

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 125 - August 2020

Memories of Officer

Mum was the second daughter of George Frederick and Ethel Georgeann Tivendale (née Harris) of Tivendale Road, Officer. Thora Margery Tivendale was born at Berwick on 1 April 1911, was schooled at Officer Primary School and Dandenong High School, worked for a while at the Dandenong Bacon Factory, and then became a teacher. She attended Melbourne Teachers' College in 1931, then had short term appointments at several Gippsland schools (Dandenong, Dingley, Tambo Upper, Orbost, Longwarry, Sale, Blackwarry, Carrajung,

Callignee, Tonimbuk) before being posted to Panmure on 30 June 1935, miles away in the Western District down near Warrnambool, where she met Harold Ericson Welsford and later married him at the little church in Tivendale Road on 15 April 1939.

I don't know when we made our first journey back to Officer, but the first one I recall was when Grandma (Ethel Georgeann) died on 29 November 1944. From then on, there were regular trips back

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50th wedding anniversary of Solomon and Rosetta Harris (nee Sparkes) (above seated). Taken in April 1932 at Edgevale, Upper Beaconsfield. Back row, l to r: unknown, Arthur Ronald Tivendale, George Frederick Tivendale (grandpa), Thora Margery Tivendale (mum). Middle row: Lucy Annie Harris, Ethel Jean Tivendale, Marian Eva Preston (nee Harris), Isa Frances Robb (nee Harris), Ellen Frances Harris (nee Glismann) holding baby Roy, Ethel Georgeann Tivendale (nee Harris) (grandma), Frederick George Tivendale, Claud Alfred Harris, with his son Kaine Harris in front of him. Older children in front are Marjorie and Isa Preston, the boy is David Alan Tivendale. Photo courtesy of Harris/Tivendale family.



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Family History Research Room

We have a large collection of books, maps, microfiche, CDs and journals from all over the world available to our members and visitors.

Location

Cranbourne Library,
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road,
Cranbourne.

NW&DFHG is a member of:

Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group
Genealogical Society of Victoria
South Eastern Historical Association Inc.
Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Victorian Association of Family History Organisations
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am to 3 pm
Research Room phone number: (03) 5111 0032

Meetings

Cranbourne Complex Meeting Room,
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne
Entry Cost \$3

October - April 7.30 pm
and the 1st day of the month (except January).

May - September 6.00 pm
3rd Saturday of the month.

Membership

Single \$35, Joint \$50. Payable 1 July each year.
Casual visitors \$5 per day.

Membership Renewal

You are welcome to renew your membership by
Direct Deposit into our bank account.

Bank: National Australia Bank

Branch: Fountain Gate

BSB: 083 802

Account No: 539450013

Please don't forget to use your name as a reference.

Please email a copy of your renewal form to the
Membership Officer.

Research Queries

We offer a research service for those unable to visit
our Research Room personally, but please note
that we can only research our own holdings and
those of the local municipal libraries. The cost for
this service is \$15 per hour plus photocopying
expenses. All research queries can be sent to the
Research Officer at the above postal address or
email: research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group
gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support
of Casey Cardinia Libraries and the City of Casey.

Disclaimer: Contributions made to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.

President's Report

Well, what can I say? I am sure that life is challenging for most of us by now. We did manage to open for a day between lockdown 1.0 and 2.0 for what it was worth.

The City of Casey have installed the honour boards in our corridors, it's such a shame that no one can see them at the moment. We understand that it is a temporary access solution and that they may not stay with us indefinitely, but it's better than them being in storage and we're happy to have them.

We have no news for members on a date for our AGM. While we're aware that many groups are holding theirs via Zoom, this format doesn't really suit our AGM style. So we'll hold off a bit longer and monitor developments. Please bear in mind that we're going to need help this year to fill vacancies

left by resigning committee members, some of whom have been in their jobs for a number of years so are due for parole.

The planned October cemetery tour is now tentatively scheduled for the 2021 Heritage Festival, but again, we'll have to keep monitoring the situation. It's becoming increasingly difficult to plan for anything.

A reminder to members that while we're closed, Marianne is happy to coordinate any research assistance and I am happy to forward any newsletters or magazines that have come in by email to members.

We will keep all members informed of any news regarding our operations as soon as it comes to hand.

Lynne Bradley

Vale Paul Stevenson

We were shocked and saddened to hear of Paul's passing on 12 July. Paul joined the group in February 2010 with his wife Claire. He quickly became an integral part of our VIPs, then our committee as his IT skills became apparent to us all. He built the black computers and devised and installed the html setup that drives them, enabling the rest of us to quickly and conveniently access resources without having to use the CDs.

Most of us however, will probably remember his

genial nature and quick wit. Not to mention his moustache. He was always willing to help you or laugh with you, many times he did both.

Our deepest sympathies to Claire, Cheyenne and Paul's family.

Lynne Bradley

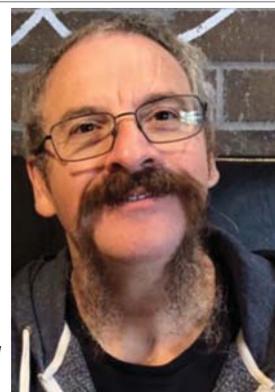


Image: Herald Sun online

Thursday history talks on Zoom

The Casey-Cardinia Library has scheduled a number of one hour free history talks on Zoom. Each event lasts one hour from 11 am to 12 noon. You can book the August talks online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/casey-cardinia-libraries-364646784>

Tasmanian archives

Thursday 6 August (Heather Arnold)

The Tasmanian Archives hold a wealth of information about their Colonial history including convict records, birth, death and marriage records and shipping records. Many of these records have been digitised and are available online.

Finding your Irish roots

Thursday 13 August (Jane Rivett-Carnac)

Lost Victoria: Local history information

Thursday 20 August (Heather Arnold)

They didn't swim here - Finding the ship and other immigration records

Thursday 27 August (Jane Rivett-Carnac)



Casey
Cardinia
Libraries

Find My Past

Thursday 3 September (Heather Arnold)

Discover your family history through the millions of records on Find My Past family history database.

October is history month

Join our Local History Librarian, Heather Arnold, on a virtual tour of post-contact history of the region. Meet the personalities who shaped our region, view lots of great historical photographs and see how our area has developed from Squatters to Suburbs.

Thursday 1 October - The engineering and development of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp.

Thursday 8 October - Cranbourne

Thursday 15 October - Berwick

Thursday 22 October - Pakenham

Memories of Officer

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to visit Grandpa, the uncles, aunts, and cousins. A train from Panmure or Terang to Spencer Street – transfer to Princes Bridge and catch a train heading east, usually to Dandenong, occasionally to Officer. We always stayed at Porters in Bayview Road (Uncle Jim & Aunt Jean, Mum’s older sister).

The trip from Dandenong to Officer was always exciting. At various times, Grandpa had a single seat car with a dickie seat at the back. Us boys went in there, and the cases on the running board. At another time, he had a small old fashioned ute – the cases and the boys went in the back – wouldn’t do these days! On other occasions, it was Uncle Jack Crook, married to Mum’s younger sister Kath.

We enjoyed a lot of freedom, and it was easy to fill in the time going from Grandpa, Uncle Ron (Mum’s brother) & Aunt Jean at the highway end of Tivendale Road to Crooks (Aunt Jean & Uncle Jack) half way along, to Uncle Alan (Mum’s “kid” brother) & Aunt Lorna further up towards Brown Road. In the little cottage next door to Porter’s lived Aunt Til (Matilda Elizabeth Tivendale), Grandpa’s unmarried older sister, and another elderly lady who I believe was “Granny Tiv” – Catherine Eliza Stevenson, otherwise Mrs James Tivendale. Visits there were always a little scary – the house was always dark and the ladies wore full-length black dresses.

Yet another family connection lived on top of the ridge on the west side of Bayview Road. Uncle Bill (William Thomas Tivendale, Grandpa’s brother) was married to Aunt Dot (Rosetta Amelia May Harris, grandma’s sister) – they ran a dairy farm, and there were regular walks up the hill from Porter’s to collect the billy of milk – no pasteurisation or glass bottles in those days! Also at the dairy farm were their son Hugh and his wife Jean.

As we grew, our range of daily activities increased. A favourite walk was up to the northern end of Bayview Road, collect a couple of Jonathon apples from the big orchard on the corner (always windfalls, never from a tree), and into the bush past the Scout Camp, the “Haunted Gully”, and on to the Reservoir for an hour of skipping stones across the water, a side trip along the channel, then back the way we came, stopping to check the latest “rubbish” at “Dikies Dump” (Die Casters).

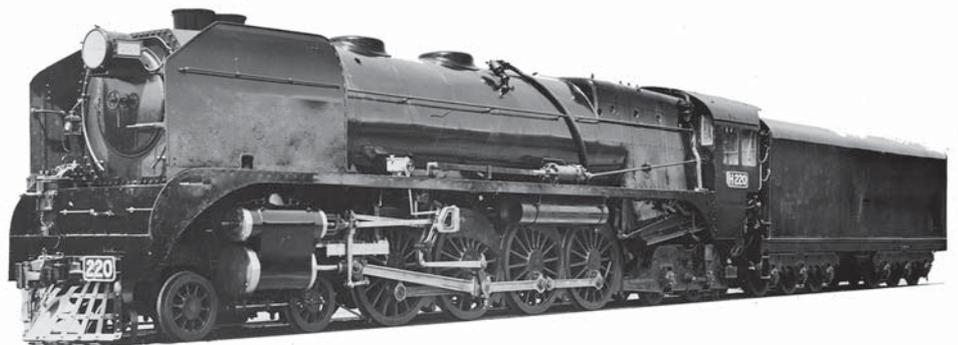
There were always new car wrecks parked at the garage on the south side of the highway, so an

inspection of the damage and debris was another regular activity.

The railway station was within easy walking distance, and a place of much interest. If timed right, the eastbound Gippslander would go hurtling through at full speed. There was always a warning that it was on its way – the station master would climb down and raise a “pole” from a box beside the track. He would then hang the “staff” on an arm projecting from the pole. Also on the pole was a set of “rams horns”. As the train thundered through, a device on the locomotive would grab the staff from the pole, thereby gaining clearance to proceed. At the same time, the rams horns would engage with and capture another staff from the side of the loco. For normal trains this exchange of staffs was done manually between the station master and the fireman, but the speed of the Gippslander was such as to make this dangerous, hence the mechanical transfer.

I remember on at least one occasion the rams horns did not engage correctly with the staff on the loco resulting in the staff being flung many metres into the swamp which was to the south of the tracks.

Occasionally, “Heavy Harry” would be held at the station waiting for clearance to proceed. It was an enormous locomotive, always hissing and making other scary noises.



H220, Heavy Harry. Image State Library Victoria H92.317/59

In later years, we were able to work in the apple packing shed of Mr Brown, Aunt Lorna’s father. The apples were graded by size by a simple machine and were then packed into wooden boxes which were put together in the shed from bulk supplies of components. Each apple was wrapped in green tissue paper before being placed in the box – there was a pattern to packing the apples depending on size – for big ones it might have been a row of three, then a row of two, a row of three, etc., until the layer was complete – the next layer would go 2 then 3, so that it all fitted together nicely. The filled boxes then had a lid nailed on, details stenciled on the end, and were stacked ready for dispatch. Under Aunt Lorna’s watchful supervision, we were allowed to pack apples, but the best job was nailing

the boxes together.

One year, Grandpa had been engaged to demolish the garage previously mentioned south of the highway. George Porter and I spent several days helping him – no safety rails or anything like that – it just came down bit by bit. Our reward was a day out fishing from Tooradin with “Old Tom”, a long-time fishing mate of Grandpa’s.

The trip home to the west was a reverse of that to

get there, with one difference. Mum would always pack the necessary food at home before we left. On the return, it was possible to buy a meal in a cardboard box at Spencer Street and that sustained us for the journey.

Looking back from where we are now, they were good simple days, ruled by common sense rather than restrictions and regulations. It was a good life.

Ray Welsford

Casey Cardinia Remembers: Modella Hall

There’s a certain satisfaction that comes with every site we get surveyed, formatted and up on the internet whether they’re big or small. But there’s a few sites that become quite special to us for one reason or another.

One of those sites is the Modella Hall which takes in the former Modella Primary School site as well. It’s special because on the day our two volunteers visited the site in May 2012, they met Dorothy Goodman (pictured below) and her friend Dick Martin. Dorothy and Dick had come to share their memories of the Modella school and hall with Fay and Anne, our two volunteers.



When the Modella school closed in December 1993 the building was relocated and the land was sold. It is now privately owned but Dorothy and Dick got permission from the property

owner to take Fay and Anne to see a tree that had been planted in the school grounds in the 1940s in memory of Dorothy’s brother, Flight Sergeant Reginald Lugton. There is no plaque marking the tree, but Dorothy and Dick remembered the day the tree was planted, and they wanted us to record this. Reginald Lugton was a twenty year old RAAF wireless operator in a Halifax bomber that crashed in Yorkshire, England while returning from a sortie.

Fay and Anne were so excited to have had the privilege of meeting Dorothy and Dick on the day and listening to their memories of life at Modella. It is a shame we did not have the foresight to have recorded those memories at the time. It’s too late now, Dorothy Goodman passed away at the end of



June and we’ve probably learned a lesson the hard way but at least the story of Reginald Lugton and the tree that was planted in the Modella School grounds in his honour will be told for a long time to come on our website and through Trove. While we again thank Dorothy and Dick for sharing their memories of a site not marked but special none the less to us all, we invite you to tell of us of other sites you know of that are not marked and in danger of being lost to our collective memory in Casey and Cardinia.

www.caseycardinia remembers.org.au/modella-hall/

Lynne Bradley

An Officer and a Gentleman (part 2)

We introduced you to Lieutenant Charles George de Beauvoir Tupper and his mother Elizabeth in the February 2020 edition of *Spreading Branches*. It was a long story, too long for us to explore the family connections to Victoria and the possible ways this small framed portrait could have found its way to the garage of Val Holland's parents-in-law. So, now we'll pick up the story where we left off.

Elizabeth received news of Charles' death from the Admiralty the day after the explosion at Rio. Letters and reports from commanding officers at Rio were forwarded to her during the weeks after Charles' death and she was kept very well informed by the Admiralty.¹ An article in *The Advertiser* in Adelaide reported that Elizabeth was a widow in delicate health and that only a few days before the explosion Commander Rolleston had received a letter from her. In the letter she commended her beloved son to the Commander's favourable notice and the Commander had replied that Charles was in the best of health and spirits. She would have received that letter weeks after Charles' death.² It probably came around the same time that she was granted administration of Charles' estate.

I have no doubt that the £76,330 Elizabeth inherited from the estate was of little comfort to her. She had always had a comfortable life, she wanted for nothing but a family of her own. In twenty short years she had lost her beloved uncle, her husband, and now, her only child.

Born at Preston Deanery in Northamptonshire on 2 October 1833, Elizabeth Christie, as she was then, was the eldest daughter and third child of Langham and Margaret Christie. And although her parents

had three daughters and three sons, only the eldest son, William, survived to adulthood. Elizabeth and her sisters Charlotte and Augusta were educated at home by a governess.

To give you some idea of Elizabeth's life before marriage, she appears in the 1861 English census at twenty-seven years of age, still living in the family home. Her brother William and his wife Agnes were visiting on census night, and her younger sister Charlotte was there too. Also listed as household members (or staff) were Charles Moore the butler, Josiah Watson the coachman, James Wells the footman, Sarah Styles the housekeeper, Esther Hamilton the lady's maid, Emma Boraston the second lady's maid, Joanne Jones the kitchen maid, Maria Lacer the house maid and Maria Clarke the nurse.

Elizabeth's father Langham died a few months after the census was taken and her mother died in 1866. It is unclear when Elizabeth moved to London to live with her uncle Charles William Christie. Charles was unmarried and lived alone (apart from the servants) at 10 Hyde Park Square in London.

When Elizabeth married Lieutenant Colonel Daniel William Tupper in 1870 at St. John's Paddington (London) it was quite a family affair, they were married by Elizabeth's brothers-in-law. Charlotte's husband, Rev. JH Brookes rector of Steeple Aston conducted the service, assisted by Augusta's husband, Rev. HB Wilder.

Daniel Tupper had distinguished himself throughout his military career in line with family expectations as the son of Daniel and Anna Maria (Le Marchant) Tupper of Guernsey. Daniel was born on 26 December 1833, he attended Elizabeth College in St Peter Port, Guernsey for a while, leaving in 1847. His father, Daniel snr. had been a lieutenant in the 64th Regiment and was the Receiver General of Crown Revenues for Guernsey.



Portrait of Lieutenant Charles Morant Churchill, Captain Daniel William Tupper and unidentified soldier of the 50th Regiment, c1865. www.aucklandmuseum.com image PH-ALB-91-p38-2

1 National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London: TUP/5

2 EXPLOSION AT RIO. *The Advertiser* (Adelaide), 8 January 1894, p 6

Daniel joined the 50th (Queen's Own) Regiment of Foot. On 2 February 1849 at about seventeen years of age he was promoted to the rank of ensign, the lowest rank of army officer. His rank was without purchase, meaning he had earned it, not bought it. He worked his way through the ranks, being promoted to lieutenant in March 1852 and in September 1854 he and his regiment were at the Crimea. Daniel survived the Battle of Alma in September and the Battle of Inkerman in November. He was promoted to the rank of captain in December 1854, again, without purchase. The siege and fall of Sebastopol from September 1854 to September 1855 saw Daniel in command of his men and in the trenches with them for a total of 154 consecutive days and nights without leave. His duty and sacrifice resulted in being brevetted Major in November 1855 reflecting his distinguished service in the field. He was just twenty-three years old. Daniel's brother Gaspard was also at the Crimea with the Royal Artillery.

Brevets gave a commissioned officer a higher rank but not the pay or duty of that rank. They indicated a rank in the army that had no impact on a rank within a regiment, so that means Daniel was a captain in his regiment but a major within the British Army. He also received the Order of the Medjidie (fifth class) from the Ottoman Empire for exceptional service and the Crimea Medal with three clasps (one for each battle) from the United Kingdom.

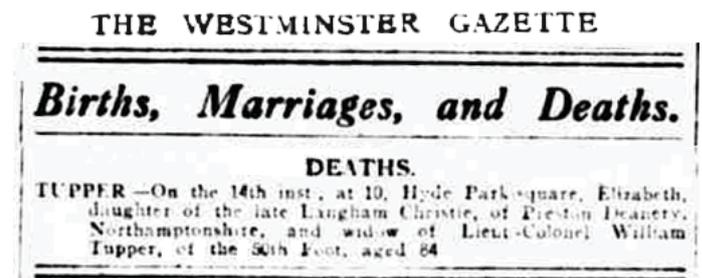
1857 saw Daniel serving as Aide-de-Camp to Sir Henry Ward, the Governor of Ceylon until 1860. Three years later he was in New Zealand with George Jackson Carey (his first cousin, once removed) during the New Zealand War of 1863-65 and was present at the Battle of Rangiaowhia.

1866 was a big year for Daniel Tupper, he was brevetted Colonel and when Brigadier General George Jackson Carey was appointed to command the Australian forces and came to Melbourne, Daniel accompanied him. When Sir Charles Darling, the Governor of Victoria was recalled to England, Carey became Acting Governor of Victoria from May to August 1866. Daniel Tupper served as his Aide-de-Camp or private secretary during this time. Carey returned to England in 1867 to command the 2nd Infantry Brigade at Aldershot with Daniel Tupper as his Aide-de-Camp.³

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel William Tupper was only forty-one years old when he died at home on 16 November 1873 from a brain tumour. Elizabeth's faithful servant Rebecca Holmes registered the death three days later. Rebecca is not listed among

the servants in the 1871 census so must have joined the staff sometime after 2 April 1871.

We have little to trace Elizabeth's life but census records. We know from the 1871 census that she and Daniel were living with her uncle Charles at 10 Hyde Park Square in London. In 1881 we find Elizabeth at Hyde Park Square at census time with Rebecca Holmes aged thirty from Bury St Edmunds, her lady's maid. Elizabeth and Rebecca are listed in Exmouth on the 1891 census and in 1901 Elizabeth was staying at the Hotel Metropole at Bournemouth in Hampshire at census time. In 1911 she is in Torquay in Devon and Rebecca Holmes, now aged sixty-nine is still in Elizabeth's service as her lady's maid but Annie Goldsmith is her lady's companion. Such was the bond between Elizabeth and Rebecca that when Elizabeth drew up her will on 22 May 1895 she described Rebecca Holmes as her faithful and devoted servant of twenty-one years and her executors were instructed to invest £4,000 to provide Rebecca with an annuity that would be payable quarterly for the rest of her life, provided that she was still working for Elizabeth at the time of Elizabeth's death.



Westminster Gazette 17 May 1918

Elizabeth was eighty-four years old when she died at home in London on 14 May 1918 and was buried at Kensal Green with her husband. She left an estate worth almost a quarter of a million pounds to be administered and was quite specific with her wishes, so much so that five codicils amended the original will. Her nieces and nephews were all given monetary amounts ranging from ten to five thousand pounds. A few family members were bequeathed her most treasured possessions: her brother-in-law General Gaspard Le Marchant Tupper was bequeathed the oil painting of her late husband Daniel, Daniel's books of water colour drawings were left to his brother and sisters; and her portrait of Uncle Charles and his Dresden china was left to her brother William. Perhaps her most treasured mementos were the two swords her son Charles can be seen wearing in the portrait, these were given to her nephew Evelyn Le Marchant who was serving in the Royal Navy. Elizabeth bequeathed substantial amounts of money for the time to over twenty-five institutions including hospitals, asylums, and naval and maritime

³ British Army Service Records: WO 23 Royal Hospital Chelsea: Admission books, registers and papers 1702-1876

charities that cared for women, children, sailors, the sick and infirm, the homeless and destitute, and animals in remembrance of her son Charles.

I wonder what Elizabeth would have thought of Walmart selling a print of an engraving of her beloved son for Americans to adorn their walls. At the time of writing Charles' story in February, Walmart were selling the framed print for \$78.99. It is no longer available from Walmart but can still be bought from their supplier at Art.com.

But what of our portrait of Charles? How did it get to Melbourne? The Tupper and Christie families were well travelled, some visited Melbourne or Victoria for a short time like Elizabeth's nephew Edward Christie who was in Melbourne in the late 1880s. He married Ethel Macmeikan at Christ Church, South Yarra on 16 June 1889 but returned to England with a wife and daughter a few years before Charles' death. Daniel Tupper's third cousin, Georges Brennan Tupper was in Victoria with his mother and siblings in the late 1860s. The family went to the Ballarat area first before moving to Prahran in the early 1900s. It seemed unlikely that there would be a connection between Elizabeth and this branch of the Tupper family. Perhaps we'd have to widen our search and look at what became of Elizabeth's servants after her death or look more closely at the extended family and their whereabouts.

I got a phone call from a very excited Val a few days after the newsletter went out. I was driving and couldn't take the call, but I knew from her voice that she was holding the missing piece to the puzzle in her hands. And she was. She was holding the service record of Able Seaman John Holland (grandfather of her husband Des) who sailed on HMS Racer from April 1891 until September 1894. So, there it was, John Holland had sailed under the command of our young lieutenant. Perhaps Elizabeth had presented portraits to the officers, or crew of the ship following Charles' death. When John Holland migrated to Victoria he had brought the portrait with him and it remained in the family's safe keeping, waiting for its story to be uncovered and told. This seems to be a good place to leave our young lieutenant and able seaman, and if we're lucky, perhaps Val will pick up where we've left off and tell us more of John Holland and his adventures.

I would again like to thank Jane Rivett-Carnac, Daryl McWatters and John Elliott for their help with research and understanding of this fascinating family's story.

Lynne Bradley

School and work in the depression

My father, Ron Wanke, was born in 1915 in Dandenong. His parents Oscar & Minna were both from established German families from Harkaway and Narre Warren and quite well off for the times.

Ron was sent to the Dandenong West State School. Some of the kids that went to the school were extremely poor as the depression had started. A few of the children in Ron's grade would have to milk the cows and do chores before school. Some had no shoes to wear, even in the winter and sometimes no lunch to eat. Ron felt sorry for these boys and shared his lunch sometimes.

He vividly remembered the time one of the sadistic male teachers, came along the rows of desks behind the boys working and deliberately caned a boy who had terrible chilblains on his hands and made them bleed. The poor boy was in such pain and my father never forgot this. Years later when he was in the army, and in Dandenong on leave, he saw that same teacher coming towards him with a welcoming hand out and Ron stepped off the footpath and ignored him.

Coming home one day from school he found a bottle by the footpath. What a find! He turned around and retraced his steps to the milkbar and cashed it in



Ron is second from the left in the back row. Notice the children with no shoes.

and bought some liquorice. As he was coming near home, he saw his father coming towards him and thought how nice of him to come and meet him. Oscar was livid that he was late home and he was given a belting.

After primary school Ron attended Dandenong High School. School did not interest him and he lasted until he was fourteen and decided to leave. Of course, his parents were horrified and wanted him to stay on but he was adamant. He was told that he would not be allowed to stay at home and do nothing, so it was decided that he would go to his

Uncle Harry's farm, Angel's Rest, at Galga, South Australia and help with the farm work.

The South Australian government were eager for farmers to clear the land so wheat crops could be sown.¹ Usually a condition on the purchase of the land was that about an eighth of land be cleared for cultivation within two years, and then an eighth each year until three quarters of the land was cleared.² There had been a three year drought from 1927. Ron arrived in February 1930. Uncle Harry had a team of ten to fifteen draught horses that would be harnessed to drag a large heavy object that would flatten and break down the mallee scrub. It was then left to dry out and then burnt. The mallee roots were still in the ground and would have to be burnt for three consecutive years between crops and then the roots would be loose enough to be dug from the ground.³

For a fifteen year old boy who had been brought up in the suburbs it would have been hard work. I have all the letters that were sent to him over the year he spent on the farm. Most of these were from his mother, a few from his father and a few from his school friends who wrote to him so he kept up with all the news. Minna would also send him clothes when he needed them and magazines for him to read.

Some of the things that were topical in 1930 were Amy Johnson, her amazing flights and her visit to Melbourne and Coles opening in Bourke Street, Melbourne and Minna's remark "I think this is an awful big building. I think it would take half a day to go all over it." How hard it was getting a job, with Oscar's comment, "Things are very bad over here

1 Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record. Thur 7 Dec 1933, p 5

2+3Heritage of the Murray Mallee by Heritage S. Australia, p 41

Ballarat Briefings

Very little has happened up here since mid March. No meetings, no monthly dinners with first cousins, no meetings for coffee and cake, and, unlike last year, no visits from interstate relatives and friends. I attended a meeting on Zoom this week—a new experience for me and most of the others.

Public buildings, including libraries and the Eureka Centre which houses PROV and the collection of the Ballarat Genies, have been closed for months.

We have all looked at our lives differently. Are our families safe from the virus or from losing their jobs and incomes? In Ballarat we have been reasonably safe from the virus, but yesterday four cases here were revealed. No one will be visiting Melbourne soon and we feel so sad for all people in Melbourne.



Above: Ron feeding the chooks. Below: The draught horses resting after a hard day's work.



at present and they expect them to get much worse before they get better again."

Ron's father Oscar had some funny comments in his letters. One was about his father-in-law who lived with them and was a notoriously bad driver: "Gran had another argument with a car and the smash cost eleven pounds altogether but he had his car insured. He must have been thinking of the large fish he never caught." Another letter from Oscar: "I think the snake you killed, 4 foot snake I think, that that snake must have been a bloodsucker or a lizard because they have four feet, not snakes."

In September, after seven months on the farm, his parents drove over and took him home. I'm sure that over the months that Ron had been away he would have been homesick at times, missing his family, pets and friends. Home at last.

Barbara Sharp

Stay safe. Stay at home and stay positive.

In late May, the 10.16 pm V Line train from Melbourne ran straight through the closed Heritage Railway Gates past the Ballarat train station and wrecked them. Fortunately the four people on board suffered only minor injuries. However, it could have been a full train returning from football match in Melbourne—then the injuries could have been more serious. Fortunately no cars were driving up Lydiard Street or pedestrians walking across the line at the time.

An investigation is being undertaken as to where the fault lies. Will the gates be restored? Who will pay? Much discussion in the community has taken place.

Di Christensen

Caroline Charlotte Aurisch nee Tschirner

My great-great grandmother's body was exhumed from her grave in the Harkaway cemetery nine days after her death. The body was then taken to the Border Hotel in Berwick where a post-mortem was conducted.

Caroline had arrived at Port Phillip with her parents Gottfried and Maria Rosina (Crabb) Tschirner in August 1853. They were living in Hawthorn when Caroline married Johann Frederick (Wilhelm) Aurisch in May 1854. Wilhelm had arrived in Australia from Hamburg in 1849 with his parents and a brother and was living in Harkaway. Another brother, Carl Friedrich Aurisch and his wife Johanna (Wolff) were on the same ship as Caroline. Maybe she met Wilhelm through them.

Caroline and Wilhelm had a family of eight children all born in Harkaway, (Anna) Maria (1855-1938), my great grandmother Bertha Nathalie (1857-1950), Johanne Ernestine (Pauline) (1858 - ?), John (William) Frederick (1861-1957), John (Paul) (1863-1866), Anna (Maria) Rebecca (1865-1962), Hannah Mary (1867-1943) and Martha (1868-1963).

On 17 December 1871, Caroline had a fever and stayed in bed. Her mother, Rosina, came and looked after the children. The next day she seemed a little better but on the 20th she had symptoms of dysentery and her oldest daughter Anna went for the doctor.

Dr Elmes came and administered some medicine to Caroline which he had mixed with brandy. Immediately she had the medicine she said "I am dead. It has burned my mouth, throat and stomach." The next morning Caroline was worse, she couldn't speak and died at 6 o'clock that night, on the twenty-first of December.

Dr Elmes quickly signed the death certificate and had her buried the next day on account of the hot weather.

The family were convinced that the medicine Dr Elmes administered had killed her. There were also rumours in the district that her husband Wilhelm, who was a hard man, had harmed her and she had died from the injuries.

Mounted Constable Gleeson received information on 26 December of the sudden death of Caroline



INQUEST.

Mr. Candler held an inquest at Berwick on the 30th December, on the body of Christina Caroline Aurisch, the wife of a farmer at Harkaway. The deceased was thirty-six years of age. Up to the 18th December she was in good health, but since that date she had been suffering from illness. Some medicine had been given to her by Dr. Elmes in a wine glass with some brandy. After taking it she complained of having a burning pain in her inside and her liver. She grew worse, and died on the 21st December. The post mortem examination held by Dr. Barker was not made for some days after. He could find no traces of any irritant poison, and was of opinion that the cause of death was diarrhoea. The jury found a verdict that she died from natural causes.

The Age, 3 January 1872, p 3

Aurisch and that it was suspected she had met with foul play. The doctor had apparently signed the death certificate stating she died of an infectious disease. Her husband was a man of brutal and violent disposition and had been fined some time ago for ill-treating his wife. The informant was Mr A'Beckett, J.P.

On 27 December, Constable Gleeson stated that the husband was in no way connected to the death. On the same day, Sergeant O'Shaughnessy from the Dandenong Police was called and interviewed Wilhelm. He said that Dr Elmes had given Caroline medicine and then told Wilhelm and the children that she would be either dead or cured at dinner time the following day. Bertha Aurisch, Caroline's fourteen-year-old daughter, told the constable that she had been with her mother all the time she had been sick and she had complained of nothing but the medicine Dr Elmes had given her.

Caroline's parents, Rosina and Gottfried Tschirner stated that they had attended Caroline, their only daughter, every day and she had not complained of any ill treatment by her husband. Other people were interviewed and all said that Wilhelm had not harmed her.

Sergeant O'Shaughnessy wrote to the Chief Commissioner of Police, F. Standish, and it was decided that an inquest was needed as soon as possible.¹

Dr Elmes was invited to attend the autopsy but declined stating bad health. Twelve witnesses attended.

Dr Edward Barker performed the autopsy on 30 December 1871, and although her body had decomposed a little, he found no bruises or marks of violence on her. He also found that no poisons had been administered and declared her death to be of natural causes.

Caroline was thirty-six years old. Her seven surviving children were aged from seventeen down to three years.

Barbara Sharp

1 Inquest 1871/307. Series VPRS 24 / P0000 / unit 267

Has the COVID-19 lockdown been a positive or negative for you and your family?

I feel that those interested and involved in genealogy have been fortunate in that we have had time to continue our research and that there have been many websites to find documents to download for free or at a discounted rate.

I have been fairly busy sorting, naming and boxing photos. Fortunately, most were named but there are a few with no names and we have no idea who they are or were. However, I'm keeping these for a while as you never know when and where you will find names for these people. Many people have downloaded photos on Facebook looking for a name. The following story indicates that we should keep unnamed photos as one day we may find a named copy and then its "Eureka".

Since late February I have been searching for a named photo of my great grandfather James Eddy, who came to Ballarat in 1853 with his parents and siblings. In this search I have contacted many people and organisations, and sent almost 150 emails. Eventually I decided to contact six second and third cousins and a spouse of one of them. So many photos—named and unnamed—came forth. It was wonderful. Like a treasure trove.

Then one cousin sent a set of twelve photographs from a small album kept in his family. There were names on some of these but we did not all agree that these names were correct. We also called in help from another relative in Auckland.

The small album was compiled by the second daughter of James Eddy and was put together when James was a mine manager in Dalmorton, near Glen Innes and Grafton, in the 1870s. Several had the name of the photographer who was working in this district printed on them.

Then a cousin in Armidale NSW had a brainwave. He searched several Ballarat websites for photos



Left: Councillors of the Borough of Ballarat East: Edward Eastwood, John James, WB Rodier JP, George Clendenning JP, E Steinfeld JP, Andrew Anderson, James Dodds, James Eddy, George R Fincham. Image: Ballarat Historical Society Collection Object 183.81a. Above: Carte de Visite of James Hicks Eddy. In possession of his granddaughter Heather Reed

of Councillors of the Borough of Ballarat East as James was a councillor there in the 1860s.

Eureka! He found a photo of nine councillors, James was amongst them. At last! It matched an unnamed photograph that his wife had been given by her mother. Such excitement. We were all ecstatic, and we shared other photos, documents and stories of our ancestors.

The origin of the photo of the nine councillors was interesting. Prince Alfred, second son of Queen Victoria, visited Ballarat in December 1867 during his long Australian tour. Before his visit a new building, the Alfred Hall, was built in just seven weeks—this was the venue for a grand ball and other festivities. The Prince requested photos of all of those involved in the committees for his visit, and as James Eddy was a councillor, he had his photograph taken.¹

How lucky are we that Prince Alfred requested these photos!!

Di Christensen

¹ Ballarat Star, 25 December 1867, p 2

ORA: Online Repository Assistant – A time saver

I have recently started using a new nifty little piece of software, developed by John Cardinal, who also creates software to build family history websites.

ORA is a browser extension that can extract data from popular online genealogy services. To run, it also needs the ORA Host component to be installed on the computer.

All Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 results for Frederick Percy Keeble			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View Record	Frederick Percy Keeble	1921 Berwick, Flinders, Victoria
<input type="checkbox"/>	View Record	Frederick Percy Keeble	1919 Berwick, Flinders, Victoria
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View Record	Frederick Percy Keeble	1924 Berwick, Flinders, Victoria
<input type="checkbox"/>	View Record	Frederick William Joseph Keeble	1968 Red Cliffs, Mallee, Victoria
<input type="checkbox"/>	View Record	Frederick Bisium Keeble	1968 Leeton, Riverina, New South Wales

The Record Status feature of ORA (above) can assist you in keeping track of your research. You can mark a record as processed by applying a tick, or you can mark it as rejected by applying the crossed out red circle icon. Further you can mark records as questionable or pending, create a list of them and return to those records later. So when you revisit a collection you are not wasting time looking at the same record over and over again. Been there, done that!

ORA collects data and puts it on a virtual clipboard, as can be seen on the right side of screenshot below. I can then copy the whole clipboard or individual lines from it into my genealogy application. However, you may have your individual

style of entering the discovered data into your application. To assist you with this you can create a text template for each collection. While it takes a bit of effort to create a template, once you have done it, the same data fields are extracted every time you visit a record in the same collection.

As an example I created a template for the record below, that extracted a source citation as well as the names of the couple, their ages, their parents, and the date of their marriage (highlighted fields). It shows when I accessed the record, and the record's unique record ID. Some parts of the template are conditional fields, meaning that if they were empty, they would be omitted. Other fields can be literal as I may prefer a different field description.

So my template looks like this:

```
<[Parish or Mission],> Melbourne<, [Record Type]>
Registers. Reference <[Source.Reference Number].>
Marriage of <[Name]>, aged <[Age],> (par: <[Father]> &
<[Mother]>) and <[Spouse]>, aged <[Spouse Age],> (par:
<[Spouse Father]> & <[Spouse Mother]>), on <[Event
Date]>. Viewed on <[Page.Access Date]> at Ancestry
<[Record ID: [Record ID]]>
```

This creates the following output, which I can then paste into my application.

St Peter's Eastern Hill, Melbourne, Marriage Registers. Reference M3/8/121. Marriage of Rhoda Sumner Grice, aged 22, (par: Claude Sumner Grice & Gulielma Henrietta Ogilvie) and David Edward Lord, aged 29, (par: Reginald Douglas Lord & Jean Graham Porter), on 23 December 1955. Viewed on 25 July 2020 at Ancestry (Record ID: 9732::51109)

A further function is auto type, where you create an auto type template that will enter the data straight into your family tree application. I have not tried it out yet.

ORA is a subscription product costing US\$24 a year. Both the developer and the user community are incredibly helpful with support.

Read more about ORA on <https://www.ora-extension.com> or visit Dick Eastman's blog <https://blog.eogn.com/2020/06/17/announcing-ora-the-online-repository-assistant/>

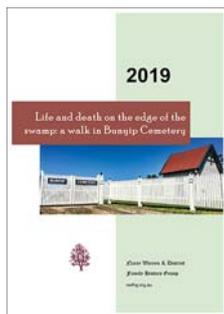
On 29 August 2020 the Queensland Family History Society Inc is presenting a webinar. See <https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/weekends-qfhs/online-repository-assistant/>

Marianne Rocke

The screenshot shows the ORA interface for a record titled "Rhoda Sumner Grice in the Victoria, Australia, St. Peter's Eastern Hill, Marriages, 1848-1955". The main area displays a form with fields for Name, Gender, Age, Birth Year, Record Type, Event Date, Event Place, Spouse, Spouse Gender, Spouse Age, Father, Mother, Spouse Father, Spouse Mother, Parish as it Appears, and Parish or Mission. Below the form is a "Source Citation" section with a description and source information. On the right side, there is a "Clipboard" window titled "ORA: Ancestry" which contains an auto-type template with fields for Record ID, Name, Gender, Age, Birth Year, Record Type, Event Date, Event Place, Spouse, Spouse Gender, Spouse Age, Father, Mother, Spouse Father, Spouse Mother, Parish as it Appears, and Parish or Mission. The clipboard also includes a "Source" section with fields for Title, Description, and Reference Number.

Publications for sale

Life and death on the edge of the swamp: a walk in Bunyip Cemetery (2019)



It is one hundred and thirty-three years since ten acres were set aside for a cemetery at Bunyip, however, the official burial register didn't begin until 1894 when six year old William Henry Barnes was buried. Nineteen of the first twenty recorded burials were of children. We believe the first actual burial to take place here was of Henry Manley in August 1886 – his story is featured in this book.

Thirty-one more stories of life and death on the swamp are also told in the book. Elisha Grose, winner of the second Stawell Gift is buried here in an unmarked grave, as is Mary Clifford, a poor deserted child of fourteen years of age who met a cruel and untimely death. As did Catherine O'Donohue while out collecting for charity and Elizabeth Gallaher who died while pregnant with her eighth child. Maria Little's life was cut short while on a bus tour, and Joseph Henderson lost his life at Garfield railway station in 1915.

We also have stories of triumph over tragedy and adversity like returned soldier Edwin Hobson, or the incredible story of how John Mannix overcame a horrific childhood and ultimate desertion by his mother to make a better life for himself and his family at Iona. William Rogers also had a rough start in life, sent to Canada as a Home Child at ten years of age with his seven year old brother Augustus. William eventually came to Australia as an adult and made a wonderful life for himself and his family.

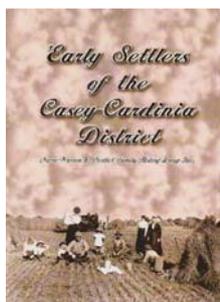
There is an eclectic mix of stories about well-known identities who appear in published histories and are fortunate to have headstones marking their final resting place and stories of people long forgotten, whose only trace is an entry in the register.

\$15 + \$8 postage + handling

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District (2010)

Over 300 entries containing birth, death and marriage information for individuals and families, many of which were submitted by descendants of those people and include photographs not published elsewhere. Detailed biographies give an insight into the early days of many Casey Cardinia families and individuals.

\$30 + \$13.80 postage + handling



World War 1 walk cemetery books

Peace at last: a World War 1 walk in Lang Lang Cemetery (2018)

Stories of 98 soldiers from the Lang Lang district and the 48 families who waved goodbye to them and prayed for their safe return. Not everyone's prayers were answered in the way they'd hoped for, prayers for the return of 24 fathers, sons, husbands and brothers were not answered at all.

They answered the call: a World War 1 walk in Cranbourne Cemetery (2018)

We tell the stories of courage and sacrifice of 111 men and one woman with Cranbourne area connections.

For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Harkaway Avenue of Honour) (2017)

This book contains the stories of 36 families of Harkaway who watched, waited and pined for the 66 men and 2 women who enlisted and tried to make it safely back to home. Ten did not return.

Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery (2016)

Includes stories of sets of brothers, a father and his son, a nurse and a sailor along with two Indigenous soldiers. Soldiers who received awards, served as troopers, gunners, sappers, drivers, and signallers; in the Light Horse, Pioneers, Railway Unit, Anzac Police and Provost Corps and in the Cyclist Battalion.

100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery (2015)

Our stories embrace 100 men from over 70 families – all linked to Berwick Cemetery and the community it served. Twenty-eight men did not return; they are still in France, Gallipoli, Belgium, Malta, Palestine, at sea and 6 have no known grave.

each book \$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling

Ordinary people, interesting lives: A walk in the historic Harkaway Cemetery (2016)

Abounds with people who needed to grow crops or nurture their livestock to be able to eat, neighbours who no longer remained strangers, faces who became familiar at church or school or the general store or railway station.

Our volunteers researched and wrote the stories of families that travelled thousands of miles to a country on the other side of the world. A country with people who didn't necessarily speak the same language or held the same beliefs.

\$15 + \$8 postage + handling

Kindred Spirits. NW&DFHG 1989 – 2009

\$25 + \$13.80 postage + handling

Cemetery Tour booklets

Pakenham (2011), Cranbourne (2012), Lang Lang (2013) \$10 each

Berwick (2014), Pakenham (2015) \$15 each

Add \$8 for postage + handling.

More details, order forms and indexes are available on our website at nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/