

Volume 15 no. 3, June 2015

**Mildura & District
Genealogical Society Inc.**

AOO23291P

P.O. Box 2895

Mildura Victoria 3502

milduragenealogy@gmail.com

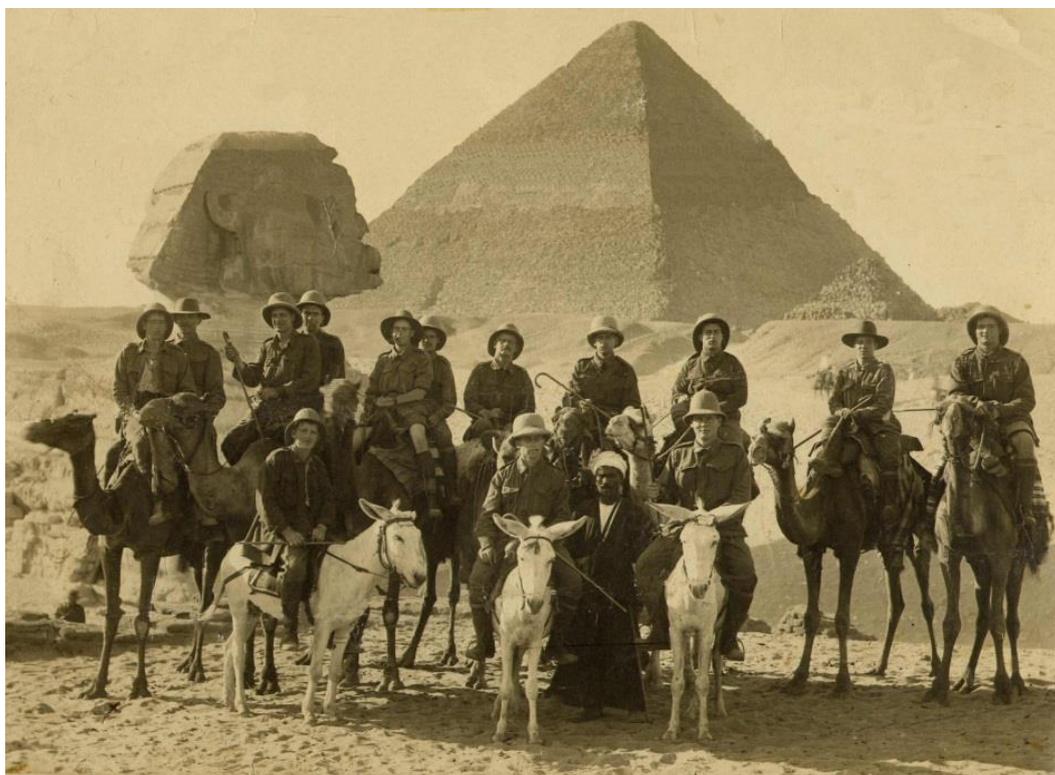
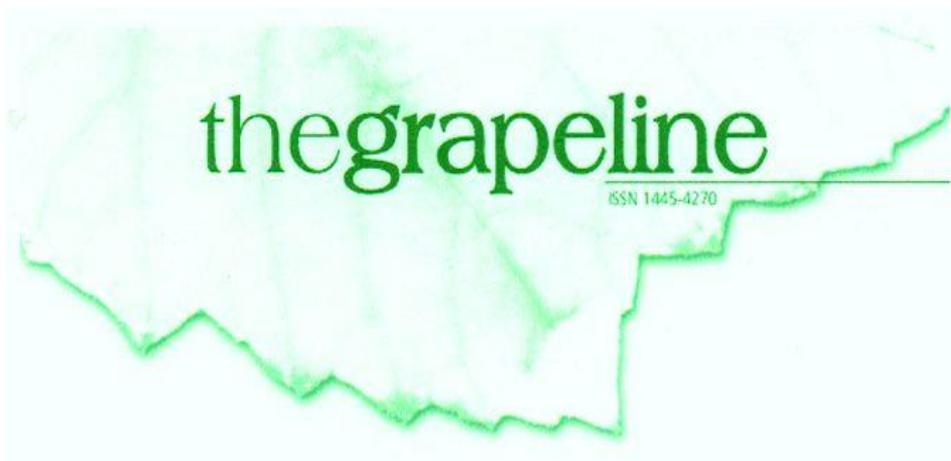


Table of Contents

From the President..... 2

Harnessing the River Murray: Stories of the people who built Locks 1 to 9, 1915 – 1935 by Helen Stagg 3

Photos Page..... 4

My connection with ANZAC..... 5

Notice of Annual General Meeting..... 6

Nomination Form..... 7

Can you Help?..... 8

From the President

Daphne Theobald was a good choice of guest speaker for our first meeting of the year. Her presentation about the Olinda Private Hospital proved very interesting and John George who currently runs the Backpackers Hostel in the old building told us of the changes that have taken place since the hospital closed its doors. Daphne's story about the elephant paying a visit had us all in hysterics.

The Projects Group has spent a few years indexing and digitalising the Methodist, Presbyterian and Uniting Church marriages and baptisms and it was with great pleasure I presented a copy of the resulting book and cd's to a very grateful Henry Tankard at the March meeting. Henry then filled us in on the early history of the church in Mildura and the ups and downs that occurred while erecting the current building that is 100 years old in June.

April was a great meeting and one of the best I have attended. Being Easter we were a bit light on numbers so we had a quick meeting then adjourned to the supper room where we combined show and tell with a good old chinwag about what our group does right and how we could fix the wrongs.

New member Graham Smith was our speaker in May. His presentation was about his ancestor Thomas Smith who came to Australia in 1848 and eventually took up Warrakoo Station where five generations of his family lived for the next 100 years.

The workshop with Debbie Beavis proved to be very popular and interesting. Besides hearing about the English maps and maritime records Debbie also gave us some great tips on how to select a researcher and how to approach them for assistance. Once again we conducted a raffle and the prize winners were Marion Paul and Kaylene Charles. Our visitor from Renmark Monica Cooper won the door prize.

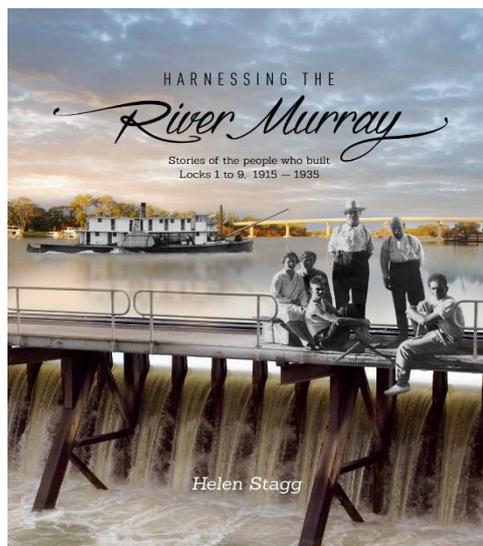
I notice that the Queensland cemetery records are now available on Ancestry.com. If you have missing ancestors in Queensland it would be worth searching this site. We subscribe to Ancestry.com so the database is available in our rooms.

Here is a date to put in your diary. Monday 6th July at 2 p.m. That is when the Mildura launch of our newsletter editor Helen Stagg's book "Harnessing the River Murray: Stories of the people who built Locks 1 to 9, 1915 - 1935" will take place in the Carnegie Centre. I have seen the book and it looks very impressive. Our July meeting will take place at the normal time and Helen will be our guest speaker.

Unfortunately we said farewell to our secretary of the past 18 months at the May meeting. Marion Holland and her husband Barry have decided to move to Tasmania. Marion, who was a member of the Project's Team has done a great job as secretary and will be greatly missed. We wish you all the best for the future Marion.

The AGM has crept up on us again and you will find the notice of meeting and nomination form in this newsletter. Please consider how you can help with the administration of the group. This year we have operated without a Publicity Officer and Roster Officer which has placed undue stress on the remaining members of the committee and now that Marion is moving elsewhere and has resigned as Secretary the situation is going to get worse. So please give serious consideration to nominating for a position. We have a great group and we would like to see it prosper rather than move backwards.

Harnessing the River Murray: Stories of the people who built Locks 1 to 9, 1915 – 1935 by Helen Stagg



Helen is the grand-daughter of one of the hundreds of men who worked on the mammoth engineering scheme to control the waters of the Murray River with locks and weirs after the River Murray Waters Agreement of 1914. Federal Liberal Opposition Leader, Joseph Cook said at the time that locking the river was perhaps ‘the biggest scheme of development yet projected in Australia’.

As a child Helen was told stories by her mother of her own childhood at the lock construction sites and Helen’s dream has been to further explore the stories of the workmen and their families. Over the past five years, Helen has undertaken extensive research at various archives and captured the oral history of some of the few remaining ‘lock children’ for her book *Harnessing the River Murray: Stories of the people who built Locks 1 to 9, 1915 – 1935*.

The book’s focus is on the first nine locks and weirs which were built by the SA Engineering and Water Supply Department and tells the story from the viewpoint of the ordinary people, the workers and the women and children who lived with them in the camps that popped up along the river at each construction site. Helen’s research at the archives unearthed valuable records to do with many aspects of lock camp life: work conditions, accidents, wages, health care, schools, community life, tragedies and sport. Seven first-hand accounts of life at the locks feature in Part Two of the book including five people who spent most of their later lives in Mildura: Charlie Adams, Marjorie Francis, Evelyn Smith, (Helen’s mother) and Phillis Pickering with some diary extracts from Ernie Glen. Other accounts are from Max Pearson, Thelma McGair and Murray Brooks from South Australia.

There is plenty of information for genealogists with family connections on the locks. The appendices include names of over 500 accident cases as well as names on various petitions taken up at some of the locks requesting the provision of schools, better health care and the like.

Book launch details:

Launch 1: **June 5 2015** marks exactly 100 years since the Foundation Stone was laid for the first Lock at Blanchetown in South Australia. At 11 am on June 5 at Lock 1 Blanchetown, there will be a commemoration ceremony. The PS *Marion* will arrive as it did 100 years ago and a re-enactment of the stone laying will be followed by the official launch of Helen Stagg’s book. All are welcome and lunch will follow at 12.30.

Launch 2: State Library of South Australia, Adelaide, Tuesday June 9 6.30 pm at Bray Room 1.

Launch 3: Olivewood Museum, Renmark, Sunday June 28 at 2 pm.

Launch 4: Mildura & District Genealogical Society, 74 Deakin Avenue Mildura, Monday July 6, 2 pm.

Helen’s book, with a foreword by Professor Geoffrey Blainey, has 258 pages and over 150 photographs. RRP \$44.95 + \$17.50 P&H. For information about the launch or to download an order form for the book, visit Helen’s webpage at <http://historybyhelen.com.au/> or email historybyhelen@y7mail.com

Photos Page



At our May meeting our secretary for the past eighteen months was thanked for her service to the Mildura Genealogical Society and presented with Flowers, Mug and Certificate of appreciation. President Lyn (with microphone) presenting the gifts to Marion



The Mildura Genealogical Society's project group have been indexing the early baptism and marriage records of the Mildura Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

Our guest speaker at the March meeting Henry Tankard was presented with the completed indexed material.

The church indexes are available in the Societies rooms at the Carnegie Centre



Can you help?

This photo of the 1919 Turriff Football team has no names. If you can name any one in this photo or know someone that can, please contact Anne Newberry or the Mildura Genealogical Society.

My connection with ANZAC

by Philip Dedman

My grandfather James MacDonald Horne Enlisted into the AIF on 18th Jun 1915. His occupation was listed as Labour, although he had been apprenticed as a blacksmith to Morfant (L) in Guilford Vic. The army medical records describe him as Aged 25, Height 5 Feet, 8 ¼ inches, Weight 10st 10lbs, chest measurement of 36/38, complexion Fresh, Eyes hazel, Hair D Brown, Religious Denomination , Presbyterian, with distinctive marks, Tattoo Right arm, Heart and some descriptive letters front. Left arm (front) Tattoo Star.

A 11298
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 1907 Name James MacDonald Horne
Unit 2nd Bn 22nd Coy 2nd Div 1st AIF
Joined on 18 June 1915
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.
1. What is your Name? James MacDonald Horne
2. In the Parish of Mildura in or near the Town of Mildura in the County of Victoria
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Yes
4. What is your age? 25-1/4
5. What is your trade or calling? Labour



James was assigned to the 22nd Battalion on 23 June 1915, Embarked 26 August 1915, Taken on strength Gallipoli Peninsular 25 October 1915, Admitted to Hospital 12th December 1915, Hospital Ship Oxfordshire, Compound fract. Rt Leg, Laceration head neck arm and hands. 17th December 1915 Hospital Alexandria, 8th January 1916 Hospital Heliopolis, 28th January 1916 HS Kanowna at Suez for return to Australia. Disembarked Melbourne 10th March 1916, Discharged from AIF 25th July 1916. Disability Compd Frac Lt Tibia & Fibula. In all just over Thirteen months of service



Like many of the AIF while in Egypt awaiting for transfer the front lines he took time to visit the monuments of the Sphinx and Pyramids

After being discharged James returned to Mildura where he married Annie Watts in January 1917. James and Annie had four children, Arthur (aka Tom) Doris, Vanice and Robert (Bob) James passed away 1966.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Mildura & District Genealogical Society Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Mildura & District Genealogical Society Inc. will be held at the Carnegie Centre on the 3rd August 2015 at 7.30pm.

The Agenda

1. To receive reports from all portfolios and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2015
2. The election of office bearers and members of Committee
3. The appointment of an auditor
4. Nominating Bank signatories; and
5. The setting of fees, categories and pay by date

Nominations for Committee positions will close on the 17th July 2015.

No nominations will be accepted after the close of business on the 17th July 2015.

Committee Positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Librarian
- Publicity Officer
- Research Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Roster Officer
- Webmaster
- Catering Officer

Please forward nominations to the:

Secretary "Returning Officer"

P.O. Box 2895, Mildura, Victoria 3502

or

Email: milduragenealogy@gmail.com

Nomination Form

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ORDINARY MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MILDURA & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
Registered No. A0023291P

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ORDINARY MEMBERS

We, the undersigned, being financial members, being entitled to vote at the forthcoming election wish to nominate

Nominee Name: _____

For the position of _____

Printed name and signature of Nominator:

Printed name and signature of Seconder:

I consent to my nomination.

Printed name and signature of Nominee:

Date: _____

Can you Help?

You may not actually think about it but every task in our great organisation is undertaken by volunteers. As changes occur with people in their daily lives, we are constantly in need of people to volunteer their time. If you could spare a few hours per month, or even on an occasional basis, it would be sincerely appreciated. **We would especially like to welcome new members to the volunteer group.** The following is a list of the major areas in which we already have volunteers working, or for which we need more volunteers. Please complete your details below and return your form to the Secretary via milduragenealogy@gmail.com marked Volunteer offer, or mail to M&DGS, P.O. Box 2895, Mildura Victoria 3502. It would also be appreciated if current volunteers could complete the information in order to update the M&DGS Volunteer register. ***Before you forget to do this, remember, DON'T leave it up to someone else, because if everyone does this, we may end up with no-one, and with no volunteers, we cannot continue to operate to the standard you expect as a member of M&DGS.***

AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	New Volunteer	Current Volunteer
Computers	Assist in networking system, PC hardware & software. (Professional Experience required)		
Projects team	As part of a team, assist on a Thursday indexing various records or tasks as required.		
Speakers or Tutors	Conduct sessions on aspects of genealogy. Speak at other group meetings etc.		
Library Assistant	Assist the Librarian when required with shelving, covering books etc.		
Duty person	Assist by being on a roster to help visitors or members during opening hours at our library.		
Publicity	Publicise the M&DGS and its various events.		
Research	Assist the Research Officer with the many inquiries that come from outside people for genealogical help.		
Property maintenance	Assist when needed on various handyman-type tasks at our Library rooms.		
Magazine Committee	Assist in a range of tasks associated with the production and distribution of the Grapeline.		
Housekeeping	General housekeeping in the Library rooms		
Catering	Assist the Catering Officers at meetings, functions and the Christmas Dinner		
Proofreading	Various indexing, magazine and website media have to be proofread.		
Membership	Assist in processing annual membership fees and/or maintaining membership database		

NAME:

PHONE

Did you know that Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia defines Genealogy (from Greek: γενεά genea, "generation"; and λόγος logos, "knowledge"), also known as family history, is the study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. The results are often displayed in charts or written as narratives.

Grapeline pub. March, June, September and December. DEADLINES for submissions:

15th February 1st Quarter March Issue # 15th May 2nd Quarter June Issue # 15th August 3rd Quarter September Issue # 15th November 4th Quarter December Issue.

Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries re their own family research, or questions about research in general. Material needs to be received by the deadline as above to be included in the next available issue.

*I welcome all contributions from you, our readers, so please send me your genealogical stories, suggestions for successful searches which may help other members or reviews of reference materials from our Society Library or elsewhere. Photos with a brief story are also welcome. I look forward to hearing from you. Send contributions marked "Attention Grapeline Editor" to **milduragenealogy@gmail.com***

Till next time, happy family searching, Editor.

Committee members can be contacted via our email address: milduragenealogy@gmail.com

President: Lyn Grant	Vice President:	Publicity Officer:
Secretary:	Projects Officer: Lyn Grant	Treasurer: Malcolm Williams
	Librarian: Kaylene Charles	Research: Andrew McCormick

Membership Benefits:-

Free use of library; Receive quarterly Newsletter. Free research queries published in Newsletter.

Meetings: - 1st Monday of month except January and December, 7.30 pm Carnegie Centre, Deakin Avenue Mildura.

Library Hours:-Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday: 11.00 am - 4.00 pm.

Closed all Public Holidays. **Library Fees:** - \$10.00 for non members per day. Research Fees: \$30 for first 2 hrs. \$15 per additional hour.

Membership: -Joining Fee \$10, Ordinary \$22, Concession \$16.50, Joint \$33. Badge Fee \$10

The M&DGS Inc. gratefully acknowledges the contribution of
Mr Peter Crisp
Member for Mildura

Whose office has printed this newsletter, free of all cost, as a community service.

MILDURA & DISTRICT
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC AOO2391P
P.O. BOX 2895 MILDURA 3502

POSTAGE
PAID IN
MILDURA