Master Mariner, 
William Howard Smith (1814 - 1890)

Smith was born at Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, son of Ormond, mariner, ship owner and mail contractor at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, Holland, and his wife Keiser nee Edmunds. At the age of 10, Howard Smith went on his first voyage. He later studied navigation and qualified as a master. He became a partner of his father at 21 and was given command of the steamship Adonis. For some years, he was employed by Malcolmson Brothers, ship owners, and sailed to Dutch, Spanish and Latin American ports. His first wife was Anna Geil, nee Hansen, died without issue. In 1854, he brought his new wife Agnes Rosa nee Allen and their five children to Australia.

With S.P.O. Skinner, a marine engineer, Smith had bought the Express, a 136 ton schooner-rigged steamer, and entered the Port Phillip Bay trade between Melbourne and Geelong. After eight good years, Smith sold out to his Geelong agent, T.J. Parker, and entered the intercontinental trade.

In 1862, he and his family revisited Europe. He bought the steamer 'Kiefl' and renamed it the ‘You Yangs’, and from the mid 1860s, commanded it in competition with the powerful Australian Steam Navigation Company between Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle. The venture was successful and two years later he bought another steamship in England, the Dandenong. It was his last command and he remained ashore after 1870.

Establishing himself in the Newcastle coal trade, Howard Smith formed a limited partnership with L.J.L. Burke, who had a large coal business in Melbourne in the mid 1860s. He acquired the firm in 1884 and in that decade it became one of Melbourne's largest and most efficient coal importers constantly acquiring vessels because of the growing demand for passenger and general cargo services from Melbourne to all eastern coastal ports. In the late 1870s he had three of his sons in the partnership and they took charge of the Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane offices. The firm became a limited liability company in September 1883, William Howard Smith and Sons Ltd, with a nominal capital of one million pounds, paid up to £500,000: all the ten pound shares issued were taken up by the family. He became managing director at Melbourne and his se-
cond son Edmund was at Sydney. Howard Smith retired from active management in 1888 and his son Arthur Bruce succeeded him. Smith was also a Justice of the Peace.

He died on 22 March 1890 at his St Kilda residence “Caenwood”, Melbourne aged 76, survived by his wife and seven sons and two daughters of his 12 children. His estate was sworn for probate at £137,153. His land was near the corner of John and Tennyson Streets Elwood. The two acres was sub-divided in 1966 into ten lots. “Caenwood” mansion was demolished the previous year, but one of the old stone single-story houses in Greig Court was not included in the sale. Above the entrance to this house, reads the date 1869.

References:

Jewish Burials at St Kilda
By Glen Turnbull.

Last year, we received an interesting request from a researcher. He wanted to know how many Jewish compartments there are at St Kilda Cemetery and how many people are buried at these sites. We were able to answer these questions without too much trouble. For the record, there are two Jewish sections at St Kilda Cemetery, labelled Monumental ‘A’ and ‘B’.

Interestingly, ‘Jewish B’ is the earlier section dating from about 1877. This section has 275 compartments containing the remains of 294 people. This section is on the corner of Alma Road and Hotham Street. ‘Jewish A’ section only dates from about 1930 and has 84 compartments containing the remains of 71 people. (Stats are as of 31 Dec 2010) This section faces the Alma Road gates. These plans show the two Jewish sections at St Kilda Cemetery; both plans are north facing.
Daniel Foster, Pioneer of Scoresby
By Glen Turnbull.

The area around the outer eastern locality of Scoresby in the 1860s was a very remote area and it was very tough to farm there at that time. Scoresby was quite the opposite to the gold field areas. Daniel Foster was one person in a very small population to venture to that district in order to make a living.

Daniel Foster was born at Broughton, Huntingdonshire, England on 6 Feb 1836. He immigrated to Victoria in the early 1850s, marrying Maria Carroll at Scots Church Melbourne on 25 Nov 1856. The couple had 13 children over 26 years.

He selected 173 acres on the corner of Stud Road and High Street Road Scoresby in 1858 and undertook the necessary improvements to eventually purchase the land from the Crown in 1871. Improvements included fencing the perimeter, ploughing some of the field, grazing some animals and building a modest dwelling.

Daniel Foster constructed a traditional wattle and daub hut on his property on the south side of High Street Road, near the current Mowbray Drive. This hut was remained standing for the nearly the next 100 years. His hut also had white-washed walls and a ceiling lined with flour bags. The hut was constructed entirely of locally sourced and relatively inexpensive materials.

Daniel Foster was known for his incredible strength. It was rumored that he once carried a double-bed on his back from Oakleigh to Scoresby down Wheeler's Hill. On another occasion, he lifted a dead horse onto a cart by himself.

Daniel Foster died at his Scoresby hut on 4 Jan 1923 aged 87. His wife predeceased him; she died at the hut on 2 May 1910. They were buried at St Kilda, Independent section C 0250.

One of his daughters, Ethel Blanche Foster who was born at Scoresby in 1878, continued to live in the original wattle and daub hut until 1958, then reluctantly moved into a modern brick home built next door. Sadly the hut was demolished in 1960, the last local wattle and daub hut of many in the area.

Ethel Foster worked as the second Scoresby Postmistress at the original Scoresby Post Office for many years. This was reportedly the smallest post office in Victoria and was located on the north eastern corner of Stud and Ferntree Gully Roads.

Ethel Foster died on 17 Jul 1960 at St Kilda East, aged 81.

References:
- The Argus, 6 Jan 1923.
- Ferntree Gully News, 14 Jul 1923
- Free Press, 28 Jul 1960
Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Committee

- Kay Rowan (President),
- Mary Reid (Secretary),
- John Hulschamp (Treasurer),
- Pearl Donald,
- Glen Turnbull,
- Dorothy Lobert and
- Lyn Annetta.

Telephone 9531 6832

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery
General Tours in 2012

- Sunday February 26 - Highs and Lows Tour
- Sunday March 25 - Notable and Notorious Women Tour
- Sunday April 22 - Military Tour
- Sunday May 20 - Law Week Tour

General tour details:

All tours of St Kilda Cemetery leave from the main entrance gates on Dandenong Road, St Kilda East.

Tour cost: $10 for adult (except where indicated). Members of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery and children (under 18 years) are $5.

Bookings: Reservations for all tours are essential. Numbers are limited.

Book now on (03) 9531 6832 to avoid disappointment.

Tours usually run for about 90 minutes.

Tours are offered in all weathers, so please dress appropriately for the conditions. There is little shelter or shade within the cemetery. Tours proceed at a leisurely pace, and keep to the safest paths, but those who may have difficulty walking on uneven ground should use their discretion.

Book Review

By Elizabeth Hore.

The Winner of the Costa Book of the Year Award for 2012 is Andrew Miller, for his book “Pure”

Publisher: Sceptre UK; Kindle e-book available from Amazon

Set in 18th century Paris on the cusp of the French Revolution, Jean-Baptiste Barratte is commissioned to clear the crumbling cemetery of Les Innocents, the oldest Christian burial ground in the heart of the city. The cemetery had been full since the end of the 14th century and upon its closure, three large burial grounds would be created on Paris' outskirts: Montmartre, Père Lachaise, and Passy (Montparnasse being a later addition).

All existing parish cemeteries within city limits were condemned. In this intriguing and fascinating novel, Miller (the author of the prize-winning "Ingenious Pain" and Booker shortlisted "Oxygen") gives us a tale of violence, horror, beauty and sex. 'His writing is a source of wonder and delight' Hilary Mantel.