



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday

10am–3pm

Monday -
Thursday:

By appointment

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**Christmas  
Dinner**

Friday  
20th November

**Colonial on  
Elizabeth**



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**President:** Helen Stuart

**Editor:** Betty Bissett

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## From the Library:

**The Stables library will be closed for the holiday period:**

Tuesday 8th December at 3pm,  
reopening Tuesday 19th January 2016.

## Working Bee at the Library

**Monday 18th January – from 9.30am.** Volunteers are required to help to get the Library ready for the opening on Tuesday 19th.

## Duty Officers:

Duty Officers are again in short supply; if you can help it will be much appreciated. Training is available.

## New Resource Material and Acquisitions:

When you are in the Library, ask the Duty Officer to show you the latest research resources and acquisitions:

## New Accessions since our last Newsletter.

### Books

- \* Mickleborough, Leonie; *William Sorell in Van Diemen's Land – Lieutenant-Governor, 1817-24 – A Golden Age?*
- \* Phillis, Susan; *Wherever You May Go – The Story of Charlotte Martha Reeves.*
- \* Smith, Beverley; *A Convict and his Four Daughters*
- \* Tasmanian Heritage Council; *A Guide to Preserving Tasmania's War Heritage.*  
TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2013.*

\* Denotes complimentary or donated item

## The John Cameron Fountain

John Cameron was the son of John and Elizabeth (nee Snell) Cameron. He migrated to Van Diemen's Land in 1823 at the age of 16 aboard the brig *Luistania* with his sister Mary, her husband and their three children (the Swan Family). John had left his mother and her third husband in England due to disagreements with his new stepfather.

In Van Diemen's Land John became a merchant, a buyer and seller of real estate, and a Justice of the Peace. From c1846 John sat regularly as part of the panel of Justices of Power in the Supreme Court- Quarter Sessions and Mayor's Courts – Civil Sitings.

In 1831 John made the first of 105 property transactions by purchasing land along the Tamar River from John Reid and others. By 1835 he owned buildings in Brisbane Street and he resided at *Newnham Hall*, now part of the Australian Maritime College. He purchased *Newnham Hall* from Matthew Curling Friend, where he resided for about 20 years. He also purchased a house in St John Street opposite the old Gas Company show rooms, and then later moved to *Oakburn*, now the Elphin Road campus of Scotch Oakburn College.

John made twenty trips to England in the course of his life in Van Diemen's Land, and during one of those trips he married Eliza Milburn Snell at St Johns Church, Hackney in London, on the 25th February 1837. Eliza was 19 years old when she married, and after her arrival in Launceston, she lived in St John Street where her first child Emma Jane was born on the 27th January 1838. Eliza was to know great sadness, as of the 15 children born to her, all but two died at birth. The surviving children were first-born Emma and the last-born Kate.

John was a generous donor of St Johns Church and endowed a window in the Chancel of the Church. He was a foundation member of the Launceston Public library, and one of the original shareholders in the Launceston Gas Company, and his house *Oakburn* was the furthestmost house in Elphin Road to have gas laid on.

John died at his home *Oakburn* on the 28th June 1866 of apoplexy and was buried in the Cypress Street Cemetery. After his death, Eliza and Kate lived in Launceston for seven more years before they moved to Hobart to live near Eliza's daughter Emma, who had married Robert Walker (later Mayor of Hobart). The Cameron fountain was gifted to the town of Launceston in 1884 by Emma Walker, in the memory of her late father John Cameron Esquire JP.

The fountain was cast by Walter McFarlane & Co. in Glasgow, Scotland, and was originally sited in front of the Government buildings on the corner of St John and Paterson Streets. It was then moved to Lower St John Street, near the Customs House, Esplanade. When the Sewerage Treatment plant was built on that site it was given a temporary home in the Trustees Court near Centreway Arcade. In 1964 the fountain was moved again to the rear of Franklin House, having been donated by the Launceston City Council.

There are portrait paintings of Eliza and Emma Cameron in the drawing and dining rooms of Franklin House. The artist of these portraits is not known.

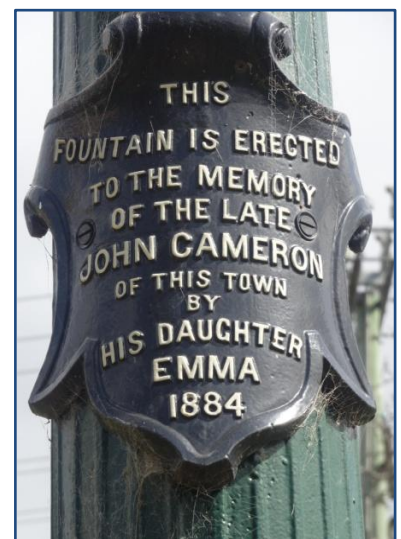
References: *The Examiner* Newspaper. Franklin House Research Centre.



Installation of Fountain at Trustees Court



John Cameron Fountain – Franklin House



## The History of the Carol: 'Silent Night'



An artist's impression from [The Illustrated London News](#) of 9 January 1915: "British and German Soldiers Arm-in-Arm Exchanging Headgear: A Christmas Truce between Opposing Trenches [Wikipedia]

The words of the Carol 'Silent Night' were written by a priest called Father Joseph Mohr in Austria in 1816 and the music of this carol was added to the carol in 1818 by Father Mohr's school teaching friend Franz Zaver Gruber. The carol was to be sung for the Christmas Service in Oberndorf, Austria. Silent Night, the carol, was then translated into English in 1863.

This carol has been sung many times during peace time and times of conflict. The time of conflict was during the December of 1914 in Belgium and France. The event took place during World War 1. A Christmas Day truce was called on the eve of Christmas Day. Both sides of the conflict were told the truce was being called, so the soldiers could collect their wounded and dead and clear the field in safety. The noises of the battle had ceased, the wounded had been taken to safety, and the soldiers were allowed to rest in their trenches. From the trenches the British soldiers could hear the German soldiers singing the Christmas Carol, 'Silent Night'. Being a well-known carol the language barrier did not matter. Most of the soldiers wandered out of their trenches and joined together singing the carol. Thousands of soldiers were known to have joined in, and on entering "No man's land" they exchanged food and souvenirs. The men began to play games, and football matches were played over the fields. The following days made the soldiers very unnerved, and they found it difficult to enter back to fighting.

The following year at Christmas time a few units arranged ceasefires, but the truce was not as widespread as 1914, due to strongly worded orders from the high commands of both sides prohibiting fraternisation.

A cross, right in Saint-Yves (Saint-Yvon - Ploegsteert; Comines-Warneton in Belgium) in 1999, to commemorate the site of the Christmas Truce. The text reads:

"1914 – The Khaki Chum's Christmas Truce – 1999  
– 85 Years – Lest We Forget"

Wikipedia /org/wiki/Christmas\_truce of the Cross in Belgium



## Quarterly Update - TAHO Annual Digitisation Plan - July to Sept 2015

### Tasmanian Mail and Illustrated Tasmanian Mail

The **full set** of newspapers from **1877** to **1935** are now online together with their **high resolution pictorial supplements** from which clients can download photographs to use.

### New convict records from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG)

These series have not been available to clients of LINC Tasmania before. QVMAG is an 'Approved Place of Deposit' for Government Records and holds these convict records (below) which have now been digitised for access.

#### Prisoners Barracks, Hobart

- Nominal return of men, 1842 - [AF583](#)
- Register of charges, 1842-1843 - [CON97/2/1](#)

#### Coal Mines, Tasman Peninsula

- Record of prisoners tried, 1836-1841 - [AF584](#)

#### Female House of Correction

- Infirmary Book, 1848 - [AF585](#)
- Record of baptisms performed, 1833-1854 - [AF586](#)
- General records, 1848-1869 - [AF591](#)

#### Convict documents

- Conditional pardons, 1855-1857 - [CON62/3/1-3](#)
- Personal conduct sheets, 1821-1851 - [CON70/4/1 to 30](#)

#### Other newly digitised convict records

The following records have been digitised as part of the TAHO/Ancestry partnership

#### Registers

- Comprehensive registers of convicts - [CON22](#) (volumes 1 to 3 online – later volumes to follow)
- Registers of the employment of probation pass holders, 1848-1857 – [CON30](#)

#### Indulgences (1830s – 1860s)

- Memorials for indulgences – [CON44](#) (consignment 2 includes new content from QVMAG)
- Applications to marry – [CON53](#)
- Applications for wives and families – [CON54](#)
- Register of certificates of freedom - [CON55](#)
- Registers of conditional pardons – [CON56](#) and [CON57](#) and [CON58](#)
- Register of free pardons – [CON59](#)
- Register of free pardons – Canadian political prisoners - [CON60](#)
- Register of tickets of leave issued - [CON112](#)

#### Descriptions

- Descriptions of convicts arriving on minor ships or locally convicted, 1832-1853 - [CON20](#)

#### Tasman Peninsula

- Registers of patients admitted to the Asylum, 1850-1877 - [CON127](#) (currently volumes 2, 5 and 6 are online – others to follow)

#### Northern Tasmanian Convicts (1820s-1840s)

- Register of passes granted to travel - [CON81](#)
- Register of passes together with muster rolls - [CON82](#)
- Alphabetical list of ticket-of-leave holders, showing employers, [CON83](#)
- Alphabetical register of the appropriation of convicts in the North - [CON84](#)
- Register of tickets of leave, conditional pardons and certificates of freedom - [AD764](#)
- Alphabetical conduct registers - [CON78](#)

## Deaths

- Registers, 1840-1874 - [CON63](#)
- Returns of deaths and casualties, 1860-1871 – [CON64](#)

## Money

- Journal of money paid into convict bank accounts, 1838-1853 - [CON73](#)

## Employment records

## Police

- Register of appointments, transfers, resignation and dismissal of Police (first 2 volumes) 1832-1844 - [POL324](#)

## Teachers

- Applications for Teacher positions and associated correspondence, 1862-1905 – [ED2](#)

## Justice

## Gaol

Record of work done by prisoners, 1890-1895 – [GD77-1-1](#)

## Supreme Court

- Minutes of meetings – Hobart, Launceston and Norfolk Island – [SC32](#) (first 7 volumes – later volumes to follow)
- Register of prisoners discharged by order of the Attorney-General – [SC231](#) (first 5 volumes – later volumes to follow)

## Deaths

Return of deaths, Hobart Hospital (Colonial Hospital) – first volume, 1864-1884 – [HSD145](#)

Requisitions for pauper interments, Hobart Hospital (Colonial Hospital), 1864-1876 – [HSD146](#)

## Diary

George Anderson diary and transcript, 1851-1852 - [LMSS715](#)

## Photographic collections

- Aerial views of Tasmania (1919) by Dudley Ransom – [NS4787](#)
- Aerial view of Tasmania (1930s) by J. J. N Barnett - [NS3305](#)
- Digitised index to Mercury general negatives created from a database supplied to TAHO by the Mercury - [NS4946](#) (searchable PDF by decades – best in Chrome browser)

## Oral History

**Reminder that TAHO is acquiring records in a digital format.** The latest of these records to be available online are the Tim Bowden oral history recordings and transcriptions for cameraman Neil Davis and John Bowden, Tim's father. You can listen to the recordings online and also read the descriptions online – [NG2231](#).

## Many and various

Individual items – photographs, maps and plans get digitised and uploaded as a consequence of orders and requests.

Reprographics has been testing a new lens – here is an example of the very large format textual work that has been done – [SC108-1-16](#). Digitising this large format item was a preservation activity. As it relates to a court case involving Roderick O'Connor, Land Commissioner, this item has been frequently requested over the last few years; a digital surrogate now protects this item from constant handling. Another item captured for testing was a brass rubbing – [NS308-1-1-1](#)

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British Interest Group



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month
**Meeting Room 4 on 2nd Floor of the LINC building, Civic Square
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 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 and guests are always welcome, so if you are researching British ancestors and their families, why not come along and join us?

Our last meeting in October was related to researching the history of houses and properties that our ancestors had either owned or lived in, collecting information and photos via Google maps street view and/or real estate advertisements, etc. We did digress a few times as usual, but it was an interesting and informative meeting.

Next meeting is on the Wednesday 4th November which I think may be taken up mainly by a report from a couple of members who have been on a holiday and research trip to the UK. We look forward to hearing of their successes. We will of course, still be dealing with brick-walls and other research problems.

In December we will be having a subsidised Christmas Lunch instead of the usual meeting. I do hope there's not too many members of the general public there looking for a quiet lunch on that day!



Christmas Dinner



Friday 20th November,

6.30 for 7.00 pm

at

Colonial on Elizabeth

2-course – \$45.00 – pay on the night.

Please book at the library, or let the Secretary know if you will be attending – by Friday 13th.

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