

ILMO



Annual General Meeting Issue

MARCH - APRIL 2019

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
Mersey Branch**



From the Editor's Desk

Peter Marlow

The September 2018 issue of ILMO featured DNA and the benefits that may be attained in having a test. In this Issue we commence a new feature entitled "What were the Chances". It follows the experiences of the Denholm and Barnes families in their emigration from Scotland to Van Diemen's Land., including those of their children as they strive to establish themselves in a strange land.

The Christmas Dinner was a great time to get together and to renew old friendships and to enjoy a great meal. It was interesting to see that the number in attendance had not fallen despite the absence of nine persons that under normal circumstances would have been present

The net result of the Raffle was \$452- Raffle winners were – Ms Julie Smith (1st Prize), 2nd Mrs Frankcome (Christmas Cake); 3rd Sue-Ellen McCreghan (Wine)

President Ros has completed six years as President of Mersey Branch and under our constitution is not eligible for re-election. Over the period her service has been exemplary. Ros is to be congratulated for the time and effort that she and, husband, Russell have afforded the Society



Wanted - articles for ILMO

We are always looking for articles of interest or upcoming events to be included in the ILMO.

Programme 2019-2020 Year

March

18th (Monday) Committee Meeting

April

8th (Monday) Committee Meeting
27th (Saturday) Annual General Meeting

May

13th (Monday) Committee Meeting

June

10th (Monday) Committee Meeting

Christmas Dinner Photos



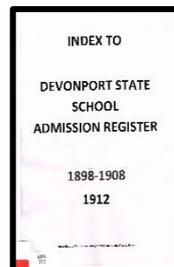
Recent Acquisitions

At our Library as reported by our Librarian

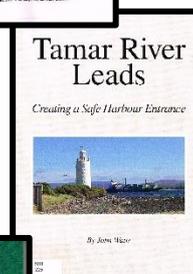


Rosie Marshall

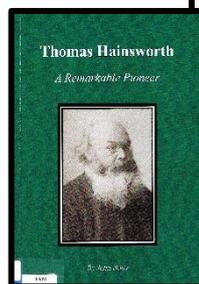
Tasmanian Family History Society Inc -Mersey Branch ;
An Index to Devonport State School Admission Register 1818 – 1908 + 1 912,



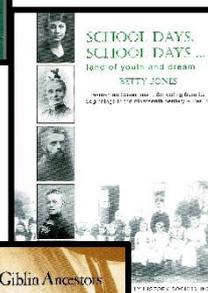
Watts, John - TAMAR RIVER LEADS,
Creating a Safe Harbour Entrance



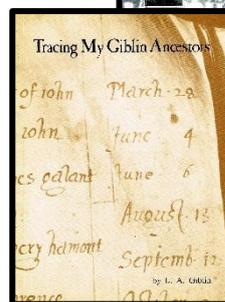
Watts, John – THOMAS HAINSWORTH –
A Remarkable Pioneer



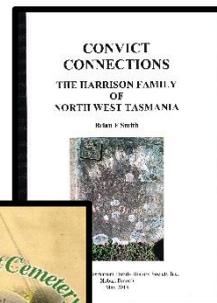
Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. -
Jones, Betty : SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS
- Land of Youth and Dreams



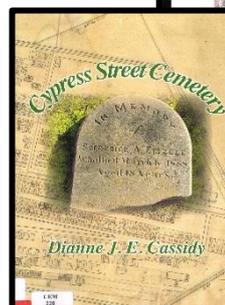
Giblin, L.A. ; TRACING MY GIBLIN ANCESTORS



Smith, Brian F. ; CONVICT CONNECTIONS –
The Harrison Family of North West, Tasmania



Cassidy, Dianne J.E.; CYPRESS STREET CEMETERY



What were the chances?

Alexander and Margaret Denholm emigrated from Scotland to Van Diemen's Land in 1823. They left four children behind in Edinburgh. George 15, John 13, Alexander 11 and only daughter Janet aged 7. They were re-united with their sons in 1827 when they also arrived in Hobart Town and travelled the forty miles or so to the Upper Clyde region where Alexander and Margaret had settled. Another son, James, was born in 1825. He probably never met his sister Janet and she would not see her family again.

Almost three hundred miles to the south of Edinburgh, in rural Shropshire, England, Jonathan and Mary Barnes were separated from their daughter Sarah five years later than Alexander and Margaret. The reason for this separation was very different. Sarah had been arrested and convicted on two charges of larceny and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Van Diemen's Land. She was 14 years old. Sarah probably never saw her family again. She arrived in Hobart Town in October 1828 and was subsequently assigned as a nursery maid at South Arm, about ten miles down river from Hobart Town.

Sarah's convict record is clean until November 1833 and then again in January 1834. Sarah's indiscretions resulted in two months punishment and then she was "Assigned in the interior". She was banished to Bothwell. It is here that she met George Denholm, farm overseer of his father's property. George and Sarah petitioned for permission to marry in 1836. This was approved and they raised ten children together. One of these children was my great, great grand-mother.

Reflective statement

- If George and Sarah had remained near their native places there is very little chance they would ever have met.

Report to the Housekeeper - "Yes Master"

This is a master servant relationship, George Denholm is the overseer on his father's farm at Lower Marshes. Sarah Barnes is a convicted convict. She has been assigned as a servant to the Denholm household. It is summer 1834 and the Assignment System is at work in Van Diemen's Land. Sarah has just completed the arduous 50 mile journey from Hobart Town. She is exhausted but obeys instinctively.

George has been in Van Diemen's Land for seven years, emigrating from Scotland. His father Alexander had been granted 320 acres of land and George is in charge of clearing the land and converting it into farming ground. He is 26 years old.

Sarah has been in Hobart Town since 1828 having been convicted on larceny charges in England and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Van Diemen's Land. She was 14 years old. She was assigned as a nursery maid to William Gelibrand at South Arm. At her age she had not training or experience on any other work.

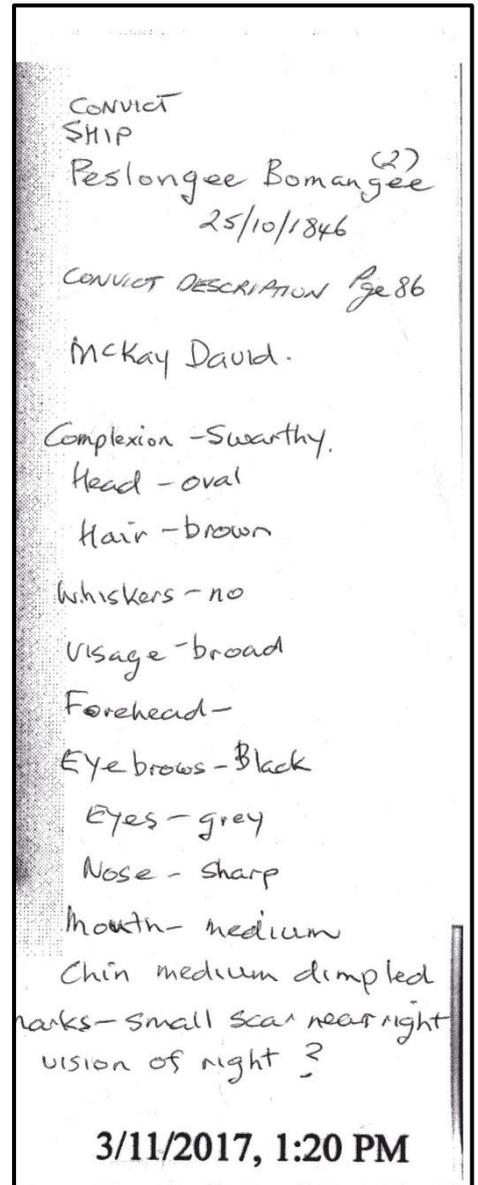
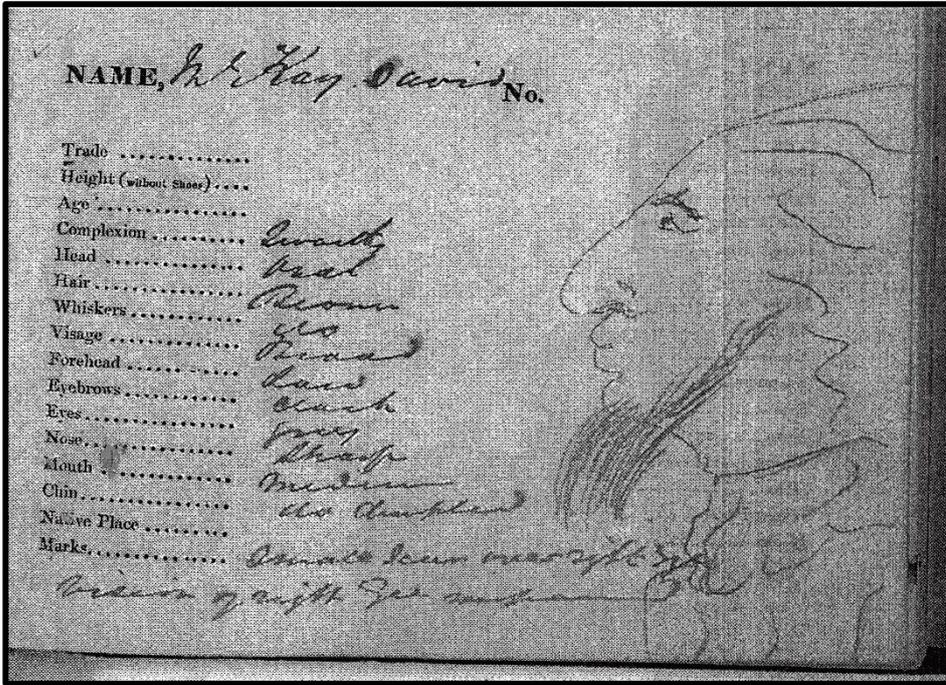
Two indiscretions on Sarah's part tried Mr. Gelibrand's patience beyond his limit. After two stints in a punishment cell at the Cascades Female Factory Sarah was "assigned in the interior". She was banished from Hobart Town.

Two years after their chance encounter George and Sarah marry. They need permission from the Governor as Sarah still has six years of the sentence to serve. At the beginning of their long life together Sarah asks George. "When we were born what chance was there of ever meeting?"

The above are the first two articles in a series of seven which will be progressively included in future productions of ILMO. under the title of "*What were the chances?*"
Many thanks to Ross Warren for this contribution

SMILE

it is not always true!



This document was found on the Internet by one of our Researchers.

The moral – *"Mr. Google is inot always right"*..

I sent that 'Ancestry' site some information on my Family Tree.

They sent me back a pack of Seeds, and suggested that I just start Over.

Never use a GPS when going to a cemetery. Not nice to hear "You've reached your destination"

Annual General Meeting April 27th

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Dear members we need your help – you may be aware that your family history society is a not for profit organisation, run by volunteers.

This year we realise that members of our committee have rotated through the positions and have reached the time frame allowed to hold any position apart from committee member.

Briefly, committee meets once a month for 2 hours at the most. This meeting is held in a relaxed and friendly manner and everybody has a say in the running of the branch. We discuss, the library needs, correspondence, latest book or CD purchases, new publications, maintenance requirements, finances, social activities etc.

As a committee member you are made aware of the branch and Society's needs and the directions well as getting to know like-minded people.

We desperately need members to stand for positions at our AGM in April for Mersey Branch to continue to function.

Please consider giving of our time and input for 2 hours, once a month.

Need know more?

Please email or call

Secretary – Sue-Ellen on 6428 6328

or

President - Ros 6491 1141

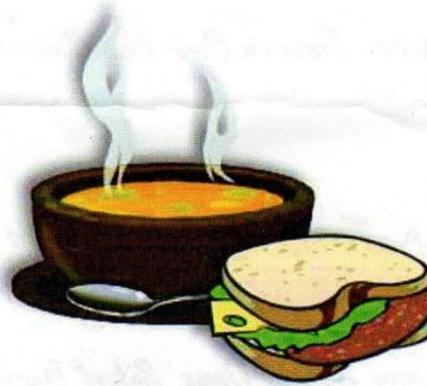
**COMMITTEE NOMINATION and
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST forms
Included in this newsletter**

Annual General Meeting

Saturday April 27th

at the Library 113 Gilbert St. LATROBE.

Soup and
Sandwiches from
11.30 am



*Come see our Library
and Chat with our Volunteer Staff*



Annual General Meeting

1.00pm

Please stay and hear about our
accomplishments and other activities during the
past year and our plans for the ensuring year.



It's your Library, come get involved.

Anzac Commemoration 2019

Letters to Home *from The Inverell Times*

Private George Henry ROLLS - Reported Missing



Pte. George H. Rolls

Mrs. C. G. Rolls received word by wire on Wednesday, stating that, her son, Private G. H. Rolls, 53rd Batt., late 2nd Batt., had been officially posted as missing - since 19th July. Many will remember the enthusiasm displayed by "George:" when he decided to enlist. Displaying the true courage and tenacity of his brother Australians he persevered and his highest hopes were realised.

It was only during the week that he wrote his sister Mrs Alfred Stevens, under date 4th July 1916, as follows: —

Just a few lines hoping they will find you and all your care in the best of health, as it leaves me at present, and I thank God for it. Well I have left Egypt- after very near seven months of it. I was full up of the place. It was all sand and dust, and here it is all water and mud. We can hear the shells bursting- every night. I don't know when we will be in the firing line. This is a lovely country crops are in abundance wherever I have been, Remember me to all my friends I have not much news.

'From the date of the letter to the date of his being- **reported missing** shows that Private Rolls must have gone into the firing line shortly after having written the letter.

Guest of the Germans – "The Treatment Meted out"

The following letters should comfort 'the friends of men -who have been taken prisoner by the enemy during the big push., and show that decent treatment is evidently sometimes given to. the prisoners.

Writing- from Dulmen, 30th July, 1916, to his sister, Mrs Alfred Stevens,

Pte George Rolls, says:

No doubt you will be surprised to hear that I am a. prisoner of war, but I am quite well, except for a sore knee. Sleeping accommodation is real good, and the food is as good as could be expected under the circumstances; so In general, I am doing alright, I was taken prisoner on 20th July. We made the charge in the evening and were captured in the morning-at about 5 o'clock. A terrible lot were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. We haven't heard what happened to Ted Egan. I think he was in the charge, but could not find out what became of him.

PRISONER IN GERMANY.

INVERELL SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES.'

Private G. H. Rolls writes under date 18th October, 1916, to his sister Mrs Alfred Stevens from a German camp in Westphalia: —

Just a few lines, hoping they will find you quite well, as it leaves me at present; I thank God for it- I have written you two or three letters since I was captured. I was captured on July 20th, so I have been here quite a long time I get fairly good food, and a good bed. I am working in a brick works. We are having lovely weather here: It is autumn here now. We will be having cold weather next month. They have a lot of snow here in the winter, but I am getting clothes from the Red Cross; so I will be all right, and a good house to live in. I got my first parcel from the Red Cross last Monday, so they were a long time sending it, but everything comes to those who wait. They send a parcel a week to all the prisoners. Remember me to Charlie, Jim, Ted, and Dolly, Edna and the girls, Amy and Bert and baby. I had a pair of boots for Amy's baby when I was captured, and then I had to leave them in my pack. Remember me to Blanche and Harry and family, also Jack Hutton and wife, Mrs. Marshall and Peter and family. Kiss Doll and Edna for me, not forgetting your own dear self.'

A Prisoner at War,

Private George Rolls writes to his sister from Dulmen, Germany, on March 18th, 1917 as follows

I have left the brick factory I was working at on March 9th, after six months hard work. We used to walk a mile morning and night through snow and ice to and from work. It was new to me, but I got through alright. I am now at Munster camp, having a spell. I don't know where I will have to go from here. I have inquired about Jack Scott. but I have never seen him since we left Egypt. You said you hoped the Red Cross had sent me some warm clothes. Yes, they sent me a suit, overcoat, warm underclothing, socks, handkerchiefs, boots and shoes, and everything I needed, or I never could have stood the cold weather. I also received Mrs. Bone's parcel, and I want you to thank her for me.'

Outdoor group portraits of Prisoners of War at German POW Camp - Dulmen



Barbecue

2019



It started like this then the troops arrived



"Gary! I use a tooth pick not a fork"



A little bit of chit chat



"Hey Denise! have you tried these sweets?"



"The things ladies say!!!!!"



"The first thing is that the plate must be really hot"



Where have they all gone?



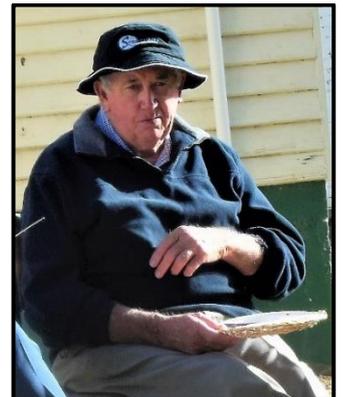
Now that is class. "where did you get that hat?"



"What do you mean"? "This is my first"



"What!" You want seconds?



I'm dreaming of my little grey tractor

Can DNA Tests Help You

Family historians are regularly encouraged to purchase DNA tests. This paper explores the types of DNA tests available and what we should consider before deciding whether to buy one.

Types of DNA tests

All human beings have pretty much the same DNA – over 99% of your DNA will be the same as that for anyone else across the world. DNA tests compare mutations: that is the differences between us. We all have small amounts of these. If we compare our mutations sometimes they match, which may indicate that we are related. The three types of tests available look at different types of DNA: Y- chromosome, Mitochondrial and Autosomal.

Next steps

If you think that DNA would help answer your questions, remember that there are many providers to choose from. Their prices often have seasonal variations. Not all companies offer all the possible tests. If you buy a DNA test you will enter into a legally binding contract with the relevant company. Concerns have been expressed about the wide range of rights included in some standard contracts. Only “click and agree” terms if you understand what they mean and want to be bound by them.

Checklist before placing an order

- What do I really want to find out?
- Is a DNA test likely to help achieve this?
- If so, what type of test?
- How much does the test cost including shipping?
- Do I need to pay a subscription fee to use the database?
- How long will I have to wait for a report?
- How many people are in the database from my likely areas of origin?
- Am I allowed to export my results and put them in other databases?
- Who owns my data, whom am I allowing to use it and what can they use it for?
- Do I trust the authorities in the places where my data will be physically stored not to alter privacy laws without my agreement?

Possible pitfalls

- As with all family history research, a DNA report may surprise you. For instance, you might discover illegitimacy or adoption in the recent past that you were unaware of.
- Just because you are presented with a match in the database doesn't prove you are related. The test results only gives you a probability. The closer the match, the more likely the connection is to be real.
- Advertising for DNA testing services is largely pitched to people who have not done research of their own. It offers an easy option for those who do not want to look at documents to discover their roots. Therefore, many of those who you may contact through DNA matching services will have little of substance to offer you.
- It is time-consuming to read and understand the terms of contracts offered by the DNA testing companies. But if you sign up you are committed.
- It appears that DNA databases have already been used to identify criminal suspects. They could be used to identify people of interest for whatever reason to the powers that be, including use by government and other organisations based anywhere in the world if they are able to access the relevant electronic files.



Y-chromosome (direct male line)

The Y-chromosome is passed from father to son and therefore often correlates to surnames. If you are female you can't take that test yourself as you don't have a Y-chromosome, but a male relative such as a brother or father can act as a substitute. The test is of greatest use for establishing whether people, usually with the same surname, have a common ancestor in the direct male line on both sides. So it is of particular interest to one-namers. It is possible that if your results are compared with others in a company's database, the outcome of previously unknown liaisons, including those connected with slavery, may emerge. Both mitochondrial and Y-chromosome tests have a range that goes back hundreds of thousands of years. That means they can tell you whether you and another person are related even very far in the past, but they can't tell you when your common ancestor lived.

Mitochondrial (direct female line)

We all have mitochondrial DNA and so anyone can take this test. As mitochondrial DNA is passed from mother to child, it follows the direct female line. It is only useful if you want to check a link with someone who you think may be related to in the direct female line on both sides. An example of its use was to support the identity of Richard III. The skeleton's mitochondrial DNA matched that of a descendant in the direct female line of Richard III's mother. Genealogists had traced the female line down through the generations, until they found a living descendant, who happened to be male. But few people seek to check such a possible connection

Autosomal (wider spectrum)

We inherit autosomal chromosomes from our parents, so both men and women can take this test. Half of this DNA comes from one parent and half from the other. However, we don't pass on our parents' DNA in equal amounts to our children. Generally, autosomal DNA tests are able to tell us about connections going back a few hundred years and therefore can often be used to corroborate paper research. If you have an elderly relative whom you can test, you may be able to push the horizon back somewhat further. In any case, we probably carry little or no DNA (other than that shared by human beings as a whole) from most of our ancestors who were living more than 400 years ago. Therefore, autosomal tests are not usually sensitive enough to match relatives whose most recent shared ancestors lived more than 400 years ago. It is the autosomal test which, despite its limitations, people are encouraged to use to estimate their "ethnic origins".

If all of this interests you - or you want to know more from a person who has had personal experience in tracing her family through the avenues of DNA come to the Family History Library at 1.30 pm on the 25th May to hear her talk and to answer your questions.

Please phone Library (03) 6426 2257 (Wednesday or Friday 10am to 3pm) to ensure your place and to help us with catering.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Mersey Branch Annual General Meeting

To be held at 1 pm on Saturday: **27th April 2019** at our Branch Library

NOMINATION FOR BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2019-2020

Positions Vacant:

- President**
- Vice President**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Committee Member – 7 to be elected**
- State Delegate – 2 to be elected**
- Alternate Delegate**

Nominations to be in the hands of the Secretary **by 5th April 2019**

I,.....(Print Name)

agree to my nomination as.....

and agree that my contact details may be published by the Society. I agree to abide by the rules of the Society at all times.

Signed:.....

Proposer..... *Signed:*.....

Seconder..... *Signed:*.....

Nominee, Proposer and Seconder must be financial members of the Society for the **2015/16** year.

Please note that a separate form is required for each nomination

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Mersey Branch Annual General Meeting

27th April 2019 at Our BRANCH LIBRARY

To be held at 1 pm on Sat **113 Gilbert Street
LATROBE**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

I (Print Name) am interested in being appointed
to the position of:- *(Circle any position of Interest. More than one may be circled)*

- Library Co-ordinator**
- Assistant Library Co-ordinator**
- Membership Officer**
- Research Co-ordinator**
- Journal Liason Officer**
- Website Administrator**
- Newsletter Editor**
- Publicity & Promotions Co-ordinator**
- Publication Committee**
- Publication Sales Co-ordinator**
- Equipment Maintenance Co-ordinator**
- TAMIOT Co-ordinator**
- Other Areas** *(please indicate area of*

interest)

.....
