



Pioneer Echo

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*'Grief is the
price we feel
for love'*

- Queen Elizabeth II

VALE



† **HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II** †

1926 – 2022

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September, 2022 I thought it might be interesting to list the British Monarchs from the time when a British convict settlement was established at Sullivan Bay near Sorrento (October 1803), to when Melbourne was founded (30 August 1835) and when Victoria became a State (1 July 1851).

King George III — 1760-1820

King George IV —1820-1830

King William IV —1830—1837

Queen Victoria —1837—1901



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members and friends,

I am pleased to say we welcomed our first associate member, Susanne Wheelahan at the September meeting and we hope to see more in the future. Thank you Susanne for joining the Group.

It is hard to believe that the next meeting will be our last for the year. I do hope that you are able to come along and join us, or of course join us on zoom. Hopefully as we move into the warmer weather all the coughs and colds will have subsided and all will be well. I found myself having hay fever just recently which I had not had before, but I do remember my mother having sneezing attacks in her later years, am I repeating a pattern? I wonder.

Many years ago, I scoured my family history for patterns of health, occupations, interest and anything I could find. This method called Genograms was most interesting, as family history to most of us is not just a skeleton but adding meat to the bones. We all know about genetic predisposition to some diseases and how important this knowledge is in our own clinical health on all levels. As all of us can say, we have been going through a time of change with the pandemic, floods, droughts, and conflicts throughout the world changing daily. No doubt our families of the past, went through similar

things. How were their lives affected by what was happening in the world at large? Did they decide to migrate or move to a safer part of the country or change an occupation? Did it make them more resilient or maybe they turned to religion or away from it? There are many scenarios to explore as our family stories flush out their life experience. Your story is important as well, as you are part of the whole picture to pass on to emerging generations.

I hope you have a story about one of your female ancestors (1803-1851) and their life experiences that you can share with us at our February meeting.

For a broader family story don't forget Pioneer Profiles Volume 8 is open for you to contribute. See the website for Guidelines for writing profiles, together with contact details for the Editor.

The website is still having material added to it so keep an eye on it.

We welcome all new ideas for the Group so please feel free to share them with us. Hoping to see you soon at a meeting. Please don't forget to bring two dollars if you are coming as this helps pay for the hall.

And I must say, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year if I do not see or hear from you.

Barb Hawkins, President PPPG

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

PPPG No	Member Name	Descended From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1547	Therese MAINE	a) James MAIN b) Isabella CLERK	Arr. P.P.D. “	Jan 1840 Sept 1839	<i>In Address of Old Colonists</i> “
1548	Helen RITCHIE	a) George GRIEVE	Arr. P.P.D.	7 Nov 1849	<i>James T. Foord</i>



Margaret O'Callaghan, OAM
d. 8/9/2022

PPPG Member No. 684

VALE



Basil Mc Allister
d. 18/8/2022

PPPG Member No. 570

Address at the General Meeting on 10 Sept 2022

DR. CHERYL GRIFFIN, FRHSV - Education, Schools and Teachers

Cheryl Griffin became interested in the history of schools and teachers in Victoria as she was a teacher by profession. Her recent research, centred on teachers in the 1880s to 1920s, as well as female teachers in the intra war years, earned her a research PhD at the University of Melbourne. Today she presented an overview of education in the first 15 years of white settlement in the Port Phillip District.

Amongst the resources she studied were the Annual Returns of Schools, H.C. Childers 'Inspectors' Reports 1851 - 1859, Teacher Career Records, the Select Committee Inquiry into Education 1851, Sands and McDougall directories, and Masters' Stipends Records.

"Records of the Pioneer Women of Victoria", produced in 1937 by the National Council of Women's Centenary Council, offers much information. Only 6 copies of this huge book were published, and they are all held by libraries. The State Library of Victoria and the British Library each have a copy and there is one in New York. Some entries in the book were personal records whilst others were written by direct descendants. In a similar manner to the entries in Alexander Sutherland's, "Victoria and Its Metropolis", people paid to have their story included, and often used artistic license in their writing.

'Georgiana's Diary' by Georgiana McCrae provides some information on education as do the 3 volumes of 'Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education' by Leslie James Blake.

Before 1848, the Government didn't have any controls over schools but occasionally a government subsidy was paid to schools established by recognised religious denominations and some funds were given to parents who couldn't afford school fees. There were numerous schools in the Port Phillip District, albeit they varied enormously in size and standards. James and Christina Smith had a school with 65 pupils, whilst S. E. West only had 5 pupils. West offered reading, writing and arithmetic, but there were other schools which taught more glamorous subjects. There were a few schools in Lonsdale Street which catered for poor students but in general education for the needy was neglected.

Matthew Marshal, in Collingwood, offered a 'general education'. The Rev William Brickwood, an Anglican, after doing a term at Saint Ninians, Brighton, became Headmaster of an Academy in Collins Street which offered a 'classical education'. Richard Hale Budd who eventually became an inspector of non-denominational schools, was a Master of Melbourne Diocesan Grammar School in Eastern Hill.

The Reverend Thomas H Brain ran a 'Preparatory Grammar School' in Belfast (Port Fairy) whilst Reverend James Smith ran a 'Congregational School' under the British and Foreign school system. His school offered an alternative to schools run by the Anglicans, the Wesleyans, the Presbyterians, and the Roman Catholics.

In the 1840s John G. Lee in Geelong offered his students an 'Interrogatory System' of education and James Rutherford McLaughlin, who apparently had a 'fondness for the tavern' ran an 'Analytic' Seminary for general education in Melbourne. McLaughlin taught thirty boys, whilst his wife Jane taught 44 girls at their school.

The site in Melbourne where Young and Jackson Hotel stands, No 1 Swanston Street, was bought at the first land sales in Melbourne in 1837 by John Batman. He built a seven roomed cottage on the site which he named Roxburgh Cottage. Following the loss of her mother and three sisters in the sinking of the schooner *Yarra Yarra* in Bass Strait, Nichola Cooke, governess to John Batman's children, rented the cottage from Batman and in 1838 established the Roxburgh Ladies Seminary. She ran it until 1851, after which she returned to Ireland.

Robert Lawson ran the Presbyterian Melbourne Academy in Spring Street, an institution which later became Scotch College. There were seventy pupils aged between twelve and thirteen, and the boarders, aged between eight and thirteen, lived with his family. He had three assistants, and two visiting teachers who taught drawing and music. Lawson considered that sixty students should be the maximum number of pupils. Janet Scott however ran a Roman Catholic School in

Richmond which only had three pupils. How did she manage to make a living?

School buildings varied considerably. On the gold fields school classes were often held in tents. Mrs William Parton in Skipton ran her school in a small cottage, but it was also used as her husband's bootmakers shop. Desks were gin cases and seats were planks placed on the boxes. Comfort obviously wasn't a high priority, and it would be interesting to know what qualifications Mrs Parton may have had.

John Mansfield ran a Roman Catholic School in Geelong. He was in the Temperance Band, but he had no teaching qualifications. School Inspectors found him to be 'not competent' and his wife who also taught, was no better. Matthew Hayes at Pt Henry was unable to spell and was 'perfectly incapable'.

Although many of the early teachers were ministers from a church and would have been educated, it would seem that there were teachers with no formal

education whatsoever.

In 1848 the Denominational School Board was established, and a Board of National Education followed at the end of 1851, based on an Irish model. The 2 boards amalgamated in 1862, and in 1872 the Education Act brought in free, compulsory and secular education. Teachers under Denominational, National, and State School systems who were affected by the 1872 Act had long teaching lives and a summary of their pre-1872 teaching record can be found using a 'name search' in the Public Records of Victoria website.

Nichola Cooke might have run the first Ladies Seminary in Victoria for many years, but the oldest State School still in operation today is the Bacchus Marsh school, No 28, which opened in 1850 with Head Master, Henry G Ball.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow PPPG Member no 1057

EARLY DAYS IN VICTORIA.

Yesterday afternoon ... the foundation stone of the Protestant Hall and school-room was laid ... the ceremony ... commenced by depositing in the cavity cut for that purpose in the foundation-stone, a bottle containing the following inscription;

THE FOUNDATION STONE of the PROTESTANT HALL and SCHOOL ROOM, Erected by the Orangemen of Australia Felix, with the assistance and co-operation of their fellow Protestants, WAS LAID on the 5th day of April, Anno Domini 1847, in the 10th year of the Reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, By WILLIAM KERR, Provincial Grand Master of the Orangemen of Port Phillip.

The bottle contains a number of coins of the present and late reigns ... copies of the Melbourne Argus and Sydney Sentinel newspapers, and of the well-known productions of the Poet-Laureate of the Melbourne Orangemen ... impressions of the seals of the Grand Lodge ... and a number of documents ... connected with the occasion.

The foundation-stone was then laid with the customary formalities.

A collection was then made in aid of the building fund ... £26 1s. was contributed ... The National Anthem was then sung followed by three cheers for the Queen and the ceremony concluded. - *The Melbourne Argus* Tue 6 Apr 1847 Page 2

The death of Mrs. Emily Cock ... at Sandringham, calls to mind some of the early days of the State. She was the daughter of Mr. J. M. Smith, one of the earliest solicitors in Melbourne, and arrived in Melbourne from England by the *Slains Castle* in 1848. She was educated at a school conducted by Miss Ainslie, in Swanston street, between Bourke and Lonsdale streets ... Mrs. Cock's husband and father were among the original trustees of the land on which St. Paul's Cathedral now stands. Smith-street, Collingwood, is named after her father. *Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 October 1925, page 12

MELBOURNE

New EPISCOPALIAN SCHOOL HOUSE.

The Lord Bishop of Australia has received a communication from the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, in London, intimating that a liberal pecuniary grant would be issued ... to assist in the erection of a school house in Melbourne in connexion with the Episcopalian Churches in our town. - *Geelong Advertiser*, Mon 13 Dec 1841 page 3

MELBOURNE.

Moor v. Kerr —The Sheriff put up yesterday ... the furniture of the defendant for sale to satisfy the judgment and costs in this cause. The whole was bought in for £350 by Mr Duerdin ... The amount of the verdict, £250, less ... the expenses to which Mr Moor has been personally put to, will be handed over to St. James' Church to build a school-house. - *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic.: 1847 - 1851) Wed 10 May 1848 page 2

EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA FELIX

An article in the *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* (Vic.: 1845 - 1847) Wed 8 Jul 1846 Page 1 stated the following:

In the estimation of the Christian philanthropist, there is no subject more important, than the education of the young. To train up children in the way they should go, is one of the highest duties of Parents, of Pastors, and of all in authority. In a nascent colony like Port Phillip, there is a special obligation to attend to this work.

We have been at some pains to ascertain for the information of our readers, both in the colony and elsewhere, the actual state of elementary education in the district.

Before advertng to the results of our enquiries, we may state the nature of the provision made by the Colonial Government, for the diffusion of knowledge among its subjects. That provision is made in a series of crude and ill working rules, enacted by the Governor in 1841, and which have been in force since the beginning of 1842. There is no permanent Legislative provision. During the last four years, sums of money have been voted by the Legislative Council, to be expended in accordance with the regulations referred to, but there is nothing meriting the name of a plan or system in operation, nothing that can be depended upon to last for another year.

The regulations of 1841 are to the following effect; The Government gives for the education of each child, "whose parents are not able to pay for its education," at the rate of a penny a day, for each day's actual attendance of such child at school; the aid afforded by Government is never to exceed the sum contributed for the support of the school, from private sources, nor is it to exceed £25 a quarter. Of the many objectionable features in this scheme, one of the worst, and most obvious, is the facility it presents for frauds and impositions of all sorts. The Government intends to give "only for each day of actual attendance," a harsh and unreasonable regulation certainly. But what easier than to falsify lists of daily attendance? It professes "to aid the education of those children, " whose parents are not able to pay. But how difficult it is to say who are able, and who are not.

The able are not always the willing; persons really poor, often toil hard to conceal their inability. Unscrupulous persons again, finding that some of their neighbours, really poorer than themselves, get education gratuitously, put in a claim for the same privilege, or doggedly refuse to pay. The requisition of an amount of private subscriptions, equal to that claimed from the Treasury, however reasonable it may seem at first sight, works extremely ill in many ways.

The whole system presses hardly on the honest and conscientious teacher. A teacher neither honest nor conscientious, if he happens to be under the superintendence of persons not very careful, nor suspicious, may turn it to his advantage, but none other can. We have ascertained from official returns, that twenty three different schools, connected with six different religious denominations, received aid from the Government during the year 1845, some for the whole year, some for one, or two, or three quarters.

Taking the average of the different quarters, the number of children taught at these schools was 1541, of whom 535 are returned as able to pay, and 1000 as unable.

The contributions from private individuals towards the support of these schools, are returned as £1018 19s. 2d.; the payments by the Government on account of the unable, were £926 10s. 1d. The proportion of the able to the unable, varies surprisingly in different schools.

On the aggregate of the whole it is as 100 to 189; but in one school, (Independent,) it was during the first three quarters as 100 to 2160; whilst in the following quarter, under another teacher, it was as 100 to 140. In the Baptist Infant School, the proportion was as 100 to 750: in the Wesleyan School at Colingwood, as 100 to 411. None of the other Melbourne Schools present anything remarkable, except that in the Roman Catholic Schools, where the contrary might be expected, the disparity between those returned able and those returned unable, is quite as low as in the average of the Protestant Seminaries.

The assistance afforded from the public funds (£926 10s. divided among 1006 children) is at the

rate of 11s. 10d. for each of the children attending the schools partially supported by it. This is the most scanty allowance made for education, by any civilised Government on the face of the earth.

The revenue of Port Phillip during 1845, was £89,117. The sum devoted to education is a trifle more than one per cent of this, whereas the Government of Prussia - a despotism - devotes two and a half percent of its revenue to the same cause. The educational system of Van Diemen's Land costs the Government there at the rate of £2 12s for each child in public schools. This, at least, was the rate in 1842.

In the year 1841... there was paid for education in Port Phillip, £947 16s. 10d, a greater sum when our population was only 11,738, than now when it is nearly three times that amount.

So much for the education promoted partially by the Government. Besides the twenty-three schools already referred to ... there are at least twenty-five others, maintained by the public in different parts of the province of these, nineteen are in Melbourne; three in and near Geelong, and three in the county of Bourke, Heidelberg, Cambellfield and the Moonee Ponds.

According to returns furnished by the Mayor of Melbourne, there were at the beginning of the present year, in the schools at Melbourne, Brighton, Collingwood, Richmond, and Williams Town 1692 pupils: from similar returns made by the Police Magistrate at Geelong and Portland, (which, however, do not comprehend private schools) there appear to have been at the former placed 235, and at the latter 111 children.

To these our own enquiries enable us to add 42 in and near Geelong, and 103 in and near Melbourne; making in all 2184; or say 2200 children, receiving instruction at school, in a population of 32,875, which is about 1 in 14.2 of the entire population.

Our readers will be able to judge how very inadequate a number this is, when we mention that according to an eminent French statist, Ducpetiaux, there are at school; in Prussia 1 in 6, in Holland 1 in 8.3, in Scotland 1 in 8, in England 1 in 11, in Ireland 1 in 13.2, and in New York 1 in 4.

The number of young children among us is probably greater than in any population of the same amount in the world.

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During 2022 we saw the celebration of 150 years of formal education in Victoria.

According to the *budget.com.au* in 2022/23 'The Government is investing record funding in Australian schools to ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary skills as part of our plan for a stronger future. The Government's recurrent annual funding for schools has increased from \$13.7 billion in 2014 to \$25.3 billion in 2022. Student per capita rates in Victoria in 2022 vary between \$7410 and \$8,689 for Primary and \$9,794 for Secondary students.'

Source: (www2.education.vi.gov.au).

A far cry from a penny a day back in 1841.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

The Echo is always keen to accept contributions from our members. Consider sharing your stories so others can enjoy your passion by submitting an article to the Editor Di Wheeler at;

pppgdiw@gmail.com

Also, check out the PMI (Pahran Mechanics Institute) Victorian History Library website at pmi.net.au They provide a central resource for research into the history of Victoria.

The Victorian BDM Registry are continuing the offer for discounted certificates. Downloadable, uncertified historical certificates are now \$20.00 each: save \$4.50 per certificate.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria are celebrating History Month from 1 October to 31 October 2022. For further details check out their website <https://historymonth.org.au/>

William and Margaret BLAY

From Plenty to Poverty

William and Margaret Blay are my great, great, great grandparents. This story is based on the facts gleaned from years of research.

Both William and Margaret were children of convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land on the same vessel – *Indefatigable* – arriving in October 1812. Margaret's maternal grandparents were also convicts. Her maternal grandfather was on the First Fleet aboard *Scarborough*.

New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land, November, 1839

The news from England about the falling price of wool had put an arrow of terror through William's heart. His sheep were as good as worthless, and the farm was drying up in one of the worst droughts since Van Diemen's Land was colonised.

New Norfolk, 1840

William sat in the waiting area of the auctioneer's office...before the auctioneer called him into the office. 'How much is my farm worth?' William harangued the fellow before pleasantries were completed.

'If you were to sell the property at this time,' the auctioneer said, 'I value it between £1800 and £2000.'

William announced to Margaret that 'I am selling the farm and we are moving to Port Phillip. I want to go before the end of the year.'

William secured his pregnant wife and his three daughters onto the steamer and stowed their bags.

'I sold it.' 'I am declared insolvent.' He let the words settle. 'I sold the farm for much less than it is worth, so I could secure the funds for our escape to Port Phillip. We will start again.'

Margaret stared at the dirty floor of the steamer as it chuffed up the Derwent River.

William had sold his farm in New Norfolk, but two years after absconding to Port Phillip, the court in Hobart Town found he was not in fact insolvent at the time of the sale.

Greenhills 1841-1842

The children were cranky and hungry by the time the horse and buggy William had bought, and on which the family travelled, arrived on his 160 acre allotment at Greenhills on the River Plenty.

'... the baby, Elizabeth, was born in Melbourne a few months ago, Standing beside the buggy, William could see Margaret taking in the estate on the River Plenty. The front of the house had a small verandah and faced north, ideal for the colder months.

'I have kept aside some of the money from the sale of the farm in New Norfolk for supplies and workers. I used the rest as a deposit on this land. The bank will provide the balance.'

'... Elizabeth ... was just over two-years-old when Margaret gave birth to her next child a boy, William James Blay'

A fall from the horse ruined William's life. 'With the splints removed from his broken leg, the doctor provided a pair of crutches. Moving around the house, the vegetable garden and orchards was manageable, and William coped with getting to, and cleaning out the stable. Working on the paddocks: ploughing, sowing, harvesting, were beyond him. His farm trickled into decline ... and sent William into a spiral of despair.'

Margaret wiped tears as they drove away from Greenhills. The bank had taken possession; and left them with nothing.

They rented a house in Collingwood where John Douglas Blay was born ... in November 1845. Frances Amy Blay was born ... in April 1848.

Collingwood, November 1848

Margaret answered the doctor's questions and watched as he wrote the letter to Superintendent Charles La Trobe asking that William be admitted to the Yarra Bend Insane Asylum. Unable to cope with her husband's deteriorating mental state, caring for him, for children, and taking in dressmaking to feed the family and pay the rent, Margaret began the proceedings to have William taken away.

He didn't resist when they came to collect him. He didn't acknowledge he was being removed from their home. Margaret kissed his forehead as two attendants took William under the arms and lifted him out of his chair. His refusal, or his inability to walk, Margaret wasn't sure which, meant he was placed on a hospital stretcher and taken outside to the transport. The neighbours gathered to peer and gossip. Margaret closed the front door.

There were no tears to wipe from her eyes. There was no flood of relief to lift the weight of the last three years from her shoulders. The body of her husband had been taken away; but his mind, spirit, and person, had left long ago.

He lost the farm at Green Hills, and died in the Yarra Bend Insane Asylum on 9 February 1849, three months after being admitted. He was forty-two.

Contributed by Janeen O'Connell PPPG Member no. 1513

Janeen has five historical fiction novels published: four traditionally and one self-published. Her first mystery was published at the end of March. She is studying a Graduate Diploma of Creative Writing at Deakin University.

MEETINGS

Next Meeting:	Saturday 12 November 2022
Speaker:	Speaker: Moira McAlister Topic: Dr Barry Cotter, the First Doctor in Melbourne - Dr Barry Cotter arrived with John Batman in November 1835 and together with the Fawcner party they formed the first and illegal settlement of Melbourne. His great, great granddaughter, Moira McAlister, outlines the life and legacy of this colourful character and his role in the settlement of Melbourne and later in regional Victoria and South Australia. Dr Cotter's short (six year) marriage to Inez Seville Fitzgerald laid the foundations for a large and growing Australian family.
Hall Entry:	\$2.00
Doors Open:	1.30 pm. Sign in. Time to browse notice board, borrow library books, and chat.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Afternoon Tea:	3.30 pm. Refreshments.
Venue:	Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. <u>Victorian Government Covid-19 Regulations permitting</u> 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. or Online via Zoom digital platform Please register your email with the Secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by 6pm Thursday 10 November if you wish to participate.
Upcoming Meetings:	11 February 2023 (tentative): Stories of women of our time (1803-1851) 13 May 2023: Judith Buckrich—The Yarra River

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES : At least 1 month prior to meeting date

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