



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday
10am – 3pm

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment
(Fees may apply)

Christmas/New Year Closure
Library will be closed
from 3pm Tues 10
December 2024, re-
opening 10am Tues 21
January 2025
Clean up day 10am-
12pm, Mon 20 Jan

**Library Jottings
Special Interest
Groups
Check It Out**

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**DNA Workshop
Report**
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**A Family Story
Victor Arthur Jacques
by
Jayne Shapter**

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Upcoming Events

Christmas High Tea
Sun, 1 Dec 2024, 2pm
at Franklin House
Book Now!

**Research Skills
Workshop:**
Online Resources
Thurs 20 Feb 2025,
2pm,
Inveresk Library
UTAS
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Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

45 Tamar St, Launceston
PO Box 1290, Launceston 7250
Telephone: 0490 826 863
President: John Dent OAM
Editor: Fran Keegan

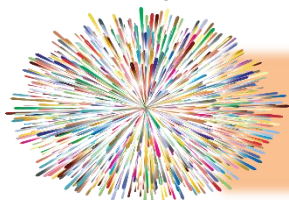
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No. 79
November 2024



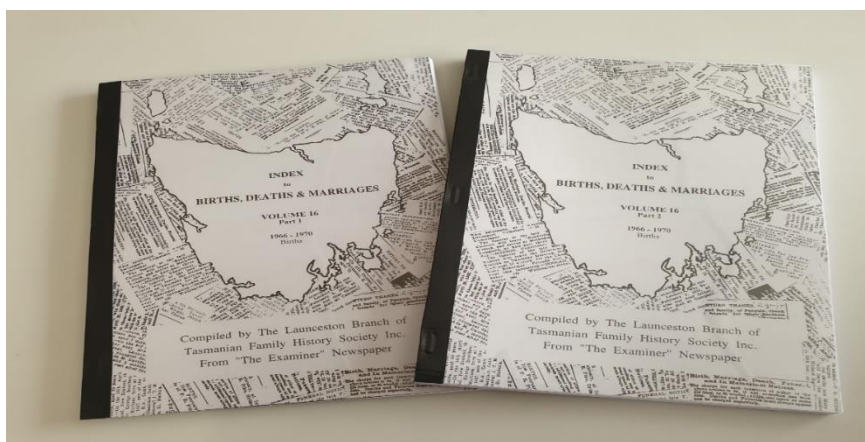
Examiner Indexes Latest Release!

The *Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages Vol 16, Parts I & II 1966 -1970 Births*, compiled from *The Examiner* newspaper, is finally available!

With the 100-year restriction on access to birth records, family history researchers often rely on birth notices published in local newspapers for information about their ancestors. Launceston Branch has already published indexes to births and deaths (1900 – 1965) and marriages (1900 – 1960) from *The Examiner's* pages, which are a great resource to researchers and widely available in public and genealogical libraries, as well as for purchase.

It has been several years since the last index was published so it is with great pleasure, and relief, that Volume 16 has been published. This volume is in two parts because of the number of names and, if purchasing, both books are required. Purchase details are below.

Many people work as volunteers behind the scenes to prepare these publications including transcribers, editors, proof readers, and as they are produced in-house, many hands have been involved in printing, layout, and stapling. So, congratulations team, and thank-you for your hard work and cooperation. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



***Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages Vol 16, Parts I & II 1966 -1970 Births*, from *The Examiner* newspaper**

Price: \$50 (\$25 per book) (Members – 10% discount) + \$15.50 p&p if required.
Order via mail, email, phone (details at top of page) or call into our library at City Park Stables, 45 Tamar St, Launceston



Library Jottings

- A rude awakening confronted Helen when she unlocked the library on Tuesday 3 September to find that the office/storage area had been flooded in the violent storms over the previous days. External drains (not our responsibility) had been blocked with debris causing the water to flood under the back door. Needless to say, it was 'all hands on deck' for the volunteers rostered that day to rescue the many boxes of books that cover most of our available floor space. Although the carpet was absolutely soaked in that area, the main library area was unaffected, owing to the uneven floor between the two areas. With many businesses and homes in Launceston suffering flood and wind damage at that time, we were very fortunate to obtain the immediate assistance of Luke from Floor Tech who arrived with his 'super-sopper' and industrial dryers to sop up the water and dry us out. Thankfully, almost everything was salvageable and we have transferred anything that sits directly on the floor into plastic tubs – once bitten, twice shy!
- Thank you to our members who have responded to the call for volunteers to assist with our transcription projects. Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Barnewall are working on the index card database with Sandra and Mary, and Sandra Neal is transcribing the J A Dunn funeral records. With the additional help, the index card transcription is progressing really well and we hope to have that finalized in coming months. A great feat as there are many, many cards to be transcribed – estimate 40,000. Around half of these cards are already searchable on one of our library computers (up to M) and it will be of great benefit to have them all out of the drawers (that take up valuable space) and on the computer. We also expect to publish the first volume of the J A Dunn, Funeral Directors records in 2025. This will be of interest to many because funeral records often have information not available elsewhere and death records are not yet available from that time (1955 onwards).
- John Dent, President of the Launceston History Centre (LHC), of which TFHS Launceston Branch is a constituent organisation, reports that plans to lease the historical Frederick Street Kindergarten at 56 Frederick Street, Launceston are progressing, albeit slowly. The lease with Launceston City Council is being prepared and Council has undertaken to fix some of the building structural issues and build new toilets. After that work is completed, LHC will be able to take possession, and of course TFHS Launceston Branch library and office will relocate. However, the downside is that is likely to be a while before the work is completed. The good news is that it is going to happen, but probably not for a year or so yet.

New on the Library Shelves

- *Effecting a Cure: Aspects of Health and Medicine in Launceston* by Paul A. C. Richards, Barbara Valentine & Tom Dunning
- *The Peacock Family: From Taunton to Tasmania* by Amanda J. Harper
- *Early Van Diemen's Land: An Introduction to the Diaries of the Rev. Robert Knopwood A.M. and G.T.W.B Boyes* by W.H. Hudspeth
Memorial Volume
- *Convict Love Tokens: the leaden hearts the convicts left behind*, Michele Field and Timothy Millett eds.
- *Australians in World War 1: Australian Light Horse* researched and compiled by Anthony Staunton
- *Henry Hinsby: A Distinguished Apothecary of Hobart Town*, researched and compiled by Terese Binns



DNA Discussion Circle

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20 March 2025. Helen will be in contact with regular attendees, but if you are a member and have an interest in using DNA matching for you family history research, please contact us by email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863



British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG meets on the 2nd Wednesday monthly, between February and November and new members are always welcome (\$10 to join). 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.

Please contact us by email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

Last meeting for 2024:

- 2pm Wed 13 Nov: **Brick Walls** – general discussion of issues and problems

Meeting dates and topics for early 2025:

- 2pm Wed 12 Feb: To be confirmed

Welcome to New Members!

The following members have joined Launceston Branch in the last few months:

Lindy Blazely, Suzanne Calvert, Donna Cooper, Peter Dixon, Tamara Duff, Greg Fisher, Rodney Frazer, Kris Gatenby, Peter Jacobson, Julie Johnson, Rachel Kenzie, Ian Locke, Julieanne Mani, Tony McGuinness, Sandra Neal, Lindsay Nicholson, Fleur and Rodney Peck and Robyn Priestly.

We hope your time with us assists and supports you in researching your family's history.

Check it Out

- ❖ Did you know that you can help update birth and marriage records in the Tasmanian Names Index, at home and in your own time?

At the recent Society AGM, Andrew Cocker talked about how members can help with this project via a platform called DigiVol. An article in the September 2024 issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* (on p. 114) provides more information about Archives Tasmania progress on updating online Births, Deaths and Marriages records and the DigiVol project. Details of how you can volunteer and get started can be found on the TFHS website <https://www.tasfhs.org/index.php> Just click on 'Become a volunteer transcriber – from home' bottom right of main page. Many hands make light work, so if enough people contribute even a few minutes a week the task of transcribing up to the restricted years will be completed quickly.

- ❖ **Do you need help researching your ancestors in India?** If so, the Families in British India Society (fibus) might be worth checking out <https://www.fibus.org/> Their database, with over 2 million names, is free to access, as is their Fibiwiki – an encyclopaedia about life in British India https://wiki.fibus.org/w/Main_Page Although this is a British organisation, Australian membership is available (\$35AUD) and provides broader access to research assistance, audio/video recordings and access to members only material. Worth checking out.

Thank you to our members and friends for your continued support during 2024.

A special thank-you to our volunteers who help in so many ways throughout the year.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our library or one of our events in 2025.



John Dent OAM (President) and Committee TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch



What's New? Using DNA for Family History - Workshop

The DNA Discussion Circle and DNA workshops are always popular, as was the case on Thursday 26 September when expert, and TFHS Hobart Branch President, Ros Escott AM presented the workshop *What's New? Using DNA for Family History* to over 30 attendees.

In a bright and well-equipped room in a new venue at UTAS Inveresk Library, Ros gave a brief overview of basic DNA analysis information highlighting the fact that all the major DNA testing companies, Ancestry, My Heritage, Family Tree DNA, 23 and Me etc. now have tools to help

analyse tests, with other companies, including DNA Painter and BanyanDNA, providing more sophisticated tools for relationship probabilities. Ancestry has the largest data bank, therefore the largest pool for comparison, which is probably the best option for anyone considering testing. Raw data from Ancestry can be downloaded to other companies for additional comparison, if required.

Making sense of DNA matches is made vastly more understandable by using the Leeds Method (doing the 'dots' – all DNA sites have a tool) to sort matches into grandparent groups. *What are the Odds?* (WATO), an automated version of relationship probabilities via building fragment trees, is a particularly useful tool in DNA Painter if you have a 'brick wall' or unknown ancestor. The new WATO Plus is simpler to use than previous versions. DNA Painter has free registration with one free tree but an annual subscription provides unlimited use.

In the second part of the workshop, Ros described a recent case study where she was able to identify the parents of a foundling (grandfather of a Hobart member) abandoned in Launceston in the early 1900s.



In the absence of **any** known parent, participants were intrigued at how Ros managed to identify the likely parents by using the available DNA results from the Hobart member's known family, then building fragment family trees and using the various tools for DNA analysis to isolate a small group of 'possibles.' Using the traditional tools of family historians – searching vital records, newspapers etc. – Ros was able to identify the likely parent couple.

We are very grateful to Ros for once again travelling North to share her knowledge and expertise.



Sophie Appleby, Ros Escott AM and Kate Rowe

Preserving Our Legacy Through the Flavours of the First Fleeters and their Descendants

Are you a proud descendant of Australia's First Fleeters? The resilience, courage and spirit of your ancestor/s are an essential part of our national story, and you can help bring this legacy to life in a new way.

Vicki Roberts is creating a unique recipe book that honours the culinary traditions of the First Fleet descendants, accompanied by stories of survival and adaptation. She is inviting you to become involved to: preserve your heritage by sharing your treasured family recipes; celebrate family wisdom with portrayal of how your ancestors made the most of the land and its resources; and be part of history with your contribution becoming a permanent part of Australia's culinary and cultural history through this book.

So, help honour the past, celebrate our heritage and create something that allows future generations to taste the history of First Fleeters, our colonial past and our previous generations.

For more information, contact Vicki by email at yesteryearcooking@gmail.com

A Family Story

Thanks to Jayne Shapter for her story about her great uncle, Victor Jacques, who survived Gallipoli, but subsequently died of his wounds on the Western Front

Victor Arthur Jacques was born in Glenorchy on 16th December, 1894. His parents, Samuel William Jacques and Susannah Gordon, were the third couple to marry at St Paul's Church, Glenorchy on 18th September 1872. Altogether they had eleven children. Victor was the youngest and his brother George was four years older. By 1914, all the other children in the family were married. The family property was 'Moorview' in Hull Street, but Samuel also owned a cottage in Tolosa Street, where he had an apricot orchard, and some other blocks where he grew fruit trees. Victor and George helped their father manage the orchards and other farming enterprises.



War was declared on 4th August 1914 and Victor enlisted on 20th August. He was young, not quite 20 years old, and I feel he may have been looking

for adventure and a chance to see the world. He left Hobart aboard the Transport Ship *Geelong* on 20th October 1914, with 118 other Tasmanians. Half of the 12th Battalion came from Tasmania, with the other half coming from South Australia and Western Australia. The ship called at Albany, with a final destination of Alexandria. Orders were received for embarkation on 27th February 1915 and the 12th Battalion, with other Australian forces, left Alexandria for Lemnos Island on 1st March. On 21st April 1915, orders were received from 3rd Brigade for landing on Gallipoli Peninsula. Victor Jacques, with the other soldiers in A Company, landed at Anzac Cove at 4am on Sunday 25th April 1915. By the end of that first harrowing day, from the 12th Battalion, 4 Officers were killed and a further 17 Officers were wounded. Of 873 soldiers who landed that day, 25 were killed, 90 were missing and 286 were wounded. Victor Jacques survived that day and went on to spend all but a few days on the Gallipoli Peninsula until the 12th Battalion was withdrawn on 26th November 1915. On 11th July, 1916 in the London Gazette, Warrant Officer Victor Arthur Jacques was mentioned in dispatches for "distinguished and gallant services rendered during the period of Gen. Sir Charles Monro's Command of the M.E.F." General Sir Charles Monro assumed command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in October 1915.

The 12th Battalion spent some time in Egypt before going on to Northern France. Their first action in France was on 7-8 June 1916, when they relieved 11th Battalion at the Front. Victor Jacques stayed with the Battalion in the field until May 1917, when he spent several months in England with the 1st and 3rd Training Schools at Chelsea, Tidworth and Sutton Veny. He did not re-join the Battalion until 9th February 1918.

July 1918 saw the Battalion move back to the field, firstly as support then to the front on 21st July. The Battalion was relieved on the night of 30th July, but on that day, Victor Jacques suffered severe shrapnel wounds and was taken to the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance. He was transferred to the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, but died of wounds on 31st July.

Victor Arthur Jacques is buried at Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery in France.

Surprise Us!



When researching our ancestors' lives, we often find someone or something we definitely weren't expecting – something bizarre, a close association with a famous person or event, notoriety, heroism etc. Sometimes the discovery is a pleasant one and cause for celebration, other times just odd. Obviously, some family secrets should stay unpublicised but, if you are prepared to share, tell us about your surprise discovery in a couple of paragraphs, dot points, whatever is easiest. If you don't want to write it, phone or email us and we will put it on paper for you (email ltntasfh@bigpond.com ph. 0490 826 963). Share your surprise with us in 2025.

Upcoming Events of Interest

TFHS Launceston Branch - Christmas High Tea!



Join us for our annual end-of-year social function

Where: Franklin House,
413/419 Hobart Road

When: Sunday 1st December 2024,
2:00 – 4:00pm

Cost: \$25.00 per person.
RSVP and payment by
Fri 22nd November 2024.

Bookings and prior payment essential.



Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct debit to BSB: 037-608 Acc. No. 563150. If paying by direct debit, please quote the reference: *CHRISTMAS* and your surname and send an email or note with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

Email: secretary@launceston.tasfhs.org Phone: 0490 826 863 Mail: PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250

Research Skills Workshop: Using Internet Resources for Family History

Presenters: Sophie Appleby and Robyn Gibson

An overview (with lots of examples) of how internet resources can be useful when searching for your family history. Sophie and Robyn will be talking about tips to help your searching, traps to avoid, and especially unusual places to look that may have some surprises.

When: Thursday 20 February 2025, 2pm – 3.30pm

Where: Flex Room 216, 1st Floor, Inveresk Library, University of Tasmania,
2 Invermay Road, Launceston (link to map <https://tinyurl.com/bdz5pefi>)

Paid parking close by at Inveresk Car Park, \$2.50/hr

Open to Members and Non-Members – **Bookings are essential**

Registrations and fee of \$5.00 are payable by Tuesday 18 February 2025. 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: *Online Resources* and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

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. The last meeting for 2024 is on:

Sunday, 17 November 2024: Darren Watton & John Dent, *Perth Gaol Archaeological Dig*

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>