

NOTICE

Covid-19 precautions

In the interests of the safety of our members, guests, speakers and volunteers the Committee of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for March.

This March 2020 Newsletter had been prepared just prior to that cancellation.

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Next Meeting:
Saturday 21 March 2020
Marmon Point Hall 10am-4pm
Wednesday 1 April, research 2pm

Speers Point Library:
Research Assistance each Friday
10.30am - 1pm

Members Interests:
Webmaster: Robert Eldridge
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The Chronicle Topic: *Were your forebears early settlers?*

Discussion Group 11-12noon
March: Irish Research
April: Talk by Kerry Farmer

Guest Speakers:
March: Ed Tonks – *Dry Lines & Empty Cellars* – the Lost Hotels of Adamstown & Mayfield

April: Kerry Farmer – DNA

Newsletter Editor:
Chris Rawling



LAKE MACQUARIE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



EVENTS AND UPDATES

A Note from the President:

Greetings Members, we have made some changes to our newsletter to share more details of our activities and general family history news. Thanks to Chris Rawling for her work on this issue. It is especially important with the current coronavirus threat we use media other than face to face meetings to communicate with you. At our March Committee meeting we agreed to go ahead with our General Meeting on Saturday 20th. We will continue to review our future activities and keep you informed of our decisions. Stay Safe, Jill Ball - President

Fundraising

Bunnings have been in touch and offered us a date. **Our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser will be Sunday 12th July 2020.** We will need everyone's help with the BBQ on the day to raise much needed funds for our group.

February Discussion Group

A discussion on British Newspapers was led by Jenny Myers who demonstrated the advantages of using this available media for research. Dates are good but they only tell a very small amount of the history. In the newspapers you might find articles, or family notices about your ancestors. These will help you fill in the blanks and are also a good source for finding more relatives, where they may have lived or what their occupations might have been or even where their wedding was held and who attended. Other ways of fleshing out your history can be to read the newspapers for the area and find out what was occurring around the time your ancestor lived there, what laws or legislations were happening, what were the influences of the times, often advertisements for the latest inventions, or what the current fashions were. These things help to paint a picture of the life your ancestors led.

Jenny pointed out that newspapers often copied stories from other areas so don't restrict your search to just the area your ancestor lived in as if the news was a bit light on for that issue editors would copy interesting articles from other papers - the same as they did here in earlier times. Jenny mentioned that she had seen articles from Scotland, Wales and Ireland in English papers and vice versa. Don't limit yourself as you may miss out on that vital clue you have been looking for. Remember when running stories from other areas the amount put in might have depended on the column space so by widening your search you might find more content of your article in a different area's paper.

A very good site for researching is the British Newspaper Archives: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> This site is by subscription but can be accessed through Public Library's for free. On the site there are papers from all over the UK plus gazette's for Military and the Lloyd's list which are all good resources abounding in information.

Meeting Discussion Points:

Newcastle Family History Conference 2020

The conference is being hosted in Newcastle 11 - 13 September 2020. It will be held at Wests, New Lambton. Titled **Riding the Waves of History**. It promises to be a great event so keep up with the latest news at www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au. Our group is also looking into being an exhibitor at the Conference - so watch this space.

Family History Down Under Conference 2021

The other conference discussed was the FHDU Conference to be held 22 -26 March 2021 on the Sunshine Coast Qld. This conference has 3 Tracks of Interest: DNA, British Isles, General and Methodology.

May Subject for The Chronicle: *Were your forbears early settlers?*

Elspeth and Glynda are looking for stories for the May issue of The Chronicle. Maybe you would like to contribute but worried about your spelling or grammar? Elspeth and Glynda are happy to help you put together your story. Just send through your article and they will read over and assist you to make it a great article.

TROVE New Platform

Trove is launching a platform in June 2020. If you missed out on the sneak peek in February then you can watch the Webinar on YouTube, it does go for 53 minutes but you can skip through parts to get a brief overview of what is coming. Worth having a flick through if you are an avid TROVE user. The good news is that your account with Text Corrections, Tags, Notes, Lists and Settings will carry over from the old platform to the new platform. The webinar can be found here: <https://youtu.be/fyT4XYY5Cvs>

Linking DNA Matches in Ancestry

Robert showed the group how to link and view DNA matches in Ancestry. This helps in sorting out how you may be related to your matches. Robert is always happy to assist other members with their research.

Key Speaker in February was Gary Smith and his subject was 57th Regiment of Foot.

Gary gave the group an in depth talk of the early history of the 57th Regiment and his ancestor's journey. This included the period that the 57th Regiment was in NSW and later in India.

Also a quick REMINDER for APRIL meeting:

Our Guest speaker for April 18 is Kerry Farmer. Kerry will give two talks 1 at 11am (discussion group) and another at 2pm - both topics will deal with DNA. Those of you who have heard Kerry's presentations in the past will be able to confirm that she has a wealth of knowledge and advice on researching using the hints that your DNA can reveal. If you have thought about doing a DNA test or trying to sort out what your results mean, then this is the day to come along and pick up hints.

As always you are welcome to bring along a guest or 2, we are always happy to meet new people and share knowledge.

Library:

Linda, our librarian, has a wealth of knowledge about books that our group holds. If you have a brick wall, maybe a chat with Linda could find the hammer to smash through that wall just sitting on the library shelf.

Other News Since the last meeting:

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Betty William's husband, Kevin and we would like to extend our sincere condolences to Betty and her family at this sad time.

Some Irish humour for St Patricks Day

IRISH ALZHEIMER'S

Thou shalt not.....

Murphy showed up at Mass one Sunday and the priest almost fell down when he saw him. He'd never been to church in his life. After Mass, the priest caught up with him and said, "*Murphy, I am so glad ya decided to come to Mass. What made ya come?*"

Murphy said, "*I got to be honest with you Father, a while back, I misplaced me hat and I really, really love that hat. I know that McGlynn had a hat just like mine and I knew he came to church every Sunday. I also knew that he had to take off his hat during Mass and figured he would leave it in the back of the church. So, I was going to leave after Communion and steal McGlynn's hat.*"

The priest said, "*Well, Murphy, I notice that ya didn't steal McGlynn's hat. What changed your mind?*"

Murphy replied, "*Well, after I heard your sermon on the 10 Commandments, I decided that I didn't need to steal McGlynn's hat after all.*"

With a tear in his eye the priest gave Murphy a big smile and said, "*After I talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' ya decided you would rather do without your hat than burn in hell, hey?*"

Murphy slowly shook his head. "*No, Father, after ya talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' I remembered where I left me hat.*"