



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Historical Archaeology

On 21 May 2011 Dr Angela McGowan presented an interesting overview of archaeological surveys that have been undertaken in Tasmania – including a small number in the north of the state. These are the treadmill site in Paterson Street, Boags Brewery, Gas Works, York Town, and more recently with LHS members' assistance, at the Kerry Lodge quarry and Probation Station. Area surveys, site recording and analyses by archaeologists can reveal much about the past. It is important that these findings are published so that the knowledge gained is made accessible. Unfortunately, archaeology is not offered as a subject at UTAS.



LHS Archaeology Group convener John Dent with speaker, archaeologist Dr Angela McGowan. Photo: M Sargent.



Speaker Dr Jillian Koshin and LHS Vice-President Marion Sargent after the talk.

Lamonts of *Braemar*

At the talk on 19 June 2011 Dr Jill Koshin gave the audience an insight into the life of John Lamont and his family living at *Braemar* on the North Esk River. Using farm diaries and other sources, Jill has reconstructed the establishment of the homestead and the farm from when the original 112 acres was granted in 1823 to the death of son James and his wife Margaret in 1916 – just one week apart. John Lamont's main claims to fame were his suggestion that Launceston's water supply should be taken from Distillery Creek; and of the development of Braemar Velvet wheat which won a first prize for WHD Archer at the Tasmanian International Exhibition in 1891-92.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

July Talk

Sunday 10 July 2011 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Dr Anne Neale, *Launceston Architecture: A Guide*

The want of accurate information on Launceston's rich architectural heritage, available in a readily accessible and portable form, has long been felt by many, including tourists and locals, teachers and students, estate agents and building owners. Despite the excellent work done by authors such as Anne Green in the "Stories in Stone" series, Launceston still needs an architectural guide-book. Building on research undertaken over many years for teaching purposes, which resulted in an extensive program of walking tours for her students and other interested groups, Dr Neale is preparing such a guide. Work began more than five years ago but, what seemed like an unfortunate delay enforced by teaching commitments, has had unforeseen benefits. Without the covering of the local newspapers by the National Library of Australia's wonderful 'Trove', and Dr Neale's recent research on numerous Tasmanian architects for the forthcoming *Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture*, the guide would have lacked considerable important detail. In this talk, Dr Neale will describe the approach she has taken to her research, outline the content of the planned publication, and share some of the more surprising aspects of her work.

Dr Anne Neale is a cultural historian and, until recently, was Coordinator of History & Theory in the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Tasmania. She has a long-standing interest in Launceston's architectural heritage, having joined the National Trust while at Broadland House School; her first professional employment, in 1979, was assisting to document the Register of the National Estate for the Australian Heritage Commission, under the auspices of the National Trust in Launceston. Dr Neale has lectured and undertaken research in architectural history and garden history at both the University of Melbourne and the University of Tasmania. Her research interests also include 19th century art and design: recent publications include articles on the sculptor Thomas Woolner, in the *Burlington Magazine* and the *Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies*, and on Charles Allston Collins' famous painting, *Convent Thoughts*, in the *British Art Journal*. She also has contributed to the National Gallery of Victoria's new catalogue, *This Wondrous Land: Colonial Art on Paper*, about to be launched in Melbourne; and has written more than 30 entries, mainly biographies of Tasmanian architects, for the forthcoming *Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture* [CUP].



**Post Office clock tower,
Launceston. Photo: M Sargent.**

August Talk

Sunday 21 August 2011 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Founders and Survivors: Work, Life and Death in Convict Australia. 'Crime' and Punishment in Convict Van Diemen's Land.*

Between 1803 and 1853 around 59,000 men and 13,500 women served time as convicts in the British penal colony of Van Diemen's Land. From 1816 onwards the colonial administration recorded details of every magistrate's bench appearance by a convict or former convict in an elaborate series of conduct registers. These remarkable records were maintained into the 1880s and were regarded by colonial administrators as the lynchpin of the convict management system. Traditionally they have been applied by historians to test the extent to which individual convicts were able to adjust to colonial circumstances. Also some historians have used them as indicators of post-transportation recidivism rates. This talk will take a different approach: it will seek to place the record of charges brought against serving and former convicts within a wider context. In the process it will show how survival rates for male and female convicts were influenced by the demand for colonial labour; and will outline the manner in which this impacted upon the next generation.

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart has authored or co-authored a number of books including *Chain Letters: Narrating Convict Lives* (2001); *A Pack of Thieves? Fifty-Two Port Arthur Lives* (2001); *American Citizens, British Slaves* (2002) and *Closing Hell's Gates: The Death of a Convict Station* (2008). He is an Associate Professor at the University of Tasmania where he specializes in the history of health, colonization and heritage studies.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 18 September 2011: Robyn Lake, *Trade trails ... convict cabinetmakers transported during the Assignment Period 1804-1839*

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, *Holymsans – 150 years*

Sunday 4 December 2011: Richard Mulvaney, *Reflections on his first year at the QVMAG*. Venue to be advised.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Judy Hedley, Susan Ikin, Stephen Jones, Dr Sally Kleine, Pamela Lidl and John Morley.

Archaeology Group: This year's meetings will be on 30 August and 29 November 2011 at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC.

Papers and Proceedings: The LHS 2010 Papers and Proceedings are available for sale at \$12.00.

Members' Activities: Keith Adkins was the guest speaker at the June meeting of the National Book Council. He spoke on his recent book *Reading in Colonial Tasmania*.

Jenny Gill will be presenting a talk on Launceston's historic buildings to the South Launceston Ladies' Probus Club on 11 July 2011.

Rosalie Kelly has returned to work at the QVMAG as an assistant decorative arts curator.

Recent Publications by Members

Marion Sargent, 'Myra Bessie Sargent: A Wynyard photographer', in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol. 32, No. 1, June 2011, pp. 17-19.

Julian Burgess, 'From the Archives', a series of local history stories in *The Examiner* on Wednesdays. The first article was on Bakers Milk on 8 June 2011.

Terese Binns, Committee Member



Terese Binns, photo courtesy Peter Sanders, *The Examiner*.

Terese Binns, a fourth-generation Tasmanian, was born during the early 1950s in Launceston. She spent her childhood at Invermay, attending school there. She began her early working life at Kelsall & Kemp, in the woollen mills' Burling Department until its closure in the late 1970s. During the 1980s Terese was employed as a teachers' aide at St Michael's Special School, Newstead; and in 1986 commenced work as a library technician at the Launceston Lending Library. This latter position enabled her to gain an insight into research procedures; availability of relevant documents; and an understanding of writing more formal biographies.

Terese, always having held a keen interest in her own family history, since retirement in 2002 has been free to dedicate more time in the pursuit of thorough investigation of her ancestors' lives during colonial times in Tasmania. As the 'family historian', she has organised three family reunions. The first in 1988 was an Evans Get-together at Cambridge, followed by a Binns Weekend in 2004 at St Helens, and in 2010 a four-day Hinsby Reunion in Hobart. Research for this significant gathering led to the writing and publication of a book about her great-great-grandfather entitled *Henry Hinsby: A Distinguished Apothecary of Hobart Town*.

Currently Terese is researching Henry's son, George Kilner Hinsby. He was the first chemist in St Helens before the family moved to Tasmania's rugged west coast – during the mining boom of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Working with the Government botanist, Leonard Rodway, George was to become a renowned botanist. He was recognised as a great authority on the local fauna, particularly the lives and habits of birds, with many observations recorded officially.

Additional families for her future research include: George Hill, East Tamar; Johann Sulzberger, Lilydale; William Nichols, Nichols Rivulet; James Henley, Gardener's Bay; James Baynton of *Huntingfield Park*, Kingston; Lieutenant James Hunt Lucas (2nd fleet), Norfolk Island; James Griggs Lucas, Macquarie Harbour – Browns River; and the Hobart Ware family with many descendants now residing in Victoria.

Another research interest includes the 'Western Front' of World War One, specifically the July 1916 offensive of Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. In 2009, Terese returned to this area of France to retrace the footsteps of two family members who – in that fierce conflict – had lost their lives in the August/September period.

Terese and her husband, Wayne, live on the famous 'flying mile' on a 22 acre property at Longford. They enjoy a country lifestyle, producing and preserving fruit and vegetables from their garden; tending a few fowls for fresh eggs; and caring for sheep, lambs and calves until maturity for market. Originally the farm was purchased to indulge Terese' passion for horses. During her daughter's teenage years, Terese was involved heavily in the Tasmanian Pony Club. In 2004 she rode the 500 km Tasmanian Trail from Devonport to Dover.

Over the past few years, their love of bushwalking and the outdoors has led them to volunteer for the Parks and Wildlife caretaker programme at Waterfall Valley Hut on the Overland Track; the Melaleuca Hut situated in the South West World Heritage Area; and on Schouten Island, which is part of Freycinet National Park on the east coast.

Terese continues relief work at branch libraries and, over the summer season, is a casual driver for Outdoor Recreational Transport and Tasmanian Expeditions. She has one married daughter, Zara Walkden. Zara, who lives on a small acreage near Selbourne, recently gained her Library Technician Diploma.

Duck Reach Cottages

The historic bluestone house at 2 Corin Street, West Launceston, was destroyed by fire on 28 May 2011. This tragic event prompted some investigation into the history of the five workmen's cottages at Duck Reach. Thanks to 'Trove' the following article was discovered on page 6 of *The Launceston Examiner* (dated 27 September 1897).

One Saturday afternoon in September 1897 an 'Aldermanic jaunt to the generating station' was enjoyed by the Mayor, Robert Sadler, several aldermen and municipal officials. The purpose was to inspect the new power station and cottages which were being built for the workmen. A pleasant couple of hours were spent in the "romantic neighbourhood of Duck Reach and the Second Basin".

The journalist who accompanied the official party continues:

Whether one drives to the station or walks, there is much to enjoy en route in the shape of abundance of fresh air, scenery as pretty as any in the neighbourhood, and that general charm which the country has for a city businessman. The driving conditions, too, have been much improved by the forming and gravelling of what was formerly but a rough bush road from Gunn's old brickyards to its junction with the pole track, and thence to the end of the canyon in which the station lies.

The visitor can now drive to the head of the zigzag leading to the wire suspension bridge which forms the connecting link between the little village on the city side and the station on the Trevallyn bank of the South Esk River. Here one of the first things to attract attention is the massive and substantial character of the buildings which form the aforesaid village. In all there are five houses - the residence of the chief engineer (Mr. Pennefather) and four cottages for his staff, each being built of bluestone quarried in the immediate vicinity. In the case of Mr. Pennefather's house a commencement has been made with the formation of a garden, a suitable area having been reclaimed from the wilderness and planted with trees and shrubs, under the direction of the Superintendent of Reserves (Mr. W. McGowan). For the present the workmen's cottages surmount an unsightly site of debris, but in a very short while each will have its garden patch, surrounded as is Mr. Pennefather's, with a neat picket fence. Unfortunately, "bunny" is much in evidence in the locality, and so for his depredations have somewhat heavily discounted the success of the horticultural operations of the little community.

The next thing that strikes the visitor's attention is the roar of the huge waterfall, plunging without cessation, night and day, from the tunnel outlet over the rugged rocks that lash the descending volume until, foaming and frothing, it re-enters the stream, harnessed but as yet unutilized...

[A small amount of this] is used to supply the inhabitants of the village with water. An inch pipe from the end of the huge receiver at the rear of the generating station carries the water as high up the opposite hill as it will; here a hydraulic ram takes up the work and forces a steady stream into a reservoir, whence each dwelling receives an adequate provision for all its requirements. It will thus be seen that the Council's employees at the generating station have every convenience and comfort in their "splendid isolation," and when contemplated horticultural operations are carried out the spot should be as pretty as it is now rugged and rough ...

When the visitors had completed their interesting inspection [of the power station] they returned to ... Mr. Pennefather's residence, where refreshments were handed round, and a rest enjoyed, preparatory to the homeward journey. The city was reached shortly after half-past 5, after a very enjoyable outing.

Wilfred and Fanny Pennefather's residence was the single house located at the end of the road. It was designed by Charles St John David, the City Engineer and Surveyor for the Launceston City Council. John Todd Farmilo's tender to build the cottage for £320 was accepted in April 1897. Farmilo also had built the power station in 1895.

Pennefather remained working as the Chief Engineer until 1905 when he accepted a position at Waratah in connection with the electric plant to be installed by the Bischoff Tin Mining Company.

The decision to build the workmen's cottages on the city side of the South Esk River opposite the power station was made in March 1896. Previously, the plan had been to erect them on the top of the hill behind the station. The four other cottages were built as two pairs of conjoined dwellings. Also designed by David, these were constructed by Chaplain and Malcolm.

Originally the road to Duck Reach was called Colin or Collin Street. This was changed to Corin Street by 1925, named after the first City Electrician, Mr William Corin, who was appointed in 1896.



The five cottages built for workmen at the Duck Reach Power Station.
The Chief Engineer's house (right) was burnt out in May 2011. Photos: M. Sargent

Can You Help?

Textiles Strike 1932: History Honours student Phoebe Kelloway, at the University of Melbourne, is researching the 1932 Textile workers' strike in Launceston (and Melbourne). She would like to hear from anyone who has information about the local textiles industry around the 1930s. Please contact Phoebe by email at p.kelloway@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au, phone 0413 943 547 or C/- Pat Grimshaw, School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010.

Other Items and Events of Interest

Femme Fatale: The Female Criminal exhibition at QVMAG 25 June to 4 September. No admission fee.

Invitation to Book Launch: *1835* by James Boyce. The Honourable Don Wing will launch this most important new book on Wednesday, 13 July 2011, 6.00pm, at Fullers Bookshop, 93 St John Street, Launceston. RSVP by phone 6334 8499 or email nella@fullersbookshop.com.au. The work of James Boyce – a new voice with a fresh viewpoint on Australian history – is causing our story to be reassessed. The story of *1835* begins in Launceston.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the July meeting is Dr Tim Flanagan, editor of *Beyond the road to Damascus: the pictorial journey of C-Company, 2/3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion* – a machine gun company of 150 men formed at Brighton Army Camp, Southern Tasmania, in 1940. Wednesday, 20 July 2011, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

George Town and District Historical Society: The next two meetings for 2011 will be: 20 September, *Tamar Shipping*; 17 October, AGM and Jenny Timmins, *Coxwain Ray Westwood*.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Upcoming meetings are to be held at the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, starting at 8.00 pm. 13 September, Bob Sharman, History of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association; 11 October, Eldershaw Lecture, Tom Griffiths, title to be advised. www.thra.org.au

Launceston Convict Burial Ground: Currently the Tamar Group, National Trust Tasmania, is assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation with development of the convict cemetery at the Rose Lane Reserve. A booklet, *Launceston Convict Burial Ground 1846-1874*, is available for purchase for \$4.00. To buy a copy phone Di Tement on 6344 7117 or collect from antique shop, 2 Garfield Street.

National History Challenge: For Australian students from grades 5 to 12, 19 years of age or younger. The theme for 2011 is "Defining moments". The Challenge encourages inquiry-based learning by students who can explore their family or community's past or national events. More information and entry forms can be found at <http://historychallenge.org.au/>.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 12 July 2011 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 July 2011**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 September 2011** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.