

Mildura Brass Band, 1891!



The above photograph was loaned by Ann Newberry, which belonged to her grandfather Johnson of Merbein.

Am looking for a date of photograph believed to be 1891 and names of band members.

On the back of photograph the name Mr Johnson appears and he is believed to be in the photo.

Software class times

Family Tree Maker and Legacy software classes are now held on the third Wednesday night of each month at the Mildura Carnegie Centre, Legacy class commences at 6.30pm and F.T.M. class at 7.30pm, all newcomers welcome. For further information contact Graeme Butler on 5024 3986.

**NOMINATION FORM FOR
OFFICE BEARERS
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Newsletter Reporter required, contact Editor

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100 years of Merbein Irrigation Settlement

by Raylee Schultz

In August 2009 the town of Merbein in Northern Victoria will be celebrating 100 years of the Irrigation Settlement. The celebrations will commence on Friday 14th August with a Meet and Greet registration at the Merbein Hotel. The program of events includes a Centenary Ball, sporting events, a Settlers picnic, a Street Parade, School events, Historical Walks and Land Sale re-enactment and many more. Sunday 23rd August will see the end of the 10 days of celebrations with an Inter-Denominational Church Service at the Kenny Park Rotunda followed by lunch and a tree planting.

For further information regarding the Centenary please visit their website at

www.merbeincentenary.com.au

<<http://www.merbeincentenary.com.au/>>

In 1909, approximately 5,600 acres of surveyed land in White Cliffs, The Parish of Merbein, was opened up under the Victoria Closer Settlement Scheme under conditional purchase.

The first Land Board hearing was held at White

Cliffs (Merbein) 18th August 1909.

To acquire White Cliffs land, the prospective settler had to make formal application to the local Land Office, or to the Secretary for Lands, Melbourne.

Every application had to be accompanied by a deposit equal to the first installment of the purchase money and the lease fee of one pound. Applicants had to attend a Land Board Hearing, be examined for their suitability for the taking up the land, and agree to live on the property for at least 8 months of the year.

To encourage prospective settlers, the Government ran railway excursions from Melbourne to Mildura at the special rate of one penny per mile for interested parties.

During 1909 and 1910 there were a number of Land Board Hearings and allocations and at the 3rd Land Board Hearing and Recommendation, my Great Grand Father, William John Camin, met all the criteria needed and his application was successful.

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THE MILDURA & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Inc.

A002391P Founded 1978

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Newsletter:- "The Grapeline" published March, June, September and December.
Closing dates for newsletter submissions
20th Feb, 20 May, 20th Aug. and 20th Nov.

Mulga Fred, Pelaco icon

MULGA FRED (c.1874-1948), Aboriginal buck-jumper, was born about 1874, probably near Port Hedland, Wilson and also Fred Clark, he became an expert drover and horse-breaker, but never learned to read or write.

After travelling to Adelaide by cattle-ship about 1905, he joined 'Broncho' George's rodeo troupe; he later toured with the Mulder brothers and with Billy Kinnear, riding in shows throughout south-eastern

Australia. Nicknamed 'Mulga Fred', he gave outstanding performances at a buckjumping rodeo held at the Melbourne Hippodrome in June 1911, and subsequently won several Victorian titles.

By the 1920s Mulga Fred's 'beat' lay in the Wimmera and Western districts. From Lake Condah Aboriginal mission in the south, he toured as far north as Kaniva, Dimboola and Swan Hill; in addition, he regularly appeared at the Melbourne Royal Show. Kinnear regarded him as one of the greatest rodeo riders of their day. Fred was rarely thrown; he could vault on to a moving horse; and he could ride from 'head to tail'. He continued to ride buckjumpers professionally until the 1930s, then turned to giving exhibitions: his last, for ten seconds at Swan Hill in 1948, brought him thunderous applause and a shower of coins.

In old age he concentrated on rural labouring, and on subtle horse-taming as distinct from crude horse-breaking. He was also an expert at stockwhip-cracking and boomerang-throwing. Crowds at the football and the show frequently saw him whip a cigarette paper from the hands and lips of a volunteer. While lying on the ground, he could even use a stockwhip to crack paper from his own mouth.



In 1917 the clothing manufacturers J. K. Pearson and J. L. G. Law had renamed their firm Pelaco Ltd. The company's advertising soon depicted a bare-legged and bare-foot Aboriginal man striding along in a pristine white Pelaco dinner-shirt and exclaiming: 'Mine Tinkit They Fit'. A. T. Mockridge drew the original sketch. By the 1930s 'Pelaco Bill' sported a monocle and cigar, or stood resplendent in shirt, tie and trousers beneath the Australian flag. What began as a racist play on civilization and savagery had become something more inclusive. Pelaco Bill proved popular for almost forty years and contributed to the company's rising fortunes. Mulga Fred always maintained that he was the model for Pelaco Bill. Although the company acknowledged his claim by sending him shirts, it has oscillated (from 1948) about its connection with him.

Mulga Fred was 5 ft 10 ins (178 cm) tall, full-bearded and softly spoken; in later life he walked with a limp, a legacy of rodeo work. A favourite with children, he was respected by adults, even when cadging a 'shillin'. He never married and spent his earnings on his drinking mates. Between 1927 and 1940 he was gaoled fifteen times for drunkenness: he reacted sometimes with defiance, sometimes with gentleness and sometimes with wit. En-route to an appearance at the Dimboola Regatta, he was killed when hit by a train on the night of 2/3 November 1948 at Horsham station. He was buried in the Horsham cemetery with Catholic rites. His tombstone is engraved with a stockwhip and boomerang, symbols of the two cultures he mastered.

Select Bibliography: Victorian Police Gazette, 1927, p 260, 1934, p 468, 1936, p 914, 1938, pp 51, 291, 429, 928, 1007; Age (Melbourne), 23 June 1911; Horsham Times, 5 Nov 1948; Coleraine Albion, 4 Feb 1960; Aborigines Protection Board (Victoria), personal file, CRS B337/0, item 551 (National Archives of Australia); inquest no 1704, VPRS 24, box 1605 (Public Record Office Victoria).

Urgently Wanted: Family Research Finds

Society Items for Sale

Sunraysia Daily Indexes	\$20.00
Merbein Cemetery Index	\$25.00
Red Cliffs Cemetery Index	\$25.00
Mildura Law Courts Index 1889-1910	\$10.00
Society Coffee Mugs	\$10.00
Settler in the Sun Conference Book	FREE
Wall Charts — Seven Generations	\$1.50



*Disclaimer: The Editor does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy in the information contained in this newsletter.

Pelaco connection revisited

LAW, JAMES LINDSAY GORDON (1881-1963), shirt manufacturer, was born on 21 January 1881 at Ballarat, Victoria, eighth child of Scottish migrants James Law, contractor, and his wife Margaret, nee Bartholomew.

James senior was killed in an accident in Tasmania when the youngster, known as 'Lin', was only 6. He was educated in state schools at Ballarat but left at 11 and was subsequently tutored by his eldest sister, a schoolteacher. His first job was with Banks & Co. at Ballarat in 1892. After working from 1896 as a salesman with Paterson, Laing & (J.M.) Bruce in Flinders Lane, Melbourne, in 1904 he met his future partner James Kerr Pearson (1881-1950).

Born on 31 July 1881 at Glasgow, Scotland, son of James Pearson, drapery warehouseman, and his wife Mary-Ann, nee Kerr, Pearson had come to Victoria in 1902. Employed by Richard Allen Pty Ltd he then worked as a traveller with Kornblum & Co. In 1905 he founded a company manufacturing shirts and Law became a partner in 1906. From 1911 Pearson & Law was a limited company in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy; in 1917 it became Pelaco Ltd (from the first two letters of each owner's surname). Law was managing director from 1911 until the early 1950s. Pearson was joint managing director from 1917.

On 12 January 1915 in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Sydney, Law married Elsie Russell, a saleswoman. The couple lived most of their married life at Brighton, Melbourne, and had four children. He was very much a family man. Although nominally a Methodist, he was not religious. Pearson, a Presbyterian, had married Amy Harriet, sister of E. C. Dyason, at All Saints' Church of England pro-Cathedral, Bendigo, on 24 May 1910.

A member of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, Law was sometime president of its clothing trades section and of the Commercial Travellers Club, and vice-president of the Australian Industries Protection League. He was the employers' representative on the Victorian Shirt Wages Board during both world wars and a key witness for the employers in the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in the 1920s.

Best known for his innovative approach to the management of clothing production, Law elaborated his philosophies in a series of articles in the Australasian Manufacturer (1916-17); he included 'scientific management' principles derived from Frederick Winslow Taylor, and paternalist approaches to industrial relations. Law was an avid reader of relevant literature and, after World War I, spent five months in the United States of America observing production methods.

In the Pelaco factory he employed Taylor's ideas on subdivision of labour and supervision of workers as well as Henry Ford's standardization of products. He was also influenced by the industrial efficiency move-

ment, using physical conditions of work and length of work periods to maximize the productivity of the workforce. The outcome was a modern, well lit and ventilated factory, equipped with recreation and lunch rooms, a piano, and radios provided for the use of workers.

Pelaco was one of the first companies in Australia to employ an industrial psychologist, and published a regular factory newsletter, Pelacograms, to inspire a sense of community and pride. Law believed passionately in piece rates as a solution to 'the problem of labour': 'Capital must awaken to the fact that it does not matter how high a man's wage is so long as he earns it, and Labour must awaken to the fact that if he receives a high wage it must be earned'. The practice of employing large numbers of juvenile females on piece rates brought him into conflict with both the Clothing Trades Union and the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, especially in the 1920s when he became a leading anti-union campaigner in the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures.

Of average height, 5 ft 8 ins (173 cm) tall, Law was good-looking, clean cut, a forceful character and a fighter. Nevertheless, he wished to be seen as a fair man: despite designing his workrooms on the open-plan model to allow maximum supervision, he refused to wear rubber-soled shoes for fear that workers would think he was sneaking up on them. In his youth he rowed with Albert Park Rowing Club. He had joined the Victorian Scottish Regiment during the South African War but did not serve overseas. From the early 1920s he belonged to Melbourne Rotary Club and Victoria Golf Club. In later life he played tennis at home and enjoyed gardening and motoring. He was also a member of the Athenaeum and Melbourne Scots clubs.

Pearson too enjoyed golf and tennis and belonged to the Athenaeum club. He died on 2 October 1950 at Richmond, leaving an estate sworn for probate at Â£92,967. His wife, two daughters and three sons survived him. Law died on 18 February 1963 in a private hospital at Fitzroy and was cremated. His wife, one daughter and three sons survived him. His estate was sworn at Â£22,701. The company's mass advertising-with captions, 'Mine Tinkit They Fit!', under an image of an Aboriginal man 'Pelaco Bill', and 'It is indeed a lovely shirt, sir!', with the product held by the model Bambi Smith made a lasting impression on Australian consumers.

James Lindsay Gordon Law's mother Margaret Bartholomew was a distant relative of the Editor, Robin Parker, Margaret's brother Alexander Bartholomew married Isabella Watson who was a first cousin of my great grandfather Andrew Watson of Horsham.

Ancestry of Pelaco's James Lindsay Gordon Law

- 1-Andrew Bartholomew b. 1706, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland + Elizabeth Johnston b. 1710, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.**
 |2-Marion Bartholomew b. 1727, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 3 Dec 1727, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 |2-Jean Bartholomew b. 1730, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 18 Jan 1730, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 2-Elizabeth Bartholomew b. 1732, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 21 May 1732, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 2-Miss Bartholomew b. 1734, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 17 Sep 1734, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 2-Margaret Bartholomew b. 1739, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 5 Feb 1739, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
2-James Bartholomew b. 8 Mar 1740, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 8 Mar 1740, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland + Janet Gow b. 27 Mar 1742, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 |3-James Bartholomew b. 3 Feb 1765, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 3-Andrew Bartholomew b. 1767, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 8 Feb 1767, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 3-John Bartholomew b. 1772, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 9 Aug 1772, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland + Sarah Robertson.
 4-Margaret Bartholomew b. 14 Dec 1801, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 27 Dec 1801, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 |4-Agnes Bartholomew b. 19 Oct 1803, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 30 Oct 1803, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-James Bartholomew b. 8 Sep 1805, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-Mary Bartholomew b. 1808, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 13 Mar 1808, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-Thomas Bartholomew b. 23 Mar 1810, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 29 Mar 1810, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-William Bartholomew b. 4 Jun 1812, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 14 Jun 1812, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-John Bartholomew b. 7 May 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 18 May 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-Alexander Bartholomew b. 7 May 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 14 May 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-Peter Bartholomew b. 13 Jun 1816, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 30 Jun 1816, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 |4-George Bartholomew b. 5 Mar 1820, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 12 Mar 1820, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
 4-Sarah Bartholomew b. 1823, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 6 Apr 1823, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
 4-Andrew Bartholomew b. 1825, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 21 Aug 1825, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
 3-Elizabeth Bartholomew b. 1774, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 1774, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
|3-Alexander James Bartholomew b. May 1776, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 12 May 1776, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland + Margaret Dunn b. Abt 1776
 4-Margaret Bartholomew b. 19 Oct 1810, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
 4-Janet Bartholomew b. 9 Apr 1812, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. Pre Apr 1819, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
4-Alexander Bartholomew b. 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 29 May 1814, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 22 Jan 1895, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, bur. New Ballarat Cemetery, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia + Jean Shanks b. 27 Sep 1811, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 11 Jan 1897, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, bur. New Ballarat Cemetery, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia
 5-Agnes Bartholomew b. Feb 1836, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. pre Apr 1841, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland
5-Margaret Bartholomew b. 8 Nov 1837, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 3 Dec 1837, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 30 Oct 1913, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia + James Nicol Law b. 15 Feb 1835, Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland, d. 13 Jul 1886, Avoca, Tasmania, Australia, bur. Ballarat, Victoria, Australia
 6-Jane Shanks Law b. 1 Nov 1863, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, d. 4 Feb 1946, Elsternwick, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia + George Henry Shimmin b. 30 Jan 1863, Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia, d. 20 Sep 1943, East St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 6-Susan Nicol Law b. 13 Jun 1865, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, d. 11 Mar 1949, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 6-Maude Mary Law b. 10 Nov 1867, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, d. 12 Apr 1880, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia
 6-Robert Oswald Law b. 1 Nov 1869, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, d. 21 Jan 1932, Adelaide, South

Australia + Elizabeth Sarah Radley b. Abt 1869, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, d. 8 Jun 1910, Knightbridge, Adelaide, South Australia + Millicent Mary Hosking

6-Margaret Law b. 13 Oct 1871, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, d. 5 Mar 1934, Prahan, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia + William Henry Cuming b. 1876, Footscray, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, d. 1929, Caulfield, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

6-Alexander Bartholomew Law.

6-Agnes Law.

6-James Lindsay Gordon Law.

5-Alexander Shanks Bartholomew b. Jul 1839, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 14 Jul 1839, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 1919, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, bur. New Ballarat Cemetery, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia + Isabella Watson b. 1847, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, d. 1912, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

6-Agnes Houston Bartholomew b. 1866 + Francis Ralston Smith.

6-Alexander Shanks Bartholomew b. 1870, d. 1938 + Minnie Messenger.

7-Harry Bartholomew b. 1898, d. 1967.

7-Alexander George Bartholomew b. 1902, d. 1978.

7-Daisy Isabel Bartholomew b. 1904, d. 1981.

7-David Bartholomew b. 1906, d. 1907.

7-Roy Charles Bartholomew b. 1909.

7-Marjorie Jean Bartholomew b. 1911.

7-Minnie May Bartholomew b. 1916, d. 1916.

6-Jane Shanks Bartholomew b. 1872, Ballarat, Victoria, d. 1906, Ballarat, Victoria + Arthur Tuckett

6-Jessie Henrietta Shanks Bartholomew b. 1874, Ballarat, Victoria, d. 1927, Elsternwick, Melbourne + (Unknown) (Unknown).

7-Elsie Bartholomew b. 1895.

6-Margaretta Law Bartholomew b. 1877, Geelong, Victoria, d. 1878, Geelong, Victoria.

6-Georgina Isabel Bartholomew b. 1882.

6-Daisy Catherina Bartholomew b. 1884, Geelong, Victoria, d. 12 Sep 1888, Ballarat, Victoria.

6-Lillian Elizabeth Mary Bartholomew b. 1886, Ballarat, Victoria, d. 5 Jun 1914, Ballarat, Victoria.

5-Agnes Bartholomew b. Abt 1841, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 1852, Aboard The Ticonderoga Enroute To Australia.

5-Jean Reid Bartholomew b. Abt 1843, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 1911, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia + John Raynard Langsford b. 1839, Cornwell, England, c. 25 Aug 1839, Cornwell, England, d. 1914, Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

5-David Bartholomew b. Abt 1847, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 1928, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

5-Janet Bartholomew b. Abt 1851, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, d. 1852, Aboard The Ticonderoga Enroute To Australia.

4-Andrew Bartholomew b. 29 Dec 1816, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 29 Dec 1816, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

4-Janet Bartholomew b. 9 Apr 1819, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

4-Agnes Bartholomew b. 14 Jun 1821, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland. + Peter Johnston b. 1819, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

4-William Bartholomew b. 14 Sep 1823, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

3-Janet Bartholomew b. 1778, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 20 Apr 1778, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

3-James Bartholomew b. 1785, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 16 Jan 1785, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

2-Helen Bartholomew b. 1749, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland, c. 31 May 1749, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, Scotland.



Back row from left: Alexander Bartholomew Law, Robert Oswald Law and James Lindsay Gordon Law.

Front row from left: Susan Nicol Law, Jane Shanks Shimmin nee Bartholomew, Margaret Law nee Cuming nee Law.

Photo dated 1910

1911 census goes online

36 million people were recorded in the census taken on the night of Sunday, 2 April, 1911. Today, after nearly 100 years, these census records are available to the public at www.1911census.co.uk.

The census covered England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, as well as recording those aboard Royal Naval and Merchant vessels at sea and in foreign ports and, for the first time in a British census, full details of British Army personnel and their families in military establishments overseas. It is the most detailed census since UK records began and the first for which the original census schedules have been preserved - complete with our ancestors' own handwriting - providing a fascinating insight into British society nearly a century ago.

From today over 27 million people's census entries - 80 per cent of the English records - will be available. A further nine million records of people from the remaining counties of England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, as well as the naval and overseas military records, will be made available over the coming months.

www.1911census.co.uk is easy to access and enables the public to view high quality colour images of their ancestors' original handwritten census returns. Transcribed text versions of the records ensure they are fully searchable by name or address.

Public demand for the 1911 census, which will be a key resource for family historians, has resulted in the records being released earlier than the scheduled 2012 date. To make this early online release to the public possible, the 1911 census team worked around the clock for two years - scanning on average one census page per second. In line with data protection legislation, certain sensitive information relating to infirmity and to children of women prisoners will be held back until 2012.

Comprehensive and rigorously tested, www.1911census.co.uk has been developed by UK-based family history website findmypast.com, owned by brightsolid, in association with The National Archives.

Elaine Collins, Commercial Director at findmypast.com, said: "The 1911 census offers a crucial new entry point to family history research for a wide range of people, from novice family historians to seasoned genealogists who have hit a 'wall' in their family tree research. As well as helping people trace their ances-

tors, these records shed more light on our ancestors' day-to-day lifestyles, providing a snapshot of a day in their lives, with details of their occupations, housing arrangements and social status."

The 1911 census is huge - occupying over two kilometres of shelving - an incredible eight million paper census returns have been transcribed to create over 16 million digital images. This makes the 1911 census one of the biggest digitisation projects ever undertaken by The National Archives in association with a commercial partner.

Oliver Morley, Director of Customer and Business Development at The National Archives, commented: "This is a major achievement. By teaming up with findmypast.com, we are bringing history to life for millions. This remarkable record is available online to researchers and family historians all over the world for future generations. The 1911 census is a poignant reflection of how different life was in early 20 century Britain, before the Great War."

Due to the widespread popularity of family history, it is anticipated that www.1911census.co.uk will experience a high level of visitors logging on to search the records, especially in the first weeks of launch.

Elaine Collins, Commercial Director at findmypast.com, advises: "We aim to deliver a quality service that has high but not infinite capacity. If visitors do experience a short delay in accessing the records via www.1911census.co.uk soon after launch, we would advise them to try again later when the website becomes less busy. www.1911census.co.uk is here to stay and access to the online census records will be unlimited permanently from today."

Handwritten records

Completed by all householders in England and Wales on Sunday, 2 April 1911, the census records show the name, age, place of birth, marital status and occupation of every resident in every home, as well as their relationship to the head of the household.

People will also have unique access to their ancestors' handwriting as the original householders' schedules were preserved and used as working documents rather than copying the details in to summary books as was the case in previous census years.

The records contain details about the lives of many important British historical figures, such as David Lloyd George, the contemporary Prime Minister H.H. Asquith and 'Bloomsbury Set' author Virginia Woolf. The launch of the records also creates a starting point for people to trace their own family tree by looking up their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who were alive in the year 1911.

'Fertility Census'

The 1911 census was the first to ask questions relating to fertility in marriage. Married women were asked to state how long they had been married and how many children had been born from that marriage.

Continued next page

Property found

**Found in lost property box in the society rooms, a book titled *Abeona and the Hawson Family* by Mary D. Carrick, most likely owned by a member or a visitor.
Contact the genealogical rooms for its safe return.**

The census also provides a fascinating snapshot of the population of the country just a few years before a whole generation of young men perished in the Great War of 1914-1918.

How to use the 1911 Census records

* Log on to www.1911census.co.uk and register for free

* Search for an ancestor in 1911 by entering their name

* If the name is common you can enter their approximate year of birth, which will help to narrow down the results

* Search for an address to look up the history of your house or an ancestor's address in 1911 (this function will be available in summer 2009)

* Pay as you go to view each record. You will be charged 10 credits per transcript and 30 credits for each original household page. Visitors to the website can buy 60 credits for £6.95.

* Findmypast.com vouchers will also be valid on 1911census.co.uk. Vouchers can be purchased from The National Archives bookshop and redeemed on findmypast.com. Credits can then be spent on both findmypast.com and 1911census.co.uk.

* For more information about using the 1911 census for family history research, 'Census: The Expert Guide' by Peter Christian and David Annal is available from The National Archives online bookshop at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

The 1911 census is a special case at the request of the Information Commissioner all records of infirmity as listed on the records (e.g. 'deaf', 'dumb', 'blind', 'lunatic' etc.) have been obscured and will not be available to view until January 2012.

The 1911 Census is a special case in that parts of it are being made available early. Since 1920, government has given a commitment that information collected in a census will be kept confidential for 100 years.

Further information is available from our online media centre: <http://media.1911census.co.uk>

Leading UK family history website findmypast.com (formerly 1837online.com) was the first company to make the complete birth, marriage and death indexes for England & Wales available online in April 2003.

Following the transcription, scanning and indexing of over two million images, the company launched the first website to allow the public easy and fast access to the complete indexes, which until then had only been available on microfiche film in specialist archives and libraries. The launch was instrumental in creating the widespread and growing interest in genealogy seen in the UK today.

Findmypast.com has subsequently digitised many more family history records and now offers access to over 650 million records dating as far back as 1538. This allows family historians and novice genealogists to search for their ancestors among comprehensive collections of military records, census, migration, occupation directories, and current electoral roll data, as well

as the original comprehensive birth, marriage and death records.

In November 2006 findmypast.com launched the ancestorsonboard.com microsite in association with The National Archives to publish outbound passenger lists for long-distance voyages departing all British ports between 1890 and 1960.

As well as providing access to historical records, findmypast.com is also developing a range of online tools to help people discover and share their family history more easily, beginning with the launch of Family Tree Explorer in July 2007.

Over 1.7 million people in the UK have researched their family trees and findmypast.com has over 800,000 active registered users, revealing the mass appeal of genealogy and findmypast.com's position as the leading family history website based in the UK.

In April 2007 findmypast.com's then parent company Title Research Group received the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation 2007 in recognition of their achievement.

Findmypast.com was acquired in December 2007 by brightsolid, the company who were awarded The National Archives' contract to publish online the 1911 census.

About The National Archives:

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archives of the UK government, it cares for, makes available and 'brings alive' a vast collection of over 1000 years of historical records, including the treasured Domesday Book.

Not only safeguarding historical information, The National Archives also manages current digital information and devises new technological solutions for keeping government records readable now and in the future. It provides world class research facilities and expert advice, publishes all UK legislation and official publications, and is a leading advocate for the archive sector.

At the heart of information policy, The National Archives sets standards of best practice that actively promotes and encourages public access to, and the re-use of information, both online or onsite at Kew. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

Have you a research find
you would like to share.
Email the editor on
[robinparker\\$1@hotmail.com](mailto:robinparker$1@hotmail.com)

Hawksbury Advocate Newspaper 1899-1900 Index to Court Cases, BDM's, Inquests, Obits, Probates etc.

This index contains over 5,000 entries extracted from the Hawksbury Advocate newspaper, which was based in Windsor, N.S.W., encompassing the two year period of 1899 to 1900, detailing references to the following events:

Accident, Address, Agriculture, Anniversary, Apology, Appointment, Arrival, Arrival in colony, Article, Artist, Assault victim, Auction, Auction license, Award, Baptism, Benefit, Bicycle tour, Billiard license, Birth, Birthday, Boat builder, Boat owner, Boat salvage, Booth license, Burial, Burns victim, Bus owners, Business, Business purchase, Business sold, Capture, Ceased publication, Celebration, Choir, Church land, Coach license, Commerce, Competitor, Cottage additions, Death, Departure, Description, Dog attack victim, Dog poisoned, Editorial, Election, Employer, Employment, Enlistment, Entertainment, Estate, Examination, Execution, Family, Farewell, Farm auction, Farm rental, Farm sale, Fern house, Final sermon, Fire, Flood, For sale, Found, Funeral, Grant, Grave, Holiday, Horse races, Hotel, House, House removal, In Memoriam, Inquest, Insolvent, Land donation, Lease, Leaving colony, Leaving district, Lecture, Left colony, Left district, Legal, Legal notice, Lost, Mail, Mail contract, Management, Marriage, Medical, Medical isolation, Meeting, Memorial, Memorial service, Military, Military exam, Military sports, Missing, Monument, Mortgage sale, Murder victim, Music, Music exam, Music study, New boat, New business, New cottage, New house, New punt, New store, Newspaper, Notice, Obituary, Observatory, Opening (exhibit), Opening business, Orchard buyer, Orchard sold, Painting, Partnership, Patent, Pensioner, Photograph, Picnic, Poetry, Poster advert, Premises, Presentation, Prize donor, Prize winner, Probate, Promotion, Property, Property bought, Property sold, Publican's license, Purchase (ship), Race horse, Railway, Real Estate, Recovery, Reinterred, Relocation, Removal, Renovation, Repair, Rescue, Residence, Resident, Resignation, Return, Return thanks, Reward, River trader, Road closure, Road contract, Road repair, Robbery, Robbery victim, Salary, Scholarship, School, Search for body, Selector, Sermon, Shipping, Shooting accident, Shooting victim, Sign, Snake bite victim, Social, Sold, Spider bite, Sport, Student, Study, Tender, Tennis court, Testimonial, To let, To let - farm, Trading boat, Transfer, University exam, Visit, Weather, Wine license, Wounded.

Further details of this particular index are on our website.

<http://www.gownewspaperindexes.com.au/mrtimes1921%261925.html> along with a full listing of all entries stating Name, Event, Age (where stated) and District.

The 39 separate newspaper indexes listed on our web site are

newspaper indexes, they are not the actual newspapers, see our web site for the sample layout. If you purchase the indexes, the information therein then gives the following details of the article in

the newspaper - name, event, age (where stated), district, edition date, page and column. Armed with this information you can access the micro films at certain libraries - see "Accessing Newspaper Micro Film Reels" on our web site.

We also offer the service of supplying print outs from the newspaper micro films of any articles that have entries in any of our newspaper indexes, but we do charge \$5 per article and require a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope, whether you purchase the newspaper index or not.

Sometimes this is a more economical way for a researcher to obtain the articles, rather than purchasing the whole index.

This index is available on CD-ROM only, at \$30 each (postage free within Australia).

The full listing of the 39 newspaper indexes and the 19 local history books that we have published are on the main page of our web site at www.gownewspaperindexes.com.au

Rod and Wendy Gow

Gow Newspaper Indexes

Go to the link below to visit our web site for the latest list of Newspaper Indexes and local history books.... www.gownewspaperindexes.com.au

1848-1849 Bathurst newspaper index released

Rod and Wendy Gow have just published "Bathurst Advocate and Bathurst Free Press newspaper 1848-1849 - INDEX". This index contains over 9,400 entries.

The format states the DATE of the edition of the particular newspaper and the P&C (page and column) number within that edition, thereby facilitating ease of research when reading the micro films of the newspaper available at various libraries.

Further details of this particular index are on our web site below.

<http://www.gownewspaperindexes.com.au/bathurst1848-49.html> along with a full listing of all entries stating Name, Event, Age (where stated) and District.

This index is available in either A4 book format, or on CD-ROM, at \$30 each (postage free within Australia).

The full listing of the 40 newspaper indexes and the 19 local history books that we have published are on the main page of our web site at www.gownewspaperindexes.com.au

The man they could not hang has links to Mildura family

For ten years, James Berry of Yorkshire, England was a police constable, and during that time he made many friends and enemies.

One acquaintance of the Yorkshire man was William Marwood, an old executioner of the City of London who liked to give Berry a blow by blow account of the techniques he employed to hang criminals.

When Marwood died, in 1883, 32-year old Berry decided the police force was not for him, so he left, and finding himself desperate for a vocation in life, he opted for a macabre career; a hangman. With all the knowledge of the gallows obtained from Marwood, Berry confidently applied for his deceased friend's job, but was turned down.

The ex-policeman persisted with his unusual aspiration, and to his delight, he received his first commission of 21 guineas to hang two men at Calton Prison in Edinburgh. Included in the commission was a second-class return rail ticket from Berry's hometown of Bradford, and money for board and lodgings.

On the night before James Berry was due to hang the men, he had a lucid nightmare about his new life-taking occupation. In the dream, Berry found that he could not hang a man because the trapdoor on the gallows refused to open. This same disturbing dream returned to haunt Berry's sleep many times over the years.

The following morning, everything went smoothly, and the two condemned men were dispatched without any trouble. On the night November 15th, 1884, Miss Emma Whitehead Keyse, a former maid of honor (and a friend of Queen Victoria) was found battered to death with her oil-soaked clothes ablaze at a villa known as 'The Glen' in Babbacombe, Devon. Miss Keyse's cook, Elizabeth Harris, discovered the body of her mistress in the dining room after waking in her own smoke-filled room. She said that Miss Keyse's head had been battered in, and her clothes had doused in oil from a lamp and evidently lighted by the murderer. After taking a statement from the cook, the police quizzed the dead woman's other servant, a 19-year-old footman named John Lee, who was the half-brother of Elizabeth Harris.

Lee had the reputation of being a petty thief and had been hired by Miss Keyse out of pity. With such a track record, the footman soon became the prime suspect in the eyes of the police, despite the fact that Lee had tried to put out the fire on the night of the murder, and had broken down in tears upon hearing that his mistress had been murdered. "I have lost my best friend." A tearful Lee had said to the village constable who had arrived at the scene of the crime first. But the police painted a different picture and went on the body

of circumstantial evidence that was building up against the teenager.

Lee had bloodstained clothing, and an empty can that had contained lamp oil was found in the pantry where Lee had been seen shortly before the fire broke out. Lee tried to explain everything. He told police that the blood on his clothing was his own, because he had gashed his hand while breaking a window pane to let the smoke from the fire out, although he couldn't explain the empty can of lamp oil. Lee was arrested and charged with murder, and at the subsequent trial, the prosecution made it clear that only John Lee had a motive. Just before her brutal death, Miss Keyse had cut Lee's weekly wages of four shillings in half because he had come under suspicion of theft. So, Lee had obviously killed her in fit of anger Lee protested, but his words fell on deaf ears. The jury reached a guilty verdict, and shortly before the sentence was passed, Lee declared from the dock, "I am innocent. The Lord will never permit me to be executed!" The judge sentenced John Lee to death by hanging.

After the trial, a rumour circulated that Lee's half-sister, Elizabeth Harris, the cook, had been discovered making love with a man in bed by Miss Keyse, a rather prim, puritanical individual.

According to the rumour, Miss Keyse was outraged and took a swipe at the naked couple, and out of sheer panic, Miss Harris struck back at her frail mistress with her fist, killing her. Hearsay had it that Miss Harris and her lover then took Miss Keyse's body to the dining room, where they tried to cover up the murder by battering the dead woman's skull in to create the impression that a violent murder perpetrated by an intruder had taken place.

Miss Harris soon came to her senses and realized the police wouldn't be so easily fooled, so she sprinkled the contents of a can of lamp-oil over the corpse and set fire to it, hoping that the flames would make the cause of Miss Keyse's death hard to determine. But the ad hoc cremation attempt didn't succeed, because John Lee was soon alerted by the smell of burning, and ran into the dining room with a pail of water to douse the flames. As the youth did this, Elizabeth or her lover placed the incriminating can of lamp-oil in the pantry where Lee had been working. On the night before the execution, Lee chatted in his cell with the prison governor and the chaplain, and the former told the condemned that there was no chance of a reprieve. Lee responded by shrugging. Then said, "Elizabeth Harris could say the word which could clear me, if she would." When the governor and the chaplain left the cell, Lee settled down and had no difficulty sleeping. The dream he had was a strange one.

Continued next page

Lee dreamed her was standing on the gallows with the noose around his neck, but the trapdoor wouldn't open, despite the repeated yanks the hangman was giving to the lever. When Lee awoke from the dream, he felt that God had assured him that there was nothing to worry about, as he would not die on the gallows.

Shortly before eight o'clock on the morning of Monday, 23rd February, 1885, James Berry led John Lee to the center of the trap on the gallows, then proceeded to strap Lee's legs together below the knees, before positioning and tightening the rope around his neck. Berry pulled the white hood over the doomed man's head, then walked to the lever. After a short tense pause, Berry threw lever - and the expected sound of bolts being drawn below the gallows was heard. Death would be a heartbeat away now for Lee. But, to everyone's amazement, the trap door on which John Lee stood refused to open. Berry's recurring nightmare had come true - and Lee's dream also.

Berry trembled. He took the hood and noose off Lee and tested the stubborn trap with a sandbag that weighed the exact same weight as Lee. The trap opened this time and the sandbag crashed to the ground under the gallows. Lee was pushed onto the trap again with the hood over his head and the noose re-positioned around his neck. This time, all the witnesses to the impending execution knew that the trap would work. Berry pulled the lever - but the trap beneath Lee's feet wouldn't open again. Berry's face started to twitch, and his shaking hands took the noose and hood off Lee, and guided him off the trap.

A prison engineer and Berry discussed the problem, and a carpenter was summoned. When the edges of the trap had been planed, and the bolts of the hanging apparatus had been greased, a sandbag acted as a substitute for Lee again. Everything went like clockwork. Lee was put on the trap for the third time. The hooded man stood there, waiting for Berry to throw the lever.

Berry inhaled the cold morning air, then pulled the lever as hard as possible. The chaplain looked away as the greased bolts slid as expected. But to his total astonishment, the chaplain saw that Lee was still standing on the unopened trap. The holy man fainted, but was caught by a warder before he could hit the floor. It was decided that a messenger should be sent to London to inform the Home Secretary of the botched hanging attempts. While everyone waited for the messenger to return, Lee was asked if he felt like eating a last breakfast, and he later consumed a substantial repast.

Ironically, the hangman James Berry had to turn down the meal he was offered, because of his nerves. So Lee ate Berry's meal instead!

About nine hours later, the messenger returned from London to inform Lee that he had been granted a respite by the Home Secretary. The death sentence had been commuted to life-imprisonment. But Lee was

Book Buffs required

to review books in Society Library for the 2009 & 2010 newsletters.

released after serving twenty years. He came out in 1905 and married a childhood sweetheart who had waited patiently for him. The couple went to America, and up until his death in 1933, John Lee, the man who couldn't be hanged, swore he was not a murderer. Whenever people asked him what he thought about being spared from the rope three times in a row, Lee would say it wasn't luck, or freak mechanical failure that saved his neck - but divine intervention.

Researching the family of John Lee, I found that his grandmother Elliott born in 1802 in Abbotskerswell, Devon married John Lee, their son John Lee was the father of John Lee, the man the could not hang.

Elizabeth Elliott's brother Thomas Elliott born in 1814 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, his son Joseph Elliott was born in Abbotskerswell, Devon and died at Nette Yallock, Victoria on Nov 15, 1886 and Joseph's son William Elliott was born at Avoca, Victoria on September 29, 1868 and died at Mildura on July 29, 1939 and son Leslie William Elliott was a fruit blockie at Irymple and died in Mildura on May 14, 2000.

Johnston and Flynn family sought

Research request for information on John May Renfrey, carpenter of Mildura.

John died in October 1940. John was born on July 18, 1885 in West Derby, England and came to Australia about 1907, he was a son of Frederick Robert Renfrey and Mary May.

Known friends were W. Flynn and the Johnson family of the Mildura district.

Any information appreciated, contact Philip Renfrey on renfreypr@bigpond.com

Seeking books

Seeking two books which appear to be out of print relating to Archibald Kirkland and Ann Lemond.

Deeds not words by Raymond Phillip Kirkland is a book of 278 pages and **Fabric of a family** by Douglas Geoge Parbery is a book of 305 pages is a story of the lives and relationships of ordinary folk who settled the coastal areas, especially the far south coast of New South Wales between 1833 and 1935.

Contact Gloria Pugh on
gloria.pugh@bigpond.com

Attention ALL Members

Any member wishing to volunteer for the Duty Roster.

New volunteers always welcome.

Enjoy a day out meeting existing members and visitors.

Please contact Kaylene Charles on

(03) 5021 4763

Genesis of the Australia Army badge

by Jac Cullen

The Rising Sun badge, the familiar emblem worn by Australian service personell in two world wars originated some 107 years ago.

The badge first used by the Instructional Corps around 1903, was made by Gaunts of London.

The design was adapted from a trophy of arms that decorated the doorway of Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Hutton's office at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, during the years 1902 to 1904.

This trophy of arms was composed of a semi-circular board, painted red, on which triangular bayonets and cut and thrust sword bayonets were arranged alternately, all radiating from the crude design of a crown cut from sheet brass.

The Rising Sun badge was inscribed with the words Australian Commonwealth Military Forces.

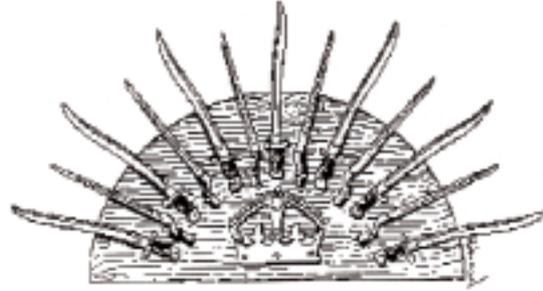
In the early 1970s the word Commonwealth was dropped from the badge scroll. Today except for some Army Reserve units, the badge is seldom issued, being replaced by Corps and Regimental badges.

In addition to being credited with being the originator of the Rising Sun badge, Lieutenant-General Hutton was the creator of Australia's Post Federation Army.

General Hutton was a British Army Officer, who had previously commanded British troops in N.S.W.

On loan to the Commonwealth government, this brilliant officer, regarded as no mere paper shuffler, is recognised by Military Historians as the designer and founder of the Australian Army.

His plan for the re-organisation of the former State forces into one Commonwealth Military Force, come



into operation on July 1, 1903.

At this time, too, a commonwealth style uniform was adopted for general wear, replacing a wide variety of State uniforms which had been worn.

General Hutton travelled widely throughout Australia to meet all ranks of the servicemen he commanded, therefore few, if any of the members of the forces could have claimed they had not seen their commander.

Although there is no official recognition of General Hutton as the originator of the Rising Sun badge, nevertheless, Australian Military historian C.E.W. Bean in his Story of Anzac recorded the following tribute to Australia's first Commander in Chief.

Hutton, like many of the leaders of history, was of the character which finds it difficult to bend its judgement to that of any other man. Shortly after his return to England he was put on the retired list and was thus little known to the British people. But he was a soldier of an brilliance only too rare. His mark remained deeply impressed upon the Australian Army.

From the Land Magazine, Thursday, Sept. 17, 1984

New format for Tasmanian Birth, Deaths and Marriages

From August 3, 2008 certificates issued for pre 1900 events are now in a new format.

In the past, information from the original hard copy registers were transcribed onto a word template and a certificate was printed on an individual basis. No information was entered into the central Registry database.

All available information from the source record is now data entered into a dedicated section of the Registry database. Certificates are then printed from the database onto the standard Births, Deaths and Marriages security paper. Great care has been taken to ensure that all the available information is included in the new certificates, so they are of maximum benefit to

applicants using them as part of their research projects.

The new system will enable the Tasmanian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to build up a Family History database that not only provides a back-up for the original paper records, but will facilitate faster and more effective searching. In the future, once the data of Registry records has progressed, we also hope to create scanned images of the original records and make them available on the internet.

We will post details about any new services on the Births, Deaths and Marriages website:

www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm

Tracing your Donegal Ancestors

By Helen Meehan & Godfrey Duffy

Flyleaf Press has just published a new edition of this comprehensive guide to family history research in Donegal County.

History of Headstones

by Anon

The marking of graves goes back to ancient times when primitive people put stones on top of graves.

These superstitious people believed that evil spirits lived in the bodies of the dead and that the stones would prevent these evil spirits from rising up. These stones also served to mark the grave as a warning for people to keep away from the spot where these evil spirits lived.

Each society developed its own purpose and its own style of marking graves as centuries passed, superstitions slowly passed on.

The Hebrews erected stone pillars; the Greeks erected beautifully sculptured head-stones with wreaths of gold; and the Egyptians erected towering pyramids.

It describes how to best use the records available, and where they can be accessed. For each type of record it provides background information on how they were compiled and what information was contained, and on which categories of people. It also provides background on the social history of County Donegal and how this history has affected the keeping and survival of records.

ISBN: 978 0 9539974-9-7 Retail: €13.00 Full information at: <http://www.flyleaf.ie/donegal.htm>

Price including Postage & Packing to Australia AUD\$29.50

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**Reminder: Memberships due
July 1 and payable by August 31**

Cr. E.T. Henderson and Mildura's Henderson Park

The area now known as Henderson Park, on the corner of Deakin Avenue and Thirteenth Street, was originally a bush paddock, until the Mildura City Council entered into a College Lands Lease Agreement in July 1934, in order to develop the area into a park.

Development proceeded slowly in 1935, with 3,500 cubic yards of soil being brought into the park to provide a good planting base. A water supply was connected and a diagonal path through the park was completed. In August 1937, during Mildura's Golden Jubilee Celebrations, a commemorative tablet to acknowledge Mildura's pioneers was unveiled and in May 1939, a commemorative oak tree was planted within the Park. The tree came from an acorn from the Windsor Royal Park in England and donated by the South African Returned Soldiers Association.

On April 22, 1951, 400-500 people attended the unveiling and dedication of Council's Cenotaph in Henderson Park by the Minister of Air (Mr White).

Also in 1951 a sundial was erected in the park to commemorate the civic service of Cr. Alexander J. Jenkins, a Councillor of the City from 1923-1950. A toilet block was built in 1969 and in November 1990 Mildura R.S.L. planted three Gallipoli Pines to mark the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing.

In 1991 a memorial plaque was dedicated to the memory of those who served in the No. 2 Operations

Training Unit, R.A.A.F. Mildura during World War II.

Henderson Park, with its magnificent trees and immaculate garden beds, is one of Mildura's premier parks which, together with the Deakin Avenue gardens, provides such a spectacular entrance to our City.

Henderson Park was named after Cr. E.T. Henderson who was elected a member of the Mildura Shire Council in August 1910 and was Shire President for three years during World War I. He had represented the Town Riding of the Shire and after the severance of the Borough in 1920, he became the Borough's second Mayor (after Cr. W.B. Chaffey.) He was the first Mayor of the Town of Mildura when it was proclaimed in 1934. Cr. Henderson served eight times as Mayor, the last for five consecutive years to 1938. He was awarded the the O.B.E. in 1944.

**Unwanted
Plastic CD Covers required**

**Contact Librarian Lyn Grant on
5023 6753**

Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages

with Anne Levens

The year has gone so quickly, Easter has passed, Term 1 of the school year has passed and the Volunteers have been extremely busy working on many interesting projects which will deliver valuable resources to family and local historians, genealogists and the general public alike and help to promote a greater sense of belonging and history to all Victorians.

The VicHeritage team at the Registry plans, develops and designs products and services focusing on the family and local history community.

The Registry's group of Volunteers are very committed and enthusiastic regarding the fields of family history and genealogy and they play an integral role in our VicHeritage team. Their commitment and hard work is very highly valued by the Registry.

PROJECT UPDATES:

The Burial Index

Data entry and audit on the death registers for 1955 has now been completed and we are currently working on 1956. This means that over 938,000 death index records between 1853 and 1920, and more than another 714,000 death index records from 1921 to 1956 have been enhanced with additional fields to show place and date of burial, and whether an inquest was undertaken (or not). Since data entry commenced from the 1921 death indexes, we have also expanded abbreviations in the 'place of death' and 'names' fields, particularly the given names, checked the ages and marked whether the deceased was 'male', 'female' or 'unknown'.

We are continuing data entry on the Cemetery Association component of this project and are linking past names or variations of specific locations. Entering the Burial Place Names for individuals into the Burial Index Database, identifying the physical location of each place name and linking those which relate to each cemetery or private burial ground will benefit many people from varied backgrounds and interests. This index will help preserve the heritage of a local community by restoring burial registers that may have not survived fires, floods and time.

Well done to all of our Registry Volunteers and thank you for your continued efforts.

NEW RELEASE:

Australia's Army War Dead DVD

On 11th November 2008, on the 90th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended World War I, the Registry, in co-operation of the Australian Army (SCMA Division) released the "Australia's Army War Dead 1885 – 1972" DVD at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Premier, Hon. John Brumby, and the Deputy-Premier and Attorney-General, Hon. Rob Hulls, launched this new product

Caption: Australia's Army War Dead DVD is available for purchase at www.bdm.vic.gov.au

This searchable DVD includes over 88,000 Australian Army index records of service personnel,



from all States and territories, who lost their lives during or as a result of operational service between 1885 and 1972. The deaths include all personnel in Australian Army units, or personnel attached to an Australian Army unit. This database has been compiled by the Registry's VicHeritage Unit of Volunteers from the index records held by the Australian Army, Central Army Records Office (CARO), Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

The service personnel included in this publication lost their lives during operational service in the following Operations: Sudan War, Boer War (South Africa), World War I, World War II, British Commonwealth Occupational Force (Japan), Korea, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam.

The "Australia's Army War Dead" DVD is covered by a Licence Agreement which must be accepted prior to purchase. The terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement are available at the time of purchase or can be viewed on our website. The DVD can be purchased online at our website or from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 595 Collins Street, Melbourne. The purchase price of the DVD is \$250 (incl. GST).

Calling for photos of our Army war dead

Since 2005, the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages began sourcing and collecting photographs of the service personnel from relatives, the family history community, and other secondary sources. The submitters of these photographs have also provided additional information regarding these men and women. Where this information accorded with the data fields in the Australia's Army War Dead index database, it has been included on the database. In this index the additional information appears under 'Age' and 'Death and Place of Burial'.

The photograph collection has grown enormously in the past couple of years. The photographs of the service personnel add another dimension to the index records and bring the names to the realization that these were real people who lost their lives whilst serving Australia. In addition to the photographs, we would like to collect Additional Information from the photograph submitters, such as, names of father, mother, spouse, issue and their birth years (to work out ages at

the time of death of the deceased person), year of marriage and the deceased's place of birth.

So, if you have a photograph of servicemen or servicewomen who lost their lives during any of the conflicts that Australia has been involved in, please give consideration to submitting them for incorporation into the database.

To submit a photo visit our website and download the 'War Dead Photo Submission' form.

If you have any queries regarding the photo submissions, please contact me at the Registry at:

anne.levens@justice.vic.gov.au

New website, same address

The Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will release its new-look website in the coming months. This website is being redeveloped with a new design, content and structure to help users find the information they need quickly and easily. The website address will stay the same but some links and bookmarks will change. Links relating to genealogical searches and online certificate applications will not change.

The site will have some additional features including a 'popular pages' section on the right-hand side of the screen and enhanced accessibility features for users with visual needs. Minor updates to the online certificate application system and the collection of uncertified images will also be introduced. This is the first in a series of updates that will make the site easier to use and addresses a number of suggestions made by users.

The online site can be reached by using the current

web address: www.bdm.vic.gov.au

Volunteers

There has been great interest in Volunteering at the Registry over the years, which has been wonderful. We still have a few vacancies in our Volunteers Project Room this year.

There are a few places available on most afternoons, so if you would like to join us, please contact me at the Registry at: **anne.levens@justice.vic.gov.au**.

VicHeritage Mailing List

If you would like to go on the VicHeritage Mailing List, simply fill in the form below and post it to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, P. O. Box 4332, Melbourne, 3001, Victoria, Australia. Your details will be entered into a Mailing List database, kept at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria. The Mailing List will be used for no other purpose than keeping you informed about new family history products, including our CDs and On-Line Services.

I wish to be included on the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Mailing List Database to be kept informed of new products and VicHeritage™ information.

Please Print.

Surname.....

Given Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Email Address.....

For all the latest news and product releases visit

www.bdm.vic.gov.au

History at our fingertips

Mildura's first POD will land at the Carnegie Resource Centre this month, supporting it as an official sanctuary for the region's historical records.

Following approval from the Minister for Victorian Communities, a Place Of Deposit, or POD, will be allowed records from the State public archive, to find a home in Mildura.

The Mildura and District Historical Society and the Mildura Genealogical Society under a joint venture will take control of local historical records.

They will allow the public free access.

Historical society president, Glenn Miller, said the records would be a valuable source of family histories and had been known to unearth a few skeletons.

"I you want to find out about your great Aunt, Elsie, who lived here in 1933, you can find answers to questions like, Where did she live? Was she up to date paying her water rates? Was she ever divorced? Was she a school teacher?"

"Records are not dull and dusty, they are exciting," he said.

Public Records Office Victoria manager, Lauren Bourke, said water rates, council minutes and pound registers could be among some of the documents available at the centre.

"You will be able to get peoples' names and you can find out where people were living over a specific period, so people can trace their family history," she said.

"The records also tell a story of the town."

Ms Bourke visited the Carnegie Centre this week, to demonstrate how to access public records online, and said the turnout of more than 65 history-buffs, indicated keen interest in Mildura's past.

Mr Miller said the Carnegie Centre POD was a centralised pool of facts.

"It is wonderful, you won't have to go to 50,000 different places to get the information."

"The Genealogical and Historical Society have been acting like a place of deposit for some time.

"For example, the historical society has been given the fire brigade and hospital records and hundreds of maps, but this will now become an official place.

"It will encourage local communities to see this place as a safe deposit for their records," he said.

Public Records Office Victoria team leader, Margaret Sawyers, said they were still searching for "appropriate material" to be included in Mildura's inaugural POD, and hoped the process would be finalised by the end of the financial year.

William J. Camin early Merbein Pioneer

by Raylee Schultz

In 1881, William John Camin married Ellen Jane Davenport in the Hay Catholic Church N.S.W. At the time of their marriage, William was a 27 years old bachelor and his occupation was a Farmer with his usual place of residence being Balranald. Ellen Jane was a 20 year old widow and she stated that her usual residence was Kilfora via Ivanhoe. Ellen was the daughter of Richard Gilby and Ellen Quinn and she was born 20 September 1861 at Spring Gully, Sandhurst Vic.

Hay Parish Priest, Fr Richard Kiely, married William and Ellen and the witnesses were Michael Joseph Flanagan and Isabella Brennan.

For the next 30 years William and Ellen lived and owned land in Balranald where they raised their family of eight children.

By 1910 though, William and Ellen had decided to leave Balranald, and William applied for an Agricultural Allotment in the County of Karkarook, Parish of Merbein which was to be Block 111, covering 49 acres.

At the time of his application dated 22 January 1910, William's occupation was listed as Contractor and his postal address was Balranald. In his application, William stated that he had 7 children, 5 sons aged from 28 yrs to 10 yrs.

One of the main reasons that he wanted to move to a better climate was because his wife Ellen was in delicate health and that there was not a Doctor in Balranald.

At the end of his application, he states that he had no contracting plant only 2 draught horses and a buggy. This application was recommended 14 March 1910 and a permit given with his ½ yearly rent to be £7.4.0.

William had sold his Block 216 lease in Balranald to Mr Patrick O'Halloran and in the Riverina Recorder Newspaper Wednesday 6 April 1910; the P.P. Board had instructed the Secretary to obtain a return from Mr O'Halloran for Camin's lease.

William, Ellen and the younger children then moved to Merbein and for a number of years, worked hard on Block 111 establishing the property and building a home.

The first task of the new settlers was to clear their allocated blocks.

The land was timbered with mallee pine, belar, mallee, sandalwood, wattle, cabbage needle and boree. The soil was a light sandy loam with a lime subsoil. The clumps of mallee took considerable grubbing and timber was then sold to the pumping station to fuel the steam driven pumps. At the time, Big Lizzie was used

in Merbein to move hundreds of pine trellis posts for the blocks. Using 100ft lengths of one inch cable, Big Lizzie cleared land for irrigation blocks at South Merbein, West Merbein and Birdwoodton.

The Camin family planted their land up to 36 acres of sultanas, 8 acres currants, 2 acres of oranges. Their comfortable weatherboard house contained 4 large rooms and a wide passage, it had a verandah back and front. The front verandah was of curved iron with alternate sheets of iron painted in different colours. The house was lined and ceiled with Wunderlich metal. There was also a roomy detached kitchen that also had a verandah back and front.

By 1920, Ellen Jane's health had deteriorated further and William John sold the lease of Block 111 to Charles James Petty of Merbein.

William and Ellen then moved into a residence in Pine Avenue, Mildura, but Ellen Jane did not improve and she passed away aged 60 at Nurse Scotts Private Hospital, Lemon Avenue Mildura on 20 October 1921.

After her death, William inserted a notice in the Sunraysia Daily thanking Drs. Henderson, Shanesy, Sisters Scott & Mulcare for their kind attention, and to all other kind friends for their expressions of sympathy and floral tributes in their sad bereavement.

Only 2½ years later, on 21 March 1924, at 5.40am, William John himself passed away at his residence, 98 Pine Avenue, Mildura. William was 70 years at the time of his death and he had been ill for 2 years with cancer of the oesophagus.

An article notifying residents of the death of William John was in the Sunraysia Daily the day after his death. It mentioned that the deceased was a horticulturalist, having come to the district from Balranald in 1910.

William and Ellen Jane are interred Merbein Cemetery, Catholic Section, Row L, Grave 6

Source: Big Lizzie Story. The Weekly Times, Sept 22nd, 1974. by Tony Parkinson.

Glimpses into the first fifty years of an Irrigation Settlement compiled by Bernadette Wells.

Camin Story, compiled by Raylee Schultz

The Mildura Cultivator 5th March, 1910

The Mildura Cultivator, 31st August, 1910

Family of Interest
"DUGMORE"

Contact milduragenealogy@gmail.com

Ralston family of Ayrshire

RALSTON Robert (10/6/1756 - 05/04/1837)

Father: RALSTON *Gavin

Mother: HEYWOOD Hannah

Siblings: John, James, Jean, William, * Gavin
Hannah, Elizabeth, Alexander.

Married (1): GRIER Anne (17/08/1784)

Issue: Hannah Elizabeth (Bess) Jean (Jane) Anne
Gavin William

Married (2): BRYCE Elizabeth (22/02/1796, Dailly,
Ayr) Issue: *Janet Agnes Margaret Mathew John
Jane Mary Sarah William Other Probable Issue:
Robert bp Nov 1778 to Jean Armor: Jean b 22/11/1779
to Jean Brown; James b 05/08/1783 to Hellen Smith

Robert Ralston was born on 10 Jun 1756 in
Dreghorn, Ayrshire and died on 5 Apr 1837 in Logan
Falls, Tasmania, at age 81. (Note: Some have death at
6/3/1837)

Around 1803-1805 Robert moved to the The Aird,
Inch near Stranraer, Wigtownshire. He had sixteen chil-
dren by two wives and there were probably three ille-
gitimate children born as described above.

Library Additions

with Lyn Grant

BOOK'S

DONATED BY: RENFREY, PHILIP

COUNTRY LIFE: PICTURE BOOK OF SCOTLAND

EAST HARDWICK PAST AND PRESENT

EUROPE IN TRANSITION

IN SEARCH OF ENGLAND

DONATED BY: GREATZ, JUNE

MIGRANT SAILING SHIPS FROM HAMBURG

DONATED BY: PARKER, ROBIN

MILDURA DISTRICT BRASS BAND: A HISTORY

DONATED BY: PETSCHER, JUDITH

BAROSSA JOURNEYS INTO A VALLEY OF
TRADITION

DONATED BY: WOODWARD, SHIRLEY

CHESTER: OFFICIAL GUIDE 19TH EDITION

CD-ROM'S

PURCHASED:

VICTORIAN CROWN LAND GRANTEES INDEX
(PART 2) 1838 TO PRESENT DATE

COMMISSIONS OF PEACE (JP'S) VOLUME 1

The Ralston Family and the Brig Amity

The arrival of the Scottish Ralston family in Van
Diemen's Land was to have a bearing on the first set-
tlements of two other Australian states as the brig
Amity, in which they sailed, also transported the first
settlers to both Moreton Bay (Brisbane, Qld) in 1825
and to King George Sound (Albany, WA) the following
year. Amity Point on Stradbroke Island carries her
name into perpetuity.

The sturdy little brig of 142 tons, built in 1816 in
Canada and in the wake of the Napoleonic wars, began
its working life trading across the Atlantic between
Britain and America until 1823 when it was sold to this

Scottish farming family to be fitted out for a jour-
ney to the other side of the world. It was eventually
wrecked and sank off Vansittart Shoals near Flinders
Island.

Robert Ralston of Ayrshire, Scotland was in his late
60s when he applied to take his second wife Elizabeth,
two sons and six daughters to Van Diemen's Land as
settlers. His first family had emigrated to America and
two sons remained in Scotland. The original letter of
introduction to Governor Sorell, with instructions to
grant Ralston land in proportion to the means he may
have of bringing the same into cultivation is dated May
28, 1823 and is preserved in the Archives. In those
early days, land was granted on a basis of one acre for
every pound of capital. This pioneering family set sail
in the Amity on November 15, 1823 from Stranraer
over to Dublin and then across the Atlantic Ocean to
Rio de Janeiro, finally arriving in Hobart on April 15,
1824. The following day The Hobart Town Gazette
reported the arrival of the Amity under Captain
McMeckan, with 21 passengers and cargo.

Continued on Page 19



For Sale second hand
adjustable kneeling office chair,
(posture perfect,) as new.

Replacement value over \$250

\$50

Contact Flo Caruthers
on 5023 7544

The Sydney Gazette on May 6 reported the Amity had landed two bulls and four cows from Scotland. These Ayrshire cattle were brought along with a number of sheep, a threshing machine and other tools and implements to assist with the family's intended farming pursuits. These cattle were said to be the nucleus of well-known herds throughout all Australia colonies as well as New Zealand.

Robert, with his son Matthew, left almost immediately for Sydney hoping to sell the Amity to raise more capital, leaving his wife and daughters in Hobart. By mid May they had established a baking business and little later, a dress-making business which made good use of the family capital. Margaret married Adam Beveridge in February 1825, Janet, the eldest, married her cousin, David Ralston in 1828, Agnes married Archibald Thompson of "Cormiston", West Tamar in 1828, Mary married William Learmonth in 1837, Sarah married Thomas Watson Bruce 1844 but Jane never married.

By November 1824 Robert and Matthew had decided the prospects were better in Van Diemen's Land. The Amity was eventually sold to the colonial government, boosting their capital considerably, but on the voyage home in November, Robert was robbed of his pocket book containing a substantial amount of money and some valuable papers. He was initially granted 860 acres located at Morven (Evandale) which he called "Logan Falls", and by January 1831, when he applied for an additional grant, he had 75 acres under cultivation, was grazing 100 cattle, 700 sheep and 2 horses, had built a dwelling house, a barn and servant's quarters and a stable. He had constructed over three miles fencing, put in 14 acres of English grass and employed 5 convict servants. He was eventually given another 700 acres. On his return from Sydney, Robert Ralston had set up as a wholesale and retail merchant in Launceston and in 1826 went into partnership with son-in-law Archibald Thompson. The business was sold to Read & Duncan in February 1829 and Robert returned to farm at "Logan Falls" where he died in 1837, aged 81. His widow, Elizabeth also died there in 1860 aged 86.

Notes on Roberts children:

Mother- Jean Armer: Robert Ralston was born in 1778. Baptism: 2 Nov 1778, Dreghorn, Ayrshire. went to America and is thought to have died there without any legitimate issue.

Mother- Jean Brown: Jean Ralston was born on 22 Nov 1779 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire Baptism: 26 Nov 1779, Dreghorn, Ayrshire. It is not known what became of this child.

Mother- Anne Grier: Hannah Ralston was born on 21 Apr 1784 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Went to America. Married William Hunter and two of her sons, Robert and Manuel came to Evandale, Tasmania.

Elizabeth (Bess) Ralston was born on 23 Nov 1785 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Seems to have stayed in Scotland.

Jean (Jane) Ralston was born on 4 Oct 1787 in Springside, Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Probably died before

15/11/1803.

Ann Ralston was born in 1789 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Baptism: 7 Jul 1789, Springside, Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Probably died before 15/11/1803.

Gavin Ralston was born in 1789. Baptism: 7 Jul 1789, Springside, Dreghorn, Ayrshire. Isobel Lenman, grand-daughter of Hannah Ralston, wrote c. 1887, that Gavin was lame and 'came to America (St Louis or New Orleans)' with his brother William. She said he and his brother William 'visited grandmother in New Jersey in 1826, then went to St Louis or New Orleans. They had been in South America and spoke Spanish language.' In 1907 Jeanette Lenman nee Hunter, daughter of Hannah Ralston and William Hunter, said they were not heard from again and presumed to have died in the American 'West'.

William Ralston. No birth date, probably Dreghorn between 1790 and 1795. He is son of Anne Grier. Although Robert was expecting his sons Gavin and William to join him in Tasmania at some stage, both went to South America, then New Jersey, after which St Louis or New Orleans and then they were not heard from again, presumed to have died in the American 'West'. Living in 1826 when he and his brother William visited Hannah Hunter (nee Ralston) as recalled by their daughter Jeanette (later Mrs John Lenman, Washington). See notes under Gavin.

Mother- Elizabeth Bryce who died on 18 Jul 1860 in Logan Falls, Tasmania aged 86.

* Janet Ralston was born in 1798 and died on 24 Aug 1861 in Tasmania, at age 63. (Probably daughter of Elizabeth Bryce as Robert calls her their 'eldest daughter'). Went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823.

Agnes Ralston was born in 1802 and died in 1868 in Tasmania, at age 66. Agnes married Archibald Thompson. Archibald was a merchant from Edinburgh and had been a business partner of Robert Ralston in Launceston. Agnes went to Tasmania on the Amity 1823.

Margaret Ralston was born in 1805 and died in 1886, at age 81. Baptism: 24 Jan 1805, Inch, Wigtonshire. Married Adam Beverage. Went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823.

Matthew Bryce Ralston was born in 1808 and died on 11 Oct 1887, at age 79 at Hampden, Deddington, Tasmania. Went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823 and Carved Hampden from virgin land.

John Ralston was baptised on 05/03/1810 and died on 27 Sep 1880, at Logan Falls, Evandale, age 70 Went to Tasmania per 'Amity' 1823, first Warden of Evandale, JP, farmed Logan Falls. Married Rachel Wier Hutchison, daughter of John Hutchison, Writer to the Sygnet (WS), Edinburgh, 10 Apr 1844 at 'Cormiston', on the Tamar at Riverside near Launceston.

Jane Ralston was born in 1811 and died on 23 Apr 1879, at age 68. Baptism: 16 Dec 1811, Inch, Wigtonshire. Went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823, Never married but much loved.

Continued on Page 19



**MILDURA & DISTRICT
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Est 1978
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3502, VIC
Email: milduragenealogy@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6th July 2009

Nomination Form for Executive / Committee Positions

I, being a financial member of the
M&DGS Inc do hereby nominate member

for the position of:

President *Vice-President*, *Secretary*, *Assistant Secretary*

Treasurer *Projects' Officer* *Projects' Assistant* *Newsletter Editor*

Assist. Editor *Librarian* *Research Officer* *Assist. Research*

Publicity Officer *Catering Officer* *Carnegie Centre Board Representatives*

Webmaster *Newsletter Reviewer* *Incorporation Officer*

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

Nominee.....

Please return the completed form to the Secretary prior to Meeting on 6th July 2009

Ralston family of Ayrshire continued

Mary Ralston was born on 13 Apr 1813 in Inch, Wigtonshire and died in 1895, at age 82. Married William Learmonth in 1837. Went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823.

William took up Ettrick in Victoria in 1844 and Mary joined him the following year.

Sarah Ralston was born in 1815 and went to Tasmania in the Amity 1823. Married Thomas Bruce Watson in 1844. Thomas arrived in Tasmania as a cabin

passenger on the barque Rajah 22/08/1838 (Scotland). Another cabin passenger on the same vessel was James Learmonth, the younger brother of William Learmonth who had married Sarah's sister, Mary. The vessel left for Sydney on the 19/09/1838 with Thomas aboard but returned to Tasmania before his marriage.

Ann Ralston was born in 1819. Baptism: 11 Mar 1819, Inch, Wigtonshire. Didn't go to Tasmania on the Amity so could have died young

**The MDGS Inc. gratefully
acknowledge the contribution
of
Mr Peter Crisp
Member for Mildura
whose office has printed
this Newsletter, free of all costs,
as a community service**

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