



# ILMO®

## (Investigating Local Members Origins)

Volume 11 No 2

August 2006

**NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVONPORT  
BRANCH OF THE T.F.H.S. Inc. © 2006**

The Secretary

P O Box 587, Devonport 7310

[www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)



### ***Old Fashioned Correspondence***

In 1840 British tax reformer Rowland Hill introduced the revolutionary pre-paid postal system (a penny for each half ounce) into Britain. The famous “penny post” boosted mail circulation, and by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 12 postal deliveries per day in London. It was Hill’s vision that every house might be provided with a box into which the carrier would drop the letters! Letters proliferated as literacy increased. Travellers and emigrants described their new lives and soldiers and medical personnel wrote from war fronts.

In this newsletter we will include some paragraphs from a variety of letters in the possession of members of the Devonport Branch. If you would like to read the complete letters, visit the Branch website and click on Newsletters.

**A letter to Mrs Thomas Todd Cooley in Hobart Town, VDL from her half brother John Edmondstone in Edinburgh**

**122 Rose St, [Edinburgh]                      May 25th, 1842**  
My Dear Brother-in-Law, and my Dear Sister,



*These lines I send you to let you know that we are all well here, God be thanked, and we earnestly hope they will find you all enjoying that great blessing - health. Once more I must trouble you to know if my Dear Brother is well, where he is, what ship he went to the whale fishing in, if it has arrived at Hobart Town again, and every other particular which you may be able to send us, as I am very anxious to hear of him. In my former letters I stated that if there were an opening, such as you could recommend, we would come out, but as I would wish to hasten one foot before I would slacken another, I should like to know the salary, the hours of attendance, for what term of years I would be engaged. There is not one of us who feels the least grudge to leave our native land if it is to better our prospects in life.*

..... **For more interesting little snippets from the early days read on...**

## EXECUTIVE (2006-2007)

---

**President** John Dare

**Vice President** Jim Rouse

**Secretary** Elaine Garwood

**Treasurer** Sue-Ellen McCreghan

---

## COMMITTEE

Rosie Marshall

Glenice Brauman

Roslyn Coss

Isobel Harris

Margaret Grubb

Richard Gould

Marilyn Oakley

---

**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**

David Harris

---

## *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*
-

**A letter written by Sarah Wood to her brother William Jarvis in 1848.** William was found guilty in 1838 for stealing fowls, his second felony, & sentenced to 7 years transportation. He served his time in Braidwood, married, had a big family & lived happy ever after. His brother Charles mentioned in the letter was charged with stealing - he bought a shirt home on appro for his Father, & sold it to someone else. He & his mate Trulock were sentenced to 14 years transportation. Charles was in Point Puer, but died in 1840, he was only 15 years old.

**Hastings February 26<sup>th</sup> 1848**  
*My Dear Brother and Sister*

*We received your welcome letter with great pleasure and was all very glad to hear from you once more after so long a time We had almost given up all hope of seeing you or your handwriting any more as to Mother she felt sure she never should so you must think it a great pleasure to her and Father as well as the rest of the family to hear such good news of you and your Wife instead of being offended with you we was I can assure very glad to know that you are not quite alone in the World you have now a Companion and Friend in your own choice you have some one to speak to and advise with and I sincerely hope you have a happy and comfortable home be kind and do that which is right to your wife and she will I have no doubt return it to you as regard  
 Grandfather Father and Mother and all your Brothers and Sisters send their kindest love to you and yours and I hope you will accept the same from Me and My Husband and may the Almighty God ever protect and bless you both in the Sincere prayer of all your family so no more from  
 your Affectionate Sister  
 Sarah Wood*



In 1920 the *Australian Womens Weekly* commented in response to a question about the need for writing a letter that “there are many occasions where nothing can take the place of a letter” and that “after any special mark of hospitality a short letter of appreciation should be sent”.

-----

This is an extract from an eight page letter written by Lillian Hainsworth of Sheffield, Tasmania to her cousin Frances in Bradford, England in March 1923.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> 1923**

*My dear Frances  
 At long last I take up my pen hoping it finds you as it leaves me etc., but not quite as thrang. I am so busy now-a-days that I have to spend my Wed. afts. and Sundays darning and mending, & stitching for the all-important Babs, so that for the home mail I needs must burn up a good deal of midnight oil. But mid-night or no mid-night I am determined not to let another mail pass. As you see I am cutting out the usual apologies. Since I left home I feel to have been like a comet, whirling thru' space. I never was able to pause by the wayside & say how d'y' do. I just had to go on & hope that all my old friends would either remember me kindly or forget me altogether!  
 Jack has put on weight here in Sheffield. But everyone does up here. Sheffield is a by-word in Tasmania. Almost too "healthy" in winter! these wood and plaster houses -like living on Hill Top in a band-box.*



*Lovingly Lillian*

Elizabeth Cooley was a sixteen year old schoolgirl, living away from home in 1853. She seemed to be close to this particular brother Thomas Charles Cooley.



## Devonport Branch News

**New Town Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1853**

*My dear Sister*

*Mother sent you up a box last Saturday week per "Lords Coach" and as we have not received a letter from you, we doubt whether you have got it. It was directed to Mr Brooks and the contents of it are two frocks, one habit shirt, one neckerchief, cake and £5 for Your music and 2 sovereigns for yourself and if you have not received them ask Mr Brooks if he will be so kind as to see about them.*

*We wish this may find you and Mr and Mrs Brooks and all the family quite well.*

*I remain my dear  
Sister*

*Your affectionate  
Brother*

*Thomas Charles Cooley*



---

### **Some links of interest**

Tips for  
deciphering old  
handwriting



<http://www.genealogyspot.com/ask/handwriting.htm>

Cindy's pages on letter for genies

<http://www.cyndislist.com/correspd.htm>

Some notes on 19th Century letter writing technique

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/mood/ie-traill/t1-4999-e.html#top-of-page>

---

*Welcome to all new members* since our last newsletter. We hope you have been made welcome at our library and have taken some time to explore the wonderful range of resources on offer and publications for sale.

### **Annual Raffle**

The Christmas Hamper raffle will be held again this year and the Branch is asking for donations of non-perishable goods for inclusion. They can be left at the Library. Raffle books are being distributed to members, remember this is our major fundraising activity and we really need your help. The Library can only continue to grow if we raise funds to support it. Books (sold or unsold) are due back by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Speaking of Christmas!**

Our **Christmas Dinner** will be held this year at "The Winning Edge" Don Road, Devonport on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30 – 7.00 pm.

Put it in your diary now and remember, partners and friends are very welcome to attend.

---

### **Meetings & Committee Reports**

#### **Penguin Bus trip report**

On Saturday 1st July although a wet and miserable day 18 members boarded the bus in Devonport and Ulverstone and headed off for the mystery morning visit which was at Burnie Branch - Burnie members welcomed us with a wonderful morning tea and afterwards members

took the opportunity to look over Burnie Records and see just what the Branch had to offer. Around lunchtime we again boarded the bus and headed off to Penguin where we stopped for a lunch snack before going on to Penguin Historical Society Premises at the old Penguin Railway Station - they had had a grant and the place had been re-painted and renovated - many members who had Penguin connections quickly paid for copies of records and photos much to their delight - we left Penguin around 3.30pm and had previously thought to visit the Old Penguin Cemetery but because of the rain decided against it. Both Burnie Branch and the Penguin Historical Society plan to have a return visit to Latrobe shortly.

*(Report by Elaine Garwood)*

### **Westella Dinner report**

On Thursday 27th July - 19 members went to Westella Colonial Bed and Breakfast Premises at Ulverstone for a mid year Christmas Dinner - we were welcomed by the hosts



wearing name tags of NANCY and SYDNEY and then we were given name tags for ourselves (not our names) and told to wear them for the evening. After everyone was seated in a lovely old colonial room with four tables and a lovely open fire- we were presented with drinks of our choice - the menu was then presented to us - Salmon or Turkey with exotic sauces and vegetables and for dessert Plum Pudding or Pavlova -although we were able to order A BIT OF BOTH.

As we sat talking awaiting dinner being served there was a shriek from what appeared to be upstairs and NANCY put her head around into the passage and yelled out "MA do be quiet I have guests down here"

suddenly this very large grey haired lady appeared grumbling about now she knew why she had had to peel so many potatoes - she was a treat - this was all part of the evening and this "OLD LADY" throughout our meal entertained us by playing 17th century music and in between courses kept us laughing with tales about her so called late husband and how NANCY and SYDNEY treated her - later we had sing alongs and a lot more laughter. Towards the end of the night we found out about our name tags and everyone had to guess who that person might be and a box of chocolates was given to the winner. In all it was a very entertaining evening, superb meal and lovely company.

*(Report by Elaine Garwood)*

**Fundraising** – Thanks to the great efforts of Isobel, David, Elaine and Sue-Ellen running the sausage sizzle at K-Mart on July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Branch benefited by \$307.00. Although it was tiring for the cooks it was a terrific day for the branch, with the fundraising account getting a big boost.

### **Latrobe Chocolate WinterFest**

Another successful event for our Branch and thanks to all those who assisted. The winner of the Choc Fest raffle was Mrs Graves, Ashgrove Street Devonport, who was the Auntie of a Choc Fest living statue!

---

### **Report from**

#### ***National Family History Week***

*July 30th – August 6<sup>th</sup> 2006*

This special week was celebrated with a number of special events convened by our Branch. Helen and Jim presented information sessions covering Beginners, Irish and Scots research on three separate days. Sharni Radford kindly hosted a heritage scrapbooking event at her home, this

proved to be a very successful event also. It was pleasing to see the interest generated by these events and that our Branch gained some new members. We look forward to supporting this national event again next year.

In the centre of Latrobe and just a short walk between venues, the *Latrobe Branch of the State Library of Tasmania* organized a special display and the *Latrobe Court House Museum* celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their renovated premises with “new look” local history displays. Call in and see what a magnificent collection is now on display at the Museum.

---

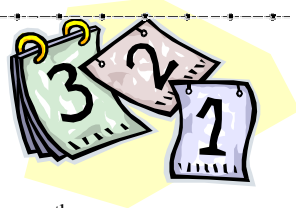
### Publications & Projects Committee

Deloraine transcriptions are being checked and prepared for publishing in hard copy and the four cemeteries at Railton are underway. The end result for them will be a combined hardcopy and CD-ROM publication.

---

### New Events

Sausage sizzles at the Kmart Complex continue in Devonport on:  
9<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October.



### Next Meeting

Thursday evening 28<sup>th</sup>  
September 7.30 pm at Mersey  
Regional Library. All welcome.

### Other Forthcoming events

Remember to check the website for all events. [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)

### Members Loan Proposal

The Branch Committee have agreed to a proposal from Helen Dunford to set up a database to allow members to loan their personal books to others. If you are interested in participating in this please leave your details at the Library or email [secretary@tfhsdev.com](mailto:secretary@tfhsdev.com) with a subject line of *Members Loan Scheme*.

---

### Library News

Open on Tuesday and Friday 11.00am to 3.00pm and SECOND Saturday of each month 11.00am – 3.00pm. Come in and see how the Library is growing!



Remember that any donations to the Library above \$2 are tax deductible, and go towards purchase of new material.

---

### LIBRARY BOOKS FOR LOAN!

Do you have any family history related books or magazines that you might like to donate to the growing collection of “loan” items at the library? Drop in and see Glenice at the Library.



---

### Car Parking at the Library.

Just a note from the librarian about car parking when visiting our Branch Library. There is a free Council car park off Gilbert St opposite Wells & Sons. If you park there you can then enjoy a short walk through the park to reach the Library. There is just one car parking space available to us outside the library, but this is for drop off purposes only.

*Inducements and Agents: German, Northern European and Scandinavian Recruitment to Tasmania 1855-1887* by Marita Hargraves is now available at our Branch Library for \$39.00. Of particular interest to genealogists is that the book contains detail of over 1600 immigrants based on shipping lists and other sources.

**The Library** will close this year for the scheduled Christmas Break on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 3.00pm, opening again at 11.00am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007. This is a very short break for the library volunteers but we wanted to re-open the library as soon as possible. If January is your only holiday then this may be your chance to come in and see the progress being made by our Branch.

---

## **Devonport & Launceston Microfiche Roster**

GRO BDM 1943-1946

**State Microfiche Roster**  
21/8/06 – 17/11/06 Set 2  
Griffiths Valuation for Ireland and Scotland 1891 Census & OPR and GRO Consular Records index.

---

**Have you seen our new look website?** [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)  
You can now access RSS feeds on the main page. Simply mouse over the text as it scrolls down and click on one you are interested in reading. This will then take you to the relevant page. RSS feeds mean you don't have to go looking for news sources, they have come directly to you!

---

## **Coming Soon.....**

Last newsletter we advertised the imminent arrival of the

Tasmanian Federation Index CD-ROM which includes births to 1919 and marriages and deaths to 1930. The cost is \$231 but please note that all purchases of this through the branch will return \$42.00 to our funds. For those people who have placed an order we would like to assure you that this will be filled as soon as the product arrives.

## **Links**

Genealogy Search Australia  
<http://www.searchwhateveraustalia.com.au/>

Immigration Bridge Australia  
<http://www.immigrationbridge.com.au/>

**Launceston Family Album Project** is providing an online discovery tour of the "passport" photographs taken for the Tasmanian International Exhibition held in Launceston 1891-1892.

Read on here  
[http://www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/whe/re/find/all/launceston/launceston\\_family\\_album](http://www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/whe/re/find/all/launceston/launceston_family_album)

## **And from the Editors...**

**Next Spotlight on.....**

### **Military History**

Do you have any favourite web page links, books or stories about military ancestry? Please email them to [news@tfhsdev.com](mailto:news@tfhsdev.com) or leave a copy at the library.



Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?? Our email subscription list is growing. 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](mailto:news@tfhsdev.com) to register.