



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

PO Box 97, Springwood.2777
DATE 8th May, 2009

Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains
Councillor, Adam Searle
Federal Member for Macquarie
The Hon. Mr Bob Debus, MHR
State Member for The Blue Mountains
The Hon, Phil Koperberg, MLA

Committee

President	Joan Edwards	4757 2317
V-President	Terry Flowers	4758 9559
Secretary	Jan Koperberg	4754 1544
Treasurer	Ian Kendall	4758 7679
Committee	Rhonda Flowers Pauline Gibson Maureen Ingram Nola Jamsek Audrey King Brian Meagher	4751 7047
	Rosemary Phillips	

Sub-Committees

Magazine	Suzanne Newbury	
Membership/ Research	Audrey King	4754 1491
Guest Speakers	Brian Meagher	
Members' Interest	Joan Edwards	
Web Master	Ian Kendall	
Librarian	Rhonda Flowers	
Social Organiser	Don Graham	4751 2991
Purchasing	Nola Jamsek & Ors.	
Publicity	Rosemary Phillips	
Editor Newsletter	Pauline Gibson	4754 4495

Next Committee Meeting: To be held at the home of Brian Meagher, **Friday, 22nd May 2009**, 41 Springfield Crescent, Springwood.

Next General Meeting: 10 am, Fri., 12th June 2009 upstairs room, Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Guest Speaker: The June speaker will be Chris Gorman, who lived in the Antarctic for 12 months. Chris will illustrate his talk with slides of the experience.

Next Social Outing: Thursday, 14th May 2009 to State Records Kingswood travelling by car pool and leaving Springwood Station Car Park at **9.30am**. Take your lunch with you. There is a room at the Archives where you can have your lunch and the Archives supply tea and coffee making facilities.

June Social Outing: Thursday, 18th June 2009 this will be a trip to the State/Mitchell Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney travelling by train **9.00 am** from Springwood from Katoomba. You can either take your lunch or buy lunch from the Caf  attached to the State Library. More details on what you can discover at the Library in the next Newsletter.

WELCOME to the fourth meeting for 2009. Last meeting was a very interesting talk by John Low on how he went about researching one branch of his ancestors.

Today's meeting will be discussing ideas and ways of getting the Society's new initiative of "Special Interest Groups" off the ground.

Thought for the day: Genealogists: The only people that are happy to receive a death certificate in the mail.

Birthdays:



There are no known Birthdays for this month.

Items of Interest to Members:

The last committee meeting was held at the home of Jan Koperberg and the following items were discussed:

Special Interest Groups: The May workshop is to be devoted to a discussion of these and the needs of members. Today will be asked to suggest suitable venues i.e. coffee shops; clubs; private homes; ideas and brick walls etc. Terry will explain the intention of the groups, and then we will divide into 4 groups. Each group will then produce a suggestion sheet for the committee to ponder.

Groups and suggested leaders:

England/Wales: Audrey; **Ireland:** Suzanne Voytas/Brian;

Scotland: Ian/Rosemary; **Australia:** Jan/Terry.

***Social Outing for May:** Our May Social Outing is a trip to State Records at Kingswood on Thursday **14th May 2009**. We will travel to the Archives by car pool all meeting in the car park at Springwood Station at **9.30 am**. There is a lot of information that can be sourced at the Archives if you have a convict, Tickets of Leave; Certificates of Freedom, Permission to Marry, etc. Their Immigration records are a wonderful thing if you find when your ancestors came into the country you can look up a film that gives you details on the family including their parents. You can discover if your ancestor became insolvent at some time and look up the file. Most informative of all are the Probates. These are only a few of the things that can be found at the Archives. To prepare yourself for your visit, if possible, you need to visit their website and do a key name search, this will bring up anything they may be holding on that name, scan through each item to see if it applies to your ancestor and either copy the page with the information or take a note of the reel, etc.

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/> Enquiries contact Pauline **4754 4495**

***2009 Seminar:** There have been inabilities received from some of the speakers we contacted, so approaches are now being made to others. As things are at the moment, the welcome will be by Joan and the introduction by Ian. Helen Sider speaking on immigration and Rachel Hollis from the Archives have both agreed to speak. An approach is to be made to Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, Sydney City Council historian to speak on "women and work in the city". We are yet to hear from Michael Caulfield and Terry Regan will be the entertainer.

***Reminder - Seminar raffle:** As mentioned in the April Newsletter the Society is looking for donations from members for the raffle for our Seminar in August. Could anyone wishing to donate an item please either leave it with a volunteer at Springwood Library or bring it to the June general meeting. The Society would like to start selling tickets at our July general meeting. "Thank you"

Diary Dates to remember:

Sat 9th, Sun 10th, 17th & 18th & Sat 23rd & 24th May 2009:

Turkish Bath Museum, Mt Wilson

Sat. 23rd May 2009 "Walks and Talks": Lapstone Construction Railway and Lapstone Tunnel 1892 – Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Contact pplinden@yahoo.com.au

Sat. 6th June 2009 Speaker: Dr Alan Roberts "The Johnstons of Annandale". Springwood Historical Society. Contact: bmhs@email.com

NSW & ACT State Conference hosted by Wyong Family History Group Inc 18th, 19th & 20th September, 2009 "From Home to the Hinterland" Cost: Early Bird registration \$140.00 by 31.07.09 after that \$150.00. See Library for details or website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswwfhg/

Latest Library Acquisitions now on the shelves:**Books:**

Norville Cemetery: Monumental Inscriptions and Unmarked Graves - Wyong Family History Group Inc
An Historical Tour of Lawson by Heather Mollenhauer
St Barnabas Cemetery and Yarralong Cemetery: Monumental Inscriptions and Unmarked Graves - Wyong Family History Group Inc
Ronkana Cemetery: Monumental Inscriptions, Photographs and Unmarked Graves - Wyong Family History Group Inc
Milton/Ulladulla Pioneer Register
"Green Leaves", the Chinese cemetery graves on Christmas Island.

DVDs:

Old Register: One to Nine
The Registers of Assignments and other Legal Instruments
State Records NSW and NSW Department of Lands

Library News:

For easier access BMFHS Workshop Publications (World War 2 and School Days) have been placed in a pamphlet box clearly labelled 'BMFHS WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS'. This pamphlet box has been placed in the little brown bookshelf to the left of the BMFHS sign on book. As each workshop publication is completed (e.g. Transport) they will be added to the pamphlet box keeping all the workshop publications together.

Interesting Websites:

Durham Mining Museum

<http://www.dmm.org.uk/company/w017.htm>

British History Online

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame

<http://www.pioneerwomen.com.au/quiltsgs.htm>

Eastern Suburbs Newspaper containing over 4,000 photos and details of soldiers past and present sent in from all over the State. Go to "Photos" top bar and scroll down to "Anzac Day Honour Roll (pt 26)". It works backwards and is not searchable by name - takes time but could be rewarding - <http://wentworth-courier.whereilive.com.au/>

Queensland Government - Convict Transportation Registers Database - <http://www.slg.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts>

Museum of Country Life, National Museum of Ireland

<http://www.museum.ie/countrylife/>

Museum of Welsh Life

<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans/>

Museum of Scottish Country Life

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/royal/>

More Items of Interest to members:

***Membership:** The Society now has 97 financial members.

***Special Interest Groups:** More detailed planning for these special interest groups will be worked out at our May workshop, but tentative plans envisage a number of all-day meetings at a central and inexpensive venue (eg Lawson Bowling Club). These meetings would be split into 90 minute or so sessions to deal with the four main topics of interest shown in the questionnaire filled in at our last general meeting - Australia, England, Scotland and Ireland. Those interested could attend one or more session(s) depending on interests. The sessions would be open to all, not just society members. Hopefully one will be held in Blackheath to cater for people in the upper Mountains.

***Last Social Outing:** 6 members of the Society and one husband braved the cold and rain to attend our April outing at Lawson. Heather Mollenhauer met everyone at Lawson Station where Heather spent some time pointing out a number of Lawson landmarks. A tour was then taken of Honour Avenue and the surrounding area. Heather produced a book of interesting photos. The day finished with a very inexpensive Chinese lunch at the Lawson Bowling Club. **Note:** For those who don't know Lawson Bowling Club it is circular in design, the reason for this being that it was once a water tank.

Society's Website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs: Ian and Joan have both been very busy reworking the new BMFHS site on Rootsweb. There have been a few hiccups, but the restructured site is under way, although there is still much work to be done. Joan is adding the Convict Index to the site, as well as being very busy uploading members' interests. Remember to get your interests to Joan and to check out the website as Joan mentioned every time it is visited and the length of time it is used is helpful for keeping us up the list.

***Snippets:**

As our August Seminar is concentrating on women, here are just a few snippets on women that may be of interest:

Recently heard on the Antique Roadshow - that there were female silversmiths dating back to the 16th Century in England, a country that was a man's country where women enjoyed few rights. Between the years of 1687 and the Victorian Era there were 63 women silversmiths in London, the most well known being "Hester Bateman". To read more about these women and their craft and a little about antiques, visit:

<http://www.basic-antiques.com/silver-women-silversmiths.htm> or

<http://www.oldandsold.com/articles/article406.shtml>

Turning to Australia it was surprising to hear the Sydney City Council Historian, Shirley Fitzgerald, talking on the radio about the emptying of night soil carts in Sydney, that there were a few women among the emptiers.

The list is endless as to famous women in Australia, Writers, Poets, Painters, Judges, etc. most of these can be found on the Biographical Dictionary <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm> but let's not forget about our pioneer women. For an interesting website on pioneer women visit the National Pioneer Woman's Hall of Fame

<http://www.pioneerwomen.com.au/quiltsgs.htm>. Well worth a visit, you can also add a relative. Another such website is Jessie Street Women's National Library at

<http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au/women.html>

"HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY" TO ALL