



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 8th June, 2018

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Editor: Rhonda Flowers
Layout/publishing:
John Arnold
Proof reader Ian Kendall

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Indexing

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WELCOME to everyone at today's meeting.

There was no guest speaker at the May meeting so it was decided to hold a members' forum. After general business and morning tea Bob Maynard produced a copper/brass Urn, vintage probably late 1700's early 1800's which he had brought along, acquired from a family estate. This generated quite a bit of discussion; Ian Kendall spoke about DNA testing for genealogical purposes, and the ramifications that may entail. Quite a bit of discussion by those in the know and Yvonne Wright spoke about her recent visit to a Rydalmere ex-psychiatric hospital, relating how the building has been used and how it was used in its early days.

Guest Speaker today: As mentioned in the last Newsletter Anne Devrell will give a talk today on the School of Arts with an insight into its history and touching briefly on the Mechanics Institute.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **13th July 2018 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church.

July Guest Speaker: 13th July: Chesne Jones will be speaking about the Girl Guide Movement.

The Committee met on the **25th May 2018** when the following was discussed:

High Tea Review: It was agreed that once again we put on a good High Tea. With 29 people registering and 26 turning up. The venue was ideal, and the kitchen facilities were adequate and workable. Those who attended were very happy with the event. The food was plentiful, satisfying and very tasty.

The stories and photographs were most interesting, as too was the display of photo albums, wedding dresses, and other articles of interest.

The Lucky Door prize was won by May Watson; and the Raffle by Kate Doyle. Thank you to all those who volunteered their services on the day both in the setting up and preparation of the food and afterwards when it came to cleaning up and returning the hall to the way we found it. Thank you also to Ian for his work in setting up and displaying the photos that accompanied the stories.

After deducting the various expenses, the Society made a total profit of **\$604.06**, a very pleasing result.

Newsletters: Recently there have been times when it has been difficult to fill the Newsletter with interesting items so a discussion on this issue was placed on the Agenda. The following ideas emerged from this discussion as ways to fill the Newsletter - Search Newsletters from other Family History Societies with interesting articles; Members Completed Profiles; Old family Recipes; excerpts from other Newsletters and refer to the articles. Members are asked to send in interesting articles. These articles can be sent to Pauline at p_gibson@ozemail.com.au - old family recipes most welcome.

Street Stall: Another street stall is planned for later in the year. Please keep this in mind when disposing of any unwanted items.

The Explorers' Tree: Keep those articles coming in or your member's profile as discussed at the April meeting. Rhonda's email address is rwflowers@optusnet.com.au.

Raffles. There is no raffle this month. If any member has an unwanted item he/she would like to donate, that would make a good raffle prize, it would be appreciated.

Trade table - A reminder to bring along any unwanted items.

What's On:

NSW ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference – 16th September 2018, Batemans Bay Soldiers Club “Sailing into History”. Cost: Full Conference Early Bird by 6th July \$130 or Registration \$150 Registrations close 10th August. See website for full details and registration form – www.sailingintohistory.org.au

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba – Exhibition, Mary Alice Evatt, Art for the People – 12th May-14th June.

Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Walk – **June 9th: 1.30pm “Lapstone Construction Railway.”** 1910--1913 and east portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892. **June 23rd: 1.30pm “Duck Hole--Glenbrook Creek.”** Old Roadway construction and pump site for railway water supply to old Glenbrook Station. Contact Doug Knowles 4751 3275

5 Things to Ask About Genealogy Information - Amy Johnson Crow

Just because something is written down doesn't mean that it's right. We need to evaluate the information that we're looking at. Here are 5 questions you should ask when you're evaluating genealogy information. First

Let's start with a quick definition.

Information is what a source says. A source is what you use to get information. You might think of it as the source is a vessel or a container for information.

Now let's get to the questions.

1. Do You Understand the Terms? Do you really understand what that source is saying? Do you understand the words and phrases that are being used and do you understand *how* they are being used? For example, in a legal document, assuming that "infant"

refers to a baby could lead you to some incorrect conclusions. "Infant" in a legal document often just means that that person wasn't yet legally an adult; for legal purposes, they were still an infant.

2. Are You Reading What's There? Building a theory is a natural part of research. The problem is when we allow that theory to take over. Facts should build our theory; our theory shouldn't colour how we interpret the facts.

Probably the most common example is assuming that children listed in a pre-1880 US census are the children of the head of household (presuming the ages allow for that). The problem is that the pre-1880 US federal censuses don't give relationships. They show who's living in the household, but it doesn't spell out how (or even if) they are related.

3. Who Gave the Information? You've probably noticed that just because someone says something, it doesn't mean that they're right. It was true back in our ancestors' time, too. Knowing who gave the information can go a long way toward helping us evaluate its accuracy.

Did that person know what he or she was talking about? Could they have been an eyewitness or have first-hand knowledge of the event? Or were they passing along information they got second- or third-hand?

4. Is There a Reason to Lie? We don't like to think of our ancestors as lying, but hey, they were human. Let's say that a veteran's widow needed to have been married for a certain length of time to be eligible for a military pension. If she missed it by a few months, might she fudge her marriage date a bit? Could a boy have lied about his age in order to get into the army (or a man lie about his age in order to avoid going into the army)?

5. Why Was the Record Created? This is perhaps the most overlooked question, but it can have an impact on what we're evaluating. People tend to be more careful about the "important" information on a document. Think about those hotel or airline surveys you get after you travel. If you fill them out, you're probably more conscientious about being accurate in your rating of the hotel Wi-Fi than you were answering exactly how many times you've stayed with that brand hotel in the past 12 months. ("Was it 3 or was it 4? Doesn't matter. I'll put 3.")

The "must have" bits of information tend to be more carefully reported than the "nice to have" bits of information

Websites: Ireland Reaching Out <https://www.irelandxo.com/>; **Australian Cemeteries** – <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/>; **Cora Webb** – <http://www.coraweb.com.au>; **Picture Australia** – <http://www.pictureaustralia.org>

