

ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888



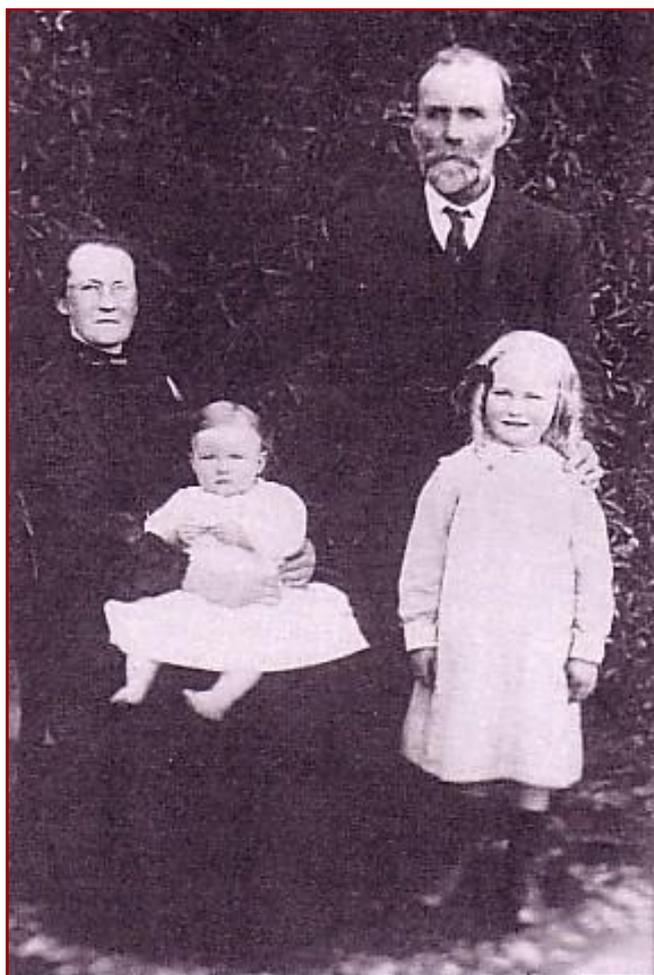
President:	Heather Terrell
Vice President:	Darren Downey
Secretary:	May Leatch
Treasurer:	Ruth Whadcoat
Museum Curators:	Eddie Slatter
Marina Johnson	Margaret Dewar
Geoff Stevenson	John Phillips
Darren Downey	Rhonda Smith
Research Secretaries:	Lois Crisp
	Rhonda Smith
Newsletter Editor:	John Phillips

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2008

August Wilhelm SCHARLEMANN

From notes written down by his nephew, Keith Gray, in 1939, and Rotha Ross, his daughter in 1970.



Scharlemann Family
August Wilhelm 'Billie', his wife, Margaret Agnew,
and children, Donald Ross and Rotha Margaret

August Wilhelm Scharlemann was born on 16th July 1861, at Celle, Uetze, Province of Hanover, Germany.

At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to a locksmith for three years. He joined the German Navy in 1881. In 1884 he visited England on the way to China as storekeeper on the corvette *Nan Shui*, the boat being delivered to China. He took his discharge in China and left for Australia in August 1884.

He landed at Port Darwin and travelled down the coast to Sydney. He walked from Sydney to Melbourne, being unable to speak a word of English, and on the walk averaged 25 miles per day.

He got a job at Bun Creek, about 78 miles from Melbourne, chopping wood for the Melbourne Market. Later on he travelled to Mansfield and took up possum hunting. He held a licence on 14-9-1885 for the Blue Range Creek area and caught over 7,200 possums in 14 weeks. He then went to the Broken River area and at Devil's Creek rescued a man lost in the stringybark forest.

He worked from 1885 to 1887, as a fitter in Williams Workshop for the Victorian Railways. He then went to Broken Hill, arriving on Saturday, and on Tuesday morning started work at The Pinnacle mine. After leaving the mine he got a job fitting machinery in Broken Hill.

After contracting typhoid fever he left Broken Hill and travelled to South Gippsland in 1889. He got a job on the railways and then worked as a carpenter in Leongatha where he was an early builder of the township.

He journeyed with a mate to the Murrungowar area and became one of the first pioneers when he selected land at Glen Arte, Upper Murrungowar in 1891. On 21st December, 1899, he became a naturalised Australian.



Wilhelm 'Billie' Scharlemann at his Hut, Murrungowar, with packhorse

At Murrungowar he bred a champion hunter which, when sold, won 400 prizes in two years, taking prizes at Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide in 1911-12.

He married Margaret Agnew Gray, daughter of Rev. William and Mrs. Annie Gray, at the Manse, Orbost, on 24th November 1909, and there were three children born to the couple:

Elfriede Louisa Wilhelmina, born 10th October 1910, decd. 1917.

Rotha Margaret, born 23rd November 1913.

Donald Ross, born 22nd March 1922.



**Scharlemann Wedding
August Wilhelm & Margaret Agnew (nee Gray)
m. 24-11-1909**

After leaving Murrungowar in 1922 the family moved to Orbost where Billie did carpentry for several years. In 1929 he became curator of the Orbost Bowling Green, a position he held until about 1937.



'Billie' Scharlemann, Curator, at work on the Orbost Bowling Club Green

He died on 6th June 1940, and was buried on 7th June 1940, at 10 a.m. by Rev. J. G. Bucknall No. 254 Presbyterian.

=====

MURRUNGOWAR

**From information written by Rotha Ross,
daughter of A W Scharlemann,
for Orbost Historical Society on 25/2/1970.**

Around 1891, and in the succeeding few years, there were about 100 settlers in the Murrungowar district, but an unmade road and other difficulties caused the settlers to gradually



Scharlemann Home at Murrungowar, 1914

drift away. The only original settlers still on their properties, as far as I know, are the Pike's at Glen Arte. Other names remembered are Bruton at the Murrungowar Hotel, Jensen, Fyffe, Bugg, Close (three of whose children died at one time after eating green grapes), Mick

Green, Gartland, Joy, Mooney and Tarlton. I understand one of the Mooney's had his head split open while clearing the very large timber growing in the district. Medical attention was not obtained for him and I understand he later lost his reason.

The settlers joined together about 1919 and built a small school for the few pupils. The teacher was Mr. D. McIntyre, father of Cr. D. McIntyre, at that time he was retired but gave his services to teach the children of Club Terrace, Combiobar and Murrungowar week about. To do this he rode through the tall timber of Gippsland. He had been an archer and taught the children to shoot with a bow and arrow.



Murrungowar School No. 3692 - 1911-1944

Another memory is of an old prospector being lost out from Combiobar. The men of the district congregated at our place and went out to search and, although his pipe and other clothing was found, he was never found. One of the searchers described the eerie sound of the long strips of bark scraping against the tree trunks as they searched.

When the writer was three months old, she was burnt by a fire caused by a spark from the ash pan catching in the warm wrapping around setting bread. The parents were faced with the long drive of 27 miles in to the doctor by horse and cart, largely over unmade roads.

When she was seven years old, in 1917, my sister, Elfriede, became ill with diabetes. Word was sent for one of the early cars in the district to come and meet the travellers. It did not appear, and on finally reaching the Brodribb River, the cause of the delay was found. The river was in flood and the low level bridge, which then crossed the river in front of what was then Mat. Lynch's property, was under water. Mr. A. D. Richardson was waiting on the other side with his father, Mr. A. J. Richardson. In crossing the

water just came through the floor of the buggy.

When the Princes Highway was first formed, I recall the hard glitter of the stones on the sides of the road near Wehner's, in Salisbury Street, after the lush greenness of the mountain country of Glen Arte, it seemed inexpressibly ugly. The Glen Arte area surely being one of the most beautiful areas in Victoria.



Wilhelm 'Billie' Scharlemann with his milkers

The settlers milked a few cows, with the cream being brought in to the factory at Orbost, now Mr. R. Fisher's bean factory, Mr. J. Scouller being the manager. One of the other travellers, whom we sometimes met on the road were Mr.



Donald Ross Scharlemann, A.I.F. VX26304

and Mrs. Job Webb of Brodribb. Today, most of the areas cleared in those early days have been reafforested by the Forests Commission. The early settlers work has largely gone for naught, but the area had been opened up for settlement by the Government, and there were many eager to select the land.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to Margaret Dewar for providing the above information and most of the photographs for this Newsletter.

=====
'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, June 12, 1940:

DEATH

On June 6th, August Wilhelm Scharlemann, dearly loved husband of Margaret and loving father of Elfriede (deceased), Rotha (Mrs. G. E. Ross) and Donald. Aged 78 years.

OBITUARY

AN OLD PIONEER

Mr. W. Scharlemann, an old and highly esteemed resident of this district passed away early last Thursday morning at the age of 78. He was a quiet, unassuming man, and his death is sincerely regretted by a large number of friends.

Mr. Scharlemann was one of a large number who took up land in the McCulloch country about 50 years ago. The bulk of them were unable to retain the land owing to its isolated position and the difficulty of wresting a living from it. Mr. Scharlemann, however, was one of the few who possessed an extraordinary amount of courage and endurance, and he contrived by hard work and perseverance to establish his home in that mountainous and heavily timbered country. Some years ago, however, he saw fit to come to Orbost, where he remained until his death.

He leaves a widow, one son and one daughter.

The funeral took place on Friday, when the remains were interred in the Orbost Cemetery, the Rev. Graeme Bucknall officiating at the graveside.

=====

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, August 17, 1955:

DEATH

SCHARLEMANN, on August 11th, at Canterbury, Margaret Agnew, loved mother of Elfriede (deceased) Rotha (Mrs Ross) and Donald, Pascoe Vale.

=====
'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, August 31, 1955:

OBITUARY

MARGARET AGNEW SCHARLEMANN

The death occurred on August 11th, of a former well known resident of the Orbost district, Mrs Margaret Agnew Scharlemann, aged 72 years.

The deceased lady was born at the Manse, Avoca, in 1883 and with her parents moved to Orbost in 1906, when travelling was by boat to Cunningham and thence by coach for the remainder of the journey.

Three years later she married Mr W. Scharlemann (a former member of the German navy, who had been stationed at China).

The couple selected land at Murrungowar and farmed there for 13 years.

In 1922 a return was made to Orbost and whilst here Mrs Scharlemann was an ardent worker for the Presbyterian Church. She was also an early member of the C.W.A.

Other charitable interests included work for the R.V.I.B. and Red Cross (during the war years).

In 1945 deceased moved to Pascoe Vale where she lived in semi retirement devoting herself to the welfare of the members of her family.

Mrs G. Ross, of Corringale, is a daughter, and Mrs W. Ross, of Orbost, a sister.

Following a service, held at the Canterbury home of her sister, cremation took place at Springvale.

=====

ADDITIONAL READING

Additional information on the Scharlemann Family can be found in Murrungowar Memories 1907-1908, Published by Wally West, Orbost - 1995.