

The Skeleton

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(INC.)

Affiliated with WA Genealogical Society (Inc.)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial
AFHS Services
Dates for your Diary
President's Report
Web Corner
Welcome to New Members
Members Interests

FEATURE ARTICLES:

The General's Daughter & her WA Suitor p.5-7
'Jimmy' A Famous Kangaroo p.8-9
Snippets of War p.10-11
The Wool Lady/ Socks for the Boys p.12-13
Tribute to the Men & Women of War p.14
Tom Lofthouse 1923-2015 p.15-16



'HOME SWEET HOME'

'Dear Ethel, Just a line to let you know I'm quite well. Hoping you are all well at home. We are out having a spell for a while. France is in a pretty bad state owing to the war. We don't know there is a war on in Australia. Basil Giles is back again he got a smack and had a month's holiday. Remember me to all. With love from Pat.'
France 14th October 1916

(Embroidered silk postcard kindly loaned by Pam Ayers - sent from a Great-uncle who lost his life on the Western Front in France at the age of 23)

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.australindfhs.org

THE AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Library and Research Centre

Situated at: Australind Library Complex,
off Paris Road, Australind WA 6233

All correspondence to:
The Secretary
PO Box A279
Australind WA 6233

Phone: (08) 9796 1050

Email: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Website: www.australindfhs.org

Honorary Office Bearers

President	Chris Shaw	9725 4783
Vice President	Anne Kirkman	9796 0263
Secretary	Glenice Stamp	9725 9667
Treasurer	Chris Riley	9796 0286
Membership Sec.	Marg Smith	9725 1779
Librarian	Pam Ayers	9797 1383
C'tee Members:		
	Carol Sims	9724 1178
	Kate Bullock	9725 9445
	Jayne Denham	9797 1629
	Avalon Donovan	9725 0759

Annual Subscriptions: 1 Jan - 31 Dec

Single Membership \$35
Joint Membership \$45

Single Membership (Senior over 60) \$25
Joint Membership (Senior over 60) \$35

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm
Thursday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturdays by appointment - no extra charge

Non-member charges
Use of library \$5 per session

A researcher is available to conduct
research on behalf of the Society

Contact Mr Alan Reynolds via the Library on
9796 1050 or email: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Research

Initial Fee \$10 for 2 hrs
Additional \$ 5 per hr
Photocopying and Postage extra



Your Contributions . . .

Please email articles for the next newsletter to the Australind website with
'Newsletter' in the Subject line or leave in the tray at the Family History
Library: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Deadline for the receipt of articles for next edition of the *Skeleton*.

15th February 2016



Disclaimer

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements or opinions expressed by authors of papers published in this newsletter. The accuracy of offers, services or goods appearing here cannot be vouched for by the Society. The Editorial Team reserves the right to condense and edit articles to meet the approved size limits of our newsletter.

Message from the Editorial Team

Hi Members

In this edition of *The Skeleton* we have once again included stories from WWI, some continuing on from the last newsletter. As this year marks the centennial anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, we thought it appropriate to remember what happened to the ANZACs during Christmas 1915.

Also included in the newsletter is a tribute written by Margaret Smith to her uncle, Tom Lofthouse (a long time member of AFHS) who sadly passed away this year.

We would like to congratulate Irma Walter for having her book "Stout-Hearted. The Story of Stephen Montague Stout" published this year. Irma was previously a member of The E-Team and you can find a copy of her book in the Library.

Now it only leaves us to say "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" to everyone. The Library closes on Thursday 3 December 2015 and re-opens on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

See you all next year

Anne, Jayne & Ralph
The E-Team

P.S. Thank you to Marg, Kate, Avalon & Pam in helping put together this newsletter.

DATES for your DIARY

**The Library will close on Thursday,
3 December 2015 and re-open on Tuesday,
12 January 2016.**

On request we can arrange appointments for researchers to come into the Library on Saturdays (between 10am and 2pm).

Committee meetings: Last Friday of the month. 10am. AFHS Library.

WAGS Library open Mon 9:30 - 20:00
Wed-Fri 9:30 - 14:30 Sat 13:00 - 17:00
www.wags.org.au

TIP: *Don't forget to bring along your USB thumb drive to save files from your web research.*

AFHS SERVICES

Library Visit

Affiliated Societies - no charge (show membership card)
Non members - \$5 per visit

Membership

1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015.

Computer Use

Internet Access -includes Ancestry.com + Find My Past and many more.

All users	\$2 per hr
Printouts	30c each
Burn CDs	\$1 each

Micro Film/Fiche Readers/ Pro Scan

All users	\$2 per hr
Printouts	30c each

Photocopying

A4 B&W single	20c	Double-sided	30c
A4 Colour single	30c	Double-sided	50c
A3 B&W single	30c	Double-sided	60c

Ring Binding

Up to 50 sheets	\$2
-----------------	-----

Laminating

Please ask at desk

President's Report

Hello to fellow members and researchers,

Welcome to the December *Skeleton* put out by the hard working E-Team. Well done to them for the positive response they have received from readers to previous *Skeleton* editions.

The Library has purchased a lovely book by Bev McGuinness called "Denmark Western Australia". Bev has done a lot of work with the Denmark Group Settlers.

We would like to give the Muir family their condolences for the passing of Jim Muir. Jim gave us very valuable information on the history of the Warren District and his own family.

Marg Smith and Avalon Donovan attended a service for the fallen servicemen from WW1 at Brunswick on Remembrance Day. Their great uncle Alf Sims was one of those to be honoured by placing of a plaque and the planting of a rose.

Our Library is expecting a visit from the Warren Family History group to come and do research at our Library. This always is a great day with lots of good chatter and interesting research.

The members and visitors to AFHS over 2015 gained invaluable knowledge from the many resources we have to offer within our Library and we look forward to seeing you back in 2016. The Affiliated Family History Societies' Conference held in September proved a successful event.

We would like to wish everyone a very good festive season and a healthy 2016. Please keep safe and take some time to think of those who are protecting our country, also those who are less fortunate than most. Christmas is a very hard time for a lot of folk in our community.

The Library will close for the Christmas break on 3 December 2015 and will reopen on 12 January 2016.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing all of you in 2016.

Enjoy reading *The Skeleton*. Kind regards *Chris Shaw.*

TALES THAT ARE TOLD.

AND DREAMS THAT ARE DREAMED.

That it is hard to realise the physical conditions under which, as the early winter rains come on, our men live and fight in the Western trenches, Mr. Service in his "Rhymes of a Red Cross Man" says:

It isn't the foe that we fear;
It isn't the bullets that whine;
It isn't the business career
Of a shell or the burst of a mine;
It isn't the snipers who seek
To nip our young hopes in the bud;
No, it isn't the guns,
And it isn't the Huns—
It's the MUD,
MUD,
MUD.

Camp Chronicle, Midland Junction, 17 January 1918

THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER AND HER WEST AUSTRALIAN SUITOR

"A link which will bind General Sir Willian Birdwood even closer with Australia has been forged with the announcement of the engagement of his eldest daughter, Nancy, to the Australian aviator, Lieutenant Frank 'Colin' Craig of Western Australia."

Constance Jean Gonville Birdwood 'Nancy' was the daughter of General William Riddell Birdwood and Janetta Hope Gonville, nee Bromhead. General Birdwood (known to many Australians as 'Birdie') was the commander of the ANZACs throughout WWI including Gallipoli. He was a well respected and popular commandant.

"His delight was to be out in the field among his men cheering them by his talk, feeling the pulse of them." (*Charles Bean, The Story of the ANZAC Vol.1 Sydney 1941, p121*)

Nancy's mother Janetta also came from a military background, her father was Colonel Benjamin Parnell Bromhead of the Indian Army during the British Raj (Rule.)

At the commencement of the war Nancy became a VAD nurse working at Harefield Park Hospital in Middlesex, England. Harefield was the property of Charles Billyard-Leake who had offered his home to the authorities for use as a hospital for sick and wounded Australian soldiers. It was opened as the No.1 Australian Auxilary Hospital operating from December 1914 until January 1919.

Nancy was as popular with the wounded as her father was with the soldiers under his command. She would often say when attending to the wounded, "You must hurry up and get better; Daddy will be glad to see you back in France". Staff and patients were sad to see her leave Harefield, when in 1917 she departed to work in France at the Australian Hospital in Boulogne.

"...she would be missed, for she was a charming bright-faced girl and a general favourite with the boys at Harefield. The affection was mutual, as she said she felt almost Australian herself".

❖ (recalling Nancy's VAD days at Harefield a joy to read refer to page 8.)

Lieutenant Colin Craig descended from pioneering families of York, Western Australia. His maternal grandmother arrived in WA in 1831 as a young child, two years after West Australia's foundation. Colin was the son of Francis 'Frank' Craig and Hannah Elford, nee Taylor. Frank was a well-known pastoralist throughout WA and had been mayor of York from 1887-1890. Early in 1916 Colin and three mates including the son of Premier Lefroy (WA) who made a name for himself with the British Armoured Motor Squadron of Lockyer Lampson in the great Russian retreat, left for England where he offered himself for active service with the British Army. He obtained his commission with the Royal Flying Corps and it was during this time that he met his future wife Nancy. After his instructional work he proceeded to France to commence active service. It was in April 1917 that Colin was reported missing but to the family's relief was found to be a prisoner of war in Germany. The following extract is from a letter home to his father -

"...I was out on an offensive patrol flying 16,000 ft, and about three miles to the right of the rest of the formation, well over ---, and a long way inside the German lines, when I ran into three enemy scouts. My gun jammed after the first shot, and there was nothing to do but take the first reasonable opportunity of disengaging and making for our lines. I outdistanced my pursuers, and was pulling up to try and correct the jamb when at least one of the enemy, whom I had evidently failed to see opened fire on me from behind, and his first shot went through my petrol tank. The following ones came over my left shoulder, smashing my instrument board to pieces and going through the top petrol tank and radiator, so I just had to dive at full speed, and land about 10 miles on the German side of the lines. Four bullets grazed my coat, but I was absolutely untouched, so I have

got a good deal to be thankful for. I was taken first to ---, where an officer of the Prussian Dragoon Guards, who spoke perfect English, treated me very well, and very kindly offered to send a cable to England for me.

From there, I was sent under escort to Le Cateau, and there found three Australian officers waiting to be sent up here. Two of them were Western Australians, one a man named Lyon, from Donnybrook. I was in --- for three days, when we were joined by three other RFC officers, and all sent up here by train and placed in a one-time hotel in the town of Karlsruhe. We remained there four days, and then we came into this camp, which is only five minutes walk from the hotel and is in the heart of the town. There are quite a dozen or more officers here whom I know, including one named Stewart, a member of the Perth Club, and manager of one of the country branches of the National Bank."

Colin spent some harrowing times in several prison camps throughout Germany. Surviving his ordeal, he was repatriated to England in December 1918 just after Armistice was declared.

The New Year heralded a new beginning for Colin when in February 1919 he became engaged to Nancy Birdwood, followed by their wedding at Brompton Church, London on 3 March 1919. The nuptials were a splendid occasion with many dignitaries present, including Mr Andrew Fisher, Australian High Commissioner. On exiting the church, a guard of honour was provided by the Australian Provost Corps (Military Police).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00500

Immediately after the wedding Colin brought his wife back to his West Australian home where he was in partnership in the firm Frank Craig and Sons, Pastoralists. He resumed these pastoral pursuits and for many years the couple farmed at Boraming near Williams in Western Australia. During their time there Nancy became a keen supporter of the CWA and was elected president of the association in Williams. On retirement they relocated to Perth. Colin died in 1951 and Nancy in 1975.

BIRDWOOD PARK



General and Lady Birdwood visited their family on several occasions, their visits often coinciding with official business. One of those official duties was officiating at the opening of the memorial park in Balingup, WA.

Balingup, South East of Bunbury is a quaint little town where off its main street is a picturesque avenue of trees that were planted in 1932 by the local sub-branch of the RSL to commemorate the loss of life of the local men who enlisted in WWI. General Birdwood, who in his honour the park is named, opened the park on the 20 August 1932. On declaring the avenue open he said " it was not strategy, tactics nor leadership that had won the war but the spirit of sacrifice" General Birdwood was accompanied by his son-in-law Colin and Mr & Mrs Leslie Craig (Colin's brother). In Lady Birdwood's absence, Mrs Leslie Craig planted a tree, for women's sacrifice in war.

A few years ago the plaques that had been placed on the trees, in 1932, were beginning to deteriorate and the avenue was looking in need of attention; this was addressed by the Balingup Lions Club who campaigned for replacement plaques and a general upgrade of the site. Not only were the plaques replaced but interpretative panels were installed in an area off the avenue where you can sit and reflect or perhaps have a picnic. At the completion of the upgrade the park was reopened.



The Craig family had a connection with Balingup going back to 1909 when Frank senior had purchased the property 'Golden Valley'. Colin's brother Leslie was living there when he enlisted for war. Leslie was attached to the 10th Light Horse Regiment when he was severely injured (loss of leg). He stayed on in Britain, married an Irish lady and after the war returned to WA. He was a well known public figure and a long serving member of the Legislative Council, of the South West Province. The Golden Valley property was sold to a Mr Blakeney in 1920.

If you are ever on a country jaunt in the South West of WA, Birdwood Park is a tranquil place to visit and reminisce.

"WITH GOD'S HELP" OUR WAR OBJECT WILL BE ATTAINED SAYS 'BIRDIE' TO BUNBURY

The following cable message addressed to the Mayor of Bunbury from General Birdwood at the AIR headquarters, London, has been forwarded through the Military Commandant, Perth:-



**To Mr J G Baldock, Mayor of Bunbury,
Western Australia:-**

"The Australian soldiers are deeply grateful to the Mayor and citizens of Bunbury for their very inspiring message. The spirit of our men is just the same as when they effected the heroic landing at Gallipoli three years ago, and with God's help, the object with which we entered into this war will be attained, and freedom and right will be established for all time." **South Western Times, 4 May 1918**





"JIMMY" **A Famous Kangaroo**

Memories of VAD days in England and France were recalled by Mrs Colin Craig, daughter of General Sir William Birdwood, yesterday when shown a snap-shot taken at Harefield Park Auxiliary Hospital in 1915. "I can't even remember the snap being taken," she said with a laugh, "but I can remember Jimmy, the kangaroo I am patting, as he was a great favourite of mine. As a matter of fact I have his skin at home now. Jimmy was the mascot, as far as I can remember, of the 5th Division of Australians. When they were leaving for France they sent him down to Harefield to me as they did not know what to do with him.

"Jimmy was soon a great favourite with the whole hospital, although he never quite became accustomed to the English cold. We made him a little coat and he used to sleep in a special kennel lined with straw. That reminds me of a rather amusing joke some of the convalescent Australians played on me. They told me that Jimmy was lonely and that I should get a jackeroo to keep him company. I had no idea then what a jackeroo was but told them I would be very glad to get one and they agreed to arrange it for me, if I would get another kennel for it.

"So I spent all my pocket money that week (and being little more than a school girl, I did not have very much) on buying a special kennel for the pet jackeroo I was looking forward to having as a companion for Jimmy. That joke kept the hospital amused for weeks. I had to leave Jimmy behind when I went out to the third Australian divisional hospital at Abbeville in France and I never saw him again as he died while I was away. The boys had his skin tanned and sent it to me for a wedding present, and I have kept it ever since."



Nancy (back right) with other nurses in the grounds of (IAAH), Harefield, England

Mrs Craig served with the VAD's from 1915 until the end of the war. She was in France for over two years and had a good deal of experience in the wards. "Although I never trained as a nurse," she said. "I gained a great deal of experience. This has proved of great value while living in the country out here."

Jimmy's Career - "In the early days of the war," writes 'WA' from Osborne Park, "a young kangaroo was brought on a troopship from Australia and domiciled in the No. 1 A.A. Hospital at Harefield Park, the property of the late Mr C Billyard Leake, who had given it for the use of wounded Australian soldiers. Jimmy became the most peaceable and tame of any animal of his kind and was a great source of curiosity to visitors. He was a great favourite with Sister Nancy Birdwood, who was a VAD and who is now Mrs Colin Craig, of Williams. The grounds of the hospital were securely fenced in, but Jimmy had a big range of country for his 'hops' which were frequently viewed with astonishment by the local population. He became a great favourite, and when a funeral occurred, which, unfortunately, was frequently, Jimmy would parade near the gate. As the band played the Dead March, he would stand on his hind quarters, almost like a soldier at attention, and then as the cortege moved on, hop away to his quarters.

"Jimmy wandered out of the hospital grounds one day, however, and search parties were organised to tour the district. Information was received that he was on a private estate at Gerrard's Cross and a party went over to escort him back to the 'clink' as he had been A.W.L. for over 24 hours. When the boys arrived at the woods, however, he was discovered dead, with signs that he had been willfully

killed. Later investigation showed that a gamekeeper on the estate had encountered Jimmy in the forest and had come to the conclusion that he was some strange animal at large. He had therefore killed him. On the matter being reported, the keeper was immediately dismissed, but an intervention by the soldiers on the staff of the hospital resulted in the man being reinstated on the grounds he was ignorant of the existence of kangaroos and of the fact that the animal was a soldiers' mascot.

"Jimmy had been viewed by King George, Queen Mary and the Duke of Connaught during his short stay in England." **The West Australian, 9 August 1932**

Postscript: An interesting read is the autobiography of the Honourable Constance (Nancy) Jean Gonville Craig (1895-1975) nee Birdwood Published 2004 ...and describes some of the problems of brides' early experiences in their new country and how they adapted to life in WA.

The following article refers to one in our last edition of The Skeleton:-

On view at the Trench Comforts' Musical Evening, held at the Council Chambers, on Friday evening last, was the beautiful autographed bedspread made entirely by hand, by Mrs Geo Tipping, who, for several months has devoted every spare moment to it. The autographs are worked in ingrain cotton. In the centre of the bedspread is a splendidly worked swan, whilst various Australian emblems, the wattle, a kookaburra, etc form decorations between the names. Among the names are those of Lord and Lady Forrest and those of many well known persons throughout the State. These, no doubt, will recall many pleasant acquaintances to the soldiers. Mrs Tipping is forwarding it to one of the large taken of it. **Bunbury Herald, 27 February 1918**



The South Western News 6 October 1916

As 2015 draws to a close, this also marks the centennial anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign's final days. Here are some extracts from newspaper articles describing how the ANZACs spent Christmas in 1915 during WWI:-

SNIPPETS OF WAR



Christmas In Gallipoli 1915

On Lemnos after the evacuation Australian Christmas away from home. Major Ernest Harris, of Jeffcott, Victoria, wrote to his wife:-

"Each man was given a 'Christmas Billy' - and I can assure you they opened them eagerly as children at home do open their Christmas stockings ...Just one thing hurt very much - it was the picture on the outside of the billy, showing a kangaroo on the map of Gallipoli, with his tail knocking a Turk into the sea and underneath the words

'THIS BIT OF THE WORLD BELONGS TO ME'. www.gallipoli.gov.au/anzac-timeline...

A soldier, writing from an oasis in Egypt, where he was sitting under a tree from which he could knock off rich dates with his flag stick, says:- "One of the boys got a parcel from home yesterday and invited a chosen few of us to come and help him eat its contents. Just imagine our chagrin, on the parcel being opened, to find it contained about 6lbs of dates. Our lips did drop. Talk about coal from Newcastle, this was the limit." **Meekatharra Miner, 4 November 1916**



Christmas came and we entertained generals and privates in the same marquee. The real Christmas spirit was heralded in 1916 by another party and at midnight much sound that rent the air. Sirens, whistles and bells pealed out. We clasped hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne"
West Australian, 24 April 1954



General Birdwood

"I feel for the rest of my life I shall often see before me the figure of an Australian soldier climbing up those steep rugged hills of Gallipoli, or going through muddy fields of France. I have always thought of him as that brave, great, honest fellow, determined to see things through"

Western Mail, 25 August 1932



In a letter, dated December 26, 1916, written from Salisbury Plain, to his parents in Mt Magnet, Private Joe Thomas stated he was then quite well. The weather was awfully cold. Joe spoke very highly of the "blow out" he had on Xmas Day in camp, the menu included roast pork, roast veal, plum duff etc., but he would rather have been in W.A. eating a piece of 'roo or even bungarra. He stated that there is no place like old W.A. and was wishing he could see one of our dust storms getting a "move on" down the flat near the Afghans' camp, as he would prefer it to the ice and snow which he was experiencing at time of writing. All water in the taps was frozen and one could not have a wash until lunch time, by which time the ice had thawed. **Mt Magnet Miner 17 Feb 1917**



... with regard to the distribution of the billies on Christmas morning, it would have done the good people of WA a good service if they had only seen how their thoughtful gifts were appreciated, and we are consequently grateful. It is no exaggeration to say that it transformed a dreary cheerless day into one of joy and gladness, and if you could have only seen the boys like children on Christmas morning I tell you it would have done you good. **Camp Chronicle Blackboy Hill WA, 7 June 1917**



The principal items of clothing supplied to Australian soldiers during the late war were 1,581,000 jackets, 1,000,000 greatcoats, 2,855,000 hats and caps, 994,000 pairs of breeches, 4,968,000 shirts and singlets, 2,600,000 pairs of boots, 1,600,000 pairs of socks, 878,000 cardigan jackets and 49,000 sheepskin vests. All the boots were made by Australian manufacturers (most of them in Victoria), while the clothing with the exception of a comparatively small quantity of woollens, was also made in Australia. **The Southern Western News Busselton, 3 October 1919**



In Hospital in England

Dear old lady (to wounded men) - "Where do you boys come from?"
The poor boys - "We're ANZACs, Mum"
Dear old lady - "How nice; both of the same tribe I suppose?"



The Wool Lady/Socks for the Boys



Over the course of the war wool was a strategic commodity and essential in the production of uniforms worn by the troops. Consequently wool was in short supply and expensive to buy.

In Western Australia a Mrs Mary Elizabeth Southern, of Narrogin, conceived the idea of reviving the craft of spinning wool to ensure that there would be no shortage of woollen comforts to send to the boys. The garments could be produced at half the cost by this method.

The year was 1915 and having lost her two sons at the Dardanelles, Mrs Southern donated her time and energy informing and educating people of her idea.

"Wool spinning could easily be learned and would be a patriotic method of occupying the communities time."

There was keen public interest and in December 1915 the West Australian Spinning Association was formed. The group then made a public appeal to the wool growers of the state in the hope they would donate the raw wool for the cause. Their efforts had pleasing results when the pastoralists agreed, on the understanding that it was to be used for the benefit of the soldiers. Without their generous donations the organisation could not have had the success it did by producing thousands of hand-spun and knitted garments that kept the 'boys' warm in the harsh European winters.

Memberships grew rapidly with several branches throughout the state. Tuition in the use of the spinning wheel was free; one lady who joined commented, "In the morning I had lessons and by the afternoon I was spinning wool." It was a pleasant pastime for many in the community. Throughout the Commonwealth school children, girls and boys, had knitting needles out too. A school in Perth prided themselves in the fact that 400 pairs of socks had been knitted by their students. Not only socks were knitted but mittens, vests, scarves, balaclavas, kneepads and gloves. There were over a million pairs of socks knitted during war time and when dispatched often contained a brief note, from the knitter, placed in the toe of the sock. A recipient of such a pair responded, "A joy to change socks after 9 weeks!" It was a small comfort in unfamiliar territory to receive a pair of socks.

It was a daily challenge for the troops trying to keep their feet warm and dry, therefore woollen socks were an essential item and a continuous supply was needed. The clean dry socks aided in the prevention of 'trench foot', the debilitating condition caused by wet, cold, muddy environments.

The efficiency of the volunteers at the branches of the Spinning Associations ensured the supply was kept up, socks being knitted to an exact standard so they were seamless and comfortable.

The Bunbury branch of the Spinning Association was formed in December 1916 led by Mrs Abrahamson operating from the building Bon Marche. At the time of opening, members had already knitted articles comprising of scarves, socks, mittens and balaclavas ready for delivery to the Red Cross where they would then be sent to the troops. The public and local pastoralists made generous donations including a Mr Trigwell of 'The Range', near Donnybrook whose 100kgs of raw wool ensured a sufficient supply for the organisation.

On the signing of the Armistice, many of the organisations disbanded but the West Australian Spinning Association decided to continue their work to encourage wool spinning as a home industry, and to devote all profits of the association to the RSA.

After the war, Mrs Southern's interest in wool continued and in 1924 she travelled to England to attend the British Empire's Exhibition at Wembley where at the Australian Pavilion, she displayed a new fabric she had discovered to take place of fur. The trimming was of soft fleece suitable for evening wraps and muffs. It was well received as the following indicates:

"I have never seen anywhere a more elegant and graceful trimming of this sort than Mrs Southern's exhibit in the Australian Pavilion at Wembley."
British Australasia November 1924

Wool spinning from the fleece was a most valuable lesson in the war under the organisation of Mrs Southern.

Knitting for the troops continues to this day as a most recent article in 'The Australian' states:-

Knitted Beanies for Aussie Troops

Receiving a hand-knitted scarf provides more than just warmth for Australian soldiers serving in the Middle East winter - it represents appreciation and support from home.

Brigadier David Thompson said the delivery of more than 200 scarves and beanies knitted by the RSL's famed Poppy ladies, would buoy the spirits of the diggers in their months away from home. "It gets very lonely being overseas for a long period of time, and to feel valued and to get that 'thank you' and wider acknowledgement from home is an unbelievable feeling," he told reporters in Perth on Friday.

"The mere warmth of them is pretty exciting to most diggers that are sitting out there, especially in the hillsides of Lebanon in mid-winter."

Nine-year-old William Cutter also wrote a card for the troops, which read: "We all want to thank you for helping keep us safe, we also want you to return home safely. We salute you." **6 November 2015**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE WEEKS'S BEST YARN Some Socks and Some Poet

Joe was the proud recipient of a parcel from Aussie containing the usual chewies, etc., also a pair of socks and a card asking for the receiver to reply. It happened that the socks were odd; one, a long-legged, short-booted grey, and the other a short-legged, long -footed black, and being a bit of a mulga poet Joe wrote:-

C/o 5 S's Mob.
France, 1917

Dear Lady ____
I thank you for the socks,
Some fit!
I use one for a hammock,
The other a "mitt"
Some day I hope to meet you
When I have done my bit,
But in the meantime, tell me,
Where the h--- you learned to knit!

J H Forsyth, ex 11th L.T.M.B. Yallingup.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Postscript: Mrs Southern was a member of the West Australian Historical Society when in 1938 she organised the official opening of the Pioneer Memorial on Australind foreshore.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF WAR

Lieutenant-Colonel C Yeatman, in command of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, near Uxbridge, writes in the Boomerang:-

"After more than three years' service, in the AIF, it is good to realise that in all this time there has been room only in one's mind for the deepest feelings of pride and affection for men of one's race and country. Appreciation of their soldierly qualities and magnificent achievement in battle does not exhaust by any means all that can be said or written of them, and I feel it a privilege to be able to record my unbounded admiration of the pluck and sticking power of my wounded or sick Australian comrades, and the triumph and will which gave exhausted and sick troops in Gallipoli the power to stand for months against superior forces, and I shall never lose the memory of the cheeriness and fortitude of my emaciated and worn-out typhoid and dysentery patients in Cairo, with Gallipoli faces and frames of a sort to make one weep, but with an unfailing spirit which made one happy to have been born and bred an Australian. Let me cite the case of a boy who in some manner became infected with smallpox. He was nursed by our own Sisters at the Fever Hospital at Abbasia, and when I went to visit him there, though he could not see me and was on the point of death, this poor, whispering boy, with the last flicker of life, had only words of gratefulness for the nurses who attended him. I have the same sense of pride in the qualities of the devoted women of the Australian Army Nursing Services on active service, and it is no unfounded or biased statement to make that these are appreciated by soldiers of expeditionary forces other than Australians as they are by members of our own Imperial Forces. I count myself fortunate beyond measure to be serving in this great war with the Australian Imperial Forces." **The British Journal of Nursing, 31 August 1918**

**** WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS ****

664	David MacPherson	Roelands
665	Barbara Rigg	Roelands
666	Joan Meehan	Bunbury
667	Gwendalyn Evans	Millbridge

WEB CORNER

*** Remember to visit our own AFHS Website administered by Chris Riley***
www.australindfhs.org

Trove now has South Western Times issues from 02.08.1917 to 29.06.1920 and 29.01.1921 to 28.05.1929 - trove.nla.gov.au

Obituaries of South Australian Pioneers - www.saobits.gravesecrets.net.

Female Convicts Research Centre is dedicated to all female convicts who lived in Tasmania (formerly Van Diemen's Land) - www.femaleconvicts.org.au/

State Records of Victoria - some Section 9 files are now open for viewing. The list of files is quite large and the following is only a small sample of what is available. Criminal Trial Briefs 1938-39; Divorce Case Files, Melbourne 1938-39; Central Register of Male Prisoners 1938-39; Children's Court Registers - Castlemaine Courts 1907-15, Eaglehawk 1912-15, Fitzroy 1938-39, Majorca 1907-15, Richmond Courts 1914-15, Post Mortem Registers, Kew Mental Hospital 1936-39; Accident Compensation Claim Register, Victorian Railways 1958-59; Examination Results: Leaving Technical Certificate 1964-84; Temporary Teacher Record Books 1959-64; Executive Committee Minutes, Victorian Nursing Council 1962-64; Records of Officers and Warder's Names and Particulars, Bendigo Prison 1851-1939.

TOM LOFTHOUSE (1923 – 2015)

by Margaret Smith

Tom was born in Bunbury, and grew up on a small farm at Wokalup - the first of six children born to Bernard and Dorothy Lofthouse (nee Hayward). Bernard was a carpenter/builder. Tom milked cows every morning before going to school at Wokalup Primary and when he got past sixth standard he rode a bike to Harvey School every day - five miles each way. Tom topped his class at the Junior Examinations.

Summer holidays were spent at Australind, where his parents had a 1-acre block and the family built a little cottage there. Bernard cut it all up at home and carted it down at weekends, and they lived in tents while building their holiday house.



Tom went to Muresk Farm School on a scholarship, then war broke out in 1939. He joined the Army at 17, then transferred to the Air Force in 1941. At training school he wasn't eligible to be a pilot and went to wireless school in Ballarat in Victoria, but wasn't keen on that, so went to train at Sale as an air-gunner. After training they sailed to San Francisco, and did a whistle-stop tour across America - Salt Lake City, Denver etc. and at each stop they got off the train and marched ("Just to get the Americans stirred up a bit"). They went to Detroit, then a training camp at Taunton for two or three weeks. Tom showed his prowess at snap-shooting etc. and "got good high marks for shooting".

They were taken to New York, and on a huge troop ship carrying 20,000 troops were taken on as a Bofors gun crew. It took two weeks to cross the Atlantic, and they went up around Greenland to keep in fog, because enemy submarines were active. ("Our first taste of war"). A big convoy - ships as far as you could see. They reached Glasgow, Scotland, losing one ship to the enemy. Onwards to the Cotswolds in England for more training, then they were posted to Bomber Command. Tom was in an Australian Squadron (466) as a rear gunner in Halifax bombers.

Not many survived very long in Bomber Command, particularly those who did two tours of duty in the Battle of Berlin.

(Tom) At one of our reunions in Perth they asked those that had been at various campaigns to stand up and be recognised. "Anybody here done two trips to Berlin?" I stood up. Then "Is there anybody here that survived the attack on Nuremberg when we lost 96 aircraft, bombers, shot down over Nuremberg?" I stood up again. Then "Is there anybody here who took part in the Landing at Normandy?" and there again I stood up, and somebody said "Where the bloody-hell WEREN'T you?" (*chuckle*)

After the war ended Tom returned home to Wokalup, and was offered a job as a survey hand, where he learned a lot, then he landed a job as a field assistant at Roelands, setting out irrigation channels, and working for the PWD. Tom got to know the locals, and met a very nice old gentleman, Mister Warburton. "I got to know him pretty well, and when he invited me to his farm, I met his daughter May". May and Tom became very close and in Sept 1949 were married at St Peter's Anglican Church, Brunswick Junction.

On their honeymoon they drove to Geraldton, then down through Mullewa and the inland areas, where they saw fields of wildflowers. On their return they set up house in Yarloop in *Snake House* - because it was built in the swamp and was supposed to be full of snakes. ("We lived there for five years and never saw a snake.") Tom bought two blocks of land for 20 pounds, cleared it, planted fruit trees and started growing vegetables to supplement their income. Their daughter Pam was born in 1951, followed by Hillary in 1954.

Tom applied for and got a job with the WA Lands & Surveys Department (survey work and land classification), opening up new territory. He took a position at Narrogin and set about establishing a

garden in their little home there. Tom and May joined in community events, especially Rotary, and made many good friends in the long time they lived in Narrogin. Barbara, their third daughter, came along in 1964 to complete the family. Christmas holidays were spent with Tom's parents in Busselton, and caravanning up north in the winter months. In the early years they would go down to Bremer Bay/Gardiner River area when Tom was involved in opening up the land there, and the family would set up camp at Bremer Bay.

May and Tom decided to retire to Australind, and bought their home at 22 Carpenter Terrace in 1983. Tom as usual got involved in the local community- Rotary, Seniors Club, The Rose Society, The Probus Club, Australind & Districts Historical Soc. etc. Tom kept travelling to Narrogin to work each Monday, returning to Australind on the Friday, until 1988. When he did stop work he and May did a lot of caravanning – Tasmania, Darwin, Broome. In 1990 they went to England and Europe with an Air Force-sponsored tour commemorating 50 years since the Battle of Britain 1940. For Tom's 80th birthday the family organised a ride up in a Tiger Moth. Tom had a ball, the pilot took him out over the ocean and did some loop-the-loops and barrel rolls, then levelled out and they flew over Perth and out over Rottnest. Tom loved it.

Sadly his lovely May passed away in 2004.

Tom as usual decided to get on with his life. A hip replacement didn't slow him down. He took a trip to Antarctica with his daughter Barbara, and continued on helping others and making his mark in his community.

He was selected to go to France to receive the French "Legion of Honour" but due to health problems he couldn't travel, but was presented with his medal by the French Minister of Defence in Albany, during the 100th year celebrations in November 2014.

Tom died peacefully at Bethany on June 14th. He was 91. He was a special chap, always a gentleman. He loved a chat, and could tell a great yarn. His passion was his garden. You could easily pick out the Lofthouse home - it had the prettiest flower gardens and the biggest and best vegies growing.



Fare-thee-well old friend.

OTHER SOCIETIES' NEWSLETTERS

We have recently received the following newsletters:-

NEWSLETTER	ISSUE - 2015
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Newsflash	September
Avoca CHHA	October
Bega Valley Genealogist Society	October
Benalla Family Research Group	October
Berrima District Historical & Family History Soc	September & October
Casino - The Crossing	September
East Gippsland	October
Hawkesbury Crier	September
Hindsight Newsletter, Caboolture Family History Research Group	September
Ipswich Bremer Echoes	November
Mildurah Grapeline Vol 15	September
North Qld Relatively Speaking	March & July
Northern Territory Genealogy Society	September
Port Phillip "Belfast Genies"	August, September & October
Singleton The Patrick Plains Gazette	August
Vic Convicts Group	September & October
Wagga Murrumbidgee Ancestor	October
Wanambool The South West Genealogist	September, October & November

If you are interested in receiving a copy of any of the above please let us know and we can email them to you.

LIBRARY – LATEST ACQUISITIONS

Many thanks to the generous people who have donated books to the Library.

TITLE	AUTHOR	DONATED BY
The West Sussex Village Book	Tony Wales	WAGS
East Sussex. Within Living Memory	Tony Wales	WAGS
Devon. The King's England	Arthur Mee	WAGS
Cumbrian Ancestor	Cumbria County Council	WAGS
The Surnames of Wales	John & Shiela Rowlands	WAGS
Scotland	Nigel Tranter	WAGS
Irish War Graves in India, Burma & Beyond 1914-45	Eileen Hewson	WAGS
West Limerick Families Abroad	Kate Press. V Thompson	WAGS
Port Phillip Directory 1847	J J Mouritz	WAGS
Convict Love Tokens	M Field & T Millett	WAGS
Liebelt Family History x 2	Mrs F J Liebelt	WAGS
A Passing Era. Historic Buildings of Perth & Fremantle		WAGS
A Place of Consequence. A Pictorial History of Fremantle	R Reece & R Pascoe	WAGS
WA's Tempestuous History. Vols. 1 and 2	John Nairn	WAGS
A Fine Country to Starve In	Geoffrey Boulton	WAGS
Timber For Gold	Bill Bunbury	WAGS
Denmark. River, town, shire and community WA	Bev McGuinness	
Bruce Rock. A Century of Memories		Australind Library
Dugald Leitch. Pioneer of Harvey 1869-1966	F M Caddy	Australind Library
Curraghboy to Mourambine. John Patrick Higgins - his story	Lesley Lane & John Francis	Australind Library
"Along The Way" 1930-1952	Victor Dennis	Australind Library
A Varied and Versatile Life. The Memoirs of F Wittenoom.	R F B Lefroy	
Early History of Bunbury	Geo. E Clarke	Tom Lofthouse's family
Stout - Hearted. The Story of Stephen Montague Stout	Irma Walter	

***In the line in the war census card "What livestock have you?"
a lady wrote proudly "Four daughters and one husband."***

