

# the Black Sheep

Combined Journal of the East Gippsland Family History Group Inc. and the East Gippsland Historical Society Inc. June 2013 : No. 82

- A stone house: not so good on a cold night!
- What's in a (street) name?
- Cremations at the Bairnsdale Cemetery
- Telephone Directory for Bairnsdale 1914



- Horse-racing in the Pioneering Days

## East Gippsland Family History Group Inc.

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### OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY 10am to 4pm

THURSDAY 10am to 4pm

(up to 7.00pm when volunteers available)

SATURDAY 10am to 4pm

(except 2nd Saturday of month 10am to 1pm)

Charges: Non members \$10 per day

RESEARCH FEE \$15 minimum fee

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining Fee \$5

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Extra Family Member (same address) \$15.00

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Subscriptions due on 1 July in each year

# Contents

June 2013



*bethink ....* 3

A stone house : not so good on a cold night 4

Neil Cox investigates the history of the Stone House at Calulu.

*What's in a (street) name* 8

Tony Meade has the bit between his teeth and explains his new project.

Family History Group News 9

Tony gives a summary of the recent events and happenings at the rooms.

Museum Matters 10

The latest happenings at the Museum from Ian Hollingsworth.

Telephone Directory for Bairnsdale, 1914 11

Extracted from *The Bairnsdale Advertiser*, 30 January 1914

Research Enquiries 12

Horse-racing in the Pioneering Days 13

Extracted from *The Gippsland Times*, 26 April 1934.

Accession Register 14

In Memorium 14

Mary Harper  
Grace Hollingsworth

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### OPENING HOURS

WEDNESDAY 1pm to 4pm

SATURDAY 1pm to 4pm

SUNDAY 1pm to 4pm

### MUSEUM ADMISSION CHARGES

Adults \$4: Children \$2

The museum houses furnishings, artefacts, machinery and memorabilia of local history, *Calejero* log cabin c1880 and Union Bank coach house.

RESEARCH FEE \$10

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Subscriptions due on 1 July in each year

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## Cover:

Frank Wordsworth leaning on the gate of the Stone House (see story page 4) with insert photograph taken by Shirley Ogden (Baggs) of the stone house c1958 and a modern look at the Stone House taken on 28 October 2012.

# bethink . . . . .

This issue of *the Black Sheep* has been sitting on the back burner for a couple of weeks while I got my **head back into “non holiday” mode**. Thankfully, once I focussed on what articles I had it fell together rather quickly and then Neil walked in with the Stone House article. An article, I might add, that has taken him a while to get together but supports the thought that there is a story in every property or as archaeologist Adam Ford says on the ABC you can always ask the question of *Who’s been sleeping in my house?*

So the Stone House article leads off this issue. We also found some interesting articles in old newspapers, courtesy of Trove, while we were trying to verify other information, so they have been included also. Three small articles that I did stumble over detailed two actual cremations taking place at the Bairnsdale Cemetery. I ran out of space elsewhere so decided to place them here within *bethink*.

In both the *Gippsland Times* 22 June 1931 and the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* Friday 19 June 1931 the following appeared:

## FIRST CREMATION

\_\_ 0:0 \_\_

At Bairnsdale Cemetery

The remains of the late Mr Gurdit Singh, an Indian hawker from Orbost who died in the Bairnsdale-District Hospital, were cremated at the Bairnsdale Cemetery on Tuesday last. This is the first cremation in the long history of the Bairnsdale Cemetery. A considerable quantity of legal formula had to be gone through before the cremation was permitted

to take place. A short preliminary service was conducted by a brother Indian, Mr Jack Nadhan Singh, and there were only a few **of the deceased’s countrymen in attendance**. All the arrangements were carried out by Mr G.H. Vickers, undertaker, Bairnsdale.

Then in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* Tuesday 16 June 1931 a short obituary appeared:

## OBITUARY

Mr Gurdit Singh. The death occurred in Bairnsdale District Hospital on Friday last, of Mr Gurdit Singh, an Indian hawker, lately residing at Orbost. He was 71 years of age.

which makes it 12 June that he actually died. A quick further search found a second cremation taking place four years later. In the *Gippsland Times* 3 Sept. 1935

Death of Aged Hindoo

-0-

Body cremated at Bairnsdale Cemetery.

Ram Singh, whose age was not definitely known, but believed to be about 80 years, died at the Bairnsdale District Hospital on Tuesday last. His body was cremated at the Bairnsdale cemetery on Wednesday. The arrangements were made by Messrs Holford and Craig.

This is the first suggestion of any such cremations taking place at Bairnsdale and has me wondering if others took place in other local cemeteries. The further digitisation of more local papers will hopefully help answer **this question .... and many others!**

During my time away I saw some amazing historic buildings and travelled through some incredible landscapes including the Sahara. Standing on the rooftop of the Duomo in Milan, Italy c1400, viewing *The Last Supper* painted by Leonardo c1500 and walking through souks and villages that have changed little in hundreds of years in Morocco I was beginning to **change my mind about “old”**. I was standing at a bookstall with a small French book in my hands published **c1690 and I realised ..... this book existed before Cook arrived in Australia!** So I have probably changed my perception of what is old in terms of material items (but **that didn’t stop me from giving the bookseller 20E for the book**).

So ..... what in your mind is “old” ..... pre 1900, pre Captain Cook or BC?

Debbie



(And yes Grace, I know you are watching and keeping an eye on the production of *Black Sheep* ...)

What lies behind us and what lies before us  
are tiny ,matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
1803 - 1882

# A stone house : not so good on a cold night!

BY NEIL COX

In November 2011 I received in the mail a note from my second cousin Don Wordsworth of Metung with a small snapshot photograph of a two storeyed stone house, and on the back of the photograph was the name and address of one of his **father's and my father's cousins**, Miss Myn Cox. Thinking I would know who that person was, Don decided I would be the best one to have the photo. On seeing the subject of the photo I thought it looked like the Stone House at Calulu, and showing it to others confirmed my supposition. I had a little of the history of the house recorded, but then decided that I would like to know more details! The following is the result.

The section of land upon which the Stone House stands, now comprising about twenty-three or so acres, is part of allotment eleven section B in the parish of Wuk Wuk at the corner of Boggy Creek and **O'Doherty's roads**. This was part of an area of nearly 637½ acres known as allotments ten and eleven in section B, selected by John Thomas Bull under sections 59 and 61 of the Land Act 1898 (file number 2027).

The provisions of these sections of that act allowed for licences (either residential or non-residential) to be issued for grazing allotments of third-class land to a maximum of 640 acres, and initially for up to six years. Provided that fencing and vermin destruction



*George Rawlings and his wife Alice with children Chris, Ivor, Godfrey, Ray and Alice, c1917.*

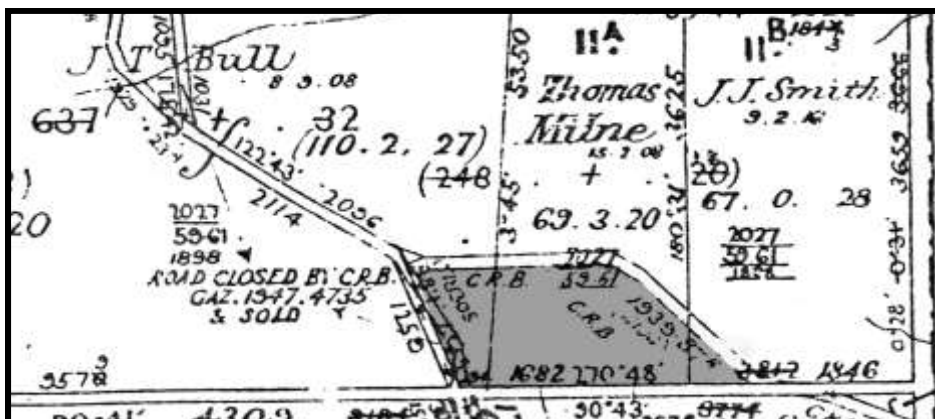
conditions were met, a lease could then be obtained at sixpence per acre per annum for fourteen years with the rents paid going towards the purchase price of ten shillings per acre.

J.T. Bull remained in the district and was able to freehold the balance of allotments ten and eleven on 8 September 1908. His children attended the Lower Boggy Creek State School No. 3453 after it finally opened in 1903, and two of his sons, James and John, served in the Great

War with John paying the supreme sacrifice. They are both **remembered on the school's honour board** with photographs, which now hangs in the Flaggy Creek hall.

At some point during the selection process two portions on the east side of allotment eleven were transferred to other selectors – 67 acres and 28 perches to James Joseph Smith and 69 acres 3 roods and 20 perches to Thomas Milne the maternal grandfather of the **Family History Group's librarian** Lorna Prendergast. Thomas Milne had sold nineteen acres of river flat land at Hillside to Charles J. Lory in 1905 and shifted to Calulu. It is **Thomas Milne's part of allotment eleven** which we are concerned with in relation to the Stone House, and he freeholded this on 15 February 1908.

By the time the Shire of Bairnsdale prepared its 1915/16 rate books, the end of the road now known as **O'Doherty's Road** had been altered to go around the head of a fairly deep gully and in the



*Part Parish of Wuk Wuk map showing the Stone House block and surrounding selections.*



*Top: Frank and Agnes Wordsworth in the garden at the Stone House c1930s. Middle: The Stone House in the 1930s. Bottom: Jack and Irene McKibbin in the Stone House garden c1950.*

process had cut Thomas Milne's block into two parts – the northern one being of fifty acres two roods and ten perches and the southern one of eighteen acres one rood and 34 perches, the road accounting for the remaining three-quarters of an acre or so. The larger section was rated to William Lockhart of Calulu, farmer, and Thomas Milne retained the eighteen plus acres as well as having selected allotment twelve of 36¾ acres behind the fifty acre section, and holding another twenty acres being part of allotment 32 at Calulu closer to the Mitchell River on which there was a dwelling where he lived.

Thomas Milne was rated for the eighteen acres until the 1920/21 rate year when the record was altered to the name of Patrick Smith of Calulu, farmer, and included the area taken up by the road. This situation continued for a couple of years so it is not known where Smith was living at the time, as he had married Rhoda Isabel Lancaster in 1915. They are both listed at Calulu in the 1924 electoral roll for the subdivision of Lucknow in Gippsland – Patrick Terrence Smith farmer and Rhoda Isabel Smith home duties – having previously been listed at Lake Tyers/Lakes Entrance. Perhaps there was a hut on the place which had escaped the notice of the shire. Patrick Smith in any case was rated for nineteen acres one rood and ten perches of land until the 1924/25 year when the **entry changed to “House and Land, Wuk Wuk, part 11 Section B, 18 acres 1 rood 34 perches, net annual value £10.”** Information passed down in my family always said the Stone House was built by George Rawlings (Lorna **Prendergast's paternal** grandfather) for Pat Smith, and it appears that it was there by at least 1924. It is believed that George Rawlings was assisted in the construction by a Mr. Smith – possibly the J.J. Smith of the adjoining selection. The house consisted of two rooms down (kitchen and living) and two



*Wordsworth family group at the Stone House 1933. Standing at the back are Ejler Busch and Frank Wordsworth. The children are Dorothy, Lex and Merv Busch with their uncles Lyle and Austin Wordsworth kneeling in the front.*

bedrooms upstairs built in stone (as the name suggests) which was quarried from a nearby property further along the Boggy Creek road. There was also a cellar and an additional section in timber at the back (east side) containing another bedroom and laundry etc. when the McKibbin family lived there. The staircase to the upper rooms was outside at the rear of the building – not so good on a cold night!

By 1931 Patrick and Rhoda Smith were living at Boronia. No death record could be identified for

Patrick in Victoria, and it seems he went to live with a brother in Sydney and died there. Rhoda was a close friend of George Rawlings' wife Alice, and when Alice died in 1925 Rhoda went to look after the younger Rawlings children. Later when George Rawlings went to Melbourne to live, Rhoda housekept for him and his daughter Alice. She died in 1971 at Fitzroy aged 76 years. In 1942 she was living at the same address (Daffodil Road, Boronia) as Clement Henry Smith and Alice Maud Smith (not related). This couple married in 1935, Alice

being the daughter of George Rawlings, the stonemason builder of the Stone House. Clement Henry Smith was also from the Bairnsdale district having been born there in 1910 to John Smith and Mary Ann Jeffreys Smith nee Watts, she having been born at Wuk Wuk on 15 August 1873.

During the 1931/32 rate year the entry for the property was altered to record the name of C.F. Wordsworth (Charles Francis (Frank) Wordsworth, my grandmother's eldest brother and Don Wordsworth's grandfather) as the occupier, and he and his family lived in it until 1936 when he moved into Bairnsdale. It would have been during this time that the little snapshot of the house was taken. Other tenants followed in the house, being Jock Campbell McInnes, labourer, (who had married Elma Grace Cox in 1931), from 1936 until the 1937/38 year, then John Chester, labourer, from 1938/39 to 1941/42.

It then appears that some time in 1942 the property was sold, as a letter dated 5 January 1943 to my grandfather Ernest (Joe) Cox from his brother Ned at Harcourt North includes a postscript which reads "No doubt Hootins payed a high price for Smiths place. Whatever are they going to do with it?" This refers to Mr. Brian W. and Mrs. Nellie Ruth Hooton, both English born, who had previously lived at Garfield, and Brian Hooton had an uncle James Hooton living at Harcourt in the 1930s and early 1940s. Mrs. Hooton did not live long after moving to the Stone House, dying in June 1943 aged 48 years. Brian Hooton was still listed in the electoral roll for 1949 at the Stone House, however he lived in the old house off Lory's Lane at Hillside (now Thatcher's Road), and died at Sunbury in late 1949 aged 55 years. In 1942/43 the area of land with the house was reduced in the shire records to 17 acres and 22 perches.

By the 1944/45 year the Stone House property was rated in the name of Miss Gertrude McKibbin as owner, and she lived there with her brother Jack, his



*The stone house standing proud in the oat paddock, photographed by Ruth Cox c1966.*

wife Irene nee Cox, and their son Doug, who was a teacher at the Melwood and Hillside State Schools in this period. Jack McKibbin grew passionfruit on the property and maintained a very good garden and orchard. About 1946 Miss McKibbin acquired title to an additional four acres three roods and 14.6 perches between the house and Boggy Creek Road to bring the total land area to just under 23 acres. The additional area was timbered and the driveway to the house was through this bush section. It was not cleared until sometime in the 1960s, possibly by George Lockhart about 1965. Miss McKibbin died on 22 June 1957, and the property was subsequently sold to Antonio Leggieri, who owned other farm land across the road. He was listed as occupier part way through the 1956/57 rate year until the 1958/59 year with John A McKibbin as owner, then as owner until the 1960/61 year. During part of this time Graeme Greaves lived in the house and did some casual work on the Leggieri farm.

The next owner was George Lockhart, youngest son of William and Emily nee Cox, and his wife Eunice who lived in East Bairnsdale, and the rate record was altered to show this change

during the 1960/61 year. George also had the other fifty acre section freeholded by Thomas Milne in 1908. The house was again let out to tenants and Albert M. Pate and his wife Silvia nee Tice were there until about 1963, followed by Harry Ivill and his wife and family, who were there at the time of the bushfires in March 1965.

George Lockhart sold the whole of his holding to Mrs Merle B. Johns, wife of H. Courtney Johns of 55 Anderson Street, Bairnsdale, and later of Metung, and about the end of 1971 the 23 or so acres with the Stone House were sold to Bernie and Beverlene Gardam who had moved into it by February 1972 when their children were enrolled at the Melwood State School. The Gardams added a large two storeyed wing on the south end of the house in cement sheet cladding and raised the roof of the original stone section to match the height of the new. Ivor Rawlings, son of George, built a stone fireplace in this new wing in 1973 with assistance from his son John. The cellar was filled in about this time.

Shortly afterwards the property was again sold – to Michael Clark, a real estate salesman in Bairnsdale. He did not stay there very long, selling in

1975 to Dr Geoffrey Brown and his wife Patricia who moved into the house in September of that year. Over the years of their ownership the Browns have added to the garden, the house and its outbuildings, including a swimming pool, tennis court, two stone outbuildings (garages etc.). They further extended the house in 1989/90 by another 22 squares on the eastern and northern sides in cement bricks with feature walls, fireplaces and verandah posts of stone from the original quarry site. They also changed the main entrance to the eastern side of the building, with the driveway coming in from O'Doherty's Road rather than Boggy Creek Road as originally. These extensions were done by Bill Gray and his son-in-law Douglas Rawlings (a great grandson of George) and thus four generations of the Rawlings family have worked on the house. It is now a gracious homestead in lovely grounds, with glimpses of the **original stone "cottage" from the western side and through the front entry.**

#### References:

Parish Plan parish of Wuk Wuk – various editions

Shire of Bairnsdale East Riding rate books (microfiche 1915/16 to 1926/27 at East Gippsland Family History Group rooms, Bairnsdale; originals 1927/28 to 1962/63 in VPRS 16234 at Public Record Office of Victoria)

Information supplied by Lorna Prendergast and Thelma Rawlings Victorian and New South Wales birth marriage and death indexes

Victorian Electoral Rolls on Ancestry.com

Letter 5 January 1943 from Edward Maskell Cox to his brother Ernest Cox

Telephone conversation of author with Harry Ivill

Telephone conversation of author with Maria Vanzin nee Leggieri State School 4528 Melwood pupil register (copy held by author)

Conversations of author with present owners

Family recollections recorded by the author

## What's in a (street) name?

President Tony Meade has got the bit between his teeth and together with the assistance of a few members, is compiling a list of street names in Bairnsdale together with the history and reason for the name.

Did you know that there are eighteen types of Street descriptors in Bairnsdale?

These are: Avenue, Boulevard, Circle, Close, Court, Crescent, Drive, Grange, Green, Highway, Mews, Parade, Place, Road, Street, Terrace, View and Way.

There are 318 named streets in the Town area and close environs, so far!

There are eight suburbs or locations. These are: Bairnsdale, West Bairnsdale, East Bairnsdale, Lucknow, Eastwood, Wy Yung Shannon Waters and Broadlands. There was an earlier area called Mitchell Town which comprised of the streets south of Main Street that was surveyed for Archibald Macleod by Pettit. This land was sold at the same time as the blocks in the Government town also surveyed by Pettit in c1860. Over time it has become part of the main section of town.

The streets of Bairnsdale are named after animals, birds, people, places, description of the street, location or destination of the street and plants. The first Government survey streets were named after politicians of the time and Mitchell Town streets were named after family and friends of Macleod.

The Shire Council has to accept the proposed names before they are adopted. Many names for new streets are selected by the property developer.

Of the names based on people there are both Christian and Surnames used, some are of early pioneers and others politicians, local luminaries and relatives or friends of property developers. The reasons are many and varied

East Gippsland Shire would like to know of any names we believe are deserving of recognition via a Street name.

We have attempted this project a few times before however this time we have a good database with around two hundred names defined and another hundred or so to sort. Most of the unknown street name origins are more recent ones where the developer has named the street for any one of a number of reasons.

It is hoped that later in the year we will be in a position to produce a book and/or CD that members and the public will be able to purchase as a fund raiser for our group.

In my research I have noted two names being Patrick Piggott of Bairnsdale and George Brooks of Buchan who lost their lives while rescuing people and stock in the flood of 1892. A marble plaque **was installed in the Mechanic's Institute Hall (Library)** to remember them at the time. It is hoped that with the new

development of the site the tablet has been incorporated into the design.

If any of our readers have personal knowledge as to the origins of any street names, particularly those formed in the period from 1900 to the present, Tony would be glad to hear from them. A few of the streets that have him stumped at the moment are

Albert  
Anderson  
Charles  
Combay  
Dickeson  
Enid  
Georgia  
Gordon  
Grosvenor  
Humphrey  
Lawless  
Macrae  
McAuleys  
McKenzie  
Vivian  
Walker  
Wallace  
Warde

You can leave a message for Tony at [ameade@bigpond.com](mailto:ameade@bigpond.com) or on 5152 1111.



*The Princes Highway (Main Street) at the Hospital Hill before duplication and development. EGHS collection.*



# Family History Group News

Compiled by TONY MEADE

Currently the EGFHG is working on a number of projects to provide information and services to its members.

Many will have noticed that over the last six months there has been a great amount of change and additions in our research rooms in Morgan Street. With the tireless work of a few members we have been upgrading and adding to our computer system. We now have a very impressive bank of four new PCs which are all networked and able to access all of our databases simultaneously. We have also installed a server system which automatically backs up all our data (in the case of equipment failure) and also regularly backups the entire system with the data being held offsite for security. At the same time as this took place we have re-arranged the furniture to provide the members with a better research environment. Some of the fiche readers have been retired to make way for the PCs however there are still more than enough for the research demands. The film readers and the digital reader/printer have also been relocated and hopefully this will make using them easier and increase their use also. Over the last few months usage has been on the increase and we have often had more than four computers being used at the one time by researchers. We hope to increase the number of work stations proportionately to the demand as this happens.

Members will be pleased to learn that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from The Public Record Office Victoria of \$7800 to complete our project of digitizing the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* from 1932 to 1972. This is we believe the extent of microfilm that exist for this publication at the moment. We have also applied for a grant to digitize *Every Week*, another local paper that finished in May 1946. We will not hear how

successful this application has been for a few months.

Family History Month is being held in August and a number of activities are planned for our region where members will be able to participate. EGFHG is running two open days on the first weekend of August to showcase our facilities to the public and also to provide assistance to those currently researching their families. So mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August off in your diary – if you **are not confident in “teaching” come along and “learn” about** some of our more obscure resources. The committee is also currently investigating the possibility of running a series of workshops that will initially cover the basics of sound research and then look at techniques and procedures in more detail, looking at specifics, problem solving **participants’ particular problems** (hopefully!) and placing the family history into context with general Gippsland, Victorian and Australian history. When more information is available about the proposal we will circulate it to members, however, if you are interested in attending these workshops please let Tony Meade **know so we gauge if it is a “goer”**.

Several years ago we started a project to photograph all the headstones in the Bairnsdale Cemetery. This project started with much enthusiasm then Winter set in, and it was wet and cold up at the cemetery so we stopped just until it warmed up **again ..... by then we had other things on the go** and this project ground to a halt. It has been mooted that once the sunshine returns we get this project completed so if you are interested in helping there are guidelines to familiarise yourself with and please before taking any **photographs for the project ...** leave a note in the *black sheep* box at the EGFHG rooms so we can

**assign a section to you that hasn’t** already been done and give you a copy of the guidelines.

Members will no doubt have heard that one of our past Secretaries and a hard worker for the group, Peter Robinson, has decided to hang up his **Committee man’s hat and enjoy retirement**. I would like to thank Peter for all of his work over the years and I hope that we will still see him and Colleen at our Saturday meetings and generally about the place in research activities. Our recent grant from PROV and many others were a direct result of **Peter’s skills in this field so it will** be up to us to emulate his success in the future.

Thanks to Martin Hopkins we are currently trialling our new website at [www.egfhg.org.au](http://www.egfhg.org.au), everyone is encouraged to check it out and make any constructive suggestions.

## Annual General Meetings

**East Gippsland  
Family History Group  
Saturday 10 August 2013  
at 2.00 pm**

**East Gippsland  
Historical Society  
Saturday 27 July 2013  
at 2.00 pm**

*The business of both societies  
is run by small, but dedicated  
committees.*

*Please consider assisting ...  
help is always needed and  
you don’t get thrown in the  
deep end in the first year !*

# Museum Matters

Compiled by IAN HOLLINGSWORTH

It may be cold and wet outside but there are still plenty of things happening (or being planned to happen) at the museum.

A Christmas in July Winter gathering will be held for members of the Historical Society at Delvine Hall on June 30 at 1pm. (Yes, that is June and not July!). The last couple of years we have had these get-together and they have proven very popular with members being able to catch up with each other and society happenings. Bring along a savoury or sweet dish to share, and come and enjoy some good company. Please remember that there are no heating facilities in Delvine so hot foods need to be hot when they arrive. *(It would also be a good idea to let Ian know – 5152 6363 - if you are coming and what you are bringing so we don't all end up eating pavlova for mains – ed.)*

The red phone box that has been missing from the yard is away being rejuvenated courtesy of the Mens Shed fellows and should be back with us soon. The old red phone box is one of the favourite points of interest for children who come to the museum.

Our heritage rose garden will be having a makeover soon with new plants to fill the holes due to some of the roses reverting to their root stock. Orders have been sent to a heritage rose grower for replacements and these should be here shortly. This will all take place before we hold a ceremony in the coming months to name the garden.

Members are reminded that the Museum will be closed to visitors from 15 July—12 August for annual maintenance work – if you are inclined to come and keep warm by helping you would be most welcome. *(Let Ian know on the museum phone number if you have time to help).*

The cataloguing of the Creative Photo negative collection and photograph collection in

general continues and is proceeding well. The selection of images for the 2014 calendar is well under way.

We are in the process of updating our old computer system to a network server similar to what the Family History group has established which will enable automatic backing up of our system.

Much of our work is associated with organizing our own exhibitions or finding information and material for other organisations and businesses. The Howitt exhibition, which proved to be most popular with the ancillary events that were planned around it, will close on 14 July 2013. So if **you haven't seen it yet time is running out** to do so. Due to public interest in Howitt a book is in the process of being compiled by the Historical Society for publication later in the year. Vic Roads, 100 years of connecting Gippsland will open on 24 August and run until 6 October. If you have any memorabilia, photos, stories or items that would be of interest to the exhibition – we would be

interested in borrowing it for the duration. *(Again .... contact Ian if you think you can help).*

In 2014, the society celebrates 50 years since its inaugural meeting and plans are underway for a suitable way for us to mark the occasion. Any suggestions or thoughts on the matter would be most welcome. Seeing as so much of what we do is with the past perhaps we should break the mould and have a dinner when we eat or dress futuristically! The Red Cross Centenary is also scheduled for next year – a date is yet to be set for this exhibition.

Bairnsdale Primary School 754 celebrates its sesquicentenary in August and an exhibition is planned to run in conjunction with the celebrations. Time to dig out any old school books, readers, uniforms, school bags, lunch boxes, (you know the sort of thing) that could possibly be lent when needed. It has also received grant money for publication of a book and is seeking anecdotal stories, photographs and such for this. Please contact Debra Herbertson at the school if you can help.



*The school garden at 754 c1920s. EGHS collection.*

# Telephone Directory for Bairnsdale, 1914

The digitisation of Australia's newspapers on the Trove website has proven to be a massive resource for historians. Recently found in *Bairnsdale Advertiser* 30 January 1914, p.4 - the phone directory for the town.

15. "Advertiser" office.  
 91. Albion Hotel (J. Holly).  
 25. Alsop, Dr. Riverine street.  
 105. **Alexander, W. M<sup>K</sup>**.
- B**
114. B.R.C. Hotel.  
 20. **Bairnsdale Farmers' Co.**  
 33. Bairnsdale Club, Main street.  
 59. Bairnsdale District Hospital.  
 12. Bairnsdale Waterworks.  
 101. Baker J. carrier.  
 79. Balmer, C.  
 71. Bank of Victoria, Main street.  
 76. Bank of Australasia.  
 38. Beckley, J. Main street.  
 97. A. C. Brabet  
 53. Bull, G. and H, engineers,  
 Nicholson street
- C**
1. Bush, S. A., Main street.  
 120. Bull, Miss Alice, trained nurse.  
 35. Candy, Geo. Main street.  
 78. Clerk of Courts, courthouse.  
 16. Club Hotel. Main street.  
 4. Cole and Co., Main street.  
 103. Cole, E., private residence.  
 73. Colonial Bank, Main street.  
 31. Commercial Hotel, Main st.  
 88. Convent, Riverine street.  
 3. Cook, J., Main street.  
 67. Cooper, J. H., Main street.  
 31. Commercial Hotel.  
 111. Corr B., Nicholson street.  
 50. Counihan J. Day street.  
 121. Crown Hotel, Wy Yung.
- D**
5. Dahlsen and Co., Nicholson st.  
 75. Dooley and Birrell, Wood st.  
 107. Dooley, N., private residence.  
 6. Drevermann and Co.,  
 McMillan st.  
 46. Duncan, J., Main street.  
 94. Dwyer, J., Nicholson street.
- F**
98. Fire Station.  
 28. Foard and Co., Nicholson st
- G**
39. Gas Works.  
 2. Gippsland Steamers, Ppy. Ltd.  
 36. Glassford, Dr., Nicholson st.  
 109. Goodman, C. J., wharf nursery.  
 60. Goodman, C. J., Picnic Point.  
 24. Goodman, W., Main street.  
 47. Goold, F. M., private res.  
 7. Goold and Co., Bailey st.  
 108. Grey C. J. Riverine street.  
 54. Greene, C. C., Bailey street.  
 56. Greene, C. C., private res.  
 62. Greenwood, T. W. Bairnsdale E.  
 87. **Grogan's Main Hotel, Main st.**
- H**
40. **Harris's Terminus Hotel.**  
 30. **Hambrook's Orient Hotel**  
 80. Hayward, C. and J., Main st.  
 89. Henderson, J. A., Lucknow.  
 29. Holt, A. G. shire office.  
 100. Holmes C. G., Bairnsdale.  
 59. Hospital, Bairnsdale District.  
 41. Hospital, private.  
 99. Howitt, A. G., Lucknow.  
 43. Humphreys, C. J.
- I**
77. Irvine, W. B., McMillian st.
- J**
113. Jackson, Mrs., sen., Calvert st.  
 32. Jackson, J. tannery.
- K**
115. Kyle, F. J., Main street.  
 117. Kennard, F. J., Pyke street.
- L**
8. Lloyd and Co., Main street.  
 122. Lloyd F., Murphy street.
- M**
10. Macarthur and Co., McMillan st.  
 53. Macarthur, A.N. private res.  
 87. Main Hotel (J. J. Grogan).  
 102. Marriott, Old Charlie.  
 19. Martin, W. H., private res.  
 68. Marriott, J., Main street.  
 58. Mason and Carter, Main st.  
 58. Mason, W., Park street.  
 23. Mathieson, T., Service St.  
 84. Mathieson J. private res.  
 95. Medling and Hackett.  
 13. Mosley, J. R., Main street.  
 13. Mosley, J.R. private residence.  
 64. Morgan, W. H., Main street.  
 69. Murphy, J., Main street.  
 105. **Motor Launch "Thistle."**  
 110. Mooney, J. Main street.  
 52. McBriar, W. R., Main street.  
 37. McLean and Co., Macleod st.  
 124. McLean Keith, Nicholson st.
- N**
45. National Bank, Main street  
 14. Newcomen, W., Victoria Hotel.  
 61. Newton, C. E., Main st., and res.  
 16. Norton, Club Hotel, Main st.  
 112. Northey, W. K., Main street.
- O**
90. Oliver, W., Nicholson street.  
 42. **O'Byrne Bros., Main street.**  
 81. **O'Byrne T. Francis street.**  
 11. **O'Connor, J. T. Main street.**  
 65. **O'Connor, J. T., private res.**
30. Orient Hotel, Main street.  
 114. **O'Loughlin, B.R.C. Hotel.**
- P**
9. Permewan, Wright and Co.  
 72. Phillips and Stone, Riverine st.  
 83. Plumridge, C. A.  
 44. Police Station.  
 85. Postmaster, Bairnsdale.  
 106. Presbytery.  
 41. Private Hospital.
- R**
17. Railway Station.  
 22. **Rigby's.**  
 57. Robertson, Dr., Nicholson st.  
 106. Roman Catholic Presbytery.  
 118. Russo Bros., Main street.
- S**
82. Saunders, A., Main street.  
 49. Salter and Son, Bailey street.  
 49. Salter H. L., Riverine street.  
 123. School of Mines  
 51. Shannon Bros, Main street.  
 27. Sharrow W., Bailey street.  
 27. Sharrow, W., private res.  
 29. Shire office.  
 121. Sims J. Crown Hotel, Wy Yung.  
 26. Smith, J. K., Nicholson street.
- T**
92. Tallnash, G. W. Nicholson st.  
 93. Taylor, E. and D., Lucknow.  
 40. Terminus Hotel.  
 104. Ternes, J. Main street  
 119. Tinsley H., Nicholson street.  
 63. Tinsley H. G. Main street,  
 48. Tipping, J., Main. street.
- V**
18. Vickers, G. H., Main. street.  
 14. Victoria Hotel, Main street.  
 86. Vivian Bros., Main street.  
 55. Vogt, K., Bailey street.
- W**
74. Wade, C. E. Main street.  
 12. Waterworks.  
 41. Williams and Bicknell, Misses,  
 private hospital.  
 21. Williams and Currey, Main st.  
 78. Williams, D. R., courthouse.  
 116. Wood, A. H., Pearson street.  
 66. Webster, J. A., private res.  
 34. Winson, W. S., foundry and  
 private residence, Bairnsdale.

# Research Enquiries

Enquiries continue to pour in faster than our volunteers can handle them. Do you know anything about **the following .... if so, please** contact the group or enquirer direct.

---

EGFHG 538 M(a)CKAY  
Murdoch McKay was a miner at Deptford and was buried at Bairnsdale in 1906.  
Maggie Speak  
*maggiespeak@bigpond.com*

EGFHG 539 HOFFMAN  
WISHART  
John Blythe Wishart married Amelia Hoffman in 1892. Family is being researched by:  
Donna Taylor  
163 Lindeman Road  
Beerwah 4519  
*d\_k\_taylor1@hotmail.com.au*

EGFHG 540 HEALY  
DIREEN  
Nicholas Healy married Mary Direen. Mary died September 1916, late of Fernbank, railway station mistress and is buried in Bairnsdale.  
Margaret Masson  
19 Wall Street  
Noble Park 3174  
*margaretmasson@optusnet.com.au*

EGFHG 541 CALVERT  
WHITE  
William Hewitson Calvert married Fanny White in 1872. Details of their life and times in Victoria before they moved to NSW are being sought.  
Jenny Richards  
24 Dawson Crescent  
Gloucester 2422  
*ggmonde@yahoo.com*

EGFHG 542 BERAND  
BEAREREAEND  
Bertha (otherwise known as Albertina) daughter of Henry Charles and Anne Berand was born at Beechworth in 1862. She was supposedly adopted out and ended up with the Higgins family of Bairnsdale where she married the son John.  
Ray Scott  
*rsc95096@bigpond.net.au*

EGFHG 543 WILSON  
BATTEN  
ROTHE  
ROSS  
HOWARD  
HUNTER  
HARRISON  
JOSS  
George Francis Leslie Wilson son of John and Emma *nee* Batten, born c1897. Grandparents were Henry Wilson and Johanna McLarty. **George's daughter**, Lesley, was adopted by William Leslie Ross and Maggie *nee* Hunter.  
Leslie Barker  
291 Tamboon Road  
Cann River 3890

EGFHG 545 MACAULEY  
RYAN  
John Macauley married Mary Ann Ryan and arrived at Tarraville in 1857. Mary Ann died Bairnsdale 1895.  
Helen Dinan  
171 Brandon Park Drive  
Whealers Hill 3150  
*dinans2@bigpond.com*

EGFHG 549 WORGAN  
TODD  
GARLAND  
John Todd married Rose Worgan in 1887. Rose was the daughter of John Holder Worgan and Harriet *nee* Eaton. Others families connected are Maggs and White.  
Natasha Wicks  
90 Maxwell Road  
Fingal 3939  
*andrew.tash3@bigpond.com*

EGFHG 551 WESCOMBE  
Clifton Raymond Wescombe was born 1927, Burnie, Tasmania and died in 1998 at Bairnsdale. His nephew is seeking information.  
Noel Price  
424 Kingston Road  
Kingston 3364  
*noel.price1@bigpond.com*

EGFHG 557 HUNNIFORD  
HARVEY  
James Hunniford married Catherine Sarsfield Harvey and selected land at Wy Yung. James died 1879.  
Carol Yates  
PO Box 1  
Parramatta 2124  
*olympicguru@gmail.com*

EGFHG 559 PROSSER  
David Prosser married Martha Ellen Bozie and lived in the Sale, Bairnsdale and Paynesville areas between 1865 and 1913.  
Geoff Duggan  
27 Orchard Grove  
Blackburn South 3130

EGFHG 561 ANDERSON  
Edwin Anderson is supposed to have been a soldier settler at Bumberrah after World War I.  
Jillian Hiscock  
26/20 Packington Street  
Kew 3101  
*J.Hiscock@transport.vic.gov.au*

EGFHG 562 SMITH  
William John Smith married Charlotte Louisa Fletcher and settled at Sarsfield.  
Elaine Skehan  
17A Glencoe Road  
Longford 3851

EGFHG 565 LAVELL  
KENELEY  
James Lavell married Louise Lillian Keneley and lived in Bairnsdale late 1800s early 1900s.  
Geoff Kohlman  
641 Point Nepean Road  
McCrae 3938  
*kohlmans@bigpond.com*

# Horse-racing in the Pioneering Days

from *The Gippsland Times*, 26 April 1934, page 3

## Veterans Recall Thrilling Incidents When Bairnsdale Had Three-Mile Steeplechase

Two of the oldest living horsemen of Gippsland, Mr John Cowell and Mr Walter Ives, of Lindenow South, still possess remarkable agility for their years and retain vivid recollection of their adventurous careers. Only expert bushmen and skilful riders could have survived the hazardous enterprises in which these men in the heyday of their youth undertook. They knew no fear. Roving the mountains on high-spirited horses to muster cattle; driving bullock teams drawing great loads of machinery to the mines at Crooked River before road-making was begun; or in the racing fields of the early days, when only great riders and great horses could survive some of the terrific ordeals, these men's lives were packed with incident and adventure of a kind which now can only be found in a lesser degree in the outback of the Australian bush.

### RACING ON McLAUGHLIN'S FLAT

Bairnsdale's racecourse in the early days was on McLaughlin's Flat, by which the area between the Backwater and the Mitchell River was known. John Cowell and Walter Ives were amongst the notable horsemen who foregathered at these meetings. One of the outstanding events was a three-mile steeplechase, over 19 three-rail fences. Walter Ives was a prominent rider in the steeple-chase, and also rode at Sale, Rosedale, Melbourne and Ballarat. Both men recalled a famous steeplechase in which Magpie and Viking both fell at the last double fence. The horses were mounted by other riders, who cleared the fence, and Viking won the race. Mr Cowell won one of the biggest steeplechases with a horse called Ferryman, ridden by G. Hoskin, who is now in West Australia. Ferryman (Masenella-Junita) was bred by the late Wm Calvert. On Waterloo, a great hurdler, Walter Ives won five hurdle races. He also won the first race for two-year olds in Gippsland on The Rake, owned by the late Mr Alec Smith. **Mr John Cowell's son, William, was one of Victoria's leading jockeys and made a great name for himself on the turf in India, where he died at Bombay on September 15, 1903. In recording the death of this young rider, in the midst of his successful career, one of India's prominent journalists wrote: - "William**

*Cowell, one of the foremost jockeys of the Indian turf, died at Watson's Hotel, Bombay. Although there was little hope of recovery the end came with tragic suddenness. It is an indescribably sad piece of news and I for one can scarcely realise that Cowell, apparently in the pink of health as a jockey and not long ago so full of strength and vigor, has gone for ever. A jockey's life is a hard and strenuous one, full of pit falls, and by no means so luminous as many people imagine. Cowell had his ups and downs, his brilliant hours and perhaps his depressing days. His whole career on the Indian turf was meteoric. His first notable patron was Mr Apar, senior steward of the C.T.C., for whom he won the Cooch Behar Cup on Stand Off. It was in these days that his only child received the name of Reginald Apar Cowell, and it was a bad day for the father when death took the promising child. I don't think that Cowell was ever the same man again, and one noticed a change in him on his return from his Australia. Afterwards he won the Cup in Bombay on Loch Clivedon; indeed it was largely due to Cowell that the Kour Sahel bought the mare outright from Mr F. Reynolds. Then again, last year, he was riding for Agar S. Shab's stable, and at the meeting in February he showed very fine horseman ship when he won on Ayrdale, after a dead heat with Trenton; on Ptarmigan in an Arab pony race, and on Chillagoe when that horse won the Grand Western Handicap, the principal event of the meeting. He was a born horseman, a wonderful judge of pace, and knew exactly the right moment when to force his mount to the front. In all his races it was never his rule to lay far out of his ground, but always to be handy, and by so doing the opportunity for an opening never escaped him. He was severe on a horse in a finish and at his best was unequalled on the Indian turf. His end was quite a tragedy, and the pathos of it will make all who knew him remember him for his better self and best deeds."*

Before going to India William Cowell rode in many Gippsland races. Two races he won that were recalled by his father were the Sires and Produce Stakes at Omeo on Zalea, owned by Mr and Mrs Harry Wood, of Lindenow; and won a big handicap at Bairnsdale on Pioneer for the Robinsons of the Snowy River.

### TREKKING TO THE MINES IN THE "ROARING" DAYS

Messrs Cowell and Ives were associated in their young days in the hazardous task of carting machinery to the mines by

bullock waggon. In 1865 they took machinery to the Crooked River for the Good Hope mine, which worked for 30 years. A boiler weighing three tons made one journey a daily task that called for constant skill and resourcefulness. Although trees were cut down and used as brakes to steady the waggon going down the mountain sides, three or four bullocks were killed. **A day's journey averaged about ten miles.** These were the days when Hoggtown, Bull Town, Good Luck Creek and Jungle Creek lured hundreds of miners to seek their fortune. They also made trips to Grant - **a "city" that grew overnight in the wilds** beyond Dargo, and almost as suddenly was erased again. At one stage Grant had a population of from 15,000 to 20,000 people. There were 15 hotels, half a dozen banks, and in its brief hour of splendor Grant held in its spell one of the most cosmopolitan populations that ever flocked to a new field in Australia. Mr Cowell mentioned that one of the best known hotelkeepers was Tom Currant, a boxer of some reputation, whose hotel was at the junction of two streets. **One of Bairnsdale's first** medicos Dr Ray - went to Grant, and died whilst carrying on his practice **there. In 1901 Grant's population had** fallen to 20 residents, and subsequently the bush claimed all that was once a potential city.

### BAIRNSDALE WAS COVERED WITH WATTLE SCRUB

Mr Cowell stated that when he first saw Bairnsdale it was covered with **wattle scrub, from McGhee's Gully** down to the Mitchell River.

### MUSTERING CATTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Cattle mustering was a job for expert bushmen and skilful horsemen, and possessing these qualities in a rare degree these two hardy Australians had some particularly thrilling adventures. There were two great bullocks that defied stockmen for nine years, that were finally driven to a standstill by Walter Ives. They brought £6 each. Wild dogs were numerous in the mountains and frequently attacked the cattle dogs during the night. Engaged in cattle buying, Mr Cowell had frequent trips from Lindenow via Marthavale, Mount Baldhead to Omeo and the Bogongs. When on one of these journeys he related seeing a fight between a cattleman and an American, who were settling a grievance. It was not refereed, and perhaps it was no place for a third party, for the Yank emerged from the fray minus one of his ears, after the men had fought to a standstill. - "Advertiser."

# Accession Register

The library continues to expand and grow with more group purchases and donations, many donations. Thank you. Here is a taste of some of the latest acquisitions....

*Data Disc (CD and DVD)*  
*Omeo Shire Cemeteries*  
*South Australian Birth Registrations 1842 - 1906*  
*Campbelltown Pictorial Cemetery Register*  
*Omeo Pioneer Cemetery 1857 - 2001*  
*West Australian Pioneer Index 1841 - 1905*  
*Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions*  
*Glenmaggie Cemetery*  
*Wodonga Cemetery Monumental Inscription (up to 2007)*  
*Victorian Mining Accident Index*  
*Argus Newspaper Index Victoria*  
*Miriam Vale Cemeteries 1904 - 2002*  
*Welshpool Cemetery 1899 - 2004*  
*Cann River and Marlo Cemetery 1878 - 2004*  
*Northcote Cemetery 1855 - 2003*  
*Briagolong Cemetery*  
*Tasmania Pioneer Index 1803 - 1899*  
*Delegate Cemetery*  
*Maitland City Council Cemetery Register*  
*Moyston Cemetery 1863 - 2003*  
*Bruthen Cemetery 1883 - 2011*  
*Tallangatta Cemetery and History*  
*Bounty Immigration NSW 1828 - 1842*  
*Cheltenham Cemetery Headstones 1933 - 2000*  
*Bound for South Australia : Births, and Deaths on Immigrant Ships*  
*Lakes Entrance Cemetery 1878 - 2004*  
*Gippsland Cemeteries I : Rosedale Gormondale Stratford 1861 - 2001*  
*Bumberrah Cemetery 1882 - 2002*  
*Ultima and Waitchie Cemeteries 1864 - 2002*  
*Adaminaby Cemeteries 1864 - 2002*  
*Nimmitabel New and Pioneer Cemetery 1842 - 2005*  
*Taradale Cemetery 1858 - 2003*  
*N.S.W. Between the Wars 1919 - 1945*  
*Services to Heirs in Scotland 1700 - 1859*  
*Retours of Services to Heirs 1544 - 1699*  
*Cemetery Lists by Surname and Cemetery*  
*Chronology and Bairnsdale History*  
***Victoria's Early Church Records***

## *Publications*

*Like it or Lump it*  
*Voice of the Mountains No. 32 (2009); No. 33 (2010); No. 35 (2012)*  
*Telephone Directory 2010/2011 : Traralgon, Moe, Morwell, Sale, Bairnsdale*  
*Births, Deaths and Marriage Notices from Bairnsdale Advertiser*  
*Guide to the Library*  
*English Research*  
*Unpublished Personal Name Indexes in Record Offices*  
*1984 National Genealogical Directory*  
*Genealogy*  
*Guide to Tracing Convict Free Settlers and Family History*  
*Tracing the Past*  
*Irish Family Names*  
*The Quiet Continent*  
*Bairnsdale High School and Bairnsdale Secondary College 100 years*  
*A Century of Secondary Education at Orbost 1912 - 2012*

# In Memorium

*Sylvia "Mary" Harper*

30 March 1929 - 7 April 2013



Quiet and unassuming Mary Harper was a delightful lady. She and her husband Maurice, lived at "Westlea Farm", Buchan and regularly visited the Family History rooms to do research when they made a trip down to Bairnsdale.

They were destined to marry, for as Maurice tells it, he saw a photo of her in a wedding party that a workmate had attended and he instantly knew she was the girl for him. He just had to find her.

As it turned out, Mary was a cousin of the workmate and he gave Maurice Mary's address (in another town). He didn't ring ahead, he didn't write .... he went straight there and knocked on the door and asked to take her out. They were pretty much inseparable from then on. After they married in Birmingham they emigrated to Australia in August 1967.

Mary had and Maurice continues to have, a passion for history and East Gippsland. Our sympathies are extended to Maurice and their children Paul, David and Michael.



*Young*

*Mary*

# Grace Hollingsworth

13 September 1918 - 31 January 2013

Grace may have been a South Australian by birth (she was born in Pinaroo) but she was a Gippsland girl through and through. The overflowing church at her funeral was a testimony as to the esteem with which the Gippsland community held her.

As a child Grace grew up around Castlemaine and Maldon before moving to Melbourne and living in Brighton. After attending high school at Warragul and then **Teacher's College** before she

graduated and was posted to Bonang : it was an adventure for the young Grace to get there in the first instance. She was then posted to Newry and the young and handsome Bill Hollingsworth, who worked on a property belonging to Squatter Manson, entered her life. When Grace was 23 years old she **and Bill married at St Andrew's Church, Brighton on 3 June 1942.**

Grace was often heard to say that we should all learn new skills, even if they seem unnecessary at the time – for she was forever thankful that she had learned to milk a cow long before she married. It was the first thing that she had to do when she arrived at the farm. Over the next few years her life was immersed with her young family – Robert, Ann, Bill, Ruth and Ian and she became very involved in the local Mt Taylor community. Grace and Connie Lind were both involved in the Sunday School at the original Mt Taylor Hall. School



concerts, Christmas concerts and fund raising for a new hall were all part of her life. As the family **grew, so did Grace's involvement** in the community.

When the boys moved to the Technical School, Grace became **heavily involved in the Mother's Club** and later still, returned to teaching at the school. This led to a period of time when she worked at the Lake Tyers Settlement and where she formed some very close friendships with some of the older women and was **referred to as "Aunty Grace"**.

When she eventually retired, Grace became involved firstly in the Garden Club and then, finally, with the Historical Society and Museum. She had great pride in her home and the museum. At the museum she was **"queen of the cleaning" both upstairs and down (until she was thwarted by the stairs) and didn't**

go anywhere without a duster or polishing cloth in hand or on her walker. She made sure the dust was moved, the floors were clean, the windows were clean, the spider webs were knocked down and most importantly that the silver shone.

The Hollingsworth family lost their beloved mother, but the museum has lost its matriarch

Grace was 94 years young when she died and continued to be surprised and learn through her life. Even as the end neared she was

**heard to say, "This is taking longer than I thought it would!"**

She had a wicked sense of humour (that kept us all on our toes) and a genuine concern for the welfare of her family and friends. She was a community spirited soul who remained very private in regards to her own life and she **resisted attempts to write her "life story"**. **She was a mover and a shaker** in all things, well read and could hold her own in any **"discussion" on politics, history, environment or philosophy**. Life with Grace never held a dull moment and I for one miss not seeing her walker at the end of the work table in the research room. I could always rely upon her to give me an honest opinion of *Black Sheep* and to let me know (in the nicest way possible of course) of where any errors had occurred.

**Rest peacefully Grace, you've earned it.**

# the Black Sheep Journal

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