

WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 105 February, 2016



OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

LOCATION:

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

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



COMING EVENTS:

1st March 2016

Membership renewals due (single member \$30,
Joint members \$50).

16th March 2016

Researching Irish Ancestors.

Online Information sessions for our Members
to be held at our premises. See page 3 to find out
more.

Please **RSVP by 11 March** to info@wfhs.org.au.
There are limited spaces available.

17th March 2016

Nominations for committee positions due.

19th March 2016, Saturday at 1.30pm— Annual General Meeting (note the earlier start)

To be held in the **Gallery Room** on the ground floor
of the Visitors Information Centre, 100-104 Murphy
St, Wangaratta. (No stairs to climb, ie easy access).

The AGM will be followed by a talk from our guest
speaker Simon Abney-Hastings, the 15th Earl of
Loudoun. See page 10 to find out more.

Please **RSVP by 15 March** to info@wfhs.org.au,
or ring Cheryl on 03 5721 5906, or record your
name at WFHS. This will ensure enough seats
will be made available.

19th August 2016

The Genealogical Society of Victoria is once again
running a Research Workshop in Melbourne. These
are popular and you may want to book early. Call
03 9662 4455 or email gsv@gsv.org.au. Cost GSV
members \$70; AIGS/RHSV members \$105; and
non-members \$140.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- Val McPherson
- Elaine Jones
- Paddy Milne
- Peg Templeton
- Christine Heard.

IN MEMORIAM:

Karen Chetcuti who died in tragic circumstances. Karen was the Records Manager of the Rural City of Wangaratta and her knowledge, support and friendly co-operation with our volunteers who are preserving historical records will be greatly missed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

- * Alexander Mark

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

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

Members enjoyed a Christmas get-together at the Pinsent Hotel in Wangaratta.



RESEARCHING IRISH ANCESTORS — ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR MEMBERS:

**At our premises on
Wednesday 16th March 2016
Start at 1.30pm and finish at 3.00pm**



Come along and find out how to research Irish records online.

Bob and Georgina Cusack will be detailing what they've found to be the most effective way of locating those elusive Irish ancestors. They'll go through their experience with the websites most commonly recommended, what worked for them, what didn't, and why. They'll also provide details of websites they found particularly helpful with emphasis on the National Library of Ireland's recently released Roman Catholic records online. They'll take you through those sites in 'real time' using the internet at our premises.

Online access using our computers will be provided, but you can bring your own laptop with your own wi-fi and internet account if you wish.

A fee of \$10 will be charged on the day to cover internet costs and an Irish Research Information Pack to take home. Afternoon tea will be provided.

There are limited spaces so please RSVP info@wfhs.org.au by Friday 11 March 2016.



CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING A MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA:

The following members of our Society recently received an OAM:

Valerie Margaret McPHERSON, Myrtleford Vic 3737, for service to the community of Myrtleford, including as Treasurer of the Wangaratta Family History Society for 12 years.

George Albert McPHERSON, Myrtleford Vic 3737, for service to disabled winter sports, and to the community of Myrtleford.



Margaret Frances PULLEN, Wangaratta North Vic 3678, for service to the community of Wangaratta.

They join our member Val Gleeson who obtained her OAM in 2001 for service to the community through local government, aviation, art and craft, women's and aged care organisations.



All the above picture are from the regional newspapers of NE Media

BOOK: 'RAILWAYS OF THE OVENS & KING'—AUTHOR NICK ANCHEN:

This new book has arrived which will be of interest to those who remember the railway trolley from Wangaratta to Whitfield and the railway from Wangaratta to Myrtleford, Beechworth and Yackandandah. These railways were essential to the commerce of NE Victoria as well as the social network of the families of the district. Many high quality pictures and stories of individual people are included as well as the



following picture of the people of Whitfield on 10 October 1953 'gathering to witness the last rites for the 'Spirit of Salts', and indeed the Whitfield railway itself'.



Starting from the left:

Ike Macklin, Dump Izard, Rev Don McLean (reading the eulogy), James Davis (child), Ethel McDonald, Eileen Dickson, Lauris Skinns, M Dickson (child), W (Billy) Chong, Allan (Kaiser) Smith, R Davis (child), M Morgan (child), Ross Smith, Kath McDonald (child), Jack Hudson, S McDonald, Kevin Stamp (child), Mrs Stamp, Mrs Hudson, Margaret Smith, Jill Hudson, and Mrs Baker.

Ed: Thank you the author Nick Anchen as well as the Australian Railway Historical Society Victorian Division for permission to reproduce the above picture for inclusion in this newsletter. And thank you to Daryl Gregory of Wangaratta for identifying the people in the picture.

A FORSAKEN SETTLEMENT:

By Valerie McPherson

On a recent trip to Cobourg Peninsular in the Northern Territory I visited the ruins of Victoria Settlement at Port Essington. Victoria Settlement, established 1838 and disbanded 1849, was brought about by a plan of the British government and the East India Company to set up a military settlement and a re-victualling point for shipping through Torres Strait.



Captain Phillip Parker King, R.N., sailed along the Great Barrier Reef and around the Territory coast to the west between 1817 and 1821 charting the coastline. He advocated a settlement in the north and chose Port Essington, named after an admiral of Trafalgar days, as a likely site. Claims that the Dutch were preparing to set up a trading post on our unclaimed northern coast precipitated action by the British Government. In January 1824 Captain Gordon Bremer in "HMS Tamar" was sent to Sydney to collect stores, marines and convicts, with instructions to sail north to Port Essington and there establish a fortified outpost.

In September 1824 at Record Point, Port Essington, Captain Bremer unfurled the British flag and took possession of two thousand miles of uninhabited coastline from Cape York westwards. Bremer could not find any fresh water at Port Essington so within a few days the tiny fleet weighed anchor and sailed for Bathurst and Melville Islands. On 28th September 1824 they arrived at Melville Island, found plenty of fresh water there, and on 2nd October set about building and establishing the settlement

This attempt at settlement on Melville Island, and another at Fort Wellington on Raffles Bay in 1827, were both abandoned in 1828 and 1829 respectively. Their failure was due to a number of reasons – the oppressive climate, sickness, loneliness, monotony, depression and hostile aborigines, all of which contributed.

The third attempt at settlement in the north began when two ships "Alligator" and "Britomart" left Plymouth on 19th February 1838, with Captain Bremer in charge of the expedition and Captain John McArthur, his second in command, in charge of the Royal Marines. Also in the crew were 1st Lieut. Priest, 1 Sergeant, 1 Fifer, 21 Privates and 3 Civilians, namely James McArthur (son of John McArthur) storekeeper, George Earl MRAS linguist and draftsman, and John Armstrong botanist.

The route of the voyage was via the Canary Islands, Rio de Janeiro, Cape of Good Hope and Port Wakefield in South Australia. At Port Wakefield Capt. Bremer took on extra marines with wives and children. These marines had been detained in South Australia from HMS "Buffalo" to provide protection for the Colony. In all, 12 marines, 3 wives, 2 children and Assistant Surgeon Whipple joined the expedition which was solely of a naval character.

At Sydney the supply ship "Orontes" joined the expedition. Thirty four iron tanks for the storage of foodstuffs and several timber framed weatherboard pre-fabricated buildings were loaded on board. There were two houses, two barrack rooms, a kitchen, storehouse, a hospital and a church. The botanist Armstrong procured a selection of plants, seeds etc. for establishment at the settlement. Captain Bremer was to be Commandant and Magistrate of the new settlement. Officers were Captain John McArthur, Royal Marines, Lieut AL Kuper, Royal Navy and Lieut Phineas Priest, Royal Marines.

On 17th September 1838 "Alligator", "Britomart" under the command of Captain Owen Stanley, and "Orontes" left Sydney Cove accompanied by two other ships which were bound for India. They arrived at Port Essington on 26th October where local aborigines welcomed their arrival and helped them find water.

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A FORSAKEN SETTLEMENT cont:



With the aid of convicts assigned to the expedition the pre-fabricated buildings were erected. Local rock was used for foundations. Crushed shells were burnt for lime, kilns built and bricks and mortar made. Brick barracks, a brick Government House and cottages with chimneys were built. The quarters of the storekeeper Mr Earl were built on 8ft poles with a shingle roof and enclosed underneath with masonry for use as a spirit store. The bread store also had 8ft poles but was not enclosed underneath. A stone pier was constructed out into deep water.

Blacksmith's forge



Stone pier



Brick kiln

On 25th November 1839 a great hurricane caused much damage to the settlement and to the wharf. The brig "Pelorus" had been driven ashore with the loss of twelve lives. It was nine months before a relief ship "HMS Gilmore" arrived. Convicts loaned to the settlement assisted with laboring and tradesmen type work. In tropical heat and unsuitable military uniforms the soldier settlers endured great hardship and deprivation.

Sickness was prevalent in 1843 at the settlement. With no sea breeze at the land-locked harbour, fever was a deadly scourge. The gardens could not be tended by sick men and so scurvy broke out. Buffaloes and ponies brought from Timor went wild and roamed the bush in increasing numbers. There were no medicines and not a sign of a ship's sail for a year. The only work was the digging of graves.

Every morning, those Marines who could stand, drilled on the hard parade ground in choking hot uniforms under the merciless tropic sun.



Powder magazine

Cont next page

A FORSAKEN SETTLEMENT cont:



Hospital

In 1844 Lieut. George Lambrick, his wife Emma, their 18 months old daughter Emma and a new-born son arrived at Victoria and in 1845 a Tyrolean Roman Catholic missionary, Fr Angelo Bernard Confalonieri, arrived to care for the spiritual needs of the settlement and also to administer to the aborigines. Fr Confalonieri had been shipwrecked in Torres Strait and arrived at the settlement devoid of any possessions. McArthur got the marines to build him a hut at Black Rock Point just south of Point Smith.

Then in December 1845, Dr Ludwig Leichhardt and his ragged starving band came out of the heat haze of the unknown interior. They joyfully hailed Port Essington as civilization after more than 14 months without seeing another white man. The settlement fed and nursed them back to health and it was not long afterwards that the country was celebrating the deeds of Leichhardt and his men.



Hospital kitchen



Cornish chimneys

In recent years ruins of Victoria Settlement have been reclaimed from the undergrowth and identification made of the various buildings. The Cornish type chimneys, the powder magazine and brick kiln have been restored or partly restored and evidence of the huge ovens of the hospital kitchen and the blacksmith's forge can be seen.

Cemetery

A cemetery was also part of the settlement and in the eleven years of its existence burials were recorded. Memorial headstones were not erected until some years after the abandonment of the settlement and it is thought that some were renovated several years later again.

By this time inscriptions were almost illegible and the stonemason relied on an English speaking aborigine to help him to complete his work.

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A FORSAKEN SETTLEMENT cont:

Cemetery cont

There are five remaining headstones in the cemetery



A large memorial with an inscription: "In memory of Mrs Lambrick and child. Dearly beloved wife of Lieut Lambrick 47th Regt Hobart Died Port Essington".

In October 1846 Mrs Emma Lambrick died and was buried beside the infant son who had pre-deceased her eighteen months earlier. One month later her recently born infant also died.

"Sacred to the memory of Father Von Anslowe German Messoer, Smiths Point. Died Port Essington 1845" Note: This inscription should read Don Angelo Confalonieri and the year 1848.

On 9th January 1848 Fr Confalonieri died in the hospital. He had been found in his hut a few days before, suffering from fever, and was taken to the hospital.



"Sacred to the memory of the Dr of the Settlement Died Port Essington". Note: Richard Tiltson March 1849.

Another of the remaining headstones reads—"Sacred to the memory of Captain Crawford 47 Regiment Hobart. Died Port Essington". Note: This inscription should read Phillip Chetwode Captain of Royalist. In September 1843, remittent fever claimed the lives of Pte Brown and Capt Chetwode and in January 1844 Pte Sheppard also died. And the last headstone is small, flat and broken with no identification.

By 1849 the British Government had come to regard the Port Essington settlement as a failure, both as a colonizing experiment, a trading post, and a port of call for ships.

On 3rd November 1849 the settlement was abandoned and Captain McArthur and his company sailed away on "Meander" for Sydney, the friendly aborigines wailing in grief.

McArthur, Lambrick with his daughter Emma, and Lieutenant Dunbar returned to England arriving there on 9th November 1850.

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A FORSAKEN SETTLEMENT cont:



A plaque at the cemetery at Victoria lists sixty names of those buried there most of whom are Royal Marines or Royal Navy. The first two burials, Pte Joseph Churchill and Pte Edmund Oakley, dated 22nd September 1824, would have been members of Captain Bremer's first expedition which was only at Port Essington for a few days.

Following the names of these two soldiers is the word "3 Buffs". Internet research has revealed that "Buffs" was a British Army infantry regiment - Royal East Kent Regiment 3rd Regiment of Foot, commonly known as "Buffs". The name originated from the use of protective buff coats made of soft leather during service in the Netherlands in the 17th century. Later they adopted buff coloured facings and waistcoats as uniform distinctions and wore equipment of natural buff leather. The Royal East Kent Regiment saw service in Australia from 1821 to 1827 guarding convicts on the voyage out and also in the colony. This was most likely the role of the "Buffs" at Victoria Settlement.

Throughout the eleven years of the settlement the aborigines had remained friendly and helpful. One of them, Jacky Davis, continued to care for the lonely graves of Lieutenant Lambrick's wife and children who had died from fever.

A pioneer trader and buffalo shooter, E.O. Robinson, lived at the site of the old settlement for many years from about 1877. He was a friend to about 400 aborigines and he traded with the Malays, but apart from occasional visits from tourist groups and other interested parties, all is now silent at Victoria settlement on Port Essington.

Acknowledgments:

The N.T. State Reference Library where I read "Forsaken Settlement" by Peter Spillett and "Early Attempts at Settlement in the Northern Territory (1804 – 1870)" by Glenville Pike FRGA.

Venture North Australia for their 5 day Safari which enabled me to visit this remote place.

A list of names from Royal Marine Records, Sth Australian Gazette & Colonial Register 1838, and Statistics relating to the garrison at Victoria Settlement which are contained in Peter Spillett's Book "Forsaken Settlement" are available on request for a small fee from the Wangaratta Family History Society Inc. info@wfhs.org.au.

BRITAINS REAL MONARCH:

By Christine Heard

Imagine living in a small rural town in Australia with your parents, younger brother and sisters. Your father works at a Rice Research facility, and you live in a modest weatherboard house in a small town where the population is less than 1000. Nothing unusual about that

Imagine having a documentary film crew knock on your door and tell your father that, but for a quirk of fate, or perhaps some sleight of hand, he should be the current British Monarch. Sounds like something out of a novel, doesn't it?

That did happen to Simon Abney-Hastings. Tony Robinson (later Sir Tony Robinson) presented a documentary which was first shown in Britain in 2004 which puts forward a theory that the descendants of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, have a legitimate alternate claim to the throne of England. The documentary was shown not only in Britain, but Australia and the USA.

The program bases its thesis on a claim that Edward IV was illegitimate, born to Cecily (Neville), Duchess of York and fathered by an archer she was said to be having an affair with. At the time her husband Richard, 3rd Duke of York, was at war in Pontoise. Even at the time (1442) Edward's birth was the subject of speculation, and Dr. Michael Jones, a medieval historian, located a document in Rouen Cathedral which confirms that Richard and Cecily were about 100 miles apart during the time of Edward's conception (assuming the pregnancy went to a normal term).

As if to support this theory, Edward was noted to be nothing like the rest of his family. He was tall (over 6'), with tawny blonde hair, athletic physique and had a self confidence and charm that made him a leader of men and an inveterate womaniser.

Twelve children were born to Richard and Cecily, with seven surviving childhood. Joan (born 1438, died young); Anne (born 1439) was Duchess of Exeter; Henry (born 1441, died young); Edward (born 1442) Earl of March, was the eldest boy and heir; Edmund (born 1443, died 1460), Earl of Rutland; Eliza (born 1444), Duchess of Suffolk; Margaret (born 1446), Duchess of Burgundy; William (born 1447, died young); John (born 1448, died young); George (born 1449) was Duke of Clarence; Thomas (born 1451, died young); Richard (born 1452), Duke of Gloucester, who later became Richard III; and Ursula (born 1455, died young).

In 1969, Michael married an Australian woman, Noelene McCormick, and they moved to Jerilderie, where he worked and farmed for Rice Research Australia. Two boys and three girls were added to the family over the years, and the family have remained in Jerilderie for 47 years. Sadly, Noelene died after a battle with breast cancer two years before the film crew arrived on their doorstep. According to Michael, Noelene wouldn't have been impressed!

Michael Abney-Hastings was a committed Australian republican, although he did take his title seriously. However, he expressed no interest in pursuing his claim, although he was amused by it. Mike Hastings was a councillor of the Jerilderie Shire in both 2004 and 2008, chairman of the local historical society and was appointed a life member of the Jerilderie (Australian Rules) Football Club.

Simon Michael Abney-Hastings, first born son held the courtesy title Lord Mauchline as the heir. On his father's death in 2012, Simon inherited the Loudoun titles, and is now the 15th Earl.

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BRITAINS REAL MONARCH cont:

Since inheriting the title, Simon has been travelling the world, discovering places and people associated with his extensive and unusual family history. He has also been the subject of many newspaper and magazine articles, as well as developing television commitments.

Simon Abney-Hastings, 15th Earl of Loudoun, has very kindly agreed to be the guest speaker at our AGM on Saturday, 19th March, 2016. As the ultimate family history story, this is one talk that is not to be missed.

For those of you who have not seen the 2004 documentary, it is available on YouTube as "Britain's Real Monarch" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG4Ec9nEwwk>



George Plantagenet, 1st Duke of Clarence, 1st Earl of Salisbury, 1st Earl of Warwick (12 Oct 1449—18 Feb 1478)



Loudoun Castle, Galston, Ayrshire circa 1890



ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

'8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Fatal and Non-Fatal Casualty List South Vietnam 1969-1970', published by Mostly Unsung Military History Research and Publications, Gardenvale Vic.

'9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Casualty List South Vietnam', published by Mostly Unsung Military History Research and Publications, Gardenvale Vic.

'Australians Captured by The Raider *Wolf* by Lt Col Neil C Smith AM.

'Grave Memories Volume 4. Roma Cemeteries' by Roma & District Family History Society Inc Qld, April 2015.

'Port Phillip Gazette', Facsimile Editions, Volumes 1 to 5, years 1838 to 1841. Publisher: Stephen Lansdown & Co.

'Railways of the Ovens & King' by Nick Anchen, 2015, Publisher: Sierra Publishing.

'The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser' Facsimile Editions, Volumes II 4 March 1804 to 24 Feb 1805; Vol III 3 Mar 1805 to 9 Mar 1806; Vol IV & V 16 Mar 1806 to 30 Aug 1807; Vol VI & VIII 15 May 1808 to 31 Dec 1809; Vol VIII 7 Jan 1810 to 29 Dec 1810; and Vol IX 5 Jan 1811 to 28 Dec 1811. Publisher: Roebuck Society.

'Wangaratta Sketchbook' by David McCabe, 2003, self published.

'Winton Swamp to Winton Wetlands', by Jenny Indian and Stephen Routledge, Oct 2013, self published.

WANGARATTA THREADS

Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

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Disclaimer: All information contained in this edition is published in good faith with every effort made to validate fact, circumstance and source. *Ed.*

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WANGARATTA THREADS

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Australia

What is happening at WFHS Check it out..... www.wfhs.org.au