



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 127

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

February Excursion

Sunday 20 February 2011 – 2.30pm at Carr Villa, Nunamina Avenue, Kings Meadows.

Marion Sargent: Tour of Carr Villa: A history of the site



Carr Villa is more than a cemetery. This tour will cover the history of the site from when the land was located to John Knight in 1827; its subsequent use as a home, farm and school; the subdivision of the land in the 1880s; the Carr Villa Cemetery Trust; and the eventual development of the site as a cemetery, which opened in 1905. We will visit the graves of some of the people who were significant in the creation of the cemetery, as well as the first man and woman to be buried here. If time permits, other graves and areas of interest will be included in the walk around this memorial to our forebears.

Marion Sargent is vice-president of the Launceston Historical Society as well as the editor of the Newsletter and Papers & Proceedings. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in history and geography from the Tasmanian Institute of Technology, and a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from the University of Tasmania. Since 1989 she has been employed as a Librarian with the State Library of Tasmania (now part of LINC Tasmania). Her 18 years in the Local Studies section of what now is known as Launceston LINC fostered her interest in local and family history. She has had articles published in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, *On the Tide*, *Launceston Family Album*, *Way Back When* and *The Examiner* newspaper.

As afternoon-tea will not be provided after the Carr Villa tour, it is recommended that participants bring bottled water to drink. Wear comfortable shoes, and don't forget your sunscreen and sunhat!

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society Inc. were due on 31 January 2011. Please complete the enclosed form and return to the treasurer, Carol Fuller, at the next meeting or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society
PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
Correspondence Secretary	Leonie Prevost	6391 5511
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Editor of Newsletter & Publications	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Speaker Coordinators	Leonie Prevost & Margaret Tassell	6331 2280
Webmaster	Barney Reynolds	0419 115 991

All correspondence should be sent to: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 or launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture

Friday 11 March 2011 – 8.00pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Professor Cassandra Pybus, the Australian Research Council Professor of History at the University of Sydney and author of 12 books, will present this year's Lecture:

"a perfect miscreant equally devoid of principle and feeling': The colourful life of Gilbert Robertson, Aboriginal hunter, *True Colonist* editor, agriculturalist and perpetual litigant."

Gilbert Robertson Esq. was connected to one of the best families in Scotland and very well-educated. He arrived in the colony in 1822 carrying a personal letter of recommendation from Lord Bathurst. In 1828 he was a gentleman farmer with 1500 acres on the Coal River and president of the local Agricultural Society when he led the first of the roving parties to round up the Aborigines. However his intimacy with Aborigines, and his view that they were patriots rather than murderous savages, alienated him from most free settlers. In the twenty years he spent in the colony of Van Diemen's Land, Gilbert Robertson was never out of trouble; he was always in the courts, suing or being sued and, as the editor of the *True Colonist*, he endured several lengthy gaol terms for libel against the governor. By the time he died in 1851, in the middle of a heated election campaign for the new colony of Victoria, he was just about the most notorious public figure in Port Phillip. What was never publicly said about this mercurial fellow was that he was a black man, the son of a slave woman from the colony of Trinidad in the West Indies.

Advance Notice of Activities

Saturday 16 April 2011: Symposium and AGM, *The Indian connection with Tasmania*

Sunday 22 May 2011: Angela McGowan, *Historical Archaeology in Tasmania – an archaeliography*

Sunday 19 June 2011: Dr Jillian Koshin, *Lamont's Cottage*

Sunday 10 July 2011: Dr Anne Neale, *Guide to Launceston's architecture*

Sunday 21 August 2011: Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Convicts*

Sunday 18 September 2011: Robyn Lake, *Trade trails ... convict cabinetmakers transported during the Assignment Period*

Sunday 16 October 2011: Andrew Gregg, "*Of greatest service to the Norfolk Plains*": *The contrasting colonial careers of Roderic O'Connor and William Bryan*

Sunday 20 November 2011: Steve Radford, *Holymans – 150 years*

Members' Column

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be on 22 February 2011 (the last Tuesday) at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library.

Papers and Proceedings: The LHS 2009 Papers and Proceedings are available for sale at \$12.00.

Recent Publications by Members

Nic Haygarth, "Richness and prosperity: the life of W R Bell, Tasmanian mineral prospector", in *THRA P&P*, Vol. 57, no. 3, December 2010, pp. 203-235.

Stefan Petrow, "'A real colonial good'? The banks of Hobart Town, 1834-60", *THRA P&P*, Vol. 57, no. 3, December 2010, pp. 185-202.

Garry Richardson, *The Harbour: The history of Binnalong Bay and Humbug Point, North-East Tasmania*, St Helens, Tas, Bay of Fires Images and Publishing, 2010.

Marion Sargent, "From thief to landowner: William Pitt finds niche as farmer in 'land of plenty'", in *The Examiner*, 4 January 2011, p. 6. Part of the series "Convicts of Van Diemen's Land: How they shaped Tasmania, Readers' Stories".

Terese Binns, *Henry Hinsby, a distinguished apothecary of Hobart Town*, can be purchased from the author for \$35.00 (not \$50.00 as per December Newsletter)

From the Past

Launceston Examiner, 24 October 1884, page 3

Cemeteries.

To the Editor.

Sir, - The Sanitary Officer can know very little of what he has been writing. According to his theory, no harm can happen to the living from the burial of decayed matter in the town, so long as there is proper drainage ...

Now, there is too much drainage from some burial-grounds. When Gabriel had a vegetable

garden at the bottom of the Presbyterian Cemetery, people would not buy his cabbages, as they had the flavour of dead Scotchmen,

owing to the drainage. Again, at certain times, Howick-street stinks awfully; it is said to be owing to graves overflowing with water, and the effluvia flowing down the street. How would the Sanitary Officer drain this cemetery into the Margaret-street sewer? This is already becoming a pest to the town, and the district is known as the fever district. ... Again, if the Sanitary Officer would visit the Church of England Cemetery and see the blow-flies buzzing round the new made graves, he might ask himself the question if this was a proper sanitary state. The soil for none of the cemeteries is fit for the purpose. ... Hobart, Melbourne, and other cities have moved the habitations of the dead away from those of the living, and it is time that Launceston should follow in their footsteps and take no consideration for those who think they have vested interest in the present cemeteries ... Launceston is likely to get a bad name should an epidemic ... break out here. Yours, etc., M.C.E.



Scotch Cemetery, High St, Stewart family grave 1949. Collection of the QVMAG, Launceston, Tas. 1983: P2518

Can you help?

'Vermont Homestead': Zac Copleman is seeking information and photographs of the original Vermont Homestead. According to the Luck family history, 46 Bill Grove, Mowbray, was built in 1890, but Zac believes that it was constructed in the 1840s or 1850s. Please contact Zac at 'Fairhaven', 12 Harbinger Lane, Austins Ferry, TAS 7011; phone (03) 6249 2352; email zac.copleman@hotmail.com.

Other Items and Events of Interest

A Digger's Best Friend: An A to Z of Animals in War: An Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition at the Reference Library, Launceston LINC, Civic Square, from Monday 14 February to Friday 4 March 2011. For enquires phone (03) 6336 2642.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the February meeting is Tom Dunbabin, author of *Making their own way: The Dunbabins on Maria Island 1869-1876*. From a collection of family letters Mr Dunbabin has created an intimate and detailed account of the life of early graziers on Maria Island. Wednesday, 16 February 2011, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

George Town and District Historical Society: The next two meetings for 2011 will be: 21 February, Hillwood Night, Canada's Butchart Gardens; 21 March, Pipers River Night, proposed talk about wineries.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Upcoming meetings are to be held at the Royal Society Room in the Custom House, TMAG, starting at 8.00pm. 8 March 2011, Michael Tate, *Tasmanian Life*; 12 April 2011, Brad Williams, *Southern Midlands Heritage Program*. www.thra.org.au

Victorian Afternoon Tea: The Zonta Club of Launceston invites you to enjoy an exclusive afternoon-tea in support of its 2011 projects. This will be held at the gracious Federation residence 'Egremont', corner of Welman and Elizabeth Streets, Launceston, on Sunday 6 March 2011, 2.00-4.00pm. \$35.00 per person, bookings essential, email carol.fuller@bigpond.com, phone 0419 116 636.

The Dead Centres of Launceston Ride: Join Marion Sargent on another history ride during Bike Week, this time exploring the old cemeteries of Launceston. Start at Royal Park on Sunday 13 March 2011 at 10.00am and finish with a coffee at Seaport about 12.00 noon. This is a Tamar Bicycle Users Group outing. Enquiries: Marion Sargent: phone (03) 6331 4890; email marionsargent@bigpond.com; www.tbug.org.au

Library Book Fair: To be held on Saturday, 19 March 2011, 9.00am – 1.00pm at St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston. The Book Fair is a community project involving the Riverside Lions Cub, Friends of the Library and Launceston LINC.

Australian Heritage Week: A new annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage, to be held on 14-20 April 2011. <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week>

Tasmanian Heritage Festival: *Lamingtons to Lasers – Our Agricultural Heritage*, 1-31 May 2011. The Festival program will be available late February on the National Trust Tasmania web site: www.nationaltrusttas.org.au

Australian Historical Association Regional Conference: *History at the Edge* is scheduled for 4-8 July 2011 at the University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. The registration form is available here: <http://www.ahahistoryattheedge.org/index.html>

ACPHA Conference: The inaugural conference of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Association Inc, *Bringing Together*, will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, on 5-6 August 2011. http://www.historians.org.au/acpha/whats_on/index.shtml

Female Factory Precinct Action Group is a community group with the aim of returning the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct to the people of Australia. This Precinct includes the Female Factory, Catholic Orphan School and Girls Industrial School. The Cascades Female Factory has been heritage-listed, but the Parramatta, NSW, factory is under threat. See the blog and consider signing the petition: <http://femalefactoryprecinctactiongroup.wordpress.com/>

Ship *Stirlingshire*: For those with an interest in the barque *Stirlingshire*, Don Armitage of New Zealand has a detailed website listing the "Voyages of *Stirlingshire* between Launceston and London 1850-1855". www.don.armitage.aotea.org

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 8 March 2011 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 March 2011**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 March 2011** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.