



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library
Hours:

Tuesday
10am – 3pm

Monday - Thursday:

By appointment
(Fees may apply)

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**Library Jottings  
New on the Shelves**

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**Special Interest
Groups**

**Check It Out
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**Upcoming Events**

**Research Skills  
Workshop:  
Online Resources  
Thurs 20 Feb 2025,  
2pm,  
Inveresk Library  
UTAS**

**TFHS Inc Launceston  
Branch AGM**

**Wed 16 April 2025  
2pm**

**Elderly Citizens Club  
16 Landale St,  
Invermay**

**Guest Speaker:  
Julian Burgess –  
The History of 56  
Frederick St**

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Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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New Release! Historical Court Records Index



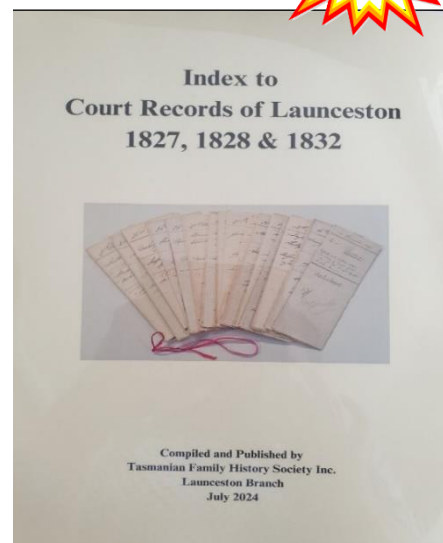
We are pleased to announce the release of an index to some recently discovered Launceston court records from 1827, 1828 and 1832, which were the subject of a presentation by transcribers Jai Paterson and John Dent, at the Society AGM last June. Jai and John will also be guest speakers on the same topic at the February meeting of the Launceston Historical Society – details on page 4.

There are 83 records in this collection, many with multiple pages and citing 460 names of convicts, former convicts, free settlers, ships' crew and even people who considered themselves the 'ruling class'. These records appear to be depositions given to the Launceston Magistrate's Court and provide a valuable insight into everyday life in Launceston at that time, including what people wore, ate, drank, how they lived and worked and what things cost, all told in their own words. This index will be of particular interest to those whose ancestors were living in the Launceston area during that period. The level of detail of events is not available elsewhere.

Price: \$20 Members – 10% discount + \$6.50 p&p if required.

Order via email ltntasfh@bigpond.com, phone 0490 826 863 or call into our library at The City Park Stables, 45 Tamar St, Launceston on Tuesdays 10am to 3pm.

Individual digital records can also be purchased at a cost of \$10 per record.



Have a Peek at our Future Home!

The Launceston History Centre (of which TFHS Launceston Branch is an integral member) invites all members and friends to visit their future home, the historic Frederick Street Infant School, before essential building works begin.

**When: Friday 7 February,
12 midday – 2pm**

**Where: 56 Frederick Street, Launceston
No RSVP necessary**

**View the building as it is now and at 1pm
hear a short talk about planned works
and LHC's vision for the site.**



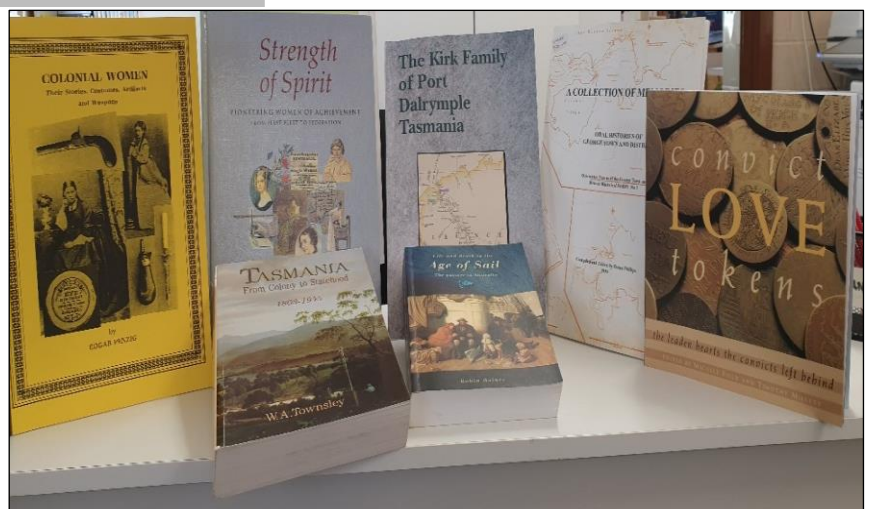


Library Jottings

- For the first time in several years the sun did not shine on our Christmas High Tea held at historic Franklin House on Sunday 1 December. However, 18 members and friends enjoyed the hospitality of Julie and her team in the comfort of the café – always handy to have a Plan B. As usual, the food was plentiful and delicious and an enjoyable time was had by all.
- Our Branch library in Tamar Street is now open after a six week break and members and non-members are welcome to call in and browse through our shelved collections, use our computers to search online websites, including Ancestry.com, or request the help of our library assistants. We do charge a small fee for computer use and/or photocopies but assistance and browsing is free to members. Non-members are charged \$10 per visit. Payments can be made by cash or card.
- We currently require more volunteers to join our library assistants' team to help with the running of the Branch library. The library is open from 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays and assistants usually attend for the five hours, but even three hours attendance would be helpful. Assistants are usually rostered for one session a month with 'newbies' always partnered with someone more experienced. Orientation to the library and training in the administrative tasks will be provided. Some knowledge and skills in family history research are, of course, necessary to be able to help visitors to the library with their research, but anyone who has successfully researched their own family history probably has the ability to help others do the same. So please think about helping with this important part of our Branch activity. If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer, talk to Helen at the library one Tuesday or contact us by email or phone – details are on page 1.
- It is worth reminding members who are researching their ancestors in overseas countries that the number and type of resources is improving. We have a folder in the library, *The Guide to International Research* comprising country-based articles, compiled by the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), that lists the various resources available for each country or region including, for instance, France, Spain, Italy, Eastern Europe, British India, South Africa, Canada, Holland, Malta, Poland and many more. Have a browse next time you are in the library.

New on the Library Shelves

- *Colonial Women: Their Stories, Costumes, Artifacts and Weapons* by Edgar Penzig
- *Strength of Spirit: Pioneering Women of Achievement from First Fleet to Federation* by Susanna De Vries
- *The Kirk Family of Port Dalrymple Tasmania* by Doug Watkins
- *Tasmania: From Colony to Statehood 1803 – 1945* by W. A. Townsley
- *Life and death in the Age of Sail: The passage to Australia* by Robin Haines
- *A Collection of Memories: Oral Histories of George Town and District* compiled and edited by Diane Phillips
- *Convict LOVE tokens: the leaden hearts the convicts left behind* edited by Michele Field and Timothy Millett



DNA Discussion Circle

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20 March 2025 at the City Park Stables library. Helen will be in contact with regular attendees, but if you are a member and have an interest in using DNA matching for your 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.

Meeting dates and topics for early 2025:

- 2pm Wed 12 Feb: *Emigration from the United Kingdom to North America*
- 2pm Wed 12 March: *Wills and Probate*
- 2pm Wed 9 April: *Create a Master Index of BMD's for a Surname from Free BMD and other websites*

Check it Out!

❖ **Register of Australian and New Zealand Ships and Boats:** The register of Australian and New Zealand vessels is a private project being undertaken

as a hobby by maritime historian, Mori Flapan whose objective is to record the history, details, references and existent material of all significant Australian and New Zealand ships and boats. There are currently more than 61,000 vessels recorded. Each record on the register contains up to 42 fields of information. There is provision for a photograph on the register. The scope of the register includes vessels owned in Australia or New Zealand pre -1983 except for vessels less than 5.5 metre (18 feet) or unnamed/un-numbered. It includes vessels imported into the colonies built as early as 1750 and those built in the earliest days of the Australian colonies.

More information regarding the project, including Mori's contact details, and how to access or contribute to the register is on the website <https://www.boatregister.net/index.htm>

- ❖ FamilySearch is providing a new way for users to be part of website updates – a feature called Family Search Labs, where you can explore emerging Family Search features that are not yet ready for public release. The new site at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/familysearch-labs> is a chance to see what FamilySearch is working on and an opportunity to provide feedback. Two available experiments that might be of interest are *Expand Your Search with Full Text* to discover previously unsearchable data in FamilySearch's vast un-digitised record bank and/or *Find Help with AI Search* to explore how an artificial intelligence assisted search might provide guidance and help for doing research and using the FamilySearch website.
- ❖ Diahan Southard's YouTube presentation from RootsTech 2023 on *The Shared Matches Tool – the Only DNA Tool you Ever Need* is well worth a look for anyone struggling to find 3xgreat grandparents or closer through their DNA matches. Find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btQwRlyhuns>

Surprise Us!

Tell Us about Your Most Surprising Genealogical Discovery

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 (ph. 0490 826 963 or email ltntasfh@bigpond.com). Share your surprise with us in 2025.



Upcoming Events of Interest

Research Skills Workshop:



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 first few meetings for 2025 are on:

- Sunday 16 February 2025**, Annual General Meeting, Jai Paterson & John Dent, *Launceston Court Records: Just hope your ancestors were caught...*
- Sunday, 16 March 2025, John West Memorial Lecture**, Hamish Maxwell - Stewart, *Convict Memorial*
- Sunday, 13 April 2025**, Stefan Petrow, *Tasmanian Soldiers in World War One*

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>

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday 16 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: Julian Burgess will be speaking about the history of 56 Frederick Street, the proposed location of the Launceston History Centre of which TFHS Launceston Branch is an integral part.

Annual reports will be presented and office bearers for 2025/26 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.