# Western Historian

## June 2020 W.V.A.H.S. Newsletter

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**Hopefully by the September Newsletter we will have details on a time and place for our cancelled 2020 AGM at Ararat**

## It's your newsletter — have your say

### W.V.A.H.S. Executive Committee for 2018-2019

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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# WVAHS President's report

My President's Post for March was optimistically looking forward to a new decade and the AGM at Ararat. How things quickly and drastically changed.

Covid-19 caused us all to change what we do and where we do (or don't) do it. All historical societies and museums have had to cease public events and openings. Most have worked out how limited access for small numbers of members may permit some work to continue on site with maintaining collections, scanning documents and images, cataloguing, administration and the multitude of tasks that are all done to enable our organisations to exist.

It has been interesting to see how various innovations have been tried to assist those tasks. Many have gained new skills by participating in Zoom meetings and livestreaming events. Some groups have farmed activities and items out to be worked on at home by members in their lounge room or backyard workshop. That has enabled some progress to continue and provide some good mental and physical activity.

How, when and where we hold the deferred Annual General Meeting is being given some thought by the Executive and we will hopefully be able at advise you of the revised arrangements soon. Meanwhile, please consider if you are able to serve on the Committee or as an office bearer as some of the present team have indicated that they feel that the time has arrived for them to gracefully retire.

Keep safe and healthy, till we can gather together in the one place again.

**Michael Menzies, President.**

# John Sleeman store keeper and politician

John Sleeman managed the Albion Store in what is now Queens Birthday Mine Rd at Goldsborough. It was a branch store for D. B. Watson in Dunolly. In December 1878 Sleeman applied for a liquor licence for his store which he was changing to the Albion Hotel. As part of his application he stated there were 400-500 people within half a mile of his store. His licence was refused on the grounds that he was only 100 yards from the Wesleyan Church and that there were already too many hotels in Goldsborough.

He tried again in July 1879 (without success.) He was eventually granted a license in 1880. John Sleeman worked as a miner and it was actually his wife Mary who ran the hotel and store. It was just in his name.

In 1882 Frederick Chenowith became the licensee. He was also a miner so his wife Emily ran the store and hotel. Although the store kept going the licence was dropped for a while during 1883. Mining was declining at Goldsborough and the other hotels had the bulk of the business. Then in early 1884 with the licence renewed D. B. Watson decided to move the building to a better location.

The six room weatherboard building was relocated 3 km north to the reef mining area of Inkerman. In March 1884 it reopened in its new location and the licence was transferred to Evan Griffiths. Like the previous licensees Evan worked as a miner whilst his wife Margaret looked after the hotel and store. The Albion Hotel disappears from the records so it probably closed about 1885.

John Harvey Crothers Sleeman was born on 28th January 1880 at the Albion Hotel in Goldsborough. Sleeman had a varied career shifting from state to state and job to job. He was politically motivated but kept changing allegiance until finally settling on the Labor Party and becoming a journalist.

He was involved in rigged horse racing, pornography, bribery and any other means by which he could make money. In 1922 he was gaoled for three months for attempting to bribe a politician to bring down the Queensland Government.

Sleeman's writings were very racist and often aimed at the Chinese. He was a strong advocate of the White Australia policy.

Despite his gaol conviction and a number of libel cases against him for his writing Sleeman still managed to get a high profile political job. This was in 1930 as speech writer and publicity officer for the New South Wales premier Jack Lang.

Sleeman accepted payment from some Chinese businessmen in Sydney to change his allegiance. He then started writing positive stories about the Chinese in newspapers and journals. Then when Japan invaded China in 1937 he also started writing negative stories about the Japanese. This continued until 1938 when the Japanese offered him more money to write good stories about them. This link developed and he became a well paid spy supplying the Japanese Consulate with information gleaned from his political contacts. He was also able to influence some politicians to stop a trade embargo being placed on Japan. In his newspaper articles he explained why the Japanese had no territorial ambitions towards Australia.

This all changed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour. The next day Japanese in Australia were placed in internment camps and the next day John Sleeman was put in with them. He appealed to his high political contacts saying he was a British subject and had not been charged with any offence. He was released on 21st January 1942 only to have his case reviewed and he was put back in the camp on 2nd April. Sleeman had been in the Japanese Consulate — a few days before the attack on Pearl Harbour (whilst they were burning their documents.) This doesn't mean he was privy to prior knowledge of the attack as the Consulate staff probably did not know why they were told to destroy documents. But he must have realised something was about to happen. Sleeman remained in the camp for the rest of the war. He died in Sydney on 16th January 1946.

For his activities Sleeman has been described as the most dangerous man in Australia. In the House of Representatives on 26th March 1947 Arthur Caldwell said "No alien who ever came to Australia was more traitorous to Australia than Mr J. H. Sleeman."

**John Tully President**
**Goldfields Historical & Arts Society (Dunolly Museum)**

# Dunolly Express — unfilmed copies found

In 1924 the Dunolly Public Library sold off their file copies of the Dunolly Express. They went to local businesses to wrap parcels. A young local named Albert Ling saw the historic value in retaining these papers and purchased back as many copies as he could. Soon after he moved to Mildura. This newspaper collection was donated to the Dunolly Museum in 2018. We have been going through them and have nearly 100 issues that are missing from the SLV microfilms. We suspect these are the only copies in existence.

We had an incident at Dunolly that might serve as a warning to other societies. A member of the arts community joined our society. — younger, enthusiastic and full of fresh ideas. Soon several others joined up as members but did not attend meetings. This was a plot but they argued amongst themselves and it all fell apart. The plan was to get the numbers to gain control of the historical society then sell off some of the museum items to finance converting the front room of the museum into an art gallery.

**John Tully President**
**Goldfields Historical & Arts Society (Dunolly Museum)**

# FINDING THAT DATE OF DEATH

The most frequently asked question amongst genealogists must surely be: "How do I find a death date?" We have all been guilty of spending years and a small fortune on a search for an elusive death certificate. And why do we set such store by finding a death date?

Firstly, if we haven't already unearthed the "native place" of our original immigrant, we hope the death certificate will give us that information. If it does not then we can still pin our hopes on the shipping lists "delivering the goods". Again we need the death certificate to tell us "how long in the colonies".

Secondly, for most of us, it becomes a challenge; a need to overcome the odds; knowing full well that the finding of a death certificate may re-activate the hunt or prove a very hollow victory indeed.

Our Victorian death certificates offer the possibility of three generations of information. But alas, all too often when the elusive death certificate is found, it proves disappointingly short of information. But until we sight that document, the possibility lures us on.

The reward (if we are lucky) will be a complete listing of the deceased person's children which may open up new avenues for research; a burial place perhaps leading to an informative grave stone; marriage details of which we were unaware; perhaps an indication as to whether the deceased's spouse was still living; a bonus rarely given but worth looking for. Above all — the certificate may give us the "native place" or a clue to the date of arrival.

So where do we start? The obvious place you might think would be our index to Births, Deaths & Marriages released by the Victorian Government in December 1985. Many will find their anscestor here without any difficulty — particularly if names of parents are known or if the surname is fairly unusual.

But for those who have no background knowledge and perhaps a relatively common name to search over an unkown time scale will be left with a very long list of "possibles". The present cut off date of 1985 will be a hindrance for many people. Buying a multitude of certificates at $17.50 each should be last resort.

Our first aim therefore should be to reduce the timespan of geographical scope of our search. In dealing with the time element we may happily also solve the problem of place.

Start by setting down all known facts about the deceased in an effort to pin down a useful date or a known place. Was he or she married? How many children? Did any marry? Deceased's spouse remarry? From the answers to these sorts of questions do you have enough information to make any educated guesses? Enough clues to apply for a certificate to birth or marriage?

The birth of a child (preferably the last born child of your ancestor) will give you a place to start a search; it will establish the mother is alive at the time of the birth and the father alive nine months prior to that date. You will also learn the names of all previous issue and can pursue some of the other suggestions which follow.

Of course this birth certificate may enable you to obtain the parent's marriage certificate (if such exists) and that may lead to the birthplace of your ancestor also.

The marriage certificate of a child of the deceased may indicate whether the parents were living or dead at the time. In the case of a minor — the parent may have given consent.

The father's occupation may suggest another avenue for reseach. Many occupations are subject to government registration or control — others involve membership of a professional body. Useful records may be available through the State Library, Public Records Office or Melbourne University Library. Some professional records may include date of death. Again, the place of marriage may be a starting point for your search — particularly if the bride is the family connection.

If the deceased's spouse remarried the marriage place may be relevant to your search. The date of widowhood may be stated on the new marriage certificate. In the absence of a date of widowhood keep an open mind and do not assume that the marriage took place after the former spouse died. My great great grandmother remarried by her maiden name (omitting both that the former marriage took place or three surviving children of that marriage existed.)

If luck has smiled upon you there is now a date to start from and perhaps a place also. You can search the other records suggested with a lot more confidence. Remember the more you know of your ancestor's family and connections the more certainly you can pinpoint the right individual in the records. You may find you can now locate your ancestor in the BDM index.

In writing down all of the known facts about your ancestor I'm sure you did not neglect family memorabilia in your possession. Any books handed down through the family should be thoroughly searched in case anything has been inserted within the pages. Baptism cards, memorial cards and obituary notices are often placed within the pages of the family bible or other valued books for safekeeping. If a photograph exists of the missing ancestor you may be able to date by clothing being worn or, if there is a photographers name, may be able to date by their name. The Mechanical Eye by Alan Davies and Peter Stanbury, Oxford University Press, 1985 has a comprehensive listing of 19th Century photographers in Australia together with date spans and adresses.

Have you neglected any human resources? The relatives who may have contacts you didn't suspect? I recently discovered one of my mother's cousins in Sydney — his parents and my mother's parents were brothers and sisters (two brothers married two sisters — this connection has given me photographs passed down over the past 150 years and a wealth of family information.)

Elderly relatives may not be able to pin down a date (or even a year) but they may be able to relate their memories to events in their own lives. Ask questions

like; was your grandmother still alive when you started school or did she come to your wedding?

Supposing that your endeavours to date have yielded absolutely no clues you are still free to pursue all of the following suggestions but it will be a wider search and possibly costly as you will have to follow every possible lead until some positive identification is made.

Those who have established a date at which the deceased was still alive will find that our Public Records Office has much to offer and it is all free.

You could search the inquest index which covers the period 1840-1959. This will give name, place of death, verdict as to cause of death, date of death and sometimes the age of deceased. The actual inquest file may yield a great deal of useful information. The more recent files may also contain photographs (usually of the corpse!)

If you now have a date and place it may also be worth looking at the listing under "surname unknown."

The Probate Index should also be checked remembering that only a small percentage of people made wills and many intestates would have been too poor to have come under the notice of the Probate Office. The index covers the period up until 1959. If a possible candidate is found the entry will give you name, date of death, place, to whom granted and date of grant. It should be noted if grant was Probate or Letters of Administration. If probate granted before 1917 the Will Book should be consulted (on film in city search room). The will itself will not be attached to the file held by the P.R.O. Sighting the original Will at the Probate Office will cost approximately $25. However the files held by the P.R.O. often contain valuable genealogical data and sometimes include inventories of the deceased's possessions and statutory declarations from family members.

Those with non-British ancestors may find the Naturalization Index helpful. The index includes name and file number (which is required when seeking further details from the Australian Archives in Canberra where these records are held). Some of these index entries also include age, birthplace, occupation and address.

If you know where your ancester lived in Victoria at any stage there are further records you can search at the P.R.O. Some of the early Land Selection Acts have been indexed and these roughly embrace the period from 1865 to the turn of the century. A recent grant has enabled the land files to be sorted and classified resulting in many previously "missing files" coming to light. These files contain a great many personal letters from selectors — in fact a letter in my great grandfather's file gave me the clue I needed to find my great grandmother's death certificate (after I had spent a small fortune on five year searches in the period before the release of the B.D.M index.)

Earlier land transaction may be traced in the Results of Land Auctions 1849-1863 at the City Search Room or followed up at the Registrar Generals Department at corner of William & Lonsdale Sts. Your ancester would be traceable in these records if he/she sold land under General Law, Land usually changes when an ancestor dies and this is often made clear on the title when executor's names appear.

Any involvement with land may be followed up through municipal rate books. Many of these are held at the P.R.O. and many more are still in the hands of the councils or local historical societies. The information from these may lead you on to a change of ownership (which may indicate that your ancestor had died) or to enable you to trace the title through the Titles Office. Do not neglect the name of your ancestor's property or home should it come to light. It may have been named after the home parish, the family farm or the ship he/she came out on.

At this stage electoral rolls may be worth looking at if they exist for the period you are researching. And of course our old standby — the directory — now comes into its own if you have a starting place. Electoral rolls of the 20th century are of particular value in tracing women. The directories are useful if a woman is widowed or single. To find a married woman through the directories we usually need an address or her husband's name or trade.

If you locate your ancestor's name in an electoral roll or directory and follow it through year by year its disappearance may indicate he or she died around that time. It may equally mean the family moved elsewhere or your ancester became too frail to live alone and was taken elsewhere to be cared for (possibly by a relative).

One more excellent source is the local cemetery card index or microfiche at your local genealogical society which will give a name, place of burial, and in most cases, last known address. The amount of information will depend on the completeness of the original records.

Those of you who have come this far without discovering the date of death can now consider yourself in the "desperate" category. You must trace any and all relatives of your ancestor in the hope that some other family member will give better information on a certificate which will lead you to the same information you seek from your ancestor's death certificate.

There are more useful records available than you will ever find time to search but for those of you in the desperate category — success is now likely to be more a matter of luck. The clue may be anywhere in Criminal Trial Briefs or government files at the P.R.O. or in "Victoria and its Metropolis" at your local library or at the G.S.V. If you have managed to fix upon a place where your ancestor lived at some stage read everything you can about it. Municipal directories and their listings of office bearers of local organisations, histories of the town and local newspapers. Most newspapers are available at the State Library in the second floor newspaper reading room. Your ancestor's name may come to light in a most unexpected way. If it is possible to visit the place where he lived do so. Talk to old residents who may remember something of value. Look at the honor rolls in local halls, schools and churches if that seems appropriate.

If you are among the fortunate and find that elusive death date — then work it to death. Obtain the certifi-

cate if one exists; try to visit the grave in search of a headstone. At the very least; pay if necessary for cemetery records which may tell you who paid for the grave and who else is buried in the plot.

Remember to check newspapers for funeral notices and obituaries; not forgetting "Bereavement Thanks" notices in the subsequent years.I discovered an elusive date through an "In Memorium" notice which appeared 10 years after the death it commemorated. There had been no notices between the death of my great great grandmother and that notice. The daughter who inserted it added the rider "also my dear father who passed away 20th February, 1900". The year was incorrect, but near enough for my purposes. But he had died 20 years before his wife.

Whilst time may have done its worst with your ancestor's remains finding that death date may help you "flesh out his skeleton" for posterity's sake. The search for a death date may not always result in success but it seldom fails to provide some new information. Even when our search leads to a death certificate, the information we find in the search often helps to confirm that we have the correct certificate. With three "possibles" of the right name, the right age in the right suburb in the BDM Index, all with unknown parents, I bought all three certificates. One listed a wife which eliminated

him; the other two had no marriage details, but one had died in the lunatic asylum and had inquest details available. The inquest file had evidence from his wife which confirmed him as mine, not even a lunatic, but a frail old man needing constant attention and a large family visiting him several times a week over a long period.

For those desperate and who still have not found details of their ancestor there is a check list of questions to ask:

(a) Have you considered every possible variation in spelling?

(b) Is there any possibility that he was known by a different name?

(c) Can you be sure that he did die in this State? Or even in Australia?

In the case of (c) the G.S.V. Strays Index maybe worth checking and the entries for marine deaths on the BDM Index. I would certainly extend my search to interstate death indexes, probate and inquest indexes, cemetery records and stray's indexes.

And one final word. All the indexes have a large number of people listed under the surname UNKNOWN. The awful truth is that these are somebody's relatives. I hope not yours.

**Author of this article unknown**

# Society news from Koroit Historical Society

We've had a very busy start to the year with a few special openings. We opened for the Lake School of Music in the first few days of January and as usual had a few attendees call in and see us.

Next was the annual Koroit Truck Show. This is an amazing event with hundreds of people filing into the showgrounds to admire these huge rigs.

Once again we had a number of people call in to see the school and chat to us. Our usual open days (second Sunday of the month) continue to bring people to our door — some doing family history research while others just come for a look at our wonderful old building.

Quite a few projects are on the go at the moment. We have purchased a set of plan drawers. These are so that we can safely lay unframed documents/maps/artworks etc flat. We thought we had measured everything so that we could move them in without too much trouble but that Irish trouble maker Murphy caused havoc as usual and things didn't go to plan. Lots of files, boxes and cupboards will need to be moved so that we can get the drawers into position. It

will be a good chance for us to check for silverfish etc and have a good tidy up. We hope to get some help to move everything.

One of the long term projects we are working on is to prepare a profile on all the men in the large photograph entitled Public Men of Koroit on display in the museum. The photograph is owned by Moyne Shire Council and is an important historic record for the town. The first of the completed profiles, that of W.J. (John) Officer, is included in this newsletter. The profiles will be places in a book kept next to the photograph so visitors can read about these men.

The Koroit Irish Festival is coming up in a couple of months. We won't be in the Blackwood Centre as usual as those premises have been let out. Instead we will have a marquee in the vicinity. Our display this year will be on Women of Koroit who have made an impact on our town. It's hard deciding who to collect information on as there have been so many women often working behind the scenes for the community. We hope you will come and find us if you are here for the festival.

# Tarrone Estate Soldier Settlement book released

**by James Affleck & the Tarrone families**

"Tarrone Estate Soldier Settlement" Edited by James Affleck & The Tarrone Families This publication was launched on 29th November 2019 at the Warrnambool RSL with a lunch and get-together at the Woolsthorpe Hotel the following day.

The Tarrone Estate Soldier Settlement, north-west of Koroit, was established after the end of World War II. Tarrone residents Marlene and Wayne Johnson had been collecting stories of the settlers and their families for a number of years and James Affleck helped with further research by contacting families and gathering more photos and stories for the book.

Copies are available from Warrnambool & District Historical Society. $30.00 plus $10 postage.

Payment can be made by direct deposit or by cheque.

**ANZ BSB 013 900 Account 2760 34412**
**P.O. Box 731, Warrnambool, 3280**

# John (W. J.) Officer — Koroit pioneer

John Officer was born in 1823 in County Antrim, Ireland. He sailed to Australia on the ship "Sir Robert Sole" as an assisted migrant. He worked in Geelong for several years before returning to Ireland where he married Sarah McMaster in 1855. They returned and settled in this district. They had five children. Sarah died in 1865.

Settling in Koroit he obtained land in the Parish of Yarpturk. The property was 200 acres and was named "Cherry Vale" in Officers Lane. Over time he leased land to various other farmers in the 'con-acre' system which involved leasing land by competitive auction for "one crop".

John's second wife was Ann Curry and they had six children. John Officer was a J.P. and in 1857 and 1859 he was appointed Rate Collector for Belfast Road District.

The first sale of township land was held on 28/9/1857 and John Officer purchased 5 acres of land for 56 pounds and 10 shillings on the east side of High Street.

In 1863 he was Valuer for Tower Hill Division for the Shire of Belfast. Municipal affairs interested him. In 1867 – 1870 he was a Shire of Belfast Councillor. He urged for Koroit's severance from the Belfast Shire. Success meant Koroit was proclaimed a Borough in December 1870.

John was the first Mayor of the Borough and served as Mayor 1870 – 1873. He was Mayor and Councillor in 1873 and a Councillor from 1877-1880. He called a meeting seeking a site for a Mechanics Institute. He was a correspondent for the Koroit Common School and Patron of this school when it opened on 14/12/1857. He was a Licensing Magistrate and Vice-President of the Villiers/Heytesbury Agricultural Society.

Mr Officer was an instigator for the post and telegraph office and new police quarters. He agitated for the Mail Coach to stop in Koroit and laid the foundation stone for the new Post Office.



**Mr. John (W. J.) OFFICER**

He was starter at the horse racing days in Koroit.

John Officer left for Queensland after selling out where he had lived for five years purchasing property there. On his return he purchased a property nearer Warrnambool called "Lipook". John Officer died in 1895 and is buried in the Tower Hill Cemetery.

He was reputed to be a "man of few words", no boasting, straight to the point, just a statement of facts. Officers Lane was affectionately called "Pudden Lane", owing to John Officers rotund stature. A true gentleman of Koroit.

**By Jill Mellor.**
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## It's your newsletter — have your say

# If only trees could talk

If Trees talked: A Conversation with Old Red By Green Gully Creek close to Newstead estimated to be well over 400 years old — a majestic old river red gum grows dominating the skyline towering over nearby trees and buildings.

A silent historian watching and waiting. What secrets do you keep Old tree — what have you witnessed as our history unfolded? Old Tree talk to me or do I read your silence? I know you witnessed Major Mitchell's party passing by on his way home to Sydney in 1836; the Major's glowing reports of the country he had seen soon brought the squatters and their flocks to the area.

The discovery of gold in 1850 brought a huge influx of miners of many nationalities to the area. They searched for the alluvial gold scattered close to the surface then, through quartz mining expanding into payable mines, you saw them move on to richer goldfields.

In 1854 you witnessed a site for the township of St. Andrews surveyed at Mingus Crossing downstream on the Loddon and how that new township didn't eventuate. You waited until 1856 (when a new site was surveyed for Newstead) and land sales began. The site of Newstead township was situated on the Tarrengower run. But when land was made available for selection in 1854-56 you saw the forced abandonment of pastoral runs.

I know you watched the building of the three bridges built over the Loddon — the first built in 1861 while the township grew around the crossing; two flour mills, a creamery — later the Butter Factory, blacksmiths, wheelwright and coach builder, ginger beer factory, bank, butchers, hotels, police station with Newstead's mounted constable, post office, churches, Mechanics Institute, Courthouse, biscuit factory and general stores.

I know you heard the cursing of the bullockies as bullock wagons passed by, the whip cracking drivers of horse drawn vehicles, saw the weariness of those who walked, often pushing a wheelbarrow or with a swag on their back as they negotiated rough bush tracks, later roads, that often turned to boggy quagmires in winter.

I know you witnessed the first combined church services in 1854 your spreading boughs their shelter. In 1856 the residents, most of them living in tents or slab huts, took up a subscription to provide for the establishment of a church and school. They purchased a tent and you watched as they erected it in the vicinity and fitted it out as a chapel. It was used by different denominations and a school until the Common School was built in 1859. That year the first agricultural show was held with the showground then being moved elsewhere as the site was required for a new railway station.

I know you saw the Castlemaine to Maryborough railway being built in 1874 — the line passing close by, you heard the trains rumbling past, felt the vibrations, heard the auctioneer's raucous voices, the 1968 gathering to mark the centenary of the Mechanics Hall, the nearby sale yards, the bleating of stock waiting to be loaded onto trains en route to Melbourne.



**The 400 year old Old Red at Newstead.**

And what of your tales about the rushing floodwaters that spread across the paddocks swirling around your roots? The Loddon River (a quiet stream in summer) has a long history of floods inundating houses and businesses with 'fearful' damage. In 1911 a levee bank was constructed to prevent such disasters but still the water spread across the flats.

I know you also witnessed the tears as Newstead sent its sons and daughters off to war. The Relief of Mafeking (Boer War) was celebrated in 1901 — the streets were illuminated with lighted tar on either side and the whole town turned out to celebrate — the streets ringing with joy. Other wars followed and again the 'welcome home' was one of joy and relief but perhaps not with the same exuberance of 1901.

Old Tree — you have always been an important part of my life and our celebrations; five hundred people gathered under your spreading boughs for a religious service which commemorated the re-enactment of Cobb and Coaches in 1963. Afterwards the coach continued its journey to Plaistowe (an old changing station in the 1840-50s.)

In 1968 celebrations were held to mark the centenary of the Mechanics Hall and in 1977, a church service was held to mark the centenary of education and the first church services. Old Tree, a silent witness to our history, of the first people of country, the coming of the squatters, the settlers, diggers in search of their fortune, the birth of the first white baby, the first motor car, floods, droughts, fire, the hardship and the struggles of the people who came before as they coped with the harsh conditions of a new country. Old Tree, you stand before me, tall and strong, a reminder of the strength and endurance of our pioneers who called this place home. Joan Sartori Secretary, Newstead and District Historical Society. Inc.
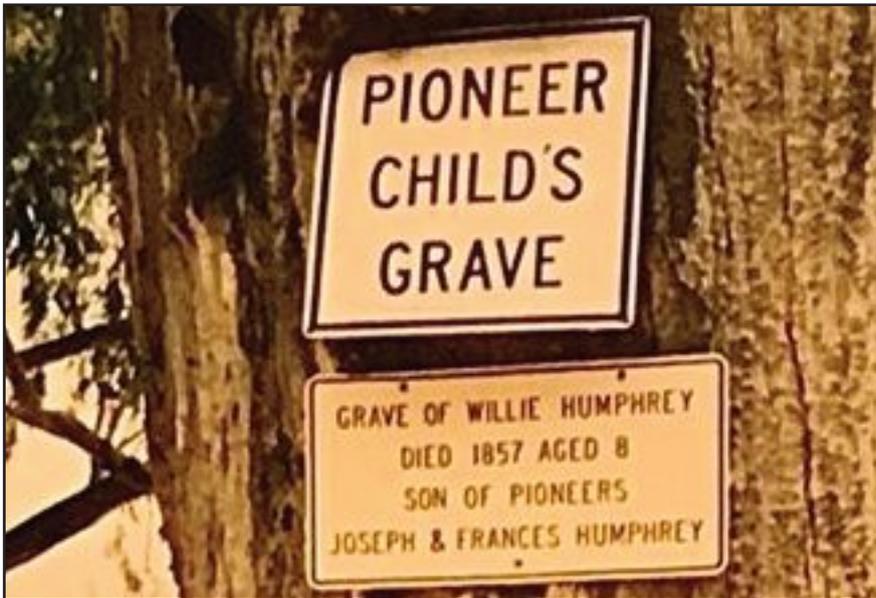
# Pioneer child's grave at Barkly

In 1857, during an overland trip from Gawler, South Australia to the goldfields of Victoria, young Willie Humphrey aged eight years died and was buried in a bark coffin made by his father. He was buried where he died — under a tree on the side of the road at Barkly, Victoria. The tree is still to be found on Frenchmans-Navarre Road Barkly.He was travelling with his siblings and his parents Joseph and Frances.

They had packed up their supplies and belongings in a wagon pulled either by horse or a cow. They would have had to travel at least 600 miles in those days as there were no roads or bridges and they went around hills

To supplement their provisions of flour, grain and salted meat they shot wallaby and birds with a muzzle loading gun.

Joseph and Frances Humphrey settled at Crowlands and some descendants are known to reside in Maryborough today.

*Article from Stawell Historical Society newsletter Jan-Mar 2020.*

Pioneer grave of Willie Humphrey at Barkly, Victoria.

# Copyright rules on photographs

**A request has come to me from Geoff Langsworth of the Edenhope Historical Society re copyright of photographs on their website.**

### What are the copyright rules on images found on the internet?

Social media has made us all potential law breakers. According to a researcher all of us have probably done the crime of stealing someone's work through the internet let it be an image, a song or a blog post.

Of all the work created mostly the copyrights of images are exploited. Images are easily found over the internet but not all of them are free. In fact, every image has a copyright. Photographers and graphic designers earn money by selling their rights.

### What are copyrights?

You do not have to read a book concerning the law to get some useful knowledge about copyrights. Understanding the basics is enough to protect oneself for facing being sued over unintended copyright infringement.

Copyrights are granted automatically to the photographer or a graphic designer or artist as soon as he or she creates the image. It means that if you capture a photo or create an image you become the owner of its copyrights.

### What do copyrights mean?

The person who owns the copyrights owns all the rights in reference to which the image could be used. For example recently BBC used an image which was found on Twitter but later the photographer who took the photo filed a case against BBC. The person who owns copyrights is affected by the use of his or her images without consultation.

### Why should you care about copyrights?

According to the law, if you get caught using an image which is potentially under copyright protection then you could end up needing to pay a huge amount of $25,000 and this does not include your lawyer's fee and the damage proposition to your company or budget as well.

### Rights of the owner of copyrights

First of all the owner can always reproduce the work for which he or she holds the copyright to.

He or she has the sole right to disclose their work in this case, image publicly with or without their name. The person who owns the copyrights can prepare derivatives of their work. They can always distribute their work for sales, rentals or display.

### The fair use of copyrighted images, rules you should care about!

Now we do not want to consult every other photographer to use his or her image as doing is impossible. For this the law has introduced a term which is known as the fair use of content in such cases related images.

### Why are you using the image?

It is important to consider and pre-determine that why are you using the image. If you are using the image for criticism, commenting, teaching, scholarships, research or news reporting then it comes under fair use and you may use the image. So the first rule is to define why you are using the content.

### How much of the image do you plan to use?

If you are using just a part of the image then it really does not matter because you are probably not breaking the copyright law.

### Is the image a transformative work?

If you have transformed the image and it no longer resembles the original image then you are likely on the right track of using the image under fair use.

### End of copyright?

End of copyright is generally 75 years.

# Wheatlands Warracknabeal Vintage Machinery Rally on hold

<u>Wheatlands</u> <u>Warracknabeal</u> <u>Vintage</u> <u>Machinery</u> <u>Rally</u> <u>Before</u> <u>the</u> <u>COVID-19</u> <u>restrictions,</u> Warracknabeal and District Historical Society was ready to stage its 53rd annual vintage machinery rally at its Agricultural Museum on the Henty Highway at Easter.

Warracknabeal is situated on the banks of the Yarriambiack Creek, 330 km northwest of Melbourne. It is the business and services centre of the northern Wimmera and southern Mallee districts and is the base of local government offices for the Shire of Yarriambiack.

Warracknabeal's museums and historical collections reflect the region's strong farming base and showcase its development and the innovation of local residents. The rally has its roots in a parade held as part of the town's 1967 centenary celebrations.

The Warracknabeal and District Historical Society began five years earlier. As the society's collecting began (initially largely stored in members' homes) some of the local farmers led a push to collect and restore the old machinery that was 'lying about under trees on farms'.

These were kept in a shed behind the showgrounds. Following a street parade for the centenary the machines were taken to the showgrounds and this became the first rally. In 1970 (when the town's historical 1907 State Savings Bank of Victoria closed) it was purchased by the Shire Council and leased to the Historical Society. This became the Historical Centre providing a formal base for the Society after a decade of meeting at the Mechanics Institute. And the collection had a home at last. The banking chamber has been retained as it was featuring beautiful wooden panelling. Part of the downstairs is used as a sitting room containing historical items as well for storage of collections: records, photos, maps and books. The upstairs manager's residence has been set up with collections of kitchen, bedroom, nursery and other household items.

In 1971 a committee of representatives from surrounding local towns in the Wimmera was formed with the aim of establishing a machinery museum. The site of Warracknabeal was chosen because of its central position. By 1973 (with the aid of government grants) the museum building had been erected and the machinery collection moved to the new facility.

A wonderful tarmac in front of the building to display and parade items has now become the site for the



**Vintage tractors on display at Wheatlands**

Easter Rally. A 2014 bequest enabled construction of a new foyer containing an office, archive room, meeting room, kitchenette and toilets.

This was officially opened in 2017. Showcasing and preserving Australia's agricultural history, the complex includes a replica of the log 'Smithy' hut where Hugh McKay produced the world's first Sunshine stripper-harvester in 1884. There's also a permanent display of more than 1,000 samples of grain from 40 countries. The collection focuses on the invention and modification of machinery designed from necessity to suit farming conditions locally and Australia-wide.

Another branch of the Society is Wheatlands Warehouse which is a second-hand shop. It started from humble beginnings in 1998 selling off excess parts and tools that were no longer needed. Other people wanted to sell their items and it snowballed from there. Today the shop is staffed by volunteers and is open seven days a week. There are about 1,600 active vendors and a commission is received from goods sold. There are five committees or divisions that run these activities with the Warracknabeal and District Historical Society being the umbrella organisation.

The Historical Centre has a committee that meets every three months. Wheatlands Warracknabeal Agricultural Machinery Museum has three committees or divisions.

The Machinery division meets monthly and handles the restoration program, other rallies to attend and business to do with machinery. The Management Committee manages the Museum particularly building and maintenance and future planning. It also meets every month.

The Rally Committee concentrates on running a successful rally and meets monthly before each rally and every two months after that.

The Warehouse has a Committee that meets every two months and deals with Warehouse concerns. Warracknabeal is not a large town and many of the members are on several of the committees.

There are around 120 members: about half of these are 'expats' or people who are not particularly active but are interested in the town's history.

The 2020 two-day Easter rally would have featured working vintage tractors and machinery, stationary engines, steam engines, axe handle lathe and vintage cars. There was to be Case and American Machines this year plus shearing demonstrations and model aeroplanes as well as craft stalls and vintage and collectable displays.

*Lesley Stephan, WDHS Secretary*
**RVHA News April 2020.**

# Naming of Yarra River

It has recently been suggested that the Yarra River should be renamed 'Birrarung' as this was its original Woiwurung name.

This indeed was its name and means 'River of Mists and Shadows'.

However there is a lot of confusion and urban myth about how the name 'Yarra' actually came about. This is made all the more complicated by the fact that the principal characters in the story were all practiced liars. This included the warring co-founders of Melbourne, John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner, plus the surveyor for the Port Phillip Syndicate John Helder Wedge.

The story begins in May 1835 when John Batman made his historic journey to Port Phillip bringing with him seven Aboriginal people from Sydney as guides and interpreters. Although Batman scarcely mentions them in his diary when in Melbourne these Sydney men did their required job. They made contact with the Woiwurung people and organised the historic meeting with Batman on the Plenty River at Greensborough.

This Plenty River meeting site was confirmed by William Barak in 1888 but the myth, promoted by Fawkner that it was on Merri Creek, still persists.

After this meeting Batman returned to Tasmania on 9 June 1835 — leaving five of the seven guides from Sydney at Geelong together with the other three colonists in his party. The surveyor in the Port Phillip Syndicate John Helder Wedge then came over from Tasmania with Henry Batman and his family and they were dropped off at Geelong on 7 August 1835.

Wedge surveyed today's Geelong region for four weeks accompanied by William Buckley (the escaped convict) who had come into the camp on 6 July 1835. After this two Sydney men, two Wathurong men and one of the colonists took Wedge to Melbourne in a whaleboat arriving there on 2 September 1835. The two Wathurong men and the colonist then returned to Geelong by boat whilst the two Sydney men accompanied Wedge on his survey work.

Back on 2 September though, as the boat came up the river and approached the Queen Street falls, a Sydney man exclaimed Yarra! Yarra! This meant 'waterfall' in their Sydney tongue but Wedge misunderstood.

He thought they were telling him it was the name of the river.

Wedge was at that time probably a bit distracted because John Pascoe Fawkner's ship Enterprise with a party led by Captain Lancey was already moored at the falls. Wedge subsequently got into an argument with Lancey and said they had no right to be there on the land claimed by Batman. He then gave Lancey a written order to leave.

According to John Pascoe Fawkner Lancey handed the paper back to Wedge and informed him that he might want it for some necessary occasion which would be the full worth of such a notice'.

In the flowery language of the day Lancey was of course telling Wedge to wipe his b..m with it.

This clearly demonstrated the rivalry and ill-will between Batman and Fawkner that continued unabated for the rest of their lives. Batman died (disfigured by syphilis) in 1839 but for the following twenty years Fawkner continued to give public lectures on what a liar and degenerate Batman was.

However back in 1835 Wedge told everyone the name of the river was Yarra and it stuck. Myths have now become entrenched around the history and meaning of the name making it difficult to correct. This started when it was wrongly assumed that the natives with Wedge were locals. Building on this it was then assumed that 'Yarra' was a Woiwurung word. But Yarra in Woiwurung means 'hair' and Yarra-Yarra means 'fur'. The many Woiwurung words with 'yarra' in them have since been conveniently ignored. All these words refer to specific types of hair such as eyebrows, eyelashes, beards, moustaches, pubic hair and even baldness.

The situation was further confused fifty years later by Hugh McCrae — the grandson of Georgina McCrae an early settler on the Mornington Peninsula. In his grandmother's Boonwurung language notes one word containing 'yarra' referred to tidal flows. Hugh noted he thought it meant 'ever flowing' and once more the idea stuck. One Boonwurung word about tidal flow has now been misapplied to wrongly claim that Yarra-Yarra means 'ever-flowing'.

This error on how the Yarra was named continues to this day despite Wedge having later publicly corrected his mistake. In correspondence to Batman's biographer John Bonwick on 23 February 1856 Wedge wrote that after finishing his survey work in Melbourne in late September, 1835 he and the Sydney men began walking back to Geelong. On reaching the ford at the Werribee River the Sydney men again pointed to the rapids and said 'Yarra'.

Wedge wrote it was then he realised he had been mistaken in the name of the river. But it was already too late and the myth is today still firmly entrenched as fact.

**It's your newsletter**
**— have your say**

# Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents' Association celebrates 140 years

We congratulate the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents' Association (P & ORA) which will celebrate 140 years of collecting, preserving, protecting and promoting Castlemaine's historic memorabilia in March 2020.

The P & ORA held its first meeting on 17 March, 1880 following some informal meetings amongst like-minded gentlemen who were keen to form an organisation to support one another in times of need and to enhance the society they lived in.

One of the early rules states 'that the organisation will collect, store, preserve and promote the area's local history'. The P & ORA is not a Historical Society as such but they do own a lot of historical 'stuff' as past members were reluctant to throw anything out. Until the late 1980s the P & ORA was orientated toward helping to improve their society.

These days their members are spending time sorting, digitising, cataloguing and storing their collection in an effort to establish a legacy for future generations.

The Old Telegraph Station at 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine is their home. It was built in 1856 and opened officially on 1 January, 1857. The building, and the land it stands on, was granted to the P & ORA on 22 December 1893.

Their celebrations took the the form of a special meeting on March 19 and a four day Historical Exhibition in the Castlemaine Town Hall: Thursday 19 March-Sunday 22 March, 10am-4pm, gold coin entry.



**The Old Telegraph Station, Castlemaine.**

'Transport' was the theme of the exhibition: from when Major Mitchell first passed through the Castlemaine area on 29 September 1836 up until the present day.

The exhibition covered some of the sailing ships that brought the early settlers to our shores. It also included the journey from Melbourne and Geelong to the Mount Alexander gold fields; some on foot pushing a wheel barrow others walking beside a horse or bullock drawn wagon while a few travelled in style in a stage coach.

**RVHS News April 2020.**

# New Zealand site "paperspast" is well worth a look

For anybody researching New Zealand family history, am sure this site will be of a lot of interest;
*paperspast.natlib.govt.nz*

I found 26 pages on the site and some of the newspaper reports connecting to my Schlichting family found on paperspast are listed below:

MARRIAGE: Schlichting-Seebeck; On the 1st of February, 1872, at the bride's mother's house, by the Rev. G.T.N. Watkins, Heinrich Nicholas Schlichting of the Province of Hanover, Germany, to Maria Katharina Seebeck, from the Province of Schleswig, Holstein, Germany.

DEATH: Schlichting; On the 4th February, 1888, at the Melbourne Hospital, Mr Heinrich Nicholas Schlichting late of Greymouth and native of Germany aged 52 years. Result of accident at Greymouth.

DEATH: Seebeck; On the 1st of February, 1905, at her residence, Rutherglen, Metta Philippine Seebeck, native of Hamburg, Germany. Aged 85 years. Deeply regretted.

Saturday's Grey Star, (Greymouth) December 17, 1894: "The body of Mrs Mary (Maria) Schlichting, which has been missing for the last two months, was found yesterday afternoon in a tailrace of the Infant's Creek, Rutherglen. An inquest was held this morning and the funeral took place this afternoon being followed by a large number of friends."

Grey River Argus, December 2, 1886

Grey Council matters: From Edward Schlichting, Mine Manager, asking permission to drive a tunnel under the Maori Creek road, Granted, subject to the usual conditions.

Three Schlichting brothers were said to have come to Australia, Edward could be the third brother.

Brothers Heinrich Nicholaus Schlichting and Wilhelm Justus Schlichting arrived in Melbourne in 1857 and 1861 and went to New Zealand in 1870, from research it appears Edward should read Heinrich.

# Wedderburn Historical Records Museum

A book co-authored by two men — more than 37,000 digital records entered by two more men and a speedy and efficient search engine have transformed research and operations of the Wedderburn Historical Records Museum. And we shouldn't overlook a strategic President who encouraged these people to use their talents to benefit local history.

The records museum was founded in 1967 and since then thousands of documents have been collected and housed at its premises: the original 1874 shire offices. The society obtained grant funding to purchase three laptop computers and two A3 sized document scanners along with the equipment to network them.

The area was originally the Korong Shire and then the Loddon Shire from 1994. Neither exists today and many found this confusing so, under current President Irene Finch, the name was changed last year (hopefully clarifying the location for potential researchers.)

A few years ago the former Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society was struggling and then-president Ray Tonkin was known to use his own money to pay society expenses. Members Geoff Arnott and Keith Ring initially came to the rescue obtaining funding and producing a book; The Golden Harvest: a History of Wedderburn which helped get the society back in the black. Ray then sought assistance to digitise the existing manual filing system from retired computer systems analyst and programmer Alan Mulraney; bringing the collection and the society into the 21st century.

The result is an outstanding example of good practice for cataloguing collections, minimising handling of fragile items, providing accessible records and generating an income for the society — recognising the wider 'collection' in the community and acknowledging that today's news is tomorrow's history.

Alan was a Victorian public servant from 1980 and 1995 and then ran his own computer business in Doncaster and later Charlton until he retired in 2015.

Luckily Alan (who is also a musician and runs the local visitor radio station) has a keen interest in history so he developed the program and for the first year input around 10,000 records single-handedly.

He was then joined by Darryl Arnott brother of Geoff Arnott; their family has more than a century of association with Wedderburn. Together they've compiled around 27,000 more records.

The system Alan developed allows documents to be scanned into the database as jpeg files and then a record set up to index every name that appears on that document. Surnames are entered into the system separately to given names to give more flexibility in searching for names. Keywords can be entered into the record to link similar types of documents together and the 'Comments field' gives a summary of the document which is displayed in list form when a search is instigated. The important data search engine uses a blank record form which allows several fields to be filled in simultaneously.

The system will then report on all of the records that match with what has been entered. It even provides for a year range search.

Alan admits there was some apprehension initially from some of the members — particularly those who were not computer savvy. However, once a few thousand records had been entered and they could see the speed at which information could be retrieved, they were soon converted. Other members open the rooms three days a week and, like all societies welcome new members at any time — especially to help with the many tasks of running a successful research group and, of course, helping build up the database.

Alan modified the software 'to prevent our wives from becoming History Widows' to enable he and Darryl to work from home meeting in the office every couple of weeks to update the records.

One of the major advantages of the system (compared with the manual records) is that the society can photograph and index items from around town such as honour boards, gravestones, memorials, shire rate books, etc. And since today's news is tomorrow's history they also index key events from local newspapers.

Because of that Alan doesn't really see an end to the tasks but is sure the program is up to storing hundreds of thousands of records. At present Darryl is focused on digitising local newspapers and Alan is working on the ratebooks. Backup of the data is obviously critical to ensure that years of hard work is not lost. To that end the society keeps six complete copies of the database in three separate locations.

There are many advantages of digitisation explains Alan — one being that fragile documents need no longer be handled directly. Another is that the ease of access of information has led to an increase in public requests for information and this in turn enhances the society's financial viability.

In addition to the database Alan maintains a website for the records museum which generates many of the public enquiries: wedderburnhistorical.com.au

While Wedderburn, 214 kilometres north of Melbourne on the Calder Highway, may be a rural town of around 750 people today it was originally a gold rush town with some 2,000 residents in the late 1800s. There was another mini-gold rush in the 1950s when a local found a large gold deposit in his backyard…but that's a story for another time.

Wedderburn Historical Records Museum, 26 High Street Wedderburn, 3518 is open between 10 am and 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Write to the museum, email: secretary@wedderburnhistorical.com.au, or call 0479 161146.

Alan Mulraney is happy to provide further information on the software package and can be contacted via the details above.

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# Florence Nightingale — 1820-1910

**Florence Nightingale**, **OM, RRC, DStJ; 12 May 1820-13 August 1910)** was a British social reformer and statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War in which she organised care for wounded soldiers. She gave nursing a favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture especially in the persona of "The Lady with the Lamp" making rounds of wounded soldiers at night.

Recent commentators have asserted Nightingale's Crimean War achievements were exaggerated by media at the time but critics agree on the importance of her later work in professionalising nursing roles for women. In 1860 Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first secular nursing school in the world and is now part of King's College London. In recognition of her pioneering work in nursing the Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses and the Florence Nightingale Medal (the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve) were named in her honour and the annual International Nurses Day is celebrated on her birthday. Her social reforms included improving healthcare for all sections of British society advocating better hunger relief in India helping to abolish prostitution laws (that were harsh for women) and expanding the acceptable forms of female participation in the workforce.

Nightingale was a prodigious and versatile writer. In her lifetime much of her published work was concerned with spreading medical knowledge. Some of her tracts were written in simple English so that they could easily be understood by those with poor literary skills. She was also a pioneer in data visualization with the use of infographics effectively using graphical presentations of statistical data. Much of her writing, including her extensive work on religion and mysticism, has only been published posthumously.

### Early life

Florence Nightingale was born on 12 May 1820 into a wealthy and well-connected British family at the *Villa Colombaia* in Florence, Tuscany, Italy and was named after the city of her birth. Florence's older sister Frances Parthenope had similarly been named after her place of birth, *Parthenope,* a Greek settlement now part of the city of Naples. The family moved back to England in 1821 with Nightingale being brought up in the family's homes at Embley, Hampshire and Lea Hurst, Derbyshire.

Florence inherited a liberal-humanitarian outlook from both sides of her family. Her parents were William Edward Nightingale born William Edward Shore (1794–1874) and Frances ("Fanny") Nightingale *née* Smith (1788–1880). William's mother, Mary *née* Evans was the niece of Peter Nightingale under the terms of whose will William inherited his estate at Lea Hurst and assumed the name and arms of



**Florence Nightingale c1860.**

Nightingale. Fanny's father (Florence's maternal grandfather) was the abolitionist and Unitarian William Smith. Nightingale's father educated her.

### Young Florence Nightingale

In 1838 her father took the family on a tour in Europe where he was introduced to the English-born Parisian hostess Mary Clarke with whom Florence bonded. She recorded that "Clarkey" was a stimulating hostess who did not care for her appearance and, while her ideas did not always agree with those of her guests, "she was incapable of boring anyone." Her behaviour was said to be exasperating and eccentric and she had no respect for upper-class British women whom she regarded generally as inconsequential. She said that if given the choice between being a woman or a galley slave then she would choose the freedom of the galleys. She generally rejected female company and spent her time with male intellectuals. Clarkey made an exception however in the case of the Nightingale family and Florence in particular. She and Florence were to remain close friends for 40 years despite their 27 year age difference. Clarke demonstrated that women could be equals to men — an idea that Florence had not obtained from her mother.

Nightingale underwent the first of several experi-

ences that she believed were calls from God in February 1837 while at Embley Park prompting a strong desire to devote her life to the service of others. In her youth she was respectful of her family's opposition to her working as a nurse only announcing her decision to enter the field in 1844. Despite the intense anger and distress of her mother and sister she rebelled against the expected role for a woman of her status to become a wife and mother. Nightingale worked hard to educate herself in the art and science of nursing in the face of opposition from her family and the restrictive social code for affluent young English women.

As a young woman Nightingale was described as attractive slender and graceful. While her demeanour was often severe she was said to be very charming and to possess a radiant smile. Her most persistent suitor was the politician and poet Richard Monckton Milnes but after a nine-year courtship she rejected him convinced that marriage would interfere with her ability to follow her calling to nursing.

In Rome in 1847 she met Sidney Herbert a politician who had been Secretary at War (1845–1846) who was on his honeymoon. He and Nightingale became lifelong close friends. Herbert would be Secretary of War again during the Crimean War when he and his wife would be instrumental in facilitating Nightingale's nursing work in the Crimea. She became Herbert's key adviser throughout his political career though she was accused by some of having hastened Herbert's death from Bright's Disease in 1861 because of the pressure her programme of reform placed on him. Nightingale also much later had strong relations with academic Benjamin Jowett who may have wanted to marry her.

Nightingale continued her travels (now with Charles and Selina Bracebridge) as far as Greece and Egypt. While in Athens, Greece Nightingale rescued a juvenile little owl from a group of children who were tormenting it and she named the owl Athena. Nightingale often carried the owl in her pocket until the pet died (soon before Nightingale left for Crimea).

Her writings (on Egypt in particular) are testimony to her learning, literary skill and philosophy of life. Sailing up the Nile as far as Abu Simbel in January 1850 she wrote of the Abu Simbel temples "Sublime in the highest style of intellectual beauty, intellect without effort, without suffering ... not a feature is correct — but the whole effect is more expressive of spiritual grandeur than anything I could have imagined. It makes the impression upon one that thousands of voices do uniting in one unanimous simultaneous feeling of enthusiasm or emotion which is said to overcome the strongest man."

At Thebes she wrote of being "called to God" while a week later near Cairo she wrote in her diary (as distinct from her far longer letters that her elder sister Parthenope was to print after her return): "God called me in the morning and asked me would I do good for him alone without reputation." Later in 1850 she visited the Lutheran religious community at Kaiserswerth-am-Rhein in Germany, where she observed Pastor Theodor Fliedner and the deaconesses working for the sick and the deprived. She regarded the experience as a turning point in her life and issued her findings anonymously in 1851; *The Institution of Kaiserswerth on the Rhine for the Practical Training of Deaconesses, etc.* was her first published work. She also received four months of medical training at the institute which formed the basis for her later care.

On 22 August 1853 Nightingale took the post of superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in Upper Harley Street, London — a position she held until October, 1854. Her father had given her an annual income of £500 (roughly £40,000/US$65,000 in present terms) which allowed her to live comfortably and to pursue her career.

### Crimean War

Florence Nightingale's most famous contribution came during the Crimean War which became her central focus when reports got back to Britain about the horrific conditions for the wounded. On 21 October 1854 she and the staff of 38 women volunteer nurses that she trained including her aunt Mai Smith and 15 Catholic nuns (mobilised by Henry Edward Manning) were sent (under the authorisation of Sidney Herbert) to the Ottoman Empire. Nightingale was assisted in Paris by her friend Mary Clarke. They were deployed about 295 nautical miles (546 km; 339 miles) across the Black Sea from Balaklava in the Crimea where the main British camp was based.

### Letter from Nightingale to Mary Mohl, 1881

Nightingale arrived early in November 1854 at Selimiye Barracks in Scutari (modern-day Üsküdar in Istanbul). Her team found that poor care for wounded soldiers was being delivered by overworked medical staff in the face of official indifference. Medicines were in short supply, hygiene infections were common — many of them fatal. There was no equipment to process food for the patients.

After Nightingale sent a plea to *The Times* for a government solution to the poor condition of the facilities the British Government commissioned Isambard Kingdom Brunel to design a prefabricated hospital that could be built in England and shipped to the Dardanelles. The result was Renkioi Hospital — a civilian facility that under the management of Dr. Edmund Alexander Parkes had a death rate less than 1/10th that of Scutari.

Stephen Paget in the *Dictionary of National Biography* asserted that Nightingale reduced the death rate from 42% to 2%, either by making improvements in hygiene herself or by calling for the Sanitary Commission.

For example, Nightingale implemented handwashing and other hygiene practices in the war hospital in which she worked.

During her first winter at Scutari 4,077 soldiers died there. Ten times more soldiers died from illnesses such as typhus, typhoid, cholera and dysentery than from battle wounds.

With overcrowding, defective sewers and lack of ventilation the Sanitary Commission had to be sent out by the British government to Scutari in March 1855 al-

most six months after Nightingale had arrived. The commission flushed out the sewers and improved ventilation. Death rates were sharply reduced but she never claimed credit for helping to reduce the death rate. In 2001 and 2008 the BBC released documentaries that were critical of Nightingale's performance in the Crimean War as were some follow-up articles published in *The Guardian* and the *Sunday Times*. Nightingale scholar Lynn McDonald has dismissed these criticisms as "often preposterous" — arguing they are not supported by the primary sources.

Nightingale still believed that the death rates were due to poor nutrition, lack of supplies, stale air and overworking of the soldiers. After she returned to Britain and began collecting evidence before the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army she came to believe that most of the soldiers at the hospital were killed by poor living conditions. This experience influenced her later career when she advocated sanitary living conditions as of great importance. Consequently she reduced peace time deaths in the army and turned her attention to the sanitary design of hospitals and the introduction of sanitation in working-class homes.

According to some secondary sources Nightingale had a frosty relationship with her fellow-nurse Mary Seacole who ran a hotel/hospital for officers. Seacole's own memoir *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands* records only one friendly meeting with her when she asked her for a bed for the night and got it. Seacole was in Scutari en route to the Crimea to join her business partner and start their business. However Seacole pointed out that, when she tried to join Nightingale's group, one of Nightingale's colleagues rebuffed her and Seacole inferred that racism was at the root of that rebuttal. Nightingale told her brother-in-law in a private letter that she was worried about contact between her work and Seacole's business claiming that while "she was very kind to the men and what is more to the Officers — and did some good (she) made many drunk". Nightingale reportedly wrote "I had the greatest difficulty in repelling Mrs Seacole's advances and in preventing association between her and my nurses (absolutely out of the question!)... Anyone who employs Mrs Seacole will introduce much kindness — also much drunkenness and improper conduct".

### The Lady with the Lamp

During the Crimean war Nightingale gained the nickname "The Lady with the Lamp" from a phrase in a report in *The Times*: She is a "ministering angel" without any exaggeration in these hospitals and, as her slender form glides quietly along each corridor, every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her. When all the medical officers have retired for the night and silence and darkness have settled down upon those miles of prostrate sick she may be observed alone with a little lamp in her hand making her solitary rounds.

The phrase was further popularised by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1857 poem "Santa Filomena":
*Lo! in that house of misery*
*A lady with a lamp I see*
*Pass through the glimmering gloom,*
*And flit from room to room.*

### Later career

In the Crimea on 29 November, 1855 the Nightingale Fund was established for the training of nurses during a public meeting to recognise Nightingale for her work in the war. There was an outpouring of generous donations. Sidney Herbert served as honorary secretary of the fund and the Duke of Cambridge was chairman. Nightingale was considered a pioneer in the concept of *medical tourism* as well based on her 1856 letters describing spas in the Ottoman Empire. She detailed the health conditions, physical descriptions, dietary information and other vital details of patients whom she directed there. The treatment there was significantly less expensive than in Switzerland.

Nightingale had £45,000 at her disposal from the Nightingale Fund to set up the Nightingale Training School at St Thomas' Hospital on 9 July 1860. The first trained Nightingale nurses began work on 16 May 1865 at the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary. Now called the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery the school is part of King's College London. She also campaigned and raised funds for the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital in Aylesbury near her sister's home Claydon House.

Nightingale wrote *Notes on Nursing* (1859). The book served as the cornerstone of the curriculum at the Nightingale School and other nursing schools though it was written specifically for the education of those nursing at home. Nightingale wrote "Every day sanitary knowledge or the knowledge of nursing or in other words, of how to put the constitution in such a state as that it will have no disease or that it can recover from disease takes a higher place. It is recognised as the knowledge which every one ought to have — distinct from medical knowledge which only a profession can have".

*Notes on Nursing* also sold well to the general reading public and is considered a classic introduction to nursing. Nightingale spent the rest of her life promoting and organising the nursing profession. In the introduction to the 1974 edition Joan Quixley of the Nightingale School of Nursing wrote: "The book was the first of its kind ever to be written. It appeared at a time when the simple rules of health were only beginning to be known when its topics were of vital importance — not only for the well-being and recovery of patients when hospitals were riddled with infection when nurses were still mainly regarded as ignorant uneducated persons. The book has inevitably its place in the history of nursing for it was written by the founder of modern nursing".

As Mark Bostridge has demonstrated one of Nightingale's signal achievements was the introduction of trained nurses into the workhouse system in Britain

from the 1860s onwards. This meant that sick paupers were no longer being cared for by other, able-bodied paupers but by properly trained nursing staff. In the first half of the 19th century nurses were usually former servants or widows who found no other job and therefore were forced to earn their living by this work. Charles Dickens caricatured the standard of care in his 1842–1843 published novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* in the figure of Sarah Gamp as being incompetent, negligent, alcoholic and corrupt. According to Caroline Worthington, director of the Florence Nightingale Museum, "When she [Nightingale] started out there was no such thing as nursing. The Dickens character Sarah Gamp, who was more interested in drinking gin than looking after her patients, was only a mild exaggeration. Hospitals were places of last resort where the floors were laid with straw to soak up the blood. Florence transformed nursing when she got back [from Crimea]. She had access to people in high places and she used it to get things done. Florence was stubborn, opinionated and forthright but she had to be those things in order to achieve all that she did."

Though Nightingale is sometimes said to have denied the theory of infection for her entire life a 2008 biography disagrees saying that she was simply opposed to a precursor of germ theory known as contagionism. This theory held that diseases could only be transmitted by touch. Before the experiments of the mid-1860s by Pasteur and Lister hardly anyone took germ theory seriously; even afterwards many medical practitioners were unconvinced. Bostridge points out that in the early 1880s Nightingale wrote an article for a textbook in which she advocated strict precautions designed, she said, to kill germs. Nightingale's work served as an inspiration for nurses in the American Civil War. The Union government approached her for advice in organising field medicine. Her ideas inspired the volunteer body of the United States Sanitary Commission.

In the 1870s Nightingale mentored Linda Richards, "America's first trained nurse," and enabled her to return to the United States with adequate training and knowledge to establish high-quality nursing schools. Richards went on to become a nursing pioneer in the US and Japan.

By 1882 many Nightingale nurses had become matrons at several leading hospitals including in London (St Mary's Hospital, Westminster Hospital, St Marylebone Workhouse Infirmary and the Hospital for Incurables at Putney) and throughout Britain (Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley; Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; Cumberland Infirmary and Liverpool Royal Infirmary), as well as at Sydney Hospital in New South Wales, Australia.

In 1883 Nightingale became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1904 she was appointed a Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ). In 1907 she became the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. In the following year she was given the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. Her birthday is now celebrated as International CFS Awareness Day.

From 1857 onwards Nightingale was intermittently bedridden and suffered from depression. A recent biography cites brucellosis and associated spondylitis as the cause. Most authorities today accept that Nightingale suffered from a particularly extreme form of brucellosis — the effects of which only began to lift in the early 1880s. Despite her symptoms she remained phenomenally productive in social reform. During her bedridden years she also did pioneering work in the field of hospital planning and her work propagated quickly across Britain and the world. Nightingale's output slowed down considerably in her last decade. She wrote very little during that period due to blindness and declining mental abilities though she still retained an interest in current affairs.

### Relationships

Although much of Nightingale's work improved the lot of women everywhere Nightingale was of the opinion that women craved sympathy and were not as capable as men. She criticised early women's rights activists for decrying an alleged lack of careers for women at the same time that lucrative medical positions, under the supervision of Nightingale and others, went perpetually unfilled. She preferred the friendship of powerful men — insisting they had done more than women to help her attain her goals writing: "I have never found one woman who has altered her life by one iota for me or my opinions."[ She often referred to herself in the masculine, as, for example, "a man of action" and "a man of business". However she did have several important and long-lasting friendships with women. Later in life she kept up a prolonged correspondence with Irish nun Sister Mary Clare Moore (with whom she had worked in Crimea.) Her most beloved confidante was Mary Clarke — an Englishwoman she met in Paris in 1837 and kept in touch with throughout her life.

Some scholars of Nightingale's life believe that she remained chaste for her entire life — perhaps because she felt a religious calling to her career.

### Death

Florence Nightingale died peacefully in her sleep in her room at 10 South Street, Mayfair, London on 13 August 1910 at the age of 90. The offer of burial in Westminster Abbey was declined by her relatives and she is buried in the graveyard at St Margaret's Church in East Wellow, Hampshire near Embley Park. She left a large body of work including several hundred notes that were previously unpublished. A memorial monument to Nightingale was created in Carrara marble by Francis William Sargant in 1913 and placed in the cloister of the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy.

### The Nightingale Pledge

The Nightingale Pledge is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath which nurses recite at their pinning ceremony at the end of training. Created in 1893 and named after Nightingale as the founder of modern nursing the pledge is a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession.

**Article by Wikipaedia**

# Melbourne's historic Royal Arcade



The **Royal Arcade** is a historic shopping arcade in the central business district of Melbourne, Victoria. Opened in 1870. It is the oldest surviving arcade in Australia known for its elegant light-filled interior and the large carved mythic figures of Gog and Magog flanking the southern entry.

Along with Melbourne's other historic arcade, the Block Arcade, it is a tourist icon of Melbourne and part of the network of lanes and arcades in the central shopping area of the city.

The arcade is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, the National Trust and Melbourne's Golden Mile heritage walk runs through the arcade. Designed by Charles Webb who won a competition in 1868, the arcade features a high glass roof and rows of arched windows to the storerooms above each shop. It was formally opened by the City's Lord Mayor on 2 May, 1870. At the south end is the arcade's most famous feature, the carved mythical figures of Gog and Magog, flanking Gaunt's clock which triggers the arms of the figures to strike bells each hour. The north end features a figure of Father Time — all were added in 1893.

The arcade originally ended at the south with an entrance to a Turkish Bath but was opened up to Little Collins Street in 1902 along with the creation of the large arched niche the same year as the Elizabeth Street extension. The arcade changed little over the years except for the shopfronts altered into bow fronted windows in 1890-1894 (many then altered again over the years) various central kiosks and the black and white chequered floor added in 1934.

In 2002-04 a major refurbishment repaired and restored many historic features including the recreation of the 1894 shopfronts bringing a consistency to them once more.

The arcade's main entry faces Bourke Street and it connects south through to Little Collins Street with an extension in the centre running west to Elizabeth Street. There is also a connection to the smaller Hub Arcade near the Little Collins Street end.

# Maryborough Soldiers' Memorial Plot



**Maryborough's Soldiers' Memorial Plot cnr. Railway Avenue and Majorca Road.**

Returned soldiers employed by the Borough Council recently levelled some old diggings between the Cool Stores and Railway Station. The spot has been planted with about 70 trees by Mr T. Watson, forest ranger and Blackburn [sic] retired forest ranger and termed Soldiers' Memorial Ground. Each tree guard bears a plate giving the name, rank, battalion, colours, number and unit of the deceased soldier in whose memory the particular tree was planted.

On Wednesday afternoon the ceremony of dedicating the spot was performed by the Mayor (Cr J. R. Lamb) and the ministers of various denominations. Afterwards an appeal was made for funds towards the erection of a Soldiers' Memorial House the sum of £111 being promised in a few minutes. £1,000 is required for the purpose. **The Ballarat Star, Friday November 7, 1919.**

Anzac Day was fittingly observed in Maryborough. On Friday short commemorative services were conducted at all the schools and on Sunday there was a large gathering of citizens at a memorial service conducted by the Ministers' Association at the Soldiers' Memorial Plot. **The Ballarat Star, Wednesday April 28, 1920.**

Mr J. Blackburne retired forestry officer recently received some poppy seed collected by children from French battlefields. He raised a few plants and transferred them to the soldiers' memorial plot where they thrived and recently bloomed some being of the usual red colour and others a pale lavender.

**The Argus, Wednesday January 10, 1923.**

James Blackburne (1839-1923) a former Chief Inspector of Forests for Victoria and a forward-thinking conservationist had a special interest in establishing the memorial plot. His son Carlyle Eugene (Carl) was killed in action in France in April 1918 and was buried in the Bonnay British Cemetery near Corbie. After Blackburne's death the plot slowly became neglected until the Maryborough Lions Club (in association with the Vietnam Veterans and the R.S.L.) came to the rescue. The re dedication ceremony was held on Remembrance Day in 2011.

# The Ly-ee moon disaster — May 30, 1886

While viewing St Kilda cemetery headstone transcriptions found on my computer I found an Elizabeth McIntyre nee Winter a saloon passenger who died in the wreck of the steamer Ly-ee-Moon in 1886.

Prominent among the rolling green hills at Green Cape south of Eden on the New South Wales south coast are the tombstones erected to the 71 persons lost in the *Ly-ee-moon* disaster of 1886. In what was perhaps one of the most graphic losses on our coast the few survivors recounted the horrific last moments of their companions.

Driven onto the reef in a frightening sea the *Ly-ee-moon* rapidly broke apart exposing all inside to the violence of the gale. One by one they were torn from the hull or swept from the decks to drown or be cast against the rocks. When the bow of the steamer tore off it took the saloon and 30 passengers with it. There they remained with water pouring up to shoulder height.

With no air left they perished — a small boy being the only survivor having wedged his head through a porthole. Found unconscious he was given mouth to mouth resuscitation and recovered. The lighthouse staff could offer no help — forced to watch the terrible scenes before them. The ship's Third Officer (attempting to save one of the female passengers) took her in his arms and leapt into the sea. After almost making it to the reef she was struck with timber wreckage and killed.

The recovered bodies were buried in several graves on the northern side of the peninsula — not far from the scene of the wreck. It would have been impossible to bring them back to Sydney for burial due to the remoteness of the spot in 1886. Of the passengers killed a notable loss was Sister Mary MacKillop's mother.

***How to get there:*** Green Cape Road, Ben Boyd National Park, off Edrom Road from Princes Highway. Cemetery marked by sign on northern side of peninsula, several hundred metres before the termination of the road at the Green Cape Lighthouse, Green Cape, south of Eden.

# On the trail of a love lost — World War I

After watching the telemovie "The Water Diviner" recently it reminded me of this article that appeared the the Mildura & District Historical Society newsletter in Dec. 2007 when I was editor.

Someone thought a lot of Light Horse Trooper Percy Beckett – enough to draw a map of his final resting place and mail it home to his betrothed.

Percy Hamlin Beckett was killed in action at Gallipoli aged just 26. He was an auctioneer from Irymple who joined up to fight for his adopted country.

Born in Somerset, England he came Down Under as a fresh faced 23 year old — presumably to start a new life — but the Great War got in the way.

He joined up along with so many other young men of his generation and went to war. He spent some time in Egypt with the 8th Light Horse Regiment before being shipped to Gallipoli to become one of the thousands of Australian casualties on that now hallowed foreign shore.

What makes this story different to many others was that someone, maybe one of his close mates, lovingly drew a detailed map of his Gallipoli resting place and mailed it home.

It is not something someone would do lightly — particularly during a war when just staying alive is a priority — but this is where the story gets a bit tricky.

The map was found amongst the possessions of Irymple's Lilian Merifield when she died in 1981.

Grandniece and longtime Red Cliffs resident Julie Primmer (nee Giddings) discovered the drawing when sorting through her her great aunt's lifetime of memorabilia.

"The Giddings have been around Mildura since 1915," Julie said. Her grandfather arrived here from Maryborough in search of new horizons and opportunities.

"My great aunt never married and all I ever heard was that she lost her fiance in the First World War" Julie said recently. "While we can only speculate that her fiance was Percy Beckett all the clues seem to point to that being the case".

To add weight to the case are the trinkets with a distinctly Egyptian flavour that Julie found amongst her great aunt's possessions.
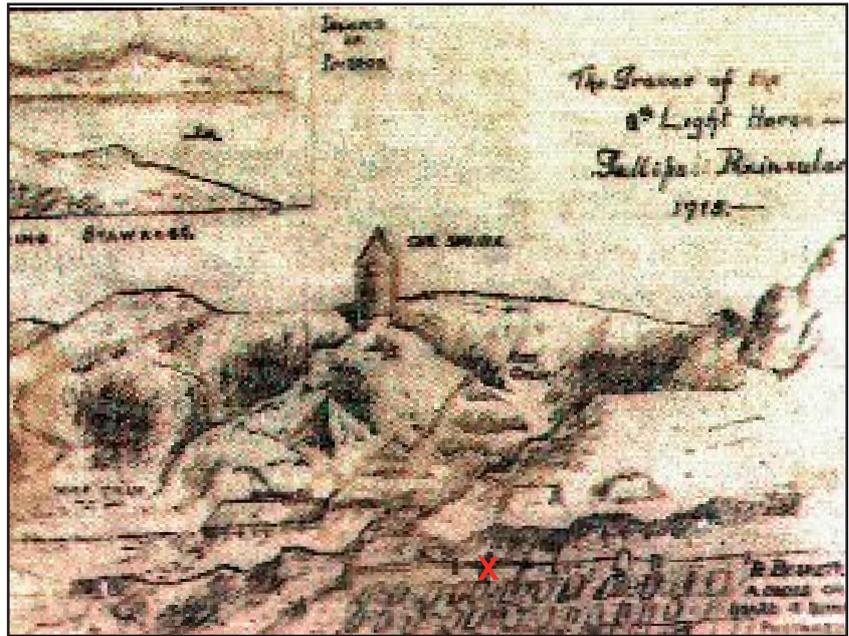


The map found amongst Lilian Merifield's posessions following her death in 1981.

That, said Julie (a keen genealogist), pointed to someone her aunt knew having spent time in the Middle East like Australia's Light Horse Regiments.

It wasn't long before Julie was putting her sleuthing skills to work and tracking down all the information she could about Percy.

She accessed his Australian Army service record and found that he was killed in action on August 7, 1915 and now lies buried in a Turkish graveyard known as the Ari Burnu Cemetery.

Whether or not Percy Hamlin Beckett was the fiance Lilian Merifield lost in the Great War may never be known for sure but the fact that someone went to such lengths to make sure someone knew where he was buried (at that time) and that the map was found in Lilian's possession certainly makes for a strong case.

Julie has never been to Gallipoli or visited Percy's grave but she would like to.

The story of her great aunt and the fiance lost to her is another of those heart rending stories that come out of one of the most vicious and costly wars of the modern era.

"We can only speculate" Julie says but deep down she wants to believe it and, after hearing the story, so do I.

## It's your newsletter — have your say