



Newsletter

DATE: April, 2020

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Tanya Kirk

Well it appears that this year of extremes is not done with us yet. I hope you are all well, keeping away from sources of possible contagion, and not finding the naked supermarket shelves too much of a challenge.

Obviously, our main news is that:

This Month's Meeting is cancelled!

Unfortunately, Coronavirus restrictions mean that we have had *to cancel all future meetings* until further notice. The flow on effect is that we have also had *to cancel (or at least postpone) our Street Stall Fundraiser* that was planned for May. The only upside that I can think of is that it gives us more time to find someone willing to step into the President's role.

Explorer's Tree Magazine

Being forced to spend so much time in self-isolation does mean that many of you are able to focus even more on the writing side of your family research. Why not take the opportunity to share some of it with us via our magazine. If you would like to contribute an item for the next magazine send it to Rhonda at: rwflowers@optusnet.com.au

Alternatively, you may be interested in entering your work in the 2020 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition, an initiative of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC). All information about the competition, including Terms and Conditions and Entry Form, are on the [HAGSOC website](#).

Our Website

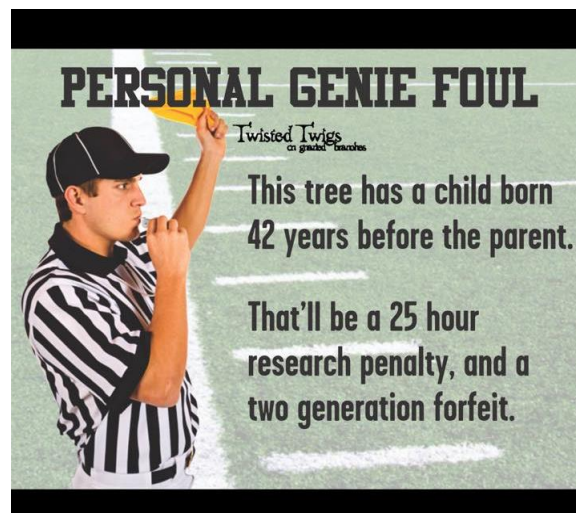
Have you seen it? Is anyone else in the society researching the same family name as you? Or maybe they are researching in the same county and may have suggestions about where to find information. Or... you could help them!

Curious? Follow the link to take you there.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs>

Continuing Research

If what you really want to do is continue your own research but... the Library is closed! Then check out Colin's email of 26 March about free access to Find My Past – from home!



Just for Fun

From the President

Dear BMFHS Members,

As you are all aware, we have cancelled all activities which require us to congregate until further notice, because of the COVID -19 Pandemic. This includes such things as meetings, library volunteering, and the proposed Street Stall which was to be held in May.

These activities are important to our Society, because they keep us in touch with others who share our passion for Family History. However they are not the only ways we can keep in touch and focussed. Our web site and Facebook page are still operational, and I urge members to make use of them. The internet is a very important tool which we will find ourselves using more and more for communication, whether we like it or not, during the next weeks, and possibly months, as our self-isolation limits our movements.

Tanya is willing to continue preparing our Monthly Newsletter, and Rhonda will still be working on the next edition of The Explorers' Tree which are very useful sources of communication for our members. But they cannot do this without your help. They cannot be expected to source all of the articles in it without some assistance. Hopefully, many of you will take this opportunity, during your necessarily limited activities, to work on organising and researching your Family History. As you do this you may find new sources, make breakthroughs, remember interesting or amusing family stories, which are suitable either for inclusion in The Explorers' Tree, or the Newsletter.

You are all familiar with the sort of article which makes such interesting reading in the magazine, but how about those useful snippets, brief stories, amusing things, which you have come across during your research. Let's share them with our fellow researchers via the Newsletter.

A while back, we asked you to write a brief profile for the magazine, but not many people participated. Perhaps you could have another think about this for the Newsletter, as it goes only to members. I know it would be very useful for newer members.

Do you have a special family keepsake which you would like to tell us about? What is its story? Sometimes we cherish very odd things from the past.

In your Family research have you come across some odd facts or coincidences? How about sharing them?

Remember your contributions are just for the Newsletter and should be very short. Longer stories should go to Rhonda. You can contact Tanya through the society email address.

For those of you who do not get the Newsletter by email, we will post you a copy, so that you are not excluded. If there is anything else you need help with, please let us know. My personal contact details are below.

There will be an end to this, and we will be ready and eager to pick up where we left off. Just now, we are living a part of history which we could have done without, but it will help us to empathise with the hardships which our ancestors endured in the past.

I encourage you all to take this opportunity to keep up with your research, and to keep in touch with each other as best you can. Above all, keep you and yours, safe and well.

Kindest regards,

Yvonne Wright

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