



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library Hours:

Tuesday:  
10am–3pm

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## Next Branch Workshop

Wednesday  
18th September  
"Irish Research"

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**Launceston Family History Library:** 45-55 Tamar St, Launceston  
P.O. Box 1290, Launceston 7250  
Telephone: (03) 6344 4034  
Email: Library: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)  
Secretary: [bbissett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bbissett@bigpond.net.au)  
Web: [www.launceston.tasfhs.org](http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org)

**President:** Russell Watson  
**Editor:** Betty Bissett

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## From the Library:

### Recent Acquisitions

Acquisitions received for the past three months will be listed in the September edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. New items at the Library include:

- **Tasmanian Public Service Officers, 1934-42** (CD) not published – available at the Library only.
- **The Tasmanian Exhibition, 1891-92**, edited by Marion Sargent and Prue McCausland
- **Bilycarts & Wheelchairs** : St Giles, Anne Green & Dr Thomas Gunn, St Giles Society.
- **Convict settlement on Norfolk Island** : Index to the Norfolk Island Papers & Accounts, 1794-1813, 1825-1829.
- **Launceston General Hospital** : Celebrating 150 years of Caring, edited by Paul Richards, Barbara Valentine, Tom Dunning & Dan Huon (LGH Historical Committee & Foot & Playsted).

### Publications

*Tasmanian Mail*: Vol 13: 1933  
*Weekly Courier*: Vol 14: 1924-1926

## Your new-look Library!

The past couple of months has seen some rather hectic activity at our library premises at Tamar Street, but we think that that the end result has been worth it. We now have new carpet and the furniture has been re-arranged and re-organised to make it much more open and user-friendly.

If you haven't been to see us for a while, please call in and take a look—we hope you will be as pleased with your newly refurbished library as we are. Your approval would mean that all our hard work has been worthwhile.

Hope to see you all soon...

**Research Queries at the Launceston Branch**  
**The Launceston Branch Committee wishes to advise that Research will not be undertaken at the Branch Library until further notice.**

## Copied from FFHS Ezine — June edition

### Buying Certificates Direct Saves You Money

Like many good things in life, family history costs money. For instance, when exploring events from 1837 onwards you may need to buy a birth, marriage or death certificate.

There are two ways to do so:

- Order direct from the General Register Office, which charges £9.25 for each certificate OR
- Pay considerably more to one of the businesses which takes your order, passes it on to the General Register Office, asks the certificate to be sent to the business and then forwards the certificate to you.

The extra steps make the second option slower as well as more expensive than buying direct. Remember: Even if you found the reference at a website that offers to obtain the certificate for you, there is no need to pay more than £9.25. Just use the reference when you order direct from the website:

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates>

**Note:** *If, like many people, you are nervous about using your credit card on-line then why not consider a pre-paid Visa card from the Post Office. These cards are proving to be very popular. See ..... <http://shop.auspost.com.au/loadandgo>*

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### Interesting websites:

<http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/latejun13news.htm>

[www.gen-ebooks.com](http://www.gen-ebooks.com) .



## **British Interest Group**



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
at Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square, from 2:00 to 4:00.  
Membership costs \$5.00 per year

We are a small group of enthusiastic members of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch, with an interest in anything associated with researching in Britain. The meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of either a specific subject, current problems being encountered, or more usually, both.

New members are always welcome, so if you are researching British ancestors and their families, why not come along and join us?

### **July 2013 Meeting**

The topic for our meeting held on 3rd July of “Burial Customs & Graveyard icons and symbols” produced an interesting and varied discussion on these subjects, with quite a few memories of past experiences being shared. One member brought a very comprehensive file of information she had compiled relating to burial customs in various countries and cultures, which was extremely interesting. Several pages of headstone icons and their meanings were also passed around which we hope to copy and put into a folder at our library.

### Anzac War Memorial Project

The Australian War Memorial Museum is undertaking a project to create a comprehensive digital archive of the Anzacs and their deeds and of the wider Australian experience of war. The collections selected for this project will reflect the experiences of Australian servicemen, nurses and civilians during the First World War, not just well known personalities. The Memorial is keen to make contact with relatives of the men listed on the website. Contact details are available on the website— <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2013/05/17/anzac-connections-centenary-digitisation-project/>

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### First World War Centenary

Are you involved in a project within your own community, local history society, family history society or other group or organisation which is researching the lives of local people who served in WW1 or who were left behind to keep the home fires burning? Do you know of a website which contains information that might help others further their own research into their WW1 ancestors? If so please contact Philippa McCray the Administrator [admin@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:admin@ffhs.org.uk) so that we can include details within our dedicated WW1 Centenary webpage - <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ww1/intro.php>



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### Irish BMDs to go Online

The Irish government has announced that indexes to birth, marriage and death records (from 1845) will soon be available online. This follows the recent news from the General Record Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) that it will also be making its own historical records available online. Good news for those researching Irish ancestors. CIGO has also reported that the General Register Office's Research Facility is set to move from well-appointed offices to a dilapidated former dole office. Steven Smyrl, President of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI) and executive liaison officer for the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) said that "it is an appalling proposal, one which cannot have been given any real consideration otherwise it would never have got this far." More about this can be read on the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations website - <http://www.cigo.ie/news.html>



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### Queensland BMDs now Online

Queensland historical birth (1829-1914), marriage (1829-1938) and death (1829-1983) indexes can now be searched online at: <https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/BirIndexQry.m> It is free to search but if you find an entry this can be downloaded for a fee and you can also order printed copies. Historical Certificates cost \$28 each and Historical Images cost \$20 each.

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### New South Wales wills to go online

[Findmypast.com.au](http://Findmypast.com.au) has signed a contract to publish all of the registered wills for New South Wales, the most populous Australian state, up to 1952. The official copies are handwritten from around 1800-1924, then typewritten for the period to 1952.

It is anticipated that the wills should be on line before the end of this year, and I would expect them to be available to World subscribers at the UK site, although that has yet to be confirmed.

## Daylight robbery?

### Window Tax rolls go on line

Historical records of the notorious window tax dating back over 250 years go online on 18 July 2013. The tax rolls in the National Records of Scotland that have been added to the ScotlandsPlaces website span fifty years and cover the whole of Scotland, listing taxpayers in the burghs and country parishes. They show how much thousands of Scots paid for each window in their houses—from 14 pence for 7 windows at the lower end of the scale to over 29 pounds for 294 windows at Floors Castle near Kelso.

The term “daylight robbery” is linked to the window tax but although the rolls prove that some householders blocked up their windows to avoid the window tax, archivists at the National Records of Scotland suspect that there is more myth than history surrounding this. Many of the apparently blocked windows on Georgian buildings, for example in the New Town, Edinburgh, are in fact blind windows designed to maintain the building’s symmetrical façade. As the tax was on the wealthy, the difference of a few shillings per year was not necessarily enough to force people to give up their light and air.

The window tax rolls are the latest additions to a treasure trove of historical information held on the ScotlandsPlaces website. Researchers can now get access to hundreds of thousands of names in the rolls covering the decades before 1800, including taxes on male and female servants, carriages, carts, saddle and farm horses, clocks and watches, and shops. The tax rolls are very useful for genealogists seeking to place their Scottish ancestors in a specific time and place.

*The ScotlandsPeople July Newsletter*

[www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/)

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## Workshop at The Adult Education Rooms, York St



**Wednesday 18th September,**  
**2 pm: Branch Workshop. Irish Research.**

### Application to attend the Branch Workshop

*Fee of \$5.00 includes course material.* I wish to attend the above workshop on the 18th September.

Name/s: .....

Address: .....

Phone/Mobile: ..... Membership Nos: ..... \$5.00 pp

Please return the completed form with your remittance as soon as possible to the :  
Treasurer, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch. P.O. Box 1290. Launceston. 7250

**Please Note: Should any workshop have to be cancelled by the branch, costs will be refunded**