



ILMO®

(Investigating Local Members Origins)

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVONPORT BRANCH OF THE T.F.H.S. Inc. © 2005

The Secretary

P O Box 587, Devonport 7310

www.tfhsdev.com

Our newsletter for March features research

About our Convict Ancestors.



In the course of researching a book about Rhyndaston (near Colebrook) where she grew up, my wife Helen discovered three more convict ancestors in her family tree than she had known about previously.

One of these was her great great grandmother, Mary Ann Coombe, who was transported to Van Diemen's Land for 7 years on the "Eliza" in 1830. Convicted in London of stealing money from her employer, she was described as four feet nine and a quarter inches tall (145cm), with brown hair and eyebrows, a fresh complexion, hazel eyes and a high forehead. In 1832 she received permission to marry George Groven, a free settler, at Longford. His surname is unusual and I thought it might be a mis-spelling of Grover or Groves.

A search of the Pioneer index showed the couple had no children together, yet in 1843, a Mary Coombs gave birth to a son, James Coombs, father unknown. In his book "A History of Tasmania Volume 1", Lloyd Robson notes that a George Grover, Servant of Richmond Police Magistrate Gilbert Robertson, died under the Bridge there as the result of injuries received following a drunken harvest festival celebration. I assumed he might have been Mary Ann's husband but further investigation showed him to have been a convict. It seems that her real husband had disappeared as I could find no death record for him in Australia.

In 1846, Mary Ann Coombs married Peter Brooks at Richmond and the couple had six children over the period 1847 to 1857, all registered as Brooks. Her eldest son James, married Johanna Wilhelmina Hainey at Richmond in 1868. His wife was the daughter of Wilhem and Elizabeth Hohne, bounty migrants from Prussia, and arrived as a nine year old in 1855. Their first child was registered as Arthur Coomb, his mothers maiden name as Heena. The next child (Helen's grand mother), was registered as Louisa Elizabeth Brooks, her mothers maiden name as Hanna. They seem to have settled on Coombes or Coombs for the other four children and Haney as the maiden name. Just to confuse things further, their second son George James Coombes, was known to every one in Rhyndaston as Jimmy Brooks.

Submitted by member Richard Gould

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Do you have something to say?

Listed below are the mechanisms which allow you to raise a matter or a concern with the Branch committee or with the State Executive.

- 1. Write a letter to the Branch Secretary*
- 2. Write a letter to the State Secretary*
- 3. Email either of the above (addresses are in your journal)*
- 4. Approach any Committee member and ask them to raise your concern at the next Committee meeting.*
- 5. Ask a General meeting to resolve that the Committee consider or reconsider a proposal or matter.*
- 6. Write your suggestion in the Suggestion Book at the Branch Library*

Spotlight on Convicts

Finding a convict ancestor can be a reason to celebrate as the records relating to this period of our history are quite extensive. From their trials and subsequent sentencing in the UK & Ireland, through to their arrival in



Australia, documents abound. Most of the resources mentioned here can be found online, however

there are print resources available in our library as well.

Here is an excellent site to begin searching: *Convict Central* is intended to guide, inform and entertain those just starting the hunt as well as the more experienced researcher

<http://www.convictcentral.com/index.html>

Jenny Fawcett's page at

<http://www.genseek.net/cons.htm>

provides links to lists for convicts all over Australia. The site is added to regularly.

Some assistance with sourcing the information held at the *PRO* in London regarding convicts can be found here

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/Leaflets/ri2195.htm>

And you can now search online the proceedings from the *Old Bailey* for trials held between 1674 - 1834. There are over 100,000 trials available from the following

<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/search/>

The *Female Factory Research Group* have a website at

<http://www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/index.htm>

Their objective is to maintain a database, provide a forum and host events surrounding the lives of our female convict ancestors.

Aus-Tasmanian Mailing list

As mentioned before this list is one of the most useful and hosts this site

http://www.rootsweb.com/~austashs/convicts/tas_con.htm

Archives Office of Tas

<http://www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/collections/Famhistory/convict.htm>

The resources listed in the first table are available in Hobart at the Archives Office of Tasmania, and in Launceston at the Launceston Reference Library.

Books, magazines and CD-ROM for purchase

A must-have book for anyone with Tasmanian convicts is Susan Hood's 2005 publication called "*Transcribing Tasmanian Convict Records*".

Published by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority it is an excellent and well researched resource. Susan describes how convict records are constructed, where to find them and how to understand what they mean. (Available in our Library)

Other print resources to consult in our library are:

"*Criminal Ancestors : a guide to historical records in England and Wales*" and "*Convict records in Australia*" by Cora Num.

Mailing Lists

There are a number of “convict” topic related mailing lists on Rootsweb. A link to the Rootsweb mailing list for Tasmanian Convicts can be found here <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-TAS-CONVICTS.html>

This is a mailing list for the discussion and sharing of information regarding the history and genealogy surrounding the Tasmanian (formerly Van Diemens Land) convicts and their records in other states of Australia and in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~austashs/convicts/conabbrev.html>



Here you will find Maree Ring's list of abbreviations and notations

which can help pinpoint important clues. (This is also available in print in our Library)

Remember to check the browsing or searching facilities of the archives of these mailing lists to see if any one else is researching your convicts. If you would like to read more about the value of mailing lists you can go to www.tasgenes.com and from the Learning menu item, click on Genealogy.

And from the Editors...

Next Spotlight on.....

will be Scottish Ancestry. We would love to hear from anyone with short articles, snippets, book reviews, websites, diaries or any interesting information related to this topic. Please email us or leave any printed copies at the Library. Can you think of any topics to feature in ILMO during 2006.?

Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically??

If so, please let us know your email address so we can then ensure you receive ILMO electronically in the future. By changing your preference to receiving this via email, you will save the branch spending money on printing and postage and.... As a bonus you will find it much easier to access the websites by simply clicking on the hyperlinks.



Email us news@tfhsdev.com and we will add you to our mailing list.



Devonport Branch News

Branch Fundraising dates

The branch is having a number of fundraising days this year. They take the form of sausage sizzles and they are held at the Kmart complex in Devonport. These days are normally very financially worthwhile. Help is needed to run these and if anyone wishes to lend a hand on these days then please leave your name at the Library or with the Secretary by phone 64245328.

The following dates have been booked:

**11th March, 13th May, 8th July,
9th September and 7th October.**

Stanley Bus trip

As you would have seen in your last newsletter a number of bus trips have been organised for throughout the year. The first of these is to be on 1st April to Highfield house at Stanley. The cost will be approximately \$12.00 per head. Numbers are limited to 18 so if you intend going on this outing then it would be advisable to place your name on the list at the Library. The pick up points will be the Rooke street Devonport car park at 8.30am and the Ulverstone wharf at 9.00am

Latrobe Winter Chocfest

The Branch will be supporting this event again this year. The date for this event has not yet been advised. The Library will open on both the Saturday and Sunday of the weekend of this *Chocfest*. What will be provided by the Branch has yet to be decided. It will most likely be the same as last year with some minor alterations.

Remember we are online – use this to advertise our Society to any interested people and use it yourself to keep abreast of our events, library and publications.

www.tfhsdev.com

Do you have a personal web page? If you are a member and have a family history related web site, we can place a link to it from our branch website.

BOOKS FOR LOAN!

In the past we have not loaned out books from our collection.

From February this will change.



The loan collection is at present quite small, and consists of both books and journals.

Items may only be borrowed by financial members of the Devonport Branch (please show your membership card).

The loan period is two (2) weeks and the limit is two (2) items per borrower. Suggestions for titles to add to the loan collection would be welcome.

Call into the library on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the second Saturday of each month to browse, borrow, and **Kick-start your research back into gear.**



Annual Christmas Hamper Raffle

This raffle was won by Mr Ron Gray Devonport. Ron is one of our members and he was very pleased to receive it.

Library working bee

This is to take place on Saturday the 4th March commencing at 10.00am. The purpose of this working bee is to organise the old police cell so that it can be used as a storage area for some rarely used items. If you are able to help, then just turn up on the day.

*The committee have decided that due to poor attendances at meetings during the winter months that there would be no meetings at the Mersey Regional Library for the months of **May to August**. These would be replaced by other activities.*



What's happening in 2006??

A Calendar of Devonport Branch events

March 30th - Meeting at the Mersey Library.

April 1st - Bus trip to Highfield House at Stanley. The cost for this trip is approx. \$12.00 per head. Bookings are essential.

April 27th - A.G.M. at Mersey Library.

May 25th - On line night at Devonport Online Access Centre.

June - No meeting

June 24th - Bus trip to Penguin Historical Society with a mystery stop. Cost approx. \$5.00 per head. Bookings are essential.

July 27th - Meeting and catered meal. This will be a two course mid year Christmas dinner at Westella Ulverstone. The cost of this will be \$20.00 per head. A reminder will be placed in the next newsletter.

August 24th - No meeting.
Visit to RSL museum Devonport.

September 28th - Meeting at the Mersey Library with guest speaker

Saturday October 28th - Overnight trip to Archives of Tasmania in Hobart. The cost for this would be approx. \$75.00 per person and this

would include overnight accommodation and transport.

November 30th - Break up Meeting at the Mersey library

December - Christmas Dinner.
Venue to be advised

For Sale

Large black suitcase, trolley style. Futura brand. Excellent condition. Original price \$125.00, used once only sell for \$50.00
Contact Sue on 6428 2288
Turners Beach.

Branch Acquisitions

Accessions - CD-ROM.

*Anderson, Helen, *Johnson/Briggs Family History Report*

*TasGenes Digital Family History Services, *My Family history - Tracking your Ancestors online*



Our Librarian Glenice Brauman is happy to receive suggestions for additions to the Branch Library. Please leave your suggestions at the Branch Library.

Membership dues

All memberships come due as at the 31st March. Members who are unfinancial after that date will not receive the Tas.Ancestry nor the Branch newsletter. A renewal form was included with the December issue of the Tas. Ancestry. If you have

mislaidd yours then you may pick one up from the Branch Library at Latrobe. If you have renewed or joined the Society since the 1st January 2006 then you are financial till March 2007.

Branch Annual Elections

The A.G.M. of the Devonport Branch is to be held on **April 27th at the Mersey Regional Library**. All positions will become vacant. Attached with this newsletter is a nomination form for those wishing to nominate for one of the elected positions. The form also contains a list of the appointed positions that the society has available for those who may be interested. If you think you would like to express an interest then please do so. Duty statements are available from the Secretary or at the Branch Library for most of these positions

Could nominations for all positions be returned to the Branch Library or posted to the Branch, P O Box 587 Devonport 7310 by Monday 24th April.

A short committee meeting will take place after the A.G.M.

Devonport & Launceston Microfiche Roster

20/2/06 – 19/5/06 Set 2
GRO BDM Index 1947-1950

State Microfiche Roster

20/2/06-19/5/06 Set 4 **National Probate Calendars 1853-1943 (UK)**
These are microfiche of probate indexes (copies can be bought from the Genealogical Society of Victoria) containing brief details of probate granted and/or letters of administration

for that period. Information that can be gleaned from these include who the executors were, the amount of monies left, the place and date of death. Call in to the library after Feb 20th to check these out. They are a terrific resource. Also in our library for three months are the Lillian Watson Family History Award 2003 entries.

These will be arriving next!
20/05/06 – 18/08/06 Set 3 GRO
births, deaths, marriages 1898-1922

More about our Library!!

This year we would love to see ALL our members come in and visit our fantastic little library at least once! You might be amazed to see the volumes of indexes and transcriptions (all carried out by volunteer workers), magazines, microfiche, cd-roms and books.



Opening hours depend entirely upon volunteer members being prepared to help out by manning the library on either Tuesday, Friday or the second Saturday of each month. We are fortunate to have enough willing people to manage opening twice each week but our Librarian Glenice is always happy to sign up more!

Publications Committee Latest Projects

Work is ongoing with St George's Church of England cemetery at NewGround, also Railton and Deloraine. As always we are looking for anyone who would like to volunteer some time to help with digital photography, indexing and html input. Helen Anderson (Co-ordinator of the group) would love to hear from you.