



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library

## Hours:

### Tuesday:

10am–3pm

### Monday - Thursday:

By  
appointment

~~~~~

### Next Branch Workshop

**Wednesday**  
19th June

"Cemeteries  
Online"

~~~~~



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

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

**No. 37**  
**May 2013**

### From the Library:

#### Recent Acquisitions

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

- **Retours of Services of Heirs 1544-1699** (CD)
- **UK Maps:** (CD) donated by the BIG group.
- **Tasmanian Public Service Officers, 1934-38** (CD)
- **Examiner Deaths:** from late 2000 to 2002.
- **Family History Magazines:** a donation from Angela Prosser-Green.

#### Publications

*Tasmanian Mail:* Vol 13: 1933 is now available at the library

*Weekly Courier:* Vol 14: 1924-1926 will be available at the Society AGM on the 15th June.

**5-Generations Charts** are available for purchase at the library.

#### Items Missing from the Library

- The set of Walch's Red Books
- The Projector Screen
- The Archer Family History Book
- The NZ fiche

We would appreciate these items being brought back to the Library as soon as possible.

### 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.**

## Report on the Branch AGM – Tuesday 16th April

The President, Russell Watson welcomed members and read his report:

It has been another busy year but we have survived in our small Tamar Street Library. The amount of work that has been accomplished by our branch astonishes me.

Helen Stuart's Library report updated us on the work Alan Leighton and Betty Bissett are doing on the *Examiner* (2000 onwards) downloads. What Muriel Bissett is doing on the "Classification List of the Public Service, commencing in 1934"; Pat Clarke on the Carr Villa Memorial Park and Barrie Robinson indexing Catholic Records.

The Sales report covered the six new publications this year on the *Tasmanian Mail* and the *Weekly Courier*—I thank Muriel & Betty Bissett and Sandra Duck. The dedicated Research team gave us additional income, particularly thanks to Helen Stuart, Marie Gatenby and Irene Taylor.

Thank you Renata and Philip Watts for your support in allowing us to store so much for so long.

To all the other volunteers who assist—storing surplus equipment; Duty and Research Officers, and helpers with the workshops; Open and field days etc,—thank you all.

Your Committee has worked very hard when you consider that some of the above people also hold positions as Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegates and other branch responsibilities which take up considerable effort and time.

To the general membership who only join to do some personal research, you are an important part of our branch. If there is any way in which we can assist you or even you assist us, please let one of the committee know.

I sincerely thank you all,  
Russell.

Gus Green assumed the Chair for the election of Office Bearers, he declared all positions vacant and the following personnel were elected.

President:	Russell Watson
Vice-President:	Helen Stuart
Secretary:	Muriel Bissett
Treasurer:	Betty Bissett
Committee:	Lucille Gee, Barrie Robinson, Dorothy Rodgers, Anita Swan & Irene Taylor

Member, Terese Binns and her husband Wayne were our guest speakers, they gave a very comprehensive illustrated address on their recent visit to the Gallipoli and the Front in Palestine and their participation: *In the Steps of the Lighthouse—95th Anniversary Ride*.

At the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 7th May, the following Appointed Positions were filled:

Library Co-ordinators: Anita Swan & Irene Taylor: Helpers: Dorothy Rodgers, Lucille Gee and Helen Stuart.

Accessions: Anita Swan. Asset Register: Betty Bissett. Computers: Irene Taylor

Library Roster: Barrie Robinson, assisted by Lucille Gee

Publications: Russell Watson, Muriel Bissett and Helen Stuart

Research: The Research Team is in recess

Sales Officer: Helen Stuart.

Cemetery photographs—printed for sale: Irene Taylor & Barrie Robinson

Publicity Officer: Russell Watson

Newsletter: Betty Bissett.

Webmaster: Barrie Robinson, assisted by Russell Watson.

## An Interesting History of 1752

Here is an interesting historical fact that you probably didn't know. Just have a look at the calendar for the month of September 1752.

CALENDAR 1752						
September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In case you haven't noticed, 11 days are simply missing from the month.

Here's the explanation: This was the month during which England shifted from the Roman Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar.

A Julian year was 11 days longer than a Gregorian year. So, the King of England ordered 11 days to be wiped off the face of that particular month. (A King could order anything, couldn't he?)

So, the workers worked for 11 days less that month, but got paid for the whole month. That's how the concept of "paid leave" was born. Hail the King!!!

In the Roman Julian Calendar, April used to be the first month of the year; but the Gregorian Calendar observed January as the first month. Even after shifting to the Gregorian Calendar, many people refused to give up old traditions and continued celebrating 1st April as the New Year's Day. When simple orders didn't work, the King finally issued a royal dictum; which stated that those who celebrated 1st April as the new year's day would be labelled as fools.

From then on, 1st April became April Fool's Day. History is really interesting, isn't it ?

Author unknown

## The First Transmission of Photographs – 30 November, 1924

The transmission of photographs by wireless between London and New York was carried out by the Marconi Company today. Within a fortnight the Marconi Co and the American Radio Corporation will inaugurate a regular wireless photograph service across the Atlantic. Today's experiments were received from New York indicating that the photographs had arrived in good condition. So as to complete the test actual photographs of the transmission operation were taken by flashlight and developed immediately, and within a few minutes were speeding across three thousand miles of ocean.

*Weekly Courier*, 24 December 1924.

~~~~~

Spotted recently while searching the British newspaper archives at *Find my Past* ..... *The Leicestershire Chronicle* – Saturday 21st July 1832. - Marriages:

*"On Sunday last at Asfordby, near Melton, by the Rev Mr Burnaby, Mr. C. Toon, saddler and harness maker, to Miss Bishop, of Grimston, in this County; after a long and tedious courtship of one week"*

I wonder who chose the wording for the announcement ..... ?

## Family History Magazines

We have had a donation from Gus & Angela of four large boxes of Family History Magazines — various titles, such as Family History Monthly, Ancestors, Practical Family Tree, and Family Tree Magazine. Thank you, Gus and Angela.

We don't wish to keep these permanently in the library, but need some help from members to read through them and 'tag' anything which they think would be useful for workshops, or filing away for future use. We can then photocopy the item, and the magazines given away to good homes - that is, any of the members who want them!

They are presently stored under the reception desk at Tamar Street. Anyone wishing to help with this pleasantly 'onerous' (?) task, please ask the Duty Officer for some of the magazines to take home. I do hope you all like reading ..... ☺

## Genealogy Myths: Coats of Arms, by Michael J. Leclerc 15 Mar 2013

We've all seen them. In shopping malls and airports. Online. In magazines. Companies that are willing to sell you a copy of your family crest or coat of arms. You can have it emblazoned on a wall plaque, on a flag, on t-shirts and polo shirts, on coffee mugs and keychains, and a thousand other products. All yours for a low fee: the Smith Family coat of arms. There's only one problem: there's no such thing.

Coats of arms is a misnomer. It is actually a heraldic design. They were originally used in the Middle Ages by knights to help identify them. The designs were worn on cloth coats that went over suits of armour (thus, coat of arms). They were also painted onto shields and escutcheons. This helped to identify individual soldiers on the field of battle.

Control of these heraldic designs is tightly controlled by official organizations, such as the College of Arms for England and Wales or the Chief Herald in Ireland. These designs were granted to individuals and institutions or governments. They were NEVER granted to a family. Fathers could leave their arms to their sons (usually the eldest). Wives and daughters could also bear arms. These would be an offshoot of the arms belonging to their husband or father.

Arms can only belong to one individual at a time. Other descendants could bear their own arms. These would be a variation of the original arms. Usually a major colour was switched and another major change or two was initiated. If both parents were armigerous, the descendants might include elements from both arms in their new design.

All of those family crests and coats of arms you see in the stores were created for an individual, and they are the legal property of the descendants to whom they passed. It is a myth that they belong to an entire family. Just because a crest or coat of arms belonged to someone with the same surname as you, it does not mean it belongs to you.

Don't waste your money in the store on those arms. They are not legally yours or your family's. If you discover that an ancestor had arms, realize that they do not automatically belong to you, and you do not have the legal right to use them.

See - <http://blog.mocavo.com/2013/03/genealogy-myths-coats-of-arms>



### **British Interest Group**



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
at Phil Leonard Room, Launceston State Library, 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?

## The National Library of Australia—April 2013

.....is pleased to announce the following newspapers which have issues that have been newly added to *Digitised newspapers and more* on [Trove](#) . Many of these newspapers are currently being added to Trove and further issues will become available shortly.

### New South Wales:

*Globe* (Sydney, NSW : 1911 - 1914)

*Irrigation Record* (Sydney, NSW : 1913 - 1917) Digitisation generously supported by Griffith City Library, McWilliam's Wines & Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd.

### Queensland:

*Queensland Country Life* (Qld. : 1900 - 1954) '*Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) (Qld. : 1926 - 1954)

*Western Star* (Roma) (Toowoomba, Qld. : 1948 - 1954) '*Western Star and Roma Advertiser* (Toowoomba, Qld. : 1875 - 1948)

### South Australia:

*Bunyip* (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954)

*Port Lincoln Times* (SA : 1927 - 1954)

*Port Pirie Recorder* (SA : 1918 - 1919)

*Southern Argus* (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954)

To find out the latest titles which have been added to Trove, subscribe to one of our [Web feeds](#).

Through Trove, the national resource discovery service, there is free online access to over 8 million pages from over 350 Australian newspapers. All of the digitised newspapers are fully text-searchable and users can enrich and enhance the data through subject tagging, text correction and annotations.

Titles have been selected by the National Library in consultation with the state and territory libraries. A number of the titles are being digitised with the generous support and funding from a range of organisations.

For those libraries and organisations wishing to digitise a newspaper title, please see our *Contributor Guidelines*. If you would like any additional information please email us at [andp@nla.gov.au](mailto:andp@nla.gov.au)

For a list of newspapers that are scheduled to be digitised through the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program over the coming year, please see our website: <http://www.nla.gov.au/content/new-titles-coming>

## Digitised Newspapers and more on Trove—May 2013

The National Library of Australia is pleased to announce that more newspapers have been added to the website. Many of these newspapers are currently being added to Trove and further issues will become available shortly. For NSW – approx 47 new files. Vic – 6 and WA – *The Herald (Fremantle: 1867-1886)* Digitisation supported by Fremantle City Library. .

## A Touch of Humour ..... ☺

### Head Hitter:

The origin of the word editor was long lost in the mists of obscurity. It has, however, recently been ascertained that, owing to the continued series of complexities and mental struggles endured by the unfortunate race in question, they have been from the earliest times in the habit of slapping their forehead with their hands. Hence the term Head-hitter, corrupted by degrees into ..... Editor!

(Source: *Illustrated London Times*, 30 January 1847 – “communication from the Philological Society)

## Help needed in finding Tasmanian families

Helen Moyle is a PhD candidate in the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) in the Australian National University. She is studying historical demography, specifically the fall in fertility among couples who married in Tasmania in the 2nd half of the 19th century.

Helen is looking at the birth histories of couples who married in Tasmania in four different years— 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1890 – by reconstructing their families. She has used the Tasmanian digitised birth, marriage and death records as the major data source, but because couples moved outside Tasmania, she has also used other sources, such as the births, deaths and marriage indexes of other Colonies/States.

She has a number of couples in each marriage cohort (1860, 1870, 1880 and 1890) for whom she does not have sufficient information.

These couples are listed on the website <http://adsri.anu.edu.au/research/19thCTasmania>

She would be most grateful for any information about these families: Helen.moyle@anu.edu.au

## Reminder!!

Launceston Branch Committee is

hosting the:

### **Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Annual General Meeting**

from Saturday 15th to Sunday 16th June, at:

#### **The Hadspen Cricket Ground, 1 Clare St, Hadspen**

Day Fee: \$27.00. Programme commences at 10am Saturday.

Dinner at the Lion's Den, 18 Merino St, Kings Meadows – Cost \$27.00

Sunday 16th at 10am: Carr Villa Cemetery walk with Marion Sargent.

Booking form included in the March edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry* or at the Branch Library

---

## Workshop at The Adult Education Rooms, York St



**Wednesday 19th June, 2 pm: Branch Workshop. *Cemeteries Online.***

### **Application to attend the Branch Workshop**

*Fee of \$5.00 includes course material.* I wish to attend the above workshop on the 19th June:

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**