



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library

Hours:

Tuesday

10am–3pm

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment

~~~~~

## Informal Gathering

with John & Sue  
Reimers

Wednesday

**16th March**

2pm

**At the Stables**

Limited to the **first 20** who register interest – see *last page*.

~~~~~



Launceston Family History Library: 45 Tamar St, Launceston

PO Box 1290, Launceston 7250

Telephone: (03) 6344 4034

Email:

Correspondence - Secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com

Research *only*: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

Web: www.launceston.tasfhs.org

President: Helen Stuart

Editor: Betty Bissett

No. 48

February 2016

From the Library:

The Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th April at 7pm at the Scout Hall in St Georges Square.

All positions for the 2016/17 Branch Committee will be declared vacant.

Members who have renewed their membership for 2016/17 are invited to pick up a Nomination Form from the Stables or contact the Secretary (*see above*).

Following the AGM:

Speaker: Gus Green – ‘Duck Reach and the Electric Light’.
Supper will be served – please bring a plate

The Society AGM will be held on Saturday 18th June at the Ross Town Hall, full details and Registration Slip will be in the March *Tasmanian Ancestry*

Please note that Membership expires on the 31 March, Renewal Forms will be in the March *Tasmanian Ancestry*. Prompt payment by the end of April will save our Branch the cost of extra payment on mailouts.

Duty Officers:

Duty Officers are again in short supply; if you can help it will be much appreciated. Training is available.

New Resource Material and Acquisitions:

- * Barbara Phillips, God's Light Shines: The Story of the Girls' Friendly Society in the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania 1901-2012: Vol 1; Vol 2; Vol 3(1), Vol 3(2)
- * Commonwealth of Australia, Electoral Roll Division of Franklin 1982
- * Davis, Graeme R, In Pioneers' Footsteps Exploring Deloraine's History and Built Heritage
- * J.Walch & Sons Pty Ltd, Walch's Tasmanian Almanac 1960; 1961; 1962; 1964; 1965-66; 1966-67; 1968-69; 1969-70
- * Mercury-Walch Pty Ltd, The Tasmanian Almanac 1973-74; 1974-75; 1976-77
- * Ridgley Football Club Inc., Ridgley Football Club Inc. Centenary 1891-1991
- * Tasmanian Government, The Hobart Town Gazette: Tuesday, November 7, 1876
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, Undertakers of Hobart Vol 4 Index to HC Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records Part 7 May 1964-Apr 1967
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, new combined alphabetical edition – Index to The Examiner BDMs 1931-1935 Vol 5
- THRA, Knopwood's Diary – The Diary of the Reverend R Knopwood, First Chaplain of Van Diemen's Land 1803-1838 (CD)

* Denotes complimentary or donated item

When you are in the Library, ask the Duty Officer to show you the latest research resources and acquisitions: .

Newstead District

Story of Development – 50,000 League Address

The address to the 50,000 League yesterday was given by Mr G Wilkinson, who dealt in an interesting manner with the history of the district.

That portion of the district known as the Newstead Estate, and containing about 300 acres, he said, was a grant from the Crown to the late Ronald Campbell Gunn, by whom Newstead House was built during the years 1840 or early 1850's. It was quite possible that the old Newstead Inn was built about the same time. It was a one storeyed weatherboard building, a duplicate of the old Racecourse Hotel at Mowbray.

In the 1860's, along Elphin Road frontage from Cypress Street, including College Street and adjacent land as far as the Gothic residence, the only house along the entire frontage known as Elphin House in Olive Street, was occupied by a Mr MacLennan, and worked as a nursery garden for a number of years. About 1887 Mr Dry had Elphin Road frontage from Olive Street to Hart Street subdivided into building blocks each containing one-quarter acre, the price £100. In 1888, when he stated that all blocks were sold except two in Olive Street. Some time later the remainder of the road frontage up to Hobbler's Bridge road was subdivided.

On the western side of Elphin Road from Claremont-Street to David Street, there were only six buildings. They were the residence of the late John Cameron, now the Methodist Ladies' College, a wooden cottage adjoining the residence of the late Thomas Corbett now Mr Lionel Bell, with several acres of land extending to Abbott Street, and three other wooden cottages, the last one near David Street owned by the late James Scott, surveyor, of Glen Dhu Street. The land comprising Melrose Estate was at one time occupied by the late Thomas Hogarth, and later by Widow Greenough for grazing cows.

Sewerage Installed:

The eastern side of Abbott Street extending to David Street could boast only of one pair of attached wooden cottages owned by the late Mr Cartwright. A large frontage of several acres extending to Elphin Road and adjoining Thomas Corbett's land on the northern side owned by Samuel Tullock; thus the whole of the land was in the hands of four owners. On the western side of Abbott Street and adjacent street were one or two houses. Mr Barnes of Trevallyn, owned nearly the whole of the land from Arthur to Mary Streets. For a number of years was used as a dairy farm by the late John Hickson, and after his death was a Chinese garden. Part of this land known as five oak paddock was purchased by J and T Gunn for the sand it contained. A block was sold to the Education Department on which was built the East Launceston State School; the remainder of this estate was purchased by E J Sidebottom and subdivided and Oxford Street built. A few acres were purchased from Mr Sidebottom for a recreation ground.

In 1888 the first blocks on the Newstead Estate were offered for sale, and up to the year 1914 about 19 buildings were erected on it, including the present hotel. Today the number was 120.

The sanitary system was crude, and the residents sought to have a sewerage system installed. Mr A F Johnstone, a member of the Breadalbane Road Trust, afterwards of the St Leonards Council, took the matter in hand on behalf of the trust. Without doubt all praise was due to him for his persistence and tact in dealing with the City Council and their city engineers, whose objections were many and varied. Eventually it was accomplished about 1908, and a rate struck of 1s in the £.

Transport System:

The residents lacked any means other than by their own conveyance, of travelling to and from the city until 1895, when an enterprising stranger put a commodious two horse bus on the road, the fare being 3d. He continued for some time, making his city stand in York Street, just around Stanwix corner, but he failed to make terms with the City Council, and had to close down. Later Mr W Southerwood put a bus on, but the service was very erratic. About 1907 a company was formed, of which Mr John Williams was a member, and purchased one or two steam buses. They built the garage in Brisbane Street, near Wellington Street, but owing to the unreliability of the motors and overloading they could only struggle past the City Park. The upkeep, mainly repairs, was so excessive that they closed down.

Mr Southerwood came into the breach and continued until the advent of the trams in 1910.

Schools and Churches:

The district had received the attention of the religious and educational bodies. The Baptists built a church on Elphin Road in 1909; St Aidan's Church of England was built in the 90's; the Methodist Church in 1927. The Scotch College secured Ravens-cragg in 1916, and today had just completed the construction of a very fine school building of pleasing architecture on up-to-date lines. The state school was built in 1907.

The Agricultural and Pastoral Society purchased a big block of the Elphin farm about 1913 for holding their annual shows. The Society had up to the present spent large sums on improvements and are continuing to do so. With the very fine and commodious grand stand and other permanent improvements the grounds were comparable with other properties of a like nature in other states.

"Until recently," Mr Wilkinson concluded, "The City Council has not done all it might have done for the district, but the residents are fully anticipating that when the change over to the greater Launceston takes place they will have better attention, and that when the enlarged city scheme is accomplished the council will adopt the ward system, so that each district will have a special call upon its representatives."

The Examiner, 14 Oct 1930

Just Why Is It Called That?

Scotland has many tongue-twisting place-names throughout its extremities which add an enigmatic ambience when they are brought up in conversation.

Each town and village was so christened centuries ago because of its location beside a specific landmark – a river, a fort, a forest etc. So to help you discover a little more about the meanings of old Scottish place-names, we have listed, in alphabetical order, just some of the syllables that go to make up a name, along with its old meaning and a few examples:

<u>Old Scots</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
Aber	a confluence or river mouth	Aberdeen, Aberdour
Ach or Auch	full of or abounding in, a field	Auchinleck, (a field of flat stones)
Allt	stream or burn	Allt Mor, Allt Fearnach
Ard or Aird	height, a high place	Ardmore, Ardrishaig, Airdrie
Auchter	a summi	Auchtermuchty, Auchterarder
Bal or Balla	a farm or village	Balquidder, Ballater Ballachulish
Blair	a field	Blairstown, Blairgowrie (plain in the hollow)
Both	a hut, house or bothy	Bothwell
Burgh	a high fortified place, a town	Edinburgh, Musselburgh
Cambus	a bay, creek	Cambusnethan, Cambuslang
Carn	heap of stones, rocky mound	Carnoustie Carntyne
Carse	low alluvial land along a river	Carse of Gowrie
Craig	a rock or rocky terrain	Cralgneuk, Craigowl, Craigmillar
Crom	bent, crooked	Cromarty, Cromdale
Dal	a valley	Dalbeattie, Dalkeith, Dairy
Drum	ridge, back	Drumbeg, Drumchapel, Drumnadrochit
Dum or Dun	a fort	Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunnottar
Eilean	an island	Eilean Donan (island of St Donan)
Fetter	a ford	Fettercairn
Glas	green	Glasgow (dear green place)
Glen	a valley	Gleneagles, Glenfinnan
Grange	a corn farm, storehouse for grain	Grangemouth
Inch	island, pasture land near water	Inchinnan, Inchmurrin
Inver	mouth of a river	Inverness, Inverbervie, Inverurie
Ken or Kin	top, head	Kenmore, Kinfauns, Kinlochleven
Kip	stump, block	Kippen
Kirk	church	Kirkwall, Kirkcaldy
Kyle	a narrow strait	Kyleakin, Kyles of Bute
Lang	long	Langbank, Langside
Leven	elm	Leven
Linn	a deep pool	Linn o'Dee
Loch	lake, arm of sea	Loch Ness, Lochawe, Lochearnhead
Mor	big, great	Moray Firth, Morriston, Morven
Muir	a moor	Muirkirk, Muirdrum
Ness	headland	Ness of Ork, Ness of Duncansby
Ord	high, hammer-shaped hill	Muir of Ord (moor with steep hill)
Pap	priest	Papa Stour, Paps of Jura
Pen	headland, mountain	Pentland Hills, Penicuik
Pit or Pitten	portion, a farmstead	Pitlochry, Pitsligo, Pittenweem
Rait or Rath	fort, a town	Rathillet, Ratho, Logierait
Rigg	Ridge, a furrow	Riggend
Righ	a king	Portree (Portrigh)
Ros	wood, a promontory	Roslin, Rosyth, Rothesay
Shee	a fairy hill	Genshee
Strath	wide valley, level meadow land	Strathmore, Strathhaven, Strathspey
Stron	stone	Stronsay, Strontian
Thor	war god	Thornton
Tilly	a knoll	Tillycultry, Tillyfourie
Tobar	a spring	Tobermory
Tom	a mound, a little hill	Tomintoul, Tomnavoulin
Tor	a tower, pinnacle of rock	Torphins, Torridon, Tor Ness
Vrack	speckled	Corryvreckan
Wick	a marsh	Wick, Prestwick
Wrath	a turning point	Cape Wrath



British Interest Group



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month
**Meeting Room 2 or 4 on 2nd Floor of the LINC building, Civic Square
from 2:00 to 4:00.**

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

International Space Station

An astronaut has played a set of Scottish-made bagpipes on the International Space Station to pay tribute to a colleague who died.

Kjell Lindgren played Amazing Grace on the pipes after recording a message about research scientist Victor Hurst, who was involved in astronaut training.

They were made for Mr Lindgren by McCallum Bagpipes at the company's factory in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. Kenny Macleod, who works at McCallum Bagpipes, told BBC Scotland the 42-year-old astronaut had got in touch two years ago to say he was going to the space station and wanted to play the pipe while he was there.

"He wondered if it was feasible to play the bagpipe," he said. "They're made of plastic – they're just easier to keep clean and to make sure they're not contaminated. They're also lighter."

In the video, Mr Lindgren was seen to give the pipes a punch before he starts playing. Mr Macleod said it was normal for pipers to massage the bag to get the air flowing, "but not quite as vigorously as that." The thing about bagpipes is that they're very difficult to play at high altitude because the air is that bit thinner. They're quite hard to blow so he's done well," he added.

Clan MacLennan Worldwide, December 2015

KILT: it's what happened to the last person who called it a skirt.

✂

Informal Gathering

Wednesday 16th March

2 pm, at The Stables

John and Sue Reimers will be speaking about their recent overseas trip, researching in Northern Ireland (PRONI); Edinburgh (*Scotlands' People*); Angus (Dundee Archives) and Norfolk.
Afternoon tea to follow.

Numbers are limited to 20.

Please book at the library, or let the Secretary know if you will be attending – by Friday 8th.

mandbbissett@gmail.com or Phone 6344 4034