

BORDERLINE NEWS

Newsletter of the Wodonga Family History Society, Inc. Est. 1987

Next meeting dates & Guest Speakers

Aug 17 Dr. Charles Fahey
Soldier Settlement records

Sept 21

and Members Brick Wall Night

Oct 19 Pauline Weeks
Kiwis Can't Swim - Researching Across the Ditch

Research area:

The WFHS Research Area is open at Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery for members and visitors on:-

Tuesdays - 1pm to 4pm;
Wednesday and Thursdays - 11am to 3pm

Contacting us:

PO Box 289, Wodonga, Vic 3689

Web site and links:

www.wodongafamilyhistory.org

www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/

WodongaFamilyHistory/

Email:

secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

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An update from President Pat



Hello Everybody,

I have just re-read the start of my report in the last newsletter. How *optimistic* I sounded and how disappointed we all are that pre-Covid normal did not last long. However, our May meeting with speakers from Vanish was well supported by members and visitors. I was certainly surprised by the number present who had first-hand accounts of the forced adoption practices in place prior to the mid 1970s.

As we are in another lock down situation the last two meetings have been cancelled due to the virus. I think we all miss the opportunity to talk to fellow family historians. I know Janette is upset that her programmed speakers had to cancel. The good news is that both Meg Bate (Scottish research) and Jan Parker (Family Tree Maker) are willing to come at a later date.

Committee update: The Committee were able to meet in June as 10 people were allowed at Felltimber and we conducted the July Committee via Zoom. In the meantime, we held an extraordinary meeting at the SS&A Club in Albury where we discussed updating our business cards, brochures and related materials, to reflect our move to Hyphen. Thank you to all the committee who were able to attend -giving up your Saturday to participate in this valuable exercise is very much appreciated. A special thank you to Janette for organising the venue and conducting the discussion, also to Kate Trebley for sharing her expertise and skills.

The new library: I imagine the move to Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery will be the highlight of our year. If all goes to plan we should have our designated space ready to welcome you and visitors from Tuesday 3 August. It is a bright, quiet area and you will be pleasantly surprised by the new facility.

Committee Members

President and Projects Officer:

Pat Hopkins - and GSV rep.

Vice President: Janette Griggs

Secretary & Public Officer:

Wendy Cooksey - contact
secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

Treasurer: Sue Jarvis

Program Co-ord: Janette Griggs

Librarian: Christine Young

Fundraising: Pamela Nulty

Publicity Officer : Ann Kerin

Research Officer: Alice Lindsay

Minutes Secretary & VAFHO rep:

Carolyn Renfrey

New members: Alice Lindsay

& Carolyn Renfrey

Editor: Maureen Cuskelly

editor@wodongafamilyhistory.org

Membership Benefits:

- ✦ Access to all the resources on the Society's library.
- ✦ Quarterly newsletter
- ✦ Access to other family history news through shared newsletters from other family history groups
- ✦ Monthly meetings with family history tips, news and guest speakers
- ✦ Contact with other family historians, researchers and members who share your interest in family history

Subscriptions:

New members -Joining fee
\$10.00 plus \$25 membership fee
Annual Membership- \$25.00
Part-year Membership -(join
between 1st April - 30th June)
\$10.00 plus joining fee.
Research request -\$30.00 or
\$5.00 for simple check of the
WFHS records

I am hoping that we will be able to organise workshops and discussion groups to help us improve our research skills and spend more time with other members. All our resources will be available as well as *AncestryLibrary* edition and the library version of *FamilySearch*. We are hoping that the first workshop will be instructive on using these two popular websites.

Research hours: Our hours have changed (see page 1) At least 10 members who helped prior to our move to High Street are no longer able to assist in the library. We are desperately in need of members to become research assistants so please think about helping and give your name to Wendy. I can assure you that will be made very welcome and shown how to use the resources.

August is Family History month We are going to celebrate it by encouraging you to visit Hyphen as we get settled in. Our Guest Speaker for our meeting on 17 August is Charles Fahey on 'Soldier Settlements records for Family Historians'. He is a noted speaker and was recently on Grant Denyer's episode of "Who Do You Think You Are?" A meeting not to be missed!

Census night is Tuesday 10 August: If anyone knows how important the Census is, it is a family historian. We are asked questions about our age, the country of birth, religion, ancestry, language used at home, occupation and education. *This year you can elect to have your information preserved for release in 100 years.* in the past very few Australian census results were saved - they were destroyed to protect privacy. Thank goodness, one might say, that many other countries preserved theirs for future historians.

Courses and seminars: For those of you who are interested in DNA, may I recommend the Family Tree bootcamp, an 8 week course to be held starting 29 September via Zoom. A very popular course and you don't need to do it live as the material is available via your computer the next day. Visit www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/webinars/ The presenter is Michelle Leonard who helped identify Richard III in 2012 using DNA. Conference -

The Family Tree magazine is available as hard copy in our library and as a digital edition from the Wodonga Library (where your Wodonga Library membership allows you to access magazines).

If you are interested in your convict ancestors then you might like to look at the 2021 NSW & Act AFHS Annual Conference *With Conviction ... beyond reasonable doubt* - on their website <https://conference2021.wixsite.com>

Seniors Week: Wodonga City Council has Senior Citizens Week from 3 – 10 October and, once again, our intention is to use this opportunity to encourage people to visit our new site at Hyphen.

Membership news: A reminder that membership fees are due (end of July) and the Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21 September. Nomination forms are provided in this newsletter as *all* positions on committee are declared vacant. Please consider nominating as new people mean new ideas.

It is a great pleasure to welcome *Judy Charlton* to our society as our 450th member. I look forward to seeing you, Judy, at our meetings and encourage you to take part in all our activities.

I wish to congratulate Maureen on her excellent first newsletter and I am looking forward to reading this edition. Your feedback and any suggestions you have that could improve our society are most welcome. Enjoy the rest of winter and hopefully we will see one another in August.

Best Wishes

Patricia Hopkins

Update on Projects

The Committee has been very busy updating material used by the society such as business cards and membership application forms. We certainly thank Kate Trebley for her willingness to share her time and expertise with us. Our plan is to update our webpage in the near future so, if you would like to be involved and have a passion for such things, please let Wendy know.

The other project of note was our presentation for the GSV highlighting our area, its history and what we have to offer for research. It will be available for you to look at on the computers in the library. Christine and I have created an Excel spreadsheet of our research material so researchers can locate information they need quickly. It is still a work in progress but with our move to Hyphen we should be able to complete it in the very near future.

Program Coordinator's Report

The first five months of 2021 looked very promising having booked some great speakers - our programme was off and running.

Kate Eastick, from the Albury Library Museum spoke about the 'Nurses and Midwives' exhibition. Anne Copeland from the State Library of Victoria gave some great tips and techniques on starting your family history. Matt Bennett commanded a lot of interest with his talk on 'Links with World War I to Albury Wodonga'. In May we heard some pretty moving details of past forced adoption practices from the ladies at VANISH.

Unfortunately Covid-19 decided to get in on the act and we had to cancel both the June and July meetings. Hopefully August will allow us to hear Dr Charles Fahey who will speak about using soldier settlement records to help your family history. Charles recently appeared in a TV edition of "Who Do You Think You Are" – The Grant Denyer story. Let's hope we get to see Charles at our August meeting at Felltimber in Wodonga.

To try and avoid disappointment for our members we will invite those missed speakers to present later this year or next.

Ideas for 2022. We would like to hear from you, our members, to suggest the kind of speakers/workshops/seminars you would like to see in 2022.

Perhaps you would like to learn more about starting your family history or writing a book or any of the myriad of interesting topics - *if so please tell us*. Email your ideas to the secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

Janette Griggs

Your Newsletter - from the Editor

This edition has been a delight to put together - showcasing two member's stories and Wendy's review of genealogical mysteries - a new genre in literature. In addition, there is Pam's idea for recording today's family history. I am hoping the variety of articles will inspire you. If you want assistance with an article for the next newsletter contact me.

This is a request from the Committee to ask you to consider receiving your newsletter by email; it saves work for our volunteers and reduces costs. If you can do this please send your email address and I will add you to the list

Maureen Cuskelly

New Books in our Library

- The War to End all Wars
- Tracing your Great War Australian Military Ancestors
- Tracing your WW2 Australian Military Ancestors
- Nothing Short of War with the Australian Army in Borneo 1962-66

Research Enquiries - we can help

Our Research Assistant can undertake research for you (see fees on page 2). Send your request via post or email detailing the topic you want addressed on your behalf ie. your query in detail.

Include everything you know:- names, areas, any birth, deaths or marriage details you may have. *NB there is no point paying for what you already know*. Please send business size self-addressed envelope with your enquiry.

Spotlight on Leneva

The WFHS have several books about Leneva that may interest family historians whose family hale from the area:

Leneva State Schools Centenary
1875-1975 Leneva.

Goyne, Leonie. 'As We Remember' plus a family history by the same author 'The Leneva Boyes: the Early Days'. 2019



1901. Leneva West Post Office, (Year identified 1961) Photo courtesy National Archives of Australia

If you are interested in these resources visit our library at Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery.

Update from Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV)

As well as the times given in the last newsletter GSV are now open on on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (10am to 4pm). Please note you will need to book before noon the day before. Non-members of GSV are also welcome to book by phone on 03 9662 4455 or email: gsv@gsv.org.au

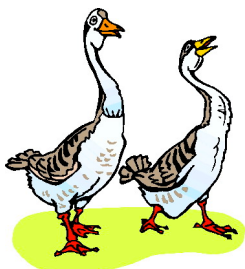
It is always wise to check on their website beforehand for any changes: gsv.gov.au.

Who is this man? *Leanne Jenvey*

To whom did I give my hand in Marriage?
That is the question. He was known as
Swasbrick but how?

Let us take a journey back into the times of the rule of King George 111 who by 1809 had been on the throne for nearly fifty years and was plagued by bouts of madness. The Prime Minister William Cavendish-Bentinck was presiding over a government that had two of his Ministers fighting a duel on Putney heath; and the country engaged in fighting in no less than three major wars in Europe.

It was into this year that young “John Swaresbrick” made his appearance - much to the delight of his Parents Mary Dobson and William Swaresbrick. He probably had a childhood roaming the Yorkshire moors as he called Ampleforth his home with plenty of cousins to keep him company.



The year 1830 changed his life; his adventures with a cousin landed him into a bit of trouble. The Bills of Indictment rolled in; listing the stealing of a gelding

3rd December 1830, the

stealing of hempen sacks 3rd December and finally the stealing of eight geese on the 9th December 1830. I could plead in his defence that they planned to have a wonderful Christmas feast and needed the gelding and hempen sacks to carry the geese home. It makes sense to me!

Due to this activity John and his Cousin were offered a seven year holiday to Van Diemens Land leaving the port on the 25th July 1831 and arriving 18 November 1831

upon the vessel Lord Lyndoch (1). Young John’s surname was listed as “Swilesbrick” for this journey and, as he was illiterate, – he wouldn’t have argued.

He next pops up in Melbourne 1842 as he is getting married to a Mary Ragan at the Wesleyan Church, Melbourne, but here he becomes John “Swansbrick”. And so begins another adventure in this man’s life. His occupation is listed as a Carrier and it seems that this family may have started their life around Plenty River and Moonee Ponds and finally they may have followed the gold trail ending up in Beechworth.

Eight children were born to this couple and it would have been desperate times to be bringing up children and providing for them. The wife Mary was of Irish descent with an Irish temper according to the court reports in the local papers. John’s wayward youth had not deserted him completely as we have court records of John, Mary and one of their daughters making a few starring appearances in 1861. At this time John was listed as “John Swashbrick”; if Slater and Gordon handled the case he would have got off on mis-identification technicalities! His lifestyle did not change and his court appearances were repeated in 1865.

My next encounter in this man’s story takes place in 1866 with the death of a John “Swarsbrick” in the Ovens District Hospital; this was the name recorded on the death certificate. In addition, there is a listing in an old Burial book for “James Shorsbrick,” which was the only burial on 22 October 1866; his death was listed 21 October 1866 and this matched the date on John’s death certificate.

Once again my question is “Who did I marry”?

Introducing Rev. Henry Elliott First vicar of Albury

Prepared by Ann Brennan with assistance from Helen Livsey, John Henwood and Howard Jones for use on the Cemetery Walk conducted by the Albury & District Historical Society – 17 April 2009.



St Mathews Church Albury (Views in and Around Albury. (1896, September 12). The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1871 - 1912), p. 550. Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163782556>

Wiltshire beginnings

According to the Australian Church Quarterly, Dec. 1944, the Reverend Henry Elliott was born at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire, in England, 12 March 1814. He attended Warminster school and moved on to become a shoemaker in his father's business. His family lived on the estate of the Marquis of Bath where he discovered a library and the staff lent him books. Later he joined a choir and became a proficient musician – (violin, viola, cello and French horn).

Henry could never get enough books and he and a friend bought and shared a "Penny Cyclopaedia". At seventeen, he joined the Wesleyan Methodists and became a preacher

and leader. He was criticised for his lack of humility and depth of knowledge. At this time, Henry, with his more working-class background, seemed to see problems regarding the theory and the morality of the New Testament.

Van Dieman's Land

By the 1840's he returned to the Church of England and with the influence of the Wiltshire parish priest, the Rev. Emmanuel Strickland, he was accepted as a catechist, and on the promise of a Deaconate he, his wife, Fanny (nee Barnett), and two sons, sailed for Van Dieman's Land on the "Aden" on 5 November 1845. Upon landing in Hobart, his ordination was postponed because of differences of opinion between the Bishop of Tasmania and the Lieutenant-Governor about the status of chaplains in the penal colony. He took on the duties of Convict Chaplain until he was sent to Norfolk Island as a Catechist.

The Reverend Elliot and family made their way North, about 1,500 miles, along the east coast of Australia, in a sailing ship, to Norfolk Island. He wrote about the beauty of the flora on the island and compared this with the harsh realities of it being a penal colony for those who had offended since arrival in Australia. He described Norfolk Island as,

“ A festering cesspool of pollution and a boiling cauldron of frightful, disgusting crime “.

At the time of his arrival in the prison colony, there ' was much mutinous and disturbed behaviour among the prisoners due to a change in rations demanded by the Stipendiary Magistrate and sanctioned by the Commandant . There was a riot involving 300 of the 2100 prisoners with many brutal and diabolical murders; and 18 were sentenced to hang.

Henry was with the murderers for many days, listening to their stories of misery and crime and urging them to repent. He noted that these men, chiefly young men, wished to live no

longer. He was with them until the hour of their executions and describes the scene as being a

'rainy, murky, dismal day and he suffered a chill of horror as he saw the halts hanging from the beam.'

He saw :

'the bayonets of the mute, armed guards and heard the clank of the heavy metal chains of the murderers as they moved in a slow procession to the drop'.

The Reverend Elliott wrote that he did not wait to witness the hangings, but rode away.

Shipwrecked

The family, including another child, Arnold, (Baptised in the Church of England at Norfolk Island in 1847), returned to Hobart, (16 August, 1848) for Henry's ordination. However during the voyage they were shipwrecked. Henry upset the hierarchy by demanding that the convicts be unchained so that they would have a better chance of getting to safety. Sixteen people drowned and the rest were rescued at Cape Barren Island and taken to Sydney where Henry was received by Bishop Broughton.

Eventually they arrived in Hobart where Henry was ordained a Deacon. Following this they returned to Norfolk Island where Henry fulfilled the role of Deacon, but soon returned to Hobart where he was described as destitute.

Albury connections

It appears that in 1850, Bishop Broughton was sure that the Reverend Elliott would be an ideal person to run the parish at Albury, (described in some documents as the Murrumbidgee district), and in August 1851, Henry left his family in Melbourne and proceeded to Albury. At the time of his appointment to Albury, there was only one priest in charge of a parish between Melbourne and Sydney, Rev. William Singleton

at Kilmore. The Rev. Elliott was ordained a priest, by Bishop Broughton, in 1856. We note that by the close of the 1850's there were five more Church of England priests between Melbourne and Sydney.

So the Rev. Elliott made his way to Albury-Wodonga to receive his appointment from Bishop Broughton. It was William Huon who guided Henry over the flooded wasteland between Wodonga and Albury, crossing the main bridge just before it got swept away in the flood, and Henry made the final part of the crossing in a bark canoe.

He later returned to Melbourne and brought his wife and family to Albury, got a committee together and applied for a grant of land on which to build a church/school. Apparently there was some debate about Rev. Elliott being offered a stipend of two hundred pounds per year with one hundred coming from the Church and one hundred to be raised by the parish. It is reported that Henry donated fifty pounds towards the building fund.

The parish was approximately 200 miles long and 70 miles wide, - with 5,000 parishioners scattered over about 20,000 square miles. The Reverend made visits on horse travel, sleeping under the stars, to most parts, with regular trips for services to Dymocks Inn at Mullenjandra. Services were held in the court house in Hume street, in homes, halls, hotels and the customs house.

The Murrumbidgee District Registers show that the Rev. Elliott performed baptisms in 43 centres. He visited Beechworth, Yackandandah and surrounding towns, riding about 1,100 miles. He showed signs of exhaustion and at one stage he fell from his horse. He never properly recovered from the fall.

Hardworking and zealous

Historical records refer to Elliott as hardworking, zealous and an efficient pioneering priest, with no trace of his earlier radicalism or

modernism. We have found no reference to how his wife coped with such an adventurous life and we do not know of any direct descendants in the area.

The Reverend Henry Elliott died in April 1858, aged 44, about a year before St. Matthews Church was finished. He served here with foresight and dedication, for eight years. He is an inspiration and typical of the pioneers who built this area where we now live.

Resources

Most of the information was drawn from *THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH QUARTERLY* – Dec 30 1944 and *THE DIOCESE OF GOULBURN* – by Ransome T, Wyatt (1937). Both articles are well-documented with extensive footnotes. Some details about the stipend and the appointment of Henry Elliott to St. Matthews, have come from *Church in a Landscape* by Rev. Colin Holden, Melbourne Publishing Group, 2002 - listed in the catalogue Albury Library/Museum. *The Australian Pastor* by Rev. Emmanuel Strickland (1862) was found by Howard Jones using a Google Search.

Recording family events for future family historians - Pam Nulty

There are a number of ways family history can be recorded such as keeping diaries and photo albums or writing your memoirs. Over the years I have found another easy way to preserve the current family activities in an interesting format.

Our young family lived in a few different places, consequently in the 1980's, we started to write an annual Christmas letter to send to our scattered family and friends to keep everyone in touch.



A remarkable discovery!

During the year 2000 I found I had 14 years of those letters in the filing cabinet. With

family history in mind, I purchased special albums for my daughters and myself, then photocopied the letters and displayed them in the albums. In addition, I included a page of family photographs with each letter. Initially I had only three or four photos however, with digital cameras and advancing computer capabilities, I now have a steady supply of current photos to readily insert as you can see below:



With technology and practice over time both the production of the annual letters and photo pages have improved. Since the 1980's I have continued the albums. Now our family have over 30 years of major family events and interesting records of our lives and some day-to-day activities.

Initially, I imagined the folders would be of interest to our daughters but have found the grandchildren take a keen interest as well. And, at times during a family discussion about a particular event, we can use the history album to confirm when it took place.

Many families write similar letters at Christmas -possibly you do as well? If so this is a ready source of family history - if not, why not start now? And, if letter writing does not suit - maybe you could jot down the year's main events and store it for the future family historian in your family.

Good luck with whatever you decide to do!

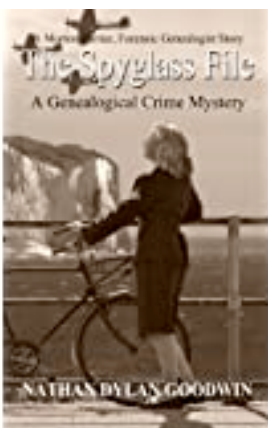
Genealogy Quote

Some Grandmas knitreal grandmas do genealogy!

Genealogical Mysteries

Over the past few years, I have become hooked on reading genealogical mysteries on my Kindle, but most are also available in paper form. Quite recently, Gould have begun stocking the paper versions.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin is probably my favourite, as his attention to detail is second to none. He visits the repositories and libraries when possible, and is it right up-to-date with any new resources. In fact, he has alerted me to one or two research tips of which I was unaware.



His main character is Morton Farrier who manages to get himself into lots of scrapes much to the chagrin of his partner, who is a police detective.

Steve

Robinson's main character in most of his books is Jefferson Tayte, a genealogical detective. Most of his books can be read as stand-alone stories whilst linking to previous books through Jefferson.

- ✦ M.J. Lee's genealogical investigator is Jayne Sinclair.
- ✦ Wendy Percival's main character is Esme Quentin
- ✦ Peter Hey's genealogical investigator is Jan Madden
- ✦ Stephen Molyneux's main character is Peter Sefton, an amateur family historian.

There are other authors, and the range of subjects include murder, DNA, questionable births deaths and marriages, history, convicts, adoption, inheritance, witchcraft, royal heritage, spies, war etc.

All have a genealogical theme. The main characters also have their own personal issues with some romance thrown in for good measure.

In addition, there is a Facebook group called *Genealogical Crime Mystery Book Club*, which was only started early in 2021. Genealogical mystery writers Nathan Dylan Goodwin, MJ Lee, Stephen Molyneux and Wendy Percival set it up to connect with their readers. They sometimes have *Question and Answer* sessions. If you are not available to participate at the time; at a later date you can see what has been asked of the authors and their answers.

Hoping you enjoy a good genealogical mystery or two.

Wendy Cooksey

Genealogy Quote

Genealogists never fade away; they just lose their roots.

Fees due - Friendly reminder:

Subscriptions are due.

If you have not paid as yet please pay by direct banking include your name with the deposit transfer:

Hume Bank
BSB 640000
Account 111115547



Donations are tax deductible.

Psst! Thinking about nominating?

The nomination form for the *Wodonga Family History Society* committee is enclosed with this newsletter *or* in your email box.

Nominations open now!

Reminder our AGM is the 21st September.