

NEWSLETTER

January - February - March 2009

Volume Ten Number One



SKETCHLEY COTTAGE

Linking yesterday with tomorrow

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

They Were Here Vol 1	\$ 35
They Were Here Vol 2	\$ 40
War Memorials of the Port Stephens Area	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace History & Heritage	\$ 25
Marriages from the Gloucester Examiner & Raymond Terrace Examiner 1894 – 1926	\$ 15
Clearing Out Sales Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter 1895 – 1930	\$ 15
Soldiers & Memorials of Seaham	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Register	\$ 30
Cemetery Master Index	\$ 25
Landholders & Others	\$ 15
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Cemetery	\$ 5
Obituary Books Vol 1 1893 – 1915	
Vol 2 1916 – 1925	
Vol 3 1926 – 1930, 1951 & 1953	

Buy any two volumes of Obituaries for \$45 or all three publications for \$65. Purchased individually the Obituary Books cost \$25.

We also have available for sale a large selection of publications not produced by the Society but covering the local district among them are:

Seaham School of Arts	\$ 15
Short History of Raymond Terrace	\$ 5
Wades Corn Flour Mill 1878-1902	\$ 10

All prices exclude postage

SKETCHLEY COTTAGE MUSEUM is located opposite Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace and is open to the public on Sundays 10am to 4pm other times by appointment. Bus groups are most welcome, please contact the Secretary to arrange a date and time.

The Society's **RESEARCH ROOMS** are located in the Port Stephens Library, cnr William & Port Stephens Streets, Raymond Terrace

Open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9.30 am to 2 pm - other times by appointment

Membership of the Society is open to everyone with an interest in Local and Family History.

Joining Fee \$2.00 Concession \$12.00 Full Membership \$18.00

Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at St Brigids Hall, Raymond Terrace at 7.30 pm.



**RAYMOND TERRACE & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
PO BOX 255
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324**

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COMMITTEE:

David Gunter Laurel Young Moira Saunderson

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

March	20	General Meeting
	30	Committee Meeting
April	17	General Meeting
	27	Committee Meeting
May	15	General Meeting (Talk by Mr Middleton)
	25	Committee Meeting
June	19	'Soup and Stories of Suffragettes'

SKETCHLEY COTTAGE ROSTER

In light of the fact that we anticipate new additions to the cottage roster there will be a new roster starting from the beginning of May.

March	1	M. Saunderson and H. James
	8	D. and J. Gunter
	15	B. and S. Sokoloff
	22	F. Clarke and G. Francis
	29	M. Iversen and L. Young
April	5	B. Sokoloff and J. Sullivan
	12	D. and J. Gunter
	19	M. Saunderson and H. James
	26	B. and S. Sokoloff

LIBRARY NEWS - *Lesley GENT*

NEW ACQUISITIONS

- Wood of Cranes - The story of St Mary on Allyn and Caergwrie, Allynbrook and the Gentlefolk of the District
- History of Significance of Commonwealth Sabre A94-959
- Who's Who 2008
- Colonial Ladies - Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose. Crime reports for SMH relating to the Female Factory, Parramatta, 1831-1835
- Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW. A short history 1948 - 1998

JOURNAL JOTTINGS

Liverpool Genealogy Society No 90

Memories of Charlestown 1936-1943

Martha Elizabeth Beota Earea (née Matterson)

Elizabeth Punch 1875-1955

Neither Honour or Glory: Redcoats on the Northern Coast

Newcastle Family History Society No 185

Some wonderful stories of early transport and the people who travelled.

Australian Family Tree - January 2009

Stories on Edgar Spink; Henry Morgan; Bill and Kath Pearce; Thomas and Rachel Barnes and much more.

Australian Family Tree - February 2009

The Long family - a family of Chinese extraction. The Young family of Sydney; The New Zealand Wars; Nathaniel James Cook and Bonnie Jean Nicholas; Alexander McKenzie; Cotter family; Florence Healy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Further to my review in the last newsletter (Dec. 2008 Vol. 9 No. 4), an update and highlights follows. At our last committee meeting, held on 2nd of February, candid discussion took place about future matters for consideration by the incoming executive and committee.

- A commitment was made that in the first part of this year, the sub-committee of Sketchley Museum concentrate on preparing displays for ANZAC Day (25th April), a revamp of our War memorabilia, and for the Museums Australia Conference (17-20 May), James King and the Irawang, (participants will come on tours organised by the Conference).
- The storage area has been limited by valuable space being occupied by items surplus to the Society's requirements. A gradual process of identifying the important artefacts has been initiated and a winnowing process considered. Concentration on significant artefacts in our collection will be the criteria.
- A potential new display area could be created by enclosing the area between the kitchen and storage shed. This would allow the projected Smith's Bakery exhibition to be mounted.
- Security at the Sketchley Museum needs improvement with the replacement of the current fence. Sponsorship will be sought for this. The protection of our valuable collection is a continuing concern. Such a development would relieve the anxiety level.

Although I will not be standing for an executive position in the Society, I intend to continue participating in a supporting role. Many years of interest in the success of the Society has been a major focus. It is time for someone local to maintain the momentum.

The achievements made an recovery from adverse occurrences have been due to a dedicated team of members on the committee. I look forward to the new committee continuing the efforts. Thanks to all the members for their support of the society's endeavours at the museum and the Research Room at the Library.

Boris Sokoloff - Outgoing President.

SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2008

As I do not intend to standing for this position again and as I am the only active original member of the Society, my report this year will be a stroll down memory lane.

When our Society commenced in November 1974, it was with the will that we would succeed and not emulate two other attempts that had failed. The fact that we celebrate our 35th birthday this year must mean that for the present, we have succeeded.

We had nothing, no headquarters, but plenty of willing workers. We were blessed with a President with foresight. For many years we met at the old Council Chambers. our first target was to accumulate as many local records as possible and at the same time look for suitable premises. For many years afterwards, countless hours were spent at the local Court House, Newcastle, Archives and Catholic Presbytery acquiring Parish Records.

In 1975, after much negotiating, we were given Sketchley Cottage, which after its removal to its present site became our headquarters. Approximately seven to eight members met every Wednesday to work on records etc. In 1988 when the Museum building was erected, a small room at the end became the research room. In 1997 we graduated to two rooms at the local library through the support of the Port Stephens Council.

In the 'heady' days of our formation, we undertook several car drives to surrounding historic houses, including Kaludah House, Berry Park, Duckenfield, Prospect House, Eales Gate House, and many more. These trips helped us to understand area history on

WEB SITES

For the convenience of members who are unable to visit the Research Rooms I have listed below are a few useful web sites extracted from incoming newsletters.

The New Zealand Wars - www.newzealandwars.co.nz

New Zealand history online - www.nzhistory.net.nz/

Index to Victorian Wills, Probate and Administration Records 1841-1925
http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search.asp?searchid=54

1911 Irish Census. The 1911 Census records for Antrim, Down, Kerry and Belfast are now available online - www.nationalarchives.ie/

Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria - links that might be able to help - www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/cafhov/links.htm

Free Settler or Felon? A free searchable database of convicts and others who settled in the Newcastle-Hunter Valley area and more - www.jenwilletts.com/index.htm

Italian Genealogy Online - www.anzwers.org/free/italiangen/index.html

Two excellent web sites for anyone who thinks their ancestor might have arrived as a convict in Western Australia.
www.sro.wa.gov.au/collection/

www.fremantleprison.com/history/history6.cfm

CONTENTS OF A CONVICT WOMAN'S KIT

Member Laurel Legge has provided the following details from "Patchwork Quilts in Australia" by Margaret Rolfe (1987 p. 20). These items were provided so convict women could use their time on board ship to the new colony in making patchwork quilts for sale in New South Wales.

"Each woman transported is provided by the British Society of Ladies, with the following articles:-

*One Bible
One hessian apron
One black stuff ditto
One black cotton cap
One large hessian bag (to keep her clothes in)
One small ditto, containing:
One piece of tape
One oz. of pins
One hundred needles
Four balls of white sewing cotton
One ditto black
One ditto blue
One ditto red
Two balls of black worsted, half oz. each
Twenty four hanks of coloured thread
One of cloth, with 8 darning needles
One small bodkin fastened on it
Two stay laces
One thimble
One pair of scissors
One pair of spectacles, when required
Two lbs. of patchwork pieces
One comb
One small ditto
Knife and fork to eat mess
Ball of string to ditto"*

the larger scale. We also were able to organise many Coach trips to places far and wide, which in today's economic climate and competition from larger organisations, are no longer feasible. However, car drives are still a viable option.

Our valuable photo collection which 'like Topsy, just grew' is now being placed on a CD set and stored in correct archive boxes thanks to Yardja Green.

The research room is going along in leaps and bounds, although emphasis must be placed on securing research fees from those seeking to use our resources. Thanks to Elaine Hall, Oscar Carlson & Val Linegar.

After three failed attempts, the present team have worked for the last four years on the Museum collection, accessioning, photographing, packing and placing all records on the Mosaic Database. Thanks to Boris & Sue Sokoloff, Jean & Bill Spencer and Faye Clarke.

In the supposedly progressive, modern world we find ourselves, we members have to be smarter, have curatorial and photographic skills & computer skills. It is becoming tougher to survive in an atmosphere of diminishing volunteers. Obtaining Grant money is going to be a necessity as to maintain Sketchley Cottage alone requires a budget of at least \$6,000 per year.

To all those members who have over the years taken the time to assist our Society a sincere thank you and please keep it up.

My best wishes to the incoming committee and if they receive even a small percentage of the achievement and happiness I have experienced, they will be blessed.

Moira Saunderson - Hon. Sec., February 2009.



RESEARCH REPORT FOR 2008

It is with pleasure that I write a report on our work for this past year. As always it has been a very busy and sometimes very tedious year, but we all work together and so things sort themselves out.

We have had many visitors over the year, just about from every state in Australia plus a couple from England and a couple from Utah in USA, this couple was related via the Blanch family.

Some of our researchers donate their work for our Archives, this is very much appreciated and adds to our library.

We received a lot of old maps courtesy of the Commonwealth Bank, they have all been covered with mila, thanks to Moira, and are ready to hang in the map gondola.

The Reader Printer is proving very popular and helpful to anyone doing local history, we have the local newspaper on microfilm as well as part of the Maitland Mercury, shipping reels, some church records and some Sydney Gazette.

We were given a Debtor Ledger belonging to a Mr Solomon of Tamworth by Tamworth Historical Society. This ledger has been copied, put on to CD for our own use and the original was offered to Mr Joel Solomon who has come up from Victoria many times to research his family. He was thrilled to receive the ledger and no doubt will treasure it for life.

Over the year we have purchased a few new books and CDs. This adds interest for our members. Some of our books are available to members for a 2 week loan; you must appreciate that we can not do without books for very long. Of course there are some books which can not be borrowed, and not allowed to be taken from our room, but you are quite welcome to come in and sit and read them.

We had a setback early in the year when vandals smashed our glass front door and the two windows. We thank very much the library staff who wouldn't let us back in our rooms 'til repairs were done and the glass and mess was cleaned up.

A NIGHT OF "SOUP AND STORIES OF SUFFRAGETTES"

**Friday 19th of June from 6.15pm
St Brigid's Hall, Raymond Terrace.**



A light meal of soup and crusty bread will be served. Phone 4987 6435 to RSVP for catering purposes. Entry by donation. Books will be available for purchase for \$30.

Jim Windeyer has written a book, will speak about his great aunt, **Margaret Windeyer (1866-1939)**, who was a member of the Tomago Branch of the family. In the movement to improve the status of women, at the end of the 1800s Margaret was prominent, persuasive and active. She was present at the meeting that produced the **Womanhood Suffrage League** and on its Council: called the meeting from which the **National Council of Women of NSW** emerged; and was a Commissioner for NSW at the 1893 Columbian Exposition (World Fair) and the Congress of Representative Women in Chicago. Jim has written a book that covers these areas as well as her career as a librarian in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

WEBSITE AND DISCUSSION BOARD – *Helen James*

www.sketchleycottage.org.au

Please be sure to regularly visit our Society web site at. We try to add information and keep track of upcoming events on the site.

<http://sketchleycottage.org.au/discussion>

We also have an active discussion board where you can discuss your current family research, or keep track of the events happening in the Society. Be sure to register your details to be able to contribute to the discussions. If you need any technical help please contact me at info@sketchleycottage.org.au.

NEWSLETTER GOES ONLINE – *Helen James*

My apologies for the late arrival of the first newsletter of the New Year, having taken over the job from Lesley Gent I am still very much finding my feet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley for all her hard work in the previous production of the newsletter, and for providing me with such a wealth of material as a basis for its future production.

I hope to be able to produce future Newsletters towards the beginning of the middle month in each quarter. If you have any articles or material to be added to the April-June newsletter please forward to our Secretary Faye Clarke, or email the material directly to me in any text format at info@sketchleycottage.org.au.

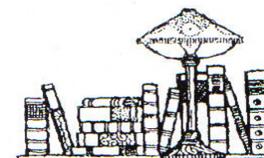
I would appreciate it if all material could be to me by the end of April for the next quarter's newsletter.

In addition to the regular 'snail mail' (posted) copies of the newsletter, I will also be making the newsletter available on the Research page of the Society's website. If you would prefer your newsletter sent by email, please just let me know by email.

As usual I have to thank our workers, Lesley, Val, Oscar for his work on the Scrapbooks, Yardja for her exceptional work with the photos, putting them into albums and also on to CD and Moira for just being there when help was needed most.

I hope this year will be as pleasant and productive as the previous ones.

Elaine Hall – Research Officer, February 2009.



TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2008.

As disclosed on Income and Expenditure Statement the Society increased their funds by \$318.65 over the course of the year. This is a small amount but pleasing due to the vandalism that occurred. The Grant from Museums Australia (2007 year) for \$4,144.80 had a total expenditure over the 2007 & 2008 years of \$3,668.00 leaving us with \$476.80.

The financial position of the Society remains viable even with the year's setbacks. investing excess funds in a higher yield account netted \$1,476.12 for the year. From the current strength of the Society it would appear that the money will be able to stay in a higher yield account for the foreseeable future.

Anne Knott – Treasurer, February 2009.

FRENCH – BELGIAN OR DUTCH-BELGIAN

Anyone researching Belgian ancestors might, from time to time, have trouble in finding certain towns on maps of Belgium. This is because the Dutch (or Flemish) language which more than half the Belgians speak was officially considered inferior, whereas French was given every benefit, even to the point where French names were imposed upon Dutch-speaking cities which had their own Dutch names. Therefore, if you have an ancestor whose documentation shows him as coming from Courtrai, and you then look in vain for Courtrai on the map, the explanation is that Dutch has come into its own at last and the city of Courtrai is generally known nowadays by its Dutch name, Kortrijk.

There are two main ethnic groups in Belgium. The Dutch speaking Flemings, who occupy the area called Flanders, and the French-speaking Walloons, who live in Wallonia. Relations between the two are not always good and, as far as the Flemings are concerned, they have still not forgotten a tragic murder case of the 1800s in which two Flemings were sentenced to death by a Court in which French was pompously and savagely spoken and where the two defendants did not understand a word. To the Flemish section of the population, it seemed that all Flanders was on trial for being Dutch speakers and therefore (presumably) for being reckoned as uncultured peasants. The two men were guillotined and were later proven to have been innocent.

Now that Dutch has belatedly been promoted as an equal language, it might be of interest and benefit to researchers of Belgian ancestry to become familiar with some of the alternative place-names. Belgium, East Flanders (Oost Vlaanderen), West Flanders (West Vlaanderen), and Limburg, all of which speak Dutch, and Hainaut, Liege, Namur and Luxembourg (which is not to be mistaken for the independent nation of Luxembourg just next door), all of which speak French. The great majority of Belgians, both Flemish and Walloon, are Catholics.

Foreign countries bordering Belgium are: The Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and France. The Belgian Royal Family has

The histories of many of the existing buildings in King Street are profiled.

The book is available from the Research Rooms at Port Stephens Library for \$20.



Moira Saunderson, Cynthia Hunter and Cr. Glenys Francis photographed at the book launch



BOOK LAUNCH – RAYMOND TERRACE - RIVERPORT.

Raymond Terrace Historical Society recently held a very successful book launch at the Masonic Building in King Street. The latest publication “Raymond Terrace – River Port” by Cynthia Hunter’s is an in depth study that looks at the history of Raymond Terrace as a river port since the late 1800s. It was attended by Cr. Francis, society members and representatives from other history groups and the Masonic Lodge. An added bonus on the day was a guided tour of the Masonic Lodge rooms

Funding for this publication was received through the Port Stephens Council Heritage Committee. Cynthia conducted her research using resources of the State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library and the local history archives collection of the Raymond Terrace Historical Society, contained in the Local Library.

During her research, Cynthia uncovered a watercolour painting done by Alfred Sharp c1899, of the Hunter River at Raymond Terrace showing buildings, including the Richardson and Scully brickworks, and evidence of the lively river trade that existed at the time. This painting is featured on the front of the book. The book looks at the development of the shipping companies within the town and the expansion of the central business district as a result of the growing population in the area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

neither a French nor Dutch surname, but is of German origin and bears the surname Wettin. It is always good to keep in mind when doing European research the closeness of the countries and the common language spoken by them, especially in the border regions. You might have an ancestor whom the family has always said was German for example but who could have, in fact, come from Belgium or France. European research is not always easy because of the language and geographic situation of the countries but it is very rewarding and historically very interesting.

Lesley Gent & John van Kampe

IRISH CLADDAGH RING

The Irish Claddagh Ring story began in the 16th century when Richard Joyce, a native of Galway was captured by Algerian Corsairs while on his way to the West Indies. He was sold as a slave to a wealthy Moorish Goldsmith who trained him in the craft. His master took a great liking to him and offered him his freedom which Richard very happily accepted. He returned to his native county and settled down in the ancient village of Claddagh, just outside Galway city, where he designed and made the first Claddagh rings. These became very popular with the local people as a Betrothal and Wedding ring. The design of the ring is simple but unique:

The hand signifies friendship
The Crown loyalty
The heart love.

The Irish Claddagh today is very popular because of its tradition and design and is used internationally as a token of love and great friendship. There are many companies copying the Claddagh Ring – if you want a genuine Irish Claddagh ring look for the Irish Hallmark and the trade mark D.D.

BOGS AND PEAT IN IRELAND - *Lesley Gent*

The absence of coal in Ireland was compensated by the supply of peat obtained from the bogs which covered the central plains.

This district was once occupied by forest, principally of oak trees, which was gradually killed by the growth of mosses and other peat-producing plants. Other trees grew later, in turn sinking into the bog which, over the centuries, became peat.

The average depth of a bog is twenty-five feet but it can be forty feet deep. The colour varies from a light brown to a dark brown closely resembling coal. The brown or red turf in the centre forms the best fuel. In the mountain districts the bogs usually consist of brown turf of only twelve inches thickness.

The lower strata sometimes pass into lignite of immense thickness and this is generally found around the southern shores of Lough Neagh. The bogs of the central plain contain, in a state of good preservation, animal and human skeletons, tree canoes, gold and silver coins and many other ancient artefacts.

The total area occupied by bogs in Ireland is nearly three million acres, or about one-seventh of the surface of the island. Millions of tons of peat are consumed annually in Ireland for domestic purposes and the extensive peat deposits are of increasing importance for generating electricity. Russia, Sweden, Germany & Denmark also produce and use considerable quantities and peat is used locally in England and Scotland.

Peat is usually hand cut although there is more excavation and spreading of peat by mechanical methods in the last ten years. It is cut by spade in the form of blocks, which are spread out to dry (peat in its natural state contains 90 to 95 percent water) when dry the blocks weigh from three quarters of a pound to one pound each.

SURNAMES – OCT 1993

Surnames were a slender guide to lineage before the eleventh and twelfth centuries since they were hardly used before that period. As the word itself implies, they were super or added names to specify an individual more fully than his given or Christian name allowed. The surname often came from his trade and gave us the Smiths and Bakers and Millers of today, and nearly as often from the father so that Jack the son of Robin became Jack Robinson.

Still more frequently a man was described by the place whence he came and at first, with the preposition 'of' or 'de' in front of the place name. It is worth mentioning that in the place from which a name is derived, the surname itself but seldom appears among the inhabitants, e.g. if a man lived at Debenham he was known, not as Peter Debenham, but as Peter the Miller or Peter Longshanks, or Peter son of Robert, or Peter of the Green etc. but if he moved elsewhere he became designated as Peter from Debenham, de Debenham and at last Debenham only.

In Scotland registration of births, deaths and marriages became compulsory in 1855. Before that date some 4000 parish registers dating from the 16th century are available for consultation. These records as well as census returns are housed in the General Register Office for Scotland, New Register House Edinburgh EH1 3TY. If you are going overseas try and allow a day to visit but remember usually the Register Office is full of Australians so it is wise to book in advance if at all possible. There is a charge for the use of their records.

Internet site. Married women are often listed on their death certificate by their maiden name – just to make research a little more fun.