



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Telling places in country

On Sunday 19 September 2010 Aboriginal Elder, historian and researcher Patsy Cameron and Project Manager Dr Linn Miller presented an emotional interpretation of a project of profound reconciliation between past and present. The UTAS research initiative is reconnecting the threads of broken storylines by retracing the journey of George Augustus Robinson in the north east of Tasmania exactly to the day nearly 180 years later. The stories of the Aboriginal people who were taken by Robinson into exile on the Bass Strait islands finally are being re-interpreted and told by their descendants. Patsy is publishing a selection of these stories in her upcoming book *Grease and Ochre*.



Speakers Dr Linn Miller & Patsy Cameron with LHS President Dr Marita Bardenhagen after the talk.



Dr Dianne Snowden with Allan Orr

Convict women of Northern Tasmania

On Sunday 17 October 2010 Dr Dianne Snowden presented a fascinating talk on the virtually invisible female convicts who came to northern Tasmania between 1804 and 1853. Meticulous research has uncovered the lives of individual women who washed, ironed, cooked and cleaned for the early free settlers. They were resilient survivors of a tough system. With sturdy arms and sore backs, many of the women married and had children of their own, forebears of today's Tasmanians. The women who came on the *Rajah* in 1841 will be the subject of a book to be published next year. For more information see <http://www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/index.htm>

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

November Talk

Sunday 21 November 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Julie Gough, Norfolk Plains Revealed. Frontier accounts from 1821 – 1861.

Between May 2007 and November 2009 the nine volumes or 362,919 words of Manuscript 3251 held in the National Library of Australia were transcribed. Online since then, the transcription website has been visited nearly 7000 times. Consisting mostly of depositions to Magistrates in and around Launceston the manuscript provides a unique précis or overview of the interrelations between inhabitants of northern Van Diemen's Land over two generations. This presentation will focus on several accounts from the manuscript that reveal a surprising extent of interconnection between people of differing gender, age, infirmity, class, rank and wealth, whether Aboriginal, arrived 'free' or transported.

Julie Gough, born 1965 in Melbourne, is a visual artist, curator and writer who lives in Hobart. Gough's research and art practice involves uncovering and re-presenting often conflicting and subsumed histories, many referring to her own and her family's experiences as Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Currently Research Associate at the School of Art, University of Tasmania and Honorary Adjunct Research Fellow at James Cook University, Townsville, Gough most recently undertook an artist-in-residence position in Cork, Ireland. Previous engagements: Guest Curator at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for the exhibition *Tayenebe - Tasmanian Aboriginal women's fibre work* - touring nationally to 2012; Lecturer in Creative Arts at James Cook University Townsville; Curator, Indigenous Art National Gallery of Victoria; Lecturer, Riawunna Centre for Aboriginal Studies University of Tasmania; and Interpretation Officer Aboriginal Culture Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Hobart. Academic achievements: PhD Visual Arts University of Tasmania (UTAS) (2001); M.A. Visual Arts Goldsmith's College University of London (1998); B.A. Visual Arts Hons (1st class) UTAS (1995); B.A. Visual Arts Curtin University WA (1994); and B.A. Prehistory/English Literature UWA (1986).

History Prize Presentation

Friday 19 November 2010 – 3.30 to 5.30pm. LHS members are invited to attend the Launceston Historical Society History Prize Presentations 2010, followed by afternoon tea at 'Egremont', corner of Welman and Elizabeth Streets, Launceston. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Carol Fuller: phone 6331 1558 or 0419 116 636, or email carol.fuller@bigpond.com before Friday 12 November 2010.

This year fifty students from grades 4 to 8 from four Launceston schools submitted entries for the History Prize addressing the topic "An Important Historic Event". The participating schools were West Launceston, Riverside and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and Kings Meadows High School. All 41 entries will be on display. The honorary judges were Carol Fuller, Leonie Prevost and Andrew Gregg.

Christmas Function

Sunday 28 November 2010 – 11.30am at the Tasmanian Horse Drawn Vehicle Foundation, 'Bonny Brae Farm', 42 Clarence Point Road, Clarence Point.

A BYO barbecue will be held at 12.00 noon followed by a tour of the Foundation's collection of vehicles and then afternoon tea (\$5.00 charge). RSVP by 23 November to Gus Green during the day on mobile 0408 355 561 or email prossergreen@vision.net.au. Contact Gus if you require or can provide transport.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 20 February 2011: Marion Sargent, *Tour of Carr Villa Cemetery: A history of the site*

Friday 11 March 2011: *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture, Professor Cassandra Pybus

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

Sunday 22 May 2011: Angela McGowan, Archaeology topic

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Dr Deborah Malor, Harold Payne and Dr Dianne Snowden.

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

Afternoon teas: We are looking for a volunteer to assist Mary Hoggett with organising afternoon tea at our Sunday meetings. Please see one of the committee members if you are able to help.

Scrapbooks: Thank you to Aileen Atkins for compiling the Historical Society scrapbooks over several years. Now these will be added to the Society's archives. Various scrapbooks will be on display for perusal at our Sunday meetings.

Vale Henry Bartlett (4 December 1932 – 4 July 2010)



Henry Bartlett died last July after a short illness. For many years, he had been our Society's voluntary webmaster and had established and kept up-to-date our web site. The site, complimented by many people for the information it contained, was a credit to our Society and to Henry. He was also the webmaster for at least two other societies yet surprisingly he had had no formal computer training, being totally self-taught.

Henry was born in Legerwood and soon moved to Scottsdale. He attended the Launceston High School and an education scholarship enabled him to study at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. Henry graduated with a Bachelor of Science/Diploma of Education majoring in geology and chemistry. His first teaching appointment was at Queenstown High School and later, as is the case in the Education Department, at a number of other locations including: Hobart, King Island, Smithton, Rose Bay and Rosebery. During this time Henry taught maths/science. Henry's last posting before retirement was at Kings Meadows High where he held the position of deputy principal. Whilst on King Island, Henry met and married Anne Grey. We know Anne of course as this Society's president for 11 years.

Henry's interests were geology, bushwalking, skindiving (although not in recent years), photography and obviously computers. In this last role he designed many software applications and provided them via freeware to people all over the world. Henry was a member of the Royal Society for over 40 years. He was also a member of this Society and often would attend tours and talks with Anne. Henry's contribution to our Society as webmaster was much appreciated and our sympathy is extended to his widow, Anne. Submitted by John Dent.

Can you help?

Rajah Convict, Georgiana Gatehouse

Georgiana Gatehouse, a female convict who arrived on the *Rajah* in July 1841 was granted permission – on 21 June 1843 – to marry William Grubb, who was free at the time. The couple married at Launceston on 3 August 1843. Georgiana was 31 and William gave his age as 40. Who was he? If this man is known to you please contact Dr Dianne Snowden on dsnowden@tassie.net.au.

Charles Street Cemetery

Does anyone have any photographs of the old Charles Street General Cemetery, Launceston? LHS member Di Cassidy is transcribing cemetery burial records which are held at the Carr Villa Memorial Park. Please contact Di on dianne.cassidy@education.tas.gov.au.

From the Past

Launceston Advertiser, 7 June 1830, page 1.

Mr. Reid (sic) is about to erect the first four story (sic) house in this town. Three stories (sic) are nearly completed, and the fourth is to be carried on as rapidly as possible. It is intended for a store, but being in the line of Cameron-street, it should have shewn a more ornamental front. It is certainly a good brick and stone building, only the windows are too small to look well. Business must certainly be improving fast, for strong useful and substantial stores are rising rapidly in all directions. Mr. G. Ralston's new brick store is about being roofed. It is a capacious and well contrived building. Both the above stores are being erected by Mr. John Sprunt the contractor, who has justly gained so much praise by his rapid and skilful completion of the King's stores in this town – the largest, and we have no hesitation in saying, the very best building of brick kind in Van Diemen's Land.

The first building in this article is referring to Henry Reed's store known as Macquarie House in Civic Square, Launceston. The King's store was the Commissariat which is now Paterson Barracks in St John Street.



Detail of a window from Henry Reed's store.

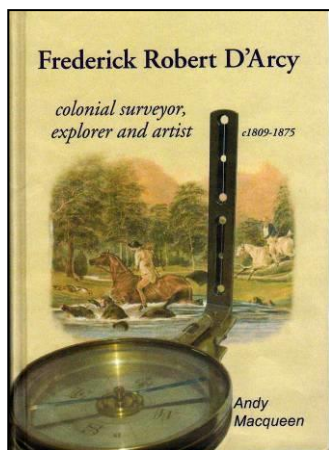
Recent Publication by Member

Angela Prosser Green, *The Wedding Journey: The Story of Johnstone and Wilmot*, ACPG Books, Oct 2010. This book traces the history of William Johnson and Stuart Eardley-Wilmot, founders of the firm of merchants established at Launceston in 1842. RRP \$50.00 from Angela.

Book Review

Frederick Robert D’Arcy – colonial surveyor, explorer and artist c1805-1878, by Andy Macqueen. Hard back, A2 size, 265pp, index, references, 3 appendices, illustrations, maps and bibliography. RRP \$45.00

As the title suggests this book is about surveyor Frederick Robert D’Arcy. D’Arcy was born in England *circa* 1809 and initially followed his father into a military career by training at Sandhurst. His father was transferred with the 39th Regiment to New South Wales and Frederick followed him in 1829. He obtained employment as a draftsman in the NSW Surveyor General’s Department in 1831 and soon seized the opportunity to undertake surveying field work. He explored and surveyed the wilds of the Colo, Wollemi and Wallangambe Rivers until 1834 under Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell.



Frederick accepted an appointment as a surveyor to the recently-established Port Phillip settlement. He surveyed the early layout of Melbourne with surveyors William Darke, Robert Russell and Robert Hoddle. Frederick seems to have spent more time exploring, painting and building a house for his family than actually surveying and had many arguments with Hoddle and the Magistrate Captain William Lonsdale.

In January 1838 Frederick and a seven-months-pregnant Sophia moved to Launceston, just as many in Launceston were moving to Port Phillip. An economic depression was beginning in Launceston at this time and despite being appointed as a contract surveyor Frederick struggled to make a living. By June 1839 there were five surveyors in Launceston and James Scott wrote that “D’Arcy has failed at present for about £900”. D’Arcy always struggled with his finances, becoming insolvent a number of times during his life. While in Launceston he became embroiled in a dispute over an incorrect survey he had done for John Glover on the Nile River. The contention later involved surveyors Sprent and Calder and led to the dismissal of Surveyor General Boyd. At least two children were born in Launceston before the family returned to Sydney in May 1844.

Over the next few years in NSW he worked as a Court Clerk until he was licensed again as a surveyor, then he became insolvent, was involved in another quarrel, resumed surveying and was arrested for gambling. He continued to have disputes and arguments with officialdom, all the while struggling to survive financially. After his wife died he moved to Brisbane in 1859 as Queensland was about to be created as a new colony. He had thought that the controversy and problems of his past were behind him but he was wrong. More disputes and financial difficulty continued until he died in 1875.

During his career D’Arcy explored remote areas of NSW, was present at the founding of Melbourne, spent six years in Launceston and was in Queensland when it became a colony. He was an avid horse lover, an explorer and a prolific artist. He was also a lazy but competent surveyor, always in financial difficulty and often in disputes with officialdom.

The author, Andy Macqueen – a descendant of D’Arcy – tells the story ‘warts and all’. He includes all the worst aspects of this man’s life as well as giving a detailed description of life as a surveyor in the nineteenth century. This book has a Tasmanian connection but also will interest those who are interested in exploring and surveying conditions and methods. Macqueen has undertaken extensive research to uncover many letters written by and to D’Arcy which enable the reader to gain an appreciation of life in the 1800s in four states. Many of the original letters and plans are reproduced in the book as well as a number of illustrations.

The book is available from the author, Andy Macqueen, PO Box 204, Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2782 or andymacqueen@hotmail.com for \$45.00 (post-free).

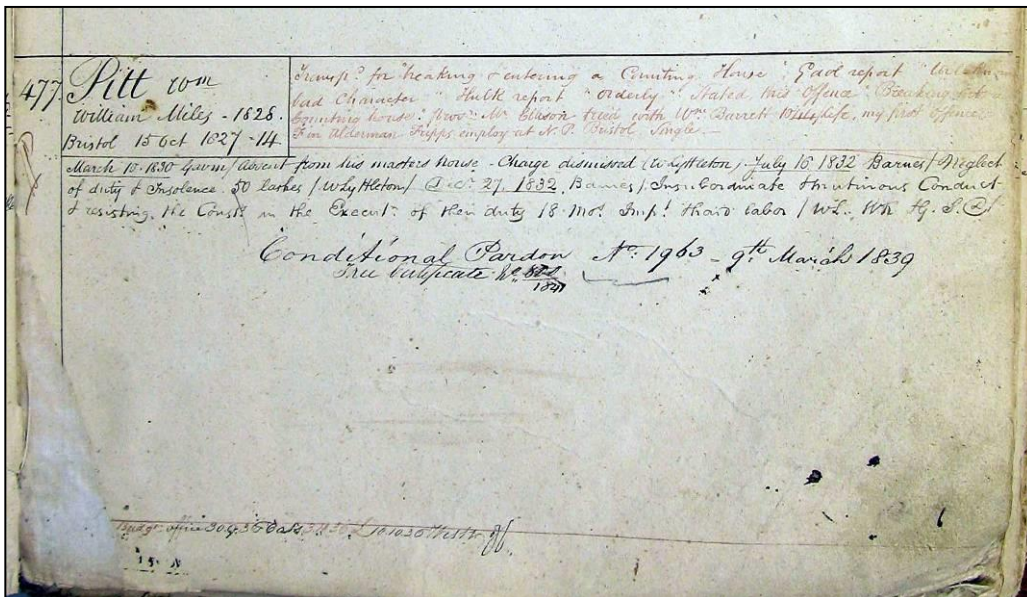
Submitted by John Dent

Other Items and Events of Interest

Photographic Exhibition: *Come inside...* a fascinating view into private spaces of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Tasmanian life. Photographs include palatial 'Fairlawn', a lonely Great Lake hut, the female ward of the Launceston Hospital, clerks labouring with pen and ink at *The Examiner* offices and drawing classes at the Launceston Technical School. On display until the end of November at the Launceston Reference Library, first floor, Civic Square. Curated by LHS member, Catherine Pearce.

Convicts of Van Diemen's Land: For a limited time only, unique convict records from the collection of the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, Hobart! The display includes five original convict registers for men and women in Northern Tasmania and a Bible used by convicts on the transport ship *Triton*. These items are listed on the prestigious UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Also featured are four convicts: Henry Stagg (*Sir George Seymour* 1845), William Pitt (*William Miles* 1828), Jane Armour (*Asia* 1847) and Isaac Thompson (*Southworth* 1830 and *Flying Fish* 1844). On display until mid-December at the Launceston Library building, ground floor and first floor, Civic Square.

Convicts of Van Diemen's Land: How they shaped Tasmania: Discover Tasmania's convict past in the souvenir publication in *The Examiner* on Tuesday 16 November 2010. The 96-page supplement will be produced in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. LHS members, the Museum's history curator Jon Addison, and *The Examiner* associate editor Julian Burgess, are working together to bring to life all aspects of convict transportation. *The Examiner* 21 August 2010, page 4.



Convict record for William Pitt, per *William Miles*, who came to VDL for breaking and entering a counting house. AOT: CON 31/1/34, Image No 167.

Australian Historical Association Regional Conference: *History at the Edge* is to be held on 4-8 July 2011 at the University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. Historians are invited to participate in discussions and to present papers on various themes that involve *History at the Edge* in terms of geographical and cultural peripheries and in terms of conceptual and methodological innovations. See the AHA website www.theaha.org.au for more details. LHS members have been invited to present a panel of three papers and to provide a chairperson. Please submit expressions of interest to the committee for consideration.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 14 December 2010 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 December 2010**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 December 2010** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Photographs by Marion Sargent.