



Reflections

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Thank you to the 13 members who responded to the survey we put out in August's issue of Reflections.

All the responses were positive – yes, everyone read Reflections, and yes, they found it was interesting. Eight members said that four times a year was enough for Reflections to be distributed. Nobody wanted more issues and only one person suggested there were fewer editions. Finally, everyone was happy to receive a copy each quarter.

In answer to the question: Anything else to read about: it was suggested we try to address roadblock questions, local stories, fun facts, Family History in general, more free sites and hints for using Family Tree Maker.

familytree

Recently I signed up to receive Family Tree Magazine – it's free!

<https://familytreemagazine.com>

There are all sorts of helpful hints in their daily magazine eg: Make your family photos shine; Construct a Timeline for your Irish Ancestor. There are also articles to read and be inspired by.

How to Find Someone's Maiden Name: A Comprehensive Guide

(By [GenealogyBank](#) September 23, 2022)

<https://blog.genealogybank.com/how-to-find-someones-maiden-name-a-comprehensive-guide.html>

Seeking out information about your family from generations past is challenging. One of the biggest hurdles to overcome is how to find someone's maiden name. Without the maiden names from the women in your family tree, you are missing out on approximately half of your lineage.

Unfortunately, archaic practices mean that how to find someone's mother's maiden name is easier said than done. While there are firm records now, this was far from the case in the past, even for widows.

So, if you have ever wondered, "what is my mother's maiden name?" and she's no longer around to ask, here's how to do it with the help of genealogy records.

If you click on the above link, you can read the rest of the article.

A member's story from our Treasures, Troubles and Tea afternoon

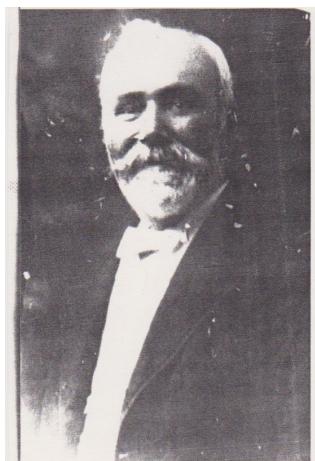


STORY OF THOMAS AND ANN LAW – Malcolm Swaine



I knew nothing about my maternal Law side of the family until my wife began researching them in 1987. She discovered that my Great grandfather Samuel Law travelled to Australia alone on the S.S. Orient in 1881. He had written a diary on the voyage which mentioned his wife and family in the home-town of Penkridge, in Staffordshire.

In 1894 Ellen and their 6 children arrived in Melbourne to meet up with Samuel. He had begun a business as a Shoemaker in Fitzroy and his 2 eldest sons Thomas George and Samuel Jnr worked with him.



As my wife began researching the family back in the U.K she discovered that Samuel Senior was one of 11 children born to Thomas and Ann Law who married in Penkridge in 1841. In following the families of the living children it was evident that Samuel was the only one who left the U.K for a life in Australia, so she wrote a letter to a Penkridge newspaper asking if there were any surviving children still in the area.

Surprisingly, she had 3 replies from 3 of the Granddaughters of Thomas and Ann who were still in the area. In 1995 Helen made a trip to the U.K and met the 3 cousins and many other members of the family and she was given copies of the photos of Thomas and Ann.



The Findmypast Family History Forum (Facebook)

Do you have a photo of a military ancestor but are unsure how to identify further details? Here are three top tips to get you started:

Look for key details - Look closely at things like the collar, cloth and cap badges. Don't forget to check the back of the photograph which may have dates or information about the photographer.

Medal clues - Examine the photograph in detail to see if you can identify the medals in it. If you can successfully recognise a medal, it will tell you what conflict the soldier served in and what award they won.

Other clues - Scour the photograph in its entirety to see if there are any other features that will reveal more details about it. Is there a newspaper or poster in the background that has a date on it? Maybe the photo was taken near a clearly identifiable landmark or includes some other clue that can help you pinpoint it to a specific date range or place.

Also post your photos on the "Armed Forces" boards on Rootschat. There are some very learned Military historians on there. If they can't help you no one can.

For those with Cornish ancestors

A free website to explore:

<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/home/>

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

It may not be generally known that it was a council responsibility to see that no unseemly behaviour occurred on the public beaches particularly at San Remo and Cowes.

At Cowes, public baths were built during 1891 where members of each sex could bathe at certain times, as no mixed bathing was allowed. So rigidly were these regulations enforced that permission had to be obtained from the police for men to enter the baths to go to the assistance of a woman bather in danger of drowning. West Rocks at Cowes was set aside for ladies' bathing and East Rocks for men. Matters seemed to get out of hand when by-law No.XI was found necessary to be introduced in 1910. The public were not allowed to bathe in the sea for a distance of 1/2 mile of each side of the baths unless clothed in a neck to knee costume of close texture, the penalty for offending if caught was 10 pounds. At San Remo, part of one beach was reserved for ladies' bathing only. A hut donated by a Mr Morey, who owned the Kilcunda Coal mine workings was erected by the council for use as a bathing box.

A Pirate Tale and a Miraculous Rescue at Sea – Elaine Alexander



Charlotte Tait and two of her grandchildren, [my grandmother on the left], about 1890

My great, great grandmother, Charlotte Tait, was born in 1818 near Edinburgh, Scotland, the daughter of a brewer's servant. She was a domestic servant and the promise of better work opportunities in Port Phillip encouraged her to travel, with her brother and sister, as an assisted emigrant to Australia in 1841 on sailing ship "The India".

I had often heard the story of the ship that bought my maternal family to Melbourne - that it had been attacked by pirates and then destroyed by fire. I had never taken this story seriously until I decided to research my family history.

Charlotte told the family of "The India" being accosted by a pirate and slave ship and the women and children hid below deck as the pirates were told only convicts were onboard. The pirates were, not long after, caught by a British warship and Charlotte gave evidence at their trial in Rio De Janeiro.

Soon after this scare the ship caught fire when two crew dropped a candle as they were collecting rum. It quickly burnt and sank and the 200+ people on board had to leap into the sea, without any possessions and little clothing. 17 people died including Charlotte's brother, Andrew. Miraculously, by a twist of fate, a French whaler was nearby and rescued 198 people in their lifeboats - "The India" had previously not sighted another ship since it left port!

The destitute passengers were taken to Rio De Janeiro where money was collected to provide them with housing, food and clothing until a ship was found to bring them to Melbourne later in 1841.

Charlotte had a son to an infamous "cad" who later staged a duel with his wife's lover but left her and died in a shipwreck in northern Queensland. She then married another passenger from "The India" but was widowed after 5 years. With four young children she managed her late husband's blacksmith and stables business in Geelong for several years before moving nearer to her siblings in Skipton. She bore two more children to an unknown father whilst surviving the primitive living conditions on the goldfields. She acted as a midwife for many women, including her daughters and the wife of the man who first discovered gold at Ballarat which created the 1850s Victorian gold rush. Despite the hardships she lived to an amazing 93 years!



The burning of the Barque India of Greenock by Samuel Elyard

A proud indigenous family history by Krishna Methven

Many family historians hope to find a convict or someone famous in their heritage, but few find a famous Indigenous ancestor from our colonial past.

Krishna Methven is a seventh-generation descendant of **Mannalargenna**, a leader of the Pairrebeenne/Trawlwoolway clan of north-eastern Tasmania, near Cape Portland. He was born around 1770 and was held in high regard by his people for being a great warrior, a wise leader and, in the 1820s, had led his warriors against the European occupation. However, by 1830 he agreed to help British Government officials persuade the remaining First Nations people to move from their country to the Bass Strait islands on the promise that it would protect his people, would be temporary and they could return to their homeland to resume their traditional lifestyle. He hoped, that by putting his people under the Governor's protection, they would not be indiscriminately killed. He himself moved to the Wybalenna Aboriginal establishment on Flinders Island in 1835.



However, he soon realised that he had been deceived and the move was permanent. In response, and as a symbol of betrayal, he cut his long hair and beard which was coated in red ochre and died of pneumonia within the year. Hundreds of his people suffered a similar fate on these islands.

The lineage of Mannalargenna survived as three of his daughters and his sister, were exchanged for dogs, seals and flour to European sealers and lived with them on Bass Strait islands. Sealing was a very profitable enterprise in the eastern Bass Strait at this time and Aboriginal women were prized not only as companions and domestic servants but for their amazing ability to catch seals.

Mannalargenna



Watercolour drawing of Mannalargenna by convict artist Thomas Bock, held by The British Museum. Mannalargenna's skin and hair are coated in ochre and he holds a paperbark fire stick.

Krishna is descended from Mannalargenna's daughter, Wyerlooberer, known as Margaret, whose great granddaughter, Viola, married Gus Lindner, who was from Germany. They had met when Gus went to Flinders Island for the mutton bird season. They are Krishna's grandparents.

Mannalargenna is seen as an ancestral grandfather for Aboriginal Tasmanians today and is celebrated as an honoured ancestor and a symbol of unity for all Tasmanians on Mannalargenna Day at Cape Portland every year.

If you have a story to share – please send it to me for inclusion of our next Reflections newsletter – Sue Viney (sueviney@icloud.com)