

Damom and Fythias

Two ragged, miserable, red-faced, elderly women, Mary Holland and Maria Freeman, reeled into this office yesterday, charged with having broken a pane of glass in the window of Mrs. Smiths, a shop-keeper in Clare-street. Mrs. Smith's son stated that the defendants were passing his mother's shop when they staggered and broke the pane of glass.

Mr. Minshull - Well, but one only can be the party who did the mischief - The witness observed, that the defendants were walking arm-in-arm, and that the outside one pushed the other against the window.

Mr. Minshull - Then they seem to have been both guilty. "No, please your Worship," said Mary Holland, "I alone am to blame; my friend is free of blame, and I am ready to bear all the punishment. You will, I hope, your Worship, let my poor dear friend go, and be content with enforcing the law against me."

"Oh, no" exclaimed Maria Freeman, "Take my word, your Worship, that I was the person who broke the glass. Send me to prison, and do whatever else you please with me, but let my dear friend Mary go."

Mr. Minshull—Upon my word, you are the most extraordinary pair of friends as ever I have heard of. So you would suffer punishment for

each other, would you? - "We would willingly," replied Mary and Maria in a breath: "that we would your Worship; we'd do anything for each other."

Mr. Minshull - Can you pay half-a crown for the window you have broken? - "No, your Worship, we cannot, we've only got one sixpence in the world."

Mr. Minshull—Well, then, I must send you to prison. - I pray your Worship," cried Mary, "send me; I'll go for any length of time, provided you don't sent my friend. - Ah, do dear Sir, let her go" - No indeed," quoth Maria, "his Worship will send me, you must be let go; I alone shall be sent to prison."

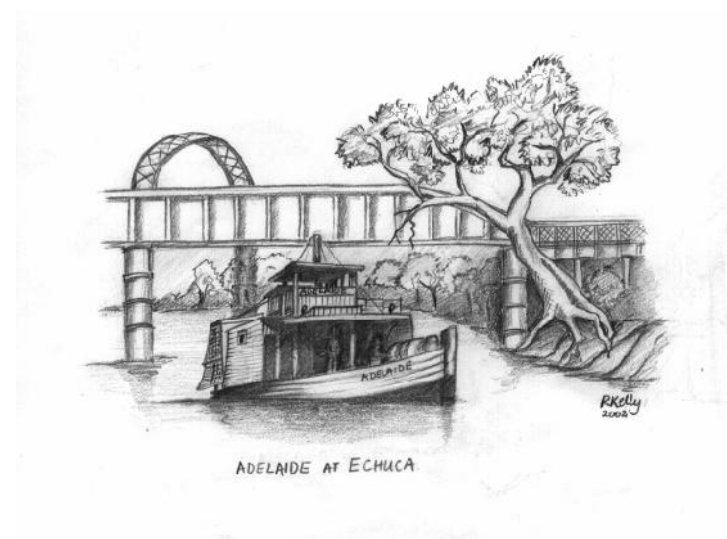
Mr. Minshull - Upon my work, you are a singular pair of gin-drinkers.

The witness was so moved by the women's conduct that he declined pressing the case and accepted their promise to pay for the broken glass when they could. The Magistrate accordingly told them they were discharged. They asked if they were to pay their only sixpence, and on being told that they were not, they joined arms and proceeded, in the true spirit of friendship, to the neighbouring public house, where they expended it on gin.

*Belfast, Northern Ireland, The
Belfast Newsletter. 1831*

Bridges & Branches

Number 135 September 2024



Quarterly Newsletter
of the
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY
GROUP INC.

Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

President: Judy McCleary

Vice President: John Howe

Secretary: John Howe

Treasurer: Barbara Goldsmith

Librarian: Lorraine Johnson

Editorial Committee: Shirley Durrant, Judy McCleary, & Helen Hastie

Research: Janice Smith

PO Box 707, Echuca, Vic, 3564

[A00227447]

Research & Information: Telephone: 0404 872 524

Email address: emfhg9@hotmail.com

Website / Internet: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~emhist>

The Monthly Group Meeting is held at the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at 1.30pm. **The Monthly Group Activity Session** is held from October to March, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm, and April to September on the third Saturday at 1.30 pm. Venue Christ Church Anglican Echuca.

Excursions can replace the Group Activity Sessions.

The **Research Room** in the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama is open and manned every Monday and Friday between 11.00am -3.00pm, except on Public Holidays

At other times contact Janice 0404 872 524

Towns /areas covered by the EMFHG Inc

In Victoria: Ballendella, Bamawm, Barmah, Echuca, Echuca Village, Kanyapella, Kotta, Koyuga, Lockington, McEvoy's, Millewa, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Restdown, Rochester, Roslynmede, Strathallan, Tennyson, Tongala, Torrumberry and Wyuna

In NSW Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moama, Thyra and Womboota

The Editors welcome articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc. or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-
ksdurrant1@bigpond.com or judysupercool@gmail.com

had two children born at Echuca, Gwynnath Louisa in 1917 and Josh Athol in 1917.

Gwynnath Marion married William Edmund Byrne B.A. on the 28th November 1903, at the Catholic Church, Moama. William was a Solicitor at Gunnedah, and their three children were born there; Constance in 1909, Edward D. in 1910 and John D. in 1912. Then in 1912 Gwynnath died, leaving William with the three small children.

By special permission, on the 20th July 1913, William married Dora Guilfoyle, at Gunnedah. It would seem likely that Dora went to Gunnedah to help care for the children.

On the 4th July 1908, Helen E. (Nellie) married James Alder at St Mary's Echuca.

The youngest child, Augusta Marguerite (Rita) married Horace Frederic Byham, surveyor of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, at Tatura, on the 28th January 1913, at Echuca. Rita died as the result of a car accident on the 26th April 1914, when she was just 24 years old. On the 4th October 1914, Charlotte Therese married Horace Frederic Byham at St Mary's Echuca. On the 26th July at Nurse Atchison and Goldie's private hospital, Echuca, to the wife of H.F. Byham of Tatura, a son (Joseph Horace) Mary Jane Guilfoyle died at Tatura on the 5th February 1918.

The following year an In Memoriam was printed in the *Riverine Herald* inserted by her family Sam, Mick, Charlotte, Nellie and Dora.
Shirley Durrant

Moama Cemetery

The Moama Cemetery Working Group is still looking for information about burials in any of the many unmarked graves at the Cemetery. A total of 594 plaques bearing the names of people who are buried in unknown unmarked graves at the cemetery, are now in place on the plinths. Besides these a number of plaques have been placed around the cemetery when the site of a grave is known, but has been unmarked.

If anyone can provide information about anyone known to be buried at Moama, especially in an unmarked grave, please contact:-

Anita Bartlett, PO Box 1343 Echuca 3564. or 0439992767

The secret of patience is to do something else in the meantime.

The Family of Joseph and Mary Guilfoyle

Joseph Aloysios Guilfoyle and Mary Jane Cosgrove were married in 1873 at Paddington, N.S.W. In later years, Joseph was the Inspector of Forests in New South Wales. Joseph and Mary had a total of nine known children, two sons and seven daughters. The first of their children Florence Ada was born in 1873 at Berrima, about 150 km south of Sydney. For the next ten years the family were on the move, much of the time in and around Sydney. Charlotte M.A. was born and died at Balmain in 1876. In 1877 Samuel Austin was born at Bathurst. They then returned to Sydney, where Michael Herbert was born at Redfern in 1879.

Next Marion G. was born at Newtown in 1881, and was later known as Gwynnath Marion when she is referred to as the second daughter, apparently overlooking Charlotte M.A. as was the case with all the future daughters. In 1883 Charlotte Therese was born at Petersham.

The next move by the family was to Moama where Helen L., later known as Nellie was born in 1885, followed by Dora in 1887, and the last of the family, Augusta Marguerite (Rita) in 1890.

On the 28th April 1895, Joseph Aloysios Guilfoyle aged 46 years, died and was buried at Moama, leaving Mary with eight children aged between 22 and 5 years.

In 1902 Mary Guilfoyle was the licensee of the Vine Hotel, Moama, and then in 1904 she was able to buy the freehold of the Crossenvale Hotel,



Mary Jane Guilfoyle and her family c 1910
Back- Nellie, Samuel, Mick, Centre - Dora,
Gwynneth, Mary Jane, Charlotte,
Front - Florence and Rita

in Echuca, which she ran with the help of her six daughters.

The oldest of the family, Florence was one of the first boarders at the Brigidine Convent in Echuca and resided there for seven and a half years. Florence never married and was living with her mother when she died on the 1st December 1911. At her request she was buried next to the nuns enclosure at the Echuca Cemetery. In 1912 Mary had her husband Joseph and her mother Mary Cosgrove exhumed from the Moama Cemetery and buried beside her daughter, Florence at the Echuca Cemetery.

On the 26th November 1912, Samuel Austin married Mary Kearney Lane at St Mary's Church, Echuca. They had two children born at Echuca, Geo. Washington in 1914 and Zabina Mary in 1915.

Michael Herbert married Flor Adelaide Berthaly in 1915. They also

President's Report

Looking back over the last year since the 2023 AGM I can say life is never dull in our family history group. Yet again we have moved and are now relocated back to the Old Telegraph Station in Chanter Street, which has once again been restored after 10 months of drying out and internal repairs. It is **almost** back to pre-flood condition. The floorboards of the old building are now rippled after standing in flood water for some time, so we have purchased two large mats from the flood grant money to alleviate the problem. Two other issues have also stemmed from the flood, rising damp in one of the library walls, and termites in the wood architraves. The termite problem appears to be solved but the rising damp is yet to be addressed. Since June 2020 our group has had to move three times, so that this means that we have packed up and unpacked all our gear six times!!!

As I mentioned in last year's Annual Report our committee demonstrated their most outstanding characteristic, team work to make all this happen, as it has been a mammoth task over those four years. Of course we had to contend with Covid during 2020 – 22. Once again thank you for the packing and unpacking in the move back to the Telegraph Station in 2023, even if it was with some reluctance we came back. We are making the old building more comfortable using the flood grant money for better heating and air conditioning, as well as replacing furniture we lost due to flooding. It must be remembered that we also saved a lot of furniture by cleaning it thoroughly, and of course our resources were saved,

because they were elevated above the flood level. Since moving back to the OTS we must acknowledge the wonderful support we have had from the Murray River Council who funded the last two moves, and provided a very comfortable location for us in 2023. Now our dedicated management committee members require special mention for the jobs they do every year. John Howe, as the group's secretary, maintains our Hotmail platform and our Facebook page throughout the year, as well as writing a very informative Monthly newsletter that always contains great research information. John also circulates all the information received, as well as the groups' official correspondence to members. We all appreciate his enthusiasm and dedication. Thank you, John.

Barbara Goldsmith is our treasurer, and this is one of the most vital positions in the group. Financially our group has built up resources through careful planning and management. This is due to Barbara's interaction with the bank and the keeping of accurate detailed, transparent financial records. Thank you, Barbara.

Our librarians, Lorraine and Catherine have been working almost every week since February organizing the books into categories that are more streamlined, as well as putting together a simple data base. This task has required stamina, determination and dedication as it was interrupted by Covid, then the floods and the various location moves. Much applause for your work.

A special mention to Lorraine for continually restocking the kitchen,

Death of Mrs Byham.

bathroom and office with the necessary essential items.

Shirley as editor of *Bridges & Branches*, I think since its inception which could be over 30 years, produces four exceptional editions of the magazine every year for our members, and for circulation around the country. It is also immortalised in the archives of the NLA and the State Library of Victoria. She doing an invaluable task, preserving the history of our group and the local area.

Apart from her work as project officer, Anita Bartlett too has been working industriously, scanning the paper copies of the resource files using a high-powered scanner after we discovered the digital files we had were missing, possibly due to the 2022 robbery at the OTS. Anita is also managing a number of other tasks being done by other members, and keeping us on task to continue building our resources for community use. Thank you, Anita. Helen Hastie has the challenging task of researching and organizing historical presentations by guest speakers, as well excursions to buildings, properties, and museums of interest. Thanks, Helen, for such meaningful entertainment. Over the last year research has kept Janice Smith busy, particularly with on line requests. She provides detailed information, and her enthusiasm and thoroughness are evident in those responses. It is great publicity for our group. Thank you, Janice. Wendy Hicks has continued scanning the Riv for all notices of interest and missed card files, so we have digital copies on file. This streamlined process

relies heavily on Wendy's computer skills. Thank you, Wendy for your role as social secretary too, often providing handmade cards.

The garden at the Telegraph Station has been magnificently transformed by Eric McConachy from a flood-soaked mess to a vibrant display of plants, flowers and succulents, with brick borders along the garden beds. This has taken many hours of hard work by Eric, and he has been very resourceful in finding the most appropriate plants to have in the garden. Thank you Eric for your dedication to creating such an attractive garden.

In brief:

In the last year there has been quite a number of visitors at the research centre due to our advertisement in the Riv, and also there has been a rise in membership.

We are now well and truly settled into meeting at the Christ Church Echuca for our monthly activities since St James Church in Moama was closed. This year financially Bunnings sausage sizzles have provided us with a good income. Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to do these sizzles.

It also appears that The Pastoral Times Project is drawing to a close as most of the editions appear to be online now. We are still awaiting an update. Finally thank you to every member who has contributed to our group this last year. Your support and teamwork have been outstanding.

Judy McCleary

We regret to state that Mrs Byham, wife of Mr H.F. Byham, Tatura, and daughter of Mrs Guilfoyle, of Crossenvale, passed away at Nurse McLean's private hospital, Echuca, shortly after 9 o'clock yesterday morning. Her death was due to injuries she received in a motor car accident on the evening of the 8th March last.

On that evening a party, consisting of Mr and Mrs Davies, Palace Hotel Echuca and Mr F. Nuske and Mr Leitchman, Bendigo, left for a motor spin. They called at Crossenvale and persuaded Mrs Byham to accompany them. The party went as far as Rochester, and on the way back, about 10 o'clock at night, the car upset, and pitched the occupants onto the road. Mr Nuske was driving and Mrs Byham was seated beside him. All escaped with minor injuries except Mrs Byham, who had her right ankle dislocated, the bone protruding, and her right arm fractured. She was taken to Rochester, and the following morning conveyed to Nurse McLean's private hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

The unfortunate lady's injuries were very severe, and from the first her friends entertained small hope of her ultimate recovery. Blood poisoning from her wounds, however, set in and greatly handicapped her chances when she had apparently got over the first shock of the accident. For seven weeks she made a brave struggle

against tremendous odds, her splendid constitution battling in the effort to throw off the complications by which she was attacked. The fight was however, was an unequal one, and despite the indomitable spirit of the patient, and the assiduous attention of Dr Hutchinson, who brought to his aid all the knowledge of medical science, Mrs Byham's strength finally gave out, and she died surrounded by friends, and comforted by the final ministration of her religion.

The deepest sympathy of the public has been extended to the sorrowing relatives of Mrs Byham, whose life has come to such an untimely and tragic end. The upmost compassion is felt for Mrs Guilfoyle, mother of Mrs Byham, upon whom the unkindly hand of destiny has rested very heavily within the past eighteen months. Mrs Byham who was married only fifteen months ago, was known to a large circle of friends as a bright and vivacious girl of more than ordinary attainments. Her husband is Mr H.F. Byham, C.E. who is engaged with the State Rivers Commission at Tatura. She was an accomplished musician and had qualified as an associate of the London College of Music. She was only 23 years and 11 months old at the time of her death. The funeral is to take place from Crossenvale this afternoon, at 3 o'clock to the place of her interment, the Echuca Cemetery.

Riverine Herald 30th July 1915

An influential reformer, wrote, "I am only one, but I am still one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

It is indeed a small world.

First some family background.

My grandmother, Emily Mary Callander, nee Paley 1895-1993

My maternal grandmother Emily Mary Paley, was born on 14 June 1895, the first child of parents, Joshua Paley and his wife, Winifred Anne, nee Williams. Joshua and Winifred were married on 7th May 1895, only a few weeks before Emily's birth.

During her early childhood and into her teens, Emily spent a lot of her time with her Grandma Williams, and the trust that developed between them resulted in her learning a good deal about her infancy, as well as the circumstances in which she was raised. Emily didn't enjoy the best childhood, due no doubt to the relationship with her mother Winifred, and often found herself resented for her untimely entrance into the world. This estrangement followed her into adulthood. Her father, Joshua, on the other hand, was kind and affectionate, and in the periods he was at home, a quieting and stabilising influence.

When Emily was 10 years of age, she was sent for an extended period of time, November 1905 to March of the following year, to stay with relatives of her paternal grandmother, Mary Kennedy-Paley.

In Emily's own words:

"When I was ten years old, I was sent to the Kennedys at Chintin to stay for an extended period; my father travelled with me. It was Cup Day and Dad and I stayed at the 'Harp of Erin Hotel' in Melbourne the night before.

The following day we took the train to Bolinda where we were met by Dad's cousin Marg Mullally; they drove us up to Chintin and took Dad back. When Dad left, I cried ... and he cried too. I was ten years of age and the only child there. The two Kennedy girls were there, Johanna and Ciss, and their brother Jack who was 21 years of age. They had a big property there and I remember that they had to drive 13 miles to Mass where a priest visited about once a month".

You have to wonder what occurred in the Paley household that necessitated a ten year old child to be sent away. Even though they were relatives, she would not have known the Kennedys very well, if at all. It sounds as if it was a punishment, and her mother wanted Emily out of the way.

And now comes the reason for this little story. While on duty at the EMHFG rooms a few weeks back, I was chatting with Lorraine, and the topic came up about an old house 'Mintaro' at Monegeeta, that was up for sale after 78 years of family ownership. I just happened to mention that my grandmother had Kennedy relatives in the area, who had farmed at Chintin. Lorraine's ears pricked up. She also had Kennedy relatives in the same area, and after we each mentioned a few surnames, we could see a pattern emerging. We were related!!

Lorraine is descended from William Kennedy, and I am descended from his brother John Kennedy.

Catherine Murnane

Brown—Cunningham Wedding

The marriage was celebrated on Easter Tuesday at the Methodist Church, Echuca, of Miss Alba Rosa Cunningham, fourth daughter of Mr J.J. Chemist, chemist, to Mr Athelatan W.D. Brown, C.E., second son of Mr George Brown, Melbourne. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Frank Jolly, in the presence of a large number of friends of the contracting parties.

The bride was given away by her father, and was attired in a simple muslin gown, and wore the customary wreath and veil and carried a handsome bouquet, the gift of the bridegroom.

The bridesmaids were Miss Mavis Cunningham (sister of the bride) and Miss Connie Brown (cousin of the bridegroom). The bridesmaids were each attired in pale green silk, collars, cuffs and Dutch bonnets of hail spot muslin and lace, and carried posies of pink roses and maiden hair fern.

The best man was Mr Garnet Brown (brother of the bridegroom) and the groomsman Mr Arnold Cunningham (brother of the bride)

The choir attended in full force, and sang a Wedding Hymn, and Mr A. Lee Haslam played Mendellsohn's Wedding March. Among the guests were Mr and Mrs Geo. Brown, father and mother on the bridegroom.

The church was prettily decorated by the friends of the bride. During the day numerous telegrams of congratulations were received from friends in different parts of the state and Western Australia. The wedding gifts were numerous and beautiful, and amongst these were a number given at a kitchen tea held previously at Mrs Dangerfield's residence. Included amongst the presents was a fine silver tray and afternoon tea service from the members of the Methodist Church, Sunday school, and Tennis Club.

The newly united couple left by the afternoon train for their honeymoon, and will subsequently reside in Swan Hill, where Mr Brown has recently been appointed to the position of shire engineer.

Riverine Herald 1913

Coming Events

September

Saturday 21st @ 10am Excursion - East Loddon

October

Tuesday 8th @ 1.30pm Monthly Meeting

Thursday 17th @ 7.30pm Guest Speaker Rev Phil Zamagias

November

Tuesday 12th @ 1 30 pm Monthly Meeting

Thursday 21st @ 7.00 pm **CHRISTMAS BREAKUP**

December

Tuesday 10th @ 12 noon LUNCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Miss M.E. Dickson B.A. Dip.Ed.

When I was nearing the age when the decision had to be made, regarding my secondary education the choices were limited. Because school busses had not been invented in rural southern New South Wales, private board, which often came with complications or boarding school, were the only options. Because of a very much earlier contact with the Head Mistress, of Korowa C.E.G.G.S. in Glen Iris, it was chosen as the preferred school. In 1905 after my father's older brother broke his leg in a riding accident, he was not able to ride his horse to the Womboota School. My grandparents decided that the best option was to employ a governess for the next year to educate the two boys.



Miss Dickson & my father in 1905

Margaret Dickson came to live with the family and educated the boys for the next twelve months. I have no idea how she

was chosen or if she had been known by any of the family.

Margaret Elizabeth Dickson was born in Hawthorne on the 16th June 1886, the fifth child of Richard and Elizabeth Dickson.

Miss Dickson, it does not seem proper not to call her Miss Dickson, then obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University, and taught in a number of schools across Victoria. While at some of the schools, she also supervised the girls living in the hostels. Miss Dickson went to England on an exchange scheme and taught in some of the most disadvantaged areas of London.

In December 1929 she was offered the position of Head Mistress at Korowa, at a salary of three hundred pounds a year, plus one pound for every scholar over and above 200 full fee paying pupils. At the time with the depression taking hold, Korowa was experiencing financial difficulties, and it was hoped that she would be able to get the school back into a sound financial position. As Head Mistress, with no secretarial assistance, she also taught the senior girls English and History.

Korowa was opened as a high school for girls in 1899 by Mrs Akehurst, a widow with five adult children, with her oldest daughter doing most of the teaching. Following the death of her mother Miss

had read a story I had written in *Bridges & Branches* a while ago and wanted information on Stephens family. She had family down from Stephen Stephens -John Simons Stephens-James Stephens- Arthur Henry Stephens- Geoffrey Ronald Stephens.

The James Stephens in Ann Reynolds family is not the same generation as mine. It gets very confusing when the same names keep coming up in different generations.

I have made contact with Andy Stephens who is helping to find a

connection. He has emailed me about Stephens families frequently, and found our brick wall father "Stephen Stephens death" in South Australia.

Andy first emailed me a number of years ago when my daughter and I put a plaque on James Stephens, my Great Grandfather's grave, in the Bendigo cemetery.

It is interesting how small things like the story that was put in *Bridges & Branches*, bring distant families together. You never know the outcome.

Judy McCartney

Deniliquin Moama Railway

To be taken over by Victoria Today

Today the Deniliquin Moama Railway will be taken over and managed by the Victorian Railway Commissions. This line was opened in 1876 and is 45 miles long. Built of the same gauge as the railway of this State and is linked with the Victorian tracks at Echuca.

The Commissioners will operate the line as part of the Victorian Railway System, and will charge through rates and fares. They realize the great importance of the district whose transportation wants are committed in their care and they are anxious to give the best service that the conditions warrant, but no alteration will be made in the existing train services for a little time to come, as it will be necessary first to clearly study the situation and attend to a number of preliminary details. Changes which are found desirable either in connection with the train service or in any other direction, will not, however, be deferred longer than can be avoided.

It is the opinion of the Commissioners that this line would be very suitable for the operation of a railway motor car, and therefore, it is their intention to introduce a railway motor service as soon as a car can be made available, which should be in a few weeks.

Riverine Herald Saturday 1st December 1923

Stephens Family

My connection to the Stephens family is through my father's mother Emily Stephens (b.1871 d.1928) who married Hubert Mumme (b.1864-1933) in Pyramid Hill 1891. The Stephens family came to Australia in late 1847 to Adelaide, but no shipping records seem to exist except for eldest son John Simons Stephens and his wife Catherine Rogers, who married in Cornwall before coming.

We found an article in a Queenscliff paper about one of the brothers drowning there in 1892, age 55 years, and it stated he with all the family came to South Australia in 1847.

The family consisted of parents Stephen Stephens, wife Elizabeth (Simons) and 12 children born between 1823 to 1841. Elizabeth, one of the older girls, married James Brenton in South Australia 1849 and lived there all her life.

In 1849 father Stephen bought 80 acres of land in Barossa, County of Adelaide.

This was subsequently sold on his death in August 1852. He was listed as a farmer, as were two or three of the boys; the other boys as miners.

Shortly after 1852 most of the family were listed in Clunes and Creswick in Victoria.

James Stephens, Emily's father b.1829 in Cornwall, my Gt grandfather, who

was the third eldest boy, was a farmer in Creswick. He met Ann Harvey who had arrived in Victoria (Portland) with her brother John when she was 18 years old, and then came to Creswick. They were married August 1856 (Ann 19 years old James 27) in James' mothers tent, and subsequently had nine children around the Creswick, Clunes area.

By 1880 the family had moved to Pyramid Hill, where the youngest daughter was born.

Emily Sarah, my father's mother, met Hubert Mumme who had been working in mines in South Australia and went to Pyramid Hill to do farming work.

They married in Pyramid Hill had one child Clifford, and then moved south to Mirboo North where two girls were born. The family moved around Victoria, to Eltham, Springvale, Preston, and Box Hill all areas opening up farmland. They came to Echuca in 1912 when the youngest son Ted was 6 months old, with eight of their 12 surviving children.

This is the background to an email message John and Anita from the Family History group sent me. Ann Reynolds (Stephens) from Gold Coast

Akehurst took over the responsibility for the school which steadily grew under her management, moving to larger premises on several of occasions.

In 1913, Miss Akehurst purchased "Ranfurlie" from the Honourable William Knox M.H.R. It had been the family home of the Knox family for many years, and was to become the permanent home of Korowa. It was a substantial building and was the boarding house when I attended Korowa. The house was home for about 50 boarders, ranging from juniors to girls in year 12, together with the boarding staff and the Head Mistress.

Punctuality was not Miss Dickson's strong point and, at times she kept the whole school waiting for her to attend assembly, because she had been delayed on the way. Some of her pupils believed

that because she was so often late for their class they learnt, to their future advantage, to work on their own.

Miss Dickson regarded the boarders as her family, and the girls had a deep affection for her. She would often say to us "Girls you can achieve anything, it is just a case of mind over matter".

Considering that her first position was as governess to two small boys, and when she retired she was the Head Mistress of a school with over 600 girls, she may well have had a point.

Miss Dickson retired at the end of the second year that I attended Korowa, and she died at Balwyn in 1955.

The new Head Mistress had a very different style. Punctuality took on a whole new meaning.

Shirley Durrant

Coach Rules

When travelling in our coach's we expect you to consider our rules.

We will not tolerate bad behavior, swearing or puffing cigarette smoke towards other passengers. No stealing of wallets, jewelry, or of any other goods, no harassing or annoying of passengers.

Men. If the coach is attacked by bushrangers we expect you to protect the women and children, or do everything within your power to keep them safe.

The coach frequently carries cargo of important government documents, mail bags, parcel-baskets and merchant goods. All effort is to be made to protect the properties, from floodwaters, robbery or natural disasters to get the mail through on time. All able males are expected to co-operate with the driver, if there's a brake-down.

Be aware of commercial opportunism associated with changing stations, and accommodation Inns.

We base our services on a reliable and efficient schedule, and have a reputation of reliable services.

Coach Proprietor

Cr. John Simmie J.P.

Cr. John Simmie J.P. of “Strathallan” is well known in Echuca as the town Clerk. He came to reside in this town in 1906. Since then he has been closely identified with the activities of this town and has faithfully served the townspeople in various capacities. He was first elected to the borough council in 1917 and has sat continuously ever since. For nearly five years he occupied the mayoral chair and during this long term was privileged to receive, and frequently entertain, numbers of distinguished visitors to the town. While Mayor and chief magistrate he was confirmed in the Commission of the Peace for the Midland Bailiwick, and rarely a week passes without his being called to occupy the bench, where with a kindly and discerning hand he tempers mercy with justice.

It is nearly twenty years ago since he accepted a seat of the board of management of the Echuca District Hospital, and he had been elected to the presidency no less than six times. Indeed, the hospital has no firmer friend and helper than Cr. Simmie.

He is a foundation member of the Echuca Lawn Tennis Club which is well known to the Victorian tennis

world on account of its widely attended annual tournament of this club since its inception. Then, too he is a foundation member and former president of the Echuca Bowling Club. He is a keen enthusiast in this great pastime and his skill with the “rolling spheres” is too well and widely known to need comment here.

The Mechanics Institute has enjoyed his services over a long period, both as chief executive officer and committee man. He is also a valued member and Past Master of the Millewa Masonic Lodge and one of its most loyal member for many years, but it is as representative elder and Trustee of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church that we know him best of all. Being blest with excellent health all his life, it is only when absent from the town that his seat is vacant in the congregation. He is always ready to do some service that will make for progress in the grand old Kirk of his fathers. In Board meeting, Session and Presbytery his kindly advice and canny caution make for a steadying influence among his colleagues.

Cr. Simmie was born in Scotland at Bishopsbriggs, near Glasgow, and was brought to Australia by his parents in the famous clipper *Marco Polo*. He

arrived in Melbourne in 1862 and received his education in that city. In 1874 he joined his cousin, the late Wm. Hay, at Cornelia Creek and remained with him until the property was sold in 1877. Four years later he took charge of “Strathallan” station which was owned by the late George Simmie. In 1911 he purchased the property at Moira (N.S.W.) comprising 2 400 acres of the best Riverina land. This new home was also named “Strathallan”.

In public life Cr. Simmie enjoys the universal goodwill of the ratepayers

and the respect of every citizen. In sport he is a ardent supporter of the Echuca Football Club and a ready helper in every athletic enterprise. He is one of Echuca’s worthy representative men and owes much of his popularity to his charming wife who as Mayoress, won golden opinion for the delightful manner in which she carried out her arduous duties.

We wish them long life and health and happiness to continue their valued services to the town of which they are both so proud.

The Echuca Presbyterian, 1 Dec. 1931

RESEARCH REPORT

Jane Pygall nee Spettigue – licensee of the Star Hotel, Echuca – 1890’s

Gordon Clifford Burrows – (B)1897 – (D)1968 - lived Echuca/Moama 1934-1963

Annie Papineau – stray certificate Born Inglewood, Vic 1873

James Ryan – great grandson looking for him on passenger lists about 1855

Gordon Clifford Gitsham – killed in car accident 6 Dec 1975 aged 25 – worked for Bailleau’s at Torrumbarry Estate

If you can help with any information about any of the above people, please contact our Research Officer, Janice Smith, contact options on page two.

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs - It is quite possible you haven’t grasped the situation.