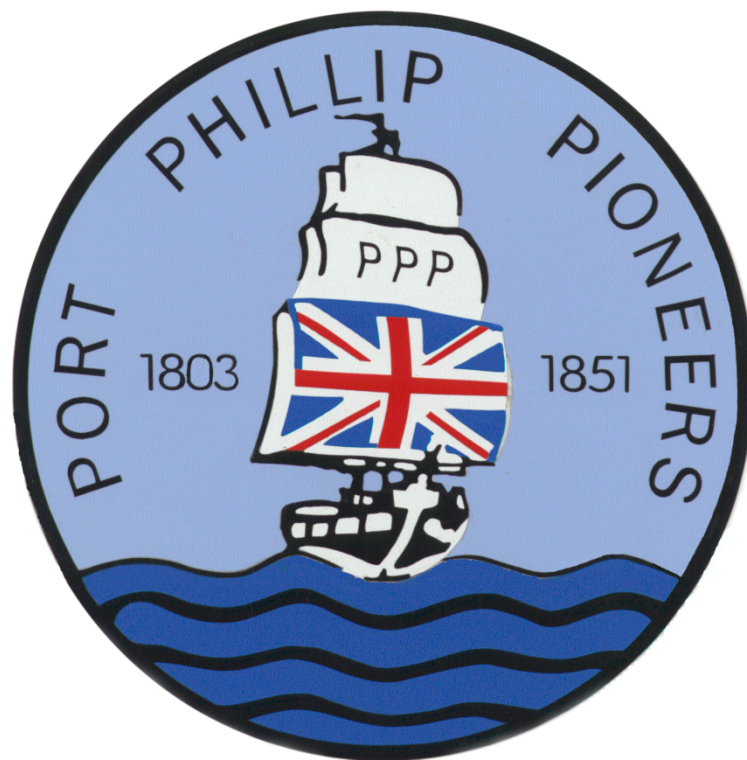


# Port Phillip Pioneers Group Incorporated



Reflections of 50 years

Published by the  
PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.

First published 8 May 2021

ISBN 978-0-9581250-4-8

Copyright © 2021

Port Phillip Pioneer Group Inc.

ABN 79 213 729 409

Editors:

Barbara Hawkins and Beverley Jacobson  
69 The Corso,  
Parkdale 3195  
Victoria

Printed by:

CURRY PRINTING

3/1 Newington Avenue,  
Rosebud 3939  
Victoria

## Introduction

This booklet is a reflection of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. over the last fifty years.

It examines and reports on the members, formation of Committees and development of this genealogy group from conception.

The Port Phillip Pioneers Group (PPPG) began life as a special interest group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria in 1970. Members of the latter group were aware that they had family connections to the beginnings or early development of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales.

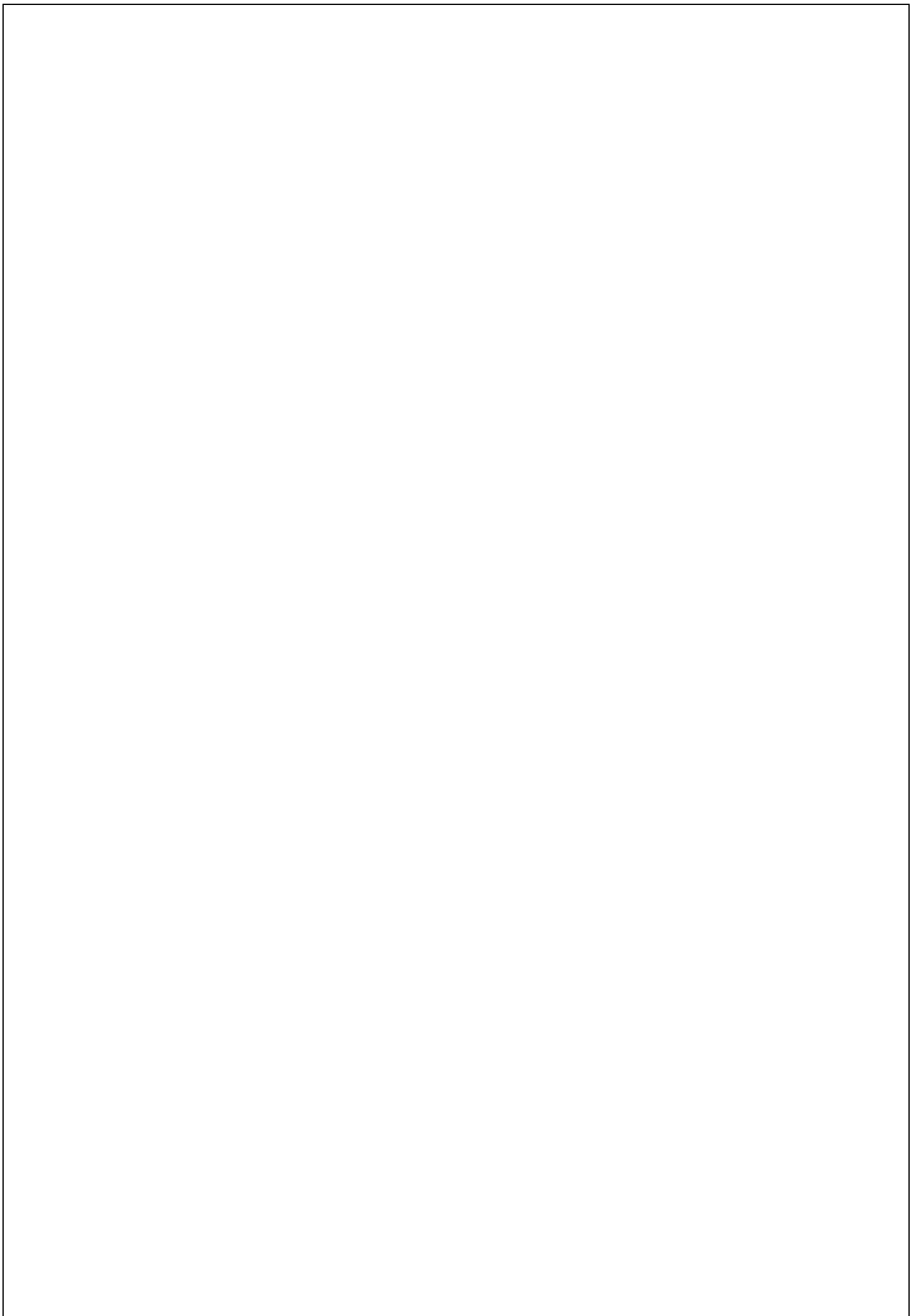
Initially the time frame for membership was 1834 to June 30, 1851, a mere 17 years of history to explore, but a most interesting time.

This time frame was expanded in 2004 to include the Collins settlement at Sorrento, adding another thirty years to make the time frame 48 years in total. In July 1851 separation from New South Wales occurred and the former Port Phillip District of New South Wales became the State of Victoria.

The census of the district in March 1851, three months before separation, gives the population as 77,569. With this population, the size of a nearly full crowd at the MCG, finding an ancestor is an irresistible, but not so easy, challenge. The task falls to members of the Group to find out as much as possible about the people who were the Pioneers of our wonderful State and how they created a new home for themselves in this district.

Barbara Hawkins

President



## Acknowledgements

The unexpected and long lockdown in Victoria, due to the coronavirus, enabled review of 40 years of PPPG Newsletters. Therefore this booklet is based on information from those Newsletters combined with recollections and memories from current members. Some important people and events may have been omitted, for this we apologise.

The Committee would like to thank all who have contributed and those involved in the production of this booklet. I would especially like to thank our President, Barbara Hawkins for her encouragement, guidance and humanity throughout this project.

Beverley Jacobson, Member No. 1403

May 2021

## Contents:

Aims of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.....	1
Acknowledgement of Country .....	1
Meeting Venues .....	2
Committee Positions .....	3
Financial History .....	7
Membership .....	8
• First Member	
• First 100 Member's List	
• Tributes to Members recorded in the Newsletters	
• Honorary Life Memberships	
• Members who celebrated 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthdays	
• Members claiming a Pioneer Parent	
• Members whose ancestors were early birds to the Port Phillip District	
• Members descended from famous ancestors	
• Members' Port Phillip Pioneer ancestors only by the skin of their teeth	
• Membership Numbers	
• Snippets from long time Members	
• Members' recollections	
• Tributes to Members recorded in the Newsletters	
Member Certificates .....	22
Newsletter .....	28
Transcriber of the talks and presentations at meetings .....	30
Technology .....	31
Marketing .....	33

Outings .....	37
Achievements .....	40
○ Incorporation	
○ Cemetery Transcriptions	
○ Pioneer Profiles	
○ Resources and Databases	
○ Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers	
○ Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. Library	
Member's Projects .....	50
Chronological order of events .....	54
Celebrations .....	59
○ 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Our early history	
○ 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
○ 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
○ 150 <sup>th</sup> Separation Anniversary Luncheon	
○ 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
The Pioneer who became a Saint .....	77

## The Aims and Objectives of the Port Phillip Pioneer Group Incorporated

- To perpetuate the memory of and create a greater awareness of the part played by the Pioneers of early settlement in the area of the present State of Victoria
- To compile biographical and genealogical data of the Pioneers and their immediate families
- To preserve written and printed material which illustrate aspects of Pioneer settlement in Victoria

### Acknowledgement of Country

The Port Phillip Pioneers Group exists to remember and commemorate our ancestors who arrived, or were born, in the Port Phillip District between 1803 and 1851.

We recognise that there were perhaps 60.000 indigenous people here before the British arrived in the District.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and explore.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.



## Meeting Venues

- 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1970 Scots Church Lower Hall, Russell St., Melbourne
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1970 Genealogical Society of Victoria's library (Block Arcade)
- 1975 - Sept 1976 Camberwell Civic Centre Theatrette
- Sep 1976 - Feb 1992 1 Winter St., Malvern
- Feb 1992 - Feb 1993 CICD Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 252 Swanston St., Melbourne
- Feb 1993 - May 1995 1 Winter St., Malvern
- May 1995 - Nov 1997 Northbrook House, 1257 High St., Malvern
- Feb 1998 - Mar 1998 Malvern Central School Hall, Eva St., Malvern
- Mar 1998 - Current St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church Parish Hall then the Wesley Hall, Malvern Rd, Glen Iris, Victoria



Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church  
Corner of Burke and Malvern Rds., Gardiner  
Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes

## Committee Positions

### Chairperson / President (1991)

- 1971 Trevor Hart (Convenor)
- 1971 E J Herbert (Acting Chairperson)
- 1971 - 1973 John McClure
- 1973 - 1975 Muriel Runting FGSV
- 1975 - 1976 Leslie Arthur Schumer OBE
- 1976 - 1982 William J H Read FGSV
- 1982 - 1986 Lester Stephen FGSV
- 1986 - 1987 Joan Connor
- 1987 - 1988 Lester Stephen FGSV
- 1988 - 1990 Betty Meckel ALAA
- 1990 - 1996 Dr Geoffrey Fewster
- 1996 - 2000 Ken Smith
- 2000 - 2001 Ken Williams (1107)(Caretaker)
- 2001 - 2003 Bronwyn Quint
- 2003 - 2005 Clare Bayne
- 2005 - 2012 Barbara Hawkins
- 2012 - 2013 Marg Kaan
- 2013 - 2019 Jessie Handoll
- 2019 - current Barbara Hawkins



Trevor Hart convenor of  
the first meeting in 1971

Image from the Herald Sunday  
Supplement date unknown



Margaret KAAN at PPPG meeting

Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-  
Hughes  
Permission granted by Marg KAAN

## Deputy Chairperson / Vice President (1991)

- 1984 - 1987 Betty Meckel ALAA
- 1987 - 1991 Lynn MacQueen
- 1991 - 1992 Vacant
- 1992 - 1993 Alison Stephen
- 1993 - 1994 Vacant
- 1994 - 1996 Ken Smith
- 1996 - 1997 Maree Posthuma
- 1997 - 2001 Bronwyn Quint
- 2001 - 2003 Clare Bayne
- 2003 - 2004 Tom Davison
- 2004 - 2005 Barbara Hawkins
- 2005 - 2007 Raymond Pederick
- 2007 - 2012 Margaret Kaan
- 2012 - 2019 Barbara Hawkins
- 2019 - 2020 Jessie Handoll
- 2020 - current Stuart Hamilton

## Secretary

- 1971 - 1979 Fay Dobbyn
- 1979 - 1980 Harriet Croxford (Acting)
- 1980 - 1982 Lester Stephen FGSV (Acting)
- 1982 - 1997 Harriet Croxford
- 1997 - 1998 Marie Orr
- 1998 - 2000 Lorna Elms
- 2000 - 2005 Mavis Gerdtz
- 2005 - 2019 Marilla James
- 2019 - current Beverley Jacobson

## Treasurer

- 1979 - 1984 Geoffrey Howard
- 1984 - 1991 Mary Hannan
- 1991 - 1992 Bruce Black
- 1992 - 1993 Vacant
- 1993 - 1994 Mary Shortall
- 1994 - 1999 Alexander Romanov-Hughes
- 1999 - 2020 Susan Grant
- 2020 - current Dean Wheeler

## Examiner of Proofs

- 1971 - 1975 Leslie Arthur Schumer OBE
- 1975 - 1984 Geoffrey F G Howard FGSV

- 1984 - 1985 Lester Stephen FGSV
- 1985 - 1987 Major Carlyle Stephen FGSV
- 1987 - 2000 Dorothy Samson
- 2000 - 2003 Clare Bayne
- 2003 - 2010 Raymond Pederick
- 2010 - 2016 Michael Grogan
- 2016 - 2019 Clare Bayne
- 2019 - current Anne Bevis

## Newsletter Editor

- 1978 Keith Holden FGSV
- 1978 - 1982 William J H Read FGSV
- 1982 - 1984 Lester Stephen FGSV
- 1984 - 1985 Alison J Woods
- 1985 - 1993 Betty Meckel ALAA
- 1993 - 2005 Maree Posthuma
- 2005 - 2007 Julie Hopper
- 2007 - current Barbara Hawkins

## Webmaster

- 1998 - current Alexander Romanov-Hughes

## Interstate and Overseas Representatives

- **New South Wales**
  - 1985 - 1988 Gwendoline Coomber
  - 1988 - 1989 Suzanne Willis
  - 1989 - 1991 Helen Wagener
  - 1992 - 2004 Jackie Kelly
- **Queensland**
  - 2002 - 2014 Elaine and John Bampton
- **Western Australia**
  - 1985 - 1988 Allan Nelson
  - 1988 - 1994 Joan Connor
  - 1994 - 1999 Helen Pearce
- **New Zealand**
  - 1990 - 2004 Patricia Anning
- **United States of America**
  - 1997 - current Ken McNaughton

## Longstanding Committee and Volunteer Members: (5+ years)

○ 1971 - 1979	Fay Dobbyn	(8 years)
○ 1975 - 1984	Geoffrey F G Howard FGSV	(9 years)
○ 1976 - 1982	William J H Read FGSV	(6 years)
○ 1978 - 2011	Lester Stephen FGSV	(33 years)
○ 1979 - 1997	Harriet Croxford	(18 years)
○ 1982 - 1995	Elva Hallam	(13 years)
○ 1982 - 1993	Betty Meckel ALAA	(11 years)
○ 1984 - 1991	Mary Hannan	(7 years)
○ 1985 - 1994 & 1997 - 2001	Alison Stephen	(13 years)
○ 1985 - 1987 & 1988 - 1994	Joan Connor	(8 years)
○ 1986 - 1991	Chris Watkins	(5 years)
○ 1987 - 1998	Marie Orr	(11 years)
○ 1987 - 2003	Dorothy Samson	(16 years)
○ 1990 - 1996	Dr Geoffrey Fewster	(6 years)
○ 1990 - 2004	Patricia Anning	(14 years)
○ 1991 - 2001 & 2002 - 2014	Elaine Bampton	(22 years)
○ 1991 - 1994 & 1997 - 1998 & 2002 - 2014	John Bampton	(16 years)
○ 1992 - 1998	Ken Love	(6 years)
○ 1992 - 2004	Jackie Kelly	(12 years)
○ 1993 - 2005	Maree Posthuma	(12 years)
○ 1994 - 2000 & 2011 - current	Ken Smith	(15 years)
○ 1994 - 2018	Val Farley	(24 Years)
○ 1975 - 1976, 1994 - current	Alexander Romanov-Hughes	(26 years)
○ 1997 - 2003, 2019 - current	Bronwyn Quint	(7 years)
○ 1997 - current	Ken McNaughton	(23 years)
○ 1998 - 2005	Lorna Elms	(7 years)
○ 1998 - 2009	Mavis Gerdtz	(11 years)
○ 1999 - 2020	Susan Grant	(21 years)
○ 2000 - 2011	Jan Walker	(11 Years)
○ 2000 - 2005, 2012-2013, 2018-2019	Clare Bayne	(7 years)
○ 2002 - current	Tom Davison	(18 years)
○ 2002 - 2008	Raymond Pederick	(6 years)
○ 2003 - current	Barbara Hawkins	(17 years)
○ 2003 - 2021	Marilla James	(18 years)
○ 2005 - current	Margaret Kaan	(16 years)
○ 2005 - 2014	Pam Fenwick	(9 years)
○ 2008 - 2016	Michael Grogan	(8 years)
○ 2010 - 2020	Jessie Handoll	(10 years)
○ 2000 - current	Jan Hanslow	(11 years)

*Information above was mined from Newsletters.*

## Financial History

*Congratulations to the Port Phillip Pioneers Group on the great milestone of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

Serving as the Treasurer and Membership Secretary for 21 years and sharing with members our pride in our Port Phillip Pioneers, has been an important and very pleasant and fruitful time in my life.

I am so grateful for all that I have learnt, not only in researching, but having to master the new technology that evolved over this time. When I took on the role of Treasurer from Alexander Romanov-Hughes in 1999, we were using Cash books which had to be laboriously filled in by hand. Changes and mistakes had to be rectified with “whiteout”. While recuperating from a fractured ankle, I learnt how to use marvellous Excel which transformed the role of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

I have witnessed the contraction of membership numbers over the years. When I joined the Group there was over 400 members. This contraction was in line with the emergence of the availability of online research resources. However, it is testament to the unique nature of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group that the membership numbers have now, not only stabilised, but are steadily rising. The interesting and informative speakers at each of the Group’s meetings as well as the camaraderie that exists between members because of our shared very special ancestors will undoubtedly ensure that the Port Phillip Pioneers Group will thrive for many more years to come.

Susan Grant, Member No. 1089

*Extra notes mined from Newsletters:*

- **Jan-Feb 1978** the Newsletter issued free to all members
- **July - Aug 1978** - Newsletter to be financed by members at \$3:00 per year.
- **14 June 1978** Fay Dobbyn appointed Treasurer and Secretary to handle the financial growth due to the sale of photographs and the newsletter.
- **Sept 1978** - Badge produced. *"Recently acquired a rather distinctive badge which is available to group members for a sum of \$3:00."*
- **Oct 1979** a Treasurer appointed due to growing demands of the Group's financial affairs. Geoffrey F G Howard FGSV.
- **July 1982** - Newsletter from \$4:00 to \$5:00.
- **Sept 1982** - Fifty cent charge to defray cost of hall.
- **Dec 1982** - Joining Fee \$10:00 includes subscription to the Newsletter.
- **Aug-Sept 1986** - Souvenirs available for sale; Silver plated tea spoons - (\$5:00); Gilt leather keys - (\$6:00) and stainless steel paper knives - (\$5:00)
- **April -May 1988** - "As was the case last year, increases in costs in many areas have been off-set by revenue from Luncheons, the sale of badges, certificates, books, souvenirs and more importantly, by monies at investment with the RESI and the Challenge Bank, these two bodies offering us the best rates at the present time. We are therefore, still in a sound financial position, however, it is worth noting that our charge for badges has remained the same since they were introduced in 1978, whilst the present subscription to Newsletter was fixed in 1982. In both cases production costs have now greatly escalated, as also has the rental of No 1 Winter St., which now costs us \$40.00 per meeting.
- **Aug - Sept 1988** - The P.P.P.G. donated \$1000 to the G.S.V. Library Fund.
- **Oct -Nov 1988** - New members are requested to pay a joining fee of \$15:00 to defray the cost of certificates, postage, a badge and one year's subscription to Newsletter.
- **April-May 1989** - Treasurer's Report shows us to be in a very sound position financially. We made donations to the G.S.V. and the National Trust.
- **Aug-Sept 1989** - Cost of Souvenirs now at \$6:00 per article.
- **April-May 2002** - Entrance donation rose to \$2.00.
- **Apr 2005** - Fees raised
- **2016-2017** - The yearly subscription for members receiving their newsletter by post will rise to \$20.00.

## Membership

### Our First Member

- Confirmed in June 1971, Muriel Runting claimed pioneers William KIDD, his wife, Susan KIDD nee STRINGER and their daughter, Susannah KIDD.



Muriel Runting, Member No.1

Image from the GSV website

### First 100 Members' List

- In 1996, 25 of the original '*first 100 members*' were on the mailing list.
- In 2020, four members from the '*first 100 members*' are still listed:
  - No. 3           Fay Dobbyn
  - No. 28        Timothy Hallam
  - No. 41        Carol Stals
  - No. 52        Alexander Romanov-Hughes



## Honorary Life Memberships

For commendable service to the Group over many years

- No.3           Fay Dobbyn
- No.16         Geoffrey Howard
- No.49         Mary Hannan
- No.52         Alexander Romanov-Hughes
- No.54         John Howard-Wright
- No.56         Lester Stephen
- No.73         Elinor Noonan
- No.82         Carlyle Stephen
- No.91         Elva Hallam
- No.96         Harriett Croxford
- No.172        Lorna Samson
- No.179        Betty Meckel
- No.201        Lady Frances Townsing
- No.272        Alison Stephen
- No.402        Allen Nelson
- No.415        Joan Connor
- No.537        Marie Orr
- No.606        Dorothy Samson
- No.688        Geoffrey Fewster
- No.733        Helen Pearce
- No.797        Nancy Elaine Bampton
- No 798        William John Bampton
- No.869        Maree Postuma
- No.895        Kenneth Lance Smith



John and Elaine Bampton

Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes



### Certificates of Appreciation

10 Nov 1990

Geoffrey Howard, Keith Holden, Carlyle Stephen, Lester Stephen.

Image from the PPPG photo album

## Members who celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> Birthdays

- No. 266 Ada Frances Falconer on 7 March 1993 (Member at age 101 in 1994 and 102 in 1995)
- No. 73 Nell Noonan in June 2004
- No. 1369 Kathleen Creed on 26 April 2011
- No. 1370. Fr. Vincent James Creed on 22 Oct 2013

## Members claiming a Pioneer Parent

- Johanna Alice (Lalla) GILL nee HARDING (Member No. 1326). Born 7 November 1909, her father was John Alfred HARDING, born 7 February 1849 at Piddlehinton, Dorset. John sailed with his parents, John and Sarah, and sister, Alice on the maiden voyage of the *Aberfoyle*, which arrived in Melbourne, 15 November 1850. *Oct-Nov 2009, Newsletter*.

*Information above was mined from the Newsletters.*

## Members whose ancestors were early birds to the Port Phillip District

- Irene Beatrice ELMORE (member No. 27) claims a direct descent from John Fawkner's father John FAWKNER and mother Hannah Pascoe FAWKNER who arrived 9 October 1803, and direct descent from John Pascoe FAWKNER's sister Elizabeth FAWKNER.
- Marie Joyce ALLENDER (member No. 436) claims a direct descent from Urias ALLENDER who arrived 9 October 1803.
- Winsome Elizabeth MATENSON (member No. 463), Audrey EGGINGTON (member No. 529), Margaret Jean CARMODY (member No. 582), Thomas Leslie DELLAR (member No. 998), Margery Vivien WILSON (member No. 1199), Allan John DUFFY (member No. 1309), Kenneth Roy DUFFY (member No. 1310), Kerrie Irene DUFFY (member No. 1311), Robert John DUFFY (member No. 1375) claim a direct descent from Willian GANGELL, all who arrived 9 October 1803.
- Lisa Joanne HAY (member No.621) claims a direct descent from Robert HAY who arrived 9 October 1803.
- Lorraine Isobelle CRAWSHAW (member No.1352) claims a direct descent from George and Mary Ann SCARBOROUGH who arrived in PPD from Tasmania in November 1835.
- Moira McALISTER (member No.1358) claims a direct descent from Dr Barry COTTER who arrived in PPD from Launceston on 5th November 1835 on the *Norval*.

## Members descended from famous ancestors

- Irene Beatrice ELMORE (member No. 27) claims a direct descent from John Fawkner's father John FAWKNER and mother Hannah Pascoe FAWKNER, and descent from John Pascoe FAWKNER's sister Elizabeth FAWKNER.
- George Dennys WEIRE (member No. 248) claims descent from John BATMAN.
- Wesley Batman CARTER and Jon Andrew CARTER (member Nos. 147 & 148) are descended from John BATMAN's brother Henry BATMAN.
- Edna RICHARDS (member No. 435) is also directly descended from John BATMAN's brother Henry BATMAN.

## Members' Port Phillip Pioneer ancestors only by the skin of their teeth

- Eleanor Margaret FINLAY (member No. 87) and Peter FINLAY (member No.88) claims a direct descent from George and Catherine SIM, resided PPD: on Electoral Roll, 26 June 1851 and their son George Sim Jr.
- Marie Grace MOORE (member No. 166) claims a direct descent from Annie POTTER, Born PPD 12 June 1851.
- Millicent Dorothea MACPHAIL (member No. 450) claims a direct descent from Charles HAYES, resided PPD June 1851.
- Geoffrey Edson FEWSTER (member No. 688), Kevin John FEWSTER (member No. 1120), Jared Oliver Taris GRIFFITHS (member No. 1121) and Wesley John GRIFFITHS (member No. 1122) claim a direct descent from Isabella Ann MACKEY born PPD 7 June 1851.
- Laurence VAUX (member No. 793) claims a direct descent from Hannah POTTER born PPD 12 June 1851.
- Henry Norton FOSTER (member No. 842) claims a direct descent from Albert NORTON born 4 June 1851.
- Janice Phyllis TWARTZ (member No. 1032) claims a direct descent from Susanna Mary GAFFNEY born PPD 18 June 1851.
- Beverley May JACOBSON (member No.1403) claims a direct descent from Nicholas EMELLEN/EMALE who arrived in PPD 1 June 1851 on the *Sarempo*.

*Members, whose ancestors were famous, early birds to the Port Phillip District or became Port Phillip Pioneers by the skin of their teeth was mined from the Port Phillip Pioneer Claims.*

## Membership Numbers

- 1970 - 23
- 1975 - 50
- 1977 - 100
- 1978 - 125
- 1979 - 200
- 1980 - 260           10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 1981 - 326
- 1982 - 394
- 1983 - 445           54 interstate. 8 overseas.
- 1984 - 527           Member No. 500
- 1988 - 677
- 1991 - 864           Incorporation
- 1992 - 913
- 1993 - 939
- 1994 - 1006          Member No. 1000
- 1995 - 1037
- 1996 - 1072
- 1997 - 1100
- 1998 - 1160
- 1999 - 1185
- 2000 - 1217
- 2001 - 1240
- 2002 - 1259
- 2003 - 1288          418 Financial membership
- 2004 - 1296
- 2005 - 1315          397 Financial membership
- 2006 - 1329          375 Financial membership
- 2007 - 1341          360 Financial membership
- 2008 - 1357          360 Financial membership
- 2009 - 1368          355 Financial membership
- 2010 - 1384          353 Financial membership
- 2011 - 1397          332 Financial membership
- 2012 - 1403
- 2013 - 1408          306 Financial membership
- 2014 - 1427          304 Financial membership
- 2015 - 1447          308 Financial membership
- 2016 - 1458          303 Financial membership
- 2017 - 1465          281 Financial membership
- 2018 - 1477          268 Financial membership
- 2019 - 1490          259 Financial membership
- 2020 - 1519          262 Financial membership. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Member No. 1500  
44 interstate members (NSW-19, WA-16, Q-6, Tas-2, ACT-1)  
5 overseas members (NZ-2, UK-1, USA-1, China-1)

## Snippets from long time members

**Timothy Hallam:** Member No.28

I do remember going to meetings at a place on Collins Street (I think) and I was the youngest person there by a country mile, however the people were friendly. The room was a large comfortable sitting room. I was able to join the PPPG with relatively little effort because my Armstrong ancestors are recorded in Henderson's Australian Families.

**Carol Stals:** Member No. 41

I joined when I was very young, in my twenties, when I began to do some family history. Somebody (State Library perhaps) put me onto PPPG and I went to visit a man in Malvern, the rest is history.

I have a great love of Australian history and particularly Local History. My main interest in Social History is in the Working Class, and their influence in society. I am also particularly interested in Aboriginal history and our treatment of them and their struggle to maintain identity. Women in society, is another keen interest. Sadly so many strong women were written out of history or just recorded as Mrs.... Such were the times.

When working on a stall at a History expo at the Masonic (?) hall in East Melbourne years ago and came across the PPP stall. The ensuing conversation piqued my interest when I realised I was still a member (I had forgotten about it) hence my re-emergence into the group. I feel the Zoom meetings have been interesting and more inclusive of a wider group.

I appreciate the time you all put into the PPPG. I do find it interesting to read about new members and the ships their families arrived on, some we share.

So although I am a peripheral member, I am very interested.

**Ken Smith:** Member No.895

I heard about PPPG at Doncaster Historical Society. I was then asked to give a talk to the PPPG. After I gave my 2<sup>nd</sup> talk which was about 1980 I joined. Likes shared information, meeting descendants, etc. And I learnt a lot from Lester Stevens.

**Clare Bayne:** Member No.1059

I heard about the PPPG at the GSV. I like the speakers and meeting people. I learnt a lot from Lester Stephen.

**Marg Kaan:** Member No.1146

Saw pamphlets at the State Library of Victoria. I like the speakers, camaraderie and finding information.

**Marilla James:** Member No.1231.

The Examiner of Proofs said I had to prove my earlier ancestor was here. It made me work! Eventually I found him last on the steerage list of the shipping list.

- 150<sup>th</sup> lunch: Professor Shaw spoke about the history of Separation. I knew nothing about it before and will always remember it. I passed on the info to lots of people.
- The Group had microfiche and a reader. I took them home and went through all the early Indexes and found my people in them.
- Had a long time on the Committee. During that time I put together a Committee Folder, a Family List following on from Lester's records (*Port Phillip Pioneers and Families from Member No. 1373 onwards*) and decided to get an Index done for Lester's Images (*Index to Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers*).
- I loved helping at Family History Expositions. Learned how to do file books which was invaluable and I met lots of people and showed them Lester's Images. Good working with friends too.
- Doing the newsletter mail out around my kitchen table was such fun. And I discovered a family relationship with the Treasurer! Just by talking.
- I remember AGMs at the GSV and days in there helping with Lester's material.
- Editing Profiles 7. Reading the stories and talking to the authors.

These experiences and tasks have been a large and valuable part of my life and have taught me so much. Thankyou PPPG and Happy Birthday!

## Members' recollections

I joined the PPPG on 24 August 1994 and have eight certificates proudly hanging on my wall.

I was a member of the GSV, and in those days being a GSV member was necessary to join smaller groups like PPPG. I joined after noticing I had lots of ancestors who had arrived during this time. This connected my love of history and family lines, a living history really.

I joined the committee at the AGM in 2003. I had been helping out on the mail out team for a while and Clare suggested that I join the committee, which I did. I felt I had no skills to help at this point but I loved being a part of it. The members and committee were so well mannered and nice.

As you can imagine I learnt some skills, and this is one thing that I have enjoyed over the time I have been involved. I was a hairdresser, no office or business skills involved there. Doing my family history, the story, the images, learning computer skills, and communicating with people, have been paramount in my journey and this in turn transferred to helping out with the PPPG.

I have loved going to events such as Melbourne Day, St James Cathedral in November and many Family History expos over the years with my colleagues. There was also the digitising of Lester

Stephens' material at the GSV and our team going every Monday for two years, what fun, we had a lovely time gathering together for this.

I love the group and our recent endeavours into zooming have taught us all new skills as we forge ahead with good humour giving it our best shot and coming along beautifully. Well done PPPG members I say.

What a wonderful group to belong to.

Barb Hawkins, Member No. 990

## On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the PPPG

My great-great grandfather John Ross McNaughton sailed with his wife Agnes and daughter Jane from Greenock, Scotland, arriving at Port Phillip Bay in January 1839. I grew up in Melbourne and sailed to London in January 1964. I had started researching my family history, and this accelerated while I lived in London, Paris, Rome, Mexico, the Bahamas and all over the USA. I joined the PPPG in 1997 and started publishing stories about my pioneering ancestors in the newsletter. I was very proud of what they went through to establish themselves in a new land, and very pleased to share my research with members of the PPPG. I paid for a life membership and was listed in the newsletter as the USA representative.



This still seems strange, since the USA is such a large place, and so far away from Port Phillip Bay. But I think about the thousands of Australians who wander the planet and the many, like me, who settle somewhere else. Don't they all think fondly of the place that nurtured and molded them? Don't they all wish the world knew more about the place they came from, and the role their ancestors played in it? Lately I have been thinking about the shame we all share for the thoughtlessness shown to the indigenous people of Australia—how our people trampled over their land and treated them badly. We can help to reveal what really happened by unearthing the truth of those early days, and saying "I'm sorry." We can treat one another and our indigenous neighbors with more respect. My thanks to all the staff and contributors at PPPG who help to unearth the truth. In particular, my thanks to Alexander Romanov-Hughes, my designated liaison, for his helpful correspondence and for going above and beyond in digging behind the scenes.

Ken McNaughton, Member No.1061

Historic Ellicott City, Maryland USA

Photo by Adam Shackelford in the courtyard of The Little Market Café, 29 August 2020.

COPYRIGHT

This work is copyrighted and may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any medium without written permission from Ken McNaughton Living Trust, 3778 College Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043; phone/fax: 410-418-9340; [kjmcn@comcast.net](mailto:kjmcn@comcast.net) (11 October 2020).

## Examiner of Proofs

The Examiner of Proofs position is essential to assist prospective members with their applications and to establish the validation of applications.

The Examiner of Proofs has existed since the inauguration of Port Phillip Pioneers. Originally membership of the group was limited to persons with at least one ancestor who settled in what is now the state of Victoria prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1846. The date was extended to July 1st 1851 in September 1975 and in the late 1990's it was extended again to include the Sorrento settlement from 1803 onwards.

The Convenor of Port Phillip Pioneers was Trevor Hart and he took on the initial role of Examiner of Proofs. He approved the first 27 members. The first member to be approved was Miss Hunting on October 8, 1970.

Over the years it has become an important source of information about the early residents of Port Phillip.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to refer to Lester Stephen's records which are an invaluable source of information.

During this time the office has evolved and changed, with the addition of information technology.

Initially an application had to be posted and we kept a lot of the information sent with applications, nowadays we usually receive an application via email with all the relevant information attached, which we can then transfer to an online folder. The information is then transferred to spreadsheets and is available for reference by Committee members.

Payments to the bank account can also be accessed online.

As well as accepting initial applications from prospective members there are queries from the general public which come through to the Examiner of Proofs. We always try to help where it is possible but as to the exact spot where John Batman signed the Treaty with the indigenous leaders, I do not know the answer although it is a frequent question.

As Examiner of Proofs I am thoroughly enjoying the new knowledge that I have acquired as I am becoming much more familiar with the early history of our State.

Anne Bevis, Member No.1458 with valuable assistance from Clare Bayne, Member No.1059



## Tributes to Members recorded in the Newsletters

### Bill Read, F.G.S.V.

### Newsletter No.22

- *“The retirement of Mr Read from his former posts of Chairman of the GROUP, and as Editor of this Newsletter brings to a close, an era in the history of the P.P.P.GROUP, and it would be remiss of us not to gratefully acknowledge his achievements on our behalf.*
- *When Bill took over in 1975 the GROUP numbered about 50 members, and it was almost unknown outside G.S.V. circles.*
  - *In the years that followed he successfully introduced many imaginative ideas to stimulate interest in the GROUP. They included:*
    - *The formation of a strong, hardworking committee.*
    - *Regular meetings - with interesting speakers.*
    - *Excursions to historic localities.*
    - *The introduction of “NEWSLETTER.”*
    - *Making available to members - a distinctive Badge.*
    - *The updating of certificates issued to new members.*
    - *And perhaps the most important of all, he fostered among our members a pride in their heritage and a belief and whatever the background of our ancestors, they all contributed in some measure to the building of our state and Nation*
- *Elected a Fellow of the G.S.V.*

### Geoffrey Howard, F.G.S.V. Newsletter No.32

- *“After serving for nine years as Examiner of Proofs, five years as Treasurer, and two years as Deputy Chairman - a fine record, Geoffrey Howard F.G.S.V., has announced his retirement from the Committee of our Group...”*
- *“Geoff was admitted as Member No 16 on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1971. He succeeded Mr L. A. Schumer, O.B.E, as Examiner of Proofs in June 1975, and since that time has vetted and approved 427 new members.*
- *When our group became financially independent of the G.S.V. early in 1979, Geoffrey assumed the additional role of “Treasurer”. On the 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1981, he was made a Fellow of our “Society” for his work as Senior Vice-President of that body and his contributions to our Group - a reward richly deserved.”*

### Captain Ray Samson

### Newsletter No.61

- *“He joined the P.P.P.G in 1982 and in 1984 was elected to the committee.”*
- *“Together with Loris he assisted at all of our functions, giving out nametags and greeting members.”*
- *“With Loris and Harriet he was responsible for dispatching each issue of Newsletter during the four years he held office.*
- *“In addition he kept meticulous records of member’s subscriptions and frequently moved to vote of thanks to our various speakers.”*

**Keith Holden, F.G.S.V.**

**Newsletter No.67**

- *In 1976 he became an early member of the Group No. 68*
- *Part of the reconstituted committee formed in 1977*
- *Editor of the first Newsletter*
- *Elected a Fellow of the G.S.V.*
- *Instigator of many projects and his tremendous contribution to the Indexing of the N.S.W. Convict Indents.*

**Muriel Runting, F.G.S.V.**

**Newsletter No.79**

- *Honorary Secretary for the G.S.V. from 1965-1979*
- *Holder of P.P.P.G. Certificate of Membership No. 1*
- *First Chairman of the P.P.P.G.*
- *Elected a Fellow of the G.S.V. in 1973.*

**Betty Lois Meckel**

**Newsletter No.94**

- *Joined in 1979 and held virtually every office during her 17 years as a Member*
- *Longest serving editor of Newsletter with aim to retain the history of the Group*
- *Initiated Pioneer Profiles and published the Volume 1.*

**Mary (Mollie) Sitters Newsletter No.122**

- *Member no. 827*
- *Voluntary Auditor for the Group from June 1991 - 1999.*
- *Wrote reviews of speaker's addresses for many years.*

**Marie Teresa Orr**

**Newsletter No.175**

- *Elected to the committee in 1987*
- *Volunteered to undertake transcriptions of the Boroondara Cemetery Memorial, Box Hill Cemetery, The Melbourne General Cemetery and East Brighton Cemetery*
- *Volunteered to extract information from the Police Watch-House Charge Books*
- *Awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1995.*

## Lester Roy Stephen, F.G.S.V. Newsletter No.176

- *Member No. 56, Chairman from 1982-86*
- *1978 became Office of Supervisor of the Register.*
- *In 1989, after 14 years' service to the Committee was made an Honorary Life Member.*
- *Compiled the 'ultimate legacy' to the Group of the Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers. Began in 1977 and continued until 2009. His wish was to document all those who were in this colony when it was known as the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, and help researchers to find these historic pioneers.*

## Loris Daisy Samson

## Newsletter No.176

- *Member No. 172 and joined the Group in 1979*
- *Involved with the administration of new certificates and newsletter mail outs*
- *In 1986 she began entering Port Phillip Pioneer Register entries.*
- *Awarded Honorary Life Membership.*

## Michael Grogan

## Newsletter No.193 & 205

- *Member No. 1332*
- *Enthusiastically joined the committee in 2008*
- *Examiner of Proofs for seven years from 2009 processing 81 new members and 268 ancestors*
- *Responsible for the PPPG bags and recipe books at our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and he made the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday cake*
- *Stored Lester Stephen's substantial archival collection at his home*
- *Designed and distributed promotional material and produced the slogan, 'We Look Forward to Your Past'*

## Jessie Handoll

## Newsletter No. 215

- *Member No. 1166*
- *Committee 2010 - 2020*
- *President 2013 - 2019*
- *Vice Pres. 2019 - 2020*
- *Jessie took on the position of President a bit reluctantly, but was a great success. She kept us all in order and kept the meetings on track. She was always willing to take responsibility and take on the hard jobs. She has been a great asset to the Committee.*

## Clare Bayne

## Newsletter No. 215

- *Member No. 1059*
- Committee August 2000 - 2019
- Vice Pres. 2001 - 2003
- President 2003 - 2005
- Examiner of Proofs 2000 - 2003 and 2016 - 2019
- Clare was president at a difficult time. Among other things, she presided over changing the qualifying Pioneer ancestor date from 1835 to 1803.
- As Examiner of Proofs she was instrumental in simplifying the procedures. She also rejuvenated the application Form.
- Attended Family History days and collated Newsletters.

## Susan Grant

## Newsletter No. 215

- *Member No. 1089*
- Treasurer and Membership Secretary for 21 years, April 1999 - 2020
- Produced the Certificates of Appreciation and Certificates of Membership
- Newsletter mail outs both hard copy and via email.

## Member Certificates

The Member Certificate changed over time particularly after Incorporation in 1991 when the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. became a Member Society of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc. Following are a few examples.

1974

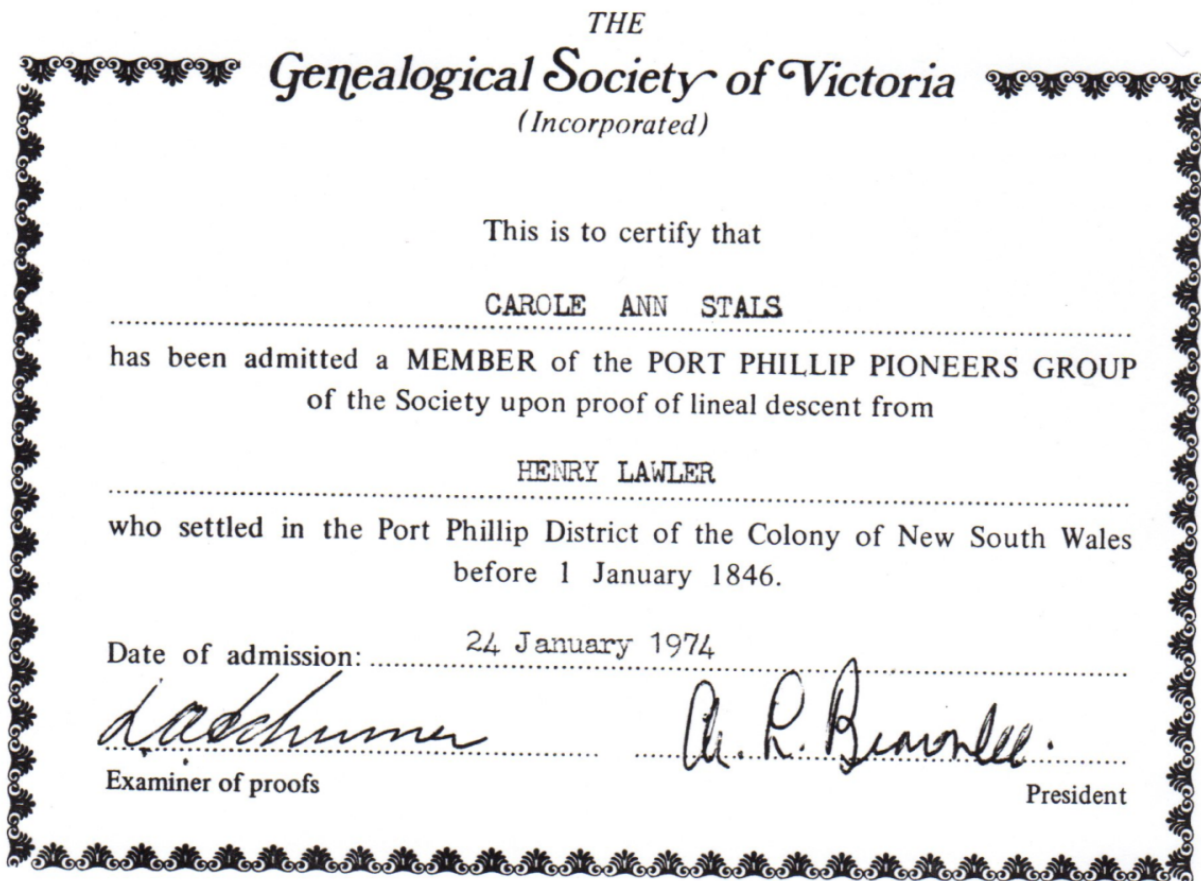


Image supplied and permission granted by Carole STALS.

### Extra notes mined from Newsletters:

- A yellow paper was used for the original certificates.
- A drawing of *Investigator*, a three mastered barque in full sail, was featured at the bottom of the certificate in December 1976. The image of *Investigator* was donated by Mr. Lindsay Brownlee.
- In 1979 the certificates were printed in the new design.

1979

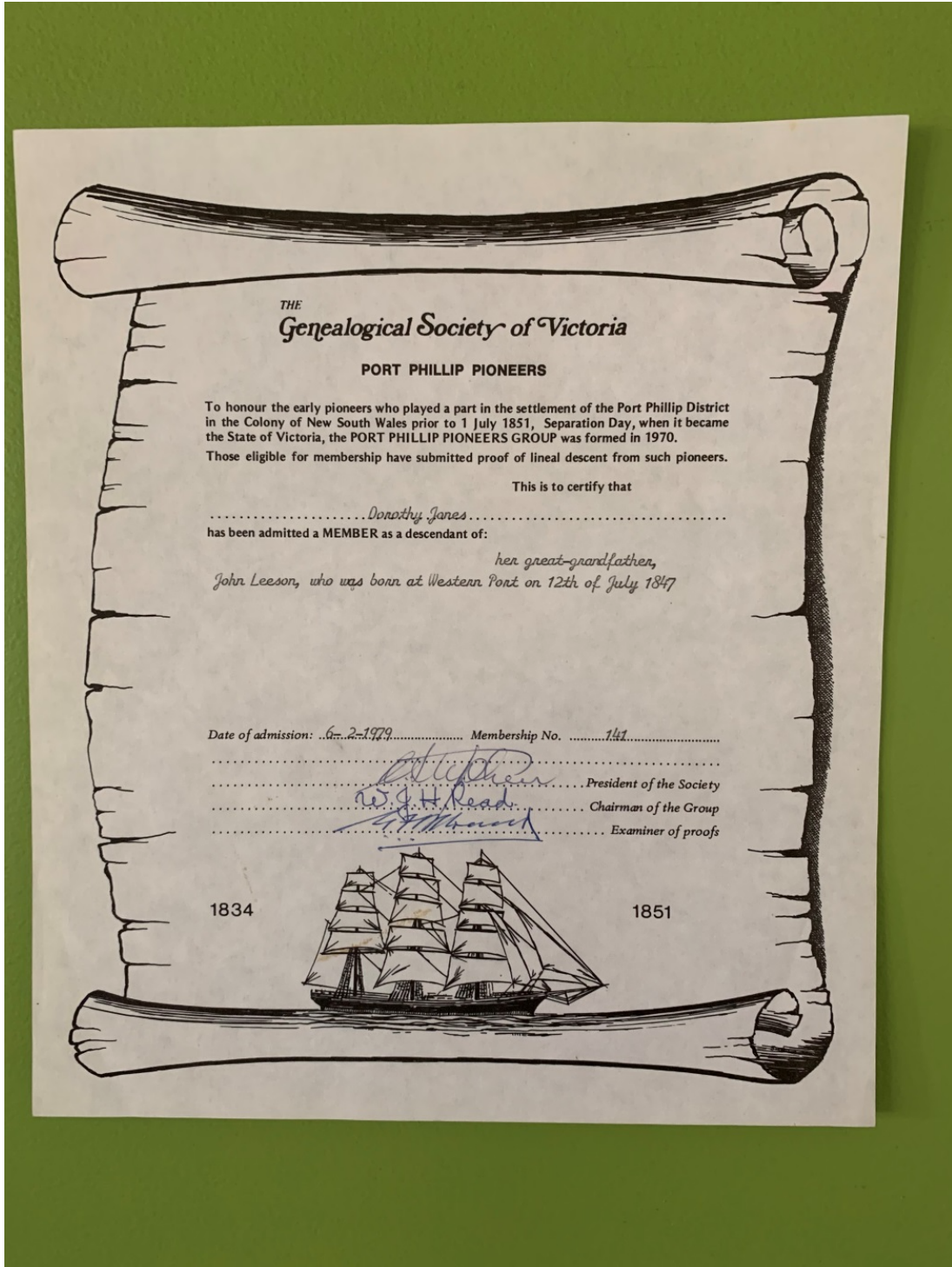


Image supplied and permission granted by Dorothy RAY.

1983

# The Genealogical Society of Victoria

(Incorporated 1945)

Patron: His Excellency the Governor of Victoria Rear-Admiral, Sir Brian Murray, KCMG, AO, K St J.

## Port Phillip Pioneers

The PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS' GROUP of The Genealogical Society of Victoria was formed in 1970 to honour and perpetuate the memory of the pioneers who played a part in the early settlement of the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales prior to 1st July, 1851, when it became the Colony of Victoria.

Members of The Genealogical Society of Victoria who have submitted proof of Lineal descent from such pioneers are admitted as members.



This  
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

is presented to

SUSAN MARGARET ELLIOTT

.....  
having given proof of Lineal descent from:

her Great-Great-Grandparents, JOHN & FRANCES REBECCA SMITH, who arrived at Point Henry, Geelong, on the 8th November, 1848, on board the "Andromache"

DATE OF ADMISSION ..... 29/7/1983 ..... MEMBERSHIP No. .... 445 .....

*Geoffrey F. Howard*  
.....  
Examiner of proofs

*Leata R. Stephens*  
.....  
Chairman of the Group

*L. Stephens*  
.....  
President of the Society

Image supplied and permission granted by Susan ELLIOTT.

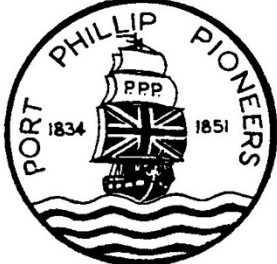
1996

## Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A MEMBER SOCIETY OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

The **PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.** was formed in 1970 to honour and perpetuate the memory of the pioneers who played a part in the early settlement of the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales prior to 1st July 1851, when it became the Colony of Victoria.

Persons who have submitted proof of Lineal descent from such pioneers are admitted as members.



*This*  
**CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**  
*is presented to*

.....  
JANET HELEN HANSLOW  
.....  
*having given proof of Lineal descent from:*

her Great Grandfather ARSCOTT COLE who arrived in the Port Phillip District on 22 August 1844 on the "Lord William Bentinck".

DATE OF ADMISSION ..... 1 March 1996 ..... MEMBERSHIP N° ..... 1057d .....

*G. Crothly M. Lanson* ..... *E. E. Jewster* .....

Examiner of proofs ..... President of Group .....

Image supplied and permission granted by Jan HANSLOW.



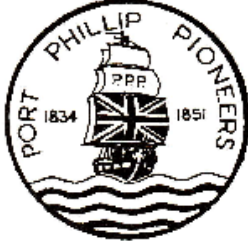
1999

## Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A MEMBER SOCIETY OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

The PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC. was formed in 1970 to honour and perpetuate the memory of the pioneers who played a part in the early settlement of the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales prior to 1st July 1851, when it became the Colony of Victoria.

Persons who have submitted proof of Lineal descent from such pioneers are admitted as members.



This  
**CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**  
is presented to

THOMAS MILFORD DAVISON

.....  
having given proof of Lineal descent from:

his Great Great Great Grandfather JOHN JOSEPH  
MOURMIZ who arrived in the Port Phillip  
District in July 1840

DATE OF ADMISSION 22 April 1999 MEMBERSHIP N° 1168 b

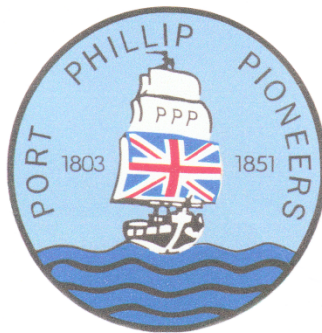
Dorothy M. Lawson K. Smith  
Examiner of proofs President of Group

Image supplied and permission granted by Tom DAVISON.

2012

# Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of The G.S.P. Inc.



## CERTIFICATE of MEMBERSHIP

Is awarded to

***Beverley May JACOBSON***


Having provided evidence of direct lineal descent from her

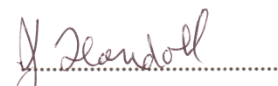
**Great, Great, Grandfather, Nicholas EMELLEN**

**Memorial for Letters of Naturalization of Nicholas EMELLEN  
Dated 9 May 1884, reflect that he arrived in Melbourne  
Aboard the "Sarempo" in June 1851.**

**Date of Certification: 18 October 2014**

**No. 1403 (d)**

  
.....  
*Examiner of Proofs*

  
.....  
*President of Group*

## PPPG Newsletter

It has been my absolute joy to be the newsletter editor since 2007.

I have learned so much since I stepped into this role about the technical side of things but also the responsibility of reaching the members and other readers.

As we have no fixed address and hold meetings bimonthly in a rented hall or on *Zoom* so there is no other connection. Yes, we have a website but not everybody has digital skills to view it.

The PPPG newsletter is the best and only way to communicate regularly with all members, delivering the information you want in your post or email boxes.

The introduction of new members, the transcript of the speakers' talk and Committee information are just some of the regular items you will be informed about. Every member is able to submit an article to be published and many have. We have people like Alexander Romanov-Hughes who are regular contributors of historical stories and would love more from others.

Historical stories are the life of our group as we come together to research and celebrate our ancestors who have come to the Port Phillip District of NSW. These early years, when many challenges were faced by all new arrivals as well as the indigenous population, are a story we love to read and learn about, hopefully in the newsletter.

Another side to the newsletter was the mail out team where a group of members would meet to stamp PPPG the logo and return address on envelopes, fold the newsletters and place them in envelopes for distribution. When I joined this team, this was done by John and Eileen Bampton until they moved to Queensland where they became our Qld representatives. The team then moved to Clare Bayne's house and then to Marilla James' home. By this time the envelopes were printed not stamped (a task well left behind).

Now the editor and the treasurer share this duty in their own spaces and are making all this possible. The earlier times are missed though as they were a time when we became known to one another and sometimes it would be a mini meeting, a joining of similar interests make for a fun time.

From simple beginnings in 1978 our newsletter has grown to be a communication tool we find invaluable.

I would like to thank Maree Posthuma for the many years she spent as editor and whose template we still use today. 1993 - 2005.

Barb Hawkins, Member No.990, P.P.P.G. Newsletter Editor, (2007-2021)

*Extra notes mined from Newsletters:*

- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1977 It was decided that such a publication should be designed to inform members of what had already occurred, and to advise them of coming events
- Mr. Keith Holden produced a trial issue in 1977; this was enthusiastically received by the committee.
- The first copy printed January 1978 was issued free to all members. A charge of \$3.00 per year was made from July 1, 1979, to defray expenses and provide some much needed revenue.
- Sept 1978 No. 05 - Image of *Investigator*, a three mastered barque in full sail, first appears.
- Jan 1979, the newsletter may be purchased by all members of the G.S.V. for \$3:00.
- The cost of the Newsletter rose to \$4:00 in March 1980. The subscription was for five newsletters per year.
- July 1982 - Newsletter cost rose from \$4:00 to \$5:00.
- June 1983 No. 28 - Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. VBH 3368.
- June-July 1985 - Increase in dimensions of Newsletter. *"...made possible by the discovery of a local printer whose charge is a great deal less than that of the firm with which we had previously been dealing, also the assurance of Australia Post that the cost of the postage will remain the same."*
- June 1991 No. 68 - Heading now reads, "**Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.**" The position of President now replaces the position of Chairman.
- Apr - May 1992 No. 72 - The P.P.P.G badge, situated on the top right hand side, becomes part of the newsletter heading.
- Newsletter 76 was inadvertently 'skipped' over. Newsletter No. 75 was printed for Oct-Nov 1992, and then No 77 was printed for Feb-March 1993.
- April 1999 No 108 - Reg. No. A0022862G
- Feb 2000 No 112 - Printed on soft pink paper to celebrate the new millennium.
- Oct 2005 No. 141 - The first mention of internet websites; Family Search, Ancestry and the free Birth, Marriage and Death registry. Meeting information now printed on the front page. \$2:00 entry fee.
- Oct 2009 No. 161 - *"We look forward to your past"* added to heading.
- June 2014 No.184 - Newsletter offered in electronic version.

## Transcriber of the talks and presentations at meetings

In 2000 I took over the task of writing a summary of the talks given at each meeting from Elaine and John Bampton who retired to Queensland. John used to look after recording the address whilst Elaine wrote a summary of it. Although I didn't have much experience in the way of writing I thought it would give me a chance to listen to the talks again and thus understand more of our history.

Recordings were made on cassette tapes, and the speakers usually were still talking when the tape had come to its end. The cassette then had to be discreetly taken out, turned around and put back into the recorder. Later it was possible to purchase tapes that were sufficiently long that turning wasn't necessary and we continued using tapes until we could no longer purchase them.

Back at home I would struggle to hear the words played back on my cassette player. Nowadays, 20 years later, I record the talk on my mobile phone but still sometimes struggle to hear as not all speakers are happy using microphones.

The addresses over the years have covered a variety of topics ranging from Magic Lanterns and post cards to Land Sales in Melbourne and the Separation Act. The speakers have sometimes been people with a hobby interest which has developed into something of great merit. Others have been professional people who have studied a topic in scholarly fashion. Most speakers now use a power point presentation. Regardless of how the addresses have been presented, all have been interesting.

An address by Ian Wynd of Deakin University back in 2000 helped me to add order to my writing. I do hope these summaries provide to members an understanding and an appreciation of what the speaker was discussing, especially those who couldn't attend the meeting.

P.S. Any mistakes can be blamed on my husband who does the proof reading for me!

Jan Hanslow, Member No.1057



Tony Hargraves (left)

Laurie Thompson  
(right)

Images supplied by  
Alexander Romanov-  
Hughes



## Technology

Probably the major change over the last 50 years affecting genealogy and the activities of the Group has been the unimaginable expansion of information technology. The Group has tried to keep abreast of these changes to assist our members.

The earliest reference to such changes was in our May-June 1978 Newsletter:

*"The science of Genealogy is undergoing rapid changes and considerable amounts of previously unavailable material are becoming readily accessible to the researcher. The computer File Index of the Church of the Latter Day Saints is a good example of this and over 35 million names are already on the computer and being added daily. The CFI will cut down research time to an absolute minimum and will become increasingly more valuable as time goes by."*

Landmarks in the rapid adoption and spread of the use of information technology resources, as recorded in our Newsletters, included:

- 24 March, 1985 - Mr Allen Nelson, (our rep in W.A), *"displayed a pedigree chart which had been produced by Computer and explained the benefits to be gained from such a facility."*
- April 1986 - *"We purchased a set of microfiche for BDMs covering the period 1837-1895, it has been catalogued and is now ready for use."*
- *"A new computer database has been compiled which lists all persons who have ever been accepted as members of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. This information has been compiled on Microsoft Works for Windows PC software for which the PPPG holds a Registered Licence."* Feb -March 1997 Newsletter
- In Feb 1998, *"thanks to the generous support of the VICNET", our own internet site was established at: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~pioneers> . The introductory page leads to pages about our history and membership requirements. The site also has photos of outings, pages from our Newsletter and a calendar of events. Our Western Australian Branch also has an information page on the WAGS."*
- *"A digital recording device was purchased to record speakers. Previously taped presentations will be transferred to CD."* Feb -March 2011 Newsletter
- *"Apps for smartphones and tablets. Websites can offer podcasts and videos can be embedded that make history come alive. Using a blog and social media we can now interact giving people anywhere the ability to communicate in an efficient way."* Marg Kaan, Aug-Sept 2012 Newsletter
- In June 2014 we offered to send the Newsletter via email as an electronic version at a reduced cost.
- Our first Zoom Committee Meeting was held in June 2020 due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic.
- On 11th July 2020, our AGM meeting was held over the internet via the Zoom application.

Of course a lot of genealogical and family history work is still carried out the traditional way, by visiting the Public Records Office or the State Library, and examining records which have not yet been digitised. However the amount of information that is now available online, together with

family tree design and research tools, and better means of communicating about best ways of researching and presenting our family histories through blogs, podcasts and video clips, thus enabling us to carry out much of our research from home, has increased exponentially over the last 25 years in particular.

Stuart Hamilton, Member No.1454

## Website

One of the most important attractors of new members is the website. Whilst word of mouth and a general interest in history draw new members to PPPG, the accidental finding of the website often encourages curiosity in people to join the Group. In addition, the website is an invaluable resource for members of the public, and particularly school children, who cannot qualify for membership or who are just interested in Melbourne's early history.

The enormous amount of thought and work that has gone into the website is attributable to Alexander Romanov-Hughes. Alexander's love of history and his capacity as an historian has been an invaluable resource for the Group and, like the history itself his work will live on for grateful generations to come.

Paul Cronin, Member No.1484



Alexander Romanov-Hughes

Image from PPPG photo album

## Marketing

### Exhibitions & Presentations

- **GSV Annual Meeting** - Report needed and members attend
- **Camberwell** 28 August 1978
- Family History expos
- **'Glimpses of the Past'** at St James Cathedral, Marg Kaan, Laurie etc.
- Yarrowonga
- Melbourne Birthday Celebrations
- Presentation at AIG

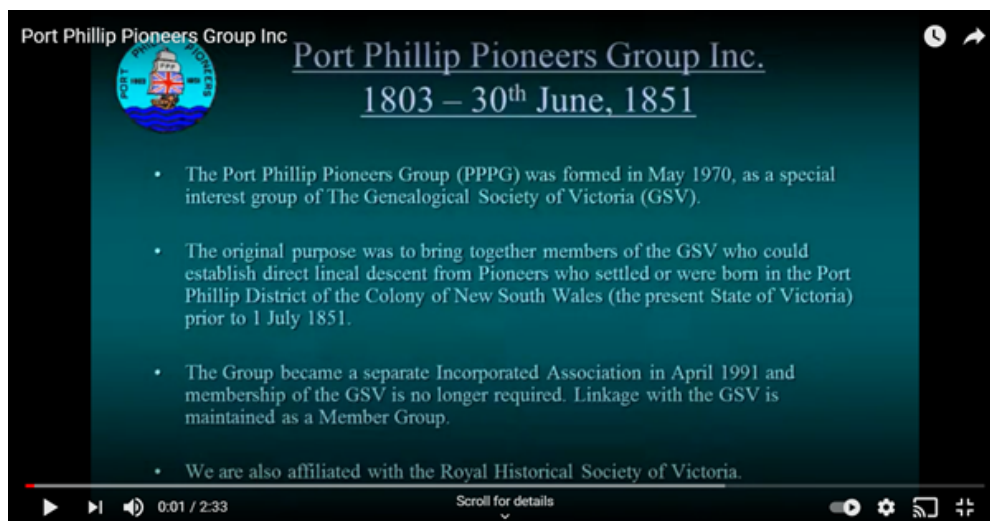
Clare Bayne, Marilla James and Barbara Hawkins  
at an exhibition at Deniliquin

Image from Newsletter No.201 Oct-Nov 2017  
Permission granted by all.



### PowerPoint presentation

- A PowerPoint presentation of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. was produced by Barbara Hawkins. This can be used at Family History Days and is on display at each meeting. All members representing the PPPG are welcome to use it. It is also available on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/9mlxMWKS6Po>



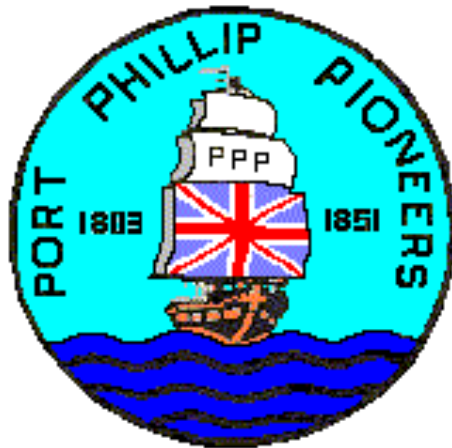


## Souvenirs: teaspoon, leather key & paper knife

- “Recipients of Newsletter will be interested to learn that within eight weeks it will be possible to purchase P.P.P. souvenirs. Featuring our distinctive badge in 16mm size, and attractively presented, these will be -: Silver plated tea spoons - (\$5:00); Gilt leather keys - (\$6:00) and stainless steel paper knives - (\$5:00). They will be on sale at our luncheons and our meetings, but for those ordering by mail, postage has yet to be determined.” *Newsletter June-July 1986*
- “These have now arrived and the finished result has exceeded our expectation. They are proving popular, many orders having already been placed....Interstate and country members wishing to order, are asked to include \$1-45 for postage and packing. Please make cheques out to the P.P.P., and contact Mrs. Betty Meckel,..” *Newsletter Aug-Sept 1986*

## Laminated Logos

- 1993 - 8.5cm x 8.5cm available at \$5.50 plus postage.



## T-Shirt

- White bond T-Shirts were produced for sale in Oct 1983. “Children and adult sizes and Price range from \$7-\$8, displaying our sailing ship emblem and the words, Port Phillip Pioneers, across the front.”

## Postcards and Posters

- Advertising postcards developed by Michael Grogan at March 2020.
- Posters available. June-July 2013 Newsletter No. 179.
- A3 stand-up display banner designed for meetings and other gatherings was produced in July 2019.
- New version Postcards produced Jan 2020.
- New version A4 Posters for libraries produced Jan 2020.

### PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

We are the descendants of  
Victoria's early pioneers who lived  
in the Port Phillip District  
before 1 July 1851, when it became  
the Colony of Victoria.

If you have a pioneer ancestor  
and would like to join,  
see our website below.



[www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au](http://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au)



We are the descendants  
of Victoria's early pioneers  
those who lived  
in the Port Phillip District  
before 1 July 1851,  
when it became the Colony of Victoria.



## Badge

- *"In 1978 the badge was introduced. It was designed by Mr John Howard-Wright an expert on heraldry, a talented artist and calligrapher. This badge showed the dates 1834-1851. The date 1834 was selected to recognize the first settlement in the Port Phillip District by the Henty's in that year in Portland. The 1851 was shown as membership of the Association is limited to persons of whose ancestors at least one settled in or was born in the area of the present State of Victoria prior to the first day of July 1851."* Newsletter No.131 Oct-Nov 2003.



- *The design on the badge has also been used on written material as a logo. On 13 November 1999 the general meeting agreed, "... that the date on the PPPG Logo be changed to 1802-1851".* Newsletter No.131 Oct-Nov 2003.

- *It was agreed at the 2004 AGM "... as the starting date 1803, recognising the settlement at Sorrento, was clarified and accepted by the general membership at the February Meeting, ... the dates 1803-1851 will be shown on all printed material."* Newsletter No.133 April-May 2004.

Image supplied by Beverley Jacobson

## Batman and Fawkner Plaque

- This Plaque, unveiled on 26 Jan 1979, was donated by the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. It was situated on the National Mutual Centre Plaza and honoured Batman and Fawkner. Currently in storage with Melbourne City Council.

- Alexander Romanov-Hughes was at the unveiling of the PPPG plaque in front of the former National Mutual Building in 1979. He recalls the wording was supplied by Major Carlyle Stephen.



Images from the PPPG Website

## Outings

- Garden parties
- Historic sites and buildings around Melbourne
- Latrobe Library
- GSV Library
- Merrick's Beach
- Werribee Park
- Gulf Station, Yarra Glen
- Cook's Cottage, Como House and Ripponlea
- Bellarine Peninsula
- 'Briars' McCrae Cottage, Sorrento
- Maldon
- Sage's Cottage, "Coolart", Mornington
- Baldoven Park
- Melbourne University Library
- Tour of Williamstown
- Foundation day
- Old Cemetery
- Sullivan's Cove
- Coal Creek, Korumburra.
- Geelong, Queenscliff
- Kyneton, Malmsbury
- Tooradin, Churchill Island
- Immigration Museum
- St James Old Cathedral "Church of the Pioneers" - Attendance since Nov 1980.  
Church service arranged by Harriet Croxford (40 years)

### PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

SOCIAL OUTING

TO

**ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE, WESTGARTHTOWN**  
(VICTORIA'S OLDEST GERMAN IMMIGRANT BUILDING c.1851)



WHEN: Sunday 24 February 2002, 12.00 - 3.00 pm.

WHERE: 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown 3074 (Melway Ref: 8185)

COST: \$3 per person.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

The Friends of Westgarthtown will conduct a guided tour of Ziebell's Farmhouse and the historic Lutheran Church and Cemetery Reserve from 1.00 pm.

Anyone interested in attending the morning service at the 1856 Lutheran Church at Westgarthtown will need to arrive by 11.15 am.

*For further information contact Gaye Caldwell on 9464 0140.*



2005 Visit to the State Library

Image from the PPPG photo album

- Hobson's Bay sailing on the schooner *Enterprize*
- Old Treasury Building
- Pioneer Section Fawkner Cemetery
- Maribyrnong river Cruise
- Ziebell's Farmhouse at Westgarthtown
- Abbotsford Convent
- Brighton Cemetery
- VAFHO in Seymour
- Government House, Melbourne
- Shepparton
- Bacchus Marsh
- Castlemaine
- Ballarat
- Moe
- Creswick
- Latrobe Cottage
- Schramm cottage
- Werribee Mansion
- Chateau Yering



1996 Alexander Romanov-Hughes, Gaye Caldwell and Dorothy Samson at Polly Woodside

Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes  
 Permissions granted by Alexander Romanov-Hughes and  
 Dorothy Samson



## Pioneer Service

PPPG members have for many years been invited to the Annual Pioneer Service at St. James Old Cathedral in King Street, Melbourne, built in 1839 and still operating. Many of our PPPG ancestors have a connection to the Old Cathedral. The service is held on the first Sunday in November at 10 am, followed by morning tea in the Conference Centre next door.

Bishop Perry, St. James first Bishop, arrived in Melbourne aboard the “Stag” on 23/1/1848 with 7 other Clergymen. Bishop Perry’s arrival in Melbourne meant that Melbourne could be called a city. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “On Board with the Bishop” by Tim Gatehouse 2017

Valerie Farley, Member No. 551

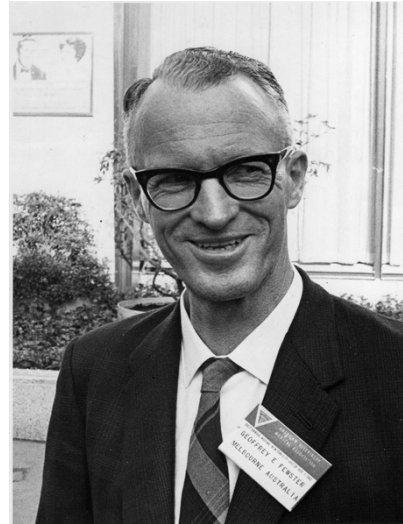
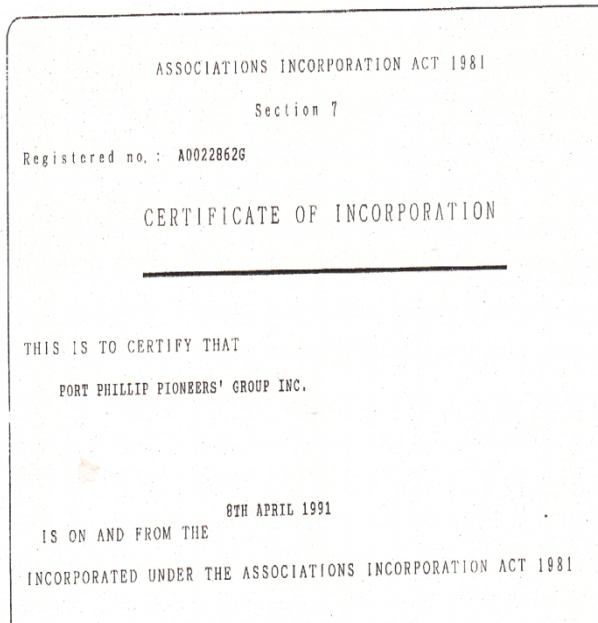


St. James Old Cathedral in King Street, Melbourne, built in 1839 is where the Pioneer Service is held annually.

Images from the PPPG website

## Achievements

### Port Phillip Pioneers Group Incorporation



Dr Geoffrey Fewster oversaw responsibility for the incorporation of the PPPG.

Image from the PPPG photo album

The original Incorporation of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group was approved 8th April, 1991. We need to thank Dr Geoffrey Fewster, who oversaw the incorporation of the PPPG, and all who must have put in a tireless effort to get this done. There were a lot of letters and discussions and all managed without the benefit of email.

#### 2013 Changes

In November 2012, the Secretary whose job from then on incorporated the Public Officer position, received notice from Consumer Affairs Victoria that amendments to the Rules of the Associations were needed. These were itemised in the new Model Rules. After investigation the Committee discovered that the Model Rules were registered as the Group's Rules. However these Rules did not reflect what the Group does so we needed to change them to our Rules. The changes were mainly in the Application for Membership section and the Treasurer section. This process involved much thought and coordination but the Rules were duly completed and voted on by Special Resolution at the May Meeting of 2013. We also voted on a Special Resolution to change the name of our Group which originally had an apostrophe after 'Pioneers'. It has been a worthwhile exercise as we have become more aware of our obligations and procedures and the need to conform to the Rules.

The Rules and change of name were duly approved by Consumer Affairs and took effect from 22nd May 2013.



*Extra notes mined from Newsletters:*

- Oct-Nov 1990 - In 1991, the 21<sup>st</sup> year of our existence as a Group, great changes in our relationship with the G.S.V. will be forced upon us. Dr Geoffrey Fewster acknowledged the deep debt owed to its parent body, the Genealogical Society of Victoria, for the guidance and assistance given to all Specialist and Country Groups in their formative years.
- Begins Apr 1990 newsletter 62 & 63., 66
- Extra-ordinary Meeting called for 9 March 1991 to consider four resolutions directed towards incorporation of the Port Phillip Pioneers' group under the Act. The "Statement of Purposes" and the set of "Rules" under which the Group will operate in the future are to be tabled at this meeting.
- Dr Geoffrey Fewster oversaw the incorporation of the PPPG. One of the requirements was to have an accountant conduct an audit of the Group's accounts and this was probably the first time they were audited.
- April-May 1991 the PPPG Inc. is invited to be an inaugural Member Society of the G.S.V.
- Under Incorporation, a register of financial members must be kept.
- Provision of a Common Seal is a requirement of Incorporation. Members were offered to submit designs by 31 December 1991.

Marilla James, Member No. 1231



## Cemetery Transcriptions

The PPP Group and others took on the challenge of transcribing Cemetery headstones at the Boroondara (Kew) starting 1989, Box Hill 1993 to 1996 and Burwood August 1996 to May 1998.

Marie Orr led the team at the three Cemeteries with her excellent maps and guidance. Marie asked me to join the team when she learnt I lived in Burwood. It was very well organised. Tailor's chalk was provided as it was excellent for checking fading headstone information. All transcribing was doubled checked by another team.

Marie was able to help visitors looking for family graves. Some people asked what we were doing, and others avoided us. One man came every Sunday to visit his family grave. He had a short hose and connected it to a nearby tap and cleaned the grave and then arranged fresh flowers.

While having our picnic lunch on the last day we decided the best question we had been asked was "*Were we stocktaking?!*"

The Team at Burwood were Marie Orr (PPP), Renee Jarvis, Joyce Kotze, Ted and Thelma Gladstone (PPP) and Valerie Farley (PPP)

By Valerie Farley, PPP member 551

### *Extra notes mined from Newsletters:*

- 14 October 1989 transcription of the Boroondara Cemetery began;
- 22 May 1992 transcription completed. Typing up 1108 pages of transcription and over 300 pages of Index was completed in January 1993.
- Volunteers were Miss Marie Orr, Keith Collyer, Pam Dunne, Thelma Gladstone, Kathleen Gervasoni, Shirley Grigg, Renee Jarvis, Muriel Newton, Mary Shortall, Molly Sitters, Jeanne and John Whitney and Nancy Roberts of the GSV, who indexed the project.
- In April 1993 the McBeth Genealogical Services Pty. Ltd. Thirteen fiche were produced from the 1400 typed sheets of transcriptions. Complete sets are available at \$40.00 per set.
- The GSV created CDs from these microfiche record.
- Sold to Ancestry.com in 2016.

## Box Hill Cemetery Transcriptions

- Marie Orr and volunteers to begin transcribing all headstones in November 1993. This was completed in July 1996. The set of 13 microfiche comprises of 970 pages of transcriptions and a comprehensive index of 287 pages. Will be available at \$40.00.

## Burwood Cemetery Transcriptions

- Begun August 1996.
- May 1998 transcriptions are completed.

## Early Churches Register

- Oct -Nov 1988 - This project was begun by the late Mrs Isabel MacKay. Although not a member of our group she was an esteemed member of the GSV Research Team. In her memory, the Research Team in conjunction with the Port Phillip Pioneers Group continued her work.

## Index of Early Police Watch House Charge Books

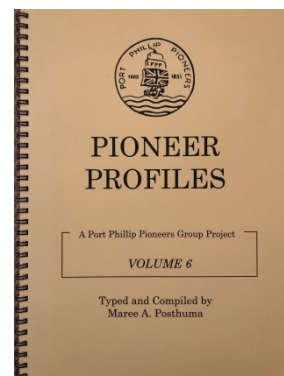
- June 1991 - Our speaker Mr Brian Ross-Soden appealed for volunteers to assist in this project. The books date back to 1865, and are housed in the Vic. Police Historical Unit Museum, Russell Street police complex. The index will go to the GSV, PRO and State Library.
- March 1992 most of the transcription has been completed by a small band of volunteers and the work of recording the information on to computer disk is making good progress.
- December 1992 the project was completed.

## Insolvency records to June 30, 1851

- From 1841 till 1855, all insolvencies in the Port Phillip District were registered in Geelong.
- Ken Smith collected the Insolvents' names as he found them while searching the early land records in the Registrar Generals Office.
- This list can be found on the PPPG Website.  
<https://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/pppg5m.htm>

## Port Phillip Pioneers Profiles Booklet

June 1990, five years after the first Pioneers' profile was published in Newsletter, Betty Meckel proposed collecting and publishing in a small book. Individual Pioneer Profiles were first published in Newsletter No.38 June 1985 till Oct 1991 in Newsletter No.70. These were compiled by the Editors Betty Meckel and Maree Posthuma.



- Volume 1 - Nov 1990 at \$10.00 per copy - 51 Profiles 64 pages
- Volume 2 - Oct 1991 at \$20.00 per copy - 80 Profiles with photos. 152 pages
- Volume 3 - Aug 1995 at \$15.00 per copy - 77 Profiles and photos. 186 pages
- Volume 4 - Jun 2002 at \$20.00 per copy - 64 Profiles with photos. 165 pages
- Volume 5 - Nov 2006 at \$15.00 per copy - 21 Profiles with photos. 47 pages
- Volume 6 - Aug 2015 at \$20.00 per copy - 31 Profiles with photos. 101 pages
- Volume 7 - Nov 2020 at \$20.00 per copy - 19 Profiles with photos. 73 pages

## Resources and Databases

### 1. [Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers](#)

The ***Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers*** is a digitised version of *Lester Stephen's* original collection of hand written information about the Port Phillip Pioneers, who either resided or were born in the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales in the years between the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel David Collins' expedition at Sorrento in October 1803 and Separation from New South Wales on the 1 July 1851, when the District became the Colony of Victoria.

The names and additional personal information was extracted from multiple sources, including Members' claimed ancestors, and originally recorded on scraps of paper and cardboard and filed alphabetically by Lester Stephen. Initially referred to as his Register, Lester's paper collection began in 1980.

The original records were photographed then digitised as images by Barbara Hawkins and her team with the aim of preserving the valuable information. Each image contains up to six separate records and has been saved on the Group hard drive and at least three different electronic devices held by various committee Members. The original papers have been destroyed. It is no longer updated but remains of considerable historical interest.

Members can access the Record at meetings or contact a Committee Member for information.

### 2. [Index to Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers](#)

The ***Index to Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers*** consists of tabulated spreadsheets. To enable easier searching, the Pioneers' names on the digitised Record (1) have been indexed to their image number. Group Members started listing the information in detail, but this was not sustainable, so Marilla James then indexed the names and image numbers only.

Members can access this at meetings or contact a Committee Member for information.

### 3. [Port Phillip Pioneer Claims](#)

The ***Port Phillip Pioneer Claims*** are loose-leaf records, of Members and their descent from the Member's claimed Pioneers, prepared by the Examiner of Proofs and added at the time each claim is reviewed. They are collected in blue ring binders called *Blue Books* with each volume containing the details on 300-400 Members, in Member number order, their descent from the Member's claimed Pioneers and, usually, the earliest event relating to their claim. They are currently updated by and in the custody of the Examiner of Proofs.

The electronic or hardcopy *Application Forms* sent by potential Members provide the descent from the Member's claimed Pioneers and are retained by the Examiner of Proofs, and the earliest claim and line of descent information, once verified, may comprise or be included in the material added to the Blue Book. N.B. The supporting evidence for the claims is discarded after six months.

Information from the claims is used to update the *Financial Members Register*, the *Cumulative Database of Pioneers Claimed*, the *Pioneers' Claimed Website List* and the list of *Port Phillip Pioneers and Families from Member No. 1373 onwards (4-7 below)*.

#### 4. Cumulative Database of Pioneers Claimed

The **Cumulative Database of Pioneers Claimed** is a list of pioneer claims by all members since 1970 whether financial, un-financial, resigned or deceased, in Excel spreadsheet format. The only data on each member is member number, name and claim number (a,b,c etc).

The database includes core information on the Pioneers claimed: names, date and nature of earliest proven event, name of ship of arrival (if relevant), plus relationship between the various claimed pioneers. The data is listed in Member number order, but may be re-ordered and interrogated and is maintained by and in the custody of the Membership Secretary. Stuart Hamilton is currently reviewing and correcting pioneer data relating to earlier members. The aim is that when updated it will reside in the *PPPG Google Drive Folder* available for Committee access.

#### 5. Pioneers Claimed Website List

The **Pioneers Claimed Website List** is updated each time a new Pioneer ancestor is added to the **Cumulative Member Database (4)**. It contains the Pioneer name, event, date and ship, and is uploaded periodically onto the *PPPG website* by the Webmaster as advised by the Membership Secretary.

#### 6. Financial Members Register

The **Financial Members Register** is a database in Excel workbook spreadsheet format. It lists the current financial (and non-financial Members who are less than 6 months in arrears) and is the database for our mailing and email lists. The column headings are: Date of Registration, Member No. (PPPG Member or non-member 'Newsletter Subscriber'), Number (member number), Title, Initials, First Names, Surname, Paid To, Date Paid, Amount, Donation, Street Name and Number, State, Postcode, Country, Phone/Mobile, Notes. Separate worksheets/tabs for 'Members -Mailing List (current year)', 'Mail Label List', 'Members Email List', 'Organisations Email List' and 'Non-Active Members'.

#### 7. Port Phillip Pioneers and Families from Member No. 1373 onwards

The **Port Phillip Pioneers and Families from Member No. 1373 onwards** is a searchable spreadsheet listing pioneers and their families, based on information provided by members 1373 onwards. Information is received from the Examiner of Proofs via completed applications and associated documents provided by the applicant when applying for membership. It continues where Lester Stephen left off his **Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers**, although in a smaller way, by listing the Pioneer information, including families, from new members' applications and making it available to all members. In particular it contains information provided by new members on siblings even where no line of descent has been claimed, plus information on births, deaths and marriages of all pioneers. Members can access this at meetings or contact a Committee Member. The spreadsheet lists the member number relevant to the pioneer family so that the member can be asked if they are willing to assist with any enquiry.

## 8. [PPPG Website](#)

The **PPPG Website** (<https://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/>) contains information about the Group and about Port Phillip Pioneers which the Committee agrees should be available to the general public - including item (5).

## 9. [PPPG Google Drive Folder](#)

The **PPPG Google Drive Folder** contains documentation on committee roles, tasks and processes maintained in a shared drive with access only by committee members. Contents will change from time to time but includes PPPG Rules and pro formas. A hard copy version of most of the material is available for committee members preferring that format.

## 10. [Historical Membership Records \(no longer maintained\)](#)

### a. [Register of Port Phillip Pioneers](#)

The **Register of Port Phillip Pioneers** is a semi-bound set of index cards which has been maintained up to Member 1372 i.e. to February 2010. The project was initially undertaken by the then Chairman, Mrs Joan Connor, Mrs Marie Orr, and then Treasurer, Miss Mary Hannan.

It lists the Pioneer, the Member and the Member number, grouped according to the initial of the pioneer and within each letter roughly in numerical order of member, and with loose leaf additions.

This set of index cards is no longer updated. The **Cumulative Member Database** and **Port Phillip Pioneer Claims** (Blue Books) contain this information and much more, and supersede it.

### b. [Pioneers Claimed - Members 535-1016 and 1017-1215](#)

These two large **Exercise Books** contain slightly more information about Pioneer Claims by Members 536-1016 and 1017-1215. Listed are Member, Member number, Pioneers claimed and their relationship to the Member, plus the earliest event relating to their claim. These are in claim order i.e. if a member makes a subsequent claim that extra claim is listed in order of receipt. e.g. 1091, 1092, 172b, 1093, 1094, where 172b is a subsequent claim.

A register maintained by the Examiners of Proof or the Membership Secretaries, it was divided up by the meetings or newsletters in which each parcel of claims was admitted.

This set of index cards is no longer updated. The **Cumulative Member Database** plus **Port Phillip Pioneer Claims** (Blue Books) supersede it.

## Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers

*"The object of this and subsequent volumes is simple. That is, to identify as many as possible of our pioneering forebears who resided here in the above mentioned period of our State's history."*

Lester Stephen

The late Lester R. Stephen, F.G.S.V., (1926-2012) joined the G.S.V. in 1975 and became a member of the PPPG in February 1976. He was member No. 56.

Almost immediately Lester recognised the need for a database of the names of the Pioneers, the means and the date of arrival, for the convenience and assistance of prospective members of the Group.

Around the beginning of 1977 and with boundless energy Lester began to compile his register of Pioneers. With the assistance of volunteers, who provided him with transcripts of ships' passenger lists, electoral rolls, directories and other records, by June 1980 he had 41,000 names recorded. Lester recorded the Pioneer information on sheets and strips of paper and bound them in alphabetical order.

During 1985 Lester had his first two volumes consisting of all the Pioneers who had arrived in the Port Phillip District up to the end of 1839. His work had interested the Council of the G.S.V. to such an extent it was deemed desirable to publish something similar to the South Australian Pioneers Register. In essence, the plan envisaged a number of volumes covering the whole period 1803-1851.

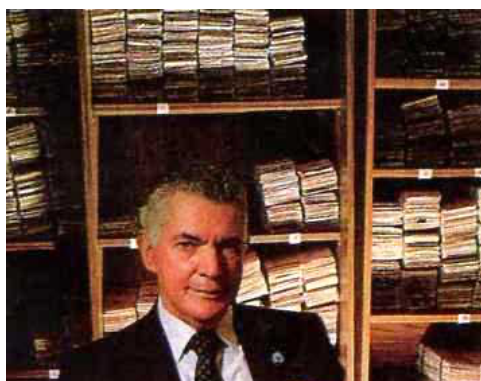
With Lester writing the profiles and volunteers entering them on the G.S.V. Rainbow computer, work was well underway on volume one. However, before the first volume could be sent to the printer, the G.S.V. had misgivings concerning the editorial style that Lester had employed, as Lester was not prepared to re-write the 4640 profiles already prepared, the project was regretfully abandoned.

Lester however persevered with the Register until 2009 when ill-health prevented him from continuing.

In the year 2000, serious thought was given to the preservation of Lester's material, and in August of that year a sub-committee was formed with this object in view.

Early in 2002, in partnership with the G.S.V., the PPPG began photographing Lester's paper-based records, and after several years the work was finally completed. The images have now been digitised and are saved on three separate PPPG computers or memory backups, and have recently been made more accessible by means of an index.

At present, access to the information held within Lester's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers is available through attendance at meetings or by contacting the President of the Group.



Lester Stephen standing in front of his bundles of references

Image from the Sunday Herald (supplement) article 'What's in A Name', date unknown

*Extra notes regarding Lester Stephen's Record of References to Port Phillip Pioneers mined from Newsletters:*

- In 1984, Lester had been carefully recording for almost 8 years. He gave a talk to the Group answering the 6 most asked questions he gets concerning the Register. Copies were made and made available to members for \$2:00.
- Oct 1986. Mr Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V., reported that 432 profiles from the P.P. Register have now been fed onto the G.S.V. Rainbow computer. As the entries are of a biographical and genealogical nature, it is time consuming work, and he called for volunteers to assist our Chairman, Mrs Joan Connor and Mrs Loris Samson in completing volume one of this invaluable work.
- March 1987 - Volume 2, letters M-Z, covering arrivals prior to 1840 nearing completion. Data entry of Volume 1 into the computer continues.
- April-May 1988 - Mrs Loris Samson, Mrs. Marie Orr and Mrs. Joan Moore have steadily continued feeding profiles into the Rainbow Computer, and so far they have processed through pioneers whose surnames have begun with A, B, C, D, E and F, a total of approx.. 1,534 entries, comprising about 57.5% of the entries allotted to Volume 1. Lester thanked those for their dedicated work on what has often been a tedious and exacting task.
- Aug-Sept 1997 - Mrs Marie Orr completed the indexing of Sutherland's "Victoria and its Metropolis", Vol. 2. Of persons living in Victoria prior to Separation from N.S.W. (1<sup>st</sup> July, 1851). The 2500 index cards will now be at the disposal of our Registrar, Mr Lester Stephen, for checking and incorporating into his Register.
- October 2000 - A subcommittee for the preservation and publication of Lester Stephen's Port Phillip Pioneers' Register was formed. "Preservation must be absolute therefore electronic scanning and searchable index on CD was to be Stage 1."
- April 2002 - The photocopying started and is being done at the GSV. Groups are coordinated by Jan Walker.
- "Mrs Alison Stephen reported that together with Mrs Marie Orr she began transcribing the 1840 shipping lists, at the G.S.V. Library. Since the purchase of the micro-film reader, she and Brian have been working at home, and so far have transcribed the following ships -: John Bull, Glenhuntly, China, Andromache, Coromandel, Teresa, Marmion and the Isabella Watson. They have also completed the nominal passenger list for the Himalaya, and have the disposal list yet to do."

## Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. Library

The history of the library is somewhat obscure. Its beginning could probably be defined as the decision in 1977, when the PPPG was still part of the GSV, to create a separate catalogue for the Port Phillip Group's books. How many books were in that catalogue is not known. All we can say is that, by occasional purchases and many donations, it has grown as the group has grown.

Today, the library contains extensive reference material including many books, indexes, records and directories, all available for the many researchers in the group, beginners and veterans alike. There are a good number of classic volumes by well-known authors and lots of interesting family stories, all written with obvious passion.

When Port Phillip Pioneer Group members arrive at the Wesley Hall of St Andrew's Uniting Church for the bi-monthly meeting, many of them, perhaps most, gravitate to the library table. Here they find a wonderful smorgasbord of books on display for their enjoyment.

Members and visitors can pick-up, examine, browse, discuss with others, even borrow and take home, any book or books they wish. (The only rule is that they must be returned – at some point.)

The library catalogue lists more than 350 books of which only a small number can be accommodated on the table. If you are after a particular title not on view, please ask the librarian to check the catalogue – if it is listed you will be able to borrow it.

Tom Davison, Member No. 1168



## Member's Projects

### Ken Smith's Early Melbourne Newspaper Indexes

- October 1838 - October 1843
- A comprehensive index to names of people, business establishments and squatters runs.

Port Phillip Patriot - 1839

Port Phillip Gazette - 27 October 1838 - 27 July 1844

The weekly Melbourne Courier - 6 January 1844 - 28 March 1845

The Melbourne Courier

16 June 1845 - 11 March 1846

These indexes were compiled by Ken Smith prior to the advent of TROVE.

They were compiled from the microfilmed copies of these newspapers at the newspaper reading room of the State Library of Victoria.

Entries are mainly the names of people, places, shops, hotels, businesses etc.

These indexes may help identify a person whose surname only has been used in a newspaper article.

Paper-based, they are held by the compiler.

### Ken Smith's Index of Landowners in the Port Phillip District

Started in 1980, this index is a personal, long term endeavour compiled by Ken Smith (member no. 895). After Ken joined the PPPG he realised its relevance to the Group which gave him greater impetus to continue his work.

Although this was not a PPPG project it has been included in this 50<sup>th</sup> history of the Group as it has been mentioned numerous times in the PPPG Newsletter.

The Index of Landowners in the Port Phillip District is of all persons having an interest in any land in the Port Phillip District of N.S.W. that had been alienated from the Crown up to the year 1852. It contains the location of that land in terms of the Crown description of parish, township, section, allotment, etc. It covers all grants from the Crown and subsequent conveyances, mortgages, etc., that were registered prior to August 1853.

The index has been compiled from the memorials and Crown grants held at the Office of the Registrar General in Melbourne. A memorial is a registered copy of the essential parts of a title deed created under the old Imperial General Law system, and states the date and nature of the instrument, the names of the parties involved, the consideration and the description of the land. Separate deeds were created for each transaction. Memorials are registered according to number and book, e.g. F.139 is a number 139 of Book F.

Searching a chain of title under General Law is very cumbersome, and it was not until the passing of the Transfer of Land Statute in the early 1860s, and the creation of the Office of Titles, that the system of searching titles was simplified.

Ken's index will be of great benefit to the researcher because it facilitates the finding of any memorial concerning the person sought in the period covered by the index, regardless of whether the dealing was a purchase, sale, mortgage or lease.

This index is held by the compiler and is currently paper-based. Ken hopes that in the future it will be digitised and more widely available.

- "Another bonus for members was the presence in the audience of Mr. Ken Smith, of the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society. For the past 4 years he has been researching Victorian land sales. Commencing with the first buyers he has traced and recorded the details and owners of each block as it changed hands or was split up down through the years. This mammoth work was of interest to our members, many of whom plied him with questions." *June-July 1986 Newsletter.*
- "Mr Smith has compiled immensely detailed indexes and maps of early Melbourne from property records, rate books and newspapers. He has indexed and mapped every land transaction from 1837 to 1853, approximately 25,000 records. He is indexing the Port Phillip Gazette. He is up to November, 1838 and it will take him approximately seven years to complete. Since 1981, he has worked on the period from the first land sale, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1837 to the day when the Port Phillip district of New South Wales became the State of Victoria, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1851." Taken from *The Age, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 1998.*

Ken Smith, Member No.895

## Alexander Romanov-Hughes' Shipping Records

### PASSENGERS TO PORT PHILLIP

I suppose my interest in shipping records for Port Phillip began when I was a child.

In December 1960 I embarked on the "**S.S. Orontes**" at Melbourne bound for London, England. During the voyage we were provided with a printed list of all the passengers on board as well as the Ship's Officers and staff. Then, while living in London, I attended a summer camp on the Isle of Wight with the 'Pathfinders' youth group from St. Mary's Church in Ealing. We lived in tents in a field at St. Helens on the east coast, and from there I was able to watch ocean liners pass on their way to and from the docks at Southampton. When I returned to Australia in 1962 on the "**S.S. Orcades**" we were again provided with a full list of the passengers on board.

Years passed, during which I made a further trip on a P.& O. - Orient Liner, this time from Melbourne to Sydney and back. Then, my first full-time employment was with Chandris Lines, the Greek shipping company. My duties included distributing their literature to travel agents, visiting their ships when they were in Melbourne, etc. During this time I was provided with a Merchant Marine uniform with the Chandris Lines flag in the insignia on the cap.

After I commenced accountancy studies with the Hemingway Robertson Institute I was employed in

Chartered Accountant's Offices in Melbourne and England. Here I learnt two skills which proved valuable when I began researching shipping records. Firstly, we often had sole traders who would each year bring in a shoebox full of receipts, cheque butts, bank statements, etc., which we had to sort through and then construct sets of accounts and income tax returns. Secondly, we would provide these clients with a typed copy of their completed accounts in a simple binding.

From 1977 to 1979 I was employed as the Office Manager for the Genealogical Society of Victoria. During this time I became aware of how few records there were available to help people research their ancestors who had been early settlers in Victoria. My office was located next to the G.S.V. Library where Librarian Chrissy Young worked on Mondays and for the rest of the week it was open to members and the public, staffed by volunteers on a monthly roster ably overseen by Eileen Vaughan. One of these volunteers was L. M. Mowle who had prepared an update to his father's book on the genealogies of pioneer Australian families. From him I learnt how to prepare indexes using 5" x 3" cards and sort them using large wooden trays with alphabetical compartments, this being long before computers began to be used by genealogists. While employed at the G.S.V. I began to prepare early electoral rolls for Melbourne and the Port Phillip District from newspaper listings. These were typed up, photocopied, and stapled together inside soft cardboard covers. A strip of coloured binding tape would then be placed along the left-hand side to cover the staples. They would then be ready for sale.

I then began to develop an interest in the early clergy - those ministers who had spent time in the Port Phillip District prior to Separation from New South Wales. There were numerous references to them in early newspapers and other records but it was difficult to individually build biographical details about them. Some denominational histories existed but it was often not clear to which denomination a particular minister belonged to and, as with many of the other early settlers, their names were often spelt incorrectly. I was also interested in the possibility of publishing some of their early sermons and publications. To do this I began to compile one A to Z listing of all the early clergy and compile biographical details on each of them. I then needed to know when each of them had been in Port Phillip, something which was not easy considering how frequently they often moved from one parish to another.

Finding out when each clergyman had arrived in the Port Phillip District was made difficult because there were very few passenger lists available for arrivals and departures. The Archives Authority of New South Wales had produced a very good index of government assisted immigrants to Port Phillip, but this did not include clergy and others who had paid their own passage money. The 'Shipping Intelligence' columns of newspapers seemed like the best source for clergy arrivals as they usually listed the cabin passengers who arrived and departed and the clergy were able to be identified by being listed with 'Rev.' before their names. Even so, this was still a massive task. I decided therefore, that in the long run, it would be most time effective to prepare lists of all passenger arrivals from available records rather than spend time locating each clergyman individually.

I began firstly to prepare a list of all shipping arrivals and departures from Port Phillip. This was long before Marten Syme had published his listings, which though very detailed, name very few of the passengers on board. The State Library of Victoria held a series of books known as the Biddle Books which contained details of many of the ships arriving from overseas and listed the passengers on some of them. However Biddle's interest had been in the ships themselves, how many voyages each ship had made, who owned them and the like.

I then had to prepare a listing of all the newspapers that had been published up to Separation that might contain lists of passengers. Most of these were available at the State Library of Victoria, and many were on microfilm. However some staff there were reluctant to provide access to the actual newspapers which had not been microfilmed, believing that their microfilmed collections provided sufficient information for researchers. I needed to explain to them that I was trying to compile a complete listing of passengers and not every paper contained all the information. Also, some papers spelt the names of passengers differently. Fortunately, in most cases, the passengers were listed in the same sequence.

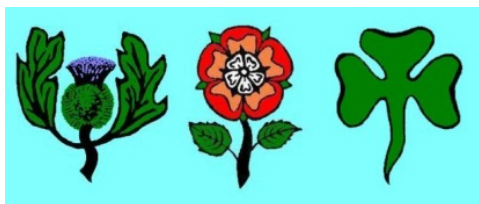
From the various newspaper lists I prepared a single manuscript passenger listing for each ship that arrived, including spelling variations. I then prepared typed alphabetical lists of the passengers' names for publication, after which I made the manuscripts available to Don Grant at the Public Record Office of Victoria and Dawn Troy at the Archives Authority of New South Wales to make photocopies for their records and donated the originals to the State Library of Victoria.

Photocopies of the typed indexes to passengers were then bound into book form and sold, with most of the photocopying being done at Printmint in Melbourne. I bound the volumes myself. I subsequently published these lists on microfiche and they are now available on the [www.portphillipdistrict.info](http://www.portphillipdistrict.info) website.

My listing of 'Port Phillip Clergy' was also published in book form and later on microfiche. A number of the evangelical clergy's biographies are available on the [www.companyofangels.net](http://www.companyofangels.net) website. Though my early education was at Ivanhoe Grammar School, in 1969 I was a member of staff of the local office for the Billy Graham Crusade in Melbourne and now identify as an Evangelical rather than an Anglican.

When I applied for membership of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group the Public Record Office of Victoria provided me with documentary evidence that my ancestor, William Beatty, had arrived at Melbourne as a bounty immigrant on the "**Himalaya**" in September 1840. I therefore understand the importance for prospective members of the P.P.P.G. to be able to locate the date and ship on which their ancestors arrived.

Alexander Romanov-Hughes, Member No.52



## Chronological order of events

**29 May 1970** - Inaugural meeting of the Port Phillip Pioneers' in Scots Church Lower Hall. Trevor Hart Convenor. 90 people attended. Membership for those descended from arrivals to Port Phillip area between 1835 and 1845.

**June 1971** - First Membership awarded to Muriel Runting.

**1975-Sept 1976** - Meetings held at Camberwell Civic Centre Theatrette.

**6 September 1975** - Qualifying period extended to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1851, when the District of Port Phillip was formally separated from New South Wales to be Victoria.

**Sep 1976-Feb 1992** - Meetings held at 1 Winter St., Malvern.

**Apr 1977** - Commencement of the Register of the Pioneers of Port Phillip.

**Jan-Feb 1978** - First issue of Newsletter issued free to all members. And name tags introduced to be worn at each meeting.

**Jul - Aug 1978** - Newsletter to be financed by members at \$3:00 per year.

**Aug 1978** - Introduction of P.P.P.G. Badge. *"Recently acquired a rather distinctive badge which is available to group members for a sum of \$3:00."*

**27 August 1978 @ 2pm** - First Exhibition / Exhibited at the Theatrette, Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby Rd, Camberwell. *"More than 200 people browsed through family histories, paintings, photos, sketches, items of jewellery and personal nick-nacks."*

**1978** - P.P.P.G. opened own bank account.

**26 January 1979** - Unveiling of the statues of Batman and Fawkner on the National Mutual Centre Plaza. This Plaque was donated by the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

**Jul 1979** - The Membership Certificate was redesigned.

**Mar 1980** - The cost of the Newsletter rose to \$4:00. The subscription was for five newsletters per year.

**Oct 1980** - 10 year anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group. Membership for the year rose from 200-270.

**1981** - The 'Ken Smith Port Phillip Gazette and Landowners Projects' begun by Ken Smith.

**Mar 1981** - A sign board, used for a showcase display at the Block Arcade in October 1980, was donated to the Group by Barrie and Margaret Stevens. It read *"Port Phillip Pioneers' Group 1834 - 1851"*.

**Jun 1981** - Aim to preserve the site surrounding the early graves at Sullivan's Bay, Sorrento.

**Aug 1981** - A letter was sent to the State Parliament requesting a public appeal to be launched to save the site of Victoria's first white settlement at Sullivan's Cove.

**Apr 1982** - Recognition of achievement of Bill Read FGSV for structuring of the Port Phillip Pioneer Group.

**Jun 1982** - An image of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group badge was printed in the Newsletter for the first time.

**Jul 1982** - The cost of the Newsletter rose to \$5:00

**Dec 1982** - Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. Membership Fees commenced. *"Joining Fee: \$10:00 (Includes badge and initial certificates.) Renewal Fee: \$5:00 per annum (Includes Newsletter). Subsequent Certificates \$2:00."*

**Aug 1983** - Betty Meckel appointed as coordinator of interstate and overseas representatives. *"There are 54 Interstate members and 3 members reside overseas."*

**Oct 1983** - White bond T-Shirts displaying our sailing ship emblem and the words, Port Phillip Pioneers were produced for sale.

**1984** - Tape recording of talks by invited speakers.

**1984** - 'Lester Stephen's Port Phillip Pioneers' Register 1'. Lester has now been carefully recording for almost 8 years.

**Oct 1984** - My John French became Member No. 500.

**Jun-Jul 1985** - Newsletter dimensions were increased. Purchase of a new Hanimex Public Address System.

**Apr 1986** - A set of fiche for B.D.M's covering the period 1837-1895 is catalogued.

**Aug-Sep 1986** - Souvenirs available for sale; Silver plated tea spoons - (\$5:00); Gilt leather keys - (\$6:00) and stainless steel paper knives - (\$5:00)

**Oct 1986** - 'Port Phillip Pioneers' Index' completed.

**Apr 1988** - Microfiches of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1896 - 1913 to be purchased.

**Oct -Nov 1988** - 'Early Churches Register' was begun.

**Oct-Nov 1988** - Question as to whether General Meetings should be held on Saturday afternoons. Currently, meetings are held Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoon. A joining fee of \$15 introduced.

**Apr 1989** - All General Meetings will now be held daytime only.

**Nov 1989** - Transcription of the Boroondara Cemetery began

**29 January 1990** - The Timeball Tower: "Representing the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group, Mrs Harriet Croxford and Miss Hannan attended the ceremony held at Williamstown on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Deputy Premier and Member for Williamstown, The Hon. Joan Kirner, performed the dropping of the first official ball in the restored Tower.

**Mar 1990** - Donation of \$1000 to G.S.V. Library Fund.

**May 1990** - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.

**Jun 1990** - Pioneer Profiles Volume 1 launched.

**18 March 1991** - The GSV became incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. Since this date the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group functions as a separate organisation and members are no longer required to be members of the GSV. Decision to apply for Incorporation was passed.

**8 April 1991** - The Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. received its Certificate of Incorporation, registered No. A 002286 2 G, from the Assistant Registrar of Incorporated Associations. Now an Incorporated Association.

**May 1991** - 21<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. Now an independent Group and an inaugural Member Society of the GSV.

**Jun 1991** - Newsletter No. 68 is now headed, *Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.* The Chairman is now the President. First time the Pioneer names of new Members are listed.

**12 October 1991** - Saturday meetings began in the CICD Rooms at 252 Swanston St to accommodate members who found difficulty attending the meetings in Malvern.

**9 November 1991** - Pioneer Profiles Volume 2 launched.

**Feb 1992-Feb 1993** - Meetings held at the CICD Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 252 Swanston St., Melbourne.

**10-22 March 1992** - Mrs Alison Stephen to mount a display at Dandenong Library.

**Apr - May 1992** - Newsletter No. 72. First time the image of the badge is seen as part of the newsletter heading, situated on the right hand side.

**Jun-Jul 1992** - Application lodged to become a Member Society with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. PPPG Inc. Members would be able to enjoy the privileges of RHSV membership. Granted late 1992.

**7-25 September 1992** - Display at the Cheltenham Municipal Library.

**Jan 1993** - Transcription of the Boroondara Cemetery was released on microfiche.

**25 January 1993** - Display at the G.S.V. entitled "Early Melbourne"

**15 Feb-5 Mar 1993** - Display at the Horsham Regional Library.

**Feb 1993-May 1995** - Meetings held at 1 Winter St., Malvern.

**1993** - Display at the South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc. Library.

**Nov 1993** - Box Hill Cemetery transcriptions begun.

**Feb 1995** - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.

**Feb-Mar 1995** - Fiona Hutton, Member No. 1000 admitted.

**13 May 1995-Nov 1997** - Meetings held at Northbrook House, 1257 High Street Malvern.

**28 May 1995** - A luncheon was held at No. 1 winter Street, Malvern, to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.

**July 1996** - Box Hill Cemetery transcriptions completed. The set of 13 microfiche comprises of 970 pages of transcriptions and a comprehensive index of 287 pages.

**Aug 1996** - Burwood Cemetery transcriptions begin.

**1997** - Life Membership introduced.

**Feb-Mar 1997** - Digitised version of the 'Port Phillip Pioneers' Index' completed.

**8 March 1997** - Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. Quiz presented at the AGM. It was reprinted in the Apr-May 1997 Newsletter.

**4 October 1997** - Bus trip to Coal Creek, Korumburra.

**Feb 1998** - Our own internet address: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~pioneers>

**Feb 1998-Mar 1998** - Group meeting held at the Malvern Central School Hall, Eva Street Malvern.

**Mar 1998-Feb 2020** - Meetings begin to be held at Wesley Hall. St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds., Gardiner. A spacious cupboard is included for our Library.

**May 1998** - Burwood Cemetery transcriptions are completed.

**Feb 2000 No 112** - To celebrate the new millennium our Newsletter was printed on soft pink paper.

**May 2000** - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.

**22 August 2000** - Invitation to publish Lester Stephen's "*Register of Pioneers of Port Phillip*". Decision to electronically scan and create a searchable index.

**Oct 2000** - A subcommittee for the preservation and publication of Lester Stephen's Port Phillip Pioneers' Register was formed to preserve in electronic form.

**30 June 2001** - Celebration of 150 years of Separation.

**Apr-May 2002** - Entrance donation rose to \$2.00.

**25 May 2002** - Participation in the Braeside Family History Centre's Open day.

**Jun 2003** - First invitation to attend Melbourne Foundation Day on 30 August at the City Square.

**Aug-Sep 2003** - Member Application Form and Information Brochure revised and updated. A new Poster has been developed to be displayed at libraries etc.

**Oct 2003** - Qualifying period extended from 1803 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1851. This earlier date acknowledges Victoria's first European settlement, Sullivan Bay at Sorrento by Lt Governor Collins.

**Jun 2004** - Barb Hawkins produced a PowerPoint presentation to be used at Family History Days.

**30 August 2004** - Melbourne Foundation day celebrations in the City Square.

**Oct 2004** - Barb Hawkins and team finished recording all of Lester's records. Indexing of these records is now taking place.

**Apr 2005** - Fees raised

**Aug 2005** - Thanks to lobbying by the AFFHO the 2006 Census to be saved.

**Jun 2008** - Indexing of Lester's records now closed. Now to produce Index in PDF.

**Oct-Nov 2009** - Our new slogan produced. "*We look forward to your past.*"



**May 2010** - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc. On arrival all members received a calico bag with the Group logo on it and a recipe book. The recipes were those of Michael Grogan's great-grandmother. There was a cake iced in white with our Group Logo and a blue ribbon with our motto on top. Michael Grogan baked the 11kg cake while Margaret Stevens No. 194 contributed to the cost of the ingredients.

**10 August 2010** - Presented at the Maroondah Family History Fair.

**Apr 2011** - A digitised Database of the Pioneer Index will be created to complement the already digitised Pioneer Index.

**26 November 2012** - The Associations Incorporation Reform Act came into effect.

**Jun 2013** - Consumer Affairs approves the new rules replacing the old constitution.

**Jun 2014** - Newsletter No.184 was offered in an electronic "e" version.

**Oct 2016** - Boroondara Cemetery transcriptions are now on Ancestry.com

**2016-2017** - The yearly fee to receive the Newsletter by post rose to \$20.00.

**Nov 2019** - Poster to be redesigned in line with new version of Postcards.

**14 September 2019** - Acknowledgement to country: It was moved that this statement will be read at the start of all Port Phillip Pioneer Group Inc General Meetings, "The Port Phillip Pioneers Group exists to remember and commemorate our ancestors who arrived, or were born, in the Port Phillip District between 1803 and 1851. We recognise that there were perhaps 60,000 people here before the British arrived in the District. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present."

**May 2020** - During April 2020 due to a worldwide pandemic of the Covid 19 coronavirus the Australian Government declared that group meetings were not permitted.

**Jun 2020** - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group Inc.

**27 June 2020** - Our first Zoom Committee Meeting was held. Fiona Buntine was confirmed as Member No. 1500.

**Jul 2020** - The 2020 AGM meeting was held over the internet via the Zoom application.

**Jul 2020** - Port Phillip Pioneers Volume 7 ready for publication.

*Information above was mined from Newsletters.*

## Celebrations

### Our early history reprinted to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group

*September 1970 issue of Ancestor*

It is now 15 years since the Group was launched at a meeting held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1970, at Lower Scots Church Hall.

Mrs Guy Bakewell, the Society's (G.S.V.) President, warmly welcomed the 94 enthusiastic people attending, who were unanimous in their support for the setting up of a Pioneers' Group.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Mrs Margaret Morrison, B.A. (Hons). Dip.Ed., whose interesting talk was entitled "The First Ten Years - Life In The Port Phillip District in the 1840's".

Mrs Bakewell then introduced the Convenor of the new Group, the Society's Honorary Librarian, Mr Trevor Hart, who had done all the preparatory work and whose idea had initiated its formation. He gave the meeting comprehensive details of the groundwork done, and then outlined the membership and operation of the Group, which was briefly - persons who could produce evidence of the arrival of a forebear in the Port Phillip District before 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1846, were eligible to apply to the hon., Sec., of the Society for application and explanatory forms. Later, the date was extended to 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1851, which was more appropriate historically speaking, as on that day the District of Port Phillip, became the Colony of Victoria. Membership of the Group automatically entailed membership of the G.S.V.

After questions and discussion, followed by upper, the meeting closed. Ironically, Mr Trevor Hart was never able to qualify for membership, as he was never able to supply one vital piece of information. He is now a Councillor of the R.H.S.V., and the ANZ Bank Group's archivist.

At various times in the history of Victoria interest has been shown in commemorating the first men and their families to settle in the Port Phillip District or Australia Felix as the area of the State was originally known. In their lifetimes the pioneers were particularly remembered and honoured during the Royal Visit of 1867-8, when a Loyal Address was presented to Prince Albert bearing the signatures of those pioneers who arrived in the colony before 1843. These men had been participants in the events of the 1840's and 1850's, but by 1868 they were gradually giving way to the next generation.

Because of the rapid development of the colony the activities of more recent pioneers tended to obscure the achievements of the first settlers. The selectors of the sixties and seventies, particularly those who cleared the forests of parts of Gippsland, carved their niche in the story of the State. Many of them were the sons or servants of the first settlers, but their families were more conscious of the later pioneering which they themselves had witnessed.

It was not until 1934 drew near, with preparations for Melbourne's centenary, that the very first settlers were honoured as the nation builders and undoubtedly were. Although several attempts were then made to form pioneer societies these mostly lapsed, though several persons involved in these attempts later helped to form the Genealogical Society of Victoria. It is fitting therefore that the Society has now formed its own Port Phillip Pioneer Group.

There may be some members of the community who resent the formation of what appear to be exclusive associations. To such persons there is little to say. As long as there are groups with common interests in the community, whether they be First Fleeters, religious or political idealists, former pupils of schools, or members of clans or families, there will always be the tendency to club together to foster interest in those groups. Nor is there anything unpleasantly exclusive about the new Group. All Port Phillipians are welcome to join whether their ancestor was a squatter or official whether he was a shepherd or a dairyman. Some will find that their forebear was a young overlander of aristocratic connexions, whilst others may derive their right of membership from a ticket-of-leave servant who accompanied the same expedition. We wish the new Group well and trust that many families will provide details of their descent from a Port Phillip Pioneer".

(3) At a council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1970, eleven persons were elected as members of the pioneer Group and a further twelve applications were being processed. The Group's first meeting after its formation, was held in the Society's library on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1970 under the Chairmanship of the Convenor.

During those early years whilst numbers were small and meetings were few (three per year). Just three people were appointed to look after the Group; the Chairman, Mr J.S. McClure, (mem. No. 12); the Hon. Sec. Mrs. Fay Dobbyn, (mem. No. 3); and the Examiner of Proofs, Mr L.A. Schumer, O.B.E. (mem. No. 2).

The first certificates issued were of yellow cardboard, approx. the size of a postcard, on which members names were inscribed.

In 1973, Miss Muriel Runting, (mem. No. 1) became Chairman.

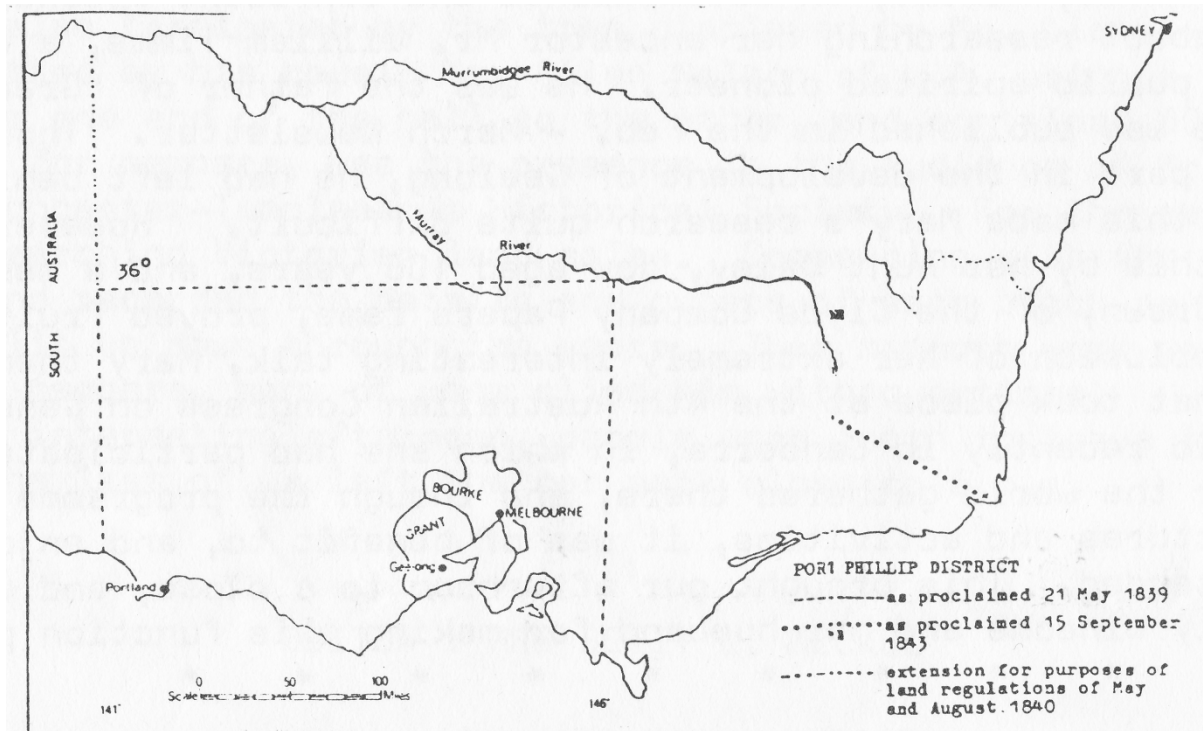
When Mr L.A. Schumer, O.B.E. stepped down in 1975, membership totalled 50, an increase of only 27 during the previous 5 years. I understand that during those years the Group almost foundered, and only the efforts of a few dedicated members, prevented it from doing so.

At this point, Mr G.F.G. Howard, F.G.S.V. (mem. No. 16) accepted the office of Examiner of Proofs. The office he held for the next nine years. As during that time our membership grew from the previously mentioned total to that of 466, Mr Howard would have processed approx. 417 applications!

By 1975 Group meetings were being held in the Camberwell Civic Centre Theatrette, and at the Annual General Meeting held there on Sept., 6<sup>th</sup>, 1975, Mr. L.A. Schumer, OBE, was elected Chairman.

At that meeting it was suggested by the President, the late Mr Lindsay Brownlee, F.G.S.V., that present certificates issued to P.P.P. members, should be a much better standard, and it was unanimously agreed that sample designs be obtained for discussion. It was also decided to seek

approval to extend the "cut-off" time of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1846, to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1851, that date on which the Port Phillip District became a separate Colony of Victoria.



The following paragraph was taken from the December 1975 issue of *Ancestor*, and was written by Mr L.A. Schumer, OBE.

For the purpose of the Group, The Port Phillip District is accepted as the territory now contained in Victoria, but it was not always so. The county of Bourke was proclaimed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1838, and the Port Phillip District on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1839 (with boundaries shown in the accompanying map), when Charles Joseph La Trobe became Superintendent. The District was extended on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1843 to take in the whole of the territory south of the Murray River and a line from its source to Cape Howe. In 1840 there had been a temporary extension to the Murrumbidgee River for the purposes of land sales only.

At the previously mentioned meeting on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1975, Mr. Schumer moved that an advisory committee consisting of the Chairman and four other members be appointed to (a) prepare new rules for the Group based on management of affairs of the Group by a committee elected annually, and seek approval of the council for such, (b) request the council to indicate the extent to which it will fund the activities of the Group, (c) plan some activities for the remainder of 1975 and for 1976, (d) canvas the members by questionnaire to ascertain those willing to give honorary administrative service (clerical) or serve on sub-committees, (e) suggestions as to useful activities in line with the objects of the Group.

Discussion followed, Miss Runting agreeing that a small committee to discuss activities a good idea, but no new constitution was needed.

Publicity was discussed. An election to form a committee then took place and the following were elected, Messrs McClure, I. Hughes, Miss Calvert and Miss Young. Miss Fay Dobbyn was re-elected secretary.

At a committee meeting held on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1975, two more additional members were proposed for the committee - Mrs Stainsby and Mr. Read.

The Guest Speaker at the meeting held on Mr. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1976 was Mrs Marjorie Morgan, the title of her talk, "Rambling along with the Port Phillip Pioneers".

At this point in the Group's affairs, it was decided to open the meetings to all other members of the Society and their spouses, as prior to 1976 only G.S.V. or P.P.P. members were admitted.

At a committee meeting following the above mentioned General Meeting, a resignation was received from Mrs Chris Young. At the same meeting Mr. Schumer recommended that Mrs Marjorie Morgan be made a Fellow of the Society, and this was passed unanimously. Mr Brownlee was asked to convey this to the Council. Mr Schumer reported that meetings held with the Council re the drafting of new rules had not made any progress. He then indicated his intention to resign the office of Chairman at the next meeting.

At the meeting held June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1976, Mr L.A. Schumer, OBE, resigned as Chairman and Messrs, Hughes, McClure and Miss Calvert resigned from the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bill Read was then elected Chairman, Mrs Fay Dobbyn re-elected secretary with Mr. G.F.G. Howard Examiner of Proofs.

The last meeting of the year was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, and due to double booking at the Camberwell Theatre, another venue had to be found. Mr. Read was able to hire the Malvern Historical Society's Rooms at No. 1 Winter Street, where the Group have been meeting for the past ten years.

In the December 1976 issue of *Ancestor* appeared a facsimile of the new certificate, which featured the three mastered barque in full sail drawn at the bottom of it, and P.P.P. members holding the original yellow certificates were told that they could exchange these if they wished to by relinquishing their originals.

At the Annual General Meeting held March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1977, an Election of Office Bearers took place, and Mr. W. Read, Mrs Fay Dobbyn, and Mr. G.F.G. Howard were re-elected.

It was decided that hence forth, not only wives and husbands be admitted to the meetings, but companions also.

At the same meeting the late Mr. Lindsay Brownlee, F.G.S.V., presented the Group with a drawing of the "Investigator", which had been used on the new certificate. Miss Calvert then gave an interesting talk on her family history entitled, "The Scottish Family of Murray MacGregor", which she illustrated with slide.

At this stage in the history of the P.P.P.G., another Committee formed consisting of Mr. Keith Holden, F.G.S.V., Mr. Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V., and Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V. (The last two gentlemen are still serving on our committee, Mr. Lester Stephen, has been doing so continuously past ten years).

An informal meeting held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1977 at the home of Mr. Keith Holden, F.G.S.V., was attended by - the Chairman, Mr. W. Read, F.G.S.V., Hon. Sec. Mrs Fay Dobbyn, the Examiner of Proofs, Mr. G.F.G. Howard, F.G.S.V., the host Mr. Holden, Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V., and Mr Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V.

A number of suggestions aimed at stimulating interest in the Group were put forward and drawn up. These included the following-:

- (1) Tours to historical buildings and places..... Commencing with a staff escorted visit to the Latrobe Library, the Group then went on a bus tour organized and conducted by Mr. Holden - to view historic sites and buildings around Melbourne. Tours of Melbourne University Library and Williamstown followed, until by 1982 they had become a regular part of our activities.
- (2) Register of Early Families..... This Idea formed the basis of the "Register", upon which Mr. Lester Stephen has been working for the past eleven years.
- (3) Separate catalogue for Port Phillip Pioneers in Society's library..... Members reading the Oct-Nov. issue of Newsletter will know that this catalogue or index as we now call it, is finally housed in the Society's Library.
- (4) List of historical artefacts for an exhibition..... This was held t the Camberwell Civic Centre Theatre in August, 1978, and was successful.
- (5) Newsletter to Members..... It was decided that such a publication should be designed to inform members of what had already occurred, and to advise them of coming events. It could also include photographs, stories and highlights of history of the Port Phillip era which had been handed down by our forebears. Mr. Keith Holden produced a trial issue, which was enthusiastically received by the committee. The first copy printed January 1978, was issued free to all members, but later a charge of \$2.00 per year was made to defray expenses and provide some much needed revenue.
- (6) Name tags at meetings..... These were introduced in 1978 and the custom has been continued each year.
- (7) A badge of our own..... During 1977, Mr. John Howard Wright, expert on heraldry, talented artist and calligrapher, was approached regarding the designing of a badge appropriate to our Group. He submitted three designs from which our present badge was chosen.
- (8) Personal help to potential members..... In his capacity as Registrar, My Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V. has helped innumerable people to qualify for our Group. From 1979 until April 1980, My Daryl Wight handled all our research. Mrs. Alison Stephen now holds that office.

In all, 18 suggestions were put forward at that April 1977 meeting.

At the beginning of 1977 membership of the Group had reached 80, and the ideas and suggestions put forward at that April meeting were being initiated.

The tours previously mentioned, organized by Mr. Keith Holden, F.G.S.V., were to prove successful (some of our early members still really their enjoyment of the tour of historical sites and buildings of early Melbourne), which Keith conducted and for which he provided the commentary, He also had begun a calendar of events prior to 1-7-1851, whilst Mr. Lester Stephen, had commenced the "Register". Lester noted that until 1845, 20% of the population had come overland. By the end of the year he had recorded and genealogical and biographical details of over 5000 pioneers.

Three general meetings were held, and at a July meeting, Mr Tom Luscombe author of "Village of the Yarra", gave a talk on the value of folk history.

Correspondence had been conducted between Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V., the late Mr Lindsay Brownlee, F.G.S.V., and the History Advisory Committee, concerning the proposed erection of statues to Batman and Fawcner later in 1978. The latter body had agreed to consider involving the Port Phillip Pioneers Group in this project.

Mr. Keith Holden commented on the fact that Batman's monument is to be found in Fawcner cemetery, whilst Fawcner's was in the Melbourne cemetery, and that the Independence Tree is in the Botanical Gardens.

Editor's Note.. John Batman died May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1839 at Melbourne, aged 38. He was buried in the old Melbourne cemetery. His grave was unmarked until a tombstone was unveiled on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1882. With the demolition of this cemetery in 1922, his remains were removed to Fawcner, and the monument re-assembled in Batman Ave. On 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1924, a new tombstone was unveiled over his grave at Fawcner, by his gt-gt-grandson - Leslie Batman Weire.

John Pascoe Fawcner, M.L.C., died Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 1869, in his 77<sup>th</sup> year. His funeral to the Melbourne General Cemetery was 2 miles long, two hundred carriages followed his remains and 50,000 persons witnessed the funeral.

(Details supplied curtesy of Mr. Lester Stephen and the "Register".)

The first social event for 1978 was a Garden Party held at 2pm on March 19<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Mr. Geoffrey Howard, F.G.S.V., at 437a Wattleree Road, Malvern. Fifty one people attended on a windy but warm day. Guests enjoyed a glass of champagne or orange juice upon arrival, and were given name tags. Sandwiches, tea and coffee were served at 3.15 p.m., when the Chairman, Mr. W. Read, F.G.S.V., warmly welcomed all those present. Mr. Keith Holden, F.G.S.V. then gave a short talk on "Queens Wharf - Birthplace of Melbourne".

During the afternoon, considerable excitement was caused by the arrival of member No. 100, Mr. Gilbert Read.

Much of interest occurred during the year, which saw the introduction of a badge of our own and Newsletter. Mr. Holden produced the first edition, which then had to be submitted to the G.S.V. Council for their approval. This they gave, providing it could be self-funding. Discussions followed, and it was decided that members should pay \$3.00 per year, per family, voluntarily but only those that paid would receive copies.

The first order for 150 badges was placed with Stokes, at a cost of \$1.20 each, plus sales tax, to sell at \$3.00. An advance towards the initial outlay of \$200.00 was received from the G.S.V. which was promptly repaid upon the sale of badges.

As well as a the Garden Party, the calendar of events included- an exhibition at the Camberwell Civic Centre Theatre of paintings, photos, jewellery, family histories, documents and heirlooms.

During the year, interesting talks were given by four members namely- Mrs. Fay Dobbyn, who gave a talk entitled "Family Folklore Fact or Fiction", which was an interesting collection of sad and humorous stories of the Abbey, Smith and McKenzie families. Fay also displayed many fascinating knick knacks and trinkets.

Mr. Geoffrey Howard spoke of his gt-grandfather, Charles Howard, an early settler and businessman of Melbourne, and through five generations to his grandchildren.

My. Keith Holden gave a talk entitled "Is Your Name Here?".

The title of Miss Runting's talk was "First Births in Victoria". She spoke of her paternal grandmother, Susannah Kid, whose parents were born in Hereford, and who came to Port Phillip in 1841. Susannah was the second white girl born in Geelong in March 1842, her birth being the thirtieth registered in the Port Phillip District.

During 1978 the P.P.P.G. opened their own bank account. This was on the advice of Mr. Wilkie, F.G.S.V., who was then the Treasurer of the G.S.V. Using a counter cheque account - requiring two signatures for withdrawals - and working with three specimens, this was opened by Mrs. Fay Dobbyn at the S.S.B.

Following the resignation of Mr. Holden, F.G.S.V., the Chairman, Mr. Bill Read, F.G.S.V., became editor of the Newsletter which was being produced five times per year, whilst badges were selling well.

In the September 1978 issue of "Ancestor", a report on the Register appeared. As it sets out the aims and objectives of the Register and the type of material sought, I feel it is worth reprinting. It ran as follows---

#### PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS' REGISTER

Mr Lester Stephen, a committee member of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group, has, for the past 16 months, been engaged in the task of compiling names and data for inclusion in a Register of all those persons who emigrated to, or were born in, the District of Port Phillip in the Colony of New South Wales, prior to "Separation Day" (1<sup>st</sup> July 1851). This includes all those who were members of the 1803 and 1826 - 27 expeditions to Port Phillip.

It is his intention that each entry will be as comprehensive as possible - ideally, this information would comprise three actions----

- A. Their life prior to coming to Australia.
- B. Details of transportation to Port Phillip from overseas or interstate.
- C. Details of their life in the District of Port Phillip.



To the end of May, 1978, Lester has garnered from a variety of sources, approx. 15,000 names and details of pioneers - about 8,500 of whom were assisted immigrants. In time it is expected that the Register will contain 35,000 - 40,000 names. (To date - October 1987, it contains approx. 50,000).

This project was begun with 4 objectives in mind---

1. To honour our ancestors by maintaining a permanent record of their achievements.
2. To maintain in permanent form, those records submitted to the Examiner of Proofs by persons wishing to become members of the Group, and subsequently, verified by the Examiner of Proofs.
3. To help members of the Society engaged in researching their family history.
4. To assist members to avoid costly searches for birth, death and marriage certificates.

The type of information required would include details such as :- date and place of birth, names of parents, shipping details, type of occupation or profession followed; if married - details of wife and children (if any) and any known descendants, places of residence, properties owned or leased, and date and place of death, where buried, photographs etc.

All information received would be acknowledged in the Register, but each item would have to include the source from which it was derived.

To obtain the objectives as set out, Lester appeals to all members to forward information to his address - 8 Panorama Ave., Ringwood, or to contact him by telephone on 870-7218.

Events for 1979 began on Foundation Day, Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, when members of the P.P.P.G attended an official unveiling of commemorative memorials to John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner.

The statues were unveiled by Councillor Ian Stewart, of the Melbourne City Council, assisted by members of his Committee, on the National Mutual Centre Plaza at 3 p.m.

Official invitations were extended to members of the P.P.P.G. and to members of the G.S.V. Council. Included in those present was a Mrs. Margaret Lonigan, a descendant of the Fawkner family, and one of our own members, Mrs. Irene Elmore, who is a direct descendant of John Pascoe Fawkner's sister Elizabeth Fawkner.

As a result of the continued efforts of our Public Relations Officer, Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V., to obtain official acknowledgement of the existence of our Group, one of the plaques unveiled that day reads thus---

This plaque is contributed by the

**PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS' GROUP**  
**of the**  
**GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**  
**TO HONOUR**  
**JOHN BATMAN AND JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER**  
**PIONEERS OF OUR GARDEN STATE**

This official recognition of the Group's existence was a milestone in our history.

The next function for the year was a Garden Party held in February in the lovely garden setting of Mrs. Nell Noonan's home at Donvale, and this was an unqualified success.

1979 continued on as a busy year for the Group. At the A.G.M. held 14<sup>th</sup> March, all the retiring committee members were re-elected, and two additional members were co-opted. They were Mrs. Harriet Croxford, who became Assistant Sec., whilst Mrs. Fay Dobbyn was overseas and Mr. Daryl Wight who became Research Officer. Mr. G.F.G. Howard, F.G.S.V., took on the additional duties of Treasurer, whilst continuing as Examiner of Proofs.

During the year, Mr. John Wright offered to inscribe the names of new members on the certificates, and fortunate are those who were admitted whilst John was performing this time consuming and exacting task, for their certificates bear his expert calligraphy. (Happily, your editor is one of that number). Unfortunately, eyesight problems forced him to discontinue this work in 1981, and the certificates reverted to typed style we favour today.

During the year a tour of the library conducted by Mrs. Joan Will, was enjoyed by the Group, as well as a discussion afternoon in which Mrs Marjorie Morgan, F.G.S.V., Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V. and Mr. Keith Holden, F.G.S.V., answered many questions put to them by members.

The last meeting for 1979 was well attended, when members gathered to hear two very interesting addresses. The first was delivered by the Chairman, the late Mr. Bill Read, F.G.S.V., whose talk was entitled "James Read and his Family". Mr. Read's gt-grandfather emigrated to Port Phillip in 1844, and settled in Templestowe, which was then known as Bulleen. He spoke on many aspects of life in those early days, including roads, education, churches and fruit growing.

The second talk was given by Mrs. Hazel Poulter, who spoke on the "Pioneer Women of Templestowe", and she mentioned some of the hardships endured by those women.

The final event for the year was a Garden Party held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, at "Chateau Yering", the historical homestead of Mrs. and the late Mr. H. Arnold Thomas, at Yarra Glen. More than 100 members and friends attended the party and during the afternoon, the host gave a brief history of the chateau, which was followed by a few words about the family, given by a close relative, the late Mr. A.L.A. Brownlee, F.G.S.V., of Strathbogie.

The End

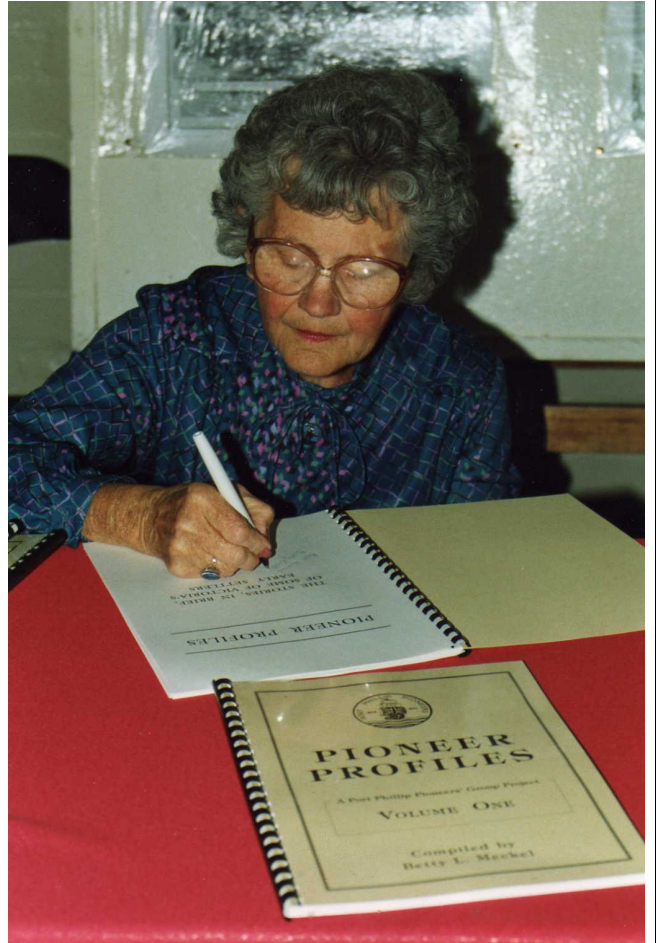
*This summary was transcribed from instalments printed in the PPPG Newsletters no.39 - 53, dating from Aug - Sept 1985 until Jun-July 1988.*

## Memories from the PPPG Photo Album



Marilla, Barb, Susan, Marg Pam Michael

Members at St James during our *Glimpes of the Past* presentation



Betty Meckel signing a copy of Pioneer Profiles



Nell Noonan's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



18 October 1992 Trip to Cobram


All photos on this page from the PPPG Photo album



1992 Cobram 1992 Left to right: Truus and Chris Watkins  
Elaine and John Bampton, Alison and Brian Stephen

# Celebrations of the Group's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

28 May 1995

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chairpersons &amp; Presidents</u></p> <p>1971-2 : Mr. John McClure          1973-5 : Miss Muriel Runting, F.G.S.V.          1975-6 : Mr. Leslie Schuner O.B.E.          1976-81 : Mr. William (Bill) Read, F.G.S.V.          1982-5 : Mr. Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V.          1986 : Mrs. Joan Connor          1987 : Mr. Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V.          1988-9 : Mrs. Betty Meckel          1990- : Dr. Geoffrey Fewster</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Honorary Secretaries</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p>1971-78 : Mrs. Fay Dobbyn          1979- : Mrs. Harriett Croxford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Examiner's of Proofs</u></p> <p>1971-5 : Mr. Leslie Schuner, O.B.E.          1975-83 : Mr. Geoffrey Howard, F.G.S.V.          1984 : Mr. Lester Stephen, F.G.S.V. (Acting)          1985-6 : Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V.          1987- : Mrs. Dorothy Samson</p>	<p><b>PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.</b></p> <p>1970 - 1995</p>  <p><b>ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY, 28th May, 1995</b></p> <p><b>No. 1 Winter Street, Malvern</b></p>
---	---

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MENU</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hot roast meats, roast potatoes and a selection of salads</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choice of four delicious desserts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tea or Coffee</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROGRAMME</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sherry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyal Toast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Main Course</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Major Carlyle Stephen, F.G.S.V.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dessert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Mrs. Betty Meckel 25 Eventful Years</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tea or Coffee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Highlights and Achievements</u></p> <p>29th May, 1970 Inaugural meeting of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group of the G.S.V. Membership restricted to descendants of pioneers who arrived between 1805 and 1848.</p> <p>6th Sept. 1975 Membership eligibility extended to cover the time up to 30th June, 1851.</p> <p>April, 1977 Commencement of the Register of the Pioneers of Port Phillip.</p> <p>Feb. 1978 First issue of Newsletter.</p> <p>Aug. 1978 Introduction of Member's Badge.</p> <p>27th Aug. 1978 Exhibition held at Camberwell Civic Centre.</p> <p>28th Jan. 1979 Unveiling of Batman and Fowkes statues in National Mutual Centre Plaza and of a Plaque sponsored by the P.P.P.G.</p> <p>1970 - 1990 Numerous excursions to places of historical interest and luncheons.</p> <p>Oct. 1984 Member No. 800 - Mr. John French.</p> <p>March, 1990 Donation of \$1000 to G.S.V. Library Fund.</p> <p>10th Nov. 1990 Pioneer Profiles Vol. 1 launched.</p> <p>8th April, 1991 The Group became an Incorporated Association.</p> <p>9th Nov. 1991 Pioneer Profiles Vol. 2 launched.</p> <p>Early 1993 Boroondara Cemetery transcription (compiled by members of the P.P.P.G.) released on microfiche.</p> <p>Early 1995 Member No. 1000 - Miss Fiona Hutton.</p> <p>The P.P.P.G. can be proud of the large number of interesting speakers who have addressed the members at its General Meetings.</p>
--	--

Images from PPPG Minute records

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group

Transcribed from ANCESTOR - PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS' ISSUE - September 1970

Editorial (editor - Dr W.N. Gunson, MA, PhD, FGSV)

At various times in the history of Victoria interest has been shown in commemorating the first men and their families to settle in the Port Phillip District or Australia Felix as the area of the State was originally known. In their own lifetimes the pioneers were particularly remembered and honoured by the Royal Visit of 1867-8 when a Loyal Address was presented to Prince Alfred bearing the signatures of those pioneers who arrived in the colony before 1843. These men had been participants in the events of the 1840s and 1850s but by 1868 they were gradually giving way to the next generation.

Because of the rapid development of the colony the activities of more recent pioneers tended to obscure the achievements of the first settlers. The selectors of the sixties and seventies, particularly those who cleared the forests of parts of Gippsland, carved their own niche in the story of the State. Many of them were the sons or servants of the first settlers but their families were more conscious of the later pioneering which they themselves had witnessed.

It was not until 1934 drew near, with preparation for Melbourne's centenary, that the very earliest settlers were honoured as the nation builders they undoubtedly were. Although several attempts were then made to form pioneer societies these mostly lapsed, though several persons involved in these attempts later helped to form the Genealogical Society of Victoria. It is fitting therefore that the Society has now formed its own Port Phillip Pioneers Group\*. Membership requires proof of an ancestor residing in the District before January 1846\*\*.

There may be some members of the community who resent the formation of what appear to be exclusive associations. To such persons there is little to say. As long as there are groups with common interests in the community, whether they be first fleeter, religious or political idealists, former pupils of schools, or members of clans or families, there will always be the tendency to club together to foster interest in these groups. Nor is there anything unpleasantly exclusive about the new group. All Port Phillipians are welcome to join whether their ancestor was a shepherd or a dairyman. Some will find that their first forebear was a young overlander of aristocratic connexions [sic] while others may derive their right of membership from a ticket-of-leave servant who accompanied the same expedition. We wish the new Group well and trust that many families will provide details of their descent from a Port Phillip Pioneer.

[Editors notes - \* The PPPG became an Incorporated Association in April 1991 under its own right, but remains a Member Society of the GSV.

\*\* Membership is now open to those who can establish direct lineal descent from pioneers who settled or were born in the Port Phillip District prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1851].

Susan Grant, Member No. 1089

*The above was transcribed from Newsletter No: 114, Vol 23 June-July 2000.*

## A toast to the Memory of Our Pioneering Ancestors

Delivered on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 by Lester R. Stephen, F.G.S.V., Registrar, Port Phillip Pioneers' Group. *Newsletter 120, August-September 2001*

“Professor Shaw, Madam President and the Committee of the Port Phillip Pioneers, ladies and Gentlemen -

It is both an honour and a privilege to have been asked by you - Madam President to propose a toast to the memory of our Pioneering Ancestors.

Before doing so, may I say a few words as to our reasons for celebrating this very special occasion today?

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 1970, Miss Muriel Runting, F.G.S.V., and 90 other members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, formed a group to be known as The Port Phillip Pioneers' Group. Its purpose was to encourage as many persons as possible to research their family background, as if at least one of their forebears had arrived in Port Phillip (i.e. Victoria) by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1845, they were to be encouraged to join the Group, if their assembled documents were approved by an Examiner of Proofs. This date was later amended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 1851.

At first, those of who had neglected our history lessons were puzzled as to why that particular date was so important to our Group! - it was because the following day we ceased to be the Port Phillip District in the Colony of New South Wales and became The Independent Colony of Victoria; and so today we are celebrating exactly 150 years since that event occurred. Little did my brother Brian and myself realise when we joined the Group in February, 1976, that 25 years later, we and those assembled here today would be honouring our forebears for their courage in coming here in the first place. It goes without saying that had our Ancestors chose to remain in their homeland, or had elected to immigrate instead to Canada, the U.S.A. or New Zealand, none of the people in this room would have existed. In choosing to come to Victoria we must offer them our eternal thanks and gratitude.

Our history books are full of facts and stories concerning the Gold Rush period which begun just as we were becoming the Colony of Victoria, but until recently, the previous 17 years (i.e. 1834-1851) were pretty much ignored. [So], let us examine who were resident during that period.

In the first state wide census held in Victoria in March, 1851 (just three months prior to Separation) it disclosed a total population of 77,345 persons - today that number of persons would be easily topped by those attending a final of an Australian Rules match at the M.C.G., yet this tiny number of pioneers established the framework of a State in which, just 150 years later, a population of 4,600,000 persons happily call “home”.

Examine their record - they created most of the towns and cities of this State, e.g. Melbourne, Geelong, Colac, Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Portland, Hamilton, Kyneton, Kilmore, Benalla, Wangaratta, Sale, Port Albert, Tarraville, Echuca, and lots of others were created in the period 1834-1851.

They made a network of crude roads, built bridges, grew crops and became largely, self-supporting in food, and exported large amounts of wool and hides.

By 1851, the whole of the State was covered with 750 pastoral leases controlled by the Crown. All of these were occupied, with large numbers of sheep, cattle and horses thereon.

It is interesting to note that as early as 1838 "The Port Phillip Racing Club", "The Melbourne Cricket Club" and "The Melbourne Club", all came into existence. Nor were the arts forgotten - as early as 1840 concerts were being staged in Melbourne, and both overseas actors and local ones were constantly finding engagements in Melbourne and Geelong.

In addition, religion flourished with all the various denominations well catered for.

From my reading of the events of that period, they covered the whole gamut of social activity, such as debating clubs, sailing on the bay, athletic meetings, picnics, etc.

For the most part, our ancestors worked hard, lived hard and played hard. They faced a number of problems which greatly shortened many lives - lack of sanitation, poor medical facilities, and extensive alcoholism, which was, one suspects, caused in many cases by acute loneliness.

Yet, despite all the problems that the Pioneers endured, they managed to create the conditions upon which successive generations have built the State we call home.

With those few words, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask you all to fill your glasses and be upstanding, and join with me in a toast - in remembrance of our Pioneering Ancestors.

I give you the Port Phillip Pioneers'.

They established the law and order throughout the State."



Lester Stephen welcomes Professor AGL Shaw and his wife to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Separation 2001

Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes

## The Address at the Separation Luncheon, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001

A report by Jan Hanslow, Member No.1057

1 July 1851 - an important day in our history, the day that the Port Phillip District was officially declared an independent colony took the name Victoria. Celebrations had begun 11 November 1851 when news that the 'Australian Colonies Government Act' had been passed by the House of Lords, arrived in Melbourne. Four days of celebrations followed the small announcement in a newspaper, which was carried from Sydney to Adelaide on the Lysander, and from there by horse to Melbourne. There was a special edition of the Melbourne herald, and news of the Separation Act was proclaimed at Flagstaff Hill. Celebrations coincided with the opening of the Princess Bridge on the 15<sup>th</sup> November and a procession of 6,000 people took two hours to cross the bridge. There was so much excitement that no newspapers were printed for four days.

Professor Alan Shaw AO gave an entertaining and informative talk on the events leading up to Separation and the main reasons for its necessity.

In 1835, George Mercer, a member of the Port Phillip Association, tried unsuccessfully to get the British Government to endorse John Batman's Treaty. In the same year, Governor Bourke wrote to the Colonial Office and stressed that the Port Phillip area should be independent because Melbourne was too far away from Sydney to be governed from there.

Charles Joseph LaTrobe arrived in October 1839 to take up the position of Superintendent. He was subject to orders from Governor Sir George Gipps in Sydney who in turn was given instructions from London. The turnaround time for a reply from London was about 18 months and between Sydney and Melbourne the time was approximately about a month. Latrobe was inexperienced and thus there were constant delays. However a request for a punt across the Yarra was repeatedly refused because officials in Sydney didn't know the difference between a punt and a bridge!

Labour was a big problem, or rather the lack of it. Sydney, with its convicts, had a large unpaid work force whilst Melbourne had very few convicts. Latrobe wished to hire workers from the general population but was told that was too expensive. He was forever being told not to waste money. But roads needed repairing, lighthouses and bridges were needed. There was no courthouse. When the lighthouse at Queenscliff was eventually built, its light had a range of six miles instead of the required 12. Things improved marginally after Gipps visited Melbourne in 1841.



Bronwyn Quint addressing the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Separation luncheon 2001

Image supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes  
Permission granted by B Quint



Money collected from the sale of land in the Port Phillip District was supposed to be spent on encouraging immigration, but the migrants were going to Sydney. Eventually Gipps was instructed from London that this revenue was to be used for migration to Melbourne.



Mavis Gertz, Lorna Elms and Beverley Coe

Images supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes  
Permission granted by Lorna Elms

The original boundary of Port Phillip had extended to a point on the coast, east of Sale. And a British Government land act of 1841 had suggested that the Murrumbidgee River should be the northern boundary. Gipps protested and said that the Murray was the proper border. The N.S.W. Legislative Council became partly elected in 1842 but there were few representatives from Melbourne, and the council had little sympathy for Melbourne's needs. Petitions were drawn up in 1845, and sent to Gipps, who sent them onto London. The outcome of an enquiry in Sydney was that Separation was recommended.

Documents were forwarded to London, arriving in late 1846, but unforeseen circumstances meant that the act was not drawn up until 1847. Debate on constitution changes to be included in the act caused more delay and eventually it was passed on 4 August 1850.

On 1 July 1851, The Port Phillip District officially became the Colony of Victoria. This was the day on which writs were to be issued for the election of Victoria's Legislative Council. Having had the unenviable task of trying to appease the citizens of Melbourne and cope with the indifference from Sydney, Charles Joseph Latrobe was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor on 17 July 1851.



Ken Smith and Clare Bayne at the 150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Separation 2001

Images supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes  
Permission granted by Clare Bayne & Ken Smith

## Port Phillip Pioneers Group 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

"The 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group was an event enjoyed by all who attended. Everyone received, on arrival, a present of a calico bag with the Group logo printed on it and a recipe book.



Michael Grogan explained the recipes were from his Great Grandmother's old cookbook, and he thought the Library Bag should be useful for researchers.

There was a guest Panel - Val Farley, Dorothy Samson, Alexander Romanov-Hughes and Ken Smith. (Lester Stephen was unfortunately not able to take part). These members who have contributed so much shared their memories of the Group and its beginnings. They spoke of friendship and historical knowledge in their pursuit to assist the Group compile information on shipping, newspapers, cemeteries, land records and pioneers or working in the capacity of committee members and general helpers when needed.

Quiz questions on early Victorian history were held throughout the day, with those giving the right answer receiving a mini packet of Smarties. Lots of laughs and some tricky questions.

Anne Mavric was very happy to cut the Birthday Cake. Anne is there every meeting to meet and greet our members and guests as they arrive, and would be the only person to speak to everyone at all meetings. Thank you Anne for your presence over the years. The cake was iced in white with a decal of our Logo on top. A blue ribbon with our motto on it completed the picture.



A thank you for the Birthday Cake must go to Michael Grogan for baking all 11kg of it, and a thank you to Margaret Stevens, Member 194 who contributed to the cost of the ingredients.

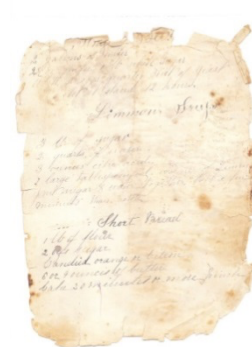
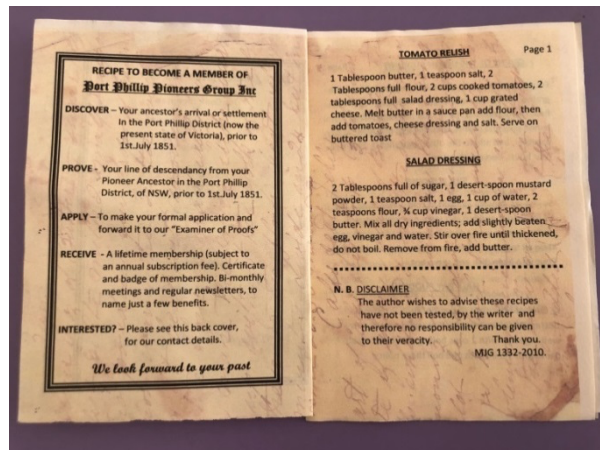
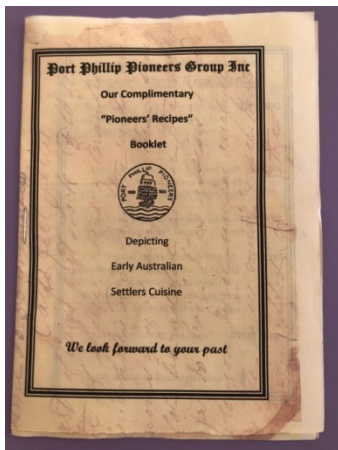
Michael Grogan reflected on his predecessors as Examiner of Proofs. How they had served for many years and been meticulous in their approach to a demanding job. He spoke of how Mavis Gerdtz, who last filled this position, helped him a lot.

Alison Stephen brought along her collection of early editions of the Newsletter and photos of her and other early members of the group. A slide show of photos was shown with some folk not even recognizing themselves from the past until the second look. Very funny."

*This report was taken from Newsletter No. 164*

Extra notes mined from Newsletters:

- Designed and produced by Michael Grogan to celebrate the Group's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010.
- Recipes include:
  - *Queen of the Ocean Pudding*
  - *Silk Pudding*
  - *Half Day Pudding*
  - *Toad in the Hole*
  - *Ginger Mick*
  - *Lamb Cream*
  - *Maigre Sauce*
  - *Bachelor's Cakes*
  - *Railroad Cake*
  - *Potted Head*
  - *Chillie Beer*
  - *and Sea Pie*
- To this day they continue to be given as a thank you to each presenter.



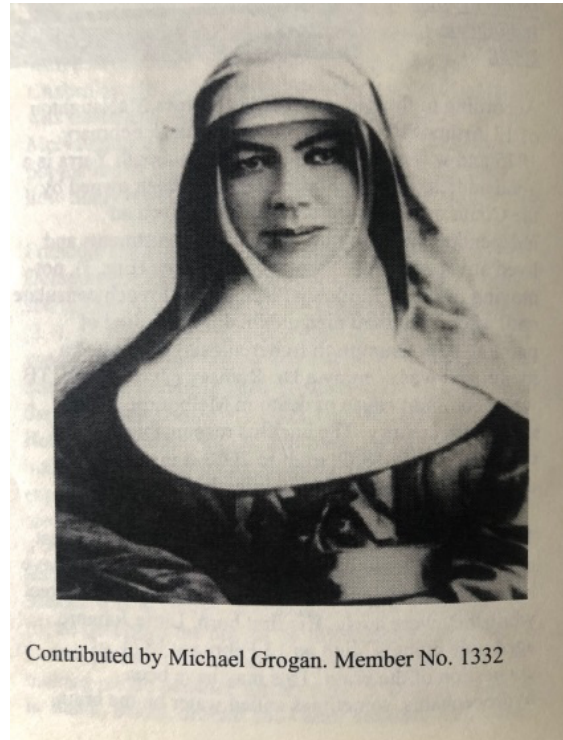
Images supplied by Alexander Romanov-Hughes and Beverley Jacobson

## The Pioneer who became a saint

*Mary McKillop - Port Phillip Pioneer, excerpt from Newsletter No.163, Apr-May 2010*

Our Mary, many Australians are calling Mary McKillop - but we Port Phillip Pioneer members have two reasons to honestly call her "Our Mary," as indeed, she was a true Port Phillip Pioneer, by her birth in the Port Phillip District.

Mary's parents lived in Scotland in the Lochar area of Inverness in the Highlands. Alexander McKillop who was born on 21 January 1812, had been studying for the priesthood, firstly in Scotland and then Rome. As fate would have it, his health forced him to return home and surrender his vocation. To avoid the embarrassment, disappointment and possible disgrace following such a decision Alexander decided to travel to Australia for a fresh start in life. It has been stated that, "*His parents left the Catholic Highlands in 1835 and took Alexander with them to find a new life in Australia, arriving on the "Brilliant" in 1838.*" However a quick look at the shipping records has an Archibald McKillop, correctly aged 26, an unmarried schoolteacher and travelling with him was a Donald McKillop, aged 30, a farm servant. There is no mention of Alexander's parents.



Contributed by Michael Grogan. Member No. 1332

Alexander, or should that be "Archibald," maintained his spirituality by attending prayer services in Melbourne's first Catholic chapel in Peter Bodecin's home, which was situated in Collins Street West, while the Catholic community waited their first Catholic priest in the new town.

Mary's mother, Flora Hannah McDonald was born at Glen Roy in Scotland on 11 June 1816 and arrived in the Port Phillip District on the "*Glen Huntly*" on 17 April 1840.

Flora and Alexander quickly caught up with each other after her arrival in Melbourne Town as they were married on the 14th July 1840 the registration No. was 35192 of 1840, barely three months after her arrival. The wedding, conducted at St. Francis Church in Lonsdale Street was in the original temporary structure as the foundation stone of St. Francis was laid on 4 October 1841. It was celebrated by Father Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan O.F.M., the first Catholic priest to arrive in the Port Phillip District, who was an orphan at the age of 8 years. A Franciscan priest placed him in an orphanage and Patrick finally was ordained a Franciscan priest on 21 February 1830, at Coimbra, Portugal.

The first child of Alexander and Flora was Mary, born 15 January 1842. There are two registrations for her birth, Numbers 94 and 36287. Mary was born in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, only a few hundred yards from St. Patrick's Cathedral. There is a plaque on the footpath to denote this event. Mary was baptised as "Maria Ellen" on 28 February 1842 but was always called Mary.

Her parents had a further seven children, as follows:-

- Margarite McKillop ( born 25 May 1843; died 13 December 1872 )
- John McKillop ( born 27 February 1845; died 16 December 1867 )
- Alexander McKillop ( born 7 November 1846; died 7 October 1847 )
- Annie McKillop ( born 5 September 1848; died 14 January 1929 )
- Lexie McKillop ( born 17 September 1850; died 30 December 1882 )
- Donald McKillop ( born 27 April 1853; died 2 February 1925 )
- Peter McKillop ( born 26 October 1857; died 23 July 1878 )

Mary first worked as a governess as she had the experience of all those siblings. After a while Mary gained a position with the stationery firm *Sands and Kenny* who are now known as *Sands and McDougall*.

In 1860, when aged 18 years, Mary travelled to Penola in South Australia. She worked as a governess, before starting her saintly life as a nun in 1866. Mary died on 8 August 1909, aged 67 years, in North Sydney, New South Wales.

Contributed by Michael Grogan Member No.1332