



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday:
10am–3pm

**Monday -
Thursday:**

By
appointment

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**Next Branch  
Workshop**

Wednesday  
19th September

"Researching on  
*Shipping and  
Immigration*"  
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Launceston Family History Library: 45-55 Tamar St, Launceston
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Web: www.launceston.tasfhs.org

President: Russell Watson
Editor: Betty Bissett

**No. 34
August 2012**

From the President:

Looking at our Launceston Branch Newsletter file — No 1 of this series was started in July 2003. Anita Swan was the President and the Editor, Muriel Bissett.

At that time only 40% of our members actually came into our Library and used our available resources.

Now at Newsletter No 34, Betty Bissett is your Editor and at a guess still only 40% use our resources.

We run workshops at the Adult Education Building. If you have a need for some tuition or resources let your Committee know. Use our web site. Come in and help, do some research—hands on is the best way to learn.

We have some very experienced researches — learn from them.

Russell Watson

Vale

We were saddened to see the death notice for Mrs Lena Kimpton, (nee Begent) member No. 630, who joined the Society late in 1983. Lena was a WWII widow, and a few years ago, after she had helped at Anzac Hostel and attended the Anzac Day service, she returned to her car and was knocked down, injured and robbed. Prior to this Lena participated in all aspects of the branch activities and was a regular volunteer for library duty. Her cheerful presence will be missed.

Athol Saunders: Athol passed away on 30 June at the age of 97 years. Up until a few years ago, Athol and his wife were regulars at the library, and will be missed.

Volunteers to assist at the Library

Research Officers: We can do with help with the many research queries received by mail and email. Please come into the library and volunteer to help with this very important part our library function.

Duty Officers: Duty Officers are always needed, anyone who is interested in helping with this vital task, please contact:

Barrie Robinson: Phone: 6328 1349 — indicate when you would be able to assist, be it only for one day a month!

Society AGM, held at the Ross Town Hall on Saturday 16th June

The theme was 'Female Convicts at the Ross Female Factory'. There were three speakers before lunch: James Parker: 'The Ross Female Factory'; Colette McAlpine: 'Staff at the Ross Female Factory'; and Hobart Branch member: Dr Dianne Snowden, 'Children at the Ross Female Factory'. After lunch the Society Patron, Dr Alison Alexander's topic was, 'Female convicts at the Ross Female Factory'.

Launceston Branch look forward to hosting the Society AGM on the 15th June 2013, in Launceston.

After 15 years serving on the Society Executive, Muriel and Betty did not seek re election. Muriel held the office of Secretary from 1997 until 2003 when she was elected Society Treasurer for the next three years, she then took on the task of Secretary again in 2006 and completed another 6 years.

In 1997 Betty was appointed Assistant Secretary and was elected Society Treasurer in 1998 and held the position until 2003 when she was elected Secretary for three years. In 2006 she again took over as Society Treasurer and held this position for a further 6 years.

They each had four years working with the then President, Mrs Anita Swan as co-editors of the *Tasmanian Ancestry* from 2005-2009. Both continue on the Society Executive as delegates for the Launceston Branch, as well as Membership Registrar and Sales Officer for the Society. They will continue to distribute the *Tasmanian Ancestry* for northern Tasmania, interstate and overseas members—a task they have undertaken since 2005.

A highlight of their term in office was working on the Committee under the auspices of the then President Mrs Anne Bartlett to organise the 21st Birthday functions for the Society held in Launceston in 2001.

At the conclusion of the AGM a vote of thanks was moved for Muriel and Betty's fine service over many years.

As the Society Secretary is now located in Hobart, **all mail, research queries, purchases and membership renewals** etc. intended for the **Launceston Branch** should be addressed to: **TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston 7250.**

The former Society post office box (PO Box 191, Launceston) is to be closed and all mail intended for the Society Executive Committee should be addressed to The Secretary TFHS Inc, PO Box 326, Rosny Park 7018.

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National Archives' new catalogue

Discovery is The National Archives' (UK) new catalogue, providing a new way to explore their collections. *Discovery* is much more than a replacement for the current Catalogue, as it has been designed to host, search and display the many different databases and datasets held at The National Archives. By doing so it provides a more robust and integrated system to manage current and future data and storage needs, along with consistent and seamless user experience.

For more information visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/692.htm>

Workshop at The Adult Education Building, York St



Wednesday 19 September, 2pm: Branch Workshop. Shipping and Immigration Records.

Application to attend the Branch Workshop

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

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

ScotlandsPeople (email: 22 June 2012)

Wills & Testaments—now available for only 10 credits each. We have changed the pricing and payment method for purchasing Wills and Testaments documents on *ScotlandsPeople* Website. Instead of purchasing a Will & Testament through a separate transaction, these documents can now be viewed using *ScotlandsPeople* credits. As an introductory offer we have also reduced the cost from 5GBP to 10 credits, which is roughly 2.33 GBP!

The Pricing of Wills & Testaments was originally based on the average cost of posting out purchased copies to customers. At that time, this was the best way of arranging the price, as the number of pages per document can vary and so did the total cost.

So, in 2005 the records were launched on the *ScotlandsPeople* website at a cost of 5GBP for a full colour, authentic facsimile of the original document, regardless of the number of pages.

With the merging of NAS (National Archives of Scotland) and GROS (General Register Office for Scotland) to form the National Records of Scotland (NRS) in April 2011, we felt the time was right to reflect the fact that the records are from the same organisation, by standardising the payment process.

We hope that this change makes for an easier and more straightforward process for using these records. As we're currently working on the launch of the new Wills and Testaments for 1902-1925, we thought it was the perfect time to announce this change – we hope you like it!

Note: ScotlandsPeople vouchers may be purchased at our library, 45 Tamar St, Launceston.

Using English Probate Records by Todd Knowles

Probate Records are an important source and, according to Todd, should be one of the basic records used by family historians—the other basic records being census, church and civil registration records.

The benefits of Probate records are that they can be found as early as the fourteenth century and can contain a wealth of genealogical information. One of the key challenges of using these records is locating them. Probate records can generally be classified as pre 1858 and post 1858.

Before 1858 wills were probated by the Church of England in one of over 300 different courts. The courts were not equal in importance and they covered different jurisdictions. Wills were usually probated in the jurisdiction in which the testator owned land; if land was owned in more than one jurisdiction, the will would have been probated in the court which had the highest jurisdiction. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was the court with the highest jurisdiction and, as such, handled special cases including where the testator owned land overseas or died overseas, regardless of where he owned land.

Todd suggests sources of *familysearch.org* which will help a researcher find pre 1858 probate records. The first is FamilySearch wiki which can be found at *www.wiki.familysearch.org*. Type in the country name followed by probate records, for example Hampshire Probate Records. They are very clear guidelines that then take you through the process of identifying possible courts. The second option is to look at the 1851 Parish Maps project at *maps.familysearch.org*. From here you will be able to identify the jurisdictions and therefore the courts where your ancestor's will was probably probated. The next step would be to look at Family History Catalogue to identify what records may be available through the Family History Library.

In 1858 the Principal Probate Registry was created and responsibility for administering probate proceedings was moved from the church to the civil government. The indexes to the Principle Probate Registry 1858-1957 are available on film at the Family History Library. The indexes from 1861 to 1941 can also be found at *ancestry.com*. Remember to check for a number of years after the person died as the Will may not have been probated at the time of death.

Todd Knowles is an Accredited Genealogist specialising in English and Jewish research and a member of the Reference Staff in the British Unit of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. *Kerrie Gray.*

Recent Acquisitions

Books

- Rackman, Sally – Compiler, *Index to Volumes 26-30 of Tasmanian Ancestry*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty—*The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians, Volume 9, 1917*
- * Frost, Lucy (editor)—*Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory*
- * Norfolk Island Historical Society—Government House
- * Readers Digest—*Heart of England*
- * Heaton, J H—*The Bedside Book of Colonial Doings*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*Kentish Cemeteries : Monumental Inscriptions of Kentish District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*Latrobe Cemetery : Monumental Inscriptions of Latrobe Cemetery North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2004 Covering the North West Coast of Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2005 Covering the North West Coast of Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch—*The Tasmanian Mail : A Photographic Index, Volume 11, 1931*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty—*The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians, Volume 10, 1918*
- * Progress Association of Underwood—*A History of Underwood : to commemorate the Celebration of the Centenary of Underwood. February 14, 1849-February 14, 1959.*
- * Plomley, N J B—*The Tasmanian Aborigines.*
- * von Stieglitz, K R, OBE—*A History of New Norfolk and the Derwent Valley*
- * National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)—*The Three Cities : Hobart-Glenorchy-Launceston*
- * Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Moss Side 1915 (Lancashire Sheet 104.14)
- * Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Manchester (Victoria Park & Longsight) 1916
- * Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Chorlton-on-Medlock 1848

CD-Roms

- * Donohoe, James Hugh, BA, Dip. FHS—*The Paracensus of Australia 1788-1828*
Vic BDM
- * Jerrold, Walter, Thomason Hugh (Illustrator), 1907, *Highways and Byways in Kent*
- * 1898 Bartholomew's Atlas, *Warwickshire*
Victoria's Early Church Records

*Denotes donated item

Release of New Publications – September 2012

Index to *The Weekly Courier*: Vol 11 — 1919 Price \$30.00

Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians
10% discount to members

For the cost of postage & packing and a comprehensive publication list, refer to our website.

Websites

The Obituaries Australia website: Is a digital repository of obituaries about Australians, and those who have made an impact on Australian history. Only obituaries that are published in newspapers online using the following web page: <http://oa.anu.edu.au/submit-an-obituary/> (source: <http://oa.anu.edu.au/>)

Documents Online moved to Discovery

Documents Online has now been integrated into the National Archives new Discovery catalogue. After a short delay the new Discovery catalogue went online on 8 May 2012. Initially, both the old and new catalogues will be available, but the old one will be discontinued in the near future.

A man from Lancashire, England, Ian Lewis, spent three decades tracing his family's roots back to the seventeenth century. Lewis travelled extensively in England, interviewing some 2,000 relatives, to map out his genealogy, and he learned something he didn't know: He was adopted. Unknown