



Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of the G.S.V. Inc.

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past



Volume 45 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

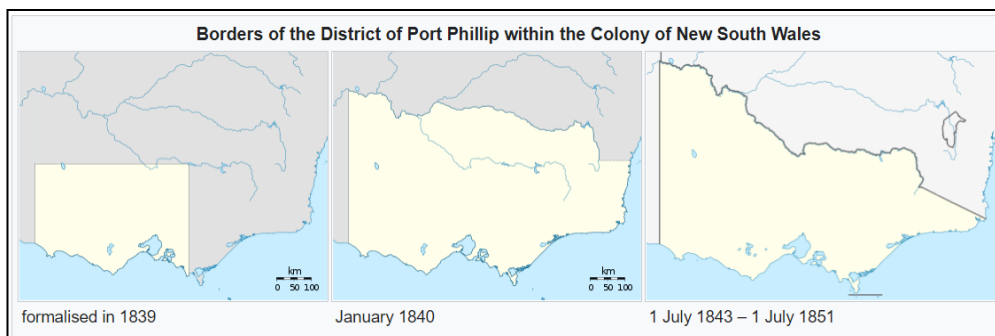
February ~ March 2022

No: 222

VICTORIA 170 YEARS IN THE MAKING Retrospective and Perspective

On 1 July 1851, the Port Phillip District was separated from the Colony of New South Wales under provisions of the Australian Colonies Government Act 1850, and became the Colony of Victoria. The 1851 Census, taken on 2 March, showed the inhabitants of the Colony of Victoria as 77,345 and Melbourne as 12,374.

In retrospect, we are all indebted to the First Nations people who were already here, to those immigrants who crossed the seas and to those born here, who all made Victoria their home in the last 170 years.



Source:
wikipedia.org

The growth of our State can be partly attributed to the early pioneers for their foresight and determination to improve their living standards through agriculture and trade. The gold rush, beginning in the 1850's, ushered in a more multicultural society here and the ensuing riches built 'Marvellous Melbourne.' Whilst some squatters prospered, others fought and lost their battle with nature, during events like The Black Thursday bushfires in 1851, which occurred only months before our secession from New South Wales. An article from the *Geelong Advertiser* on 14 February, page 2, described the horrific conditions people endured where temperatures reached 120° Fahrenheit (or nearly 49° Celsius) in the sun.

"..... the fiery projectiles which were swept through the air, and which carried devastation to stations and homesteads that were thought to be secure. The violence of the wind, the intensity, breadth, and volume of the fire, the combustible condition of grass, trees, fences, huts, and houses, formed a combination that baffled both calculation and any means of resistance."

Victorians' have suffered the deprivations of droughts, bushfires, floods, cyclones and pandemics before and since our inception as a Colony in 1851. We are still enduring these challenges today, and despite Melbourne being one of the 'most locked-down cities in the world' during the 2020/21 Covid pandemic, we can reflect on the past 170 years of Victoria as a State, with faith in our resilience and confidence in our prospects for the future as our forebears did.

Contributed by Dianne Wheeler, PPPG Member No 1505, Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members and friends,

Happy New Year to you and we are hoping for a more settled year than the last.

We will be continuing our hybrid meetings which give all members an opportunity to attend on the 12th February. Members with email would have received a post encouraging them to participate in giving a ten-minute presentation on the day, (three people at the most) would be accepted, first in best dressed.

Following this, will be a question & answer session, a quiz and afternoon tea.

So come along and join the fun. Check the website for any Covid restrictions, I don't imagine that this will occur but you never know.

We have speakers booked for most of the year so that is good. Please let us know if you have something you would like to be explored at a meeting or even in the newsletter.

Take care, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon, either in person or on Zoom.

Regards Barb Hawkins, President PPPG.



WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING



PPPG No	Member Name	Descended From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1403	Beverley JACOBSON (additional claim)	a) Mary HOOD b) James HOOD c) Margaret HOOD nee O'NEIL d) William SIEVERS	Arr. P.P.D. " " Married P.P.D.	27 Jun 1840 17 Jul 1841 " 4 Aug 1843	<i>Andromache</i> <i>England</i> " "
1539	Brian LONG	a) John CHIVERS b) Mary Ann CHIVERS nee GARDNER	Arr. P.P.D. "	30 Sep 1840 "	<i>Himalaya</i> "
1536	Nicholas WAKELING (additional claim)	a) George ABBOTT b) Eleanor ABBOTT nee McKEOWN c) Alicia STEPHENS	Arr. P.P.D. " Born P.P.D.	Prior to 1840 "	
1540	Deborah ARCH	a) George MILL b) Elizabeth MILL née DAVIDSON c) Elizabeth MILL (their daughter) d) William EDWARDS e) Marie EDWARDS nee CHARLES f) Edwin EDWARDS g) James DOYLE h) Mary DOYLE nee McDONOUGH i) Elizabeth DOYLE	Arr. P.P.D. " " Arr. P.P.D. " " Arr. P.P.D. " " "	30 Nov 1841 " " 15 Jan 1841 " " 9 Jan 850 " " "	<i>Marquis of Bute</i> " " <i>Fergusson</i> " " <i>Maitland</i> " " "

NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

The PPPG will be in need of a new Secretary to commence May 2022 with the retirement of Bev Jacobson.

If you are interested please contact Bev at

info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

PIONEER PROFILES VOL. 8

Don't forget to submit your Pioneer Profiles for

Volume 8 to Bev at:

info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

(see www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au)

LOSING THE BLUE LAKE:

THE 19TH CENTURY RECLAMATION OF THE WETLANDS OF WEST MELBOURNE

Address at General Meeting on 13 November 2021 by David Sornig

David Sornig is the author of 'Blue Lake - Finding Dudley Flats and the West Melbourne Swamp'. I haven't as yet read the book, but I remember the Blue Lake area in the late 1950s. From Princes Pier looking to the north-west I could see masses of sea gulls hovering over what looked like a rubbish dump.

David discussed the first part of his book which concentrates on the transformation of the wet lands area into an engineered and industrial landscape. An area of about eight square miles, today including the Maribyrnong River, Coode Island, Swanston Dock, Appleton Dock, Coode's Canal and the Bolte Bridge.

The area was the Yarra Delta with various rivers running into it: the Maribyrnong River, Stony Point Creek, the Moonee Ponds creek, and the Merri Creek which joins the Yarra further upstream. The Yarra then as now, ran into Port Phillip Bay.

Over time the geography of the area has changed. River levels have altered, rising and falling. Port Phillip Bay has at times been completely dry, making for good hunting grounds for the local aborigines. At other times it has been full of water. It last flooded about nine hundred years ago when sea levels rose and the heads of the bay opened up, forming the coast line within the bay and the mouth of the Yarra River as we know it.

The Yarra River was called Birrarung by the aborigine clans who lived around it – the Watha Wurrung, Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung. This area was a rich source of food and attracted visitors from further afield. Hundreds of people would congregate in seasons when food was plentiful. There was abundant birdlife such as ducks, geese, swans, and also eels, shellfish, and wallabies on land.

South of Birrarung, extending down to Hobson's Bay, the area had a sandy base and there were sandy marshes and lagoons, Albert Park Lake being a remnant.

To the north and west of Melbourne there were wetlands, with a large tidal lagoon, which early settlers called the Blue Lake. It received water from the Moonee Moonee chain of ponds when they overflowed into the Moonee Moonee Creek and it was also fed by salt water from seasonal flooding of the Birrarung, which was salty up to the falls, around today's Queen Street in Melbourne.

When surveyor-general Charles Grimes surveyed Port Phillip Bay in 1803, he referred to the area as a swamp with many birds.

In 1835, John Batman described the area north of the Birrarung as a marsh, one and a half miles by three to four miles long and he saw about a thousand quail flying over the area. John Helda Wedge in his survey map of Port Phillip, proposed a public common around the lagoon.

From today's Flagstaff Hill, and Batman's Hill, (flattened by 1866), there was a wonderful view of the Lagoon, Port Phillip Bay, and the surrounding countryside including Mt Macedon.

The area where Docklands is today, was low lying, but dry in the 1830s to 1850s. Early paintings of Melbourne show a road circling to the north of the marsh, Swamp Road, which is where Dynon Road is today. It was the way to the Barrabool Hills. It crossed the Maribyrnong River at a narrow section, probably Solomon's Ford, near Braybrook, and headed towards Sunshine and Deer Park.

As Melbourne developed, smelly industries such as tanneries, boiling down works, piggeries, and glue factories, concentrated around the water ways and waste, including sewerage, was dumped in low lying areas. In 1866 a railway causeway went around the north of the swamp, and Swamp Road became Dynon Road. The swamp itself became a convenient site for dumping all sorts of waste.

In 1873, a Royal Commission on Low Lying Lands was appointed to enquire into the best means of making the low lands adjacent to the western and southern sides of the City of Melbourne, available for factory and trade waste. The solution was to drain the Lagoon and reclaim the land. The Birrarung was also to be realigned as it was not easily navigated by the bigger steam ships. British engineer, Sir John Coode was appointed for this task and thus we have the Yarra diverted through Coode's Channel from Fishermen's bend to Melbourne. Coode Island is the area between the original course of the Birrarung at Dynon Road and the Coode Canal.

Remnants of the original curve in the river exist in the form of the Dynon Road Tidal Canal, which runs along the south side of Dynon Road and empties into the Maribyrnong River just north of where a railway line crosses Sims Street (nearly opposite Bunbury Street, Footscray).

The other remnant from the 1890s was the Railway Coal Canal which travelled in a north South direction connecting the Moonee Moonee chain of ponds to the Coode Canal. It was used to transport coal to the rail yards. Today there is a Railway Canal reserve on the Moonee Ponds Creek but in the Depression of the 1930s it was known as the Dudley Flats shanty town.

It is very sad that we have lost forever, the Blue Lagoon, which Port Phillip Pioneer and son of artist, Georgian McCrae, loved as a child. Not just for the bird life, but also the vivid colour of the water, surrounded by magenta flowers of pigface, and yellow yam daisy flowers, along with the perfume of the fringe lilies.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow, PPPG Member No. 1057

THOMAS CROFT - SEXTON AND UNDERTAKER

Thomas Croft, more than anyone else, was involved in the running of St. James Burial Ground (now known as the Old Melbourne Cemetery) during the time it was open to the general public for burials from 1838 to 1854.

Thomas was born c.1795 in Benenden, near Cranbrook, Kent, England and baptised on 4 March 1796 in St. George's Church of England, Benenden, the son of William Croft and his wife Elizabeth (Beth) (nee Brignall), and worked as a farm labourer (hops). Thomas had early convictions for stealing and poaching and had spent time in prison in Maidstone, Kent. He had a cart and horse and was dealing in fruit at Kennington, near Ashford, Kent at the time he was convicted at Kent Assizes on 17 July 1823 for stealing hay and sentenced to transportation for 7 years. He departed England on 29 March 1824 on the **"Phoenix"** and arrived at Van Diemen's Land (V.D.L.) on 21 July 1824. While serving his sentence in V.D.L. he committed some further minor offences for which he received additional punishments. He received his Certificate of Freedom on 22 July 1830.

On 10 July 1837, while working as a carter, he married Elizabeth Wakeman in St. John's Church of England, Launceston, V.D.L., daughter of John Wakeman and his wife Ann. Elizabeth was born on 1 May 1822 in George Town, V.D.L. and baptised on 11 August 1822 in St. John's Church of England, Launceston, V.D.L. Their first child, Thomas Croft, was born in August 1838 in V.D.L. and their next 6 children were all born in Melbourne.

Thomas snr sailed from Launceston on 17 November 1838 on the **"Black Joke"** (Capt. James Harding) and arrived at Melbourne, Port Phillip District on 20 November 1838. His wife and son followed him departing Launceston on 15 December 1838 per **"Enterprise"** (Capt. Peter Hunter) and arriving at Melbourne on 20 December 1838.

It is not certain when he became the Sexton at St. James Church of England (a sexton is a church officer who takes care of the church property and grounds, and may perform other duties like ringing the bells and grave digging), but when he baptised his second son there in 1840 his occupation was given as 'Sexton.' He continued to be described as a Sexton up to and including the baptism of their fifth child, Joseph Woolley Broadstock Croft in 1846. When their sixth child, James Croft, was baptised in 1848 he was described as an 'Undertaker.'

Meanwhile, on 18 June 1846 William Willis was appointed 'Grave Digger' by the Rev. Adam Compton Thompson. Willis subsequently described himself as 'Sexton.' The term 'grave digger' had possibly been used because another person was performing the other duties of a 'sexton' at St. James Church. In September 1850 the **"Melbourne Daily News"** reported on an inquest that was held on the body of James Buckland who had committed suicide at

his residence in Collingwood. The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of *felo de se* (meaning "felon of him-/herself") , and he was buried within the consecrated ground in that part of the cemetery that had been allotted to the aborigines. This was subsequently considered not to be in accordance with the verdict of the Jury, by which the deceased was deprived of Christian burial. The consequence was that instructions were given to the undertaker, Thomas Croft, to disinter the body and inter it beyond the limits of the consecrated ground.

On a Wednesday night in March 1851, Dr. David John Thomas sent for Thomas Croft, to whom he had long been a 'regular customer.' Croft arrived as commanded and the man of black was ordered to find a hearse, and pair, and plumes, and to provide a coffin forthwith. The latter article not being on hand he was desired to knock up a 'shell' as soon as possible. Half-an-hour completed the rude job, and hearse, shell, pair, plumes, and all, were at the Doctor's door awaiting further orders. In a few minutes the Doctor came out with a letter addressed to Mr. ----, at the **"Argus"** office, wither Croft was desired to proceed for the body.

Arriving there, he was met at the door by a tall, dark-looking man to whom he handed his letter of introduction, and waited for an answer. Into an inner room popped this man and Croft proceeded to prepare his shell for the expected deceased. He had not quite succeeded in landing it on 'terra firma,' when the tall man aforesaid called to him to enter the office, and addressed him thus:-

Tall Man: *"Who have you come from?"*

Croft: *"Dr. Thomas."*

Tall Man: *"Who have you come for?"*

Croft: *"The dead body."*

Tall Man: *"This order is for the dead body of Edward Wilson, and he's NOT dead yet."*

Croft: *"Dr. Thomas told me that he saw the death in the **"Argus"** that morning, and considered him under all the circumstances entitled to Christian burial."*

At this critical juncture, and just as Croft began to 'smell a rat,' he found himself violently expelled from the office by another tall dark man, (in spectacles) who muttered something about - libel - law - justice - farthing - damages - won't write - vagabond - Moor - (all to the amazed undertaker perfectly unintelligible) and slammed the door violently in his face, leaving the hearse, shell, and the amazed Croft to find his way back home again as best he might.

The **"Argus"** itself gave the following account of the matter:

*"MODEST. - The following letter was delivered at the **"Argus"** Office at a late hour on Wednesday night, by a mouldy-smelling gentleman, with a hearse; who could scarcely be prevailed upon to go away without his prey:-*

"To the Manager of the "Argus" Office."

"SIR, - In a late number of the "Argus," I observed that Mr. Wilson had bequeathed his remains to Doctors Howitt, Alexander Hunter, and myself. I believe this is the time to make our claim. I have therefore ordered Mr. Croft, undertaker, to take on his drag a shell, and request that you will have the goodness to let him have Mr. Wilson's body, in order that we may commence our dissection in the morning."

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours, obediently,

D. J. THOMAS, Surgeon."

"Bourke Street,

March 19th, 1851."



When Thomas Croft recounted his story to a newspaper office the following morning he was said to be grinning from ear to ear ("and he assures us he had been laughing the whole live-long night"). Dr. Thomas was said to have been as noted for his humour as he was for his professional qualifications.

Although Thomas Croft had been declared insolvent in 1843, he was able to continue in business. He died on 10 November 1854, of paralysis, at his residence, 76 Madeline Street, North Melbourne, Victoria and was buried 12 November 1854 in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton. His estate was valued at about £3,000. Hugh Murray, a cabinet maker who had been employed by Croft was named as one of the executors in Croft's will and continued on in the business, marrying Croft's widow in 1856. Thereafter the business became known as 'Croft and Murray,' still situated at 82 Madeline Street, North Melbourne. (Madeline Street was the former name of the continuation of Swanston Street.) In January 1855 the **"Argus"** reported that the Acting City Coroner had continuing faith in the possibility of the Government providing the long talked of Morgue at some time or other, but for the present he had made temporary arrangements with Croft's undertaking business to house all bodies found, pending the erection of the badly wanted dead-house, the absence of which was felt to be an intolerable nuisance, especially at that time of the year.

Elizabeth died on 21 January 1875 at the residence of her son, Albion Charles Croft, Cunningham Street, Northcote and was buried 23 January 1875 in the Melbourne General Cemetery (M.G.C.), Carlton, Vic., having married secondly in 1856 in Victoria, to Hugh Murray. Hugh Murray was born 18 April 1819, died 1 April 1889 in Melbourne, Vic. and was buried 3 April 1889 in the Melbourne General Cemetery, the headstone reading;

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas CROFT who died 9 Nov 1854 age 60 yrs. also Margaret Dods MURRAY died 1 Mar 1866 age 12 mths. and Elizabeth relict of the above and wife of Hugh MURRAY died 20 Jan 1875 age 53 yrs. also Hugh MURRAY born 18 Apr 1819 died 1 Apr 1889 age 70 yrs."

The children of Thomas Croft and Elizabeth Wakeman were:

1. Thomas Croft, born 1 August 1838 in Launceston, V. D. L. and baptised 5 September 1838 in St. John's Church of England, Launceston, V.D.L. He died 16 October 1902 in Melbourne, Vic., having married 1868 in Victoria to Cornelia Shannon.

2. John Croft, born about 20 April 1840 in Melbourne, Port Phillip District (P.P.D.) and baptised 11 May 1840 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. He died in 1914 in Box Hill, Victoria.

3. William Croft, born 21 September 1841 in Melbourne, P.P.D., and baptised 7 November 1841 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. He died 13 December 1914 in Sorrento, Vic. and was buried 15 December 1914 in M.G.C., Carlton, Vic. He married 25 September 1860 in St. John's Church, Melbourne, Vic. to Olivia Henrietta Boulter, born c1842 and died 28 August 1914 in Essendon, Vic., the daughter of John Boulter (of Bristol, England) and Mary Hallett.

4. Albion Charles Croft, born 21 May 1843 in Melbourne, P.P.D., and baptised 16 July 1843 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. He died 31 December 1920 in Guildford, Sydney, N.S.W. and was buried 2 January 1921 in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, N.S.W. He married 11 June 1864 in Benalla, Vic. to Mary Boyes Joanna Leeson.

5. Joseph Woolley Broadstock Croft, born 17 February 1846 in Melbourne, P.P.D., and baptised 8 April 1846 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. He died 20 July 1917 at 199 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, South Australia and was buried 21 July 1917 in the North Road Cemetery, Adelaide, S.A.. He married 21 August 1867 in the Jubilee Church, Kent Town, Adelaide, S.A. to Mary Jarrett, daughter of S. Jarrett of Portland, Vic

6. James Croft, born 9 May 1848 in Melbourne, P.P.D., and baptised 18 June 1848 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. He died on 30 October 1898 in Port Melbourne, Vic. and was buried in the M.G.C., Carlton, Vic.

7. Catherine Elizabeth Croft, born 4 November 1850 in Melbourne, P.P.D., and baptised 8 January 1851 in St. James Church of England, Melbourne, P.P.D. She died 1909 in East Melbourne, Vic. She married 1894 in Victoria to Herbert Charles Smith, born c1861 and died 1912.

The child of Hugh Murray and Elizabeth Croft (nee Wakeman) was:

1. Margaret Dodds Murray, born c1865, died 1 March 1866, and was buried March 1866 in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton, Vic.

Contributed by Alexander Romanov-Hughes
PPPG Member No. 52

MARGARET SANDIMAN - CENTENARIAN OR NOT?

In her obituary my three times great grandmother Margaret Sandiman was claimed to be 100 years and 6 months old at the time of her death in June 1909. This was a truly remarkable claim for someone born in the early nineteenth century, however it wasn't until I started to put together the facts of Margaret's life that this claim didn't quite add up.

Margaret was born to George Sandiman and Mary Torbet in a tiny Scottish village known as the Bridgend of Lintrathen. Lintrathen is around 20 miles north of Dundee. According to the parish records, George and Mary were married on 7 September 1811 and Margaret was baptised on 19 December 1813, however the register didn't note her date of birth.

Following a move to Dundee, six more children were born to the family between 1815 and 1828. All six of these younger siblings were baptised within a few days or weeks of their birth, as their birth dates were also recorded on the baptism registers.

On 27 February 1834, Margaret married David Martin a flax dresser from Dundee. Margaret and David had six children during the years they lived in Dundee, unfortunately three of those children died in infancy. At the time of the 1841 Census, the family were living at 31 Princes Street Dundee. Both David and Margaret were described as being aged 25, with surviving children Margaret aged 2 and Henry aged 5 months.

By the mid-1840s, the colonies of Australia were crying out for labour and they likely decided to move their family to the other side of the world in search of a better life. In July 1848 the family set sail on the Ship *Nelson*, arriving in Point Henry Geelong on 11 November 1848 – a voyage of 103 days. Margaret was about six months pregnant at the time the ship set sail. The family were listed as David Martin aged 36 Labourer and Margaret Martin aged 33 Housekeeper. With their parents were Margaret Martin aged 8, Henry Martin aged 7 and David Martin aged 2. David died onboard on 13 August 1848 from Scrofula, a form of tuberculosis and was buried at sea.

The voyage was described as difficult for Margaret, as she suffered from rheumatism in her legs which rendered her unable to walk. On 21 September, Margaret Martin gave birth to a daughter they named Mary. Sadly, Mary died onboard two days after arriving in Point Henry on 13 November aged 53 days, with her cause of death noted as inanition. This term meant inadequate nourishment or starvation, commonly due to a mother having insufficient milk. This must have been

heartbreaking for the parents having also lost David Jnr three months earlier. At the end of the voyage, the immigrants of ship *Nelson* banded together to present the captain with a 'piece of plate' as 'a mark of respect and gratitude for his gentleman like manners, uniform kindness and attention to their comfort during the voyage from London to Port Phillip 1848'. This was quite unusual given the tales of terrible deprivations on similar voyages of other immigrant ships.

On arrival at Geelong, David and Margaret were employed as a shepherd and wife at Mount Elephant Station in the Western District of Victoria. David and Margaret with their children journeyed via a dray pulled by 10 bullocks, taking three weeks to travel the 90 miles from Geelong to Mount Elephant Station. During their time at Mount Elephant, a daughter Jessie was born in November 1849.

After two and a half years at Mount Elephant, the family decided to move to Geelong. They settled in Irishtown (these days part of Newtown) and started to build a house; another son, James, was born during 1851. Money was scarce as were building materials and the house was described as humble. Before the house was completed and following the discovery of gold in Ballarat in August 1851, David Martin headed off to the goldfields along with thousands of other hopeful men. After some small success on the goldfields, he returned to Geelong to complete his home. Another son, William was born in Irishtown in 1854.

The family moved to Germantown (now known as Grovedale) sometime between 1854 and 1856, where Margaret gave birth to another son Alexander in May 1856. Around this time David and Margaret separated and he departed to the goldfields once again. Eldest daughter Margaret had married in 1855 and was living in Buninyong with her husband and first child. That left Margaret with five children to support. Margaret kept chickens and from the sale of eggs, together with washing and nursing she managed to keep her family together.

David Martin died in the Pleasant Creek Hospital (Stawell) in 1867 from a cancer in the groin. David's death certificate describes him as a male of 55 years of age, born in Scotland and a labourer. All other fields are completed with 'not known' and marital status was described as 'not married'. It would seem that news of his death didn't reach Margaret for some years, as it wasn't until December 1872 that Margaret applied for administration of David's estate. His estate consisted of five acres of vacant land in Grovedale.

Margaret and the children moved to Curlewis with son Henry around 1873, when Henry leased a farm of 100 acres. His mother, brothers and sisters assisted him on the farm – Margaret took charge of the dairy and the poultry and made weekly trips to Geelong with produce to private customers.

Youngest son William married Ellen Kingsbury in 1874 and went on to have 7 children between 1875 and 1884. When Ellen died in 1884 following the birth of her last son Albert, Margaret took charge of the baby and the other children.

In 1902, Margaret appeared in a newspaper article in The Leader. It was claimed that she was 'born on 24th December 1809 and therefore now in her 93rd year' The article went on to report that she had at that time 90 descendants, including 12 children, 46 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. It also stated that 'Notwithstanding her great age, Mrs Martin enjoys the best of health and delights to participate in amusement, such as singing and dancing'. Also, 'The old lady's faculties are all good and she is most entertaining in conversation, particularly on her experiences of the early days'.



Margaret died at Drysdale on 22 June 1909. Cause of death was stated as senile debility and she had been in a coma for 48 hours. She was buried in the Drysdale General Cemetery.

Source: www.findagrave.com

So, what does the evidence tell us about Margaret Sandiman's birth, and age at death? Her baptism took place on 19 December 1813, which following the tradition of all of her younger siblings' baptisms points to a birth date earlier in December of 1813. Throughout her life, her stated age on various documents supports 1813 as being her year of birth. It was only in the newspaper article of 1902, her obituary and her death certificate that this is different. In her later years, she may have become vaguer about the actual year of her birth and at her death her family understandably may have sought some recognition for her long life by claiming her to be 100. An age of 96 at the time of her death was still a rare achievement for someone born in the early nineteenth century and one that deserves celebrating.

Contributed by Brenda Day - PPPG Member No. 1521



VALE

Daryl Dunn #1308

June Johnson #1167

Bryan James #1306

Noel Webb #643

Joyce Clarke #1436

George Hooper # 786

Nancy Sturgess # 544

Terry Bell #1321

Tony Hargreaves

As an additional service for members and others, Stuart Hamilton has kindly cross-indexed the list of Pioneers claimed by members on the website with articles about the pioneers in our 7 volume publication *Pioneer Profiles*.

This may help you check whether there is an article about your Pioneer ancestors in one of the Volumes, both for interest, and to help you see whether you might like to write one if it doesn't already exist. Click on the link below to check the list.

<https://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/Pioneers%20Claimed%20Intro.htm>

Please see the following website for guidelines on writing a profile.

<https://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/Pioneer%20Profiles%20Guidelines.htm>

FEBRUARY MEETING

Telling the Story

Would you be interested in making a 10 minute presentation about your Pioneer ancestor or family to our February meeting?

If so, please email our [Secretary](#) to book a spot.

Also, enjoy our new quiz and a Q&A session.

MEETINGS

Venue:	Online via ZOOM digital platform Please register your email with the Secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by 6pm Thursday 10 February if you wish to participate. <u>Victorian Government Covid-19 Regulations permitting</u> Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Public Transport: Right on the route of the No 72 tram and only a short walk from the Gardiner Railway Station. Melways Reference: Map 59 H7. Afternoon tea provided.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speakers:	2.30 pm.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 12 February 2022
Speaker:	<u>Telling the Story</u> An opportunity for members to make 10 minute presentations on a Pioneer ancestor or family. Please email our Secretary to book a spot. Also a quiz and a Q&A session.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President	Barbara Hawkins	5981 2978	barbh27@bigpond.com
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Examiner of Proofs	Anne Bevis	5672 2593	bevishome11@gmail.com
Committee member	Bronwyn Quint		bquint1@bigpond.com
Committee member	Carol Stals		carolstals@gmail.com
Committee member	Paul Cronin		croninpj@outlook.com
Webmaster	Stuart Hamilton		stuarth138@gmail.com

Representatives from other States/Countries:

USA Mr. Ken McNaughton, 3778 College Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043 kjmcn@comcast.net

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

Contact Details: Address: 21 Apex Ave, Hampton East, 3188
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

<i>PPPG eNewsletter</i> Please contact Dean Wheeler at: dwheelerpppg@gmail.com To receive your PPPG Newsletter by email.	<u>2022</u> <u>Meeting Dates</u> 12 February 14 May 9 July 10 September 12 November <u>Newsletter Deadlines</u> At least 1 month prior to meeting dates	<u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS</u> Please send all correspondence for newsletter items to Di Wheeler. Email: pppgdiw@gmail.com	“All articles and information contained in this Newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy contained therein.”
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