



Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

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

A.C.N.: A0022862G

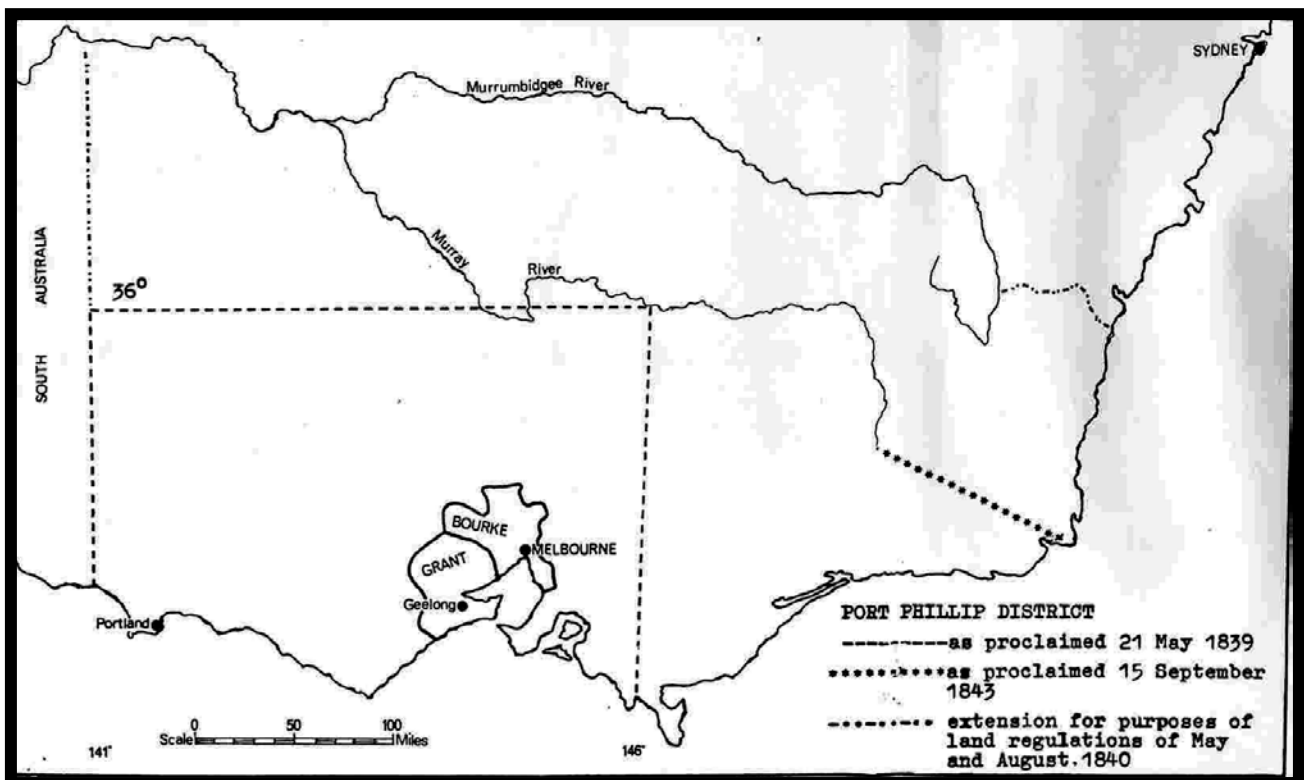
We look forward to your past



Newsletter No: 216

Vol. 43 No. 5

October – November 2020



The Port Phillip District of N.S.W.

For the purpose of the Group, The Port Phillip District is accepted as the territory now contained in Victoria, but it was not always so. The county of Bourke was proclaimed on May 3rd, 1838, and the Port Phillip District on May 21st, 1839 (with boundaries shown in the accompanying map), when Charles Joseph La Trobe became Superintendent. The District was extended on May 13th, 1843 to take in the whole of the territory south of the Murray River and a line from its source to Cape Howe. In 1840 there had been a temporary extension to the Murrumbidgee River for the purposes of land sales only.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group, the September 1970 issue of *Ancestor* recalled our early history. This summary was reprinted in instalments in Newsletters no. 39 - 53 dating from Aug - Sept 1985 until Jun-July 1988.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

λ Welcome to the following Members λ

No	Member	Desc. From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1483 Ship correction from entry in last newsletter.	Sally JOHNSON	a) James PARNELL & b) Mary PARNELL nee SALMON c) Ellen PARNELL	Arrived P.P.D Born P.P.D	10 July 1840 14 November 1845	"Coromandel"
1458 Additional claim	Anne BEVIS	a) Andrew BALLANTYNE b) Mary O'DOWD c) William HUMPHRIES	Arr. P.P.D Arr. P.P.D Marr. P.P.D	19 Nov. 1846 Feb. 1842 03 Sept. 1842	"Maitland" "Thetis"
1503	Peter Loftus Vernon JONES	a) John BEALE and b) Margaret BEALE nee KERR c) John BEALE Jr.	Arrived P.P.D	October 1849	"Stag"
1504	Judy EASTWOOD	a) Richard DAVIS and b) Elizabeth DAVIS nee GARDINER c) Henry LEVERSHA and d) Susan LEVERSHA nee BINDON	Arrived P.P.D	6 December 1841 November 1849	"Ward Chapman" "James Thomas Ford"
1505	Dianne WHEELER	a) Guy COLE and b) Martha COLE nee GEARING c) Robert COLE and d) Elizabeth COLE nee WEBSTER e) Emma COLE	Arrived P.P.D	10 February 1849	"Halcyon"
1506	Trevor WHEELER	a) Thomas DEAN and b) Zilpah DEAN nee WATSON c) Arthur WHEELER and d) Catherine WHEELER nee HELSHAM e) Guy COLE and f) Martha COLE nee GEARING g) Robert COLE and h) Elizabeth COLE nee WEBSTER i) Emma COLE	Arr. P.P.D Arr. P.P.D Arr. P.P.D.	03 November 1844 31 March 1851 10 February 1849	"Wallace" "Anna" "Halcyon"
1507	Kristopher WHEELER	As Above	As Above	As Above	As Above
1508	Ryan WHEELER	As Above	As Above	As Above	As Above

1509	Cheryl FOX	a) Guy COLE and b) Martha COLE nee GEARING c) Robert COLE and d) Elizabeth COLE nee WEBSTER e) Emma COLE	Arr. P.P.D.	10 February 1849	"Halcyon"
1510	S. BEVIS	a) Andrew BALLANTYNE b) Mary O'DOWD c) William HUMPHRIES d) Catherine STANTON e) John HUMPHRIES	Arr. P.P.D. Arr. P.P.D. Marr. P.P.D. Arr. P.P.D. Born P.P.D	19 Nov.1846 Feb. 1842 03 Sept.1842 02 Oct.1841 13 June 1843	"Maitland" "Thetis" "Sir Thomas Arbuthnot"
1511	Suzanne LANG	a) William LANG b) Ann LANG nee GETTENS	Arr. P.P.D. Married P.P.D.	Feb.1837 04 May 1848	"John Dunscombe"
1512	Andrew HEARD	a) George TAYLOR and b) Barbara TAYLOR nee CUNNINGHAM c) Charles TAYLOR d) Elizabeth WATSON	Arr. P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	15 May 1839 05 July 1842	"Agnes" from V.D.L.
1513	Janeen O'CONNELL	a) William BLAY and b) Margaret BLAY nee TEDDER c) Elizabeth BLAY	Resided P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	05 June 1841 05 June 1841	

P.P.P. Group Report

Hello members and friends,

We continue to meet via Zoom very successfully with many members who cannot get to physical meetings participating. Next meeting, we will have Liz Rushen joining us so we would love to see you online.

On 27 February we are having our 50yr celebration and aim to celebrate this with a booklet on the 50 years of the PPPG Inc. Hopefully we can have a cake and some festivities'.

We will also have Pioneer Profiles Vol. 7 available for sale.

If you would like to reserve a copy of Profiles, see the information on page 7

I must apologise to all that noticed the volume number and month of the last newsletter was incorrect.

I must have been suffering from some sort of isolation madness, sorry.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Barb Hawkins, Newsletter Editor and President.

2020 & 2021

Meeting Dates

November 14

Newsletter Deadlines

January 30

February 27, 2021,

All correspondence for newsletter items must be sent to Barb Hawkins,
email barbh27@bigpond.com

JANET ROBERTSON FLEMING 1807-1856

One of the earliest women pioneers was my great, great, grandmother Janet Fleming. We have three heirlooms belonging to Janet, the Family Bible, a Silver Tea Service and two dresses made by Janet in the 1840s.

Janet arrived in the Port Phillip district on 27th October 1836 on the brig *Henry* from Launceston, via George Town, Van Diemen's Land, with her husband Robert and two sons Robert junior, 4, and William, 2. They quickly set up a wattle and daub hut on the banks of the Yarra River, near to where the old Herald-Sun Offices were built, opposite what became the rowing boat sheds. Janet pregnant with her fifth baby, was hoping for a girl as she had lost little Janet b. 1831 and baby Thomas, b. 1833, in Launceston before 1836.

Although the family were there in November 1836 when the first census of the district was conducted, they didn't get included. However, in the 1838 Census they are there in Collins Street. This is the block Robert had bought at the first land sale in June 1837, half an acre near the corner of Elizabeth Street. During the week of the first land sale Janet gave birth to her fourth son John Wood Fleming on the banks of the river. He grew up very proud that he was one of the first white natives of the colony.

In no time at all Robert had a wooden two storey building erected calling it the Edinburg Castle Hotel, which was to be Janet's home for the next three years. She gave birth to a second girl, also called Janet, on 15 February 1839 in the Collins Street Hotel. Helping in the hotel and constantly pregnant and breast feeding, it is a wonder Janet had time for anything else, but the following story tells us she was active in the community.

SILVER TEA SERVICE.

An intriguing family story has been handed down through the generations made completely authentic by the ownership of a three-piece silver tea service handed down five generations. It belonged to Janet, presented to her by the citizens of Melbourne for saving a man from drowning in the Yarra River. The Flemings lived not far from the Yarra River and would have gathered water for daily use. Perhaps it was one of these visits that Janet could reach out and pull someone to shore, or even boarded a small boat to throw the man a rope or oar. I doubt if she could swim herself.

A note was written in 1934, by my grandfather James Weir Fleming, when the Tea Service was on display for the Victoria Centenary celebrations in 1934/35. The three-piece tea service was presented to Janet Fleming in "about 1837 for saving the life of a man from drowning in the Yarra River".

No evidence of the time of the event has been found, which happened between their arrival in October 1836 and June 1840 when the family left to live in Morang on a farm. A letter to the Editor of the *Argus*, dated 6 January 1908, recounts the episode.

My Brother, Ralph J. Fleming, has guardianship of the tea service, handed down by our father, his father before him and his grandfather before that.



WEDDING and GIRL's DRESS:

These two dresses have been donated to the Melbourne Museum. The story passed down the generations related that the adult dress in beige/cream silk, was Janet's wedding dress made in 1830. Janet was married on 17 May 1830 in Edinburgh and a month later on 22 June 1830, gave birth to a daughter Janet Cleghorn Fleming, before they sailed for Van Diemen's Land. Janet could not have worn the dress as it is, because it has a tight waist as she was 8 months pregnant. Maybe it was her dress in a different style and eventually altered for her daughter Mary Ann, who had married in 1869. This is more likely – and the story has got embellished in the telling. The costume curator in the Melbourne Museum says it is a 1850-60s style, not a 1830s style.

The child's dress is a broderie anglaise cotton made by Janet for her daughters Janet b. 1839 and Mary Ann b. 1840.

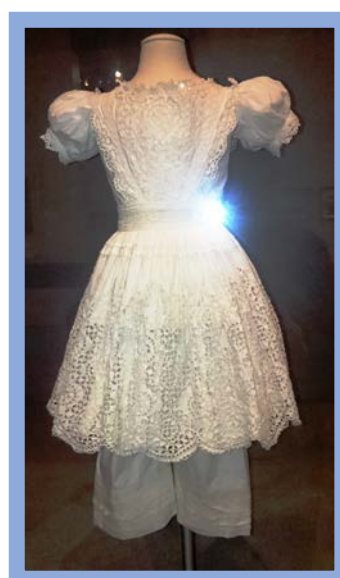
The dresses were handed down through Mary Ann's line to her daughter Mary Ann Fleming Breese/Brown and to the granddaughters Bon and Bess Brown, then to Great Grandson Gerald Brown who donated it to the Melbourne Museum in the 1999. Both dresses are valued by the Museum as examples of early colonial dress and have been on display several times.

So many of these stories have been handed down the generations and have been altered and embellished on

the way. There is always some truth in the beginning but exaggerated along the way. Finding written evidence is not always possible.



TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.
Sir,—Mr. John Wood Fleming, J.P., of "Fleming-house," Park-street, Brunswick, was born whilst the first land sale in Melbourne was being conducted—June 1, 1837—his father being apprised of the fact whilst attending it. In the year 1838 Mr. Robert Fleming arrived in Melbourne with his wife and sons, Robert and William, still living, and old colonists surely. Either of these tough old fellows, Robert, William, or John, could do a good day's journey in the saddle or a 10-mile walk if necessary without a murmur, which speaks well for our climate. John has in his possession a valued treasure, a solid silver teapot, presented by the residents of the early settlement to his mother for her bravery in saving a man from drowning in the Yarra. This had to be procured in Sydney, as flour for "damper" was in greater demand than silver teapots. Mr. Thomas Jennings, of Essendon, is about two weeks younger than Mr. Fleming, and if Mr. Richmond Henty is still living two months his junior. The proposition of Mr. Cashmore is excellent—"the oldest natives to meet and exchange reminiscences"—say those born before 1843 or 1845. An inexpensive dinner and "corroboree" to follow would fill the bill.—Yours, &c., **AN OLD VICTORIAN.**
Brunswick, Jan. 4.



All Photos: Margaret Fleming, October 2020. Forty years of researching, collecting, interviewing and collating material, plus ownership of many artefacts as handed down the male line to my Father and Brother.

Contributed
by Margaret Fleming
PPPG member 679

ENTER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY BOOK NOW FOR THE ALEXANDER HENDERSON AND DON GRANT AWARDS

Family History Connections (a business name of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies) presents these two prestigious Awards annually. The Alexander Henderson Award is for 'the best Australian Family History' and the Don Grant Award is for 'the best Australian historical biography with a family history focus' submitted for the awards in that year.

If you have published a family history book in the last year or so, and would like more information about the criteria for the judging of the Awards and an entry form, visit the FHC web site <http://www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au>. Entries close for the 2020 Awards on 30 November.

Regards

Gail White

President



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connections**

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PO Box 339 Blackburn Victoria 3130
Ph: (03)9877 3789/Fax (03)9877 9066
✉ president@familyhistoryconnections.org.au
🌐 familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Address at General Meeting on 12 September 2020

Andrew Dodd - Warrigal Creek Massacre

Dr. Andrew Dodd, journalist and educator, was co-producer of the documentary film 'The Warrigal Creek Massacre' which describes horrific events in Gippsland between 1843 and 1847, a time of European exploration.

The Warrigal Creek Massacre was triggered by the murder of squatter, Ronald Macalister, whose death was reported in the Port Phillip Herald on 29th July 1843. Macalister, was the overseer of a property at Boisdale, inland from Port Albert, owned by his uncle, Lachlan Macalister, who lived in New South Wales.

Lachlan Macalister employed Angus McMillan as his overseer. McMillan, who came from Scotland like the Macalisters, arrived in Sydney in 1838. Over time he became a famed Gippsland explorer. In 1840 he was instructed by Macalister to search for fertile grazing land and a port. His route southwards went via Omeo and the Tambo River and eventually he chose a site for Macalister at Boisdale. He chose for himself an adjacent site which he called Bushy Park. In 1841 he drove Lachlan Macalister's cattle down into the Gippsland area encountering fierce opposition from the Gunai Kurnai people and was thus conscious that the area was very important to them.

McMillan chose the site of Port Albert for ships to transport stock to Tasmania and New Zealand. By 1843 Port Albert was on edge as several settlers had been killed by aborigines. Ronald Macalister, the overseer at Boisdale, rode to his family-owned store in Port Albert and found on arrival some drunk aborigines in the shack. He (or the hut keeper) is said to have taken hot coals from the stove and thrown them onto their feet, forcing them to leave.

After completing his business Macalister set off home in the early evening. Near Brewery Road, just east of Alberton, was an area where stockmen left their cattle to graze whilst they continued on to Port Albert to conduct business. The Aborigines camped in this area also. It was here that two members of the Gunai Kurnai clan ambushed and speared Macalister. His body was said to have been mutilated, his kidney fat removed, and his hands cut off.

A variation of the story was that Macalister went to Port Albert leaving his stockmen with the cattle near Brewery Bridge. An aboriginal child was taken by the stockmen, abused, and used for target practice. In revenge, Macalister was murdered.

Whatever the reason, the white settlers, mostly of Scottish descent, were outraged and formed what was called the Highland Brigade.

This would have taken some time to organise and whilst there is no proof that Angus McMillan led the Highland Brigade, historian and author, Peter Gardner, is certain that he did participate.

Correspondence written by Charles Tyers, Crown Commissioner of Lands in Gippsland, indicates that Lachlan Macalister made frequent visits to Gippsland which raises the possibility that he also was in the area in 1843.

The Brigade rode a considerable distance, finally cornering about 130 Gunai Kurnai people at the Warrigal Creek waterhole where the massacre occurred. A witness from the Hoddinott family who lived on Sunville Creek, an adjacent squatting run, described how the natives were surrounded and unable to escape.

Whilst some tried to hide, others jumped into the waterhole but were shot when they lifted their heads. One boy who was shot in the eye was forced to lead the brigade to other camps. Over a hundred people were killed that day and more at Freshwater Creek, Gammon Creek and Red Hill during the days that followed.

Killings continued for years. Squatter, Henry Howard Meyrick, wrote in letters to his family in England that aborigines were hunted down and shot. Author George Dunderdale wrote similar accounts in his 1899 book 'The Book of the Bush'. Caroline Dexter, a visitor to Gippsland, met and befriended Angus McMillan. She wrote in her Ladies Almanac that McMillan was 'compelled to destroy numbers of treacherous natives'.

Historian Dr Peter Crowley believes that right from the start the early settlers wanted to rid the area of the aborigines. They didn't bother with skirmishes.

The Chief protector of Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson, visited the area in 1844 and recorded in his diary that Macalister was not speared. His body was not damaged, and natives were not seen in the area. However Assistant Protector of Aborigines, William Thomas, recorded later that bones were collected and buried in the sands at Red Hill before Robinson's arrival. Ironically, after the aborigines were subdued, Angus McMillan became a Protector of Aborigines.

In 1863 a Mission for Aborigines, was established by Friedrich Hagenauer. The aborigines, two of whom were survivors of the massacre, were forced to give up their native languages and traditional ways, as Hagenauer was intolerant of aboriginal culture. (Dr) Auntie Doris Paton, Gunai and Monaro Ngarigo elder and educator, said stories were discussed within the Mission, but not outside, as the telling was too painful.

The impact of losing so many members of the clan has been devastating and she feels a disconnection to the country because of the loss of stories and languages.

All the land features in Gippsland had aboriginal names but Angus McMillan replaced them with Scottish ones. His name is honoured on nineteen monuments in Gippsland. Steaphen Paton, artist, thinks they should all be removed because McMillan was a murderer. Rob Hudson, manager of Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place, in Bairnsdale agrees.

Max Macalister, descendant of Ronald Macalister, wants them removed as he wants more recognition for his ancestors, whilst Warren Curry, artist and historian, believes the memorials represent part of Gippsland's story. In 1948, the Federal Division of McMillan was proclaimed in honour of Angus McMillan but in 2018 the name was changed to Monash.

Today, the massacre site is a quiet area, undisturbed by grazing. Both Elizabeth Balderstone, the current custodian of the property and Dr Doris Paton, agree that everyone should know the truth about what happened to the aborigines following the Europeans' arrival.

The documentary is compelling, providing a variety of thoughts which need ongoing discourse.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow PPPG member 1057



Alexander Romanov-Hughes-

PPPG Member 52.

Have you noticed that Alexander does many stories for our newsletter? He does a great job.

Alexander also has a website. I went looking for this recently and was reminded of how much information was on it. Have a look and you might discover something you did not know about.

Census, Shipping, Clergy, Cemetery records and much more.

Port Phillip District

<http://www.portphillipdistrict.info/>

Pioneer Profiles Vol.7.

Available in February 2021.

Cost per volume is \$20.00

plus \$10.00 postage in Australia.

Would you like to pre order a copy?

Please contact:

Dean Wheeler – Honorary Treasurer

Email: dwheelerpppg@gmail.com

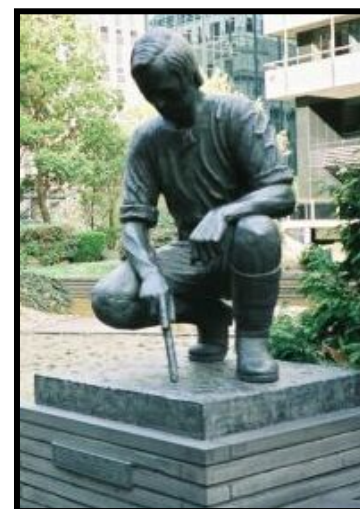
Mobile: 0411 526 002

Telephone: (03) 9532 1904

Pioneer Memorials

Below is a transcription of one of the plaques on the site that were unveiled on 26 January 1979 with some members of our Group present at the time.

The statues of John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner and the monument that was once on the corner of Market and Collins Street.



This Plaque is contributed by the

**Port Phillip Pioneers' Group
of the
Genealogical Society of Victoria**

to honour

**John Batman
and
John Pascoe Fawkner**

Pioneers of our Garden State.

*This is your heritage, preserve it
and pay homage here now.*

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	Online via the ZOOM digital platform. Please register your email with the Secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by 10th November if you would like to participate.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 14 November
Speaker:	Speaker: Liz Rushen. Historian & Author Topic: John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent.

Upcoming Meetings: Depending on 'Covid 19' conditions.

Saturday, 27 February 2021

Speaker: Margaret Fleming.

Topic: Robert & Janet Fleming. Early Pioneers.

50th Birthday celebrations.

Launch of Pioneer Profiles Vol.7.

More details in next newsletter.

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PPPG ENewsletter

If there are any members who would prefer to receive their PPPG Newsletter via email rather than by post, please contact Dean Wheeler at dwheelerpppg@gmail.com.

Unless we hear from you, we will continue to send your newsletter via Australia Post.

**“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.”**