



BORDERLINE NEWS

Newsletter 192

November, 2024

Next meeting dates & guest speakers:

Nov 19: Lest We Forget – Chris McQuillan, Albury and District Historical Society

Dec 10: Christmas Party 12 midday at Sodens, 459 Wilson St, Albury. RSVP Dec 4th. (Bring a Kris Kringle gift)

Jan 15: Member's showcase- Connect, Learn and Celebrate our Collective Knowledge. Share your insights - 'How Did You Discover That Information'.

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 3 & first Saturday of the month



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE WFHS RESEARCH AREA WILL CLOSE 12 DECEMBER 2024– REOPENING 14 JANUARY 2025

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 – President's Report

Hello Everybody,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new committee members Judy Charlton, our new secretary, Julie Campbell and Shaza Darling-Filby. Many of you have already received emails from Judy as she sends on the latest news from family history circles. It is impossible to keep track of everything so I am pleased she is willing to continue this service. Thank you, ladies, for offering to serve on committee as every organisation can benefit from having new people and new ideas. I hope you enjoy the experience. A big thank you also to Ian for his contribution as secretary over the past twelve months. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

There was an excellent attendance at our August meeting at Hyphen with Jenny Harkness as guest speaker. Jenny is a great ambassador for FamilySearch and her talk focused on the latest news available on the website but also a detailed explanation on using shared Family Tree. You can add your family tree (or create one) using GEDCOM. The shared tree has one public profile for each deceased person rather than having the ancestor in numerous trees. The idea is for FamilySearch to connect any information from its data base into that person's tree. They believe that this can result in time saving and give a more accurate and well sourced tree. Check out the benefits from their website. It is always beneficial to have Jenny here as Hyphen is an Affiliate Library, so we invite the public to our meeting.

September meeting was the AGM held at Felltimber. A special thank you to Bruce Nulty who conducted the formal business and announced the 2024-25 committee members. The Treasurer's report indicated that there is no need to increase subs for next year as our finances are in a sound position. An apology to Caroline and members as our technology didn't want to co-operate on the night. Caroline tried hard, in difficult circumstances, to explain the benefits of having fun using WikiTree and GeniTalk as well as the big 4 – Ancestry, FamilySearch, FindMyPast and MyHeritage. To make up for this dilemma Caroline presented her talk at Hyphen on the first Saturday in October to a very interested group.

Thirty members attended the October meeting to hear Wendy Cooksey speak Wills and Probate in the UK and Australia. Wonderful to see everyone having a chat afterwards. We were disappointed with the number of people who sought our help in Seniors Week this year. Perhaps we need to have a re-think on what we offer or there are too many other activities for people to attend? We are attending the Bonegilla Migrant Experience on Saturday, 16th November and we have a big part in the organisation of the Century of the Water Tower on Wednesday 4th December. Credit has to be given to Alice for taking the initiative and making contact with both organisations. Your support at these events would be appreciated. Pam and Warren are advertising the "sell all sale" of Warren's plants for 30th November. Again, offer to help if you can. We are greatly indebted to Warren for his generous support of our society, and it is sad that he feels this will be his last sale.

You are cordially invited to our Christmas luncheon at Soden's in Albury on the second Tuesday 10th December from 12 noon. Janette has organised a quiet room especially for us and we would love to see you there.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Pat

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President and Projects Officer:

Pat Hopkins

Vice President and Program Co-ordinator:

Janette Griggs

Secretary & Public Officer: Judy Charlton

Treasurer: Sue Jarvis

Librarian: Christine Young

Fundraising & Archives: Pamela Nulty

Publicity & Promotions: Ann Kerin

Research Officer & GSV representative: Alice Lindsay

VAFHO representative: Ann Kerin

New Members: Alice Lindsay

Newsletter Editor: Maureen Cuskelly

Committee Members: Vince Aitkin, Sharon-Darling Filby, Julie Campbell

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

Wodonga Family History Society Inc.
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Website and links:

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[www.facebook.com/ WodongaFamilyHistory/](https://www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/)
secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org.au
editor@wodongafamilyhistory.org.au

New Members

A very warm welcome to Cheryl Bromley and Kim McConville. And condolences to Libby Simpson, a long time member, on the death of her husband Russell.

Members featured stories

This newsletter has small stories of discoveries members have made using a variety of different sources and piecing this together to create a story.

- Pam Nulty writes about tracking a common family name through five generations of her family.
- Howard Jones continues the name's theme by researching and writing about a name of interest in his family as well.
- Pat Hopkins gives us an interesting snapshot of a German immigrant who came out as a boy and was orphaned soon after.

Projects Update – Pat Hopkins

Alice and I took the opportunity to visit Leonie Goyne and borrowed her records on schools in our area – Baranduda, Staghorn Flat and House Creek. They will be digitised and transcribed for our records. The items are in foolscap or larger books, so we thought to get a consistent digitised copy we would check out the A3 scanner used by Wangaratta Family History Society and see if it is suitable for our needs. They have generously offered us use of their machine so there is no need to purchase our own.

The June meeting on German research gave us the incentive to have a look at the Burwood-Drummoyne newsletters we had from 1987 and kept at the Senior Citizens rooms in storage. A wonderful resource for researching German immigrants who arrived on the east coast of Australia from c1849 to 1856 or later. Approximately, 804 families and 3091 people, including those who died on the journey out.

We created a search data base mainly of Jenny Paterson's research items. These newsletters are at Hyphen and information can be photocopied. Jenny, born in Beechworth, is a descendant of the Gehrig family at Barnawartha. She has incredible passion for researching these early settlers -relating to the 13 special ships they arrived on, where the immigrants went and worked -especially in the wine industry. There are explanations on why they travelled to Australia, the incentives offered by the colonial government especially for vinedressers and families. It is interesting to read about the social and political situations at the time. Who would think that the government in their homeland discouraged marriage and the colonial government insisted on married couples. So, many were married on the ships coming out. She points out the research difficulties when the spelling of ship names, surnames & villages differs and gives suggestions on how to find answers to difficult questions. If you have German ancestors from that period on the east coast these newsletters are extra-special. And, as we discovered in June, the Society of Australian Genealogists has a wealth of information on German immigration to Sth. Australia. See www.sag.org.au

Program news: Janette Griggs

What a busy year it has been, filled with fascinating topics to explore to help researching our family history! And there's still more to come.

In our November meeting, we're excited to welcome Chris McQuellin from the Albury and District Historical Society. He will share insights from his extensive research on military history, with a special focus on the stories of World War I soldiers and nurses buried in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery. Chris will also provide valuable tips on the meticulous process of tracing military histories.

Looking ahead to December, our monthly meeting will double as our Christmas party, taking place a week earlier than usual. Join us at Sodens Hotel on Tuesday, December 10th at noon. Please RSVP by December 4th, and remember to bring a gift for the Kris Kringle activity—it's always a fun highlight of our celebrations! Further reminders later for the party.

As we prepare for the 2025 program, we've gathered your feedback from the September and October meetings of this year. Four topics stood out as particularly popular, and we're working to incorporate these into our 2025 planning:

1. Overcoming brick walls in ancestor research
2. Utilising technology, software, and online resources
3. Learning from others' successful stories and case studies
4. Exploring maps and migration routes

Our Saturday sessions this year have been a great success, and we plan to continue these hands-on workshops where we can dive deep into specific topics. Be sure to keep an eye on our website for details. We look forward to hosting members and families at these events. All are welcome.

Plants - Clearance SALE: Pam Nulty

Many of you will have bought plants from Warren over the years, he has generously donated the proceeds of his sales to the Wodonga Family History Society. Warren is a keen gardener and it was his mother who was his inspiration, she also had green thumbs.

Back in 1924 she collected an Elkhorn fern which she nurtured over the years and Warren took it over in 1950. From that original fern Warren has produced many, many more which has included and splitting pieces off to create new plants and making backing frames to support them.



Warren Embury taken at his Wodonga home, Oct, 2024

Warren has cultivated Elkhorns, cacti, indoor plants, ground covers, shrubs and trees to sell in the upcoming clearance sale. At the moment Warren is finding the number of plants in his garden is taking too much time and effort and he wants to greatly reduce their numbers. The Sale will be on the morning of Saturday 30 November at his house 27 Wiltshire Crescent Wodonga.

He would also welcome Family History Society Members getting in early with the pick of the plants during the two weeks before the Sale. Plants will be at good prices and Warren is keen to sell to members any afternoon between the 15 and 29 November except for the Tuesdays and Thursdays. You are invited to take advantage of this offer if you can.

Christmas raffle - Pam Nulty

A hamper (laundry basket) of goods will be raffled at the Christmas Party on 10 December. It is looking good already with tinned food, chocolates, biscuits, wine, wrapping paper, coffee mugs....

Please buy and sell tickets at \$1 each for the Society. Tickets will be available at the meetings and at the Christmas Party. Goods for the hamper can be donated at the meetings and at the Library.

Librarian - Christine Young

Members please note the last date the WFHS Research area is available at Hyphen is 12th December; re-opening 14th January, 2025.

Bus crash – major loss of life

Found in the Wodonga Family History Society Archives: Australia's worst level crossing accident occurred on 8th May 1943 on Tallangatta Road—now called Thomas Mitchell Drive-- Wodonga. The accident occurred when a bus on its way to



Memorial shelter installed April 1993 to commemorate 50th Anniversary of the tragedy.
Cnr Thomas Mitchell Drive & Wigg St, Wodonga

Albury crashed into the back of a train shunting towards Bandiana. A bystander said the light was dim and the locomotive appeared from nowhere. Many of those who perished had survived three years of desert warfare only to die close to home. Nineteen (19) soldiers, a member of the A.A.M.W.S and the driver of the bus were killed. By the next morning a further four had died, bringing the total to 25. Nine personnel were injured. The coroner ruled misadventure.

All except the bus driver were buried at the Albury War Cemetery. The funeral procession was two miles long as it passed through High Street and flags were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect, whilst businesses closed for an hour. The cortege actually passed over the site of the accident. All 24 caskets were lowered into their graves simultaneously. The Cemetery is still beautifully maintained with flowering plants.

The 25 deceased were:

Anne Anderson [A.A.M.W.S.]
Lieut. Henry Parkinson
L/Cpl K.R. Barnett
Acting Cpl R.G. Dunne
Pte S.P. Daley
Pte F.T. Steele
Pte A.E. Goddard
Pte Roy Barnes
Pte C.A.W. Alderton
Pte B.M. McKenzie
Pte E.A. Johnston
Pte A.C. Neale
Pte Keith Hurst
Pte J. A. R. Quinn
Lieut. L.R. Brinsmead
Lieut. A.M. Harris
W.O. R.A. Frewin
Act Cpl W.H. Roberts
Signaller G S Nicol
Signaller A.F.F. Try
W.O. R.N. Mills
W.O. G.H. Rose
Act Sgt E.A. Nairn
A.C. McFarlane
W Lord [bus driver, Victoria St, Williamstown]

The 9 injured were:

Act. Cpl. W.D.E. Thompson
Sgt R.K.J. Hodgkinson
Pte F.H. Austen
Cpl N.L. Hardie
Sig V Tressider
Signalwoman Darford
Sig C. Barton
Signalwoman G.F. Lawton
Cpl E.J. Laird

References

The Corowa Free Press, 11 May, 1943, p3
The Argus (Melbourne, Vic) 10 May 1943, p1

A MAN AND TWO SHEILAS

By Howard Jones

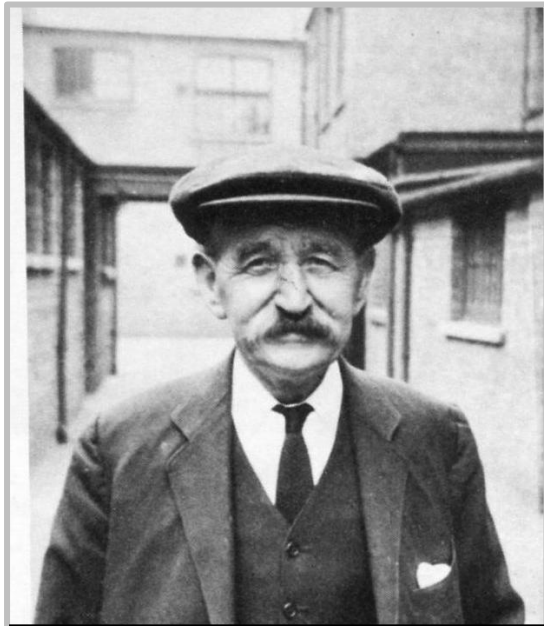


Image 1: Lewis Morgan Jones. From the author's collection

Shipping records are not just about great passenger vessels bringing migrants to Australia. They can also help show where your sailor ancestors went in the world.

My paternal grandfather, Lewis Morgan Jones (1869-1939) had a close interest in a couple of Sheilas in his home port of Aberystwyth, Wales.

One was a six-ton fishing smack called Sheila and the other a 17-ton boat, *Sheila II*, in which Lewis took visitors for pleasure trips in Cardigan Bay.

Handwritten boat licensing records in the local archives there show that even the small boat required 'three men and a boy' to sail her. They also record the wooden boats were 32 and 39 feet long respectively.

The Sheila II landed Lewis in court in 1908. He and his mate were charged with carrying 17 adults and three children in a boat licensed for only 12 passengers. Their lawyer admitted they had once carried up to 33 people at a busy time. The charges were dismissed because authorities should have charged the licensee,

not the two sailors who had simply hired the boat.

Being a deep-sea merchant seaman in his younger days, Lewis features in crew lists available through National Archives (UK), giving names, ages, duties and other facts, and his arm tattoos are recorded in Royal Naval Reserve records.

Although Lewis's records are incomplete, they confirm he worked on transatlantic ships and others to Europe carrying cargo such as coal or cattle. Crew lists can be searched by name, though I think I was lucky with Lewis!



Image 2: Lewis Morgan Jones with his wife Brigitte. From the author's own collection

Coincidentally, an Irish-born daughter of one of our first cousins is an avid sailor in yachts. She has raced with her husband in the famous Fastnet Races covering a 700 miles course from England to France. Don't be surprised that my sister is named Sheila.

GERMAN HISTORY CONTINUED: In this newsletter we continue the theme of German Migration. The first reported ships to arrive at Morton Bay in 1854 carrying German immigrants were the *Aurora* and the *Mertz* (also recorded as the *Marbs* or *Merbs*) The immigrants were highly sought after as shepherds, vine dressers, servants and mechanics. For further information on these two ship arrivals see article by Ken Sbeghen: <https://talesfromcolonialqueensland.blogspot.com/2012/03/first-german-immigrant-ships-arrive.html>

KARL DEUFFEL-1843-1933

A Migrant child's epic journey

Prelude: When Alice and Pat were indexing the Ances-Tree newsletters, reference to the Deuffel children made them want to know more. Their curiosity led to the book 'Unsung Heroes and Heroines' published as part of the 1988 bi-centennial. They purchased a copy – it smelt of age, but had wonderful stories, in great condition – but this was what they found about the Deuffels. The following is an excerpt from the book on the story of Karl Deuffel by Louise. Egerton:

'Eleven-year-old Karl Deuffel left Germany in November 1854 with his parents aboard the *Merbz*, the first recorded ship to carry German immigrants to Australia¹. Karl, his parents and his younger brother and sister were among 267 migrants destined for Nundah, the first free settlement in northern New South Wales². Most of the passengers were friends and relatives from the Tauber valley, recruited as labour for the new colony. Many wealthy squatters on the Darling Downs were losing their traditional labour to the goldfields and were in need of agricultural workers. The villagers had agreed to work for two years on the squatters' land to pay for their passage.

The sea voyage was a nightmare. Food and water were rationed and the medical supplies inadequate. Before long, typhus and measles had taken hold on the ship. By March 1855, when it docked in Moreton Bay, forty six people, including Karl's mother, had died. Their bodies tipped unceremoniously overboard.

The Deuffels arrived in Nundah grief stricken and unable to speak English, with Karl's father seriously ill. He was taken to Brisbane's convict hospital and died shortly after.

Karl, now twelve years old, was suddenly head of the household. Left to care for eight year old Andreas and three year old Amy, he decided to honour his father's bond and hope that the

squatters would accept his labour in place of his father's. However, Tieryboo station, to which his father had been allocated, lay 350 kilometres west of Nundah, across the Great Divide. There were almost no white settlements along the way, an uneasy Aboriginal population in the bush and a host of natural hazards. But Karl had no money so there was no alternative but to walk the entire distance with his little brother and sister. Miraculously, the three children arrived safely at Tieryboo. The boys were taken on as shepherds but what became of little Amy remains a mystery. Karl continued to work on at Tieryboo after his two year contract. When the station was finally broken up Karl had saved enough money to buy one of the blocks of land. He married a German girl, bought his own team of bullocks and became a carrier on a regular run between Roma and Ipswich.

When Karl's wife died, he was left to raise five daughters and one son, which he did with skill and devotion. Karl died in 1933, aged ninety. He never re-married and rarely spoke of his childhood but before he died he told his daughter how he and the other two small children had walked through the bush to reach Tieryboo' (Egerton, 1988).

References

Egerton, Louise. 1988. *Unsung Heros & Heroines*, p.58-59.
Burwood/Drummoyne NSW Newsletters Ances-Tree Vol 22.2 Jul 2009

Research notes: Pat Hopkins

¹ Not accurate as the 'Beulah' transported our local families of Rau, Frauenfelder and Schubach in 1849*. NB Further Info: on the 'Beulah' and Frauenfelder see

<https://www.germanaustralia.com/e/nsw-setl.htm>

²Actually fourth of twelve ships bringing vinedressers. 75 assisted German immigrants (from an original 29 vine dresser families) and 150 unassisted immigrants.

²Now part of Queensland

FIVE GENERATIONS OF ANNS AND SARAHS – An idea for a story –

By Pam Nulty

Introduction

In searching the maternal line in my family, I found my great grandmother Sarah Ann, had a mother and grandmother also named Sarah Ann, not unusual for those times. The names Ann and Sarah persisted for five generations, beginning in Dover, England and continuing to Australia. I decided to write about each of these ancestors.

Five Generations

Ann Athenden was born in Dover in England in 1794, she had a daughter Sarah Ann in Dover in 1813. This first Sarah Ann came to Melbourne with two daughters in 1855, one of whom was Sarah Ann. The second Sarah Ann married in Melbourne in 1857; subsequently her fifth child was named Sarah Ann after her mother and grandmother. This third Sarah Ann, who married in 1884, named her fifth child, my grandmother, Sarah Gertrude. I found some interesting information about the family of the husband of the first Sarah Ann, Charles Waid Roberts. His father, a Royal Naval Lieutenant had possibly taken part in the Battle of Trafalgar the year Charles Waid was born. Even if it was not his father at the battle, that was the world he was born into and it was such a decisive victory for the British. I have included some details in my story. Also, Charles Waid and



Sarah Ann with husband Charles Waid Roberts.
Author's own collection.

Sarah Ann had a son, grandson and great-grandson all named Charles Waid, they all worked in shipping, remaining in England. In my family history I have written what I have found out about each of these Anns and Sarahs

and their families and included a few photos with the story to give to my daughters and other family members. I find writing stories about particular ancestors or branches of the family a useful of recording family history.

Genealogy Society of Queensland

Upcoming conference2025:

[Connections Past, Present and Future](#)

48 presentations to be delivered in three themes:

1. **Diaspora - Migration in all its forms"**
2. **Looking ahead - what are the opportunities"**
3. **Local History and its impact on our research"**

Date: 21st- 24th March 2025 –

Where: Brisbane Technology Park

For more information:

<https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

Wills and Probate

In case you missed this highly informative and interesting talk delivered by [Wendy Cooksey](#) at the last meeting here are some hot tips from Wendy to get you started:

[1. YouTube](#)

There are several YouTube videos about Wills and probate, mostly created by FamilySearch. Type in 'YouTube wills and probate'.

Watch all or some of them to gain a better understanding of the process. They are very informative, even though the discussion is generally aimed at American research.

[2. Where to locate wills:](#)

Australia – The link on Family Search has Australian Wills and Probate records. These are free to download. The link contains details of dates of Wills and Probate that are available in each Australian state with contact addresses <https://familysearch.org/en/wiki/Australia>

[3. Victoria](#)

PROV – Public Records Office of Victoria
<https://prov.vic.gov.au>

Wills and Probate are free to download. To see the paper copy you need to order a few days ahead of time. Probate up to 2020. After 1994, both Wills and Probate are in the same file under Probate. Prior to 1994, you need to look for them separately.

4. Queensland

Queensland has different laws to the rest of the Australia and it is not always possible to access a will

<https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/services/wills-and-probate/searches-for-wills-and-probate>

5. United Kingdom

This link will lead you to United Kingdom Wills and Probate plus some other countries:

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>

6. England and Wales

National Archives. Wills 1384-1858. Contains research guides to assist you. You can engage in a live chat between 9am and 5pm English time. You can order a will on line for a fee.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/>

FamilySearch. Wills and Probate 1858-1957.

Most images are on an affiliate library FamilySearch site

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2451051>

7. Wales

<https://www.library.wales/catalogues-searching/help-to-search/family-history-help/records/wills-and-probate-records>

8. Ireland

Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1922 (nationalarchives.ie)

From 1918 the Wills and Probate for Northern Ireland are held at PRONI (The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland):

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | nidirect.gov.uk

9. Scotland

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>

This site explains Scotland's Wills and Probate:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/wills-and-testaments>

This site has links to various records to assist locating Scottish Wills: Mygov.scot

10. ALL UK, Ancestry.com. Somerset House 1300-2001

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/63080/>

You will need to click on the card index and scroll down to this collection.

Types of Wills

Universal Legatee: the person's estate is left to just one person and is straightforward.

Intestate: When a person dies without leaving a Will.

Letters of Administration (ADMONS): these are created when a person dies intestate or no executor is named in the Will, or the named executors are unwilling or unable to act in that position.

Nuncupative Will: These Wills generally began with the words "memorandum quod". The person is too ill to write or sign the Will or is illiterate. In this case, a third party will write the person's wishes. The witnesses must agree the document is a true and accurate account of the person's wishes. Unfortunately, these types of Wills were open to fraud and they gave rise to the 1837 Wills Act that made it illegal for a beneficiary to witness a Will.

Valuation: The person's land was not included in a valuation.

Codicil: Like a postscript (PS) at the end of a Will, over-riding a relevant section of the original Will. Must be signed in the same manner as the original Will.

Abbreviations found in Registers

BM/BF/SM/SF: brother or sister or mother or father

Dxx: descendant of, followed by the precise connection

DSF: descendant of the father [cousin]

DBGF descendant of a brother of the grandfather

Stra: stranger in blood, ie. not blood kin

Additional information may be added, eg.

StrBL: Brother-in-law

StraSL: son-in-law or sister-in-law

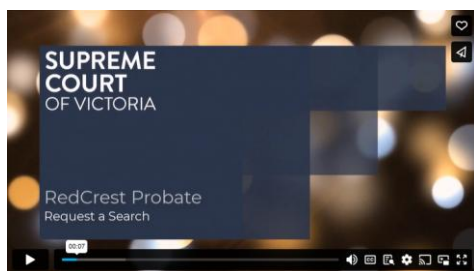
StraSent or **Stravnt:** stranger, servant to the deceased

Ch: a legitimate child of the testator

An illegitimate child may be listed as:

StraNC: [for natural child]

Supreme Court of Victoria, how to search Probate Office records:



The above video shows you how to request a search from the Supreme Court of Vic. To view use the link below:-

<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/wills-and-probate/searching-probate-records>

Record keeping tip:

The Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) Inc is the sole distributor for Australia and New Zealand of “*My Family History, A ten generation family research record book with pedigree charts*”. This edition contains space to record the details of more than 1000 ancestors with the pedigree charts and book fully cross referencing for ease of use.



My Family History, A ten generation family research book with pedigree charts.

\$30.00

Available at [GSQ – Enriching family history](#)

JEAN MARY WITLA, OAM

17 October 1926 to 21 October 2024

Jean was passionate about Wodonga and its history. She was an active member of the Wodonga Historical Society, and became a Life Member some years ago. Although she never joined our society, she took a keen interest in our activities. Jean was proud of her career as a journalist and showed me the typewriter on which she wrote many articles and books, including letters of topical interest to our local newspaper. She attended every Council meeting she was able, and frequently submitted questions. Perhaps the typewriter may now reside in the Historical Society’s collection—it could certainly tell many stories of Wodonga.

Jean was quite a modest person, and some years ago told me that mention had been made of an intention to name something in her honour in Wodonga. Apparently, she very firmly stated that any naming of places after people should not occur whilst that person was living.

Jean was awarded the Commonwealth Senior Citizens Medal in 2001 and The Order of Australia Medal in 2008.

Vale Jean. A life well lived

Wendy Cooksey

WFHS Sponsor

BRANDJAM

CREATIVE.

We thank

Katie for her support in printing our newsletters and flyers



BOOK REVIEW by Maureen Cuskelly

Ghost Towns of the High Country

Luke Steenhuis (2nd ed) 2019

This A4 size book, now in the WFHS library, provides a fascinating snapshot of 60 former town and wayside places between Bairnsdale and Bright. Family historians can expect to see township maps, business names, some school and cemetery photos and personal letters, which at times, provide extraordinary accounts of pioneering efforts. There are letters from inhabitants including children describing their lives in the early century:

'We have no church here, but Fr Hayes (from Omeo) comes out every six weeks to celebrate Mass in Carney's Hall... My Mother teaches Sunday School. I always go. I never miss a Sunday ... There was a lady who died here last winter, and the men had to carry her through three feet of snow for eight miles. She lived next door to us and was a great friend of my mother's' (Violet Fitton, aged 11).

Places featured include:

Anglers Rest	Howittville
Black Snake Creek	Iguana Creek
Boggy Creek	Jeff Davis
Brandy Creek	Lightning Creek
Brocket	Louisville
Brookville	Mayford
Buckland	Merrijig Creek
Buckland Camp	Mitchelldale
Buckland Upper	Mount Elmo
Budgee Budgee	Nariel
Bulgoback	Nugong
Bull Town	Sassafras Creek
Bullumwaal	Seldom Seen
Canvastown	Spring Hill
Cassilis	Squirrel Forest
Cobbannah	Staleyville
Copenhagen	Stirling
Cravensville	Store Creek
Dargo High Plains	Summer Hill
Dartmouth	Sunnyside
Deptford	Tabberabbera
Gibbo River	Talbotville
Gladstone	Tambo Crossing

Glen Dart	Tongio West
Glen Valley	Verdon
Glen Wills	Waterford
Good Luck Creek	Wentworth River
Granite Flat	Winchester
Grant	Wombat Creek
Hinnomunjie	Zulu Creek
Hog Town	

Detailed maps (pages 3-7) show the location of each of these gone-by towns many of which would be impossible to locate now.

'Even the dead have deserted'

'I happened to be going down the Dargo a couple of months ago, and came to where the town (Louisville) once stood. Not a single habitation remains ... I took a walk down to the cemetery. To my surprise, I found that they had gone too. The river, changing its course, had swept the cemetery away, and caused the defunct to trek to lower country .. even the dead have deserted' (unnamed visitor, 1910).

Perusing this book, it is impossible not to get the feel of how a town seemingly popped up - then disappeared often within a decade or two, their inhabitants moving on.



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

Located in the Hyphen – Wodonga Library Gallery, 126 Hovell Street, Wodonga.

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