

# The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 58 Summer, December 2015 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

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## The Surf Coast Family History Group

The Group is housed in the Anglesea History House, 5 McMillan Street, Anglesea.



### CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

**Thursday 10 December**

**10am at History House**

**Christmas quiz and Christmas morning tea—bring something to share and a gift to the value of no more than \$5.**

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Wednesday by appointment

Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Meetings held on

the 2nd Thursday of the month

commencing at 10am at History House

unless an excursion has been scheduled

5 McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

### Forthcoming Meetings:

#### DECEMBER

10.00am Thursday 10 December

Christmas break-up and Quizz

#### JANUARY 2016 -

No Meeting

#### FEBRUARY

10.00 am Thursday 11 February

Pioneers and Suffragists

Speaker: Merrill O'Donnell

#### MARCH - outing see below

#### If you would like the Newsletter on email:

send your email address to us

[surfcoastfh@gmail.com](mailto:surfcoastfh@gmail.com)



### MARCH OUTING

*Tarndie Homestead Birregurra*

Thursday 10th March

Our special outing for the year.

- Visit the homestead
  - Talk on the Family
  - See the sheep
- Leaves History House 10.00am

**\$33**

Includes, transport, entrance, morning tea, talks & lunch.

Bookings essential 5263 3085

## Committee Members 2014 - 2015

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Website

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### AUSTRALIAN CONNECTIONS OF A MIGRANT (PART 3)

by Susan Clarke

This story concerns my husband's family, which I am researching as well as my own. My mother-in-law talked about many of her relatives, but never mentioned this connection to Australia.

Information about an English family in an Australian military file

Gladys Enid MINTER, my mother-in-law's cousin, was born at Rotherham, South Yorkshire in 1895. I located her on the 1901 and 1911 census returns, and then looked for a marriage record. I found that on 11 July 1918, at the age of 23, she married Frederick ANGEL, at Christ Church in the Parish of St Marylebone, London. <sup>1</sup>Frederick Angel's rank or profession was given as Captain Australian Forces, and his address was A.I.F. Headquarters, London SW. His father was Frederick Angel (deceased) a contractor. I immediately wondered whether the couple had settled in Australia when the First World War was over. Would there be some distant relatives here in Australia?

To my surprise, the next trace of Gladys that I found was not on a ship to Australia, but rather on a ship, the *Coronia*, travelling to New York in 1927. The record stated that she was married, but she was not travelling with husband or children. In fact, Gladys travelled frequently between England and New York throughout the 1920s and 1930s. But reality was that by 1929 her status was no longer married but divorced, so the marriage to Frederick Angel had not lasted.

Out of curiosity I decided to find out where Frederick had come from, and looking up his record at the National Archives of Australia produced more information about Gladys' family than I had anticipated. <sup>2</sup>Frederick enlisted on 18 August 1914 at age 19, and his address was Stanhope Street, Malvern, Victoria. He served in Egypt and France, and was awarded the Military Cross for an event that occurred one month after his wedding:

'For conspicuous gallantry and able leadership of the front line company in the attack on St Martin's Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1918. His company secured all its objectives, and he personally reconnoitred the left flank under heavy fire, besides moving about amongst his men cheering and steadying them.' He was gassed on 17 September 1918.

But it was his discharge documentation that provided the surprise. He did not return to Australia at the end of the war. He was discharged in the UK on 2 October 1919 at his request because he could not take his wife to Australia. He had also obtained a guarantee of employment. The NAA file contains the letter explaining why he could not take his wife to Australia - she needed to stay in England for family reasons on which he elaborated in some detail. He concluded his letter by stating that he wanted 'to have this matter ventilated as little as possible', but it sits there on file to be discovered.

In writing this piece I have wrestled with that old conundrum for family historians: do we have the right to disclose secrets that we uncover? Should we respect the desire of our forebears to keep information private? Whatever the answer, I certainly had not expected to find such personal information about an English family in an Australian military record.

Postscript: Frederick's name appears on The Great War Memorial in St Martin's Chapel, St George's Church, Malvern<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>London, England,, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921

<sup>2</sup>NAA: B2455 Angel, F

<sup>3</sup><http://storage.cloversites.com/stgeorgesanglicanchurchmalvern/documents/MEMORIAL%20BOARD.pdf>

### HEREDITARY DISEASE – HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA

Jan Morris

Some disorders that affect multiple family members are caused by gene mutations, which can be inherited (passed down from parent to child). We discovered this in our family when we researched Elizabeth Pearse and Frederick Walkden. Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas and Martha Pearse who are buried on the cliff top at Aireys Inlet. Fred was the overseer of the nearby Aireys Inlet Station. Fred married Elizabeth in 1868 and they had 13 children over the next 20 years.

Fred was a capable horseman and cattleman so it seemed unusual that he later became a teacher. At first his reports by the inspector were glowing, however they deteriorated over several years until he received unsatisfactory reports referring to his laziness. This apparent deterioration was puzzling until we found similar stories with his father and grandfather, all men who did well in their youth but deteriorated in middle age.

Discovering that some of Fred's descendants had the hereditary disease Huntington's Chorea, it became clear that this had been passed down from earlier generations. It also gave us an explanation of why Fred and his father and grandfather had deteriorated so quickly. By the time Fred's wife Elizabeth, died in 1892, Fred was finding it more and more difficult to support them, consequently he committed suicide in 1912 feeling he had failed his family, but not knowing that he actually had a disease that at that stage did not have the name Huntington's Chorea. Tracing all of Fred's children, we found that several of the children did not have the disease. Some had inherited it and two of the boys moved to Western Australia and were never heard of again.

*Continued page 4*

Research has failed to find any trace of them having married, died or any other documents regarding them. We therefore suspect they did inherit the disease.

Although symptoms don't usually start to appear until after 30 years of age there are now tests that show if a person has the disease. Many family members have been tested but others have decided not to. According to the Mayo Clinic, symptoms that occur in the early stages of Huntington's disease include increased clumsiness, slow or stiff movements, fidgeting, difficulty with problem solving, increased irritability and feelings of depression. People who have the disease have a 50% chance of passing it on to their children. Of those in our family who have the disease some have been tested and as a result decided not to have children. Others have opted not to be tested.

Huntington's Chorea is one of the nasty surprises that sometimes pop up in family history research. Although there is no cure for it, it can be managed more successfully now than in the past.

## **Researching your military ancestors:** some thoughts on using personal papers, diaries and photographs *Susan Clarke*

The current flurry of research activity into First World War service histories prompted me to consider the resources that we use in researching our military ancestors.

Personal papers, diaries and photographs can be used to flesh out service histories, and expand upon military experiences, supplementing the sometimes patchy official records available for individuals. In addition, of course, they give insights into personalities and life histories, in the same way that they do for all ancestors, military or otherwise.

Whilst they can be extremely enlightening, it must be remembered that documents such as diaries are written for various purposes. They may be a slavish record of everyday events, but they may also be a selective recording of dramatic or significant events, without reference to the ordinary. Likewise, personal memoirs written long after the events, are subject to the shortcomings of memory, or selective amnesia. Memories are also coloured by subsequent events and life experiences. Correspondence written home from battle zones is necessarily selective given the constraints imposed by censorship. As with all research evidence, the reader needs to appreciate the context within which the documentation was created.

Pertinent to this is the caveat attached to all war diaries and notebooks of Australia's official war correspondent during the First World War, C E W Bean:

These writings represent only what at the moment of making them I believed to be true. The diaries were jotted down almost daily with the object of recording what was then in the writer's mind. Often he wrote them when very tired and half asleep: also, not infrequently, what he believed to be true was not so – but it does not follow that he always discovered this, or remembered to correct the mistakes when discovered. Indeed, he could not always remember that he had written them.

The Australian War Memorial website states: 'Bean was not blind to the limitations of the diaries and of eyewitness accounts in general and he left a warning for all future users.' The caveat is potentially applicable to the diaries and personal papers of our military ancestors.

Photographs of military ancestors in uniform are very important in providing clues to rank, regiment, or participation in campaigns through cap badges, shoulder titles or other insignia, and medal decorations. The style of the uniform is also significant in dating photos and thereby establishing service history. Citing a mid-twentieth century example for the British Army: the standard 1937 Army battledress blouse featured pocket flaps and pleats and covered buttons, whereas the economy battledress, introduced during 1940, had no pleats or button coverings (Shrimpton, p. 181). Informal photos taken on service overseas can provide clues to locations, and therefore shed light on service records.

Do you have any stories about using these kinds of resources in your research into military ancestors? If so, we would like to share them through the newsletter.

Sources:

Jayne Shrimpton, *How to Get the Most from Family Pictures*, Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd, 2011

Australian War Memorial website: <https://www.awm.gov.au/about/collection/awm38/3drl606/>

## NEW RECORDS AND RESOURCES

### Just Released

The Victorian Birth, Deaths & Marriages Index has just been made free to search on Line. Digital download will be available for the cost of \$24 per document.

### Newly indexed Melbourne "Deeds of Composition"

PROV has announced that Melbourne "Deeds of Composition" are now searchable by name, location, occupation and year. A "Deed of Composition" is the record of arrangements between insolvent debtors and their creditors in which they agree to settle for a percentage of the amounts owed. This small series was created by the Court of Insolvency, Melbourne 1871-1898. The deed process enabled those who could not pay their liabilities to make a private arrangement with their creditors and then be completely discharged. The practice was also known as "Secret Compositions" because the arrangement required no personal court appearance and there was little to no newspaper reporting of the arrangement. The stigma and restrictions of formal bankruptcy were also avoided and the individual could incur new debts immediately as their financial situation was known only to their old creditors.

The records enable researchers to understand the characteristics of those who sought to make such an arrangement and appreciate the impact this pattern of debt had on Victorian society.

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/blog>

### New online index: Body Cards 1959 – 1985

Records of deaths reported to the Melbourne Coroner's Court between 1959 and 1985. A new index is now available online enabling you to search files for viewing at the Victorian Archives Centre.

Deaths reported to the Melbourne Coroner's Court included unexpected, unnatural, or violent deaths, deaths in care or custody, and when the identity of the person was unknown.

Records within the series contain all of the supporting documentation used by a coroner when investigating reported deaths, including:

- the Victorian Police report of the death
- an autopsy report as conducted by the Coroner's Court
- an affidavit and/or other statements of identification
- a copy of the body admission sheet
- correspondence from next of kin, solicitors and others (if received)
- copies of drug analysis, carbon monoxide or blood alcohol reports (when appropriate)
- medical deposition from a treating doctor in a hospital and ambulance admission sheet.

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/blog>

### New exhibition at Old Treasury Building

#### *Soldier On: WW1 Soldier Settlement Stories*

The exhibition will take visitors through the establishment of the WW1 Soldier Settlement Scheme in Victoria and the harsh realities of life on a soldier settlement farm, through to the 1925 Royal Commission and beyond.

Between 1918 and 1934, the Soldier Settlement Scheme helped settle around 11,000 returned soldiers on farming land across the state through government leases. From the exhibition's original records, as well as first-hand video and photo accounts, discover how the Scheme shaped the Victorian landscape of today.

Exhibition dates: 9 November 2015 to 15 August 2016. Entry is FREE <http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/blog>

### 1939 Register now online

The 1939 Register is now online at FindMyPast. It is a comprehensive survey of the civil population of England and Wales. It contains the personal details of 41 million people, captured on a single day on the eve of war, in September 1939.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to members Maree and Marg on successful completion of the University of Tasmania *Introduction to Family History* course.

### Old Maps Online

This website enables you to search old maps held in libraries around the world, and then zoom in and view. You can compare the changes over time in your ancestral towns and villages. [www.OldMapsOnline.org](http://www.OldMapsOnline.org)



## EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES

# BANNISTER

Henry Bannister 1839 -1917

From the research of Lindsay Braden

Henry Bannister Snr. was born in London on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1803. His father Charles George Bannister of Bristol was married to Sarah Kirby of Bath. Henry married Mary Ann Walker on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1826 at St. Georges, Hanover Sq. London. Mary Ann, the daughter of Edward Walker of Worcestershire and Sarah Andrews of Hampshire was born at Middle Temple Lane, London on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1802.

They had three children: Mary Ann Harriet born 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1827, Middle Temple Lane London, George Charles born 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1830 London, Henry born 4<sup>th</sup> March 1839, Hampstead Road London. Henry Snr. died at Hampstead Rd. in Nov 1843 and was buried at St. Giles in the Field, London. His occupation was given as Carver and Gilder.



Bannister Family at Anglesea c. 1886

George Charles Bannister married Rebecca Beavis on 26<sup>th</sup> Jun 1853 at St. Pancras Church, London and the next day made application for passage to Australia .On Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> they sailed from Southhampton for Geelong, on the S.S.Credenda. George kept a diary of the voyage, excerpts of which were published in the "Age Saturday Extra" on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1988, as part of the "Tall Ships" celebrations. The passengers disembarked at Geelong on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and George noted "the very nicely laid out place "and commented "everything is dreadfully dear". Their first child Rosina was born in Gheringhap St. Geelong on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1855, but by 1857 they were living in Ballarat where Rosina was tragically drowned, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, in a waterhole at "the diggings". They had five more children, one of whom, Alfred Edmund Bannister, was the father of Owen Victor Bannister, who was a well-known identity in Lorne, where he retired in 1958 after, as a Soldier Settler, establishing successful orchards at Red Cliffs. Owen died in May 1992 at the age of 94 leaving many descendants, some of whom live in Lorne and Ocean Grove. The best known of these is Jenny Bannister the fashion designer.

Mary Ann Harriet Bannister married Edmund Juggins Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> Sep 1853 at St Pancras Church London. Their first child Charlotte Elizabeth was born in 1854. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1854 Mary Ann Bannister aged 52 the widow of Henry Snr. together with son Henry aged 15, and daughter Mary Ann with her husband Edmund Hall and infant daughter Charlotte, departed Plymouth on the "Medway" bound for Port Phillip, where they arrived in January 1855. The Medway was a vessel of 653 tons carrying 207 passengers under the command of Abel Mackwood.

Edmund and Mary Hall had three more children in Geelong, where Edmund established a successful printing business. They have descendants still living in the area.

Prior to leaving England, Henry was educated at the Royal Asylum of St Ann's Society Schools, Brixton, where he was introduced through Mrs. [later Baroness] Burdett Coutts. In January 1853 he was presented with a Bible for good conduct. After leaving school at the age of 14 he was employed by a London silk manufacturer for about 18 months before the family emigrated. Soon after arriving in Geelong he obtained employment in an auctioneer's office, but the lure of gold led him to Ballarat. Although unsuccessful at the diggings he was appointed secretary of the gold mining company Inkerman and Durham. Prosperity in Ballarat was declining and he travelled to Sydney, in search of employment, but soon returned to Geelong resuming as an auctioneer.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1860 Henry Bannister and Clara Rosalie Provost were married at St. Paul's Church Geelong. Their first child Clara Bartlett Bannister was born on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1861 and the next year they moved to Melbourne. After a brief period Henry was offered a job as accountant with Patrick McDonald's wine merchant business and once more returned to Geelong, where he remained for the rest of his life. He became a well-known identity in West Geelong where he was prominent in community affairs.

Henry Bannister an Auctioneer from Geelong was amongst the first holiday cottage owners on the Gladstone hill on the western side of the river. In 1884 he purchased four adjoining one-acre lots for his own use, and by 1885 had erected a hut on lot 17. His holding was increased to five acres in 1886 (lots 7,8,16,17 & 18). By 1888 he had extended the building, and the hut was listed as a cottage. The location of his original land holding and house is now marked by Bannister Ave. Anglesea. He applied for a river boathouse site in 1891. Although he advertised the cottage for sale in 1886 the property did not sell until 1888, and was purchased by John W. Gibson. Gibson sold to Frederick Harvey a year later and it became known as *Harvey's cottage*. It was destroyed by the 1919 fires. Henry's wife Clara Rosalie Provost died in 1907. Henry remarried to Clara's widowed sister Claudine.