



# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are held at our rooms, 56 Chapel St., Cowes

**Saturday 2 June 2018 Family Tree Maker User Group** 1.30pm – 4pm

Topics to be discussed include:

- Creating a family health history using FTM
- How to delete a group of persons from your family tree

**Saturday 7 July Brick wall discussion** 1.30pm – 4pm

**Saturday 4 August 2018 Family Tree Maker User Group** 1.30pm – 4pm

Details closer to the date

**Monday 13 August Launch of our early Phillip Island Rate Books Indexing Program**

Further details closer to the date

**Monday 13 - Saturday 18 August Family History Week.**

Our rooms will be open from 10am – 4pm each day. Entry and use of our records will be free

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### John Taggart, Wigtown, Galloway:

*Here lies John Taggart, of honest fame,  
Of stature low, and a leg lame;  
Content he was with portion small,  
Kept a shop in Wigtown, and that's all.*

### Anonymous, Saratoga:

*Farewell, dear wife! My life is past;  
I loved you while my life did last;  
Don't grieve for me, or sorrow take  
But love my brother for my sake.*

### Anonymous, Doncaster:

*Here lies 2 brothers by misfortun serounded,  
One dy'd of his wounds, and the other was drowned.*

<http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>

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## 150 YEARS

This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of closer settlement on Phillip Island. Over the next two issues I will look at random newspaper reports leading up to the November 2 1868 selection ballot, held at Schnapper Point (Mornington).

The debate appears to have started in February 1861.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1861.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past four o'clock.

Mr L. L. SMITH gave notice, that on Friday next, he would ask the hon. the Chief Secretary, whether it is true that the whole of Phillip Island is leased to a Mr McHaffie for the sum of twenty-five pounds per annum; and secondly, whether it is the intention of the Government to have the same speedily surveyed, as it is most favorably situated for settlement.

The Age. Wednesday 13 February 1861

In the Assembly, last night, Mr Lyall moved that it was undesirable that any portion of Phillip Island should be alienated by sale, and that the proposed survey should be countermanded. A warm debate ensued, in which most of the members present took part, and which did not terminate until between one and two o'clock this morning, when, on a division, the motion was carried by a majority of six, the numbers being 23 to 17.

The Age. Friday 15 March 1861

## PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1861.

PHILLIP ISLAND.—Mr L. L. Smith moved that the resolution passed in the House on Thursday the 14th of March last, relative to the surveying of Phillip Island, be read and rescinded. He produced a memorial signed by 500 persons, professing to be agriculturists, in favor of the sale of the said island. Mr Hood proposed the adjournment of the debate, on the ground that guano was said to have been found on the island. Mr Brooke said this need not interfere with the sale of portions of the island not containing guano. But as he thought it too much to waste the time of the House on a question so recently debated at length and negatived, he moved the previous question. . . .

The Age. Friday 19 April 1861

## A Mysterious Petition

Amongst other proceedings of our Legislative Assembly, it would appear that in the matter of Phillip Island. "Mr. L. L. Smith presented a petition from upwards of 500 agriculturalists, praying the House to reconsider its decision with regard to the survey of this island," and immediately thereafter the same gentleman moved a resolution to a similar effect.

On the motion, however, being debated, "Dr. McAdam pointed out that there were many of the names in the same hand-writing," of which, and of similar names, he read several examples. The hon. Proposer of the motion, it would seem, did not favour the House with any explanation of those somewhat curious circumstances, which are rendered more suspicious by the statement of another hon. Member "that he had been told that a Mr. Clarke paid a Mr. Martin to procure signatures to this valuable document." The House, thereupon, by a large majority, negative the motion, and Mr. Punch, while heartily concurring in this proceeding, is further of the opinion that the proper place for documents of a like character is not *on* but *under* the table.

Melbourne Punch. Thursday 25 April 1861

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

## AGRICULTURE

The new Land Act has not hitherto proved a great benefit to the country. . . .

With regard both to the sale of lands and the proclamation of commonages there is good reason to believe that a good deal of back-stair influence and obstruction (such as has been employed from the beginning of this colony), have been employed lately in the Government offices, to prevent the alienation of land from squatting purposes. One of these cases recently came before Parliament. There is, near the Port Phillip Heads, at the entrance of Western Port Bay, an island some five or six miles in area, containing somewhere about 30,000 acres of land. It is, in fact, another "Isle of Wight," on the southern part of our coast, fertile, open to the cool southern breezes, and in every respect adapted for marine summer residences in a land of hot winds and sultry days; well adapted, also, for small dairy farms, and for occupation by men engaged in catching and curing fish. Well, this island has been, and still is, in the possession of one McHaffie, a squatter; and not withstanding a memorial, signed by some 106 persons, one of whom stated his willingness to give £6 an acre for an allotment in this island, so strong is the squatting interest yet in Parliament, that it has been decided this island shall not be surveyed and sold. On Thursday evening, 14th March, the question was debated in the Assembly, and fiercely raged the battle on either side till three o'clock in the morning, ending in a narrow majority for the retention of the island by the squatter. There is no doubt that many such battles will have to be fought, and "Phillip Islands" lost and won before agriculture will get fair play in this new land of ours

The Age. Monday 25 March 1861

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## GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

From: GetGenealogy.com

### 1. SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT

Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it's spelled. Use wild cards or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

### 2. ASSUME NOTHING

Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that:

- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestors life events were recorded

### 3. USE DISCRETION

Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

### 4. ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE OTHER

Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces and evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so you always cite your sources.

### 5. MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

Its okay to state that someone was born 'abt 1845,' or died 'May 1915' if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is 'correct?' They all are.

### 6. IF UNSURE, SAY SO

Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you 'suspect' such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

### 7. YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE

Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

### 8. JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

### 9. PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH

No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along you research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand . . . in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

### 10. DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his 'Don't die with your music still in you,' we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to **tell their stories**.

### 11. DNA IS NOT IS TRUMP CARD

DNA is just one of **many** possible sources of information you can use to verify and deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should **always** be used in concert with other sources.

### 12. ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE 'BORROWED'

You need to accept the fact that any family information you past online will be 'borrowed' or outright stoles, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast . . . the internet. Get over it.

*Thank you Elaine Alexander for sending this to me*

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Recording Family History" presented by **LINDA STARKE** 17 February 2018



## MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

British convict ancestors.

<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/search>

Elaine Alexander highly recommends this site.

"This is the most amazing resource for those researching British convict ancestors. After spending months trying to find primary sources for a convict great great grandfather, this site provided it all in minutes with a simple name search".

Hay Historical Society

[www.users.tpg.com.au/hayhist/](http://www.users.tpg.com.au/hayhist/)

Dundee (Scotland) records: numerous subjects

[www.fdca.org.uk/Dundee\\_Records.html](http://www.fdca.org.uk/Dundee_Records.html)

Soldier settlement scheme

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/node/1736>

Identifying the father of an illegitimate child

<http://www.judywebster.com.au/illegit.html>

The Glasgow Story

<http://www.theglasgowstory.com>

Epidemics timeline (U.K.)

<http://www.kdfhs.org.uk>

A nation's heritage. Electronic encyclopedia of gold in Australia

<http://www.egold.net.au/>

Scottish emigration database

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration/>

South Africa's stamouers (first families)

<http://www.stamouers.com/>

Western District (Victoria) families

<https://westerndistrictfamilies.com/>

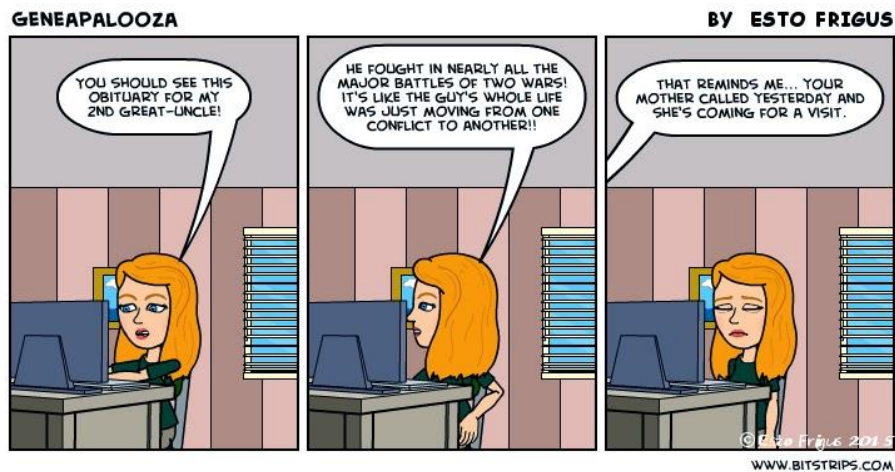
Irish Genealogical Research Society

<https://www.irishancestors.ie/home-2/>

Go to 'Resources', then 'Unique resources' for a number of indexes, also 'Useful Links'

I suffer from ADGO. Attention Deficit Genealogy Disorder. It's where you start researching one ancestor, but get distracted by another ancestor's record, which causes you to bounce around to different ancestors only to end up doing a lot of work with very little to show for it!





### NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

Robinson, Portia	Women of Botany Bay
Lemon, Andrew	Northcote side of the river
Tipping, Marjorie	Melbourne of the Yarra
Carroll, Brian	Melbourne. An illustrated history
Clarke, Patricia	A Colonial woman. The life and times of Mary Braidwood Mowle 1827-1857
Torpey, Doris	The way it was. History of the Mallee 1910-1949
Strange, A. W.	Ballarat. The formative years
Everingham, Sam	Wild ride. The rise and fall of Cobb & Co
Egan, Jack	Buried alive. Sydney 1788-92. Eyewitness accounts of the making of a nation
Auhl, Ian	Burra sketchbook
Nest, Denise M.	Call of the bunyip. History of Bunyip, Iona & Tonimbuk 1847-1990

### FAMILY TREE MAKER USER GROUP 7 April 2018

Topics covered by Suzanne and Bernie  
Included:  
Inserting videos into FTM  
FTM Companion Guide



## PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

So as to be the better able to cope with the ever-growing demand for the "Staff of Life," particularly during the height of the visiting season, Messrs. Robb Bros. are now having built by Mr. Harry Bennell a new oven, 10 x 8 feet, for their bakery, which is to be enlarged. Some idea of the size and amount of work entailed in this new oven may be gathered when it is stated that 7000 ordinary and 1000 special fireproof bricks will be used in its construction, and it will be capable of baking 160 large loaves at a time. The oven at present, in which only half the quantity of loaves could be baked, was built by Mr. Harry Bennell and his father some 25 years since. In chatting with Mr. Bennell this week he remarked that his father was hardly fit to help with the job in hand, he being now 80 years of age, but while failing in some of his faculties he still enjoys good bodily health. Messrs. Robb Bros. are to be congratulated on this forward movement to meet the growing needs of the Island, and the Islanders generally, as well as the hotels and boarding houses, will be glad to know that at least for some years all their needs will be able to be supplied locally, and that a bread famine, as was experienced occasionally in the past, need no longer exist.

One thing that Cowes lacks, and comment is frequently made regarding it by visitors, is a shop where cake, scones, yeast buns, etc., may be obtained. Something in this line would not only be welcomed by residents, but also by people renting cottages and providing their own commissariat,

Frankston and Somerville Standard  
Friday 23 June 1922

### VETERAN RIFLEMEN.

#### AN ALLEGED VICTORIAN OFFER.

WASHINGTON, 12th March.

A resident of Wonthaggi, in Victoria, Australia, has offered a troop of 500 veteran riflemen for the revolutionary service in Mexico, and states that he is ready to risk the consequences.

### A SWIM TO PHILLIP ISLAND.

The striking success of the learn-to-swim campaign is a matter that induces a feeling of profound gratification in the breasts of all good citizens. Nothing but good can come from such a commonsense enterprise. Whilst journeying to and from Cowes it occurred to the writer that the public-spirited man of that lovely island might still further popularise that fine health resort and also aid in the development of long-distance swimming by arranging an annual swim from the mainland to Cowes. If Sandy Point were chosen as the starting point, that would allow for three miles swim. Such a contest might easily become one of Australia's classic contests and a splendid test of the stamina of our finest swimmers.

Frankston and Somerville Standard.  
Friday 22 February 1929

### WOMEN'S PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

The association held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 5, in the shire hall. The president (Mrs. W. D. Davie) occupied the chair.

It was reported that during the month a working bee had been held and the eucalyptus ficifolia had been shifted from Warley to Bass avenue as it was found that they were not suitable for such an exposed situation. It was agreed that 20 Norfolk Island pines be purchased and placed in Warley avenue and that a working bee be held on May 13 for the planting of them. A further 10 is to be planted along the foreshore.

Frankston and Somerville Standard  
Saturday 10 May 1931

### STORY RIDICULED.

(Received March 13, 10 a.m.)

MELBOURNE, This Day.

Wonthaggi residents ridicule the cabled statement that five hundred men have been offered for revolutionary service in Mexico. They state that such a force would exhaust half the employees in the Government mine.

Evening Post (New Zealand). 13 March 1911

### IGA COWES

Anyone shopping at the IGA Grocery store in Cowes, please give our **Shopper Number 595** and all credits will go to the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society Inc. It would be most appreciated by the Committee if you could spare a few points.