



BORDERLINE NEWS

Newsletter 190

May 2024

Next meeting dates & guest speakers:

May 21st 'North of the Border' with Jillian Salze, CSU

June 18th Tracing German Ancestors with Aileen Priess '

July 16th Sources of overseas and Australian newspapers with Sue Reid, Qld Family History Society.

The WFHS Research Area is open at Hyphen Wodonga Library Gallery for members and visitors on:- Tuesdays – 1pm to 4pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays – 11am to 3pm and first Saturday of the month



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Subscriptions: New members -Joining fee \$10.00 plus \$30 membership fee
Annual Membership- \$30.00 Part-year membership -(join between 1st April - 30th June) \$10.00 plus joining fee.
Research request - \$40.00 or \$5.00 for simple check of the WFHS records. Full transcripts of Unrelated Certificates \$6.00 each.

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Society News - Presidents Report

Hello Everybody

It appears we have entered the start of the chilly months and a great opportunity to stay warm inside and work on our research and stories.

Our meetings over the past three months have been well attended. The idea of going back to basics proved very popular and it showed that sharing our experience is very worthwhile.

There was great excitement at our March meeting when Sharon Darling-Filby showed off her father's WW2 medals. They had been unclaimed and, as she was able to prove her relationship she became the new owner.

The idea of having daytime meetings during winter has proved difficult, but we will have an opportunity to get together at lunch on Friday, 5th July, so please come along and meet other members.

Once again, we are indebted to Pam and Waren for conducting another successful plant sale. Thank you to all who helped.

Irish research seems to be the goal for several organisations this year. Members attended 'Researching Irish and Scots Irish' seminars with information from the National Library of Ireland and the Irish Archives in Melbourne and Adelaide. This information is now available on our desktop at Hyphen. Later this year, 1-10 December, Chris Paton and Mia Bennett are the main speakers on an 'Unlock the Past' cruise titled Scottish and Irish research with two seminars on land in Sydney on 28/29 November and 1 day in Adelaide on 6 December.

Alice took the opportunity to help our member Kerrie Vandersluys from Wallan and her cousin, Jenny, with research at our library and a trip around the Bethanga district where their Trewella family lived. They were very appreciative of the time Alice gave them and so excited about their discoveries.

We were saddened by the sudden death of our long-time member, Di Boyd and have offered our sympathy to her husband, Alan.

It's that time of year again to think of your subs, due before the end of July. We are very grateful for your support and welcome your contribution and suggestions so our society can continue to thrive.

Regards Pat

New Members

A very warm welcome to Stella Phillips, Pamela Nicholson and Barbara Morrison.

Members featured stories

For Anzac Day – the story of Robert Henry Gardiner by Ian Smith (p. 6)
A family treasure – The Cast Iron Bootscraper by Ann Kerin (p. 9)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President and Projects Officer:

Pat Hopkins

Vice President and Program Co-ordinator:

Janette Griggs

Secretary & Public Officer: Ian Smith

Treasurer: Sue Jarvis

Librarian: Christine Young

Fundraising & Archives: Pamela Nulty

Publicity and Promotions: Ann Kerin

Research Officer & GSV representative: Alice Lindsay

VAFHO representative: Ann Kerin

New Members: Alice Lindsay

Newsletter Editor: Maureen Cuskelly

Committee Member: Vince Aitkin

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

◆ Access to all the resources in the Society's library.

◆ Quarterly newsletter

◆ Access to other family history news through shared newsletters from other family history groups

◆ Monthly meetings with family history tips, news and guest speakers

◆ Contact with other family historians, researchers and members who share your interest in family history

CONTACTING US

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Research Tips – Maureen Cuskelly

The four core elements of a reference

If you include this basic information, you will be able to go back to the source whenever you need to but also anyone else can do the same.

- The author: Who compiled this work?
- The date: When was this work published?
- The title: What is this work called?
- Source: Where did I find this information?

Using timelines in your family history

Adding Timelines to your family history is useful as they can assist you to organize your data but more importantly they assist you to set your ancestor's story in historical context which may suggest other avenues to follow. The historical context can include drought, floods, war, new roads, schools and other events unique to the time period and the location where your ancestors lived, as Shelley Bishop (2022) writes

'The picture that emerges is sure to be a fascinating one, spurring new questions and discoveries. By tracing your ancestor's steps through history, you might just get the sensation of walking in his shoes'

In Bishop's article (Family Tree Magazine) she provides a step-by-step plan of how to create a time line using Excel or Word. In addition, she provides a list of software that can help and suggests books to search in for historical events. For more information see resources listed below. I highly recommend the article for new and experienced members.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/genealogy-timeline/>

Reference: Bishop, S. K. (Oct, 2022) How (and Why) to Make a Genealogy Timeline., Family Tree Magazine.

YouTube · New Lenox Library
240+ views · 3 years ago

Using Genealogy Timelines in Your Research



Genealogy Club program will be "Using Genealogy Timelines in Your Genealogical Research." Can you account for events that have happened ...

Archie Moore, First Nations artist, wins top award for mapping 65,000 years of his family history.

Archie created a family tree, drawn in chalk, which covered the walls of a pavilion. His work won him the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion for Best National Pavilion. Archie mapped the Indigenous history after months of research using Trove and government reports. The result was a pictorial history of his family connections through time as well as indicating the shattered history of Aboriginal Australians. For more information search the news on line for photos of his extraordinary work.

Program news Janette Griggs

We have a varied program coming up, a mix of international research, local history and a Christmas-in-July event. We look forward to hosting members and families at these events. All welcome. Please note the need to book in (catering requirements) for the 'Best Be at Bethanga' day and the Christmas-in-July event.

May Big Day Out - "Best Be at Bethanga"

- **9/5/2024** Join us to hear about the historical sites and pioneers of Bethanga. A walk and talk of Talgarno Cemetery-full details next page.

May Meeting

- **21/05/2024**- "North of the Border" Focus on NSW - Records in the NSW State Archives, Records in the Regional Archives at CSU Wagga Wagga. How to prepare for researching at an archives. Guest Speaker - Jillian Salzke from Charles Sturt University Regional Archives -

June Meeting

- **18/06/2024**- "Tracing German Ancestors" How to find German records, general history and introduction to finding records including, naming patterns, church records and why did our ancestors leave? Guest Speaker Aileen Preiss Germanic Continental and European group - South Australian Genealogy Society

July Social - Christmas Lunch

- **5/07/2024** -Join us for some middle of the year fun. Sodens Hotel. Bookings essential.

July Meeting

- **16/07/2024**- "Read all about it" Newspapers are essential to family history - sources of overseas and Australian (apart from Trove) newspapers. Guest Speaker Sue Reid. Queensland Family History Society

AUGUST IS NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH.

Keep an eye on our website as events and activities are announced. This is a good time to mention to friends and neighbours if they would like to dip their toe into family history. They can come along and see what is available. August Meeting, held at Hyphen 7pm start *****

Fundraising Update



Another successful Plant Sale was held on 13 April which raised \$924.50 for the Society from the sale of Warren's carefully tended plants. Unfortunately, Warren had a dislocated finger which was treated quickly and has healed well. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the sale and who bought plants. For anyone still interested in purchasing plants, please contact Warren direct for a private booking. Pamela Nulty (Fundraising Co-ordinator)

PROJECTS – Pat Hopkins

This newsletter I thought rather than talking about what we are doing for the Society I would offer some suggestions you might like to have for a personal project.

- Sessions from Roots Tech (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>) are available free of charge throughout the year. One highlight for me was the keynote speech by Steve Rockwood but the What's New at Ancestry, Family Search and DNA are almost essential viewing. So much is made available every day that it is impossible to keep up to date. We know that everything is not on the web, but these sites can direct us to where the information is.
- AI (Artificial Intelligence) is causing some concern among members. For an easy to understand the pros and cons of using AI in Genealogy look at [How to Use AI for Family History Experiences](#) from Roots Tech and on You Tube, my favourite place to go for 'how to do ...', 'what's new in ...', etc. So much is available. I choose to watch on my TV or computer, but you might like to use your phone or tablet.
- Another worry for some members is "saving to the Cloud". This is recommended so you have your information saved to a place other than your home, and it can be accessed from anywhere. The same can be done by remembering to upload your information to an external hard drive and, perhaps, take that with you. We all know it is good practice to have our data stored

in more than one place and the Cloud provides a perfect solution.

- For more information try <https://free-familyhistory.co.uk/genealogy-in-the-cloud-for-free/or> <https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/genealogy-in-the-cloud/> BUT PLEASE don't use these links – type the address into your browser.
- The US Family Tree Magazine is another of my 'go to' places, mainly because the Americans have the same problems/issues sourcing information from Britain, Ireland and Europe as we do.
- You can use your Hyphen Wodonga library card for Borrow Box and at ePress to download a copy of "Who Do You Think You Are" UK (not available as a hard copy in their library).
- Interested in the old history of Melbourne architecture – on SBS on Demand a documentary titled "Lost City of Melbourne" is worth a look.
- Our hobby/obsession is meant to be shared – so come along to our meetings, join in on our activities, drop in at Hyphen, contribute to our newsletter and share your discoveries and "you beaut!" moments with other members.

Locked up and Left – Introduction to searching mental health asylums records

At the April meeting Maureen presented "Locked Up and Left" a talk about accessing records about ancestors in asylums. With the assistance of Janette, she told the story of Anne Parker who was transported from England in 1803 for a term of seven years for stealing items of

clothing. During her time in the colony, Anne Parker spent 41 years in various asylums.

The first "lunatic" to be sent to the colony was Elizabeth Hall who arrived with the first fleet on *Lady Penrhyn*. Asylums underwent various changes over the years. In the time of King George III attitudes towards people with mental illnesses, and the treatment of those people, began to change. Improved buildings and environment, including views, were seen as beneficial.

What might inmates be called?

Lunatics

Incurable

Epileptic

Idiot

Inebriates (loss of control and alcohol consumption) commonest cause Completely Demented

Cripples

Imbeciles

Senility

Hysteria

Brain fever

TPI temp paralysis of the insane (TPI stood for psychosis after childbirth and later for cases of advanced syphilis)

Legislation was introduced in Victoria; Lunacy Statute 1867. The 1867 Act regulated the admission, detention and treatment of patients and established standards for the management of public asylums and institutions. The Lunacy Amendment Act 1888 required the annual examination of patients.

Asylums should have kept records such as admission registers, case books, and an annual reviews of patients. In addition, anyone that died while an inmate would have a Coroner's report as well. Personal details and next of kin should have been contained in those records. TROVE would also be a valuable source of information, as

court cases involving lunacy were often reported in the newspapers of the day.

For example, The courts heard many cases of 'assumed lunatic' and had to sort out the drunks, the depressed, the manic, the mentally and physically infirmed which were reported in the local newspapers.

For researchers wanting to know more about their ancestor's life in the asylums start with the State Library Victoria. It holds a variety of resources that can help you to understand the development, application and experience of mental health care in Victoria. Try searching the Library catalogue for the name of a facility of interest, which may return related photographs, manuscript papers, histories or first hand accounts of staff or patients. You can also try searching combinations of keywords such as 'Psychiatric hospitals', 'mental health', 'Victoria' and 'History' to find histories and firsthand accounts of the development of mental health care in Victoria

<https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/healthandwelfare/mentalhealth>

Information about the buildings and grounds including avenue of trees planted by returned soliders can be found at the Heritage Council

<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/5619/download-report>

Information on farms and gardens in Vic Mental Hospitals 1881-1937

<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/11536>

Maureen showed a historic list of asylums, by each state, and advised that she will distribute detailed notes (through the WFHS secretary) on researching asylum records in each Australian state.

**Robert Henry Gardiner – 6802A,
Private, 21st Battalion AIF –**

By Ian Smith



Robert Henry Gardiner was born at Benalla in 1896. Robert was the third child, and second son, of ten children born to Singleton and Clara Gardiner of Lurg, near Benalla in rural North-East Victoria. The Gardiners were a farming family. The youngest child was my grandfather, Harold Gardiner. Harold was only two years old when Robert enlisted and went to war. It is my belief that Robert was a fairly typical rural lad who felt that it was his duty to enlist, as that was what his family and community would have expected.

There may have been additional pressure for the Gardiner boys to enlist and show their loyalty to King and Country, as their Danish maternal grandfather's place of birth was now part of Germany by the time WW1 started.

Robert's older brother, Francis Singleton Gardiner, had previously enlisted in August 1915. Two cousins from Lurg, Alfred Leslie Gardiner and William Henry Gardiner, had also enlisted in March 1916.

Robert enlisted on 16 June 1917 with the following details recorded:

Single
21 years and 1 month old
5 feet 6 inches tall
Weight 118 lbs
Brown eyes
Auburn hair
Methodist.

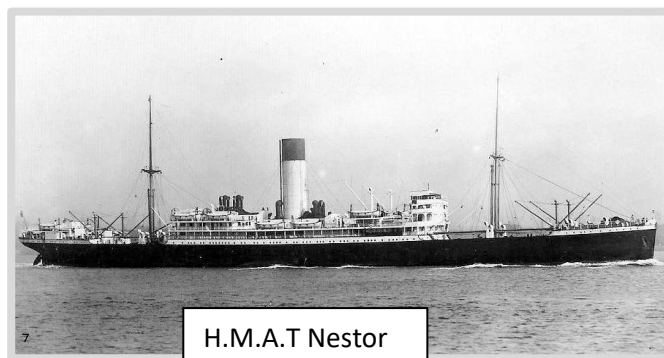
Robert enlisted as part of a Sportsmen's 1000 recruitment campaign, and was assigned to the 20th Reinforcement, 21st Battalion (Third Sportsmen's Unit) at Broadmeadows, Victoria. Robert's trade or calling is described as Clerk or Auctioneer.

It appears that he was employed by Gunn & Co of Dandenong just prior to enlisting.

At Gunn's, Robert worked with his uncle, Robert George Melgaard.

The Benalla Standard reported that a function was held at Lurg on 7 September 1917 to farewell Robert and another local lad, Private Frank Brown. A speaker at the function, Mr T Elliott, stated

"He felt quite proud to belong to Lurg, as out of their small population 27 young men had enlisted, two of whom, he was sorry to say, had lost their lives."



After initial training, Robert embarked on H.M.A.T. Nestor at Melbourne on 21 November 1917. Only four weeks earlier his brother, Francis, was seriously

wounded in action, resulting in the amputation of his left leg. Francis saw out the war convalescing in England. Robert disembarked at Suez on 15 December 1917. After just over three weeks training in Egypt at Camp Gabbari, Robert embarked on Abbassieh at Alexandria on 8 January 1918, and finally arrived at Southampton, England on 24 January 1918. Robert remained in England at the Fovant training camp in Wiltshire until 20 May 1918, when he then proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone, Kent. From 22 May 1918,

Robert was at the Australian Infantry Base Depot at Le Havre, and then joined his battalion in the field on 25 May 1918.

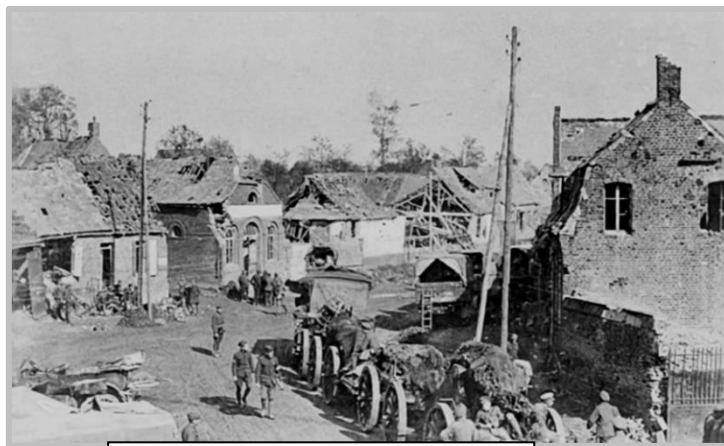
On 8 August 1918, the Battle of Amiens (8-12 August 1918) commenced. This was the first day of what is referred to as the Hundred Day Offensive.

Robert was wounded in action on this day. Robert's war record indicates that he received shrapnel wounds to his back. He was initially treated at 4 General Hospital, and then on 14 August 1918 he was moved to 6 Convalescent Depot at Étaples. It is interesting that the 21st Battalion War Diary has handwritten notes, written by Captain James Sullivan of 'A' Company, indicating that Robert was wounded, which has been crossed out, then records him as unaccounted for.

Records for James Sullivan show that he was promoted to Captain on 8 August, and on this day, was in an action that won him

a recommendation for a Military Cross. "At Marcelcave, near Amiens, during the attack on the 8th August 1918, this officer was in command of A Company", and that he "organised a party of 9 men with two Lewis Guns and led them against an enemy machine gun nest under heavy fire." Robert Gardiner was a Lewis Gunner. To date, I have been unable to ascertain if Robert Gardiner accompanied James Sullivan in that action.

Robert re-joined the battalion on 10 September 1918. By late September plans were made to disband the 21st Battalion due to dwindling numbers, and use the remaining men to reinforce other battalions. On 25 September 1918, the



men of the 21st stood their ground and refused to be disbanded, and the order was subsequently withdrawn. It appears that the troops held more loyalty to their battalion

than their brigade or division.

"At 6.05 am on 5 October 1918, Australian troops of the 6th Brigade attacked Montbrechain, a small village to the east of the Hindenburg and Beaufort defenses. Their objective was a line running to the north and east of the town, which would secure the newly won Beaufort Line and act as a springboard for further attacks. German resistance was fierce, and the Australians took heavy casualties as they advanced." Robert was killed in action at Montbrechain. This was the last battle fought by Australian infantry in WW1. Australian troops were withdrawn the following day. It is saddening to think that Robert was killed

so close to the end of the Great War. The official 21st Battalion War Diary entries for 5 October 1918 don't appear to contain any details of what happened to Robert. As officers are more commonly mentioned in reports than the lower ranks, I identified references to Captain James Sullivan, on the basis that Robert was possibly in his company. Early reports (0655) state that casualties are fairly heavy and Captain J. Sullivan is reported badly wounded. Then at 0745 "Lt. W. McConnochie reports – 'Going O.K. Little opposition in Village. Have mopped up most of 'A' Coy's sector in Village. Our artillery falling short. Right flank appears to be O.K. T/Capt. J. Sullivan M.C., M.M. died of wounds'. Later, at 1045: "Lt. W. McConnochie reports things in a very bad way on 'A' Coy's sector, they being shelled at point blank range from three directions."

The village of Montbrehain was captured and held by the Australians. Official War Diary entries on 6 October show that the 21st Battalion reported casualties as follows: three officers killed (including T/Capt. J. Sullivan) and five officers wounded, other ranks 21 were killed and 99 wounded. Overall, there were 430 Australian casualties in this final action. It was reported that a significant number of the casualties were due to 'friendly' artillery. Australia's official First World War correspondent, Charles Bean, in his war diaries made the following comment in the aftermath of the final battle at Montbrehain:

"Our troops have come out of the line. After the last stupid, wicked fight at

Montbrehain, where Mahony of the 24th and other grand men fell for no reason except to increase the reputation of a division and of a general...."

After initially being buried in an isolated grave near Montbrehain, Robert's body was subsequently exhumed, in 1920, and re-buried in the Bellicourt British Cemetery, in plot 6, row S, grave 10. Interestingly, Captain James Sullivan is buried nearby, in plot 6, row S, grave 7. The Hindenburg Line once ran through here.

John McQuilton, writing for the Journal of the Australian War Memorial, identified the following points which appear to provide some insight about why young men like Robert Gardiner enlisted:



Bellicourt British Cemetery, France

"Just over 3,500 men volunteered from north-eastern Victoria between 1914 and 1918. This represented

8.2 per cent of the regional population, 15.5 per cent of the region's male population and 41.3 per cent of the males aged between 18 and 44. The percentage of the eligible population enlisting was higher than the national average of 38.7 per cent." "The men were overwhelmingly single: 90 per cent had never married. More significantly, the figures also strongly reflect the group that regional society had deemed 'eligible' to go: the young, single men. Just on 18 per cent died while on active service."

Additionally, this provides some confirmation of what I had thought about the part played by family and community expectations in the decision to enlist.

Perhaps, the final words should go to Robert's bereaved mother, Clara Gardiner, who, upon receipt of a photograph of Robert's grave, wrote the following:

"Dear Sir.

We received the photo of our dear son's grave, Pte R H Gardiner, for which I send you many thanks. It is very nice but oh it does seem hard to look at and think that he lies there so far away from everybody he loved. But I thank God he was willing to do his duty for his King and Country and has given his life to save others. I am once more thanking you.

*Yours truly
C Gardiner
Mother"*

Genealogy fun

Family tree research is usually one giant step backwards and one giant step forward – usually at the same time.

Good news for our Society

BRANDJAM CREATIVE is our new sponsor. We thank Katie for her support in printing our newsletters and flyers



Barry Pinkerton. Thank you!!!

Wendy Cooksey

This is a tribute to, Barry who was one of the earliest members of our society, holding membership number 10. Barry has decided not to renew his membership (for personal reasons) this year so I am delighted to acknowledge his contributions to the Society.

Many members will recall his presentations on topics such as photography, sources, records etc. His presentations showed he was well prepared and he delivered the topics clearly; always willing to answer questions. I recall, in particular, Barry advising members to have a 'For My Eyes Only' file for sensitive material.

Sometime later when I came across a will in New Zealand that contained some unpleasant facts I followed Barry's advice and created my first 'For My Eyes Only' file. As the son of the divorcing couple is still alive, I have the information recorded to ensure my records are correct, but also to ensure that the confidential data will not be shared with anyone.

In addition, to his presentations Barry wrote interesting stories for our writing competitions. They are in our library and well worth a read. Numbers were published in our newsletter.

Barry told me one day that he was writing a few pages or so about each of his family and ancestors. This way he has a succinct record of each person, *not* just the ones who grab the attention because of their adventures or deeds. Good advice indeed. You will be missed by our society Barry but perhaps you will call in when we have a social lunch some time?

The Cast Iron Bootscraper

By Ann Kerin

This cast iron boot-scraper already had iconic status within the family long before it became mine. It belonged to my great grandmother's mother, Annie Jane McNie who died shortly after giving birth to her daughter Annie Jane Sinclair in 1883. The date 1893 fits with the era of manufacture of this item.

The boot scraper sat for many years outside the back door of my great grandparent's house in Duncan St, Deniliquin. It was well used by the large family of farmers and drovers. David Sinclair kept it and gave it to his daughter when she married in 1906.



Annie Jane Conallin with her children, circa 1920, Ann Kerin: private collection

Annie Jane (Sinclair) Conallin, shown above known to me as 'Granny Con' had a close and loving relationship with her granddaughter Joyce. Joyce was born prematurely in 1931, weighing only 3lbs (or so the story goes). Annie took care of her while her daughter in law, Phyllis recovered. The boot scraper was given to my mother, Joyce when her grandmother died in 1965. Mum placed great value on this item, and it was used every day. Each scrape of a muddy boot or shoe was a memory of Annie Jane and her mother

who 'died young in childbirth'. There was an element of reverence and sentimentality around it. I recall vividly the day my father decided to paint it grey. He had some left-over paint and decided to use it on the boot scraper as it would 'look nice and new'. My mother was not given to "carrying on" over trifles, but she certainly carried on that day. Even then I understood that Dad had tampered with something far more personal and meaningful to my mother than he could have imagined.



Patrick and Joyce Beckworth with children, Peter and Ann, Deniliquin, circa 1954, Ann Kerin: private collection

Mum did not repaint the boot scraper but left it the grey colour. Mum died young herself at only forty-four and the boot scraper eventually came to me as her eldest child and the one who was old enough and inclined enough to value it. I, too have left the colour as it is, even more worn with use, the original black showing through here and there along with the rust. The grey is now as much part of its history as the original black factory finish.

This much of its history I know. It belonged to Granny Con's mother (Annie Jane McNie) but how she came by it is unknown

and unknowable. It could have been bought in England and brought out on the ship in the 1860's by the McNie family. Alternatively, it could have been purchased in Australia as the company certainly had distributors/merchants here. The Kenricks company appointed Mr. J K Merritt to travel to Australia as their principal agent in 1886. A later search of TROVE revealed advertisements of Kenricks Holloware in Australia as early as 1853.

Boot scrapers, as their name suggests, are meant to scrape mud and other detritus from the bottom of boots prior to entering a home. As you can see, pictured right, it is an oval design with four scallops, a dish 1 ¾" tall with one ridge. The scraper is of a stylised floral and leaf design: four petals

on each side at the top and lilies and leaves forming the rest of the scraper stand. The colour is grey which has worn off in sections revealing the original black. The scraper section is 8" at its widest and 6 ½" high.



The base measures 10 ¼" wide and 13" long.

The scraper has been well used as it is worn in the middle. There is also evidence of rust and wear on the base which has four small legs to raise it off the ground. On the bottom there is a maker's name, AK & Sons, and a number 502.

AK & Sons began in 1791 when Archibald Kenrick (1790- 1935) bought an iron foundry near Spon Lane Bridge in West Bromwich, England. Archibald was originally a maker of buckles and livery fittings in Wrexham but began making cast iron kitchen hollow ware on the new site which had ease of access to the Birmingham River.

The AK & Sons name began when son, Archibald (1798 – 1878) became a partner in 1827. Manufactured items included cast iron pots, pans and cauldrons, kettles, coffee grinders, irons, boot lasts, boot scrapers, door furniture, weights and decorative items such as statues and baths. The company continues trading to the present day with a different range of products.

Cast iron is an alloy of iron that contains 2 to 4 percent carbon, as well as amounts of silicon, manganese and traces of impurities such as sulfur and phosphorus. It is made by heating iron ore in a blast furnace with coke and limestone which deoxidizes the ore and gets rid of impurities, producing molten iron. The molten iron is cast into

moulds of the required shape and allowed to cool and crystallise. Its resistance to wear and deformity made it ideal for cooking ware and household items. Cast iron develops a protective film or scale on the surface

which makes it initially more resistant to corrosion than wrought iron. Finishing may include bituminous coatings, waxes, paints, galvanizing and plating and there are a variety of treatments that can reduce rusting and corrosion caused by environmental factors. Factory preservative treatments are typically barrier coatings intended to prevent the castings from oxidizing (rusting) in the presence of humidity and oxygen in the air. This everyday item transcends its form and function due to the memories and history it embodies. This particular boot scraper is a humble item of practicality long valued within the Conallin/Beckwith families and the memories associated with it.

Major family history-related resources in the National Library of Australia collections -with research guides-are available at <https://www.nla.gov.au/>

- [Australian birth, marriage and death indexes](#)
- [Australian cemetery records](#)
- [Australian electoral rolls](#)
- [Australian Indigenous family history](#)
- [Australian Joint Copying Project](#) (British government records relating to the Australian colonies)
- [Australian maps for family historians](#)
- [Australian newspapers](#)
- [Australian shipping and passenger records](#)
- [Biographies](#)
- [British and Irish maps for family historians](#)
- [Chinese-Australian family history](#)
- [Convict records](#)
- [Indian emigration passes to Fiji 1879-1916](#)

Other resources in the National Library of Australia collections (without current research guides) include:

- General Register Office: indexes to English and Welsh [births](#), [deaths](#), [marriages](#)
- The Griffith Valuation and index to the Tithe Applotment books (Ireland)
- Indexes to inquests and probate records
- Australian censuses and musters
- Australian parish records on microfilm (Society of Australian Genealogists collection)
- Directories and almanacs

Isn't genealogy fun?

The answer to one question leads to two more!

Obituary--Dianne (Di) Boyd

Sadly, on Thursday 28th March 2024 Di was involved in an accident in her home town of Rutherglen. She passed away shortly afterwards aged 77. Di's membership number was 33. She was quite an early member. She was known to the committee and many of our members. Di was a keen family historian, and very involved in the society's activities. Over the last few years, she had some health issues which kept her from being actively involved, however, she still retained an interest and would send items she thought may be of interest to our members to me to forward on.

As soon as her health permitted, she was right back involved in whatever the society arranged. Di enthusiastically joined in our Melbourne trip, 'Big Days Out' and attended workshops as her renewed enthusiasm and passion for family history energised her. Our members will sadly miss her smiling face and interactions at meetings and events.

Vale Di.

By Wendy Cooksey.



The Wodonga Family History Society Inc. is a non-profit, incorporated group. The Society's aim is to promote and assist the study of Family History.

Contact Us

Tel: 0493 612 797

[Located in the Hyphen – Wodonga Library Gallery located at 126 Hovell Street, Wodonga.](#)

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