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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, INC.

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TASMANIAN ANCESTRY

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Editorial Panel - Anne Bartlett, Jenny Gill, Jo Keen, Maureen Martin, Bet Wood
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DEADLINE DATES:- 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October

EDITORIAL

Your *Tasmanian Ancestry* has arrived and it has a new appearance. This has come about through the purchase of a computer by the State Executive just for *Tasmanian Ancestry* production. Our Printers also have new computerised typesetting equipment which can accept the output from our own computer.

Because of the new computer, the Journal Committee can accept articles on either 3.5 or 5.25 inch IBM format disc using WORD, WORDSTAR, GALAXY or ASCII file. A hard copy with the filename clearly at the top must accompany your disc [which bears your name]. This method should cut down the typos "our computer still makes".

Of course articles for the journal from contributors who do not have a computer are still most welcome; [no long lists though please].

Ideas for a change of cover are still coming in. This proposal has produced some interesting offerings. Two more are in this issue. Also we have a marvellous article by Lilian Watson about the records of the Colonial Secretary's Office: how to use the index and records, how to interpret and use the information and to where it can lead. The article is a must.

As family historians I am sure we are all grateful to the original makers of the records and those who have guarded them so carefully so that 200 years later they are still in existence and there is the means to study them through modern technology. It makes one wonder how others in 100 years time are going to consider our disposable/throw-away generation.

Another fine article has been reprinted, with permission, from the Cornwall F.H.S. Journal. This is "People Count" and is essential reading for those researching in England.

The Constitution, now called "The Rules", is included as an insert in this issue. The Rules were adopted at a Special State Meeting and now we have to consider the By-Laws which are a vital part of the conduct of the Society. Branch libraries and secretaries have copies of the By-Laws for members. Please send your thoughts and amendments to the State Secretary as soon as possible.

I have dyed my white Congress jumper BLUE!! The sleeves kept getting filthy, now the dirt doesn't show as much. For those who feel white is just not their colour, just one knob of dye will make all the difference. It will help sales too.

Jenny Gill

Associate Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Constitution - At last a simplified, condensed and workable constitution, to be now known as "Rules" was endorsed at a Special General Meeting in February - a copy is enclosed with this Journal.

Name Change - Due to the serious impact of any decision on this subject, it has been decided to adjourn this item to the Annual General Meeting in 1993. In the meantime I encourage members to have their say by writing to Name Change, GST Inc., PO Box 60, Prospect 7250.

St. Catherines House Records - mixed feelings have been expressed on the housing of these records, thus a delay in the decision to purchase. Members were asked in the March journal to indicate their wishes to the Executive. Hopefully your executive shall be able to come to satisfactory decision based on responses from members.

VDL Heritage Index - Volume 3 - work continues on this index and the printing of this volume in an improved format is expected shortly. Individual entries to this project are now closed and data to fill Volumes 4 and 5 is being processed.

Congress Members Interests (1991) have now been completed, and are available for purchase - cost \$11.00 including postage from the GST Inc. The Members Interest list (1991) is also now available for purchase.

Journal Cover - Printed in the March journal and this one are examples of journal cover suggestions received from members. A decision on the journal cover is yet to be made and members are still being ask to submit and have their say - please take this opportunity to do so.

One can find a wealth of information about the Society by reading back issues of the Journal. This I have been doing over the past few months and share the following information.

The first journal of our Society was published in June 1980 and membership in September 1980 was approximately 160. How quickly we have grown - March 1981 - 267, December 1983 over 500, March 1985 - 639, March 1987 - 911, March 1989 - 1,043 and March 1991 - 1,250

Launceston Branch was formed at a meeting on 4th November 1980, Burnie Branch on 9th December 1980, Devonport Branch on 30th July 1981 and Huonville Branch 7th May 1984.

The first State-wide Annual Council Meeting was held in Campbell Town on 5th June 1982 and the following have held the position of President since our formation - Mrs. Lillian Watson first President until 1982 - Mr. John Goold 1982-1983; Mr. Douglas Forrest 1983-1986, Mr. Neville Jetson 1986 - 1988; Mr. John Grunnell 1988 - 1991. So ends my quick trip through the back issues of our Journal. For additional information on journal articles printed see list in the June 1991 Journal.

Denise McNeice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transcribing Headstones

In *Tasmanian Ancestry*, March 1992, a paper on Irish Genealogical Sources by Patrick Nolan includes a section on tombstones. He stresses the necessity to have the sunlight shining on the inscribed face and states that it is almost impossible to decipher stones if the sun is behind them. I have read this statement elsewhere but it is really not correct. The advice below will, I hope, be of some help to all those headstone inscribers unaware of the method.

Under back lighting conditions, using a largish mirror (mine is about 12 inches x 8 inches, and made from an inexpensive mirror off-cut mounted in a strong wooden frame) and side lighting the stone has an almost magical effect. Suddenly the invisible becomes visible. Even badly worn inscriptions are helped tremendously. The same method can be used when the inscription faces the sun provided the direct sunlight is kept off the inscription by suitable shading. A team of two is best, one to hold the mirror to one side, and the second to remain in front and transcribe although often with a little effort and ingenuity, one can cope alone. An added advantage with the mirror method, is that it does not leave chalk marked headstones.

George Richardson.

Members' Interests

Dear Mrs. Bartlett,

The publication of Members Interests in *Tasmanian Ancestry* can be of great assistance, but is the heading perhaps misleading when, what seems to be a growing proportion, do not include any name(s) being researched?

There were ten such in the March '92 issue, with nine more indicating only one name, which not only puts the new members at an immediate disadvantage but also could have similar effect on established ones. While it can be accepted that some may be content with a passive membership, perhaps a more concerted effort should be maintained to ensure a better chance for those who join in the hope of obtaining some help

Bob Wellington

[Editor's Note: The Members' Interests section is a listing of the research interests of members when they first join the Society. It includes a the names they have submitted on their application forms (up to six names can be submitted). As many new members are only just beginning their research they do not know which names they will be researching in depth and so do not include any names on their form. Continuing members are given the opportunity to submit a further six names each year when they renew their membership. All names submitted by members, both new and renewing, are entered on to a computerised database, a printout of which is forwarded to branch

libraries at quarterly intervals. Members unable to consult the lists in the libraries can write requesting the listing to be searched in respect to a particular name. Planning is underway to make the Members' Interests listing available for sale in the near future.]

Name Change and Journal Cover

Dear GST Editor,

Re society name change, if there is a change which does not include the word "Genealogy" then it leaves the way open for a group to form a new society using that word (or a variation) and such title will most definitely be seen as a more academic society in the wider genealogical and family history community in Australia and overseas.

Yours sincerely, Grahame Thom.

One member proposes that "the name of the Society remain as at present but that any Branch that wishes to do so may include the words 'FAMILY HISTORY UNIT' in their letter head or title. For example the Hobart Branch would become:- 'THE HOBART FAMILY HISTORY UNIT' (a branch of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania Inc.)"

It is also interesting to note that in Nick Vine Hall's book, *Tracing your Family History* there are only two registered associations etc. with "Family History" in their name

1. Marquarie Family History Foundation

2. Queensland Family History Society

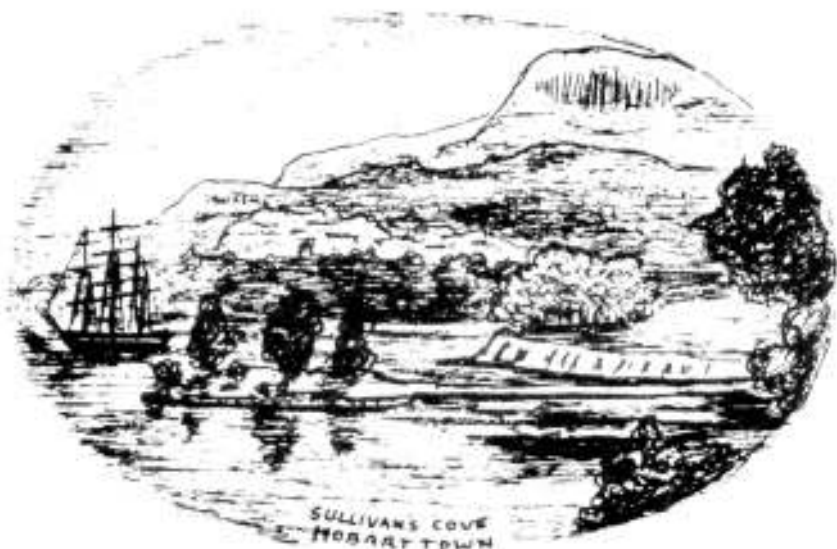
Note that Queensland also have a "Queensland Genealogical Society" which must be very confusing. I personally do not think we should change either our name or our Magazine Cover. PW

In regard to the various reviews of changes in the journal I should like to say that I am most impressed with the new format [Sept. 1991] proposed for the cover of *Tasmanian Ancestry* and trust that it will be adopted in due course. JS

Re name change:- Surely once one has learned to spell and pronounce the name then no further difficulty arises. Re cover change:- p.170 - Map, neat, clear; p.171 - Too fussy, not clear Re both:- It smacks of "change for change" sake" and I vote NO on both issues. I do like the white cover with the maroon printing better than the pink and yellow as previously.

[Editor's Note:- The suggestion for a change in the cover design for the journal arose because of comments by previous editors of the journal in their Editorials. From the December 1981 "Next issue will be larger: 40 pages, and we will need a new cover design", the December 1987 issue "We also welcome any ideas or sketches for a new cover" and in the September 1989 issue "We would also like to change the cover of Tasmanian Ancestry, and are looking for suitable drawings and photographs."]

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MEET THE EDITOR

Born and educated at Smithton, Anne has lived in many parts of Tasmania since her marriage to a school teacher. She has two adult children, both currently living in Hobart. While living on the West Coast, she enrolled at the University of New England, at Armidale, NSW, to do a Bachelor of Arts by correspondence. Nine years later, after many trips to Armidale, she graduated with majors in history and archaeology.

Although Anne has been interested in her family history for a long time it was not until her husband was transferred to Launceston at the beginning of 1984 that she joined the Launceston Branch of the GST. Soon after joining she was asked to take on the position of Librarian which she did for a year. Then in 1987 she was approached to be responsible for overseeing the production of the Examiner Indexes. This led to her being appointed Publications Officer for the Launceston Branch. The following year she was appointed Publications Co-ordinator by the State Executive and in 1988 she was elected a committee member of the State Executive. She was editor of the volume of papers published for the Australasian Congress and is currently preparing a supplementary volume to this work. She also compiled and edited the Society's publication *Local and Family History Sources in Tasmania*. She was appointed Editor of *Tasmanian Ancestry* early in 1991.

When she gets the chance she researches her own and her husband's families. She has had more success in tracing her husband's family back to the United Kingdom than her own. She is an avid reader of old newspapers and has had some exciting finds in the columns of some of the early Tasmanian papers; one great great grandfather wrote numerous letters to the Editor.

Anne is Treasurer for the Oral History Association of Australia (Tasmanian Branch) and for the Launceston Esk District Scout Association. She is a member of International Training in Communication, Launceston Club, an organisation which provides training in public speaking and meeting procedures and she has recently joined the Launceston Patchworkers and Quilters. She has nearly completed her first quilt; double bed size and all done by hand. This will be a wedding present for her daughter. Any spare time Anne has is devoted to cross stitch and tapestry.



BRANCH NEWS

BURNIE

Chairman: Miss V. Dudman (004) 31 1378
Secretary: Mrs. D. Kidd (004) 35 7349
Address: PO Box 748, BURNIE, Tasmania 7320

DEVONPORT

A/Chairman: Mr. M. Smith (004) 25 3756
Treasurer: Mr. P. May (004) 25 4400
Secretary: Ms H. Harris (004) 24 4033
Address: PO Box 587 DEVONPORT, Tasmania 7310

There was a large attendance of members, both new and old, at the first meeting for 1992. Peta Callahan, the guest speaker, displayed a comprehensive range of conservation materials and spoke informatively on their use.

A pressing need for larger and more easily accessible premises has been addressed with the transfer of our Branch Library to Rooms 9, 10 and 11 on the first floor of Day's Building. More spacious surroundings will enable monthly meetings to be held there, the first of which was the Annual General Meeting on the 30 April. Opening hours for the library remain the same (see inside back cover).

Fund raising activities at the end of 1991 were very successful and members hope that new ideas will soon be forthcoming to enable them to excel themselves this year, especially since the expansion of the library will demand greater financial support.

HOBART

Chairman: Mr. J. Wall (002) 43 6810
Secretary: Mrs. J. Leggett (002) 44 2070
Address: GPO Box 640G, HOBART, Tasmania 7001

At our first meeting for 1992, Mr. Tony Marshall explained the genealogical resources of the Tasmaniana Library and the W.L. Crowther Collection associated with it in the State Library of Tasmania.

The speaker in March was Mr. Brian Rieusset, his subject the local and genealogical history of the Tasman Peninsula.

The Annual General meeting of the Branch was held in April. In recent years our custom has been to have on this occasion the Chairman of the Branch as speaker on a

subject of his own choice. This year Mr. Jim Wall chose to speak about Scottish records.

Speakers and topics for the remainder of the year include:

May	Mr. Grahame Thom	Using Land Department Records
June	Mrs. Lilian Watson	UK Records in the late 19th Century.
July	Mrs. Maree Ring	Australian Joint Copying Project
August	Mrs. Irene Schaffer & panel	Writing a Family History
September	Martin Davies	Hobart's Hidden Buildings
October	Mr. Grahame Thom	Beginning Family Research

The November meeting will be the last for the year and again this year it will be a "show and tell" evening to which members are asked to bring items of interest about which they can talk to the meeting.

Members attending monthly meetings of this branch now receive a news sheet containing matters of particular local interest to supplement the news which appears in the journal for the interest of members outside Hobart

HUON

Chairman:	Mrs. M. Harriss	(002) 66 6259
Secretary:	Mrs. E. Woolley	(002) 66 0263
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LAUNCESTON

Chairman:	Mrs. T. Grunnell	(003) 31 2145
Secretary:	Miss J. Gill	(003) 31 1150
Address:	PO Box 1290, LAUNCESTON, Tas 7250	

Congratulations to Carmel Oates, nee Pitt (a former secretary) and husband Sid, on the birth of their son Matthew Rennie. Another bud on the family tree of first fletcher William Saltmarsh.

After an initial hiccup regarding a Council permit, our new Library premises are being enjoyed by an eager influx of researchers, deprived of facilities for a month. An enthusiastic working bee redecorated the five room flat in four days and we now have spacious sunny premises really conducive to sitting down and browsing amongst all the written records on offer. Our facilities now allow us to offer tea and coffee making and a lunch area for those making a protracted search. A milk bar is located close by for those who do not bring their own lunch.

We have received four generous donations to assist in the cost of moving and to purchase new material. One of these was from the Page family reunion committee

towards fiche from the originating English counties. Other such committees may care to follow suit.

The June meeting will take the form of a "For Love or Money" evening conducted by Launceston Auctioneer, Kaye Pickett. This should prove a most interesting and entertaining evening. Members are asked to bring their family treasures by 7 pm so that Kaye can conduct a preliminary assessment of the items while the business meeting is in progress.

LIBRARY NOTES

DEVONPORT

Recent acquisitions by the library include:

Microfiche:

- Fawkner Cemetery Records
- Records of T.M. Smith, undertaker, Queensland

Others

- The New Genealogical Research Directory 1981
- The National Genealogical Directory 1981 and 1986
- Tracing Family History New Zealand
- International Vital Records
- In Search of your European Roots
- Sixty large bound volumes of *The Examiner*

LAUNCESTON

The storage facilities at our new library now house the bound copies of *The Examiner* (1955 - 1976) received from the Examiner newspaper. These will be available on request. Also available are bound copies of the *Hobart Town Gazette* for the sixty years beginning 1895.

Recent acquisitions include the following microfiche:-

Index to Monumental Inscriptions at Nundah Cemetery, Brisbane:

English Directories -

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Buckinghamshire (1877) | Cambridgeshire (1851) |
| Lancashire (1864) | Leicestershire (1862) |
| Lincolnshire (1856) | Nottinghamshire (1854) |
| Shropshire (1851) | Staffordshire (1851) |
| Warwickshire (1854) | Worcestershire (1854) |

EARLY AUSTRALIAN ANCESTRY?

Then Search the Colonial Secretary's Office Records.

Lilian Watson

You have worked backwards through certificates, civil and church registers, tombstones and newspaper columns, shipping lists and convict indexes and almost decided that your ancestor's appearance in Tasmania in the 1830s will have to remain a mystery.

There are other records which could be useful. What about the handwritten, numbered and filed records from the Office of the Colonial Secretary? Those held in Tasmania and New South Wales Archives have been microfilmed. In Hobart the CSO records of both states are available in the Archives Office of Tasmania, Murray Street. The GST Hobart library at Bellerive also has many NSW microfilms which overlap the CSO records. In Launceston, the GST library has the microfiche copy of the NSW CSO index.

Researchers living outside Tasmania should check with their local State libraries and LDS Family History Centres.

NSW was the only colony on the Eastern part of Australia until Van Diemen's Land became separate in 1825 (They did not even know at first that Bass Strait formed a natural boundary.)

Twenty years after the colony of New South Wales began, Governor Macquarie tried unsuccessfully to create the position of Colonial Secretary. The British Government waited until 1820 to create such an office and then the appointee tried to usurp some of the Governor's power!

In 1825 it was made clear that although all correspondence was to be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, he was to have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the Governor.

Though David Collins had previously acted as Governor's Secretary during the first settlement of NSW, he saw no need to appoint such a man in Tasmania. Very little record of his term of office in Tasmania remains as two gentlemen had a bonfire of the papers from Collins' office the night after he suddenly died. Lieutenant-Governor Davey served in Tasmania from 1813 to 1817 without accumulating many records. He chose to send most of them home to his patron in England. The convict indents did stay here. Perhaps you have found them useful. He did have a secretary, Ensign T.A. Lascelles who was not officially recognised from NSW.

By 1820 H.E. Robinson was able to list his secretarial duties:

- signed all tickets-of-leave,
- signed ships' clearances,
- mustered the crews and passengers of ships cleared.

attested (certified) Government and General Orders and colonial appointments,
mustered the convicts arriving from Sydney or England,
had custody of the convict indents (documents).

Not all documents have survived from this period, perhaps some records were transferred as various Government Departments were formed.

Lieutenant Governor Arthur was a man who liked efficiency, so from his appointment in 1824 he had Captain John Montagu act as Colonial Secretary, though he was officially simply Private Secretary to the Governor. He actually served a dual role from about the time when Tasmania was separated from NSW ...June 1825.

From January 1826 all public correspondence had to be addressed to the Colonial Secretary. Still there were matters with which the Governor dealt more directly, some with private people and also with the Chief Justice, the Archdeacon and the Attorney-General. The laborious writing of letters and documents in such instances was handled by a Private Secretary.

Separate files were kept of the Colonial Secretary's records and Governor's Office Records. At times similar types of information appears in both.

These bound and loose papers were stored in the Old Treasury buildings until 1890 then moved around a bit until they found a home in the basement of the building adjacent to Franklin Square. Others were added from the Supreme Court, the Lands and Survey Department and the Registrar-General's Department, etc.

Most of the new Governors began a new file or records rather than continue the numbering system of their predecessor. Just as well or the clerks would have spent much time just writing lengthy numbers.

An index was made to all of the papers. In heavy leather bound books pages were allotted to letters of the alphabet. Under "A" would be listed all correspondence to or from Mr. Atkinson, or the Attorney-General, or related to the Apple industry...anything beginning with A.

If more letters were sent to Mr. Atkinson later, they would be listed further down the page. In the actual file of documents some early letters might be inserted later if they were relevant to a continuance of a dispute for instance.

Which records might help you in obtaining details of the history of your family? Letters of recommendation were often brought from "home" in the hope that generous land grants would be forthcoming; applications for land grants were sent; servants were needed, also supplies; applications for specific government positions were made in writing; convicts who had served part of their time could apply to have their families brought out free, each family member would be named.

Most of the early population were convicts and those in charge of them.. Each person had to be recorded, names, ages, descriptions, sentences, misdemeanours and eventually pardons.

In such a new colony maps, sketches of property, buildings and bridges were made; Government Orders to Colonists and convicts had to be prepared; disputes over land boundaries were many and had to be settled; fire left helpless families destitute.

In the printed Index to the NSW CSO records you can see excellent examples of records such as Governor Macquarie's written order for 6 pairs of boots (1819); a rent receipt 1813; a list of public buildings to be erected at George Town, Tas., 1818; a return of fines and punishments from Penrith, 1824; a plan of a ship etc.

Just keep in mind that the Governor was in charge of the whole colony. As Governors change from time to time, a written record was a necessity. All settlers, of any station, had to relay their requests through the Colonial Secretary to the Governor.

We would today need to work out which Government department to approach, but the departments had to be formed gradually. Sometimes today I get the impression that most Australians expect the Government to answer all their needs. Could this be a follow-on from colonial times?

Among the CSO records of Tasmania I have seen a series of letters from a desperate woman, the wife of a "gentleman" who spent more time with alcohol than providing for his family. She begged for several years before the Governor provided a paid position for the 14 year old son who needed to take on the role of family provider. In her desperation the woman bared the family situation, leaving a good record of life in those times.

Charles Peters married Susannah Wilson in St Johns Church of England in 1826 and they proceeded to raise a large family. Charles apparently had not been christened in Tasmania, nor was he listed in the free arrivals index. He was not a convict. In the Tasmanian CSO records (No 8573, but this was found to be out of order) this correspondence was found

Launceston
20 July 1826

Unto His Excellency Colonel George Arthur
Lieut Gov. of V.D. Land and its Dependencies
The Memorial of Charles Peters, freeman
Householder in Launceston

Most Respectfully Sheweth,

That Your Memorialist arrived at Hobart Town per ship
"Greenock", Joshua Richmond, Commander, in the year 1823.

That your Memorialist after his arrival was for twenty months in the
employ of W.N. Gray Esquire at the South Esk River, as overseer; and
has ever since been doing business on his own account in Launceston.

That your Memorialist has Capital to the extent of Four hundred and Eighty pounds, as under:

A House - 100 pounds; Cattle and Sheep - 130 pounds; Cash - 250 pounds - 480 pounds.

Which your Memorialist wishes to lay out in clearing and cultivating Land, Rearing Stock etc. etc.

That your Memorialist's character and Capital are attested by the Gentleman whose signatures are hereunto annexed-

Your Memorialist not having received any grant of land since his arrival in the colony, trusts your excellency will take his case into consideration, and allow him such an allotment as your Excellency may deem fit. And your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray

Signed ... Charles Peters

On the back of the application was the following

We the undersigned having seen the cash, and valued the property exhibited to us, by the Memorialist, Charles Peters, are of the opinion that at a very modest computation, he is possessed of Four Hundred and Eighty pounds.

We also beg leave to recommend him to the most favourable consideration of His Excellency Governor Arthur, he being a man of upright principles, and integrity, and highly deserving the utmost indulgence of government.

(Written at Launceston 20 July 2826) signed Wm Gray; A. ? itton, Arch. Thomson

I have the honor to certify for the information of His Excellency Lieut Governor Arthur that I believe Memorialist is an honest and industrious man and therefore beg leave to recommend his memor^y to a favourable consideration

Sgd P.W. Ma.....

I beg leave to certify to His Excellency Lieut Governor Arthur that I believe Memorialist to be a man of sober and industrious habits and therefore recommend his petition to a favourable consideration.

sgd H. Simpson J.P.

On a separate page -

If the Memorialist has had no land I will approve of 300 acres but most (explicitly) on the condition of his residing on the land and cultivating it. 12 Aug (GA) and initials

Then below in another hand,...

I don't think that this class of person should have land granted

signature very hard to read (12 Aug)

Another note in a different hand -

*Neither he nor his relations have had any land that I am aware of.
(Initialled similar to first note)*

Final note in what appears to be a different hand again -

No order for land to this applicant sgd W.....

This appears to be rather an unfair rejection of this honest farmer's request especially as Governor Arthur seemed to approve at first. Look, there is one more page - probably in C. Peter's handwriting

Launceston July 22 1826

Sir, May I take the liberty of troubling you to hand the enclosed Memorial to His Excellency the Lieut Governor, and likewise the accompanying letter to Mr. Lakeland, in which I have applied to him for an assigned servant, your kindness in attending to this will most probably insure my success in what I have applied for, and will be a great favour conferred on....

Sir, Your Most Obedient Humble Servant, Charles Peters

(The above had been addressed to Colonel Balfour, 40th Regt, Hobart Town)

On the back of this letter a note was later added, apparently in Gov. Arthur's hand

"Am I to understand that Col. Balfour now not recommend.

12 Aug (GA)

So we do not find a record of land granted to Charles Peters this time, he was more successful later, but we learn a lot about Charles' arrival and character etc., as well as about Col. Balfour's seeming betrayal of Charles' trust. Finding an example of an ancestor's handwriting is a bonus too.

Accounts of conditions on ships to Tasmania can disclose interesting detail. The Surgeon-Superintendent on the *Boadicea* (1835) obviously had his hands full. Our GST member Hugh Campbell collected vital information from CSO files while researching his forebears. See *Forty Tasmanian Forebears* by N.H. Campbell in the Hobart GST library.

The records which are included in the CSO Record Group are varied, often quite detailed, often tantalizing. Each Genealogical Society library should have a copy of the *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania Section One, Colonial Secretary's Office Record Group* which is available from the Archives Office of Tasmania. Study of this guide will provide an understanding of the system and the resulting records.

A request to the Archives staff for the Index to the CSO records for a certain time period will enable a researcher to use the appropriate microfilmed index. See page four in the Guide for more detail. Below is an example.

Godfrey John	4091 permission to offer a reward for his apprehension
Gould Austin	6035 not to be assigned in the Murray district
Glover Edward	13118 appointed as a constable
Gooding James	8136 to be Poundkeeper and special constable

Once you have noted which Tasmanian CSO file you need and which numbers you require you are ready to request the appropriate film of the original records. Some have blank spots just where your record should be. Check whether the documents are just out of order or missing. The letter you seek might have been moved to a later file if it was relevant to a further request.

Some references to your ancestor might be found under subject headings ... perhaps he had problems with the aborigines or vice versa. Look under "Aborigines". Magistrate's reports from the area in which your ancestor lived could be fruitful too. Look through parts of the Index to get ideas.

When the NSW Archives received approval to publish the NSW Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825 as a Bicentennial project, it was only the beginning of a lot of hard work. Due to the financial constraints the planned multi-volume printed index was changed to one printed introduction plus a micro-fiche index to the actual records.

At the AOT, Hobart a researcher simply asks the staff for the Index to the NSW CSO records. The printed introduction plus a binder of microfiche will be received. You may select the microfiche which covers the appropriate alphabetical section you require. Select the one "Ra-Rh" if you seek the name Riley. If you find the name, besides it will be a date, a brief explanation of the content of the record i.e. Requesting assistance for the speedy result to his court case; then (Reel 6058: 4/1770 pp. 154-5) which directs you to the microfilm reel you need and part of that reel which you require.

Each reel of film contains a great quantity of copies of documents. If you require record 4/1766 on reel 6057 you may need to roll this film until you find a close number such as no 4/1754 then turn slowly to 4/1766 which may not be clearly numbered.

I found the microfiche index uncomfortably small to read at the Archives. Perhaps the equipment at the Launceston GST library is better.

When using the index keep in mind that data on one person could be contained in convict records, under the heading Van Diemen's Land as well as under his or her own name. You are reminded that alternative spelling should be considered. Many an alias was used and many of these are cross-referenced.

An hour used in reading much of the 186 page Printed Handbook could be a good investment. This Handbook is Guide No. 30 in the series of guides the NSW Archives have produced. I believe that many a researcher would be more successful if the guides were read first. I trust that your GST Library has a set of the NSW Archives Guides. They are not expensive.

An important section in the NSW CSO records covers Applications for free passage of convicts' wives and families. See page 28 of Handbook. These are indexed only under the applicant's name. If your ancestor was Roger Thompson and he seemed to appear from no-where, you could look under the surname Thompson to see if Roger was included in a family to be brought out. You would not find Roger in the index.

In the handbook a summary list of papers begins on p.43. A quiet read will reveal what could be useful to you. Page 45 lists Lieut Govnr Davey's Record Book, 1813 which contains lists of land transfers, leases and wills in V.D.L. and covers the years 1805-16. Are you interested in Land Grants 1810-23? This summary gives the original AO file number 4/433 as well as the current fiche number 3261. Similar numbers appear on the microfiche index. Page 54 of the handbook lists the papers on roll film, their reel numbers and dates covered, also a description of the contents. See page 68 for a list of the papers on microfiche.

If you were looking for apprenticeship records would you think of looking under the heading "Orphan Institution, male"? Probably not. Refer to page 85 for ideas when you cannot think of an appropriate subject heading.

For Van Diemen's Land subject headings, see pages 178 to 180.

Most researchers like to simply turn to the records or indexes and discover. When they learn to study the content of available record groups like the Colonial Secretary's Office records, I believe their potential discovery will be even more exciting.

I rather enjoyed handling the huge leatherbound volumes, some two inches thick. The laborious handwriting with notations in the margins which were often made in lieu of re-writing and filing the actual letter of reply, the feel of the heavy paper and the sight of the faded ink provided a feeling of physical contact with past generations. Those days are gone as the records must be preserved for future generations.

Use the CSO microfilms so you can make records of your family worthy to pass on to future family.

WE DID IT!

Marie Hart

"Are you sure you can do it from so far away?" This was a typical comment as it became known that the BIRD FAMILY GATHERING in Tasmania was being organised from Ballina, NSW and the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Well we did do it - with some difficulty but also with great success - so don't let "the tyranny of distance" deter you from having your reunion in the most appropriate place, no matter where you live. For us, it was the Don/Devonport area where Richard and Ann Bird (nec Chaston) and family settled on arrival from Great Cressingham, Norfolk, England 130 years ago.

It was too much responsibility to organise on my own, but having written the history I believed it should be shared with other descendants, for it was their history too.

Three Gold Coast cousins willingly agreed to form a committee and our preparations began twelve months before the chosen weekend of March 14/15 1992. They had no knowledge of family history but were appreciative of my research and enthusiastic about a get-together, so between us we had the qualities to make a good team.

Where to start? Since I had found a reliable informant among descendants of each of Richard and Ann's eight children, a letter was sent to gauge the level of interest we might expect from them and their line.

The response was fair. I had already discovered during my years of research that I came from a long line of poor correspondents! However, a brief visit to Tasmania with my husband elicited a warm response from the handful of relatives we met - as well as doubts that our aims could be achieved from such a distance.

The only suitable hall at Don was permanently booked for weekend dances and markets, so the Devonport Surf Life Saving Club was suggested as an alternative. Immediately we saw its location at the Bluff we realised it was exactly right, but was it available for that weekend closest to the anniversary of our family's arrival? It was.

Thus we had the most important needs covered - a spacious hall with all conveniences, parking, shelter and parkland with play equipment for children who may tire of formalities.

Back on the mainland, we wrote to caterers for quotes to provide morning and afternoon tea and luncheon for the Saturday function and a smorgasbord for the night. We chose Independent Caterers for the day and Gerald and Jill Atkins for the evening and were entirely satisfied with both.

Photographers were also requested to quote - at alarming prices! We booked a Launceston photographer, and closer to the time confirmed the details. We were to be ready at 1.30 pm so that the hour for assembling groups was not exceeded or an additional charge would be made. We hurried our programme along to meet those

requirements but the photographer did not arrive. Later one of our guests photographed depleted groups for some had had to depart, but the opportunity for an historic picture of 170 family members was lost to us forever.

Our Bird name lent itself to attractive bird shapes as name tags for descendants, with a matching coloured rectangle for spouses. The couples' eight children were colour coded so we soon remembered that Hannah Jane was gold, Walter John was pink and so on. The cousin to whom all mail was addressed insisted on Alla Jacob being red since the first positive response she received was from his line on what she thus claimed was red letter day! Coloured folders held each line's correspondence, coloured marking pens were used in many ways and we were all soon "thinking in colour" which proved to be very helpful.

Alternating our meeting places we met ten times in all, with many letters and telephone calls in between. We notched up nearly 3,000 km travelling and hoped our "rels" would appreciate our efforts.

A Tasmanian cousin who offered assistance was requested to organise the commemoration cake - everything please, down to ribbons on the knife, table-cloth and serviettes. The traditional cutting by the oldest and youngest Bird direct descendants present was observed.

Another cousin was asked to devise decorations - balloons and streamers to delight the children and perhaps some greenery to soften the bleakness of a rented hall. And so another job was delegated.

Yet another local agreed to lend her photocopier for the day and generously donated the takings to the gathering funds. There was only one in our family qualified to conduct the Service of Thanksgiving in the church attended by our forebears, so he was asked to cope with every aspect of that vital part of the proceedings.

I produced many notices and eight family charts in distinctive colours with black printing, large and clear enough for the bifocal brigade. They were bright and attractive but in spite of repeated requests showed gaps where I simply could not elicit family names. Not to worry, I would decorate the spaces with pictures of birds and nostalgic illustrations and some people may even find the decorations the best part! Great until names turned up at the last minute, causing much gnashing of teeth as I squeezed them in beside a well stuck picture. Black printing on coloured cardboard was fraught with danger: white-out in eight different colours, so far as I know, has not yet been invented!

Eight more charts showed principal lines of descent and the Bird family history at a glance. Beside each chart and the memorabilia for that line, was placed an exercise book and pen with a request to enter errors, omissions and additions and the name of the informant.

A Visitors Book was purchased and "indexed" with colours and ribbons so each person could sign on the same page as others of the line. Six people were necessary for the smooth processing of guests as they arrived. As well, a cousin wearing an outrageous hat for fun, entertained the waiting queue and answered their questions.

Guests were marked off our master sheet and requested to pay outstanding fees, received a lucky door ticket and name tag, signed the Visitors Book and purchased a brief outline of our history and raffle and bus tickets if desired. They then entered the hall where they were greeted by our MC for the day and myself.

For our lucky door prize we enlarged and laminated a postcard of the beautiful church in Suffolk where our ancestors were wed, and pasted a copy of the marriage certificate on the reverse. This created much interest and was won by a great grand-daughter whose number was drawn by the youngest, farthest traveller from Townsville in Queensland.

Quotes had been obtained for plaques and glassware as souvenirs, but as registration fees were slow to arrive we had to dispense with those plans. Instead, I set to work to make 175 bookmarks which were offered as mementos by several of the children present.

The raffle was a hand made and inscribed folk art clock from Maureen Lynch of Casino and this was drawn in the evening and taken home to Victoria by another happy descendant. The raffle saved we four ladies from ending up "in the red".

Local historian, Faye Gardham, spoke during the afternoon and sold postcards and local history books to aid her Society while a cousin who is still a parishioner where our service was to be held, sold cards depicting the little church, to aid their funds.

Faye kindly accompanied us on Sunday morning too on an Invicta bus around the twists and turns of country roads, and indicated where our Birds had farmed in the late 1800s. Hand decorated bus tickets for the \$3.00 fare became another little reminder to take home. We were delivered back at the church where Richard had been a deacon for a moving service by his great grandson. A grevilleia was then planted in the grounds by our only overseas visitor from Timaru in New Zealand. A pine log bore a commemorative plaque and a collection was taken and presented to the church in gratitude for their hospitality to us all.

At an informal picnic afterwards the Tasmanians catered for the mainlanders with delicious fare, including their famous raspberries and cream.

During the weekend we had a First Aider on hand, but her services were not required; we had checked that we were covered by Public Risk insurance.

Tasmanian newspapers were generous with advance publicity and *The Advocate* gave excellent coverage of the event with stories and pictures in three issues. Publicity had been sent during the preceding year to a score of papers, magazines, genealogical journals and church papers in Australia, New Zealand and England but were relatively ineffective in finding family. Researchers of associated family names though were quick to reply!

Our bank account was in the name of BIRD FAMILY GATHERING. A financial statement was presented at the Gathering, though naturally incomplete. We four ladies wore sashes with our names emblazoned thereon, so we could be seen to be the ones who were supposed to know everything!

We were surprised that registration fees were slow to arrive during our year of planning. We pondered the reasons for this and wondered if a reduced price for early application might have been a good idea. We had been warned that people have developed a nasty habit these days of just "turning up". Eight did exactly that.

However, the finely detailed plans we made paid off with a well run and much complimented family gathering. We four were kept busy all weekend but were amply rewarded by the great fellowship and happiness engendered. For me personally it was a joyful culmination of ten years work and perhaps an inducement to proceed with publication of Early Birds. For my co-organisers it became a focal point in their lives as they realised how much goes into locating a widely scattered family and recording its history.

And for everyone in attendance there was the realisation of just how precious we are all to one another.

Marie Hart

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LUTTRELL or MAWLE

Can anyone help in identifying this portrait? I know it is my grandmother's grandfather, the question is, which one? Is he Alfred LUTTRELL (c1792-1865) or William MAWLE (c1801-1843)?

Alfred Luttrell came to Van Diemen's Land from NSW in 1816. He was a son of Dr. Edward Luttrell, acting Colonial Surgeon.

Alfred was granted 300 acres of land as compensation "for having captured a most daring and Sanguinary Bush Ranger named Mahoney". In an application for more land in 1836, Alfred stated that he had been able "to clear and cultivate 150 acres of land

bringing up a numerous Family of Six Sons and Five Daughters in the Character of Repute and realizing a Capital through dint of Industry of £4,000".

Formerly a constable at New Town, in 1826 he was Chief District Constable of the Black Brush. Although in 1834 he described himself as a "gentleman farmer", he was also licensee of the *William Tell Inn*, Black Brush.

William MAWLE also was an innkeeper. He was at various times licensee of the *Commercial Tavern*, Commercial Wharf, the *Castle Inn* and *Brighton Hotel*, Bagdad Bridge, the *Crown Inn*, Bagdad and *Mawle's Hotel*, Bagdad.

He arrived as a free immigrant, circa 1826 and was granted 250 acres of land in 1831.

A merchant, he was also interested in whale fishing and in 1830 made application to rent from the Crown land at Research Bay for a whaling station.

The cause of his death in 1843 was registered as "Died by the Visitation of God", with an additional note by the coroner which read: "I entirely dissent from this Verdict he died by having drank (sic) too much ardent spirit". One wonders how much ardent spirit he consumed before the Visitation took place. Was he as a "licensed victualler" merely sampling his wares or was he drowning his sorrows for the death a few months earlier of his 32-year old wife.

If anyone can help me identify the man in the portrait I should be most grateful.

Adele de Bomford, 4 Llenroc Street, Lindisfarne, Tasmania 7015.

A WALL-WASHER'S TALE

Margaret McKenzie



In our corner of planet Earth political upheavals are well documented but many minor earthquakes occur away from the public gaze. Every few years the Launceston Branch of the Genealogical Society has its "quake" when the members decide they've had enough of cramped library quarters and the executive does something about it.

The latest move was in February and the

"something" turned out to be a very large flat of 7 rooms, toilet, storeroom and 2 large cupboards, all in need of painting or freshening up. Betty Calverly volunteered to round up a working bee and found 16 willing ladies and gents plus one scene maker "par excellence". A couple of museum minders from down-the-river were in the line-up and he said "We'll do Day 1 and get it out of the way". They tallied up 4 days. He said "She looked at me". Silent persuasion or looks can kill!

Day 1 was a make or break exercise for some people as walls were washed down for the painters. It was a case of "HAVE BUCKET WILL TRAVEL". If your long-armed ancestor had passed that particular gene on you were right: one washer with a mixture of Durham coal-miner and 5 foot 1/2 inch Irish thief didn't fare so well. Maureen, whose ancestors did the right thing, took over the high parts for her. Ella arrived late afternoon and soon proved she has all her marbles, even if her arms are short. Standing on a plastic crate she reached the picture rail. As Keith checked out all things electrical John (1) and (2), George and Bert tackled the windows, a pill of a job, as bye-gone painters had managed to immobilise 1/2 dozen frames. One large window was taken out, operated on and replaced ready for sanding.

While all that was going on Joe and Ken were transforming the walls, Alma was looking harassed and Anne was doing some transforming down in the "dungeon" (garage). A wandering "sparkie" peered in through a storm of dust and reported it was a wonder she could breathe. The garage was to be the resting place of the old off-peak heaters. Each one seemed to weigh a ton/tonne and caused some worried frowns half way through the operation when the tyres squashed off the trolley.

Day 2 found most people back on deck plus Thelma, Jenny and Phillip. The painters wasted no time and had 4 rooms finished by knockoff time. The window scrapers and painters gritted their teeth and got stuck into their boring task. One ex-wall washer with a blunt brush was told to paint a frame; John (1) turned up too late and silently said "a-A-A-R-G-h" He'd brought red lead paint to do that frame. The culprit did penance scraping frames - ALL DAY.

It wasn't her day. Mid afternoon the executive ladies scampered into town to a meeting leaving her to be "Mother" at afternoon tea time. She had more trouble than she could poke a stick at after the kettle boiled and the spout fell off. Have you ever tried to pour boiling water through a low down hole? Two old blokes, both "Sparkies", decided to have seconds, after the others had returned to the coal-face. She obliged, practice makes perfect. The only bright spot was the sconemaker had turned up (having a little moan because the scones weren't her best). The men said if they were her worst what were her best like?

Day 3 was nitty-gritty day for most people. The painters painted on, the shakers and movers hopped into the dingy kitchen and tackled the stove etc. John (1) and Bert finished the frames. Betty showed Margy the fridge handle had been mended by her husband. The day before they wondered why the handle was wrapped in grotty insulation tape. Easy, it was broken. Tales were told about people and Margaret, the sconemaker was delayed and found afternoon tea was over. The conversation went thus "Don't worry, Ken can eat the scones over the weekend." "He NEVER eats stale scones." "You're kidding, he's just polished off yesterday's leftovers!"

Clothing featured in some of the tales. One of the workers found a lady in the storeroom in her petticoat. He said they were both disappointed, it was his wife. A young lady blushed and scurried off when a male chauvinist asked if the dollop of paint on her shirt was a hand print. He also dobbed her in when he noticed her rolling her roller in her empty paint tray. Someone too old to blush did, her work shirt was minus most of the buttons, she was busting out all over until Thelma came to the rescue and loaned her name tag as an emergency pin. A tale about a Brahmin bull livened up a pause as a small group passed through the kitchen enroute to somewhere. John (1) left at knockoff time declaring he was pleased it was the State meeting next day, he needed a break. He wasn't on his "Pat Malone" eh!

The early part of the next week found the painting finished off, a lot of gear shifted from the old library and a dash of drama at carpet cleaning time. The commercial cleaners "spat the dummy" and left off after deciding too many people were around to let them get on with the job. Nothing daunted Alma & Co. hied off to town, fuelled by fury and hired gear to do the floors themselves. Next day, moving day, emotions were still running high. It wasn't safe to be asked "How do you like the carpet?" and answer "Looks good doesn't it?". WHATDOYOU MEAN LOOKSGOODITSEXCELLENT!! (OK, OK!). Extra helpers turned up and any job that could be finished before the removalists arrived was. Steel shelves were erected, Thelma smiled nicely at John (2) and he cleaned fluorescent light shades, Keith hardly paused for breath. For days he'd disconnected, connected, renewed and replaced, staying calm when requests for help came from all directions. The St. Catherine's films were put snugly back on their



shelves, at day's end they had to be re-shuffled, the Librarian thought some were missing. Not so, only tight.

Other things were being shuffled around too, some boxes of books were given a temporary home in the toilet which caused a bit of bother for the Editor. John (2) was flat out cutting lino in that room when anguished cries were heard from said Editor. There she was doing a fast shoe shuffle outside the door calling "John, hurry up John, JOHNNN." He answered "Do you really need to go, I'll have to move ALL the boxes." They think she made it in time.

The chat at meal breaks was interesting to say the least. Joe's subject was spuds, which ones were the best cookers and which turned black. Someone said Kennebecs were her favourites, if she kept an eye on them. Several scoffers disagreed. That night she cooked a pot full and found she had Kennebec slurry. Other subjects were old cars and motor bikes, the Ranson 30th wedding anniversary (forgotten by both) holidays and witty coach drivers, queries from researchers, Betty filling the Airpot with water and waiting for it to boil passed the time, as did a discussion on cremation. An ex-sailor brother wants to be cremated and "scattered" on the South China Sea, a knotty problem for someone. His brother has suggested that when the time comes they post "him" off to his old stamping ground at HMAS Kuttabal in Sydney and cry HELP! About that time the removalists arrived, which was just as well.

Things became a bit hectic then, all the heavy gear was unloaded while cars, utes and vans disgorged files and things. Putting the photocopier together again was a problem

for Betty and John (2) when they found a vital piece was missing. ANON owned up to throwing it in the incinerator because it was empty. A loud roar from Betty and it was retrieved. The unpackers blotted their copybooks too. It was back to square one when it was pointed out that they had the books on the wrong shelves. By then the best bolt hole in the place was the kitchen. No worries there, everyone wanted tea or coffee.

The Lino cutter went back to his chosen task after helping load and unload various items including the L-shaped desk. A bit of a glitz occurred when his two offsidiers couldn't get a grip and he was sinking carpetwards. The desk was on his back. He headed for the high cupboard in the kitchen and found that piece of lino was a shade too long. "Quickfix" Joe suggested some out of the middle to make it fit. That solution was as unlikely as the cutter throwing away his tape measure. After all his crawling around, in and out, up and down to cupboards he found he had a piece left over. Waste not, want not. A female, whom he'd just met "5 minutes before", or so it seemed, requested it for the floor in front of the toilet. Just in case "THEY missed or did he think HE could shoot straight???" That threw him. On the way out of the door the weary workers paused to hear the Librarian give a quick run-down on how to make 3 door locks out of 2 old ones and a handful of odds and sods. She lost a couple of non-mechanicals half way through.

Then it was all over and they found, like D. Boon, Esq., they too had something named after them. The spare piece of lino reposes in the GRUNNELL CHAMBERS, there's a RANSON REFERENCE ROOM and a PARISH READING ROOM with the GREENWOOD-BARTLETT SMALL ROOM off it. The nondescript storeroom has been elevated to the EXECUTIVE NEWSPAPER SUITE and the small sunroom the MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE. The movers and shakers, the painters, the motivators have all scored a sign. The rest are still grinning, a name on half a cupboard is better than nothing! That should be the end of the story with everyone riding off into the sunset. Not so.

All good earthquakes generate aftershocks, this one was a beauty, the branch ran foul of City Council regulations. Members were notified by notices in *The Examiner*, at the end of or adjacent to the Death column, (an appropriate place) that the new library couldn't open. Everyone fell in a heap. The committee rose to the occasion, dusted themselves off, put on their best togs and set off for high places in St John street to put their case. Meanwhile dejected, worn out working bee-ers tramped through the door of Flat 2 looking for sympathy, no tea though, or fiche, or films or books. It was LOOK BUT DO NOT TOUCH until a decision had been made. The lino cutter managed to check that things were straight in THE CHAMBERS, someone said the curtains looked lovely and the male chauvinist had the last say. His proxy had put up a notice in a prominent place pointing out JENNY GILL'S DRAWERS!

The whole effort had been good fun, in good company but damned hard work.

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SORRY, but I believe the design is taken
MR. SMITH.

JENNIS

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PEOPLE COUNT

Kristen Arundel

(This is an edited version of a talk given to the Cornwall Family History Society on March 9th, 1991. It was published in The Cornwall Family History Society Journal, No. 61, September 1991 and is reprinted with permission of the Cornwall Family History Society)

I gave it this title for two main reasons, one that in my business we count people into and out of our lives, and the other that we try hard to make sure that they count as people.

What follows is partly an account of Civil Registration in England and Wales, and partly about how Register Offices work, illustrated with some experiences I have had as a Superintendent Registrar in Liskeard with all names and details changed to protect essential confidentiality. I hope in the process to give you some idea of what to do in your dealings with the General Register Office and, more importantly perhaps, what NOT to do. Trying to trace your family history can waste a lot of time and money if you are not sure of what information you need and where it is available.

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am a very rare animal, which I will prove by telling you first of all that I am an Icelander.

There are only about 250,000 of us, which makes us feel special. It also means that we know quite a lot about each other, and as I have been known to say on other occasions, we probably invented this stuff called genealogy - that is if you do not count the Bible. Only in Iceland could you possibly trace your family history back thirteen generations before 1000AD as I have, partly because there were always always very few of us around so we have always been fiendishly curious about each other and partly because we have been literate enough for the past thousand years or so to write down what we found out.

Secondly, I am, as I said, a Superintendent Registrar. I do not actually superintend or register anything, but it sounds impressive. There are somewhere around 400 of us in England and Wales, but we are a vanishing breed as I will explain later.

Thirdly, as a Superintendent Registrar, I am what is called a Statutory Officer, which means that I do not have an employer as such. Although the County Council pay my salary, I am answerable only to the Registrar General.

Lastly, of course, I am the Chairman of a Family History Society. I do not know whether any other member of the Registration Service has this honour but I doubt it, if only because some of my colleagues will turn an interesting sort of puce if you mention family historians, which occasionally makes me feel like a fifth columnist. I prefer to think of myself as a bridge over troubled water.

Now you are all people to whom family history is important, so obviously all of you know where your great-great-grandfather slept on the night of 6th April, 1841. 1991 is another Census year so I hope, for your descendants' sake, that you make sure you

slept in the right place on Census night, otherwise they will not be pleased.

I mention the Census because the General Register Office is part of an organisation called OPCS - the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Just as a little aside, the first Census bill was introduced in Parliament in 1753 by Thomas Potter, the M.P. for St. Germans. It was carried in the House of Commons but turned down by the House of Lords, which is why the first Census in this country did not occur until 1801. Since then a Census has been held every 10 years (except 1941 - I think they were busy with something else at the time), but for family history purposes the first three are useless because the returns of names were destroyed once the statistics had been extracted. 1841 was the first to include names, but age was rounded up or down to the nearest 5, and place of birth only given as in this country or not. 1851 is therefore the first really useful Census to look at for family historians, as long as you do not take either the parish of birth or the age as gospel, without further proof. I have found several people who gave a different parish of birth in each Census, and as for age, then as now people do not always tell - or know - the truth.

The date 1st July, 1837 should be engraved on your hearts. It is the date on which Civil Registration began in England and Wales. In Scotland it began in 1855 and Ireland in 1845. Before that date you have parish registers of baptism and burial, after that you have civil registers of births and deaths.

The General Register Office at St. Catherine House in London holds combined indexes to all births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales since 1837. That used to be the only place where you could go to consult it if you did not know in which Registration District your ancestors were born, married or died. These indexes are now also available on microfilm in several places, including the Local Studies Library in Redruth and the Genealogical centres of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Do not, if you can help it, write to St. Catherine House for a certificate. First, because all postal applications are now handled from the General Register Office, OPCS, Smedley Hydro, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2HH, and if you write to London your application will join a large heap to be forwarded eventually to Southport, where there will be another waiting period because of backlog. Secondly, because that is the most expensive way to acquire a certificate. If you apply by post and include the volume and page number from the St. Catherine indexes it will cost you £12. If you do not include those the certificate will cost £15.

If you go in person to St. Catherine House, look up the reference, fill in a form, hand it in and come back some days later to collect it, a certificate will cost £5.50. I would recommend, therefore, that you go - or write - to the local Register Office, if you know which Registration District is involved. If you do not, try to get to a place which holds a microfilm copy of the combined indexes. These will tell you which District to apply to. A certificate from that office will cost you £5.50 whether you go or write. Do not, however, think that by including page and volume number from these indexes you will get a reply by return of post. Those reference numbers ONLY apply to the combined St. Catherine House index and do not mean a thing to the local office. What will help is to include the year and the quarter in which you found the entry.

Has it ever occurred to you to wonder how St. Catherine House accumulates its indexes? Are you sitting comfortably? Then I will begin:

From 1st July 1837 all births, deaths and marriages have had to be registered in the district in which they occur.

To register a birth or death is more complicated than you may think. The law says that a birth must be registered within 6 weeks. That is, in theory at least, what happens. I recently came across a gentleman who was born on April 13th, 1905, but was not registered within 6 weeks or six months, or even six years. I found eventually, and I do mean eventually, that his birth was registered on November 26th, 1958, so you see that a Superintendent Registrar's life is not always as simple as it should be. I wish I could have gone back to his parents and said "Why then?" But that is just one of many questions which will never be answered. The vast majority of births are, and always have been registered, although fines for non-compliance were not set until the 1870's.

A birth has by law to be registered, as I said, in the actual Registration sub-district in which it occurs. It cannot be registered anywhere else. And yet several times a year someone comes to me and says: "I was registered in Liskeard and I need another birth certificate", to which I reply - always - "where were you born?" and (s)he says: "Plymouth". "In that case" I say, "I am awfully sorry, but all I can do for you is to give you an application form and address of the Plymouth Register Office." Whereupon they say: "But my mum told me she registered me here", and I say: "Well, not quite. What she may have done is to come here and sign a declaration, giving all the details of your birth, because that was easier for her than to go back to Plymouth. The actual registration can only have taken place in Plymouth after the Liskeard Registrar sent the declaration there. Only Plymouth can therefore issue a certificate, because we do not even have a record of the declaration." So, if your ancestor's parents lived all their lives in one district, but the mother went to her old home - or to a maternity hospital - in another district for the birth you will find no trace of it anywhere else.

If I asked you who can register a birth your likely answer would be: "The parents" - obvious, is it not? And yet, they cannot - always. Which is why if someone rings me and says she wants to register a birth, my first, rude, question is whether she was married to the child's father when it was born. Then there is usually a little pause, as if they would like to ask whether it is any of my business. But it is. A child's mother can certainly register the birth, but if she was not married to the father his details cannot be included in the register unless he comes too, or she brings a legal declaration or a court order stating that he is the father. This means equally, that if the child's father comes to register the birth, he too has to be sent away with a flea in his ear. Unless of course, he happened to be present at the birth, in which case he might be able to register the child, but still could not have his details included, unless the mother is present or he brought a similar declaration from her. So you can see that who register is important. A grandparent cannot do it, unless neither parent is available and he or she is the owner or the occupier of the house in which the birth took place and - as the law says - aware of what was happening at the time (I really like that bit). There is in fact a list of qualified informants as they are called, and unless you fit under one of those headings, you

cannot register a birth.

The same procedure applies to deaths. A death has to be registered within 5 days. You cannot usually bury or cremate a person without the registration being completed, because to do that you have to have a certificate of registration which is handed to the person in charge of burial or cremation. Which brings me to my second anecdote. You might not think there is a great deal of hilarity about registering a death, and yet I do occasionally hear some strange sounds out of the Registrar's office (after the informant has left, I hasten to add). This particular occasion was some time ago. I went into her office and she told me a man had been registering the death of his grandmother who lived in Scotland and had come down to Cornwall on holiday. When they got to the bit about the certificate for burial which was to take to place in Scotland, the Registrar asked whether she should send it to the undertaker. Whereupon the man said: "Oh no, you don't think I am going to pay an undertaker a thousand pounds to take Granny up there on the train - I've got her in the back of the van." This is the absolute truth. The Registrar said she desperately wanted to go and have a look if only she could have been certain that he was not saving on the coffin as well, in which case granny might have been sitting in the passengers seat. At that point we both collapsed. So if you ever hear strange noises coming out of a Register Office you will know why.

Just as with births, a death has to be registered in the sub-district where it occurs. This can cause problems if the relatives live far away, because again certain people can legally register a death. If no relatives are available someone who was present at the death, or is causing the body to be buried or cremated, may qualify as an informant.

Marriages are different. Births and deaths are quite simple by comparison. Civil weddings can only take place in a Register Office, and are registered by the Registrar, not by the Superintendent Registrar who is only there to tell the people what to say. There are also sundry religious weddings which can only take place in a church or a chapel if these places have been licensed for the solemnisation of marriages, except in the case of Jews and Quakers. The Clergy do the registration in the Church of England. Weddings for any other religious denomination can be registered either by Registrar, or by a so-called Authorised Person, who is a specific named person whom the Registrar General has authorised to register marriages in that particular building only, in a register exclusive to that place. It is not necessarily the same person who performs the marriage.

No matter how long you have been living with somebody if (s)he dies you are not acceptable in law as an informant, unless no relative is available and you qualify in some other way by having been present at the death, being the owner or occupier of the house, if you were what is called "in attendance" during the illness, or you are causing the body to be buried etc. This is because a live-in-partner is not a qualified informant unless the two were legally married which can cause a great deal of grief. It is even possible to have a situation where a wife, who has not seen her husband for 50 years could register his death, whereas the woman who had lived with him all that time in everything but law could not. I think it is a pity, but this is what the law says.

At the end of every March, June, September and December a copy of every entry

which has been made in any register of birth, death and marriage in my district in that quarter should land on my desk. This can be quite a lot since my district covers the area from Fowey River to the Seaton River, and from the Channel to Bolventor. The entries from the Register Office are usually no problem. The marriages registered by the clergy and authorised persons can be. A copy of every such entry made during that quarter should, according to law, arrive at my office within fifteen days following the end of the quarter or there could be a fine of £20. The Registrar sends them stamped, addressed envelopes and the forms to be filled in; nothing would be simpler you would think. All they have to do is to fill them in and put them in the post. They even get paid to do it. Alas, I have decided that some of our brethren in Christ are either illiterate or forgetful to an awesome degree. Sometimes I have to chase them for months without success. I ring them up, they are going to post it tomorrow. I write to them - they tell you they did mail it - must have been lost in the post. If a parish is vacant the Rural Dean is responsible for any copying to be done. This sometimes takes as long as six months. Maybe none of them have cars and have to go round on foot? Whatever their reasons, all of this takes up an inordinate amount of my time and causes me to say words no Superintendent Registrar should know, let alone utter.

I have to go through every single copy very carefully, wherever it comes from, to check whether it is accurate, that it should have been registered in this district and by that person, and in the case of deaths, to make sure that the medical certificate was valid. Here again, my religious friends cause me most grief. They will use biro instead of Registration ink to write in their registers, they will put unemployed as an occupation of a bride or groom; deceased as the occupation of their fathers or leave a column blank instead of drawing a line through it to show that no information was available. This means that I have to ring them up and ask whether the column is blank in the register or whether they just forgot to fill it in. They will correct what they have done wrong in the most horrendous way, which makes it even worse.

A colleague once telephoned me from Wales to tell me that a lady who had recently been married in my district had come in with her marriage certificate, issued by a Minister. She was worried because there were at least four errors in it, and because she had just begun to sign the registers in her previous name when the minister said: "Oh no, you are married now, so you sign in your married name." I rang this Minister to check the errors, and asked him to tell me exactly what was in the entry, whereupon he said: "Which register do you mean?" It turned out that each of the entries was different and that neither of them agreed with what was supposed to be a certified copy, otherwise known as a marriage certificate.

That was an edited version of how I acquire the quarterly copies. After checking them I used to forward them to Titchfield in Hampshire, but since last February they are sent to Southport, where they are checked again, photocopied and bound. Then an index is made of all the copies received that quarter from all Registration districts in England and Wales. So - that is how the combined index is created. It explains why the volume and page numbers given in the index only refer to St. Catherine House copies and also shows you how many possibilities there were for mistakes to happen during the hand-

copying, first from the original in the register and then from that copy into an index. Even making a single index from a register can cause mistakes, which may mean that your application for a certificate is turned down, because the name, or the initial letter, has been misread and therefore misindexed. Nowadays most quarterly returns are photocopied, so there should be less opportunity for anything to go wrong in the process.

The earliest indexes I hold are more than 150 years old and some of them show it. Some are beautifully written, others most definitely are not. You try going through a few hundred of those entries and you will see why you do not always get a reply by return of post, and why so many Superintendent Registrars wear glasses and frown a lot.

Within sight are - probably - the greatest changes in the Registration Service for 150 years. At the moment a White Paper has been waiting for Parliamentary space for over 3 years. Some local authorities are trying to prepare for the changes which would occur if it became law. One proposal would give people a greater choice of places for civil weddings, although the list would be strictly limited and would NOT include your garden or a hot air balloon, which I had been looking forward to. At the moment the only place where such a ceremony can take place is the Register Office in the district in which either the bride or groom lives.

Another possibility is that local authorities would have complete freedom to decide where and when Register Offices would be open. It is very likely that in Cornwall, for example, there would eventually be far fewer Registration Districts than the 13 which it has now. A Working Group has discussed several options including having only 3 or 4, so that each might have at least 1 full-time office with perhaps a few part-time in other places. Whether or not these proposals become law I am fairly sure that in 3 or 4 years time the situation will have changed considerably.

If the law is passed, one of the biggest differences would be that all Registration Officers would be able to do any registration duties. The 1836 law laid down that there should be two different kinds of people, a Registrar and a Superintendent Registrar, and never the twain should be confused, because of the essential differences in their work. A Superintendent Registrar is not just a different kind of Registrar, she is not any kind of a Registrar. The Registrar is the person you go to if you need to register a birth or a death, or if you need a certified copy of a recent entry. As soon as a register has been filled, it is passed to the Superintendent Registrar, who from that moment on is the only person who can issue certificates from the entries. So, if you are writing to a Register Office, do address your letter to the Superintendent Registrar. If the office is only part-time like mine, the Superintendent Registrar and the Registrar may not be there at the same time, on the same days or even in the same building, so your letter could be delayed for up to a week in the process, if you address it to the Register Office or the Registrar. A cheque can be made out to either the Register Office or the Superintendent Registrar.

A further change recommended in the White Paper is that any registers over 75 years old should be accessible to the public. What this is likely to mean in practice is that

they will be microfilmed or copied in some other way, because public access can be very destructive to the originals. It should save you a lot of time and money, though, because you would be able to look things up yourself, and if you want a copy of an entry, you could either have a certificate, which is what we have now, or a cheaper uncertified copy.

Which brings me neatly back to the applications I get for certificates. Births and deaths are relatively simple. Each district probably had a few sub-districts. Mine had four, so each application where the place of birth is not known, I have to go through four sets of indexes. Sometimes I do that anyway if I do not find an entry in what should be the right sub-district in case the mother nipped across a boundary for the birth. If you know her maiden name please include it on your application form, although that may of course be the very information you hope to get. Perhaps you thought immortality was a new problem? Let me tell you it is not. Let me also tell you another strange fact, which is that a lot of parents do not tell their children the truth about where they were born, when they were born, or even who their parents are. So, if you write to a Register Office giving full details of date, place, name and parents and do not have anything back for months, stay calm. It could be that the child was born up to five years earlier - or later - than you thought, that it was born, and registered in the name of its unmarried mother with no father's details, or that it was born in another district entirely, where its mother had gone to hide the fact. Any or all of these can multiply the difficulty and the time it takes to find the entry you want. If I have gone through all the usual detective work without success, any of the above could be the reason. So could the fact that they had been adopted, re-registered in a different district under the name of the man whom the mother subsequently married, or that the child was born to some entirely different people who gave it to the people who brought it up, without telling anybody. All of these have happened in my searches over the years.

In spite of all this, as I say, births and deaths are not really a problem, because the places you can look are limited. Marriages - as always - are different. I get several letters a year which read: "Dear Sir, I want my great-grandparents marriage certificate. They were called John and Mary Smith and I am sure they were married in your district, probably before 1860, because my grandfather was born then." This causes me to say worse things than about the Vicars' delay of quarterly copies. Even if the letters include more details, like the approximate year, it is very time-consuming if I do not know where they were married. In an office like mine there is no combined index of marriages, although I have made a small beginning. If I have a request for a marriage that took place in the third quarter of 1859, helpfully quoting volume and page which means nothing to me as I have explained, I have to look through every separate index for each church and chapel as well as the Register Office. This can take an inordinate amount of time, which I do not have.

I am paid for 10 hours a week including weddings, marriage notices, administration, accounts, banking, quarterly copies, the lot, leaving very little for extended searches. Which is why I have on my desk a thick bundle of application forms, which I take to the index cupboard, when I have a spare minute - which is not very often - and start to

go through one of the 170 or so marriage indexes (handwritten, remember) At this point, inevitably, the phone rings or someone knocks on the door. So, please, do include any information you think might be helpful, especially if you tell me where you found that information. I do not want, nor do I have the time, to read seven volume letters, but if you know where they were living when their first child was born, or where the mother was born and/or working, it could save a lot of time.

If someone rings me up and says: "Look, I wrote to you in 1979 and I have heard nothing since", I will explain that I have tried about 132 different registers without success and ask whether anything else is known about them, whereupon this somebody will say: "Oh yes, well of course they were living in Callington, when they got married." Now this is where I explode very quietly because what this person did not know is that Callington lies in what I call the Bermuda Triangle. Parts of it have changed districts about three times since 1837, so whereas I hold several years of births and deaths in the parishes in and around the town until 1936, I do not have Callington church marriage register. This is in the St. Germans Registration District because that is where Callington is now, and I have therefore wasted at least 3 hours.

As for the more recent marriages I have learnt not to go straight to the register which covers the given date, but take in the index in passing. It remains a permanent surprise to me how many people get the year of their marriage wrong, and sometimes the date as well.

Certificates are what I spend about half my time doing. There are a large number of different kinds, but what most of you will want is a standard (or full) birth, death or marriage certificate. If you have ever read one of those carefully, you will know that printed underneath is the sentence: "Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody". There is not, and never has been, an original of your birth certificate, in spite of the fact that several times a year I am asked for a copy, because the original has been lost.

A few words now about what information you can get from each kind of birth certificate. If you know who the parents are and just want the exact date the child was born, a short certificate will, for £2.50, give you the full name and date of the birth. If you write and ask for a short certificate for A who was born in the first quarter of 1857 or whenever, but only if he was the son of B and C, you are not likely to get a wrong one. There are special certificates, which you can have for £1.50, but only for certain specified purposes like a pension or social security and these are not returned to you from the DHSS.

A full birth certificate can tell you an astonishing amount if you know how to read it. In the first space on the left is the number of the entry in the register. The column marked 1 contains the date and place of the birth. If it is a multiple birth you should also have the exact time. In column 2 are the forenames of the child. In the case of an illegitimate child the mother sometimes gave it the surname of the father as a second name. Legitimate children were quite often (in my district at least) given the mother's maiden name as a second name, which can be a great help in your search. Column 3 has the sex of the child. Column 4 should contain the father's full name and surname and 6 his

occupation, or alternatively both are left blank except for a line drawn across. Be careful even if the details are present; it has been known for people not to tell the truth, especially if the mother was married to someone else at the time. NEVER treat anything as certain unless you have at least one other piece of evidence to support it. Column 5 has the name of the mother. If this is given as Mary Jones formerly Smith, that means that she is married, and that the second surname is her maiden name. If it says Mary Smith, now Jones, it means that she has married someone, not necessarily the father, since the child was born. If it says Mary Jones, late Edwards, formerly Smith, she has been married at least twice. Column 7 tells you the name, address and qualification of the person who came to register the child, and contains their signature or mark, in which case the Registrar will add: "the mark of", and the full name of that person. Column 8 contains the date of registration, column 9 the name of the Registrar, and the last column is blank, unless the child was given a different or additional name, for example in baptism, within 12 months of the birth. The right margin should have a line drawn through to show that it is blank, a note of any changes made to the entry after registration, or the word Adopted.

Adoptions can make life difficult. There was no legal control or register of those until 1926, so it may prove impossible to connect an earlier entry of birth to an adopted person.

Re-registration is another factor which can cause confusion. Until quite recently it was not possible at all. A child can now be re-registered if the parents subsequently get married or, if the mother turns up with the father or his legal declaration of paternity, she can have his details included in a fresh registration. Both cases need the authority of the Registrar General. If the parents' surnames are different, most likely they are not married, although some women do not change their surname on marriage. If the parents' names are the same but the date of registration is considerably later than the date of birth, the most likely cause is re-registration.

You can save time and trouble, particularly if you are looking for a marriage certificate, or want to find several entries of birth, by going to a Register Office and asking to search the indexes yourself. For a fee of £14 you can look at any indexes you wish for up to six hours. If you see an entry which you think might be the right one, up to eight checks in the register can be made without further charge. If you ask for more than those you will be charged £2.50 for each of them, but if one turns out to be the entry you want and you buy a certificate, the checking fee is subtracted from the price. You may have to wait some time for these checks if the Superintendent Registrar is busy.

If you do go, try not to go on a Monday, they may be very busy, or a Friday, when there may be several marriages. Do not, what ever you do, go on a date which in 3 months time will be a Saturday. On those days there may well be a long queue of people who would like to be married that Saturday, particularly if it is a Bank Holiday week-end, so they come to give the notice of marriage at the earliest possible opportunity, which is 3 months ahead, to the day. So be warned and, if you can, try to ring each office to find out when would be the best time to go. Different offices may turn out to be busy on different days for some strange local reason like market days or

early closing day. Not all Register Offices have a suitable room where you can look at the indexes, so you may find yourself, as in Penzance, trying desperately to hold everything on your lap in a narrow and crowded corridor which doubles as a waiting room.

A list of all Register Offices in the country with the addresses, telephone numbers and names of Superintendent Registrars and Registrars is published annually. Every office has a copy so, if you need to find out any of these details, just call in at your nearest one. If they have a copy of the Census Gazetteer they can also tell you which district covers the parish or village you want. What they cannot tell you, unfortunately, is what hours that office will be open to the public, unless it is within the same local authority. Cornwall has no full-time Superintendent Registrar for example, and many offices in this country are only open part-time, sometimes extremely so, maybe two or three hours a week. Try ringing that local authority, or another office in the same county or nearest big town. They should be able to tell you. If not, try to write to the office you want to go to. There is nothing more frustrating than making a special journey somewhere, thinking you will be able to spend a whole day tracing some much-needed information only to find when you get there, that not only are they not open that day, they may not open again until next week when you will be back home again. So do find out before you set out, and be careful - what you need to know is when the Superintendent Registrar is there, not the Registrar, remember?

When you are handed a stack of indexes please check how they are organised before you begin so you can give them back in the same order. If you forget this the result may be quite catastrophic for a Superintendent Registrar on a busy day.

Note down the volume numbers of all the indexes you look at, which kind they are (sub-districts, births, deaths, church, etc.) and the dates which each of them covers, even if you did not find anything. Negative evidence can also be useful and at least you will know that you do not have to look at that one again.

Always look twice at a page, once going down and once going up. It is easier than you might think to miss a name, particularly if the handwriting is difficult. Make sure, especially with an early marriage index that you know whether males and females are indexed separately. One clue is, of course, whether forenames for both sexes appear under that initial letter. Names are in chronological, not alphabetical order under each capital letter heading, so you need to check every name in that section to be sure whether the one you are looking for is there or not. If you know the surname of both the bride and groom, check each to see whether the page references are the same. Some early indexes of births include the father's first name, or the mother's if the child is illegitimate, which saves a lot of checking in the register.

Several Register Offices have a separate register, which the Registrar takes when she attends marriages in churches and chapels of various religious denominations other than the Church of England. Until the turn of last century very few had a person authorised to register marriages, which meant that they had no registers of their own. Several still prefer not to, which means that a Registrar has to be present to enter the marriage in a register from her office. Some of these could take a long time to fill,

especially in a smaller district like mine, so the index could cover several decades and be vastly out of chronological order. I have an index of this kind in the office, which covers the years from 1861 to 1902 so, of course, it stands between the indexes for 1901 and 1903, which is not necessarily where you would think to look for a marriage in 1863. Make sure you ask the Superintendent Registrar whether there are any registers like this in her custody and where you should look for the indexes to them.

What with the fee and the problems I have outlined above, it would be understandable if you asked why you should not use the Parish Registers instead of going to the Register Office. After all, most Record Offices do not charge for entry - yet - and you are allowed to look at the original, or at least a microfilm, and do your own copying for free if you want to.

Here are some good reasons: First of all the Record Office has nothing relating to any Register Office marriages. Secondly, there are usually no indexes available for registers, and thirdly, not all registers are in the Record Offices. When I took over in Liskeard four Parishes were still using their original 1837 register of marriages. I rang each of the vicars and said I was sure by now the pages must be like blotting paper and could I, as in the story of Aladdin, offer them new registers for old? Three of them fell for it. The fourth would have liked to but the church committee would not let him, so I borrowed his register for a week and made an index of the entries to date. Without that index there would be a hole in my knowledge of the marriages in the district, and in the St. Catherine House indexes there would be several references to marriages which I had no record of. Now at least I know which applications I should forward to that vicar.

Where the parish records are with the vicar you may occasionally have problems with access. Some can be positively hostile to family historians even going so far as refusing to let them in. This is rare, but does happen. Some may not be terribly willing to let you in at times to suit you. None will have an index; several will charge you for looking at the registers; and if you want a certified copy, it will cost you the same as in the Register Office.

For you as family historians the most important reason for preferring the civil register entries may be the difference in what is recorded, as I mentioned in the beginning. In parish registers you will find the date, not of birth, but of baptism, which can take place months - and sometimes years - later. You will not find the maiden name of the mother, or whether she has been married before. You will find the date of burial, not of death. You will sometimes find the marital status or the occupation of the deceased, but you will not find the place of death, the cause of death, whether it was certified by a doctor or not, and whether there was an inquest, in which case you might find the story in the local paper. You will also miss out on a most useful piece of information: the name and address of the person who registered the death and whether he or she was a specified relative, present at the death or in attendance during the last illness. All of these can help you to make sure you have the right entry or give you new leads in your family history.

Thinking of causes of death reminds me that I looked in some old registers for items to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Civil Registration. Apart from sundry visitations by

the Almighty, I discovered a cholera epidemic in Callington in the 1840's and more than 30 children dying of measles in Looe in the 1880's. To my delight I also found a host of unsuspected (by me, at least) reasons for dying, such as mental excitement, old age, indigestion, constipation and my two absolute favourites: morbid irritability of the nervous system and softening of the brain.

That was just a little titbit in passing.

Marriage entries should contain the same information whether it was a religious or civil ceremony and whoever registered it, but bear in mind my description of the way in which a few gentlemen of the cloth still make their register entries. If a registrar attends it means that the bride and/or groom had to give notice of marriage to the Superintendent Registrar of that district, so some of the more obvious mistakes I mentioned earlier should not occur. It is also far more likely that the entry will show any change of name which the bride or groom may have had. I have been startled to find how often people do this, particularly the brides who may have changed back to their maiden name after a divorce, or taken the surname of the groom if they have been living together for some time before the wedding.

St. Catherine House indexes will not help you to find the name of the parish in which your ancestor was born, married or died, but they will tell you the Registration District. Always try to look at a Census if a marriage is proving elusive or if you cannot get to the combined index but you know where either of them was living in a Census year. The marriage is most likely to take place in the parish where the bride was either living or working at the time, which might be the one where she was born, but could equally be at the other end of the country.

Not so long ago I was looking for the family which lived in my house in Bocoanoc at the time of the 1881 Census. Having found them I went on to see who else was living in that parish, which happens to coincide more or less with a very private estate which still has its original mediaeval deer park. I found a large number of various kinds of servants attached to the estate. They were divided into two distinct groups. The people working outside like the gardeners, woodmen, gamekeepers and milkmaids were mostly Cornish born, but the nearer their work took them to the owner and his wife like housemaids, cooks, valets, butlers and personal maids, the more likely they were to have been born all over the country, even in Scotland.

That is another little aside, but if you know where your ancestors were living, do try to find them on the Census first, before setting off to visit Register Offices. They can give you the information you need to send off for a birth certificate, especially if you can compare one or more Census entries. But remember, like all other information the Census is only as accurate as the people who filled it in. You may, like me, find someone giving a different date or place of birth every 10 years, but then, they still do things like that. Only the other day a couple gave notices of marriage, he in his district and she in hers, which happened to be mine. On his notice she was 52, on mine after a number of searching questions, she turned out to be 58, which he certainly did not know. There were several other things he turned out not to know about her either.....

This article contains some of the facts, anecdotes and hints which I thought you might find amusing or useful in your dealings with the output of Registration Service in England and Wales for the last 150 years. If I can be of help to you in any way in that connection, and you can reach or telephone the Liskeard Register Office, the Superintendent Registrar's office is open to public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2-4.30. I am also there a lot of other times, but then I tend to have the answering machine on so I can get on with some searches in peace and quiet.

The best and quickest way I know to save money and time in this business of searching for your ancestors is to join a Family History Society. If you do not know which one covers the area you are interested in, buy a Federation News and Digest from Cornwall Family History Society. There you will find a list of all the societies which belong and their addresses.

Read as many books and journals about family history as you can, to benefit from the experience and mistakes of others who were there before you. Several good books are available. One which I keep in the office is Colin Roger's *Family Tree Detective*. Stella Colwell is another name to look for, as is Eve McLaughlin's inexpensive series of guides to various aspects of family history, which you can buy from CFHS.

Look up what is available locally, and find out as much as you can about what you want to know BEFORE you write or go to a Register Office. If you do it afterwards you may want to kick yourself for wasting your time and money.

As a reward to you for having made it this far, I will finish with the text of a little notice, which is displayed in my marriage room. I like to see how the expression on the face of people changes as they read it:

CAUTION. To be exhibited or read by the Registrar to every informant or other Person whose Signature is required to any Entry of Birth, Death, or Marriage.

Extract from the Act of 6 and 7 Wm. IV. cap. 86, "for registering Births, Deaths and Marriages in England."

"And be it enacted, that every Person who shall wilfully make or cause to be made, for the purpose of being inserted in any Register of Birth, Death, or Marriage, any false statement touching any of the particulars herein required to be known and registered, shall be subject to the same Pains and Penalties as if he were guilty of PERJURY." (Section 41.)

N.B. - Every Person found guilty of Perjury is liable to Fine and Imprisonment with Hard labour for a Term not exceeding Seven years, or to Fine and Transportation for the like Term.

Aah, those were the good old days, weren't they?

COURT OF THE CHIEF RABBI

Beth Din, London

Dr. Jeremy Phillips of the Family division of the Beth Din, London writes giving a brief account of the major series of records of genealogical interest held by the institutions operating from Adler/Woburn House.

Some series of documents contain particulars superior to those on certificates issued by the civil authorities. For example, the 240 000+ marriage authorisations issued since February 1880 state the parties places and/or country of birth; this is not recorded in the marriage registers issued by the Registrar General's office. The same detail has appeared on the burial authorisations (350 000+) issued since 1896, although it did not appear on English death certificates until April 1968.

The certificates of evidence are also an immensely valuable source since they refer for the most part to people who were never naturalised and thus provide evidence as to their place of origin and/or marriage abroad which is recorded nowhere else. Since the greater part of the community has always lived in the London area, it means that between them these different series of documents contain information about the greater majority of past and present members of the Anglo-Jewish community.

The London Beth Din is universally recognised as the authority in England which supervises conversion to Judaism and religious divorces. It also investigates the background of those seeking to have their Jewish status confirmed, either for purely religious reasons or as the legal preliminary to a marriage to be conducted under Orthodox auspices. A great part of our activities relate to these matters, during which investigations are made both in UK repositories and those overseas. Sometimes it is necessary to investigate an applicant's maternal line of descent for five or six generations before satisfactory evidence is uncovered.

Due to the Court's constant inspection of older communal records, it has been increasingly asked to undertake investigations of a genealogical nature, sent in to it by other departments. A research unit has therefore been created to handle enquiries of this nature, irrespective of whether research involved is of a legal or purely genealogical nature. On many occasions it has been discovered that inquirers have mailed multiple copies of an identical letter and it is hoped that providing a centralised service will in future prevent the duplication of research that has occurred in the past.

Members requiring searches to be made in UK sources are welcome to write to the Registrar, Court of the Chief Rabbi, Adler House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HP, England, from whom full details as to the likely costs involved will be available by return.

Offices of the United Synagogue

Woburn House, London

Printed annual list of members arranged alphabetically by congregation 1885-1939.
Records of a more recent date are confidential.

Registers of Defunct Congregations

Great Synagogue	Births	1770 - 1887
	Marriages	1791 - 1973
	Kethubot	1837 - 1889
	Burials	1791 - 1872
Hambro Synagogue	Births	1770 - 1872
	Marriages	1797 - 1938
	Kethubot	1845 - 1938
	Burials	1797 - 1872
New Synagogue	Births	1774 - 1896
	Marriages	1791 - 1823
		1837 - 1992
	Kethubot	1823 - 1875
Bayswater Synagogue	Burials	1810 - 1872
	Births	1865 - 1926
	Marriages	1865 - 1965
	Kethubot	1865 - 1965

(N.B. A Kethubah [pl. Kethubot] is a marriage contract written in Aramaic, except for the parties' names and the date which are in Hebrew.)

Registers of Closed Burial Grounds

Brady Street, Stepney	- Great Synagogue portion	1796 - 1858
West Ham Cemetery	- Great Synagogue portion	1858 - 1872
West Ham Cemetery	- New Synagogue portion	1858 - 1872

Burial Society of the United Synagogue

Woburn House, London

General Burial Registers	July 1872 - 1912
Burial Authorisation Registers	July 1872 - to date

Marriage Authorisation Office

Office of the Chief Rabbi, Alder House, London

Marriage authorisations, metropolitan and provincial series June 1845 - February 1880
Marriage Authorisations, general series February 1880 - to date

Court of the Chief Rabbi (London Beth Din)

Alder House, London

Certificates of Evidence containing details of the applicants' dates and places of birth and/or marriage abroad required as proof of age, etc. (1921 incomplete) 1922 - 1966

With the exception of the Certificates of Evidence, all series of documents held at the Beth Din are confidential and information will only be sent to those with a legitimate legal interest. All enquiries should be sent to the Registrar.

Note: All enquiries of an historical or genealogical nature which involve the inspection of records held by any of the organisations mentioned here are dealt with by the research unit of the London Beth Din. The fees charged are linked to the time taken up by searches and the costs involved in making copies of documents.

GLEANINGS

Launceston Local Studies Library

The opening hours of the Local Studies Library at the Launceston Library have been revised and the library is now open on Thursday evenings. The revised hours are as follows:-

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	9.30 am to 5.00 pm.
Thursday	1.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Photographic Images of Tasmania

The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery is now able to provide video access to part of its extensive collection of photographs, dating from 1840 onwards. The computer program combines a database with video images which can be accessed simultaneously. The user can search the collection by location (Launceston, Brisbane Street, Bicheno etc), subject (churches, railways, etc), photographer (Beattie, Spurling, etc) or date. The system allows instant and uninterrupted access to the collection without having to handle the original photographs thereby extending their life-span.

At present some 2700 photographs from the collection have been copied onto video disc and more will be made available as funds become available. An image print of any photo on the disc can be obtained for \$2.00. The system is located at the Launceston Maritime Museum and Local History Centre, at the corner of St. John and Cimitiere Sts., Launceston and is available for use from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Victorian Pioneers Index 1837-1888 on CD-ROM

The Pioneers Index is an index of all birth, death and marriage records held by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Victoria. The index includes early parish church records for the years before 1853 (when civil registration began) and civil registration until 1888.

The index, which is already available on microfiche, is now available on CD-ROM. Locating records of your ancestors will be much faster and quicker using the CD-ROM version. Researchers are no longer restricted to searching for ancestors using the surname as a starting point. Searches can also be made using the place of birth or the given names as a point of reference. Further information can be obtained from INFORMIT, RMIT Libraries, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

7th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family history

The 7th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History will be held in Brisbane in July 1994, at the University of Queensland, St. Lucia. All Universities in

Australia have a common week of vacation in July each year and this is when it will be held in 1994, although the University cannot as yet give the exact dates! Accommodation will be provide at the University Colleges, a short walk across the campus, unless you desire otherwise.

The theme of the Congress is Blending the Cultures - a salute to Australia's multicultural society. Australia has always been a multicultural nation. Anthropologists tell us that the aboriginal people had already encountered and been influenced by the Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Egyptian, not to mention the South Pacific, peoples. Even the First Fleet brought in some 12 nationalities.

The Congress Committee is planning a varied programme of plenary sessions, talks, workshops and meetings, as well as social events. Visits will also be arranged to research facilities such as State Archives, State Library etc. and to areas of historical interest.

The Congress is being organised by a group of 17 Queensland genealogical and family history societies, under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO). Individuals who would like to help with Congress can do so by becoming an Associate member for A\$5.00 per annum, or by making a donation or sponsoring a section of the Congress by cash or by goods for use by the Congress and/or participants and, if in Australia, by helping on a sub-committee and/or at the Congress.

The committee are calling for people to now register their interest in attending the Congress either as a participant or as a lecturer. For more information or to register interest in attending the Congress, please write to the Congress Secretary, PO Box 40, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101.

Research in Geraldton Area

For anyone who has an interest in this area, the Geraldton Family History Society will check their records for the cost of \$5.00 per surname, plus a s.s.a.e. Enquiries should be addressed to the Geraldton Family History Society, Residency, 321 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, WA 6530.

1891 Census for England and Wales

The 1891 Census returns for England and Wales were opened to public inspection on the 2nd January this year and for the first time the Public Record Office has released these returns on microfiche which are available for sale. The microfiche collection is arranged by County, Registration District within that county and Registration Sub-Districts within that Registration District. A set of fiche containing the CLASS LIST of the 1891 Census Returns is available to enable you to select the fiche you require.

The smallest unit available for purchase is a Registration Sub-District (£7.50 each) which usually consists of three microfiche (but may vary with smaller or larger districts). Anyone interested in purchasing any of these microfiche should contact the

Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU, England giving the relevant details of the location you are interested in. You will then receive an estimate of the costs involved, showing postage and packing costs.

Leicestershire Record Office Genealogical Research Service

The Leicestershire Record Office has introduced a Genealogical Research Service for those unable to visit their office personally. Research can be carried out at both the Record Office and the Leicestershire Local Studies Department. Requests for research should be sent, together with background information to Mrs. Pat Grundy, Genealogical Researcher, Leicestershire Record Office, 57 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7JB, England. All initial requests should be accompanied by a cheque for £12 made payable to the Leicester County Council as payment for one hours research. Further work can be undertaken at a cost of £12 per hour. Photocopies and printouts can be supplied and will be charged separately

East Clare Heritage Centre

A new Heritage Centre has been opened in County Clare, Ireland. The centre provides a range of services to those researching their County Clare ancestors, but will specialise in the ten ancient parishes which make up the eastern part of County Clare, and will be known as the East Clare Heritage Centre. these parishes (with their modern names in brackets) are Upper and Lower Tulla (Tulla), Feakle (Feakle), Kilnoe and Killuran (O'Callaghan Mills), Ogonnelloe (Ogonnelloe) Iniscealtra (Mount Shannon), Moynoe (Scariff) Tomraney (Tuamraney) and Clonrush (Whitegate). The address of the new centre is St. Cronin's 10th Century Church, Tuamraney, County Clare, Ireland.

To make the services to Australians and new Zealanders as efficient and inexpensive as possible Patrick Callaghan has been appointed an Associate Director of the Centre and he will act as representative in Australia. For more information or to pass on your research inquiries write to Patrick at 4 Murchison Street, St. Ives, NSW 2075.

Researching the FIELDEN family?

Keith Fielden writes that he has been researching the Fielden family for some thirty years. He has a large data base on computer covering Fieldens in great Britain and Northern America, but essentially nothing on Australia although he knows they are out here. Keith invites anyone who is researching Fielden or is interested in the name to contact him with as much of their ancestry as they have. The chances are that he can give them their ancestry to about 1600, or research it for them, free of charge. No IRCs are necessary. Keith can be contacted at 81 De Bohun Court, De Bohun Avenue, Southgate, London N14 4PZ, England.

FAMILY REUNIONS

GOSS

A reunion of descendants of Nicholas and Mary GOSS who arrived in VDL in 1810 on the Anthony Quayle and settled at Ross on the Mona Vale property, will be organised for 1993 depending on the response from family members. A family history book will also be compiled if sufficient information and photos are received.

There were six children from the marriage: Nicholas Calicott 1829-1905 (married Grace BASLOW, 1826-1876, issue of 7 and Mary Ann GLOVER, 1859-1911, issue of 5) Andrew, William 1833-1880, and 3 females, names unknown.

Please write, enclosing a SAE, to Mrs. Ann Moyle, 3 Mace Street, Prospect, Tas. 7250

KNOWLES

A reunion of descendants of John Brown KNOWLES (1825-1890) who married Matilda PORTER (1835-1919) at Oatlands in 1851 will be organised for 1993 depending on the response from family members. A family history book will also be compiled if sufficient information and photos are received.

Children of the couple were Maria (married George BEAN), Mary Ellen (John ION/John KERSLAKE), Charles (Elizabeth BLAKE), Elizabeth (William GOSS), George (Sarah ELLENS), Caroline (Charles JOHNS), Alice (James BAKER), Essey (Bertram ROTHWELL), John (Ann "Bessie" RAPLEY), Walter (Annie SIGGENS), Ethel (Oliver WISON)

Please write, enclosing a SAE, to Mrs. Ann Moyle, 3 Mace Street, Prospect, Tas. 7250

STREET

Richard and Jemima Street, of New Town Tasmania

A reunion to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Hobart of Jemima and three children will be held for all descendants on Sunday 4th October 1992, between 11am and 5pm at the Lenah Valley Community Hall, Hobart, Tasmania.

Their children were James, William, Sarah (Mrs. George SWANN), Martha (Mrs. Samuel TOTHAM), Mary (Mrs. William ROSS), Richard, Hannah (Mrs. Samuel ROSS) and Thomas.

Other associated names include WYLIE, ANDREWS, PHILLIPS, HANSCH, ELLEY, SWIFT, MAYS, TODD, LIVINGSTON, GOSCOMB, GORDON, HOPE, PACEY, KHALER, MORLEY, STEWART, ADAMS, COOPER, BESTON, CROMER, HILDER.

Further particulars can be obtained from:

David Street, 8 Dianne Grove, Vermont South 3133

Lynne Heazelwood, 9 Ilfracombe Crescent, Sandy Bay, 7005

BOOK REVIEWS

Parish Register Copies in the Library of the Society of Genealogists (9th Ed.) Society of Genealogists, London, 1991, 120 pages, A5, soft cover, available from the Society for £5.20 (including postage).

This lists the 9,000 places in the British Isles and overseas for which copies of parish registers are available in the Library, showing the periods covered and indicating by means of asterisks those which have been printed and are therefore available for loan to members of the Society of Genealogists within the British Isles. As additional aids in this edition the entries have been arranged by county and they now include the Library shelf numbers so that any volume may be easily found on the shelves. This edition includes accessions reported up to and including the march 1991 issue of the *Genealogist's Magazine*. Inserted is a sheet showing additions and corrections down to September 1991.

Using the Library of the Society of Genealogists, Society of Genealogists, London, 1991, 11 pages, A5, soft cover, available from the Society for £0.65 (including postage)

This basic guide should be read in advance by all visitors to the Library. It describes how to find what the Society has on a particular surname or place and contains a description of the catalogue and of the layout of the rooms. There are maps of the Library and a comprehensive index by subject.

The address for the Society of Genealogists is 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA, England.

Third Fleet Families of Australia, C.J. Smee, containing Genealogical Details of Three Hundred and Eleven Third Fleeters, their children and grandchildren, published at Artarmon, NSW by the author, 1991, hard cover, 165 x 235 mm format, lists and tables in reduced A4 typescript, pages not numbered, material alphabetically arranged under several separate headings. Obtainable from the author, PO Box 712 Artarmon NSW 2064.

This book is a bicentennial celebration of the Third Fleet, which arrived in Sydney Cove in July through October, 1791. There were 2047 convicts assigned to the Third Fleet, 554 were dead by the end of 1792. From the remainder, this book lists all known families originating from the participants of that fleet. There are 903 children and over 2000 grandchildren in the 294 families identified, 14 of the families have both father and mother identified as Third Fleeters, 225 of the families have a Third Fleet father and 55 have a Third Fleet mother. Other Third Fleet women married First and Second Fleet men, and are not included in this volume.

Not all Third Fleeters are included in this book. In particular, the ones for whom no offspring can be found are excluded. And women are included as spouses, not as Third

Fleeters in their own right. Within these limitations, the book is a good starting point for people with Third Fleet ancestors.

It would have been helpful to have had the pages numbered. And where family members have submitted information, it would be helpful to know who they were and when they compiled their material.

Hugh Campbell

The Governor's Lady - Mrs. Philip Gidley King, by Marnie Bassett; Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1992, 132 pages, reprint of 2nd edition (1956), paperback.

This book is a reprint of the first of four titles on historical subjects, penned by the late Lady Bassett of Armidale, Victoria. She has provided an interesting vignette about the life of Anna Josepha King, nee Coombe, wife of Philip Gidley King, Governor of New South Wales from 1800-1807.

She offers a useful insight into the valuable role played by an historically neglected figure. Bassett cogently describes how a young woman of 26, living quietly in the Devon countryside, agrees, after a succinct courtship, to sail with her spouse to literally the ends of the earth. Setting sail in the man-of-war, HMS Gorgon, in March 1791, four days after their wedding, the couple arrived at Port Jackson in September that year.

Their first appointment was to Norfolk Island, where Philip had been appointed Lieutenant Governor. While there Anna Josepha was to have three children. She had already accepted apparently with good grace, that King had sired two illegitimate sons in the colony. Indeed one travelled with the Kings from Port Jackson to Norfolk island in 1791.

The narrative provides us with lovely cameos in the life of the Governor's Lady, on Norfolk Island and in Sydney. We glimpse her as hostess to the Maori visitors on Norfolk kidnapped to provide the Europeans with their knowledge of flax production. The New Zealanders, a warrior and a priest, who were not impressed with their abduction, were placated by the Kings, and lived with them for several months as honoured guests. The entertainment of the gallant Gallic Captain Baudin provides an interesting contrast, though this interlude was not without its geo-political undercurrents.

The author lets us glimpse a sometimes exotic life, but is careful not to elevate the narrative above the acknowledged hardships in convict outposts, where even the first lady shared in the general deprivations. As was the expectation of the times, Mrs. King provided a competent household and haven for her husband amidst the many "storms in a teacup" and sometimes more dangerous episodes that beset the fledgling colony.

The narrative records that the King partnership was in many respects more equal than customary in less demanding surrounds. Governor King's predecessors did not have wives in the colony, and so Anna Josepha created her own role in an alien environment.

With duty done, and the Kings returned to England, Mrs. King was soon a widow at the age of 43. It was her earnest desire to return to the colony at the first opportunity. This did not arrive for some years, but ultimately her wish was achieved and Mrs. King lived out her life as the respected family dowager on the family's Australian estate. She died in her eightieth year and was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's, South creek, near Parramatta, in 1844.

Marnie Bassett has written a fine narrative which fills a niche in the history of early Australia. She presents a story of a truly admirable woman and tells it simply, allowing the known facts to speak for themselves.

Hon. Stephen Mutch, MLC

Strangers Hall, Elizabeth Jeffrey, Century Press, 1988. A copy is held in the SLT.

Although a work of fiction this book is good background reading for those interested in the weaving and dyeing trade as practised by the Dutch speaking Flemish refugees from the Spanish Inquisition in the second half of the 16th century. Many of these people settled in Colchester, Essex and maintained a separate existence as a solely Dutch speaking enclave in the City. They attended their own Church, maintained their own trade hall for examination of cloth and through their industry Colchester woven goods became renowned throughout the cloth making industry. Trouble started when the English weavers had to go to the Dutch Hall to have their cloth inspected for quality as the standards were kept strictly high and often it was the English cloth which was rejected. Domestic life and trading conditions feature largely and a substantial bibliography is provided for those who wish to read further.

Thelma Grunnell.

Buchinghamshire Machine Breakers, Jill Chambers, published 1991 by the author, 54 Chagny Close, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 4BY, England, 220 pages, soft cover, price (including postage) £8 surface, £9 airmail.

This is the second volume by Jill Chambers on the 1830s riots; the first was reviewed in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 11, No. 4. Like the first volume the second is a valuable source for family historians as well as being informative about the social conditions and justice system of the time. In about 12 counties of southeast England machine breaking was confined to agricultural machinery but in Buchinghamshire paper making machines were the main target. About 135 offenders were tried by a Special Commission which sat at Aylesbury on 10-15 Jan 1831.

Places of origin, names of parents, and of wives and children where appropriate, and frequently baptismal details are given for 29 machine breakers who were transported to Van Diemen's Land per *Proteus* in 1831. Useful genealogical data is also given for some offenders not transported and the names of special constables involved in the

arrests are included. The book is likely to be useful to anybody with Buckinghamshire ancestors. It is well indexed and well illustrated with contemporary material.

The accounts of the machine breaking riots and the subsequent trial of those arrested are taken from contemporary newspaper accounts. The charges against, and sentences given to, those who came before the Special Commission are taken from material in the Buckinghamshire Record Office. Newspaper and Record Office accounts do not always agree and it seems that at least four prisoners were officially recorded as sentenced to transportation for offences of which they were acquitted unless all three contemporary newspaper accounts were wrong. Perhaps because only a fraction of the estimated three to five hundred people alleged to be included in disturbances at paper mills were arrested authorities were determined that none caught should escape punishment. Accordingly two or more charges were preferred against most and those who were acquitted of an only charge were made to face a second to which they seem to have been advised to plead guilty.

William BRIANT the elder was shot through his right arm at the door of the first mill attacked and, since he took no further part in the proceedings, he was acquitted of the charge of machine breaking at that mill. However he pleaded guilty to a second charge of machine breaking at three other mills on the same day. In an appeal to Lord Melbourne he said that "in consequence of his ignorance he pleaded guilty to a second indictment when it must have been manifest that the injury he had received must have totally disabled him." He was sentenced to transportation for seven years. His sole detected offence during his period of servitude was being drunk, once, for which "crime" he received an additional sentence of "2 hours in the stocks".

The author records (from Australian archives sources) the history of the transportees in VDL up to the time when many received free pardons (mostly in 1836), conditional pardons or a certificate of freedom. A few served a second (colonial) sentence. Little is known about them thereafter and it is a challenge to Australian family historians to fill in the details. James BARTON and William DEWBERRY (who was an assigned servant to Thomas Reiby of Entally) returned to Buckinghamshire and are listed there in the 1841 census. Joseph BRIANT left the colony in 1848 and Stephen ATKINS may have left even earlier. John EAST, William NIBBS, Arthur SALTER, Samuel SUMMERFIELD, John WALDUCK and possibly William BRIANT the younger married in the colony but only the first few are known to have descendants in Australia today. However as William and Mary Ann NIBBS had least ten children it would be surprising if they did not found an Australian lineage. John and William BUTLER, James MILES and three of the men who married appear to have died in the colony. Thomas BOWLES and Henry WALKER surface briefly, charged with trivial post-emancipation offences but nothing seems to be known of the post history of David BARTON, William BRIANT the elder (father of Joseph and uncle of William the younger), John DANDRIDGE, Thomas FISHER, Moses HOLT, Joseph PRIEST, William SCOTCHINGS, John SMITH, Moses TURNER (properly TURNHAM), Richard WEEDON or Edward WINGROVE. The reviewer would be pleased to hear from Australian descendants of these or other Bucks. men who came to VDL per *Proteus*.

Jill Chambers is to be congratulated for this volume and for its predecessor. We look forward to the appearance of the third volume which will be about the Wiltshire machine breakers.

Geoffrey B. Sharman (003) 91 8578
1 Logan Road Evandale 7212

COMING EVENTS

- 24 May 1992 An illustrated talk on the "Salisbury Foundry" by Mr. Stan Merry for the Launceston Historical Society at the Lecture Theatre of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, commencing at 2.30 pm.
- 20-21 June 1992 The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania, Devonport. The actual meeting is to be held Devonport Surf Lifesaving Club at the Bluff, Devonport commencing at 1.30 pm.
- 25 June 1992 Kevin Green will speak on "The Launceston Immigration Society and the St. Andrew's Immigration Society" for the Launceston Historical Society at the Lecture Theatre of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, commencing at 7.30 pm.
- 27 June 1992 The Oral History Association of Australia (Tasmania Branch) will be meeting at 10.30 at the Queen Victoria Museum. The guest speaker will be lawyer Graeme Jones speaking on "Defamation and Oral Historians".
- July 1994 "Blending the Cultures" - The seventh Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History, to be held in Brisbane.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH

Particularly Victorian, e.g., Directories, newspaper obituaries, wills, inquests, etc.

Assistance on hard-to-locate ancestors.

Computer-generated charts available.

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Mrs. Marion Button

P.O. Box 540, Gisborne, Victoria 3437 Aust.

SOCIETY SALES

The GST Inc. has published the following items which are all (except the microfiche) available from Branch Libraries. All Mail Orders should be forwarded to the Sales and Publications Co-ordinator, PO Box 60 PROSPECT, Tasmania, 7250. Please allow extra for postage.

Microfiche

GST Inc. TAMIOT Records - 33 fiche (P&P \$2.00)	\$75.00
An index to headstone inscriptions and memorials transcribed from cemeteries from all parts of Tasmania.	

Books

Local and Family History Sources in Tasmania.....	10.00
Our Heritage in history: Papers of the Sixth Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Launceston, 1991.....	32.00
Van Diemens Land Heritage Index Vol. 2.....	10.00

Other Items

GST Inc. Book Marks.....	0.75
Congress Bookmarks.....	0.75
GST Inc. Tea Towels.....	7.00
Congress Tea Towels.....	7.00
Congress Sweaters.....	27.00
Congress Satchels - Filled.....	10.00
Congress Satchels - Empty.....	5.00

Folios of sets of 6 Greg Waddle prints. 14 different sets available:-

Latrobe, Launceston, Longford, National Trust, Port Arthur, Richmond, Risdon Cove Historic Site, Ross, Stanley, Swansea, Tasmania (2 different), Ulverstone, Zeehan.

Price per set..... 3.00

The following back issues of *Tasmanian Ancestry* are available for sale from the Journal Co-ordinator, PO Box 60 PROSPECT, Tasmania, 7250:-

Dec 1988 - Vol. 9 No. 4.....	1.00
Jun 1990 - Vol. 11 No. 1.....	3.00
Sep 1990 - Vol. 11 No. 2.....	3.00
Dec 1990 - Vol. 11 No. 3.....	3.00
Mar 1991 - Vol. 11 No. 4.....	3.00
May 1991 - Vol. 12 No. 1 (Special Congress Ed).....	3.00
Jun 1991 - Vol. 12 No. 1.....	3.00
Sep 1991 - Vol. 12 No. 2.....	3.00
Dec 1991 - Vol. 12 No. 3.....	3.00

Postage for journals is as follows:- 1 copy \$0.95 (\$0.80 Tas) 2-3 copies \$1.50 (\$1.25 Tas), 4-5 copies \$2.65 (\$2.00 Tas)

BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESS, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

- BURNIE** Phone: (004) 35 7349 (Branch Secretary)
Library: 62 Bass Highway, COOEE, (above Bass Bakery)
Tuesday, Saturday 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Meeting: Branch Library, 62 Bass Highway, Cooe, 8.00 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December. The library is open at 7.00 p.m.
- DEVONPORT** Phone: (004) 24 5328 (Mr. & Mrs. D. Harris)
Library: Rooms 9, 10 and 11, First Floor, Days Building Best Street, DEVONPORT
Wednesday 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Friday 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Meeting: Branch Library, First Floor, Day's Building, Best Street, Devonport, on the last Thursday of each month, except December.
- HOBART** Phone (002) 44 2070 (Branch Secretary)
Library: 19 Cambridge Road, BELLERIVE
Tuesday 12.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Wednesday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Saturday 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Meeting: Tasman Regional Library, Bligh Street, Warrane, 8.00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.
- HUON** Phone: (002) 66 0263 (Branch Secretary)
Library: Soldiers Memorial Hall, Marguerite St., RANELAGH
Saturday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
1st Wednesday of month 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 Noon
Meeting: Branch Library, Ranelagh, 7.30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month, except January.
- LAUNCESTON** Phone: (003) 31 1150 (Branch Secretary)
Library: Flat 2, 47-49 Elphin Road, LAUNCESTON.
Tuesday 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Wednesday 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Meeting: Kings Meadows High School, Guy Street, 7.30 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of each month, except January.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA INC.

Membership of the GST Inc. is open to all interested in genealogy, whether resident in Tasmania or not. Assistance is given to help trace overseas ancestry as well as Tasmanian.

Dues are payable each year by 1 April. Rates of subscriptions for 1991/92 are as follows:-

Ordinary member	\$25.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$33.00
Student/Pensioner/Unemployed over 6 months	\$17.00
Joint pensioners	\$23.00
Corporate Members (Institute or Society)	\$33.00

Membership Entitlements:

All members receive a copy of the Society's journal *TASMANIAN ANCESTRY* (NB: airmail postage is extra). Members are entitled to free access to the Society's Libraries. Access to libraries of some other societies has also been arranged on a reciprocal basis.

Application for Membership:

Application forms may be obtained from Branches or the GST Secretary, and be returned with appropriate dues to a Branch Treasurer or sent direct to the GST Treasurer, PO Box 60, PROSPECT, Tasmania 7250. Dues are also accepted at Libraries and Branch Meetings.

Donations:

Donations to the Library Fund (\$2.00 and over) are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Gifts of family records, maps, photographs, etc. are most welcome.

Research Queries:

Research is handled on a voluntary basis in each branch. Simple queries from members will be answered on receipt of a large stamped addressed envelope when membership number is quoted.

For non-members there is a fee charged. A list of members willing to undertake record-searching on a PRIVATE BASIS can be obtained from the Society. The SOCIETY TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS.

Advertising:

Advertising for *Tasmanian Ancestry* is accepted with pre-payment of \$20.00 per quarter page in one issue or \$50.00 for 4 issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the Journal Co-ordinator at PO Box 60, PROSPECT, Tasmania 7250.

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF TASMANIA, INC.**

RULES

15 FEBRUARY 1992

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be "Genealogical Society of Tasmania, Incorporated", hereinafter referred to as the "Society".

2. SOCIETY OFFICE

The Office of the Society shall be at that place where the Public Officer of the Society resides.

3. INTERPRETATION

In these Rules, unless a contrary intention appears -

- a) "Executive" means the body of members elected to administer the affairs of the Society.
- b) "Public Officer" means a person appointed by the Executive to fulfil the duties and obligations of the office as set out in the Associations Incorporation Act 1964.
- c) "Writing" means all modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.
- d) "By-Law" means any matter concerning administration of the Society that is not covered by or contrary to these Rules.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Aims and Objectives of the Society are to -

- a) promote the study and research of the science of Genealogy and Family History through education, preservation and transcribing of relevant records, and the writing and publishing of appropriate literature;
- b) provide, as a public service, reference libraries and associated learning opportunities;
- c) and the doing of all such lawful things as are incidental and conducive to the attainment of the basic Aims and Objectives of the Society.

5. BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY

- a) Members wishing to form a Branch shall submit a proposal to the Executive in the form agreed by the Executive.
- b) If the Executive has accepted the proposal, the originating member or group shall seek approval for the formation of the Branch at the next Annual General Meeting.
- c) Each Branch shall be administered in accordance with these Rules, by a Committee consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and no more than seven (7) committee members.
- d) Each Branch committee shall be autonomous and provide for the day-to-day management of the Branch and, for this purpose, may purchase materials, equipment and items for research using funds raised by that Branch or provided by the Executive.
- e) All items purchased as in (d) shall remain the property of the Society but shall be housed at the premises provided for that purpose by the Branch and shall be controlled by the Branch.
- f) The Executive shall be responsible for recommending changes to the geographical boundaries of Branches to members at an Annual General Meeting for approval.

6. INCOME AND PROPERTY

The assets and income of the Society shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above mentioned Aims and Objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Society except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a) The affairs of the Society, shall be administered by the Executive in accordance with these Rules and associated By-Laws.
- b) The Executive may create, alter, amend, revoke or rescind any By-Law.

8. EXECUTIVE

The Executive of the Society shall comprise -

- a) the Officers of the Society,

- b) two (2) members from each Branch as elected in accordance with Clause 9 (c).

9. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE

- a) The Society Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year at the Annual General Meeting of financial members in attendance and voting and shall hold office commencing from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, subject to a time limit of six (6) consecutive years.
- b) The Executive may appoint any financial member to fill a casual vacancy of any position detailed in Clause 8 (a).
- c) Each Branch shall, at its Annual General Meeting, elect two (2) members to be Branch Delegates, plus one (1) alternate Delegate.
- d) The term of office of a Branch Delegate shall commence from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Society following the election by Branch members and shall continue until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.
- e) In the event of a casual vacancy of a Branch Delegate the Executive shall call upon the relevant Branch to fill the vacancy. Should a Branch be unable for any reason to fill a casual vacancy, the Executive shall do so.
- f) Following their election by a Branch A.G.M. a Branch Delegate will not be eligible to nominate as an Officer of the Society for the same year as that for which they have been elected as a Branch Delegate.

10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

- a) Membership shall be open to any person who agrees to abide by these Rules and to further the Aims and Objectives of the Society.
- b) All financial members are entitled to vote at any properly constituted meeting of the Society.
- c) The Executive shall, subject to the member's right to be heard by it, suspend or terminate the membership of any member who fails to abide by the agreement in (a).

- d) A member's right of privilege or obligation, because of membership of the Society, shall not be transferrable to any other person and any such right or obligation shall cease on the cessation of such person's membership.
- e) The Society may grant at the Annual General Meeting Life Membership, Honorary Life Membership, Fellowship or Certificate of Meritorious Service in accordance with the By-Laws of the Society.

11. ENTRANCE FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) Entrance fees and Subscriptions shall be set by the Executive each year.
- b) Entrance fees shall be payable by new members at the same time as the first subscription.
- c) Annual subscriptions shall be payable at the start of each financial year.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of June each year, on a date to be decided by the Executive.
- b) The business to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting shall be
 - * confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meeting held after that meeting;
 - * receipt of reports from the President and the Treasurer;
 - * election of Officers of the Society, and to note the names of Branch Delegates to the Executive, and any other appointments;
 - * transaction of any business of which due notice has been given.

13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The Executive may convene a Special General Meeting in accordance with Clause 14.

- b) The Executive shall, on the written requisition of no less than twenty (20) financial members, convene a Special General Meeting. If that Special General Meeting has not been called within 28 days, the requisitionists or any one of them, may convene the meeting.
- c) A requisition lodged under (b) shall lapse if the meeting has not been held within three months after lodgment of the requisition.
- d) Any Special General Meeting, convened under (b), shall lapse if at the time set for commencement, any five (5) of the requisitionists are not present.
- e) No item of business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting other than that for which notice has been given.

14. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) Notice of an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, which shall include details of the business to be transacted, shall be given to members not later than 21 days before the date set for the meeting.
- b) Notice of the meeting shall be in the form of one or more of:
 - * a notice in the Society's journal, *Tasmanian Ancestry*;
 - * an advertisement in each of the major newspapers published in Tasmania;
 - * a notice in writing, posted to each financial member of the Society.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF A MEETING

- a) The chairman of any Meeting, at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- b) No business shall be transacted at the adjourned meeting other than the unfinished business held over from the original meeting.
- c) If the adjournment is for more than fourteen days, notice of the reconvened meeting shall be given as for the original meeting except that notice of the business to be transacted need not be given.

16. QUORUMS

- a) Business shall not be transacted at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Society unless a quorum of thirty (30) members, entitled to vote, is present.
- b) For a Special General Meeting, if the required quorum is not present to allow the meeting to be opened within one hour after the appointed time, the meeting shall be abandoned.
- c) In the case of a meeting other than a Special General Meeting if the required quorum is not present the meeting shall be deferred by the chairman, to the same time on the same day of the next week at a place announced at the time of announcing the deferral.
- d) If a quorum is not present to allow the deferred meeting to be opened within half an hour of the appointed time, the meeting shall be abandoned.
- e) At Branch Committee Meetings and Executive Meetings of the Society a quorum consists of half of the total membership of the Committee plus one other, and must include two (2) Office-bearers.

17. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Society shall begin on the first day of April in each year and end on the thirty-first day of March in the next year.

18. AUDITOR

- a) An Auditor shall be appointed each year, by the Executive, to audit the financial affairs of the Society for that year.
- b) The Treasurer of the Society shall deliver to the Auditor the Society's books of accounts and financial records, as required by the Auditor, and the audited accounts of each Branch, to enable him to report to the Annual General Meeting following the end of the financial year.
- c) Members of the Executive or the Public Officer shall not be appointed Auditor.

19. AMENDMENTS TO THESE RULES

- a) Amendments to these Rules shall be made only at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendments has been given to members in accordance with the relevant Clause.

- b) Amendments to these rules shall only be passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of those members present and entitled to vote.
- c) Any member of the Society wishing to amend the Rules shall lodge the amendments, in writing, with the Executive for consideration.

20. DISSOLUTION

- a) The Society may be dissolved, by a resolution of the majority of members attending and entitled to vote, at a Special General Meeting convened in accordance with Clause 14.
- b) Any resolution concerning the distribution of assets shall be in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1964.
- c) In the event of the Association being dissolved, the amount which remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be repaid and applied by the Committee in accordance with their powers to an organisation which is exempt from income tax under Section 23 of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

21. COMMON SEAL

- a) The Common Seal of the Society shall be a rubber stamp inscribed with the words "GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA INCORPORATED" encircling the word "SEAL".
- b) The Common Seal of the Society shall not be fixed to any document except by the authority of the Executive.
- c) Affixing of the Common Seal to a document shall be attested by the signature of the Public Officer which shall be proof that the Seal was affixed by authority of the Executive.
- d) The Common Seal shall be kept in the custody of the Society's Public Officer.