

Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

PLEASE NOTE: The rooms will be closed on Saturday 7 December

Saturday 7 December End of Year Lunch at the San Remo Hotel at 12 noon

Hope to see you all there – partners are welcome

We need to know approximate numbers. To confirm, please RSVP by 4 December to piadgs@gmail.com with 'Xmas lunch' in the subject line.

Saturday 22 December Rooms close at 1.00pm for Christmas break

Tuesday 7 January 2020 Research room re-opens at 10.00am

February 2020 DNA discovery session. Details closer to the date

*Poor Martha Snell! Her's gone away,
Her would if her could, but her couldn't stay;
Her'd two sore legs and a baddish cough,
But her legs it was as carried her off.*

*Reader, pass on! Don't waste your time
O'er bad biography and bitter rhyme:
For what I am this crumbling clay ensures:
For what I was is no affair of yours.*

<http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>

Best wishes for a very
merry Christmas
and a safe and happy
(and genealogically successful)
2020



A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

We all know Christmas is coming ... though way too fast for many of us. But like it or not, it will be here very soon. I'd been wanting to write some kind of Christmassy post, but hadn't decided what to do, until I stumbled upon a post today by Diane Lynn Tibert ... and rather than 'reinvent the wheel' ... I thought I'd share her post with you.

I'm sure as genealogists you'll all be reading through this list as I was, nodding your head in agreement ... because we do all have our own Genealogy Wish List. We just don't usually write it down.

Anyway, on to the Christmas Wish List ...

1. I wish for you to find a wrecking ball in 2012 that knocks down a major brick wall blocking your path to unearthing a piece of information that exposes a branch of your tree that has been kept buried for years. May the opening be large enough to see into several generations.

2. I wish for you to take a trip to a place you've never gone and discover a long lost headstone you've been seeking for years. May it still stand with a flawless inscription that provides all the vital information, including the deceased's country of origin and a wee tale of why they came to Australia (or elsewhere in the world). I wish you clear passage to it and an insect bite-free visit.

3. I wish for you to taste a dish rediscovered from your childhood, a recipe your great-grandmother had made for you and passed down through the family.

4. I wish for you a hassle-free year with no technological malfunctions, computer crashes or software glitches. May all your genealogy programs run smoothly and just the way you expected them to operate.

5. I wish for you to open your email, pick up the phone or receive a letter from a distant cousin in a family line you have very little information on. Not only does this cousin have well-documented research, she's willing to share with you.

6. I wish for you to uncover a photo of an ancestor, one you never knew existed and it's so old, it's on tin. May it reveal facts that until then were a mystery.

7. I wish for you to easily find that elusive ancestor, perhaps the one who changed their name, while searching census records.

8. I wish for your ship to come in and you find the name of the vessel and the passenger list detailing your ancestors' arrival in Australia (or elsewhere). With a little luck, a picture will also be found of the ship to add to your family history.

9. I wish for you to come into possession of a stack of letters. The yellowing envelopes contain love letters between your great-grandparents when during the First World War he was a soldier serving overseas and she was living at home with her parents.

10. I wish for you heavy reading when out-of-the-blue, you discover a mysterious ancestor kept a journal of his trip from the old country to Australia (or elsewhere), detailing the immediate family left behind and those born in his new country.

11. This creative person also liked to sketch and did his best to capture his family and surroundings within the journal pages.

12. I wish for you to be able to track down the missing birth, marriage and death records that have been dodging you in your research.

13. Ultimately, I wish for you good health, happy times and many hours of productive research. From my family tree to yours, may your holidays be merry and bright.

[Please note, I did change the country mentioned in numbers 2, 8, and 10 from 'Canada' to Australia. The rest is as Diane wrote it.]

I'm not sure what's left to say after that, as it really does cover it all? Happy Christmas everyone, and I do hope you get a chance to work (and progress) on your family history in 2012.

<https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2011/12/heres-my-genealogy-christmas-wish-list-for-you/>

Genealogy: Search long enough and EVERYONE connects somehow.
 The marriage of a jigsaw puzzle to a dungeon & dragons game.
 Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

ELIZABETH SARAH

Jan Andrews

In 1913 my great grandmother wrote 'A short account of my life from childhood to the present time' - part of which is produced below.

"I was born in Richmond, Tasmania, on September 28th 1841. My parents living later on in Hobart in various parts of the town – the last place being at Elizabeth Street.

My father kept a shop there up till my mother died, which was a great blow to me, her only girl and frail and delicate at that, being only eight years of age. There was a family of five of us, four boys and myself. Two died in their childhood.

We used to attend the Independent Church and Sunday School opposite in Brisbane Street regularly, my two brothers being in the choir.



Not being very strong I was ordered by the doctor to go up into the country. Taking his advice my dear mother sent me to a place called 'Blue Hills' several miles from Bothwell. There I was with friends and a large family where I quite enjoyed myself and grew stronger.

'Twas a different life for me from the town. But at last Mother like, she sent for me, could not bear for me to be away from her any longer and pleased to see how I had improved.

We used to go to a farmhouse to hear a Minister preach on a Sunday. This was something new to me.

Sometime after that she began to droop and pine away and died. I was left without the one I loved, the one who needs her care and love. Then some friends who knew us well offered to take me, by the name of Smith, They were fairly wealthy and I was brought up as one of their own, and they were very kind to me. Two daughter and one son were married while I was there. I went to several schools while with them.

At last the time came for me to have a change for my health's sake. One of the married daughters and her husband, Mr. Ife, were going to Bothwell to open a shop and she asked her mother to let me go for company. I was told I could go for two months. I was only sixteen. They kept me there for several years.

He opened a Sunday School in an upper room, a large one over the shop. Then he and others collected for a Methodist Church, the grounds being given by another. So we had a church of our own and held Sunday School in it – a nice substantial building.

There was a very substantial Church of England, the Presbyterians holding services in the same once a day. It seemed very strange to me going there before our own was built. When the Scotch Minister preached it was different from the present time, we stood up to pray and sat down to sing.

I was a teacher and scholar in our own for several years, and was going round with tracts for four years and many a rebuff I received while doing so – some shutting the door in my face and other telling me they did not want two faces under one hood. But I would talk them over and slip my little messenger under their door of course. These were Catholics of course, still they liked to see me. One publican shut the door in my face. I have gone in some rather rough places where there was drinking and swearing but would quiet and be polite to me while I was there.

At the time of my poor Mother's death my father and two brothers came over to Victoria. . . .

While at Bothwell, at the time of my departure from there they gave me a farewell meeting which was very touching, and presents were numerous and offers of marriage I received but I did not care for them while there. Then I bid them all farewell some wept at my leaving for I had many friends.

I then came to Victoria where I was all amongst Methodists again and started teaching Sunday School again and going round singing and taking part in different Church affairs and Town Hall with others.”

I visited Bothwell several years ago. The store is still there, looking very much as I imagine it would have been in the 1860's, certainly the same as it was in the 1920's/30's when this photo was taken with Elizabeth Sarah's third son standing outside.



It is now a private home, and was for sale. I was lucky enough to meet the owner, who showed me through the property.



The Methodist Church where Elizabeth Sarah was a Sunday School teacher and scholar has gone. I did find the following description on the internet:

‘Bothwell’s Wesleyan Methodist church had a relative short life; opening in 1859 and services ceased at some point in the 1880’s. The church was demolished in 1903.

. . . By the late 1850’s the Methodist community had gained sufficient momentum in the town for a chapel to be built. The Hobart Town Daily Mercury provides a detailed account of the church’s opening in March 1859:

“On Sunday last the new Wesleyan Chapel was opened for public worship, when the Rev. Mr. Smith of Campbell Town preached a sermon suitable to the occasion. Several respectable members of the Episcopalian Church were present. In the evening the Rev. Mr. Tuckfield preached to a crowded congregation. The polite attention shown by the managers in handing their visitors to their seats, supplying them with printed papers of the hymns to be sung, and in accommodating them was something new in Bothwell. A collection was made at the close of each service and about fifteen pounds were collected. The Sunday school children about 60 in number sung some very suitable hymns, and the manner in which they did so reflected great credit on their precentors, Mr. and Mrs. Wiseman”.

In ‘Tasmanian Methodism’, Reverend Max Stansall describes the final years of the church:

“By 1900 the Bothwell church had fallen into a disgraceful condition. . . . Through the persistent efforts of Mr. Ife, one of the oldest trustees, permission was finally given to sell and in 1903 the chapel was sold as building material for Sixty Pounds”.



An undated photograph of the church c.1880 – Bothwell revisited

<https://www.churchsoftasmania.com/2019/06/no-452-wesleyan-methodist-church-at.html>

NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

Swan, R. A.	To Botany Bay
Priestley, Susan	Making their mark
Broome, Richard	Arriving
Charles R. & Loney, J.	Not enough grass to feed a single bullock. A history of Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and Waratah
Mackey, Nola M.	Convicts absconding in NSW. Volume 1. 1830-1832
Mackey, Nola M.	Convicts apprehended in NSW. Volume 1. 1830-1832

Our guest speaker for the Victorian Seniors Festival in October was David Stephen, who spoke to the group on **'EXPLORING FAMILY DNA'**.

This was a very successful presentation with 35 people attending.

We all learnt a lot about DNA and family research from David, as well as how much we don't know!



MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

English parish records <https://parishregister.co.uk/online>

Online genealogy records by location
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location

Emigration from South-west Germany
<http://www.auswanderer-bw.de/auswanderer/index.php?sprache=en>

Photographic collection of the arrival & settlement of migrants in Australia after World War 2 <https://www.destinationaustralia.gov.au/>

Ireland's graveyards photographs <https://historicgraves.com/>

Links to websites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses. A wide range of other indexes and transcriptions are also available for most counties. <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

Gypsies of Scotland <http://www.scottishgypsies.co.uk>

Back copies of 'Tasmanian Ancestry' (Tasmanian Family History Society)
<http://www.tasfhs.org/Index%20of%20Volumes.html>

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

SANITATION AT COWES.

Conditions Criticised.

Sanitary conditions at Cowes, Phillip Island, a popular holiday resort, were the subject of a report yesterday to the Health Commission.

Reading from the report, the secretary (Mr. T. Dimelow) said that there was only an unofficial health officer at Cowes, who received a salary of £30 a year, and acted in the dual capacity of health officer and rate collector. The regulations ensuring cleanliness were not always enforced; and in respect of boarding houses were completely disregarded. There was not much overcrowding; but there was no control. Tents were never inspected. Ventilation was most inadequate, and in some instances non-existent. In some cases there were sufficient baths, while in others the facilities were quite inadequate. Sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory. Flies were, therefore, plentiful. Drains were uncontrolled. Drainage went to a pit on the beach and was most offensive. The report added that it was useless to recommend or do anything except insist upon the observance of the regulations.

Mr. Wiks. The trouble is that the boarding-house keepers do not know what to do.

The chairman (Dr. Robertson). The local inspector has been "schooled" by our officers.

It was agreed that the report be sent to the Woolamai Shire Council with instructions to appoint a qualified inspector and enforce the regulations.

The Argus. Wednesday 9 December 1925

SANITATION AT COWES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

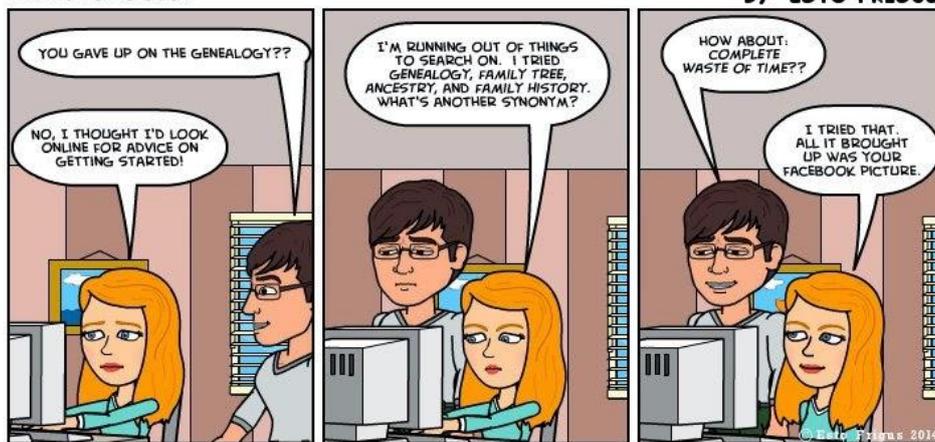
Dear Sir,—Allow me to correct an extraordinary error in the departmental report referring to health administration at Cowes as reported to-day. The report states:—"At present the health of the town is in charge of the rate collector." This statement is quite wrong. The health of the town is in the very capable hands of Dr. Burgess, a duly qualified medical practitioner, who is the medical officer of health. The residents of the island contribute, through the shire council, a sum of £150 per annum as salary to their health officer. The cost per head of the health administration of the island is probably higher than that for any other community in the State. The health statistics of Phillip Island bear eloquent testimony to the health-giving virtues of the island, and to the efficient health administration. It is difficult to understand why the officials concerned make such damaging and incorrect statements about one of the State's principal health resorts. Would it not serve the public interests more if the expert officers of the Health Commission employed more of their time in devising ways and means to assist the local authorities to deal with the drainage and water supply difficulties of public health resorts? In the absence of public schemes for drainage, water supply, and lighting it might be stated here that the majority of houses offering accommodation at Cowes are provided with electric light, septic tank, or chemical drainage treatment, and suitable provision for supplies of pure water. —

Yours, &c.,
A. K. T. SAMBELL.

Dec. 9.

The Argus. Thursday 10 December 1925

GENEAPALOOZA



WWW.BITSTRIPS.COM

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.