

# WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

## WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 89 February, 2012



### 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:

P.O. Box 683  
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676  
Australia.

### email:

[info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)

### Web Address:

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

### Volunteers Needed



If you can use computers and can spare some time to help, please consider becoming a volunteer to help members and visitors to research their family history. You would be shown how to do it using the 'buddy system' with our experienced volunteers for as long as you wish. And it's a great way to further develop your knowledge to conduct your own family history research. Also calling for volunteers to help with projects.

Contact [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au) or ring Ray McKenzie on 5721 7553 or Val Brennan on 5727 6229.

### COMING EVENTS:

#### AT OUR SOCIETY: -

#### Thursday 1st March 2012 - Membership renewals due.

Membership renewal forms have been mailed to all members. Remember you can pay via Internet Banking Transfer to the WFHS bank account if you wish.

#### Friday 9th March 2012 - Close of Nominations

for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) Committee positions.

Members, please consider becoming a committee member to help in the running of the Society. If you are interested, a nominator and seconder can be arranged for you - just contact the Secretary.

#### Saturday 24 March 2012 - Annual General Meeting

2.00pm in the Jean Rankins Research Library.

Our guest speaker will be Neville Bell who will give a talk about his time as a former Director of Bell Funeral Directors and his current business as a monumental mason.

Please bring a plate so we can all enjoy afternoon tea together.

#### AFFHO CONGRESS 2012 - 28th to 31st March 2012

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry "Your Ancestors in their Social Context" will be held in Adelaide, South Australia. It will be hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.  
<http://www.congress2012.org.au/>

#### AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE WEEK - 14th to 22 April 2012

See website <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week/index.html>

#### NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK - 27th July to 5 Aug 2012

See website <http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au/>

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OTHERS:

Vice President: Ray McKenzie

Treasurer: Val McPherson

Secretary: Cheryl Price

Other committee members:

- Val Brennan
- Jean Rankins

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and Kenny Pty Ltd

Public Officer: Cheryl Price

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price and Anne Davidson.

## LOST AT GRETA:

Do you know the whereabouts of the Greta District Honour Board? It was formerly located in the Hansonville School.

If you can help, please call members of the Great Heritage Group - Noleen Lloyd on 03 5727 6372 or Joan Ellis on 03 5727 6392.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- ✿ Penelope Redpath
- ✿ Ross McDonald
- ✿ Joan Ellis
- ✿ Shirley Wilson
- ✿ Michael Wilson.

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

Contact:

- \* Ray McKenzie, Vice President on 03 5721 7553; or
- \* Cheryl Price, Secretary on 03 5721 5906.

You can also email us on [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

## MEMBERSHIPS:

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$25
Joint Full Membership	\$35
Single Pensioner	\$20
Joint Pensioner	\$30
Newsletter only	\$12

**FOUND IN TROVE:** The following article from the Launceston newspaper *The Examiner*, Monday 27 January 1902, page 6:

**LIVED IN THREE CENTURIES.**  
The death occurred at Wangaratta on Thursday of a remarkable old man, Mr. William West, who had reached the great age of 104 years. His earliest impression was when as a boy of seven years he was taken by his father to witness the rejoicings in his native town of Bristol, England, on the return of the sailors from the battle of Trafalgar Bay, at the end of 1805. The deceased emigrated with his wife and family of eight children to Australia in 1855, and 42 years ago settled in Wangaratta, where he opened a bakery business, and subsequently carried on an hotel. He ended his days with a daughter, Mrs. Archibald M'Lean. He displayed most unusual vitality almost to the last, his hearing being perfect, and he could walk long distances until a few days before his death. He only took to his bed eight days ago, and several of his children, with their children and grandchildren, are residing in the Wangaratta district.

*Ed: Thank you Jayson Pratt for this discovery.*

## DO YOU HAVE A CHILTERN BURIAL?

Our Society plans to produce this year a searchable database of burials in the Chiltern district.

There have been at least three known public burial places at Chiltern:

- \* Indigo Pioneer Cemetery in Ryley's Road 1858 – 1860;
- \* Chiltern Old Cemetery beside the old Hume Highway 1860 – 1881 with re-opens of family graves and interments in pre-purchased plots after 1881; and
- \* Chiltern New Cemetery 1881 to the present time.

It is not known where burials took place at Chiltern prior to 1858.

The burial register for Chiltern Old Cemetery was destroyed in a house fire in 1921 and an attempt is being made to find names of those buried in that cemetery from death certificates, newspaper articles, wills and other sources.

If you have on your Family Tree people who died at Chiltern, or who are buried there prior to 1900, we would like to hear from you and receive supporting documentation such as a copy of a death certificate or other evidence.

Now that the Victorian Burial Index, a project on which so many volunteers worked, is not going to be released to the public by the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, the hopes of many Historical Societies, Family History Societies and Cemetery Trusts that they would be able to recover their lost burial information have been dashed.

We know it is not going to be possible to find the names of every person buried in Chiltern Old Cemetery, but we are hopeful that input from family historians will add more names to the small but growing database.

Please contact the Wangaratta Family History Society either by letter addressed to PO Box 683 Wangaratta 3676, or by email: [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

## OUR NEWS:

### **Our Society has been declared a Place of Deposit (POD).**

Ted Baillieu, MLA, Premier and Minister of the Arts, has approved our establishment to be a POD. This means we have been found to be suitable to store, care for, and make available to the public for research purposes those records which the Keeper of Public Records at PROV finds suitable. Also, those who hold private records can be confident in the safety of those records if they were to be located at our premises.

### **Authority to conduct raffles**

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation has declared our Society to be a community organisation with the authority to run raffles. This will allow us to raise money by running raffles over the next 10 years.

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

We regularly undertake projects to collect and preserve records in a format that can be made available to others. These projects are undertaken with the valuable assistance of our volunteers. The committee has adopted a policy where those volunteers are to sign a 'Project Volunteers Agreement: Assignment of Intellectual Property Rights', which assigns all intellectual property over to our Society. Our volunteers have kindly signed.



Part of the Jean Rankins Research Library

## IDA MADGE BROWN (Madge) - A Brief History

Compiled by John G Brown in 2009.

*Much of what follows is taken from Madge's own autobiography which she describes as "A", not "The" Story of my Life.*

*Other sources include:*

*"The First Hundred Years of Wangaratta High School" by Trish Gallaher.*

*National archives military records.*

*Madge's personal files along with those of other family members.*

*Anecdotes from friends and acquaintances including godson Murray Hohnen.*

*Various newspaper articles.*

### Childhood.

Born 5<sup>th</sup> July 1904, in Wangaratta, to John Francis and Ida Ethel Brown, Madge had two older sisters, Bertha and Clarice, and a younger brother John Charles.



Ida Ethel with sisters Clarice, Madge and Bertha

Madge attended the Milawa Primary School # 737 when it was very new and had one room and one teacher.

Her mother and baby brother (John Charles Brown) and two sisters moved to live in Wangaratta during Madge's last primary school year where she attended primary school briefly.

Then followed her secondary education at the Wangaratta Agricultural High School when, during her leaving year, the family moved back to Milawa with Madge expected to do "household duties" - which she detested.

### Nursing Career

It was the wife of the High School principal who suggested Madge become a nurse and so began her nursing at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

In the first year she was paid five shillings per week and in year two, seven shillings & sixpence and in the third and final year, ten shillings.

It must have been during this time the Madge was given the gold watch that she was wearing when she died. It was engraved on the back "With love from Ronald Levy 21/6/25" i.e. when Madge was almost 21 years of age and mid-way through her training at The Alfred.



Bertha, Clarice, Madge (in front)

continued next page

## IDA MADGE BROWN (Madge) continued



It was at the Alfred that she gained her qualification as "General Nurse" on 20th July 1926.

After a stint at a "Melbourne Suburban Private Hospital" she returned to the Alfred rising to the rank of Night Superintendent.

Next she commenced training in Obstetrics at the Women's Hospital in Carlton where she gained her Obstetrics Certification in October 1929 and in January 1930 her Certificate of Midwifery.

Then followed employment at a "country base hospital" (which one is not known) as Theatre Sister, and then followed by an associated small maternity hospital.

Next she qualified as "General & Obstetric Trained Nurse" at The Karitane Mothercraft Training Centre in Sydney on 22nd March 1933.

It was back to Melbourne to serve at "a Private Hospital in Toorak" followed by the "larger Private Hospital" the Windemere where Madge was "in Charge".

### Tour to England

Madge was finding her responsibilities very demanding and decided to take a break and sailed to England in 1938 during which she encountered the early stages of the WW2 in the Mediterranean. After touring in England, Scotland, Wales and briefly France, the war was looming and she sought to enlist but was advised to return to Australia.

She returned to Australia via the Panama Canal on a small cargo ship (weathering heavy storms in the Atlantic) and alighted in Auckland following which she gained work there and later at Dunedin hospital.

### Army and WW2

#### Palestine & North Africa

On returning to Melbourne she signed up with the Army (Personal # VFX 8384) on 10th June 1940 and was assigned to the Puckapunyal Training Camp where she was the first woman to join the medical and nursing staff there and was in charge of the Unit. From there she was assigned to 2/4<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital and in September 1940 she was in charge of the hospital on the troop ship *Slamat* taking the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion to Haifa in the Middle East. A train trip took her to Gaza where Madge nursed at the Gaza Ridge Hospital.

Their accommodation was in four man tents with no facilities until they scrounged some old, lice infected, chicken coops for beds! Some local males showed interest in the nurses at night so billys and empty tins were placed in the tent entrance to provide an early sound alert!

#### Cairo & Egypt

The next move was to Tobruk, firstly by train and then ship from Port Said. It was a slow torturous journey besieged by air raids and they sailed past bombed and half sunken ships.

At Tobruk conditions were primitive and supplies scarce. The nurses were billeted in a derelict Italian Hotel – The Albergo – without water or sewerage. With heavy fighting they had to be marched long distances to and from hospital each day for their protection. Blackouts made it near impossible to attend to patients.



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## IDA MADGE BROWN (Madge) continued

With the retreat from Tobruk the nurses, along with 100 patients, were hastily ordered onto a ship destined for Haifa and Gaza Ridge again. Conditions on board were horrific and the nurses slept on the mess room floor. Fortunately they had left Tobruk just before the famous "siege".



This was followed by some leave, travelling by train again to El Kantara and then Cairo, staying at the Heliopolis Hotel, visiting the pyramids, mosques and other historic places.

The leave ended with nursing duties taken up at the El Kantara hospital which was receiving wounded from Tobruk under highly inadequate conditions. Sterilising of equipment was done on a Primus stove! The hospital was staffed by the 2/2 AGH. A night's leave in Port Said during this appointment resulted in a night behind sand bags in her pajamas sheltering from conflict. Another period of leave allowed her to visit Haifa, Syria, Beirut, and Damascus. Shortly after returning to El Kantara two nursing members were killed.

Then it was back to Jerusalem to re-assemble their own hospital and when the full compliment of 2/4<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital nurses arrived Madge was appointed acting Matron. Later, Christmas was spent under heavy snow falls and Madge experienced a midnight service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.



### Ceylon

The next mission was to set up a hospital in Colombo, Ceylon, in 1942 following a most uncomfortable journey by train, truck and ship. She spent 18 months there until the Japanese advance into South East Asia made things too dangerous. The British forces were ineffective against the air raids by the Japanese. Patients and medical staff were ordered out and transferred to a troop ship which took them to Melbourne via the east coast of Africa and across the Indian Ocean.

A short and welcome visit home to Milawa, Victoria ended with a temporary attachment to the Heidelberg Military Hospital in Melbourne where Madge was in charge on night duty.

The next order to move was by train to Brisbane and the primitively set up Redbank Hospital. It was during this time that Madge became aware of her father's ill health so she gained leave and remained with him until his death on 18th July 1943.

After that it was back to Redbank where orders came to report to HQ in Melbourne where Madge took charge of a Convalescent Hospital for members of the ranks of various women's services.

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## IDA MADGE BROWN (Madge) continued

### The *Wanganella* - "Permanently at Sea"

Yet another transfer followed as matron of the 2/2 AGH ship - the *Wanganella* which was boarded in Sydney. Modern and well equipped the *Wanganella* travelled the theatres of war picking up wounded Australians and New Zealanders and returning them home.

The first duty was to take men from Indian units in Colombo to Bombay. The journey from Bombay to Suez transferred patients who were British and who had been involved in Burma. Then the return was Australian and New Zealand men, POW's, expatriated from Germany. On delivering the New Zealanders home Madge was called upon to address their reception which was chaired by the Prime Minister! An apprehensive, but proud moment! More trips were made to the Middle East and Italy, including New Guinea, at times south of the Australian Bight. Extremes in temperature and seas made things difficult and emergency drill was regularly required.

In Bombay Madge witnessed the full horror of war when a nearby ship, the *S.S. Fort Stikene*, was blown up. One should read Madge's detailed record of this horrific event! She helped in retrieving badly wounded and moribund men from the water.

Next was the task of transporting seriously sick and wounded men from Burma to Suez, and then some New Zealanders home and finally Sydney for a week's sick leave to recover from exhaustion. But her extraordinary contribution did not finish after her discharge from the *Wanganella*! This was followed by orders to attend an Officer's Course in Melbourne in February 1945. Madge felt the course to be quite unnecessary and six years too late.

### Atherton Tableland

At completion of the course Madge was transferred to the 2/2 AGH as Matron at Rocky River in the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. After tedious train, air and car travel she arrived un-greeted at 1.00 am! Poor leadership and low staff morale made her role difficult and Madge was pleased to accept another transfer in September 1945.

### Singapore

As Japanese defeat appeared imminent Madge was appointed Matron of the 2/14<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital and was sent to Singapore by ship to set up hospital on land to receive prisoners of war. The arrival in Singapore was on the day that Lord Mountbatten promulgated surrender.

The hospital was established about 3 miles from Singapore City in facilities recently vacated by the Japanese. Within 36 hours they were receiving patients.

Here she witnessed first hand the horrific effects of Japanese incarceration. Among the released prisoners were Australian nurses, horrifically emaciated, some weighing less than six stone. Betty Jeffrey, who wrote *White Coolies* was one of the patients.

It was here that Madge formed a friendship with Lord and Lady Mountbatten, a couple she admired greatly.

The hospital grew to 1200 patients under the most primitive of circumstances. As transport became available the patients were expatriated to Australia. Once repatriation was completed the hospital was closed and the nurses returned to Melbourne on the "*Cheshire*".

Although advised of a re-posting to the 2/2 AGH, Madge spent five months in Heidelberg Military Hospital with a severe skin condition.



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## **IDA MADGE BROWN (Madge) continued**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1944 Madge was appointed by the Governor General and Commander in Chief to the rank of Captain in the Permanent Military Forces and Major on 10th January 1946. She was discharged on 9th May 1946 when Madge felt she was "free"!

As an indication of the esteem in which Madge was held and according to Pam Maben (a good friend in later days) Matron Madge met a soldier on the gang plank who opened his great coat and produced a crumpled bunch of daffodils saying "these are for the Matron who isn't like a matron".

### **Civilian Life from Mid 1946.**

#### Armidale NSW

After the war Madge was offered the position of Assistant Matron at her old hospital "The Alfred", but declined. Instead she left nursing completely and took a job as Household Administrator with the New England College of the Sydney University, now University of New England in Armidale in NSW for 18 years.

After army life Madge often had reservations about her new role in the university in its early stages of development and lack of resources. As time passed, the university, and Armidale itself, grew and with that growth the quality of the facilities.

Madge had great pleasure in her association with the St Peter's Cathedral where she took an active role.

It was in Armidale that the Welsh Corgi named Peppa Rufus Prince gave her great pleasure. Peppa followed her mistress everywhere and won five prizes in the RAS Kennel Club show in October 1960, including "Best of Breed" and "Show Champion".

Madge took up golf, playing regularly at B Grade level, and was an Associates Committee Member and Handicap Manager. She adored the infrequent drives to the east coast through the forest and range country.

On her annual leave she drove her 8 HP (and later 10 HP) car to Milawa for her two week holiday, on one return trip being admitted to Muswellbrook Hospital with poor health.

On retirement (due to retiring age limit), Madge was conferred a Membership of Convocation and remained in contact with the University for many years.

She purchased a cottage at 128 Erskine St, Armidale in March 1970 but she found Armidale without purposeful employment not to her liking when in retirement mode. It was at this time that her mother died and this brought on a greater sense of isolation.

Although, in later life Madge claimed she never married, this was not true! On 19th April 1967, at 63 years of age, she was married to Eric Terrel Williams by Bishop Clive Kerle at the Gostwyck Chapel (east of Uralla and south of Armidale). The bride groom was E.T. Williams and signature witnesses were J.T. Williams and V.C. Cox and certified by H.M. Robertson JP, Bank Manager, Rural Bank of NSW, Armidale, NSW. *(My recollection is that Eric was much Madge's senior and wanted Madge for her nursing skills, an untenable arrangement for Madge. JGB)*

In mid-winter 1970, after exploring the Mid North Coast of NSW options to settle, she moved to Canberra thus completing 24 years in Armidale and leaving many good memories and friends.

#### Canberra

For financial reasons Madge felt she had to work and was successful in her application with the Royal Canberra Hospital and commenced work as Clinical Superintendant in October 1970. She fudged her age to gain the job! She enjoyed the work there and was sole person on duty at week ends and the role enabled contact with people in a new environment. In fact she didn't really retire fully until she was 80!

She also grew to love Canberra, its attractions and surrounds. She made her next move quite reluctantly.

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## IDA MADGE BROWN (MADGE) continued

### Wangaratta

After 60 years Madge's moves turned full circle when, at her brother's encouragement, in 1984 she returned to Wangaratta where she was born. She purchased a unit at 3/65 Swan St and remained there, living alone, until December 2008 when ill health caused her to be hospitalized. She never lost her interest in life. When visited by John G Brown at age 104 years Madge welcomed him with "I'm so glad you've come. I need to talk to someone about Global Warming". Why, at 104 years, would you worry?

Right until her final days, Madge was most alert to the interest rates her investments were attracting. Again, at 104 years, did it really matter?

Her final weeks were spent at St John's Home for the Aged in Williams Road, Wangaratta.

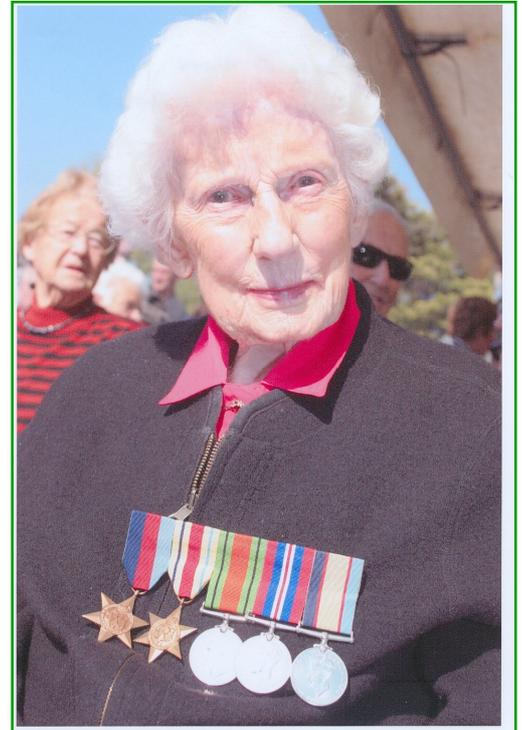
Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Howard, and Premier Bracks all offered messages of congratulations on Madge's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On her 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday she received messages from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and Governor General Quentin Bryce.

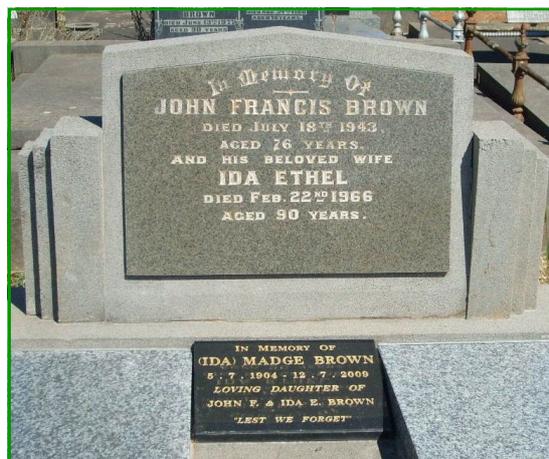
### Medals awarded

- \* 1939-1945 Star
- \* Africa Star
- \* Defence Medal
- \* War Medal 1939-1945
- \* Australian Service Medal 1939-1945
- \* Returned from Active Service Badge.

Madge died on 12th July 2009 aged 105 years.  
Death Certificate # 36419/2009C. She had no children.



Madge's ashes were interred in her parent's grave in the Milawa cemetery.



## A GENEALOGIST CAN TRACK YOU DOWN

By Val McPherson

I had known for some time that a first cousin of my Dalgleish great grandfather had emigrated from Scotland to the Otago region of New Zealand in the mid 1850's. I had learned of this from another Dalgleish researcher who advertised his Dalgleish interest in the pages of the GRD (Genealogical Research Directory). There was a comprehensive and well researched family tree for the William Dalgleish family in New Zealand which was made available to me. While looking through New Zealand indexes I came across the death of a James Beattie Dalgleish, a name which was familiar to me as he was also on my family tree as a brother of the William Dalgleish in New Zealand and another first cousin of my great grandfather. My NZ Dalgleish correspondent had no knowledge of this man so I sent for his death certificate which proved that this James Beattie Dalgleish was indeed the person I had thought him to be.

James Beattie Dalgleish emigrated from Scotland with his wife Mary Pagan and 3 children, twin boys Archibald and John and daughter Ann, sometime after 1854. After working as a shepherd on several stations, one being Ben Lomond, he settled at Papakaio in the Waitaki and Oamaru districts of North Otago. He died from concussion of the brain on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1873 aged 46 years. His sons being 20 years of age were able to continue working the farm with their mother and sister. Through public records I was able to find marriages, the births of children and subsequent deaths and burials for Archibald, John and Ann and their respective spouses, with one exception.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1878 Ann Dalgleish aged 24 married at her mother's home in Papakaio, a well-to-do farmer Hawthorn Stewart aged about 33 years.

Hawthorn Stewart had been born at Distington in Cumbria England, the 8<sup>th</sup> child in a family of nine. I found evidence of his 2 eldest brothers and his 2 youngest sisters living and dying in the Oamaru and Timaru areas of New Zealand. As I have not searched immigration I do not know when Hawthorn Stewart arrived in New Zealand or if he travelled alone or in the company of other family members.

Hawthorn Stewart and Ann had 5 children at Papakaio, two of whom died young. Those surviving were Martha 1880, James Hawthorn 1890 and Robert 1892. As well as general farming, Hawthorn Stewart bred horses in the Kurow area of the Upper Waitaki and the progeny sold at advertised annual horse sales.

In the late 1890's Hawthorn Stewart purchased property near Timaru. His address in the 1902 Post Office directory for New Zealand was at Otipua, a village and district south west of Timaru. It was at this time that his name disappeared from all directories and electoral rolls.

Ann Stewart died on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1921 at her daughter's home at Papakaio and was buried in the Timaru cemetery. Her death notice described her as a widow. There is a headstone on her grave but no mention on it of her husband Hawthorn Stewart.

I began searching for his death. There is no registration of death for Hawthorn Stewart in New Zealand and no probate. Thinking that he may have gone to visit family back in England and had either died there or on the voyage, I searched newspapers in New Zealand for a notice of his death with no result. I also searched Free BMD UK Indexes. He had just disappeared.

My next step was to search wider, but not being very proficient with internet searching I enlisted the help of some members of our family history society. It wasn't long before one of them found a reference to Hawthorn Stewart on a rootsweb message board which told me that Hawthorn Stewart had died at Kyabram in Victoria. This was astounding. I thought I had searched everywhere for him but had failed to look in my "own backyard". Sure enough, there he was in the Victorian Death indexes for 1929 at Kyabram. I immediately tried to contact the person who had posted the message but as it had been a few years since the message was posted, the email address was not current. From other comments in the message I knew that the person who had posted it lived in Brisbane, was female and had an uncommon name, so I was able to go to a current electoral roll where I found a person by that name living in an outer suburb of Brisbane. With great excitement I wrote a letter in which I outlined my genealogical interest, my joy at finding a date of death for Hawthorn Stewart and included my email address for ease of communication. I waited for a reply which came in the form of an email from a third person who said that the lady to whom I had written was not the one I was looking for.

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## A GENEALOGIST CAN TRACK YOU DOWN continued

I then went online to the BMD Registry and purchased the death certificate for Hawthorn Stewart. Surprise! Surprise! Hawthorn Stewart had a wife and 3 children living in Victoria. His wife's name was Eliza Butler and his children were Wilfred aged 24 years, Walter aged 18 years and Isabel aged 10 years. These children were obviously born while Hawthorn Stewart was still legally married to Ann, so maybe the lady in Brisbane was trying to hide something from me. Suspecting a case of bigamy I went searching for a marriage for Hawthorn Stewart and Eliza Butler and found it in the Victorian marriage index for 1926, five years after Ann Stewart's death in New Zealand. I could only find the registration of birth in Victoria for the daughter Isabel at Maroopna in 1918. Thinking that the 2 boys must have been born in New Zealand I went to the NZ birth indexes and searched for them with surnames of either Stewart or Butler but could find nothing.

In Victorian Death Indexes I found that Eliza Stewart nee Butler had died in 1970 at Ballarat and that the eldest son Wilfred had died in 1945 aged 40 at Maroopna. Maroopna is the major hospital for the Goulburn Valley region of Victoria.

At this stage of my research I met by chance a lady from Kyabram who had lived on the farm adjoining the Stewart farm. She was able to tell me that Wilfred had died after a suspicious fall from the back stairs of the Albion Hotel in Kyabram, that Walter had gone to Bendigo Teachers' College and that Mrs Stewart only had one arm as a result of a collision between a gig and a train. This new information sent me off to Melbourne and the State Library Newspaper Room to search the Kyabram Press.

The obituary for Wilfred Stewart gave me some new and unexpected information. It said that he had been born at Kirbymoorside in North Yorkshire and had come to Australia when he was 9 years old. It also said that the Stewart family had lived at Undera until 1919 when they moved to Wyuna Road, just north of Kyabram, that his brother Walter was a schoolteacher at Hansonville and that he had a sister Isabel (Mrs Lynas of Stanhope). In the brief obituary for Hawthorn Stewart it was said that his widow had lost an arm in a railway accident in which Mrs O'Mahoney had died. I expected that there would have been an inquest into Mrs O'Mahoney's death but one is not listed in the Index of Inquests. According to the Victorian Death Index Annie Teresa O'Mahoney died in 1923 and her death was registered at Kyabram. This additional information will be reason for another trip to Melbourne and a visit to the State Library of Victoria Newspaper Room.

I then went online to Free BDM UK to search for birth registrations for Wilfred and Walter Stewart. The birth of Wilfred Stewart was registered in the December Quarter of 1904 in the registration district of Helmsley and the birth of Walter Stewart was registered in the same district in the June Quarter of 1911.

The puzzle was unraveling. My search for the death of Ann Dalgleish's husband had been successful, but what an unexpected journey. Between factual information found in registration indexes and newspapers I have, by using guesswork filled in the gaps. The story goes something like this.

Hawthorn Stewart, a wealthy farmer in his mid fifties began a relationship with 20 year old Eliza Butler, daughter of Jesse Butler of Waimate in New Zealand. They eloped to England sometime before Wilfred was born in the latter part of 1904 and domiciled at Kirbymoorside in North Yorkshire. There, another son Walter was born in mid 1911. When Wilfred was nine years old, about 1914, they all voyaged to Victoria Australia where Hawthorn Stewart took up dairying at Undera in the Goulburn Valley until 1919 when they moved to another dairy farm in Wyuna Road, Kyabram. It was while at Undera that a daughter Isabel was born in 1918.

I wonder if the second family knew about their half brothers and sister in New Zealand and if the New Zealand family knew the whereabouts of their father and that he had another family in Australia. In the early 1900's this would have created quite a scandal and leaving the country may have been the only option open to them.

Although more research could be done to tidy up loose ends, I feel that I have gone as far as necessary to solve the mystery of the disappearance of Hawthorn Stewart, the husband of my Dalgleish relative in New Zealand.



## PROJECTS:

**Wangaratta Hospital Admissions 1885-1906** - Discussion held with NE Health on this project. Expect to have these records available on the network in the next few weeks.

**Chiltern Cemetery Records** - Updating databases and propose to digitise records from 2002. Also see article 'Do you have a Chiltern Burial?' on page 3 of this newsletter.

**Springhurst Cemetery Records** - The cemetery trust has been contacted and they are supportive of our proposal to digitise records.

**Wangaratta Cemetery update 2** – Another record book of the Cemetery has been digitised which will assist in cross checking the database being developed.

Four of our volunteers are currently working on this massive project.

The latest update of Headstone Transcriptions for Wangaratta Cemetery is available for members' private research on one of the computers in our rooms. See one of the Vals to access this database.

**Other NE cemeteries** - The records held by the Society of the smaller North East cemeteries as well as Rutherglen (Carlyle), Chiltern and Springhurst (Narimga), up to early 2002, will be available on the network by end of February.

**Digitisation of other records** - The Greta Valley Heritage Group are planning another open day in April and our Society has volunteered to undertake more digitisation of community members' records.

*Ed: Thank you to Val McPherson, Val Brennan, Jenny Jackel, Noelle Van Damme, Elaine Jones, and Georgina and Bob Cusack for all the work they do in bringing the above projects to fruition.*



## HANDY RESEARCH SITES:

Not only can you research names on the 'family search' website, you can also use their wiki site which contains a great wealth of information on all subjects of interest to genealogist. [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page)

Don't forget the link site cindislist which contains over 310,000 global genealogy links. <http://www.cyndislist.com/>. And Cora web, an Australian gateway site for tracing your family history <http://www.coraweb.com.au/>

### Ireland

Griffith's Valuation was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. Free search by family name and place name. <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>

### NSW

As happens each year, the NSW BDM has been updated by a year to include 1911 for births, 1961 for marriages and 1981 for deaths. <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/searchHistoricalRecords.htm>

### Tasmania

<http://www.millingtons.com.au/records-search> Hobart area cemetery search.

<http://gravesoftas.dyndns.org/> has headstones pictures Hobart area.

<http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/?c=30>. Launceston Cemetery.

<http://eheritage.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/> can search for people.

### SA

SA births deaths and marriages are now available free online. <http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

### NZ

Searchable database for Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Cust & Oxford cemeteries. <http://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/cemetery-search.aspx>

All NZ cemeteries <http://nzcemetery.kiwicelts.com/nzCemeteries/NZcemRegional.html>

NZ BDMs online <https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/>

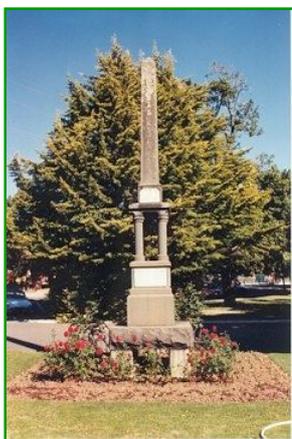


**CAN YOU HELP?  
WAS YOUR RELATIVE IN THE BOER WAR?**

Historian Robin Droogleever is writing the regimental history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victorian Contingent that went to fight in the war in South Africa in 1900, and he is hoping that relatives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contingent (as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Contingent which fought side by side with them from April to October 1900) might have useful diaries, letters and photographs which they would be prepared to share with him.

Under the command of ebullient Colonel Tom Price, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victorian Contingent sailed in the steamship *Euryalus* in January 1900 and reached Cape Town on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Within ten days they were at the front; and within 20 days they were having their first taste of action against the redoubtable Boers. They were in the van of Lord Roberts' invasion into the Transvaal in May 1900 and continued to be front-line troops until the end of September 1900. Thereafter they took part in a very different kind of war, something like the war in Afghanistan today where you rode in among your enemy unaware whether he was friend or foe and vulnerable to ambush or attack at any moment. This was the period of the guerilla war and not only were the Victorians effective fighters at this type of warfare, they were highly valued by British commanders. After an exhausting campaign they returned to Australia in April 1901.

If you were descended from any of these valiant troopers or believe that you are related to any man who served in the Victorian forces in the Boer War, please contact Rob Droogleever on 03-9891-6032 or email [jerwfd@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jerwfd@optusnet.com.au) or write to P.O.Box 42, Bulleen, 3105. If you have any doubts please ring or write.



*Ed: The above photo is of the Wangaratta Boer War Memorial Obelisk and the photo on the right is of the Beersheba Barracks in Wangaratta. These photos are on the new website Victorian War Heritage Inventory.*

**A REDNECK LOVE POEM:**

Susie Lee done fell in love,  
she planned to marry Joe.  
She was so happy 'bout it all,  
she told her Pappy so.

Pappy told her, 'Susie gal,  
you'll have to find another.  
I'd just as soon yo' Ma don't, know  
but Joe is yo' half brother'.

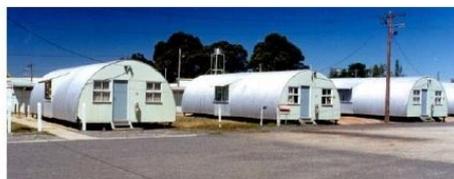
So Susie put aside her Joe  
and planned to marry Will.  
But after telling Pappy this,  
he said 'There's trouble still'.

'You can't marry Will, my gal,  
and please don't tell yo' mother.  
But Will and Joe, and several mo'  
I know is yo' half brother'.

But Mama knew and said, 'My child  
just do what makes you happy.

Marry Will or Marry Joe;  
you ain't no kin of Pappy'.

*Ed: Author unknown*



( 248-c19-23a+26a.bmp ) Top: 3 of the smaller Nissen style huts used as dormitories. Bottom: The 2 large Nissen style huts used for soldiers' amenities.

## WANGARATTA THREADS

### Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

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*Return Address:*

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**What is happening at WFHS**

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