



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday
10am – 3pm

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment
(Fees may apply)

**Come To Our Next
Workshop!**

**Dating Old
Family Portraits**
with
Helen Stuart
Wed 20 March 2024

See page 4 for details

**Library Jottings
and
Special Interest
Groups**

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Upcoming Events

See page 4 for details

**Family history
articles or snippets
for the newsletter are
welcome
(300 word max.)**

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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Introducing.....

Sophie is only new to TFHS but has already made her mark on our Branch as a committee member, library assistant, part of the publications group, transcriber and administrator of our Facebook page. Born in Hobart, Sophie went to school and university in Queensland and lived in North-West Victoria for 12 years before coming home to Tasmania in 2021 with her husband and two children. She is a writer, creative practitioner, historical researcher and former English and Media teacher and now specialises in social media marketing and digital communications for the arts and heritage sector.

Sophie Appleby



Sophie reveals she has always been fascinated by history and folklore and her family's convict past. As a child her maternal grandfather's stories, photographs and his family tree intrigued her. Both her parent's families lived in Tasmania from the early to mid-1800s, arriving from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Germany. The first arrival was convict Edward Yates who arrived in Hobart Town in 1817 on the *Sir William Bensley*. But it was not until the birth of her eldest daughter in 2013 that she began her own family history research of her Scottish and Irish heritage during her daughter's nap times. It did not take long to get hooked and soon Sophie was tracking down her 14 direct convict ancestors, writing to family members, searching for photos, information and dreaming about returning to Tasmania to live and reconnect with generations of history.

Along the way, Sophie's most exciting and captivating discovery was her 4th great grandfather, convict Robert 'Harlequin Bob' Cowburn whose conduct record reads like a novel. Sophie is looking forward to sharing the story of his chequered and eventful life as one of the guest speakers at the state AGM and Conference in Launceston on 15 June this year.

As well as her involvement with TFHS, Sophie is also secretary of the Launceston History Centre, a committee member of the Book Council of Lutruwita/Tasmania and a member of the Launceston Historical Society. She is currently researching and writing her first book which explores family, grief and the joy and solace of ancestral connection. Sophie is excited to continue contributing to Launceston's historical groups and bring family history research to a new generation, through the arts and social media.

Launceston Branch certainly appreciates Sophie's enthusiastic contribution to our activities so far and we wish her well with her future plans.

Thank you, Sophie.



Library Jottings

- Mary Landers recently joined the small team of library assistants who help visitors to our City Park Stables library. Welcome Mary!
The library assistants are an integral part of ongoing library operations so we are always looking for new participants on the monthly roster. Some knowledge and skill in family history research is necessary, but generally people who have initiated and developed their own family history have that. Orientation to the library and training in simple practicalities associated with the library is provided as well as ongoing support. Generally, there are two library assistants rostered together and the Library Coordinator is always available if the library gets busy or more heads are required to help with a query.
- On 15 June 2024, Launceston Branch will be hosting the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Tasmanian Family History Society at the Windsor Centre, Riverside. It is 11 years since Launceston Branch hosted this event (coincidentally 15 June 2013) and the next occasion will be 2033 so make the most of the opportunity. The Conference program has been planned to be informative and entertaining and there will be a free historical walk with John Dent OAM down Cameron St on the Sunday morning. Program and registration details will be available in the March edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry*, which all members receive by post.

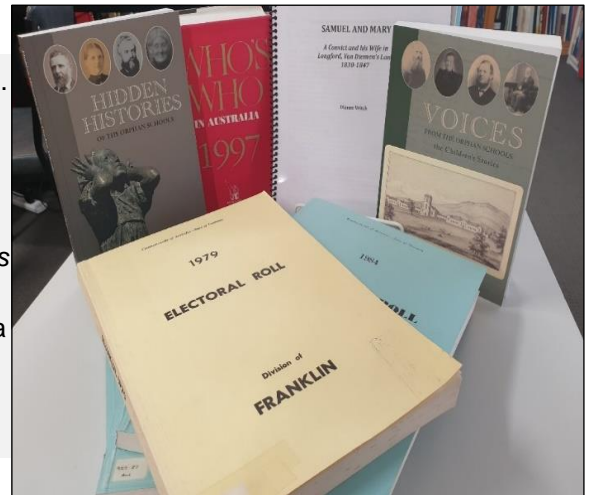
If you haven't been to an AGM/Conference before please consider registering this year!

DNA Discussion Circle

The DNA Discussion Circle is meeting again on Thursday 22 February 2024. Helen will be contacting regular participants but, if any members are interested in attending, they should book in soon via the Branch email or phone. Numbers are limited because of space limitations. There is no specific topic for this meeting but information, hints and tips will be shared.

New on the Library Shelves

- ❖ *Hidden Histories of the Orphan Schools* by Dianne Snowden AM ed.
- ❖ *Voices from the Orphan Schools: the Children's Stories* by Dianne Snowden
- ❖ *Who's Who in Australia 1997* by Neill Sharpe, Researcher and Michael Wilkinson, Publisher
- ❖ *Samuel and Mary: A Convict and his Wife in Longford, Van Diemens Land 1830-1847* by Dianne Veitch
- ❖ *Electoral Roll 1979, Division of Franklin, Commonwealth of Australia*
- ❖ *Electoral Rolls 1984, Division of Bass, Braddon, Denison and Franklin, Commonwealth of Australia*



British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG meets every month (February to November) and new members are always welcome (\$10 to join). The group usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday monthly, between February and November, at the City Park Stables library in Tamar Street. Meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of either a specific topic, current problems being encountered, or more usually, both. So, if you have an interest in or need help with your British family history research, this group might be for you. Please contact us by email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

Meeting dates and topics for early 2024:

- 2pm Wed 14 Feb: 1939 Register
- 2pm Wed 13 Mar: Scottish Valuation Rolls
- 2pm Wed 10 April: Merchant Navy

Did You Know?

Although you must pay to view some online archives and indexes there are many on-line resources available for free. The following is a popular selection, particularly related to UK research, and in future newsletter editions we will give you more.

FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

The largest family history organisation in the world, with records of 3 billion plus names. Online access includes scanned and indexed images of records, as well as extracted details. A substantial proportion of the material relates to the British Isles.

FreeBMD <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

Indexes the majority of births, marriages and deaths registered in England & Wales from July 1837 onwards and explains which periods are covered. Over 261 million distinct records are included - you can search them by using a variety of different filters.

FreeCEN <https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

Indexes over 32.8 million names from the 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses of England, Wales and Scotland and explains the current extent of its coverage

FreeREG <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>

Indexes more than 38.8 million baptisms, marriages and burials that have been transcribed from parish and non-conformist registers of England, Scotland and Wales. Detailed information is provided of the places and time spans covered and those being worked on. The site allows searches for a named person in all counties if a year range and an event type are specified.

Local BMD https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/local_bmd

Links to all the county websites that offer online transcribed indexes to the original records held by local register offices.

GENUKI <https://www.genuki.org.uk/>

A virtual reference library of genealogical information relating to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Handwriting <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/palaeography/>

Online tutorial by The National Archives to help people who want to read and transcribe the various scripts used between 1500 and 1800. Copies of original documents with different levels of difficulty provide opportunities to practice your new skills.

Lost Cousins <https://www.lostcousins.com/>

The Lost Cousins newsletter is usually published fortnightly. It provides a variety of articles, news items and links of use to family historians.

Source: Family History Federation <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-research-free-websites>

The Wall Family

Christine Leonard has published a second edition of The Wall Family, weaving the threads of memory, a family history book about William 'Cocky' Wall and his descendants. Convict William Wall later took up farming in Northern Tasmania before moving to Victoria where he was one of the pioneers of Central Victoria. More information can be found at <https://www.leonardstories.com/>

TFHS Membership Renewal

The next edition of the Society's journal *Tasmanian Ancestry* will have your membership renewal form and details of how to renew your membership. Membership renewal is due on 1 April 2024. Please note that there is a slight increase in fees but also the opportunity to renew online. All previous renewal methods are also available.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Workshop: Dating Old Family Portraits

Do you have photographs of ancestors in that album or shoebox but you are not sure whether it is a great grandparent or from another, earlier generation? Identifying when the image was photographed will help you solve that mystery.

Helen Stuart, well-known in Launceston family history circles, will share her knowledge and expertise in how to date old portraits, provide some examples and answer your questions on how you can do this yourself.

When: Wednesday 20 March 2024, 2.00 pm – 4.00pm. Afternoon tea included.

Where: The Elderly Citizens Club, 16 Landale Street Invermay
(Free parking is available behind the hall, with entry off Queen Street)
Open to Members and Non-Members – **Bookings are essential**



Registrations and fee of \$10.00 are payable by Tuesday 19 March. Bookings can be made at our library in Tamar St; by mail to PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250; Email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or Ph. 0490 826 863. 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: OLD PORTRAITS and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday 17 April 2024, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Afternoon tea included

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

Open to Members and Non-Members. Entry is free and bookings are not required

Guest Speaker: Terese Binns will be speaking on *War Animals*. With ANZAC Day coming up, this topic is timely and promises to be very interesting.

Annual reports will be presented and office bearers for 2024/25 will be elected.

Nomination forms for office bearers and general committee members will be circulated to Launceston Branch members closer to the date. Please consider putting your name forward to join the committee if you would like to be a little bit more involved in our Society. Attendance at a monthly meeting throughout the year, if able, is the major commitment.

Launceston Historical Society

Monthly meetings are held from February to November, on the third Sunday of the month at 2pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk. Upcoming meetings are on:

Sunday, 18 February 2024: Annual General Meeting with guest speakers Rod Oliver & John Dent, *100 years of Rotary*

Sunday, 17 March 2024: [John West Memorial Lecture](#) Kristyn Harman, *A good riddance: The Inception of Criminal Deportation in Colonial Australia*

Sunday, 21 April 2024: Julian Burgess, *Convict Clock and Watchmakers*

Bookings are not required and non-members are welcome (\$5). Bring some cash for the raffle. More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>