



Spreading Branches

**Narre Warren & District Family History Group
Inc.**

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A Member of:

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Vic Assoc of Family History Organisations - Royal Historical Society of Victoria

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

*On the first day of Christmas my true Love said to me,
I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.*

*On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.*

*On the third day of Christmas we entertained the people from next door
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.*

*On day four relations came to stay, poor Gran looked old
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.*

*On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried
But we were very nice and warm, for we had the turkey curried.*

*On the sixth day I must admit, the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered; we ate turkey rissoles fried.*

*On the seventh day of Christmas my true Love he did wince
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.*

*On the eighth day nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Elka Seltzer*

*On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.*

*On the tenth day the booze had gone (except some homemade brew)
And if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.*

*On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting
The mince pies were all as hard as rocks and the turkey was revolting.*

*On the twelfth day of Christmas my true Love had a smile on his lips
The guest had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.*

Reproduced from "Origins" December 2002, the magazine of the Buckinghamshire
Family History Society, and submitted by Diana Wheeler.



***Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 4th December
12 noon, Ming Court,
Narre Warren

***General Meeting**

Wednesday 10th
December 8 pm –
Christmas Breakup.
Mystery night. Come and
join us for another fun
filled evening.

***Research room closure**

Tuesday 16th December at
3 p.m.

***Research Room reopens**

Tuesday, 20th January
2004 at 11 a.m.

***General Meeting**

Wednesday 11th February
2004, at 8 p.m.

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Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Research Room Manager	Bev Smith	Door Officers	Shirley Peterson &
Public Officer & VAFHO Rep	Di Christensen		Alice Pattison

Membership & Meetings

Membership:
Single \$25 + \$5 joining fee
Joint \$40 + \$5 joining fee
Payable 1st July each year.

Meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.
Nov - May: 8 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January)
Jun - Oct: 2 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month

The cost is \$2 and includes a light supper.

Family History Research Room

Our Family History Research Room is located within the Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Family History Research Room hours:

Tuesday	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have a large collection of books, maps and microfiche available to our members. We also welcome visitors - a research fee of \$5.00 per day applies to non-members.

Research Queries

We offer a research service for those unable to visit our Family History 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 \$10 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above address.



Family History Research Room Information Sessions

For new members who would like to discover exactly what we have in the Family History Research Room - or for those members who are currently not using the holdings we have to their best advantage.

Friendly and informal information sessions with small groups of members are currently being held by Pam Lowther. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are available.

For further information or to reserve a place at the next session please contact Pam on 0402 847 175.

Members: No charge

Visitors: Gold coin donation please.

Publications for Sale

Microfiche:

Berwick Cemetery

Register & Headstones 1867 to 1999 = \$22.00

Harkaway Cemetery

Register & Headstones 1863 to 1999 = \$6.00

Pakenham Cemetery

Register & Headstones c1850 to 1999 = \$22.00

+ \$2.50 postage and packing for 1, 2 or 3 sets of fiche

Books:

Harkaway Primary School - Origins to 1975

by Jennifer Boyer = \$20 (postage included)

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the City of Casey in allowing us the use of the facilities at the Narre Warren Library.

Edwin Flack and the Berwick connection

By Jenny Boyer

Celebrating the 130th anniversary of the birth of Edwin Flack. 5th November 1873.

The bronze statue of Edwin Flack, located in Berwick, was erected to commemorate the centenary of Flack's success at the first modern Olympiad in Athens in 1896. Located in High Street, near the corner of Lyall Road, and directly opposite the Berwick Inn, it is situated on the reserve in the center of the road. Part of a project undertaken by the City of Casey's Edwin Flack Centenary Committee, the statue was unveiled on Sunday 16th June 1996 by John Landy, a former Olympian, and former world record holder for the mile.

The statue of Flack is mounted on a large block of granite upon which two plaques are attached. The first plaque, which faces the road, reads –

“EDWIN H FLACK, AUSTRALIA'S FIRST OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

Edwin Flack was the sole Australian to compete in the first Modern Olympic Games in 1896 at Athens, Greece. Flack took part in five events, 800m, 1500m, and marathon (athletics) and in the tennis (singles & doubles). Flack was successful in winning the 800m and 1500m events.

Edwin Flack was an accountant and lived in Melbourne. Berwick, however, was Flack's second home as he owned the farming property “Burnbank” located between Beaumont & Buchanan Roads. On this property with his partners Sir Sydney Sewell and later William Gamble, Flack established a most successful Friesian dairy herd from which he produced milk and cheese.

Edwin Flack was born in England in 1873, immigrated with his family to Australia in 1878, and following an eventful life died in 1935. Flack never married. Many charitable and welfare organisations, hospitals and research funds have benefited from his estate. He was buried at the Berwick Cemetery.

This statue of Edwin Flack by ‘Smiley’ Williams was erected in 1996 by the citizens of Berwick to mark the centenary of Flack's achievements in Athens.”

The sculptor himself remains elusive, due mainly to his preference for anonymity and to be known as ‘Smiley’ Williams. The work is signed “‘Smiley’ Williams” and was possibly produced at The Meridian Foundry, the leading foundry for bronze works in Victoria. The only other known work of Williams in a publicly accessible position is that of his bronze ‘Mr. Lizard and Gumnut Baby’ situated at ‘Dromkeen’ at Riddells Creek.

Edwin Harold Flack was born on 5th November 1873 in Islington East, London, England, the son of Joseph Henry Flack and Marion (nee Smith). He arrived in Melbourne with his parents in September 1874 aboard the *Durham*. Flack excelled in distance running while a pupil at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, becoming the One-Mile Champion of Australasia in 1893-94. He also competed in the 800m and the 3 mile event, placing fifth in the 3 mile. Flack left school to follow his father into a career in accounting, soon proceeding to London to further his education. While in London he decided to travel to Athens to represent Australia at the first modern Olympiad. Flack won the 800 and 1500 metres, and after his second gold medal was won with surprising ease Flack was dubbed “The Lion of Athens” and feted by royalty and ordinary Greeks alike. No Australian flag was available so the British flag was flown while Flack was presented with an olive wreath. Flack also competed in the tennis singles and doubles at the Athens Olympics but was beaten in the first rounds. Flack's diary, kept while he was in Athens, sheds light on the quiet unassuming personality behind the athlete, and is important as it gives an account of the games before the age of television and radio.

Returning to Australia after completing his education, Edwin joined his father in a partnership, Flack & Flack. He also succeeded his father to the Committee of Management of the Alfred Hospital, a position he held from 1918 until his death. In January 1917 Flack purchased the property at Berwick known as “Burnbank”, and commenced a Friesian cattle stud and piggery. He entered a partnership with Dr. Sydney (later Sir) Sewell, and later with William Gamble, producing quality cheese and other dairy products. Suffering for many years from a heart complaint, Flack died on 10th January 1935 at East Melbourne aged 61, and was cremated at Fawkner Cemetery two days later. His ashes were buried in grave number a173 in the Church of England section of the Berwick cemetery almost one month later.

His estate was valued for probate at almost 44, 000 pounds. Today the Marian & E H Flack Trust provides money for medical research, and support for families of deaf children amongst many things. Flack's statue is important at an international level, as recognition of Australia's first gold medalist and the fact that Australia is one of only three countries to have competed at every modern Olympiad. Flack's lone appearance at Athens is even more significant when his lack of training and lack of government support is considered. The recognition of Flack's significance to the Australian Olympic movement has increased since the centenary and the holding of the games at Sydney in 2000.

ERNST GOTTLLOB WANKE

by Pam Sweeting

On the 30 August 2003 we were invited to attend a reunion of the Wanke family who were celebrating 150 years of settlement in the Harkaway/Narre Warren area.

Ernst Gottlob Wanke (1821-97), of Berlin, arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg on 21 April 1849 aboard the *Dockenhuden* with his wife Anna. A former medical student, he was engaged as the ship's surgeon on the voyage to Australia. A leather pouch with his tools for dentistry was on show at the reunion. These are very primitive by today's standards, consisting of what looked like pliers with a hook at the end and knives encased as in a pocket knife with a thin blade.

His wife Anna Hahn Wanke, died on 23 May 1849, six days after giving birth to a son who also died on 30 May 1849. He remarried on 24 May 1850, to Pauline Krumbiegel. They settled at Harkaway and had a son Immanuel, born in 1856. Ernst's naturalisation application stated his occupation as a hairdresser, and his address at that time was 54 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

On 30 April 1851 Ernst purchased 30 acres at Westgarthtown for 30 pounds but sold the land on 6 October 1851 at a nice profit for 150 pounds. Later, on 25th August 1853 he completed a transaction to purchase 640 acres of Crown Land at Harkaway.

Ernst Wanke Road is named after this pioneer and members of the family are still in the area.



New Members

Welcome to the Group

- ❖ Wendy Eldridge
- ❖ Kathleen McAleer
- ❖ Patrice Maude
- ❖ Keith Towe
- ❖ Jennifer Maunder
- ❖ Nicole Nolan
- ❖ Elaine Palmer
- ❖ Elizabeth Phillips
- ❖ Jeanette Bell
- ❖ Jane Rankin
- ❖ Kelly Rodrigues
- ❖ Janet Smith
- ❖ Danielle Steckis
- ❖ Muriel Thick
- ❖ Elsie Thomason
- ❖ Tracey Turnbull
- ❖ Marianne Macumber

VALE

Our deepest sympathy is extended to June McAlpine on the loss of her husband Peter. June is a well-known long-term member and library volunteer and we hope that all members will extend their love, support and comfort to June at this sad time.

Research tips from Lorraine Taylor

Dissenters

If your ancestor was not a member of the Church of England, they were most likely a member of a religion that was considered non-conformist. Some of these were the Baptists, Jewish, Quakers & Primitive Methodists just to name a few.

Many records of these records have been filmed by the LDS & are available through the Family History Centres.

For beginners

Records of BD&M's commenced in Australian States:

- NSW 1st Mar 1856
- QLD 1st Mar 1856
- SA 1st Jul 1842
- TAS 1st Dec 1838
- VIC 1st Jul 1853
- WA 9th Sep 1841
- ACT 1st Jan 1930

Parish or Early Church records are included in the Pioneer Indexes for most Australian states.

Non Australian Parish Records

Parish records are the records kept by the Church pre civil registration. Instead of birth, death & marriage they are generally christenings, burials & marriages.

Where can you find these records?

They are available on film through the Latter-Day Saints Family History Centres. You will need to search the Family History Locality Catalogue in the country of your interest. These will give you church records, probate records, maps, history of the area. For example if interested in England it could read British Film area, Item number. Be sure to record all relevant information as your next step is to order the film at your nearest LDS Family History Centre.

English Civil Registration began in 1837 & Scottish in 1855.

Mindscape Family Tree Creator

Is anyone using this program and can help another member out? Please contact Shirley Peterson or the editor.

GRD Surname Submissions

The Genealogical Research Directory (GRD) is an excellent tool for finding others who are also researching your family names. Published annually, it is a compilation of names and subjects being researched by people in many countries with the contact details of those who submitted the names. We find each year a number of our members make contact with others researching their families through current and/or previous editions of the GRD.

Each year we subscribe to GRD as a Group, enabling us to have a copy of the book in our Research Room and giving members an opportunity to submit names for inclusion in our Group subscription. The cost to for each surname submitted by a member is \$1.00 and all queries received via the Group GRD subscription will be forwarded to the member concerned. All member's surname submissions for the Group subscription must be made in writing and signed, due to the new Victorian privacy legislation.

Alternatively you may submit your names as a private subscription, submitting as many names as you like and receiving a personal copy of the GRD book or CD.

The GRD forms must be posted by the end of November for inclusion in next year's edition. The closing date for the submission of names for the Group subscription is 25th November 2003.

Subscription forms are available in the Research Room. If you need help filling in the form or intend to submit names please let me know on (03) 9705 2656 or vdellar@bigpond.com.

Val Dellar – Research Officer



Spreading Branches – February 2004

The deadline for the February 2004 edition of Spreading Branches is 15th January 2004.

Member Profile

Name:	Elsie Thomason
Place of Birth:	Yarraville, Melbourne
Siblings:	Eleven
Education:	Williamstown Girls
Profession:	Housewife
Marital Status:	Married to Albert
Children:	Three
Time in District:	35 years in Emerald
Hobbies:	Netball, craft, seniors club, and reading
Researching:	Weavell, Bourne, Suckling, and Floyd.
Reason for starting:	Just interested
How long researching:	Off and on for a few years
Most interesting find:	Tasmanian connection dating back to 1803 on the Floyd side.



Cambridge Alumni Database 1200-1900

<http://www.cus.cam.ac.uk/~jld1/ACAD/intro.html>

Index of 19th Century Photographic portraits

<http://home.ozconnect.net/tfoen/photoindex.htm>

Index to admission books of Geelong benevolent asylum and hospital

<http://users.pipeline.com.au/flw/infirmarv/>

Western Australian Goldfields Cemeteries

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~westaust/index.html>

Australian Periodical Publications 1840-1845

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/>

Hamilton History Centre

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hamhist/>

Australian Cemeteries

http://www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/

Collins 1803 Settlement at Sorrento

<http://www.collinssettlement.org.au/>

1803 Settlement of Port Phillip (a report)

<http://www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/1803.htm>

Heritage Victoria – Historic gold mining sites

<http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/HGMS/>

Frankston Historical Society – Ballam Park Homestead

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vicfhs/ballampark.html>

History Links – Melbourne

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vicfhs/ballampark.html>

The Collins Settlement Sorrento – 1803 – By Anne Blair

On 24th April 1803 the *Calcutta* and *Ocean* left Portsmouth under the charge of Lieutenant David Collins, bound for the Port Phillip district of New South Wales. The *Calcutta* carried 308 convicts ranging in age from 9 to 57 years. The *Ocean* carried some passengers and stores for the new settlement. On board the *Calcutta* were William Mansfield, the Rev. Robert Knopwood, William Buckley, John Pascoe Fawcner, and various marines and their wives.

William Mansfield was born at North Petherton, Somerset, in 1775. He had been sentenced to life imprisonment at Somersetshire Gaol, Taunton on 1st April 1802 for highway robbery. Lucky to escape with his life, William was about to embark on a historic voyage of discovery.

On their arrival in October 1803, Collins named the settlement Sullivans Bay. The infant settlement struggled to survive, finding their greatest challenge was the lack of fresh water. Eventually Collins was forced to abandon the site in favour of Van Dieman's Land. In January 1804 the *Lady Nelson* left Sullivans Bay with most of the convicts and settlers and half of the marines and officials, followed by the *Ocean* with the remainder of the settlers in May 1804. The settlement was then established at Risdon Cove in an effort to ward off a rumoured settlement by the French at Storm Bay on the south east coast of Tasmania. However Risdon Cove was also abandoned in favour of a new site at Sullivan's Cove, Hobart Town after a few months.

The Rev. Robert Knopwood married William Mansfield and Maria Nichols on 4th December 1809 in Hobart Town. Maria was born on Norfolk Island to Elizabeth Cole and James Tucker but as was often the practice on Norfolk Island, she was never known by either surname. After her mother later married Richard Burrows in Hobart Town, Maria used Burrows as her surname. Richard Burrows was also a witness at her marriage to William Mansfield.

After his marriage William led a colourful life. In 1811 he was charged with stealing sheep from his employer Dr. Bowden and was sent to Port Jackson for trial with his co-accused John Dinham. Dinham was convicted and imprisoned at Newcastle, NSW while William was acquitted. The first known child of William and Maria was born in 1812 in Hobart and named Charles. Maria and William were to have a total of sixteen children including Thomas and Eliza who died as babies, Henry and Josiah who were twins, and Maria born in 1825 who remained unmarried. All of the other children married and produced large quantities of offspring.

In 1814 William sailed to New Zealand with the Rev. Samuel Marsden who had purchased the brig *Active* to take his missionary work to the Maoris. Marsden made a number of voyages between 1814 and 1837 taking missionaries back and forward with him, and it seems that William Mansfield returned early in 1815 as his third child was born in December of that year. William worked at whaling and later farming and in 1816 received a conditional pardon followed by an absolute pardon in 1818. By 1819 William showed signs that he was prospering. He had been granted 30 acres at Glenorchy and had taken out a grazing license at Black Snake near Glenorchy. The family lived in a double story house with several out buildings, and owned 350 sheep, horses, chickens and pigs. Neither Maria nor William were able to sign their own names, but saw that their own children gained an education. Between 1838 and 1841 William and Maria moved to Mount Pleasant, Bridgewater, about 22 kilometres from Hobart. William was by this time 66 years old and perhaps unable to continue farming.

On the 26th December 1852 William succumbed to a liver complaint and was buried at St Peter's at Granton near Bridgewater. Maria lived on until 3rd May 1858 when she died at Glenorchy from dysentery and old age and was buried at St Peter's. My husband John is descended from William and Maria through their fourth child, Mary Ann Elizabeth (1818-1848) who married William Gay in 1838 at St John's, New Town. They had four sons, the youngest being Silas Gay who was born in Tasmania in 1844 and died at Ballarat in 1898. Silas married Mary Elizabeth Ford in Majorca, Victoria in 1868 and had thirteen children all born in Ballarat. The eldest, Mary Louisa Gay was born in Ballarat in 1869, married James Richmond in 1894 and produced seven children, including Ella Richmond the youngest who married James Ivan Blair in Melbourne in 1930.

The Collins Settlement Historical Site is located off Point Nepean Road, between Blairgowrie and Sorrento. The site, open from sunrise to sunset, consists of a series of information plaques and early settlers' graves. See Marjorie Tipping's book *Convicts Unbound* for further details of the Sorrento and Risdon Cove settlements and Keith Clarke's *Convicts of Port Phillip District*.

Street Beat

By Jenny Boyer

Berwick

Buchanan Road

Named for James Buchanan who married Ann Wilson. They resided at 'Ardblair' and later 'Burr Hill'. James arrived in 1849 with his cousin Robert and later became a J.P. and M.L.C. They had two boys and two girls but only the girls survived their parents.

Harkaway

Hessel Road

Named after Jacob Hessel, teacher, postmaster, President of Berwick Mechanics Institute, Secretary and Treasurer of Harkaway Cemetery Trust, community leader and adviser. Born 1833 in Prussia, arrived Sydney circa 1853. Died Balmain Sth, New South Wales, 1904.

Beaconsfield

Whiteside Road

Named after Reverend William Sherlock Whiteside. William (1860-1916), and his wife Sarah (Sally) McCulloch, (1852-1939) Both Irish born, they travelled to California where their two children, Thomas Clair and Mary Ione were born. They are both buried at Berwick.

Narre Warren

Woodley Street

After Thomas Lane Wood Woodley, a Bedfordshire lad and a baker who arrived on the *Chatsworth* in 1864. He married Hannah Buckley in 1879 and the family went to Camperdown before arriving in the Narre Warren area around 1885.

Narre Warren North

Troup's Creek

After John Troup (1826-1899), a Scot who married Elizabeth Fox in 1858 at 'Wetwellsbrook', Berwick. John and Elizabeth had orchards on Troup's Flat, north of Robinson Road, on the east side of the Narre Warren North township.

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Spreading Branches is now published using Microsoft Word. Be the first to get the news by emailing the editor, Jenny Boyer, jennyb145@hotmail.com to be put on our mailing list. Please note that this facility is only available for financial members and exchange societies.

Quotable Quotes

I think we never become really and genuinely our entire and honest selves until we are dead -- and not then until we have been dead years and years. People ought to start dead, and they would be honest so much earlier.

- Mark Twain in *Eruption*

~ NEW IN THE RESEARCH ROOM ~

BOOKS

Convict records in Australia

Ancestral Trails

Index to Marine Certificates of Competency 1880-1923

Roy Everard Ross-Engineer, Investor, Quarryman and Philanthropist

The Genealogy handbook

Letters of Charles Joseph La Trobe - donated by Pam Sweeting

Transcribing Tasmanian Convict Records - donated by Wendy Goodwin

"Go for Gold" A Brief History of the City of Ballarat together with The Story of Rotary in Australia

MICROFICHE

Queenborough Cemetery Index, Hobart, Tasmania

CD ROM & AUDIO

Index to Victorian Goldfields Hospitals' Admissions

Melbourne General Cemetery Index

CLIP-Crew Lists & Agreements 1863-1913

Harkaway cemetery, Index and a Brief History

Ada Ackerly: View From the Water-Police Window at Williamstown (audio).

News and Events

2004, 27 to 29th February

Cornish Festival - Bendigo.

See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>

Or Alison Chapman (03) 9555 3645

2004, 16th to 18th April

Mildura & District Genealogical Society and VAFHO present the 5th Family History State Conference

"Settlers in the Sun". For further details contact:

roz@voullaire.com.au or watmuff@ncable.com.au

The South Bourke and Mornington Journal:

May 25, 1898

Messrs. P. Hill, C. R. Mair, and R.O. Timms have been re-elected directors of the Poowong Butter Factory for the current year. The retiring auditor, Mr. C. Burchett, is also re-elected at a salary of £6. The factory will be closed from this out (sic) until the Spring, and it has been decided to retain the services of the manager at half the usual salary. The directors have granted a bonus of £5 to the secretary (Mr. E. Dixon) and manager (Mr. W. Irwin).

An agreement has been in existence for some time between the Dandenong and adjoining shires prohibiting the introduction of nightsoil for use by market gardeners. It is significant to observe that at the next meeting of the Moorabbin Council a motion will be tabled that permits be granted for the use of nightsoil.

Research Room Roster

	<u>December</u>	
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
2 nd Anne Blair Faye McCoubrie	4 th Donald Connop Lyn Murray	6 th Betty Jones Jeanette Angee
9 th Lorraine Taylor Helen Hayes	11 th Gail Quinn Nowella Ahlgren	13 th Pam Lowther Lynne Bradley
16 th Judie Kohn Jenny Patterson	<u>18th Closed for Christmas</u>	<u>20th Closed for Christmas</u>
	<u>January</u>	
<u>Reopen 20th</u> Mary McGrath Diana Wheeler	22 nd Beverley Smith Leanne Cairnduff	24 th Lorraine Taylor Val Holland
27 th Fay McCoubrie Helen Hayes	29 th Jane Poulton Eileen Durdin	31 st Shirley Peterson Beverley Smith
	<u>February</u>	
3 rd Lorraine Taylor Ann Blair	5 th Win Preston Valma Newson	7 th Jeanette Angee Lynne Bradley
10 th Jenny Patterson Mary McGrath	12 th Donald Connop Nowella Ahlgren	14 th Betty Jones Pam Lowther
17 th Diana Wheeler Judie Kohn	19 th Beverley Smith Gail Quinn	21 st Lorraine Taylor Shirley Peterson
24 th Fay McCoubrie Helen Hayes	26 th Leanne Cairnduff Jane Poulton	28 th Val Holland Beverley Smith

A good-looking young man – (or Diana's adventures at Kew)

By Diana Wheeler

It is now over 86 years since the death of James Tilbury who died as a young soldier in the First World War at the age of 28. James was born James William Percy on the 2nd October 1889 at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, England to William and Mary Tilbury. James was their 10th child and the second last son. William and Mary must have had a difficult life as 8 out of their 13 children pre-deceased them. My mother's mother Rose was only 36 years of age when she died on the operating table at the cottage hospital for appendicitis, leaving my mother as a 9-year-old child motherless. Mum had always talked about her uncle James who she said died in the war – a good-looking young man.

Now after all these years I wanted to know about this good-looking young man and took the opportunity while in England this year to do just that. A month before I left I received a letter from a descendent of one of the children of William and Mary and was delighted to be asked to visit her in High Wycombe where she lived and to discuss family history. When I met Lucy she said that she had found the daughter of the last Tilbury son Sidney and that this lady would like to meet us. With great excitement we met Peggy, we then had three generations of the Tilbury family in the one room, daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter. Peggy was helpful but as her father was the youngest son he did not know much about the history of the family but Peggy asked if we would like a photo of her father and one of uncle Jim. "Uncle Jim!" Well this must be the good-looking young man James that my mum had talked about. Peggy showed us a photo of James in his uniform of the Household Battalion taken Wellington Barracks year unknown. Both Lucy and I said we would love a copy but Lucy went one step further and said while I talked to Peggy she would go and get copies for us right away. Poor Peggy the look on her face I shall never forget, I think she thought she would never see the photo again, but I reassured her that Lucy had to come back for me, or she was stuck with me until the end of my holidays. While Lucy was away I gave her a photo of my grandmother Rose whom she remembered her father calling "our Rosie".

After I left High Wycombe I went to the National Archives near Kew Gardens in Surrey and spent the day researching the World War One service records of James. The Public Record Office (now the National Archives) have been microfilming the records and after spending a while learning how to find the records all 96 miles of shelving now thankfully on computer the job was made much easier. When you enter the Archives you are issued with a plastic card with a barcode and you use this to enter what you require on the computer.

A good-looking young man (continued)

I entered in the WWI archives, which are in WO400/49 being the records for the Household Battalion. The computer tells you how long the wait is likely to be and where to go to retrieve them. If you swipe the card every ten minutes you can see what progress the records have made. It only took about 30 minutes from ordering the files to when they were retrieved so you can plan your next activity even if it is getting that cup of coffee or visiting the toilets. When the files have arrived at their destinations you go to the counter and ask for them. I was told these were 'closed' documents and that I would have to go into a secure room to see them. I was taken into this room large enough for a table and chairs with windows all around and locked in. "Ring the bell when you have finished and we will let you out" – I was told. Reminded me of being in a lift with the doors closed! Only here I had closed circuit T.V. monitoring my every act. After about 10 minutes I found the relevant file for James William Percy TILBURY who died on the 12 October 1917. Here I was holding the old papers relating to my great uncle in beautiful copperplate handwriting written with a fountain pen and ink.

Among the documents in the file I learnt that James had joined the 1st Life Guards who were stationed at the Hyde Park Barracks in London, in June 1915 with his medical remarks as "fit". James was transferred to the Household Battalion in November of the same year. He was 25 years of age, his height was just over 74 inches (6'3") or 188cm and he had 6/6 vision. I also learnt that James had been a shop assistant before joining up and even have a memorandum from A. Howard, Grocer and Provision Merchant of 8 Church Street, High Wycombe giving a good account of James.

James embarked at Southampton on the 8th November 1916 disembarking at Harve the following day. In December of the same year James was appointed Lance Corporal. The next year he was shot in the thigh and was transferred back to England in December and was treated at the Southwark Military Hospital in London. After convalescing James again embarked at Southampton on the 29th July 1917 where he rejoined the household battalion. On the 7th September 1917 James was appointed Acting Corporal the position he held at the time of his death. James was listed as missing presumed dead on the 12th October 1917 and the family was informed that he had been killed several months later. His mother was to be paid the 7 shillings due to him and his father received his British War and Victory Medals granted to James on the 25th April 1919. I asked if I could photocopy this file which was done for me and available in only one hour for a very moderate fee. James has no grave but is remembered with honour at the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium along with 11,952 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in the cemetery. I have come to know James with love and affection and in some way I hope I have remembered a good-looking young man who died in the service of his country.

(Editor's note: due to technical difficulties we can't publish the photo of this handsome young man – Diana did not exaggerate!)

References: Commonwealth War Graves Commission www.cwgc.org

National Archives, Kew England WO400/49 series, Photo of James Tilbury from Peggy Taylor of High Wycombe, England and personal research by Diana Wheeler.

Members Resource Database

Leanne Cairnduff is compiling a database of resources held by members who would be willing to share these items. We are not suggesting that members loan out their resources, but just share them. Perhaps it would be more convenient for you to have an email address to which members could send their specific look-up requests?

Submission forms are in the research room or you can email the editor, Jenny Boyer, jennyb145@hotmail.com for a copy of the form. Please think about adding your own resources to the list. Not only are you helping other members, it's a great way to "meet" other like minded genes.

DISCLAIMER:

Contributions 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

In Magic Catalogue

Be prepared for your next trip to the library. Members can now purchase a copy of our Research Room catalogue on CD Rom to use at home for \$5.00
*Special price for Research Room
Volunteers: \$1

Did you know? - 1826

That in 1826 the ships *Dragon* and *Fly* left Sydney for Western Port with the explorer Hovell aboard? They established a settlement at Corinella on the eastern side of the Bay and found men living on Phillip Island who reported that they had been there for two years. Hovell used Corinella as his base and pushing through to Cape Patterson, discovered coal on the way.
<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~surreal/AVG/Resources/timeline.htm>

Christmas Raffle 2003

Our annual Christmas Raffle collection was very successful, but would not have been at all possible without my helpers. Val Holland, Pam Lowther, Shirley Peterson, Sandra Phelan, Beverley Smith and myself sought donations from just over 350 retail outlets in the Narre Warren /Fountain Gate area. Lynne Bradley sent so many faxes to head offices, and members also donated goods. Thank you to all. This year there are 17 hampers, all of which contain goods and vouchers. This fundraiser is our major fundraising venture for the year, so please try to sell your book of 20 raffle tickets which are included with this newsletter. If you are unable to buy or sell your tickets maybe you may wish to make a donation to the group instead. More tickets are available if required. And indeed, if non-members require tickets for these great hampers, please don't hesitate

to contact us. For your tickets to be included in the draw please return all ticket butts and money by 8p.m. Wednesday, December 10, 2003, where the lucky numbers will be drawn at our Christmas break-up meeting. Do come along to this fun night, where partners are most welcome, as a good time will be had by all. You may even win one of the many door prizes. If possible, could you please bring a small plate with something on it for supper. Our February newsletter will list all hamper winners and retail outlets which sponsored our group.

We also have available at meetings Christmas wrapping paper and stickers at competitive pricing.

Jenny Hayes

- Christmas Raffle Co-Ordinator

1st Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$700 Dinner Set Xmas Paper/Cards Kids Party Goods Toy Radio DIY Bead Set Oven Mitt Decorative Kitchen Item	Table Cloth Harmonica Bowl Toiletries Scratchies Video Placemats/Coasters/Tray Hardware Voucher Hair voucher Calender	Food Vouchers Ten Pin Bowling Voucher Nail Care Voucher Kids Play Voucher Video Hire Voucher Lighting Voucher Photography Portrait Voucher Tyre Care Voucher
2nd Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$500 Necklace/Earrings Toys Cook Book Mat	Xmas paper Toiletries Candles Make Up Kitchen Tidy Scratchies Hair Voucher	Photography Portrait Voucher Food Vouchers Car Care Voucher Clothes Voucher Jewellery Voucher Brake Pad Voucher
3rd Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$400 Alcohol Candles Puzzle Calender Glasses Hair Tongs	Make Up Jewellery Box Vase Hair Clippers Plate Mug Coffee Maker Pencil Pouch Placemats/Coasters	Facial Voucher Video Hire Voucher Hair Voucher Car Care Voucher Kids Play Voucher Clothes Voucher Photography Portrait Voucher Food Vouchers

4th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$200	Plant Pots Candle Pen/Pencil	Glasses Gift Box
5th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Bird Cage Hair Voucher Manicure Voucher	
6th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Teddy Candle Coffee Vouchers	Moisture Cream Platter
7th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Moisture Cream Art Set Hair Voucher Scratchies	Pen/Pencil Frame Candles
8th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Candles Pen/Pencil	Hair Voucher Kids Play Voucher
9th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Table Cloth Hair Voucher	Video Hire Voucher Candle
10th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Cinema Pass Candle Video Hire Voucher	
11th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Alcohol Hair Vouchers	Glasses
12th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$100	Candle Swim Voucher	Hair Voucher
13th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$50	Toiletries Hair Voucher	
14th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$50	Teddy Candle Kids Play Voucher	
15th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$50	CD Player Food Vouchers	
16th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$45	Wine Candle	
17th Prize – Contents Retail Value of \$30	Teddy Food Vouchers	

My Connected Community

Become a member of our on-line My Connected Community at <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/index.html> and be the first to hear about the next great trip, have a chat with other members, register your interests, ask a question or let us know about your latest find or brick wall.

It's your community so make it work for you!

Wanted!

A volunteer with the patience of a saint, the eyes of an eagle, the hand of an artist, the heart of a lion Have I gone too far? The editor is looking for a kind soul who would look through the South Bourke & Mornington Journal microfiche that is housed at the Fountain Gate library, and transcribe interesting pieces onto Microsoft Word. These pieces may be obituaries, auctions, meetings, court reports; in fact anything that the volunteer/s deems of interest to family historians. It may be possible to print out the pieces so they can be transcribed directly onto computer at home. Please contact me on 9707 1914 or jennyb145@hotmail.com.

Central England Family Researcher

**Warwickshire – Leicestershire – Oxfordshire
Staffordshire – Worcestershire**

Photocopies of all Baptisms, Marriages and Death entries.

Census copies from 1841 to 1901.

Photographs of the Family Church and the Gravestones.

Maps – Postcards – Booklets.

Nothing is missed to make your family history complete.

Email – JWLDAWSON@AOL.COM

If undeliverable please

Return to:

P.O. Box 149

Narre Warren Vic 3805

Speakers Corner

AUGUST- Lesle Berry spoke to us about Privacy laws and Copyright rules. Her talk was very informative, telling us of the rules that genealogists must adhere to. She told us that permission must be obtained from our informants before we publish - either in writing or on the World Wide Web, and information that has been passed on to us.

SEPTEMBER- Ada Ackerley, an historian from Williamstown told us of 'The View From the Water Police Window'. This was most informative and entertaining. Several weeks later a group met Ada in Williamstown. She led us on a walk around the streets of Williamstown, and along the foreshore, pointing out the notable buildings before we visited Point Gellibrand and the Williamstown Cemetery. It was a fascinating day.

OCTOBER - Di Christensen spoke of her childhood in Ballarat and gave us lots of hints on researching in Ballarat. If you missed the meeting you missed all the great hand-outs that Di organised to make sure we knew everything about where and how to research in Ballarat.