



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

PO Box 97, Springwood.2777
DATE 11th September, 2009

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

Patrons

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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 **Sept. 25th, 2009** at the home of Rhonda and Terry Flowers, 30 Mona Road, Woodford.

Next General Meeting: 10 am, Fri., 9th October 2009 in the upstairs room, Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Guest Speaker for October: Andrew Tester, a member of the Valley Heights Train Museum will speak to us at that meeting on the Train History in the Blue Mountains and the role that the Valley Heights Depot played.

Next Social Outing: September 17th Social outing will be guided tours of Camden Historical Museum and Wollondilly Heritage Centre Cost c\$5. Car pooling - meet **9.15 am** Springwood Railway northern car park. Bring a picnic lunch or if you prefer lunch can be purchased in Camden.

October Social outing: Thursday, 15th October a tour of May Gibbs's cottage "Nutcote". By train from Katoomba 8.25 am, Springwood 9.07am to Circular Quay then by ferry to Neutral Bay. Entrance fee \$7.00 concession \$5.00. Again take a picnic lunch or lunch can be bought at Nutcote.

WELCOME to the eighth meeting for 2009. At our last general meeting Ken Black was to come and talk to us about Morse Code unfortunately, due to ill health, he was unable to do this. As an on the spot decision had to be made it was decided to proceed with the workshop on Shopping. It followed the usual format breaking up into groups with a leader and one member taking notes. It proved to be a very successful and interesting meeting for all who participated. **Note:** We would ask any members who would like to hand write or type on the computer their own personal story of shopping in the days of their childhood whether growing up in Australia or abroad - it all makes very interesting reading. If possible could you please bring them with you on Friday - thank you.

Ken Black's health has returned and he will be giving us his talk on Morse code today assisting him will be Les Edwards who holds a Guinness record, for his speed.

Thought for the day: Genealogy is like potato salad - When you share it with others, it's a picnic!

Birthdays:



Happy Birthday wishes to Brian Meagher

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

***Publishing:** Joan advised the Mt York cemetery book is now ready for publishing and in time for the State Conference at Wyong in September. Joan had done a great job in putting this together. The sneak preview of the cover looks very impressive - "Mt York Cemetery - Hartley Vale".

***Membership:** The Society now has 107 financial members.

Past Workshop on Transport: Ian has bound the BMFHS workshop publication "Transport" and it looks great. The Committee were so impressed with it they recommended extra copies be printed for sale at the Society's stand at the State Conference, Wyong. To enable this to be done some of the photos which are copyright will need to be replaced by photos from our own personal collections and approval needs to be sought from a number of contributors to the book which approval Jan is in the process of seeking.

***BMCC Grant:** The Society has again been given a grant from the Blue Mountains City Council to introduce help with family research to those people living in the Blue Mountains who might be interested in finding out more about their ancestors. There will be four sessions and it is currently proposed that the first of these sessions will be held at the Warrimoo Bowling Club in October, the next in Springwood Neighbourhood Centre in November and the Leura Community Hall in early December. The final session will be held at the Lawson Bowling Club in February. These venues are still being canvassed and more information will follow next Newsletter. Members of the Society will also be welcome to attend all or any of the sessions.

Future Guest Speakers: Following on the success of our Greek Guest Speaker at the Seminar it was decided that the Society should seek out other speakers of different nationalities to come to our general meetings and tell us about their lives growing up in their country of origin and after their arrival in Australia.

Diary Dates to remember:

NSW & ACT State Conference hosted by Wyong Family History Group Inc **18th, 19th & 20th September, 2009** "From Home to the Hinterland". Cost: \$150.00 See Library for details or website

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswwfhg/

Sat.19th&Sun.20th Sept. 2009 Open Weekend at Camden Park House & Garden historic home of the Macarthurs. Sat.12noon-4 p.m., Sun. 20th Sept 10am-4pm. Cost: House & garden \$10 adults, \$8 concession, \$30 family. Garden only \$5.00 adults. More info - Don Graham 4751

Hulbert Reunion: Sat. 10th Oct 2009 from 10am at Butterfly Farm, Wilberforce. The descendants of convict James Hulbert are invited to attend a reunion to mark the 173rd anniversary of his arrival on board the "Lady Kennaway" at Port Jackson in 1836. Visit our website: <http://www.hulbertfamilyreunion.com/> or contact Mel: 0419 297 920 or Wanda: 4729 2034

VOYAGE OF THE FLYING CLOUD TO MARYBOROUGH 1870

The Maryborough Family Heritage Institute Inc. will be compiling a book on the 1870 voyage of the Flying Cloud and would like to contact as many descendants of the passengers from this voyage as possible. Hopefully this book will be published to coincide with the 140th year since its arrival in Maryborough. Anyone willing to share information on their ancestors on board and who know where they settled would be appreciated. Photos of these passengers and/or children are also requested for publishing. Maryborough Family Heritage Institute Inc., Ground Floor, 164 Richmond St, PO Box 913, Maryborough QLD 4650 - email: heritageresearch@bigpond.com.au, website: www.treeroots.com.au

Interesting Websites:

Ballarat District Genealogical & Historical Society with links <http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/bgmain.htm>

ERL – Family History, Convicts and First Fleeters

<http://www.erl.vic.gov.au/family/convicts.htm>

Irish Convicts Database - Irish Convicts to NSW 1788-1837

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/convicts.htm>

Irish Research - Thirty-two counties for the 1911 Irish Census are now available on this site:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>. Free to search and you can freely download a PDF image of the *original* census return which may interest you. You can also browse by County then by District Electoral Divisions (DEDs).

Nottinghamshire Parish Registers:

http://www.archive.org/stream/nottinghamshire07philgoog/nottinghamshire07philgoog_djvu.txt

More Items of Interest to members:

Future Seminars: After much discussion the Committee has decided that future seminars will be held bi-annually and earlier in the year, perhaps around March, April or early May. The decision was reached for a couple of reasons i.e. the amount of work involved in planning a seminar especially coming up with interesting topics and obtaining guest speakers as well as all the work that is involved behind the scene. The Committee feels that with the election of a Seminar Committee just after the AGM changeover everyone will benefit from a much longer period in which to prepare for a seminar.

***Last Social Outing:**

Seven members of BMFHS participated in a very enjoyable and informative outing to Windsor on August 20. Don gave each participant a 16-page guidebook he'd prepared with photos and notes pertaining to the 45 sites visited. A guided tour of Greenway's St Matthews Anglican Church and burial ground was provided by two members of Hawkesbury Historical Society and was followed by morning tea. Highlights of the next phase of the tour included the tollhouse, Greenway's Windsor Courthouse, was the stop at Tebbutt's Observatory and family home overlooking land farmed since very early in European settlement. Following stops at the North Street houses, the site where Macquarie proclaimed the Five Macquarie Towns, a tour of Windsor Mall, lunch, and an inspection of Thompson Square, the group enjoyed a tour of the magnificent, thematic Hawkesbury Regional Museum before browsing the museum according to individual interests. The final sites viewed included 'Sunnybrae' and 'Fairfield House'.

***Special Interest Groups:**

The 2nd Special Interests Group again met at the Lawson Bowling Club on the 2nd September. Joan took a beginners class and those who weren't beginners sat around a large table (3 or 4 tables pushed together to make one) and talked about English research. After morning tea everyone came together and discussed Irish research until lunchtime. Following lunch Scottish research was discussed. The format at this meeting differed from the first meeting, as there was more question and answer time and brainstorming. At the next meeting in October there will be discussion on the subjects that have been suggested by members following a request emailed by Jan for members who might have a specific question or query in regard to the countries of their special interest.

***Tour of State Records Kingswood:** Due to a request by some new members of the Society who would like to find out what exactly is held at the State Records Kingswood, a tour has been organised for **Monday, 12th October 2009** commencing 10am. Those attending will be shown around the storage unit of the Archives, followed by a talk on exactly what is held there. Provided there are not more than 15 members you will be free to carry out research afterwards. Please put your name on today's list or contact Pauline 4754 4495 if interested. More details next Newsletter.

History of Morse Code: Before the advent of electric telegraph by Samuel Morse, non-electric telegraph was invented by Claude Chappe in 1794 by using semaphore, a flag based alphabet but which needed to be sighted. Following on from this form of communication, a number of other methods using electrodes, electromagnets and currents were invented by Samuel Soemmering in 1809; William Sturgeon 1825; Henry Dyar 1828; Joseph Henry 1830; Charles Wheatstone 1837. However in 1835 it was Samuel Morse, a professor of arts and design at New York University, who bettered Joseph Henry's invention and successfully exploited the electromagnet. He used pulses of current to deflect an electromagnet, which moved a marker to produce written codes on a strip of paper - the invention of Morse code. The following year, the device was modified to emboss the paper with dots and dashes but it was 5 years later before this method of communication was to be financed with an experimental telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore, a distance of 40 miles. A further 6 years elapsed before the sending and receiving of telegrams over part of the telegraph line was witnessed. However, before the line had reached Baltimore, the Whig party held its national convention there, and on May 1, 1844, nominated Henry Clay. This news was hand-carried to Annapolis Junction (between Washington and Baltimore) where Morse's partner, Alfred Vail, wired it to the Capitol. This was the first news dispatched by electric telegraph. For more reading on the history of Morse code visit: <http://inventors.about.com/od/tstartinventions/a/telegraph.htm>