



The A.N.D.F.H.G. News sheet.

Issue 4

April 2009.

THE COMMITTEE WORKING FOR YOU



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This Months News from the Editor

I was sitting at my desk preparing the draft of the April/May News Sheet, when suddenly it hit me "My God! Where has the year gone?" it only seems like a couple of months ago that I was preparing the November Newsletter, and here it is six months later. As the old saying goes "Time and Tide waits for no Man." I often hear someone say "I'm only doing this to kill time." and when we stand around doing just that, we are actually wasting the precious thing that life itself is made up of, time, and that is something we never have enough to waste.

In the last couple of months, I have attended quite a few funerals of friends and a member. I mention that here again because in the case of our dear departed member, who was an ardent Family Historian, and was engaged in that pursuit just before death came calling. For years spent gathered Family History, tweaking it here and adding there, gathering all that information, and setting it all down onto the computer, and at the time of death, that is where it all is.

Oh yes, I hear you say, it is all there for someone else to carry on with. Unfortunately, this is not the case, because being the type of person who protected that research and not sharing it with anyone, until there was time to set it all out in print. It is now found that the computer is password locked, and no one knows what password will open the computer's information.

The lesson here is a timely warning to us all, share the information, or failing that, set it all down

onto a DVD or CD by backing up the program and its data, remember "If Only" is a probability of time lost.

By now, members have received their copy of "The Compass" and we hope that you found it interesting.

Currently I am busy preparing the June edition, so if you have a subject that you would like to include please send it in, I am sure the other members would like to hear something other than the Editor's contributions all the time.

There is some good news for all members, our clubrooms now has access to a photocopier machine, this is a shared use with the Salisbury History Club, and is available for all members to make use of, there is of course a small fee for photocopying, that is to cover the cost of paper and the purchase of toner. The fee is not exorbitant, and the costs are displayed at the front desk.

The facility is available on both the Thursday Midweek Open Days and the Saturday Research and Networking days. If you wish to use this service, please refer to Ivan Randall or Margaret Flaiban.

It is noteworthy that our Reference Library is increasing constantly, as is the Ann Mellon Library Collection of Family History Magazines, all of which are available to members on a Loan Basis, to make use of this facility, please refer to our Librarian Tammy Martin or if she is unavailable mid week then to Margaret.



A word from the President.

The hard working Committee are being a little overworked of late and we are asking any member that can spare 2 or 3 hours on a Thursday, or on our Open and Networking days on Saturdays, please help us out if you can, your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Where assistance is required most is in such areas as filing books, magazines, and most importantly the collating of our latest acquisition of the collection of Newspaper microfilms. The experience of having the opportunity to work along side of one of our expert research assistants, and thereby learn a little more about the research capabilities of the Internet, or use of the Computer Systems.

As reported in the last News Sheet we are contemplating another Cemetery Tour, these are interesting little trips. There is nothing morbid about visiting old cemeteries, quite the opposite the experience can be rather a most intriguing and interesting afternoon, hearing stories and learning about the Pioneers of the area. So please take the opportunity of coming along on the next tour, I promise you will not be bored.

For our Group to keep being financially viable, we need to increase our casual income. To be able to do this the Committee needs come up with ideas of fund raising. At present the major source we have at the moment are the Raffles drawn at the Speaker nights, however this does not generate a sufficient amount to purchase things like stamps, stationery, print paper, printing toners and inks, rent, and the internet as well as other outgoing's. Please do not get me wrong we are reasonably financial, but we do need to inject more revenue into our surplus account, thereby

enabling us to be able to purchase more resources for our members.

Having said that, I am asking every member to assist and come up with suggestions on how we can achieve our purpose. What fund raising ideas they have encountered that work, apart from chook and meat tray raffles. I hasten to add here that any increase of membership fee, is out of the question. So please make your ideas available.

Approaches made to the Committee suggesting the formation of a Legacy Users Group. For those that are not aware of what Legacy is, it is a Family History Program aligned with the Later Day Saints (Mormon) Family History Research Facility.

Legacy is one of the better Family History programs around, and can be downloaded from the internet free of charge, although this is the Basic program, one can still engage in recording their family fully without the benefit of upgrading to a more professional program.

Legacy allows one to enter information for each family member, and even has the capability of preparing that information in various report formats, such as Ancestral or Descendant Reports and preparing a Book format in either Word Document or a PDF file. If you are a user of the Legacy Program, or wish to learn more about Legacy, please contact us so that we can gauge the interest of the group, and set this user group into motion.

The formation of a Legacy Users Group, needs the approval of the makers of the Legacy Family History Program, and there are some benefits of being a member of the group.

Jest for Fun

An old man was lying on his death bed. He had only hours to live when he suddenly smelled chocolate chip cookies. He loved chocolate chip cookies better than anything in the world. With his last bit of energy he pulled himself out of bed, across the floor to the stairs. Down the stairs and into the kitchen, there his wife was baking chocolate chip cookies. As he reached for one, his wife hit him with a spoon "SMACK" across the back of the hand. "Leave them alone, they are for the funeral!"

A Case of Fractured History.

The children of a prominent family chose to give the patriarch a book of their family's history. They warned the biographer they hired, that there was one problem. Uncle Willie, the "*Black Sheep*," had gone to Sing Sing's Electric chair for murder.

The writer carefully handled the situation in the following way: "Uncle Willie occupied a chair of applied electronics at one of our nation's leading institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock."

Researching England.

A Précis of the talk, presented on Thursday 19th March 2009, by Marie Maddocks of The State Library of South Australia.

I am sure that everyone that attended the talk given by Marie went away with something worthy of keeping in their research toolbox.

Marie is a Family Historian Specialist and the South Australian researcher for the SBS program "Who Do You Think You Are," and researched the Family History of such people as "Ida Buttrose" and "Kate Ceberano." Marie is also the Convenor for the South-Eastern England Group with SAGHS.

The valuable points that she gave from the start are worth reiterating here for everyone's benefit.

Family History is the fastest growing hobby in the world, thanks to the many television programs on the subject, particularly "Who Do You Think You Are" aired by the BBC and the Australian version programmed by the SBS Channel. Not to mention the multitude of Family History Magazines that appear on Newsagents magazine shelves as well.

However having said that Marie's delve into Genealogy was made by accident, and once started on the journey of discovery, she found that it was extremely hard to get away from the subject.

In Family History Research, there are some important points to remember.

(i) **Never assume anything;** we all fall into this little trap from time to time. It is easy to think that in a line of male members in an ancestry stretching back over several generations, where the first-born male were traditionally named John. Therefore, the person we are researching, being the only known male born of the family, would obviously also be called John as well. But after being led up the garden path by assumption for so long and getting no where fast, we suddenly find that there was another male child born before our suspect relative, and it was he that was called John, and our suspect's name turns out to be William. The lesson here is to check everything before committing to paper.

(ii) **Talk to relatives;** but never take anything they say, as being gospel, there are many family myths created by family members, sometimes to cover up a family scandal, or some by repetitious retelling over the years, has become expanded out of all proportion. Write what they say down, and check everything. This I cannot stress enough; people do lie and even fabricate events.

(iii) **Back up your Research;** especially if you are using a Commercial Family History Program, nothing worse to spend hours working on the Family History, only to suddenly loose the lot because of some glitch with the computer or program.

State Library:

The State Library has a bank of computers solely for the use of Family Historians, however they are on a first come first serve basis, and we do have people waiting at the door for the Library to open, so it follows that you could be waiting for hours before one becomes available. Also available for research, is all the complete Indexes for England and Wales. Remember though, those indexes were prepared by humans, and many

make mistakes, some of the hand written indexes are very bad.

Marie said, "I personally had a problem when researching the name COAD, the hand writing on the index was atrocious, and I was not sure whether the name was COAD or what. Therefore, I wrote down all the variants of the name including COAL, and it was then after some time, I found that the name I was searching for was indeed COLE. I still have trouble with some of the old Law Hand used on old English Wills."

Problems with Research:

One problem that one will find is that of a missing Birth. Between 1837 and 1875 many births were not registered, because the Registrar was required to physically to go around hospitals and ask mothers for the details, some of the poorer people had home births, with a local midwife in attendance, and if the parents did not get around to registering the birth, then there is no record at all. Some birth were concealed, because of the situation in which it occurred, e.g. a young unmarried mother may have covered up the birth altogether.

Quite often another situation often arises when it comes to people's ages, people do lie about their age, as many women know and can attest to.

Parish records were introduced in 1538, but unfortunately not many have survived that go back that far, those that have survived however, are an invaluable source of research.

The Law in England was then that all marriages to be considered valid and legal, had to go through a Church of England Ceremony, the exception to this law was extended only to Quakers and those of the Jewish faith.

Census

The 1911 Census has now become available, although it is a pay to view service, which can become very expensive to browse the records. Marie had a case where she had to try to locate her family of THOMAS who were supposed to reside in one particular area of England. However upon searching the Index she located the family name quite easily enough, the problem was there were several THOMAS families residing within the same location. On researching further, she became aware of the situation where the head of the household in each bore the same Christian name. However only one family had a son called Peter and that was the family that she was after. When exploring the 1911 Census always use the Index before committing yourself to purchasing a copy of the entry, as Marie said it could become a very expensive project. (**Editor's note, = refer to page 8 in the March edition of The Compass**)

Where to Search:

A Law passed under Elizabeth 1st, ordered every Parish Church throughout England to keep a Parish Chest. This Chest had to be large enough to keep the Parish Records in safety, and for security had to be fitted with five (5) locks. These records consisted of:

(i) **Parish Registers;** into which were recorded all Births, Marriages, and Burials that occurred within the Parish, as well as records of every event that affected the Parish and its members, such as collections, Fire, and Church refurbishing etc, and some contain social events as well.

(ii) **A Parish Census;** not many of these have survived; they were used as a survey of all the people residing within the Parish.

(iii) **Bastardy Rolls;** within a Parish, whenever a woman or girl became pregnant outside of marriage, this caused some problems for the Parish itself, this was because the Parish was committed to take care of the needy within its boundaries. However when a pregnancy occurred under these circumstances, it meant that the Parish had to provide support for her, unless the father could be found. The unfortunate woman or girl being hauled before the Church Overseers, and interrogated until she named the father, who in turn would also be brought before the enquiry, and forced to contribute to the child's birth and its upbringing. Sometimes however, the female would name a wealthy person of the Parish in the hope of being financially looked after.

(iv) **Apprentice Rolls;** Apprenticeships covered many things, it could be where a person was assigned to learn a trade, but it also covered the poor as well. The Poor of the parish, Adults and Children alike, were assigned as apprentices to wealthy farmers and businesses within the Diocese for a period, which could be years. These people could be used as House Servants, farm hands, or factory workers in the various Wool and Linen Mills. Examination of the various Census records show children as young as eight (8) being named as housemaids or servants to a wealthy family. The Master of these apprentices were only required to provide food and shelter. The Apprentice had to have permission from their Master to marry, if they absconded from the service of a Master, they were liable to be arrested by anyone, and physically returned to their Master, probably to be punished severely. The names of apprentices appear on lists and rolls, which are fully searchable.

(v) **Parish Warden's Rolls;** The Church Warden was the person who was compelled to keep the peace within the Parish, and his reports cover all manner of occurrences, such as not attending Church on Sunday, which was compulsory, or drinking, swearing, fighting or gambling on a Sunday. These are all worthy of exploring.

(vi) **Overseer's Reports;** The overseers of the Poor reports, and who did what to whom, and all matter affecting the Parish Chest. Collections were a big part of the running of the Parish, and paid for repairs to the Church, and helping the needy. These reports are fairly well documented, and these days are obtainable from the County Record Office.

(vii) **Wills;** The Last Will and Testament of people were proved in two Ecclesiastical Courts, the major and ruling Court was Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), which was responsible for the Counties in the Southern part of England, and The Prerogative Court of York (PCY), for the Northern part of the country. However these courts were usually for the wealthier people of the Counties whose Estate was valued at £5 or more. All other Wills were proved in the Courts of the

Bishop's Diocese. These Wills are locatable at the County Records Office. The SA Library has an Index of both the PCC and PCY Wills. All these Wills are pre 1858, after that date all Wills in England and Wales had to be proved in a Court of Law. Scottish Wills are a bit of a problem, and these can be located through Scotland's People website.

SAGHS has indexes of Wills post 1858, you can also check out Wills of famous people on line at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline> which is an extension of the National Archives of England, two Wills in particular are fairly interesting, that of "*William Shakespeare*," where he left practically everything to his family members, and it was not until the last line practically that he left his wife "*My second best bed*" It doesn't appear that he thought much of her, but had to leave her something. The other interesting Will is that of "*Charles Dickens*," there are many other Wills of famous people to view as well.

English Newspapers:

The State Library has available on microfilm, the London Times dating from 1834. Also available on the Internet are the "*Gale Newspaper Collection*" of the 19th Century British Newspapers. These are in digitised format; the Library has bought a membership enabling us to view these very valuable newspaper resources. When researching your family in a particular area it is worthwhile consulting these resources. Also available are the "*Gentleman's Magazine*" of the 18th Century, and was the newspaper read by the Gentry of the time. The Newspaper was more or less a culmination of all the news events around the country and abroad, the "*Gentleman's Magazine*" did report news itself, but rather copied news from other publications, it was little like plagiarism of the day, but then no one took much notice, and it seems that no one heard of that back then anyway. In 1709 there was a tax of one half penny of newssheet, which gathered a lot of revenue for the Crown because of the number of newspapers in existence.

And Finally:

There is one other valuable collection available for your research, that being the Harleian Society Collection. This collection deals mainly with the titled families of England and Wales. They were built up by Robert Harley, 1st Earl of Oxford, who spent his wife's fortune on gathering all the information for the collection, without telling her. When he died, she was almost broke, and she sold most of the collection for the cost of the bindings. In reality a pittance compared to their value. Over 8,000 manuscripts were given to the National Archives; among these were 84 volumes of Church records for London. That is not taking into account the records of the Visitations, undertaken throughout England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, by Heralds, who examined people claiming to hold a Family Coat of Arms, the claimants' were extensively examined, and were required to provide a Pedigree Chart. These charts go back beyond the earliest Visitation of the Heralds in 1530 and well worth a perusal.

Upon conclusion of her talk, the audience of 36 members, who gave Marie their usual warm vote of appreciation. ♦♦♦



EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR - April/May 2009

THURSDAY	16 April.	<i>Midweek Open Day. (Margaret Flaiban & Ivan Randall) Host Research Assistants.</i>	10.00am. to 4.00pm
THURSDAY	16 April.	<i>Guest Speaker Night. Presenting; James Potter, "Historical Salisbury."</i>	7.00pm to ---
THURSDAY	23 April.	<i>Midweek Open Day. (Margaret Flaiban & Ivan Randall) Host Research Assistants</i>	10.00am to 4.00pm
SATURDAY	25 April.	<i>Research and Networking Day. (All Committee Members available)</i>	1.00pm. to 4.00pm
THURSDAY	30 April.	<i>Midweek Open Day. (Margaret Flaiban & Ivan Randall) Host Research Assistants</i>	10.00am to 4.00pm
THURSDAY	7 May.	<i>Midweek Open Day. (Margaret Flaiban & Ivan Randall) Host Research Assistants</i>	10.00am to 4.00pm
THURSDAY	14 May.	<i>Midweek Open Day. (Margaret Flaiban & Ivan Randall) Host Research Assistants</i>	10.00am to 4.00pm

For the Interest of all members:



For all Cornish descendants, a reminder that *Kernewek Lowender* the Worlds Largest Cornish Festival, is once again being held on the Yorke Peninsular from the 11th – 17th May, 2009. This year celebrates 150 years since Copper was discovered in the area, so this is going to be a special Festival, suitable for all the Family. Come and retrace your History. Visit Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta for an experience of Friendly Cornish Hospitality. ♦

On Our Birthday List



On behalf of all Members, the Committee extends Congratulations and Best Wishes to the following members who are celebrating their Birthday during this period.

April



19th	Tammy	MARTIN.
22nd	Kristine	MEAD.
22nd	Gillian	SWANSSON.
22nd	Yvonne	CLAYTON.

May



4th	Susan	CARTER.
7th	Graeme	CARSE
9th	Alison	MORGAN.

Happy Birthday on your day, and may you all enjoy many more.