



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Library Hours:

Tuesday

10am–3pm

Monday -
Thursday:

By appointment

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### Evandale Bus Tour

Thursday  
19th  
February

Departs RSL Car  
Park at 10am

Register by 5th  
February

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Launceston Family History Library: 45-55 Tamar St, Launceston
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No. 44
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From the Library:

Evandale Bus Tour:

Thursday 19th February: departing RSL Car Park at 10.00am and travelling to Evandale via Breadalbane. **Members have first priority** cost \$10.00 per person. \$12.00 for non-members if seats are available. Cost includes afternoon tea.

Lucille Gee, author of *Relbia – Yesterday and Today* will give a commentary on the history of the properties and other points of interest along the way. Arrangements have been made to visit the Evandale History Room at 10.30am.

Lunch break will be from 12noon – 1pm. If you wish to purchase lunch at the Bakery, please tell us when you register.

The bus will depart Evandale at 3pm and return to Launceston via White Hills and Relbia. Lucille will continue speaking about the history of the properties on route, and stopping off at her home for afternoon tea, in the garden.

The bus will depart approx 4.30pm for Launceston.

Bookings and payment to be made by 5 February at the Branch Library, 45 Tamar Street, or by Australia Post.

Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 21st April – 7pm at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall, St George's Square.

Local historian, Marion Sargent will be our guest speaker, her topic: "Old Cemeteries of Launceston." All positions will be declared vacant. Nomination forms will be available at the Library in February, Members are urged to volunteer and get involved.

Branch Workshop – Wednesday 18th March, 2pm, "Irish Research", to be held at the Branch Library, 45 Tamar St.

The Society Conference and Annual General Meeting

To be held at Swansea on **Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June**.

Accommodation packages, the programme and speakers are in the process of being finalised. In the meantime make a note in your Diary and plan to attend.

Duty Officers Urgently Required

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

Evandale Fifty Years Ago

(By "Nomad")

No. 4

Blacksmithing and wheelwrighting was in the capable hands of John Bell, John Drake, Wm Barrett, S Gunton, H Hume, Joe Powell, Charlie Chipman, John Porter, and Alex Sutherland, and some good work was turned out in both branches in spite of the opposition of Matthewson, of the Cocked Hat, Lee of Longford and Wright and Waddington of Hagley, in the shoeing of hacks and hunters, manufacture of wagons and swing ploughs respectively.

Mr Tom Owen ran a vehicle to Evandale, now Western Junction, and during the cricket season occasionally took a load of schoolboys to *Clairville*, at the invitation of Mr R Cameron, sen., who, with his confrere Mr R Still, did much to encourage the youth of Evandale in the good old game. Mr Simon Fyfe was another who ran passengers and mails to the Junction, and also owned a white mule on which Harry Blake carried the mail to Lymington – when the animal in question decided to go there – but I have seen it dart through Mr E Collins' gate as a compromise between the road to Lymington and that to Launceston. On other occasions I have seen the mule and its rider in the centre of a water hole for a considerable time, in spite of the steady use of a whip and spur, and occasionally of a rail out of an adjacent fence as a lever.

This district was noted for its draught horses, as well as for its hacks, hunters, and racehorses. Mr Sam Hall's teams of bays and Mr Wm Atkins' teams of roans and greys were something to talk about when seen on the roads in grain and woodcarting season, to say nothing of those used to climb the *Trafalgar* and *Harland Rise* hills, or to bring loads out of Pearson's or Bryan's bushes, or from the Black Forest.

Going from the sublime to the ridiculous, while on the subject of draught horses one remembers a well known identity ("Old Jabez") Bradshaw, who lost more than one equine celebrity through old age, over-work, and under feeding, remarking that he would have a good one – if he had to pay thirty shillings for it!

Writing of wood carting, the recent flood brings to mind the fact of the Atkins, Lakelands, Hume's and other residents on the river bank using grappling irons, ropes and other appliances during a summer flood half a century or more ago to bring some of the logs and trees to land; and, with so much success that tons of firewood were retrieved, and at the same time scores of snakes were despatched as the logs were landed.

With such sires as Lincolnshire Hero, Lord Byron, Sir Colin Campbell, Magnus and others, owned by Messrs "Dusty" Thompson, W Collins, Wm Hartnoll sen., W Mann and breeders and owners of that calibre, it was no wonder that good class of draughts existed, and in a later contribution I hope to say something about the hacks and blood stock for which the district was noted.

There were some remarkably fine teams of bullocks to be seen also, especially in the bark season, and when Mr W Marchman was carting from the Chudleigh district, and when Mr J Bryan's threshing machines were being moved from stack to stack. The ground was soft and more suited for these steady plodders than for the horses, whose owners generally believed in "keeping the whip in the manger."

The Examiner, 23 May 1929, p.7

Evandale Fifty Years Ago

(“By Nomad”)

No. 21

Turning in at a gate on the right hand side of the Nile Road at the only bend in its seven mile course, one came to the sheds where Mr John Bryan’s threshing machines were kept when the grain season was over, and to the residence of Mr Hayes and family. This gentleman was for a considerable time Mr Bryan’s trusted assistant in connection with the engines used in this business.

Across the river on Mr W Gibson’s property, picnics were held in summer, and both children and adults travelled to the selected spot in wagons provided by farmers anxious to give one and all a good time. To one of these three of us waded through the river, and did not bother to replace our boots and socks until one of our party, George Huxtable, gave a yell and made a frantic leap as he felt something cold wriggle under his bare feet, and a search in the long grass and rushes near the river bank resulted in bringing to light a large black snake which was quickly despatched. No time was lost in replacing our foot gear and getting on to clearer ground as quickly as possible. During the day’s amusement no fewer than a dozen of these reptiles came to an untimely end, as their unwelcome appearance interrupted a lively game or a quiet stroll.

At another picnic, near *Strathmore* mill, at that time being worked by Mr D Dawe, one of these pests tried to escape in a stump hole, but as a few inches of his latter end protruded from a hole a couple of the picnickers, Bill Kidd, I think being the chief operator, tied a string cord to the projecting part with a view to pulling him out; but the cord proved stronger than the skin, and when, after a steady strain, the tail broke, they found themselves on their backs, and, on resuming a vertical position, all they had was the small piece which had been sticking out of the hole. At that time none of the party knew that a few taps with a switch while hanging on to the cord would have dislodged the reptile. I am making no charge for this information, as most bushmen are aware of the fact.

Some of the old residents will no doubt remember a gale which laid bare a track fully 200 yards wide through the property mentioned as the scene of the first picnic, and which flattened several chimneys in its course before striking this spot and dislodging both large and small trees as it tore along. They may have seen evidence in other parts of the state of similar happenings, as I have; another thing they may remember was the stump on the western bank of the river by which we judged if the stream was fordable or not when the waters were rising, before the erection of the bridge which made fording unnecessary. One episode which still lingers in one’s memory was an axle breaking in midstream and four of us having an involuntary bath.

The Examiner, 19 July 1929, p.7

New !!

Now available from the Launceston Branch Library:

Tasmanian Ancestry Vols 1-20 (June 1980-March 2000) CD-Rom

Cost: \$50.00, plus p&p \$8.35

Members discount applies: Cost \$45.00, plus p&p \$8.35

Order from:

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290
LAUNCESTON, Tas 7250



British Interest Group



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month
at **Lower Meeting Room, Windmill Hill Hall, High Street**, 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 are always welcome, so if you are researching British ancestors and their families, why not come along and join us?

✳ Please note the new venue for BIG meetings for 2015, starting Wednesday 4th February ✳

Digital BMD certificates discussed in the House of Lords By jonbauckham, 19 December 2014

Courtesy of "Who Do You Think You Are" newsletter

Baroness Scott of Needham Market has put forward an amendment to the Deregulation Bill highlighting the need to make birth, marriage and death certificates more accessible to genealogists.

Speaking to the Grand Committee on 18 November, the Liberal Democrat peer suggested changing the definition of the records the General Register Office (GRO) had to provide the public. Instead of solely offering 'full' copies of certificates, Baroness Scott argued that providing electronic versions would be more efficient for both the GRO and researchers. "The one group of people in this country who could really use this service much more extensively are those, like me, who are researching their family history," she said.

"The success of programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are?*, along with the relative ease of internet searching has led to an explosion of interest in genealogy. This will almost certainly increase this year as the result of the wonderful coverage of the centenary of World War I."

Baroness Scott also told the Committee she believed that her amendment was "a genuine piece of deregulation" which would "save money and does not cost anything." Currently available at a cost of £9.25 each, the present system for ordering GRO certificates in England and Wales contrasts with that in Scotland, which allows users to access the information via ScotlandsPeople, as well as Northern Ireland, which introduced a similar system in April. Researchers do also have the option of paying £10 to order the 'original' local register office records used to create the GRO material, but no authorities currently provide copies digitally.

Although Baroness Scott's amendment was not accepted in its drafted form, Government spokesman Lord Wallace of Saltaire said that officials in the Home Office would be "happy to meet with her and discuss the issue further". Speaking to *Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine*, a representative from the Liberal Democrat Whips' Office said that they "expected Government and cross-party support" for the amendment when it is debated in early 2015.

Irene Taylor

Ulster Historical Foundation
Telling the story of the people of Ulster since 1956

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

Since the website for our September 2015 family history conference went live, we have been delighted by the response and the number of registrations received. The extensive and innovative programme of ***Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*** is clearly striking a chord with people and we are looking forward to meeting all the participants. For more information please access www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/ or email enquiry@uhf.org.uk



Trace your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors and learn about the history of Ireland and your ancestors' lives and migration experiences first-hand through assisted research with our expert genealogists in the Belfast and Dublin archives, complemented by excursions through Ireland's beautiful landscape to some of her most historic sites.

An Exploration of the Motives and Historical Understanding of Family History Researchers.

You are invited to participate in a unique Australian study conducted by Emma Shaw, a PhD candidate from the University of Newcastle, under the supervision of Dr Robert Parkes (Principal supervisor) and Dr Debra Donnelly (co-supervisor). This study seeks to explore why people are engaging with family history and what they learn as a result. Participation in this study is an exciting opportunity for you to contribute to knowledge about the way family history researchers investigate and understand the past within both an Australian and international context. If you are interested in participating in this study, please click on the link which will take you to the anonymous online survey.

Who can complete the survey? Any persons who are currently researching their family history are invited to participate in the study.

What will you be asked to do? If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete an online survey totalling thirty questions. The survey includes demographic questions, questions about your research methods and tools, and questions about what you have discovered as a result of your research.

How much time will it take? It is expected that the survey will take 30 minutes to complete.

Where do I have to go to complete the survey? <http://hermes-history.net/fhr/>

Where can I find out more information? Please contact Emma Shaw via the School for Education office on (02) 4921 7946, or via email: emma.shaw@newcastle.edu.au or the project supervisor, Dr Robert Parkes, via telephone on: (02) 4985 4080 or email: Robert.Parkes@newcastle.edu.au.

ScotlandsPeople website

Valuation Rolls for 1925 have just been added.

The new records, which are *free* to search, comprise 2,103,648 indexed names and 76,512 digital images. The Rolls cover every kind of property in Scotland that was assessed in 1925 as having a rateable value, and provide a fascinating snapshot of Scotland in the aftermath of the First World War.



Evandale Bus Tour

Thursday 19th February.

Departure 10am from the RSL Car Park

Registration

I wish to travel on the 19th February:

Name/s:

Address:

Phone/Mobile:.....

Enclosed: \$:..... \$10.00 (member) or \$12.00 (non-member) pp

I/We wish to purchase lunch at the Bakery: Yes / No

Please return the completed form with your remittance as soon as possible to the:
Treasurer, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston. 7250

Or payment can be made at the Branch Library by Thursday 5 February

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Workshop at The Stables, 45 Tamar St



Wednesday 18th March, 2 pm

Irish Research

Application to attend the Branch Workshop

Fee of \$5.00 includes course material. I wish to attend the above workshop on the 18th March:

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, PO Box 1290, Launceston. 7250

Or payment can be made at the Branch Library by Tuesday 10th March.

Please Note: Should any workshop have to be cancelled by the branch, costs will be refunded