



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 13th February, 2015

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WELCOME back to all our members for the first meeting of the Society 2015. Hoping you all had an enjoyable Christmas/New Year break and are looking forward to another interesting year with the Society.

Guest Speaker: The guest speaker for our first meeting for the year is Amanda Blanch. Amanda is a member of the Nepean District Historical Group and has an interest in old bricks particularly relating to the early days of the Colony and in the Nepean/Blue Mountains area. Members, especially those who live in old homes and may have wondered about the building of their homes, should find this a very interesting talk and a little out of the ordinary.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 13th March 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

March Guest Speaker: Patricia Skehan, who some members may remember was a guest speaker in 2013 with a very interesting talk on the Canada Bay Exiles. Patricia is able to speak on quite a number of topics all extremely interesting. Her topic for the March meeting is yet to be organized and will be announced in the March Newsletter.

Items of Interest to Members: The Committee met on 23rd February 2015 and the following items were discussed:

Raffle: The winner of the Christmas raffle was **Helen Allen**. It was decided that details of the winner would be shown on the first page of our website. The Society made \$140 from the sale of raffle tickets. Once again "Thank you Pat" for your kind donation of the painting and "Thank you" to all those members who supported the raffle.

Christmas Party: What an enjoyable day was had by those members who attended our Christmas party on the 12th December last year. The feedback from members commenting on the excellent venue; good food; beautiful meal, whilst catering for those who had special dietary needs; plenty of parking, and also close to the Railway Station was encouraging. In the light of this the Society is considering this venue for this year's Christmas party.

Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. Committee: The Society is looking for two additional members who feel they would like to be part of the Committee. The committee meets in the small room at the back of the big hall where we currently hold our meetings. They are held once a month on the 4th Friday of the month commencing at 10am and usually last around 2 hours. If you feel that you would like to become part of the team helping the Society to move forward in 2015 please approach either the President or Secretary.

2015 Seminar: Due to a number of circumstances the Seminar planned for 13th June next year has now been changed **Saturday 15th August**. This is thought to be an ideal month, as it will coincide with Family History Month.

Street Stall: It was decided to hold a Street Stall in May this year. **Saturday, 2nd May 2015** has been booked with the Presbyterian Church. We already have in our possession left over books from last year's stall, currently with Brian Meagher, plus other donations together with a chain saw (possibly for a raffle). Other donations of cakes, jams, etc. together with any unwanted bric-a-brac will be most welcome on the day.

The Explorers' Tree: The first issue of our magazine for 2015 is about to be delivered to the printer and will be available at our March meeting.

Rhonda Flowers, our new editor, would like to thank all those members who contributed articles for her first issue of the Explorers' Tree. Rhonda also hopes that members will start thinking about articles for the June and October issues. She suggests, this being the year of the ANZAC Centenary, perhaps there are some members with ancestors in the First World War and who could write a small piece about their ancestor's experiences and the effects on the families they either did or did not return to.

Member's fees reminder: Membership fees are now due. Fees for single membership - \$30.00; \$40.00 per couple plus \$7.50 for postage of Explorers' Tree if required.

Suggestion Box: A reminder that last year the Society introduced a suggestion box, available at our monthly meetings, for members to put forward any ideas or suggestions they might have as to how the Society can be improved.

Summer Super Saturdays - Marilyn Rowan, Transcription Agent is offering full transcriptions for \$18.00 if ordered any Saturday during February.

Rosemary Phillips: Rosie has been a member of our Society for a number of years. Due to ill health she has found it necessary to move to the Buckland Aged Care Facility, Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. Rosie would welcome visits from members of our Society who would care to drop in for a chat some time.

BMFHS Website & FaceBook page - Have you checked these out lately? Joan and Ian have added a lot of useful information recently, well worth a visit.

What's On:

***Penrith City Library** presents its **14th Annual History Conference "The Makings of a City: From Guard House to Gallipoli"**. When: **Saturday 14th March 2015**. Where: Bonyngue Concert Hall, Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 597 High Street Penrith. Time: Registration 8.30am, Conference 9am-4pm. Cost: \$50 including all presentations, conference pack, tea and coffee on arrival, lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

***Family History Fair – Sunday 15th March 2015, 10am-4pm** Penrith City Library (Lower Lounge area). Entry fee: gold coin donation.

***SAG (Society of Genealogists)** 120 Kent Street, Sydney Tel: (02) 9247 3953 **19th February 2015** Talk - Life and Death in Quarantine **10.30am-12.30pm** complemented with a visit to the Quarantine Station **26th February**. Cost \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Visit their website www.sag.org.au to see what's on or subscribe to their Newsletter.

***Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum: Trains, Trams & Ts - 21st & 22nd February** Celebrate heady days of the 1920s **10am-4pm**.

***Woodford Academy Open Day 21st February 2015** Artist, Talulah Vane will present her personal installation "Destination". Museum Installation Entry fee \$6, Con/child \$4 Guided Tour \$2 per person.

Old Occupations: Have you ever received a Death Certificate and wondered what a Black Borderer; an Ale Draper; a Beaver; a Caper or a Guinea Pig did for an occupation. The answers to all these occupations can be found on a number of sites e.g.:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgwkidz/oldjobs.htm>;

Scottish: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/heap/index.aspx?430>;

English: <http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php>

For those members who don't use a computer: a Black Borderer made black edged stationery for funerals - an Ale Draper sold ale - a Beaver made felt for hat making - a Caper made caps and a Guinea Pig was an unattached, or roving person whose fee was usually a guinea. These sites as well as being helpful with your research, are interesting and some occupations quite amusing.

Websites: Sites with Australian content: **Australian Government portal** containing interesting histories and stories <http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-stories>; **Australian Government Convict sites** – Photographs and descriptions: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/australian-convict-sites>; The **Blackheath Connection** – Australia, Ships & Convicts <http://www.danbyrnes.com.au/blackheath/ships.htm>; Great North Road - Convict database - <http://convicttrail.org/history.php>; Irish Transportation Database www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/transportation/search01.html; Greville's Post Office Directory 1872 <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hcastle/grevilles/grevilles.html>; On-line Western Australia Post Office Directories 1893-1949 http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/wa_resources/post_office_directories; City of Sydney Assessment Books 1845-1948 and other material; <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/HistoryAndArchives/Archives/ServicesForResearchers/AssessmentBooks.asp>