

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 131 - February 2022

Welcome back to research!

We have re-opened our Lorraine Taylor Research Room on 1 February 2022. During February free research sessions are available to members and visitors every day from Monday to Saturday in two-hour timeslots.

It is necessary that all members and visitors to the Lorraine Taylor Research Room must:

- sign in using the Service Victoria app and show our duty volunteer proof of vaccination plus sign our sign-in book (phone number required)
- wear a mask and maintain social distancing

We have an initial limit of two people plus the volunteer on duty. Please be aware that the kitchen facilities will not be available - but there's an excellent cafe on site.

Bookings are essential - no one will be in



attendance if there are no bookings for the session.

One session per day is available to members and visitors. Bookings close 24 hours before each session. <https://nwfhg.eventbrite.com.au>

We'll announce March opening days and hours closer to the time.

General meetings: live or by Zoom

Educational Records

7.30 pm, Wed 9 February 2022

School records can often give a researcher a different story to some of those school yard anecdotes they have been hearing for years. Join Eileen Durdin as she shows you the school resources that we have in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room and how they can add some flesh to your ancestors' bones. Eileen will also give some hints on handy websites for researching educational records.



Fallen Diggers

7.30 pm, Wed 9 March 2022

Fallen Diggers Inc. are dedicated to undertaking research on the battles of both World Wars; their trench systems, the battlefields and the military personnel that took part in those battles. They undertake this research to gain a greater understanding of the sacrifice our brave men made, and to ensure their memories live on. Come

and find out how Dennis Frank and his team find unknown graves, giving families closure after nearly 100 years on where their relatives are buried.

Ryerson Index

7.30 pm, Wed 13 April 2022

Did you know that as of 26 January the Ryerson Index has turned on the ability to display all entries from specific newspapers or funeral directors that have 20,000 entries or less - which apparently covers more than 90% of their indexed sources? No? That's OK, neither did I until now.....

Berwick News has 36 entries, Pakenham Gazette has 3,299 entries so far.

John Graham, the president of Ryerson Index Inc, will present the lesser-known features of the Ryerson Index by zoom. You can attend his talk in the Casey Complex Conference room or from home.

Please visit our website
<https://nwfhg.org.au>
for details of how to join a meeting.



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	The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of Casey Cardinia Libraries and the City of Casey.
Genealogical Society of Victoria	
South Eastern Historical Association Inc.	
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am to 3 pm
(Note: special opening hours during February 2022)

Research room phone number: (03) 5995 3032

Meetings

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

A reminder that memberships were extended to the end of June 2022 for all members who were financial at the end of September 2020.

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

NW&DFHG Coffee Catch-ups

Meet with other members and friends for a social chat over coffee and cake on the last Sunday of the month.



NW&DFHG Coffee Catch-ups dates

10.00 am, Sunday, 27 February
Bunjil Place Caf , Narre Warren

10.00 am, Sunday, 27 March
venue to be advised

10.00 am, Sunday, 24 April
venue to be advised

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

Happy New Year, I hope you all had the opportunity to share quality time with family and friends over Christmas. In many ways 2021 was the year that wasn't. We managed to have a few meetings in person, and the Lorraine Taylor Research Room was open on a few days. But for most of us our only contact was via Zoom, emails and Facebook.

Like it or not, technology has kept us connected. For those of us doing our family history research, it enabled us to use and become more familiar with Ancestry and Findmypast. I was thankful that both companies allowed us free access from home with our Casey Cardinia Library card.

The year ahead may look as daunting as the past two years. However, as more of us have been double vaccinated and are getting our booster shots we can see a faint light in the seemingly long tunnel ahead of us.

At our Christmas meeting we said we planned to open in February, however, without sufficient volunteers to attend the room and the constant changes in rules and regulations we are looking at every avenue and option available to safely accommodate our members and visitors. As we have said in the past, you can contact any of the committee for assistance – be it a brick wall you

need help with, or to arrange borrowing books or magazines – we're only an email away. See pages one and twelve about the re-opening of our Lorraine Taylor Research Room.

Our meetings this year will be hybrid meetings. This means that we can accommodate a limited number of people in person (pre-booking required), or you can zoom into the meeting from home. This will also enable us to have guest speakers from further afield.

Our much delayed walk at Cranbourne cemetery is scheduled for May this year and we hope that the weather will be kind to us on the day.

While Heather Arnold has retired after nineteen years as the Local History librarian for Casey Cardinia Library, we can still enjoy her past recorded history talks via the library website. It is great news to hear she will continue to present history talks via Zoom this year for the library.

I hope this year brings us new connections and renews old connections and we have fewer disruptions to our way of life.

See you in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room or at a general meeting soon.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

Family newsletters

Some years ago my sister and I decided that a family newsletter for distribution to our 24 first cousins (children of our mother's eight siblings), could be welcomed by everyone.

At the time we both lived in Melbourne, as did other cousins, but many lived in and near Ballarat and others were in Stawell, Torquay, Brisbane, and Darwin.

Our parents had initially met monthly for lunch. Later it became afternoon tea as they had all aged, and some had passed on.

Our idea was welcomed and contributions came in by snail mail. We typed copies and posted them out. Email copies came much later.

I have been looking back over these old newsletters recently – sadly we stopped after ten years, but now have a group on Facebook.

The newsletter and the group are called The Stocky Gazette, after the Eureka Stockade which had been our playground when we were growing up.

Our great grandmother Helen McKay lived opposite the Stocky and our grandparents, two aunts and uncles and families all lived in Eureka street, so it was a popular name for the newsletter.

The newsletter recorded that many of us had travelled overseas or all around Australia. However, as far as I can recall, our grandparents, married in 1910, only visited Port Fairy, Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. They would be amazed by the travels of their descendants.

The early newsletters had births, deaths, marriages etc. – very helpful when you have forgotten. Even today, I referred to it in regard to an incident in 2002.

Now we have monthly cousins' dinners. However, these have been on the backburner in the last two years, but we did get together in early December.

It is worth putting together a family newsletter or maybe a blog.

Di Christensen

The Max Thomson Collection: Thanks Badge to Reg Kurll

There are 692 photos in our Max Thomson Collection, and 90 are in the “Narre Warren North Scout Group” category. When looking through the collection two photos in particular caught my eye as they were of a presentation of the “Thanks Badge” to Cyril Reginald Kurll, and I had to find out more. The 1st Narre Warren North Boy Scouts and the Narre Warren North community had both Reg and Leila Kurll a lot to thank for.

Reg Kurll came to Narre Warren North in 1929.¹ He purchased Cleveland, a 280 acre property, from Jack Casey.² For the next 40 years he resided in Narre Warren North as a sheep grazier. Reg and Leila celebrated their marriage at the Methodist Church, Dandenong on 24 April 1935. They honeymooned in the Western District before returning to their property in Narre Warren North.³

1st Narre Warren Scout Group – Kurll’s Own Scout Camp

The 1st Narre Warren North Scout Group was formed in 1932. Mr AG Robinson was President, Mr CR Kurll Secretary and Mr A Brundrett Treasurer. The Scoutmaster was Mr RAW Bailey. The troop comprised: G Robinson, M Winter, E Hill, L Mills, C Aumann, L Worthy, L Kent, K Smith, E Jones, and R Currie. Initially they held meetings in the Old Methodist Church, a daub house on the corner of Main Street and a’Beckett Road, and in Worthy’s barn.⁴

In 1934 there was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Narre Warren North branch of the Boys’ Scout Association. The credit balance was £15/15/10. The progress of the year’s work

was considered very satisfactory, chiefly due to the active interest of the honorary secretary (Mr R Kurll). It was decided to purchase a half-acre block from the State Rivers and Water Commission, with a two chain frontage to the Soldiers’ Memorial. Fencing material had been promised free by some of the members, and the improvements were to start as soon as the transaction was completed. Messrs FG Bailey, AG Robinson and H Worthy were appointed trustees.⁵

The Scout hall was erected in five Saturdays thanks to many volunteers.

The Kurlls donated six acres of their land to the Narre Warren North Scouts for a campsite, which was named the “Kurll’s Own Campsite”. The site’s development was best described in “Little Hills” as below:

The group has enjoyed the use of a campsite only 2 km from the hall. The troop first camped there in 1946. The



*Presentation of Thanks Badge to Reg Kurll at the Troop Campsite – c1955
From left: Max Thomson (SM), Bob Hill (ASM), Reg Kurll, George Paton (HQ Field Commissioner), Mrs A.Harris, Wendy Harris, Nell Schneider (LCM). The image above shows Mrs H.Thomson and Mrs A.Brundrett on the right, the image below shows the 1st Dandenong Girl Guides on the right.*



1 *The Gazette* (Pakenham, Vic.), 10 June 1981
2 *Heritage of the City of Berwick*, p 164
3 *Dandenong Journal*, 2 May 1935

4 *Little Hills 1839 – 1977*
5 *The Age* (Melbourne, Vic), 3 April 1934



*Building the Scout Hall – Painting the Weatherboards – c1936
Harold Thomson, Arthur Robinson, Reg Kurll,
Fred Aumann, and Alan Brundrett*

property was owned by Mr Reg Kurll, a great friend of the group. A gateway was erected to the entrance of the site in 1954 and two wrought-iron gates, made by ASL Bob Hill, were installed. In 1955 the first trees were planted in an effort to replace those being killed by possums. A flowering gum was planted in honour of a former scout Cyril Aumann who went down with the HMAS Sydney during the 1939-45 war. Many other trees have been planted over the years to preserve the park-like appearance of the area.⁶

There was also an “Open Air Chapel” for Narre Warren North scouts and guides on the Kurll’s property. The scouts had constructed their “Chapel” roofed by the canopy of the heavens. The “pews”



*At Kurll’s Own Camp Site – Easter 1954
Ken Pearce, Clive Henderson, Ray Pearce, David Bailey, John Edwards (behind), Bill Loveridge, Bob Hill (ASM) and Lloyd Thomson.*

were logs set into the hillside. A feature of the altar (built of stone from the property) was a cross picked out in sea-shells. More than 150 Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Brownies, and adults gathered for the dedication of the “Chapel”. At this same service Ray Sonegan was presented with a Queen’s Scout badge, John Turner was presented with his warrant as a Scouter, a first class badge was presented to Paul Boothroyd, a swimmer’s badge to Russell Fox, a metal worker’s badge to Greg Street, and Max Thomson was congratulated for the unique honor which had been conferred on him as “Honorary Group Scoutmaster of Narre Warren North”.⁷

Kurll Park

Kurll Park was gifted to the Shire of Berwick by

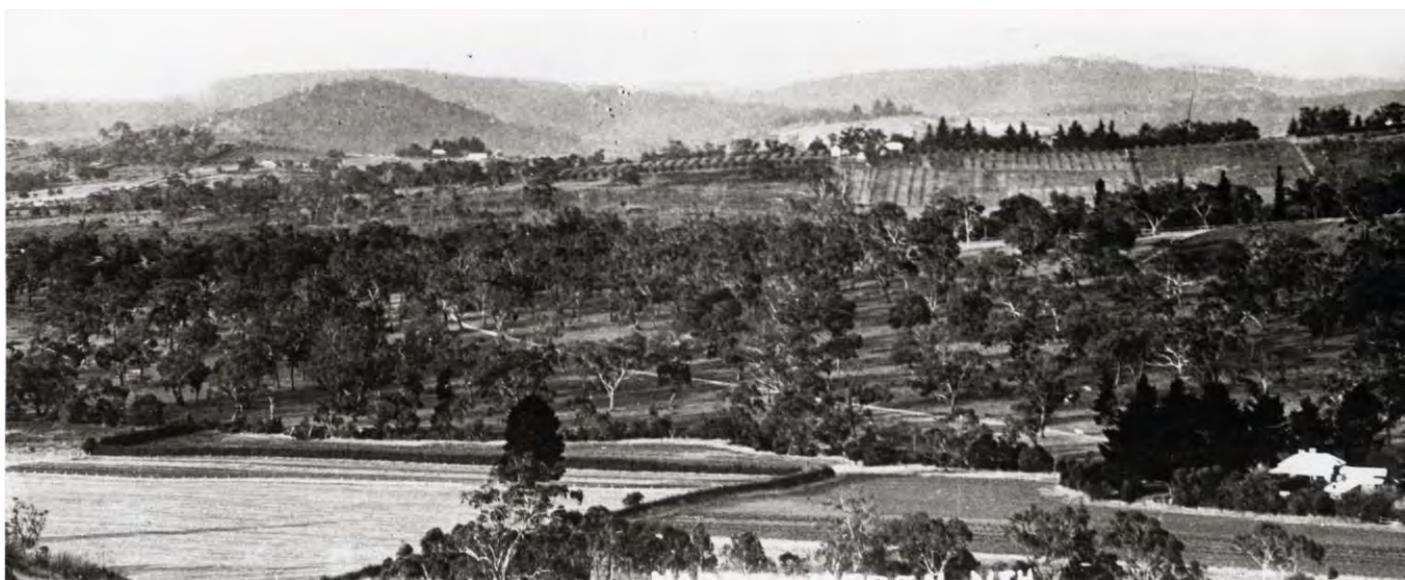


the Kurlls in 1970. Reg and Leila had moved to Mornington by this stage but Reg had concerns that quarrying in the Narre Warren North area would be given permission to expand and destroy the beautiful

*Campfire circle at Kurll’s Own Campsite – Easter 1960
The three poplar trees at the rear of the circle represent each part of the Scout Promise. They were planted when one metre tall.*

6 Little Hills 1839 – 1977

7 undated newspaper article



Photograph taken from Bayview Hill and a position now the site of Kurll Park – c1912
 “Cleveland” at right and D Kennedy’s orchard is right of centre

country side. Reg had expressed the wish to gift the land to the Trustee for the purposes of being set aside in perpetuity for the benefit of the public as a park and recreation area.⁸ The land was transferred to the Shire of Berwick on 6 April 1972.

On 12 December 1972 a public meeting was held to discuss the future development, method of control and all other aspects relating to the new park. The meeting was attended by the following: Messrs F Rae, I Smith, L Cromb, Y Dethick, G Oliver, G Kefford, J Turner, M Jones, Mrs M Jones, Mrs E Sonogan, Mr R Sonogan, Mrs G Robinson, H Oakes, E Forsberg, C Turner, K Browne, G Lowry, B Simon, Shire President Cr G Rae, and K Giacometti. The meeting resolved that the Narre Warren North Committee of Environment be elected for the planning, development, and management of the park.⁹

When Council was planning the Robinson subdivision in 1984, it asked for a feasibility study for a road through “Kurll Park”. Reg responded to the study by writing a letter to the Council stating that the road would be counter productive to the very purpose for which he had gifted the park as a passive quiet area. Secondly, the construction of a road would excise approx. 2 acres from the park, i.e. over 14% of the area and he certainly did not give the land as a road easement.¹⁰

The City Engineer’s report of 19 June 1984 was a positive response to Reg’s letter, and Brundrett Road was constructed around Kurll Park.¹¹

8 Declaration of Trust – Kurll and Shire of Berwick

9 Kurll Park Summary and Supporting Documents – C R Kurll and the Council

10 Letter to City of Berwick from C R Kurll – 7 June 1984

11 City Engineer’s Report – King Road/Robinson Road – Proposed Reconstruction – 19 June 1984

A cairn was donated by Rotary Club of Berwick.¹² The Rotary Club commenced construction of the lookout at Kurll Park. A twilight BBQ was enjoyed at dusk on 20 February 1975, with good attendance from members. On the cairn is a compass with points showing the distance in kilometres to many places, both near and far.

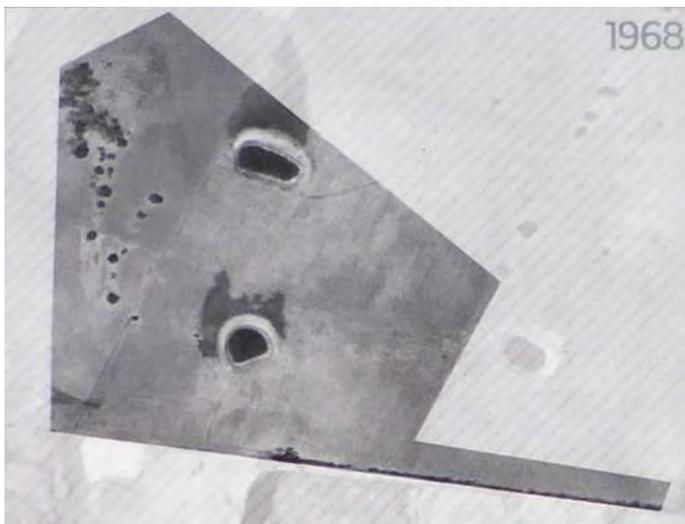
The Rotary Club of Berwick held various working bees at Kurll Park as part of their community projects to maintain the park.¹³ Maintenance of the park was taken over by volunteers from the Friends of Harkaway Reserves about 1996, but they found it hard as the park was covered in blackberries and thistles. The two dams were leaking badly and had filled up with old washing machines, battered drums and rubbish. On 29 September 1997, Mr Bob Charles (Federal Member for La Trobe) raised the problem with the Federal Government reiterating that many volunteering groups were struggling to maintain many Council reserves. He finished by asking that the City of Casey give this project the encouragement it needed and provide funds so that the Friends of Harkaway Reserves could get help to beautify the absolutely magnificent area.¹⁴

Ten years after the Shire of Berwick was appointed to take over the area, Reg and Leila returned to view the progress that had been made on Kurll Park. It was a nostalgic visit and many old friends visited the park on that day to talk about the good times they shared together. They planted a melaleuca tree to mark their visit, just a few yards from the spot where in October 1974, they had planted native trees to mark the commencement of a beautification program for the park.

12 *The Gazette* (Pakenham, Vic.), 10 June 1981

13 Rotary Club of Berwick – Club History 1961–2016

14 House of Representatives Official Hansard – No 2416, 1997 – 22 September 1997



City of Casey descriptive signage at Kurll Park – left: 1968 aerial view (Image: City of Casey); right: 2019 aerial view (Image: Nearmap)

The Kurlls in Narre Warren North

During their years at Narre Warren North the Kurlls were involved in many community groups. They were part of the scouts and guides, Methodist Church, fire brigade, and Red Cross. Reg was charter president of Berwick Rotary Club and was involved in the Freemasons for 50 years. Reg said that any group that met or did anything in the district eventually involved him or his wife.¹⁵

Kurll's Own is now a reserve with the poplar trees and the flowering gum still prominent at the site. I am sure that there are many a scout who could tell a great yarn of the fun he had at Kurll's Own

campsite. The Kurll's Own Rover Crew is based in Endeavour Hills and will ensure that the Kurll's Own name remains within the scouting movement.

I would recommend you go to Kurll Park as the scenery from there is still fantastic. Wear good walking shoes and be careful as it is very blowy.

I also would like to thank Reg and Leila Kurll for their contribution to the Narre Warren North area.



Eileen Durdin

15 *The Gazette* (Pakenham, Vic.), 10 June 1981

History events at Casey Cardina Libraries

For bookings: <https://events.ccl.vic.gov.au/>

Beginning family history

Mon 7 February (11 am) – Online event

Family history resources on the Internet

Mon 14 February (11 am) – Online event

Postcards: Collections of Memories and Love

Mon 14 February (2 pm) – Online event

Ancestry and Find My Past

Mon 21 February (11 am) – Online event

Using Trove to trace your family history

Mon 28 February (11 am) – Online event

Back to basics

Thu 17 March (11 am) – Cranbourne Library

Any project has to start at the beginning. For family history this means starting with you and working backwards using primary sources such as birth, death and marriage certificates. But how do you get the most from the certificates? And where do you go to establish what is a fact from family stories.

Not everything is on-line

Thu 21 April (11 am) –

Cranbourne Library

Jane and Heather talk about

their favourite and most useful local and family history books and where you can access them.

Using the newspapers on Trove for local and family history

Thu 19 May (11 am) – Cranbourne Library

Heather Arnold, President of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society will talk about the treasure trove of information you can find in old newspapers.

Trove – not just newspapers

Thu 16 June (11 am) – Cranbourne Library

Jane Rivett-Carnac will talk about the wonderful resources other than newspapers, you can find on Trove for your Family and Local History research.

Note: For events planned to be held at Cranbourne Library, please check closer to the date in case the event had to be moved online.



Casey
Cardina
Libraries

Where has the website gone?

Page Not Found

Sorry, the page that you were looking for appears to have been moved, deleted or doesn't exist.

How often have you come across the message above? It can be frustrating if you have cited a source in your family history project, and when you want to have another look at it, it is no longer there. We recently looked at the oral histories that are available on the Casey Cardinia Library website. About five years ago they were at “www.cclc.vic.gov.au/oralhistories”, now they are at “www.cclc.vic.gov.au/browse/local-history/oral-histories”. But where will they be when the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation is dissolved? You may be able to locate them through your favourite search engine.

Trove

Another place where they may remain accessible is through a web archive. The National Library through Trove has been collecting HTML snapshots for at least eight years. Look at “websites” (circled red in image at top). Searching for oral histories Casey Cardinia brings up over 15,000 results from cclc.vic.gov.au. They contain snapshots taken between 2014 and 2021.



Of my own website “Residents of Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding areas” at www.upperbeaconsfieldhistory.org.au there is a snapshot dated March 2019. As I regularly add to or update the website, I hope that Trove will take another snapshot soon.

Wayback machine

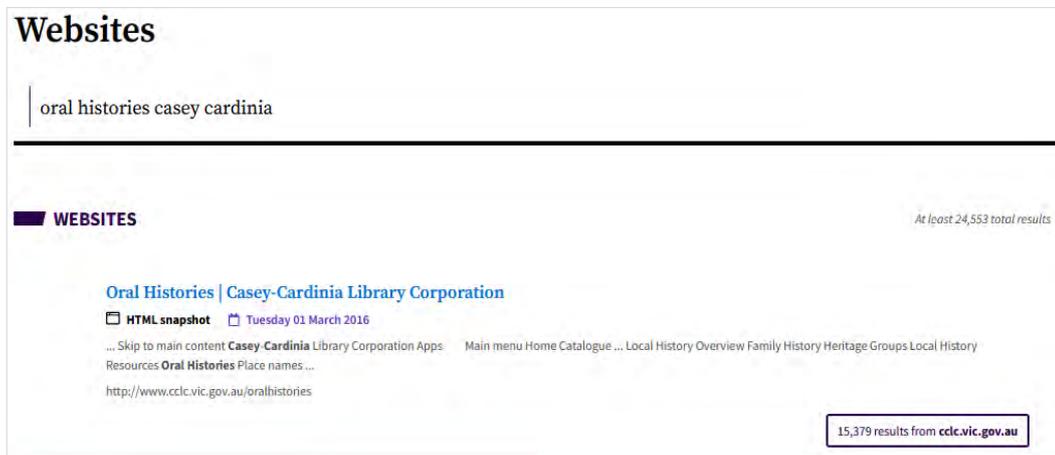
The Internet archive wayback machine at <https://web.archive.org/> is another location where you may find a missing website.

“www.cclc.vic.gov.au/oralhistories” was captured 49 times between 2014 and 2021. However, the last capture only shows the “page not found” message. My website was captured by the wayback machine 18 times.

For my article on the Funnell family in the last issue of Spreading Branches, the web archive helped me determine when the Mirror Paints

company ceased operation. The capture of 7 Mar 2018 stated that the company had closed its doors after more than one hundred years, but a capture a month earlier still showed an active business. Therefore it must have closed down between those two dates.

Marianne Roche



Solving a naming riddle

We often come across children with names that acknowledge a mother's or grandmother's maiden name. Georgiana Spencer Morris is not such a case. She is one of fifteen children born to John Carnac Morris and Rosanna Curtis Cherry, who were married in Madras, India on 4 February 1823.

Of John and Rosanna's children, seven have names that appear to recognise relatives, i.e. Frederick Weston, Rosa Cherry, Weston George, James Minchin, Charles Chase, Georgiana Spencer and Edward Ellis.

Rosa was named for her mother's paternal family, but the middle names of the other six children are not so clear. Digging deeper into the Cherry family I found that James Minchin Morris was named after his aunt Susan Mary Cherry's husband, Royal Navy Lt James Minchin, while Charles Chase Morris was named after his aunt Georgiana Cherry's husband Morgan Charles Chase.¹ But what about the names Weston, Ellis and Spencer?

While I was looking for John Carnac Morris and a possible connection to my family I found an interesting newspaper story about Georgina Spencer Morris. She explained that her middle name Spencer was given to her by her godfather.²

In a tight-knit community like the British in India in the days of the East India Company it made sense that one of the father's close friends would be a godparent, and hence his surname came into a family.

So then it was a case of going back through the names of the other siblings, and

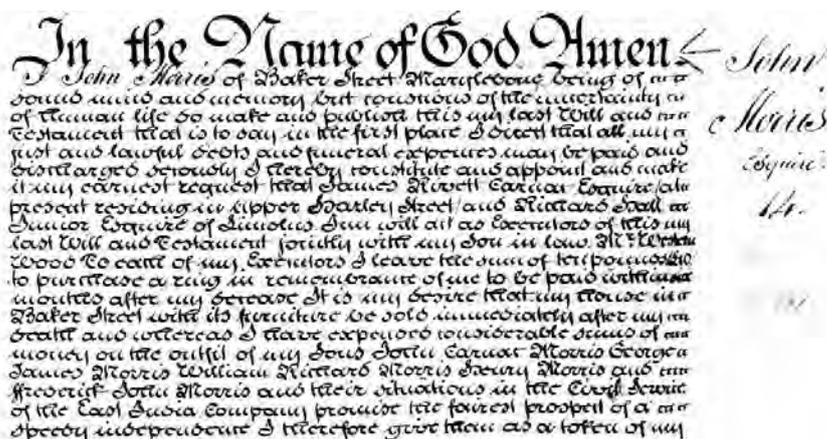
- [https://archive.org/List-Of-Inscriptions-On-Tombs-Or-Monuments-Madras-Vol-2-\(Cotton\)](https://archive.org/List-Of-Inscriptions-On-Tombs-Or-Monuments-Madras-Vol-2-(Cotton))
- Prahran Telegraph 6 June 1896 pg 5
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/144630923>

looking for more of these connections, rather than trying to find females marrying into the Morris family in earlier generations.

Looking for the Weston and Ellis connection I found the will for John Morris who died in 1840, and one of the executors was his son-in-law Western (Weston) Wood who married to Sarah Letitia Morris in 1829. The will also answered the original question regarding the name Carnac. James Rivett-Carnac was listed as an executor of this will. He was in the East India Company with James Morris, and at the time the will was written, both men lived in the same street in Marylebone, London.³

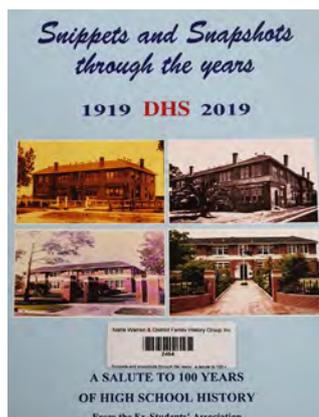
I am still looking for the Ellis connection. For this I am using the same free data sets at 'Families in British India Society' as I did to establish the Morris and Carnac families in India and the East India Company.⁴ Surname searches for Morris and Ellis give me 190 and 156 results. Something to keep me busy over summer.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



- Will of John Morris of Baker Street Marylebone, Middlesex | The National Archives
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D109795>
- Families In British India Society
<https://fibis.ourarchives.online/bin/index.php>

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room



Casey Cardinia Books

* Snippets and snapshots through the years: a salute to 100 years of Dandenong High School history 1919-2019

Magazines

- * *The Genealogist* Winter 2021
- * *Irish Roots* Issue 3 2021

- * *Family Tree* Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct & Nov 2021
- * *Ancestor* June 2020

Happy Reading

Moreyn Dimsey
Librarian



Leslie Stewart Graham

Despite the greatest of care during our search for soldiers from the Great War for our military cemetery tours it's inevitable that for one reason or another, we'd miss a few. While it's too late to include their stories in our books, we can try to make amends by sharing them in our newsletter. I'd like to acknowledge Polly Freeman from Cranbourne Historical Society who alerted us to Leslie's presence at Cranbourne Cemetery and provided information and the photographs; and John Elliott who carried out the initial research for us.

Leslie Stewart Graham was welcomed into the world by his parents Robert and Leah on 3 September 1891 at Portarlington. He was their tenth child, but as was often the case, not all the children in a family survived infancy and childhood. Four of Leslie's older siblings had died before he was born and the family's grief from the loss of their infant daughter Rubina, just four months prior was probably still raw.



Leslie Graham and his parents

Leslie attended Portarlington State School, and it seems that in 1907 fifteen year old Leslie was working as a groom at Portarlington. He and his brother Thomas were involved in what the *Geelong Advertiser* headlined as 'The Portarlington Sensation'. The two brothers witnessed an attack on a widow named Mary Mitchell by an eccentric Austrian fisherman. They saw the subsequent wounding of the assailant and the police constable summoned by Leslie to attend the incident at Mary Mitchell's request.¹

Seven years later, in April 1914 we find Leslie at Cranbourne with the future Mrs Graham, although we're not sure if he knew it then. He was with Margaret Greening at the wedding of Margaret's eldest sister Henrietta to George Hunter at St John's Church of England. The newspaper reported that Mr L Graham and Miss M Greening gave the happy couple a silver cake basket.²

It's no surprise to find Leslie in Cranbourne, his sister Eva married Alfred Butcher, and his brother

Charles married Eva Hitch in a double wedding at the Portarlington Methodist Church in 1904.³ Eva and Alf's first child William was born in Cranbourne in 1905. Leslie's brother James first appears in the Cranbourne rate books in 1913. James lived at Cranbourne for several years until he returned to Portarlington in 1934 hoping to recuperate from a short illness, but he died there instead.⁴ Leslie himself appears in the electoral rolls from 1913 as a labourer residing in Cranbourne.

When Margaret's older sister Ethel married Andrew Goodwin at St John's Church in Cranbourne in 1915, Margaret was the bride's attendant and

Leslie, the groom's.⁵ But it would be a while before Margaret would walk down the aisle, Leslie enlisted for service in the army in Melbourne on 22 April 1916. He was assigned to the 2nd Cyclist Battalion's 3rd Reinforcements.

After a short period of initial training at Geelong, Private Graham left Australia aboard HMAT *Orsova* on 1 August 1916, disembarking at Plymouth on 14 September. After a period of initial training at Parkhouse Training Camp, Private Graham began training with the Army Cyclist Training Battalion at Chiseldon, in Wiltshire, in September 1916 until 18 December when he embarked for France.

Not long after his arrival in France Private Graham was detached for duty with the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion until he returned to the 1st Anzac Cycling Battalion at the end of July 1917.

Army cyclists carried out a wide variety of duties. They often provided a guard or escort for the Corps Commander. Private Graham served as the Corps Commander's Guard from 11 April to 21 April 1918 and as a POW Compound Guard from 5 June 1918 to 26 September 1918.

Private Graham seems to have had no medical issues apart from a week in hospital with synovitis in April 1917, and he enjoyed three week's leave in the UK in October 1918. Only one misdemeanour appears in his service record. While waiting to return to Australia he was absent from camp at Sutton Veny without leave (AWL) from 23.59 on 10 May 1919 to 12.00 on 12 May – for which he lost four days' pay. Private Graham returned to Australia aboard the AS *Mahia* on 17 July 1919 and was discharged the following month.

Just over a year after his discharge, Leslie married

1 The Portarlington Sensation. *Geelong Advertiser* 19 July 1907

2 Hunter-Greening. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* 30 April 1914

3 Personal. *Geelong Advertiser* 25 August 1904

4 Obituary. *The Dandenong Journal* 12 April 1934

5 Goodwin-Greening. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* 25 March 1915

Margaret Matilda Greening, daughter of William and Mary Ann Greening at St John's Church in Cranbourne.

With the assistance of the War Services Homes Commission Leslie bought two lots of land in Clarendon Street, Cranbourne in March 1927. It's thought that Cockerill Bros., a well-known Cranbourne building firm may have built the house for them in 1928 or 1929.⁶ It seems likely, given the fact that Margaret's mother Mary Ann was a member of the Cockerill family.

Leslie and Margaret were involved in many community activities in and around Cranbourne. He was on the Cranbourne Football Club committee in the 1930s as well as serving as the secretary of the Cranbourne Cricket Club at the same time.⁷ He joined the Tooradin-Cranbourne district branch of the Returned Soldiers' League on 21 February 1935 at the Cranbourne Shire Hall.⁸ He was also an inaugural member of the Cranbourne Farewell Committee, formed in 1940 to oversee the farewells of those leaving for service abroad in World War 2.⁹

Both Leslie and Margaret must have enjoyed playing euchre very much judging from the number of articles in the local papers that have them either winning prizes at euchre tournaments or overseeing them on behalf of the CWA or Red Cross. They were also active members of the congregation at St John's.

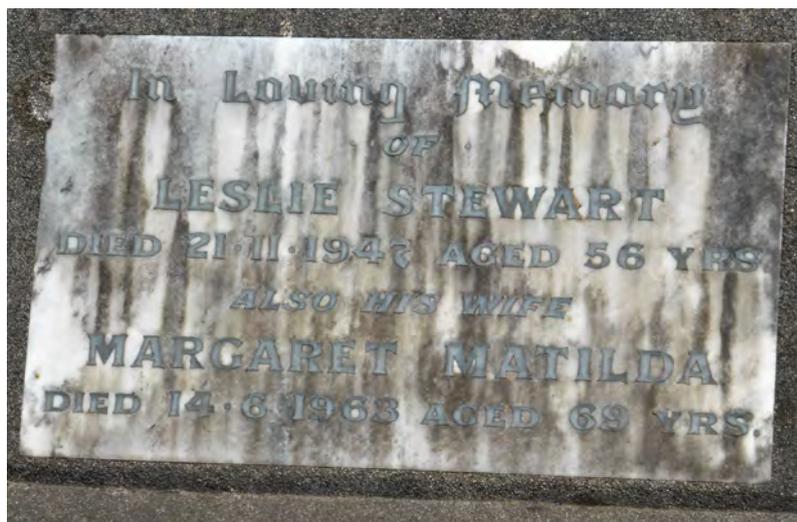
Despite having no children of her own, Margaret was an inaugural committee member of the Cranbourne State School Mothers' Club with her sister-in-law Eva Butcher. Eva and Alf's children all attended the school. Funnily enough, their first fundraiser was a euchre party and dance.¹⁰

Margaret must have also enjoyed gardening. While her mother won the silver cup for the best collection of six distinct varieties of dahlias at the 1939 Church of England Autumn Flower Show at Cranbourne, Margaret won the highest number of

points in the show.¹¹

During the second world war years Leslie served in the Volunteer Defence Corps, as many ex-servicemen did, from March 1942 to October 1945. The *Dandenong Journal* informed us that Leslie or 'Lal' as he seems to have been known was on the improve after his operation and urged him to keep up the good work on 28 May 1947. It must have been a difficult time for Margaret, she was nursing her father William who was living with them. William Greening died in June 1947.¹²

Hopes for Leslie's quick recovery were dashed when he returned to Dandenong Hospital in July 1947 for another operation.¹³ The Cranbourne RSL's November 1947 meeting reported that twenty-five members of the Cranbourne RSL and one non-serviceman had attended a working bee on Leslie's property. By now, their mate 'Lal' was in the Alfred Hospital and arrangements were made for a 'car load of the boys' to drive into Melbourne to visit Leslie and another member who coincidentally, was also a patient at the Alfred Hospital. Sadly, on their return, they reported that 'Lal', who had already suffered so much, was to undergo yet another serious operation on 12 November, but they were hoping for the best.¹⁴



Sometimes hope is just not enough, Leslie Graham died at the Alfred Hospital on 21 November 1947, he was fifty-six years old.¹⁵ He is remembered on the St John's Church of England Honor Roll together with his brother-in-law William Greening. Leslie is also remembered on the Portarlington War Memorial, the Portarlington State School Honor Roll and at the Portarlington RSL.

Margaret remarried in 1950 to George Arthur Peck, unfortunately he died shortly after their marriage and was buried with his first wife in Cranbourne Cemetery. Margaret died in 1963 and was buried with Leslie at Cranbourne.

Lynne Bradley

6 *Cranbourne Town Centre: Heritage Overlays Review* May 2020

7 Cranbourne. *Dandenong Journal* 19 September 1935, 11 April 1935

8 *Dandenong Journal* 17 March 1935

9 Farewelling Soldiers. *Dandenong Journal* 17 April 1940

10 Cranbourne. *Dandenong Journal* 25 April 1929

11 Flower Show Trophies. *The Argus* 25 March 1939

12 Obituary. *Dandenong Journal* 18 June 1947

13 Cranborne Digger Doings. *Dandenong Journal* 16 July 1947

14 Cranbourne Diggers help sick comrade. *Dandenong Journal* 12 November 1947

15 Cranbourne Soldiers March at Digger's Funeral. *Dandenong Journal* 26 November 1947

Lorraine Taylor Research Room Roster

February 2022

Mon–Sat 10 am–12 noon & 12.30 pm–2.30 pm

The Research Room will only be open if someone has booked a time.
Volunteers will be contacted at least 24 hours prior to shift if required to attend.

Covid-19 Research Room Procedures

- No more than four people in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room at any one time – one person must be the duty volunteer
- Members and visitors to book appointments through EventBrite at <http://nwfhg.eventbrite.com>
- Social distancing must be practised at all times – a minimum of 1.5 metres
- The volunteer on duty will ask you: to register by QR code, sign in your name and telephone number in our “sign in book”, and show proof of double vaccination
- Facemasks must be worn under current Covid-19 regulations and we recommend you continue to wear a facemask when in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room
- The kitchen facilities are not available for use - L’Arte Central will be open
- Disinfectant wipes, disposable gloves, hand sanitiser, soap and single use towels are available, please use them when coming into the Lorraine Taylor Research Room
- The doors will be open, so you won’t need to touch the door handles
- Air conditioning to remain on when you are in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room
- The Lorraine Taylor Research Room is not available to Research Room Volunteers as it would normally be for use outside of hours
- At the end of each session duty volunteers to wipe all surfaces, including door handles
- Our Covid-19 Plan is located next to “sign in book” on front desk
- If you are unwell – please do not come to the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

- If you become unwell after attending the room please contact Jane Rivett-Carnac, President – president@nwfhg.org.au - 0412 084 671 ASAP so we can follow up our Covid-19 requirements

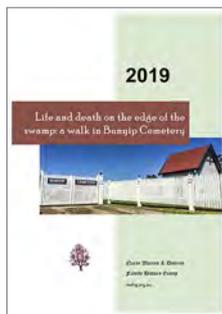
Volunteers on duty

Tue 1st	Barbara Sharp
Wed 2nd	Lynne Bradley
Thu 3rd	Eileen Durdin
Fri 4th	Barbara Sharp
Sat 5th	Lyne McGregor
Mon 7th	Lynne Bradley
Tue 8th	Jane Rivett-Carnac
Wed 9th	Barbara Sharp
Thu 10th	Eileen Durdin
Fri 11th	Barbara Sharp
Sat 12th	Robyn Jones
Mon 14th	Jane Rivett-Carnac
Tue 15th	John Williams & Fay McCoubrie
Wed 16th	Barbara Sharp
Thu 17th	Eileen Durdin
Fri 18th	Barbara Sharp
Sat 19th	Hellen Kemp & Lyne McGregor
Mon 21st	Jane Rivett-Carnac
Tue 22nd	Fay McCoubrie
Wed 23rd	Lynne Bradley
Thu 24th	Jane Rivett-Carnac
Fri 25th	Eileen Durdin
Sat 26th	Eileen Durdin
Mon 28th	Jane Rivett-Carnac

Spreading Branches May 2022 We would like to read your articles or stories. Please submit your contributions by 15 April 2022

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 + \$9.55 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 + \$9.55 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 + \$12.95 postage + handling

Cemetery Tour booklets

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

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

Add \$9.55 for postage + handling.

Other books

Kindred Spirits. NW&DFHG 1989 – 2009

\$25 + \$12.95 postage + handling

Please note:

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District (2010) is now out of print

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