



Colac & District
Family History Group Inc.

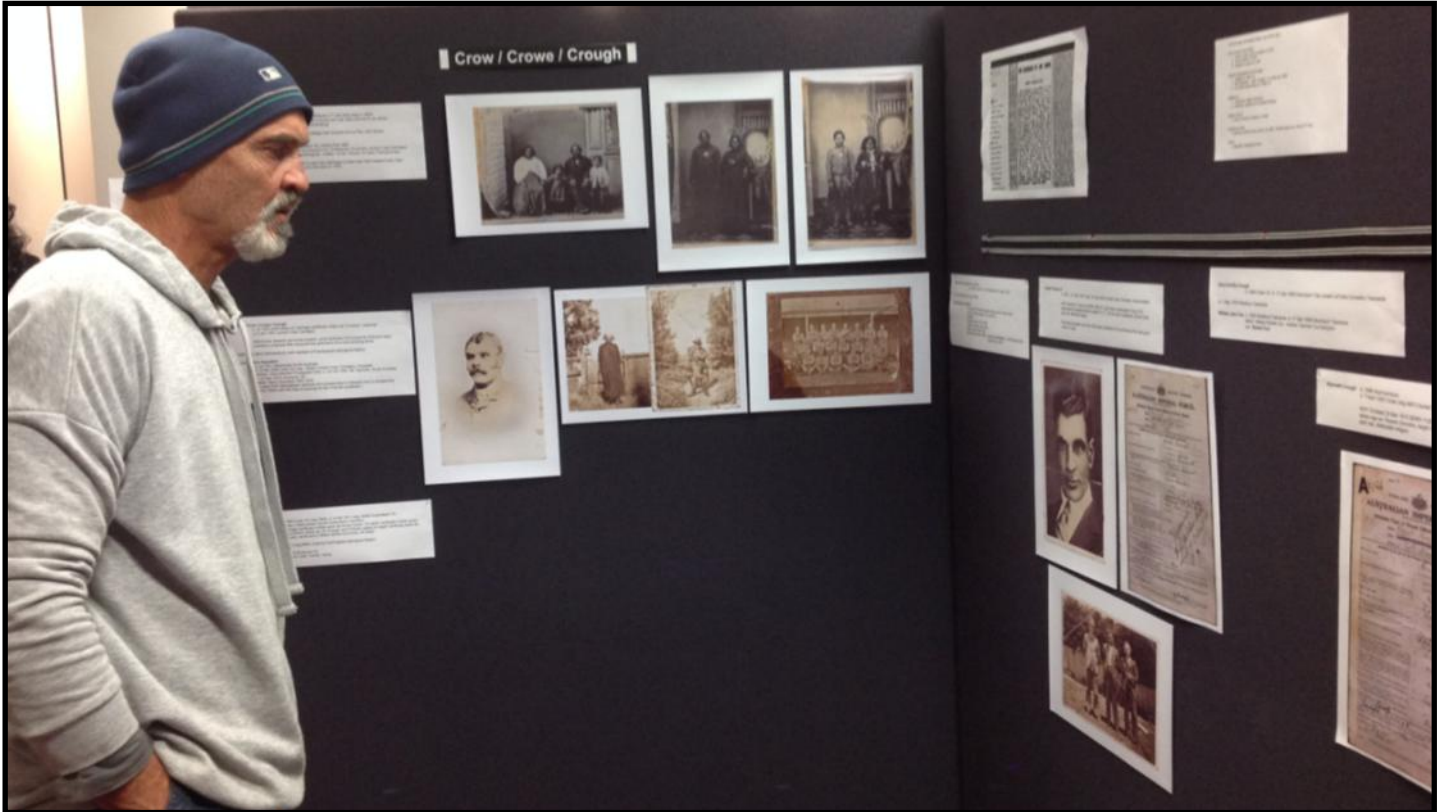
Coladjins

Inc. No. A0022664A ABN 29618437272

Winter 2019 Issue 109



1914-1918



CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES AND THE PAST

There could have been no more appropriate time than the 2019 Australian Heritage Festival to launch our Aboriginal Collection. This year's theme, "Connecting People, Places and the Past", encapsulated the work of Deb Chant and this very important project. When Deb joined the family history group about four years ago and began learning about our resources, she noted that there was no local Aboriginal family history. She then offered to try to research and create family files to compile a history of the Aboriginals who lived in this district at the time of the first white settlers. As with all family history research, it has been difficult at times, with various spellings of names, for example, Crow, Crowe or Crough - or, no name given at all, such as the death certificate that merely states "Aboriginal". Our researchers are used to relying on census records, electoral rolls, rate books and school admissions to assist in identifying where a family was living and their circumstances. But of course these resources would rarely contain references to local indigenous people.

The culmination of this painstaking research was an exhibition titled "A Celebration of Local Aboriginal History", which was officially launched at a function in early May at the History Centre in COPACC. Guests included Shire Councillors, members of the local indigenous community, current landholders, members of the historical society and family history groups and many others who assisted with the project. The exhibition, which includes photographs, family trees, stories, newspaper articles and other documents has generated a great deal of interest. The display also includes a collection of indigenous artefacts held by the historical society. These were assessed and are being processed for inclusion on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and are now on permanent display at the History Centre. Due to community interest, the exhibition has now been extended until the end of August.

Photograph: Richard Collopy studying the family history section of the exhibition at the launch in May

INFORMATION

Contents	Page
Launch of Our Aboriginal Collection	1
Connecting People, Places and the Past	
Information	2
Dates to Remember, Contact Details	
Aboriginal Collection Launch	3
Photo gallery	
Family History Workshop	4 & 5
Three Free Workshops in 2019	
Annie's Footprints	6
A story from "Almost Forgotten"	
The Misses Johannsen in Colac	7
Colac Shopkeepers 1905 to 1923	
Stanley Proctor Thomas	8
His little black book	
Visitors to the Family History Group	8
Archer, Collins & Dwyer descendants	
Inquests & Other Documents	9
Resources at the Public Records Office	
First World War Commemorations	10
Also: From the Palace to the Desert	
Prestigious Award for Family History	11
Also: Successful DNA Workshop and Local History Grant	
Memories & Acknowledgements	12
Gaylard Siblings at wedding	

Contact Information

Colac History Centre COPACC,
Gellibrand St Colac,
PO Box 219, Colac 3250
Phone: 0352315736

Email: media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Website: www.colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
colacdistrictfamilyhistory](http://www.facebook.com/colacdistrictfamilyhistory)

Committee

Co-President: Diana McGarvie

Email: president@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Co-President: Robyn Currie

Research: research@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Secretary: Norma Bakker

Email: secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Treasurer: Merrill O'Donnell

Email: treasurer@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Almost Forgotten Project

Email: almostforgotten1900@gmail.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
almostforgotten1900](http://www.facebook.com/almostforgotten1900)

Opening Times

Monday & Tuesday 10:00am to 2:00pm

Thursday, Friday 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Sunday 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Closed Public Holidays

Out of hours opening by arrangement

\$10 Fee will apply.

Dates to Remember

July 13 Saturday 2 to 4pm

◇ **Free Family History workshop**

◇ Who are Your Ancestors...

What are their stories?

July 16 Tuesday 2 to 4pm

◇ In-house training for volunteers

July 23 Tuesday 2 to 4pm

◇ **Brainstorming**

◇ Helping to break through Brick Walls

July 27 Saturday 8pm

◇ **Stardust/The Mission**

◇ Discount tickets for workshop attendees

August 13 Tuesday 2 to 4pm

◇ **General Meeting**

◇ Group brainstorming Brick Walls

August 20 Tuesday 1:30 to 4pm

◇ **Preservation Clinic &**

Conservation Workshop

◇ Detlev Lueth from National Archives

September 12 Thursday time to be confirmed

◇ **Movie Fundraiser**

◇ Downton Abbey

October 16 Wednesday - Day Trip

◇ **Visit to Geelong Heritage Centre**

◇ Guided tour of the Reading Room

◇ Tour of Records Repository

October 26 Saturday 2 to 4pm

◇ **Free Family History Workshop**

◇ Do you have a Convict in the Family?

November 7 Thursday 7:30pm

◇ **This is Eden**

◇ Discount tickets for workshop attendees

November 12 Tuesday 2 to 4 pm

◇ **General Meeting**

◇ Guest speaker, Anthony Car

Otway Waterfalls

CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES AND THE PAST

LAUNCH OF "A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY"



*Deputy Mayor Cr Joe McCracken
with Tom Dennis*



Brett Clarke and Auntie Patricia Clarke



LtoR Cr Brian Crook, John Clarke, Tony Mahoney



LtoR Rohan Volpe, Rob Volpe, Rayle Feigan



LtoR Debbie Frizon, Kris Reinertsen, Peter Collopy



John Calvert and Jane Orr



Kathy Mahoney and Ken Shone



*Since the opening, the exhibition has attracted many visitors
including this group of students from Grade 4, Sacred Heart*

Free Family History WORKSHOPS

Saturday July 13 2-4pm

Who are Your Ancestors? What are Their Stories?

Presented by Merrill O'Donnell

Researcher & Author Colac & District Family History Group Inc

Learn how to research and record your family history and uncover those lost stories of your ancestors

All participants will qualify for a special VIP discount to Stardust/The Mission, showing at COPACC on Saturday July 27 at 8pm

Registrations are on first-in-best-served basis through the COPACC office by calling 5232 9418 or emailing copacc@colacotway.vic.gov.au

Tuesday August 20 1:30-4pm

Preservation Workshop & Conservation Clinic for Your Family Archive

Presented by Detlev Lueth

Assistant Director, Preservation & Digitisation National Archives of Australia

How to preserve your precious memorabilia, including photographs, documents and other items. Followed by a conservation clinic on items provided by audience members

Saturday October 26 2-4pm

Do you have a convict in the family?

Presented by Janet McCalman

Social Historian, Academic, Population Researcher & Author

It is now a matter of pride to be able to boast a convict in the family. Find out the resources available to learn about convict ancestors, their crime, sentence, transportation and new life

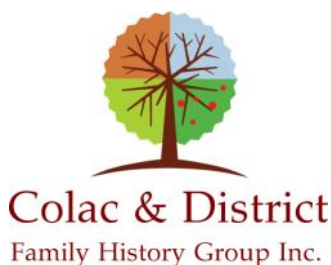
All participants will qualify for a special VIP discount to This is Eden, 1839 Cascades Female Factory Hobart. Showing at COPACC on Thursday November 7 at 7:30pm

For further information on all of these workshops and booking details, email: secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au or ph: 52315736 or call into the History Centre, COPACC during opening hours, opposite the railway station, Gellibrand Street Colac

www.colacfamilyhistory.org.au www.facebook.com/colacdistrctfamilyhistory



Proudly Sponsored by



COMING UP - THREE FREE WORKSHOPS

COPACC has generously sponsored some family history workshops to coincide with two of their shows this year. All attendees at these free workshops will be eligible for generous VIP discounts on the ticket price to the shows. The first show is an award winning double bill, at COPACC on July 27, ***Stardust/The Mission***.



Joel Carnegie (left) and Tony Molyneux

The ***Stardust*** story comes from the contents of a locked wooden dresser that sat in a family garage for 25 years. It was a prized possession of Col Brain, one of Victoria's most well-regarded musicians of his time. But the dresser hadn't been opened since Col died. In ***Stardust***, Col's grandson, Joel Carnegie, tells the story of the discovery of this time capsule of Australian musical life.

The Mission is also a story about family. Allan McDonald - a "Fighting Gunditjmara" man from South-West Victoria, was one of the State's first Indigenous soldiers to enlist for war. Allan fought at some of WWI's most famous campaigns, only to be denied a soldier's settlement on his return to Australia, and forced from his traditional land at the Lake Condah Mission. Tony Molyneux, a great, great nephew presents his moving story. The workshop to complement this production is aimed at anyone interested in family history.

WORKSHOP 1 - SATURDAY JULY 13

Who are Your Ancestors? What are Their Stories?

This workshop draws from the knowledge and expertise of the researchers at the family history group. You will be provided with information on how to research and record your family history, and given tips on how to turn that information into stories. You will be shown some of the resources available at local family history groups, and how to incorporate them into your story. All attendees will be provided with a family history kit to start their family history research.

WORKSHOP 2 - TUESDAY AUGUST 20

Preservation Workshop & Conservation Clinic

August is Family History Month. Instead of having a speaker at our General Meeting, we will be holding a separate workshop, the following week, this time supported by the National Archives of Australia. Detlev Lueth, an Assistant Director of Preservation and Digitisation at the National Archives will share his expertise on preserving our precious documents, photographs and other items,.



Detlev Lueth



Bring along your items such as this old letter for advice on conservation.

Following the workshop, audience members will be invited to show precious and sentimental items and receive advice on how best to conserve them. Please note, Detlev will not be estimating the value of any items. This is purely a Conservation Clinic. Detlev has also indicated that he will have

packaging samples for the demonstration.

WORKSHOP 3 - SATURDAY OCTOBER

Do You have a Convict in Your Family?

This workshop, is also sponsored by COPACC. Janet McCalman, Academic, Author and Social Historian.

Janet was responsible for a group called "Founders and Survivors", which enlisted people to select a convict ship that was sent to Van Diemen's Land, to try to find out what happened to every convict on board.

Janet will guide you through Tasmania's convict records which are very detailed and include height, eye colour, level of literacy, general disposition and background. Not to be missed, Janet's lively and informative presentation is more than just a lesson in history.



Janet McCalman

THE MISSES WILHELMINA & ELLEN JOHANNSEN

RESIDENTS OF COLAC FROM C1905-1923 BY MANDY BRIDGES

Several months ago, I set out on a journey to see if I could fill in some of the details of the lives of different members of the Johannsen family (my maternal grandmother's family).

I had some of the important dates for the first members who had come to Victoria from Schleswig Holstein, Germany.

Two brothers, Johann Niemann Johannsen and Peter Johannsen both single and in their early 30s arrived together in 1855 and made their way to the Smythesdale area and later Allendale.

I had discovered, when browsing the Victorian electoral rolls, that two unmarried daughters of Johann, Wilhelmina and Ellen, had made their home in Colac between about 1905 and 1923.

I wondered why, at the ages of 40 and 35, they decided to leave their extended family in Allendale and move to Colac. Did they know someone here? What was it that brought them to Colac? And so, I set out to see what else I could find out about these two great great aunts of mine. I also hoped to find out about what life might have been like for them in Colac at that time.

Reading the digitised newspapers on Trove, I found mention after mention of Wilhelmina & Ellen in the *Colac Herald* and began to get a picture of what their lives were like in Colac.

I discovered that not only did they run an 'emporium' in Murray St in Colac, they were also very active members of the community.

The store had the glamorous name 'Nonpareil'. If the translation of its name is accurate "having no equal", it must have been a fine store.

Advertisements in the *Colac Herald* showed that it stocked all manner of things including fine china, needlework items, handbags, jewel cases perfumes, brushes, clothes, toys and much more.

During the war years, the sisters worked with other community members and helped to raise money for the Patriotic Fund. They also acted as judges and were contributors at the local shows.

As luck would have it, and at about the same time as my discovery, I came across mention of a four-week online Family History Research course being run by the State Library of Victoria. which was about to start and so I quickly enrolled.

This course was wonderful and increased my research skills exponentially. As a result, I have sought and found further information about the extended Johannsen family and the lives they led. I became more and more curious about

Wilhelmina and Ellen and decided that a trip to Colac would be a good idea. And so, on a chilly day in May I headed to Colac and to the Colac & District Family History Room where it was my good fortune to meet Merrill O'Donnell. We chatted for several hours and before I knew it Merrill had put her hands on two pieces of information which led to us locating the exact spot where Wilhelmina & Ellen ran their 'emporium'. We discovered from the Colac Rate books in conjunction with a map of the Colac streets and references to land blocks that the store was located in 'Purser's' buildings, Murray Street, opposite the park. They would have been the first tenants. The sisters purchased a house in Corangamite Street and a photograph of Ellen in front of the house has confirmed the location. The sisters left Colac in 1923, and moved to Canterbury which would be their final home.



Wilhelmina Johannsen



Ellen Johannsen



Mandy Bridges pictured in front of the shop where her great, great aunts, Minnie and Ellen Johannsen carried on their business for almost 20 years. Built by Abraham Purser in 1905, his name and the year the building was erected is still visible on the facade. (see inset)

ANNIE'S FOOTPRINTS BY RAYE KAYLER-THOMSON

A story uncovered during research of the "Almost Forgotten Pre 1900 Burials" Project

My Grandmother wrote in my autograph book *"Life is like a pathway of driven snow, be careful how you tread it, for every mark will show."*

Annie Nicholas Thomas was born about 1855 in Geelong, the daughter of Patience Clemens and Thomas Thomas, a storekeeper.

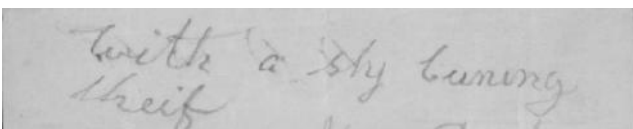
In December 1881, aged 26, Annie married Charles Hosken Miller a clerk in the Colac telegraph office and son of prominent early Colac settlers, Jane and Benjamin Miller.

Many of Charles' friends soon became anxious about the state of his health and after only eleven months of marriage, Charles died in November 1882 aged just 31 years. In his will, Charles left his furniture and life insurance to his wife and the remainder of his estate to family and friends.

Annie his widow, next appears in the Insolvency Court in 1889 as a boarding house keeper in Geelong. The causes of insolvency: bad health, pressure of creditors and want of boarders.

She appeared again in 1891 the year she married William Ilett, a highly respected grazier of Warrion. His wife Susan, mother of their eleven children, had died from asthma in 1885.

The union between Annie and William did not end happily. William believed (although it was not proven) that Annie was trying to poison him and one night, after drinking whisky, they quarrelled. Annie later claimed that William stabbed her in the chin with a butcher's knife. He then left the house writing a suicide note on a scrap of paper. The note read *"I cannot live with her any longer, eight years and that is enough..."* the final words on the note were *"with a sly cunning thief"*



The next morning, still in her nightie, Annie went to see Mrs McIntosh, William's daughter. She reported that William was missing and asked for someone to send for his son to help look for him. Clark Ilett and Harry, his younger brother went to the property and found their father had hanged himself in the stables. William was 72 years old when he died in 1899 and had been married to Annie for eight years. There was no mention of the suicide in the local paper, his obituary stating that he had been "ailing for some time". William is buried with his first wife Susan in Colac.



William's estate, valued at £6000, was bequeathed to his three daughters, to the exclusion of his wife. Annie contested the will and during the sensational case, Dr Johnson stated that he had suspected strychnine poisoning when attending William in a late illness. Other evidence emerged that the marriage was far from happy.

Annie did receive some cash, however, she was to give up possession of the homestead.

Less than twelve months later, the marriage of Annie Nicholas Ilett and Nehemiah Rogers, a hotel-keeper, was celebrated in Horsham.

More than two hundred guests were invited from the surrounding district. Nehemiah a widower, was very highly esteemed. A year passed uneventfully, until the Junction Hotel at Wail was burned to the ground. Mrs Rogers rushed through a door that was a mass of flame sustaining severe burns with her hair being singed off her head. The origin of the fire is surrounded in mystery. The building and contents were insured for £500.

By 1905 Annie was living alone in Melbourne.

She met Mrs Beatty, a widow, at the Salvation Army Home in Swanston Street in 1908 where she signed a will as a witness for Mrs Beatty who gave her £50. In February 1910, Annie turned Crown witness in the Beatty case held in Sydney where a caveat was lodged against the granting of a will believed to be a forgery. Annie was charged with perjury and the case was continued in the Melbourne Criminal Court. Mrs Rogers said the evidence she gave in the probate proceedings did not correspond with the statement she had previously made as she had been told to learn her story and to destroy the writing before she went into court. Annie was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for perjury. Annie Rogers, alias Annie Miller, a widow, died in 1933 and was buried alone in the Fawkner Cemetery.

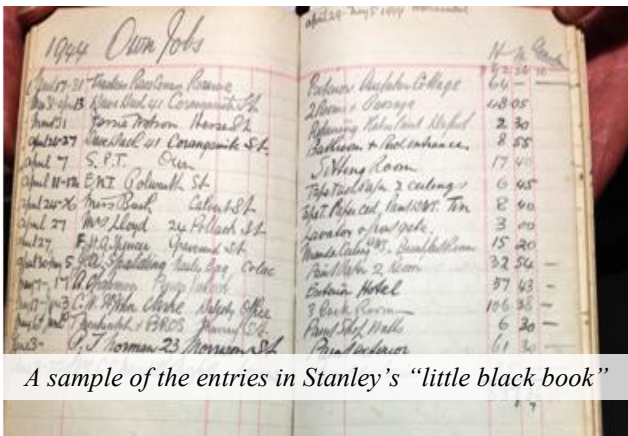
STANLEY PROCTOR THOMAS' LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Stanley Proctor Thomas, painter and decorator for more than forty years, kept a “little black book”. This little black book isn’t an account of romantic connections, instead it is a record of the work he did in Colac and other districts between 1933 and 1973. Born in Elliminyt in 1898, son of Ernest Thomas and Grace Proctor, Stanley attended Elliminyt State School and Colac High School before undertaking a Painting and House Decorating apprenticeship in Melbourne. He returned to live in Colac during the Great Depression and later married Dorothy Morrison, in Melbourne, daughter of Richard Morrison and Jane Smith.



Stanley Thomas

Stanley found jobs in his trade and his book provides the details, including the date, name of the person who hired him and often the address.



A sample of the entries in Stanley's "little black book"

We were first shown Stanley’s book when Alan Doyle, his great nephew, came to the Christmas break-up dinner in Colac last year. It was exciting to see names of many of the Colac families we had been researching over the years, particularly those who no longer have relatives in the district. We asked Alan if we could have a scanned copy of the book because of the insight it offered into the lives of Colac district residents. We believed it would be a valuable resource that could help fill in some gaps in family history research. Alan scanned the book and had it bound and donated a copy to the group. He is currently in the process of digitising all of the names which in time will be added to our database, making the information simple to access.



Alan Doyle

There are currently around 350,000 entries on our database to assist family researchers and these are being added to each week.

Alan has previously written several books about his ancestors, the Morrison and Thomas families, and has donated copies to the family history group library. Although he lives in Melbourne, Alan has assisted with research on the “Almost Forgotten” project, particularly families who were involved in the hotel industry in Colac.

Information in this article is reproduced with permission from “A Colac Painter & Decorator’s “Little Black Book” compiled by Alan Doyle 2019.

VISITORS TO THE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



Dorothea & Daughter

Descendants of the Archer family from Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands will be holding a reunion in Colac later this year. Dorothea, a descendant of Christina Archer, was surprised at how well known the Archer family

were in Colac and the amount of information we were able to show her, including photographs. Raye, a researcher and regular volunteer with the family history group, said it is rewarding for such positive outcomes from our volunteers’ work.

Pat Johnson also recently spent two full days at the family history group looking up information on the Thomas Collins and Ellen Dwyer and their families. The brother and sister had farms in the Irrewarra district in



Pat Johnson

the 1800s. Pat was thrilled when we found the locations of the farms on our maps and lots of other information from our collection. We welcome Pat and Dorothea and all recently joined members of the Family History Group.

INQUESTS & OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA

When one of our interstate members visited the family history group last year, we informed him about the documents, maps etc. that are able to be viewed, free of charge, from the Public Records Office of Victoria. Many of these records have been made available on-line, but there are many more that are currently accessible only through a personal visit. An offer was made by one of our members to look up and scan some documents for him the next time they visited the office.

He found that he was able to download many of the records from home, but a few hadn't been digitised yet, including the inquest into the death of Alexander John Brown, his grandfather.



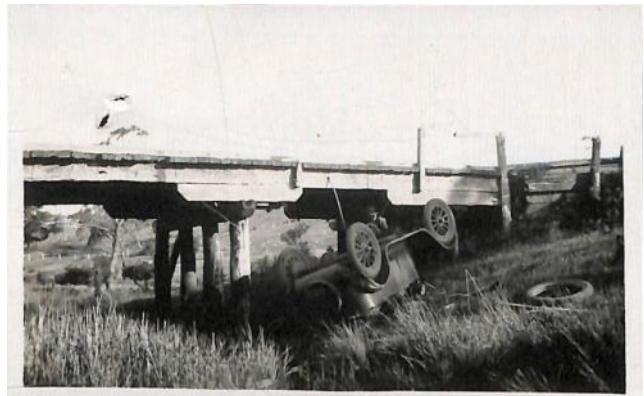
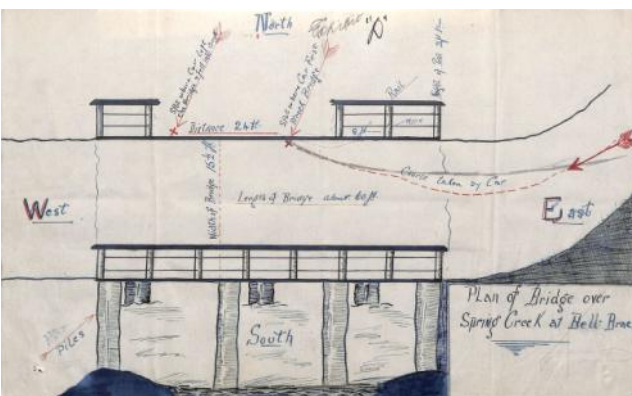
Alexander John Brown

Alexander was just 35 years old when he died on 7 November, 1926, following a car accident. He had been a passenger in a car driven by his nephew when it broke through the barriers of a wooden bridge and plunged into Spring Creek at Bellbrae.

The bridge was on the Anglesea Road between Geelong and Torquay.

The story of the accident and the actual cause of death had subsequently been passed down by the family over the generations. That information has now been able to be confirmed and clarified.

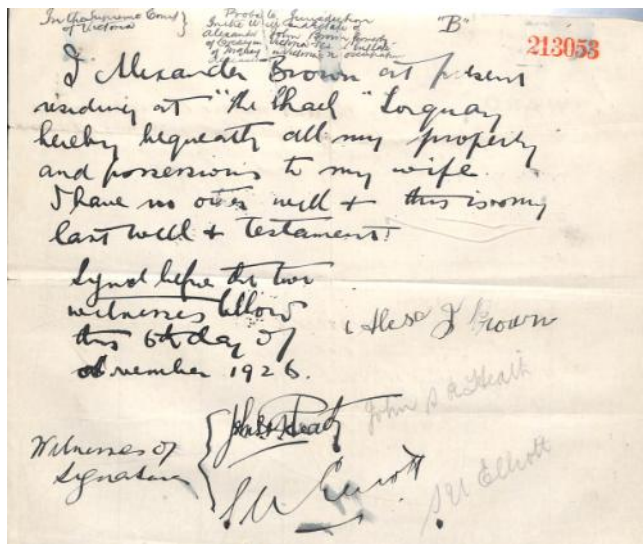
There were also some unexpected items included in the Inquest. As well as the usual statements from witnesses and the car's occupants, there was a hand-drawn, detailed sketch by the policeman who attended the scene the following day. A series of photographs of the car, showed the



The car after it had come off the Spring Creek bridge.

1918 Dodge lying upturned on the creek bed, with one of the wheels in the grass nearby.

One of the statements was from a witness who had been droving stock in the area when the accident happened. He said that the car appeared to be going only eight to ten miles an hour as it approached and crossed the bridge. The driver gave an account of how he tried to correct the steering when he felt the car pulling to one side and another witness specified where the driver and each of the passengers had been seated prior to the car leaving Geelong on that fateful day. Wills and Probate papers up until 1925 are mostly available to view on line. As this death took place in 1926, Alexander's Will was ordered to view at the Public Records Office reading room in North Melbourne where it was able to be copied free.



This turned out to be the most poignant of all of the documents. Alexander was near death when he shakily signed his Will, which had been written on a scrap of paper, ensuring that his entire estate would go to his wife. He died the following day.

ANZAC DAY AND FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIONS



As the worldwide commemorations of the First World War drew to a close, Colac paid a fitting tribute to the men and women who served and those who gave their lives. During 1919 the survivors would return home and a new chapter in their lives would begin. Families who lost their fathers, sons, husbands and brothers were faced with the hollow realisation that they would never see their loved one again. It has been an honour to have been able to join with many other organisations to pay tribute to these brave men and women. Lest We Forget.



Photographs clockwise from top left. The projection on the memorial, organised by the Amanda Shepherd and her team at the Colac Otway Shire. Crosses bearing names of all of the local men who died during the First World War. Some of the hundreds of flags at the Colac Cemetery honouring all men and women who have served. The team of volunteers who set up the crosses before the Anzac Day dawn service. From left, Paul and Helen Brennan, Beryl Clissold (co-ordinator), Harry Dobber and Amanda Shepherd.

FROM THE PALACE TO THE DESERT

Lyn Heppner, family history group member and volunteer, was our guest speaker at the General Meeting in May. Lyn has led an interesting life from her school days at Colac, where she was known by her maiden name, Veale, to joining the Womens Royal Australian Navy Service, before marrying and raising four daughters. A variety of jobs followed, including working for state government ministers and the World Expo in Brisbane. We asked Lyn to talk about the seventeen years she spent working as Executive Assistant for the Prince of Jordan. Wearing a gift from the Prince, a beautiful jacket which had been hand embroidered by Jordanian women, Lyn talked about the history of Jordan, its people and culture. Peppered with humorous stories and anecdotes about life in the palace and the desert, the talk was a fascinating insight into another culture. Lyn also brought along several dresses to show the audience.



Lyn shows her hand embroidered jacket and another dress from Jordan

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Local historian Robert Wuschatch, was recently announced as the joint winner of this year's prestigious Alexander Henderson award from Family History Connections (AIGS).

Robert's book, *Sarka to Westgarthtown: the Wuchatsch Family in Germany and Australia*, is the history of a Wendish German family who migrated to Victoria before the gold rushes. The book contains numerous individual detailed biographies of the family members and their descendants.

Last year Robert gave a talk about his research at our May general meeting and has since donated a copy of his book to our library. It is an inspiration for anyone considering researching their German heritage.

Robert is currently working on a history of the property where he lives

in the Stoney Rises which promises to be a comprehensive account of the people and the district.

Congratulations on the award Robert, we look forward to the completion of your latest venture.



Historian Robert Wuschatch

SUCCESSFUL DNA WORKSHOP



Jason Reeve ancestry.com

Jason Reeve, from ancestry.com, provided an informative presentation on DNA to a large audience at the Colac Community Library recently.

The event, a collaboration between the family history group and the library, was organised to try to demystify DNA as a family history research tool.

Jason explained the process from ordering a kit, providing some spit in a tube, completing your details and returning the kit by mail to be analysed.

Once the DNA is analysed, you are given an estimation of your ethnicity and a list of people who share the same DNA and the possible relationships.

Jason then gave an objective overview of the services provided by other organisations where DNA kits can be purchased and discussed the various tests as well as security and privacy issues.

Using his own family tree as an example, Jason showed how the ancestry tool "ThruLines" can indicate possible ancestors, but warned that research need to be undertaken to prove

any connections. Noting frustration experienced by people who have tried to contact some of their DNA matches but to no avail, Jason urged the audience to respond to queries by potential relatives.

LOCAL HISTORY GRANT

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in gaining a Public Records Office Local History Grant to purchase two new computers, replacing two of our aging machines.

The computers will enable our volunteers to work on our major project which is the digitisation of the records, documents and photographs in the Colac & District Family History Group collection. They will also be used by volunteers and the community for research, training and interactive workshops.

In the past we have gratefully been the recipients of second hand computers from the Colac Otway Shire as they upgrade their technology but those units are becoming old and unreliable and the grant will ensure that our dedicated volunteers can carry on their great work.

The family history group has a network consisting of one server, seven desktops and three portables.

We also have retained an older model computer with Windows XP to access some old CDs of vital records that are not compatible with later versions of Windows. It is imperative that we keep all of these units and our programs operational. If you, or someone you know, has a background in IT and is interested in volunteering in a rewarding, friendly environment, we would love to hear from you.

The Colac & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible.



MEMORIES...



This happy photograph is of Henry Thomas Gaylard and his sisters, Sarah Jane McIldowie, Ethel Woods and Ivy Vesey at a wedding. Note the beautiful corsages on the women and the fur.
Do you have a photograph you would like featured in the "Memories." section? E: media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

WE THANK THESE ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT



Cnr Rae & Gellibrand Streets Colac
Ph: 03 5232 2077



Colac Otway
Shire
2 - 6 Rae Street Colac
Ph: 03 52339400



The Colac Herald
37 - 41 Bromfield Street
Colac Ph: 03 52315322

PRINTING OF THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is kindly printed by the staff at the office of Richard Riordan MP, member for Polwarth.



RICHARD RIORDAN MP
MEMBER FOR POLWARTH



Jiffy Services

Colac's best Lawn Mowing and Car Detailing
House Cleaning Colac • Dog Wash Colac
Test & Tag Colac Ph: (03) 5232 1506

DISCLAIMER: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the committee does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed