

## WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

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No. 106 May, 2016



### OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week  
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
11.00am to 3.00pm.

### LOCATION:

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
100-104 Murphy Street  
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.  
(above Visitor Information Centre).

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

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[www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wangaratta-Family-History-Society-Inc-678865085537215/>



### COMING EVENTS:

#### At our Society:

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Saturday at 1.30pm—  
Members Meeting.**

Catch up with what's been happening and listen to our guest speaker **Mark Grealy** from **Archival Access**.

Mark is returning to tell us more about what's available at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) and how those records can assist in your family history research.

Mark will be showing and discussing land records as well as Wills and Probate records which are available at PROV, and he's always happy to answer any questions you may have.

**The meeting will be held downstairs in the gallery of the Visitors Information Centre at 100 Murphy St.**  
Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

#### State Library of Victoria

August 2016 - The State Library of Victoria hosts its 13th annual National Family History Month in August this year. <http://blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/family-matters/family-history-events/>



## **CONTENTS:**

<b>Coming events</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Welcome to new members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Have a query or wish to make a suggestion?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Committee members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What's been happening</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>In Memoriam</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Eldorado—Its School Teachers and Pupils</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Wedding Photos—A Pictorial Story</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Adoption Records</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Internet Sites</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Contribution deadlines &amp; publication dates</b>	<b>10</b>

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary & Editor: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- \* Val McPherson
- \* Elaine Jones
- \* Peg Templeton
- \* Christine Heard
- \* Faye Schusser.

## **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:**

Our March 2016 AGM has been and gone and our guest speaker Simon Abney-Hastings was a great success.

We now have a newly erected sign out the front of our building to show people where we are. This will help answer the familiar question 'But where are you?'.

We have just received a \$3944 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to update our website to allow our members to access our records online. Progress on the development of the new website will be reported to members regularly.

The Project Group is zooming ahead on the Rate Books project, the Wangaratta Cemetery records update, the Beechworth Cemetery project and many others.

The Research Group is also sharing their extensive knowledge to answer family history questions that come from many people in Australia and overseas.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- \* Wilma Ruth Lanyon
- \* Ronald William Webb
- \* Noel Stewart Brindley
- \* Kevin William Cane
- \* Suzzanne Cane
- \* Faye Marie Hynard
- \* Stephen Trahair.

## **HAVE A QUERY OR WISH TO MAKE A SUGGESTION?**

Contact:

- \* Ray McKenzie, President, on 03 5721 7553; or
- \* Val Brennan, Vice President, on 03 5727 6229.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$30
Joint Full Membership	\$50

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

Lorraine Boling passed away on 24 March 2016. Lorraine was an active member and volunteer of our Society for over twenty years and her contribution was very appreciated.

## ELDORADO - ITS SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS:

Eldorado is celebrating 80 years since the official opening of the Cock's Eldorado Gold and Tin Mining Dredge which is the last remaining structure of its type in Australia.



Flickr photo of the Dredge

The town of Eldorado is in North East Victoria and is located between Wangaratta and Beechworth as well as Myrtleford and Chiltern.

'El Dorado' was the name of the pastoral lease of William Fury Baker in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C and, when gold was discovered between his property and David Reid's property 'Carraragarmungee', the name 'Eldorado' was adopted by the expanding settlement as people flocked to the district to find gold and work for the big mining companies. As expected, the population blossomed to about 4,500 during the gold mining boom and diminished as gold findings declined.

This 'boom and bust' was also reflected in the building standard of the school house. First a wooden building with slab walls lined with calico, then a grand substantial brick building (which is now the Eldorado Museum), and finally a weatherboard building with portable classrooms followed by the closure of the school in 1993.

One of the biggest group of people who would influence the children of Eldorado were their school teachers. At its peak in the mid 1870s Eldorado Primary School No. 246 had an enrolment of an estimated 450 pupils, and by 1886 numbers started to decline.

This story, sourced from the book 'El Dorado Gold ... An Australian Story', edited by Sandra Buchan, is about some of those teachers and their pupils.

Thomas Harvey Trembath became the new head teacher in 1863 and his first assistant was Miss Rowe. At that time, some of the 40 pupils were Mary E Bawden age 11, James King 12, Elizabeth Davey 9, Joseph Ellis 9, John Cork 12, Mary A Wise 10, Joseph Wellington 12, John Barass 8, Mary Wellington 11, William McCulloch 8, George Gentle 8, William I Smith 12 and Rosina Smith 7.

In 1936, W. E. Ward, a former pupil, had a Letter to The Editor published in *The Age* where he listed many teachers as well as over 60 surnames of his fellow students. The teachers he named were T H **Trembath**, **Whitloy**, **Brown**, **Hocking**, **Carnsew** (George) and **Wallace**. The lady teachers were Misses **McCracken** (who married the Rev Samuel Anderson) **Jebb**, **Minogue** and **Atwood**.

Over the 130 years of Eldorado Primary School No.246, many teachers taught the children of Eldorado. The history of a few of those teachers and their families follows:

- \* Thomas Harvey **Trembath** (head teacher from 1863-1883) was born c.1840 and he married Philippa **Wellington**, born c.1846. Both came from Cornwall England. They only had one child, Philippa, who died in infancy and was buried at the Eldorado Cemetery. Thomas and his wife are buried in the Brighton General Cemetery.
- \* George **Carnsew** was the son of James (a miner from Cornwall England) and his wife Eliza who arrived in South Australia in 1857. George was born in 1860 and was the first child baptised at the new Methodist Church in Eldorado. George was a pupil at the Eldorado primary school where he then became a teacher assisting Mr Trembath. George married Catherine **Manley** of Wangaratta and he later became the head teacher at Woolshed State School (at Beechworth) and Carraragarmungee Primary School (near Eldorado). He was also an executive of the Oddfellows Lodge of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOO). George and Catherine had five children – George Manley, Herbert James, Richard Harold, Arthur Edward and Lila May.

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## ELDORADO - ITS SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS cont:

- \* James **Wallace** was the son of Charles Moreland Wallace (a miner of Woolshed) and Marion (nee Murray) who arrived in Australia in 1853, the same year that they married in Stranraer Scotland. Charles and Marion had seven sons of which six became teachers and all began as student teachers at the Eldorado school— James, Andrew, Charles, William, John and Gilbert. James was born in 1854 in Collingwood and the family moved from Melbourne to the Woolshed area in 1859. James also taught at other schools and in 1873 he moved to Hurdle Creek where he was promoted to headmaster. He married Barbara **Allan** (born 1854 at Emerald Hill, Melbourne) at the Anglican Church Wangaratta in 1874. In the following four years he became deeply involved with the Free Selectors Association and from 1878 he began aiding and abetting the Kelly gang until, on the recommendation of the Kelly Royal Commission, the Education Department terminated his employment in 1882. He and his family then moved to NSW, Queensland and back to Beechworth. He separated from his wife and, with his mistress, moved to West Australia where he died in 1910.



Eldorado Primary School No. 246. Year unknown.

- \* Esther **Jebb** was the daughter of James **Jebb** and Margaret **Wright** and she was born in Ireland in 1827. It's unclear when she came to Australia but it appears she followed one of her brothers to Victoria. Esther taught at the Eldorado Primary School and married Charles **Moor/Moore** (a carter and farmer) in 1873 at the Baptist Church Spring Creek Beechworth. Charles died in 1911 in Eldorado and Esther died in 1913 at Ivanhoe Melbourne. It appears there were no children.

- \* Gwen **John** (Annie Lavina Gwendolyn John) was born in Kurraca near Wedderburn Victoria in 1909. She married Robert Charles (Bob) **Allen** in 1937 and they had a family of five – John, David, Dorothy (known as Marie), Lena and Faye.

Gwen Reminisces: 'I was born at Kurraca about twenty miles from St Arnaud. On leaving school, I went as a junior teacher to Wedderburn High School. Dad broke in a pony for me in the Christmas holidays and I rode seven miles each way to work and home until the weather turned and then I drove. The next year I went on to a training college in Bendigo. I wanted to be an infant teacher. I taught at Eureka West, a little place out of Chinkapook in the Mallee. It was a one teacher school with eight grades and I found it hard going and for health reasons had to give it away. I became a relieving teacher and went to many schools – Carnegie in Melbourne, Elmhurst, Yan Yean, back to Aspendale in Melbourne, Somerville and then to Yeugroon and finally to Manangatang. I got sick of being shunted around so I applied for Eldorado where Ern Sault was the head teacher.' In 1985 the Shire of Wangaratta acknowledged Bob and Gwen's community work by awarding them Joint Citizens of the Year. Bob passed away in 1986 and Gwen in 2001.

- \* Ernest **Sault** (head teacher 1932 – 1936). Prior to his arrival in Eldorado in 1932 Ernest Sault was head master at the Mystic Park school near Swan Hill for three years. After six years at Eldorado, he moved to Tongala East in 1936 and then to Hyde St Footscray school for a year in 1939.

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## ELDORADO. ITS SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS cont:

- \* Ernest **Sault** cont: During the war years the family moved to Mildura where he was head master at the Nichol's Point school for five years. Then to Bendigo where he taught at Quarry Hill, Golden Square and Flora Hill from which he retired. Ernest and his wife Clarice were married at the Swan Hill Methodist Church. Their children are Geoff, Marjory and Mavis. Ernest was an excellent sportsman and he played football and tennis with the Eldorado teams.
- \* Three members of the **Shannon** family also taught at the school in the 1930s and 1940s. They were Bert, George and Mabel Eileen (also known as Eileen and Eiley). Mabel Eileen and her sister Olive served in the airforce in WWII, Mabel as a WAAF Sergeant stationed at Benalla where she passed away at the Benalla Hospital.

Of course the story of the lives of the teachers is only 'one side of the coin'. The following are the reflections of Albert John/Johnnie **Duell** who was a pupil from 1929 to 1936:

'George **Ramsay** was good at making things and he made a boomerang and brought it to school and Eiley **Shannon** said 'Will it come back George?' 'Oh yes Miss Shannon'. He let fly, and there was a big plate glass window, or there used to be, above the blackboard between the big room and the next. Guess where it went!'

Johnnie's first teacher was Miss **Goodenough** (*Ed: Yes there is such a surname*) then Eiley **Shannon** and Miss Gwen **John**. Head teachers were Mr Bert **Keddie** from 1927 to 1931 and Mr Ernest **Sault** from 1931 to 1936. He recalled that one day one of his classmates, 'Nugget', was given punishment by Old **Sault** of 100 lines or similar after school and the teacher was not happy with his attitude so out came the shillelagh from his pocket and he began some extra punishment on the boy. Well the boy had had enough so out he went through an open window and he was off. Old **Sault** sent another boy off to fetch him back. Soon both boys were up behind the Catholic Church and 'Nugget' saw he was going to get a hiding and thought he better stop, but the second boy got it instead. 'Nugget' didn't miss out though, next day he got his turn.

'One time we got a belting 'For riding Mrs **Wise's** cows!' Her calves, they were big. There was a small picket fence, right up at the top of the school and we'd get Keith **Hocking** to fetch them in for us. Bernie dropped on one and head over turkey he went, and the next one came and it was frightened and forgot to buck. I got on and couldn't get off. The bell went and the calf came down around the corner with Keith behind me yelling "Stick up on him! Stick up on him!" and the whole school was there. Old **Sault** took the strap out of his pocket and as we came around the corner he said "Stick up on this!" '

'Lorna **Knuckley**, now **Wileman**, was a really neat worker and one of the boys said "We'll give her neat today". He got a blowfly and put it in the ink and onto her good work. *We did get up to some mischief*'.

There are many stories of the families of Eldorado in the book 'El Dorado Gold ... An Australian Story' including those of many of the teachers and their pupils. Too many for this newsletter to tell but a great source of information for those researching the history of Eldorado.



*Acknowledgment: Thank you to Sandra Buchan for giving permission to use excerpts from her book 'El Dorado Gold ... an Australian Story', 2001, publisher: James and Sandra Buchan of Eldorado.*

*Pictures from Flickr and Museum Victoria.*

## WEDDING PHOTOS. A PICTORIAL STORY:

A quick search in TROVE Pictures using the term 'Wedding Photos Wangaratta' showed a photo of a lovely willowy bride of the 19th C and a group of photos of a wedding in possibly the 1970s. They each tell a story but the names of the people in the wedding party below remain a mystery and perhaps you may be able to help identify them.



Do you know anyone in this 1970s photo? If so, please email [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

The photo is from the State Library of Victoria's collection of Le Dawn Studio photography.

Le Dawn Studio was established by Bob Beel in Wangaratta in 1956 until his retirement in 1996.

(Work identifier:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/167141460>)

Inscribed on the back of the following photo is '**Marion Ruth Henty / May 1892 / Married Thomas Henry Armstrong / Bishop of Wangaratta**'. The photo was gifted to the State Library of Victoria in 1977 by J H B & Miss Armstrong who were the children of Marion and Thomas. (Work identifier: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/167144886> )

Marion was the daughter of **Henry Henty** and **Marion Anne McKellar**. Henry Henty was of the firm James Henty & Co, merchants, which was established by his father, a pioneer of the settlement of Victoria. Henry was chairman of the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd for many years and as a board member until his death in October 1912. Henry was also elected to the Legislative Assembly for the District of Grenville in 1866. He was also chairman of the Educational Board as well as a Lay Canon of St James Old Cathedral and senior Lay Canon of St Pauls Melbourne. Marion Ruth was born and raised in Melbourne in her parents home 'Tarring' in Kew.



Marion Ruth Armstrong (nee Henty) 1892

'Tarring', Kew Melbourne.

Now known as the 'Henty House' and is owned and occupied by the Ruyton Girls School, 12 Selbourne Rd, Kew.

<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/105554>

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## WEDDING PHOTOS—A PICTORIAL STORY cont:

**Thomas Henry Armstrong** was born in Dublin in 1857 and was the eldest son on John Simpson Armstrong, Barrister, Crown Prosecutor and Acting Judge in General Sessions, County Court and Courts of Mines and Insolvency. Thomas's mother was the daughter of Major O'Dell who served with Wellington throughout the Peninsular Wars. Soon after Thomas was born, the family came to Australia and settled in Geelong where Thomas attended Geelong Grammar and Geelong College. He then took up a clerkship with the Law Department and at the same time studied for an Arts degree at University. He was persuaded by Canon Potter to take up work with a number of congregations in Melbourne and, when he obtained his BA in 1880, was appointed Curate of Christ Church, St Kilda. When he obtained his MA in 1883 he was placed in charge of St Columb's Hawthorn. Two years after Thomas married Marion Ruth Henty, he was appointed Archdeacon of Gippsland in 1894, then Rural Dean of Sale, then Examining Chaplain and Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Thomas Henry Armstrong was unanimously elected by the Church to become the Bishop of Wangaratta. He later became a Doctor of Divinity.

Thomas and Marion had three children—John Henry Brian Armstrong b.1894 in Hawthorn, Muriel May Dingwall Armstrong b.1896 in Rosedale who died two years later, and Marion Dorothea Armstrong b. 1900 in Kew.



Photo of the Armstrong family on the verandah of the Bishops Lodge in Wangaratta. The building still stands on the corner of Cusack and Ovens St.

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab62760>

The children:

**John Henry Brian Armstrong** joined the AIF 22nd Battalion at the age of 21 in 1916 while he was studying Law. He reached the rank of Lieutenant and fought in Europe during WWI. He was captured by the Germans and became a prisoner of war after suffering a gun shot wound to the back of his head. Victorian electoral rolls show he was a solicitor for many years until his death in 1978 at the age of 84. He is buried at Boroondara Cemetery in Kew with his parents and infant sister. It appears he didn't marry nor had any children.

**Marion Dorothea Armstrong** lived with her parents in Wangaratta until her father retired as Bishop. Marion and her parents and brother then lived at their 'new' home at 33 Glen St Hawthorn. Marion didn't marry and continued to live with her brother after their parents died until such time as her brother also died. She then moved to live in Berkeley St Hawthorn. Marion died in June 1990 and was cremated at Springvale Botanical Cemetery where her remains were subsequently collected.

The Right Rev. Thomas Henry Armstrong, first Bishop of Wangaratta, died at his home in Hawthorn on 23rd March 1930, three years after he retired from the ministry on 31 March 1927. He completed 50 years of service with the Church of England and 25 years as Bishop of Wangaratta. His wife, Marion Ruth Armstrong, died soon after in June 1928.

Sources:

*State Library of Victoria picture records via TROVE of the National Library of Australia.*

*WWI records at the National Archive of Australia*

*Newspaper on TROVE—Ovens and Murray Advertiser Saturday 15 Oct 1904 page 10; Australasian Saturday 29 March 1930 page 10, Argus Tuesday 22 Oct 1912 page 6.*

*Victorian Heritage Database Report.*

*Australian Dictionary of Biography and Ancestry.com.au*

## **ADOPTION RECORDS:**

A number of enquiries have recently been received about adoption records.

### **Recent records**

To clarify some of the issues about access to 'recent' records and mother/child and extended family matters, advice was sought from the Victorian Department of Human Services Adoption Records - Family Information Networks and Discovery '**FIND**'.

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/applying-for-documents-and-records/adoption-and-family-records/adoption-and-family-information-networks-and-discovery>

Under Section 87 of the Adoption Act 1984, a person who was adopted or ward of the state, or was the birth parent of a child which was given up for adoption/wardship, needs to make contact with FIND and, after an interview in person or over the phone, they will be given a 'Certificate of Interview' as well as a copy of their birth certificate.

The 'Certificate of Interview' is important to have as with this document in-hand other service agency will provide further assistance (if this document is not obtained then the chances of finding out information may be reduced). Contact can then be made with Service Agencies which can help and they are listed on the FIND website:

Two Service Agencies were mentioned by DHS – VANISH and OPEN PLACE:

'VANISH' – Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self-Help. Services are currently available to those who have a personal experience of separation from family of origin. <http://vanish.org.au/>

A copy of their publication 'VANISH A Post-Adoption Guide Searching for Records and Birth Relatives' has been copied to the 'Adoption' folder on the 'common' V Drive on the fileserver at WFHS.

'OPEN PLACE' - Co-ordinates and provides direct assistance to address the needs and issues of people who grew up in Victorian State care, helps people deal with the legacy of their childhood experiences and provides support to improve their health and well-being. <http://www.openplace.org.au/>

### **Older records**

Some records are held at the Public Records Office of Victoria and PROV guide 60 'Adoption, Wardship & Related Records' provides access criteria to these records. Generally speaking, most records are closed for 99 years but information can be sought under Freedom of Information – see PROV website <http://prov.vic.gov.au/>.

The following records available online at PROV may be useful:

VPRS 3654 Register of Vaccinations Register General (1857-1932)

VPRS 4527 Children's Ward Registers (1864-1887) [The records actually go up to 1894].

Note: Other states have a similar set-up.



## INTERNET SITES:

Family History websites with links to thousands of other websites:

Cyndis list <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

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

Rootsweb <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Genealogy links <http://www.genealogylinks.net/>

rootschat <http://www.rootschat.com/>

Census finder <http://www.censusfinder.com/index.htm>

### Australia

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/>

<https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history>

Archives investigator NSW <http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au/>

Occupations in Australia <http://www.coraweb.com.au/occsites.htm>

SA Library [http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?area\\_id=15&nav\\_id=654](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?area_id=15&nav_id=654)

WWI Red Cross wounded and missing [https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/wounded\\_and\\_missing/](https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/wounded_and_missing/)

Vic Govt Gazette 1836-1997 <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

Australian Cemeteries <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/>

Vic Towns and localities <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~surreal/victowns/>

SA Naturalisations 1839-1903 <http://www.familyhistorysa.info/sahistory/naturalizations.html>

The Ryerson index (death notices in Australian newspapers) <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

Historical Society of Sth Aust <http://www.hssa.org.au/>

Family History SA <http://www.familyhistorysa.info/>

Pandora Archive site <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/10421>

Australian Shipping <http://www.blaxland.com/ozships/>

Aust Place names <http://www.ga.gov.au/place-names/index.xhtml>

Index to Royal Womens Hospital [http://www.ozgenonline.com/vic\\_data/royal\\_womens\\_hospital/](http://www.ozgenonline.com/vic_data/royal_womens_hospital/)

University of Melbourne 1945 photo map collection <http://1945.melbourne/>

### UK

UK National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Counties <http://www.gazetteer.co.uk/gazmap1.htm>

British maps <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~genmaps/>

Counties of Britain <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Britain>

Joiner marriage index for England and Wales <http://joiner-marriage-index.co.uk/>

UK Census online free <http://www.ukcensusonline.com/>

UK The Victorian web <http://www.victorianweb.org/>

Free Births Deaths and Marriage records <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

### Scotland

Scotlandspeople <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Scotland in the 19<sup>th</sup> C <http://qdl.cdjr.strath.ac.uk/haynin/index.html>

Historic environment of Scotland <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/>

Scotlands family <http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/>

Scottish Archive records <http://www.scan.org.uk/index.html>

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### **Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:**

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**What is happening at WFHS** Check it out..... [www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)