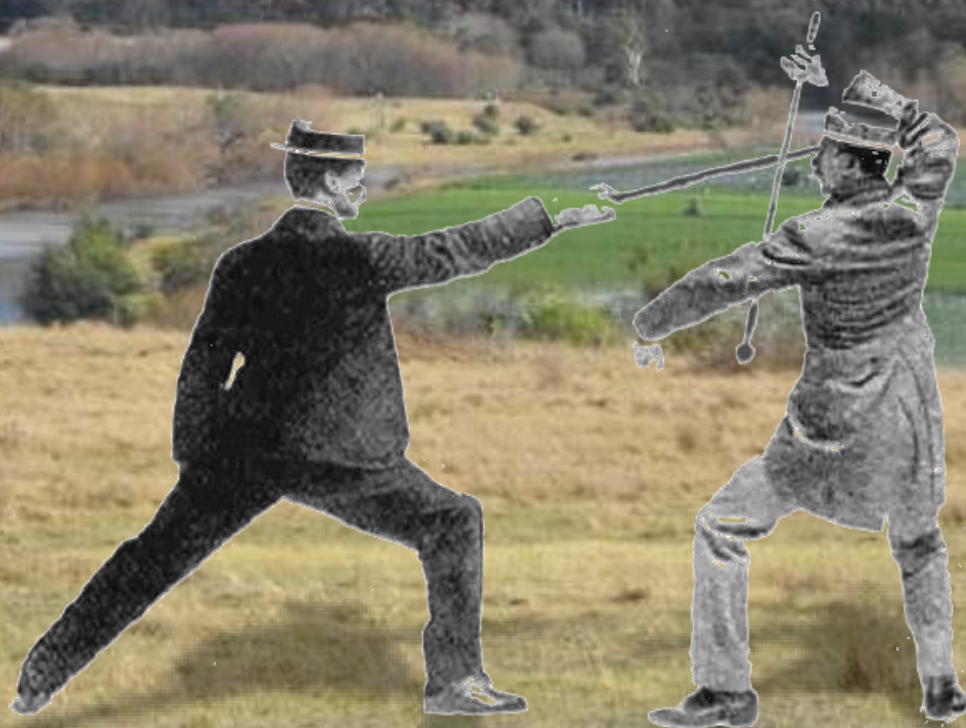


THE BATTLE OF LINDENOW :

A Story of Litigation and Sword Drawing

no: 117



Researching the name
“Frances Marcellus”

Nonchalantly smoking
a wooden pipe:
a woman in a man’s attire

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We acknowledge the traditional land on which the East Gippsland Family History Group stands and offer our respect to the elders past and present. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

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Cover:

Modern image of Lindenow area with a silhouetted sword fight "between gentlemen" to highlight our cover story. Computer generated by the editor.

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There is no such thing as an *insignificant* life,
only the *insignificance of mind* that refuses to *grasp* the implications.

Laurence Overmire

It is old news now but after pushing the issue within both groups it was very pleasing to learn that within 24 hours of Tim Bull presenting the petition generated from EGFHG requesting the reversal of the government decision to withdraw funding of the community history program for grants and awards that the decision was overturned and funding restored. Maybe it was coincidence but whatever the cause - it was the right result.

Mind you - it has only been restored for one year and we will be battling again next year to have this extended.

This issue of *black sheep* just about contains every element of history.

We have research articles by Teresa and Linda on the how they found what they found about individuals. Teresa was chasing the origin of a family name while Linda was chasing a family story about her great grand aunt who did not wish to conform to society expectations.

We also recognise the work done by James Slater, a former Bairnsdale resident, who was a historian of this region in the first half of the 20th century. We owe Slater a debt of gratitude, for while much of what he wrote can be verified and sourced today - there are some oral histories that have not survived which add to our region's history. Are they true? That is for the reader to decide but they certainly give food for thought.

More of Slater's writings are planned for future issues of *black sheep* as he recorded many district histories that were published in the local paper that were not published elsewhere. With those newspapers now being available and searchable on Trove access is so much easier.

We also have an account of the group trip to Melbourne that was undertaken at the end of the

ten week long family history classes that started in April in this issue. Much research was done but much fun was also had by the thirteen people who ended up going to PROV and SLV. From a taxi getting lost to exploring in the State Library everyone gained something and all were enthusiastic about a repeat trip - soon!

For those who were unable to attend Wayne George's book launch at Ensay at the start of the

month there is a report on this very successful day on page 23. Wayne's book has been very well received with many individuals purchasing multiple copies for their extended families. If you haven't got your copy yet they are available from EGFHG rooms or the EGHS museum @ \$45 each.

I haven't cooked up the "Blue Duck Biscuits" recipe that appears on page 24 but I have a strong suspicion they are going to be a lot like an ANZAC biscuit which makes me wonder where did the ANZAC recipe come from? After a bit of googling I have found no one really knows! Conventionally the ANZAC recipe is eggless and made from oats and golden syrup and first appeared "labelled" as an ANZAC somewhere around 1920. However, the Blue Duck biscuit has dark sugar that would act like the golden syrup with the oats. We can't date the recipes in the McKenzie book but it is food for thought - maybe everyone had a variation of this biscuit staple before it was tweaked to the ANZAC.

As I said earlier - all kinds of everything in this edition. Research, recipes and excursions, old history and new history.

Enjoy your *bs* reading.

debbie

Editor/President



The Battle of Lindenow

A Story of Litigation and Sword Drawing

JAMES SLATER



James Slater c1910 (P12024 EGHS)

The author of this article is one who we should all know well, however it is likely that most of the readers of *black sheep* are not familiar with his name. When we think of those who have recorded the past in East Gippsland, Alban Pearce, John Adams and A.W. Howitt come to mind plus the contributions of recent historians, however James Slater should also be in that list.

In his time, Slater took it upon himself to record much of the history of the region and while he wasn't Gippsland born, this region was definitely where his heart lay. Born in Sydney about 1845, Slater was the son of Benjamin and Cath (nee Fahey) and the family came to Bairnsdale when he was about six years old. Slater became a painter and signwriter and was a well-known tradesman throughout Gippsland. When thirty years old he married Sarah Race and they had four children Zetta (born 1906 who married into the Spillman family and died in Bairnsdale in 1968), Virgil (1911-1974), Unice (died when six years old) and Iris (born in 1918 who married into the Meddings family). He had a lifelong association with the Methodist Church of which he was a lay preacher for over fifty years. He was even available for the Presbyterian Church and other charges on occasions. He took a very keen interest in local history and spent a great amount of his leisure time in collecting data for the preparation of historical records for organisations and towns. He prepared brief histories for the centenary celebrations of several Gippsland towns, and in latter years he became a member of the Historical Society of Victoria. He was often the guest speaker on historical subjects at meetings of Bairnsdale institutions.

In 1945 Sarah, his wife, died and on 23 April the following year Slater died suddenly from pneumonia when 71 years old.

When Slater died a tribute from the Shire Council of the day stated that he had *devoted much of his time in collating historical records over a long period of years, and it was hoped they would be preserved either in the council chamber or given to the Historical Society.*

One of the presentations made by James Slater was for the centenary of first settlement at Lindenow. This presentation was published 80 years ago in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* in several parts in January and February 1943.

At a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, held on Sunday in the Lindenow Hall, an outline of Lindenow's 100 years of settlement was given by Mr James Slater. His address was followed by reminiscences of the pioneers told by Mr Frank Holloway, eldest son of Lindenow's first postmaster.

Cr D. M. Cameron, President of the Bairnsdale Shire, presided. In his address, which was prepared to mark the celebration of Lindenow's centenary, Mr Slater said—

Mr William Odell Raymond and Mr Brinsley Sheridan, accompanied by Messrs Loughnan and Taylor, crossed the Mitchell River, on or about the 22nd June, 1842, at the crossing discovered by Angus McMillan, on the 19th of January, 1840. Messrs Loughnan and Taylor decided to settle on the west bank of the Mitchell River.

In the month of August, 1842, a license was granted to J. M. Loughnan for a run known as Lindenow, No. 56 on the list of Gippsland runs in the colony of New South Wales. The run contained 40,000 acres.

BOUNDARIES OF THE LINDENOW RUN

North: Bounded on the north by the Mitchell or Macarthur giving a frontage to that river, of eleven miles or less.

East: On the east by a line running from the river south, passing the head of a large morass forming the west boundary of Macleod's run, as determined by the Commissioner.

West: On the west by a line running from the Bluff point on the Mitchell, at the extreme end of the flat, where Boggy Creek enters the Mitchell, south-west about four miles to the head of a chain of Ponds Creek running into Providence Ponds to its junction with Providence Ponds forming the east boundary line of Messrs Gilies [sic] and McLean, McLean Bros, of Glenaladale.

South: On the south of Providence Ponds, as far as the high road from Lindenow to the Avon River, the line then running up the road to a point not less than four miles south of the Mitchell River; then running east until it joins the point of the eastern boundary line four miles south of the Mitchell River.

In the year 1843 the license for the run was granted to John Michael Loughnan, Fred Taylor and Henry Nicholas Loughnan. In the month of August, 1850, the license for the run was granted to J. M. Loughnan and John Digby Smith. In the month of December, 1850, the license for the run was granted to John Digby Smith, and his father, John Davidson [sic] Smith.

Loughnan and Taylor took over the Swan Reach run in the year 1841, and retained it for one year. Mr Fred Taylor took over the Swan Reach run in the year 1847, and retained it for one year. Mr Fred Taylor ceased to be one of the lessees in 1850. Gippslanders should not be allowed to forget him.

Mount Taylor, north of Lindenow, was named in honor of Mr Fred Taylor, who settled at Lindenow in 1842.

Mr A. S. Kenyon, one of the leading members of the Historical Society of Victoria, reminded us some years ago that J. M. Loughnan, the original lessee of the Lindenow run, acted on behalf of Mr John Digby Smith, who was at the time under 21 years of age, and a resident of Lindenow. Mr John Digby Smith arrived at Lindenow in 1847, and at once sought to take control of the run, but Loughnan



John Digby Smith c1865 (P41418 EGHS)

refused to acknowledge his right to act. Mr Smith was only eighteen years of age at the time of arrival at Lindenow.

A LAW SUIT

A law suit followed and a verdict was given in favor of John Digby Smith. Loughnan was given fourteen days' notice to quit, but he refused to go. Loughnan's employes [sic] and Smith's employes [sic] resolved themselves into opposing camps.

THE BATTLE OF LINDENOW

Loughnan was the owner of a sword, and he drew the sword and engaged in combat with Duncan Cameron, who was in charge of the station store room. Cameron did not possess a sword. But he armed himself with a rail and managed to break the sword into three pieces. Fights were frequent, but the only person injured was the Chinese cook! After the station woolshed was destroyed by fire, Loughnan took his departure, taking some of the best of the sheep with him.



John Davion Smith c1865 photographed by Cornell. (Terry Hore.)

THE "FATHER" OF LINDENOW

Mr John Davidson [sic] Smith, who supplied the money that enabled his agents, Loughnan and Taylor, to acquire the Lindenow run, must be regarded as the "father" of Lindenow.



Edward Saunders, John Whitbourne and Frank Holloway outside a log hut at Lindenow c1864. Note that the photographer has removed the fourth person on the far right leaving his right hand resting on the corner of the building and his feet. (P10121 EGHS)

Mrs Katherine Morrison, of Bairnsdale, who is married to a grandson of John Davidson Smith, has written up some of the family history, and I am indebted to Mrs Morrison for the following extracts:—

John Davidson Smith was born in England, in the year 1785. He was the son of a Church of England clergyman and received a good education. At an early age he entered the service of the East India Company. He rose rapidly in the service, until, in 1815, he was master of a trading ship plying between France and India. He was on his way back to India when Napoleon escaped from Elba, and had arrived at Antwerp on the day when the first guns were fired before the Battle of Waterloo. Some ten years after Waterloo, Mr Smith married, his wife being a Miss Gray, sister of Colonel, afterwards General Gray, of Lucknow, India. He made his home in Calcutta (where to quote from another letter), in the city of palaces, he spent thirteen years of unabated happiness. His family of four sons and two daughters were all born in Calcutta, the first daughter being born in the year 1827.

When the family were growing in need of further education, he decided to leave India and settle in England choosing Norwood, a lovely spot in Surrey.

His attention was soon drawn to the glowing accounts of the land available in Australia, and eventually he decided to finance the selection of land in Gippsland. He sent out two men, who were to take up the land and act as managers for him. Things did not work out satisfactorily, and Mr Smith, receiving word that these men were endeavoring to jump his claim, sent out first a nephew, who got no satisfaction; then his eldest son, who fared no better. He then decided to come out himself, and bring his wife and family with him. One son, who had remained with his regiment in India, was killed in the mutiny of 1857.

Great preparations had to be made for the voyage, as practically everything needed for the new home had to be brought with them. They landed at Port Albert, and then travelled to Lindenow by road.

EARLY VISITORS

It is said that Archibald Macleod called at the Lindenow Station house when he was on his way to Bairnsdale in 1843.

Mr William Odell Raymond called at the station when he made his second trip into Gippsland with cattle in the winter of 1844.

In the year 1845 the Rev. Edward Gifford Pryce, B.A., rector of the Parish of Cooma, called at the station. He came to Gippsland at the invitation of Mr John Scott, of Delvine. On the 17th November, 1847, Mr Pryce visited Delvine Station, and baptised Thomas Scott, son of John and Margaret Scott, who was born on December 3, 1846.

The original station house was built on the side of the hill east of Pleasant Creek. It was built of logs and the roof was covered with sheets of stringy bark, and the fencing was made of logs.

In later years a good house was built nearer to the Mitchell River. It is still in existence and used as a residence.

A LONELY GRAVE

Lindenow, like Lucknow, had a lonely grave. In the forties, the pioneers, making their way from Monaro into Gippsland, saw a newly-made grave under a lightwood tree, on the Mitchell River bank. One of the pioneers of the Omeo district was carting goads to Omeo, and after a drinking bout, shot himself. A creek about twelve miles from Omeo is named after him.

The old Manero crossing was a quarter of a mile below the Calulu bridge, near the residence of the late Mr William Keating. The first cattle and sheep brought into North Gippsland, crossed the river at that point.

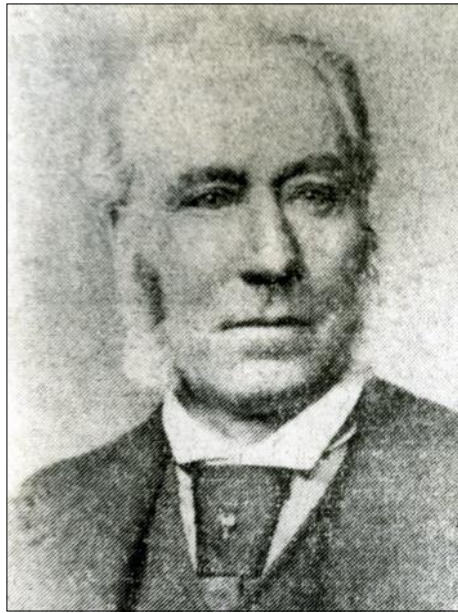
Mr Fred Gray, a cousin of Mr George Gray, had a narrow escape from drowning at the Manero crossing in the year 1844.

Mr William Odell Raymond, owner of Stratford and Strathfieldsay [sic] stations was crossing cattle when the river was running swiftly, and Mr Gray and others from the Lindenow Station were helping Mr Raymond and his party. Mr Gray and his horse were washed down stream. He was saved by a New South Wales stockman. For many years Mr Gray was a familiar figure in Bairnsdale.

THE FIRST CHURCH SERVICE

The first church service was conducted at the Lindenow Station house by the Rev. E. G. Pryce, B.A., on December 5, 1847. Two children were baptised at the service. The first child baptised was Agnes Mein (who was the first child born in Bairnsdale) on October 26, 1845. Her father was overseer for Loughnan and Taylor. Mr William Mein and his wife, Elizabeth Mein, remained at Lindenow Station until the year 1850. Two daughters were born to them at Lindenow. Janet Mein was born on June 11, 1848. Elizabeth Mein was born on April 14, 1850.

Mr William Pulteny Mein, a well known station owner, residing in Melbourne at the present time, is a son of



Rev. Edward Gifford Pryce c1856 (P11965 EGHS), William Mein c1875 (P11831 EGHS) and Frank Holloway c1880 (P11728 EGHS).

Agnes Mein, the first child baptised at Lindenow, and Mrs Mein's daughter is the wife of Mr Maurice Nicholas, of the famous Aspro Company. Agnes Mein, the first white child baptised at Lindenow, never changed her name at the time of her marriage. She married a second cousin, and retained the original name till the end of her life.

Mr William Mein, of Lindenow Station, died on July 6, 1870, and his wife Elizabeth Mein, died on June 30, 1885, at "Marsh House," Yapeen, Victoria.

The second child baptised at the first church service was Ellen Hayes, daughter of Mr Cornelius and Mrs Agnes Hayes. In all probability she was the first child born at the original station house. Ellen Hayes was born on April 12, 1847. Mr Hayes was a laborer on the station.

EARLY RESIDENTS OF THE LINDENOW DISTRICT

It is one hundred years this year, since Mr Frank Hall arrived in Sydney. He came to Lindenow in 1844.

Mr Joseph S. Varney passed through Lindenow in 1844, with 600 head of cattle for a run in South Gippsland.

Mr F. H. Bean, who had been an employe [sic] of Mr Fred Jones, of the Lucknow Station, was living at the Lindenow Station in 1847.

WEDDING AT LINDENOW STATION HOUSE

One of the first, if not the first marriage, to take place at the Lindenow Station House, was on the 16th February, 1859, when Mr Henry Morrison, aged 29 years, a native of Hobart Town, Tasmania, manager of the Lucknow Station, for Mr Crooke, married Theresa Charlotte Smith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Davidson [sic] Smith, aged 31 years, and a native of Calcutta, India. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. P. K. Simmons, who was the first resident minister at Sale, in October, 1854. Six sons were born to Mr and Mrs Henry Morrison. Five of the sons are living at the present time.

Mr John Digby Smith lived at the old station for some years. In the year 1866 he married Miss Anna Eliza Marianne Gibson. Mr Smith took a great interest in the work of the Church of England. Before the arrival of the Rev. Brazier he conducted services in a building in Macleod's,

Bairnsdale. On the 25th July, 1868, he was secretary and treasurer of St John's Church. Mr Smith was an honorary justice of the peace. Mr and Mrs Smith are represented by many descendants in Victoria at the present time. Mrs Smith died on the 10th March, 1914, Mr Smith died on the 5th July, 1916, aged 86 years. Mrs C. Potter, one of Mr and Mrs Smith's daughters, is a resident of Bairnsdale at the present time.

Mr Alex Smith lived at the station for some years. Later, he lived on the Alexlea Estate, where he bred many race horses. Mr Smith married a daughter of Dr Hedley, of Sale. Mr Smith's only son, Edward, is now a resident of West Australia. His wife, who was prior to her marriage, Miss Margaret Jennings, of Broadlands, recently passed away.

The construction of the railway line from Sale to Bairnsdale in 1888, caused many changes in the district. The nearest railway station to the old station house is known as Hillside. When the Lindenow railway station was erected some miles west of Hillside a new settlement came into existence. It is known as Lindenow South, and promises to be an important centre.

Mr James Scott built a fine brick hotel near the Lindenow railway station in the eighties.

A large proportion of the early residents of the Lindenow district arrived in the year 1853.

Mr John Whitbourne, Mr James Hall, and Mr Edward Saunders arrived in 1853.

Mr Frank Holloway, who came to the Bairnsdale district in 1857 was in later years a resident of Lindenow. For many years he was the local postmaster. He represented the west riding of the Shire of Bairnsdale. In the year 1900 he occupied the presidential chair.

Mr W. Sinclair Ross, an early resident was elected president of the Shire of Bairnsdale in 1876 and again in 1888.

Mr George Telfer was a member of the Shire Council in 1883. In 1890 he was elected president for the first time. Later, he was elected president in the years 1898, 1904 and 1912.



John Callaghan c1875 (P40593 EGHS), William "Scottie" Ross c1905 (P41307 EGHS) and John Scott c1870 (P40090 EGHS)

Mr J. M. Murphy, one of Lindenow's pioneers, has been represented in the Shire Council by his son, Cr T. W. Murphy for many years. He became president of the shire for the first time on November 6, 1916.

BUSINESS PEOPLE

Mr John Whitbourne was the first publican.

Mr George Allen was the first storekeeper.

Messrs Holt and Jones had a store at Lindenow.

Messrs Burstoff and W. Ross were Lindenow storekeepers for many years.

Mr E. Young is a well-known present-day storekeeper.

Mr E. Saunders, a native of Parramatta, N.S.W., was the first, butcher.

Mr Fred Evans was an early butcher.

Mr John Bourne and Mr Tom England were early carpenters and builders. Also Mr W. Philpott.

Mr William Robinson was an early bootmaker.

Mr Adam Johnstone, Mr Alex. Alexander, Mr James Terry and Mr I. Smallman were blacksmiths in the town.

Mr Walter Grose and Mr William Garlick were saddlers, and Mr Alf West conducted a bakery.

Mr John Callaghan, plasterer, built the first plastered house in the district, near the Nindoo school. He was also one of the early tradesmen in Bairnsdale and it is said that he was the first teacher of dancing at Lindenow.

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Prior to 1868 most country towns had private teachers. Mr Field was a very early teacher; also Mr Ballantyne, who removed to Sarsfield in 1879. Other early teachers were Mr Murray, Mr Cox, Mr Leigh, Mr Costello, Mr Chenhall and Mr Harry Morrison.

BANKS

The old Colonial Bank did business in the town in the seventies. In later years the Bank of Australasia, and the National Bank had agencies. Later, the National Bank established a branch, but has been closed for the duration of the war. The first manager of the bank was Mr Ferrier.

BRASS BANDS

Redenbach's Bros Band was the first band to visit the town. Later a town band was formed with Mr W. G. Payne as bandmaster. Later Mr J. White occupied the position.

DOCTORS

For a short period Lindenow had a resident doctor in the person of Dr Nolan.

Dr James Duncan, of Bairnsdale, rendered splendid service in the town and district. Dr Duncan was born at Cullearly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the 20th May, 1841. He died at Bairnsdale on September 16, 1906.

Dr D. C. Morgan, of Bairnsdale, visited Lindenow; also Dr Francis A. Bennet, who was in partnership with Dr Duncan for some years.

Some of the pioneers made great sacrifices in order to get medical aid for relatives and friends in the days when rough bush tracks had to be traversed.

Mr John Holloway was a resident of Lindenow in the year 1874. His son, Mr Henry Holloway, is secretary of the Bairnsdale Waterworks Trust and Sewerage Authority at the present time.

It is on record that Mr John Holloway [sic], when living at Dargo, in the mining days, learned that a lady stood in need of medical aid at once. He caught a horse and rode bare-back all the way to Bairnsdale to secure the services of a doctor. It would be interesting to know if his performance has been equalled, or surpassed in the history of the district.

MAIZE GROWING

When Mr Andrew Mitchell, "father" of the maize-growing industry, planted his first crop of maize he did not think that



Mrs Jane Williamson with her children Robert and Hilda in front of Holt and Jones' store at Lindenow South c1904 (P12100 EGHS)

Lindenow would become one of the greatest maize growing centres in Victoria. The industry has given a large amount of seasonal employment throughout the years. Prices have varied considerably. Maize has been sold as low as 1/5 per bushel, and as high as 9/6 per bushel.

Sugar beet of good quality has been grown on the flats for the factory at Maffra.

Last year the farmers were called upon to assist the war effort by growing flax. There has been a magnificent response to the call. To-day a flax mill can be seen at Lindenow South.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY

The first Presbyterian Church service in the town was conducted at the home of Mr Alex. Smith, by the Rev. W. S. Login, on February 5, 1854, eight years after the first Anglican service at Lindenow Station house was held.

The pioneers were greatly indebted to the Rev. John Roberts, who had charge of the Maffra and Presbyterian churches in 1865.

In the year 1866 Mr Roberts baptised two boys, Edward Taylor and Francis Murphy. Mr Taylor was the president of the Shire of Bairnsdale in 1921.

The first Lindenow name on Mr Roberts' communicants' roll was that of Mrs Saunders, wife of Mr Edward Saunders. She was the daughter of Mr and Mrs John Scott, of Delvine Station.

A Presbyterian Church was erected on land donated by Mr Sinclair Ross, in the year 1880. The first resident minister was the Rev. J. B. Steele.

The first Sunday school in the district was started by Mrs Alex Smith. Mrs Smith was assisted by Mr Fountain and some members of his family, who were members of the Methodist Church.

Anglican Church

The Lindenow district was for many years in the Bairnsdale parish. The Rev. Amos Brazier was the first resident clergyman in Bairnsdale in the year 1867.

The first Lindenow person he baptised was Anna Digby Smith, born August 31, 1867, baptised on October 27, 1867. She was the daughter of Mr and Mrs J. D. Smith.

The second Lindenow person baptised by Mr Brazier was Agatha Jane Burnett, born September 30, 1867, baptised October 27, 1867.

In the year 1882 the Rev. E. W. P. Hartman, Rector of St John's Parish Church, Bairnsdale was conducting services in the Lindenow district. He was accidentally drowned in the Mitchell River at Woodlands when travelling one Sunday to a preaching station. His remains were interred in the Bairnsdale Cemetery. His passing after a brief ministry was deeply regretted.

Roman Catholic Church

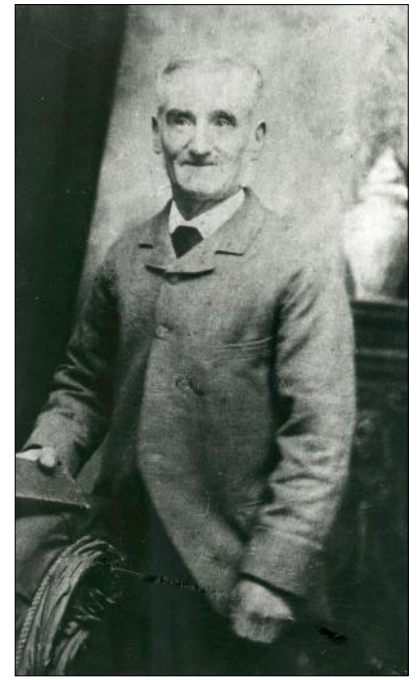
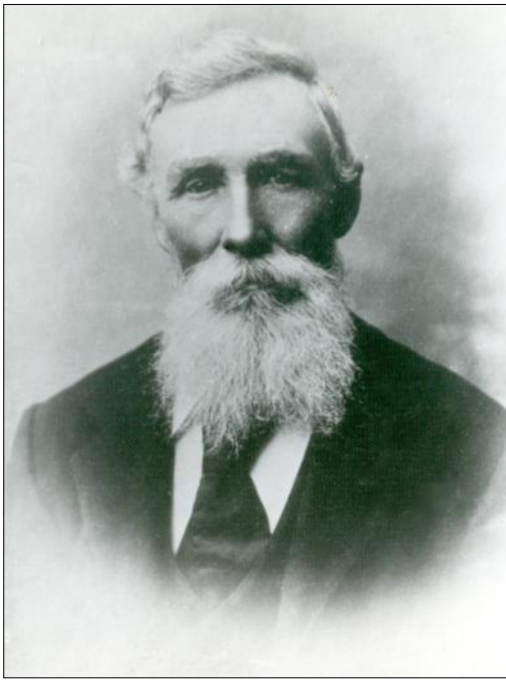
For many years Mass was celebrated by priests from Bairnsdale in the old Public Hall. Later a fine wooden church was erected in the centre of the town, and regular services were conducted by Bairnsdale clergymen.

FIRST POLICE MAGISTRATE

The school children at Lindenow were greatly interested when they saw Mr A. W. Howitt passing along the road on horseback with his faithful packhorse following, when he was on his way to Dargo and the Crooked River districts. Mr Howitt was the first police magistrate in Gippsland.

BRIDGES

Prior to the erection of bridges, ferry boats and punts were used at various points on the Mitchell River. In the early days a punt was placed on the River at Nindoo and it was operated by Mr McGregor.



Thomas Lockhart snr c1900 (P11703 EGHS), James Hall c1880 (P11702 EGHS) and Frank Hall c1890 (P11703 EGHS).

A punt was also operated by Mr Thomas Lockhart on the Mitchell between Whitbourne's properties, east and west of the river, 69 years ago.

A rowing boat was also used for crossing the river near the present site of the Calulu bridge.

It was a red letter day in the history of the district when a low level bridge was constructed at the Wuk Wuk crossing. In the year 1886 it appeared to be in good condition, but later it was destroyed by flood waters. It was replaced by a better type of bridge, Mr Andrew Hogg, of Lucknow, being the contractor. It was damaged by a flood in 1936, and the Shire Council built the third bridge at the same site.

RACING CLUB

Lindenow was for many years noted for its racehorses. The pioneers were not gamblers, but they loved good horses and delighted in testing the speed of well-bred animals. Lindenow has retained its racing club. Turfites would find much to interest them in the history of Lindenow's racehorses and their performances.

PUBLIC HALL

Visitors passing through Lindenow admire its very fine public hall. It is a credit to the people of the district, also to the builder, Mr John McKnockiter.

The pioneers of Lindenow paved the way for present and future generations at very great cost to themselves. Many of the modern pleasures were unknown to them, and hard work confronted them for many years. They put us hopelessly into their debt. Today we are celebrating in a quiet way the centenary of the settlement of Lindenow. By so doing we are rendering honor to whom honor is due — "The Pioneers of Lindenow."

During the afternoon Miss Margaret Murphy delighted the audience with her singing of four numbers: "Who is Sylvia," "Thine is My Heart," "Land of Hope and Glory," and "Road to the Isles." Mr Kitt played the pianoforte accompaniments.

At the conclusion of the programme the visitors from Bairnsdale were entertained at afternoon tea by Mrs Hugh Ross and Mrs Claude Fountain. The visitors included Cr D. M. and Mrs Cameron, Miss Sheila Cameron, Miss Patricia Halrum, Mr and Mrs Frank Holloway, Mr H. F. Holloway. Mr James Slater and Mr T. J. Peart. Cr T. W. Murphy, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr Slater and Mr Holloway, said that but for the restrictions on travelling there would have been a far larger audience to hear the interesting historical sketch of Lindenow given by Mr Slater, to whom the shire was extremely grateful for the historical data he had collected and given to them to keep on record. They were grateful to Mr Holloway for the memories he had revived. They knew Mr Holloway would always have a soft spot in his heart for the place in which he had spent his youth.

While the first part of Mr Holloway's reminiscences was included with Slater's article, it would be another two issues of paper before the memories of Lindenow concluded.

On 29 January 1943, the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* printed the following:

YESTERDAYS OF LINDENOW

WHY RAILWAY ROUTE WAS DIVERTED

POLITICAL PULL AND A COMPROMISE

Abutting the hill on which stands the Lindenow Hall, there is a cultivation paddock in the fertile valley of the Mitchell River which was the venue of the first cricket match played between Sale and Bairnsdale.

Mr Frank Holloway, in the course of an informal address on the Pioneers of Lindenow said on Sunday that the Sale team agreed to travel as far as Lindenow and the match was played in Whitbourne's paddock.

Mr Holloway's father travelled from Squirrell's Forest to play with the Bairnsdale team. The cricketers afterwards dined at the Lindenow Hotel.

Whithourne's barn, an historic old structure still stands not far from the Lindenow Hall. It was the scene of much social life in the early days, including all the dances

and wedding festivities until a public hall was built.

Mr Holloway produced some interesting photographs including one of the members of the first Mining Board in Gippsland; the Old Log Cabin; the first home of the late Mr John Whitbourne and a photo of the school building at Lindenow. Amongst the pupils are Cr T. W. Murphy, Mrs Lees, of Bairnsdale, whose father, Mr Costello, was the head teacher of the school. The Magpies Football team in 1907 and the first Lindenow Brass Band, were [sic] also amongst the interesting collection of pictures. Mr Holloway's father, who built and conducted the first store in Lindenow, and who was the first postmaster preserved some interesting records.

Pioneers who received letters from the post office from 1870 were Peter Clark, Andrew Mitchell. 1871 W. Kerton, John Whitbourne. 1872 Walter S. Murray, John McDonald, J. Cahill, C. E. Fendley; 1873, Johnston Morrow, George Poore, 1874 A. E. Otter, Alex Smith, F. S. Gray, T. H. Pope, Jas Hurn, 1875 W. S. Ross, J. McFarland, Jas Leigh; 1876 M. Mackintosh, R. W. Mays, M. & E. Taylor; 1877, T. Bosence, John Costello, Louis Dickson; 1879, M. Burstorff; 1881 Colonial Bank (G. McCracken, T. S. Huggins, A. T. Hill) R. S. Gregory; 1882 F. Burnett; 1886 H. Morrison; 1887 F. Holloway; 1889 (Police, T. H. O'Brien); 1892 E. H. Halliday, H. G. Beckwith.



John Whitbourne and his wife Ellen (nee Scott) celebrating their golden wedding anniversary February 1908 (P12090 EGHS)

CHINAMAN'S TOBACCO GROWING

- NO SAVEE !

A great portion of the Lindenow river flats was cleared of its thick ti-tree scrub by Chinamen who were very industrious and honest workers. One of them embarked on a tobacco growing enterprise on what was subsequently Mr J. M. Murphy's property. The Chinaman harvested his crop and sent it to an overseas market. Subsequently he received a great batch of accounts for freight, shipping and commission charges and when these were examined the chinaman was informed that the sale of the tobacco resulted in a loss and he owed the selling agents 3/- . "No Savee," said the Chinaman; and he departed, leaving others to wrestle with the complex problem of tobacco growing and marketing.

This was not the first tobacco grown in Gippsland. The late Mr Charles Seehusen planted the first tobacco crop in Gippsland at Bruthen.

POLITICAL "PULL" DIVERTS RAILWAY

People often wondered, said Mr Holloway, why the railway line did not pass through Lindenow with its rich tracts of

agricultural land. The route chosen for the railway line also deprived the people using the railways of a charming scenic route between Lindenow and Bairnsdale.

According to the local history, the railway route was the result of a compromise between two parties. The late Sir Thomas Bent was exerting strong influence as Minister for Railways to have the route via Bengworden and Lindenow Railway League of which Mr Holloway's father was secretary, was fighting to have the line through Lindenow. The surveys via Bengworden and Lindenow were made. The latter route passed through Lindenow at the site of Mr Geo. Ray's residence and the Catholic Church. Finally, a compromise was reached and the line was placed three miles from Lindenow.

COONGULMERANG

Lindenow, said Mr Holloway, was originally called Coongulmerang ("plenty of owls," according to the aborigines who roamed the locality when it was first settled). Changing the name to Lindenow was not achieved without a long fight with the Postal department which refused to adopt the new name. However, local residents were organised by



George Stanley Telfer c1909 (P41478 EGHS)

the late Cr Holloway and they presented a petition to the Shire Council who had a survey of the township made, boundaries were fixed and the township of Lindenow was proclaimed and gazetted. The Gazette was sent to the Postal Department, which had to agree to make the change.

The article was concluded on 2 February when many pioneers were named.

YESTERDAYS OF LINDENOW **LAVISH HOSPITALITY OF THE EIGHTIES** **NAMES OF PIONEERS RECALLED** **LINDENOW HAD RESIDENT DOCTOR**

Dr Nolan was a resident doctor at Lindenow in the early days, and his son Dermid, attended the Lindenow State school. In the 1914-18 war Dermid Nolan fought and died with a New Zealand Rifle Brigade at Gallipoli, and he was one of the few Anzacs who actually sad [sic] the Dardanelles. With a party of Ghurkas some New Zealanders advanced far into the Turks' lines. Dermid Nolan was wounded, and whilst he was receiving attention he was again so severely wounded that he died. Few schools had on record a former pupil who had seen the Dardanelles in the Gallipoli campaign.

OLD TIMERS RECALLED

Amongst the old pioneers recalled by Mr Holloway was Mr Thomas Lockhart, who was a talented violinist. Mr Skinner and Mr Glenn were other well-known early residents.

Mr and Mrs James Hall were a wonderful old couple. The boys of Lindenow in their day remembered with what great relish they visited Mr Hall's orchard, which contained a wonderful variety of delicious fruit.

Another fruit garden of the type unknown to present-day residents, was Murphy's orchard, surrounded with beautiful poplar trees.

Lindenow always enjoyed a good reputation for its hospitality, but in the early days it could not have been more generous, or more open-hearted than in the home of Mr and Mrs Edward Saunders. Christmas Day was always made a special occasion for the entertainment of relatives and neighbors. Never less than from 30 to 40 people sat down to Christmas Dinner and on Christmas night the festive table was occupied by seventy or eighty guests.

In those days there were more race horses at Lindenow than would be round to-day between Caulfield and the New South Wales border. Boxing Day at the races in Bairnsdale was the rendezvous for the Lindenow people where the celebration of the festive season was continued.

Edward Gallagher and Great Grandfather Varney, W. S. Ross (justice of the peace and shire councillor), and Adam Johnston, were also men esteemed and respected by the community.

Mr Johnny Whitbourne, one of Lindenow's most benevolent pioneers, was never tired of giving, and he was particularly liberal in his gifts for public institutions.

Matt Sullivan and "Cash" McDonald, who subsequently owned the Albion Hotel, Bairnsdale, lived at Lindenow in the eighties.

"Uncle" Murphy, father of Cr T. W. Murphy, was one of the finest men who ever walked into Lindenow. He possessed a beautiful tenor voice, and often he was heard singing at his work. He was a man who was in the forefront of everything that was done in the public weal at Lindenow.

The Fountain family, who were his father's next-door neighbors at Lindenow for several years; Mr and Mrs Henry Wood (who did so much for the Lindenow Racing Club), and Mr Wild, Mrs Frank Hall, were good pioneer residents.

Few people knew one-half of what the late Mr George Teller did for Lindenow, or one-tenth of what he tried to do. He was constantly performing some civic service, and he would have been a much richer man, had he not gone into public life; but he was not the kind of man who lived for himself.

There were also George Matthews, Jimmy Alexander, Mrs Breen and the Lowes, of "Bon Accord," the Morrisons, Dumaresq's and the Careys.

Mr Holloway mentioned that his father walked through Lindenow in 1857 from Sale, and crossing the Mitchell, River at Bairnsdale, he went to Bruthen, where he worked for Mr Seehusen. He subsequently worked at Lucknow Station breaking in horses. Mr Tom Burnett and his father subsequently did a good deal of contracting together at Lindenow.

Lindenow, said Mr Holloway in conclusion, had a proud record of pioneers and their work, and it was regrettable that Bairnsdale did not have a town hall in which a suitable section was devoted to the history of the shire's pioneers.

(By Mr Frank Holloway, J.P.)

There are names within this text with questionable spelling or capitalisation, however, original spelling has been maintained throughout the article.

Nonchalantly smoking a wooden pipe: a woman in a man's attire

LINDA WHITE

Linda is a new member at EGFHG and recently completed our ten week "Refresher/Beginner" course. She has now started in depth research on some of her family and discovered the amazing story that revolves around her Great Grand Aunt Maria. Lovely work on your sources Linda.

Having lived in Bairnsdale now for some 22 years and with a keen interest in family history, I've always been intrigued by any Gippsland connections in my tree.

One by one I've been going through the connections looking for stories to enrich the content of the tree. Little did I know that the story of my Great Grandaunt Maria would be truly something to write home about.

Maria Ann, also known as Marie, Myrie or Myra Hobbs, was born in the later part of 1892 in the Victorian rural town of Wangaratta. The sixth child and third daughter of Charles Hobbs, a farm labourer, and Agnes Barker. No doubt, growing up on a farm at this time would have been tough for a young girl but she took to working like a duck to water.

By the age of six she was milking cows and other kindred pursuits developing such equine skills that she was capable of handling almost any horse in the district by the time she was ten. By the time she was twelve, in 1904, buck jumpers were being bought to her which she rode with ease. Talk about growing up quickly!

The next stage of her life moved quickly. Somewhere between 1906 and early 1908 the family moved to the city. Presumably looking for secure employment they settled around the Fitzroy and Carlton area. It was here Maria met Robert Henry Lavell from Bairnsdale and found herself unwed and pregnant when just fifteen!

Robert and Maria married on 11 July 1908 at the Manse in Fitzroy and both moved in with Maria's parents at Charles Street, Carlton. Around November 1908 they welcomed a daughter, Marie Irene Lavell.

Sadly, Marie only lived for five months and died on 23 April 1909. After this time things were unsettled to say the least. Robert was having difficulty finding work, they moved from place to place and ultimately he deserted her. At one point Robert sold all the furniture. He was womanizing, treated her poorly and would not make a home for her.

Maria was starving and turning up for meals at her mother's. On 25 January 1911 she wrote a note "Good-bye Bob" and left the district in men's attire belonging to her husband.

On 6 March Constable Goode, bought her before the City Court, Bendigo charged with behaving in an offensive manner." What was the offensive manner? Marie was accused of being "dressed in male attire and it was in consequence of her masquerading as a youth that she was arrested and charged."

Constable Goode witnessed her in Pall Mall at 11.45pm he questioned her as to whether it was true that she was a girl, and she replied, "How do you know?" He replied, "I have good information." Marie informed him that she was a girl and gave her age as nineteen years. On arresting her and removing her hat it was very apparent that her hair had been recently cut short in order to more effectually assist her in her masquerade. The constable went on to tell the court that he had observed her with a number of boys in Queen street the previous Sunday but "had not attracted more than ordinary attention." He had ascertained that for some months she had been posing as a youth and had been working in the country.

Mr Curnow, the presiding Justice of the Peace, said that he "did not know if there was anything offensive about the conduct of the accused, but it was most unbecoming and dangerous." She would be discharged, but he would advise her to put "proper" clothes on. Mr Barnett, a solicitor who was present suggested to the court that "she should put on the harem skirt" to which Mr Curnow stated, "then there would be more trouble."

Marie was discharged and driven to the Bendigo Rescue Home where, it was reported, "she intends to remain for some time" but on leaving she went milking and ploughing in Northern Victoria and research suggests she travelled even further afield. An individual with the surname Lavell (no Christian name given) but born in 1892 is recorded as returning to Melbourne from Burnie, Tasmania on 24 December 1911 and she also claimed she even worked on the Canterbury Plains in Christchurch,



This cabinet card was the earliest item in the collection, a montage produced by a Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1890 during the tour of Wirth Bros Combined Circus & Wild West Show.

<https://www.pennygaff.com.au/cabinet-card-aquisition/>

New Zealand, always being engaged as a man and for man's wages.

While life on the land made her "hardy and healthy" her masquerading was exposed in August 1912 after she was arrested and charged with stealing a gold ring, valued at £2 10s, from her sister-in-law (my Great Grandmother) Ida Hobbs on 1 August. Evidently, she was fairly hard up and had not been able to secure work for a while so she paid a visit her brother Charles and took the ring. While someone else pawned it for her in Carlton, presumably she intended to return it once she was financial again?

At the start of August Maria secured work as a driver/timber carter at Messrs Sharp & Sons, Timber Yard, South Melbourne under the name of Jack

Lavell. She was employed to drive a single horse dray carting loads of timber. Maria even smoked a pipe and complimented all the girls. No one that worked there was any the wiser, until she was arrested while at work for the ring theft.

At the time, Mr Sharp, the owner of the timber yards, was reported as stating,

She is clever, and she is good. certainly she will fill a pipe and smoke with anyone. But just you imagine - that girl has come here morning after morning for a fortnight past, always in company with a male employee, and she has commented on each girl as they have passed them, admiring he figure and style - and her own sex has never been suspected. Yes, she will some back here, and she will be respected.

With all the press attention over the court case, Maria gained quite some notoriety. Her picture, in male attire, appeared in several different newspapers under the name Miss Marie Lavell and discussion about her union membership was also the subject of discussion.

Headlines like "Woman in Man's Clothing SMOKES A PIPE," "PLAYING THE MAN", "WOMAN IN MALE ATTIRE" where she was described as nonchalantly smoking a wooden pipe, "THE GIRL WHO WORKS AS A MAN" and "THE WOMAN MAN" were splashed over newspapers across the country.

Was all this attention too much for Maria? By the end of August 1912 she had evidently decided on a career change embarking on a training program to become a rider in the Wirth Bros Combined Wild West Circus Show. Apparently, her picture in the garb of a carter was on the screen at some of the moving picture shows. 'WOMAN MASQUERADES - From Timber Yard to Circus' one story read, it was quite the turnaround.

It is not clear how long Maria worked with the Circus [if at all] as no further mention of it after this time has been found and there were several mentions later that she worked for Sharp & Sons for eight months. Did she leave after sustaining an injury? These are questions yet to be answered.

At the end of October 1915, Maria was in the news once again, out of work and in need of money. Maria discovered that Robert Lavell had enlisted in the Military Forces during World War I. As a consequence, Maria applied to the Army Offices as his wife for an allowance. She was somewhat surprised, however, to be informed that the allowance was being drawn by another woman - as his wife. Maria then sued her husband for maintenance in the Brunswick courts as he had left her without means of support since 26 April 1913.

Whether Maria was aware of it at the time or not is unclear but on 25 January 1913 Robert had just welcomed a baby girl with the woman named as his wife - Margaret Sullivan - that would be the first of three children born to the couple. In any case Maria's maintenance claim was successful

Nothing more is heard of from Maria until she is 26 years old and sought the dissolution of her marriage to Robert Lavell on 3 March 1919.

All of the stories re-emerged again! One about the couple going to work together in the country as brothers 'Bob and Jack Lavell' was disputed by Robert.

The divorce record in the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria on its own made for interesting reading, let alone the journalistic license that was presented by some newspapers.

The Truth in Brisbane on 25 May 1919 reported the conversation between Maria and the magistrate.

His Honor (to petitioner): When the police arrested you at Bendigo, what did they charge you with?

Petitioner: With wearing men's attire.

His Honor (impatiently): Nonsense! They couldn't charge you with that. That's not an offence.

Petitioner: That is all I know about it.

His Honor: Did they charge you with vagrancy?

Petitioner: No.

How old were you at that time? -

Eighteen years.

Mr. Power: You were married when you were under 16?

Petitioner: Yes.

His Honor: What have you been doing lately?

Petitioner: Yes.

His Honor: What have you been doing lately?

Petitioner: I have been living with my mother, and for the last six weeks I have been working in Spring-street as a waitress.

His Honor, without comment, granted the decree nisi, with costs.

Robert went on to marry Margaret Sullivan before the end of 1919.



"MISS MARIE LAVELL
Who was working, dressed in men's clothes, as a driver for Messrs. John Sharp and Sons, timber merchants, but now employed at Wirth's Circus.
Photo by Talma & Co. Melbourne"

This image, from *Punch* 29 August 1912, was repeated in several newspapers and is the only known image of Marie.

Forward from here things quieten, which leads me to think she at least settled a little.

Maria's father passed away in 1927. The same year she married a second time, a former soldier by the name of Samuel Philip Macumber. Sadly, it wasn't to last and they appear to have divorced by 1931 when they appear on their own in the electoral rolls of the time. Maria is living in Toorak and Samuel in Prahran. As her mother Agnes entered her mid 70s the family seemed to huddle a little.

Around 1935 Agnes lived at 38 Cardigan St, Carlton and her granddaughter Ida Hobbs (my grandmother), from Patchewollock, moved in. While up the road at number 52 Maria was living with her brother Fred and his wife Elsie. By 1942 Maria had moved to 55 Newcastle St, Yarraville taking her mother with her and residing there until Agnes passed away on 19 January 1946, aged 83 years.

Sometime after her mother's passing Maria reinvented herself once again and moved to Queensland.

For a third time she married in 1949 to widower Francis James Cope. I am uncertain of the success of this union as they don't appear together on any electoral rolls. Nonetheless they remained married. Francis passed away in 1962 aged 75 years.

Maria was living for some time at a quaint little house at 51 Thorn St, Ipswich. After spending her last three years in the Rhossilli Convalescent Home in Oxley, Queensland she passed away at the Chermiside Hospital on 3 January 1973 aged 80 years.*

Her legacy - a trail blazing story of a determined hard-working woman that did it tough, but did it her way.

When interviewed by *The Argus* in 1915 she was quoted as saying;

There's nothing to prevent my dressing as a man, or working as a man! she exclaimed I don't want to have to work with women. I must earn my living and this is my way of doing it.

and

The time will come when a book will be written of my life. The material is there for it, though I haven't the skill to put it together.

Although this may not be quite a book Maria I hope it serves to preserve the story of your extraordinary life.

SOURCES

*The informant on Maria's death certificate was D.M. Rail, no relation, of 49 Thorn St, Ipswich. Her next door neighbor.

Burial Details from "Find a Grave" website search Maria Ann Cope, Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Mt Thompson, QLD, Australia. retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 3 July 2023.

Burial Details from "Find a Grave" website search Veronica Hare [formerly Lavell] Altona Memorial Park, Altona North, Victoria, Australia. retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 19 July 2023.

Death Certificate from QLD BDM Reg no. 38369 digital Copy purchased and downloaded by Linda White 3 July 2023.

Google Maps search, 51 Thorn Street, Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. Historic photo from 2016 sighted and retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 3 July 2023.

PROV "Coastal Passenger Lists (1852-1923)" Record Series Number VPRS 944 Record search Lavell, ship: Oonah, Burnie, Tasmania to Melbourne 24-12-1911 and retrieved by Linda White 22 June 2023.

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Trove Article IN MALE ATTIRE. (1911, March 18). *Weekly Times* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1869 - 1954), p. 41. National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222243420> retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 29 July 2023.

Trove Article 'Girl in Boys Clothes, Story of her career. Ploughing and farm work.' From the Melbourne *Argus* newspaper (Melbourne. Vic 1848-1957) Thursday 15 Aug 1912 pg. 14 National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article10497227> retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 3 July 2023.

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Trove Article 'Playing the Man, Sunday. *The Bathurst Times* (NSW:1909-1925) Monday 26 August 1912 pg.3 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article111368555> retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 20 June 2023.

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Trove Article 'Archibald O'Malley.' *Punch* (Melbourne, Vic.:1900-1818:1912) Thursday 29 August 1912 pg. 22 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article175801670> retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 20 June 2023.

Trove Article 'Film Facts and Fancies Look here....' *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW.:1910-1954) Sunday 1 September 1912 pg. 10 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228812855> retrieved by Linda White on Samsung S21+ 20 June 2023.

WOMEN MASQUERADERS.

FROM TIMBER YARD TO CIRCUS.

Melbourne, 24th August.

Maria Lavell, the young woman who came into prominence recently through wearing man's attire, has decided upon a change of occupation, but not upon a change of dress. She was known by her fellow employees at Messrs. John Sharp and Sons' timber yard, South Melbourne, where she was engaged as a carter, as Jack Lavell. She left her employment at the timber yard on Saturday last in order to go into training as a rider in connection with a new Wild West Show, which is to enter upon an Australian season shortly. The young woman still dresses in man's clothing.

"She apparently knows everything about horses," said a representative of the firm which has secured her services, "and from her appearance and the way in which she handles her mounts, one would never dream that she was a woman. I suppose that as a performer in the show she will be billed as a woman equestrian, and in the attire of the sterner sex she ought to prove an attraction."

Maria Lavell, whose picture in the garb of a carter has been thrown on the screen at some of the moving picture shows, will probably leave Melbourne in a few weeks to join a Wild West Circus combination.

She is identical with the young woman who was brought before the Bendigo Court some months ago on a charge of offensive behavior, which consisted of her masquerading in male attire. On that occasion she was discharged on promising to amend her ways.

VICTORIA.

WOMAN IN MAN'S ATTIRE.

MARIA LAVELL AT WORK.

Thursday morning last the young woman Maria Lavell, who, dressed in male attire, appeared at the Carlton court on Tuesday last on a charge of larceny, returned to her work at Messrs John Sharp and Sons' timber yards, from where she was arrested on Monday by the plain-clothes police. Lavell had been engaged as a driver at the yards before the discovery that she was a female was made, and it was observed that she carried out her duties in a capable manner. So satisfied was the manager of the yards with the way in which she did her work that he promised to keep the position open for her, and on her turning out at the usual time on Thursday she was given charge of a horse and dray, and during the day carted a quantity of timber.

A representative of the firm stated that the woman was an expert driver, and a hard worker, and as long as she filled the position in a "workmanlike" manner her services would not be dispensed with. A fellow-worker of Lavell's stated that the other employees at Sharp's were most respectful towards her. The question as to whether she was a member of the Carters' and Drivers' Union was discussed by some of the hands, and it was stated that in all probability her attitude in that regard would be learned at no distant date. "It would be fitting" remarked a non-unionist, "if she were to join the Independent Workers' Union."

MARIA LAVELL AT WORK.

QUESTION OF UNIONISM.

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

The young woman Maria Lavell, who, dressed in male attire, appeared at the Carlton court on Tuesday, has returned to her work at Messrs. John Sharp and Sons' timber yards, where she was arrested.

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In Male Attire.

MARIA MASQUERADES AS A MAN,

AND TACKLES HARD GRAFT IN CITY AND COUNTRY.

A strange story was told to Mr. Justice Hood in the Melbourne Divorce Court on Thursday, when Maria Ann Lavell, 26, of Barkly-street, Brunswick, petitioned for a dissolution of her marriage with Robert Henry Lavell, 35, described as a laborer, now living at Vincent-street, Daylesford.

Mr. T. Power (instructed by Mr. W. S. Doria) appeared for petitioner, and the suit was undefended.

The marriage took place on July 11, 1908, and the ground of the petition was desertion. There was no issue of the marriage.

Petitioner stated that during 1911 respondent got out of work while they were living in Melbourne, and ordered her to find some occupation. Thereupon she left him in lodgings in Fitzroy, and took train for Diggers' Rest, that being as far as the money she possessed would enable her to go by rail. Before leaving, she had provided herself with a suit of her husband's clothes. Leaving the train at Diggers' Rest, she clipped her hair and

DONNED HER HUSBAND'S CLOTHES.

tossing away her woman's garments. She then tramped from Diggers' Rest to Boort, some 30 or 40 miles beyond Bendigo, sustaining herself on the road by casual labor as a bush hand or farm worker, sleeping under fences and bridges, and generally adopting the life of a swagman. After working at Boort for some time, she returned to Bendigo, and there Constable Goode suspected her sex, and locked her up, with the result that she was sent to a local refuge. Respondent, who had remained in Melbourne, was communicated with, and he mustered enough money to visit Bendigo and take her away. They lived together in Fitzroy for a little while, and then mutually agreed to go on the "tramp" as brothers, and they did so, taking agricultural jobs together, and being known as brothers "Bob" and "Jack." It thus came about that they arrived at Bismarck, 25 miles away from Stawell. They were working there on a farm, still being known as "Bob" and "Jack," and no one having any suspicion that she was a woman, when unpleasantness arose through respondent seeking to assert his marital rights. Petitioner told him that, as long as she had to work for her living, as she was then doing, she would not afford him

A HUSBAND'S PRIVILEGES.

but if he promised and gave indications of an earnest desire to provide a home for her, she would be to him all that a wife ought to be. The promise was not fulfilled. Instead, he threatened to disclose her sex to the other men working on the farm. Thereupon she left for Stawell, and respondent followed her. They put up for a night at the Bull and Mouth Hotel, occupying the same room, but separate beds, and in the morning she discovered that respondent had levanted. She was still masking her identity by means of men's clothing. She was left to pay the hotel bill, and all that remained when she had done that sufficed to pay her railway fare to Ballarat. Continuing in male attire, she footed it to Melbourne, and for eight months worked as a timber driver for Sharp, the well-known timber merchant, in South Melbourne. After a time, she found that respondent, in May, 1915, had enlisted in "D" Company, 22nd Battalion Reinforcements, whereupon, discarding trousers, and donning petticoats, she interviewed the Defence Department, and was presently afforded an allotment, which continued until October of the same year. Then it was discontinued by reason of respondent's return, and she took proceedings against him at the Brunswick Court, and got an order for 14s. a week. Being dissatisfied with this position, and since respondent had

NEVER SUPPORTED HER

at any time during their married life, she now sought to get rid of him.

His Honor (to petitioner): When the police arrested you at Bendigo, what did they charge you with?

Petitioner: With wearing men's attire.

His Honor (impatiently): Nonsense! They couldn't charge you with that. That's not an offence.

Petitioner: That is all I know about it.

His Honor: Did they charge you with vagrancy?

Petitioner: No.

How old were you at that time?—Eighteen years.

Mr. Power: You were married when you were under 16?

Petitioner: Yes.

His Honor: What have you been doing lately?

Petitioner: I have been living with my mother, and for the last six weeks I have been working in Spring-street as a waitress.

His Honor, without comment, granted the decree nisi, with costs.

"WOMEN MASQUERADERS FROM TIMBER YARD TO CIRCUS" *Bendigo Advertiser* 26 August 1912

"MARIA LAVELL AT WORK, QUESTION OF UNIONISM" *The Sun* (Sydney) 17 August 1912

"VICTORIA, WOMAN IN MAN'S ATTIRE, MARIA LAVELL AT WORK" *Huon Times* 21 August 1912

"In Male Attire, MARIA MASQUERADES AS A MAN AND TACKLES HARD GRAFT IN CITY AND COUNTRY" *Truth* (Brisbane) 25 May 1919

Researching the name “Frances Marcellus”

TERESA COLLIS

I first wrote this story back in 2018 for *black sheep* but never quite finished it, needless to say while cleaning up some computer files it resurfaced, with a bit of prompting from our editor I was encouraged to get it finished so it could be used in a forthcoming *black sheep*, so after an initial read to get the brain to remember what I had written, I have revisited my story with fresh eyes, and the final product is a rewritten version of the first.

OMG! little did I know my curiosity over my three times great grandfathers' name would lead me down such a huge rabbit hole.

Francis Marcellus LUCKMAN, now where did the Marcellus part of the name come from, such an uncommon name in my family tree or so I thought, well was I wrong, seems there were quite a few of them once the right brick was removed from the wall that had been my roadblock, that plus a slight detour down the right lane was what I needed to do all the time.

A little background information to begin with, I first came across the name Francis Marcellus LUCKMAN when I started researching my two times great grandfather William Bonnyman LUCKMAN back in 2017. He emigrated to Australia in October 1879 with his first wife Elizabeth HORWOOD. I descend through his second wife Margaret KENNEDY, (another of my many brick walls) but that's a story for another time.

At first I tried to link it to Joseph LUCKMAN my four times great grandfather, after all it was his son Francis who was the first born son and the bearer of the name Marcellus, who then passed the name to one of his sons.

Surely it was on the paternal side of the family, but all attempts to find that elusive connection were fraught with disappointment, brick walls blocking every turn I took. I couldn't find anything on Joseph except that he married Maria HODSON and I knew of their son Francis, no siblings for Francis could I find.

What now?

I dug around for a while in *Find My Past*, looking through newspapers. I knew they were in the Manchester area so I was able to narrow the search to the newspapers for the Lancashire area, for 1800 to 1849, (saved a lot of time that did), up popped the marriage announcement for Joseph and Maria,¹ another piece of evidence to support the marriage.

On Monday last, Mr. Joseph Luckman, of Manchester, to Miss Maria Hodson, of Strangeways.

The newspaper article from Lancashire area announcing the marriage.

Scrolling through the five articles I found a bankrupt notice that listed Joseph, that was not the information I was after, but I dutifully recorded it anyway, lucky to find anything really. Unfortunately, there were no birth notices for any children. Where to now? I asked myself.

Bonnyman and Luckman, two names that would be fairly uncommon one would think, so researching them should be easy, the family stories suggested that the Luckman name was Scottish so I guess that could be a clue as to where to start looking. Of the Bonnyman name I had no idea where that was from.

Well it turns out I was wrong the Bonnyman name was the Scottish connection, and the Luckman name I have so far traced back to Lancashire in England. Sadly, for me this has created yet another brick wall as my three times great grandmother Catherine BONNYMAN was born on the Isle of Man, to Alexander BONNYMAN and Jane RADCLIFFE. Alexander BONNYMAN being another name added to the growing list of walls to break through.

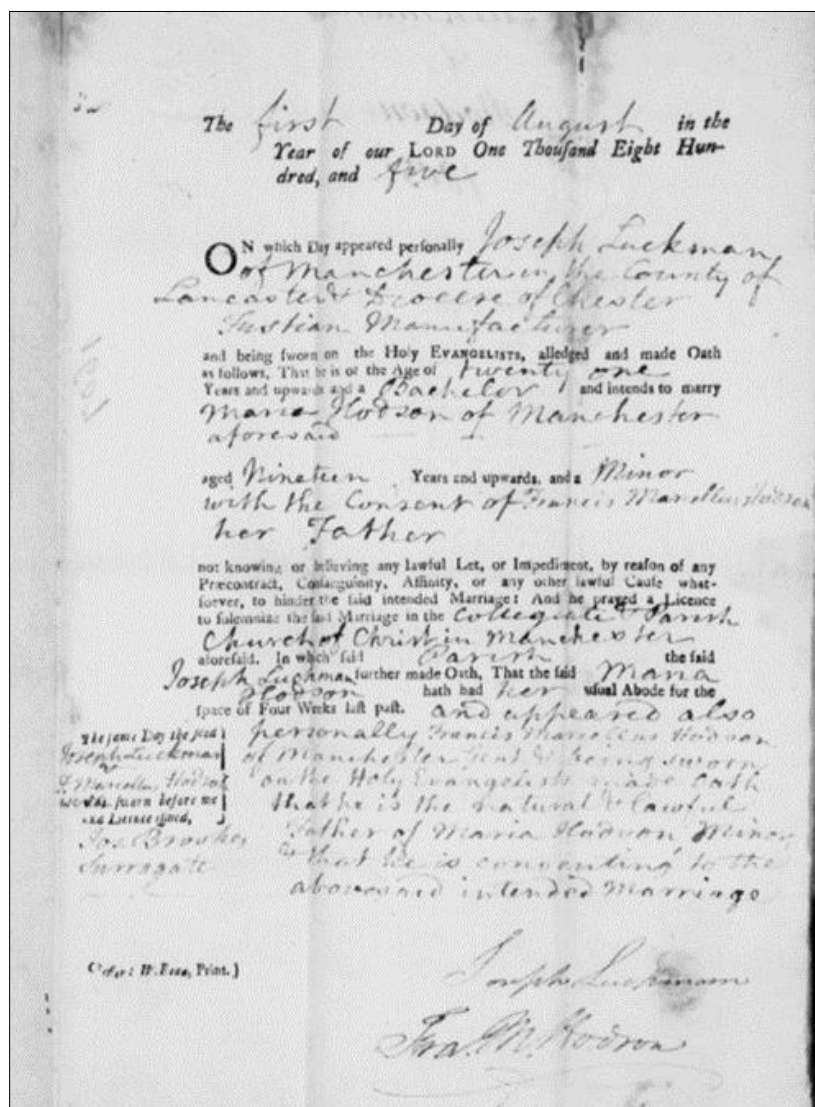
I can find nothing about Alexander prior to his relocation from Scotland to the Isle of Man. Catherine BONNYMAN was my connection to Francis Marcellus LUCKMAN as they married in 1838, but none of my research so far has answered my question - where did the name Marcellus come from? Why did Francis and Catherine name their second son Francis Marcellus LUCKMAN?

I had eliminated the RADCLIFFE side of the family, so as I sat thinking, *now what am I to do?* a light bulb moment flashed into my head ... of course go research Maria HODSON'S family, gosh how hard was that going to be!

Hovering in the recesses of my mind was the thought, hah! researching a woman from the 1700s was not an easy task if they were not from notable families, this may fail as well and create more brick walls, but go there I must if only to at least say I tried that.

So armed with Maria's marriage date from the newspaper, back into *Find My Past* I went, this time to search for Maria HODSON. Bingo! up popped a marriage record² (funny that this one did not pop up under a search for Joseph) finally a record that had an image of the original to look at, which turned out to be a two-page document announcing their intent to marry, "hooray, that happy dance moment", finally a proper piece to the puzzle I thought, hoping it would at least give me parents' names.

Taking a deep breath, I started reading and analysing the information written on it and not just skimming over it, reading it word for word even all that pre-printed standard jargon, bang! It hit me right between the eyes, it was there all the time waiting to be found in faded scrawl, "Maria aged 19 with the consent of Francis



Notification of intent of Marriage from *Find my past*

Marcellus HODSON her father,” oh that Eureka feeling, it’s good!

I now know why and where the name Francis Marcellus came down through my ancestors.

We all know that after many months of research and having answered my question and now armed with a new name to dive into, what was next on the list of things to do? Yep you guessed it, research Francis Marcellus HODSON.

Maria’s parents I soon discovered were Francis Marcellus HODSON and Elizabeth SHELDERMINE, great, another unknown wife named and another name added to the list to research.

I dug around for a while in the usual places, *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* and *Family Search*, found a 1764 baptism, deaths in 1850 and 1895, three marriages for Francis Marcellus HODSON, there were also a few baptisms of possible children and census records to sort through.

Ok, I got a rough idea of the time period for my research to begin, but how many of these records are the same person it seems there is more than one person with this name just to complicate matters?

Back into *Find My Past* I researched the newspapers (I figured the Marcellus part of his name was uncommon

enough that something might pop up there). Again I knew the best place to start would be in the Manchester, Lancashire area.

Well! Imagine my surprise and excitement when his name jumped out at me from my computer screen. Bingo again! Yep there it was a bunch of bankrupt and partnership dissolution notices. I read the articles with a keen interest (more pieces added to the puzzle about his life), and I now know he was one of the early calico printers of that time, another box in my research ticked.

Nothing in these articles to indicate births of any children so I opened up *Ancestry* and put his name in the search box. I just needed to look at a tree for some clues, there it was seven children, noting down the names off I went to verify that these children actually were his.

What a disappointment! I was only able to confirm three of the names on my list, another brick wall was starting to grow, but I carried on regardless. Thinking what else can I do, no help from *Family Search* or *Find My Past*, they only had what I had already found.

Hmmm what to do, where to look I thought – ok I will give Google another try you never know I could be lucky—but I doubted it.

Type type type in went the name “Francis Marcellus HODSON,” fingers crossed, press enter and... good thing I was sitting down, up popped so much stuff I didn’t know where to start, article after article about him!

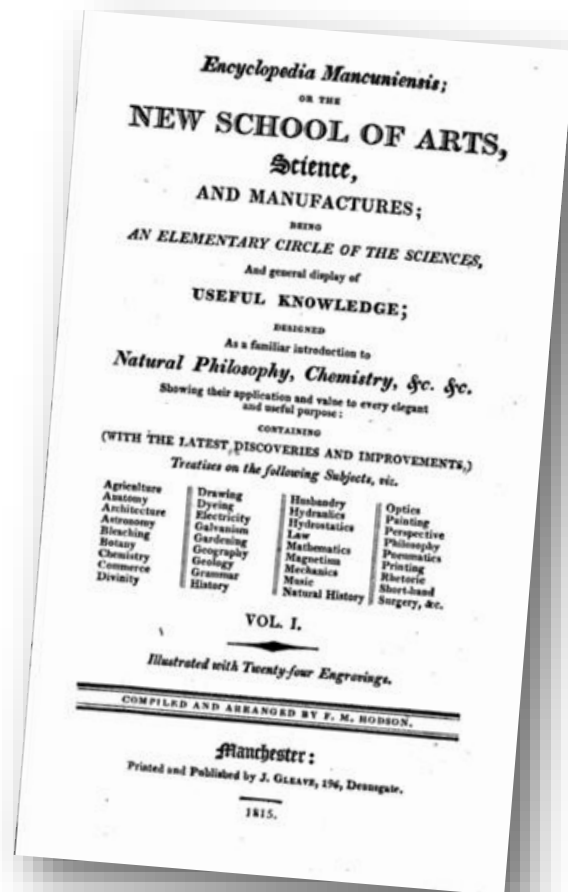
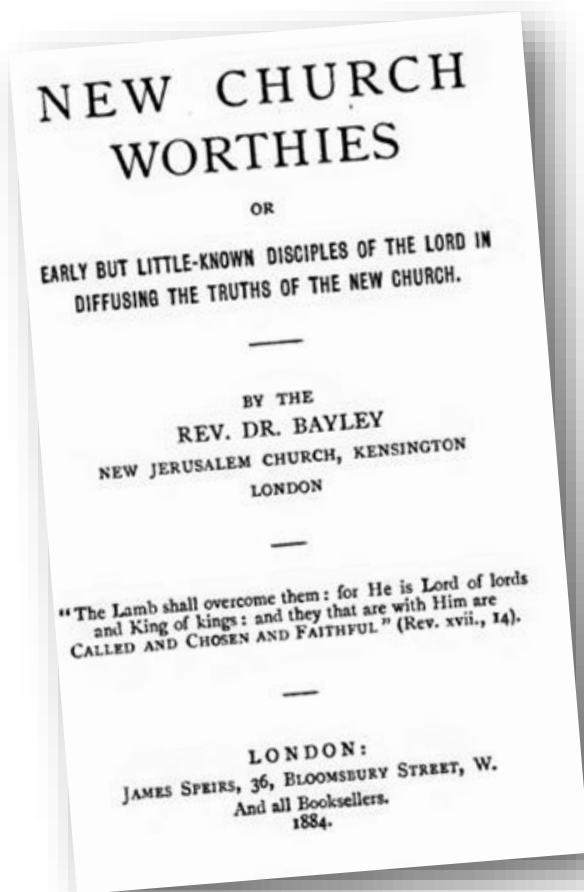
Ok let’s start at the top and work our way down the list of articles sounded like a good plan of attack to me. He’s now a preacher, writing books, psalms, poems, breaking away from the Methodist Church to help found *The New Church (Swedenborgian)*, looks like I have a very religious ancestor here.

Type, type, type again timeline all filled in with this new information, and onto another article from Google and look out there for any mention of a daughter Lydia of whom I had not found proof of yet ... goodie another clue that she did exist and it gave her hubby as well Johnathan BAYLEY.

I felt another detour approaching so off I went to record this new information and with new found energy I dove into this family and sought out their children, which turned out to open another Pandora’s box about their son Edward Hodson BAILEY,³ another Google search sends me reeling in my seat when up pops a website for “Assassin’s Creed,” a computer game that’s all the rage of the modern day child, including my own children.

Turns out that he is a character in the game based on the true life version of my first cousin five times removed; who would have thought that someone in the family had made it into the gaming world well after his life was over! Another tunnel to go down but not yet - need to stay focused on the task at hand.

Back to Francis Marcellus HODSON, with many questions swimming around in my head, how can I verify these other children? Why were only some of them



The title pages from the two books found on Google.

baptised? Is it because of the religion change and the records are not digitised? For that matter why can't I find a death for him or his wife? Oh how I would love to have access to the church records that could answer these questions. Back to Google I go working my way through the list of finds.

The Annals of Manchester: a chronological record from the earliest times to the end of 1885, gives the following information.

*Mr Francis Marcellus HODSON died aged 66, He was for a time minister of the Swedenborgian church in Peter Street. At another period he was in the habit of riding from Manchester to Accrington to conduct the Sunday services there, and from his text at the opening of the chapel (Deut. Xxii. 6) he was known at the "Bird's Nest Fellow." He had a chapel in Ancoats, and for their use compiled a volume of hymns. He left Manchester for Hull, where he preached at the Dagger Lane Chapel, but returned to his native home to die. He was the author of the Encyclopaedia Mancuniensis.*⁴

As I rewrite this story I am wondering how I got so side tracked with life that my research on this branch of my family has sat in the deep recesses of my computer forgotten about for the past four years.

As my researching skills have improved drastically over the past three years I am now inspired to get back to this branch and finish what was started so long ago, and I look forward to uncovering some more hidden ancestors that have been long forgotten in this family.

Next step for me is to start a research plan and this time to stay focused on the task, no more bright shiny objects will I let stop me now.

Footnotes

1. Findmypast, <https://www.findmypast.com.au/>, Newspapers & Periodicals, *Lancaster Gazette* 10 August 1805, page 3, Retrieved 21 June 2019.
2. Findmypast, <https://www.findmypast.com.au/>, *Cheshire Marriage licence bonds and allegations 1606-1905 Image*, Marriage Intent 1805 for Joseph LUCKMAN and Maria HODSON, page 2 of 2.
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Hodson_Bayley
4. FamilySearch, https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/default?search=%22Francis%20Marcellus%20Hodson%22&sort=_score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&&offset=. Book Search for Francis Marcellus Hodson, *The Annals of Manchester: a chronological record from the earliest times to the end of 1885*. Title No: annalsofmanchester00axon, Axon, William E. A. (William Edward Armytage), 1846-1913, Image 202.

Other Sources : FamilySearch Books

Early Worthies of the New Church - by the Rev. DR. BAYLEY

Encyclopaedia Mancuniensis: or The new school of arts, science and manufactures – compiled by F M HODSON

The Annals of Manchester: a chronological record from the earliest times to the end of 188 compiled by William E.A. Axon

The admission register of the Manchester School, with some notices of the ore more distinguished scholars; Vol. 93 compiled by Jeremiah Finch Smith

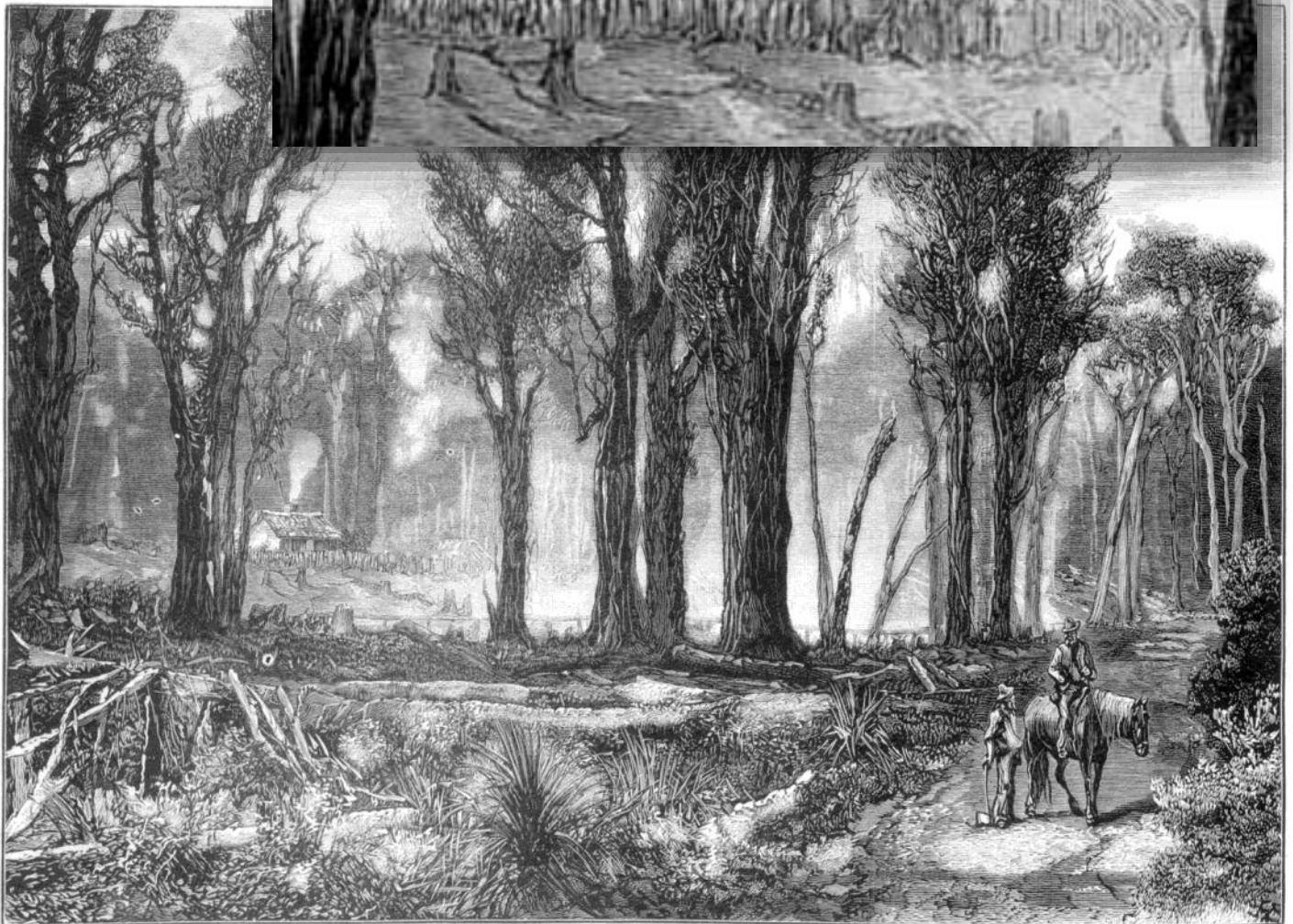
Wills, administrations, etc. of England

Burning Off

Trove continually gives us historic images with supportive text about the region that add to the collective knowledge of our heritage. On 2 September 1882 the *Australasian Sketcher* featured the process involved in clearing a block of land after building a log home.

In the densely wooded portions of Gippsland, where the richness of the soil caused the land to be covered not only with the giants of the forests but also with the densest of undergrowth, the selector who settles down on one of these virgin blocks has ample work to occupy his time before he can reap the reward of his industry. The first thing usually done after building a log house is to fell the small saplings and brush, and ring the large trees. The *debris* that has fallen is allowed to lay on the ground till the latter end of summer, when it is set fire to, and with ordinary attention the ground is by this means effectually cleared of what previously laid on it. The smaller stumps, if the land is wanted for cultivation, are then pulled up, but if pasture only is intended grass seed is

sown, and the natural fertility of the land causes a dense crop to make its appearance in a very short time. In the second year the land can be easily cleared of the small stumps which have rotted in the ground, and it is then in fit condition for the plough, while the large trees are gradually got rid of by degrees until, in the course of a few years, the face of the country undergoes a complete change. The farm in our sketch has evidently been undergoing its first burning off, and the selector is, let us hope, congratulating himself on its success.



BURNING OFF.

Intrepid researchers in Melbourne

DOT ROSS

Getting on the bus at 5.26am on 5 July - one could be excused for thinking is this really worth it?

On Wednesday morning, after an early start, twelve intrepid travellers set off on a 'Once in a Lifetime' experience to discover their lifelines at Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) and State Library Victoria (SLV). We picked up another traveller at Traralgon and after a long journey by bus, train and dodgy taxi driver we arrived at our destination meeting up with our three Melbourne members.

For some of us it was the first trip into the wilds of North Melbourne. Deb and Teresa were wonderful in their valuable assistance. Sandy and Pam learnt how to use the digital cameras. It was an emotional experience for one of our members getting answers to things she couldn't work out. It was also a privilege to meet Patrick Ferry from National Archives (NAA).

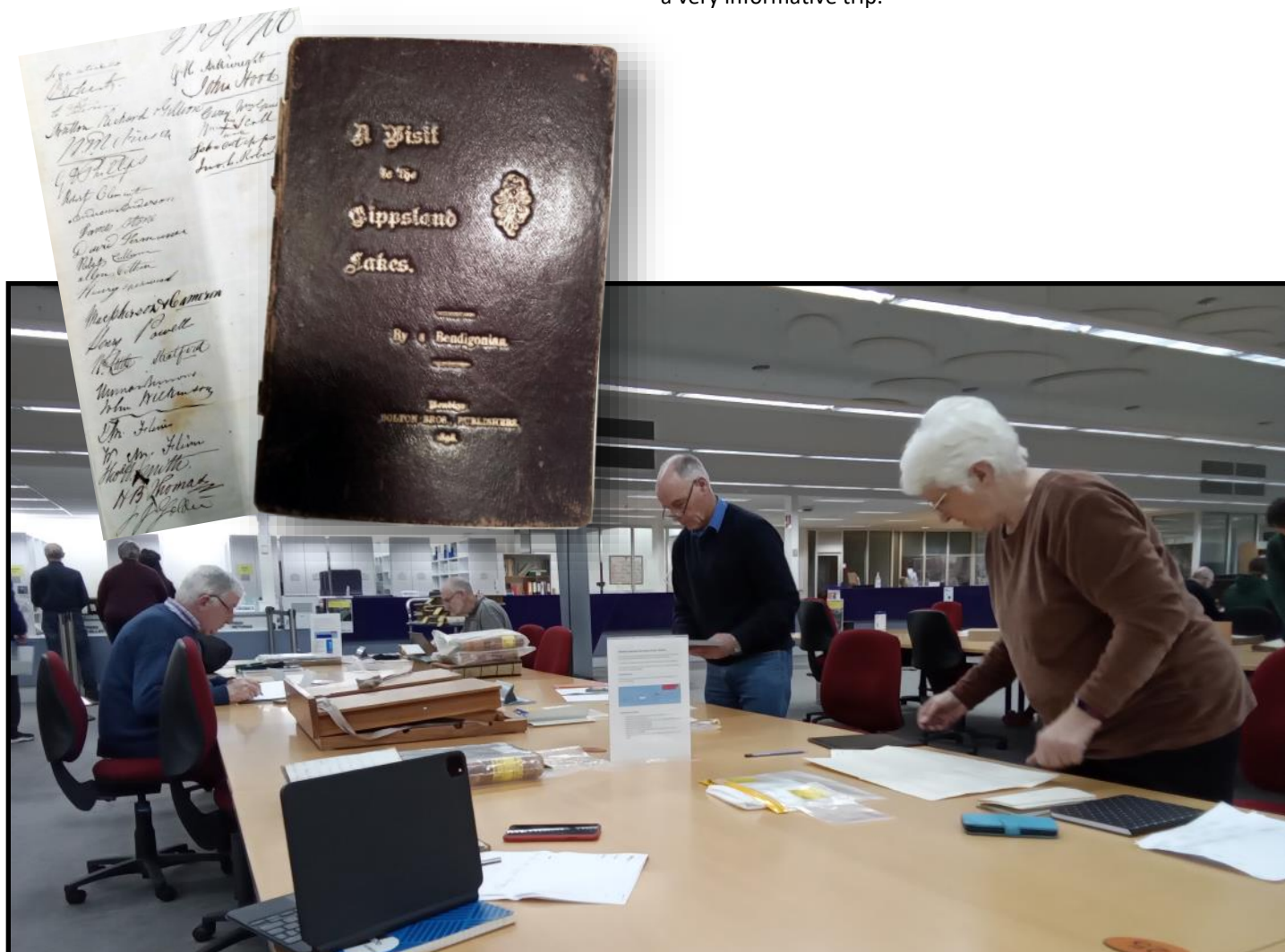
Eight people deserted the four that were lagging behind at PROV at about 1pm and headed to SLV on another scary taxi ride. Newcomers to the library were struck by the beauty of the building. We headed straight up the lift to check out the dome

which was magnificent. Deb along with Jen, were absorbed into the rare book section with which you can only access via an appointment.

After checking out the building and having achieved what was needed three breakaways (D.J.&S.) headed to the wine bar area where there was a waitress, Anna from Sweden, didn't know what a lemon squash was! She did however know what a VB and prosecco were. One of the breakaways was very naïve in the ways of the city so the other two took her to Chloe at Young & Jacksons where they imbibed another.

Whilst the breakaways were enjoying their drinks and pizza the rest of the group were shown how to use the microfiche reels – the breakaways missed this opportunity.

In closing a good day was had by all and on a more serious note, a big thank you to Deb & Teresa for the benefit of their expertise and being generous for their time in organising a very informative trip.



Darryl and Ann at PROV getting stuck into reading and photographing their files with a petition page from PROV that Debbie was reading and a lovely little book describing a visit to the Gippsland Lakes from 1898 by a Bendigo newspaper reporter which was ordered up by Jenny Burns at the State Library of Victoria.

Locals turn out in force for Ensay book launch

The sun certainly shone in Ensay on Saturday when EGFHG member Wayne George launched his book ... *they wouldn't talk about it : the service men and women of Ensay district* in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd at the Little River Inn.

The book is over 250 pages and details every man and woman from the Ensay district who has served in any conflict between the Boer War to current conflicts. Where possible, Wayne has compiled a biography of each individual and included a photograph of each one in the book.

About 200 people gathered on the lawn area at the rear of the pub for the launch which turned into a large social community get together with friends catching up who hadn't seen each other for some time. Wayne was delighted that friends from Queensland had made the effort to come to the launch and later learned that visitors from Western Australia who had ties to the Costello family were also present. Other guests included Michael Flynn, another local who is presently serving with Royal Australian Navy however, one of the most important guests, Wayne's mother, Jean George who has just celebrated her 93rd birthday, was too ill to make the trip down to Ensay from Omeo to participate in the launch. As a consequence, Stretch, from the Little River Inn, arranged for the official part of the afternoon to be videoed for her.

Ken Skews, President of the Ensay/Swifts Creek Sub-Branch of the RSL, welcomed everyone present and Greg Weaver read the ode. It was at this point in the proceedings that members of the 13th Lighthorse paraded up to the crowd much to the delight of those in attendance.

Tim Bull was unable to be present, however Greg Weaver read some words he had prepared in which he complimented Wayne on his effort in completing the book as he himself has an interest in this particular aspect of the region's history and he was most impressed with the publication.

Johanna Costello, Maurice Costello's daughter, who was well known throughout Gippsland then gave a short talk on what the book and the Reedy Flat war memorial meant to the Costello family who were former owners of the Little River Inn.

The cover of Wayne's book features an image taken in 1946 when Jack Duggan, a prisoner of war, returned home to Melbourne. The photo shows his niece, a young Lorna Taylor being hoisted above the crowd to look for her uncle when she

was about eight years old. Lorna Coy, as she is now known, is now in her nineties and still lives at Ensay. This "cover girl" took much delight in sharing her memories of the day the photo was taken and was a very real link to World War II and those prisoners coming home.

Robbie Wilson, from Tambo Crossing spoke about how significant the book was to his family as it highlighted family associations that the present family had little knowledge of and how it filled in the gaps in their own history. He also had

everyone in fits of laughter when he described how one of his uncles, who went to war, captured a wombat one afternoon before a local dance to be held that night at Tambo Crossing. One can imagine the chaos that ensued when, at the peak of dancing and frivolity, they closed the doors, turned off the lights and released the wombat!

Frank Flynn also spoke about the previously unknown connection to Andrew Kelly who was detailed in the book who was his great uncle of whom he had no real awareness. So many connections of family to those detailed in the book have been discovered in the years it has taken to compile it and these stories were just a small example.

Wayne then spoke of some of the discoveries he made in the research, like while there was only one prisoner of war from Ensay in World War I, there were fourteen in World War II. Of those eleven came home with three dying in POW camps. There were nineteen

teachers who enlisted from the district and fifty servicemen in total have paid the supreme sacrifice over all conflicts.

After the official part of the afternoon concluded an amazing spread of afternoon tea was served by the High Country CWA ladies working with Stretch from the Ensay Inn.

A steady line of people cued in front of the book sales table manned by fellow EGFHG members before seeking out Wayne to sign their copies of the book for members of the family.

Wayne was blown away by the support and favourable comments about the book and thanked everyone who had assisted him either during the writing or on the day of the launch. Every small

contribution of assistance with the text or help on the day was greatly appreciated.

The book is a total East Gippsland production with the editing, design, layout and printing all being done in Bairnsdale.

Copies are available from EGFHG rooms and EGHS museum at \$45 a copy.



The Blue Duck : the hotel that inspired a biscuit

The story of an area may not be restricted to the construction of the buildings or the artefacts therein - it can be much broader - in this instance, a recipe and a guest book. Imagine having traversed all the corners and miles of dirt to be met at the Blue Duck with these biscuits (and perhaps a beer)!

The guest book is held at the State Library of Victoria and the news article on "Why Blue Duck Inn stands on the Glen Wills Road" comes from *The Herald* 15 June 1937.



Anglers Rest Hotel, Omeo, Victoria, 1918 *Museums Victoria* MM5604

Driving the 33 miles between Omeo and Glen Wills, you are perpetually going round corners. The road is good but the hills are high and rugged. Just as you despair of getting anywhere — if you average 20 miles an hour you are driving dangerously—you round another corner and there in front of you is the Blue Duck.

The Blue Duck Inn — its official name is The Angler's Rest, but nobody ever takes any notice of it — is the half-way point in that 33 miles of cornering.

The unusual name and the large parking space in front invite your attention. "Blue Duck?" you say to yourself. "I wonder why they called it that." Then, if you are curious enough, you will stop to ask questions, and Mr Bill O'Connell, your host, will answer them for you.

There is nothing within "cooe" of the Blue Duck — no town, little or no settlement; only rugged mountains and the clearest, liveliest mountain stream you could wish to see. There seems to be no reason for the Blue Duck's existence until you ponder on the name it never uses — The Angler's Rest. Then you learn that the Blue Duck is where many anglers go in the trout season for the sport they love. The mountain stream that rushes past the Blue Duck is the Cobungra River, but it is not the only trout stream. A mile away is the Mitta Mitta. A little further away is the Bundarra River, a favourite stream for anglers.

Seven miles above the Blue Duck the Victoria River rushes into the Cobungra. All these are trout streams, and of the best. But for the Blue Duck, few anglers would reach them. But why the Blue Duck?

As you are all aware, a blue duck is the vernacular for a forlorn hope. This Blue Duck sprang from the vernacular. Away back in 1909, the new road was being constructed between Omeo and Glen Wills. Where the Blue Duck now stands there was then a big road camp which was supplied with meat by a butcher named F. P. McGrath. The place was then known as Cobungra Crossing. Mr McGrath saw possibilities in the place and pegged out a reservation. On one of the pegs he nailed a board which stated that the land was being applied for as the site of a hotel.

It had not been up very long before one of the wags of the camp chalked on the board,

"F. P. McGrath's blue duck pub."

The road work went on. The camp shifted further along. Then Mr O'Connell came along, bought the site, put up a building and applied for a licence. The hotel was opened with the road, and the sign, "The Angler's Rest," went up in front of it, but patrons would have none of it. The hotel to them was the Blue Duck, and the Blue Duck it has remained.

If you want to send a letter there you should address it "The Angler's Rest," for that is its postal address; but an efficient Post Office will take care of you if you should happen to direct your missive to the Blue Duck. An official will cross out the Blue Duck and write on the envelope: "Try Angler's Rest."

There was to have been a free opening night at the Blue Duck. The word was passed round and a wire confirming the licence was expected on the opening day. All the lads of the village from miles round collected there

The McKenzie storekeeper's book from Benambra which, in part has been repurposed into a recipe book, and features "Blue Duck" biscuits.

5

Blue Duck Biscuits

2 cups Rolled Oats
1 cup Dark Sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Butter
1 teaspoonful Baking Soda dissolved
in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Boiling Water
1 pinch Salt

Method Mix together Rolled Oats, Flour and Sugar. Add Butter (melted) to dry ingredients and when thoroughly mixed, add soda dissolved in water, and mix well again.

Place on slide in teaspoonfuls 3 inches apart and bake in moderate oven.

To make biscuits a little richer nuts or walnuts may be sprinkled on top before baking

When Lord Huntingfield was holidaying at Omeo a little while ago, he called at the Blue Duck and had a talk to Mr O'Connell, but did not try the streams. Harold Herbert, an inveterate trout fisherman, is represented in the visitors' book by a drawing. Napier Waller drew Mr O'Connell's portrait in the same book. L. F. Reynolds, of Mr Melbourne fame, has left several sketches there also. I reached the Blue Duck recently, just after the trout season had closed. Mr O'Connell conducted me to the Cobungra behind the hotel and there, in a clear pool, a dozen trout were resting themselves with their noses upstream. They must have known that the season had closed. On that same pool a couple of wild duck swam lazily about. They had sought haven there from the guns and were gradually getting tame through being fed from the house occasionally.

The Bundarra is the favourite stream with anglers, but the others are good. Some prefer the Cobungra. Even if you are not an angler this is still an idyllic spot, far away from the world among hills of peace and content.

Page 106 of the Angler's Rest Guest book State Library of Victoria

for the housewarming, but the wire did not come and nobody could be served.

It transpired subsequently that a rival had collected a large supply of liquor at another place and advertised the fact. The free night at the Blue Duck would have left him with most of it on his hands, for the road gangs were leaving. He knew the wire confirming the licence was expected, so he cut the telephone wire. That was why the wire did not come. The first-nighters waited for some time impatiently and then someone said: "Let's go to So-and-So's." There was a stampede and So-and-So got rid of his liquor and made a handsome profit.

The Blue Duck soon acquired fame as a hostelry for anglers. Many famous people have told within its walls of the big fish that got away. Some city men have been going there for many years. The first State Governor to test from the Blue Duck the merits of the Cobungra or the Mitta Mitta, was Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael. He must have told his successor, Sir John Fuller, about it, for Sir John is recorded as having stayed there. And when Sir John Fuller left us and Sir Arthur Stanley took his place, Sir Arthur took time off from the affairs of State to try the Blue Duck streams.

Sir Arthur signed the visitors book as having stayed at the Blue Duck from January 12 to 18 in 1918, and caught 21 trout. His aide, Captain N. Conant, confessed to only eleven.



The who came and went his way
lost time to show another day
Especially to the Blue Duck
where and, thing is, top hole?
Passing on in a today's action. 7 HP
No other. P. Head Quelling
At Kilda 15/4/1927
Vic

You can have your Bunches Toss & Chess
but believe me we are having a
better time in a wee baby Austin
the thing of all else. Ah

30-1-1927. I AM Sean Bairnsdale
Andrew Broadhead Bairnsdale
Toby Hearless
R. G. Leates 'Chatterbox' Bairnsdale
B. G. Tharp - Bridgetown
B. G. Quirk Bairnsdale
Last night I was
told by a boy from the town that on
Friday night on Tuesday Dec 27th 1927

Updates to *black sheep*

no. 108: ... but who was G.A.D.?

p. 21 George Dux in Western Australia



In 1891 George Dux sold up the coffee palace in Main Street, Bairnsdale (left) that he had built and operated and shifted the family to Broad Arrow (right), this view of Hill Street, Broad Arrow 'Kurawa' 1897 – Photos EGHS and SLWA

black sheep readers will remember the article about George August Dux who wrote his unattributed reminiscences of East Gippsland from 1860 on for the local paper in 1926. We deduced identity from hints in the article that G.A.D. was this George Dux and we detailed what facts we could find about him including his time in Broad Arrow, a short lived gold mining town in Western Australia.

Some time ago the “Outback Family History” website administered by Moya Sharp was also introduced to *black sheep* readers and as there was a cross over of information, the Dux article was forwarded to Moya. Moya has subsequently published the article, with permission, on her website but having access to “extra” information on the region she was able to make some valuable additions which are included here for *black sheep* readers.

By 1896 the family were in Western Australia where the lure of gold once again attracted George when he applied for a mining license which he called ‘The Happy Four’. He also owned the lease ‘The Albion’ with two others which was of 18 acres and 2 miles from the town. These enterprises were short-lived as before the end of the year he had returned to his trade and both George and his son George jnr were baking on the goldfields at Broad Arrow (a short-lived gold community 23 miles north of Coolgardie) selling loaves for 10d each.

Both of George’s daughters, Elizabeth and Mina, also set up in business the years after their arrival with a millinery shop as the following advertisement shows. The Duxs residential address was also given as Forrest Street so they may have lived on the premises.

MISSSES E. & M. DUX
Desire to announce to the public of Broad Arrow and District that they have commenced business as DRAPERS and MILLINERS in their new premises in Forrest-street, opposite the Stock Exchange. Their large and varied stocks, consisting of Ladies' Costumes, Blouses, Belts, Ties, Hats and Trimmings, are well worth inspecting. Also Gents' Mercery in great variety, Silk Shirts, Flannel and Cotton ditto, Cumberbunds, Neckties, Belts, Collars, in large assortments. Also a splendid lot of Pot Plants for table decoration.
Note the Address,—OPPOSITE STOCK EXCHANGE. 387

Broad Arrow Standard 31 March 1897, page 1

The whole family seem to have joined in with many activities in the town with Mrs Dux supplying catering for various events and the two daughters much involved with the dramatic society. Mrs Dux served on several charitable committees involved in raising funds for various worthy causes. Both daughters attended several balls both in Broad Arrow and nearby Bardoc. George Dux was a member of the debating society and gave several talks as well as standing for council elections. George Dux was also secretary and founder of the Broad Arrow's Working Mens Club in 1898.

It is rather interesting to see that George is giving a lecture on the “Rise and Fall of Grant in 1868” which perhaps indicates just how involved he was in this community before coming to Bairnsdale.

BROAD ARROW.
(From Our Own Correspondent.)
BROAD ARROW. April 12.
The local Literary and Debating Society held its usual weekly meeting on Tuesday, the evening being devoted to elocation.
On next Tuesday evening Mr Dux will give a lecture on “The Rise and Fall of Grant in 1868.” As this particular Grant apparently did the falling business in a most effective manner, and consequently is not generally known, it may be well to mention that Grant is, or was, a mining town in Gippsland, Victoria, and that the lecture will deal with alluvial and quartz mining in that district in the year mentioned.

Kalgoorlie Miner 14 April 1899, page 2

If you would like to read all of the article on Moya’s page it can be found here: <https://www.outbackfamilyhistoryblog.com/george-august-dux-pioneer-profile/>

[MISSSES E. & M DUX Desire to announce to the public of Broad Arrow and District that they have commenced business as DRAPERS and MILLINERS in their new premises in Forrest-street, opposite the Stock Exchange. Their large and varied stocks, consisting of Ladies' Costumes, Blouses, Belts, Ties, Hats and Trimmings, are well worth inspecting. Also Gents' Mercery in great variety, Silk Shirts, Flannel and Cotton ditto, Cumberbunds, Neckties, Belts, Collars, in large assortments. Also a splendid lot of Pot Plants for table decoration.
Note the Address—OPPOSITE STOCK EXCHANGE.]

Have you looked at Archival Access lately?

Mark Grealy who has a passion for the records at PROV, operates Archival Access from northern Victoria and offers file retrieval for those unable to travel to PROV. His expertise and work can also be seen on his website Archival Access where there are the following indexes for researchers to utilise. You can follow what Mark is doing at <https://www.facebook.com/ArchivalAccess> and his webpage <https://www.archivalaccessvictoria.com/indexes-tools-1>

The indexes that are available on his website at the moment are:

Kiewa Petty Sessions 1891-1893

A court of petty sessions operated at Kiewa between 1891 and 1893. Only 78 cases were heard in total before the court was closed. This is a full transcription of the Kiewa Court of Petty Sessions Register (VPRS 8557). This includes eleven cases heard at Yackandandah in 1903/04, presumably making use of a fairly empty court register.

GeoCoded Inquest Cases

This is a small project where Mark has been tinkering with using inquest files where the exact location of the death is known. For inquests where this can be determined he has plotted the details on a map of Victoria adding another dimension to the files.

State Ward Index 1911-1922

This index contains 19,492 names of children who were made wards of the State between 1910-1922. If you find a name in this index you can use the Ward No. to access the full ward record at PROV.

Victorian Pupil Register Database

This index contains over 113,000 names of pupils who attended Victorian primary schools over the past 150 years. It currently contains data from over 245 schools across the state. If you find a name listed in this index you can contact Mark to obtain a copy of the full digitised pupil register.

Register of Licensed Shorthand Writers 1891-1975

This database lets you search the 906 names of individuals who were licensed to record evidence heard during Supreme Court trials. Shorthand writers were officers of the Court while in performance of duty in taking down and transcribing evidence.

Index to Employee Register (Ports and Harbours) 1892-1921

This index allows you to search the index of the Employee Register for the Ports and Harbours Branch. The index provides the page number where the entire staff record is shown in the physical record at PROV.

Beechworth Asylum Staff Register 1867-1966

This database contains over 6,000 names of individuals who were employed at the Beechworth Asylum between 1867 when the asylum opened and 1966. Search by name and then access the digital image to view their full record—which includes their date of birth and various remarks relating to transfers, termination and other details.

State Ward Registers 1864-1894

This database uses information from the indexed State Ward records on the PROV website but displays the data in a different way to allow for more interesting browsing of location and cause of commitment data.

Victorian Schools Map

Mark has created a map of Victoria plotting school locations based on information from VPRS 795 (Building Files) which he has extracted from the PROV website. It allows

you to see the location (with varying degrees of accuracy) of 2,500 schools in Victoria.

Register of Juvenile Offenders 1893-1925

This database contains approximately 3,000 names of children deemed “juvenile offenders” between 1893-1925, taken from VPRS 545. This was compiled by volunteers from the Archival Access Facebook page in 2020.

Queenscliff Building Permits 1960-1989

This map allows you to search for building permits from the Borough of Queenscliff between 1960 and 1989. Taken from VPRS 17038, researchers can search by keyword (name, street etc) or by browsing the map for a location of interest. Original records can then be ordered and viewed at PROV.

Victorian Divorce Index 1939-1942

This is a transcription of the index to Divorce Cause Books (VPRS 5335/P4/5). Since this index was completed, digitised divorce files are now available on Ancestry up to 1940, but this is still useful for finding records for 1941-42. This index was also compiled by volunteers from the Archival Access Facebook page in 2020.

Insolvency Records

These records are from 1842 to 1928. These records hold details about assets, liabilities, signed statements and more. You can search by name on PROV and filter for “Proceedings in Insolvent Estates” from 1842-1871. PROV are working on indexing files from 1872 to 1928, but until thenif you live close to PROV you could volunteer to help on this project.....

Criminal Trial Papers

These documents were created when a criminal trial was held from assault to murder, libel to larceny—a range of offences were subject to a trial. Witness statements, exhibits, and in later years full trial transcripts can be found as well as photos, letters and other relevant documentation. Researchers can search by name on PROV from 1841-1865, filter for “Criminal Trial Briefs” between 1865 and 1932 view the digitised “Criminal Trial Registers” on PROV. When you find who you are looking for, note the year and case number which enables to locate the actual file at PROV.

Mark's hints

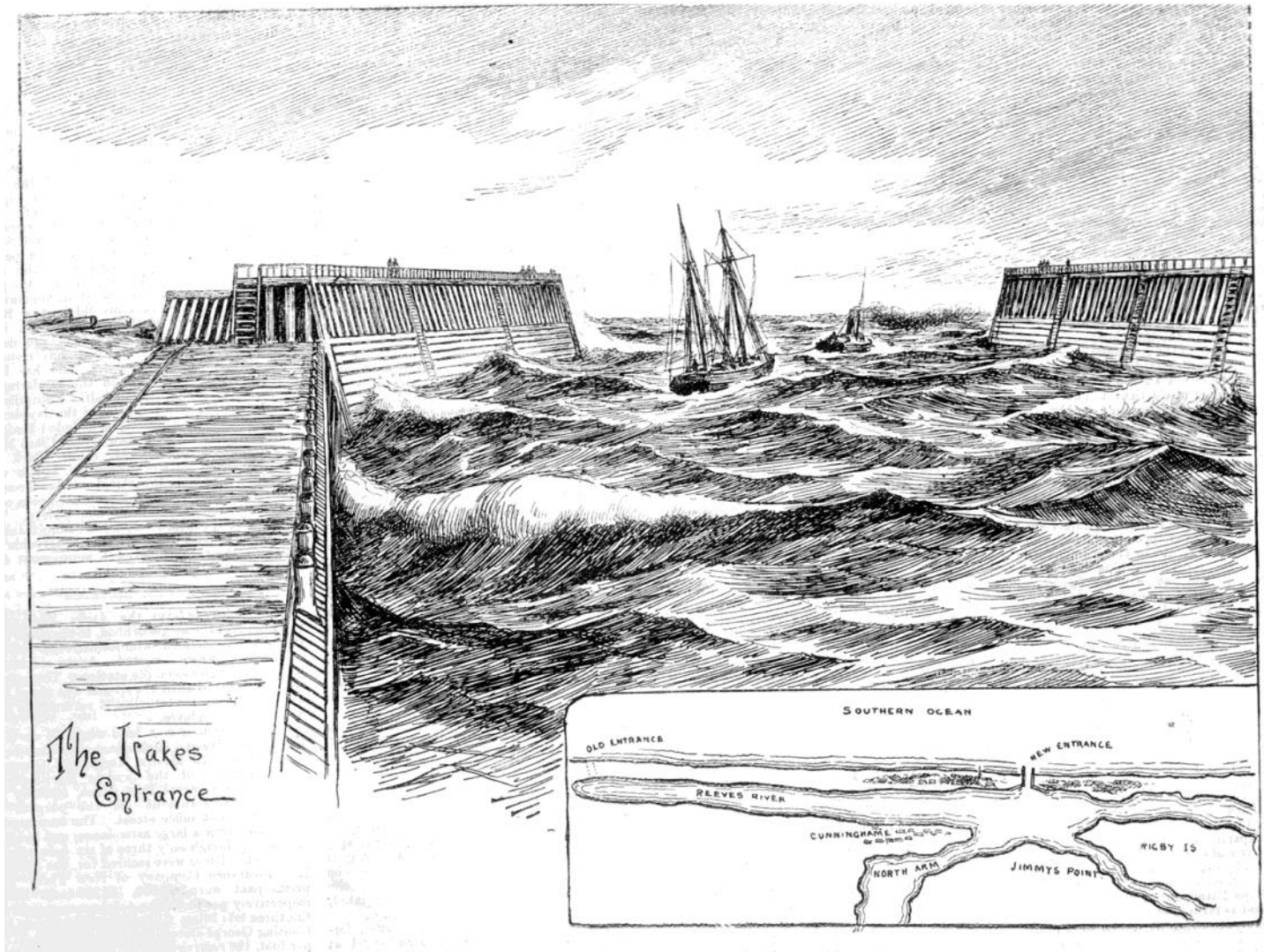
Mark also reminds researchers that while the inquest papers are indexed from 1840 to 1985, 1961-1972 are not indexed though. Inquests can reveal very detailed information about a death.

He also reminds researchers that if you can't find a photograph of the school your family attended, try the building files at PROV as many “Pre-Metric Building Plans” hold beautiful plans of the schools.

You will note that several of these indexes were compiled by volunteers in 2020—a good way to spend your covid-19 lockdown time—create an index!

Gippsland Lakes Entrance

Trove continually gives us historic images with supportive text about the region that add to the collective knowledge of our heritage. On 1 March 1892 the *Illustrated Australian News* featured the construction of the entrance to the Gippsland lakes with an engraving and description of the work.



Formerly the only entrance to the Gippsland Lakes was at the extreme eastern custom point of Reeves River, but it was a most unsatisfactory entrance, for not only was it continually varying in depth, but it frequently changed its position, shifting now to the west, then back again to the east, to the danger and discomfiture of all who sought to navigate their way within.

At the instigation of the residents of the district, who were naturally anxious that a fixed and permanent entrance should be formed, the Government asked Mr Wardell, then inspector general of public works, to enquire into the matter, and on his recommendation the work of constructing the present entrance was begun in January, 1869.

The idea was to form two piers, 400 feet apart, across the narrow ridge of sand, dredge out a channel between, and by partially blocking up the mouth of the Reeves River opposite Jimmy's Point to get the scour of the inflowing and outgoing tides to keep the passage clear.

The first part of the work was completed in December, 1872, but for 10 years from that date work was almost entirely suspended.

In the meantime Sir John Coode had visited the colony, in 1879, and after carefully examining the locality he framed a report, commending all that the department had already done, but advising a further extension of the piers, that on the west side to be brought out 650 feet further, and on the east 500 feet; also that the piers should

face directly seawards, and that their points should converge slightly.

All this has now been carried out in the face of many difficulties, the one stroke of good fortune being three years ago, when the channel had been dredged to within 40 feet of the sea, and a favourable opportunity was waited for to make the final connection, a heavy southerly gale burst upon the coast, and with irresistible force swept away the barrier, scouring out the channel in such a manner as to delight everyone who was interested in it.

Since then a good passage between the ocean and the lakes has been secured, with an average depth of 15 feet in the fairway, and now the trading schooners from Melbourne are picked up outside by a stout little steamer and safely towed into the smoother waters within.

There would be no difficulty in sailing in with a fair fresh breeze, but no company will effect an insurance on any schooner unless she is towed in and out of the entrance, for the wind might fail or suddenly shift at a critical moment, and with the heavy swell that is almost always running there it would be certain destruction to the vessel.

Not long ago a schooner foundered in the channel with two men aboard, and neither men nor hull, rope nor spar, were ever seen again. It is supposed she was bodily engulfed, as in a quicksand. Unfortunately all the sand there is of a loose, shifty nature, and thereby a source of constant trouble to the Works department, for although the massive piles, 45 feet long, are driven well home and securely bound together with strong beams and bolts, yet by the constant shifting of the foundation the piers were slowly, but surely, becoming insecure, and it was found necessary to construct bulk heads at short intervals between the rows of piles and fill up the spaces with blocks of stone, and to construct aprons formed of the same stone, on both sides of each pier.

Ever since the commencement of the work those stones have been gradually subsiding, requiring a constant filling up on top. For some considerable time the stone used in strengthening the piers has been brought from a quarry on the Nicholson River, but of late the quality has greatly deteriorated, and it has been found necessary to make a change.

Mr Wheeler, the Minister and Mr Davidson the Inspector-General of Public Works, visited the quarry about a month ago, when the latter pointed

out the soft, flakey nature of the stone, and how utterly unfit it was to resist the force and action of the sea.

Mr Carpenter, the owner of the quarry, then showed a new stone further up the river. It was of much harder substance, but still flakey, more suitable for paving stones than for solid square blocks. Neither Mr Wheeler nor Mr Davidson were enthusiastic over it; both gentlemen considered it infinitely wiser to use the hard solid granite of Wilson's Promontory, whose sea resisting power was assured, than to experiment with a new stone, the suitability of which no one could assert with authority.

Apart from the advantages to local trade and shipping which the Lakes Entrance has conferred, it is also a highly popular health resort and watering place. There is abundance of good shooting along the lakes and backwaters, where swan, duck and teal swarm in thousands; there is fishing of all kinds, from tiny mullet to huge sharks.

The township of Cunninghame lies close by, with its front to Reeves River and its back to North Arm, one of the prettiest bits on all the lakes, and quite equal in many respects to Middle Harbor, Sydney, Kalimna House, near Jimmy's Point, overlooks the entrance.

There are plenty of good boats to be had, so that it is easy for any visitor to cross over and see the massive structure of the piers. On a fine day, when the sea is rolling lazily in and the singing of the surf comes dreamily on the ear, it is pleasant to lean over the rail at the end of the pier and gaze far out over the calm blue sea, the little clouds above throwing darkening shadows over the surface here and there, giving perspective and leading the eye away out on the broad expanse to the hazy line of the horizon.

All along to the west, as far as the eye can reach, stretches the long white line of the Ninety Mile Beach. Barren and dreary enough in the finest weather, what must it be when the southerly gales come whistling out of the black lowering clouds, and the long smooth swell is raised into mountainous seas that dash themselves in wild fury high up on the sandy shore, and the soft singing of the surf changed to the roaring, seething and hissing of the white churning foam. No hanging over the end of the pier then, for the spindrift is flying in sheets over the piles, and east and west all is obscured in the thick grey mist of storm driven spray.

In Memorium

EVELYN DOROTHY SMYTH

14 June 1945—1 September 2023

Dorothy Smyth was born in Bairnsdale on 14 June 1945 to Elizabeth and Percival McNamara. She was the fifth of seven children and enjoyed a typical 1950s childhood growing up on the farm. She went to school at Lucknow before going to Bairnsdale High School.

When Dorothy was fifteen, the family moved to Dandenong and after leaving school a short time later, Dorothy started work as a ledger machinist.

In 1962, when Dorothy was about eighteen years old she met Wally Smyth and they married at Dandenong on 4 April 1964 – this year was their 59th wedding anniversary. Dorothy returned to work after her marriage until the birth of their first child in 1965 who was followed by three siblings.

It was at this time that Dorothy became very actively involved in a buying co-operative that she established with other “housewives” of the area. The price of household goods was rising and she was determined that bulk buying would benefit all of them with their young families.

The family moved to Mildura, then New Zealand, before Wally was posted back to the Bairnsdale Technical school in 1975. A short time later they moved into the house they built at Granite Rock. It was here that Wally and Dorothy both supported their children in sporting activities and they were valued supporters of the Sarsfield Fire Brigade.

In the 1980s that Dorothy started to trace the family history and became a member of the newly formed local family history group. She was very competent with her research and was one of the members to participate in a group trip to Sydney at a time when you had to go where the records were to do any research. She became proficient at disguising trips to remote and isolated



cemeteries anywhere in Victoria as “family holidays!” This interest deepened and she then joined the historical society to broaden her local knowledge but also helped at the museum eventually becoming treasurer on the committee. She enjoyed the sorting, labelling and curating at the museum and this

only strengthened her love of collecting – particularly dolls.

Dorothy loved family life on the farm encouraging all her children. By 1988 all of the family had moved out and Wally and Dot then started to travel the world sharing new experiences.

In the early 2000s Dorothy started work as a carer at Maddocks Garden which was a perfect match to her caring nature. She worked for some time up until about ten years ago when she started to show signs of Alzheimers which was devastating for them both. Wally was devoted to Dorothy and cared for her at home up until about twenty months ago when she herself became a resident at Maddocks Gardens.

Wally visited Dorothy every day and while the Alzheimers had taken hold – she recognised him with a smile and glint in her eye.

Dorothy had a strong community spirit and loved her family deeply. She was the grandmother of sixteen grandchildren and one great grandchild and it was they who in the later years, brought the greatest joy to Wally and Dorothy’s lives.

Described by her family as loving, hardworking, dedicated, and a quiet achiever who would do anything for anyone, Dorothy died on 1 September 2023 when 78 years old.

Our sympathies are extended to all the members of her family.

BESSIE LOUISE QUIGLEY

27 November 1932—7 July 2023

Bess (we think) was the daughter of Bernard Nicholas Hoskin and his wife Elizabeth Muriel Emily nee Scott and was born in 1932.

In 1951 she married James Martin Quigley and they had two children — Colleen and Terry.

Jim died on 6 October 2022 and was buried at Bairnsdale cemetery so it was here that a graveside service was held for Bess on 18 July.

Bess was an avid family historian and was a member of the East Gippsland Family History Group for over twenty five years. When Bess joined in 1989 it was a young group—we were regularly visiting cemeteries to transcribe headstones and creating many of the records we now rely on. Bess was very much one of those members who enthusiastically joined in and enjoyed the social aspect of the group together with the research part.

She was so good at enthusing her family that her daughter Colleen was also a member of the group from 2013, no doubt providing the transport for her Mum in those later years, until they both retired from the group in 2016.

Bess did not enjoy the best of mobility in her later years however even as recent as only weeks before her death she was asking about what the group was doing and interested in its activities and how it had grown.

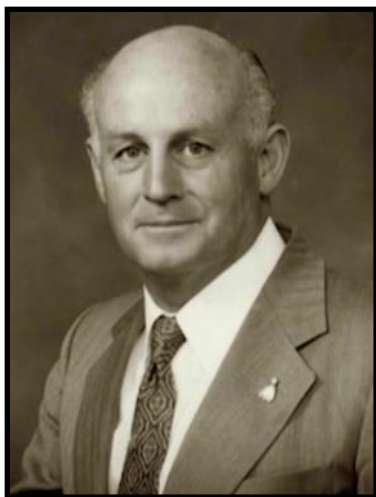
A beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother our sympathies are extended to her family.

Both EGFHG and EGHS extend their sympathies to Tony Meade whose older brother John Charles died at Geelong after a long illness on 14 August 2023.

You have a lifetime of memories Tony and no doubt will always remember those electric shocks he promised he wouldn’t give you when a child.

JOHN MORTON CAPP, OAM

28 November 1930 — 2 July 2023



John Capp was the son of John Nelson Capuano and Gwen nee Morton and had one brother, Barry, who died during covid.

The Capuano family were among some of the earliest Italian immigrants to East Gippsland with John's grandfather operating as a blacksmith in Bairnsdale. The blacksmith led to the family trading motor vehicles as the years passed and John's father Nelson and his brothers developed "The Big Garage."

At the start of World War II having an Italian name was not conducive to a growing business enterprise and Nelson, and some of his brothers, made the decision to anglicise their surname to Capp.

John was educated at Old Melbourne Grammar and in 1947 when he left school he joined the staff at the Big Garage. He was visionary with the growth of the business with the Big Garage being nominated the inaugural "Time" magazine dealer of the year. The Big Garage was a multi-faceted operation, including Mercedes Benz, Holden and Kenworth trucks which were sold all over Australia. At one time it was the preeminent Kenworth dealership in Australia.

John was a force to be reckoned with when he had the bit between his teeth on a particular project. He was on many boards and a member of various associations and clubs. Among them all were the Eureka committee, the Bairnsdale amateur swimming pool committee, the creation of the Victorian Eastern Development Association (VEDA) for developing tourist and

business in East Gippsland, East Gippsland TAFE, East Gippsland Water, and Probus. He was also an active legatee with Legacy both locally and in Melbourne.

When local government was subjected to the Baines Report which amalgamated shires into larger entities John was a commissioner with the new Wellington Shire until elections were held.

In 1954 John married Edna Wheildon and they had three daughters and after her death in 1993 and the sale of the Big Garage John moved to the CBD in Melbourne where he continued working with his business contacts and legacy.

It was in Melbourne that he met Maureen Hopper who he married in 1998 and John welcomed Maureen's two daughters into the family circle. John and Maureen enjoyed significant travel overseas.

In 2001 John was awarded an Order of Australia for his service to community and regional development in East Gippsland.

John was a members of the EGHS for some years and a member of EGFHG for 36 years.

In recent years John was keen to document the history of the Big Garage and commissioned the writing of its history which was published in last year.

Our sympathies are extended to his family.

AMY GLADYS PINCOTT

14 Dec. 1925 - 5 July 2023



Sport, any sport, was Amy's life. She was the only child of George Beckley and Ruby (nee Price) and went to school at 754.

In 1948, she married Ian Douglas Pincott when she was 23 years old and the following year, in 1949, she played her best game of hockey when her team "North" won the Bairnsdale Girls' Winter Sports Association hockey premiership. At the same time as playing hockey she was also playing badminton which she started about 1945 and in 1954 she won the Ladies' Australian singles championship and was runner-up in both the ladies' and mixed doubles championships.

In 2012 she was the recipient of the Neighbourhood Watch State Award of Honour.

In 2018 Amy, at 92 years, drove herself from Bairnsdale to Buderim, Qld for her regular month long holiday. Amy was a golfing pioneer at Headland where she won the first Mixed Foursomes championship with her husband and also the Ladies Foursomes title. She was the Ladies Club Champion six times, Mixed Foursome eight times and Ladies Foursome six times. She was Ladies Captain for nine years and was one of only four Life Members of the club. She also enjoyed golf locally at South Pines where a trophy carries her name.

In her later years Amy was calling in at both the museum and the research rooms in Morgan Street. Amy joined EGFHG in 2020 when she was 94 years old - we hope she found the answers she was seeking. Ian and Amy had no children but they are fondly remembered by nieces, nephews and cousins.



the black sheep

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Contributions most welcome to blacksheep@egfhg.org.au

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| TUESDAY | 10am to 4pm |
| THURSDAY | 10am to 6pm (or later) |
| SATURDAY | 10am to 4pm (or later) (except 2nd Sat. of month 10am to 4pm) |

DAILY RESEARCH FEE

\$15 per day (non-members)

RESEARCH FEE (by EGFHG members)

\$30 minimum fee

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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| Joining Fee | \$10 |
| Ordinary Member | \$45 (due 1 July each year) |
| Extra Family Member (same address) | \$15.00 |

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www.eastgippslandhistoricalsociety.com

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| weekly | |
| and additional FIRST SUNDAY | |
| every month | 10am to 3pm |

MUSEUM ADMISSION CHARGES

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Adults | \$5 |
| Concession / Student | \$4 |
| Children | \$2 |

The museum houses furnishings, artefacts, machinery and memorabilia of local history, *Calejero* log cabin c1880 and Union Bank coach house.

DAILY RESEARCH FEE

\$10 per day (non-members)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

| | |
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| Joining Fee | \$1 |
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