

Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

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Thursday 10 am – 4 pm
Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 1 June

P.I.A.D.G.S. – FAMILY TREE MAKER USER GROUP

Date: Saturday, 1 June 2019
Time: 1.15pm for 1.30 start. Finish at 4.00pm
Venue: PIADGS Rooms, 56 Chapel Street, Cowes

Interested in using Family Tree Maker (FTM) software to capture your research and build your family tree?

The P.I.A.D.G.S. Family Tree Maker User Group is facilitated by volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a potential FTM user, new user or a long term user.

Come along to our next user group to see how it's done.

RSVP: Thursday, 30 May 2019 to piadgs@gmail.com

Beginners, intermediate and advanced users welcome.



Saturday 6 July **Brick Wall Discussion Group** 1.30 – 4 pm

On the paths of our ancestors we tread lightly, but honour their courage and amaze at all they did and fought and challenged. Our lives are cushioned and are free because they did absolutely amazing things in a world that made their lives hard, difficult and trying at the best of times. May their descendants appreciate what truly adventurous souls they were !

I cannot imagine travelling halfway across the world, alone, to start anew, to build a new life for family to join them in a whole new world, with virtually nothing! Bless them all, for we are truly blessed by their sacrifices and their fight to build a better life for those of us to come later.

I have a few of these adventurous souls in my heritage and it is only now that I can relate in a small way to what they really took on. Wow!

Tania Hodgson

Thank you to Helen Swaine for forwarding this to me

The 21st April was a busy day for members of the P.I.A.D.G.S. committee.

Recently, the society was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants 2018 for the sum of \$1530.00 for the upgrade of our office computer. In the morning Mr Russell Broadbent MP, Federal Member for Monash, came along to our research rooms to present us with the grant. His attendance was welcome as we enjoyed morning tea discussing local issues and genealogy.



In the afternoon David Rathgen presented a seminar on "Introduction to Family History Research". David gave an interesting talk on starting up and recording family history research using basic Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets. He covered numbering systems and recording methods that a novice family researcher might use and the many and varied research sites available to look at for past relatives. The seminar was attended by 22 people, 11 of which were new to our family research rooms.



STRANGE BEQUEST

A strange bequest was made by a retired soap manufacturer recently. He left the sum of a little more than eleven hundred dollars to found a home for "homeless cats and dogs." But stipulated that the money is not to be touched until the year 2163, by when the donor estimates it will have increased to two hundred million dollars.

St. Albans Daily Messenger (St Albans, Vermont), 18 July 1918

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

INTENSIVE HUNT ON ISLAND

For Escaped Prisoner

Eludes Captors in Scrub

The search for Leopold Hughes, aged 24 years, who absconded from the McLeod penal settlement, French Island, on Sunday night, became more intense last evening, when three employees of Mr. Sambell, of Ventnor, Phillip Island, surprised the man in their hut on Mr. Sambell's property.

Returning to the hut about 8 p.m., Mr. Otto Burkhardt and two boys found a man dressed in a grey suit, heavy boots, and a felt hat on the point of leaving the hut with a quantity of clothes containing 13 in money. While Mr. Burkhardt ran 200 yards to Mr. Sambell's house, and informed the Cowes police, the boys demanded the return of the clothes and money. The man dropped the articles, and ran into dense scrub near the beach.

A search party composed of two officers from the penal settlement and First-constable McGrady, of Cowes, rushed in a motor-car to Ventnor, but, although they saw the flashing of a torch in the scrub, they were unable to find the fugitive. They were unable to find the fugitive. When the torch flashed, less than 40 yards from him, one of the penal officers ran into the scrub, but he fell into a deep drain and lost his torch. Then he ran into a wire fence, and after climbing over it he ran into another fence. Hughes escaped, but the searchers expect to capture him to-day.

In an attempt to delude the searchers Hughes apparently constructed a raft from a wool-press, stolen from the house of Mr. Richard Scott, of French Island, on Tuesday night, and set it adrift. Then he attempted to row to the mainland in a boat stolen from Mr. Hunt's property at Tankerton, French Island, but he was driven on to Phillip Island. The raft was found early on Wednesday morning, near Tortoise Head, where the boat was later discovered on Wednesday night. Hughes must have rowed for ten miles while a strong tide was running. His escape is regarded as the most determined ever made from the penal settlement.

A large quantity of food was stolen from the house of Mr. Carl Bussell, at Ventnor, on Wednesday night. As all boats and wharves on Phillip Island are being carefully watched, the fugitive will experience great difficulty in escaping to the mainland.

The troubles of people who are interested in the Cowes jetty, at Phillip Island, were brought under the notice of the Commissioner of Customs on Friday last by Mr. Downward M.L.A. and a numerous deputation. The Government provided £500 on this year's estimates for repairs to the work, but Mr. Downward contended had it not been for past retrenchment this expenditure would have been spread over the last ten years. The jetty, he declared, is in a "terrible state of disrepair," and when northerly gales blow it affords no shelter whatsoever to vessels. It was now desired that £500 should be placed on next year's estimates for an extension of 100 feet. Mr. Salmon said it was difficult to determine as to the direction in which the extension should be made. He would depute an officer to make an inspection, and on the receipt of his report would be prepared to consider the matter.

Great Southern Advocate (Korumburra)
Thursday 3 May 1900

PHILLIP ISLAND

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The first ball under the auspices of the Phillip Island Football Club, took place at Leeson's Hall, on Friday evening the 13th inst. The Hall was beautifully decorated with ferns and evergreens. The ball committee worked hard to make the affair a success, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, I am pleased to say their efforts were amply rewarded. First class music was provided by Messrs Groves, Burton and Jeury, while Mr. A. McLardy officiated as M.C. There being about 30 couples present. In addition to the 24 dances on the programme, there were 9 specials and it was exactly half-past five o'clock on Saturday morning when the assembly broke up, everyone declaring that the affair was the most enjoyable and successful one that has taken place in Cowes. Most of the guests present showed their appreciation of the affair by wearing rosettes of "Royal and Scarlet" ribbon. I must not omit to mention that the catering was intrusted to Mr. Leeson, and reflected great praise for the able manner in which it was carried out.

Mornington Standard. Saturday 21 June 1890

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

Most of our members use 'Trove' as a research aid. To help you make the most of this site Elaine Alexander recommends the following sites:

- How to use Trove : an overview and Trove tips for family historians <https://youtu.be/o5uYiES21PQ>
<https://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/trove/2014/08/25/trove-tips-for-family-historians>
- Adoption records. A research guide to adoptions in the UK
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/adoptions/>
- Sheffield indexes <http://www.sheffieldindexers.com>
 This website has lots of records for Sheffield, also links to records for Leeds & Harrogate in Yorkshire, Oundle in Northamptonshire, and Derbyshire.
- Cavan genealogy <http://www.from-ireland.net/county-cavan-genealogy/>
- Bendigo Benevolent Asylum admission registers
<https://www.bendigofamilyhistory.org/bendigo-benevolent-asylum>
- Tipperary studies <http://tipperarystudies.ie/digitisation-project/>
- Finding graves in Holland <http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/online-cemeteries/>
- West Cork graveyards database <http://www.graveyards.skibbheritage.com/>
- Scottish indexes <http://scottishindexes.com/default.aspx>
- Workhouse records (UK) <http://www.workhouses.org.uk>
- Danish Family Search <https://www.danishfamilysearch.com>
- If you like reading the various blogs available on the internet, have a look at:
 Genealogy à la carte <http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=25526>
 Gail Devers is based in Canada, but her blogs cover genealogy in many countries.
- Old occupations. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/glossary/>
 and <https://rmhh.co.uk/occup/>
- NSW Gaol Photographic Description books (click on G (gaols)
<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z>
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EPITAPHS:

Samuel Turner, Blacksmith,
 Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire:
*His sledge and hammer lie reclined,
 His bellows, too, has lost its wind,
 His Coal is spent, his Iron gone,
 His nails are drove, his work is done,
 His body's here, clutched in the dust,
 'Tis hoped his soul is with the just.*

Martha Wells, wife of John Wells,
 ob. 1777, Folkestone:
*We far from home did Come
 Each other for to join
 In peace with all Men here we Liv'd
 And did in Love Combine;
 But oh remark the Strange
 Yet heaven's wise decree:
 I'm Lodg'd within the Silent grave,
 He's Rouling in the Sea.*

<http://shadowsofetime.co.nz>

In the last edition of 'Reflections' we looked at an account of a trip to Phillip Island in 1878. This account, written in 1885, which will be published in two parts, gives an account of a visit to the island from a very different perspective.

PHILLIP ISLAND

BY A RAMBLER.

"Where – aw – do you mean to – spend your summah holiday, old chappie," said my bosom friend to me some three weeks ago, as we beguiled the listless hours, smoking "weeds" on my garden verandah. "Oh, away from the crowd, don't-cher-know. Phillip Island: do some seaside musins; work up the 'unearthly mood' Byron speaks of, and catch a 'ray of immortality.'" My friend thought this an awful bore, and did not join me. The loss was entirely his, because Phillip Island is one of the peaceful and attractive spots near Melbourne where the world sick mind can win repose. Some people, however, think no watering place a success unless there is a crowd, a band, a steamer arriving and departing daily, and an opportunity for sticking five rings on their fingers preparatory to sitting down to dinner. For my part I like to get out of the world for my holiday; to be secluded, and wear a brigand hat ; in a word, to go about more like the natural man than the artificial product of an over wrought civilization. This is just what you can do on Phillip Island, and therefore it is my intention to pipe about the place in a high key.

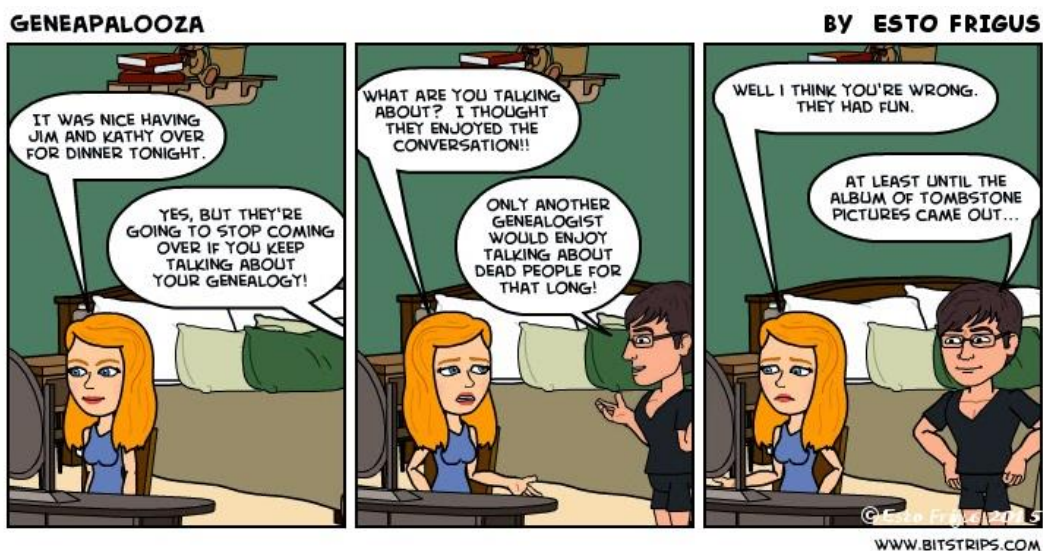
Having packed away my eyebrow brush, some cigars and a stock of good humor, I started for Frankston, from whence Cobb's coach runs to Hastings, and a small steamer carries you across the smooth waters of Western Port Bay to Phillip Island. The total travelling to be done before reaching the welcome roof of Bauer's Hotel, at Cowes, is 55 miles. The train distance is 26 miles, coach 14, and by steamer 15 miles. Fare from Melbourne to Phillip Island, 12s. The coach part of the journey is not unpleasant, good roads and horseflesh being available. Between Hastings and Frankston the country is undulating, lightly timbered and covered with scrub. Upon nearing Hastings the land becomes swampy, and if ever an enemy should make the daring attempt to effect a landing there in order to march upon Melbourne he would encounter nothing but difficulties. Western Port Bay is the main fish supply depot for the metropolis, and enterprising fishermen are met at every turn of this lowly hamlet. Some day it might become famous by having another battle of Hastings fought over its marshes, but of this there is small immediate prospect. Like many other seaside towns Hastings has little to recommend it for beauty, and if the sea view were shut out one might as well be at Khartoum for all the pleasure an average British excursionist could extract from it. It is a decided disadvantage to Phillip Island that the steamer only runs every alternate day, and that the small craft now stationed there is of such primitive construction as to be mistaken by the uninformed as a relic of Noah's time. The skipper, who is a jovial bird, told me that he can carry sixty passengers at a pinch. But unless he put them down the funnel and into the rigging, I can't for the life of me see how even twenty persons could be accommodated without inconvenience. The steamer also runs to Griffiths Point and carries her Majesty's mails. Some people turn up their noses at this mail boat, and prefer to reach Phillip Island in one of the fishing boats. This is a very good idea if the day be fine, the wind favorable, and the tide happens to run current with your ideas. But heaven help the hardy mariner fresh from the city who finds himself beating about the bay in an adverse wind, with Cowes dancing before his eyes all day like a will o' the wisp. Not to put too fine a point upon such an attempt, I think it romantic, but decidedly venturesome and unbecoming a "city gent," with domestic ties which he wishes to preserve.

Phillip Island some fifteen years ago was a sheep and cattle run. It comprises about 30,000 acres. The island is a little over 4 miles wide and 14 miles in length. In 1860 the whole area was thrown open for selection, and a great rush set in for the land, which those who knew least about it pronounced to be well adapted for agriculture. Several hundred selectors took up holdings, and for a few years dragged on a miserable existence. They cultivated and improved their selections, but at length had to give in to the pressure of circumstances, the soil being too poor to pay the husbandman for tilling it, doubly handicapped as he was by having uncertain communication with his market. About a third of the island has since fallen into the hands of Mr. Cleeland, formerly of the Albion Hotel, Bourke-street. The selectors, with one or two exceptions, have all been "gobbled up," and the island is once more turns into a sheep walk and cattle run. But neither sheep nor cattle thrive so well upon it as horses. A population of 300 is scattered about the island, about one half are to be found in the neighborhood of Cowes, which faces Hastings, and the balance at Newhaven, where the

shire hall and police court is located. It is at Cowes that the excursionist puts up, and a thoroughly enjoyable place he finds it. There are two hotels here – Bauer's Isle of Wight and Wood's. Mr. Bauer is an old identity, having planted himself at Cowes fifteen years ago, and has established a comfortable house, the reputation of which reached me long before I was able of my own experience to speak its praises. There is nothing of the modern fashionable watering place air about the hotel. In fact it looks outwardly more like the mountain cottage of a wool king than a hotel, but there is no mistaking the internal comforts. A flower garden and shady trees with seats front the entrance, and at the rear there is a well laid out orchard. About half a mile distant are stables, poultry yards and other domestic branch of the establishment. Once you know your way about the place the feeling of hotel life never occurs, all the surroundings reminding one so much of the attractions of a well appointed marine villa. And after a pleasant chat and smoke with mine host under one of his spreading pine trees it would take very little to cheat the imagination into believing oneself "at home" with a jolly good fellow who had extended his hospitality to a dust and smoke consuming young man. It must have been at some such place that the old world philosopher, the Emperor Aurelius Antoninus penned those pleasant thought. "I am content to live from day to day and leave the future to the gods, in the meantime sweetening life as I can with some pleasant laugh here and there to relish it." These old fellows, after all, knew how to enjoy themselves.

The Age. 4 April 1885
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

To be continued in 'Reflections' 110 August 2019



Marriage Announcement:

On the 21st ultimo, by the Rev. Mr. Snooks, grandfather of the bride, Mr. William David Smith, Chimney Sweep, only son of John William Smith, Esq., formerly Principal Crossing Sweeper in London, President of the Shoe Black Society, and Vice President of the Anti-Poking Your Nose into other People's Business Society, now holding a Government Appointment in Norfolk Island, having left his Country for his Country's good, to Miss Anastasia Leonora Robinson, second daughter of Phoebe Robinson, wife of John Robinson, Green Grocer and General Carrier, late of St. Giles, London - all of the South.

Wellington Independent (New Zealand), 4 October 1862

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

J. Tate Platt--A correspondent under this signature, evidently badly afflicted with the cacoethes scribendi has of late sent us several lengthy letters. We beg as a particular favor that he will not write any more, it is really too bad to subject us to such a deluge of twaddle, and we cannot consent to subject our readers to a similar infliction

Wellington Independent (New Zealand), 6 December 1862