

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 127 – February 2021

Welcome back

Lorraine Taylor Research Room will re-open

on 2 March 2021 - bookings required

(for details see president's report on page 3)

Local and Family History Hot Spots 2021

Cranbourne Library Meeting Room, Casey Cardinia Libraries – 11 am to 12 noon

Lorraine Taylor Research Room, Narre Warren & District Family History Group - 12 noon to 1 pm

Women in 20th century Casey Cardinia

Thursday 18 March

Heather Arnold. A look at our history through the lives of some of our interesting women – the rich, the poor, the entrepreneurs, the farmers – and the contribution they made to our community.

Military ancestors at home and abroad

Thursday 15 April

Jane Rivett-Carnac. Soldiers, sailors, nurses and airmen. Where to look and what you can find about those who served – information that's freely available on the internet or in a library.

Local place names

Thursday 20 May

Heather Arnold. Discover the fascinating meaning behind the names of local towns.

New Zealand Family History

Thursday 17 June

Jane Rivett-Carnac. Tips and resources to help you trace your New Zealand ancestors.

Local Hotels: a history

Thursday 15 July

Heather Arnold. From Cobb & Co stops to Squizzy Taylor to an explosive end – hear some intriguing

tales of local hotels and hotel keepers.

The building blocks of family history

Thursday 19 August

Jane Rivett-Carnac. If you're just starting or need a reminder on the how, when, where and why of family research join us on a walk through the basics – hints and free places to look on the internet to build your family tree.

Our farming industry

Thursday 16 September

Heather Arnold. A celebration of farming and agriculture in our region – both past and present – and the local agricultural shows and festivals which showcased our produce.

Dead men do tell tales

Thursday 21 October

Jane Rivett-Carnac. You can learn a lot in a cemetery and get misled – it may be carved in stone but is it correct? Using death notices, funeral notices, obituaries and wills to find the living.

Finding your Irish roots

Thursday 18 November

Jane Rivett-Carnac. Paddy and Mick met in Kate's bar or so the story goes – looking for Irish connections – the hints and pitfalls of researching Irish ancestors.



Casey
Cardinia
Libraries



Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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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 (See page 3)

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am to 3 pm

Research room phone number: (03) 5995 3032

Meetings (On hold until further notice)

Cranbourne Complex Meeting Room,
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne

Entry Cost \$3

October - April: 7.30 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month (except January).

May - September: 2.00 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

I would like to thank Anne Blair and Wendy Goodwin for their past service over many years to our committee and the group and I hope we will continue to enjoy their company and contributions to the group in the coming years. Big thank you to Lynne Bradley for her wisdom, guidance, and gentle nudging that sees me accepting the role of President, as she takes over the role of Treasurer. I hope it allows her more time for her personal life and continues to give our group the benefit of her knowledge and expertise in so many aspects of family history. Welcome to the committee Barbara Sharp. Barbara is stepping into the role of Research Room Manager and she will be able to call on Anne for advice as she learns her way during these strange Covid times. We would like to welcome our new Publicity Officer but no one has put their hand up. Please consider joining the committee you will be helped and we have great meetings.

Re-opening the research room

It is almost a year since Covid restrictions closed the Lorraine Taylor Research Room; the plan is we will re-open on Tuesday 2 March with an abundance of caution. As the medical people keep reminding us, most of us are in 'that age bracket', so we will have two sessions: 11 am-12.50 pm and 1 pm-2.50 pm. You will need to book in advance and initially it will be two people per session and a committee member on duty to ensure our Covid safe plan is followed. Arrangements for booking will be advised via our Falling Leaves email and we ask that you only come to the room if you are well and

have no symptoms. You will sign in as usual and we recommend you continue to wear a facemask. General meetings are still on hold. While council have advised us the room is available, the number of people and requirements to use the room are such that the committee have decided to wait until the number of people allowed increases.

While the room has been closed, Eileen Durdin has marshalled us via Zoom committee meetings, our first zoom AGM, a getting to know Zoom meeting, and quick catch-up's as required. She is not just a great secretary for the group, she is willing to learn new things that advance the group.

On a sad note Covid rules restricted our ability to support members when they found themselves in hospital. It is good to hear that two of our V.I.Ps Rex McFarlane and John Uren are both on the road to better health. While we could not attend the life celebration for Paul Stevenson in July, in December a number of us attended the service for Robin McCoubrie. Robin helped the group at sausage sizzles, cemetery walks and at two memorable Christmas breakup crazy whist nights. When I was treasurer, I was fortunate to be able have his backup with those tricky questions that come up rarely while he spent many hours looking at ways of improving the way we present our financial reports.

I am looking forward to being back in the room and I hope it will not be too long before we can all meet face to face with no restrictions.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



Videos of zoom talks

If you missed Casey-Cardinia Library's Thursday history talks presented by Heather Arnold and Jane Rivett-Carnac, you can watch them at <https://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/library-at-home/>

- Find your Irish Roots
- Tasmanian Archives
- Lost Victoria

- They didn't swim here
- Find My Past
- Engineering and Development of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp
- Cranbourne – A Virtual History
- Berwick – A Virtual History
- Pakenham – A Virtual History
- Ancestry
- Seasonal Acrostic Local History – Merry Christmas
- Seasonal Acrostic Local History – Happy New Year
- Convicts, exiles and criminals
- Organising your family history information

<https://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/local-history-videos/>



**Casey
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Libraries**

Researching the Moran family from Narre Warren

Family and local history groups are great places to find information about your family. Most produce newsletters with a focus on their area and they may have out of print books on the local pioneers in their library. They probably do projects that record sites where your ancestors may have lived or worked. If they organised cemetery tours, finding a grave would be easy for them. Their members live in the area, some have been there for all or most of their lives, gone to the schools and played in sports teams with local residents. Their knowledge of the area is invaluable. Family History Groups often do research for you for a small fee. I know that the

Narre Warren and District Family History Group is one such group.

I decided to put this to the test with the Moran family of Narre Warren, by checking out our websites and visiting the Lorraine Taylor Research Room. I found four generations of the Moran family on the Casey Cardinia Remembers website. The Casey Cardinia Combined Index lists 96 records for the Moran name, and there are at least two photos in the Max Thomson Collection.

This is where the journey took me

Casey Cardinia Remembers

The group is photographing, transcribing, and documenting monuments and memorials within the City of Casey and the Shire of Cardinia. The group has surveyed war memorials, reserves, halls, RSLs, plus heaps more and placed them on the Casey Cardinia Remembers¹ website.



The Henry Joseph Moran Reserve, Hampton Park is on land once owned by Henry Joseph Moran. Henry would have planted most of the trees that are on the reserve and it is believed that he planted many of the older trees in the Hampton Park district.

Honour boards for the Berwick and District Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc (formerly Mornington Farmers' Society) are in a hall at Akoonah Park, Berwick. The honour board commemorating the presidents and secretaries goes back to 1856, and a life member honour board was added in 1928. Ralph Hart Moran was president in 1956-57 and became a life member in 1970 as a group captain. Lawrence Alexander Moran was president in 1966-67 and became a life member in 1966.



The Berwick RSL has many honour boards and memorial pieces that recognise locals that served in the armed forces. There is a poster of No 5 Squadron Garrison Troops, Australian Light Horse CMF Victoria. One of the photos on the poster is of Cpl A Moran. This is Alexander Malcolm Moran.

The Narre Warren Memorial Gates commemorate soldiers of Narre Warren who served in both World Wars. The gates have been relocated a few times. When they were surveyed in December 2011, they were located near the City of Casey Civic Centre, Fountain Gate. The 4th pillar remembers servicemen for the years of 1935-45 and listed are L Moran and R Moran. Both Laurence Moran and Ralph Moran served in WW2.

Casey Cardinia Combined Index (CCCI)

Our group has a collection of books, newsletters, booklets, and various other resources relating to the Casey Cardinia area. Over the years, members have indexed these resources and the indices have all been placed on the CCCI. There are over 157,000 records on the CCCI, which makes it a great tool for anyone researching people in the Casey Cardinia area. You just type in a name and the CCCI produces a report listing resources containing that name and on what page you can find them.

¹ Casey Cardinia Remembers
<http://www.caseycardinia remembers.org.au/>

David Crawford has compiled the booklet *Forerunners – Life Stories of the Hart, Webb, and Moran Families*, dedicating it to his mother Betty Crawford, a granddaughter of Sidney Webb and Ann Hart. There are family stories of the Moran family in this booklet.²

There is a short story of Henry Joseph Moran and his family. A 1923 photograph of the Henry family in a car going on a holiday to Frankston. Is this car a T model Ford and does it belong to the family? Ralph Moran is in a photo, taken in 1970 outside the old butcher's shop, Narre Warren. Harold Keys, John Lloyd, Jack Nobelius, and Pat Sweeney are also in this photo.³

Laurie and Alec Moran were members of the Narre Warren Fire Brigade. Alec was at the first meeting of the Narre Warren Bush Fire Brigade and was elected 2nd Lieut. Alec received a 12 year service award; he was in the service for 16 years. Laurie was on the membership list of 29 December 1955, he is listed as a farmer.⁴

Laurie Moran was a president of the Berwick & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society following Jack Rae and Harold Keys. Laurie and Ralph Moran were on their "Honour Roll of Life Members".⁵

Mr Moran was one of the many who gave a donation towards the building of the Narre Warren Mechanics hall. He was a member of the early committees of the Narre Warren Mechanics Institute in the 1890s and was on the fence committee in 1892.⁶

Henry and Margaret Moran were two of the first pupils at the Narre Warren Railway School.⁷

Mr Moran first joined the Narre Warren State School committee on 14 March 1950 and resigned on 28 February 1957.⁸

The following Morans were on the student register: Alec M, Ales, Alex, Alexander Ralph, Andrew, Bertha Anne, Diana Joan, June Helen, Laurence Alexander, Ralph, Ralph H, Wendy.⁹

There are half a dozen mentions of Moran and Cato in the CCCI. Moran and Cato were a chain of

- 2 *Forerunners – Life Stories of the Hart, Webb, and Moran Families*
- 3 *Oak Trees and Hedges – A pictorial history of Narre Warren, Narre Warren North, and Harkaway*
- 4 *Narre Warren Fire Brigade – 1944-1994*
- 5 *Berwick & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc. – Celebrating 150 years of Agricultural Competition – 1848-1998*
- 6 *First 100 Years of the Narre Warren Mechanics Institute*
- 7 *2924 Narre Warren Railway Station School History*
- 8 *Narre Warren State School – Webb Street No 2924 - School Committee Minutes – 31.3.1949 to 18.9.1975*
- 9 *Narre Warren, Webb Street School No 2924 – Student Register 1914-1980*

grocery stores and I have found no connection to the Moran family, Narre Warren.¹⁰

There are more Moran records on the CCCI in other resources that I have not been able to connect to the Narre Warren Moran family.

The Max Thomson Collection

Max Thomson's interests in collecting and taking photos of the area started in the 1950s. Some of his photos date back to the early 20th Century. The photos are mainly of the Narre Warren, Narre Warren North and Harkaway areas, but the collection also includes some newspaper clippings. In 2013, Max generously donated his collection of photos to the group.¹¹

Corporal Alec Moran – c1910

Alex was a corporal in the Narre Warren Light Horse, which was often used as escort and guard of honour on ceremonial occasions.²



Narre Warren Mechanics Institute Hall Committee

A newspaper clipping captioned:

Mr Ralf Moran, Mrs Barron, Mr Jack Nobelius, Mr Mat Ryan, Mr Harry Bailey, unknown, and Mr Pat Sweeney, c1953.



Cemetery Tours

The group has conducted cemetery tours at the Berwick, Bunyip, Cranbourne, Harkaway, Lang Lang, and Pakenham cemeteries. So far we have published twelve books on these cemeteries. There

10 Wikipedia – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moran_&_Cato

11 The Max Thomson Collection

are no records of any Morans in these books, maybe they will appear in future publications. Margaret Rose Moran, Nellie Constance Moran, and John Moran Kirkham are buried at the Berwick cemetery.¹²

Spreading Branches

Four times a year, Marianne Rocke, our current newsletter editor, puts together great editions of Spreading Branches.¹³ You can find each edition since November 2002 (issue 54) on our website: <https://nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/spreading-branches/>

Moran Street, Narre Warren – Issue 65, August 2005
An article on street names in Narre Warren. It tells a brief story of Henry Joseph Moran and his family.

Henry Joseph Moran Reserve, Hampton Park – Issue 117, August 2018

An article of some of the sites that are posted on our Casey Cardinia Remembers website, the Henry Joseph Moran Reserve is one of them.

Moran-McLellan-Duncan Reunion – Issue 117, August 2018

A reunion was being held of descendants and relatives, direct and indirect of Henry Joseph Moran, Helen Anne McLellan, and James Duncan families.

12 *Berwick Cemetery Register & Headstones 1867-1999*

13 Spreading Branches

<https://nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/spreading-branches/>

Ballarat Briefings

Sadly, there is not very much news at this time of the year

Eureka Centre, Ballarat

The Eureka Centre, including PROV and the Joan Hunt Reading Room is open on Mondays to Thursdays

Two-hour pre-booked sessions at 10 am and at 1 pm. See www.eurekacentre.ballarat.com.au. Check their Facebook pages for latest info.

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society

Ballarat Genies has a new meeting place at the Ballarat North Community Centre. Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Check their Facebook page for updates

AGM and new office bearers

Many thanks for inviting me to chair the delayed AGM. It was an interesting experience to share on ZOOM. Congratulations to all office bearers and I hope that meetings will soon be able to take place in person.

Moran family – Issue 121, August 2019

We were celebrating the 15 year birthday of the CCCI. The Moran family was mentioned as one of the family names that could be found on the CCCI.

To me this is a lot of information on the Moran family, gathered from visiting our group. Of course I will be cross checking all the information. I have already driven down Moran Street, Narre Warren and stopped to walk around the Henry Joseph Moran Reserve. I do not know how many times that I have just driven by.

I do not have any Morans in my family tree – I am just a “Casey Cardinia Buff” enjoying finding heaps of information while writing an article for Spreading Branches. I hope I have inspired you to use these resources to have fun finding out more information on your Casey Cardinia ancestors. If you would rather the group do the work, please send an email to our research officer Lynne Bradley. research.officer@nwfhg.org.au.

Maybe you will be just as lucky when you contact a local or family history group where your ancestors lived.

Note: Alexander Malcolm Moran is mentioned in various publications as either Alex or Alec. In this article I have used the spelling variation that is used in that particular resource.

Eileen Durdin

Some interesting websites and blogs

That moment in time—Friday Fossicking

This is a very interesting group of articles, blogs and other items of interest to genealogists. You may find a link to something you have been seeking; you may find something of interest or just amusing.

<http://thatmomentintime-crissouli.blogspot.com>

Lost Cousins newsletter

This newsletter is published online at least twice monthly – more often if the author has news to impart. Based in the UK, Peter Calver has been producing these newsletters for many years.

<https://lostcousins.com/newsletters/>

Di Christensen

While we can't visit the Research Room, members of NWDFHG may get in touch with us and request the latest or a particular edition of any of the exchange newsletters for their own personal and private use only. Email our Research Officer (research.officer@nwfhg.org.au) to see if we've got the newsletter you're looking for on hand. <https://nwfhg.org.au/newsletter-exchange-program/>

Gransy and the Gilmore Valley

I was a one year old when my Gransy, Alice Ellen Naughton, died. She was eighty three years old, suffered from dementia or senile decay as they called it then, and had had a stroke. Apparently I went with my mother by train from Melbourne to Sydney and then on to the beautiful Gilmore Valley where she had grown up. Of course I remember none of this, but because of my mother's and my cousin's memories, and letters I have received, Gransy is often in my thoughts.

Gransy was born in Adelong, New South Wales. Her father Cornelius O'Brien was a miner. Both of her parents had made the long journey from Ireland separately. Her mother Ellen, aged thirty one, was a widow with two daughters when she married Cornelius in Sydney. Ellen died from uterine cancer when Gransy was sixteen and her younger brother, John was only thirteen. Gransy stayed at home and looked after her brother and her father whom she nursed until he died in May 1892.

In December 1892, aged 20, Gransy married the love of her life, Patrick Stephen Naughton. They had seven children over the next twenty years, my mother being the youngest. According to many reports, Gransy worshipped Patrick who she called "Dadda". Patrick was a happy go lucky man who would much prefer to play cricket or cribbage or talk to people than work on his farm. They both loved children. Gransy was always at his beck and call, but she was completely oblivious to any defects he might have had.



My cousin Neil was a Sydney boy. He was twenty four years older than me and I only met him when I was an adult. He loved Gransy. In a letter he wrote he said: "I loved her instantly and forever. She was nothing special to look at, rather tall and a bit stooped, large features and a prominent jaw but she would embrace me and had the loveliest smile. She would break into song at times. Her clothes were just about rags that she wore around the farm. I remember my mother telling me she once got a hessian bag and made a dress from it. Even when going into to town she would wear the

plainest dress and hat. God was everything to her. There were no church services in Gilmore but every so often the priest would give a service at the farm, 'Clearview'."

Gransy's life was hard. There was no electricity at the farm until near the end of her life. No washing machine or lights, not even a bathroom.



Neil tells another story of Gransy. He was staying at Clearview again and his Uncle Claude was expected from Sydney on the train. They heard the train whistle and started to walk to the station which was about a mile away. When Gransy saw her son, Claude, in the distance she ran to embrace him. She was sixty two years old at this time. She loved her family unconditionally.

About ten years after Gransy's death my family started to go to Gilmore, so Mum could visit her two brothers and other relatives who still lived there. Clearview was still there. My eccentric Uncle Frank lived there then. He was growing millet which was used for straw brooms and he had a few sheep. The old homestead looked as though nothing much had been done to it for years. The electricity was connected but there were no other mod cons. The house had the large open fireplace in the kitchen. A big black kettle was hung on a wire which swung over the fire when you needed boiling water. All the meals were prepared on the fire. The walls were covered with newspapers and magazines as wallpaper. The outside toilet was a bit of a walk from the house. It was in a small paddock with a tumbled down fence and an old chicken coop with a few ancient peppercorn trees. There were lots of sticks and I was forever seeing them as snakes as a kid.

My parents always brought a tent to sleep in when they visited. My sister and I slept in the back room on stretchers. It had a hessian ceiling which drooped down and we were always thinking of the spiders that would come out at night.

Uncle Frank was sixteen years older than my

mother. He would talk to himself, "I'll go to town, buy some grain, put money in the plate at church." Mum told us that when he was young he would see people walking through the walls. Neil's younger brother, Damien, tells how he was sent from Sydney to Uncle Frank's for the school holidays when he was about twelve years old. "I arrived and Uncle Frank asked how long I would be staying. About two weeks, I replied." "We'll need a sheep, Frank

said." Down to the sheep paddock they went and Damien was instructed to catch a sheep which after a bit of effort he did. "No, not that one," Uncle Frank said. After another half an hour he caught another sheep. While he was holding it Uncle Frank came over and slit its throat and butchered it. Damien says he felt like he was an accomplice to murder.

Barbara Sharp

Creswick Family

While researching my husband's maternal line I purchased the marriage certificate for his great grandfather George Wallace Baird who married Helena Creswick. This sent me off on a new line of research. Helena's parents were William and Mary Creswick nee Hughes.

Family story says that William was also called George, but in all records I found here in Victoria, such as Victorian births, deaths and marriage indices,¹ and his application for a miner's licence, he was always listed as William.

It is not known for sure when William arrived in Melbourne, but a George Creswick was listed on the *Prince Albert* in 1852 arriving in Geelong. I have not found an entry for a William Creswick.

Mary, William's wife, arrived on the *Derry Castle* on 22 May 1855, where she was listed as able to read but not write; she was about twenty-five and was born in Ireland.² On her death certificate her father is listed as Barnette Hughes, and her mother unknown.

William and Mary were said to have married at Benalla in 1857, but I cannot find a record in the Victorian index for marriages.

From 1859, William, Mary and family lived in St Arnaud and all their children were born there, except for Helena, who was born in Geelong. The miners' rights book described the dwelling as a brick cottage on the Melbourne Road, net value ten pound, rates paid only 12 shillings and sixpence.³

Their daughter Anne married John/Eljah Budge and had ten children all born in St Arnaud. Son Edward married Williamena Maria McIntosh in 1887 and had five children. Katherine married William George Jefferies and had six children. Elizabeth married Charles Mead McDonald and had eight children all born in St Arnaud. They would have made a large part in the community at that time I think.

William had a licence for a Miner's Right, number 52 issued on 16 Oct 1860. In 1861 he also had shares in Bell Rock Reef and shares in Chryselite Reef. He continued his interest in mining and in 1866 he got a new licence, number 12490. How long his interest in mining lasted and whether he made any money is not known.

William Creswick held the position of County Court bailiff in St Arnaud for many years.⁴ He was a town crier and bill poster as well.

He died in 1885 aged 57, and is buried in St Arnaud Cemetery along with his wife Mary and other family members.

Who were William's parents? On his death certificate Mary, his widow, stated that they were James Creswick and Mary Smith. I have done a lot of sorting of all the James Creswicks, and I don't think they were his parents, but perhaps his grandparents. While it is possible that James fathered a child at 77, Mary would have been much too old.

James Creswick and Mary Smith had at least seven children together. William born in 1799 and James in 1798. This James married Hannah Jubb and they had nine children, one of them called William, born in 1825. I believe that James Creswick and Hannah Jubb were William's parents.⁵ Hannah's father was John Jubb.

James Creswick senior, born in 1748, who I believe was William's grandfather, was young at fifty-one when he died in 1799. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Creswick nee Smith, and they had nine children. The names in both families were James, William, Fanny, Sarah, Betty, Thomas and John. These names were used in three generations, but William and Mary Creswick nee Hughes started to use different names.

I have as yet to prove all this, but with crossed fingers I will get there.

Lorraine Taylor

1 <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/>

2 Passenger List of 'Derry Castle' PROV

3 Historical & Natural History Group Donald, Victoria

4 Historical & Natural History Group Donald, Victoria

5 Familysearch online

A farm in Switzerland

Recently, my brother asked for my help in determining the history of the farm on which we had grown up in Switzerland. Naturally, this is an impossible task to undertake from Australia. Taking advantage of his current stay in Switzerland, I gave him a few possible avenues for research, and I hope that he does not lose interest before he returns to Australia.

Our village consisted of three hamlets, Esslingen, Egg and Hinteregg. Our farm which is located in Hinteregg was acquired by my grandfather in 1932, after the previous owner was killed when he was carting a load of hay. On the steep hill leading to our village his hat blew off, and, wanting to retrieve it, he fell and was run over by the hay wagon. My grandparents were not from the area. They both grew up in the north-east of Switzerland, close to the border of Germany and Austria. After working in the more central canton of Zurich for some years, they took the opportunity to stay in the area.

Being from a family of blow-ins, with no relatives in the local area, I did not spend much time on local history. The history we were taught at school mainly dealt with ancient history, such as which monastery owned the local area in the 8th Century, and such matters. Local social history was not taught, so I had little idea that there had been a large cotton and silk weaving factory located in Egg. Of course, it was long gone by the time I grew up.

In the centre of Hinteregg there was a large farm, called the Bollergut (the estate of the Boller family). The farm consisted of a large beautiful house (shown on the right) and several farm buildings. I knew that the owner was somehow related to my mother's family, but how was not quite clear. For a change of (research) scenery I decided to try and find out.

I confirmed that the Bollergut was owned by Hedi Boller, who was born in 1893. She strategically married into a prominent family on the shore of Lake Zurich in 1917 and moved there. Her new home was about 14 km distant from Hinteregg, which, in the Swiss context is quite a distance. Her husband, Albert, was a cousin of my maternal grandfather.

They had three children, Hanni, Hedi and Albert.

Hedi's grandfather was farmer and district judge Johann Jakob Boller (1820-1902). A history

written about the village in about 1900 mentioned that Boller was a man of inexhaustible initiative in everything that promoted the good of the community. He initiated the construction of the school house in Hinteregg, organised the new bells of the church in Egg, and facilitated better church access. Beside that he improved his farm, so that it was considered a model farm. He was one of the early adopters of using Peruvian guano (harvested bird droppings) to fertilise his land. This allowed him to triple the number of livestock, most likely milking cows. The author wrote that "he is still alive, up to eighty, but sprightly and walks to the district court in Uster every week." (A walk of 6 km).

His son, Adolf Boller (1852-1919), Hedi's father, was known locally as "Captain Boller" due to his military rank. Like his father he was involved in local and state politics. He was a member of the school council, the church council, as well as a district judge (justice of the peace). One of his great achievements was the promotion of a light rail connection to Zurich, the Forchbahn (during my childhood fondly known as the Frieda). Health concerns forced him to cease farming in 1908, and the farm was let.

Adolf and his wife Ida's three children, Hanna, Hedi and Hans probably did not have much active involvement in the farm. In 1921, Hans, aged 26, was ordained as a vicar of the reformed church. For the first three years he served the small mountain village church of Avers-Cresta (1960 metres above sea level), in the south east of Switzerland. In 1924,

now married to Else, and having a growing family, he returned to the Zurich area, and became vicar of Kyburg, about 20 km from Hinteregg.

During his studies for the clergy Hans encountered Leonard Ragaz, a professor at the University of Zurich. Ragaz was a follower of the religious socialism movement and regularly published a newsletter on the topic. Hans was quickly drawn into this philosophy. Unlike his father, Hans radically rejected military service, and believed that religious communal living was a better way of life. By the late 1920s Hans and Else considered to join such a religious community on the shores of

Lake Zurich that had been established by followers of Ragaz. However, they were persuaded to visit the Bruderhof first, which was a more established



Bollergut. Source lebensspuren-oberhaushof.ch

similar community in Germany, founded by Eberhard Arnold. They liked what they saw. Life in his Kyburg parish had become increasingly vexed. The Swiss public were not pleased when people of influence – university lecturers and vicars – used their lecterns or pulpits to spread propaganda of military service rejection and anti-militarism.

In 1931 they made the life-changing decision to leave their old lives behind, quitting his parish, the established church and Switzerland, and settling in the Bruderhof community. With other Swiss families who followed them, they contributed substantial wealth to the movement.

The early years in the utopian Christian community may have been good. The ‘brothers’ and ‘sisters’, as they were known, certainly worked hard. Early records of the regular meetings are available online, and some of them mention Hans and Else Boller.

These documents show that Hans corresponded with his sister Hanna in Switzerland. Such letters were shared with the community and discussed at their meetings. In 1934 their lives became difficult in Germany through the rise of Nazism. Draft-age men and children were especially at risk of having to bow to new demands by the German government. The community found a suitable place in Silum in Liechtenstein. Hans then mentions that if this property could be purchased, he could remind his unmarried sister of a promise she made some time ago that she could contribute a sum of money towards a new establishment. But he also concedes that Hanna was probably thinking of a place in Switzerland before they joined the Bruderhof community. He also felt that due to her religious development (in another movement) the chances were low. Eberhard Arnold, the leader of the Bruderhof, and his wife appeared to have visited Hanna trying to get her into the fold, but were not successful. After this visit nothing more is mentioned about Hanna, and it is not known what happened to her after that. One source in Switzerland said that she died young of an infection, but that has not been verified.

Hans took charge of the Liechtenstein community when Eberhard Arnold went for a mission to the USA. In memoirs of former members Hans is remembered as a strict teacher in Liechtenstein, not letting the children enjoy themselves, forbidding the singing of certain songs, so they sang them just to displease him. Other conflicts were reported at the regular meetings, including a description of the Bollers’ parenting abilities.

In 1937 the community did not feel safe in Liechtenstein anymore either and found shelter in England. Here in the Cotswolds area the community grew. However, the British public grew

increasingly suspicious, and started to boycott them. In 1940 they were given the option to either have their German members interned and the English men conscripted, or to leave the country as a group. Paraguay was the only place that offered them sanctuary as no other country was accepting mixed nationality pacifist communities. Here they established the Primavera Bruderhof.

Ironically, soon after arrival in Paraguay conflict between a group of members and leaders led to the exclusion of some members. Punitive exclusion and forbidden access to family was common. Although some were welcomed back into the community, others never re-joined. A new community was formed in upstate New York, followed by others in Pennsylvania and Connecticut, USA.

Little is known about Hans and Else, and their now six children’s time in Paraguay. However, Hans’ sister Hedi and her husband Albert in Switzerland must have despaired when their eldest daughter Hanni travelled to Paraguay in 1953. In her memoirs she recalled that she felt the Christian brotherly life with nursing to be her ideal. Two of her cousins worked at the Sanatorio Primavera, the hospital the community had established. Here Hanni worked as a nurse for seven years and married a widower with seven children, aged between 12 and 27. The Primavera community was disbanded in 1960 when another spiritual crisis eventuated. Hanni and her husband moved to England, but it is not clear if they stayed within the movement there.

Nevertheless, Hanni’s wealthy Aunt Bertha, her father’s sister, excluded her from her will and formed an educational trust for the descendants of her cousins. In the trust documents she explicitly stated that should any of the beneficiaries, now and into the future join or financially support the Bruderhof, or any other sect, they would not receive anything.

Hans returned to Switzerland probably when Primavera was closed. In 1972 he was killed in a pedestrian accident when he attempted to cross the road. Else must have returned to the USA to be nearer to her children. She died in Pennsylvania in 1979.

Marianne Rocke

Sources:

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en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruderhof_Communities
Emmy Arnold: A Joyful Pilgrimage
Emmy Barth: No Lasting Home

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

Magazines

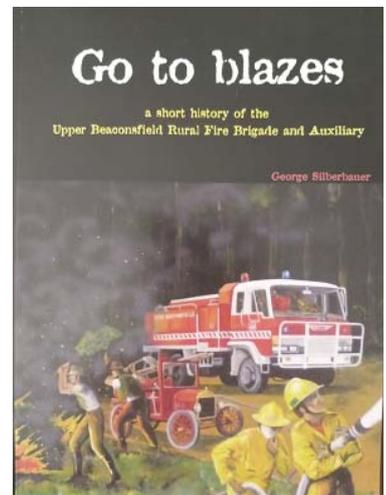
- * Tasmanian Ancestry Mar 2020, Jun 2020, Sep 2020
- * Ancestor Mar 2020, Sep 2020
- * The Genealogist Mar 2020, Jun 2020, Sep 2020
- * Traces: Uncovering the Past No 10, 11 & 12
- * The South Australian Genealogist Feb 2020, May 2020, Aug 2020
- * Western Ancestor Mar 2020, Jun 2020, Sep 2020
- * Irish Roots Issue 2 & 3 2020
- * Genealogists' Magazine Mar 2020, Sept 2020
- * Family Tree Feb-Dec 2020
- * Kent Family History Society Jun 2020, Sep 2020

- * Unmarked Graves
The descendants of Brothers James and Bernard Egan by Kate Michelle Kyne
- * The Red Hill by Sheila Skidmore
- * Edward and Charlotte Partridge: Their forebears and descendent families by Beryl Wilson
- * Go to blazes: a short history of the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade and Auxiliary by George Silberbauer
- * Two Fat Ladies and Hercules Tom: The story of the Australian Giant Family by Terence FitzSimons
- * Blood, Toil, Tears & Sweat: Remembering the Pakenham District's WW2 Personnel, 1939 – 1940 by Patrick Ferry and Wally Nye

Books

- * In the Shadow of Zion by Adam Rovner
- * Arthur Henry's Memoirs by Arthur Henry & Poowong Historical Group

Moreyn Dimsey

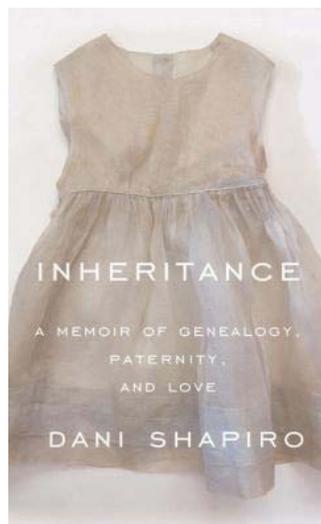


Book Review

Inheritance – A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love

written by Dani Shapiro

When I read the title, I was drawn to this book, even though it mentioned DNA in the blurb on the library catalogue. As yet I have not done any DNA testing; I am not sure whether I need to as I have traced my ancestors back several hundred years without very much trouble, and have enough ancestors to cope with at the moment. However, I would like my husband to test for any Norwegian ancestors – he is not convinced he needs to. In 2019 several DNA conferences were held around Australia and people flocked to attend.



Getting back to this book – I was intrigued. Dani was brought up in a Jewish family and she had a lovely childhood. Some years after her marriage both she and her husband decided to send for DNA tests. At the age of fifty-four, after she received her results through Ancestry she was shocked to find her father was not her biological father. She had been conceived through IVF but this secret had been withheld from her by both parents. With her husband's support and much use of the internet she eventually found the donor, and after some months of corresponding and texting, he positively responded to her requests to meet.

I won't go into further details as it is now up to you to borrow this book and read this intriguing story yourself.

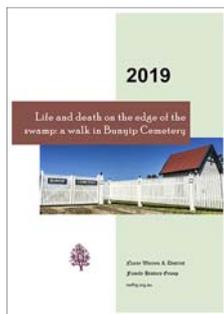
On the shelves at Cranbourne Library and Central Highlands Library, Ballarat.

Di Christensen

Spreading Branches May 2021 We would like to read your articles or stories. Please submit your contributions by 15 April 2021

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.

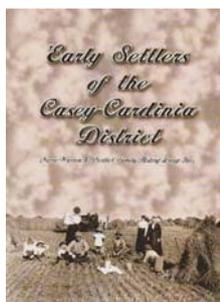
There is an eclectic mix of stories about well-known identities who appear in published histories and are fortunate to have headstones marking their final resting place and stories of people long forgotten, whose only trace is an entry in the register.

\$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/