Hello Members,

It seems like the warmer weather conditions are hopefully behind us, and our rooms at Ann Street seem to be a little cooler, so there is no excuse not to come down and see us on a Thursday for a chat, a cuppa and maybe continue to use the computers for some research.

We were expecting more people to turn up at our ‘brick walls’ session last Saturday but for the people who did turn up, we hope the day was helpful. Our next Speaker Day on the 28th April, is ‘Looking through Windows’ which says it all. This is a computer day, so if you have any queries on how your computer works or you are not sure how to successfully manoeuvre around the various ‘windows’ then bring your laptop/tablets along. Hopefully we will be able to help you understand your computer a little more.

This edition of our newsletter has some interesting articles especially from The Genealogist which is a subscription site. The story of tea is a great insight into the humble cuppa, and thank you once again to Heather Milhench for her valuable input.

Don’t forget our two User Groups are still very active but Legacy Users please note our next meeting will be on the second Monday night 9th April, due to the Easter break. The Family Tree Maker Users Group will still be active on the 3rd Saturday in the month. We hope to see more of you coming along and joining in.

Happy Hunting everyone!

Thank you.
ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Two books have been added to our Library, both of Cornish origins, the first one being “Not Only In Stone” by Phyllis Somerville. This is the story of Polly Thomas, a woman of strength, courage and compassion. The Thomas family arrive in Adelaide from Cornwall in 1865. Her husband Nathan, a miner with one child born at sea and Polly’s sister Ellen. Polly’s independent spirit keeps the whole family moving through adversity after tragedies within the family and community.

If you have South Australian/Cornish roots it is well worth the read.

The second one is “Australia’s Little Cornwall” by Oswald Pryor. The author was born in Moonta and began working in the mine at the age of 13. He worked in this environment until 1923.

It gives a wealth of knowledge of the Cornish men and women who lived and worked in this quite harsh area of South Australia with stories of Cousin Jacks and Jennies. Humour and resilience abound.

The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies is Renamed to Family History Connections

The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies located in Blackburn, Victoria, Australia will now be known as Family History Connections. According to the new web site at: https://www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au:

“In the name AIGS, each word had a certain meaning. The word Australian implies that we help people with their Australian research. This is misleading because we provide access to family history resources from around the world. The word could also imply that our members are from around Australia, which is also incorrect, as the majority of our members live locally in Melbourne. We are not an Institute in the modern meaning of the word – conducting research and publishing papers. Rather, we help members to do their own research through the resources we provide. Genealogical Studies is a term not
widely recognised in this day and age, when the commonly used term on web sites, commercial databases, magazines and books is Family History.

“The AIGS Council believes a name is extremely important in conveying to the public what you do. Council wanted a clearer, more contemporary name to promote the organisation to the public, and ultimately to attract new members. The decision about the new name was arrived at after long consideration of many words and combinations of words. Council recognised the importance of retaining the original AIGS name, which has been successfully used for nearly forty-five years. Council also voted unanimously to retain our distinctive logo. The design of the FHC name is more modern and in a striking blue and lime palette.

“The new name is a registered business name of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, following the example of the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society, which successfully adopted the new registered business name of Genealogy SA several years ago.”

Source: Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter

TIME FOR A CUPPA

Are you a ‘jiggler’ or a traditionalist when it comes to making a cup of tea? Whatever your choice – the story behind the development of each is quite interesting. Let’s begin with the method used by over 95% of tea drinkers today – the tea bag.

In 1908 Thomas Sullivan, a New York coffee merchant, decided to try selling tea and, as a cost cutting measure, he distributed small samples of tea in silk sachets. It seems the recipients failed to realise that they were supposed to cut open the sachets and use the loose tea in the teapot and instead put the whole bag in the pot. This error led to the teabag being ‘born by mistake’.

America is generally regarded as a coffee drinking nation but the tea drinkers readily accepted the teabag and it became an instant success. The bag material was soon refined and silk was replaced by gauze before William Hermanson patented the heat-sealed paper fibre teabag in 1930.

Across the Atlantic the British tea drinkers were not so ready to accept this new ‘invention’ and it is reported that they complained that the paper tag, attached to the bag, which often fell into the pot or cup had more flavour than the tea ‘dust’ contained in the bag! Joseph Tetley & Co. - Britain’s largest tea maker - eventually introduced teabags in 1953, but they failed to make a great impact on the market. Ten years later teabags still only accounted for 3% of tea sold in Britain and it seemed that changing the British tea drinking habit was not going to be easy. The introduction of the perforated teabag in 1964 appears to have been the reason for their eventual acceptance and by 2008 Tetley was selling 200 million teabags a week in Britain.
There are a few institutions which have resisted the now universally accepted teabag and the London Ritz Hotel remains one of these ‘teabag free zones’. There you will be served the traditional English afternoon tea with your beverage brewed in a fine teapot from a choice of 17 varieties of tea leaves!

The use of teapots is relatively new compared to the time that tea has been drunk. During the 7th century tea came in blocks. A piece would be cut off, broken up, and boiled in water in a cauldron before being drunk from a bowl. Later powered tea was produced by grounding the block and then this was added to hot water in a deep, wide bowl. The powder was whisked to form a froth and when this settled the tea was drunk from the bowl. This method of tea making was introduced into Japan in the early 9th century and considered medicinal in both China and Japan for the next 500 years.

Teapot shaped vessels have been made in China for thousands of years but they initially were small and designed for individuals to drink water or wine directly through the spout. In the 1300’s these vessels were adapted when tea leaf infusion began.

Tea was shipped from China to Europe from the end of the 17th century but only the upper classes could afford to drink it. Lockable tea caddies were used to store this valuable commodity and these have now become collector’s items.

The ships also carried Chinese porcelain teapots which were painted in blue patterns over a white background. Porcelain can withstand sea water without damage and so the teapots were able to be stored on the lowest deck. Before this time porcelain had not been manufactured in Europe but, in 1708, the Meissen factory in Dresden, Germany, began production of this type of tea ware.

Prior to the advent of the teabag every household had a teapot, together with the teapot cosy, tea caddy, stand and strainer.

Now we just have a packet of teabags in the cupboard and it’s an almost instant cuppa. How times have changed!

Heather Milhench © August 2011

From time to time we get updates from various websites – one of them being The Genealogist. Here are just a few items of interest from their Newsletter.

In this edition, we launch Outbound UK Passenger Lists for the 1940s and you can read Nick Thorne’s latest article.
Nick Thorne shows how the 1940s passenger lists reveal evacuated children, war brides and service personnel crossing the Atlantic in his latest article.

New 1940s Passenger Lists

We have just released 1.4 million Passenger Records covering the 1940s. This expands our Outbound Passenger Lists to over 25 million and forms part of our larger immigration and emigration collection on TheGenealogist. These newly transcribed BT27 images are from The National Archives, and feature passengers who sailed out of United Kingdom in the years between 1940 and 1949.
The passenger lists released today will allow researchers to:

- Discover potential family members travelling together using TheGenealogist’s SmartSearch
- Find ancestors sailing to Africa, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and other destinations
- View images of the original passenger list documents
- See the ages, last address and intended permanent residence
- Fully indexed records allow family historians to search by name, year, country of departure, country of arrival, port of embarkation and port of destination

Researchers who had ancestors that travelled abroad from Britain in the 1940s will find these records a fascinating addition to the vast collection of records on TheGenealogist.

1940s passenger lists reveal evacuated children, war brides and service personnel crossing the Atlantic

The addition of the 1940s decade of the BT27 outbound passenger lists to those already on TheGenealogist introduces some intriguing ship’s passages to research. Using these records, researchers can find ancestors who may have braved not only the vagaries of the weather out at sea, but also the threat of the lurking German submarines.

Source: TheGenealogist Newsletter

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc.
Committed in Promoting Family History Research