ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

JUNE 2009

491

REPORT ON THE MAY MEETING (13/5/09)

More than thirty Members and guests gathered at the Commercial Club to hear Betty Dunn, assisted by Lillian McGrath, present a talk supported by OHP visuals on the naming of Lavington. It is interesting that the actual reason for the selection of the name for the northern suburb of the Albury-Wodonga conurbation remains unclear as does that of the name Albury itself. Betty's well researched presentation provided a reasoned and convincing argument for the name being in recognition of the home village of the Box brothers.

Horrie Polkinghorne was the only member able to produce photographs of Lavington. Horrie's family has a long association with Black Range and Lavington. It is hoped more photos come to light at the 100th Anniversary project at the Lavington Library in June.

Joe Wooding reported on plans for the celebrations of Albury's 150th anniversary as a municipality and the election of the first local government council.

We received a letter congratulating the Society on the conduct of the CBD and Pioneer Cemetery Walks.

A display of ephemera added variety to the meeting. It ranged from photos of the oldest horse in Australia (52); reports of cyclone damage at the Albury Railway Yards; a 1960s tourist brochure of Albury and an Albury Regional Museum pen.

Bridget Guthrie brought to the meeting's notice a workshop on care of paper items especially photographs, and the upcoming Lavington Centenary exhibition at the Lavington Library (See details on page 6).

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY
10 JUNE 2009
7.30pm at Albury City Council Chambers, 553 Kiewa Street
Speaker: Councillor Patricia Gould OAM, Mayor of Albury
"Celebrating 150 years of local government in Albury"
Also
Annual General Meeting

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
Who was/were the:
- Youngest mayor of Albury?
- The mayor when Prince Charles visited?
- The first mayor of the City of Albury?
- Mayors who subsequently entered parliament?

LAVINGTON
THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME
Researched, compiled & presented by Betty Dunn 13th May, 2009.
RENAMING THE VILLAGE

First of all, I would like to tell you a little bit about the events of 1908/09 which led to the changing of the name Black Range, to Lavington. On 19 November, 1908, the *Albury Daily News* published an article stating how a meeting had been called the previous night in the School of Arts Hall at Black Range, to discuss the name change.

The article told how the area was growing in popularity and something needed to be done about providing a recreational ground, establishment of a telephone bureau and the renaming of the village. The Progress Association was resuscitated with Mr H Hague as Honorary Secretary.

> "It appears that there are four or five localities in Australia designated Black Range. This leads to a great deal of confusion and delay in the matter of correspondence. In one case it had taken three weeks longer than it should have, for a letter to reach its intended recipient as it had been doing the rounds in other parts of the country.
>
> "It was resolved accordingly that there should be a name change. Seven names were submitted, and an exhaustive ballot took place, and the name 'Lynton' was chosen. Subsequently it was discovered that there is another place called Linton, and it was therefore determined to adopt the name 'Rawson'.
>
> "The necessary procedure will be taken to give effect to the renaming of the village."

WHY DID THEY PICK THE NAME LAVINGTON?

One of the miners living in Black Range was Joseph Box. It is thought he came to Australia in 1852 and settled on Lot 255 and 266 in the area near Glenmorus Cemetery, where he had an orchard. He also grew mulberries and silkworms.

In the "Unassisted Passengers To Victoria, 1852", I found a passenger, Mr J Box, on the *Anglesea*. However, there is no proof that this is our Joseph.

His property on Lots 255 and 256 were called "Lavington". He also owned Lot 253.

In 1862, on the "Unassisted Passengers To Victoria, 1852-1879", Joseph and Richard Box were cabin passengers on the *Kent*; occupations - squatters.

There were 123 passengers on board, sailing from Plymouth and arriving Melbourne on 27th February 1862.

The ages weren't correct but I haven't found a correct age on any ship's list yet!

Obviously they had been back to England and

Advertisement announcing the opening of the Lavington Hotel, 2 October 1865, located near the Lavington Crusher

were returning to Australia.

On 27th November, 1864, the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Blackmore, christened the crushing machine, the "Lavington." (Dr Andrews-"History of Albury") There was also a Lavington Hotel. All this long before 1909.

Next I sent for the death certificates of Joseph and Richard, his brother.

I made copies of these certificates, then I went to Albury Library to find all I could on the Boxes. I photocopied the material there which was mainly from the A.D.H.S..

Helen Livsey kindly gave me some information too

The more I researched, the more fascinating it became. From the death certificates I proved they were brothers and came from Market Lavington in Wiltshire.

These certificates also told me their parents were Richard Snr and Sarah Ann Box, nee Ward.

On the 1841 Census, the Box family lived in Little Cheverill, one and three-quarter miles south -west of East Lavington., Wiltshire; population 259, in 1831.

In the 1841 Census, ages were supposed to be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 or 0, a bit like our cents today when we are buying goods. Because of this it is hard to calculate when they were born.

It says Richard was 15, born about 1826, and Joseph 7, born about 1834.

Their father, Richard Snr, is listed as a yeoman, meaning he owned land and employed people. In the 1840s he owned 106 acres, in the 1850 Census, it states he owned 730 acres which was a very large area in those days.

From the Latter Day Saints IGI of Market Lavington, Joseph was christened at the Independent Church, Market Lavington, on 13th April, 1834, and Richard christened on 6th April, 1823.This latter date is confusing as the 1841 Census indi-

cates he was born 1826. I think the 1823 date is the correct one because in 1841 he would have been about 17. Rounded down as I mentioned before, they would write his age down as 15. Their parents were married on 8th May, 1820 in the same church..

MARKET LAVINGTON

Market Lavington is on the edge of the Salisbury Plain, the home of Stonehenge and its history goes back 4,000 years. There was once a tribe living there, whose chief's name being Laffa. Tun meant town so did it become Laffa's tun, or Lavington? Or was it the tribe of Leafings who lived there? No-one knows.

Market Lavington is first mentioned in the Doomsday Book of 1086. Flints found in an archaeological dig showed people were living there from about 3000BC. The dig revealed Neolithic and Bronze Age ditches, a Roman building 1650 years old and a pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery about 1400 years old.

Even back 3000 years ago some bodies were cremated, though Saxon bodies have been found unburnt.. A man 2 metre or 6'6" was found. He had died of syphilis.

It is thought Christianity came to Market Lavington about 600 A.D.

An estate in Lavington was held by Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor. She died in 1075, just after the Norman Conquest in 1066. In the Domesday Book of 1086 her property was named Lavertone.

In 1243, Richard Rochelle was granted a charter for a market in Lavington This gave the village two names, Market Lavington and Stupel Lavington, the stupel or steeple, in those days being a post driven into the ground to denote a market.

The population in the 1300s was about 1,000. Plague or Black Death in 1349-50 cut this by about one third. Smallpox also visited the village several times.

In the 12th, 13th and 14th Centuries, the chief crops were wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas, beans and corn. Because of the barley grown, malt houses were built, some in use until well in to the 20th Century. The animals were mainly oxen, sheep and pigs.

Weaving and making of cloth was the natural follow-on, becoming a cottage industry for hundreds of years. Another industry was brick making and works were opened in the early 19th Century. The Box family owned the brickworks for most of that century.

First mention of the Box family at Market Lavington was in 1817, with reference to a Mr Box, surgeon, who worked with Robert Willett, owner of a private asylum set up in Market Lavington. The Tithe Roll of 1840 states Richard owns 106 acres. In the 1850s this was enlarged to 730 acres.

Mrs Peggy Gye, former curator of the Market Lavington Museum, told me there is only one Box left and he is a recluse in that he will not talk about the family.

It is from this background that Joseph and Richard came to Australia.

RICHARD AND JOSEPH BOX IN AUSTRALIA

In October 1852, Richard leased Barwidgee, a holding of about 28,000 acres. Joseph owned property at Bowman's Forest next door.

In the *Border Post* of 23 December 1868, there appears an ad. "Colonial brooms for sale-delivered in the district."-Joseph Box, Storekeeper, Bowman's Forest.

A descendant of one of the later owners believes Richard built the homestead in 1853 and lived there until he died 23 years later, in 1871. (Vic. Reg No. 9187)

Richard married Ellen Hickey and they had a daughter Sarah Anne Ward Box, who was born in 1865, (NSW Reg No. 17517)

Sarah died in 1878, aged 13. (NSW Reg No. 3994)

Border Post- 13 February 1878 recorded: "Sarah Anne Box died at St Brigit's (sic) Convent on the 10th, of water on the brain. (hydrocephalus). She was the only child of the late Richard Box of Barwidgee. The school children attended her funeral, the girls wearing white dresses and veils and the boys with white bands attached to their caps."

It is quite interesting to read Richard's will, which was written in 1867.Obviously he had been ill, according to the letter from his father.

From reading the letter, I gather the family were quite wealthy.

Joseph was named as an executor in his brother Richard's will. However, according to a codicil in 1870 he was removed from that position; no reason was given.

Joseph, meanwhile, settled in Black Range and must have spent his time between Bowman's Forest and Black Range.

His first marriage was to Maria Kelly at Beechworth in 1866.. With her he had four children, Elizabeth, born 1867 at Stanley (Vic Reg No 4955); Richard, born 1875 (NSW Reg No 6186); Arthur, born 1877, (NSW Reg No 6975) and John, born 1883. (NSW Reg No 10449) John died in a tragic shooting accident in 1901. (*Daily News*, 10 October 1901) There was a big gap in children between 1867 and 1875 which was unusual in those days.

Elizabeth married Hugh McCutcheon and they had a daughter, Matilda. She married Frank Seymour. I haven't researched this any further but I'm sure there must be descendants

of Joseph Box alive today.

Maria died in 1898 at Albury, (NSW Reg No 8498) and in 1907, Joseph married for a second time, to Elizabeth Mongan. (NSW Reg No 3673) There were no children of this marriage, probably because Elizabeth was in her forties having been born at Yackandandah in 1864.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Why did Joseph and Richard Box come to Australia and especially, why to Black Range and North-Eastern Victoria and were there other residents of Black Range who came from Market Lavington, Wiltshire? To date we don't know.

Further reading: Betty referred to earlier articles by Ray Gear on the history of Black Range. See Bulletins 464 & 488.

MORE PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PIONEER CEMETERY WALK

REV. HENRY ELLIOT
FIRST VICAR OF ALBURY.
Compiled by Ann Brennan with assistance from Helen Livsey, John Henwood and Howard Jones

According to the *Australian Church Quarterly, Dec. 1944,* the Reverend Henry Elliot was born at Longbridge Deverill Wiltshire, in England, 12 March 1814. He attended Warminster School and moved on to become a shoemaker in his father's business. His family lived on the estate of the Marquis of Bath where he discovered a library and the staff lent him books and later he joined "the church choir" and became a proficient musician – (violin, violincello and French horn).
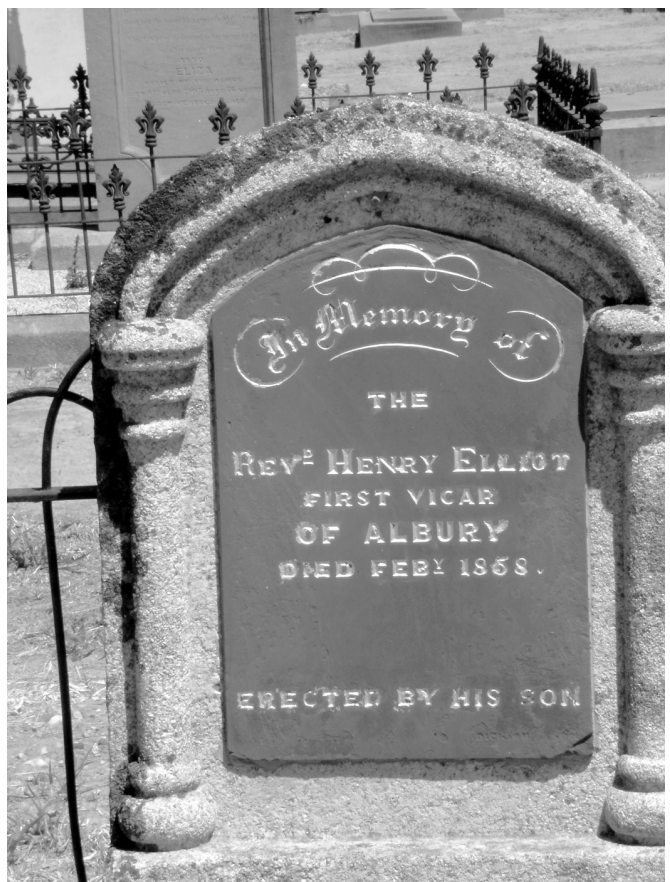
Henry could never get enough books and he and a friend bought and shared a "Penny Cyclopedia". At seventeen, he joined the Wesleyan Methodists and became a preacher and leader. He was criticised for his lack of humility and depth of knowledge. At this time, Henry, with his more working-class background, seemed to see problems regarding the theory and the morality of the New Testament.

By the 1840s he returned to the Church of England and with the influence of the Wiltshire parish priest, the Rev Emmanuel Strickland, he was accepted as a catechist, and on the promise of a Deaconate he, his wife, Fanny (nee Barnett), and two sons, sailed for Van Dieman's Land on the *Aden* on 5 November 1845. Upon landing in Hobart, his ordination was postponed because of differences of opinion between the Bishop of Tasmania and the Lieutenant-Governor about the status of chaplains in the penal colony. He took on the duties of Convict Chaplain until he was sent to Norfolk Island as a Catechist.

The Reverend Elliot and family made their way north, about 1,500 miles, along the east coast of Australia, in a sailing ship, to Norfolk Island. He wrote about the beauty of the flora on the island and compared this with the harsh realities of it being a penal colony for those who had offended since arrival in Australia. He described Norfolk Island as, "A festering cesspool of pollution and a boiling cauldron of frightful, disgusting crime". At the time of his arrival in the prison colony, there was much mutinous and disturbed behaviour among the prisoners due to a change in rations demanded by the Stipendiary Magistrate and sanctioned by the Commandant. There was a riot involving 300 of the 2100 prisoners with many brutal and diabolical murders and 18 were sentenced to hang.

Henry was with the murderers for many days, listening to their stories of misery and crime and

urging them to repent. He noted that these men, chiefly young men, wished to live no longer. He was with them until the hour of their executions and describes the scene as being a 'rainy, murky, dismal day and he suffered a chill of horror as he saw the halters hanging from the beam.' He saw 'the bayonets of the mute, armed guards and heard the clank of the heavy metal chains of the murderers as they moved in a slow procession to the drop'. The Reverend Elliot wrote that he did not wait to witness the hangings, but rode away.

The family, including another child, Arnold, (baptised in the Church of England at Norfolk Island in 1847), returned to Hobart, (sixteenth

August, 1848) for Henry's ordination. However during the voyage they were shipwrecked. Henry upset the hierarchy by demanding that the convicts be unchained so that they would have a better chance of getting to safety. Sixteen people drowned and the rest were rescued at Cape Barren Island and taken to Sydney where Henry was received by Bishop Broughton.

Eventually they arrived in Hobart where Henry was ordained a Deacon. Following this they returned to Norfolk Island where Henry fulfilled the role of Deacon, but soon returned to Hobart where he was described as destitute.

It appears that in 1850, Bishop Broughton was sure that the Reverend Elliot would be an ideal person to run the parish at Albury, (described in some documents as the Murrumbidgee district), and in August 1851, Henry left his family in Melbourne and proceeded to Albury. At the time of his appointment to Albury, there was only one priest, in charge of a parish, between Melbourne and Sydney - William Singleton at Kilmore. The Rev. Elliot was ordained a priest in 1856. We note that by the close of the 1850's there were five more priests between Melbourne and Sydney.

So the Rev. Elliot made his way to Albury-Wodonga. It was William Huon who guided Henry over the flooded wasteland between Wodonga and Albury, crossing the main bridge, just before it got swept away in a flood, and Henry made the final part of the crossing in a bark canoe.

He later returned to Melbourne and brought his wife and family to Albury, got a committee together and applied for a grant of land on which to build a church/school. It is reported that he donated fifty pounds towards the building fund. The Parish was about 200 miles long and about 70 miles wide - 5,000 parishioners scattered over about 20,000 square miles, with the Reverend making visits – horse travel and sleeping under the stars – to most parts, with regular trips for services to Dymocks Inn at Mullengandra. Services were held in the Court House in Hume Street, in homes, halls, hotels and the customs house. The Murrumbidgee District Registers show that the Rev. Elliot performed baptisms in 43 centres. He visited Beechworth, Yackandandah and surrounding towns, riding about 1,100 miles. He showed signs of exhaustion and he never properly recovered from a fall from his horse.

Historical records refer to Elliot as hardworking, zealous and an efficient pioneering priest, with no trace of his earlier radicalism or modernism. We have found no reference to how his wife coped with such an adventurous life. To date, we haven't been able to find any descendants here.

The Reverend Henry Elliot died on the 14 April 1858 , (151 years ago), aged 44 yrs., about a year before St. Matthews Church was finished. He served here with foresight and dedication, for eight years. He is an inspiration and typical of the pioneers who built this area where we now live.

JOHN BLACKIE
Compiled by Pauline Harbick
John Blackie was born in Hungary, Suffolk, England about 1828-30. He was the eldest son of a Congregational minister in Suffolk (Rev John & Martha). He learned his pharmaceutical trade in England and sailed to Melbourne arriving in April 1853 aboard the *Strathfieldsaye* as an unassisted passenger. This passage would have taken around 6 months. He married Mary Ann Page in 1855 and fathered 8 children, 6 daughters and 2 sons. Their births were registered in the Thomastown/Preston area of Melbourne.

John Blackie started a pharmacy business near Melbourne and was an early member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria. He then followed farming pursuits for several years and was Secretary of the Land Board for some years before returning to pharmacy and moving to Albury in 1870.

He purchased an existing business in Townsend Street from Mr Burns and later operated his pharmacy in Dean Street near the present site of the ANZ bank. The Townsend Street business was between Hume and Smollett Street, about where K Mart Auto is now.

His health was never robust and in the early 1880s he suffered a paralytic stroke which impaired him and prevented him from playing an active part in public life. According to his obituary, he was a man of "very regular and temperate habits". He was also known for his "high principles, strict rectitude and kindly disposition".

The family residence was in Olive Street. His 2 sons John & Robert (both unmarried) carried on the Blackie's Chemist business. John died suddenly, aged 46, in 1905 (buried nearby) and Bob died in 1943 (buried at Waugh Rd) leaving no living relatives. Blackie House maternity ward at Albury Base Hospital in Wodonga Place was built with money left from the Blackie family.

ELIZABETH GRACE (MRS BARBER, GERARD AND OSBORNE)
Compiled by Howard Jones

Elizabeth Grace was born a farmer's daughter about 1812 at Stocklinch, a small village in Somerset. She married three times.

At 25, she married husband number one, Thomas Barber, a shoemaker from nearby Ilminster in Somerset. His father Stephen Barber had served as a marine at the Battle of Trafalgar I 1805. They had five children at Ilminster, then in 1852 the family migrated to Australia.

So at age 40 and expecting another child, Elizabeth together with her husband and children, sailed from Plymouth bound for Melbourne. Thomas' brother Stephen, his wife and 6 children were also on board the *Apolline* making 16 Barbers in all. Imagine keeping 11 children occupied on a voyage lasting 110 days. Elizabeth's baby was born during the voyage, and a seventh child was born in Australia.

Unfortunately both Thomas Barber and his brother Stephen died within two years of arriving in Australia.

With several children to raise, Elizabeth married husband number two, David Gerard, a Scot in Melbourne in 1855, but he died in 1861, aged 42.

Husband number three was Thomas Osborne, a blacksmith from Cornwall and a widower. When they married in Albury in 1864, each had several dependent children. James the youngest Osborne child was only four years old. Older members of the families were grown up and independent.

Two of the children of the combined family married each other in 1872. Susan Barber was 20 when she married 25 year old George Octavius Osborne. For Elizabeth and Thomas it meant each had a step-daughter or step-son who was also their daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.

In 1884, Elizabeth was staying with Susan and George at Bethanga when she died of inflammation of the lungs. She was 72 and was buried at Albury Cemetery two days later.

On the day of her funeral, her third husband, Thomas Osborne died at Albury from pneumonia. Consequently, the Wesleyan minister, Charles Sanders was called upon to conduct a second funeral at the same grave.

Susan and George Osborne are buried in the adjoining grave. Thomas Osborne's daughter, Annie Colquhoun is buried in the grave immediately behind the Osborne graves.

Descendents of the Osborne and Colquhoun families still live in Albury.

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COMMITTEE VISIT TO PAPER COLLECTION STORE

On 15 April prior to our meeting, the committee was taken on a conducted tour of the Library-Museum Paper Collection Store by Collections Coordinator Bridget Guthrie. We were very impressed with the way the collection of documents, maps, photographs and other paper items has been catalogued and stored. It is encouraging to see the value Albury City Council places on this unique regional heritage collection and its willingness to spend money on staff and storage facilities to ensure its conservation. Digital imaging will eventually make the collection accessible on the web.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS
by John Craig

Links'n'Chains: Liverpool Genealogical Society Journal, Feb 2009.
• Redcoats on the North Coast.
History: Royal Australian Historical Society Magazine, Mar 2009.
• Femme Fatale: the female criminal;
• Wanted women.
The Argyle: Goulburn HS & FHS Journal, Feb 2009.
• Bushrangers, Hall, Gilbert & Dunn: the battle of Byrne's barn.
Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga Wagga FHS Journal, Feb 2009.
• Albert Edward Jolly: a newspaper trail.
Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter, Feb/Mar 2009.
• First banks in Wagga Pt 2.
Mansfield HS Newsletter, Jan 2009
• Restoration of High Country Huts.
Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG), Mar 2009.
• NSW Convict Records "Lost and Saved."
The Muster: Central Coast (Gosford) FHS Journal, Apr 2009.
• Jigsaw pieces: William Henshell and the Holey Dollar.
Ances—Tree: Burwood FHG Journal, Mar 2009.
• German Migrant Ships to Australia Pt 13" *Caesar* 1855: the "Cholera Ship."
Insites: Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Apr 2009.
• Shooting through: account of Sydney trams;
• Open & Shut: the Nissen Hut.

EXHIBITION
Black Range to Lavington : 100 years since the name change.
15 June to 31 August 2009 at the Lavington Library
Launch 11 a.m. Monday 15 June

NOTE: A&DHS MEETING 10 JUNE TO BE HELD AT THE ALBURY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 553 KIEWA STREET ALBURY