

# BENDIGO GENEALOGIST

*Bendigo Family History Group Inc.*

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

P.O Box 145

Bendigo, Victoria 3552

[bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)



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[bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)



## **Mrs Avril Mitchell**

12 May 2022 R.I.P.

Long time member of  
Family History Connections  
Group.{AIGS} In later years  
moved to Bendigo and  
attended Meetings there.

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## **Office Bearers 2022**

<u>AREA ADMINISTRATOR PAM KEOWN</u>	<u>SECRETARY KATH MARTIN</u>
<u>TREASURER DAVID COTTON</u>	<u>PRODUCT SALES RITA HULL</u>
<u>FILING CLERK DARYL READ</u>	<u>HOST &amp; VISITOR WELCOME KATH MARTIN</u>
<u>LIBRARY ASSISTANTS CO-ORD ANNETTE DELANEY</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR EILEEN GORMAN</u>
<u>RESEARCH OFFICER DAVID COTTON</u>	<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS RITA HULL</u>
<u>PROGRAM &amp; PUBLICITY ANNETTE DELANEY</u>	<u>COMPUTER SERVICES EILEEN GORMAN</u>
	<u>WEBSITE MANAGER ANNETTE DELANEY</u>

New email address – [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)

### **Area Administrators Report –**

Luckily through the winter months we have been able to attend the library without any interruptions from COVID. Visitors requesting research has been ongoing, but as normal in the winter, numbers have decreased. Research requests by email continue, have generally three per week.

I would like to thank Annette Delaney for working with the library staff, to present talks on family history, through Family History Month. Annette is also leading a group of those wishing to understand DNA, with a monthly get together.

Thank you to all the volunteers “manning the desk” on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

You all keep the group ticking along, assisting community members who come for your expertise as family researchers.

Bendigo Family History at the Goldfields Library Bendigo on Wednesday 10am – 2pm  
Saturday 10am - 2pm

Pam Keown

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*EDITOR– Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor at [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au) or by post to Bendigo Family History, PO Box 145, Bendigo VIC 3552 The BFHG reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject contributions. Disclaimer – all articles are accepted in good faith. The BendigoFamily History Group Inc. and members do not accept any responsibility for correctness of any articles submitted therein.*

## **INMATES AT THE BENDIGO BENEVOLENT ASYLUM**

Behind every entry in the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum registers there is a story. Two such stories were found tucked between the original admission forms.

### **CASE STUDY / JOHN SMITH**

It was April 1879 and John Smith had been trying to get help before winter set in. His last job had been as a cook at Wilson's Station in the Wimmera, but at 69 years of age and not in good health he knew he needed help and set off to walk.. He collapsed on the road near Jackass Flat and some unknown good Samaritan took pity on him and sent for the police. Why the Police?

It was the surest way to ensure he was admitted to hospital. The vagrancy laws in operation at the time stated that persons with no money and no place of abode should be taken in charge by the police, and they had the power to have people admitted to the hospital on a never-ending "ticket".

The doctors refused to keep Smith more than two days in hospital and wrote to Police Sergeant Farrell to collect him and take him to the Asylum. The only other alternative was to put him in gaol.

*To Sergeant Farrell from the resident surgeon; The man John Smith that you sent today is not a case for hospital treatment. He is purely a case for the Benevolent Asylum. I have taken him in here until Friday next when you will please remove him and obtain his admission to the Asylum,..... The ticket and form are herewith attached.*

### **CASE STUDY 2/ GEORGE DOLBELL**

George Dolbell was an ex-seaman aged only 43 in 1864. He arrived at the Asylum with a letter of recommendation from the proprietor of the Allies Hotel at Myers Flat, where he had been odd-jobbing. He had a multitude of diseases and badly abused health. Francis Cotton, the publican, had a Ticket, which meant he had subscribed over a guinea to the Asylum funds and was entitled to recommend someone to be taken in for care.

*The bearer of this letter is a man I have known for some years as a very honest and industrious man unfortunately he has been very ill and is without the means of support. If you could find him a place in your valuable institution you would be conferring a great blessing on him and at the same time oblige your very obedient servant , Francis Cotton*

George Dolbell left the care of the Asylum after a few months, but found he could not cope in supporting himself and was re-admitted. He died nine months later.

### **POINTS LEARNT**

If you weren't curable the hospital was not interested in you. If you weren't a subscriber to Asylum funds you would not be admitted unless someone could sponsor you.

The Police could use discretion whether they charged you with vagrancy or looked for an alternative.

## **From a convict ship to the big screen**

*The Tin Ticket* published in 2010 by author Deborah J Swiss tells the heartbreaking, horrifying and ultimately triumphant story of the women exiled from the British Isles, forced into slavery and who created the most liberated society of their time.

Agnes McMillan and Janet Houston were convicted for shoplifting, Bridget Mulligan stole a bucket of milk; widow Ludlow Tedder, eleven silver spoons. For their crimes, they would be sent not to gaol but to ships teeming with other female convicts. Tin tickets, stamped with numbers, were hung around the women's necks, and the ships set out to carry them to their new home: Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania.

Men outnumbered women nine to one, and few "proper" citizens were interested in emigrating. The deportation of thousands of petty criminals- the vast majority being non-violent first offenders-provided a convenient solution for the government.

Crossing shark infested waters, some died in shipwrecks during the four-month journey or succumbed to infections and were sent to a watery grave. Others were impregnated against their will by their captors. They arrived as nothing more than property. But incredibly, as the years passed, they managed not only to endure privation and pain but to thrive on their own terms, breaking the chains of bondage and forging a society that treated women early as equals and the led the world in fighting for women's rights.

*The Tin Ticket* takes us to nineteenth century and into the lives of several women:

Agnes McMillan, whose defiance and resilience carried her to a far more dramatic rebellion; Agnes's best friend Janet Houston, who rescued her from the Glasgow Wynds and was also transported to Van Diemen's Land;

Ludlow Tedder, who hoped to be allowed to have one of her four children accompany her to the other side of the world;

Bridget Mulligan, who gave birth to a line of powerful women stretching to the present day, It also tells the tale of Elizabeth Gurney Fry, a Quaker reformer who touched all of their lives. Ultimately it is the story of women discarded by their homeland and forgotten by history- women who, by sheer force of will became the heart and soul of a new nation.

*Deborah J. Swiss*

Ludlow Tedder finally made her way to Sandhurst (Bendigo), along with her daughter Arabella. She has many descendants in Bendigo and is buried in the White Hills cemetery.

Fast forward to 2022, two young Australian women recently purchased the rights to develop this wonderful publication into a Mini-Series. We look forward to the fruition of this amazing production onto the Big Screen.

*By Annette Delaney (descendant of Ludlow Tedder)*

[cont from p 1]

On May 12<sup>th</sup> this year, Avril Mitchell, one of the members of Bendigo Family History Group died at the age of 96 years. Avril attended meetings fairly regularly until the end of 2019 with her daughter, Fiona Cannon.

Originally, Avril lived at Ferntree Gully and was a very active member of Family History Connections in Blackburn. She was a regular library assistant there and also belonged to the Outer Eastern Region group, which existed for a number of years. Avril also became the Regional Groups coordinator of what was then known as Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. In this role, she visited the Bendigo group at least once a year with her husband Gordon. She also attended the Silver Anniversary of Bendigo AIGS in May 2007 as the representative of AIGS. During these visits she often gave a talk to the group.

Avril was also a big supporter of the annual Alexander Henderson awards and later the Don Grant award as well, held by AIGS every year. She spent many hours organizing the event with all that this entailed, with the support from some of the many friends she made in AIGS. In between all this activity, she managed to research her own and Gordon's family in great detail and was very careful to ensure the facts were accurate. Not only did she research her own family, but at times she assisted others to unlock the many secrets in their family trees. She was also a big supporter of the genealogy group at Apple Users group and was coordinator of this group for a number of years. As you can see, genealogy was a passion for Avril.

In 2013, Avril was given life membership of AIGS in recognition of the support she provided for the organization.

Gordon died in 2013 and following this, Avril lived with her daughters, Janet and then Fiona and later at Freedom Bendigo. Avril and Gordon had 7 grandchildren, which Gordon referred to as his "7 Little Australians". The family has grown and now has 7 great grandchildren with a further 2 great grandchildren yet to be born. Avril is missed by all the family but she has left behind her legacy of family research, which gives all of us a greater understanding of the families we originated from.

Fiona Cannon

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#### **DID YOU KNOW.....**

Strathfieldsaye is named after the home of the Duke of Wellington, the famous leader of the British forces fighting Napoleon. The main street of our village of Strathfieldsaye is named Wellington Street and other streets have similar connections, eg; Wellesley, Blucher, Apsley, Duke lane, etc.

## **BENDIGO CEMETERY UP-DATE**

### ***AMAZING, STUPENDOUS,***

WE BOW IN THANKS to Ian Belmont for the work he has undertaken in updating the Bendigo Cemetery index, now published and for sale on USB . Some photos of gravesites have been re-placed where needed, but in addition he has researched wherever possible for obituaries and death notices and attached then to the photos. AMAZING, But not satisfied with this effort Ian has drawn up plans of each section and numbered and plotted every grave, Now researchers can obtain a printout of the section map with the grave marked.

Bendigo Cemetery Monumental Section photographs and plans.

USB, For Sale , \$30. contact [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)

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## **THE EADE FAMILY BOOK**

FREE

We have been given a book to pass on to any related family member of the EADE family.

It is a very substantial hard cover book of 470 pages published by Pat Eade in 2006.

“From Northern Star to Southern Cross; The Family Eade”.

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**Here is a goal for those members who like collecting names using their DNA.**

**It is mind boggling as to the number of ancestors we could have in common**

1	YOURSELF==Generation 1
2	YOUR parents===2
4	grandparents===3
8	g grandparents===4
16	gg grandparents===5
32	ggg grandparents===6
64	gggg grandparents===7
128	ggggg grandparents===8
256	gggggg grandparents===9
512	ggggggg grandparents===10
1,024	gggggggg grandparents===11
2,048	ggggggggg grandparents===12
4,096	gggggggggg grandparents===13
8,192	ggggggggggg grandparents===14
16,384	gggggggggggg grandparents===15
32,768	ggggggggggggg grandparents===16
65,536	gggggggggggggg grandparents===17
131,072	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===18
262,144	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===19
524,288	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===20
1,048,576	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===21
2,097,152	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===22
4,194,304	ggggggggggggggg grandparents===23

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8,388,608 people = 24 generations starting with yourself

## **Bendigo Family History DNA Special Interest Group**

A Group has been set up on Facebook for those interested in DNA in Family Tree research.

Led by Annette Delaney the group will meet in person on the third Tuesday of month at the Goldfields Library Bendigo, in meeting room on ground floor.

If you are interested in joining please contact Annette [bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au](mailto:bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au)  
A new series will start in 2023 for beginners.

This is an introduction to DNA and the methods used to determine relationships in families.

You will need to have access to a family tree on a laptop or tablet device to fully participate in the discussions. Free access to wi-fi in the Library is available at these sessions.

Meeting dates – subject to change. 20<sup>th</sup> September; 18<sup>th</sup> October; 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Time – 1pm to 3pm.

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## **Legacy Family Tree Webinars.**

Have you seen this series of talks from Legacy? They have a comprehensive list of talks and lessons available for the world audience. There is a list for 'downunder' as well with some very interesting topics and speakers.

Topic for 8<sup>th</sup> June was Government and Police Gazettes in Australia led by Helen Smith, from Queensland she is well known for writing books on Genealogical History and searching families.

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## **Research Notes**

**Todd / Neumann** research found the graves with our new research map and the lady was happy and is coming over to do research. On the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ethel Neumann K6 29040 about 5 Graves in from the front fence and about 18 graves in from the Houston St side at Bendigo Cemetery.

Todd was a great find with the obituary that has been connected to the burial record and Elizabeth and Nathan are in the Kangaroo Flat Cemetery. Satisfied customer. (Wendy )

First query was for explanation for Farmers Common, and we found notices in Government Gazettes. Then he sent query for the **Mannix** family on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022 saying the Vic BDM had 10years missing the dates his family were born.

I looked via digger, no the years were not missing so it was just the Mannix family did not register their Children.

Via other means I was able to find 7 Registered at St Kilian's Church Bendigo & 1 at Heathcote (Baptisms) and BDM had 2 that the church didn't have and 4 were born in Ireland I am still looking for 1 more. (Craig)

**Lynch** have done this research found Ann Lynch being born 25 July 1853 and Catherine Lynch being born 25 July 1853 they were twins and both died on 29/07/1853 and the Walsh family Michael Walsh and Judith Mulvehille had John Walsh 18 Dec 1853 Sandhurst, Margaret Walsh born 1865

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Inglewood, Mary Walsh 1861 Inglewood, James Walsh 1862 Inglewood this researcher is satisfied with this and hasn't asked for anymore. (Leslie)

### Cruth

John Cruth or John Moore Cruth to be or not to be I have searched these and do not believe they are the same person and have told Chris. Now he wants to look into the Samuel Hill that was out at the Campaspe river area not much luck there. This is a continuing one the researcher comes back from time to time. (Ongoing) (Chris)

Dowsey we had been working on this for a long time over Covid and Angela flew into Bendigo, did some research at library. I took her to see an old house in Booth st Golden Square and she went home very happy the day after. (Angela)

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## **Meetings of Bendigo Family History Group**

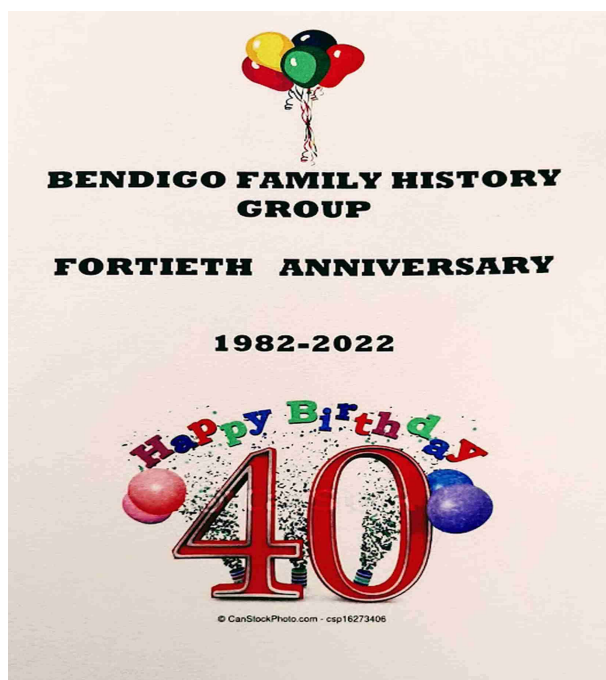
September 17<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Parks Central Victoria 'Role in the Community'

October 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop session – Help with research and Brick Walls

November 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

**Meetings** are held in Bendigo Regional Library Hargreaves St entrance, in Meeting room 1

and commence at 2pm. All are welcome to attend a gold coin donation is appreciated. Refreshments available.



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book launched at meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022, Author Rita Hull

Contains Introduction and History from 1992

Outlines – Meetings, production of local indexes, Expo's and open days.

Our Database held on computers in our Library with over one million entries.

Web site and local indexes to search.

Community Promotions, and participation in BRAC and Library activities and local indexing of Rates and Petitions.

Available for purchase in Library on duty days Wednesday and Saturday \$10