

Things Past

Newsletter 30 August 2010

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 101 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 A0051327F



Dates for your diary

History Group AGM followed by business meeting, Thursday 26th August, 7.30pm Mt Evelyn Station House.

'Open Day @ Link', Saturday 25th September, 1pm-4pm.

History of Mt Evelyn Primary School, October display at Mt Evelyn Exhibition Space.

Mt Evelyn Primary School Centenary Celebration, Saturday 16th October, 11am-4pm at the school, official opening 2pm.

Your treasures have life stories too

Louise Blake spoke on 'Connecting People, Place and Personal Treasures' at the Station House on Saturday 24th July. Louise is a writer, historian and family historian.

Louise's interest in recording the stories of personal treasures was sparked by her great-grandmother's scrapbook of her life in Woods Point in the 1880s and 1890s. Louise could not bring the scrapbook to show us, as it has become too fragile to handle and is now in the collection of the Museum of Victoria. Her article about it in *Provenance* can be viewed on the PROV website: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/provenance/default.asp>

Just like people, objects – those personal or family treasures we keep – have life stories. Those stories are not only about the objects themselves, but the values and meanings that we invest in them. Recording those stories is just as important as preserving the objects themselves.

Personal treasures can be reminders of the past and sources of information on family history. Usually it's the women of the family who treasure personal items, while men are more likely to collect work-related objects or military memorabilia.

An account of the object should include two aspects, provenance and significance. Provenance is the life-story of the object: who



Three generations: Louise Blake holds a photo of her grandmother and her mother as a baby. Louise still treasures the little heart-shaped pendant and spectacles her grandmother is wearing in the photo. Photo Kevin Phillips.

made it and when, what its original purpose was, who first owned it and its chain of ownership since then. Significance refers to the meanings attached to the item: the reasons it has been kept.

The fragility of treasured objects was one theme of Louise's talk. She recommends taking photos of the item before doing anything else, so that it can be studied without continual handling.

The next step is to describe the object. Has it any markings, labels or distinguishing features? Who owned it first, who has owned it since and where is it now? What was its original purpose and is it still used for the same purpose? Are there any changes from its original condition? Louise gave the example of a piano stool treasured by her family. The piano is long gone but the stool has been kept because of the hand-made tapestry cover that has been added to it.

Any photos or documents relating to the object, such as Louise's photo of her grandmother and mother on p.1, should be preserved. It is a good idea to keep a journal of your memories or reactions to the item. Interview other family members for their recollections. Even if memories prove to be inaccurate, they too form part of the story of that item.

Louise provided the following useful references:

Diane Bell, *Generations: grandmothers, mothers and daughters*, McPhee Gribble, Fitzroy VIC, 1987

Geoffrey Blainey, *Black Kettle and Full Moon: daily life in a vanished Australia*, Penguin, Camberwell VIC, 2006

Heritage Council of Victoria, *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes*, Melbourne VIC, 2010 [available as a free download from <http://heritage.vic.gov.au/Publications/Framework-historical-themes.aspx>]

Lenore Frost, *Dating family photos 1850-1920*, Lenore Frost, Essendon VIC, 1992

Beth M Robertson, *Oral History Handbook*, Oral History Association of Australia (SA) Inc, Unley SA, 2006 [to order see <http://www.ohaa.net.au/publications.php>]

Robyn Russell & Kylie Winkworth, *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Rundle Mall SA, 2009 [available as a free download from <http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/home>]

National Archives of Australia, *Keeping family treasures*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra ACT, 2010 [available from <http://eshop.naa.gov.au/>]

Conservation suppliers:

Albox <http://www.albox.com.au/>

Archival Survival

www.archivalsurvival.com.au

Zetta Florence www.zettaflorence.com.au

Louise subsequently added a suggestion on researching land: 'The parish plans that are online at PROV and Land Victoria can be useful when you're looking at land. I find the PROV ones more useful because they are the working plans, with all the additional information that has been added to them over the years by the department, including various cable routes, roads, changes to reserves, and in some cases landholders. Also if there have been soldier settlement estates in the parish you'll find separate plans for those.

The downside is that these are quite large files, so you'd need a decent broadband connection to download them. The ones at Land Victoria are smaller files but they don't usually have all the extra detail. You can find info about the PROV plans at: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/landsguide/> '

Many thanks to Louise for an inspiring talk.

Government Road

We reported in the June issue on MEEPPA's application to rename Government Road 'Beryl's Way' after the late D. Beryl Phillips. In July we received a letter on the issue from the Shire. It referred to a previous letter (which, unfortunately, we hadn't received) and requested a response by the following day.

The letter raises two points of interest. For one thing, the Shire regards the proposal as one to name an unnamed road rather than to change an existing name. This largely removes the historical objection. Second, MEEPPA has altered its proposed name to the more formal and dignified 'Beryl Phillips Way'.

There was no time for us to discuss the matter in a meeting but nor had there been any passionate response to the newsletter article. Opinions expressed on the original proposal amounted to one in favour, two against and one indifferent.

'Beryl's Way' would have been disallowed in any case. The rules of the Registrar of Geographic Names don't permit apostrophes. The preference is for the surname, or both first name and surname, rather than first name only.

We advised the Shire that the History Group had no objection to 'Beryl Phillips Way', provided the residents and Beryl's family were happy with the name. The residents apparently like the idea. Emergency Services will have the final say.

Karen

A link to Brunswick

Ben Ellis sends this link to Cornwell Potteries, the name stamped on earthenware pipes on the Water Race formation: <http://www.auspottery.com/Brunswick%20view.htm>

Cornwell's Brunswick Potteries, founded in 1860, was a major producer of industrial and domestic ceramics. A number of potteries were located in Brunswick to take advantage of the local clay. The website calls the area 'Australia's Little Staffordshire'.

The pipe section is half way between Priestley Crescent and the Cascades. This part of the Water Race formation is overgrown at present and whilst it is used by some folk it is not an official path yet. Someone (Parks Victoria?) has been in and got rid of the blackberries at the Cascades Pump area.

The Cascades are looking great with the blackberries gone and the coral ferns doing well. The only blight is the mountain bike trail that someone has cut through the bush just below the Aqueduct trail.

Ben wrote in a later email, 'Incidentally, I have been down to below Reserves Road pulling ground ivy recently and on each occasion I have disturbed a swamp wallaby!'

From Ben Ellis, President, Friends of Water Race & Quinn Reserve

From South Wandin to Fremantle

Researching the life of John McKillop (*Things Past* 29) raised interesting issues about pioneer families moving interstate. It crops up so often on the fringes of local or family history: 'so-and-so left the district and moved to Western Australia'.



Enoch Clegg (right), late of South Wandin, poses with staff members in front of his store in Fremantle c.1906. Photo Fremantle City Library Local History Collection.

The Clegg family, who had selections in the areas now known as Mt Evelyn, Silvan and Wandin, had several members move to WA. As stated in the previous issue, the children of Jacob Clegg relocated to Fremantle about 1906 with their mother and stepfather, Margaret and John McKillop. The flourishing colony of Cleggs in WA are their descendants.

Jacob's brother Enoch was another who moved to Fremantle. South Wandin (Silvan) township was built on Enoch's selection. He is described in the Silvan Primary School history as 'a tall man with a full beard in the fashion of the times'. The photo above shows the seriously bearded Enoch Clegg outside his furniture store in South Terrace, Fremantle. The impressive building still stands and is classified by the National Trust.

Enoch and his wife did not make a permanent move interstate but returned to spend their later years in Victoria.

ANZAC centenary

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since our involvement in the First World War. During this time we will remember not only the Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but all Australian servicemen and women who have served in all conflicts since then.

The National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary is seeking ideas and suggestions on how to mark this important chapter in our history. Public submissions will be accepted until 17

September 2010 at: www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

From 'On Parade'

Our web page

Please note our new web address:

<http://mt-evelyn.net/Community-Groups/Mt-Evelyn-History-Group.aspx>

Thanks to Joy Carrick for updating the web page. Newsletters, flyers for events, our list of publications and membership form can be downloaded. The page is part of the Mt Evelyn community website and can be accessed from the home page under Community Groups.

Housekeeping

A 'Mount Evelyn History Group' banner has been ordered for use on our stalls or to advertise our presence at the Link. Blue lettering on white vinyl was chosen. The words 'Open Day' will be detachable.

Our four drawer filing cabinet in the Link is now lockable, thanks to a helpful locksmith.

The Manor House

Sandy Ross replies to our article on the Warburton Trail bridge and nearby house.

We at Lilydale are very pleased to see work going on where the old Red Bridge used to be, and taking photographs of its progress. The trail is well used and the foot bridge will be a great asset. The next stage will be to get access to the original land that the railway was on approaching the north end of the bridge.

The derelict house below the Rail Trail was known as the Manor House. Edward Janson bought the house in 1902 when it was known as 'Winfield' and owned by Howard George. It was originally owned and built by Henry Hand in 1887. Mr Janson gave it the name 'Manor House'. It was his home after the railway in 1901 ran through his property 'The Towers' (which is still there today). We have a Heritage listing on the Manor House and expect it to be renovated before the site can be used for business.

Edward Janson was the man responsible for the trees in the Lilydale streets. He started with the planting of the Queen's Jubilee Avenue from the Olinda Creek to Cave Hill Road in 1897. For the next twenty-five years he planted, pruned and replaced trees in the town.



**The Manor House from the north-east.
Photo Kevin Phillips.**

We are in discussion with the Council re a sign to his efforts in the town.

The people who had lived at Winfield when Mr Janson bought the property moved to number 2 Hermitage Street and called that 'Winfield'. It was a hospital before the Lilydale Bush Nursing Hospital was opened in 1933. This house is still there today as a private home.

Keep up the good work.

From A. (Sandy) Ross, President, Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for July 2010 for Mt Evelyn, Melbourne and the Melbourne average:

Mt Evelyn	Melb	Melb Av
58.4mm	29.6mm	47.7mm

Kevin Phillips

Contact us

Editor: Karen Phillips
karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

President: Paula Herlihy
herlihy@alphalink.com.au or telephone 9736 2935 and leave message

General enquiries
historygroup@mountevelyn.vic.au

Postal address:
PO Box 101, Mt Evelyn, VIC 3796.

Website: <http://mt-evelyn.net/Community-Groups/Mt-Evelyn-History-Group.aspx>

Opinions expressed in *Things Past* are those of the writers, not necessarily those of Mount Evelyn History Group.