



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 8th February, 2013

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains
Federal Member for Macquarie
State Member for The Blue Mountains

Office Bearers

President

Audrey King

V-President

Joan Edwards 4757 2317

Secretary

Treasurer & Research

Ian Kendall 4758 7679

Committee

Pauline Hincksman

Alison Tissington

Ann Raaphorst

Pixie Hallinan

Pauline Gibson

Public Officer

Joan Edwards

Coordinators

Explorers' Tree

Audrey King

Ian Kendall

Publishing

Joan Edwards

Membership Secretary

Ann Raaphorst

Members' Interest &

Indexing

Joan Edwards

Web Master

Ian Kendall

Librarians

Pauline Hincksman

Alison Tissington

Library Roster

Pauline Hincksman

Publicity

Currently vacant

Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

WELCOME back to our first meeting for 2013. This year marks an exciting time for the Society and for the whole Blue Mountains Community as we mark the 200th anniversary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in 1813. More information regarding proposed activities on reverse page.

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker today is Robert Nash from the Huguenot Society with what should be a very interesting talk.

Next meeting: 8th March, 2013 there will be no guest speaker at this meeting. We will be having a "show and tell" which has proved to be very interesting in the past. It's amazing what members can come up with.

Items of Interest to Members:

Members may remember at our AGM last November we were without a President and we were also short on committee members. In this regard we were fortunate to have Joan Edwards, our Vice President, temporarily step in as acting President. At the last committee meeting (January) Audrey King nominated for president, was elected and is now the Society's President. The two vacancies on the Committee have also been filled by Ann Raaphorst and Pixie Hallinan.

Blue Mountains Family History Society Seminar to be held 13th April, 2013. This year the seminar is to be held in the Presbyterian hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood and is entitled "Following in their Footsteps". A theme in relation to the celebration of the crossing of the Blue Mountains 2013-2015.

Speakers: **Graham Hunt**, a retired surveyor to speak about *Footsteps in Time* and the markers put down by Evans in various parts of the mountains and the 1814 Survey; **John McCann** from State Records to discuss Public Access and Archivists and regarding the heavily used records i.e. Convicts, shipping and digital records; **Joy Murrin** to speak about being a member of a Family History Society and open the floor for questions;

Entertainment: a slide show of outings of the BMFHS - any member with photos might like to contact Ian Kendall.

Final speaker **Allan Murrin** will speak about new resources for family search particularly in United States and changes that took place in 2012. Lunch will be provided consisting of chicken and salads and members are invited to volunteer provisions for morning/afternoon tea in the way of cakes and biscuits. A raffle and lucky door prizes are planned for the seminar and donations of items are required. Hopefully members may have something in their cupboards they no longer want and that are suitable to donate as prizes. Donations for raffle can be taken to March meeting, left at Library or delivered to Pauline Gibson at 10 Shamrock Close, Winmalee ph 4754 4495. More details regarding the seminar will be available in the next Newsletter.

Find us on Facebook: As a good tool for publicity, the Society now has a Facebook page. Last week the page was looked at by 57 people.

Magazine Borrowing:

Just a reminder to members regarding the borrowing of magazines –

*They can only be borrowed for 4 weeks.

*When being returned to the library, the borrower's name should be on a bit of paper inside the front cover.

*Members who do not return magazines will not be allowed to borrow additional items.

Membership: Membership renewal is now due but members have until 31st March 2013 to pay their fees after which membership lapses. There is no reduction in fees for late joining after this date. Unfinancial members will have their members' interests deleted from the website after the 31st March 2013.

The Explorer's Tree:

The next issue of the Explorer's Tree is now ready for print and will be available at the March meeting. Stories from members are needed to make this a worthwhile read and Audrey would be grateful to receive items, either by email or left at the Library. They do not need to be very long, half page will suffice and can also be accompanied by photographs if available.

Katoomba Library BMFHS Volunteers:

There has been a change in the times that Ian Kendall and Joan Edwards will be attending Katoomba Library to assist with research. While the days remain the same 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, the times will now be between 10am and 12 noon.

Email from Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society:

For those members who may be interested: This year Ireland is hosting "The Gathering 2013". Inviting people with Irish Roots from around the world to travel to Ireland and discover more about their forefathers and forge deeper connections with Ireland see www.thegatheringireland.com. In this regard County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Centre is organising Emigrant Trail Tours dates being May 19-23; June 5-13; July 14-19; August 11-15 and September 8-13. For any member interested in such a tour please visit www.sligoroots.com or email info@sligoroots.com

A message from Suzanne Voytas:

"THANK YOU to all the BMFHS members who signed the card and sent their wishes for my speedy recovery. Receiving your messages and kind thoughts helped to create that positive attitude needed in that first week after surgery.

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS SURROUNDING THE BICENTENARY OF THE CROSSING OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS:

9th March, 2013 - Penrith City Council & Library will be holding its 12th Makings of a City History Conference entitled "Crossing the Great Divide" marking the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth. It will be held on Saturday 9 March 2013 in the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Richard Bonyngue Concert Hall, 597 High Street Penrith. Admission is \$40.00 including conference pack, refreshments on arrival, lunch and morning and afternoon teas. The annual Family History Fair will be held in Penrith City Library from 10am-4pm entry by gold coin donation. For more information contact Lorraine Stacker

lstack@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au or visit the Penrith City Council's website

<http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=3572>

13th April, 2013 – Blue Mountains Family History Socy. Seminar "Following in their Footsteps".

11th May, 2013 – Blaxland Explorer's Day celebrating crossing of the Blue Mountains with dance, music, food, stalls, movies, tourist display, etc.

11th May, 2013 - Blue Mountains Blue Wave - authentic re-enactment. A 21 day event retracing the explorers' steps. In conjunction with this walk is "21 days on the Mountain" which includes a wide variety of activities such as the Blue Mountains Blue Wave Re-enactment of the original Crossing of the Blue Mountains. There are also many community events hosted on various days throughout the 21 day period.

25th May, 2013 - Blue Mountains Bicentenary Flyover. 300 different aircraft participants following a similar path to that blazed by Blaxland Wentworth & Lawson.

28th May, 2013 Bicentenary Civic Event Mt York. Mt York was the start of the steep descent of Cox's Road to Hartley Vale. An obelisk and monument to explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth and road builder William Cox can be found at the site along with a 'Footsteps in Time' marker to commemorate the survey of the road across the mountains by George Evans.

5th October, 2013 Bicentenary Festival of Walking 2013.

For further information on these events visit http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings_BiCentenary/events_m.cfm
<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcommunity/fe>

Interesting Web Site:

For any member with ancestors in the London East End and/or who worked on the Thames the Parish Register is a good site to visit containing a wealth of information. Volunteers are constantly putting new Parish records on-line and once found can be retrieved for a very small fee about \$5.50 <http://www.parishregister.com/>