



ILMO®

(Investigating Local Members Origins)

Volume 11 No 4

February-March 2007

**NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVONPORT
BRANCH OF THE T.F.H.S. Inc. © 2007**

The Secretary

P O Box 587, Devonport 7310

www.tfhsdev.com

Our newsletter for February-March features

Civil Registration

Statutory records in Australia are part of the civil registration of births, deaths and marriages and it is these records that we need to access to build a family tree. They provide primary source evidence and can be used to trace a family tree back from one generation to the previous, e.g. birth records provide parents names and in some cases marriage details and other children already born to those parents. The amount of detail on each certificate and the cost varies significantly from state to state.



These records are held and archived in each Australian state unlike the U.K where they are held at a national level. For more information about statutory records in Australia go to Coras Web at www.corasweb.org. where you will find a detailed account of where to access records from each state and what is newly released.



Obtaining the records from Government web sites can be expensive and a useful alternative is to investigate the services of providers such as Joy Murrin www.joymurrin.com.au or Marilyn Rowan www.transcriptions.com.au They transcribe certificates which can work out to be cheaper than buying the full certificate.

Australian Vital Records Index 1788-1905 is a CD-ROM product from the LDS Church and it contains an index of around 5 million christening, marriage and death records from all states. It is by no means complete but can be a useful resource.

A free web site is the Australasian BDM exchange set up to enable sharing of information on civil registration records in Australia and New Zealand. www.ausbdm.org

Another alternative is to access the extensive range of Australian birth, death and marriage resources published and sold by MacBeth Genealogical Services www.macbeth.com.au on CD-ROM and microfiche. These indexes are held by our library. Look for the Pioneer and Federation series or ask the library staff for help.

Civil registration records in United Kingdom & Ireland

Statutory records for England, and Wales 1837- present are all centrally located at St Catherine's House and can be accessed through the Family Records Centre <http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc/> in London. or some of them from our very own society ! See Tas Ancestry for details of the microfiche rotating between branches or further on in this newsletter for details of current stock in Devonport.

Northern Ireland records are available through the General Register Office of Northern Ireland at <http://www.groni.gov.uk/index.htm>

Scottish records are available at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Republic of Ireland records are available at <http://www.groireland.ie/>

For those members who are unwillingly to order certificates online themselves they can use our own library service to purchase certificates. The library charges \$20.00 each certificate of which \$2.00 is paid to the Library as a fee for this service. Alternatively there are agents such as Tony Fitzgerald, he can be contacted at <http://genealogypro.com/tfitzgerald/>

Remember to check the free sites such as Free BMD www.freebmd.org.uk and the IGI (International Genealogical Index) www.familysearch.org before turning to the "fee for see" sites such as www.findmypast.com and www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Other news

An article on page 7 in AFTC Nov 2006 brings the news of the impending closure of access to 20th century UK BDM certificates. If you have been considering buying any of these, now might be the time to do so before access is closed.



“Buying a Wife” by member Richard Gould

I came across an article in the Devon Family Historian for August 1996, describing how Annie Frise was the last person to be sold as a wife at a country fair in England. Apparently she was bought for 7 shillings and 6 pence, with the sale probably taking place during the mid 19th century in Devon. A halter was placed around her neck and she was walked from Okehampton to Bridestowe, a picturesque village on the north western edge of Dartmoor where my mother grew up. The rector of St Bridget's Church offered to marry the couple but this was declined because Annie had already been paid for and marriage would have cost extra money. When she died, she was taken to another parish for burial after the Bridestowe rector refused to bury her because she was unmarried.

Members Queries

Would you please insert the following question into the Newsletter in the hope that a member can give a definite answer? As I have been photographing headstones there have been several examples of plots having a small flat tablet with the initials of the occupant placed toward the foot of the grave and I assumed these were "footstones". However, since they do not always accompany a headstone and seem not to be fixed I now think they might just be a marker pending the erection of a headstone, at which time when they are moved to the foot or, because there are so few of them, perhaps discarded.

I have now discovered that two early relatives of mine are marked in this way at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Perth with no other identification so the answer has become personal. Because the stones are usually loose they are unlikely to remain in their correct position which is certainly the case at Perth.

Thank you for attention to this request,
Hedley Chamberlain Member 6146 email ianhedley@tasdaust.org.au

40th Battalion AIF

"Tassie's Own" battalion was raised in 1916. The battalion was unique within the AIF in that it was raised solely within a single state. The battalion embarked for the Western Front in July 1916 and by December was serving in the trenches in France. The men spent 1917 bogged in bloody trench warfare in Flanders and spent much of 1918 fighting in the Somme valley.

After the war ended in November 1918, the men of the 40th Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge between February and September 1919. Approximately 3000 men served in the battalion, almost 70% of them were wounded, and around 17% were killed in action or died of wounds.



I am currently putting together a project to build a website and database commemorating the battalion and the soldiers who served within it.

Over the next 18 months or so I hope to have some of my students (TAFE) involved in this project at the end of which it is hoped we'll have a website whereby members of the public can search the database for their relatives and they will also be able to add to the database with information and or photographs.

I'm hoping to hear from society members (and others) who may have had relatives who served with the battalion who may wish to contribute or become involved. Members might also like to know that next year should see the publication of a book on the battalion by Longford man Mr. K. Dick. **Jim Rouse, Sheffield.**

email: jim@40th-bn.org or phone: (03) 6491 1607

New Members Corner

A regular column for our newsletter is the “New Members Corner” where we introduce new members. In this issue we welcome Fred & Eve Hinds. If you are a new member and would like to have some details included in the next newsletter, please email news@tfhsdev.com with a short paragraph about yourself and your research interests.

Fred & Eve Hinds Devonport pelican29@bigpond.com

I am searching for my relatives HARDIE and LOWE pre 1900 in Glasgow, Scotland. And HINDS about the same era from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Eve is searching for her relatives QUINN from the Hobart region pre 1920 and CLARK from Glen Huon in Southern Tas.

Devonport Branch News



Membership Renewals

That time of the year has rolled around again and your society membership is due for renewal. Just complete the yellow form that you received with your last Tas Ancestry journal and drop it in to the Library or bring it to a meeting. Can you think of anyone who might like to join our Branch? Invite them to visit the library or attend an event and give them an opportunity to see how membership can benefit their hobby. Remember that if you are late renewing your membership you may miss out on receiving the June issue of Tasmanian Ancestry.

Annual Raffle Winner

Thanks to all ticket sellers and buyers of our Christmas Hamper raffle. The winner was Diana Grant a Devonport member. Diana kindly donated most of her prize (a Christmas hamper) to the Red Cross East Coast Fire Appeal.

The *Australian Family Tree Connection* is a monthly magazine devoted to family history research both in Australia and New Zealand. If you would like to reserve a copy for \$6.50 per month, place your name on the list at the library or email secretary@tfhsdev.com. You can then collect the magazine next time you visit the library. The Branch makes a small profit from each magazine sold.

Meetings & Committee Reports

Our Branch Christmas Dinner was held at the Winning Edge Restaurant in December with about 25 members present. It was a pleasant evening with Christmas gifts exchanged and merriment shared around.

January event

To kick off the year we held a BBQ on 25th January at our Latrobe premises. There were 23 people attended some members some visitors and one couple joined as new members - lots of delicious bbq meats, salads and desserts were available and it was interesting that as soon as dessert was announced it was the men first up to the table! A raffle held on the night and the winners were *1st Prize* Bottle of Wine won by Glenice Brauman, *2nd Prize* Bottle of Wine won by Bill from the Latrobe Museum Group and *3rd Prize* a Mystery Parcel was won by Mrs. Chamberlain.

Publications & Projects Committee

The PPC have not been resting over the Christmas break and have been steadily working toward preparing a number of publications for release shortly. Our thanks to those people who are quietly working on transcribing, photographing, checking and proofreading. Without their dedication we would have no work to publish!

Publicity

During the past month we have been contacted by the Advocate and ABC Radio to provide information about who we are and what we do. As a result of Helen Anderson taking the time to speak to reporters, we had an article in Coast to Coast and some air time on the radio. Currently we provide news items to websites, papers, television, local councils and community centres. If you have any ideas about how we can freely advertise our society please get in touch by emailing news@tfhsdev.com

Research Reminders

Our new regular column which is designed to promote good research practice. Any contributions to news@tfhsdev.com please.

Using Charts and forms in family history

To be really successful in genealogy research, you need to be able to plan each research step and organize the information you find there. Organized results tend to lead to more focused searches for specific research goals and they allow you to evaluate and analyse information more quickly and thoroughly.

Using charts and forms can help prevent having miscellaneous scraps of paper with undecipherable notes and scribbled messages littering your desk. The topic for the February meeting covers both digitised and print based charts. You can collect pedigree and family group charts at the library and talk to other more experienced members about the types of forms they use to keep their research under control!

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

Saturday 24th March

Bus trip and lunch combined with a visit to Sheffield – some seats are still available

Thursday evening 29th March

Meeting at State Library in Devonport with guest speaker to be announced.

Saturday 21st April

We will be holding a "Delving into Military" workshop at the Library 117 Gilbert St. Latrobe. Members \$5.00 and Non Members \$10.00.

To make a booking for any of these events, please contact the Secretary on 64 244005 or email secretary@tfhsdev.com

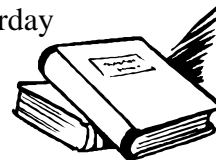
Remember to check the website for all events.

www.tfhsdev.com

Attached to this newsletter is **a revised 2007 calendar of events**. In the last edition we published a proposed series of events but there have been some minor changes and some additions.

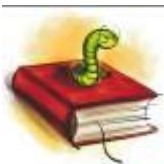
L i b r a r y N e w s

Open on Tuesday and Friday 11.00am to 3.00pm and SECOND Saturday of each month 11.00am – 3.00pm. Come in and visit YOUR Library!



Donations received at the Library

Trevorick House, Penguin, Tasmania 1886-2006, Comp. by A. Keesing.



Billing Family - Isobel Cuthbert (1820-1880) and Samuel Billing (1818-1871) Comp. by Patricia Wilson & Judith Crossin.

Trunks, Boughs & Branches - History of the Harlow, Bell & Hume Families by Eileen Hookway.

Library Books for Loan

The lending collection is slowly growing. If you have any family history related books or magazines that you might like to donate please just drop them in to the library

Member Borrowing Scheme

This scheme was started last year. It provides a secure means for members to share their personal books with others. If you wish to participate please email Helen.Dunford@tafe.tas.edu.au or call her weeknights on 0439 385099.

This section of the newsletter can be used for advertising the books you are willing to loan to other members.

State Microfiche Roster

19/02/07 -18/05/07 Set 5

GRO BDMs Index 1923-1942 (These are UK birth, death and marriage indexes)

Devonport & Launceston Microfiche Roster

GRO BDM 1947-1950

Every three months the branches of TFHS Inc rotate their microfiche holdings around the state. The resources are always listed in Tas Ancestry so you are able to find out what resources there are and when they will reach our branch. Listed below are the ones that will be in our library until 18th May when they will move on and another set will take their place.

TFHS member Irene Schaffer has extended an invitation from **Norfolk Island Descendants & Friends** to celebrate 200 years in VDL with a variety of activities in 2007-2008. There will be sailings on the Derwent of the “*Lady Nelson*” from Nov 2007 through until Oct 2008.

Further information from Irene on 62722 124 or email schafferi@optusnet.com.au

And from the Editors...

Next Spotlight is on *What can be found in 19th century newspapers*

Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically??

Our email subscription list continues to grow. Remember this saves the branch money and time in printing and distributing the newsletters. It also makes your newsletter come alive with colour images and direct links to places of interest.

Email news@tfhsdev.com to register.

REVISED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

These alternate
between the
traditional
Thursday
evening events
and Saturdays.



Please advise the Secretary on
64244005 or secretary@tfhsdev.com
asap if you would like to join in the
outings. This is so bookings can be
secured early. Why not bring along a
friend and introduce them to the world
of research?

Thursday evening 22nd February

Meeting at State Library in Devonport,
7.30 pm start with Jim Rouse
providing an insight into how to
prepare decorative family tree charts,
both manually and digitally.

Thursday 24th March

Visit to Sheffield Museum with lunch
during the day.

Thursday evening 29th March

Meeting at State Library in Devonport
with guest speaker to be announced.

Saturday 21st April

We will be holding Workshops at our
library on "Delving into Military
Ancestors". Members \$5.00 Non
Members \$10.00. 11am. - 4p.m.
Bookings 64 244005.

Thursday evening 26th April

AGM at State Library in Devonport
with guest speaker to be announced.

Thursday evening 31st May

Meeting at State Library in Devonport
with guest speaker NW historian Faye
Gardam.

Saturday & Sunday 16 & 17th June

TFHS Inc Annual General Meeting &
Special Events
Hosted by Burnie Branch, see Tas
Ancestry for further details

Saturday 30th June

Bus Trip to Launceston - Leaving
Devonport 9.30a.m. – Itinerary-
10.30am - 12 noon guided tour of
Launceston Community Museum
Records - lunch at Museum Cafe -
1.30pm Visit to Launceston TFHS
Branch who will provide afternoon tea
prior to our leaving. Bookings to
64244005

Thursday evening 26th July

Mid year dinner at Boscobell's
Ulverstone

Saturday 28th July

Visit to Burnie Branch for research

Thursday evening 30th August

Meeting at State Library in Devonport
with guest speaker Bill Boyd.

Thursday evening 27th September

Meeting at State Library in Devonport
with fundraising event.

Thursday evening 25th October

Meeting at State Library in Devonport
with guest speaker Jim Rouse. "*From
Waterloo to Woolloomooloo*" a story of
a Peninsular war veteran.

Thursday evening 29th November

Xmas supper & breakup meeting
At State Library in Devonport.



YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

On April 26th we will be holding our Annual Meeting. A nomination form is provided with this newsletter. Please consider nominating yourself or a friend to a position and become part of the enthusiastic committee team. Nomination forms can be emailed to the

secretary@tfhsdev.com, left at the library or posted to PO Box 587 Devonport. They must be lodged by April 16th.

If there are any changes to the program they will be advertised on our website www.tfhsdev.com

EXECUTIVE (2006-2007)

President John Dare

Vice President Jim Rouse

Secretary Elaine Garwood

Treasurer Sue-Ellen McCreghan

COMMITTEE

Rosie Marshall
Isobel Harris
Marilyn Oakley

Glenice Brauman
Margaret Grubb

Roslyn Coss
Richard Gould

Library co-ordinator

Glenice Brauman

Publicity & Promotions

Kerrie Blyth

Website Administrator

Jim Rouse

E-heritage co-ordinator

Elaine Garwood

Research co-ordinator

Roslyn Coss

Newsletter & Journal Liaison

Kerrie Blyth

State Delegates

Jim Rouse, Elaine Garwood (alternate Isobel Harris)

Membership Officer

John Dare

Publications and sales officer

vacant