

# *~ Furphy Murmurs ~*



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*Newsletter No 33      May 2006*

## **SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc. (pages 1 - 6)**

### **SFHG President's Report:**

Another end of the financial year has passed and the Shepparton Family History Group continues to prosper. There has been a steady flow of people through the rooms and requests for information on families who once lived in the area.

Members appreciated the support that was received for the visit from PROV. The talk given by Shauna Hicks on the facilities which are available at the Public Record Office was very informative and enjoyed by all who attended the lecture.

More interesting and informative events are to be held before the end of the year and include the visit by Lady Teviot on the 17th October and the GMAGS Expo on 18th November at Mulwala.

Bruce Manson (President).

### **Office Bearers 2006-07**

Bruce Manson (President)  
Eileen Torney (Secretary)  
Bob Galt (Treasurer)

Garry Wallden (vice President)  
Kerry Betts (assistant Secretary)  
Betty Foster & Fay Botheras (Research Officers)  
Eileen Torney (Librarian)

### **Coming Events**

#### **Lady Teviot Evening Tue 17th October 2006**

Well known British genealogy speaker Lady Teviot will be speaking and answering questions on the British General Records Office (G.R.O formerly St Catherine's Index) and how they can help you locate your British ancestor's information.

As president of the Federation of Family History Societies she has lectured in England, U.S.A, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Publications and CD's will be available to purchase on the night.

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Shepparton Heritage Centre. Welsford St opposite Police Station.

Cost: Gold coin donation.

Light supper provided.

## **GMAGS Expo Sat 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

The seventh annual **Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups** is here once again. It is essential that all members support this very worthwhile day to ensure that it continues to be a major Family History Expo in the Murray Goulburn region. (See attached flyer for further details)

Venue: Mulwala and District Services Club

Time: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Cost: \$ 10 (includes guest speakers)

Raffle tickets available for \$200 fuel voucher from SFHG rooms.

## **Christmas Break Up**

All members are invited to the Heritage rooms on Sunday 17th December for afternoon tea and chat, from 1.00 pm, for our Christmas break up. Please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share.

We look forward to seeing you there

## **Echuca-Moama Family History Group**

A visit to the Echuca-Moama family history rooms and a cemetery walk are planned for early 2007. Date to be announced.

## **Victorian State Library**

A day trip including a guided tour of the Victorian State Library in Melbourne is planned for early 2007. Details still to be finalised.

## **Other Suggestions**

Visit to Deniliquin Family History Group.

Day trip to Public Records Office Victoria, possibly a Saturday. (tour of repository included)

Visit to Kilmore Historic Society.

Visit to Rushworth / Whroo district.

Other suggestions welcome.

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## **Recent Additions to SFHG library**

- St James 1988. (History of)
- St James 1871—1977.(History of)
- Lansell's Fortuna. (Bendigo Homestead.)
- Lake Rowan Cemetery (Memorials).
- A Blockie's Wife-Numurkah Historic Society.
- "Cousin Jack Man for the Times". (Cornish in Victoria)
- "Burra to Bendigo" (The story of Cornish miners in Victoria) CD.
- History of Mooroopna - Ardmona District.
- 50th Anniversary for Roy O'Brien.
- One Hundred Years St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Numurkah.
- Rochester High School Year Book 1965.
- Local Cemeteries update 2006 (memorials).
- An index to "Mooroopna Harness Racing Club"
- Tarnagulla Cemetery Headstones.
- "Ten Victorian Women" PROV publication.
- Violet Town Cemetery memorials.

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## **Research Requests**

Names requested for research by our members during May-October included:

E.J Lightfoot , A.C and A.B Mason , Richard Harris , Chapman, Davidson, Haynes, Meyers, De La Haye, Cruickshank, G H Fletcher , W N and R N Harris , Pine Lodge Methodist Free church 1876, S I G Furphy, Flahive, Fr Michael O'Reilly St Mel's church.

## The Clarke and Mason Families Contribution to the Goulburn Valley.

Few buildings in the Goulburn Valley have provoked as much local public interest as the now demolished Shepparton Post Office and the Verney Road homestead previously known as "The Pines". In the late 1800's both these buildings were synonymous with the J A K Clarke name.



"The Pines" was built for Thomas Swallow in 1876 on "Shepparton Park Estate", a property encompassing most of the area from Knight St Shepparton to the railway line on the east, the Goulburn River to the west and almost as far as Congupna to the north. "Shepparton Park" was later owned by Mr Edward Lightfoot. Mr Lightfoot's nephews Mr Arthur Burdekin Mason and Mr Asline Collett Mason became co-owners in the mid 1880's and proceeded to turn the property into one of the more diverse agricultural enterprises in country Victoria. A report in the "Shepparton News of September 1888 lists the following as being grown on the property: kail, broomcorn, lucerne, more than 2000 sheep, 150 head of cattle, 150 horses, over 100 pigs, Spanish fowl and 143 acres of orchard. The orchard included: 25 acres of peaches, 7 acres of nectarines, 7 acres of apples, 5 acres of pears, 5 acres of oranges and 1 acre of lemons. 10 acres of table grape vines and a nursery of 40,000 vine cuttings completes the farming enterprise. The report goes on to say that the two Mason brothers are amongst the most enterprising tillers of soil in Australia and a strong hope is expressed that a cannery will be established in Shepparton.



The Mason's initially farmed without irrigation but were soon to establish a pumping station on the Goulburn River at the west end of Mason st to irrigate their orchards situated nearby.

Mr John.A.K.Clarke settled in Shepparton in 1890 after his marriage in Melbourne to Beatrice Mary Mason, the youngest of Henry Mason and Annie Lightfoot 's eight children. Beatrice had been born in Hertfordshire England in 1862. Driving separate well loaded buggies to Shepparton the newly married couple chose an area of the Mason property adjoining Balaclava and Verney roads to build their homestead. John Clarke, who was already an architect of note, erected the homestead "Nettlegoe" on the site as well as a similar designed homestead "Ivanhoe" nearby for his brother-in-law Arthur B Mason.

Outstanding buildings designed by John A K Clarke soon spread across the Shepparton area.

Some of the noted community buildings being:

Shepparton Post Office(old), St Brendan's Catholic Church, Scots Church Hall, Wesley Church Hall, Shepparton Agricultural High School, Showgrounds Grandstand, Shire Hall, Dookie Catholic Church.

Some of the many outstanding residences designed by J A K.Clarke were: "Nettlegoe" (Clarke crt), "Ivanhoe" (Ivanhoe crt), "The Pines" (Verney Rd), "Fairly Downs"(Bunbartha) and "Ambermere", Orr St



Asline Collett Mason died at Shepparton in 1921 aged 63.

Arthur Burdekin Mason died at North Brighton n 1943 aged 83.

Beatrice Mary Clarke (nee Mason) died at Shepparton in 1943 aged 81.

John Augustus Kenny Clarke died at Mooroopna in 1945 age 92.

Both John and Beatrice Clarke are buried in the Shepparton cemetery.

Many newspaper articles over the years made mention of the Mason and Clarke families, several of these are noted on the following page.

#### Shepparton News Oct 1883

Yesterday one of the most important land sales that has been held in Shepparton, took place in the Court House. The property offered belonged to the late Mr Leahy, who may be said to have been the founder of Shepparton. Particulars were not quite ripe enough for publication last night, but we may mention that the Shepparton Park estate, containing 845 acres, was purchased by Mr A.B.Mason, at the low price of £4 12s per acre. A great part of the property was sold at such low rates as almost amounted to sacrifice. The total receipts of the sale were upwards of £6000.

#### Shepparton News March 1889

Without Irrigation—Some twelve months ago Mr Mason, of Shepparton, stated at a banquet held at Mooroopna, that he believed that any kind of fruit could be successfully grown in this district without the aid of irrigation. This statement was at the time ridiculed by the irrigationists. As a proof of his then expressed belief, Mr Mason on Friday last, at the banquet held at Mr M Kavanagh's, showed a splendid sample of peaches, each nearly weighing half-a-pound, that were grown in his Shepparton orchard without the aid of unusual moisture.

#### Shepparton News March 1888

##### DISASTROUS FIRE ON MASON BROS.' FARM.

##### 200 BAGS OF OATS DESTROYED.

The busy work of thrashing was being carried on yesterday under the supervision of Mr Mason on a 90 acre block upon which stood a stack and a half of oats. Bags recently filled and sewn up were lying about the machine, as well as drays and other property in close proximity to the stack nearest to Shepparton, and which had not been touched by the workers, when a spark from the engine dropped on the corner of it. The wind was blowing strongly at the time, which caused the stack to ignite, and instantly the worst of all masters was in power. The sparks, which were sent flying in all directions, caused the fire to spread to Mr Nickin son's, which at one time was threatened. Mr Mason, noticing the position, called upon his men to turn their attention to the case over which they had control. The promptness displayed averted danger. The total loss the Mason Bros. will suffer could not be ascertained, but it must be considerable, and is not covered by insurance.

#### Shepparton News September 1889

**Fruit Tree Blossoms—** Perhaps one of the prettiest pictures in and around Shepparton at the present time is that presented by Messrs Mason Bros', fruit orchard at Shepparton Park. The whole of the trees are laden with blossoms of delicate tints giving a charming appearance. A person taking a stroll in the vicinity in order to catch a glimpse of the exceedingly pretty sight will feel amply rewarded. This is only an instance of what our district will become when these new industries have become generally adopted.

#### Shepparton News August 1943

##### Obituary

##### MRS. BEATRICE MARY CLARKE

The death, which occurred in a Shepparton private hospital on August 16, of Mrs. Beatrice Mary Clarke, wife of Mr. J. A. K. Clarke, of "Nettlegoe," Shepparton, removes from our midst one of this district's early settlers. Her demise occurred somewhat unexpectedly, but it was apparent to her husband and family that the sudden death of her brother (Mr. Arthur B. Mason) in Melbourne on June 20th last, had hastened her end. Her remains were interred in Shepparton cemetery on the following day, the cortege moving from her late residence on Verney Road. Archdeacon Carter, a former rector of St. Augustine's Church of England, conducted the burial service, and Messrs. Kittle Bros. had charge of the mortuary arrangements.

The late Mr. Clarke, who was born in Barret, Hertfordshire (England), 81 years ago, was the youngest of the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ward Mason, and was the last of the family to pass on. She was married in 1890 to Mr. J. A. K. Clarke, and in the winter of that year the young couple set off in American-built buggies, loaded up with all the knick-knacks and personal effects that couldn't be trusted to the railways (each drove a buggy), to make their home in Shepparton. One of the conditions of her leaving the city was that she should have a brick house to live in, consequently Mr. Clarke, who was an architect of note, erected "Nettlegoe," while the adjoining brick residence of the same design was for his brother-in-law, Mr. Arthur B. Mason. On that spot Mr. and Mrs. Clarke resided for 53 years, and in the early days successfully grew cherries, peaches, oranges, apricots, apples and grapes without irrigation.

#### Shepparton News April 1921

##### MR A.C.MASON

Last Friday morning the people of Shepparton were startled by the sad news that the body of Mr A.C.Mason had been found lying in a lane off Knight street.

Mr Mason, who was 65 years of age, was one of the best known residents of this district, of which he was a pioneer, in the sense that he was probably the first to recognize its capabilities. In company with his brother he purchased from the late Mr. Edward Lightfoot for the sum of £20,000, the large estate which he did so much to develop, and on which he gave employment to so many men. He was of a most enterprising nature, as was shown by the fact that he was the first to embark in the Victorian fruit industry—his orchard having an area of 150 acres, besides which he had a large vineyard from which he produced wine. His were the first double-furrow plough and the first reaper and binder of this district, and men from long distances used to visit his farm for the purpose of seeing these implements at work. Mr Mason seemed to be somewhat unfortunate in being always too far ahead of his time, and his was the fate of the man who expends himself in blazing the trail for others to tread. An instance of this was his recognition that the future of the Goulburn Valley must largely depend on irrigation—a belief which led him years ago to erect a pumping plant, and supplementing it, by fluming, to lead the water from the river to his orchard.

The unassuming manner, unvarying courtesy with which he adhered to his duty made Mr Mason a general favorite, and it is worthy of remark that in these days of industrial unrest the many men who worked for him are among those who most regret his loss. The deepest sympathy is felt for Mrs Mason and the other members of the deceased's family in the dire affliction which has so suddenly befallen them.

#### Shepparton News August 1943

##### MR. A. B. MASON PASSES

Mr. Arthur Burdekin Mason, who had lived in retirement at Brighton for many years had a tragic end on June 26 last. On going to the post office in apparently good health, he posted a parcel, received his change, and before reaching his bicycle he collapsed and died.

He built several imposing houses here, including Mr. B. S. Smith's on Verney Road, the original of Mr. W. F. Ford's at Grahamvale, and the late Mr. E. Leahy's house in Dot St.

He is survived by his wife and the following family: Jack, Linda (Mrs. C. Cameron), Leslie, and Nancy (Mrs. J. H. Morrison). Another son, Fred, predeceased him.

## Recent Events

### Tom Luke and Cornish History

On Saturday the 29th of July the Shepparton Family History Group together with the Shepparton Library had the pleasure of hosting Tom Luke, an authority on Cornish history and genealogy. Nearly 40 people enjoyed this free afternoon. Tom and Libby entertained us with many stories together with a power point presentation and lots of information about the Cornish people. We were given a real insight into the lives of the people, the mines and the Cornish country-side.

Due to the influx of copper miners who arrived in Moonta, South Australia, in the 19th century, many Victorians now have Cornish ancestors.

Tom and Libby are proud of their matching knitted jumpers representing all things Cornish. Their donation to our group of a book and CD detailing the exploits of Cornish miners in South Australia and Victoria, is a great edition to our research library.

### Pearl Collins Workshop August 2006

A group of 16 people attended the two workshops dealing with resources to help the family history researcher. Many avenues to further material were highlighted and all of the group's questions answered, sometimes with humorous examples.

We explored Shipping, Newspapers (a wonderful resource giving births, deaths, marriages, obituaries, accidents, personal news etc), Land Records, Mining Accidents, Shipping Intelligence and more.

With the many questions came discussion, giving others an idea for a new source of information.

Homework for the second week was to fill in our family tree worksheet and to bring along an item of interest pertaining to family history. A family bible, photographs, certificates and even a pair of egg scales were treasured possessions of the participants.

It was a great two day workshop and along with very useful handouts of notes the people who attended these two days were impressed by Pearl's dynamic approach to family history research. Everyone went home with renewed enthusiasm in their search for more family history.

### Thank You

The Shepparton family History Group would like to thank Libby Woodhouse for her enthusiastic help and hard work in arranging the hosting of both seminars at the Shepparton library.

## Public Records Office Victoria Information Day

Shauna Hicks, senior manager access services with PROV addressed a crowd of nearly 60 interested people at the Shepparton Library on Saturday 9th September.

This very informative afternoon explained how to locate family history records through wills, probate, inquests, administration papers, shipping records etc, all these records being available at the PROV. The new Public Records Office online catalogue program was also explained and demonstrated giving an insight into ordering and viewing some records from your home computer. (visit [www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au))

Shauna presented our group with the book "Ten Victorian Women" for our ever expanding library. We thank Shauna and the PROV very much for making the day such an outstanding success.

### Lucy Exhibition

The PROV display "Lucy, A Private Life Revealed Through Public Records" was on display at the Shepparton Library for 3 weeks prior to Shauna's seminar and attracted a lot of public comment regarding the amount of information which could be found at the PROV.

### Victorian Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates

There has been some confusion regarding the cost of BDM certificates recently. There has been an increase in the price if you need a certified copy of an entry, but if you are purchasing an uncertified copy for family research and quote the registration number, the price is still \$17.50. If you need a certificate for legal reasons a certified copy is now \$25.80. Certificates can still be obtained on the internet at: [http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/servlet/bdm\\_home](http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/servlet/bdm_home)

### Local History Internet Sites of Interest

GMAGS. [www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags)

Historical Society of Mooroopna. [www.hsm.org.au/](http://www.hsm.org.au/)

Katandra and District History Group  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~katandra](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~katandra)

Let the Kelly gang ride free  
[www.kellygang.asn.au/home1.html](http://www.kellygang.asn.au/home1.html)

Shepparton Family History Group  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh)

### Genealogical Research Directory

Entries for the 2007 GRD are now being compiled. \$2.50 per name entered. Money to be paid when names presented for entry. Bring entries to rooms during opening hours or post to SFHG. Post office Box 1529 Shepparton, 3632.

This is an excellent way to get world wide recognition of your family history research. All names are compiled into the GRD which is distributed to family history groups, libraries etc, in many countries world wide.

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### Internet at McGuire College

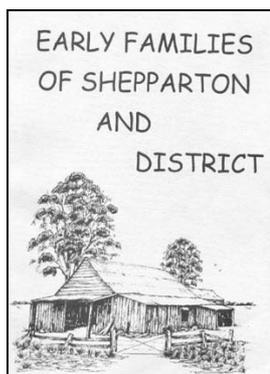
Family History research nights are conducted on the fourth Tuesday of the month at McGuire College, 7.00pm till 9.00pm. McGuire College staff will give you hands on experience at searching for family history information using the internet. This is a free night so come along and learn the wonders of the internet. Learners very welcome.

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### Books for Sale

*“Let me take you for a stroll along Maude st Shepparton in the year 1932. If we start at Nixon st, on the east side of Maude st, the first shop and dwelling we come to is Kittle brothers, Charles and John Kittle, undertakers. There is an allotment next to them that they plan to build on, and on the other corner Mrs Margaret Ware lives, right next door to Galway’s dairy. Do you get the sweet aroma from Owen Ludlow’s Ice-cream factory next to the dairy?”*

These are just a few lines from the many interesting stories in “Early Families of Shepparton and District”

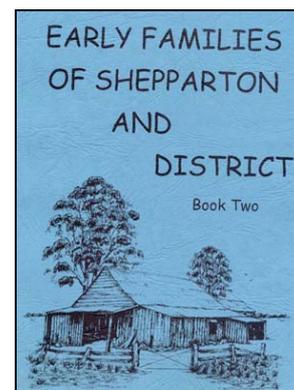


Book 1 “Early Families of Shepparton and District “ is available to purchase from the SFHG. There are 135 family stories from early days in the Goulburn Valley.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.




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### Membership Subscriptions Due

Membership fees of \$25 single, \$45 joint, are now due. Please make payment to the Treasurer (P O Box 1529 Shepparton 3632) or at the Family History Rooms (open days only).

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### 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](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh) email: [shepfhg@fastmail.fm](mailto: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.