

Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

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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 24 August **Alex Glennie** 1.30 – 4 pm
Alex will talk about the Card Catalogue in Ancestry and cover a few hints on Find My Past and Family Search, followed by a question and answer session

Sunday 25 August **Alex Glennie** From 10 am. Alex will hold 'one-on-one sessions lasting 20 minutes to discuss your research problems. Alex's specialty is Scottish research, so these sessions could be very helpful to people who are having problems with their ancestors from Scotland. Bookings are essential. You can book a time on Saturday at the talk, or phone Genevieve on 0418 545 569.

Saturday 7 September **Brick Wall Discussion** 1.00 - 4 pm

Saturday 14 September **12.00 noon** **AGM BBQ**
BYO meat and drinks. Salads, bread, tea & coffee provided

2.00 pm **AGM**

Saturday 26 October 'Seniors Festival' event 1.30 - 4 pm.
'Getting the best out of Ancestry.com" and 'Using Ancestry DNA to assist with expanding and verifying your research'

Saturday 2 November **Brick Wall Discussion** 1.00 - 4 pm

Saturday 7 December **Christmas Break Up Lunch** 11.30 am - 3.00pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's that time of year again, when we ask all members to have a say in deciding who will run the family history group for the next year. If you want to influence the direction that our group takes into the future, come along and vote for the people who you think will do the best job – or stand for election yourself.

Thank goodness for Ancestry DNA.

It was 1987 when I discovered the fun and excitement of family history research and now in 2019 I still get the thrill when something new appears on my computer screen.

I began researching my father's family as I knew all the current relatives, but not very well. When I contacted them one thing was mentioned often and that was there was a mystery surrounding the couple who were my great grandparents. So, I was off and running to Melbourne, to the State Library and the Public Records Office, a couple of times a week. No computers, or Ancestry at that time, so it was slow but exciting at the same time.

I found the shipping records and the arrival of Frederick and Elizabeth, with her mother Sarah Ann on the Lusitania in July 1879. They travelled in adjoining cabins and 4 days later there was a marriage for Frederick, age 40 and Elizabeth age 19. She was under age so her mother had to provide permission. From then on it was easy to follow them as they moved to Victoria Parade, Collingwood and Elizabeth and her mother ran a Fruiters and Confectionery shop while at the same time Elizabeth gave birth to 6 children. The informant on most of the birth certificates was Sarah Ann and it was always the same – Frederick, born 1840 in Sheffield and Elizabeth, born 1860 in Sheffield.

When I used the microfiche from England to find the couple, I had no success at all – they simply did not exist. Obviously, this was the mystery that the older relatives spoke about. It took me a long time and cost a lot of money buying certificates from here and the UK to try and prove my theories of a change of name but eventually, when I subscribed to Ancestry for the first time, things fell into place and I cracked the jackpot. Using clues on the certificates from Melbourne, I found the family of Frederick and then managed to find the family of Sarah Ann.

No wonder they changed their names – Frederick had been married twice in England and had 4 children and both wives were still alive when he took off with Elizabeth, who was the cousin of his second wife. They left behind his wives and two of his children (2 had died) and Sarah Ann's husband (Elizabeth's father) to start a new life in Australia.

Frederick was always listed on the Victorian birth certificates as "a Gentleman" and as far as all the relatives knew he never worked from the time of his marriage in 1879 to 1890 when he died, at age 50, leaving Elizabeth, his 3rd wife, and her mother to bring up the six children.

When Sarah Ann died in 1911 there was mention of an older daughter called Polly who was deceased. I found that her real name was Mary Ann and apart from her appearing on the 1871 census I did not find her again, until last year when I saw her mentioned on another Public Tree. She had been married a few months after the 1871 census. It was easy to follow her family as they did not move from Sheffield.

I am a great believer in the rules of genealogy that if you have no proof of a family connection you cannot put that information on your family tree. I had no proof of the connection between the Australian family and the families in the UK – no Change of Name, no Passports etc. so I have always had 2 separate trees, until Ancestry began doing DNA testing. I convinced my husband that it would be a good idea and in 2018 we did ours, never expecting anything to come of it.

It is now quite obvious that our families are connected by DNA as I have had contacts with people from Frederick's family and also with people from Sarah Ann's family, including the great great grandchildren of Elizabeth's sister Mary Ann (known as Polly).

If you are wondering whether it is worth the expense to do a DNA test and whether it will help you in your research, I would suggest you do it. Make sure that you put just a basic tree of about 4 or 5 generations on Ancestry as this is how you get the matches to connect to your family. I wish you luck.

Helen Swaine

Many an ill-natured wife has developed into a good natured widow

PHILLIP ISLAND

BY A RAMBLER.

Continued from 'Reflections' 109 May 2019

Not a couple of hundred yards away from the hotel is the jetty and the beach. Cowes is well sheltered, and the climate is therefore said to be always balmy, even in winter, when the wild wind rushing across the ocean has first to sweep over the island before it reaches the little town that nestles so peacefully at the margin of Western Port Bay. There is very little sand on the beach, and at low tide one can enjoy delightful rambles, extending the whole length of the island. Western Port Bay is not unlike the Auckland harbor in its general aspects. It looks like a small inland sea, the Gippsland ranges forming the horizon on the extreme right, French Island in front, and to the left the long stretch of undulating country extending round to Black Head, where the Tasmanian cable is brought to shore, and to Cape Schanck. There is always a quiet sea, upon which the eye rests gratefully and the imagination fondly dwells. When the sun shoots out its fiercest rays, cooling breezes always steal softly along, robbing the great life giving planet of its power to dilute one's enjoyment, yet without taking the shimmering beauty from the white crested wavelets. For unspeakable calm and happiness to a quiet mind it would not be easy to find a more congenial spot than Cowes, where you lie stretched all day long upon a sand hummock, listening to the lulling and never ceasing sound of the sea, watching the tide going out or coming in, the sun glinting glorious light and color upon the dancing water, where the air is filled with freshness and the sky above cloudless. You take in new life at all points, and rise to the sound of the dinner gong like another Alexander eager for more conquests. The poetry of the breakfast or dinner table altogether vanishes after a day spent in a yacht or in scampering about the Pyramid rocks or the Nobbies. To dine off a sunflower is altogether out of the question under such circumstances. Even Oscar Wilde is known to have cast his lily aside when at the Isle of Wight, and soliloquized thus on what man may do :-

He may live without books – what is knowledge but grieving?
 He may live without hope – what is hope but deceiving?
 He may live without love – what is passion but pining?
 But where is the man that may live without dining?

Fishing and shooting are the chief amusement at Cowes for such as like to be always doing something. The shooting is good, black swan and duck, but the fishing is tantalizing. Bait your hook as you may, flathead and shark are your only reward. The good fishing ground is off Hastings, but those who don't wish to spend a night out in the open when fires are welcome after sunset had better not try it. Honest old Sanco Panza held that in fishing a pound of luck is worth a ton of merit, and, if he fished at Cowes, he would say, than two tons of bait. However, something is to be said for the fish who refuse to be hooked by every tyro at the business. Besides, the fish have all the advantage of being old hands at the game, whereas the other party might not be so "fly," or, in fact, a new chum. There are also many pleasant drives to various parts of the island, the most popular being to the Nobbies. These are two large rocks which once joined the island, but are now surrounded by angry waves, excepting at low tide. The beach on the ocean-side of the island is very rugged, and if a breeze is blowing seaward, the breakers dashing against the rocks and the mountains of spray flying in the air make up a scene of imposing grandeur. The mail communication with the metropolis is only tri-weekly, and one is therefore not inundated with newspapers, "extra-ordinaries" about the war and other appendages to civilized life. It is not until evening, when in front of a crackling fire, that one thinks of the

Wrinkled newspaper, thrice conned o'er,
 To beguile the dreary hour

preceding bedtime, after the seaside conversation has exhausted itself, and the authority upon art, from a cathedral to a garter – there is a man who knows everything to be found everywhere – has stopped his clapper. Nothing brings out a man's conversational powers so much as living on an island or a long sea voyage. Of course some can hold a picnic of conversation as long as there is enough beer. But once this beverage gives out, then – to change the simile – the "fat's in the fire." But no man who loves a dog, those charming companions of our quiet hours, need ever regret a break in his ordinary amusements at Cowes. The island is better supplied with dogs than fish, which are almost a luxury at the hotel. Though this is nothing new to seaside visitors, and the scarcity of good fish on the table is accounted for by the metropolitan demand absorbing all the regular supply at contract rates. In respect to baths, the island is yet in the dark ages. All bathing has to be done in the open, the ladies on one side of the jetty and the gentlemen on the other. But the Government recently established a telegraph office at Cowes, and intend to construct a

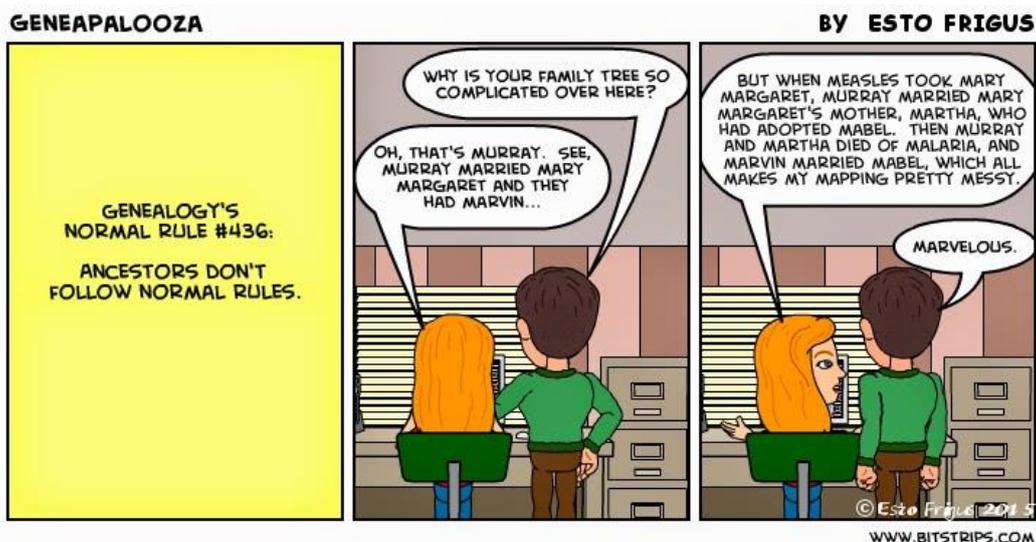
railway to Hastings. Baths must assuredly follow this progress in order to facilitate the cheaply diverted public having an annual dip in unpolluted sea water when they make Phillip Island their rendezvous, as they are certain to do soon as excursion trains runs and increased facilities are afforded to reach Phillip Island at "popular prices."

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

The Twelve Steps for Recovering Genealogists

1. I admit that I am powerless over my gedcom and that my life has become unmanageable.
2. I believe that there is a greater power other than genealogy and that it will restore sanity to my life.
3. I have made a decision to turn my life over to non-genealogists and hope that they will understand me.
4. I have admitted to myself and other genealogists that I am addicted to my obituary files.
5. I vow to no longer discuss "dead people" with my few remaining friends in hopes that they will remain my friends.
6. I promise to take photographs of things other than tombstones.
7. My only source of reading material will no longer be census, wills, death certificates and obituaries.
8. I will not spend family holidays in libraries and archives
9. Family picnics will no longer be held in cemeteries.
10. My family will no longer be referred to as "the live ones."
11. My time spent on the Internet will be limited to sites other than Rootsweb.com, Ancestry.com and MyGenealogy.com and Cyndi's.
12. I will carry these messages to other genealogists and practice these principles every day

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/>



Irish blessing: May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty

Source: Blarney August 1999

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

PHILLIP ISLAND

BY HAWK EYE

If Miss rumour is correct, the question of erecting a proper enclosure for sea bathing at Cowes will elicit two candidates for the forthcoming election of one member for the vacant seat in the Phillip Island Riding of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai. Mr. W. Denne, of Newhaven, objects to the ratepayers' money being spent for the purpose, because it is proposed to do so at Cowes, but I presume would not object if Newhaven was the site instead. Now, it is an indisputable fact that the want of the enclosure is a barrier, which prevents many people from visiting the Island; remove the barrier, and the residents of all parts of the Island must in the end profit by it, as it is only by making the place acceptable to visitors that we can induce them to come to it, and in the end promote health with a subsequent profit by leasing the baths.

A letter by Hugh Anderson, Esq., in a contemporary, touches upon the question of the Western Port Coal Tramway. From a bird's eye view of the country, I cannot see how a jetty at Settlement Point could be the same distance from the coal mine at Kilcunda as that at present at Griffiths' Point, nor one at the mouth of the river Bass either, leaving out the question that one at the latter place would be more exposed to the N. and S.W. winds, which are the strongest, and would require to be carried out some distance to be of service at all tides. I should also consider it an advantage to me for the line to be ten chains from my bay frontage instead of thirty or forty, and that it would considerably enhance the value of my property.

Whilst taking an early sail over to Cowes the other morning, I noticed that a part of the cattle race lately erected was missing. It appears to me that the stronger the fence the weaker it is. Could not the remains of the "old tidal gauge" be utilized for the purpose? And could not the present creek be made to run in a straight line into the sea instead of as at present, under the race? In some cases a heavier outlay at first is the cheaper at the end.

A movement to obtain a resident doctor is a step in the right direction, although in my spacious locality ethereal beings do not require one; those earthly do as a rule, and it is not pleasant to be compelled to travel twenty or thirty miles for assistance whilst those whom we most dearly love are left in a critical state.

A motion was tabled at the last meeting of the Shire to form the road approaching the present Cemetery, commonly known as Pain's flat, which, in its present state, is a painful task to undertake to a painless place.

South Bourke and Mornington Journal.
Wednesday 16 October 1878



DOCK AT STONY POINT. TRANSPORTING MOTOR-CARS.

Ferry Steamer Proposed.

CRIB POINT, Sunday. — The council of the Shire of Phillip Island is supporting a proposal for the construction of vehicle ferry docks at Cowes and Stony Point, at an estimated cost of £6,000. When these docks are constructed it is proposed by the Westernport Shipping Service to put into commission one of the Sydney ferry steamers for the quick transport of motor-cars from the mainland to the island. A few days ago the president of the shire (Councillor A. K. T. Sambell) met members of the Flinders Shire Council, and also representatives of the foreshore committee controlling the Stony Point foreshore, with a view to obtaining their approval to the construction of the ferry dock at Stony Point. Some work carried out by the unemployed along the foreshore at Stony Point has considerably improved this beach. The council and the foreshore committee offered no objection to the construction of a ferry dock, and informed Councillor Sambell accordingly. It is understood, however, that the mainland representatives withheld their approval to this work being used in any way for the removing and storing of oil from overseas oil-lighters. They asked to be consulted again should their approval be desired to any proposal of that nature.

The Argus. Monday 8 August 1932

Floods 'evict' farmer

A Phillip Island market gardener is being slowly flooded off his land.

A creeping swamp has covered 50 acres of Mr. J. John's vegetables at Newhaven, and his house may soon have to be removed.

Country Roads Board help is being sought to cut a path through a high bank surrounding the property and drain the water into the sea.

But Mr. Johns is still cheerful. "It's a great place for ducks and snakes," he says.

The Argus. Saturday 11 October 1952

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

- Changed Hobart street names http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/changed_streets.php
- Changed Tasmanian place names http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/changed_places.php
- NSW Gaol Inmates / Prisoners Photos Index 1870 to 1930
<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/gaols/indexes>
- Verey photo collection of Castlemaine & people <https://verey.com.au/>
- Prussian Poland : Postcards and photographs of German Poland <http://prussianpoland.com>
- Stanton Library - databases relating to North Sydney
http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Library_Databases/Heritage_Centre/Heritage_Databases
- German genealogy websites <https://lialouisecooke.com/2017/04/15/3-free-german-genealogy-websites-maps-of-germany-and-poland/>
- New Zealand shipping <http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/index.html>
- Women of Vision. Index & history of Nuns & Sisters of the Catholic Church in Australia 1838-1918
<https://web.stbedes.catholic.edu.au/Other/nuns/index.html>
- Research criminals in the family <https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au/>
- This website has some very funny anecdotes.
<https://blog.findmypast.ie/20-unexpected-record-finds-2638964749>.
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NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

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|------------------------------|---|
| Hammond, Joyce | Walls of Wire : Tatura, Rushworth, Murchison |
| Carr, Howard A. | Bridging the generations; the story of Harcourt |
| Pearson, A. M. | Echoes from the mountains and history of the Omeo Shire Council |
| Fairweather, Keith McD. | Brajerack. Mining at Omeo and Glen Wills |
| Alves, Lesley | Suburban heartland. A history of the City of Whitehorse |
| Barnard, J. & Rwigg, K. | Holding on to hope. A history of the founding agencies of MacKillop Family Services 1854-1997 |
| Christie, R.W. & Gray, G. D. | Victoria's forgotten goldfield. A history of Dargo, Crooked Creek Goldfield |
| Peters, Ned | Gold Digger's diaries |
| Mack, David | Shepherdsons: timber milling in Australia 1849-1984 |
| Butler, Graeme | Heidelberg Conservation Study. Part 1 - Heidelberg historic buildings & areas assessment |
| Pike, Glenville | Frontier territory. The colourful history of Northern Australia |
| Gunson, Niel | Good country. Cranbourne Shire |
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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.
