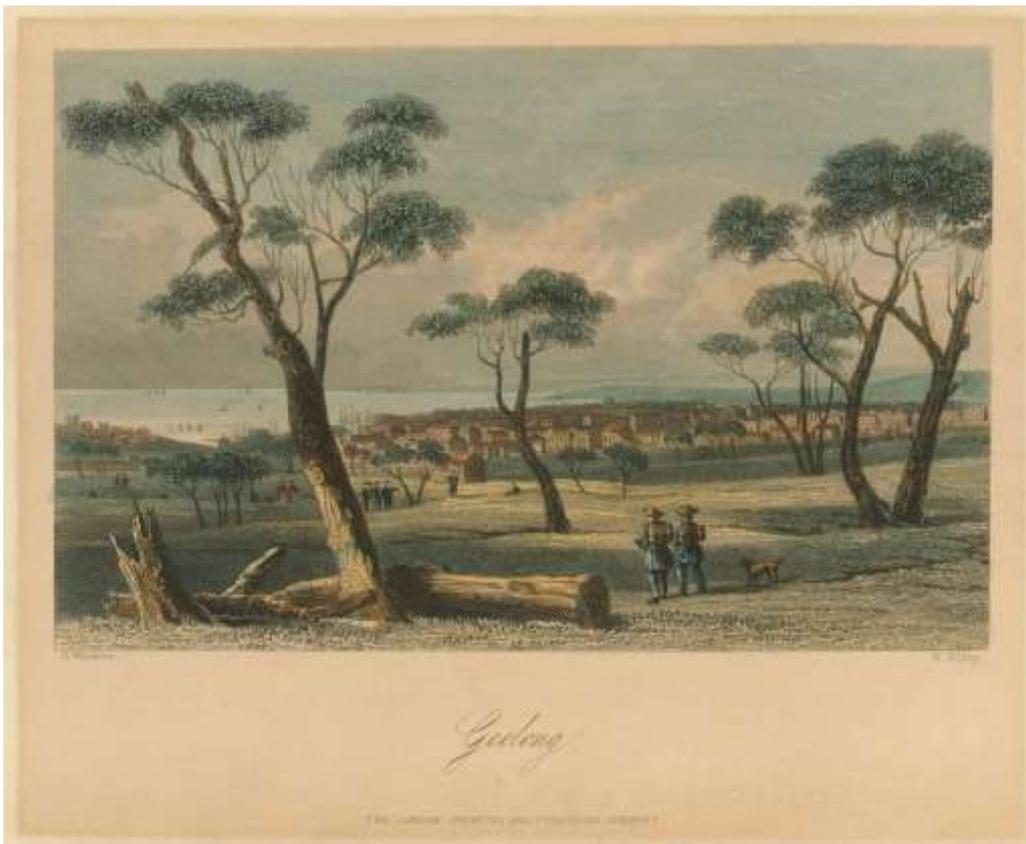


GEELONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



THE PIVOT TREE

October 2020

GEELONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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Single membership (Pivot Tree collected or emailed)	\$20.00
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The Pivot Tree

Our journal is issued 4 times per year, free to all financial members.

Research Fees (Non-member)

Basic research \$20 plus out of pocket expenses eg. photocopying

Additional research Fee by negotiation

Please complete the research form on our website

For information on the GFHG's bank details, GFHG Research Files search (open to Members & Non-members) or the Member's Discounted Research Service please see inside back cover.

MAGAZINE OF THE
GEELONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

October 2020

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Contributions relating to Geelong & District families / local history for publishing in the journal are most welcome.

Material may be mailed to the Editor via the Group's post office box or emailed (preferably in Word format) to the Editor.

The Group does not hold itself responsible for any statements made or opinions expressed by contributors to this journal.

Front cover: Geelong c.1840-1850 – Henry Winkles
Source: State Library of Victoria - <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/260464>

GFHG MEETING SYLLABUS

Time: 7.30pm – 4th Wednesday of the month [except Public Holidays when meetings are held on 3rd or 5th Wednesday – see below]

Location: Belmont Library,
163 High Street, Belmont (Geelong)
Ample parking available at side of Library (Enter via Roslyn Rd)

Since the last issue of the Pivot Tree, the Belmont Library has re-opened, re-closed and hopefully re-opened again as we enter and exit various levels of quarantine. When open, the Library meeting room is being used as an entry/exit point due to COVID-19 safety plan requirements. All physical meetings still remain suspended. Consult the GFHG website for up-to-date information on our meetings.

A number of guest speakers are kindly supplying their talks via electronic means such as podcasts. Details of these and how to access them will be emailed to all members.

As the situation is extremely fluid (to say the least), the speakers listed below may change so stay tuned for further developments.

Ed.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
28 Oct	Lorraine Smith	Author of <i>Journey of a Lost Manuscript</i>
25 Nov	Member's Christmas night	Short presentations from members.
23 Dec	No Meeting	
2021		
27 Jan	Susie Zada	You can't research Irish ancestors – all the records have been destroyed
24 Feb	Michael RUMPPF, Chair, International Settlers Group	The How, When, Where and Why of German Research.

GFHG SECRETARY'S REPORT 2019-2020

Good grief! Where do you start? Trying to write a report for the Geelong Family History Group year 2019-2020 initially appears overwhelming – I think because it is somewhat difficult to remember pre-COVID-19. However more than half of our financial year from 1 July 2019 was pre-COVID so it can't be that hard.

As they say, let's start at the very beginning – July 2019.

After our membership renewals had come in, we had 104 members on our GFHG register.

We had a full calendar of speakers to look forward to: the topics included family history resources at Deakin University Library, the MERCER family, searching for BDMs in Australasia online, masonic research, Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum records, Marshalltown and the MARSHALL Family, a condensed history of Geelong, Geelong cemeteries – the present and the future, Colac & District family history resources, searching wills and probates in Australasia online, and Connewarre district history.

In October 2019 we had a very successful seminar on New South Wales research. This Seminar included two live webinars by Heather Garnsey and Danielle Lautrec from the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney. This came about as a result of the Geelong Family History Group winning a prize from National Family History Month 2019 – a prize we couldn't use – a seminar in Sydney. So after a bit of wheeling and dealing, we handed our prize over to SAG in return for these webinars. Lots and lots of positive feedback was received for this event with great help on the day from John Stewart, Val England, and Chris McDonald.

We ended 2019 with our traditional member presentations and Christmas supper at the Belmont Library. Things proceeded as normal until March and I think everyone knows what happened then – the world as we knew it changed completely.

The last 'real' meeting we had was in February this year and I'm so grateful to Colin Mockett who agreed to be our first trial for a pre-

recorded monthly speaker presentation. We then jumped on the Zoom meeting bandwagon and have held our Monthly meetings as per our normal schedule ever since.

Through our pre-recorded speakers and Zoom meetings, we have learnt the benefit of technology and we know we need to look at how we can incorporate it in our 'normal' life post COVID.

From our last AGM until May 2020 we have been without a President. In May your committee co-opted Michael Menzies into that role and we have been delighted to welcome Michael to our Committee.

Considering everything, we're pretty happy with how we've coped during COVID-19 and we've got exciting things happening and scheduled for 2020-2021.

We now have more members than when we began this financial year!

Susie Zada

At our AGM on Wednesday 26th August, Susie Zada proposed the following motion:

That there will be no nominations or elections for a committee for the financial year 2020-2021. Instead the current committee have agreed and will stand for the year 2020-2021.

The proposal was seconded by John Stewart and passed unanimously.

Editor's note:

Thanks goes to Susie for wading through bureaucracy and getting the definitive answer on our AGM and committee predicament in light of COVID-19 restrictions preventing physical meetings taking place. This proposal has the full approval of Consumer Affairs Victoria.

GFHG FINANCIAL REPORT 2019-2020

Geelong Family History Group Inc Financial Statement for y/e 30 June 2020 (Contra)

	2019/20	2018/19
Balance 1st July	5,240.67	3,876.09
Receipts		
Membership	1,712.00	2,273.00
Research	342.00	330.00
Collections	202.75	382.95
Publications	710.40	1,089.15
Seminar	285.00	0.00
Donations	3.00	0.00
GST Refund	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	24.64	22.95
	3,279.79	4,098.05
Payments		
Speakers	189.00	0.00
Library Hire	0.00	345.00
Pivot Tree	914.01	986.48
Admin	260.20	327.88
Subscriptions	157.00	561.66
GSV Mbr / Ins	288.42	121.00
Software	257.55	0.00
Brochures	309.00	0.00
Conferences	70.05	243.20
GST Payment	26.00	16.00
Misc	14.80	132.25
	2,486.03	2,733.47
 Balance as at 30 June	 \$6,034.43	 \$5,240.67
 Bendigo Bank	 \$6,034.42	 \$5,240.66
	\$6,034.42	\$5,240.66
 Clydesdale Bank Account - UK		
	2019/20	2018/19
Balance 1st July	22.87	40.87
Plus Research	0.00	0.00 Pounds
	22.87	40.87
Less Subscriptions	0.00	18.00 Pounds
Balance 30th June	22.87	22.87
Approx	\$A 40.96	\$A 40.96

Bob Jordan Hon. Treasurer 7th July 2020

audited
19/7/2020
D. S. Higney

ONE DIGGER'S STORY

David Wilson

I very nearly called this part of the story "One Diggers Tragic Life" but decided to let you readers decide about the life of William James GUBBY for yourselves.

The second child of Georgina (RUFFIN) and William Henry GUBBY was born on 27th May 1884 and was named William James (Will) for his father and his grandfather. There were ultimately six children in the family, the youngest being the only other boy. The family faced more than its share of trial and trouble including the deaths, disappearances of and accidents to close relations. They were frequently moving between Geelong and Melbourne perhaps for employment. Their third child, Minnie Elizabeth, was born in Richmond in 1885 passing away the following year in Geelong. Their eldest child Elsie Liomin, died at age fourteen in 1897 in the Carlton Hospital. At this time Will, (William James) was only thirteen having seen not only the passing of those two sisters but of both his Gubby grandparents, the death of an aunt and that of a very close friend of his grandmothers, also the disappearance of Uncle Edwin; a quite distressing childhood. His other siblings were Alda Georgina born in 1887, Ruby Annie, 1890 and Rupert Victor 1892. The sisters went on to marry, both in 1912 and had fourteen children between them.

William Henry was a shoe maker, not just a repairer; he had skills not always put to best use and he was not always the best of providers.

Family Story: "When the younger children were attending school they went barefoot, a sympathetic teacher one winter purchased shoes for them."

Georgina found herself alone with the children in June 1871 when she was abandoned by her husband. Without income she was forced to apply to the court for assistance. This Court visit was reported in the Geelong Advertiser:

Family Story: "It seems that father may have inherited, or otherwise gained a little money but used it to take a trip to England, only returning when the money was spent."

Will left home and moved around Victoria working as a farm laborer in places like Strathmerton and Lake Bolac. In his travels he met Edith Amelia RASMUSSEN (Millie) of Deep Lead.



*Back Row; Rupert, Millie, Will,
Front Row; Alda, Georgina, William Henry, Ruby in 1911 at Northcote.*

Millie and Will married at Northcote in 1911. They lived in Moonee Ponds for a few years before moving to the country, Will working as a driver. Note a driver at that time worked with horses not necessarily with motor vehicles. At the advent of war Will was working as a boundary rider and rabbit catcher to Mr. THORNLEY of Hawkesdale. He did not enlist until February 1916. He enlisted at Hamilton into the 39th Battalion AIF. Because of his knowledge of horses he was promoted to the role of driver before proceeding overseas in May 1916 from Port Melbourne. Will commenced a diary on the voyage so we can see his thoughts and understand some events and developing friendships. A particular friend was “Charlie” who seems to be the “life” of the group, throwing bottles and tins over board containing messages or lists of their names. Charlie and Will tended to help each other with their duties particularly on the voyage during the rough weather. Will spotted whales close by; a new experience, glad it wasn’t a submarine that had put in an appearance. Warnings had been given so they drilled in procedures in case one should attack. They called at Durban and to Cape Town in South Africa. They were surprised at the number of coloured people as they marched about Cape Town and received a great reception from the people. A cruiser escorted the ship when they left the Cape for Port Vincent where they spent a couple of days. On a borrowed fishing line Will caught 20 fish, one of which was $\frac{3}{4}$ lb catching every ones attention. They left Port Vincent and as they closed on the English coast their escort was increased with the addition of four torpedo boats.

The 18th July was a big day - they disembarked at Devonport U.K., entrained to Salisbury then a long march to Lark Hill which is nearby to Stonehenge. Lark Hill was a large training facility where the 39th stayed for about four months. Will

became more acquainted with his duties with the Medical officer. These entailed being his batman, driving him on marches and other general duties and messages. Then there was marching, picket duty, first aid classes, marching, shooting, and camping in trenches, kitchen duties, polishing, inspections and more marching. One time they had a march past for the King, Will thought the King looked worried. At times Will became upset and angry with the treatment some of the soldiers gave to the horses and mules, some so inexperienced without the slightest understanding of horsemanship.

Before proceeding to France they received two periods of four days leave. On the first period most ventured to London for the excitement of the big city. Will was unsettled there and surprised at the behavior of his mates. Happily married he felt no need for illicit female company. For the next leave period he ventured alone to Bristol which he loved. In his diary he describes in detail some of the places he saw. But at last the training period was over and on the 22nd of November the 39th embarked to France from Southampton. Disembarking at Le Havre they marched to a rest camp for the night before getting onto a train heading for the front. He travelled in the horse wagons and was very cold. The train travelled very slowly due to the traffic on the line. At times so slowly they walked alongside just to warm their feet. They were heading for Armentieres but moved about often even there. The diary tells;

“Dec 4th Shifted camp again moved the horses back about 4 miles. Had a walk back to our last camp, bought a broom to clean up these filthy huts. Bought a pair of gloves, cost 3 francs, (2/6) Bought a silk scarf to send home, 25 francs, will try to get it sent away. It has started to rain so will be up to our knees in mud if it continues all night. The guns are a bit quiet tonight I guess they will start to spit a little later on. A shell dropped in the town we are billeted in today and brought down a few more bricks. Have to lead the horses about 1½ miles to water twice a day.

5th Dec. Had to go over to a place called Steinwinck (Steenwerck) to a hospital to bring back some chaps that were discharged. Was not feeling too good. Never got back to stables till after 8 next morning.

Not all war casualties were caused by bullet or bomb, even behind the lines men suffered the freezing cold and the drenching rain, even random shells. In his diary Will GUBBY tells of ice a quarter of an inch thick on puddles which lasted all day, of thick mud and of the Army's "Hurry up and wait". Of being sent in these conditions to deliver a box to a train station some miles distant and having



Flanders Battlefield

to bring it back not accepted. The “not feeling too good” resulted in hospitalization with pneumonia and bronchitis. While in hospital he mentions one “chap” just walking by the hospital and being killed by a bomb.



William Gubby

Will is discharged from hospital back to duty, but returned numerous times to the hospital until he is finally returned to England on May 4th. He is boarded May 24th and found unfit for duty, more hospitalization and treatment but still unfit.

On the 26th July he is sent on board the Hospital Ship “Demosthenes” which sails for Australia from Plymouth on the 29th July. Finally, after stops at Sierra Leone, Cape Town and Durban she sails on to Home. The Diary stops at Durban.

He is honorably discharged on the 31st October 1917, and returns to his wife who has been living with her mother Mrs. Annie Christina KING in Sharpe Street Beulah.

Family Story: "Millie is so upset at Will's appearance and health yet excited to have him home she makes him a cup of tea but over looks putting leaves in the pot. This brought them down to earth with a good laugh."

Things are not easy and returns to hospital in Melbourne frequent. Mr. THORNLEY accepts Will back to his former role but he is too weak and unwell for the duties. Back to Beulah. He establishes a boot repair business in Beulah which he runs for a number of years. Some family members suggest that the business was not very successful.

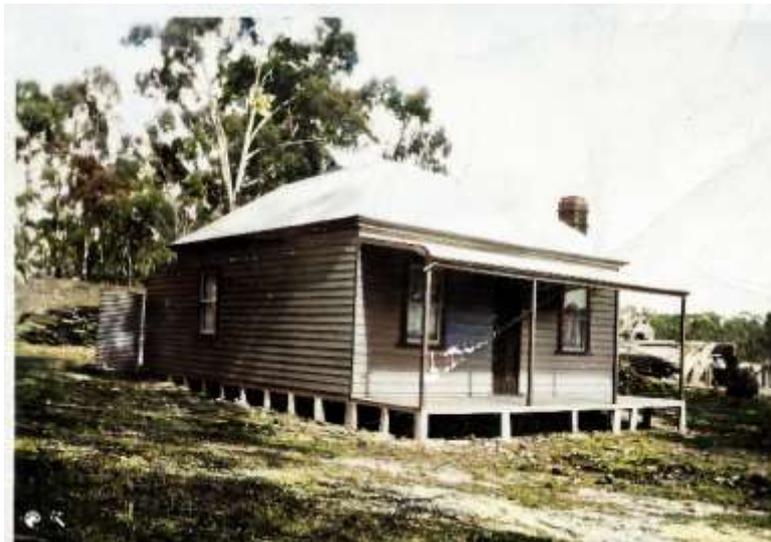
Just as Will is gradually improving, he receives another massive blow, his beloved wife Millie becomes ill and enters hospital in Warracknabeal. Tragically after only three days in hospital at 37 years old she succumbs to heart failure due to spinal meningitis on 16th October 1920.

What a difficult time. Can we even imagine the pain he suffers at the loss of his love? We do not know what support he receives from family and friends. Somehow, I feel there is not a great closeness in the GUBBY family, but I may be wrong. He and his mother-in-law Christina must cope. There does seem to have been one connection as he befriends Harry HUMPHRIES who is married to a cousin of Millie's, Anice Kate LING, she is the daughter of Elizabeth, Millie's dad's sister. Harry takes him to the "old home" at Moliagul where he meets several members of the family. Elizabeth herself, William James (Bill) who is continuing to manufacture pick handles like his father, Albert who is working at Dunolly Soap Factory, Ethel and May.

While the Electoral Roll still lists Will living at Beulah, I believe he had started moving around again. At one stage Will worked for Peter ROSELLI a shoe repairer in Dunolly relieving for £3/10/- per week. Also, we know he formed a partnership with Bill LING in a shoe repairing business at Hamilton. While we are not certain of the timing of these it would seem an appropriate activity at this point of his life. His military record gives his address in 1923 as Care of Mrs. LING, Moliagul for the posting of his service medals.

1928 sees the loss of his father who died following being hit by a tram in Bourke Street Melbourne. The Coroner found death to be accidental. But there was some positive news also for that year, his brother Rupert who had married Maud LABY in 1920, celebrates them becoming parents to their only child, Gwen.

Feeling more physically well, Will makes application for a land grant of forest land adjacent to the small property owned by the LING family at Inkerman/Moliagul. Unfortunately, his claim is refused on grounds that the area requested contains timber valuable to the Forest Department and being near both road and rail is easy to extract. Following this disappointment Will is able to secure land between Goldsborough and Dunolly purchased from the estate of Miss RAYSON. The property though smaller than he would like has been cleared and has a dam so would not be more than he could cope with. The only house on the property is a ruin, so Will sets about and builds himself a fine little cottage. He settles down to rebuild his life again.



The Cottage at the Goldsborough Farm

Will has become very close to the LING family who have accepted him warmly. They have moved from Moliagul now as Elizabeth is housekeeping for her eldest son, Arthur, on his share farm 'Lumeah' at South Charlton. Now that Will has something to offer, he proposes to Ethel and is accepted. They are married on the 4th May 1932 by the local Methodist Minister, supported by Tom ESMORE as best man and Stella May LING as bridesmaid at Arthur's Farmhouse, Lumeah. It appears that none of Will's own family can attend. However, over the next couple of years the couple receives visits from Will's mother and the Rupert GUBBY family. There has been great rejoicing as Ethel has become pregnant.

Before the baby girl is born on 30th March 1934 and is named for her aunt, Ethel's sister, Eva LING, there is news of two more deaths, first Christina KING, Millie's mother, and then just before the birth Will hears that his own mother Georgina has succumbed to cancer. Still life goes on. Will and Ethel are happy together running their little farm. They have customers for the eggs and dairy products. Ethel even

has a little time for her painting. Will is great with the needles making clothes for the baby. They share much in common, they are both proficient in craft activities, are both Christian and they love each other and their little Eva.

Family Story; *“in conversation with each other they thought how good it would be if Eva was to grow to be a missionary in some foreign land perhaps India.”*



Will & Ethel's Wedding at Lumeah South Charlton

But still further sadness waits for father and daughter. On the surface all is well but Ethel is fighting the black dog of Post Natal Depression and concerned, according to Aunt Eva, that she is pregnant again too soon. On the morning of the sixth of October 1934, after being woken by the baby she rises to tend to her. Will falls asleep again and when he awakens finds little Eva comfortable, fed and asleep but Ethel is missing. The house is small and she does not answer, he checks the farm yard, and raises an alarm with neighbours. Then continuing his search, he finds Ethel floating face down in the dam.



Ethel with Eva



Eva & Gwen at Preston



Will & Eva at Lumeah

The coroner meeting in Dunolly a few days later finds that Ethel Rose GUBBY took her own life by drowning while temporally insane. While there is no mention in the Coroner's report, some members of the family feel that Ethel believed herself to be pregnant again too soon. The shock is great for the whole family and friends. Customers for their eggs and dairy products who had been visited the previous day by Ethel had seen her in her normal friendly manner and no indication of anything wrong. Will is inconsolable, what is he to do? How can he alone deal with the baby and the farm?

His sister-in-law Eva LING leaves her position and moves to the farm as a temporary solution. She stays for around six months. Will decides that he cannot continue himself to operate the farm, so has friends the WOOLRIDGE Family move in to care for the place. As a bonus Little Eva is cared for as part of their family. It is unknown what the conditions of occupation of the property were. Eva stays only a short time with the WOOLRIDGE family, when Will himself moves to his brother in law's farm at South Charlton he takes his baby with him where Grandmother Elizabeth and Auntie May are available to provide the necessary care.

Will engages himself in seasonal work with another brother-in-law Albert LING who works in the orchards and vineyards around Mildura. So Will finds work in picking and packing fruit around Irymple. It is here he writes to his little girl saying he misses being with her. It might be in this period that he partners with William LING at Hamilton in the shoe repair business as Eva remembers an occasion when a relative drove Will, Grandma and her to Hamilton to pick up some of Will's possessions. There were also visits to Preston to visit Uncle Rupert and Auntie Maud and opportunity to play with Cousin Gwen. Will carries Eva on the Anzac Day March but is very tired afterward. There are photos of this visit.

All seemed to be going well until the WOOLRIDGE family decide that they wanted to move from Goldsborough. Will decided to visit and walked from Dunolly on the 11th February 1938. To use his own words when he arrived at the farm house, he was not feeling too good. He set himself on the lounge and was given a drink of water and left to recover. When his friend returned Will was beyond help, though a doctor was summoned. Again, the coroner's court meeting in Dunolly was called upon to consider a death at the Goldsborough farm. The Coroner decided on the evidence that Will's death was due to heart failure due to disease of the coronary arteries and that there were no suspicious circumstances.

Family Thinking; *“Whilst neither Will's war record nor the Coroner's report supports their claim, family members believe that Will was a victim of a gas attack while on active service during 1916-17. They believe that on returning he had a 'weak chest' and as a result he suffered from respiratory illnesses right up to his death.”*

Will died without leaving a will. His child, Eva, is obviously the only person entitled to benefit from the estate. Being barely four years old a legal guardian needs to be appointed to act on her behalf through the probate and settlement of the estate. Granma LING being now 75 years old relinquishes her right to Will's brother Rupert who it is felt is fitted more appropriately to act.

An inventory of the estate was completed on the seventh of August 1939 listing farm property of 69 acres 1 rood & 35 perches plus a housing block of just over a rood within the township of Goldsborough. Today the equivalent measure of the farm would be approximately 28 hectares. The value of all land including the town site was estimated at £327/10/0. No house was included on the inventory while there were household goods itemized and valued at £77/12/0, (farm equipment included). Stock listed was valued at £8/8/0; these were one horse, five cows and 28 chickens.

I cannot understand that the cottage was nowhere included; Uncle Albert told us that the house was sold and removed to Dunolly to near the railway line. A cousin has located the house and a photo taken, and it is much altered and modernized. There was money in addition to the property included on the Probate inventory £36/10/11 monies on hand and a bank account of £95/0/0. The total estate value then was £545/0/11.

Despite Rupert GUBBY being appointed the legal guardian of Eva, in practical terms it was her uncle Arthur LING who served as her guardian, supported of course by his mother and sisters. It was a difficult time and Aunt Eva tried to get

assistance from the Government as Eva was the child of a war veteran. She even travelled to Canberra to meet with the relevant department but was unsuccessful and no help was forthcoming.

On reaching her twenty-first birthday Eva received from the Victorian State Trustee a payment from the Estate of her father Driver William James GUBBY. So ends this Digger's Story.

CROWES OF GNARWARRE

Richard CROWE was born c.1825 in Tipperary, Ireland to Patrick CROWE and his wife Mary (nee WOODS). He was the 7th child in a family that was eventually to number 10 children (7 girls and 3 boys).

In 1840, P.W. WELSH purchased land in what was to become Gnarwarre. Just one year later, the CROWE family left Plymouth on the 25th May 1841 aboard the "Forth", arriving in Melbourne on the 19th September.



Port Phillip Gazette 25 Sep 1841 p.1.

It is believed that probably in 1844, WELSH was forced to sell off his assets, including the land at Gnarwarre because of bankruptcy. Some of the land was subdivided into farms and the rest became a village reserve.

A group of Irishmen from the "Forth", including Patrick CROWE inspected the land and purchased blocks for themselves. Patrick and his family

(including Richard) settled on the land and began farming. The family was to sprout several generations that farmed in the area.

Patrick died and was buried on the 17th April 1852 in the Roman Catholic section of Geelong's Eastern Cemetery. Mary continued to live in the area and died on the 23 March 1874 at the home of her son-in-law, Mr A. MONAHAN, Shank Hill, Gnarwarre. She was 84 years of age. She was buried with Patrick in the Eastern Cemetery.

Richard farmed with his father before marrying Mary Ann SCULLY on 10 June 1850 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Geelong. Mary was the daughter of Michael SCULLY, a farmer, and Catherine MURPHY. Richard and Mary had four children: Catherine, Patrick, Edward and Richard Henry.

By 1856, Richard was farming on his own account. The Mt Moriac Electoral roll states that Richard was a farmer with a freehold in Gnarwarre. Tragedy was to strike however on the 20th August 1856. With the river level running high, Richard drowned whilst attempting to drive cattle across the river on horseback at Pollocks Ford. He too was buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Geelong.

On the 28th July 1857, Mary Ann remarried Michael DWYER, who also came from Ireland, at the Catholic Church at Duneed. Mary Ann and Michael moved to Pyramid Hill in central Victoria. Michael died there in 1897, whilst Mary Ann died 3 years later, on the 20th June 1900 at the age of 70. Both are buried in the Pyramid Hill Cemetery, along with Mary's son Richard Henry.

Richard & Mary Ann's sons, Patrick and Edward both became farmers in the Gnarwarre/Mount Moriac area where they farmed for many years.

SOURCES

Geelong Advertiser 12 Feb 1844 p.1, 23 Aug 1856 p.7, 24 Mar 1874 p.2

Victorian Death Index 3946/1856 and 6937/1900

Victorian Marriage Index 865/1850

Wynd, Ian – *Barrabool: Land of the Magpie* – Barrabool Shire, 1992

ED

A LITTLE SUCCESS STORY

Elizabeth Kraus

Recently I was struggling to find information regarding a distant cousin Eva Valerie BEDFORD (1917-2011) in Auckland, New Zealand. I had researched her life via various sites including, Ancestry, My Heritage and the NZ BDMs website. From these, I also knew of her husband, Thomas Eric HESELTON (1908-1965) and daughter Helen.

Further information was gained regarding Thomas, who was buried in the Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden, Auckland (1,2). His burial details were found on Ancestry and then confirmed with the website Billiongraves (3) with a photo of his headstone. It had space set aside for Eva's details, yet Eva remained elusive! All I could find was a partial obituary ie. that she had died on 7th May 2011 in the Auckland Hospital and a little more of her family - on the website Legacy.com



*Headstone of Eric Heselton, Waikumete Cemetery
Source: BillionGraves*

I then, contacted the Auckland Cemeteries website for assistance. Veronika Mara-Paniora, the Customer Service Representative was able to confirm the details of Thomas' death and burial, which I had also found on the Auckland

Cemetery website (4). Veronika also told me that the council supplies information to teams from Find a Grave (5) and Billiongraves, and that these teams often clean up neglected headstones along the way.

Just “Googling” the name has often brought some great results – either leading me to an actual obituary or to other websites I hadn’t considered or forgotten about. Veronika also mentioned that a family member could be part of a church or other private membership. In such cases, they may have arranged for themselves to be buried privately. Consequently, there are private churches and cemeteries with their own websites not connected to local councils, where one may find that elusive family member.

However, nothing could be found regarding Eva! Then Veronika suggested the website – Find a Funeral Director (6) whereby, you see a map of New Zealand and can click on any region. This then brings up a list of all the funeral home services in that region. I then selected and emailed 18 funeral services in Auckland, with a request for assistance. The following morning, I received responses from several of these funeral services, of which three offered me a little more. But of particular interest and importance, was the actual funeral company, which had dealt with Eva’s remains. It was the Henderson branch of Davis Funerals. Their representative told me that their Funeral Service had held a private service for her and then she was cremated at the Purewa Crematorium on 10th May 2011. I now have closure on this family member and have literally ‘put her to rest’. So persistence and patience has paid off.

This story is just one example of methods I use to unravel the lives of elusive family members, scattered around the world and across the seas and generations.

Sources

- 1 <https://discoverwaikumetecemetery.blogspot.com>
- 2 <https://friendsofwaikumete.org.nz>
- 3 <http://www.billiongraves.com>
- 4 www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- 5 <https://www.findagrave.com>
- 6 <https://www.fdanz.co.nz/planning-a-funeral/find-a-funeral-director/>

MEMOIRS OF B. G. WARR.

*The following is the transcript of a letter, written 7 March 1936, of the life and memories of Benjamin Gardner **WARR** (1850 – 1942) of 13 Manning St. Newtown, Geelong. Benjamin is the son of Benjamin **WARR** and Elizabeth **SHRIVENER**. He married in Geelong in 1876 Mercy Grace **HAM** (1852-1926) the daughter of Samuel **HAM** (1815-1897) and Susanna **PIPER** (1813-1901). These memoirs have been supplied by Beth **QUINLAN** who is a descendant of Samuel and Susanna's eldest son William. Some of the spelling and grammar have been corrected for ease of reading.*

In the year 1850 I was born in Hampshire England. I came out in a sailing vessel with my parents and we were seven months on the water and we landed in Melbourne in the year 1852 [in March].

My family lived in Melbourne for two months and then my father engaged with Mr **CHIRNSIDE** and we rented a 2 room slab and daub hut out on the run from Mr **CHIRNSIDE** for 1 2-2-0 (guineas) per week and the station supplied us with sugar and flour and meat. The sugar was of a very dark colour and not too good but no better could be got so we put [up] with it; at that time things was very dear and we paid 2-10-0 (pounds) for a hen and rooster and 30-0 (shillings) for a dozen eggs and we were very often visited by the black natives who would insist on having a white piccaninny and tobacco and tea and sugar. My mother was much afraid of them and would hide us under the bed until they had gone.

After being there for two years my father removed to Little River and about that time the Government was making the railway from Melbourne to Geelong and my father then opened a General Shop [selling] Butchers and Baker and Grocery and Boots and Clothing. He rented a large house from a man called **PERRY** and we supplied the whole of the district and after supplying the contractor of the Railway for six months and the job was finished the contractor went to Melbourne and squared up with the Government; he then turned insolvent and left father in debt for 2000 (pounds).

My father left Little River and he went to Sutherlands Creek and started farming and having a very bad season with rust and grubs and we had to cut our crops with scythes and hooks by hand and father decided to go to

Geelong and so we came to Cowies Creek for two years and a friend of ours, a Mr Mathew **WYATT** who was a great cattle dealer, was our neighbour and he taught me to ride and wanted to adopt me having no family of his own but my mother objected and so when our time was up we came to live in O'Connell St Geelong West and there I became a great friend of Mr Alex **MILLER** who was about my own age.

After 12 months my father did not like the house and got a nice house at Herne Hill and there we lived for over six years and my father was growing tobacco and chicory over in the Queens Park and we had to cart tobacco up to the old flour mill which belonged to Mr **HIGHETT** who had closed down the mill and his boys, my brother and myself had a good time. We had to walk to Noble Street Chilwell to school every day and take our lunch and home every day and go to the Park and pick grubs off the tobacco every day and up at 6 o'clock in the morning and we amused ourselves after dark with our mates. Mr **TUCKFIELD'S** two sons John and Sam, I having a donkey saddle and bridle and Mr **BRAIM** a neighbour had 6 calves about 6 months old and we caught them and put the saddle on them took it in turn to ride them only on moon light nights.

The Park is now fenced in by Mr **WHITE**; was then all open down to the river and there was an old man called **MCCARTHEY** lived by himself in a very pretty little house on the side of the hill and the people called him a hermit. He had his coffin made and put under the window of his bedroom and when he did not feel well would get into same and had a cup of water by his side to drink and when better get up again. My brother and I were very friendly with him and he made us a wheel barrow each.

Mr **W WALKER** lived there whose son had the old bus running here before the trams came and Mr **PATTON** who had two sons and one of them was married and on one occasion on a very hot day sent his daughter down to the river to get a can of water and she had to go on the old punt to dip it up and by so doing over balanced and fell in. Her father was digging potatoes and they called to him and he made one rush and jumped in after her and they both were lost which cast a gloom all over the place for some time. Mr Patten's brother is still alive and lives up at Herne Hill and he is a very fassia(sic?) man and have been up several times to see him and we have had long talks about the past. They have the orchard on the river still. We made it a practice to go up to

Buckley's Falls and fish in the pond in the river and have our lunch in his cave which was about 8 to 10 feet deep but at present is filled up by the falling in of the cliff.

At the age of 14 we came to live in Retreat Road, Newtown Geelong. My father was then and my older brother in the employ of Mr H and F **HARVEY** the great hay and corn stores in Ryrie Street Geelong. When I was about fourteen and a half, I was smitten down with gastric fever and I had two doctors to attend me. Dr Wm **SHAW** and Dr **MACKING** and at this stage Dr **MACKING** gave me up but Dr **SHAW** having been our family doctor and knew my mother's constitution said he could pull me through and when I recovered enough to go about, I saw an advertisement in the paper for the drapery to apply to Edwin **BARTLETT** and I applied and got two letters one from Mr John **ARMSTRONG** and the other Mr **HARVEY**. I got the place and after 3 months I was apprenticed to the trade; 12/6 and dinner and tea and work from 7 to 8 at night and 12 o'clock on Saturdays and went through the various departments and stayed with him for 7 years and then I engaged with Mr Joseph **BRAY** to manage his tailoring and outfitting department which I did for 9 years.

In the year 1880 I left him and went into business at Queenscliff for myself and I rented a shop from Thomas **PERKINS** which was built to my orders. I made a very nice business and had 16 hands. I had tailoring and drapery and millinery after about 2 years and had just settled down when my dear wife was taken bad and after 3 months under Dr **SCOTT'S** care I was advised to take her into Geelong for better advice. I had Dr **REID** and Dr **GLENDINNING** and a nurse and after 12 months she thank God began to get better and I had to remove my business into Geelong. I remained in business for 8 years and then was compelled to sell out on account of a breakdown of my own health. I then had about 2 months rest and Mr **HITCHCOCK** sent for me to represent them as a traveller. I did so for 10 years and opened up a very nice business for them. At that time I had purchased a nice little farm at Leopold called *Allen Vale* and I was very happy with my wife and family all with me.

I wanted to leave but Mr **HITCHCOCK** would not hear of it and so he asked me to go to Queenscliff and to open a branch business for them and I did so and they left the full management to me and I made a success of the same and I started with 10 pound the first week and worked it up to 250 pounds per week and after 16 years I left them at the age of 62.

I then came back to Geelong and after being resting for 3 months I joined the AMP Insurance and was in their employ for 7 years. I won the Gold Medal for doing the most business in Victoria. I was the only agent in Geelong who ever got the medal. After leaving them I went into business for myself as a General Commission Agent in James Street. I was agent for various large wholesale manufactures in sweets, jams, flour and general stores, also inks.

I was then 77 years and I had the misfortune to lose my very dear wife after being married 49 years and that broke me up and I was ordered to give up my business by the Dr and I sold out to M **WILLIAMS** of Ballarat and since that I have lived a quiet life and now 89 years and I look back with a very thankful heart to God the giver of all good for his grace and love for the way he has led me through and hope to arrive at home to be reunited once again.

B G Warr

Postscript

Benjamin and Mercy had six children – Emily, Gertrude, Lottie, Eliza, Leila and Ethel.

Samuel **HAM** and wife Susanna **PIPER** and family of three young children arrived in Geelong in 1850 aboard the *Gypsy Queen*. They were met at the Yarra St wharf by James **PIPER**, the brother of Susanna who had come to Australia on the ship *Westminster* in 1841. James was a small farmer in Devon, England and had decided to come to Australia in the hope to find a better life in farming here. James had purchased his property *Newlands* at Barrabool. Samuel and Susanna and their family of four children – their last child, Mercy Grace born in Australia in 1853 - settled in Foster St Geelong and Samuel resided there until his death in 1897.

Susanna **PIPER** is the sister of my great, great grandmother Jane **PIPER** (1809-1891) who married Joseph **FRANCIS** (1803-1878) and who arrived in Geelong in 1853 aboard the *Euphemus* with eight of their ten children and settled in Sharp Street Chilwell.

Carollyn Williams
GFHG member

IT'S A WEIRD WIRED WORLD

Here are a few interesting websites that have come to our attention over the past few months.

TROVE newspaper searching webinar

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/announcement/2020/07/24/watch-discover-troves-newspapers>

A recording of the webinar held on 22 July. Update your newspaper search strategies and refresh your navigation skills in TROVE. It contains demonstrations and a Q&A session with the original attendees.

Online Genealogical Index

<https://www.ogindex.org/>

The OGI is a search engine for online genealogical datasets. If you don't know which website holds your ancestor's records in England or Wales, just enter a country, county, town and approx. year and it will reveal which site holds which records.

Researching a medical ancestor

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us/the-college/who-we-are/history-heritage-and-archive/researching-a-medical-ancestor.aspx>

A helpful webpage from the UK Royal College of General Practitioners listing sources for researching a medical ancestor, not only in the UK but Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia & New Zealand. Also provides information on the various abbreviations used for particular medical qualifications and memberships.

Yachtsmen of the Royal Yacht Britannia

<https://www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk/about/life-below-decks/former-royal-yachtsmen/>

During Britannia's 44 years in service, there were an estimated 3,295 crew who proudly served aboard the Royal Yacht. Information includes Surname, First name, Rank and Date served. Search alphabetically by surname or chronologically.

Isle of Man Newspapers 1782-1960

<https://www.imuseum.im/newspapers/>

As a result of COVID-19, Manx National Heritage via iMuseum provided temporary free access to the most complete run of Isle of Man newspapers from 1792-1960. This has now been extended on a permanent basis.

ANCESTRY

Ireland – Famine Relief Commission Papers 1844-1847

Contains more than 10,000 names and comprises letters and other documents received by the Commission, primarily between September 1846 and April 1847, relating to a broad spectrum of issues following the arrival of potato blight.

Queensland – Landsborough Shire Records – Index to Rates, Receipts and Payments, 1912-1941

England – London – Westminster – Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1558-1812

England – London – Westminster – Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1935

England – London – Westminster – Church of England Births and Baptisms 1813-1919

England – London – Westminster – Church of England Deaths and Burials 1812-1910

FIND MY PAST

Warwickshire – Coventry Pawnbroker Tickets 1915-1923

Gives a glimpse into the social history of WWI. Covers transactions made at Wm Brookes & Philips Electric Arc Welding Ltd. Includes who pawned the item, their address, what they pawned and how much they received.

Wales – Probate records 1544-1858

Previously only browsable page by page, these records are now fully searchable by names, years, locations and other family members.

England – London Gazette 1665-2018

Scotland – Edinburgh Gazette 1797-2018

Ireland – Belfast Gazette 1922-2018

Ireland – Dublin Gazette 1750-1800

FAMILY SEARCH

England – Middlesex – Parish registers 1539-1988

England – Lancashire – Non-Conformist Church Records 1647-1996

A POTTED HISTORY OF OSBORNE HOUSE

Contributed by Marg Phelan

1858: Osborne House was completed as a home for wealthy pastoralist Robert MUIRHEAD, his wife Mary Jane (nee ADAMS) and their three daughters Janette, Anne and Margaret Isabella. Osborne House is understood to have been named as a mark of respect to Queen Victoria's family home on the Isle of Wight. Robert, aged 44, had 3 large sheep runs: Yaram Yaram Station near the Grampians, Anakie Station and Cowies Creek near Geelong. Osborne House, set on 11 acres overlooking Corio Bay, was the family's town house or retirement home.

Designed by noted Melbourne architects WEBB & TAYLOR, Osborne House comprised eleven rooms: five on the ground floor (entry, parlour, drawing room, dining room and library) and six on the first floor (bedrooms and bathroom). Within 5 years of occupation, the parents were deceased, the girls were in the care of a guardian and the property was put up for public auction. It was 1862; Osborne House had failed to attract a buyer and was subsequently advertised for lease.

1865–1873: Leased as a townhouse by wealthy pastoralist John Lang CURRIE of Larra, near Camperdown, the property, according to the 1865 Shire of Corio Rate Book, was then 22 acres in size. CURRIE engaged architect Jacob PITMAN to undertake structural and internal decorative changes, including the addition of the bay window to the drawing room and alterations to the style and shape of the verandah.

1873–1875: Leased by E.J. HOGG, pastoralist

1878: Purchased by Mr. Francis MAGUIRE, pastoralist

1886: Mrs MAGUIRE, widow of Francis, sold the property to Andrew S. LOW but remained as a tenant.

1888: Philip RUSSELL, wealthy grazier, sporting identity, patron of the Arts and philanthropist, purchased Osborne House. Philip had inherited his father's merino sheep property, Mawallok Station at Stockyard Hill near Skipton, but

because of health concerns, his physician suggested that he should reside near the sea. In the 1890s he added the two storey bluestone north extension to the original house.

August 1905: Philip RUSSELL sold Osborne House and 200 acres to the State Government's Premier Thomas BENT for £17,000 for use as the Governor Sir Reginald TALBOT'S Country Retreat, but after one brief stay the Governor never returned. It was suggested that the property be used as a fish hatchery, a stud farm or as an inebriates retreat. Tenders were called for to lease the house and 40 acres, but to no avail. Handsomely furnished, its single occupant was a caretaker.

1905: The Geelong Harbour Trust was formed and the State Government sold Osborne House and a portion of the property for £6000 to the Trust. With the Federation of Australia in 1901, the new Government was intent on creating an Australian navy and training its own naval officers instead of being reliant on Britain. Osborne House was offered by the Geelong Harbour Trust but the Defence Department declined, in favour of establishing a Naval College on Federal territory. This plan was not however, realised for several years.

1909: Mrs PARRINGTON of The Oaks, Park Street, South Yarra, leased the property from the Geelong Harbour Trust at £250 per annum. At her insistence the house was renovated prior to occupation. Added was an 'artistically decorated' 50 feet long (15.24m) dining room that could be used as a ballroom, with seven bedrooms above. She opened it as a high class guest house in December 1909 but by December 1910 Mrs PARRINGTON had vacated, broken her 5 year lease and left, owing £210 to the Harbour Trust. Mrs BELL took on the running of the boarding house with greater success by charging lower rates.

1912: The Department of Defence reconsidered a lease on Osborne House as a temporary facility for the nation's first Royal Australian Naval College. Classrooms, equipment and training facilities were added. Boys aged 14 were selected from across Australia and entered the following year as cadet midshipmen to train as navy officers.

1913–1915: Osborne House was the first Royal Australian Naval College, opening on 01 March, 1913 to great pomp and ceremony. Invited guests included the Prime Minister, Minister for Defence, the Victorian Premier,

MPs and dignitaries from across the country. The RANC relocated to Jervis Bay during the Christmas break of 1914/15.

1916: Osborne House became a Defence Department Convalescent Hospital for returned servicemen. Rationalisation of repatriation facilities saw the men who still required medical care, relocated to a military hospital at Macleod later that year, while others were returned to their unit or discharged.

1917–1919: Established as Victoria's first rest home for invalided army nurses, Osborne House was managed by The Australian Red Cross on behalf of the AIF. When the Department of Defence advised that it again required use of the property for the navy, the nurses were relocated to Wyuna, a large house on Western Beach, Geelong.

1920–1922: Osborne House became the temporary home of Australia's first submarine fleet. Britain had given Australia six 'J' Class submarines and the tender boat *Platypus*. Osborne House was selected because of its existing lease and facilities.

1922–1929: Osborne House, now vacant, remained under lease to the Federal Government with only a resident caretaker. During these years, and in accordance with the lease agreement, the Defence Department removed all infrastructure added during tenure and handed the property back to the Geelong Harbour Trust. It then remained vacant for the next seven years.

1937: Osborne House was purchased for use as municipal offices by the Shire of Corio, located at Lara, for an upset price of £4500. Osborne House remained the headquarters for the Shire of Corio for over 52 years.

1940: As its contribution to the war effort, the Corio Shire Council moved into rented premises in Geelong to allow the Australian Army to use the property as a Transport Training base. Corio Shire Council returned to Osborne House in 1945 and subsequently purchased the stables.

1993: The amalgamation of Geelong's six municipal councils created the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG); the Shire of Corio, the third richest in Australia, ceased to exist. Osborne House was superfluous to CoGG's office needs and remained empty; one area of the building was leased to a youth services provider from 1995 to 2009.

2010–2017: Community groups leased the ground floor areas of Osborne House. For over fifty years the Stables have been occupied by the Geelong Memorial Brass Band. The Geelong Maritime Museum occupied the ground floor of the Stables for over three decades.

April 2017: The entire building complex was closed to tenants and to the public for extensive maintenance.

July 2018: Council for the City of Greater Geelong voted to retain Osborne House in community ownership. A master plan, developed by 2020, will determine the future use of the property.



*Osborne House c. 1890
(possibly the CAMPBELL family pictured out the front).*

Source: Geelong Heritage Centre (GRS 0691/43)

SEARCHING IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTES

Government gazettes can be a wonderful source of information. A gazette is “an official publication for the purpose of notifying the public of government business”. Both Federal and State governments publish official gazettes, usually on a weekly basis. Despite being a treasure trove of information, they are not the easiest of publications to use.

Federal, New South Wales & Papua New Guinea Gazettes

On Trove, researchers will find digitised copies of Commonwealth Gazettes from 1901 to 2012. Prior to 1940, they also included ACT and Northern Territory ordinances. Trove also includes the NSW Government Gazette from 1832 to 2001, the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser from 1803 to 1842 and the NSW Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime from 1860 to 1930. A little known fact is that the Government Gazette for Papua New Guinea is also included in Trove from 1906 to 1975.

Most researchers have used the digitised newspapers on Trove but how many have tried searching the Government Gazettes? Using the new version of Trove, searching is relatively simple. Type your search term into the search box and select ‘Newspapers and Gazettes’ from the drop-down menu (see below).



You will then need to refine your results by ticking ‘Gazettes’ in the menu located on the right hand side of the screen.



Search results can then be further restricted by geographic place (NSW, National or International (Papua New Guinea), title, category, date range, illustration type or word count.

Unlike searching newspapers, there are some key differences when limiting your search by category.

Categories

When using Trove's newspaper zone, researchers are familiar with limiting their searches to certain categories eg. Articles or Family notices for a death etc. Just like the newspapers, the Government Gazettes have been grouped into categories. Some categories have been assigned from the gazette itself whilst others have been assigned by the Trove team.

So what are the categories and what do they contain?

1. Appointments and Employments

Appointments (not just those to a government position), retirements, resignations, transfers and registration lists; Employment terminations etc.

2. Proclamations and Legislation

Includes official announcements dealing with matters of public importance and the existence and implementation of legislation.

3. Tenders and Contracts

Useful for tracking down when government buildings may have been built.

4. Private notices

These are often related to the status of companies including: company registrations, liquidations, bankruptcy, insolvency and probate.

5. Gazette Index and Contents

This category includes the Gazette Cumulative Index & Issue level contents lists – describing contents of specific Gazette issues.

6. Budgetary Papers

This section documents how much money the government had and what they spent it on.

7. Freedom of Information

All NSW agencies subject to the Freedom of Information legislation are required to publish a summary of affairs.

8. Gazette Notices

A catch-all category for items that do not readily fit into another category. This category includes corrections to notifications, the formation of committees, implementation of legislation and service announcements.

Victorian Government Gazettes

Digital copies of the Victorian Government Gazette are available via the State Library of Victoria website at <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>. They contain information on everything from land transactions, bankruptcies, reward notices and new acts of parliament, to tenders, patent applications, unclaimed letters and monies, and shipping and emigration notices.

The first issue was published on 9th July 1851. Prior to this date, material about Victoria was published in the NSW Government Gazette (1836-1851), the Port Phillip Government Notices (January -12 July 1843) and the Port Phillip Government Gazette (1844-July 1851). No copies of the gazettes are known to exist for the period 19 July to 31 December 1843. However, Gazette information for this period may be found in the *Port Phillip Herald* newspaper under the *Melbourne Government Gazette* column.

Searching the Victorian Gazettes is not easy. The search function searches only for words that appear in the INDEXES of the gazettes NOT the full text on each page. If you can't find a person by searching on their name, it could be because they may not be listed in the gazette indexes. Try using some information about the person in your search. For example, if the person was appointed to a government position, you can use keywords relating to the position in your search.

However there may be another way of tracking your elusive ancestor. The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AUSTLII) website also has digitized copies of the Victorian Government Gazettes and the full text is searchable online. The website also has South Australian Gazettes from 1839 to 1999 and New Zealand Gazettes from 1939 to 1992.

To search AUSTLII go to http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/vic_gazette
Click on *Name Search* from the main menu.



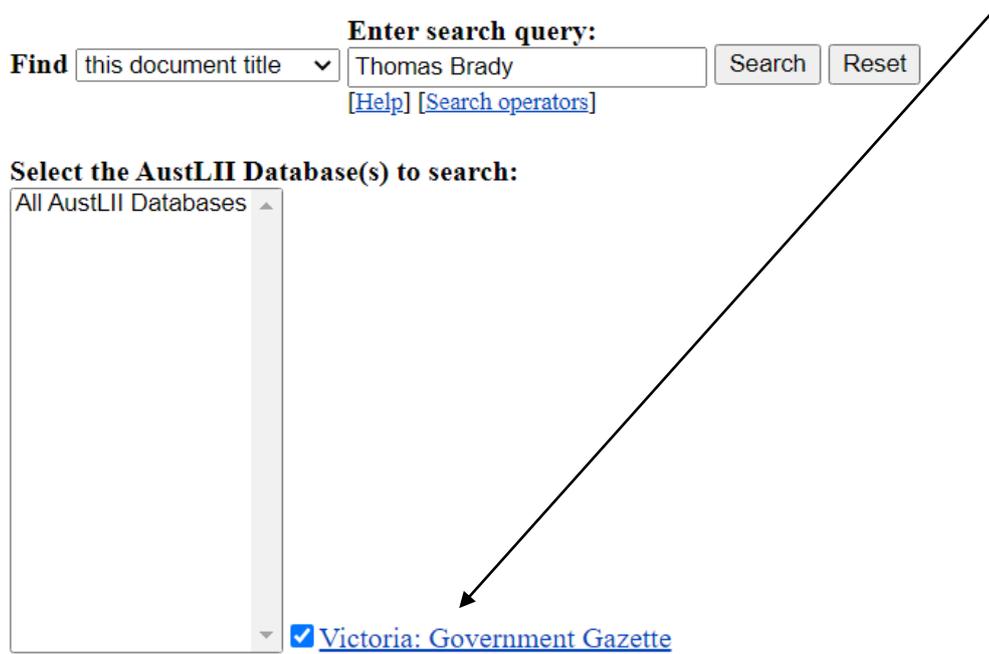
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Victorian Government Gazettes

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From the *Find* drop down menu, choose the appropriate search option (eg. Any of these words, This phrase etc). Make sure you check the Victoria Government Gazette checkbox at the bottom of the Database to Search box.



Enter search query:

Find

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Select the AustLII Database(s) to search:

All AustLII Databases

[Victoria: Government Gazette](#)

Enter your search terms. It does not have to be a name (even though you previously clicked on Name Search) - it can be any word. The results will link to the PDF of the Gazettes containing the search term. Results can be sorted by relevance, citation frequency, database (if searching more than one), date or title. Once you click on a search result, you will need to search again within the PDF, using your browser's search function. This will then highlight the search term.

Marg Frewin

THE HERMITAGE

The Hermitage was built on land that was first purchased by Edward CURR in October 1839. Sometime in the early 1840's, Nicholas FENWICK purchased the land and built a timber mansion house. It stood on the site of the current 'Armytage House' in Pakington Street, Newtown.

The original timber Hermitage mansion house contained a handsome drawing room with folding doors, dining room, breakfast room, library, bedroom, bathroom and closet. The house also had a lower suite of apartments of five bedrooms, dairy, state-room, cellar, out-offices, large kitchen with patent oven, and three servants' bedrooms.

Nicholas FENWICK, eldest son of Charles FENWICK and Susanne Johanne FENWICK nee BERNER, was born in 1806 in Denmark, where his father was British Consul-General in Helsingor. His brothers, Fairfax and George FENWICK, along with George's wife, Melior and his father in law, Edward Brown arrived in Sydney in 1838. Possibly following favourable reports from these family members, Nicholas, along with his three sisters – Susannah, Hester and Ann arrived in Sydney in April 1839.

By June 1839, Nicholas had been appointed temporary Police Magistrate at Cassilis in the central west of New South Wales, before being appointed to the position of Police Magistrate in Geelong in January 1840. Susannah FENWICK married Edward BELL, whilst Hester and Anne eventually returned to England to look after their mother.

Nicholas had a reputation for being well-bred, quiet and very proud. Like many gentlemen of his position, he held many positions around town. These included being a committee member of the Melbourne Club, a trustee of the Church of Christ, Geelong, Secretary of the District Council of Grant and a member of the Geelong Benevolent Society.

Sometime around 1845, Nicholas left Geelong and returned to Denmark, where in July 1847 he married Julia Octavia Benigna DE FLINDT, a widow. In August 1849, auction notices appear in the *Geelong Advertiser* for the disposal

of the furniture from the house, on the instructions of his brother in law, Edward BELL. These and other notices suggest that James RAVEN, Esq had been living in the house between 1845 and 1849.

Nicholas returned to Melbourne in March 1851 where he was appointed Commissioner for Crown Lands for the county of Bourke. There he purchased 122 acres of bushland east of Richmond, and named the property “Kew”, now a suburb of Melbourne. He put The Hermitage and its subdivided land up for auction in April 1851. In March 1854, Nicholas left Australia once again, this time never to return. He died in London in 1863, aged 57 and was buried at Brompton Cemetery.

George ARMYTAGE was the successful bidder for the house and its 7 acres. Tenders were called on his behalf for the construction of a new two-storied home in May 1858. It was constructed in 1859-60 to a design by Edward PROWSE. The Hermitage was a two storey Barrabool freestone ashlar and basalt rubble mansion and at the time was considered one of the finest colonial regency style mansion houses in Victoria. The Ionic portico and exquisitely proportioned, encircling wrought iron veranda is the most distinctive feature of this mansion, which is undoubtedly Edward PROWSE’S most impressive work.



George Armytage

George ARMYTAGE died in 1862 however The Hermitage remained in the family's ownership for many more years. It was leased by Thomas GUTHRIE for more than 30 years after George's wife's death in 1874. In 1905 the property was sold to the Trustees of the Church of England for use as a 'school for the education of girls' in Geelong. The Hermitage continued to be used as an educational facility until 1972, when the school relocated to Highton before eventually merging with the Geelong Grammar School.



The Hermitage

The property was then sold to a developer who subdivided the land into 23 allotments, leaving the mansion and the original driveway standing on 1.5 acres (0.6 ha). The house was sold to the Newtown City Council who renamed it Armytage House. In 1977, the house was included on the Victorian Heritage Register, one of its early listings. Following Council mergers in 1993, the property passed into private ownership in 1995. In November 2015, the house sold for the then record price of \$4.2 million and is still privately owned. The house is currently undergoing major restoration work on its exterior.

SOURCES:

Ganly, CA. *Major Mercer*

Victorian Heritage Database – Armytage House.

Geelong Advertiser 18 June 1845, p. 7, 26 April 1851, p. 3, 7 May 1858 p. 7

Victorian Shipping Records

Victoria Wills & Probate Records

England. National Probate Calendar

GEELONG TIMES INDEX

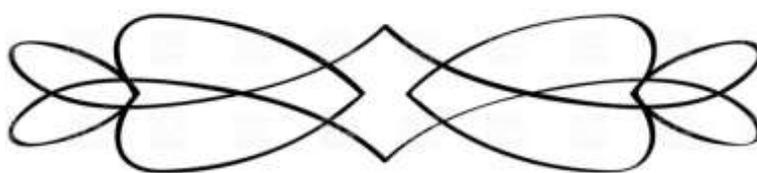
Aug to Dec 1876

Part 2

NAME	COMMENT	GT Date	Correspondent
HARDY, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra
HASSET, Kate	Public Meeting & Tea	2 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
HEBBARD, George	New buggy	11 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
HISKENS, Mr	Birregurra Cricket Club	31 Aug 1876	Birregurra
HISKENS, Mr & Mrs	Schoolmaster farewell	29 Aug 1876	Birregurra
HOLIDAY, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra
HOLMAN, Mr	Drysdale Wesleyan Sunday School picnic	6 Nov 1876	Drysdale
HOPKINS, J R	Board of Advice election	21 Jul 1876	Winchelsea
HOPKINS, J R	Opening of railway	25 Nov 1876	Winchelsea
JAMES, William	Witness	28 Aug 1876	Birregurra
JENNINGS, Mr	Drysdale Foresters Branch	11 Aug 1876	Drysdale
JOHNSON, Mr	Concert	12 Aug 1876	Meredith
JOHNSTONE, Mr	Colac Tradesmen Cricket Team	10 Nov 1876	Birregurra
JONES, Mr	Opening of railway	25 Nov 1876	Winchelsea
JUDD, H Gunner	Drysdale Volunteers	4 Sep 1876	Drysdale
JUDD, Mr	dray accident	25 Sep 1876	Drysdale
KEAM, Mr	Wallington Wesleyan Church	7 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
KEAM, Mrs	Wallington Wesleyan Church	7 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
KEMP, Mr	Colac Tradesmen Cricket Team	10 Nov 1876	Birregurra
KINGWELL, Alice	Witness	28 Aug 1876	Birregurra
KNIGHTS, Mr	Colac Tradesmen Cricket Team	10 Nov 1876	Birregurra
LAMB, Miss	Public Meeting & Tea	2 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
LAMBELL, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra

LING, Mr	Wallington Wesleyan Church	7 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
LONG, David	Missing horse	4 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
LONG, W Mrs Jnr	Kensington Temperance Society	28 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
LUSH, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra
LYONS, F Mr	Drysdale Sunday School tea meeting	21 Nov 1876	Drysdale
LYTTLETON, Dr	Drysdale Foresters Branch	11 Aug 1876	Drysdale
LYTTLETON, Dr	Horse accident	12 Sep 1876	Drysdale
LYTTLETON, Dr	Drysdale formation of cricket club	5 Oct 1876	Drysdale
MARTIN, Henry	Marriage	14 Jul 1876	Drysdale
MARTIN, Mr	Drysdale Station goods shed	23 Aug 1876	Drysdale
MARTIN, Mr	Bellarine Ploughing Match Committee	25 Jul 1876	Drysdale
MATTHEWS, Mr	Toll gate Debate	21 Sep 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MAXSTEAD, Lydia	Public Meeting & Tea	2 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MAXSTEAD, Miss	Public Meeting & Tea	2 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MAXSTEAD, Mrs	Public Meeting & Tea	2 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MAY, Ann Mrs	Inquest	28 Aug 1876	Birregurra
McANDREW, Mr	Bellarine Ploughing Match Committee	25 Jul 1876	Drysdale
McCALLUM, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra
McDERMOT, Mr	Chevy Estate, Wallington	28 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
McDONALD, A	Board of Advice election	21 Jul 1876	Winchelsea
McEWAN, Mr	Drysdale Foresters Branch	11 Aug 1876	Drysdale
McGRATH, J	Drysdale Foresters Branch	11 Aug 1876	Drysdale
McGRATH, Mr	Birregurra Turf Club	9 Nov 1876	Birregurra
McMASTER, John	Board of Advice election	13 Jul 1876	Kensington (Leopold)

McMASTER, Mr	Toll gate Debate	21 Sep 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
McWILLIAMS, Cprl	Volunteer Rifle shooting badge	22 Nov 1876	Drysdale
McWILLIAMS, Mr	Drysdale & Queenscliff Rifle Match	25 Sep 1876	Drysdale
Meredith	Scarlet fever	5 Oct 1876	Meredith
MEYLER, Dr	Health Officer visit	14 Oct 1876	Birregurra
MEYLER, Dr	Opening of railway	25 Nov 1876	Winchelsea
MINNS, John	Scarlet fever	24 Jul 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MINNS, R Mr	Alliance Temperance Society	24 Aug 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MINNS, R Mr	Scarlet fever	24 Jul 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MINNS, R Mr	Kensington Temperance Society	28 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
MOFFAT, Mr	Drysdale Foresters Branch	11 Aug 1876	Drysdale
MOLINE, Mr	Opening of railway	25 Nov 1876	Winchelsea
MORAN, A T	Board of Advice election	21 Jul 1876	Winchelsea
MURRELL, Findon	Board of Advice election	21 Jul 1876	Winchelsea
NICHOLSON, J	Murroon Cricket Team	10 Nov 1876	Birregurra
OKE, Thomas	Board of Advice election	13 Jul 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
O'NEIL, Andrew	Toll gate Debate	21 Sep 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
O'NEIL, Mr	Wallington Wesleyan Church	7 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
O'NEIL, Mrs	Wallington Wesleyan Church	7 Dec 1876	Kensington (Leopold)
O'NEILL, Charles	Witness	14 Oct 1876	Birregurra
O'NEILL, Ellen Mrs	Witness	14 Oct 1876	Birregurra
O'NEILL, James	Inquest	14 Oct 1876	Birregurra



LOOKING FOR GEELONG CONNECTIONS?

Check out:

Bellarine Peninsula & Geelong and District History Website

<http://zades.com.au/ganddd/index.php>

Includes:

Geelong and District Consolidated Database

Bellarine Peninsula Consolidated Name Index

and much, much more!

Check out the “*Geelong and District Blog*” and sign up for the notification service.

Geelong Heritage Centre Reading Room

Level 3, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre

51 Little Malop Street, Geelong

Phone: (03) 4201 0630

Email heritagecentre@grlc.vic.gov.au

<http://www.grlc.vic.gov.au>

Open Tuesday 9am-8pm, Wednesday to Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Geelong LDS Family History Centre

20 Eagle View Crescent

Bell Post Hill

Phone (03) 5278 1691

Open Tuesday 7pm-9pm, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am-1.30pm

Closed Public Holidays, Tuesdays during school holidays and Christmas school holidays

Bellarine Historical Society & Museum

Old Court House, High Street

Drysdale 3222

<https://www.bellarinehistory.org/>

bellarine-historical-society@googlegroups.com

Open:

January – every Sunday 1.30-4.30pm

Feb to Aug & Oct to Dec – 1st Sunday of month, 1.30 to 4.30pm

GFHG PAYMENT DETAILS

To pay for membership subscriptions and research services by direct debit, the Group's bank details are as follows:

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-000

Account: 162 588 131

Ref: Your name

Always EMAIL proof of payment and completed form or details to:
geelongfhg@gmail.com

MEMBER SERVICES

The Geelong Family History Group offers a number of services to its members.

Journal Borrowing

The Group subscribes to a number of Australian and Overseas family history journals and newsletters. Single issues may be borrowed for one month and returned on meeting nights.

Lookup Service

Any member may request a free lookup of the Geelong & District Database of Church BMD & Directory entries. Members **who qualify for discounted research (see below)** may also request free lookups in the Victorian BDM Indexes and/or one of our publications. *NB A specific name is required for these services.*

Discounted Research Service

For those members who are not able to access the Geelong Heritage Centre due to distance, ill health or work commitments, members may request basic research for \$10 per query (non-members \$20). You will need to complete the research request form available on the research page of our website.

Please forward all lookup and research requests to our Research Officer. For a Lookup Service, use the Contact Us form on our web site, and for a Research Request please send to our Postal Address.

GFHG Research Files Search

This service is available to both members and non-members.

The GFHG Research Files is a database containing scans of indexes, manuscripts and documents related to the Geelong region and South West Victoria created and collected by the Geelong Family History Group over the past 40 years. It also contains copies of the Pivot Tree and Group publications, in addition to material donated to the Geelong and District database such as the Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum annual reports.

Members and non-members can request a search for a specific SURNAME, PLACE NAME OR SUBJECT. The enquirer will be advised of the total number of documents and the total number of matches for the requested search word.

If you wish to proceed further, after payment of the appropriate fee (see below), you will be emailed a PDF file containing all search results.

Researchers can then request copies of TEN pages from your results list (at no additional charge). Request copies via email and include the Document TITLE and Page Number for your ten chosen documents. These ten pages will be emailed to you. If more than ten pages are required, contact the GFHG secretary to discuss options.

Fees

Members	\$10
Non-members	\$20

NOTE:

For ESSENTIAL request submission instructions and guidelines for a successful search of these files, PLEASE consult the GFHG website at <https://geelongfhg.com/research-2/search-gfhg-research-files/>

