

# The Western Port Times

GRANTVILLE & DISTRICTS

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FREE

December 2018

Welcome to edition 8 of The Western Port Times.

This magazine has been introduced as a rebirth of the original Western Port Times, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1910.

Produced by The Waterline News, for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville.

The Western Port Times is a creative exercise to showcase Grantville's history, via the group's website.

[www.grantvillehistory.com.au](http://www.grantvillehistory.com.au)

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Note: These houses are situated adjoining factory and can be sold either for removal or on their present site with build ing allowance.

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**BIASAWATE**

Inside this month's edition:

A fabulous history of the Glen Forbes Cheese Factory, written for us by Tony Hughes. Pages 9-14  
Featuring interviews with Bruno Brusamarello, Pat Jones, Ivy Yann and Don and Irene Wheatley .

A brief look at some old newspaper advertisements from The early 1900's on Page 14.



And the second instalment in an extended history of The Grantville Cemetery, written for us by Jane Hendtlass. Pages 4-8

*Roger Clark, Editor*

Check out the website and subscribe FREE - [www.grantvillehistory.com.au](http://www.grantvillehistory.com.au)

### Links to other sites

Group member, Grantville local, Clive Budd, Who is now also the webmaster for the new Bass Valley Historical Society website:

[www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au)

has started a list of links you might be interested in, to other historical Associations.

If you know of any we should add to the list, please do not hesitate to let us know:

Email: [leader@grantvillehistory.com.au](mailto:leader@grantvillehistory.com.au)

### Historical Group links

South Eastern Historical Association

[seha.org.au](http://seha.org.au)

Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society

[kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)

Lang Lang and District Historical Society

[langlang.net/historical.html](http://langlang.net/historical.html)

Leongatha and district Historical society

[leongathahistory.org.au](http://leongathahistory.org.au)

Wonthagi Historical Society

[wonthagihistoricalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthagihistoricalsociety.org.au/)

Western Port Historical Society Inc.

[hwphs.org.au/](http://hwphs.org.au/)

National Library of Australia Trove

[trove.nla.gov.au/](http://trove.nla.gov.au/)

State Library of Victoria

[slv.vic.gov.au/](http://slv.vic.gov.au/)

Grantville History

[grantvillehistory.com.au](http://grantvillehistory.com.au)

Inverloch Historical Society

[cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/)



Photograph of the Grantville General Store on Bass Highway, 1937

**Grantville 3984  
& District History**

**Produced by the  
U3A Local  
History Group**



**COBB & CO**  
ESTD 1860

# WANTED

**ANY INFORMATION , MEMORIES AND PHOTOS**

**Grantville (Points of historical interest)**  
Hotels - (Grantville Hotel & Prince Of Wales), Cemetery Pier (Old & New) , Saw mills & tramways - (Brazier Mill etc.) , Primary Schools (various iterations)  
Western Port Times (1896-1910)  
Mechanics Institute (local hall), Drive-in theatre  
General stores (esp. Wheatley's store)  
Anti-erosion barrier (1970's? rebuilt 1980s?)  
Cobb & Co coach service (terminated Grantville extended to Bass for a time), Grantville Racing Club  
Grantville Rifle Club, Racecourse (1896? To 1920s?)  
Site, date and type of 1880s to 1900s businesses  
Agricultural shows (various)

**Queensferry (Points of historical interest)**  
The Victoria Hotel (where and when was it?), Piers  
Beach 'coolstore/wine cellar'  
Post Office and general store location  
Race track & agricultural shows  
The Great Victoria Colliery & tram line to Queensferry

**The Gurdies (Points of historical interest)**  
Primary school (at St. Helliers).  
DonMix Quarry (Donohue Brothers, 1958).- Now 'puddling' station, Blackney's garage (1950s - 1960s?)  
Caravan Park (closed 1980s)

**Kernot (Points of historical interest)**  
Kernot Railway Station & Shier Road trestle bridge  
General Store

**Almurta (Points of historical interest)**  
Primary schools (37), Candowie Reservoir  
John Paul's general store  
Butter Factory (1896-1910), Railway Station,  
Post Office (closed 1960s)

**Glen Forbes (Points of historical interest)**  
General Store School  
Railway Station, Cheese Factory, Saw Mills, Church Hall

The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group are still looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

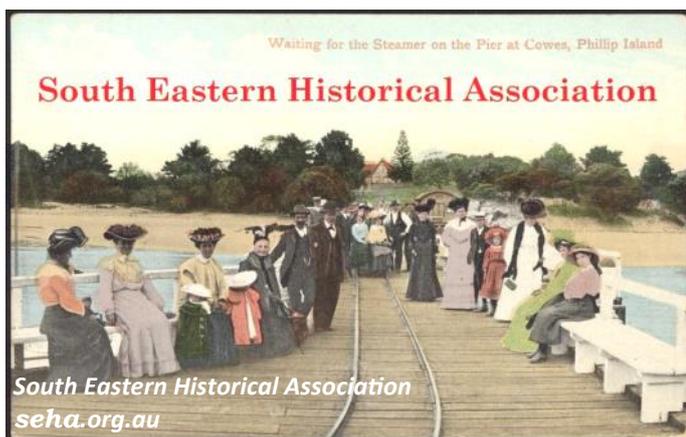
If you have something you would like to share:

**Email - [leader@grantvillehistory.com.au](mailto:leader@grantvillehistory.com.au)**

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## The South Eastern Historical Association



The South Eastern Historical Association (SEHA) was established in 1965 and covers the south east suburbs of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, the Bass Valley, Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp, Wonthaggi and Phillip Island.

Or, the municipalities of the City of Kingston, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey, City of Frankston, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Cardinia Shire and Bass Coast Shire.

Delegates from each group meet quarterly at various locations.

In our special report on the SEHA last month we inadvertently neglected to include details of the Springvale and District Historical Society.

Details are as follows:

### **Springvale and District Historical Society**

**The Society has temporarily moved to 11 Morwell Parade, Springvale, 3171. (Address all correspondence to 35 Stuart Street, Noble Park, 3174) They expect to remain at Morwell Parade until 2020 when the 'Springvale Library and Community hub' opens and they will have a space in the new building.**

**Telephone: 03 9548 2732.**

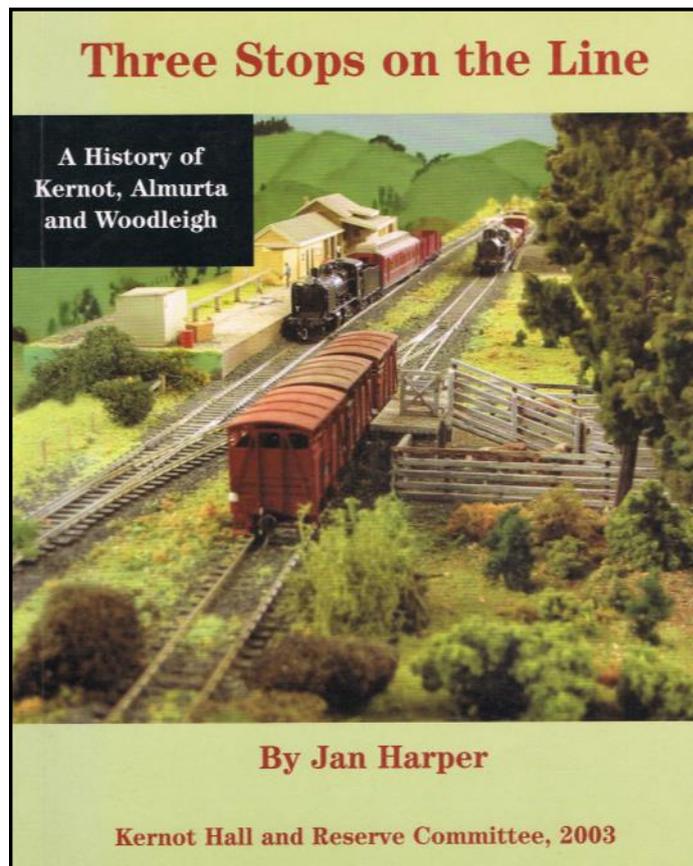
**The Society was established in 1982.**

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to the members of the Springvale and District Historical Society.

The error was made when transferring information into the main template from the storage file.

**Roger Clark. Editor.**

## Books



Written by Jan Harper for the Kernot Hall and Reserve Committee in 2003 the book is still relevant, perhaps even more so given the recent surge in interest in local history.

Kernot, Woodleigh and Almurta came into their own during the railway era, from 1910 to 1978.

Settled from 1986 onwards, life changed as milk from the dairy farms and stock raised on properties were linked with markets through the silver thread of the new railway line.

Communities expanded as railway personnel, and the infrastructure they attracted, boosted the settlements. While this history reflects that of Gippsland as a whole, it is unique to the area in drawing our personal lives and juxtaposing them with larger social and economic trends.

**Copies are available from The Western Port Times.**

**\$30.00 plus postage, or free local delivery.**

**Email: leader@grantvillehistory.com.au**

## The Grantville Cemetery Early History Part 2

by Jane Hendtlass



*Current view of the site of early graves in Grantville*

Last month, I explained some of the story of the early informal burial site north of the Deep Creek in 1872 and the Grantville Cemetery in 1874. On 19 January 1878, after six years of informal management and at least 22 burials including 15 children in the informal burial site north of the Deep Creek, the Chairman of the Shire of Phillip Island & Woolamai, Solomon West (1836-1910), hosted a public meeting in John Dickins' Grantville Hotel to nominate trustees for the Grantville Cemetery. Accordingly, the Governor-in-Council appointed the first five trustees: George Francis Monks (1837-1910), John Dickins (1843-1883), John Monk (1829-1880), Alfred William Selman (1833-1902) and Alexander Stewart (1831-1888) on 18 April 1878.<sup>i</sup> At their first meeting on 22 June 1878, the trustees appointed George Monks as their inaugural chairman and treasurer and John Dickins as secretary.<sup>ii</sup> As the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 11 children born to Irish convict immigrants, George Francis Monks had a stereotypically early Australian childhood but, unlike most convict families, his parents, James Monks (1808-1862) and Mary Comber (1807-1887), were married in Ireland in 1825 and had one child before they were separately convicted for theft and transported to New

South Wales.

On 13 February 1828, James Monks was tried in Dublin and convicted for the third time for stealing collars in 1828 and his unmarried brother, Thomas Monks aka Deegan (1809-1859), had no prior convictions when he was tried and convicted for house robbery on 14 February 1828. Both brothers were sentenced to transportation for seven years in New South Wales and they both disembarked from the convict ship "Sophia" in Port Jackson on 17 January 1829.<sup>iii</sup> After that they were separated and their lives in Australia differed as much as the severity of the crimes they committed in Ireland.

James Monks was almost immediately allocated to agricultural work in Parramatta.<sup>iv</sup> On 12 November 1832 he was working in County Argyle near Goulburn when he obtained his Certificate of Freedom but he was living in Sydney in 1833.<sup>v</sup>

Meanwhile, Mary Monks was a needle woman and servant in Dublin and there was no mention of a baby when she was sentenced for stealing shoes and lace and transported to Port Jackson on the convict ship "Forth II" in 1830.<sup>vi</sup> She was immediately assigned to work as a servant in Concord in Sydney.<sup>vii</sup> Mary Monks was admitted to the harsh 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Parramatta Female Factory for one month on 1 January 1833 and then discharged to the less severe Women's Factory, possibly because James had recently gained his Certificate of Freedom and was otherwise able to re-establish their relationship.<sup>viii</sup> Despite these restrictions, James and Mary Monks' 2<sup>nd</sup> child was born in Sydney in about 1836 and, in 1837, Mary was assigned to government service at Patrick Plains (now Singleton) in the Hunter Valley. She obtained her Certificate of Freedom on 26 June 1838<sup>ix</sup> and George Monks was born on 8 September 1838 in Sydney.<sup>x</sup>



*Government Gaol Gang, Hyde Park 1830<sup>xvii</sup>*

## The Grantville Cemetery Early History Part 2 continued

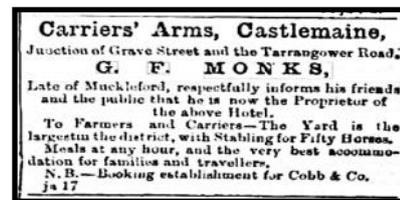
On the other hand, Thomas Monks committed further offences during his work allocation and was sent to the Iron Gang for six months.<sup>xi</sup> He obtained his Certificate of Freedom on 31 August 1835<sup>xii</sup> and he was also allocated to the trial gang working in County Argyle in 1836.<sup>xiii</sup> However, unlike his brother who had already left Goulburn, Thomas Monks was still working there when he was refused permission to marry another convict, Ellen Dawson aka Murphy n e Deasy (1808-1860) in 1843. They had at least three children together in Goulburn between 1841 and 1847,<sup>xiv</sup> they were married in Goulburn on 21 July 1854 and Thomas bought 40 acres of land at Phil's River north of Goulburn in 1855.<sup>xv</sup> Then, on 31 October 1859, Ellen Monks murdered Thomas with a hammer at their home in Phil's River. She was executed for the offence at Goulburn Gaol on 8 May 1860.<sup>xvi</sup>

James Monks and his family were living on James' Crown grants for 14 allotments in Edward River near Deniliquin in New South Wales by 1842.<sup>xviii</sup> He kept these properties when he selected more land in Benalla, Victoria in 1849<sup>xix</sup> and he bought six town allotments in Wangaratta in 1849, 1850 and 1851. Although the family lived in Wangaratta,<sup>xx</sup> young George Monks was one of the children who walked in the procession for laying the foundation stone of St Patricks Cathedral in Melbourne on 9 April 1850.<sup>xxi</sup>

By 1854, George Monks and his parents had settled on a small farm and post office in Muckleford near Castlemaine and James Monks had opened the Racecourse Hotel. In 1855, he was granted a publican's licence. In 1858, he sold his Deniliquin properties and he bought two blocks of Crown land in Muckleford in 1859<sup>xxii</sup> but, by 1860, James Monks was too ill to sign his Will. He left a life interest in these assets to his wife and his three daughters and his youngest son, James Monks (1853-1919?), then shared the residue. George Monks inherited nothing. Mary Monks continued run the Muckleford property and the Racecourse Hotel with help from her son, James, until she died in 1887. Although he also inherited all her remaining property, James declined to act as executor.<sup>xxiii</sup>

In the meantime, 21-year old George Monks was a farmer when he married Ellen Murphy (1836-1908) from Cork in Ireland in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Castlemaine on 22 February 1858.<sup>xxiv</sup> In 1863, George held a beer licence for his leased Muckleford property and

he obtained a Publican's Licence in 1867.<sup>xxv</sup> In 1869, George Monks built and was operating a steam powered threshing machine on his property in Muckleford.<sup>xxvi</sup> He also won the contract to maintain the main road,<sup>xxvii</sup> he shot and presented the local bank manager with a 28lb pelican as a gift and he was fined £5 plus costs for selling sly grog.<sup>xxviii</sup> And George Monks retained his Muckleford properties<sup>xxix</sup> when he took over the lease and publican's licence for the Carriers Arms Hotel in Castlemaine in October 1869.<sup>xxx</sup>



Ellen was responsible for running the accommodation side of the Castlemaine business<sup>xxxi</sup> but within six months George was declared insolvent.<sup>xxxii</sup> On 16 February 1871, he was discharged from his insolvency but he lost his interest in the Carriers Arms Hotel.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

In 1872, George Monks was a sawyer in Seymour and Wangaratta in 1874 when George Brazier (1828-1877) was operating his sawmills in Benalla and Dockers Flat near Beechworth.<sup>xxxiv</sup> They had been neighbours in Muckleford from at least 1856 to 1864 and they shared an interest in steam-driven equipment.<sup>xxxv</sup> Therefore, it is likely that George Monks and George Brazier continued their friendship and/or were working together between 1872 and 1874.

In 1874, George Brazier sold his saw mills and he and George Monks moved to Grantville<sup>xxxvi</sup> where, together with a third partner, Thomas Lynn Sawyer (1833-1915), they established the Grantville Saw Mills.

George Monks described himself as a mill owner or saw mill proprietor<sup>xxxvii</sup> but George Brazier owned 50% of the business and, although they jointly paid the rates, Thomas Sawyer held the Crown lease and grazing licence for 151 acres on the Hurdy Gurdy run about 3½ miles east of the Grantville township. Thomas Sawyer also worked as a sawyer and foreman.<sup>xxxviii</sup> In 1875, George Brazier and George Monks each bought three acre lots and lived in the Grantville township.<sup>xxxix</sup>

## The Grantville Cemetery Early History Part 2 continued

By 1877, Grantville Saw Mills had 22 employees or contractors living in on-site family and worker accommodation, a cottage on what was then Government Road near the Pier and an eight-mile tramway connected to the first Grantville jetty.<sup>xi</sup> George Brazier's wife, Elizabeth Brazier n<sup>è</sup>e Mander (1828-1918), ran the office and his only son, Josiah Henry Brazier (1858-1929), worked with George Monks' eldest son, James Francis (Frank) Monks (1860-1881), at the mill.<sup>xii</sup>

On 12 February 1877, George Monks' daughter, two-year old Honora (Nora) Maud Monks, died in Grantville from the effects of oppressive heat and was buried in the Grantville Cemetery.<sup>xiii</sup> No doubt this event influenced his decision to accept nomination for appointment as a Grantville Cemetery trustee and election as chairman and treasurer of the Grantville Cemetery Trust in 1878.<sup>xiiii</sup>

The new trustees had no authority to tend the existing burial ground but, in a flurry of activity including three meetings in 1878, they set about establishing their operational procedures, obtaining a grant from the Commissioner of the Board of Land & Works, obtaining a plan of the cemetery site and letting tenders for clearing and fencing the new cemetery to John Monk's brother, Matthew Monk (1839-1918). By 10 October 1878, they had also persuaded the Government to reserve an extra three acres required to incorporate the graves that were already established and a further three acres 12 roods and three perches were temporarily reserved for the cemetery on 25 September 1891.<sup>xliv</sup>

However, George Brazier died in Melbourne after a long and painful illness on 4 July 1877.<sup>xv</sup> Elizabeth Brazier inherited all his share of the Grantville Saw Mill<sup>xvi</sup> so she shared personal and commercial responsibility with Thomas Sawyer and George Monks when an employee sustained compound fractures of the leg when a log fell on him on 3 February 1878 and another employee severely injured his hand on a circular saw on 3 May 1879.<sup>xvii</sup> This series of events marked the beginning of the end of the Grantville Saw Mill:

On 10 May 1879, Thomas Sawyer withdrew from his Crown lease in Grantville. He immediately bought 20 acres at Stewart's Mill south of the Bass River and he and James Alison Scott (1835-1882) bought a further 20 acres associated with the Prince Alfred Hotel in Grantville from Henry Sch<sup>u</sup>ler (1836-1888) in 1880.<sup>xviii</sup> On 5 January 1880, James Scott notified Victoria Police that the Kelly Gang had

a spy at one of the timber mills in Grantville, presumably the Grantville Saw Mill. After a five-day investigation, Griffiths Point police dismissed the report because James Scott was "... a man of very drunken habit that very little reliance can be placed on what he says at any time".<sup>xix</sup> By 1885, Thomas Sawyer had moved to Bairnsdale and established his own saw mill.<sup>i</sup>

Josiah Brazier took over his father's house and became foreman of the Grantville Saw Mill in 1880.<sup>ii</sup> By 1884, Josiah had also left the district<sup>iii</sup> and, although the mill closed in the 1890's, he continued to style his occupation as timber clerk until at least 1918.<sup>iiii</sup>

Elizabeth Brazier moved to Melbourne in 1883 and married a newly bereaved widower, carpenter and undertaker, Edward William Allison (1833-1887). In 1886, she left their family home and took all her assets and moved to 26 Chetwynd Street in South Melbourne. After Edward Allison died, she married a widowed, locomotive engineer, John Elliott (1817-1895), in 1891 and they continued to live in Chetwynd Street. When she died in 1918, Elizabeth Brazier had no real estate and all her children except Josiah had pre-deceased her. He inherited a photo of the mill.<sup>lv</sup>

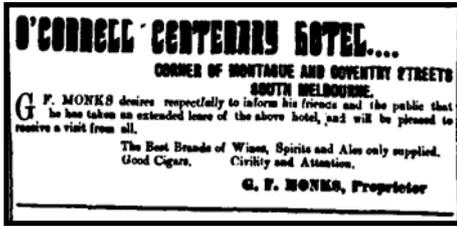
In these circumstances, George Monks resigned from the Grantville Cemetery Trust, abandoned his share of the Grantville Saw Mill and the family had moved to Melbourne by 6 November 1880.<sup>lv</sup> In 1881, the Monks family was living at 83 Nelson Street in Emerald Hill, Melbourne but they moved to North Melbourne and, from 1892 to 1899, they lived in "Glanmire" at 25 Arden Street in Kensington.<sup>lvi</sup>

However, George Monks retained his interest in saw mills and became an absent husband and father. He was still a sawyer in 1881 when Frank Monks died from pneumonia in Melbourne.<sup>lvii</sup> In 1889, he was running the No.2 saw mill supplying the Yea & Alexandra Railway line.<sup>lviii</sup> And he was still working as a sawyer<sup>lix</sup> when his 18-year old daughter, Mabel Rosie Monks, died from typhoid fever in Melbourne in 1895.<sup>lx</sup>

## The Grantville Cemetery Early History Part 2 continued

Throughout this period, George Monks also maintained his connection with the Grantville area: In 1884, he took up a Crown pastural lease on 317 acres in Allambee East on the Tarwin River south of Grantville but his licence was immediately declared void.<sup>lvi</sup> In 1890, he bought a Crown lease of 94 acres in the Blackwood Reserve in Wonthaggi North.<sup>lxii</sup> And, after the Yea & Alexandra Railway was completed and Mabel Monks died, George Monks returned to the Bendigo area for three years to follow gold.<sup>lxiii</sup>

By 7 June 1902, George Monks had returned to Melbourne to take over the lease of and licence for the O'Connell Centenary Hotel in South Melbourne.<sup>lxiv</sup> Ellen Monks died at the O'Connell Centenary Hotel on 24 August 1908.<sup>lxv</sup>



*Current view of O'Connell Centenary Hotel*

**George Francis Monks died on 4 April 1910 and is buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery. He left all his estate to his daughter, Mary Edith Monks (1868-1945), who lived with him at the O'Connell Centenary Hotel.**<sup>lxvi</sup>

**His assets did not include any real estate or any interest associated with the Grantville Saw Mill.**<sup>lxvii</sup>

**Next month, I will explain how John Dickins became honorary secretary of the Grantville Cemetery Trust and how he integrated this role with running the Grantville Hotel.**

**Jane Hendtlass**

## References

- i South Bourke and Mornington Journal 23 January 1878, p. 2; Victorian Government Gazette 18 April 1878, p. 856.
- ii Minutes of meeting of Grantville Cemetery Trust dated 22 June 1878.
- iii Irish Convicts to New South Wales 1788-1849; New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842.
- iv Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication HO10, Pieces 1-4, 6-18, 28-30); The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England; New South Wales, Australia Convict Indents 1788-1842, Bound Indentures 1829.
- v The Sydney Herald 12 November 1832, p. 4; Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication HO10, Pieces 1-4, 6-18, 28-30); The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England; State Archives NSW, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930 Roll: 855.
- vi Galway Prison Central Register 1839-1851 Book No 1/21/2.
- vii Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication HO10, Pieces 1-4, 6-18, 28-30); The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England.
- viii New South Wales Gaol Description and Entrance Book Sydney 1834-1838.
- ix [www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_forth\\_1830.htm](http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_forth_1830.htm)
- x The Ballarat Star 6 April 1909, p. 2.
- xi New South Wales Convict Arrivals 1788-1842;
- xii New South Wales Gaol Description & Entrance Books 1834-1838.
- xiii New South Wales Government. Butts of Certificates of Freedom. NRS 1165, 1166, 1167, 12208, 12210, reels 601, 602, 604, 982-1027. State Records Authority of New South Wales, Kingswood, New South Wales.
- xiiii Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication HO10, Pieces 1-4, 6-18, 28-30); The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England; New South Wales Roman Catholic Baptisms Vol 129: 806, 1836.
- xiv New South Wales Roman Catholic Baptisms Vol 129: 806, 1836; Vol 63: 2320, 1845; Vol 64: 3292, 1847.
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- xvii Painted by Augustus Earle, 1830. National Library of Australia
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- xix New South Wales Government Gazette Indexes 1832-1863.
- xx The Argus 8 November 1849, p. 4; Victoria Gazette 15 February 1850, p. 250; Victoria Gazette 8 January 1851, p. 26; The Argus 17 May 1858, p. 8.
- xxi Advocate 23 October 1897, p. 12.

## The Grantville Cemetery Early History Part 2 continued

xxii The Argus 22 June 1855, p. 6; Mount Alexander Mail 15 June 1856, p. 3; Mount Alexander Mail 1 July 1856, p. 2; Mount Alexander Mail 21 June 1858, p. 2; Mount Alexander Mail 21 February 1859, p. 3; Mount Alexander Mail 6 July 1859, p. 3; Mount Alexander Mail 19 February 1884, p. 2.

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xxxiv The North Eastern Ensign 26 August 1873, p. 3; Ovens & Murray Advertiser 12 May 1874, p. 3.

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xxxvi Sands Melbourne Directory 1876, p. 270; Bass Victoria Australia Birth Registration No.26/1876; Bass Victoria Australia Death Registration No. 25/1877; Grand subdivisional sale of allotments 17 April 1888; South Bourke & Mornington Journal 19 June 1878, p. 2; Alexandra Times 26 August 1876, p. 2; Leader 10 May 1879, p. 3; Advocate 10 May 1879, p. 17; Bairnsdale Advertiser & Tambo & Omeo Chronicle 27 January 1885, p. 3.

xxxvii Bass Australia Death Registration No. 25/1876; Bass Australia Birth Registration No. 25/1877.

xxxviii Will of George Brazier executed 6 February 1876; Leader 10 May 1879, p. 3; Advocate 10 May 1879, p. 17; Phillip Island Rate Books 1875 Vol 2, p. 15; Phillip Island Rate Books 1876 Vol 2, p. 29; Phillip Island Rate Books 1877 Vol 2, p. 46; Phillip Island Rate Books 1878 Vol 2, p. 66; Phillip Island Rate Books 1879 Vol 2, p. 84.

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xlii Victoria State Records Office Inquest File 17/1877.

xliiii Minutes of meeting of Grantville Cemetery Trust dated 22 June 1878.

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xlvi The Age 10 July 1877, p. 2.

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xlvi The Argus 4 February 1878, p. 5; The Age 5 May 1879, p. 2.

xlvi Phillip Island Rates Book 1880 p. 103; Phillip Island Rates Book 1881, p. 126.

xlvi Victoria Public Records Office Kelly Historical Collection - Part 1 Police Branch Memo 343.

l Leader 10 May 1879, p. 3; Advocate 10 May 1879, p. 17; Bairnsdale Advertiser & Tambo & Omeo Chronicle 27 January 1885, p. 3.

li Sands Melbourne Directory 1880, p. 538; Sands Melbourne Directory 1881, p. 558; Phillip Island Rate Books 1881 Vol. 2, p. 122.

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lv Minutes of meeting of Grantville Cemetery Trust dated 24 March 1879, 6 November 1879; Sands Melbourne Directory 1880, p. 538; Sands Melbourne Directory 1881, p. 558.

lvi Sands Melbourne Directory 1889, p. 754; Sands Melbourne Directory 1892, p.319; Sands Melbourne Directory 1899, p. 1040.

lvii Emerald Hill, Victoria, Australia Death Registration No. 785/1881.

lviii Alexandra & Yea Standard 8 February 1889, p. 2.

lix Kensington Hill Victoria Australia Death Registration No. 1071/1891.

lx Kensington Hill Victoria Australia Death Registration No. 1071/1891.

lxi Gippsland Times 18 August 1884, p. 3.

lxii The Age 24 March 1890, p. 8; Phillip Island Rate Books Crown Lease Allotment 91 1891-1896 Vols 5, 6 & 7 pp 85, 123, 90, 40.

lxiii Mount Alexander Mail 22 June 1896, p. 2; The Age 4 October 1897, p. 9; Weekly Times 20 May 1899, p. 17.

lxiv The Herald 30 March 1899, p. 4; The Herald 7 June 1902, p. 2; Record 15 November 1902, p. 1.

lxv The Age 25 August 1908, p. 1.

lxvi Will of George F Monks executed 29 October 1909.

lxvii Victoria Public Record Office Probate & Administration George Francis Monks Record No. 115151.

lxviii St Kilda Historical Society Inc. © 2004.

### Samuel W. McGowan

Child mortality was an accepted fact of life in pre-antibiotic times, but doubly tragic in the case of George and Susan McGowan as Samuel seems to have been their only child.

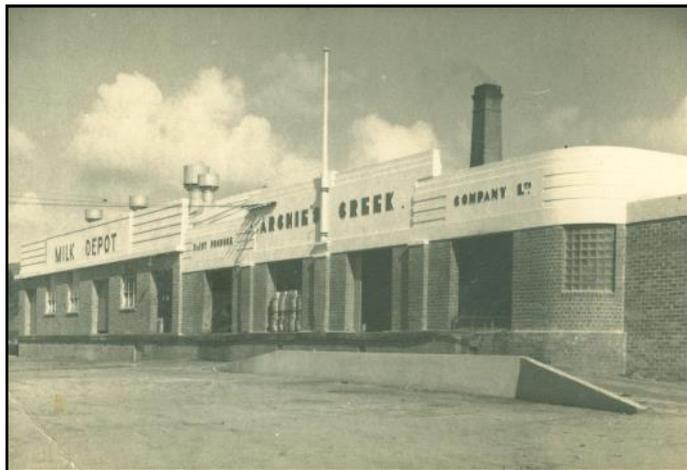
George Alexander McGowan, known locally as 'the Silver King' was Queensferry's most flamboyant resident, who spent freely - too freely as it turned out, ending up broke and living in Grantville. It is not yet known when George or Susan died or where they are buried.



**Geoff Guilfoyle**

## Cheese Factory, Glen Forbes

By Tony Hughes



**The factory was fully owned and operated by the Archie's Creek Dairy Produce Company; building started in early 1941 with production commencing later that year after the Australian Government called for increased quantities of cheese and condensed milk to help the war effort; it was officially opened in September 1943; closed in 1961; manufacturing equipment was then moved to the Archie's Creek Butter Factory, with the cheese factory and associated houses auctioned off and sold in 1962.**

**Only the factory foundations and one house remain today.**

### **Record of interview with Bruno Brusamarello, Sunday 5th August 2012**

**Present:** Bruno and Teresa Brusamarello, Terry their son and Maria, their daughter-in-law.

Bruno worked continuously at the factory as a process worker from 1950 to 1961 when the factory closed.

Bruno arrived in Glen Forbes in 1950, aged 18 and commenced work at the cheese factory the following week as a process worker and stayed until the factory closed in 1961. After a week in Wonthaggi, Bruno lived in the company owned house next to the General Store for a year with his relatives before moving onto the newly acquired family farm with his dad and family. Bruno and Teresa are still living happily there 61 years later.

Bruno worked at the factory with his dad, Anthony; uncle Dominic; cousin's Dino & Mario and friend Bisognin. Two other Italians also worked with them, Mr. Caldana from Lang Lang and a second man from Wonthaggi who boarded with the Ghellars.

There were 24 permanent male process

workers in the factory with normally 3 to 4 men on 6 hour 40 minute shifts, 6 days a week i.e. 40 hours. Pat Jones [Watson], the only female working in the factory carried out quality and milk fat content tests.

As the factory operated 7 days a week; the shifts were staggered to suit. The factory was attended 20 hours a day during peak milk production over summer and only day shift during winter due to low milk production. The staff carried out general maintenance, modifications, cleaning and gardening until spring.

[The cheese factory was built by the Archie's Creek Dairy Produce Company "as the result of the urgent appeal by the Dairy Produce Board for increased quantities of cheese and condensed milk". This new factory also helped deal with the State Governments restriction of a [Melbourne] "100 miles transport problem to deliver your milk as though it was nothing". The new factory met this requirement and captured the fresh milk market in the Bass Valley. \* ]

Farmer's milk was transported from Lang Lang, Woodleigh, Kernot, Glen Alvie, Almurta, Grantville, Bass & other places.

Milk was brought to the factory in cans by horse and dray and truck in the early days, then later, only by truck. Drivers unloaded their cans onto the loading platform for one of the workers to put onto a conveyor. The cans were conveyed to another worker who placed them on a turntable one at a time and removed the lid. As the cans rotated, they were automatically tipped upside down, emptied, cleaned with hot water & detergent, rinsed with hot water and steam dried. The sterilised cans with their clean lids were removed from the turntable and put back onto the loading platform for the waiting driver to load back into his vehicle.

In the early 1950s, the milk handling area was modified to eliminate a process worker, a single continuous system where the cans were placed on a conveyor system that automatically emptied, cleaned and sterilized the cans before the same worker placed them back on the loading platform.

The factory had ten 1000 gallon cheese vats, six in one area and four in another. The presses for separating the gases and whey were large stainless steel perforated cylinders, approx 18 inches in diameter lined with cheesecloth which acted as filters.

## Cheese Factory, Glen Forbes continued



The waste watery part of milk called whey drained by gravity into a big tank in the ground on the opposite side of the road. From here it was pumped via pipeline to Herb Perrin's piggery which was opposite the factory; Herb was an old man who controlled the volume of whey he took or diverted into channels in the bush behind what is now the back of Pat & Rosa Butera's 'Bass River Winery'.

If something went wrong, the tank overflowed into a dam at the front of Bruno's farm. The 'bush' disposal method was based on the assumption that the waste would flow slowly through the soil to the Bass River, by which time it was meant to be clean! Unfortunately this approach often failed causing the river to become polluted resulting in stock downstream refusing to drink from it!

Joe Wilson, Secretary and Manager of the parent, Archie's Creek Dairy Produce Company purchased a riverside farm downstream on McGrath's road in 1951/2 and would become upset when the river was contaminated. He had a siren fitted to the waste pumps to alert him if the "on line" pump failed.

In the early days, water for the factory was drawn from the river, but later a large bore, about 6 inches in diameter or larger was put down which gave unlimited good quality water all year round. [ The bore was located by a water diviner using a stick, Ivy Yann ]

Not long after Bruno started in 1950, he and another man were asked to dig a huge hole about 10 feet diameter and 10 feet deep at the back of the factory to put all the spoiled cheeses into. He remembers the terrible smell from the rotten cheese blocks and an even more foul smell if the packaging broke when they were throwing them into the pit.

Bruno spent most of his time working on the casein separating machine; milk was heated and treated until 99% of the fat separated. The casein was pressed, dried, chopped into "rice grains" and packed into potato bags, sent to Melbourne to be used in the manufacture of

plastics, textiles, paints and other things both locally and overseas.

Tasty cheese [Cheddar cheese matured for 6 to 12 months, #] was the only style of cheese made at the factory and it was sold under the "Archie's Creek Tasty Cheese" label. Ten pound weight blocks were wrapped in cheesecloth; air dried and sold within Australia. Twenty pound blocks were wrapped in cheesecloth and plastic and also sold within Australia. Forty and eighty pound blocks were wrapped in cheesecloth, dipped in wax, then packed into wire and plywood crates for export to England. Some crates contained two eighty pound blocks and were moved by two men without mechanical assistance.

The factory achieved a record profit each year until near the end; falling prices resulted in the factory closing in 1961. All machinery was moved to the parent butter factory in Archie's Creek, the building and houses were then sold by auction in 1962. The factory and land were bought by Fred Reiter for £1500 and Jack Watson, who had originally donated the land for the factory bought back five acres and one of the homes to retire into. Jennie Bolding now owns and lives in this house.

The forty pound blocks were the most popular product. The General Store did not sell any of the cheese produced; locals and factory workers could buy the ten pound blocks at the factory from the boss, Jim Jennings at full price - no staff discounts! Sam Pearson became the cheesemaker when Vin O'Neil left in the early 1950's, Sam remained until the factory closed in 1961.

Bruno remembers it as a good job which he enjoyed. The workers did everything including repairs, upgrades, cleaning, etc. They got a fair wage and were generally well treated. If the power failed, [which was often], the workers were sent home without pay and had to be ready to return when power was restored.

Bruno did not like the bulk tanker deliveries which were introduced in the late 1950's by Joe Wilson to replace cans. Fresh pasteurised milk was sent to Melbourne in two 1500 gallon road tankers every night of the year, never by train. In winter, cheese production was cut back to ensure the fresh milk contracts were met. Usually only three or four, 1000 gallon cheese vats were full during winter, whereas in summer, all ten vats would be full each day. Each day's milk would all be sent to Melbourne or converted into cheese, casein or cream, no milk would be held over for the next day's production.

## Cheese Factory, Glen Forbes

Continued



### Additional information from Pat Jones, 15th August, 2012.

Each farmer's milk was first tipped into the weighing scale. Using a long handled sample ladle, Pat would dip it into his milk to make up two samples, one for milk fat content and the second for milk quality. Both sample bottles had unique identifiers so the results could be traced back to the farmer. The weighed and sampled milk was then released into a larger vat below for processing.

[“The (milk) test room was equipped with a Methylene Blue Reductase testing outfit, complete with testing for sediment, butter fat and curd testing.” \*]

The milk fat sample bottle had a narrow graduated stem at the top to indicate milk fat content for which the farmer was paid, the higher the fat content, the more the farmer got paid for his milk. Acid was added to the milk fat sample as part of the test, it had to be handled carefully otherwise your clothes got lots of holes in them from any spills. The sample was then placed into a centrifuge to separate the fat which was then measured on the graduated stem.

The milk quality sample was placed in a small clear glass bottle together with a small amount of Methylene Blue which immediately turned the sample “blue”. This sample was then left to stand for several hours, probably four and then checked. If the blue had turned clear, the milk was deemed to be of poor quality and the farmer would be notified.

Fred Reiter who purchased the factory building in 1962 owned an abattoir in Lance Creek. Local opinion at the time suggested Fred bought the factory to stop a competitor using it to start up another abattoir? When Pat wasn't busy with milk testing, she would help cut up cheesecloth.

### Additional information from Ivy Yann, 13th August, 2012

To give them the best chance of winning a prize in the World Cheese Competition in London, Sam the cheesemaker made and checked daily for months, special cheeses for the competition. All this effort and attention to detail paid off, he won the most coveted cheese making prize in the world at that time, everyone was happy. Edward [Ted] Yann was a director of the Archie's Creek Dairy Produce Company at the time bulk milk tankers were introduced and was actively involved with Joe Wilson, Secretary and Manager of the Company in what is believed to be the first bulk tanker pick-up of farm milk in

Australia. Joe had seen it in New Zealand and realised the benefits it could bring to the company's operations. When the river was polluted with milk waste, Ivy remembers seeing on many occasions, lots of eels congregating around any fresh water stream flows into the river, presumably they were desperate for clean water poor things?

### Additional information from Don & Irene Wheatley, Thursday, 23 August, 2012

Irene remembers Don telling her that rats would always go to the best cheeses to have a feed; they would gnaw their way through the cheese room cancrete walls and could easily destroy a cheese overnight. If the affected cheese could be salvaged, it was cut up and shared among the workers. Irene worked for Mr Lennie in his Grantville shop and remembers cutting up the 10 pound blocks for customers. Some were really nice while others were terrible; some even had good parts while the rest of the block was soft and mushy.

Mr Lennie had lost an arm in Singapore during WW11. Don started work at the factory, aged 15 in 1943 and stayed six years. His dad Hubert was a ticketed Boiler Attendant at the factory. Don started learning two trades while he was there and was about half qualified in both Boiler Attending and Cheesemaking when he left in 1949. He gave a weeks' notice to Joe Wilson who had recently replaced Wally Graham as the company manager. [After a lengthy illness, Wally Graham retired through ill health in 1948 and the board appointed Joe Wilson to replace him as Secretary and Manager of the Company , ^]

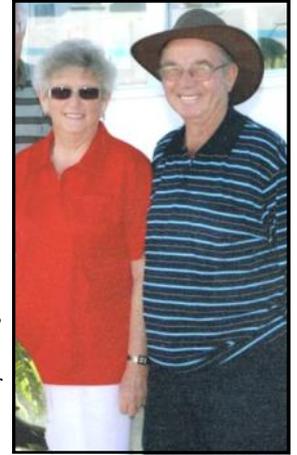
The factory memories from Bruno and Pat were after Don had left, a number of practices and equipment they refer to were added later.

In the early days, Don's main job was to sample the night's milk for fat and quality, record the weight of each farmers milk, help Bill Turton with the hand tipping (emptying) into the weigh scale and skidding the empty cans across the floor on metal skid plates to Bob Donaldson who loaded the empty cans and lids onto the automatic cleaning and sterilising machine [capable of cleaning 320 cans /hour, \*].

There weren't any conveyors at the time, cans were moved by skidding them along wide metal plates that quickly became very greasy and dangerous from the milk fats, Don didn't like them at all.

In the factory photo with two Blackney trucks backed up to the unloading ramp, the [Avery which were accurate from 1 ounce to 1000 pounds, \* ] weighing scale is behind the LHS doorway with the cans out front; the automatic rotary can washer is behind the next doorway; cans are stored behind the next doorway with bagged goods such as wheat, chaff and other stuff behind the fourth doorway.

...../12



Irene & Don Wheatley

## Cheese Factory, Glen Forbes

### Continued

Before the 'Milk Depot' addition, large semi trailers would back down that side of the building to load pasteurised milk cans for Bacchus Marsh, occasionally they would back into the chimney but didn't seem to damage it much. Don recalls with amusement, Wally Graham, the company manager delivering a brand new International truck, selected reverse by mistake and went straight back into the chimney in front of all those who had come to admire the new truck. Fortunately, the only damage done was to Wally's pride.

The average milk fat content of the district's farmer's milk was around 4.5% but a good Jersey herd could put it over 5% which gave the farmer more money but was a headache for the cheesemaker. The farmers tried to balance their herds with a mixture of Jersey and Holstein cows to get the biggest volume of milk at 4.5% fat. As cream settled out overnight in the farmers cans, it was important to make sure the milk was stirred properly before it was sampled to get the correct result. Don remembers a bit of excitement when the Campbell's at Kernot registered an 18% milk fat content?; only cream had been sampled from the top of the can instead of milk from the weigh scale which became a problem for the tester and possibly a bigger milk cheque for the Campbell's. Each farmers milk cans were identified by either a small brass plate soldered onto each can or their name stamped onto the bottom flange or just painted on. As Bill Turton only had one speed, "flat out", Don remembers struggling at times trying to record the farmers name, milk weight, collect the sample, help Bill with the lids and skid the empty can complete with lid on to Bob before Bill was on to the next farmer. If the farmer only had a can or two, Don knew he was in trouble!

Each sample bottle had its own number which was recorded against the farmer; a small formalin table was put into each bottle to preserve the sample which could be held for up to 10 days before being sent to the Archie's Creek Butter factory for testing. After the farmer's milk was weighed and sampled, it was released into a 1500 gallon 'D' shaped receiving vat below, where it then passed into the Flush Pasteuriser before passing on to either the cheese vats or being canned for transport to the Lifeguard Milk Factory in Bacchus Marsh for manufacture into condensed milk. In the busy period, up to 3 semi-trailers of pasteurised milk in cans were loaded and transported to Lifeguard each day. The Flush Pasteuriser consisted of perhaps 80

plates with rubber gaskets to provide an effective seal, these were all held together in a huge press. The farmers milk was first heated (pasteurised) by steam, cooled with cold water and then chilled with brine [cooled by a 20 ton fully automatic 'Bell' ammonia refrigeration compressor complete with a 6000 gallon brine tank, \*]. Don remembers many times after he had pulled them all apart, cleaned each plate often with great difficulty, put them all back together only to have milk squirting out of spots it shouldn't. Every clean was like a lucky dip, some sealed alright, lots didn't.

Fortunately, most of the time, 'a bit more grunt' on the press screws stopped the leaks. Cheese was manufactured in a low sided, slightly V shaped bottom 1000 gallon vat by heating to 100°F with steam; skim milk was added to get the correct percentage of fat content; mixed with agitators and then stopped; about 1 quart of Rennet added; agitated again for around 5 minutes; left to stand for a few minutes to let the Rennet do its trick which set the mixture to the consistency of Junket (solid but very soft). The curd was then cut into half inch blocks by hand using cheese knives which were a wire stretched between two handles; agitated for a little while; left to stand for around 30 minutes to let the whey start separating leaving little yellow, pea like pieces of cheese floating around in a sea of whey; steam disconnected to stop the heating and the whey drained from the vat; then immature cheese was allowed to settle creating a slab in the bottom of the vat. Salt was then sprinkled over the vat; the cheese was then mixed by hand by pulling it up to the side of the vat; left to stand for a while until it again settled to the bottom of the vat. Using the cheese knife again, it was cut into 8 inch wide strips before an overhead cheese mill sitting across the top of the vat cut the strips up into small slices similar to potato chips. These 'chips' were then scooped up by hand with a flat sided bucket and put into circular cheese moulds lined with cheese cloth. Using a combination of screws and weights, the cheese was compressed to exclude whey and gas. The weights had to be kept above their stops with screws to continually compress the cheese; this was difficult for Don as he was only a young bloke and the weights were very heavy. The moulds were twice as big as the resulting cheese block to allow for whey and gasses to escape.

Next day, the cheeses were removed from the moulds and put into the cheese room to start maturing.



Cheese Factory, Glen Forbes  
Continued



All photos supplied by Tony Hughes.

- Page 10 - C.A.Blackney trucks unloading milk cans into the Glen Forbes Cheese Factory, around 1946.
- Photo courtesy - Charlie Blackney.
- Leaflet advertising the auction of the Glen Forbes Cheese Factory, six company houses and five acres of land in 1962,, courtesy of Bruno Brusamarello.
- Lead photo page 9, Cheese factory mid 1950s, courtesy Bruno Brusamearello
- Photo and scan page 11, 1940's, courtesy Don Wheatley.
- Glen Forbes Station, mid 1920's
- Courtesy Australian Railways Historical Society

The first in a series featuring newspaper advertisements from the early 1900's



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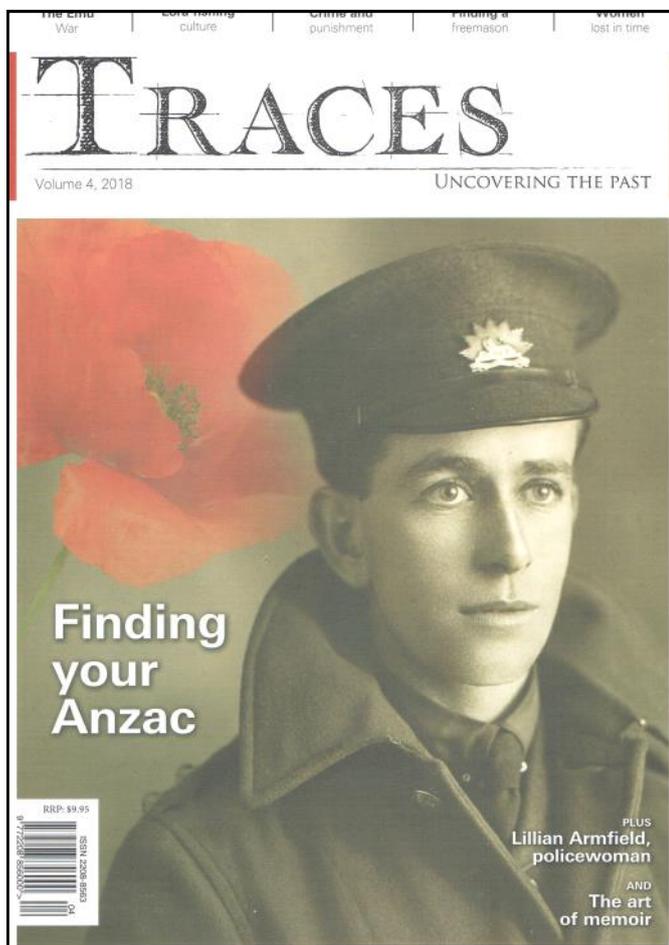
*On behalf of the Bass Valley U3A and members of the Local History Group I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year 2019*

*Roger Clark., Editor*

## Traces Magazine

The launch of Traces Magazine earlier this year has created great interest from people interested in local history, wherever they live.

Edition 4 is now on sale and features some great stories, including one on photographic storage and restoration



We have received a number of inquiries regarding where to buy the magazine and have obtained the following information from the publishers.

The list covers our target area, and subscribers, plus areas they might be likely to be passing through

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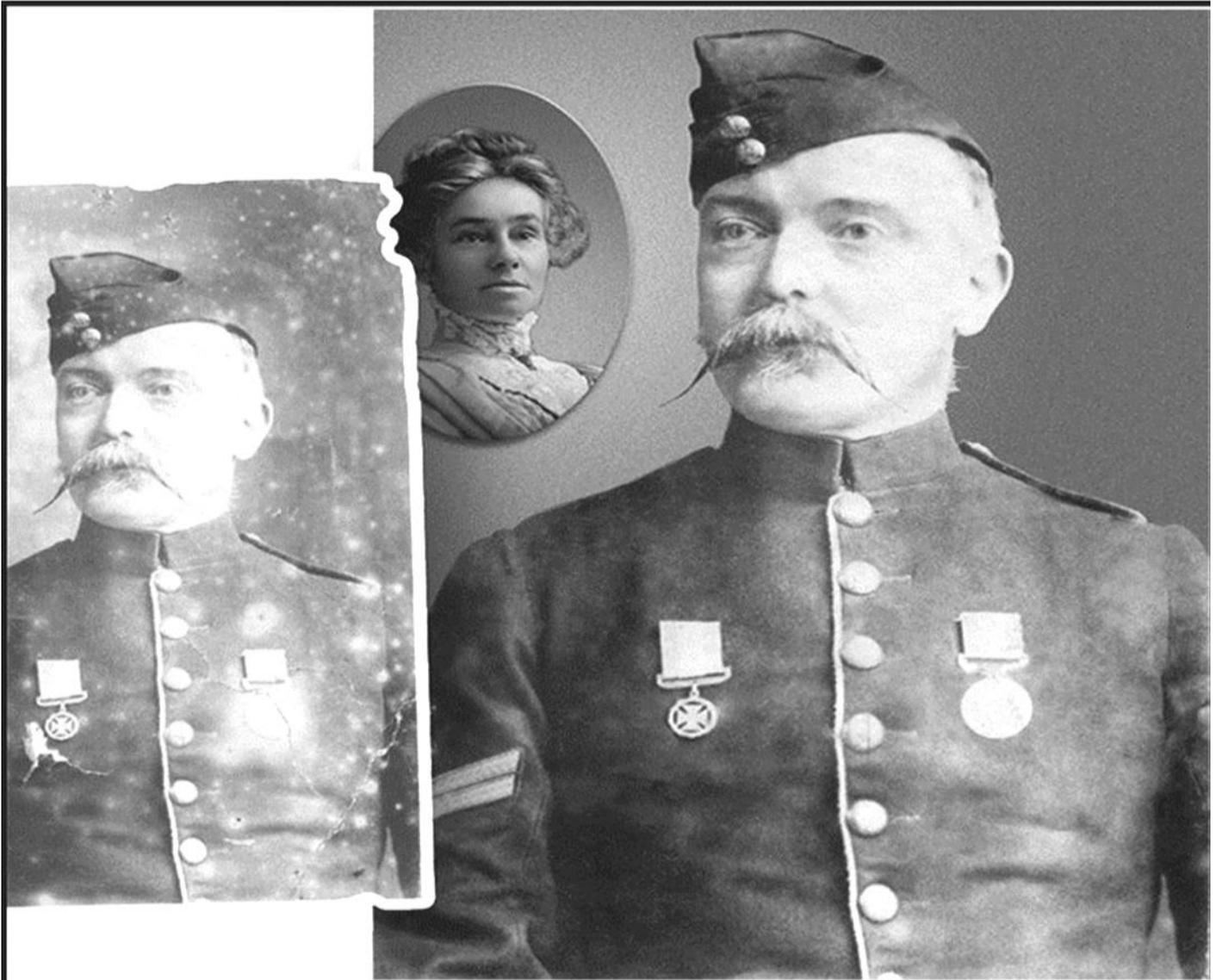
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