



Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

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Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Saturday 7 March Brick Wall Discussion 1.30 – 4 pm

Saturday 18 April D.N.A. Discussion 1.30 – 4 pm

End of Year Lunch at the San Remo Hotel

7 December 2019



I wonder if a "Missing Persons Bulletin" would locate my g-g-grandpa?

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

PHILLIP ISLAND.

A visitor to Phillip Island writes as follows in support of its claims as a health resort, and from his remarks it would appear that the place is not unworthy of the attention of the sportsman. He says:—Now that the income of the Railway department needs augmenting it seems to me strange the present commissioners have never deemed it worth while to issue cheap return tickets to Phillip Island in Westernport Bay. I have visited almost every seaside place around the shores of Victoria, but I have found no place to my mind to excel Phillip Island. The hotel accommodation is first-class, scenery varied and beautiful, from high well-grassed downs to bold and rocky headlands. The island in question contains about 30,000 acres of land, and is in the vicinity of numerous other islands and beautiful headlands, such as Flinders, Griffiths Point, Cape Paterson, &c. Near the principal hotel good baths have been erected. Plenty of sport can be obtained with rod and gun. Ducks frequent the rivulets and ponds, occasionally deer come within rifle range, at times pheasants are met with hares are numerous, the drives are excellent, and the coast scenery of the island needs to be seen to be remembered. The climate is mild like that of Tasmania, mild and genial in winter and rarely visited by hot winds in summer. Very frequently country residents in the Goulburn Valley and the Wimmera districts have asked me how it is reached. They have heard often enough of the beauties of the place, but are ignorant of the mode of reaching it, yet the journey can be made from Flinders street station in three to four hours' time. Port Phillip Bay is singularly devoid of beauty in the strict sense of the word. No islands adorn its surface nor rocky headlands skirt its shores. Not so with Westernport Bay. It has Churchill, French, Phillip, Tortoise, and other islands, and is indeed a place of singular beauty. Were the Railway department to run cheap excursions in connection with the Westernport Steamship Company I am quite satisfied they would receive a great deal of patronage, and residents of the interior portions of the colony would be enabled to visit one of the prettiest localities to be found anywhere around the shores of the colony. This is one of the ways revenue could be created without any grumbling from those who would be the contributors to it.

The mutton bird season opened on April 15. Inspectors of the Game and Fisheries department report that the birds are as plentiful this year as formerly, and that many thousands are nesting at Phillip Island. Field naturalists, however, fear that if the wholesale slaughter which goes on from year to year is continued the species will ultimately die out.

The Australasian. Saturday 17 April 1920

When the hon. Secretary of the Bush-Nursing Association, Sir James Barrett, was at Cowes last February, he brought under the notice of the Hospital committee the necessity of making some provision for the transference of patients or victims of accidents from outback to the hospital, but the only vehicle available there for the purpose was a Ford motor truck without any protection from the sun or weather. Since then the progressive spirit of Mr. Chas. Grayden jun., has led him to purchase a char-a-banc that will seat some 17 passengers, and the seats are arranged in such a manner that it was found that the ambulance stretcher from the hospital could be placed upon a couple of bearers on the spring-seats and transformed into a splendid impromptu ambulance. Had we the best and latest word in the way of a conveyance for the transportation of the sick and injured, it is of little use where bad roads have to be traversed and as one of the nurses remarked when encountering some of the "atrocious roads": "Unless Phillip Island wakes up and improves their roads there will not be much else for visitors to come to Cowes for, but the beach and the bathing, as motoring will be out of the question."

Frankston and Somerville Standard.
Wednesday 21 January 1925

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY March 17

Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The *Declaration* says that he spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick's efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland, despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit the region.

Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day

The earliest reference I could find on 'Trove' to St. Patrick's Day was on 25 June 1814.

'Previous to passing sentence the JUDGE ADVOCATE availed himself of the opportunity which this case of extreme iniquity had unhappily afforded him, of making some pointed observations on the nature of the offence. . . . This offence took place upon the evening of St. Patrick's Day ; and it was doleful to remark that the acts of excess and violence into which the lower orders of persons rush upon that and other particular holidays had, it might be said, uniformly furnished matter of the most serious investigation to the Criminal Courts of this Colony.'

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Saturday 25 June 1814

And two later references:

St. Patrick's Day

This great festival of the "Sons of Green Erin," was celebrated in Hobart Town with much *spirit*. In the evening, the officers of the 40th Regiment, gave a splendid Ball to upwards of 120 persons; among whom were the principal Civil and Military Officers of the Colony, and their families. There were some inhabitants, but they were selected from the very "*purest Merino breeds*:" all others being carefully avoided. The affair however was got up on a very liberal scale, and passed off very well.

Colonial Advocate, and Tasmanian Monthly Review and Register (Hobart Town). Tuesday 1 April 1828

The doors of the Public houses were thrown open on St. Patrick's morning, and soon filled with the *boys* decorated with their sprigs of Shamrock and their twigs of blackthorn, or some Australian substitute : for all the world knows an Irishman is never *full* dressed, without an ornament of this description. – The whiskey in, the senses out, gave the principal streets a Donybrook fair kind of appearance. Many a piteous Shela stood wiping the gory locks of her Paddy, until released from that duty by the officious interference of the knights of the *baton*, who one and all were busily employed in providing lodgings for the destitute during the day and a great part of the night. "St. Patrick's day comes but once a year." Really this is a lucky circumstance, for the hard scraping of whole weeks' labour is devoted to the unconscionable saint, who seems to care little about providing his disciples with loaves and fishes for the next week unlike his divine master.

A Dinner in commemoration of St. Patrick was got up on Monday last at the Sydney Tavern, George street, for some fifty or sixty sons of Erin, who went to work (as Tom Cribb would say) in good style. "High mountains of beef were cut down Sir" as the song says, not at the wedding of Ballyporeen, but at Monsieur Girard's, who had provided *plentifully* for his guests, though there was a complaint of want of variety. Harmony prevailed during the first hour, after which a general flow of that particular sort of *patriotism* for which the Irish are so famed, became the characteristic feature of the entertainment. The noble President, Mr. A. Hill, a bit of real Irish stuff, assisted by a son of St. George, did all that an Irishman ought to do on the auspicious occasion, by singing some of his choicest songs. Music equally choice aided the hilarity of the company, and the health of St. Patrick was drunk, till the feelings of many were overpowered, and their memory failed, and every worldly was drowned, either in Irish extacy, or all-powerful sleep.

The Monitor (Sydney). Saturday 22 March 1828

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY March 17

Among family memorabilia I inherited from an elderly relative many years ago, is a small leather-bound note book. On the front page is written 'Selections from various Authors. The mirror of my mind 1857'. Hand-written in pen and (in some cases very faded) pencil, are poems and excerpts from the works of many authors which must have appealed to the owner of this little book, as well as 'Notes of a tour thro' Holland & Belgium - 1869'. He also included some of his own poetry – one is a love poem addressed to an ancestor of my relative.

Among the poems is the following, with the comment "Street ballad written about 1795 deserves to be called the Irish National Anthem if any piece of poetry can claim that title".

Oh Paddy dear! an' did you hear the news that goin' round?
The shamrock is by law forbid to grow on Irish ground
No more St Patrick's Day weel keep, his colour can't be seen
For there's a cruel law agin the wearin' o' the green.
I met with Napper Tandy and he took me by the hand
An' he said "How's dear Ould Ireland and how does she stand?"
She's the most distressful country that iver yet was seen
For they're hangin men and women there for wearin o' the green.

An' if the colour we must wear is England's cruel red
Let it remind us of the blood that Ire-land has shed.
The pull the shamrock from your hat and throw it on the sod –
An' never fear t'will take root there, tho' underfoot tis trod!
When Law can stop the blades of grass from growin as they grow
And when the leaves in summer time their colours dare not show
Then I will change the colour too I wear in my Caubeen
But till that day plaze God I'll stick to wearin' o' the green.

IRISH RULES

1. The **IRISH** always make the rules.
2. The **IRISH** always may change the rules without so much as a "top o' the mornin'" to you.
3. The luck of the **IRISH** applies only to the **IRISH** and is not transferable.
4. If you mess with the **IRISH**, you will be haunted by Murphy's Law for the rest of your life.
5. Kissing the Blarney Stone and eating "Lucky Charms" will not make you **IRISH**.
6. All 'wanna-be' **IRISH**, should stay out of the good pubs on St Patrick's Day.
7. If you don't know the words to 'Danny Boy', you should stay home on St. Pats.
8. If you bear a resemblance to 'Patty's Pig' you may gain honorary **IRISH** status.
9. Only the **IRISH** may live the life of Reilly, given his express written consent.
10. Failure to comply with **IRISH** rules may cause you to develop a painful shamrock-shaped rash on your shillelagh.

<https://www.facebook.com/GouldGenealogy/>



AUSTRALIA DAY BARBEQUE at the rooms on January 26, 2020

Good company, good weather and good food. What more could anyone want.



FREE INTERNET SITES

Scottish indexes <https://www.scottishindexes.com/>

Geneanet. (continental Europe) <http://en.geneanet.org>

Launched in 1996 by genealogy enthusiasts, Geneanet is a community of more than 3 million members who share their genealogical information for free: more than 6 billion individuals in the family trees, some digitized archival records, some family pictures, some indexes, all available through a powerful search engine, and a blog. Geneanet is based on a freemium model which combines a free website and a Premium subscription.

The Premium subscription offers additional options, including an advanced search engine, and access to hundreds of million of indexes provided by our partners.

China Families. <https://www.chinafamilies.net/>

On this site you can find a growing body of information about men and women of many different nationalities, professions and ages, who lived and worked in China between the 1850s and 1940s

Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria <http://www.cafhov.com>

Index of people buried in European cemeteries in India and South Asia, and India related memorial inscriptions in Great Britain and other countries
<http://bacsafontis.co/bin/>

Memorial inscriptions from graveyards in Ireland, the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka and Jamaica. <https://www.kabristan.org.uk/kabristan-indexes/20-the-kabristan-archives-online>

Old Scottish genealogy and family history <https://www.oldscottish.com/records.html>

Whoever said "Seek and Ye shall find" was NOT a genealogist!

I used to have a life, then I started doing genealogy.

GENEAPALOOZA



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.
