



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 12th August, 2016

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WELCOME members and any visitors to today's meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. Our guest speaker today is Babette Smith mediator, conciliator, dispute resolution consultant and the author of a number of historical books such as *A Cargo of Women: Susannah Watson and the convicts of the Princess Royal*; *A Cargo of Women the Novel*; *Australia's Birthstain* and in 2014 *The Luck of the Irish*.

Last month's speaker - Stephen Ford. Stephen has been researching Land and Title records in his work for the Commonwealth Bank for many years, and he gave a very interesting and informative talk about the different types of records and how they can be accessed by the public.

Stephen brought along examples of some of the documents which can be helpful in researching the history and locations of properties and dwellings, including Old System Records, Torrens Title Purchasers Indexes, Parish and County Maps, and so on.

Steve is available to provide a day of Assisted Research for small groups at NSW Lands Department, in Sydney, or will investigate individual research requests, and provide a free quote to research and document information.

Next Meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, **9th September, 2016** commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Guest speaker for September meeting: Dr. Catherine Bishop the author of "Remarkable and Scandalous Businesswomen of Sydney's Past" will be our guest speaker in September. Dr Bishop recently presented her talk at the Hub in Springwood which was well attended and found to be extremely interesting.

Committee Meeting: The members of the committee met on Friday, **22nd July 2016** and the following was discussed:

2017 Seminar: Saturday, 9th September 2017. Whilst still in its early stages, it was proposed that this Seminar would be about the Blue Mountains. A suggested theme is "From the Crossing to our City - Family History within the Blue Mountains from 1813"

To get the idea off the ground it was decided that we would contact other local historical associations regarding suggestions of suitable speakers. These groups are BMACHO (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc); Blue Mountains Historical Society, Springwood Historical Society, Valley Heights Rail Museum; Glenbrook Historical Society, Mount Victoria Museum, Zig Zag Railway, John Lowe, Eugene Stockton, Chris Tobin. More details will be made available once a program has been worked out including the number of speakers necessary to make it a worthwhile day and where the seminar is to be held.

The Explorers' Tree Magazine: Your stories are always required for our Magazine, The Explorer's Tree. Rhonda can never have too many, so if you are feeling inspired to write an article, no matter how big or small (small items can always be used as fillers) Rhonda will be more than happy to receive them.

Memories of a Special Woman in My Life - The Book: Ian is now collating all the stories and photos he has received in readiness for printing this book. Some members have already paid in advance for a copy of the book which will be selling at \$10.00. There will be copies available for any other members interested in purchasing a copy.

Society's 30th Anniversary Celebration: The Society will celebrate 30 years of the Blue Mountains Family History Society following our November AGM which this year falls on Remembrance Day, **11th November**. Members will be asked to bring a plate to help celebrate this auspicious occasion. Susan Templeman the newly elected Member for Macquarie will be invited as will Trish Doyle, Member for Blue Mountains and the Mayor of the Blue Mountains. The original founder of the Society, Jenni Tresize will also be invited to attend the celebrations and the cutting of the cake. A special cake has been ordered from Rowena Cook, who was once a member of the Society. Rowena also made the cake for our 20th Birthday Celebrations.

Family History Month: Report on the Society's Family History Assistance in Springwood Library 1st-5th August: August is Family History Month and in the Blue Mountains this was celebrated during the first week with A Family History Celebration in Springwood Library. Members of our Society were present each day Monday to Friday in the Research Centre to provide family history information and give people "a taste". Library Staff provided tea and coffee and biscuits for all who came and by Thursday 1:00pm, some 32 persons had visited. A number of people took membership information and a small group learnt of the trials and successes of using the microfiche/microfilm reader. The feedback we received included "I didn't know you were here!"; "Can I get Ancestry?"; "Do you have information from ...".

As well, the Library Staff organised a talk by Gail Davis, Senior Archivist, State Records on the Wednesday. Her talk was titled, "General introduction to State Records for Family History", and was very well attended, indeed it was fully booked out by Monday morning. After the talk, many attendees visited the Centre.

Many Thanks to the Library staff for their work and coordination.

Thank you also to our members who assisted in the Library during that week.

Fund Raising Table: A reminder to bring any unwanted items books, cds, dvds or bric-a-brac along to our general meeting to sell on behalf of the Society.

Sad News: Those members on email will have already received news of the sad loss of Gloria Howard. Gloria was a member of our Society for many years and, while in recent years she was not able to attend many meetings due to ill health, she sometimes popped into the library to catch up with her many friends in the Society. Gloria was also a Life Member.

It was also with sadness the Society learned that our past president, Audrey King, also recently lost her husband, Paul.

Cards expressing the Society's sympathy have been sent to their families.

Garage Sale: A date has been fixed for this year's garage sale to be held at 64 White Cross Road, Winmalee. It has now been decided **that Saturday, 29th October 2016** will be a good date, just before everyone's thoughts turn to Christmas. So if members could start looking for any unwanted items they would like to donate to the Society, that would be appreciated. They can be brought to the October meeting or dropped off at 64 White Cross, Road. If no-one is home, they can safely be left on the verandah. Any things left over from our trade table will also go towards the garage sale.

What's On:

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum Open Day Saturday, 1st October, featuring their "Valley Heights Mixed" train using the 1899 Stephenson steam loco affectionately known as "Stevo". Visitors will ride in an open ended platform carriage from the 1890s.

Blue Mountains Historical Society Saturday 27th August 2016, 2pm. Lecture presented by Effy Alexakis and Leonard Janiszewski "Greek Cafes & Milk Bars of Australia". Admission \$15 including afternoon tea and admission to the Paragon Café exhibition. Bookings FOTPIncKatoomba@hotmail.com or ph. 0419973145 9-4 Mon-Fri.

Blue Mountains Radio Players Performing "Arsenic and Old Lace" followed by "Jane Serves on the Jury", At the Paragon, 65 Katoomba Street, Katoomba, **Saturday, 3rd September 2016, 2pm**, Cost: \$15 includes afternoon tea.

Glenbrook & Districts Historical Society, Glenbrook House Inspections, 3rd September 2016, 1.00-4.30pm, three nineteenth century house: **Bonnie Doone, Wyameta and Ulinbawn**. Numbers limited to 60 people, at hour at each home. Book no later than 15th August and paid for by then. Cost: \$35.00 including a delicious afternoon tea to be served at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Glenbrook. Enquiries & Booking, Joan Peard 0414 605 482.

Interesting Web site: Genealogy Social Network- Genealogy Wise: <http://www.genealogywise.com/>; **Brisbane Potpourri** http://www.brisbanehistory.com/Lang's_immigrants.html; Genealogy in England <http://www.genealogyinengland.com/information.htm>