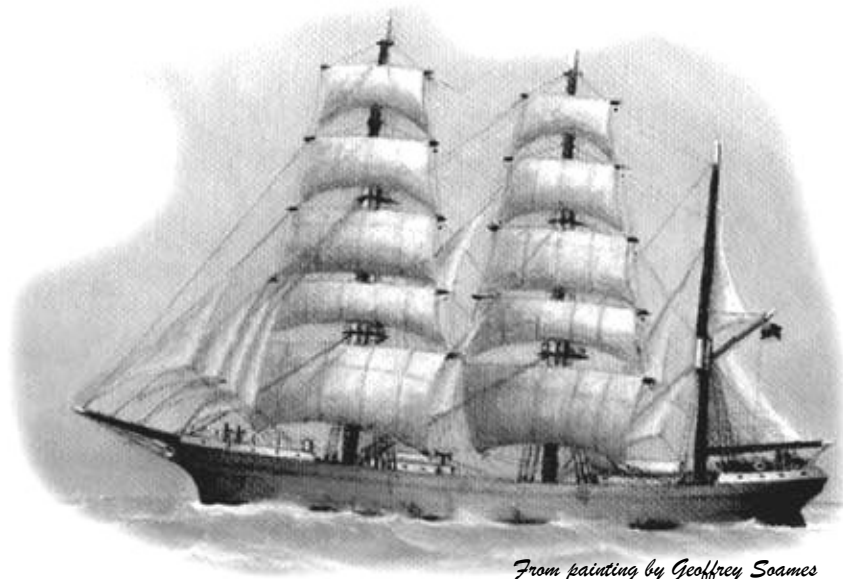


The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 73 Spring, Sept 2019 Edition

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

Inverlochy Log



From painting by Geoffrey Soames

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- Upcoming Events
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- Hunting Henry Simes
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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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Historical Society \$20 for the first family member and \$15 for other family members, Family History \$15 per family, direct banking BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 Or send a cheque made out to Anglesea & District Historical Society, send to PO Box 98 Anglesea 3230. Subs due 1 September

We have a wide range of indexes both Australian and overseas. We have internet access for researching.

Our equipment includes computers, scanners, printers, microfiche readers and an extensive library.

Need help with your research? Call in and we will help.

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

5a McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Susan Clarke: Phone 0438 070 560

Forthcoming Meetings

Thursday 19 September: outing to Deans Marsh, lunch at Moriac Hotel & Marjorie Lawrence film at Waterland

Thursday 10 October: AGM (nominations requested), speakers are Pat Hughes & Jan Morris on "Finding Henry Hall"

Tuesday 12 November (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE): John Roberts on "Where did I come from?: stories of my ancestors from Nefyn, Londonderry & Leeds"

Thursday 12 December:
Christmas Quiz & end of year break-up
Members and visitors welcome to all activities.

The Surf Coast 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.

No meetings are held on code red days or days of extreme fire danger.

Committee Members 2018/2019

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Secretary
Treasurer
Website
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Christmas Raffle

The Surf Coast Family History Group has one main fund raiser for the year. It is the annual Christmas raffle. We are looking for donations of suitable non-perishable items to include in the prize baskets. A basket will be placed in the front entry from our October meeting. Please be generous.

NEWS AND RESOURCES

Australian cemetery and burial records online Request to contribute to website:

<https://www.lonetester.com/2019/05/introducing-six-feet-under-downunder-australian-cemetery-and-burial-records-online/>

FindMyPast adds another 80,000 Queensland records

Queensland soldier portraits, 1914 - 1918

Queensland hospital registers

<https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2019/05/findmypast-adds-another-80000-queensland-records-online/>

Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) goes online

The AJCP project began in 1945 to copy historical records that relate to Australia and the Pacific, that were held in archives in the UK and Ireland. Microfilming began in 1948 and continued through to 1993. The records contained on the microfilm date from 1560 to 1984. The Public Record Office series contains records for: Colonial Office, Admiralty Office, Home Office, War Office, other departments e.g. Prison Commission. The Miscellaneous series contains records for e.g. Religious Archives, Business Archives, and collections in private hands. Check it out at: <https://www.nla.gov.au/content/australian-joint-copying-project>.

More Irish birth, death & marriage records online and free

IrishGenealogy.ie has added extra years to its BDM collection. These records include index entries, as well as images, and are available online for free:

Birth records 1864 – 1918

Marriage records 1864 – 1943

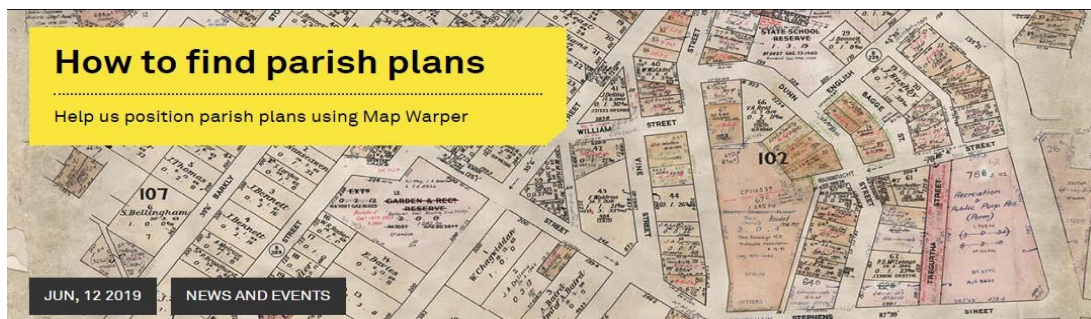
Death records 1868 - 1978

Check it out at: <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

Victorian BDM abbreviations

The site is a work in progress: <https://bdmabbreviations.steveparker.id.au/>

PROV Map Warper



parish plans by searching on a current location name.
[our-blog/how-find-parish-plans](https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/how-find-parish-plans)

You can now view PROV's historic
<https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/>

Quote for this edition

'Not everything is online – and all the documentation that is online came from another source, whether that was an archive collection or exhibit, an out-of-copyright publication, or simply a person's recollections. The ease with which we can access material remains seductive and dangerous if we do not remain in control of the research process and understand the nature of the records that we are consulting'

[Chris Paton, *Tracing Your Family History on the Internet: A Guide for Family Historians*]

Did you know-Genealogy Records

Ireland – The website *RootsIreland* has uploaded some 217,000 Roman Catholic parish records from County Carlow. These are primarily baptism and marriage records that go back as far as the 1700s for some parishes and up to 1899 for all parishes. The records can be searched by first name, last name and year. Access is by subscription. [[Carlow County Genealogy Records](#)]

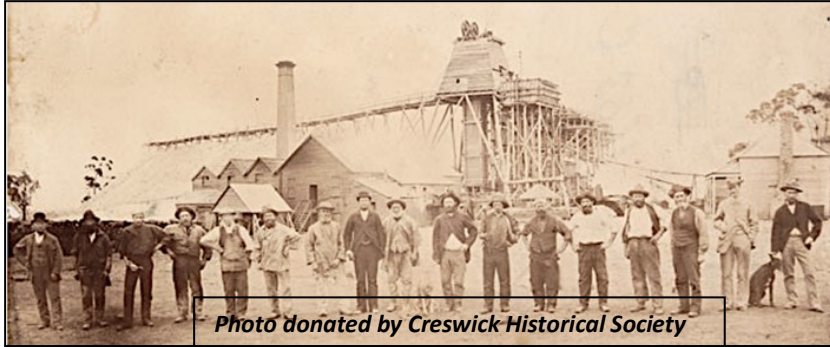
South Africa – Ancestry.co.uk has put online voter indexes from South Africa. These indexes date from 1719 to 1996 and contain some 220,000 names. The information contained in each index is fairly extensive and lists the voter's name, residence, name of spouse, occupation, employer, gender, race, maiden name, date of birth and sometimes even the number of pigs owned. The indexes can be searched by first name, middle name, last name and location. Access is by subscription. [[South Africa Voter Lists](#)]

ANCESTORS AND GOLD AT CRESWICK

Jan Morris

Gold rushes have been important in many family histories. Some of our families struck it rich, others weren't so lucky, while yet others made their money by providing necessities on the gold fields. In Creswick rich alluvial finds were first discovered in September 1851 and a rush occurred in 1852. There was another rush in 1855-6 when deeper workings were opened up. Alluvial yields were maintained steadily and by 1861 Creswick's population was about 5,000.

Kevin Pollard's maternal great grandfather, Thomas William Leathan was one of the lucky ones at Creswick where



there was Australia's worst ever, above ground mine disaster, in 1882. Thomas Leathan was lucky, not because he found gold, but because he escaped the Australasian gold mine disaster. He had refused an offer of work in the New Australasian Mine just prior to the disaster in 1882. The address of residence for the Leathan family in 1882 is recorded in rate books as "North Parade" North Creswick. The family would have obviously been effected at this time by the tragic mining disaster at the new Australasia mine, and

would have known many of the victims and their families, quite a lot of whom were also of Cornish descent.

The Australasian mine was flooded on Tuesday 12 December 1882, trapping 44 men. Of these, 22 drowned or were suffocated. A memorial cairn now marks the head of the shaft of the No. 2 mine where the disaster took place.

At 5.30am on 12 December 1882, a burst of water occurred at the face of the south-west drive from No. 2 shaft. The men working on the face ran to give the alarm to the platman. He warned those working on the north reef drive before struggling back to the shaft through deep water. The men working on the south-west drive were able to escape. However, those in the north drive were trapped by rising water. Water had gushed into the mine after they had accidentally cut through into the old abandoned No 1 mine.

Two miners managed to struggle to safety but the remaining 27 climbed to No. 11 rise believing it was the highest point. With 27 men breathing in such a small space the air was soon used up and one by one they lost consciousness and fell into the water. Only five were left when rescuers reached them two days later.

The resulting plight of 18 widows and 63 orphans attracted much sympathy and a relief fund was established to provide for them, raising 24,000 pounds (\$48,000) a huge amount for the time. What was even worse than the disaster was that this money was not given to the widows and orphans. The politicians of the time decided this was too much money to give to them. They set up a mining disaster fund and only released the interest from the fund. The widows received just 15 shillings a week. Children a very small payment and that was only for the first six children in the family. If there were more than six children the rest received nothing. The donated money stayed in the fund for the next 67 years. Eventually part of it was used to build a maternity wing at the Creswick hospital. The remainder of the money went to Ballarat and Bendigo. Families hoping to become rich from gold, lost their bread winner and were denied the charity given to them by the community. An absolute disgrace! It was impossible for the widows to live on 15 shillings a week. One company that was generous to the widows was the Singer Sewing Machine Company. They donated sewing machines to the widows. This enabled some of them to make a living through sewing. This disaster changed the history of many families.

One hundred years after the disaster, Creswick remembered the men who lost their lives by building an information structure containing a display about the mine and the 1882 disaster. There is also a memorial cairn marking the head of the shaft where the disaster took place.

References:

Conservation Lands & Forests Newsletter, July 1985

The Herald Sun, December 1982

Article by E.J. Semens, Creswick Historian, "The Australasia Mining Disaster"

The Murray Family Mystery

Jan Morris

Whenever early Anglesea history is discussed, the name Agnes Murray is usually mentioned. Agnes ran a boarding house, come post office, come general store in Geelong Road, now known as Camp Road. She was one of the first permanent residents in Anglesea. We have several photos of her and there are many references to her in recorded history. But, what of her husband Robert? He seems to be somewhat of a mystery. In a report of the wedding of their daughter Annie in 1891, Annie is described as the daughter of Agnes Murray. There is no mention of her father Robert, although he was still alive.

What do we know about Robert Murray? Robert was born in 1830 in Glasgow to parents David Murray and Ann Miller. He left Glasgow on the ship *Contest* in December 1853 aged 23, arriving in Port Phillip Bay in March 1854. His nationality was Scottish, his occupation was smith. He was a blacksmith who specialised in shoeing horses. The first time we find him in Geelong is in 1856, where he was on the electoral roll, as living at Maude Street Geelong (freehold). In 1868, aged 37 he married Agnes McDonald. Their address in 1870 was given as Paraparap, east of Forest Road, near Anglesea. Robert leased land belonging to his brother-in-law Robert McDonald, brother of his wife Agnes.

In 1873 Robert had a dwelling on the eastern bank at Swampy Creek (Anglesea). It was burnt to the ground shortly afterwards. In 1880 he had a boarding house on the same location, owned in conjunction with James Munroe. It advertised full board at 25 shillings a week.

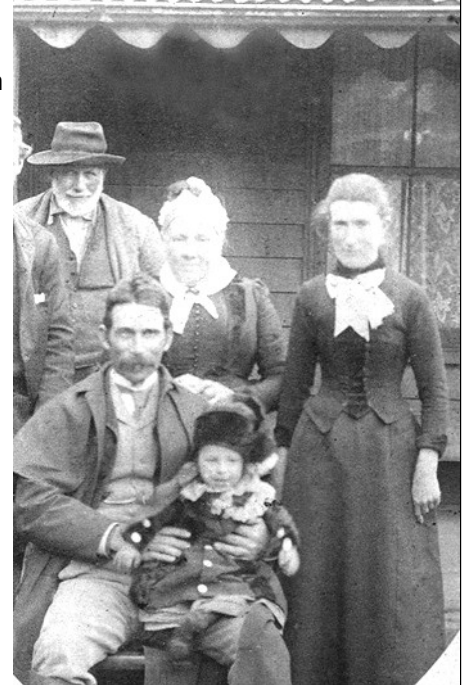
In 1881 Robert was rated on crown land at Jan Juc (now Bellbrae). His wife Agnes was rated on property she owned at Jan Juc. Robert was also paying rates in conjunction with James Munroe for a wooden house at Swampy Creek. In 1882-83 both Robert and Agnes were rated on wooden houses in Swampy Creek. Robert then disappeared from the rate books for the next ten years. Agnes continued to be rated for her boarding house. Robert, we believe had a blacksmith shop at the back of Agnes' property, but the rates do not show him as owning property himself.

How did Agnes find the money to own property in her own right and to build her boarding house at Swampy Creek? Agnes had one brother Robert who was two years older than her. They were the children of David McDonald and Agnes McKinley from Girvan, Ayr, Scotland. Robert McDonald and his family settled in Geelong, where Robert was a chemist. Robert died in 1879 aged only 51. In his will he left 200 pounds to his sister Agnes. The year after she was left money by her brother, she appears in the rate books as owning property. Two hundred pounds was a lot of money in 1879. It enabled her to purchase property and build her first boarding house at Swampy Creek.

Maybe this inheritance explains why Robert Murray was not mentioned after the early 1880s. Agnes had become a woman of independent means. She did not need him to provide a living, although he remained in Swampy Creek. According to the report in the Geelong Advertiser he died at his home in Swampy Creek. in 1903. Was this the same home that Agnes lived in? We don't know. The death notice in the Geelong Advertiser, made no mention of his wife Agnes or his daughter Annie. Robert was buried in the Geelong Western Cemetery. His wife Agnes, who died 13 years later in 1915 was buried in the Eastern Cemetery. Come to your own conclusions.

Sources:

Geelong Advertiser; Geelong Cemetery Records;
Barrabool Rate Books; Birth, Death & Marriage Records



BACK: Robert & Agnes Murray,
Annie Hasty (nee Murray)

FRONT: James Hasty with son
William



Agnes Murray outside her Post Office/ store/ boarding house c. 1898. There is no sign of Robert in this photo.

Hunting Henry Simes Story

Lyn Smith

A DNA test solved one of my Brick Walls. We all have brick walls where we can't find someone or are not sure if we have the correct person. When Pat Hughes suggested I have a DNA test, I didn't really expect it to reveal anything. I was wrong. My grandmother was illegitimate and didn't know her mother, as she died in childbirth. Her father Charles Pearce died when she was six years old. However, DNA connected me with descendants of Charles in Canada. A letter to them brought warm welcoming results and I now have information and photos of my Pearce family.

My current brick wall is my great, great, great grandfather, Henry Sims, Symes or Simes - alternative spelling was common in those times. I know Henry married Frances Compton Morris in 1811 at Longparish Church in Hampshire, England. Frances had two brothers William and John, who were witnesses to the marriage of Frances and Henry. Her mother was Ann Compton Morris. Ann appears to be quite wealthy, as in her will she left a farm to each of her sons and to her daughter Frances, she left a house opposite the Longparish Church. The house was on a paddock known as 200 of Middleton. I love Ann Compton Morris 1749-1841, whose thinking was well before her time. In her will she left the Longparish property to her daughter, then to her granddaughters, "quite apart from any husbands they have now or in the future." What a wonderful lady for that era! So much for Frances, but what of her husband Henry?



Longparish Church where Henry & Frances were married

When reading records from times when spelling often differed and most people did not have a second name, it can be difficult to determine just which person a document is referring to.

A Henry Simes was the leasee of the Dolphin Hotel in Wherwell, just a couple of miles out of Longparish. The 99 year lease was granted to a Henry Simes in 1794, so it cannot be my great, great, great grandfather as he would have been only seven years old. It most likely was his uncle, who when he died in 1808, left his house and money to my Henry Simes. He also left money to his sister Sarah and to five children of what I assume were his employees. He stated that he did not have any family of his own. The lease on the Dolphin Hotel could not be left in a will. The will was evidently made after Henry had had a stroke. The will was revisited in 1810. Although the will is very clear in its directions, the signature is not so good, thus the revisitation.



The house in Long Parish Hampshire, where Henry & Frances Sims lived when they Married in 1811.

The Dolphin Hotel is now known as the Mayfly Hotel. It is situated on the banks of the Test River. This river's claim to fame is that it is the best Trout fishing in England.

As well as the Dolphin Hotel. Henry Simes also invested money in Wakefield's Bank. Unfortunately this bank went bust in 1828 and Henry's money appears to have been lost. However, it is possible that some was repaid over time, as the Wakefield brothers were farmers and continued repaying money for many years. We have not found any records showing amounts that Henry invested or when he invested them.

There is a record of a Henry Simes moving his family to Chilbolton Church, not far from Longparish. I found a record of a Sarah Simes death at Chilbolton in 1820. This may be the sister of Henry senior, whom he refers to in his will as his only direct family. She may have moved to Chilbolton with other family members. Maybe one day I will have a lucky break like I did with DNA and find someone else who has information about Henry Simes.