an earlier book put together in 1935. The difficulty we now have with these records is their selective nature. Any 'undesirables' have been excised, names that may appear to belong to one race or group have been altered to align with the preferred version, any members who evaded call up into the regular army have been omitted.

Thanks to the National Socialist regime church ceremonies and related records have been superseded since 1938 by Civil ceremonies. Church ceremonies continue to be observed, but State records are required for all births, marriages and deaths, and retained (in Austria) at the Haus der Stadtgeschicke.

Further, thanks to the National Socialist beliefs current Privacy Laws make it especially difficult for the amateur family history to obtain relevant information.

Now that I continue to search for information about my family's current whereabouts, I am more aware of the impact various historical events played upon their fortunes. The various national revolutions of 1848-1850s, the rise of Prussia and its wars upon the Danes (in 1864), the French (in 1871) and the changes to social order arising from Prussian supremacy (from 1871) and National Socialism (from 1938) have a real impact upon this hobby.

Prussian supremacy and the threats of war against Denmark (including Schleswig-Holstein) gave rise to a rapid evacuation of the population. It is calculated that over 300,000 people escaped conscription into the armies – both Danish and Prussian - of that time, of which only perhaps 10% have since been traced. Presumably most are now in America, others moved to other European destinations or elsewhere, some have changed their names either wilfully or by marriage.

Earlier there had been a migration of 'Germans' to England when Prince George of Hanover became King of England. As a result there are a number of people in Great Britain with my surname and with other 'German' surnames. (George I, the eldest son of Ernest August, Elector of Hanover and Sophia of Bohemia, was born in 1660, he died in 1727. Handel the composer and Holbein the artist were welcomed in England.)

In order to find our European ancestors, read and gain some insight into European historical events and their impact upon people; know and take notice of religious affiliation; above all track down and trace the last known place where your ancestor was found – including the name of the Parish church, the name of the local authority and the state within the nation. Remember that the name of that Parish or of that village may have changed several times over the past couple of hundred years.

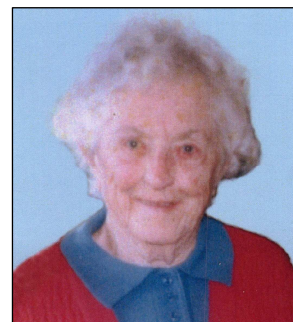
With all good hunting

David Rathgen, (Salzburg)

March 2012

## MARJORIE BATTERHAM

I am sorry to have to pass on the sad news of the death of one of our founding members, Marj. Batterham, on May 8th. Marj. was a genealogist of the 'old school', i.e. pre-computers, and did her research by writing letters and gathering information in person. The documentation of her research was meticulous. Her stories about her ancestors and her own childhood were fascinating. Her father was the first pianist appointed to the ABC, and through him she met many famous people. One story she delighted in telling was of, as young child, sitting on Dame Nellie Melba's knee to play the piano.



Marj's funeral service was held at St. Philips on Friday May 11th - her 103rd birthday.

## LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Lloyd, Brian	Rutherglen
O'Donohue, Annette	Eaglehawk & District pioneer register vol. 1: A , B & C
Bourke, Mary	Keeping the spirit alive : the story of the Phillip Island RSL
Cusack, Frank ed.	Bendigo: the German chapter
Nicholson, Ian	Log of logs, volumes 1 & 3
Anderson, Hugh	Saltwater River history trails. Sunbury to the sea
Brown, Frances	Family and local history. An ordered approach towards publication
Meadley, Dom	Writing a family history
Keneally, Thomas	The great shame: a story of the Irish in the Old World & the New
Phillips, Peter J.	Redgum and paddlewheels: Australia's inland river trade

## MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

British listed buildings online. <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/>  
 Your ancestors' home might not be listed, but there could be photos of their village or the street they lived in on this site

City of Kingston historical website <http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au>  
 Worth looking at if you had family in the suburbs covered by the present day City of Kingston

Lots of links to interesting sites at <http://rmhh.co.uk/sitemap.html>

Ireland genealogy project - all counties <http://www.igp-web.com/>

South Australia birth (1842-1928), death (1842-1972) & marriage (1842-1937) indexes  
<http://www.genealogysa.org.au>

Links to free databases - world wide  
<http://www.1stexamcram.com/FamilyTreeLab/WebSources.html>

## EPITAPHS

### Nicholas Hooks, Aberconway, Caernarvonshire:

*Here lieth the body of  
 Nicholas Hooks, of Conway, gent.,  
 Who was the one-and-fortieth child of his father,  
 William Hooks, Esq., by Alice his wife,  
 And the father of seventy-and-twenty children;  
 He died the 20th day of March, 1637.*

### Infant, Burlington, Iowa:

*Beneath this stone our baby lays  
 He neither cries nor hollers.  
 He lived just one and twenty days,  
 And cost us forty dollars.*

source: <http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>