



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday
10am–3pm

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment

Closed
Easter Tues.
6th April

Workshop

Wednesday
17 March 2021
2:30 - 4:30pm



Curious About Your Irish Ancestors?

See last page for
booking details

Notice of AGM

Wednesday 21
April 2021
2.30 – 4:30pm

Guest Speaker:
Pip Nielsen

2021/22
Membership
due on
1st April 2021.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

45 Tamar St, Launceston
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President: Helen Stuart

Editor: Fran Keegan

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York Town History Revealed

York Town A respectable looking village, published by the West Tamar Historical Society Inc. and edited by Jill Cassidy, has been a 20-year labour of commitment by co-authors John Dent OAM (*pictured*), Helen Phillips and Alma Ranson. Publication was enabled by financial assistance from various grants and benefactors along with fund raising in the local area.

The book covers more than 215 years of history in the Port Dalrymple area including the early history of the settlement of York Town, subsequent history to the present day and biographies of approximately 250 early settlers up to 1808.

The establishment of York Town in 1804, by Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson, was the fourth settlement in Australia after Sydney (1788), Norfolk Island (1798) and Hobart (1803).

Research for the book uncovered early records, sourced from London, that provided the names of all passengers on the early voyages, the full lists being previously unknown. Recently discovered documents also reveal more detail of the difficulties and achievements of the settlers and how they moved on to found Launceston, further up the Tamar River.

John Dent, well-known local historian and a foundation member of the Tasmanian Family History Society, is descended from James Hortle, a soldier stationed at York Town whose widow and children remained in the area after his death. John has previously written local history booklets and articles but, along with his co-authors, this is his first published book. With 470 pages, 8 pages of illustrations,



many maps and an extensive bibliography it is a great achievement and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the early history of Northern Tasmania. If you would like a copy of this book, \$60, (postage extra, but collection points available) contact John Dent to place an order; john.dent@pda.com.au or 0408 133 656.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Launceston Branch AGM will be held at the Elderly Citizens Club, 16 Landale St, Invermay, 2:30pm on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Guest Speaker: Pip Nielsen, oral history interviewer, transcriber and life story writer.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Nominations for Office Bearers are due in by 3:00pm on Tuesday 6 April. Members who have renewed their membership for 2021/22 are invited to pick up a Nomination Form from the City Park Stables library or contact the Secretary (see page 1).

DNA Discussion Circle



Attendees Sandra Thow, Barrie Robinson and Dorothy Rodgers

Twelve members attended the most recent DNA group discussion held at the City Park Stables library on 18th February. They had the opportunity to present their issues, ask questions and share information. A date for the next meeting has not been decided.

If you have questions about whether to have your DNA tested, or are unsure what the results mean, this group may be of assistance to you. For more information, call into the branch

library any Tuesday or email

ltntasfh@bigpond.com

Tasmanian Pictorial Church Index



Tasmanian Pictorial Church Index (TPCI) was created in the 1990s by long-standing TFHS members, Sandra Duck and Maureen Martin Ferris, because many churches were being sold off and in danger of being pulled down or converted to residences. Their task was (and still is) to

photograph or find images of every church in Tasmania and record them. Their first idea was to publish it in book format, but as the number of images grew, they realised that this would be impossible. Plans then moved from a DVD to web-based when Toby Martin came up with a web design and persuaded them to place it online. Over the years many people have assisted with photographs and information, and Sandra and Maureen would like to acknowledge and thank them for their continued support.

TPCI can be found at <https://taschurches.org/> and Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/450348572090403>



British Interest Group

Meetings are usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at City Park Stables, 45 Tamar Street from 2:00 to 4:00.

Join the group of enthusiastic TFHS Launceston Branch members, with an interest in anything associated with British research. 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.



**Please Note Next Meeting: Thursday 11 March 2021
Topic: Aristocracy**

Library News:

Home - based Volunteers Needed

We are transcribing the many hundreds of old, handwritten index cards on to a searchable database which will make it a much more usable resource. The cards contain snippets of information, BDM and church records related to many Tasmanian families collected by the Launceston branch over the past 40 years. Transcribing card to electronic database has been an ongoing task would be made much easier if we had more volunteers to assist.

What is required?

- A PC or laptop and basic data entry skills. The required database software would be loaded to your computer and training provided.
- Ability to collect, and return, a batch of cards (50 -100) from and to the branch library every few weeks.
- An hour or two a week to enter data from cards on to the database.

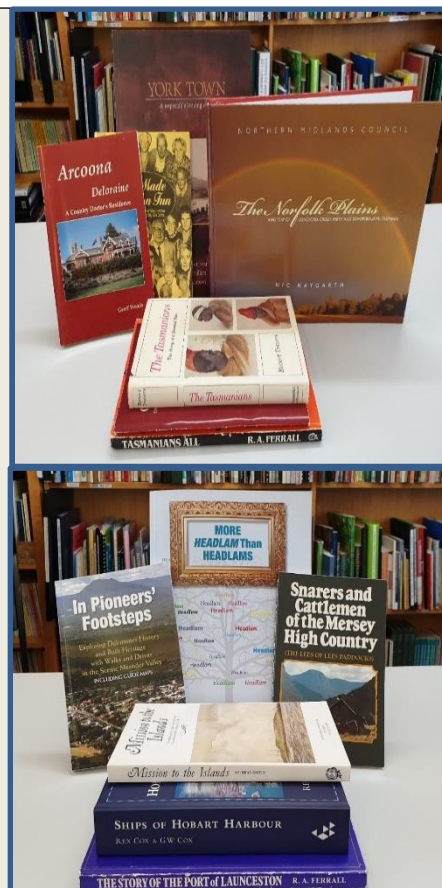
If you can help, see Helen at the Library in Tamar St on a Tuesday or email ltntasfh@bigpond.com

Did You Know?

- Use of branch Library is free for members and \$10 for non-members. This includes access to all books, magazines, maps, photos, scrapbooks and family history files. Basic assistance is provided by our volunteers during your visit. If you require more intensive help, a one-on-one session can be booked – cost \$5 per session for members.
- Research Services are available – \$20 per hour for members, \$25 for non-members. See our website <http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org/index.php?research> for full details and the research application form or call into the Library for further information.

New titles on the Library shelves:

- York Town *A respectable looking village*
- The Norfolk Plains *A history of Longford, Cressy, Perth and Bishopsbourne*
- Tasmanians All
- The Tasmanians
- We Made our own Fun *An oral history of Tamar Valley memories from the Beaconsfield Day Care Centre*
- Arcoona Deloraine *A Country Doctor's Residence*
- Ships of Hobart Harbour
- Snarers and Cattlemen of the Mersey High Country (*The Lees of Lees Paddocks*)
- The Story of the Port of Launceston
- In Pioneers' Footsteps *Exploring Deloraine's History and Built Heritage with Walks and Drives in the Scenic Meander Valley*
- More *Headlam* Than Headlams
- *Ancestor*, Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc., Vol. 35, Issue 4
- *The New Zealand Genealogist*, Dec 2020, Vol. 51, No. 386





Curious About Your Irish Ancestors?

Many of us have Irish ancestry and what better day to add to our knowledge and understanding than on St Patrick's Day!

Join our panel in delving into the mysteries of Irish family history research.

Find out what Irish records are useful and available as well as listening to local historian, John Dent's, stories of some of the Tasmanian/Irish connections in the early Yorktown settlement.

Open to Members and Non-members - **Bookings essential**

When: Wednesday 17 March, 2.30 pm – 4.30pm. Afternoon tea included.

Where: The Elderly Citizens Club, 16 Landale Street Invermay
(Free parking is available behind the hall, with entry off Queen Street)

Registrations and fee of \$5.00 are payable by Tuesday 16 March.

Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct debit to Acc. No. 563150 BSB: 037-608

If paying by direct debit, please quote the reference: *IRISH* and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

Email: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

Phone: 0438 465 121

Application to attend the Workshop

I wish to attend the above workshop on 17 March 2021

Name/s:



Address:



Phone/Mobile: Membership No. (if applicable):

Please return the completed form as soon as possible to the:

The Library Co-ordinator, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250
or register by phone, email or in person at the Branch Library.



Upcoming Events of Interest

Launceston Historical Society

The 33rd John West Memorial Lecture, Friday 12 March 2021 – 8pm, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham. **Speaker:** Dr Eric Ratcliff *John West's Launceston and where it went*

Monthly meetings: 18 April at 2 pm, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, Speakers: John Dent & Darren Watton,

Kings Meadows Road Station: 16 May at 2 pm, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, Speaker: Derek Binns, *John Francis: Royal assassin, Launceston builder*. Bookings essential as seating is limited. Non-members

welcome (\$4). More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

Westbury and Districts Historical Society

Sunday Strolls – hear fascinating stories of village history. Sundays 1pm, cost \$5.

7 March – Village Green (meet at the Stocks): 21 March – Town Common (meet at the car park): 18 April –

Catholic Cemetery: 2 May Sportsground (meet at Cricket Stumps): 23 May – William Street (meet at Catholic Church) Contact Amanda amanda.m.taylor@bigpond.com or Ph 0467 097 791

Oral History Tasmania

2021 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference October 14–16 2021 is to be held in Launceston - **call for**

presentations – deadline extended to April 1. *Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and*

Challenges invites you to reflect on the challenges and issues of undertaking oral history in troubling times, and to consider how oral history can illuminate the lived experience of troubling times both in the past and in our

contemporary world. Keynote speaker, Mark Cave from New Orleans, will speak on 'Why did this happen?

Making meaningful answers in the aftermath of crisis'. There will be plenary sessions on Oral History in

Troubling Times and on Aboriginal Oral History in Tasmania. See full details at:

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/cfp-oha-conference-deadline-extended/>

Oral History Tasmania's next workshop will be held in Hobart on 29 May 2021. For more information see:

www.oralhistorytas.org.au