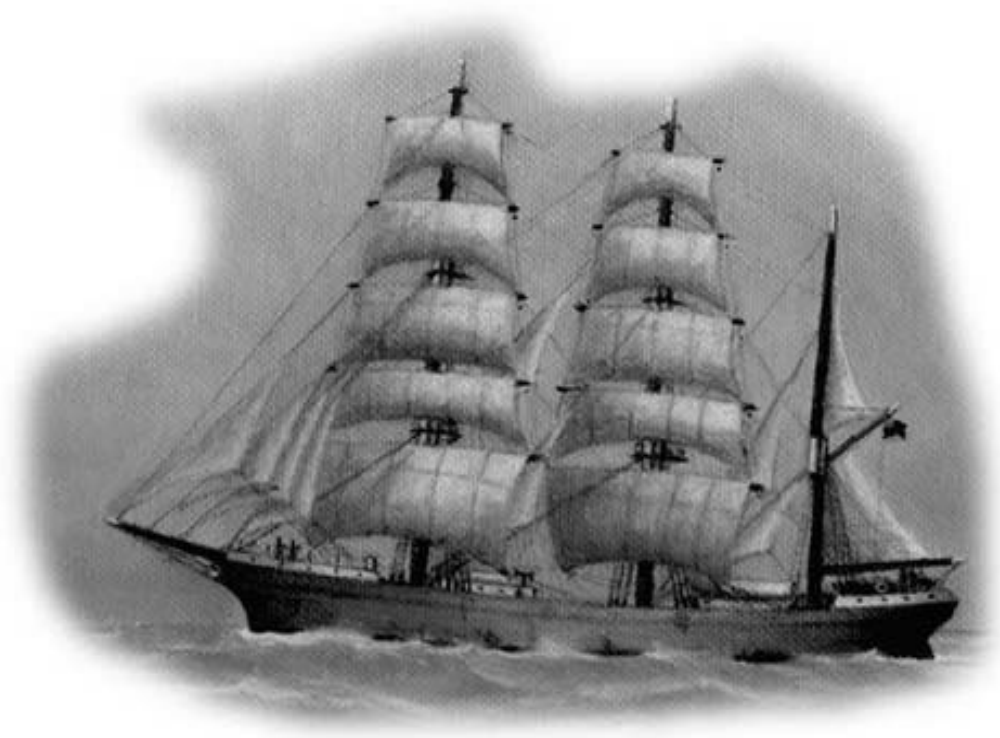


The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 31, Spring-October 2007 edition

(Sub group of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc.)

Inverlochy Log



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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

The Surf Coast Family History Group
c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is Housed in the Anglesea Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.00am — 2.00pm

Meetings

The 2nd Thursday of the Month
Commencing at 10am at the
Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

enquiries:

Norma Phone 52616239
Pat Phone 52896686

Forthcoming Meetings

October Meeting: AGM
Guest Speaker: John Parsons
“Roots Twigs & Branches”

November Meeting:
Anne Horrigan-Dixon
“Tracking down Richard Chapman”

December Meeting:
“Xmas Break-up”
Please bring a plate

First Meeting Feb 14th 2008

Gillian Rickard
“Kent Parish Records”

Please submit topics of interest

The New Committee Members 2007-2008

Chairperson
Secretary

Treasurer
Librarian

Committee Member
Committee Member

Newsletter Editor/ Vice Chairperson

Norma Morrison: normamor@tpg.com.au
Yvonne Schneider gertschn@bigpond.com

Thelma Western: tdwestern@yahoo.com.au
Rose Johnson: justrose_69@msn.com

Colin Wood: cnwood@esystit.com
Dulcie Quinlan: dulcieq@dodo.com.au

Pat Hughes sehguh43@bigpond.com

The Anglesea Family History Group does not hold itself
responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of
articles published in this magazine

A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Repeating school has never been so much fun... I am doing the *Past Times* course at the Anglesea Community Centre the second time around because, unlike some of my fellow students, I've not yet managed to complete the book on my past life that is the aim of the exercise. And just quietly I'm getting to listen to another lot of fascinating stories, some of which trigger memories of my own early years and others that tell of experiences vastly different to mine.

Jan Morris, our tutor, is doing a wonderful job of mentoring us in this stimulating task of putting down on paper the memories of living in a world that to our children and grandchildren is totally alien. As older citizens we have all lived through escalating change and this course is aimed at leaving personal memories of that way of life for those we may never see grow up. How strangely do your grandchildren look at you when you recount learning to write on a slate, boiling up water in a wood copper to do the washing and keeping food in the Coolgardie safe. The thought of a childhood with no television, no computers, and no mobile phones is something they are hard put to imagine.

My own difficulties have been writing so much that I am still not sure what to leave in and what to take out. Jan has scanned masses of photos for us all and for those not computer literate, typed up their material and produced books that as are as interesting and varied as those who have written them. The time she has spent doing this outside of the class far exceeds what any tutor would be expected to do. She has a passion for the work she is doing and it has brought together for me my two main interests, writing and family history.

Next year she hopes to do more courses – a second level to allow people to add to what they have already done and a basic word publishing course for those like myself, who can type their own material but are hopeless at layout. Many of the members of the Surf Coast Family History Group would have written books on their family history, but these courses are a wonderful way of recording our own lives for future generations. It also gives us an opportunity to meet and get to know others in our community and reminisce about a way of life that is long gone, the good and the bad.

I did a writing course a few years back at this same venue.

I remember my tutor telling us "we are all writers". I believe he is right.

And we all have a story to tell.

By Yvonne Schneider©2007

XMAS RAFFLE

Dear Members

It is that time of the year when we run our Xmas Fund Raiser

This year we aim to buy still more records

This will build our resources and assist you in your research

We are enclosing 10 tickets for each member to purchase

or sell to family or friends at \$2 each

Any un-sold tickets & monies are to be passed on

to our Treasurer Thelma Western

For more information ring: 52 632865

Members Story by Sandra Trembath

THOMAS AND CHARLOTTE ROBSON

Thomas and Charlotte met while they were both employed at the estate of Sir Taton Sykes in Sledmere in the county of York. Charlotte's father was employed as a shepherd on the estate, Charlotte as a housemaid, and Thomas attended to the cattle. So a romance began which culminated in their marriage on 15th December 1856. They were married in the Parish Church in the Parish of Driffield in the County of York.

Almost two years later on 28th November 1858, they set sail from Liverpool on the sailing ship *Dirigo*, with their infant son John aged 13 months for a new life in Australia. Within a few days the ship was badly buffeted by storms, and consequently laid up for repairs for five weeks in Milford Haven. Unfortunately there is no record of how they spent their time there, or how they spent their first Christmas away from their families. Once repairs were completed to the ship, they finally set sail again on 4th January 1859, and four months later berthed at the Port of Melbourne.

Thomas soon found work helping to build the railway that would connect Melbourne and Bendigo. Their home at this time was simply a tent beside the line at Sunbury, where their second child, Ann, was born on 5th February 1860. As the line advanced towards Bendigo, Thomas and his family moved on to Boggy Creek near Kyneton. Following a strike by the linesmen, Thomas left the railway, no doubt attracted by the gold being found in the district. They made their way to Garlick's Lead (later named Blue Mount, and now, Newbury), where they spent the rest of their lives. It is near Trentham in central Victoria. A home was built, and over the years, more children arrived: twins Harry and William in 1862, Edward in 1864, Philip in 1866, Elizabeth (my great grandmother) in 1868, George in 1870, James in 1872, Francis in 1874, Rhoda in 1877, and Rose in 1879. George and Rhoda died at the young ages of four and six, and Harry as a young man of eighteen.

Thomas continued to pursue the elusive gold, and eventually with his sons, found a deposit which was to make their future secure. Thomas's ability as a builder was much appreciated by the small community, and he and his son Ned built the community's small church. Sadly this church was burnt down in a bushfire several years ago.

Charlotte's nursing and midwifery skills were always available to the people of the community, and much appreciated since there was no doctor readily available.

At an early age, their sons took an interest in cricket, and Thomas made a generous gift to the township of an area of land for a recreation reserve.

In 1959, I vividly remember as a child going to a family reunion in Blue Mount to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of Thomas and Charlotte's arrival in Australia. There were many people there (about two hundred) all descendants of Thomas and Charlotte.

I still have a copy of the information sheet handed out that day, which records their story, and memories from all those old enough to remember them, and it is from this sheet that I have taken most of this article.

Cont.....

They remember the piano being the centre of many a gathering of family and friends. Their youngest daughter Rose delighted with her singing, and was a gifted pianist.

There was the big open fire place with the kettle singing, and the cats purring in front of the blaze.

The cool cellar dairy with its shelves stacked with jams and preserves, and large pans of scalded milk heavy with cream, and the kitchen with home cured ham and bacon hanging from the ceiling, and the orchard with apples, pears, plums, cherries, white and red and black currants and raspberries. And the flower garden, with jasmine, roses, lilacs and violets, and pride of place the lemon scented magnolia.

And the house dog “Silly” who for many years brought the mail and paper, faithfully and constantly from the mail coach on its way through to Blackwood.

I remember visiting their old house that day. It was no longer owned by our family, but the people who bought the house were more than happy to allow us all to look through.



They must have had about two hundred people walk through their home that day. I remember the porch. My grandmother told me Thomas and Charlotte would often sit there of an evening, and the big old magnolia tree at the front was beautiful. Sadly the house and the tree were both lost in a bushfire several years after the reunion.

Charlotte died on 11th June 1914, and Thomas on 14th January 1923. They are buried together in the cemetery at Trentham.

New Acquisitions Books

Calico ceilings The women of Eureka By Susan Kruss

<http://www.cyberpursuits.com/gen/>

Genealogy is the account of human pedigrees, describing and documenting familial relationships and ancestors. And it has become one of today's most popular and intensive avocations. From the personal perspective, genealogy is the archaeological and anthropological study of one's family heritage and ancestry.

This ancestor-hunting is enjoyable, satisfying, and always full of surprises. It has all the intrigue of mystery. It has the thrill of the chase.

It challenges and teases with unsolved puzzles.

Up to the 20th century, most families ignored documenting their heritage and family relationships. After all, they tended to live in groups of extended families, maintaining a single family Bible and other treasures. But with the advent of the automobile, families fractionated and dispersed, often losing track of who and what their parents and grandparents had loved and treasured. Family Bibles and papers often end up in flea markets as generations far removed from the ancestors give away the documents of their heritage, not really knowing what they lose.

It has been only with the end of the last century that people have started to reflect on the past. Too often, the people who could tell the family tales are long passed away. Names are lost, places forgotten. But the search is not impossible.

It is our hope that the Web pages at this site lead you to relatives you never knew you had. There are pages which can lead you to people whose research may give you information on your family. There are pages which can point you to reference material, publications, organizations, and other endeavors.

The Surf Coast Family History Group

For Sale:

Schools of the Surf Coast Shire
Anglesea to Wurdi Bolue

Surf Coast Cemetery Records on CD
Contact: Norma Morrison
Phone: 52 616239

Research!

Do your research in the comfort of your
own home

We have Microfiche Readers for Hire
\$5 per week
with the Victorian Pioneer index

Please enquire: Pat 52 896686

GREAT NEWS

We now have the Probate index for Victoria.

We do look ups

For details:

Contact Pat Hughes 03 52 896686

World Clock:

Very Interesting

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

The Ned Kelly Family Tree

<http://www.nedkellysworld.com.au/history/familytree/famtreeindex.html>

Web Sites for Genealogies

an Australian Gateway site for tracing your Family History

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/>

Come "One and All"

To Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

On 14-15-16 March 2008

To Celebrate your Cornish Heritage

Organised By The Cornish Association of Victoria, Australia

For information Visit:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/blrt2008/festival.htm>

DATES OF CENSUS & POPULATION

1841 JUNE 6TH.....	15,914,000	1851 MARCH 30TH.....	17,928,000
1861 APRIL 7TH.....	20,066,000	1871 APRIL 2ND.....	22,723,000
1881 APRIL 3RD.....	25,974,000	1891 APRIL 5TH.....	28,999,725
1901 MARCH 31ST.....	32,000,000		

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

TUESDAYS 10.00AM—12 NOON

OPEN UNTIL 2.00 PM IF REQUESTED ON THE DAY

“PLEASE NOTE: WE CLOSE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS”

Surface Mail

If undelivered return to
The Surf Coast Family History Group
P. O. Box 98 Anglesea
Victoria 3230