



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library

Hours:

Tuesday

10am–3pm

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment



DNA Discussion Circle

Next meeting:
September 20

If you're not already
on our DNA mailing
list, contact us to
register your
interest in attending



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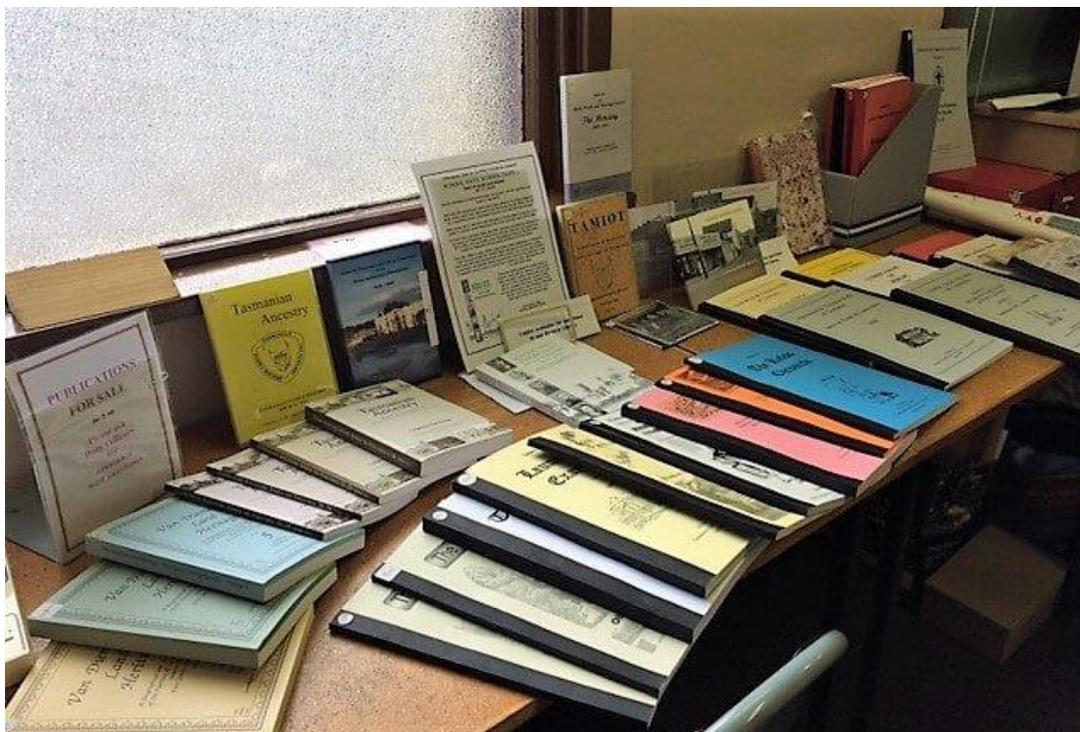
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From the Library:

Publications for Sale

Did you know that along with the many and varied resources our visitors can utilise while visiting our Branch Library, we also have a number of items for sale? Indexes are always popular, with just some of these including *Lower Court Records of Tasmania*, *Assessment & Valuation Rolls*, and *BDM Notices* from various publications. Why not call in and ask to see what's available? You never know what you might uncover.



Save the Date

You're invited to our annual Christmas Luncheon! At this stage we are looking into venues for Saturday 24 November, with more details to be provided soon. As per last year this is open to all members, and we'd love to see you there.

Volunteers are urgently required to do duty at our Branch Library. Come along any Tuesday (10am-3pm) to see how the library works, you may like to be trained to work on the desk as a "Duty Officer".

We are also calling for expressions of interest from Members wishing to volunteer as a "Research Assistant". For further information on this role, please contact or visit the Library.

New Resource Material and Acquisitions

When you are in the Library, ask one of our friendly Duty Officers to show you the latest research resources and acquisitions.

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## **Following Family History in France & Britain**

At our July presentation, Robyn Gibson told us about her adventures in France and Britain using her family history research to seek out places connected with people in her family tree. These included:

**The Soldier:** He died on the Western Front on 12 April 1918, she visited the place where he died exactly 100 years before and met (by chance) and talked to a local person who looked after Commonwealth War Graves for many years.

**The Minister:** He spent nearly 40 years as the Church of Scotland minister in Stoneykirk, a tiny village in South West Scotland. His manse is still there (now a hotel) and his picture is still on the wall in the downstairs room (now the bar).

**The Blacksmith:** He and his children & grandchildren lived and worked in Pitlochry, Scotland. The smithy where he worked is now a restaurant.

**The Convict:** Robyn was able to follow his path from where he met and befriended a jeweller (Black Swan Hotel, York), followed him to Hull and robbed him, to where he was finally caught (Tiger Inn, Beverley) and so began his convict career.



*Thank you, Robyn (middle) for providing such an interesting perspective on following family history!*

## England and Wales Certificate Service

If you do not have easy access to the internet yourself, or aren't comfortable using your credit card details online, you can still order a certificate from GRO (General Register Office). Call in and see us at the Branch Library to ask about the record(s) you are interested in.

Birth, Death & Marriage records for England & Wales (from 1 July 1837) can be ordered on your behalf for \$25 per certificate which includes postage. You will need to have some information about the record (names, year, quarter, district etc). Bring what information you have, and we will check to see if it is correct, before ordering.

Please allow up to 5 weeks for delivery from UK.

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An Unexpected Journey

by Patricia Lansdell. Member No. 5568

2018 has been the year that I stepped completely out of my comfort zone with regards to my family research. In fact, I turned a dream into a reality by sharing my great, great grandfather's story in Strokestown, County Roscommon - the place where he had married in 1833.

It was quite by chance that just prior to Christmas I saw on the Strokestown Park House and Irish National Famine Museum Facebook site that they would be holding the 2018 Irish Famine Summer School and International Conference on the 20th-24th June. The theme being *Irish Journeys: Famine Legacies and Reconnecting Communities*.

The bi-annual, cross-Atlantic conference takes place in Strokestown Park, Co. Roscommon, Ireland and the Quinnipiac University, Connecticut.

Strokestown Park and the National Famine Museum provide a hub for visitors and scholars to experience a uniquely preserved historic house and explore the lives of rich and poor in their original setting.

This year the Irish Famine Summer School would be considering the Great Irish Famine and its legacies of dispersing communities between Ireland, Great Britain, North America and Australia. Particular emphasis would be placed on the theme of Irish journeys at home and abroad, including the experiences of Irish emigrants and their descendants in building communities and becoming integrated into their host societies. The topics of homecoming, revisiting Ireland and reconnecting communities between Irish and diasporic locations would also be central themes.

They were calling for proposals and the preparation of 20-minute papers on the above suggested themes. The keynote speakers being:

Professor Christine Kinealy (Quinnipiac University)

Professor Mike Cronin (Boston College)

Professor Maureen Murphy (Hofstra University)

Professor Mark McGowan (University of Toronto)

Professor Ian Kuijt (University of Notre Dame)

Dr Perry McIntyre (University of New South Wales)

Dr Jason King (Irish Heritage Trust)

I made an inquiry with Dr.King to see if my family history story would be appropriate and he kindly replied saying that they have a strong interest in family history and for me to submit a paper.

I decided regardless of whether I was chosen to present my story or not that I would still attend. I started to make my travel plans including visiting London to do further research at both the Caird Library at Greenwich Maritime Museum and the National Archives at Kew. I was also able to put

plans in place to meet with a new first cousin and members of her family at Brighton, England. Finding this cousin had been a result of having my DNA done through Ancestry.com. I had been researching my father's eldest sister for years and but for the DNA I would never have found her as there were mistakes made on the official records.

I was informed in early March that indeed my proposal "From Strokestown to Van Diemen's Land: The Famine Migration and the Cooney Family" had been accepted as part of their program. My story was centred on the unjust transportation of John Cooney in 1844. It was during a visit to the State Library of NSW in 2015 that I researched the Irish Transportation Records dated 1788-1868 and I discovered information in John's defence. There were petitions also known as memorials that spoke of his good character and innocence as well as providing evidence of the flaws during the trial and that of the witnesses. Fourteen months after John's arrival in Van Diemen's Land the referees were still trying to get him returned to his homeland of Ireland. It was at that time whilst sitting in the library that I felt a strong desire to one day put a voice to his story.

In early June I set off to do exactly that, tell John's story and that of his wife Mary who along with their 3 children joined him some nine years later having survived the Great Famine.

My experiences during my trip were unbelievable and it became more of an adventure as each day went by. The Summer School was absolutely amazing and the many speakers and their topics were incredibly interesting. I was warmly welcomed and my own presentation went very well. I had been encouraged and supported by family and friends and I am grateful that I have researched John Cooney's story for myself, and especially for my family.

Newsletter articles – always welcome!

Have you been on a journey like Pat, or made any interesting family history discoveries recently? An article (about 500-700 words) on your discovery, or any other family history topic, would be a welcome addition to the Newsletter.

Come to the Library and tell us about your ideas.

British Interest Group

**Meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch Library
The Stables, 45 Tamar Street
(at rear of Albert Hall) 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 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.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 12 September. Topic: Brick Walls.

Change to Newsletter Distribution: Please note that the Branch Newsletter is now distributed electronically. Printed copies are still available for collection from the Library for those without email access, and from our website.