NEWSLETTER



COMMITTEE

The Benalla Family History Research Group is a friendly, helpful and dedicated group of people who are striving to collate our local history and maintain it for future generations.

Visitors are always made very welcome and the Research team are available to assist with any enquiries on finding relatives and ancestors.

The group encourages and welcomes new members as the resources available are very valuable to a person seeking to learn more about their family tree.

Our normal open days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

Please note we are not open on Saturdays except by appointment.

We will open by appointment during other times if necessary, please contact us via the contact form on our Website ...

or email our Secretary
Bill Willett secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org

PRESIDENT: Chick Walker
VICE PRESIDENT: Wendy Webster
TREASURER: Tom Sloane
SECRETARY: Bill Willett

RESEARCH OFFICER: Wendy Maxwell

LIBRARIAN: Judi Ryan

MINUTE SECRETARY: Wendy Webster

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RESEARCH & LIBRARY SUPPORT TEAM

Doreen Hillier, Wendy Maxwell, Chick Walker, Wendy Webster, Joy Cole, Rosemary Archer, Pam Herbert, Carole Gray

Benalla Family Research Group Inc 2016

ABN 3435719671

MARCH

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to your first newsletter for 2017. The group has returned from their Christmas break rested and raring to go.

Your newsletter is collated from information received from a variety of sources. It will only be good reading if I have lots of information to share with you. So, if you have a family history story you would like to share or some photos that would be of interest please let me know.

I would like to thank our members for their input this month especially Wendy Maxwell who has given me a personal family history story. Wendy Webster has also shared another family history from the Winton community.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday May 25th at 2.00pm in the rooms. Please keep this date in your diary and attend. It is really a great opportunity to see our many members at least once a year.

You can contact me via my personal email address or leave articles at the group's room for me to collect. Or you may write to me at 169 Webb Road, Goorambat 3725. If you prefer to call me my home number is 5763 3229.

Thank you

Meredith

Meredith Tolliday
Newsletter Editor & Programs Officer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here we are again - March already! I hope everyone had a good break over Christmas and ready to get back into the rooms for research etc. There were quite a few research requests that came in over the Christmas break. These have all been completed and sent off so it has been a good start to the year.

We all need to start thinking about this year's fund raising events. Last year we had the calendars which were all sold and the garage sale, both of which proved most profitable.

The new compactors, which were installed last year, are starting to fill up as we are doing a bit of re-shuffling with some of our library books.

Our group has invited the Benalla City councillors to our rooms to give them an insight into what we do. We hope to have a good attendance. I think the group is cruising along really well and everyone seems happy working on their own projects.

I'd like to thank all those who continue to contribute their time to improving the resources in our rooms. Chick

News from the Research Desk

Requests for rates and associated maps, buildings and businesses continue to keep us busy.

Research requests for families include: Peer, Murray, Whitty, Brien, Cherry, Caelli, McElroy, Crawford and Ryan.

We are also producing another framed Family Chart.

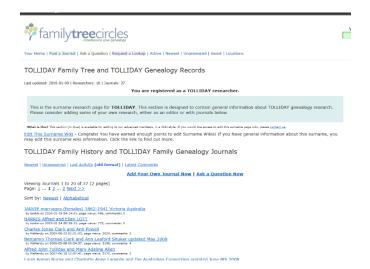
Thanks to Wendy Webster.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Judi advised me that all our resources are now catalogued. This is a wonderful achievement for our group.

It will make searching for specific published books, CD's, microfiche, research items much easier and quicker for members and visitors.

Judi will be putting a new book on the shelf soon and she is looking into the Diann Talbot newest publication.



There is a website that I used to start writing My Family Journals. I received a lot of contacts via that site. People are researching families from all over the world.

I even helped put a family in touch with an adopted family member. He has met all his family and he was so appreciative of my efforts.

http://www.familytreecircles.com/ http://www.familytreecircles.com/nathanieland-jane-tolliday-nee-curtis-updatedfebruary-2008-12366.html

Elizabeth Hayward- 1ST Fleet Convict

After my mother-in-law's death, I decided to chase up the story she often told my husband and children, that they were descendants of the First Judge Advocate of Australia, David Collins. What a shame I didn't look in to it well before then. What I found would have made her laugh! We all believed her, (she believed it herself) her family had come from well-regarded early settlers in Australia, The Reids (a surgeon on convict ships) Hume, of Hume and Hovell and the Hobb's family one of the first families to settle in Hobart in 1803.

It all began with a book I borrowed from the library called "A Colonial Life" about Judge Advocate David Collins, written by John Currey. In the front of the book he had a Collins family tree, stating that David married and had two children, his only son, called George, never married and died at an early age in England, without issue. I thought this odd as George was supposed to be our ancestor!! I eventually contacted John Currey and told him the story, he had a chuckle to himself, he'd heard other stories from people claiming the same thing. He kindly sent me several articles relating to the identity of the two George Collin's, which helped me unravel this family mystery. Copies of all these articles and John's letters are filed away in my family history folders.

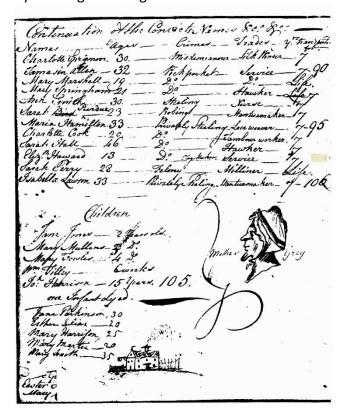
Many phone calls and a lot of correspondence later we found we had a First Fleet convict in Elizabeth Hayward/Heywood and her son George Collins who was born on Norfolk Island. Elizabeth was the youngest first fleet female convict to arrive in Australia.

Maybe our George Collins, or his children, had hidden their convict background by saying he was kin to Lieutenant Governor David Collins.

Lieutenant Governor David Collins headed the first settlement of Hobart Town in 1803, on board with him were Ann Jane Hobbs and her family, GGGG Grandmother to my husband. Her grandson William James Hobbs would later marry Elizabeth Hayward's granddaughter Harriet Collins.

On December 19th 1786, she stole from her employer a linen gown and a bath cloak, value one shilling. Elizabeth was found guilty and sentenced to transportation for 7 years. She was sent to Newgate prison to await passage to Botany Bay.

Very briefly - on Wednesday January 10th 1787, aged 13 years, Elizabeth was tried by the Middlesex Jury, at Justice Hall in the Old Bailey. Her occupation at the time was clog maker, she was apprenticed to Mr Thomas Cross.



Elizabeth arrived in Botany Bay on board the "Lady Penryn" she was assigned to Mary Johnson, wife of Rev Richard Johnson. In February 1789, her name is listed in the Supreme Court documents, for insolence to Rev. Johnson. She was ordered to receive 30 lashes and sent to Norfolk Island.

She was on the ill-fated "Sirius" when it sank off Norfolk Island, she



survived yet another trauma. On the Island, she gave birth to 4 children, the 4th being George his surname Collins, the son of another convict named George Collins.



Elizabeth passed away at Launceston on October 29th 1836, she is buried in an old cemetery in Cyprus Street Launceston. The land was bought by the Church of England in the 1950's to build a school. Where the graves are located, is now the playing fields of the same Church of England School.

The First Fleet Descendants Group, have placed a plaque on the gateway of the field in memory of the four convicts buried there.

Buried with Elizabeth is her grandson Norfolk Piper, her daughter Elizabeth's son.

Elizabeth is one of our family's most treasured ancestors.

Story condensed from a much more detailed history by Wendy Maxwell 2017.

In 1813, Norfolk Island was evacuated, Elizabeth was on board the "Lady Nelson" with Joseph Lowe and two of her children Margaret Hayward/Lowe aged 17 years and our George Collins aged 11 years.

Joseph Lowe and his wife Elizabeth (Hayward) received 40 acres at Norfolk Plains, Tasmania. They went on to live a prosperous and happy life in Tasmania, with many descendants both

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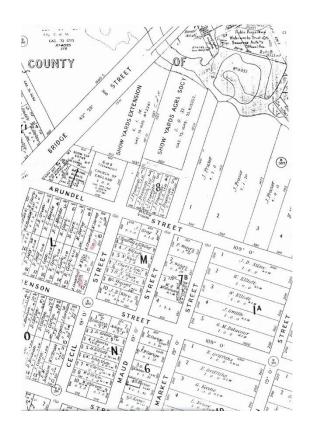
St Johns Cof E Painch Register
Elizabeth Hayward/howe

Aaron Crawford 1821 – 1855 Mary Ross 1819 – 1899

A lady living in Queensland has recently asked the Research Team to help her with her family research on the above family. We did what we could to help her, she then decided to come to Benalla so we could show her where they had lived in town and farmed out on the Kilfeera Road. Aaron and Mary are both buried in the Benalla Cemetery.

Aaron Crawford was born in Ireland in 1821 and Mary Ross in Ireland c1819. Aaron came to Victoria on board the "George Fyffe" arriving on July 23rd 1841 listed as an "unmarried male". Aaron and Mary married in 1843 and together they had 5 children – Mary born 1844 Elizabeth born 1847 William born 1849 at The Springs' Victoria George born 1851 Benalla Mary Ann 1855 Benalla

On November 17th 1846, in the Geelong Advertiser and Squatters Journal is the story of Aaron being sentenced to 3 years in Her Majesty's Gaol Melbourne, for the manslaughter of a young boy named Harry Smith – who had stolen clothes from him. Aaron said he gave him a good "thrashing", which later resulted in the death of the boy. Aaron, Mary and their young family arrived in Benalla around 1850 and lived on a block of land in Cecil Street. We have a copy of this early map of the town, which is attached. Aaron bought 600 acres of land on Kilfeera Road which was transferred into his wife Mary's name upon his sudden death aged 34. Mary was left on her own after Aaron's death which occurred on February 20th 1855. Twenty months after her husband passed away Mary gave birth to a sixth child whom she named Sarah Jane Crawford. We hold a copy of Sarah's birth certificate naming her father as a 23 year old neighbour named Joseph.



Mary was 38 years old at the time. Sarah was brought up as a Crawford on the family farm on Kilfeera Road, Benalla.

Sarah's father Joseph later went on to marry Aaron and Mary's eldest daughter Jane Crawford, sister to his daughter Sarah by Mary Crawford and together they had eleven children.

Mary must have led a tough life at times, her son William drowned tragically in the Broken River at the age of 44 in 1889 and her grandson James Aaron Crawford also drowned tragically in the Broken River aged 23 in 1898, a year before her death in 1899. They are all buried together or near one another at the Benalla Cemetery, although the whereabouts of Mary's grave is unknown, but surely, in the vicinity of her family.

Another extract from WINDOW ON WINTON-A WHO, WHEN, WHERE OF THOSE IN THE WINTON CEMETERY compiled by Wendy Webster.

The link to the cemetery is www.benalladistrictcemeteries.org

CATHERINE ELIZABETH WOODS 1865-1944

Catherine was born at Winton in 1865 and at about thirty years of age, married Thomas Norton. Thomas died nine years later and within a few months Catherine married William James Woods at St Joseph's Church, Benalla. Catherine died in Benalla aged eighty.

Catherine (Norton, nee Lynch) was commonly called Kate. Kate took care of little niece Elizabeth, who was orphaned at the age of 2. However due to Kate's behaviour, her brother William stepped in and put Elizabeth in St. Joseph's Convent, Benalla where she remained until she completed the Leaving Certificate.

The reason for this was that Kate was rather a character and had a colourful history and reputation. Her first husband Norton was much older than she and after he died Kate 'bought' her second husband William Woods from his mother for £20. She was almost forty plus in years while poor Billy was just entering manhood at the age of 17 or 18.

Despite her reputation, in later years, Kate made a business of rearing orphans for the State. Billy Woods stuck with her and died years later as quite an old man. He was a clever carpenter and joiner.

Weddings.

Mrs Norton, widow of the late Mr Thomas Norton, was joined in wedlock, to a young man named William Woods, a son of Mr. John Woods, bricklayer, of Benalla. The bride, who lost her late husband two months back, after a fruitless union of nearly 7 years, is about 40 years old, whilst the bridegroom is only 17. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father O'Reilly in St. Joseph's Church, Benalla, which edifice contained several persons from Winton, where the bride resides on a farm, who displayed much interest and curiosity in the proceedings.

No marriage - in this case a mixed one by the way-that has ever taken place here has caused so much talk as the one under notice - a fact due mainly to the circumstance that there was such a disparity between the respective ages of the wedded pair and because the bridegroom was an employee of the bride up to a week or so of the marriage.

On writing the foregoing our old contributor, "The Villain," came unexpectedly upon us, and here is what he was humming to himself:-

The tune he was humming have the words below-

I amn't fat, though forty, Nor am I even fair, -But I have sheep and cattle, Though I'm not debonair.

I had a "crock" of sixty, But he's nothing now to me, For he's playing "Yankee Doodle" In a cottage by the sea.

Howe'er, I'm not unhappy, For I have another "Moke,' And though he's but a young 'un, He's a frisky little bloke.

He can beat any crock of sixty, He can jump his 6 feet, high, He can lick that horse Mahonga And he'll prove it by-and-bye

Cont'd next page>>>>

Though he kicks when in his manger, Though he also bolts his food, I will run him at the races In the name of Billy Wood.

And should he prove a duffer-That is, gain no prize for me, Let him join my "crock" of sixty In the cottage by the sea.

For then I'll get another, if I lose my hundredth bean, And you bet he'll not be sixty Nor a young 'un seventeen.

DATE OF INTEREST

AGM Thursday May 25th at 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Please come along meet our Mayor, see our rooms and how much they have been improved over the year. Catch up with your History Group friends.

Special guest- Cr Don Firth, Mayor -Benalla Rural City Guest Speaker- To be confirmed.

OUR WEBSITE

Our website is full of great information and is easy to navigate. When you have some time please check it out. Click on the links below to learn more about the Rate Index, Family Histories, or publications. Or when online click on the relevant tabs to see the information as shown on the next page.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ROOMS

Rates Books -Indexing ongoing

Currently we have three transcribers working on the rate books index to include farmers, graziers, gentlemen, etc. and those that didn't have any occupation written against their name in the original index.

Rates to 1889 are complete and that index now contains ALL ratepayers. Bill has sorted the spreadsheet by Surname, Christian Names and Resources, so that when you access the index now, you will get a list of names alphabetically sorted and their rates will be sorted in ascending years.

Bill is currently working on the ten-year period from 1890 – 1899 arranging them the same way, and putting all the different spellings of each surname on the one line. By going down the list alphabetically, you will see the name you are after and all the different ways it is spelt in these rates on the one line coloured a salmon colour.

Kelvin and Jo are motoring ahead adding the missed ratepayers in the 1900-1909 rates.

Over the past five years we have now corrected up to the 1890's, with the 1900-1909 being worked on.

The rates go up to 1943, so you can work out that we have 43 years still to attend to, so any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Otherwise, we will all be 105 before they are completed.

http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/rateindex/surnames http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/familyhistories http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/publications http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/featurestories

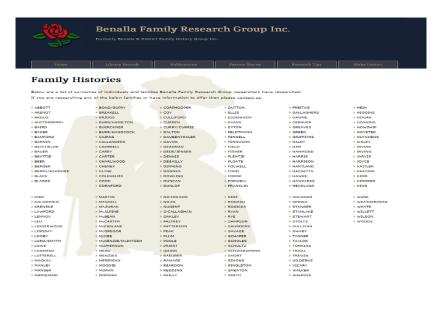


OPENING HOURS: Our Research Room at 9 Church Street, Benalla is open every Tuesday and Wednesday (including Public Holidays) from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. We are no longer open on the first Saturday of the Month except by appointment with at least three days notice. We are open





The Benalla Family Research Group Inc. welcome visitors, researchers and new members to our Gro



Benalla Rate Books

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | Q | P | Q | R | S | T | U | Y | W | Y | Z |

Abbley - Abley * Abbott - Abbott * Abbott * Abenerthy * Abercombie * Abrahall * Achmad - Ahmad Shar * Ackerely - Ackerly * Ackerly * Ackers * Ackmead * Acock * Adam * Adam - Adams * Adams * Adaues * Adcock * Aduauis * Aeirs * Affleck * Agricultural Show Gr'nd * Ahern * Ahern & Mack * Ahern - Aheam * Ahul * Aiden * Aitchison * Albert * Alcorn * Alderidge * Alderson * Aldous * Aldridge * Alexander * Alford * Alkameade * Alkemade * Alkamade * Alkamade * Allan *

From Our Members

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WITH THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS

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