

~Furphy Murrurs~



Newsletter No 30

May 2005

SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc.

SFHG Presidents Report:

This report is a reminder that the A.G.M is only a little over two months away, at which all committee positions will become vacant. All members have a right to consider themselves available for election to the committee, and new "blood" is deemed an asset in all committees.

We are all volunteers, and, play an important roll in the success of the family History Group and I take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their continuing effort in running the F.H.G in such a successful manner. I do not forget all the other members who continue to help in many ways at all times.

Speakers invited to talk on the many subjects associated with Family History have been very informative and entertaining and I am sure increased our knowledge to be passed on to the public who come for help.

Support from all our volunteers will always be appreciated by all members of the committee.
President Bruce Manson.

Coming Events

- **SFHG Annual General Meeting**
July 20th 8.00 pm at the Heritage Centre Welsford st. Members and Guests Welcome.
- **GMAGS "STATE ARCHIVES ON THE BORDER" Seminar** Saturday 23rd July 2005
The PROV(Public Records Office Victoria) and SRNSW(State Records New South Wales), will be in attendance: Topics include *Websites and What You Can Do From a Distance* and *Useful and Little Known Sources for Family and Local History at the PROV and SRNSW*
Mulwala and District Services Club COST: \$ 30 (Including Lunch, Morning Tea & Afternoon Tea)
Tickets available from SFHG. Bookings are essential
- **Library Display** Theme "Immigration" (June 2005)
- **Maryborough FHG "Discovery Day"** 18th Sep 2005
- **GMAGS Expo** (Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups)
19th November 2005 at Mulwala Service Club NSW
- **Central Highlands Historical Association Expo 2005** 1st & 2nd October 2005. Ballarat
- **Echuca-Moama 25th Anniversary** June 18th & 19th 2005. Seminar and Dinner.

Recent Additions to SFHG library:-

Hatches, Matches, Dispatches, Ballarat Area, (CD Rom)
The Education Department Record of War Service 1914-1919, Victoria (CD Rom)
Births Deaths and Marriages 1870-1913 Northern Territory of Australia (CD Rom)
Queenslanders Who Fought in the Great War (CD Rom)
Victoria Police Gazette 1855 (CD Rom)
Bound for South Australia – births and deaths on government assisted immigrant ships 1848-1884, by Robin Haines, Judith Jeffrey and Greg Slattery (CD Rom)
The Parramatta Cemeteries – St Johns, by Judith Dunn Ref 180.2150 PAR
Sydney Burial Ground 1819 –1901, Keith A Johnson and Malcolm R Sainty 180.2 SYD
Burials with Irish locations in Ballarat Old and New Cemeteries Ref 180.3350 BUR
Assorted certificates of burial etc, donated by Leo Wigney Ref 180.3616 TAT
Newspaper cuttings from the Euroa Gazette 1927 – 1903, compiled by Marg Eddy, indexed by Joan Esam Ref 480.3666 NEW
No Locked Doors: Jewish Life in Shepparton, Shirley Randles 100.3630 RAN
The Ferry, the Branch, the Creek, Aspects of Hawkesbury History, Durag & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society 1987 320.2 FER
The Achievement of Visions. Devenish East State School No. 2124 1879-1931, Devenish (West) State School No. 1512 1875-1943 Ref 600.3726 ARC
Pioneers of the Echuca and Moama District, pre 1900, pre 1925, pre 1940, compiled by the Echuca Genealogical Society Inc 100.3564 PIO
Storey without Ending: the Life and Times of Frederick and Catherine Storey and their Descendants, Judith Anne Ormond 100 STO
Lewis Martin and family (Martin's Saddlery), donated by R.J.Martin 100.3630 MAR
Martin Bros of Shepparton Family History, compiled by R.J.Martin 100.3630 MAR

The Internet

Web Pages of Interest

- Cyndis List: <http://www.CyndisList.com/> over 240 000 history links or Australian and New Zealand Links only <http://www.CyndisList.com/austnz.htm>
 - Rootsweb Africa,Australia, Asia, New Zealand, Pacific Links
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~websites/international/allothers.html>
 - Goulburn and Murray Local and Family History Groups (GMAGS)
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gmags/>
 - Cobram History Group Links http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cobgenie/links_to_other_sites.htm
 - "The Scotsman" Newspaper 1817 thru 1900 online. <http://www.archive.scotsman.com>
-

Research Requests

Recent research requests to the SFHG have included the following surnames or items:
 Ludemans Hotel (Epping), Service Stations in Shepparton, Harris (George Albert and Francis Caroline), Ballinger and Brown, Green (Edward and George), Foley (John and Katherine) Numurkah, Pincott (Thomas and Elizabeth), Brereton (Mary) and Hughes (Samuel), Malone and Blade (Shepparton), Kemp (Eric Charles), "The Way We Were-Early Days Deakin Shire" book, The First Hospital in Shepparton, Norman Colliver and the Toska Art Studio, Grahame (Dugal Archibald), Rilen (Margaret), Lacey (George), Mundy (Henry), "Tudgey Pages" Book, Sinclair (Audrey, John and Nellie), Tranter (Francis), Glasson, McIntyre (James from Cashel), Prosser (Arthur), Ah Wong (Goulburn Valley), Thorne (Goulburn Valley), Harris (Dunbulbalane/Katandra), Irwin,

Member Profile (Eileen Torney)



I have been a member of the Shepparton Family History Group, with occasional gaps, since its inception. In the early days there was not much information available, but research is much easier now. I have learned a lot about the different branches of my family, and looked at the contemporary historical and social events to try to give myself a real picture of their life and times. I have gone back to the mid 1700's, or early 1800's on each of my families. Of recent years, I have made contact with many distant relatives, through internet entries, especially the now discontinued First Families 2001, the Genealogical Research Directory, and Members' Interest Directories put out by special interest groups, such as the Cornish Association of Victoria, and, of course, our own S.F.H.G. I have shared my own knowledge with others, and have received information from them in return. I am putting together a family history book for my children for Christmas. Most of them are at this stage, only vaguely interested, and would probably throw out my treasured photos and records, if I failed to provide them with an account which makes sense of my findings, and places the old photos in context.

My families on my father's side are McManus and Durr, on my mother's side I have Rankin, Dunn, McCrea and Lawn, Coombe, Webster and Whitburn, through her mother. On my ex husband's family, the ancestors of my children, there are Torney, Storer, Langridge, Burrows and Farrell.

The Lawn family were miners, and even to the present generation have distinguished themselves in similar areas, and in community life. They also, in the Cornish tradition were bandsmen, and retain a love of music. The Irish McManus family were farmers, and in getting away from the tenancy system to which Catholics were subjected in Ireland since the Elizabethan Plantation, were determined to expand their land holdings and farming pursuits in Australia. The Rankin family carried on a tailoring business for three generations, and in the generation before that, Thomas Rankin had three umbrella manufacturing businesses in Dublin.

I have been fortunate enough to visit the birthplace of each of my ancestors, with the exception of Mantua, in Co. Roscommon, Ireland, the home of my Durr grandmother, and Renfrew, in Scotland, which I think, but have no absolute proof, was the home of the Rankin/McCrea families. Each was a moving experience for me, but I have very special memories of my two visits to Lanner in Cornwall, where in 1990 and again in 1993 Rhona Blatchford organised a Lawn family gathering at her home.

I have visited the places where my family worked, from the stark mining areas of Burra and Moonta in South Australia, to the farm at Te Pahu west of Hamilton in the North Island of New Zealand, which my Rankin Grandparents owned before coming to Kyvalley, and I understood my mother's homesickness for that fertile valley. In the South Island, the areas of Reefton and Blacks Point, and the West Coast areas of Greymouth, Hokitika and Westport are of significance, and I am greatly indebted to Bob Lawn, his wife Betty of Buller Road, Reefton, and son Peter for their hospitality, introductions and information on both the Lawn and Coombe families.

My starting point was the family tree compiled by Helen Lawn of Christchurch, and the reunion on the week end of 25th March 1989, at Wellington, which I attended with my aunt, Flo Clarke, and met so many of the different branches of the family. It was through Helen that I made contact with others, and was later able to point other enquirers in the right direction. Contact had been remarkably well maintained during the period from the 1850's when they left Cornwall, and reinforced when the members of the next generation returned to England as soldiers in the First World War, and letters continued to be exchanged afterwards. Helen started her research at a time when there were still personal contacts available

On the McManus side, my father talked so much about his brothers and sisters, but I seldom met them or their children, or even my half sister and her children. As he was elderly when I was born, and died when I was fourteen years of age, I missed those early contacts with cousins and relatives. On the other hand, my father's accounts of his early life took me a lot further back in time than most children experience, but we all wish we had listened more at the time.

Having said that, I have found that it is only through examining the records, and then fitting the oral history in to the picture, that we can get the full story, and even then, we can each see things differently. The oral history has contained errors in the details, but they usually contained a clue, which pointed me in the right direction, and over time, the pieces of the puzzle fall into place.

Eileen Torney

Shepparton History Book Indexed

An extensive index has been compiled for the W S James book "History of Shepparton 1838-1938". The book and the index are available at the SFHG.

The following is an extract from the book "History of Shepparton 1838-1938" by Cr W.S. James)

Men of History from Shepparton

Harrington, the poet, whose many works are famed for the Australian sentiment, chief which volume was "Boundary Bend." He was born in Shepparton and served in the Great War.

Bernard Heinze, the world-famous pianist, son of an old pioneer, a Shepparton watchmaker.

John Furphy, the inventor and manufacturer of the world-famous water carts which played an important part in the war. It was through this that the word "Furphy" has got into the latest dictionary. Mr Furphy manufactured trucks for the Victorian Railways and was the inventor and manufacturer of agricultural machinery used throughout the state.

George Graham, the pioneer member of Municipal Government and Minister of the Crown, whose work in regard to agricultural development and irrigation will ever be remembered in Australia.

Sir John Longstaff, the world-renowned artist, a portrait painter, who was born in Clunes. His parents brought him here in 1873. His father was one of the pioneer businessmen of Shepparton.

J T Adams, who was the pioneer of the apiary industry in the colonies, who imported bees from Italy, and whose research work did much to propagate the best stock in bee farming and also developed the best methods of the apiary industry. He lived on the Mooroopna side of the river, and his apiaries were the showplaces and mecca for those interested, who came from all Colonies and New Zealand.

Joseph Furphy, best known as Tom Collins, the writer of prose and verse, whose works rank among the nation's literature. He was not a native of Shepparton but lived here for 25 years. His chief work was "Such Is Life."

Edward Khull, the first squatter to come to Shepparton, who though unsuccessful as a squatter, rose in the Public Services to be Government Printer. The Khull Ranges near Shepparton are named after him.

Patrick Hassett, the man who conducted a college in Shepparton, and whose ability and organising genius established Hassett's College in Melbourne.

Frank McNamara, V.C., a student of the Shepparton High School, who served with honor and distinction as an airman in the Great War. His Victoria Cross was awarded for a gallant feat in Mesopotamia, when seeing his companion's aeroplane wrecked, flew down in the face of the enemy and rescued his comrade. Frank McNamara's father was Crown Lands Officer in Shepparton in the nineties, residing here with his family.

William Orr, M.L.C., a great philanthropist and politician, descendant of pioneers, who has been interested in large businesses and other institutions throughout different States of the Commonwealth, and has done much for irrigation and pastoral development.

J W Sutheland ("Calrossie"), the present champion gunshot of the Commonwealth, if not the world, son of a pioneer of Shepparton district and brother of one of the Shire Councillors, Mr J A Sutherland.

Councillor A W Fairley, J.P., son of a pioneer businessman of Shepparton, three times Mayor, who became chairman of Shepparton Preserving Company, the largest Cannery in the British Empire. He also was appointed by the State Government to the position of Commissioner of the State Electricity Commission.

Shepparton Cemetery Trust

Albert Kellock, secretary of the Shepparton Cemetery Trust, recently spoke to the SFHG on the subject of running and maintaining a regional cemetery. The problems associated with lost or incorrect burial records, family disputes regarding burial of a family member, vandalism and weed control were some of the items covered by Albert as our guest speaker. The cemetery is self funding and volunteer work is necessary to enable the grounds to be maintained at a reasonable standard. The SFHG may be able to assist with filling in some gaps in recorded information about early burials when the "Victorian Index of Burials" becomes available.

The following newspaper article relates to the burial of Mr W Fraser, the owner of the "Tallygaroopna Homestead". The property had its own private cemetery in which Mrs Fraser was buried.

Death of Mr W Fraser

The death of Mr W Fraser which took place at his residence at half past two on Sunday morning robbed Shepparton of one of its first residents and Victoria of one of its oldest colonists. Mr Fraser was born in the parish of Dores, Inverness in 1821. The father was a sheep farmer and the son whilst acquiring his scholastic knowledge in the town of Inverness, picked up knowledge of a sort, which proved yet more valuable on the farm itself. The immediate result of his skill in the management of sheep was that, at the age of 20 Mr Fraser secured an engagement as overseer, to a wealthy man who was taking up a large tract of land in Tasmania. He remained in Tasmania only Two years, and crossing over to Victoria settled near Cavendish on the Wannon River in the Western District. In 1843 Victoria had a population of only 24,000 and the Western District was a very sparsely tract of country, linked to civilisation by the then prosperous seaport town of Portland. Mr Fraser seldom, if ever, touched on any of the hardships he may have faced or any adventures through which he may have passed. As a consequence, we can say little of his life prior to the purchase of the Tallygaroopna Homestead in 1862, save that he prospered, and that when he came to the district he was the father of five sons and five daughters. At that time Shepparton was not, the township consisted of the Emu Hotel, of which Mr Hill was the licensee, of a police camp, and of one private house, occupied by Mrs Wilson. The place was known as McGuire's Punt and the country was, and long remained, an open tract. There was no public and little social life, five troopers and the cadet in charge of them busy battling with cattle stealers from beyond the Murray, whilst Mr Fraser devoted himself sedulously to his own affairs. His sheep ran over country from the Broken River to pretty near Wunghnu. The advent of the selectors revolutionised the district, which had been almost ignored, save for a brief period, during which it was traversed by men hurrying from one gold rush to



another. As population increased, Mr Fraser whilst not absolutely shunning public life, evinced no great desire for such honors as the electors can confer. He was chairman of the first school board, when the board legislated for schools right away to the Murray, and on one occasion he contested a seat in the Shire Council. Little remains to be said, save that Mr Fraser seemed to succeed in all the financial matters he touched.. In addition to his Tallygaroopna property he owned a station in Queensland which was managed by his son, William who died at Aramac some years ago. Rumour credits him with successful speculations in Broken Hill and Mount Morgan shares. His death, which resulted from fatty degeneration of the heart, was unexpected only in the sense that to very near the last he was active and keenly interested in business. He attended Messrs McNamara and Co's cattle sale a week or two ago and was a large purchaser, and he also attended a sale at Wyuna last week, and in the opinion of some of his friends exerted himself unduly. But he had not been himself since the seizure some months ago, and Dr Florence, who was his medical adviser, knew that death from heart disease could not be long averted. Although Mr Fraser was a familiar figure in Shepparton, the fact that he took little or no part in public affairs prevented his being well known by the majority of new comers. And as he shrank from display of any kind and was adverse to convivial gatherings of the ordinary sort, his genuine merit was hardly appreciated save by his immediate friends.

In many respects he was a typical Scotchman, proud of the land of his birth, delighted to meet one who could speak Gaelic, and a staunch upholder of the Caledonian Society. His strict integrity was appreciated by all who had business dealings with him, but his liberality was hardly suspected, for he took as much trouble to conceal his gifts as others took to parade theirs. In several instances he backed men whom he thought capable and deserving, but with whom the world had gone badly. Once or twice his generosity was abused, in other instances it was more than justified. He was a consistent supporter of the Presbyterian Church, but his contributions were not confined to the one sect. His business and his charity were things apart; in the former he expected a pound's worth for his pound, and saw that he got it, but on the other hand he never used the subscription list as a cheap and showy form of advertisement. It was the desire of deceased that his remains should be interred with his late wife's on his property. The relatives made every effort to carry out his wish, but in vain, for since the interment of Mrs Fraser, such stringent regulations have been made re private burial, that to secure the necessary permission was impossible. Consequently the body will be buried in the Shepparton cemetery, the funeral procession leaving the Tallygaroopna Homestead at three this afternoon. Mr Fraser, who was the largest freeholder in the Shepparton district, leaves some thousands of acres of land in addition to personal property representing a considerable amount.

Funeral Notice- We are requested to call special attention to the fact that it has been found necessary to modify the arrangements first made for the interment of Mr W Fraser's remains. Owing to the stringent provisions of the health act 1890, the Central Board cannot sanction private burial, and as a consequence Mr Fraser's remains will be laid in the Shepparton cemetery. The funeral procession leaves the Tallygaroopna Homestead at three this afternoon.

Book Launch

No Locked Doors Jewish Life in Shepparton. By Shirley Randles (nee Hayat)

A book documenting the way of life for Jewish families in the Shepparton district from before World War Two, to the 1950's had a very successful launch on Sunday the 15th June at the Shepparton Library. The afternoon was jointly hosted by the *Shepparton Family History Group* and the *Friends of the Library*. The book is available from the Shepparton Library and Collins Booksellers.

GMAGS CORRYONG TRIP

The Upper Murray (Corryong) Historical Society treated GMAGS group members to a very enjoyable weekend on the 14th -15th May. Saturday evening was taken up with a tour of the historic homestead "Karinya". This magnificent building is being fondly restored by the Ross family and was admired by all present. A very large multi purpose shed on the property was destroyed by a storm last year and a timber cow shed is still to be restored to some of its former glory. One out building now used as a storage shed has a pressed metal ceiling and the generator house is still in good condition



We were able to view an historic video of the rail locomotives on the Cudgewa Line then a wonderful meal was provided by members of the UMHS at the homestead following which several members spoke about their family histories in the area.

The next morning we viewed a trestle railway bridge just off the main road west of Corryong, one of the few reminders of a railway that was once a key to the transport of materials into the Snowy Mountain Scheme

A visit to the grave of Jack Riley "The Man From Snowy River" followed on Sunday then a tour of the Museum and a short GMAGS meeting rounded up a very enjoyable weekend.



Genealogy Society of Victoria (GSV) have moved:

How do I get there?

The GSV is now located in the De Bono Centre at 257 Collins Street. An arcade of shops bisects the building from Collins Street to Flinders Lane so you can also enter the building from 250 Flinders Lane. Note that the Flinders Lane entrance has a different number. The GSV is located on Level B1 and the building entry level is designated Lower Ground Floor although it is the street level at both entrances. It is important to note that there is only one set of lifts that will take you to level B1. Entering from Collins Street, the lift lobby is to your left, just past a glazed display wall. Entering from Flinders Lane, people will need to walk through the arcade past various shops and the post office to come to the front lift lobby. The lifts sited near the Flinders Lane doors cannot be used to gain access to level B. Take the lift to B1. The GSV occupies all of this level. Entry to the bookshop and the library is to your left along a corridor past the locker room, kitchen and toilets.

Sunday access is via the Flinders Lane entrance where there is a door release system operated from our reception desk similar to the current method at Queen Street. GSV members will need to show their cards at the camera to gain entry to the building. Telephone 03 96624455.

Genealogical Research Directory

Shepparton Family History Members please note that a GRD Surname Entry Form is attached to this newsletter. The GRD has world wide coverage and is an ideal publication to use if you are seeking information from overseas. Please return the completed form if you require the surnames you are researching to be included in the next GRD.

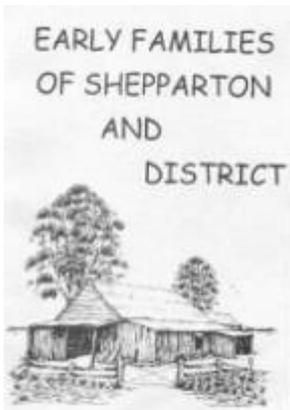
Local History Group Requests Information

The Katandra and District History Group are seeking information on, or from, families involved with two settlement schemes in their area. The KDHG are compiling a book on the Soldiers settlement from 1919 and the Closer settlement from 1926 to 1928. Information requested may be photographs, documents or even former residents memories of the area during this time.

If you able to help with information please contact:

Margaret Mason 03 58283271 or Garry Wallden 03 58283236.

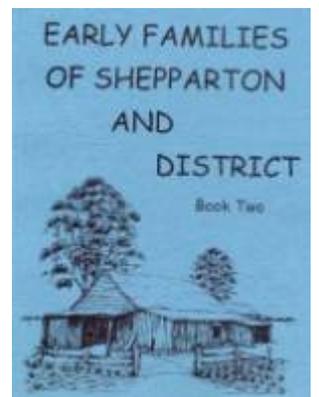
Books for Sale



Book 1 "Early Families of Shepparton and District" is available to purchase from the SFHG .There are 135 family stories from early days in the Goulburn Valley.
Price: \$25.00

Book 2 compiled by the SFHG contains 70 stories, over 50 photographs and also articles of historical value relating to the beginning of the irrigation scheme in the Shepparton area in the early 20th century. It is a valuable historical reference and social history of life in the Shepparton area prior to the 1930's .The index contains some 700 entries. Price: \$20.00

P & P is \$7.50 for up to 3 books



Meeting and Research Times

Shepparton Family History Group inc

Address: 154 Welsford St .Shepparton (Cnr Welsford and High St)

Post: P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton. Vic .3632

Internet: www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh email: shepfhg@fastmail.fm

Meeting Times: 8.00pm Third Wednesday of each month at the SFHG Club Rooms

Research Times: Every Wednesday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

Even Dated Sundays 1.00 to 4.00 pm.

Odd Dated Fridays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Fees remain the same: \$5.00 joining fee (once only), plus \$25 per annum single or \$45 double.