

BENDIGO GENEALOGIST

Bendigo Family History Group Inc.

www.bendigofamilyhistory.au

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Figure 1: Life Membership Award David Cotton + page 3

Office Bearers 2024

<u>AREA ADMINISTRATOR</u> PAM KEOWN	<u>SECRETARY</u> KATH MARTIN
<u>TREASURER</u> KRISTEE GROSVENOR	<u>RESEARCH OFFICERS</u> <u>PAM KEOWN & KATH MARTIN</u>
<u>LIBRARY ASSISTANTS CO-ORD</u> ANNETTE DELANEY	<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</u> EILEEN GORMAN
<u>WEBSITE MANAGER</u> ANNETTE DELANEY	<u>FILING CLERK</u> DARYL READ
<u>PROGRAM & PUBLICITY</u> ANNETTE DELANEY	DNA – ANNETTE DELANEY

Area Administrator Report. March 2024

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 17 and our new office bearers for 2024 are,

Kath Martin	Secretary
Kristee Grosvenor	Treasurer,
Annette Delaney	Program, Publicity, Website, Facebook, DNA.
Eileen Gorman	Newsletter Editor
Research	Kath Martin Pam Keown

Filing of new items will be done by Daryl Read.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, David Cotton our long time Treasurer and Research Officer, has resigned from the Executive Committee. On behalf of the group a request to Family History Connections was made that David's volunteer history be acknowledged with an Honorary Life Membership. It was accepted by FHC Members and, it was presented to David at our annual meeting, by Gail White, President of FHC.

We have been working for the past 6 weeks with the new computer system that Garry Fitzgerald has put in place for us. A few hiccoughs, but now settling down. A big thank you to Garry for his support and patience during this time. He will probably miss us when we are no longer ringing for "help"!

Research requests continue to come in by email. Some are simple, others more complicated. Several are looking for more recent family members, born in 1960s etc. and due to FOI for that time not all the answers can be found. But if we can find a death notice for a relative, often has names of children and once they have that hint, Face book has then been used to find a long lost cousin.

Annette continues to be busy assisting visitors with their DNA puzzles, as well as holding a monthly meeting for us all. She has been requested by other groups to give talks DNA and it's use in family history.

Look forward to the next 3 months.

Pam Keown

New Honorary Life Member : Bendigo Family History

David Cotton

Came to Bendigo in 1996, he was a member of AIGS in Blackburn prior to that time and had been a voluntary library helper with research there.

As soon as he introduced himself in Bendigo as a retired bank manager he was snapped up quickly for the position of Treasurer, from which he has just resigned after twenty seven years. Over the years he has held other executive positions, Area Coordinator 2005 to 2009, and during all those years he has been the Research Officer since 2001

David has been active with his contact in the community on our behalf, interviews about our activities on the local ABC and Community Radio, along with interviews in the Bendigo Advertiser Newspaper. It has been through his exploring that we have joined in community promotions and made donations for their outcome..... restoration of the Vahland Fountain in 2014, restoration of No. 7 tram in 2017 and Bendigo Military Museum redevelopment in 2018.

Over the years David has given many talks about Family History and where to start, to local community groups. He spends many hours a week expanding family knowledge for the researchers who visit us in the library.

With the research requests that come via email David almost always goes beyond the question, finding some fascinating family stories and mysteries.

He has continued to be enthusiastic about Family History and a great mentor for us all. David to a new person and within five minutes he is mentally drawing up a family chart.

It is this sort of enthusiasm that has made our group so vibrant.

Thank you David we wish you a happy retirement.

2024 MEETING DATES

February 17 th Annual Meeting	March 16 th	April 20 th
May 18 th	June 15 th	July 20 th
August 17 th	September 21 st	October 19 th
November 16 th		

Meetings are held in Activity room no 1 in Bendigo Goldfields Library at 2pm
Gold Coin Donation & Refreshments available.

Speakers for these date/times will be posted on our web page and Facebook.

Web – www.bendigofamilyhistory.au

A GOVERNOR AT BENDIGO HOSPITAL

An original certificate presented to Donald Frederick **HESTER** by the Hospital Board has been passed on to our group. Donald Hester was elected as a Life Governor of the Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital for the valuable support given to the hospital through the Easter Fair Society in 1963.

Donald was born in 1913, the son of Frederick Hester and Margaret Newton, original settlers in the Raywood/ Yallock area.

Because our group is not qualified to care for heritage originals this certificate is now in the safe keeping of Bendigo Regional Archives



A BEADED PURSE.

At the last November "Show & Tell" meeting I took along a little beaded purse given to my nine year old great-grandmother in 1849 when the family landed in Melbourne. Family legend says the purse was originally bought in America by her father on his way out to Australia.

The work is very intricate but I knew nothing about how it was done. Then just by chance while browsing through a bundle of old magazines over the holidays I came across an article written about Beaded purses. You never know where you will find the answer to a problem!! And YES the beads were all sewn on by hand.

The fad was evidently world-wide as I also have a belt embroidered with similar beaded work given to Gr-Gr-Grandfather Schulz when he left Germany in 1854.

SMALL CHANGE.

Genies are usually an acquisitive lot and most can lay claim to a small collection of old coins. Have you realised the \$2 coin with the red coloured poppy, in mint condition, could be sold for about \$280. The 2013 \$2 coin celebrating the anniversary of the Queen's coronation, with the crown in the centre, could be worth anywhere between \$40 and \$140 depending on its condition.

Any coin minted with an accidental fault can be worth so much to an avid collector.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

by: Rita Hull

And reminders for others_

Never take for granted the stories handed down by Granny/ Auntie etc. PROVE IT

If you cannot, at least qualify it with ‘Granny told me....’ Etc. Many stories were first heard while the speaker was a child listening with a child’s version of the world.

Never rely on indexes, especially on the internet, or you may end up looking ridiculous by entering the name of a child who died at five years of age as your grandfather. Always try to use at least two separate life incidents for each person.

Never rely on just one certificate for details. Ages on marriage certificates are often stretched, marriage dates on birth certificates can be put back, and no-one fills in their own death certificate.

In many cases the ancestor could not read or write and someone else has written what they thought they heard.

Never rely on some-one else’s published research. Go back over it and prove each point. Don’t be fooled by flashy productions and glossy paper. Many family trees published on the internet have been poorly researched and should only be used as a guide.

Never Insist that “Our name was always spelt...” Grandpa did not fill in his own death certificate, the church minister filled in the wedding certificate and the marriage register, Birth details on certificates, where appropriate, were most often given by fathers, and baptismal registers were written by the minister.

Never make the mistake of thinking “it is all on the net”; only a fraction of the available records has been digitised. There are so many other places to look.

So what can you do ????

Draw up a simple family tree starting with yourself and work backwards to parents, grandparents, great grandparents etc.

Choose the person you wish to study and bring your paperwork to the Bendigo Library when there are volunteers on duty to assist.

Members of the Bendigo Family History Group have access to databases of over a million names for Bendigo pioneers and can also show how to use records from all over Australia.

The Bendigo library offers free computer access to Ancestry and Find-my-past both of which are great for searching overseas records.

Family History Group members can also explain how to interpret DNA results and where they can lead. We hold a once-a-month special DNA group meeting where experience is shared and lessons learnt. You might be surprised at how many people have the same problems as you do.

OH, and last of all, if you email us, and we love to hear from family historians, please remember to tell us the name of the person you would like us to research!!!!

Families in British India Society. www.fibis.org This website provides a wealth of information for any Britons who went there as part of the Military or Civil service. Data base includes Births Marriages and Deaths. Cemeteries, Railways, Schools, & Orphanages, Maritime, Military, Directories.

DNA with Bendigo Family History

The last couple of months there have been several success stories with members finding family.

Some results have created a shockwave of the unknown, discovering a close family member appear on their matches list; this is not always the results you may be expecting when, out of curiosity and seeing all of the advertising about “Where do I come from”, lets uncover your ethnicity on TV, some people may not think about the possibility that Grannie or Grandpa may not be **who** we think they are, or maybe there is a half sibling out there we didn’t know about!

Perhaps over the years finding a birth certificate, marriage certificate or even immigration documents may not have produced a single document. It happened to me with a 2x Great Grandfather. After investing precious \$\$\$ overseas to uncover any Scottish records that I believed must be there somewhere, after all Grannie said... Well, we’ve all had family stories handed down, proving them to be correct has been very difficult in some cases, then along came DNA. Many people have changed identity for a range of reasons.

DNA testing is an excellent tool in helping to break through those stubborn brick walls. The variety of tools available to help you work with those DNA results is growing rapidly and indeed difficult to keep up with. The recent RootsTech conference had some excellent speakers and some of the presentations are still available online at FamilySearch.

Our Bendigo Family History Group DNA Special Interest Group meets monthly, and we strive to learn and understand new methods of utilising these precious results.

If you have tested DNA and need help understanding your results, we are available to meet for an individual session and see what your results are telling you and give you some strategies to follow.

By Annette Delaney DNA Consultant

EDITOR– Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor at bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au or by post to Bendigo Family History, PO Box 145, Bendigo VIC 3552 The BFHG reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject contributions.

[Disclaimer](#) – all articles are accepted in good faith. The BendigoFamily History Group Inc. and members do not accept any responsibility for correctness of any articles submitted therein.

Research Notes

Cruth

Chris Hill has been looking into this some years ago Chris belongs to the Ulster Family History group in Northern Ireland and is an active member he came to visit us at the library and spent all day going over everything he had he was extremely grateful for all the help that we gave him.

An ongoing search into JOHN CRUTH and the Hills Family who came from Ireland together David John Cruth Travelled around and back and forth to Eaglehawk.

He died in Lightening Hill Eaglehawk 85yrs of age he came to Eaglehawk he was native of Co Antrim Ireland he came to Eaglehawk 1859. In 1863 he went to the Lachlan Rush in New South Wales and returned to Eaglehawk where he resided until his death. He was closely associated with the Eaglehawk Presbyterian Church and was one of the first teachers in the Sunday school. For a short time lived in Echuca where he held a position of Managing clerk for the late Mr James McIntosh sawmiller.

Samuel Hill He was struggling to identify his Hill families Alexander Hill (1833-1907) wrote a note to family on a Bendigo Newsletter that was published 14 May 1859.

Samuel Hill (1840- 1905) worked at Arthur McKinstry's of Campaspe. This is an ongoing research for this Hill family.

Brennan Looking for a book about the Brennan Family that was written about the Brennan Family of Sedgewick that he had researched with his Aunt. It's not in the library or in our records.

Sayers / Dodd's The query was with 2 photos one of Dads Grandmother (only a guess) the other one was Dads grandmother again (only a guess) taken around the 1800 or 1900's and was in need of identifying them both. On the corner of the print was Paris Prints and Kalma nothing more to go on at all.

Buxton / Buckstone

The query was that a grave may be in the White Hills also Huntly no record the name of Betty Buxton died 16/02/1859.

Bety Buxton died 15/02/1859 buried 16/02/1859 at White Hills aged 63 Yrs lived at Huntly a widow.

Betty Buxton 59yrs arrived on the "Marco Polo" occupation Matron.

Gephart Looking for Daniel Gephart AKA Known as Yankee Dan who was in the Eaglehawk pioneers she said she had seen it years ago and it was half page but on researching no one by that name is in the book search I found that Daniel and wife Margaret McIntyre had 13 children all around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs.

Cutts Grandparents **Thomas Cutts and Esther Thompson** who married in Victoria 1857, they had many children a memorial at the Bendigo Cemetery has 4 of the children Lydia born 28/11/1870 Sandhurst died 24/12/1874, Bertha born 22/10 1872 Sandhurst died 22/01/1873, Lydia /2 born 1/05/1876 died 30/07/1876 and William Thomas 4/04/1879 died 28/01/1880 all the children were baptised at All Saints.

The family lived in Wattle Square 1858 and Wattle Street through to 1884 when they went to Melbourne.

Thomas was an Iron Monger/ Iron moulder he died in Coburg and is buried with his wife in the Melbourne General cemetery.

SUICIDE AT COBURG.

An inquiry into the death of **Thomas Cutts** was held yesterday morning at Coburg, Deceased, who was found hanging in a stable the previous day, was 63 years of age, and an Iron

Moulder by trade, He was apparently in good health and spirits, and had never threatened to take his life. About 11 o'clock that morning he remarked to the daughter's domestic, "I've got to go," and, walking out of the kitchen, was not again seen alive again. A ticket found on deceased showed he had pawned his watch the day before for 6s. A verdict of suicide was returned

THE AGE 3rd March 1899 page 5.

A COBURG SUICIDE.

A magisterial inquiry was held by Mr. John McCrory J.P., on Thursday morning at the Coburg Police Station, touching the death of an old man named **Thomas Cutts**, who on the previous day, was found hanging from a rafter in a stable at the rear of his daughters' residence in Myrtle Street. Alfred Joseph Cooper, stated deceased was an iron moulder by trade. He was 63 years of age and was employed at his place doing gardening &c. The deceased was apparently in good health and spirits. He never on any occasion heard the deceased threaten to take his life. Dr. P. Dyring stated he had examined the body and found marks on the neck, caused by a rope; the neck was not broken and there were no marks of violence upon the body. Death was due to strangulation. Elizabeth Webber domestic servant Stated she first saw the deceased at 8.30 am, whilst attending to his usual work; at 11 o'clock the deceased came into the kitchen and said "I've got to go" and he then went out. About twenty minutes after she called the deceased for breakfast, and on entering the stable saw his body hanging from a rafter. Sergeant Love on receiving information proceeded to the scene accompanied by Cr. Smith where they found the deceased hanging by the rope produced, which had a running noose at the end. The body was cut down, but life was extinct. On searching his pockets he found the pawn ticket produced showing where the deceased had Pawned his watch the day before for 6s. A verdict that the deceased died from strangulation was returned.

The Coburg Leader 4th March 1899 Page 1

Mrs Esther Cutts died 13/08/1911 East Melbourne and is buried with her husband in the Melbourne General cemetery.

Mrs Cutts father is buried in the Bendigo Cemetery with her children.

Looking Back 20 yrs to Genealogist" Magazine. No 66 March 2004

Family History Expo is to be held on 21st March at Kangaroo Flat.

New Bendigo Indexes on Microfiche

All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Baptisms 1852 to 1935 10,906 entries

Marriages 1852 to 1945 4,980 names cross referenced

Sandhurst Post Office Unclaimed Letters Lists 1856. A list of over 5,500 names published monthly in the Bendigo Advertiser of early pioneers who had unclaimed letters lying at the Post Office. [note these letters have not survived] But it may help find out someone was here at one time.

A search of online newspapers at Trove may be of help.