



Newsletter

DATE: February, 2021

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Tanya Kirk

A WARM WELCOME back to all our members – both new and returning. Its February 2021 already and thankfully it appears that COVID restrictions are finally easing enough for us to meet although we may be forced to change the venue for a while. I hope you are looking forward to seeing people again. I know all those that attended the Christmas Picnic last December thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see each other and catch up on news and events.

An item of news that is relevant to us all, is that Yvonne Wright has relocated to the South Coast. I know that we wish Yvonne all the best in this new life adventure, but it has left me wondering... who will be our President this year? I guess we will find out at our first meeting. Remember that nominations need to be in by the 5th of February.

Our Committee recently met for the first time since October and we have had several requests for help with research. Perhaps this might be something that interests you. See below for more information.

Membership Fees: Owing to our lack of meetings last year, it was decided to carry over membership fees for those who had paid. However, for the benefit of the society, you may wish to pay anyway. Annual fees are \$30 for an individual or \$40 for a joint or family membership. If you are new to the Society, then get your membership form online from our website or Facebook page, or pick one up from Ian at the meeting.

First meeting: The first meeting of the Family History Society for 2021 will be held on **12th February 2021 at 10am** hopefully in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. As COVID restrictions have recently eased, we are hoping that the church hall will be able to have more than 17 people in attendance. However, if this doesn't happen, then we will have to change our venue to the hall in Winmalee. If so, Colin will send out a late notice email with the details.

Our postponed 2020 AGM will be conducted at the end of the General meeting.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **12th March 2021 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Guest speaker to be advised.

Trade table - Once again our trade will be operational, so any unwanted items can be brought to our meetings, starting with our first meeting of the year.

Library News

Unfortunately, the Library still has a 4m distance restriction in place which means that we are unable to access our computers although we can book them for a half hour session.

Also, the Council has plans for renovating the Library but even the Librarians still don't know when. This will mean that at some point in the next few months all our resources will be loaded up and put into storage for an undetermined period of time.

Explorer's Tree Magazine

Rhonda has indicated that she has very little to include in the March

Explorer's Tree. Please consider submitting a piece for us all to enjoy? rwflowers@optusnet.com.au

Who Are We?

Thanks very much to Margaret for sharing the following information for this section. Please remember that you are all welcome to send me a brief piece to include here. (tanya2fbr@gmail.com).

My name is Margaret Chapman. I have been a member of BMFHS since about 1999. I was born in Folkestone, Kent and in 1960, when I was 23, I came to Australia as a 'Ten Pound Pom' with my husband and son.

We landed in Melbourne and we were in Brooklyn Migrant Camp for a while before moving to Kirkstall in western Victoria for 5 years.

We then decided to travel and ended up in Tumbulgun, northern NSW, for 3 years. After that, we moved to Sydney in 1968 and then I moved to Faulconbridge in 1998.

In 1971, I began working for Coles as a comptometrist and by the time I left, I was in charge of warehouse accounts. I took an early retirement in 1993 when Coles decided to transfer their accounts department from NSW State Office to Melbourne.

I began my family research about 1985 when I saw an advertisement in the paper for classes on 'How to Start Your Family History'. It was run by Janet Reakes. She was a very enthusiastic teacher and never lost for words. My ancestral background is English and Welsh. Direct family surnames I am researching are: Parton, Mantle, Rowley, Stevens, Williams, Brown, Charles, Moors, Palmer, Davis, Howels, Osborne and Squibb.



Outside our hut at Brooklyn.

Research and Help Queries

- Chris Stratton has discovered a document that may be of interest to descendants of David and Maude Huggins and is trying to locate them. David and Maude lived in Bexhill, England during WW2 but emigrated to the lower Blue Mountains, Australia after the war. David possibly passed away in the 1980's. They had a son.
- John Inoz is looking for information about Miss Judith Thewlis who was headmistress of Stratford Girls School, Lawson between 1957-1960. John has listed quite a few life facts about Judith but is looking for more, particularly regarding where her ashes were scattered/buried.
- Ashley Barnwell from the University of Melbourne is hoping to interview family historians who have uncovered interactions between indigenous people and settlers in the family. Information gathered will contribute to her investigation on 'How inherited family secrets, stories and memories inform Australian's understandings of colonial history'.
- Ann Langton used to be a member and is rejoining. She moved to Buckland in Springwood last May. During the move her research got wet. She would like advice on the best way to keep records and some help with sorting out what was recoverable.

If you are interested in any or all of the above, please see Ian Kendall for more details.

Just for Fun

Thanks to Lorraine Austin for the following contribution ☺

Headstone inscriptions taken from the 1987 book by Janet Reakes: 'How to Trace Your English Ancestors'.

Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey
RIP

Maria Brown
Wife of Timothy Brown
Aged 80 years
She lived with her husband
50 yrs and died in confident
Hope of a better life.

In memory of
Charles Ward
Who died May 1770
Aged 63 yrs

A dutiful son and loving brother
And an affectionate husband.
NB. This stone was not erected
By Susan his wife. She erected
A stone to John Slater her
Second husband forgetting the
Affection of Charles Ward her
1st husband.

Pembrokeshire
Here lie I
And no wonder I'm dead
For the wheel of a wagon
Went over my head.

Ventnor, Isle of Wight
Here lies the body of
Samuel Young
Who came here and died
For the benefit of his health.

Stay safe and healthy everyone.