

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 32 Number 2—September 2011

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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Deadline dates for contributions by 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

From the editor

What a cold and miserable few weeks we have endured! Today the sun is shining and I am feeling much happier.

From all accounts it was an enjoyable and successful AGM in Latrobe. The results of the Lilian Watson Family History Award for 2010 and the Best Journal Article are included and I would like to extend my congratulations to all who entered or submitted articles.

Another fascinating article from Betty Jones and more from Don Bradmore, Anne McMahon and Dianne Snowden. I did enjoy reading Anne's recent publication, 'Convicts at Sea', and I hope she continues to send articles for our journal. Richie Woolley concludes his four part article about Robert Thirkell.

The 'stash' of articles is rapidly diminishing—please continue sending your articles and keep our proof-reading editors busy.

We were all saddened by the passing of Dawn Collins. She was an outstanding member of the society for many years and will be deeply missed.

Rosemary Davidson



An invitation is extended to submit an entry in the **Janet Reakes Memorial Award** organized by 'Australian Family Tree Connections' magazine. The topic is 'My most unusual ancestor'. Contact 'Australian Family Tree Connections', PO Box 322 Gosford NSW 2250 or go to www.janetreakesgenealogy.com.au

Journal address

PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250
email editors@tasfhs.org

Articles are welcomed in any format—handwritten, word processed, on disk or by email. Please ensure images are of good quality.

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

If you wish to contact the author of an article in *Tasmanian Ancestry* please email the editor, or write care of the editor, enclosing a stamped envelope and your correspondence will be forwarded.

The opinions expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the journal committee, nor of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Responsibility rests with the author of a submitted article, we do not intentionally print inaccurate information. The society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers for services or goods that appear in the journal, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract entered into with an advertiser. The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject material.

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Cover:

Illustration supplied by Betty Jones for her article, 'Not Just a Bed of Roses', see page 77.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010/2011

THE presentation of my report at our AGM in June marked my second year in the role of President of our Society. I took that opportunity to reflect on the health of our Society and its progress and achievements over the last twelve months.

Overall membership, as at 31 March 2011 was down 5.5 percent. Hopefully overdue subscriptions will improve on the current figure of 1255 members. All membership areas were down with the exception of Hobart Branch which had a slight increase. Branch annual reports suggest that visitor numbers have increased. We believe that this trend is due to the presence of more material being available on-line. The increase in visitor numbers may be an indication that clients are coming to us to solve the difficult problems.

Anecdotal information suggests that many of the population do not know Society libraries exist. The Executive has been directing efforts towards more effective means of promotion. Articles have appeared in some local newspapers, feature articles and advertisements have been directed to Seniors' magazines and other specialist journals and newsletters. I urge all members to assist with the most effective media format, the 'word-of-mouth' promotion.

We need more volunteers to help run the Society. **Contrary to popular belief, there are no paid employees in our Society; dedicated volunteers carry out all tasks.**

Most branches struggled to fill all their committee positions and nominations were not received for all Society positions. Our hard working secretary

and treasurer have been elected for the sixth consecutive year. They will not be eligible to stand again next year and I am sure that they are looking forward to a well earned rest. Robert Tanner has also continued, as vice-president but Peter Cocker has stood down from the other position. Peter has given many years of service on the State Executive, as Vice President, President and Branch Delegate; he will continue in the latter role. On your behalf, I thank Peter for his dedicated work on behalf of us all over the years.

During the year, branches continued producing and publishing reference material for the benefit of all researchers and to raise funds. Branches have had to expend funds to upgrade their computers and/or reader/printer equipment to give better access to the numerous records available.

The Society maintained a presence in a number of other organizations. We were represented on the board of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, the Joint Tasmanian Archive Consultative Forum, and the recently formed Digital Information Group (Tasmanian organizations involved in the collection of historical data).

To all those volunteers who have given their time to provide the services we enjoy—thank you very much for your support over the last twelve months. ◀

Maurice Appleyard

LILIAN WATSON FAMILY HISTORY AWARD

THE Award was established in 1983 and first awarded in 1984. In 1996 it was renamed the Lilian Watson Family History Award to honour the memory and the contributions to genealogy and family history of Mrs Lilian Watson who died in March 1996. She was the Foundation Chairman of the Society in 1980 and the first Fellow of the Society, elected in 1995.

There were six entries for the 2010 Award—listed in alphabetical order by author with the branch where they will be deposited.

Making their own way : The Dunbabins on Maria Island, 1869–1876,
Tom Dunbabin—Hobart Branch

Forgotten Tasmanians, Mary McKinlay
—Hobart Branch

The Wedding Journey : The Story of Johnstone and Wilmot, Angela Prosser
Green
—Launceston Branch

George Breadmore : A Convict in Van Diemen's Land, Donald James
Bradmore—Launceston Branch

The Watt Family : from Bounty Immigrants to Mining Entrepreneurs, Michael
G Watt—Hobart Branch

Michael Fitzgerald : His Life and Family,
Barbara Gibson – Deb. Rainbow—
Launceston Branch

WINNER OF THE 2010 AWARD

Tom Dunbabin, *Making their own way: The Dunbabins on Maria Island 1869–1876*, Hobart, 2011.

This book is one of the best family histories it has ever been my pleasure to read. It is extremely interesting, informative, well written and beautifully produced, a credit to the author and to the

designer, who also comes from Tasmania. Tom Dunbabin provides information on every aspect of the Dunbabin family on Maria Island: their previous history; the background about Maria Island; activities on the island, farming, family and household; other inhabitants including Chinese fishermen—a particularly interesting segment; the various boats; other fascinating details such as they way the family communicated with the shore by smoke signals; and what happened after they left the island in 1876. The illustrations are excellent, and the book has footnotes, appendices, family trees and an index—everything you could wish for in an informative and authoritative history.

The original John Dunbabin was a convict, transported for stealing a horse. He was one of those who was offered new opportunities in the colony, with his master, Henry Bilton, assisting him to set up in farming after he was freed. He prospered, and it was two of his sons, Tom and John, who took up the lease of Maria Island in 1869. Their story, and the story of their families, makes gripping reading. I could hardly wait to find out what happened when John was struck down with kidney disease.

The author has skillfully used family letters to illustrate his story, and in several places he describes the family at one point in time in an imaginative way, bringing them vividly to life. It's usual for a reviewer to find a few faults to show how perceptive he or she is, but I enjoyed reading this book so much that I can't actually find anything to criticise in it. Congratulations to Tom Dunbabin for an outstanding work. ◀

Alison Alexander

BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE

Volume 31 – June 2010-March 2011

WINNER OF THE 2010 AWARD

The Days of the Old School Yard, by Betty Jones

This article, which appeared in June 2010, volume 1, number 3, contains a wealth of information on school grounds in Tasmania and the games that children played in bygone days. The size of school yards varied enormously, from five acres at Abbotsham (though encumbered by logs, it no doubt provided ideal opportunities for exciting games), to a small plot of 35 feet by 30 feet at Battery Point. Beaconsfield had no school yard at all, while scholars at Scottsdale played in the town's burial ground! Although boys' playgrounds were sometimes larger than those for girls, that at Wynyard was for girls only, the boys apparently playing on a nearby allotment.

Teachers in those days were not required to supervise children in the school yard, although one instance is cited where a teacher at Enfield Public School was instructed never to leave the children unsupervised during recess lest they fall accidentally into the nearby river.

Many of the games that children played are games that children still enjoy today: skipping, hopscotch, chasing, cricket (using home-made bats and balls of string covered with pitch). Some other games children played may sound unfamiliar to our ears today; there is mention of Prisoner's Base, Double Duck, Jolly Miller,

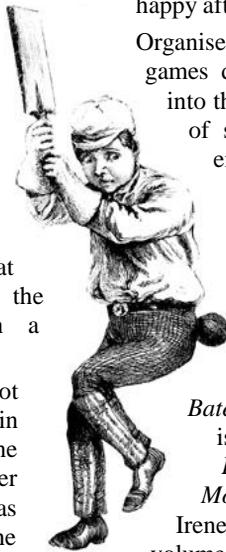
Kiss in the Ring, Turzy, and information as to how these games were played.

Scholars also enjoyed outdoor entertainment, such as annual picnics, sports days and end-of-year tea parties. The end-of-year tea party at the Brookhead Public School in December 1880 started at 3 o'clock, followed by dancing on the green, turzy, rings and racing, the participants finally dispersing homeward at 11 o'clock, doubtless exhausted but happy after their exciting day.

Organised inter-school competitive team games did not take place until further into the 1900s, and group photographs of schools sports teams started to emerge in 1913.

The accompanying illustrations were delightful and enhanced the interest of this article.

The judges were particularly impressed by the high quality and interest of two other articles: *Walter Tenmyson Bates* by Mike Stead (June 2010 issue, volume 31, number 1) and *Henry Woods, Old Man of the Mountain – Mt Wellington*, by Irene Schaffer (December 2010, volume 31, number 3). Both highly commended. ◀



The LWFHA entries will be circulated to:

- Launceston Branch June-August 2011
- Burnie Branch August 2011
- Mersey Branch November 2011
- Hobart Branch February 2012
- Huon Branch May 2012
- Launceston Branch August 2012 then distributed to gifted branch at the November meeting 2012.

TFHS Inc. Society Executive — General Account

Statement of Receipts & Payments for the Year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

2009 / 10		2010 / 11
\$11,955.28	Balance as per Cash Book 1 April 2010	\$12,966.12
	Receipts	
12,582.00	Membership Subscriptions - Interstate	12,645.00
12,335.00	Membership Subscriptions - Branch	25,089.60
598.00	Donations	763.00
3,009.15	State Sales	
187.90	- TFI CD-Rom	2,757.75
825.00	- Books, CD's, Fiche	426.05
32.22	- TAMIOT	4,764.50
317.00	Bank Interest	7,948.30
144.00	- Cheque Account	44.67
488.50	Sundries	
1,952.00	- Insurance Reimbursement	327.36
2,869.30	AGM Registrations	918.00
413.00	Journal Receipts	
1,867.25	- Advertising & Sales	356.50
3,300.00	- Subscriptions	1,880.00
	Funds Collected for Branches – Membership	4,014.71
	Funds Collected for Branches – Donations	334.00
	Funds Collected for Branches – Royalty	1,566.00
	Funds ex TPT At Call Account tfr to Branches	-
40,920.32	Total Receipts	43,242.14
\$52,875.60	Total Funds Available	\$56,208.26
	Payments	
3,239.97	Insurance	3,415.18
2,729.55	Cost of Sales	
25.00	- TFI CD-Rom	1,848.00
923.90	- Books, CD's, Fiche payments	-
558.91	- TAMIOT Payments	500.35
16,867.32	Bank Charges - Merchant Cards	680.45
	Journal Payments	17,991.37
	Administration Payments	
1,100.00	- AGM Expenses	2,000.38
416.20	- Audit Fees/ Corporate Affairs	203.20
5,597.20	- Executive Travel	5,268.80
318.92	- Lilian Watson and Other Awards	368.46
472.01	- Membership Expenses	1,034.02
1,620.49	- Postage/Boxes & Telephone - Internet	626.66
427.33	- Printing and Stationery	74.54
360.00	- Room Hire	397.90
156.78	- Subscriptions (AFFHO)	230.55
2,257.30	Funds collected for Branches – Membership	10,204.51
971.35	Funds collected for Branches – Donations	4,084.34
1,867.25	Funds allocated to Branches – Royalty	975.00
		1,566.00
39,909.48	Total Payments	41,265.20
\$12,966.12	Balance as per Cash Book 31 March 2011	\$14,943.06
	Represented by:	
	Balance as per Westpac Cheque Account 31/3/2011	14,973.86
	Less unrepresented cheque	30.80
		\$14,943.06
\$8,370.84	Reserve Funds - Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees At Call	\$5,310.01
239.17	Interest received 12 months ending 31 March 2011	195.97
-3,300.00	Less withdrawal	-
\$5,310.01	Total Investment Funds	\$5,505.98

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2011

	Bur	Hob	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	<i>Consolidated</i> Totals
Opening Balance 1/4/2010	9,676	5,705	1,885	2,793	6,473	12,966	39,498
<u>Add Receipts</u>							
Membership Subscriptions	3,119	15,352	956	4,715	3,716	31,004	41,817
Donations	474	666	245	523	838	763	2,745
Fund Raising	737	0	268	728	1,956	0	3,689
Research	32	2,712	60	1,769	1,338	0	5,910
Sales	5,133	10,867	313	8,341	3,764	7,948	24,694
Interest	23	15	8	10	80	45	180
Library Revenue	684	2,543	60	795	1,311	0	5,394
Sundries	0	2,041	0	175	54	1,245	3,188
Journal (<i>Tas Ancestry</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	2,337	2,237
Total Receipts	10,202	34,196	1,910	17,055	13,056	43,342	89,854
Tfrs from term loan a/c							-
<u>Total Funds Available</u>	19,877	39,901	3,796	19,848	19,529	56,208	129,352
<u>Less Payments</u>							
Membership Subscriptions	1,007	7,699	526	2,080	1,649	0	0
Insurance	0	246	0	82	0	3,415	3,415
Fund Raising	0	0	39	460	251	0	750
Research	0	179	0	160	161	0	499
Items for re-sale	4,169	5,667	0	5,134	2,256	2,348	13,663
Bank Fees	0	33	0	0	0	680	714
Library Payments	2,356	10,092	830	6,850	4,595	0	24,722
Sundries	0	295	0	166	100	4,541	2,562
Journal (<i>Tas Ancestry</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	17,991	17,991
Assets/Capital	5,076	6,493	0	2,307	4,516	0	18,393
Administration Payments	473	4,119	139	752	1,078	12,288	14,764
Total Payments	13,081	34,823	1,534	17,990	14,606	41,265	97,474
Transfer to term loan a/c	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Balance as at 31/3/2010	\$6,796	\$5,078	\$2,262	\$1,858	\$4,924	\$14,943	\$31,878
Term Investments, Float etc.	\$10,437	\$15,874	\$2,028	\$7,687	\$16,499	\$5,506	\$58,031
Total Cash Reserves	\$17,234	\$20,952	\$4,290	\$9,545	\$21,423	\$20,449	\$89,909



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**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
STATE EXECUTIVE—GENERAL ACCOUNT**

AUDIT REPORT—2011.

The audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. The procedures included the examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements.

The Tasmanian Family History Society is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

OPINION

As an audit procedure it was not practicable to extend my examination of income beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the books and records of the Society.

Notwithstanding the above I am satisfied that the Society has kept appropriate records and books and that the financial statements show a true and fair view of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. affairs at the 31 March 2011.

I have obtained all information requested and am satisfied with explanations provided.

Des Britza FNA.
AUDITOR
16 April 2011

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

<http://www.clients.tas.webnet.com.au/geneal/burnbranch.htm>

President Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103

Secretary Ann Bailey (03) 6431 5058

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Our Indexing Volunteers have been consistently busy with the *Weekender*. We now have in excess of 20,000 entries which are searchable on

one of our computers. As well as personal notices many articles of interest and photographs have been indexed. If you haven't had a look at the *Weekender* records, come into the branch and have a browse.

Our meetings continue to be well patronised by our members, particularly our monthly day meetings on the first Monday of the month. For two of the last three meetings our members were entertained by a video, recently released, based on the TV series 'As Time Goes By'. This video incorporated footage previously unpublished and certainly brought back memories for many.

There was an interesting article that appeared in the *New York Times* recently. It focused on the complexities of modern family trees. With sperm donors, surrogate mothers and same sex marriages our family trees resemble a 'tangled forest' as the author of the article wrote. It has become so complex in some families they are organizing their family trees into two histories: genetic and emotional.

I am pleased to say 'Family Tree Maker' software has the general flexibility to

handle these types of situations however the user wants, and can:

- 1 enter multiple sets of natural mothers and/or fathers
- 2 enter a flexible set of parent/child relationships
- 3 decide which relationship and which parents are 'preferred'
- 4 enter same sex marriages
- 5 while there is no way of entering custom relationships such as 'sperm donor', you can enter 'other' and then a note explaining the relationship. The note can be marked 'private' if so desired
- 6 most reports and charts offer the user the option to include alternate facts and private notes.

'Family Tree Maker' is available from the Burnie Branch.

Hobart

<http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org>

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All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527



The biggest news at our branch is that Maurice has tidied his desk!! Now he can't find anything and the recycling bin is overflowing!

We have changed our committee meetings to 10:00am on the third Thursday of each month. We hope having day meetings will encourage more people to join our committee.

The AGM of the branch was held at 7:30pm followed immediately by the April General Meeting. The speaker for the evening was Arthur Orchard speaking on the topic 'Diary of an ANZAC'. This is the title of a book published by Arthur about his father, Albert Arthur Orchard, born in 1888 and an original ANZAC. The book is based on the transcribed diary entries of Albert from his World War 1 campaigns at Gallipoli, Egypt and France. The talk was supported by a PowerPoint presentation and a display of family memorabilia. Thirty members and visitors attended the meeting.

The guest speaker at the May meeting was Dianne Snowden. The topic of her talk was 'A most humane regulation? Free children transported with convict parents.' Among other facts, figures and stories Di spoke about the connections between the Orphan Schools, Dynnyrne House (Cascades) Nursery and the Female Factory. Thirty-three members and visitors attended the meeting.

At the June meeting, our patron, Alison Alexander, spoke about 'Jane Franklin in Van Diemen's Land.' Her approach to Lady Jane was quite different from the usual account of her life. It was illustrated with a very comprehensive PowerPoint presentation. About thirty-two members and visitors attended.

General Meetings

Members are reminded that all general meetings are held at 'The Sunday School', St Johns Park, New Town, on the third Tuesday in the month at 7:30pm. Note the new starting time! Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

The next few meetings are:

Tuesday 20 September: Peter Hay on the topic, 'Sparrow Force.'

Tuesday 18 October: Ross Latham whose topic will be, 'Managing the

Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office – reflections of my first twelve months as State Archivist.'

Tuesday 15 November: Beverley Richardson on the topic, 'Hilda Bridges – Author.'

Family History Computer Users Group

This large and enthusiastic group meets at the branch library on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm under the expert leadership of Vee Maddock.

WISE Interest Group

The Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England group is currently in recess, but is looking at resuming meetings if sufficient interest is shown. Contact the Secretary, or phone (03) 6244 4527 if you are interested.

Family History Writers Group

This group has been meeting at the branch library on the fifth Thursday of each month when it occurs. Members working on individual projects will share them with the group in an informal workshop. All welcome! For more details contact Dianne Snowden on dsn Snowden@tassie.net.au or 6260 2515.

Details of these meetings and other activities may be found on our website at <http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org>

Huon

President Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546

Secretary Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529

PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

email: vsbtas@bigpond.com



Interest in the Library from members and the general public has for the first half of the year been slow but steady. In the expectation of increasing interest a series of week-day afternoon teas is planned. The events will each feature a guest speaker. It is proposed to

commence in October and run through the summer at about six week intervals.

The recently purchased *ScanLab* micro-film/fiche reader is in regular use and is meeting all expectations.

Launceston

<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org>

President Judith Whish-Wilson

(03) 6394 8456

Secretary Muriel Bissett

Phone (03) 6344 4034

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

secretary: bbissett@bigpond.net.au



The 15 June workshop featuring New Zealand records online was well attended and productive.

Our next branch workshop is to be held on 21 September and will give insight into South African and Indian records.

A good number enjoyed the morning tea on Thursday, 30 June, which was organised by the committee to express appreciation to our volunteers. President Judy presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Russell Watson for his past work on the committee, and in particular his mammoth achievement of imaging, in a very short time, the tombstones and memorials in Carr Villa Memorial Park. Congratulations, Russell.

Saturday Library Hours—by appointment only—phone (03) 6344 4034.

Wednesday 21 September: 2.00pm: Branch Meeting, at Adult Education Rooms—South African & Indian records

Wednesday 5 October: 10am–3pm at The Stables: Seniors Day—bookings required.

Wednesday 19 October: 2pm: BIG meeting at Adult Education Room 5—Trades, Apprentices & Guilds.

Wednesday 16 November: 2pm: BIG meeting at Adult Education Computer Room—genealogy web sites.

Check the website for more detail of meetings/workshops and for a list of publications now available from Launceston Branch.

Mersey

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

President Pam Bartlett

Secretary Sue-Ellen McCreghan

(03) 6428 6328

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

email: secretary@tfhsdev.com



The branch had been busy over the last couple of months organizing the State AGM at Latrobe. I was unable to be present at the AGM but I have had so

many reports that gave a positive outlook for the whole weekend. The Axeman's Hall of Fame venue was extremely suitable. We had over thirty people at the dinner held at the Lucas Hotel. On the Sunday there was a stroll around Sherwood Hall. We also had several members visit our Library. All in all, a job well done. On display were some ornate family tree charts from members which can be produced for a fee, contact our branch if you are interested.

We have had a couple of speakers over the last couple of meetings. Brenda Haas, a Botanical Artist, spoke of her passion of drawing botanical art which began for health reasons. The detail and knowledge of plant species was impeccable. Helen Anderson presented a slide show on Fashion and Jewellery associated with mourning. Black clothes were worn and eventually colour was introduced, and

some jewellery was made using human hair.

All meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00. This could change so please keep watch on our website or phone if there are any queries.

28 September—Pam Bartlett on China.

26 October—Helen Anderson on her 'How to Book'.

30 November—Peter Tonelli.

11 December—Sunday Christmas Lunch, to be announced.

Our Library will close on 16 December. Please phone the Library or the Secretary, or view our website for up-to-date information as it becomes available. ◀

A Photographic index to
The Tasmanian Mail

This series covers the photographs which appeared in

The Tasmanian Mail
from 1894–1935

Now available—

Volume 1, 1894–1904—\$27.00

Volume 2, 1905–1908—\$27.00

Volume 3, 1909–1912—\$27.00

Volume 4, 1913–1916—\$27.00

Volume 5, 1917–1920—\$27.00

Volume 6, 1921–1922—\$27.00

Volume 7, 1923–1924—\$27.00

Volume 8, 1925–1926—\$27.00

Volume 9, 1927–1928—\$27.00

NEW!! Volume 10, 1929–1930—\$27.00

Available from
TFHS Inc.

Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290

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Vale

The late Dawn Collins

THE Society, and particularly the Burnie Branch, is deeply saddened by the passing of Dawn on 14 July. Dawn, with her late husband Rex, joined the Burnie Branch at the inaugural meeting in December 1980, and Dawn soon took on the roles of secretary and research officer.

While Branch President she was part of the organising committee for the 6th Australasian Congress of Genealogy and Heraldry, held in Launceston in 1991.

Dawn also served at state level, on the executive as a delegate, Vice-President and State Secretary over a period of fifteen years.

Dawn and Rex were quick to open their home for branch fundraising functions, and in later years as an ideal base for branch committee meetings.

Over the years Dawn made many friends through her willingness to help her fellow members and contributed in many ways to the successful running of the Burnie Branch.

Although not active in the branch in recent years, Dawn still found time and enjoyed working on her family tree. She attended the State AGM in Devonport in June, and recently had two visits to our library researching her ancestors.

NOT JUST A BED OF ROSES

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



DOWN the road from where I live a new government primary school opened recently, its construction taking eighteen months or so to complete, its pupil intake resulting from the amalgamation of three nearby smaller schools with declining enrolments. Set prominently on the lower slope of expansive, previously established park-like grounds, the school already looks impressive, not only for its size and modern appearance, but also for its new landscaped gardens. Thick layers of sand-coloured mulch provide an aesthetically pleasing background to the mass fresh plantings of well-established deciduous trees evenly spaced in a straight line along the bottom of the school's multi stair-cased foothill. Similarly advanced specimens enhance the smoothly-rolled lawns on a lower level, while some pre-existing, mature trees have been maintained at main road edge to further beautify the school's overall setting. Areas of soft ground, grass and artificial turf provide interesting variation around the buildings. Repeated plantings of grassy tussock and strap-leaf plants, low dense shrubs and median specimens, all chosen for their minimal water requirements, have been placed

strategically within the careful design of the grounds.

Professionally landscaped grounds and gardens have not always been part and parcel of the establishment of Tasmanian government schools, nor an eighteen-month timeline for completion—twelve weeks was more the norm in early times. Taking a step back in time, this article aims to explore the Education Department's attitude in the early twentieth century to the development of school gardens and their place in the curriculum.

Prior to 1900, the records provide little evidence that much emphasis was placed on the cultivation of school gardens. Instead, the practical importance of teachers in country areas clearing the school grounds of tree stumps, bracken and other forms of undergrowth was the aspect given most prominence in the Inspectors' Annual Reports. At Parkham State School, the Inspector recorded in May 1892 that the site had been partially cleared of logs and scrub, but rushes and the like were growing too close to the school, creating some danger from fire and snakes.¹

At least two exceptions to that attitude were noted in larger town schools. In

¹ AOT: ED31/1/1

July 1895, a request was made to the Botanical Gardens for the following trees to be planted in the newly established school grounds at Sandhill (Glen Dhu State School): 6 *Pinus insignia*, 4 Elms, 15 Planes and 15 Oaks.² The Macquarie Street State School placed an order with the Botanical Gardens in June 1896 for a dozen (large leaf) *Pittosporums*. The school was subsequently advised that *Pittosporums* would not transplant satisfactorily during the winter months, the beginning of October being early enough to plant. A supply was set aside for that time.³

It was not obvious until the introduction of the celebration of Arbor Day after 1896, and particularly from 1902, that schools in general in Tasmania began to embrace the importance of actually planting trees as opposed to removing them. The government hoped that the observance of the day, initially an idea adopted in the United States of America, would help to cultivate a love of trees among children.

Although not mandatory, many State schools attempted to make Arbor Day memorable with special celebrations over and above the ritual of planting trees. At Raminea State School in July 1902, for example, under the baton of their headmaster, Mr Armadale Charles ANDERSON (1877–1954), the children sang a selection of school songs, followed by the wand drill. Before an audience of parents and visitors, three oaks and three horse chestnuts were then planted in holes set 22 feet apart (the space between the trees was to be divided later among the children for the purpose of flower gardens). There was next a distribution of Coron-

ation medals, followed by a bountiful feast and the singing of the *National Anthem*.⁴ Some other schools celebrated with a half-day holiday after their tree-planting ceremony. In the years that followed, Empire Day and Arbor Day often were observed at the same time.

Reflecting the state's strong overseas immigrant population ties of the time, many of the trees planted in school grounds were natives of countries other than Australia, though those of the latter were also included. At Bishopsbourne State School, between 1902 and 1911, varieties such as ash, plane, weeping willow, oak, pine, fir, laurel and acacia were planted annually to mark Arbor Day.⁵ It is interesting to note that, in 1903, it was fashionable for schools to give 'pet' names to the trees planted, with formal and patriotic choices often being made—Hope, Charity, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the like. At Uxbridge State School that year, two trees donated by Mr W E SHOOBRIDGE were named 'Martha' and 'Albert' after the two scholars who planted them, Martha PEGLER and Albert FENTON.⁶

Hedge planting also became popular. At Wynyard State School in 1902, Head Teacher Mr Herbert James SMITH (1864–1931) and his male scholars planted a *Pittosporum* hedge in commemoration of the centenary of Tasmania.⁷ In May 1906, 150 privet trees were planted at Waratah State School, and two years later, fifty Japanese privets were planted round the front of the same school.⁸ Many readers will remember the massive hedges of *Macrocarpa* pines that were very

⁴ *The Mercury*, 30 July 1903

⁵ AOT: AD616/1–3

⁶ *The Mercury*, 27 May 1903

⁷ *The Advocate*, 17 November 1902

⁸ AOT: ED113/2/1

² AOT: ED13/1/56

³ AOT: ED13/1/57

common in Tasmanian country school grounds in the first half of the twentieth century.

From 1905, following the appointment of Mr William NEALE as Director of Education, Tasmanian State education underwent a period of dramatic change in an attempt to modernise previous practice and curriculum content. By 1907, with encouragement from the Government, an experimental School Garden Movement had been put in place, the aim being for schools to direct attention to the economic importance of agriculture and the land. It was also considered necessary for pupils to be given some form of manual training, and gardening work was viewed as one of several options.

As part of that garden movement, the Tasmanian Council of Agriculture offered a two-week summer school of instruction at Longford for state school teachers in January 1908, and attracted a class of twenty. The number of participants increased to twenty-four when the course was advertised again in 1909. In 1910, the session was held at West Devonport, the content of lessons spanning a wide range of topics including: laying out school gardens, summer pruning, choice of land for fruit trees, preparation of soil for annuals and their sowing, small fruit growing, pruning, tree planting, rose culture, noxious weeds and their eradication, demonstration in grafting, seed testing, and the cultivation of shelter trees.⁹



A number of teacher participants, both male and female, became very enthused as a result of their attendance at the courses. A newspaper report in 1909¹⁰ gave details of the progress being made by leading schools:

- Mr Mark Hugill HIRST (1872–1948), the Head Teacher at Perth State School, created an excellently laid out garden, about quarter of an acre in size, set apart from the school grounds by a neat wire and netting fence. The land was divided into agricultural and vegetable plots, separated by neat walks, and with a border in rear and front for flowers and plants. A plot of pine trees was to be laid down in the area.
- At Forth State School, under the supervision of Head Teacher, Mr David Lamph WHITCHURCH (1864–1926), very considerable work had been done by the boys in taking in hand a piece of rough virgin ground thick with stumps and heavy stones, and establishing thereon a beautifully laid out garden of one-third of an acre. Situated on a steep slope of the hill on which the school was situated, the north-facing ground had been ploughed and then worked repeatedly with mattock and hoe before being planted with cereal and vegetable crops. A hill nursery of prickly coned pines contained some 70 specimens.
- The garden at Flowerdale State School, under the direction of Mr Walter Joseph BRYAN (1870–1947), was described as one of excellence, some very successful grafting operations being evidenced.

⁹ *The Examiner*, 12 January 1910

¹⁰ *The Mercury*, 26 October 1909

- Mr Sydney Edgar WARD (1866–c1915) of Marrawah State School had been recognised two years in a row for the outstanding progress being made at his school in the remote far north-west of the state. The gardens there, developed on the district's rich chocolate soil, and part of the school's 14 acre site, focussed on the establishment of grass and clover plots. An area for raising young pines for shelter for the local farmers was in the course of preparation.

- At Cleveland State School, under the charge of Miss Jane Ada FLETCHER (1870–1956), a number of plots were sown with wheat, oats, rye grass, clover, cow grass, Cape barley, peas, broccoli, lettuces, etc.

- Miss Armine Emma FURLONGE (1872–1944) was challenged in the establishment of garden plots at Ormley State School by bandicoots and sparrows, both of which had placed heavy toll on the work of scholars there. Despite the demanding preparatory work necessary and the animal problems, beds of cereals, peas and vegetables were established.

The establishment of gardens was not possible in all schools. In many cases, the location of the school's site, the size of its grounds, unsuitable climate, or the quality of surrounding soil made such a venture just too hard or near impossible. Some teachers lacked the enthusiasm or physical strength for tackling the challenges involved. The Department seemed to accept those limitations. There was a belief at the time that a school could have a poor garden, but still

conduct good school gardening through the delivery of inspiring curriculum content.

Certain teachers simply brimmed with vigour, and Miss Emma Louise TILLACK (1868–1920) was a shining example of such enthusiasm. Following her appointment to Kempton State School in May 1916, Miss Tillack seemed to have a monthly goal for visible school improvement. First, plans for the upgrading of the school residence were set in place. In June, she reported that the last of the row of hen coops had been removed and the school grounds cleared of all rubbish. By July, the contractors had completed their work and the residence was then in thorough



repair. In August, Miss Tillack took up residence in the school house. In September, twenty ornamental trees were planted, and the children were set to work digging and weeding the garden. Miss Tillack paid Mr McKINLEY to plough and harrow the ground first. Flower beds and vegetable plots were marked out, and raspberry canes from the Castle Forbes Bay State School (her previous school) were cultivated. Currant bushes and six Kentish cherry trees were also planted. Seeds of turnip, beet, parsnip and carrot were sown. However, Miss Tillack became disheartened in January 1917 when she returned from holidays to find the fence had been partly destroyed by flood, and the school gardens totally destroyed by cattle. The teacher stated that, in the unlikely case of her changing her mind, she would not attempt

gardening at that school again. Miss Tillack was transferred in May 1917.¹¹

Under the supervision of Head Teacher, Mr James Milne BLADON (1862–1938), the flower and vegetable gardens at the State School on Cape Barren Island were developed in 1922 using a minimum of water. Seed beds received regular watering, as did seedlings until they were established. Later water was seldom supplied. At that time, flower beds adjoined the school residence and occupied quite a respectable area that was developing into a miniature park surrounded by fir trees and Cootamundra wattles. Other ornamental specimens were dotted about and growing apace.¹²

In August 1924, the Inspector commented that the new Lanaba State School grounds (at Calder, near Wynyard) had been well cleared and fenced. A feature was the large number of trees donated by the children, planted right round the three acre reserve. By the following year it was noted that considerable work had been done in forming gardens. Different teachers who followed placed varying emphasis on the maintenance of them. In November 1928, for example, the Inspector recorded that there was a nice garden plot full of spring bloom. By 1930, little was said to remain of the plantings. In 1933, forty additional trees (*Pinus insignis*) were planted during winter. In 1934, an agricultural course was commenced at the school, with nine of the twelve children enrolled at that time taking part. They were learning recognition of the common grasses and clovers—six of each. To help with the work, seeds had been donated by Field and Co. of Devonport. These had been planted at the beginning of the spring

season in twelve plots, and within only a week or two had all germinated to produce a green sheen across the grounds. The children were said to be busily preparing cards for mounting the seeds for purposes of identification.¹³

Parents and Friends Associations also became actively involved in the beautification of school grounds. In 1928, the group at Kingston State School planted a rose garden consisting of twenty to thirty standards.¹⁴ A similar planting was made by the Association at Snug State School in 1931.¹⁵ Parents at Moonah State School were responsible for laying concrete paths and a fountain to enhance the gardens there in 1936.¹⁶ (The official appointment of groundsmen in state schools did not become widespread until the 1950s).

In 1930, a state-wide garden competition for Education Department schools was introduced by Launceston orchardist and florist, Mr Frank WALKER, the aim being to encourage the children attending various schools to take an interest in the improvement of their grounds. Mr Walker donated seeds and seedlings to schools, and monetary prizes were awarded to the winners. The winners in 1931, judged by the Inspectors, were Mowbray Heights and Wellington Square in the section for schools with access to water, and Evandale, Hayes and Flowerdale in the schools without water category. South Queenstown State School received a special prize in view of the difficult conditions faced in that district.¹⁷ The competition continued until at least 1937.

¹¹ AOT: AD54/2/1

¹² *The Mercury*, 4 December 1922

¹³ AOT: ED31/1/42

¹⁴ *The Mercury*, 18 June 1928

¹⁵ *The Mercury*, 22 June 1931

¹⁶ *The Mercury*, 17 April 1936

¹⁷ *The Mercury*, 26 March 1931

Mr John Stuart MASLIN (1901–), Head Teacher at Myalla State School from 1926 to 1928 found his niche in education when he first established agricultural plots with his scholars at that school. Specialising in experimentation with cereals, root and fodder crops, Mr Maslin soon developed a reputation for the excellence of his pursuits, and attracted visitors from overseas who came to view the program followed by students. He developed a belief that a number of children in farming communities, destined for a life on the land, needed a curriculum that taught them the theory and gave them the practical skills suited to that future. From 1931, Mr Maslin went on to become the long-serving Head Teacher at Hagley, which, in 1936, became the first Area School opened in Australia. The original focus of such schools was on providing a practical curriculum suited to pupils who were likely to become involved in rural life when they left school.

Many teachers, parents and other voluntary community members continue to invest time and energy in an effort to pass on to the young the joys and rewards of planting in soil. The more recent emergence of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, now promoted at Federal Government level, has seen large numbers of primary school children across the nation, including Tasmania, being taught to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal food in their local school settings. School gardens do not have to be just a bed of roses! ◀

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MARY ALLEN

PROPER NAME FLANNERY

Pauline Bygraves (Member No.5113)

THE quest to identify the parents of my ancestor Deborah Caroline TURNER turned out to be quite a challenge. There was no trace of Deborah before she married Charles Henry READ¹ at Hobart in 1874, at a time when parents' names were not included in Tasmanian marriage records. After having been widowed, Deborah (age 39) married for a second time at Hobart in 1896. By this time, more detailed information was recorded on marriage certificates,² and it was revealed that she was born at Hobart and that her parents were Thomas Turner, occupation tailor, and Mary Ann Turner. Initially, her mother's maiden name was written as Mary Ann Read (the same surname as Deborah's from her first marriage) but Read was crossed out and Turner inserted instead. This was a little ominous.

Searching the Tasmanian Pioneer Index for Deborah's birth record with the additional information still did not bring any success. Of the Turner couples having children at Hobart in the 1850s, the most promising was Thomas Turner, occupation tailor, and Mary ALLEN. Four children—two males and two females—were registered with them as the parents between 1854 and 1861, but all were unnamed at the time of registration. Thomas Turner and Mary Allen married at St Georges Church of England, Battery Point, Hobart, on 25

March 1850,³ and both were 'full age'. They had to apply for permission to marry⁴ because, while Thomas was 'free', Mary was 'ticket of leave' and still serving the sentence for which she had been transported in 1844, but more about that later.

Family anecdotes provided a further clue concerning Deborah's parentage. My great grandfather, Charles David GARRETT, had married twice. His first wife Mary Madeline (Lena) O'BRIEN, whom he married in 1902,⁵ died in 1907. He then wed my great grandmother, Frances May Read, daughter of Deborah Caroline and Charles Henry Read, in 1909.⁶ Apparently, or so it was said, Lena O'Brien and Frances Read were cousins. Lena was born at Sydney,⁷ NSW, and that was where her parents Elizabeth Turner and Henry Joseph O'Brien married, on 8 November 1879.⁸ At the time of her marriage, Elizabeth claimed to be 20 years of age, and to have been born at Hobart. On her marriage

³ AOT: RGD37 194/1850: Thomas Turner and Mary Allen

⁴ AOT: CON52/1/3 p.452: Permission to marry Thomas Turner and Mary Allen
⁵ Tasmanian Federation Index, marriage 1902/1317: Charles David Garrett and Mary Madeline O'Brien

⁶ Tasmanian marriage certificate No.1909/1441: Charles David Garrett and Frances May Read

⁷ NSW BDM Registry historical indexes 3146/1880: Mary Madeline O'Brien

⁸ NSW marriage certificate No.1138/1879: Henry Joseph O'Brien and Elizabeth Turner

¹ AOT: RGD37 244/1874: Charles Henry Read and Deborah Caroline Turner

² AOT: RGD37 334/1896: James Abbott and Deborah Caroline Read

record, her parents' names were recorded as Thomas Turner, occupation tailor, and Mary Ann FLANNERY (not ALLEN!). The witnesses to the marriage were William and Margaret Turner. Another clue to follow up: were Elizabeth and William siblings?

William Turner and Margaret O'Brien were married at Sandridge, Victoria, on 13 June 1873.⁹ According to the marriage record, William was 21 years of age and born at Hobart. His parents were named as Thomas Turner, occupation tailor, and Mary Ann Flannery. At least there was now evidence that William and Elizabeth were siblings. It happened that Henry Joseph O'Brien and Margaret O'Brien were siblings as well!

With not being able to reconcile Flannery with Allen, this research went into the 'too hard basket', until the digitisation of Tasmania's convict records when I decided to have a closer look at Mary Allen. There was quite a shock waiting because the first line of her conduct record proclaimed: 'Allen Mary Proper Name Flannery'.¹⁰



Family listed on Mary ALLEN's indent record identify her father's name as John, mother Bridget, brother John and sisters Sally and Bridget, and indicated they were living at St Lukes London. It

clearly stated that the parents' name was Flannery.¹¹

As for her crime, Mary Allen, aged 15, was convicted of larceny on 6 May 1844 at London's Central Criminal Court.¹² Mary, and another girl, Elizabeth YATES, aged 16, were accused of stealing 28 yards of printed cotton, valued at 12 shillings, from the shop of James ORROCK, linen draper, Bow. Both were found guilty and, because Mary had a previous conviction (for which no report has yet been located), she was sentenced to transportation for seven years. Elizabeth Yates, on the other hand, was imprisoned for three months. Mary arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 4 July 1845 aboard the barque *Tory*.

Mary's convict record provides a rich source of information about her, not only because it divulged her real name and family details, but because it also revealed that her occupation was a nurse girl, that she was a Roman Catholic, single, and could neither read nor write. Her native place was the parish of St Lukes, London. As for Mary's physical

characteristics, she was described as being 4 feet 8 inches tall, and having a fair complexion, with yellow (blonde?) hair, grey eyes, a round face with a high forehead, small nose, wide mouth and round chin. She had a large scar on the

⁹ Victorian marriage certificate 2445/1873: William Turner and Margaret O'Brien

¹⁰ AOT: CON 41/1/6 image 4: Mary Allen

¹¹ AOT: CON 15/1/3 images 138–9: Mary Allen

¹² www.oldbaileyonline.org, Proceedings of the Central Criminal Court, 6 May 1844, p.115

left side of her chin, and also a scar on her forehead. Enough information to build a mental picture of her.

Mary's conduct record lists only two minor offences during her seven-year sentence.¹³ It also records the birth of an illegitimate son, whom she named James, on 10 January 1848 at the Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁴ It is unclear what became of James. Mary (or Mary Ann because both names are used in the official records) obtained her ticket of leave on 20 November 1849, and her certificate of freedom on 30 May 1851.¹⁵

As already mentioned, she married Thomas Turner in March 1850. Thomas also received a free passage to Van Diemen's Land, but had served his sentence before he was married. Aged 25, he was convicted at London's Central Criminal Court on 17 June 1839 of stealing a handkerchief, valued at four shillings, the property of William Hentha PAUL from his person.¹⁶ Thomas also had a previous conviction and, thus, was sentenced to transportation for 10 years. He arrived on the *Asia* on 6 August 1840. His ticket of leave was granted on 8 February 1848 and his certificate of freedom on 15 June 1849.¹⁷

According to recently researched baptism records, Thomas and Mary Ann Turner had six children:¹⁸

Child's name	Baptism	Date of birth
Thomas	21 Dec 1853	13 Jan 1850
Arthur	21 Dec 1853	9 Feb 1852
William	12 Mar 1854	5 Jan 1854
Deborah Caroline	4 May 1856	9 Feb 1856
Elizabeth	29 Mar 1858	10 Feb 1858
James	10 Nov 1861	17 Aug 1861

Corresponding civil birth records have been found for only five: no birth record has been found for the eldest child, Thomas. Perhaps this is not surprising since he was born two months before his parents were married. Although birth records have been located for the remaining children, all were unnamed at the time of registration. In the case of the male child (Arthur), born in February 1852,¹⁹ his mother is named as Mary, without a maiden name recorded; his father is named as Thomas Turner, occupation tailor, with the informant being Elizabeth GRAY, 'mother of friend' (sic). The other four children's birth records have Mary Ann Allen listed as the mother and Thomas Turner, tailor, as the father.²⁰ Thomas was the informant in each of these four cases. While there are some minor discrepancies in birth dates appearing in the two sets of records (in respect of Arthur²¹, Elizabeth²² and James,²³) the family's

¹³ AOT: CON 41/1/6 image 4: Mary Allen

¹⁴ AOT: RGD33 466/1848: James Allen

¹⁵ AOT: CON 41/1/6 image 4: Mary Allen

¹⁶ www.oldbaileyonline.org. Proceedings of the Central Criminal Court, 17 June 1839, p.134

¹⁷ AOT: CON33/1/2 image 235: Thomas Turner

¹⁸ AOT: NS1241/1/1: Church register, St John the Baptist (Goulburn Street), pp.19, 20, 27 and 33, and NS282/8/1/5 St Davids Church, p.41

¹⁹ AOT: RGD33 1209/1852

²⁰ AOT: RGD33 490/1854 – male child; 1005/1856 – female child; 1258/1858 – female child; and 4572/1861 – male child

²¹ AOT: NS1241/1/1 Church register, St John the Baptist (Goulburn Street), p.19 has Arthur's birth date recorded as 9 February 1852 while RGD 33 1209/1852 gives the date as 21 February 1852

²² AOT: NS1241/1/1 Church register, St John the Baptist (Goulburn Street), p.33 has Elizabeth's birth date recorded as 10 February 1858 while RGD33 1258/1858 gives the date as 13 February 1858

²³ AOT: NS282/8/1/5 Church register, St Davids Church, p.41 has James' birth date

place of abode (street name) and Thomas' occupation on the matching birth and baptism entries are identical.

Mary Ann Turner, widow, died at the Invalid Station, New Town, Hobart, on 8 July 1888.²⁴ Her funeral departed from her son's residence, Ware Street, on 10 July for interment in Cornelian Bay Cemetery. Her son, Thomas, was living at 21 Ware Street at the time. Mary Ann and husband Thomas, who died on 15 December 1883,²⁵ were buried in the Church of England area of the cemetery (Section K, Number 356).²⁶ There is no headstone or any other marker to identify the plot where they are buried.

Much has been written about the extent to which convicts sought to distance themselves and their descendants from the stigma of their convictions and circumstances of arrival in Tasmania. There is a strong suggestion that Mary Ann and Thomas Turner tried to do this, by not providing their actual ages when they married and by registering but not recording given names for their children. It is not known how long Mary Ann used the pseudonym Allen, or the reason behind it. Two of the Turner children gave their mother's maiden name as Flannery at the time of their own marriages, rather than Allen, the name by which she was known when she first arrived, married and had her children registered. Mary Ann's religion was Roman Catholic, yet she married and had her children baptised according to the rites of the Church of England. Was this

because Catholic baptisms usually recorded the mother's maiden name, or because Thomas, whose religion was Church of England, was a staunch devotee? The answer to these questions will probably never be known.

Whether it was a conscious decision or not by Mary Ann and Thomas Turner to conceal their convict origins from their children and future generations, the effect was the same. Until the widespread release of convict documents, their secret was safe because no one would have been able to make the connection between Mary Allen and Mary Ann Flannery. There is, however, now no doubt about the identity of Deborah Caroline Turner's parents, and that was the purpose of this research, protracted as it has been. ◀

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recorded as 17 August 1861 while RGD 33
4572/1861 gives the date as 19 August 1861

²⁴ AOT: RGD35 1565/1888: Mary Ann Turner

²⁵ AOT: RGD35 1332/1883: Thomas Turner

²⁶ <http://www.millingtons.com.au/records-search> : Thomas Turner and
Mary Ann Turner

BARTHOLOMEW BROUGHTON

A 'REMARKABLE CONVICT' OR SIMPLY A 'RASCAL'?

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

BARTHOLOMEW BROUGHTON, who arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a convict in 1820, is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Australian wine industry. While the nation's very first vineyards are now buried beneath the streets of Sydney, some gnarled vines of its second oldest vineyard, planted by Broughton in the early 1820s, can still be seen in the New Town area of Hobart.¹

Here is a small sample of the many glowing tributes paid to Broughton on present-day 'wine, food and travel' websites:

Vines were first planted in Australia's smallest wine state back in the 1820s. Hobart Town's Bartholomew Broughton was turning Pinot Noir – 'black cluster' – into sparkling wine two decades before Johann Gramp began making his start in the Barossa Valley. Indeed, vine cuttings from colonial Van Diemen's Land were used to establish the first vineyards planted in Victoria and South Australia in the 1830s.²

When the suburb of New Town was freshly turned farmland, Bartholomew Broughton planted his first grape vines at what was then Prospect Farm. Almost 180 years later, a few hardy descendants of those original vines still survive in neighbourhood backyards, memorably described by local food and wine guru

Graeme Phillips as possessing, "girths as thick as a gourmand's waist".³

More than one of the websites refer to Broughton as a 'remarkable convict', one who came to own a substantial amount of property in the colony in a very short time.

But is this adulation justified? There are many people who consider Broughton nothing more than a thief and a liar, an outrageous scoundrel who built his fortune at the expense of a good and kindly man who had befriended and trusted him, and whose career and reputation he ultimately destroyed.

In April 1819, Broughton, then 35 years old, had been convicted at the Old Bailey, London, of burglariously breaking and entering a dwelling-house in the dead of night and stealing bank notes to the value of £160. He was sentenced to death but this was later commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales.⁴ He arrived at Sydney aboard *Dromedary* on 10 January 1820 and by early March was working as a clerk in a Government store.⁵

He was obviously a very capable clerk, and he quickly made a good impression on the authorities. By May 1820, he had been granted a ticket-of-leave and a passage to Hobart where for some months

³ <http://www.mfjameson.com.au/Pages/travel.html>

⁴ A report of Broughton's Old Bailey trial is available at www.oldbaileyonline.org

⁵ Broughton's police number was 225. For his conduct record, see TAHO, CON31-1-1, Image 155.

¹ See <http://www.gaytasmania.com.au/tasmanianfoodwine.html>, accessed 19 October 2010

² <http://www.visitvineyards.com>

Dr Edward Foord BROMLEY, the recently appointed Naval Officer, had been seeking the services of a suitably qualified clerk.⁶

Bromley had arrived in Van Diemen's Land in January 1820 and was new to the kind of work he was now doing. In his early forties, he was a surgeon who had served at sea since the age of seventeen, first aboard British Navy warships and then on convict vessels. Keen to 'come ashore', he had been seeking a colonial appointment as a surgeon since 1816 but had had no luck in securing one. When, in 1819, he had been offered the post of 'Naval Officer' at Hobart—although it was far removed from his experience as a doctor - he had readily accepted it.⁷

As Naval Officer, he was responsible for the collection of all wharf and shipping fees in the port of Hobart as well as for assessment and collection of the various duties payable on alcohol and other restricted imports. As salary, he was permitted to retain five per cent of all monies collected. He was also provided with a comfortable new house for his personal use and four convict servants.

He was also required to act as Treasurer of the Police Fund, an account from which various government expenses, such as the salaries of police officers, were paid. For this, he was to receive an additional salary of £70 per annum. In effect, he was the Colonial Treasurer and referred to himself as such in official documents.⁸

There can be no doubt that Bromley welcomed Broughton's experience as a clerk—and it is likely that Broughton was delighted to be working under him. As a surgeon-superintendent on convict ships, Bromley had earned a fine reputation. The vessel *Almorah*, for example, which had arrived at Sydney with 180 male prisoners on 29 August 1817, was reputed to have been the first convict ship to arrive in the colonies without loss of life, and for that Dr Bromley was given much credit.⁹ Newspapers of the day frequently referred to him as a skilful and caring doctor, a 'good Samaritan' and a 'worthy gentleman'.¹⁰

For the first three years of Broughton's employment at the Naval Office, all went smoothly. Bromley appeared to be making a success of his new role. He was a popular figure around Hobart, where his kindness and good nature had won him many friends, among whom were the Lieutenant-Governor William SORELL, the respected cleric Robert KNOPWOOD, the Police Chief A W H HUMPHREY, and the colony's wealthiest businessman Edward LORD.¹¹

Bromley had been appointed Foundation President of the newly-formed bank of Van Diemen's Land, Vice-President of the Agricultural Society (the first to be formed in the colonies), a Justice of the Peace and, later, a Magistrate. A widower when he arrived at Hobart Town, he had married a new young wife who had already given him two fine children.¹² He

⁶ For reference to Broughton's TOL and passage to Hobart, see Colonial Secretary Index, 1788–1825, Reel 6007; 4/3502, p.34)

⁷ See P R Eldershaw's entry on 'Edward Foord Bromley' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010143b.htm>

⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 April 1824.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 6 September 1817

¹⁰ *Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, 22 January 1820

¹¹ There are many references to Bromley and his friends in contemporary newspapers. See 'Trove' at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

¹² Bromley's marriage to Sarah Greennow, 23 November 1820. RGD36 419/1820 Hobart

had made wise investments and had acquired property by purchase and land grants. He was on the way to becoming a wealthy man.

But, then, all went horribly wrong.

In May 1824, the affable Sorell was replaced as Lieutenant-Governor by the sour George ARTHUR, described frequently as a 'military martinet'. Within weeks of his arrival, Arthur had turned his attention to the administration of the financial affairs of the colony. He was particularly concerned that there appeared to be no processes in place for checking the Naval Office and Police Fund accounts. He was disturbed to learn that these accounts had never been subjected to examination or audit of any kind.¹³

His alarm grew when it was brought to his notice that Bromley had requested a loan from the Commissariat, the office responsible for providing food and other supplies to those dependent on government stores, in order to meet Treasury expenses at the end of the September Quarter. By Arthur's reckoning, the Treasury should have had sufficient funds of its own for its purposes.

At the same time, he became aware that the Treasury accounts for the September Quarter had not been received at his office by the due date. On 7 September 1824, he called Bromley in to demand an explanation for the delay. Giving Arthur a number of reasons for the lateness, Bromley happened to mention casually that he had been particularly busy during the week in which the accounts were due in trying to trace the whereabouts of one of his convict servants, a man by the name of John BEST, who had absconded after stealing money from the Public Chest, the strong-box in which all monies

collected by the Naval Office were stored. This strong-box was always kept under lock and key in the bedroom of Bromley's home.¹⁴

Finding it hard to understand why he had not been notified of the robbery before this, Arthur queried Bromley about how much Best had stolen—and listened in utter astonishment as Bromley told him that he had no way of knowing because, from the time of his first appointment as Naval Officer three years earlier, he had never once counted the money in the Public Chest!¹⁵

Pressed by Arthur to give an estimate of the loss, Bromley ventured to guess that as much as £275—a very significant sum in those days—might have been taken. Now seriously alarmed, Arthur moved immediately to establish a Board of Enquiry to verify the extent of the deficiency and to examine the circumstances under which the robbery had occurred.¹⁶

In the weeks which followed, the Board of Enquiry discovered that Bromley's estimate of £275 was very far short of the mark. By the Board's own calculations, the amount missing was actually £4,665.15s.9½d—a simply staggering sum!¹⁷

To make matters worse, the *Hobart Gazette & Van Diemen's Land Advertiser* of 17 September had reported that convict Best, who had fled from Hobart after the robbery, had been re-captured—but

¹³ As for Note 5, above

¹⁴ Convict John Best (*Malabar*, 1821), Police No: 401. See conduct record: TAHO CON31/1/1, Image 206.

¹⁵ As for Note 5, above

¹⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁷ The Board of Enquiry met for the first time on 9 September 1824 and shortly afterwards reported the sum missing as £4,665.15s.9½d

announced with regret that none of the missing money had been found on him and that there was little hope that any of it would ever be recovered.

In its first report to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Board of Enquiry revealed that it did not believe that Best could have stolen the entire amount that was missing. Rather, the Board believed, this was a case of embezzlement rather than theft. In its opinion, various large sums received by the Naval Office as import duties had not been entered into the accounts, or deposited in the Public Chest—and that, very clearly, there had been ‘a misapplication of the public Money on the part of the Treasurer and Naval Officer (Bromley) or his Clerk (Broughton) or both’.¹⁸

Incensed, Arthur now referred the matter to his Attorney-General, Joseph Tice GELLIBRAND, asking him to advise what action, if any, could be taken against Bromley and Broughton. After reviewing the case and interviewing both men, Gellibrand found himself in agreement with the Board of Enquiry that the loss could not be accounted for by a single robbery. Like the Board, he thought that the most likely cause of the deficiency was the deliberate misappropriation of funds from the Naval Office by Bromley or Broughton or both. He urged Arthur to refer the matter to a special Commission ‘so that the necessary depositions could be taken on oath’.¹⁹

On 15 October 1824, the *Hobart Town Gazette* reported that the Lieutenant-Governor had suspended Bromley from

the Offices of Treasurer of the Police Fund and Naval Office. Later that same month, Arthur wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Lord Bathurst, in England, to inform him of the action he had taken. In his letter, he announced that further enquiries had revealed an even greater deficiency, and that the losses from the Public Chest now stood at £5,280.²⁰

Taking the advice of his Attorney-General, Arthur established a Commission of Information, consisting of two magistrates and a jury of twelve prominent businessmen. The objectives of the Commission were quite different from those of the Board of Enquiry. Its specific purposes were, first, to consider whether Bromley could be held personally responsible for the Treasury losses, and, if so, to assess the extent of that liability.²¹

The Commission met on 10 November 1824. Its findings, reported in the *Hobart Gazette* of 19 November, were absolutely shocking! With new information to hand, the Commission estimated that the sum missing from the Public Chest now totalled £8,269.0s.8d. Furthermore, it found that Bromley could be held personally liable for the full amount! However, because it was unable to say what, if any, of this amount had been stolen by convict Best, it recommended that Bromley be given some form of ‘consideration’.

Accepting this recommendation, the Lieutenant-Governor decided not to proceed with any further charges against Bromley. However, this was not before ordering that all of Bromley’s assets be

¹⁸ The Board of Enquiry met for the first time on 9 September 1824 and shortly afterwards reported the sum missing as £4,665.15s.9½d

¹⁹ Attorney-General Gellibrand to Arthur, 9 October 1824

²⁰ Arthur to Bathurst, 20 October 1824

²¹ The first auction sale, of five of Bromley’s properties, was held at Hobart on 31 May 1825. See *Hobart Town Gazette*, 20 May 1825.

seized and prepared for sale to the highest bidder in order to recoup the Treasury losses.²²

It is unlikely that Bromley thought this 'consideration' particularly generous. He and his young wife and their two infants were left destitute, and they might well have starved to death had it not been for a group of his friends who clubbed together to purchase one of his former properties, 'Montford Farm' at Hamilton, at auction. For the next few years the Bromley family was able to live there, existing in an impoverished way on what they could earn by selling their produce. All pleas by Bromley to be allowed to return to England, where he hoped it might be possible for him to raise the money to clear his liability and to provide adequately for his family, were denied.

As for Bartholomew Broughton, the Lieutenant-Governor appeared to be in less of a hurry to deal with him. For the time being at least, he was free to get on with his life. Clearly, Arthur's view was that, as Bromley was Broughton's supervisor at the Naval Office, he was ultimately responsible for everything that had happened there.

While Arthur's view makes sense in some respects, it is hard to understand in others. Evidence had been given to the Board of Enquiry that Broughton had been living a life of splendor in Hobart. Although he had arrived in the colony as a penniless convict only three years earlier, and had been employed at the Naval Office on a salary of one shilling a day ever since, he had already been able to purchase an estate and erect a palatial house upon it. The Board of Enquiry estimated his property to be worth above

£3,000.²³ From this distance, it is difficult to see why Arthur did not take action against him earlier.

How Broughton's circumstances at this time must have galled Bromley! In September 1825, one year after his suspension from office, and struggling to feed his family, Bromley wrote to his friend John PIPER, his 'Naval Officer' counterpart in Sydney, saying (of Broughton):

This very Rascal of a late clerk of mine - a very stylish equipage, keeping his mistress, giving dinners etc. etc. has a house furnished like a Palace, plate, wines. etc. etc. - while poor I, with an infant family, can hardly procure Bread.

However, news that was perhaps even more galling than the reports of the high life Broughton was living in his grand house, with his mistress, his stylish horse and carriage, his silver plate and his fine wines, was still to come.

By the time Broughton was eventually brought before the Supreme Court at Hobart on 26 October 1826 to answer charges he had embezzled money at the Naval Office, most of the charges against him had been dropped. The amount he was claimed to have misappropriated was only £380—a trifling part of the missing £8,269.0s.8d.²⁴

²³ See *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, Friday, 19 November 1824, p.2

²⁴ Broughton's trial was reported by the *Hobart Town Gazette*, Saturday 21 October 1826, p.4. See also 'Rex v. Broughton' in Stephen Petrow and Bruce Kercher, 'Decisions of the Nineteenth Century Tasmanian Superior Courts', Division of Law, Macquarie University and School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania

²² Arthur quoted the figure of £3,000 in his letter to Bathurst, 20 October 1825

But even this was not the end of the bitter news for Bromley. Called by Broughton's counsel to give evidence at the trial, he was quickly made to look ridiculously naïve and foolish. Subjected to a rigorous examination which lasted for two humiliating days, he was forced to admit that his supervision of accounts at the Naval Office had been lax in the extreme, that he had had no direct knowledge of the amounts Broughton had collected, or had entered into the accounts, or had handed to him for deposit in the Public Chest. In his own defence, all he could say was that Broughton had been recommended highly to him and he had trusted him.²⁵

Summing up the case, the Chief Justice, Sir John PEDDER, remarked at length upon Bromley's loose and unsatisfactory explanations at the trial and his incompetence in the way he had kept the public accounts. He begged the members of the jury, if they had even the slightest doubt, to acquit Broughton. After a retirement of five minutes, the jury returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty'.²⁶

Reflecting on the case a year later, the editor of the *Colonial Times* (Hobart) eloquently expressed what a lot of other people were thinking:

We pity Doctor Bromley - and always did. We consider him to be a man more sinned against, than sinning. He was too generous, too hospitable, and too unsuspecting for his situation. But he was careless in the extreme, and for this even his dearest friends themselves will censure him.²⁷

By this time, most of the properties that had been seized had been sold and the

proceeds handed over to Treasury as partial compensation for its losses. Nevertheless, it was to be another three years before Bromley was given permission to leave the colony. After entering into a bond guaranteeing repayment of the still outstanding deficit—still in excess of £4,000—he sailed for England on the *Marquis of Landsdowne* on 4 April 1829. He had no option but to leave his wife and children in quite difficult circumstances at Hamilton, assuring them he would arrange for them to join him in England as soon as practicable.

Unfortunately, he was never able to make that happen. Back in England, his strenuous efforts to interest the British Government in the justice of his cause failed—and, perhaps worse, he was quite unable to raise the money required to meet his liability. Desperate for income, he returned to the sea.

In 1833, he visited Sydney as surgeon-superintendent on *Surrey* but, after disembarking his convicts, quickly returned to England. In 1834, he was in Sydney again aboard *Numa*. This time, after seeing his convicts safely ashore, he did sail on to Van Diemen's Land but was able to spend only a very brief few weeks there with his wife and children. It was the last time he ever saw them.

Early in 1836, he was admitted to the Marine Infirmary at Woolwich, England. He died there, a sick and broken man, on 29 June. He was 59. When news of his death reached Hobart, Treasury officials recalculated his liability, announcing after some consideration that when the few remaining properties which they had seized—all of which had appreciated significantly in value in the intervening years—had been sold, they would 'feel themselves justified in directing that

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Editorial, *Colonial Times*, Hobart, Friday, 10 August 1827, p.2

Bromley be relieved from any further demands.²⁸

But what became of Bartholomew Broughton?

Although Edward Foord Bromley was never a vindictive man, he might have been cheered in his final years by the knowledge that Broughton had not lived long enough to enjoy the fruits of his seemingly ill-gotten gains. In fact, he died in Hobart in 1828, a year before Bromley had been given permission to return to England. He was in his early forties. 

THE 'SANDSTONE BOYS'

Further to Laurie Moody's item in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, June 2011, Vol.32 No.1, p.57, Maree Ring found this item in *The Mercury*, 16 September 1902, p.2, which mentioned the boys under 'Ramble Through the Old Cemeteries. II St. George's.'

'Many a woman has unconsciously scrubbed her hearth or doorstep with a bit of sandstone "quarried" by precocious boys in the old cemeteries.'

²⁸ Bromley death: As for Note 5, above. His death at Woolwich in 1836 is also noted on his Navy service record at the British Admiralty, England

²⁹ Broughton was buried in Hobart on 3 July 1828, RGD34 1711/1828/34. 'Digger' shows his age as 32 but that is incorrect. The Old Bailey records show he was 35 when sentenced in 1819

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FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

WILLIAM ROSE FALCONER 1818–1869

THE LATE W. R. FALCONER.—We (*Tasmanian Times*) understand that letters have been received by the last mail from Europe, announcing the decease at Glasgow of Mrs. Falconer, the mother of the late Director of Public Works, on the same day that her son breathed his last at New Town in this colony, namely, the 26th May last.

Launceston Examiner, 12 August 1869, p.2



DEATHS.

FALCONER.—At New Town, on the night of the 26th May, William Rose Falconer, Esq., Director of Public Works, and Director-General of Roads of Tasmania. The funeral will leave his late residence for St. John's Church, New Town, on Monday, the 31st inst., at 3:30p.m.

The Mercury, 29 May 1869, p.1



DEATH OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—We regret that it becomes our duty to record the death of Mr. William Rose Falconer, which took place, after a protracted illness, at his residence, New Town, at half past nine on Wednesday morning. Mr. Falconer was descended from an old and respected Presbyterian family residing in the county of Ayrshire, Scotland, and originally emigrated to Canada, where he had large experience in the erection of gas works in the cities of Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto. He came to Tasmania in Dec. 1855, under engagement as Chief

Engineer to the Hobart Town Gas Company, and superintended the erection and completion of that company's works and buildings. As soon as the enterprise was fairly launched and in full working order, he accepted an engagement in a similar capacity from the Launceston Gas Company, whose works he also completed during the years 1858 and 1859. At the close of 1858 he was offered by the unanimous voice of Parliament, during the administration of Mr., now Sir Francis, Smith, the appointment of Director of Public Works. This he accepted, and accordingly on the 1st January, 1859, he was gazetted to the office in question, and subsequently to those of Director General of Roads, and Inspector of Electric Telegraphs. He continued to perform the duties of these combined offices until September last, when he was obliged by the illness, which has just fatally terminated, to relinquish his active duties as permanent head of the Department over which he presided. In private life Mr. Falconer was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him, and through-out his career in the civil service he enjoyed the reputation of an upright official. His funeral will take place at 3 o'clock on Monday next.

The Mercury, 29 May 1869, p.2 ◀



Thanks to Maree Ring for drawing our attention to the newspaper item in the *Launceston Examiner*.

HELP WANTED

ARNOLD

James RADCLIFF, farmer of Rheban, Tasmania, whilst in England, sponsored Elizabeth ARNOLD and her five children to immigrate to Tasmania in 1857. The children were William 1833–1902, George 1835–1915, Sarah Annie 1839–1880, Emma 1843–1863 and John 1845–? The ship records stated Mrs Arnold was a wife, not a widow, indicating Mr Arnold was alive and possibly in Tasmania. I would be most grateful for any information on Mr Arnold and his wife's maiden name. Darrell Swan Member No.2314, phone (03) 6248 5218

DUCIE/DOOCEY/DOUCEY

Seeking information as to where and when a Garrett DUCIE married Catherine CASEY. Garrett arrived from Ireland shown in shipping documents as a 20 year-old single man in January 1857, application by his brother Patrick. Who was his wife? Three possibilities have been found.

1 In August 1859, a Catherine Ducie arrived in Hobart, application by Garrett Ducie. Shipping documents show her as a single person.

2 In October 1851, age 17 years, a Catherine Casey arrived in Hobart, applicant an E LEMPRIERE.

3 In May 1851 age 23 years, a convict Catherine Casey arrived, pardoned in 1855, lived Morven area where Garrett also lived.

Their first child was born 27 September 1860, baptised at St Josephs, Launceston. They went on to live on a property called *Pleasant View* at Blessington. We are also looking for photos of the Ducie family and any information regarding the extended family would be greatly

appreciated.

David Patman, Member No.4718, email manpat@hotmail.net.au or phone (03) 6327 3079

LAMB, BROOKS, SALMON, OXLEY and TILLACK

I am writing a book about the pioneer families who settled in the Colebrook area. I would particularly like any information about the families listed above, from the 1830s to 1976 when the bushfires destroyed much of the town. Please contact Helen Osbourne, Member No.6060, email lisgoold@hotmail.com or phone (03) 6428 6804

SANDERS/SAUNDERS FAMILY and EDWARD JAMES

I am currently doing a family history and one of my ancestors was Alexander Williams **Sanders/Saunders** (1858–1946). At one stage he was the licensee of the *Steam Packet Tavern* located in Hunter Street (demolished 1916). He married a Margaret RODGERS (from Hamilton area)—as his second wife. At one stage they employed an Edward (Teddy) JAMES. In *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 31 No.4, page 223, there is an extract from the *Mercury* of 18 July 1888 to 'a coloured man Edward James'. Does anyone know anything about this Edward James?—was the coloured reference to an Aboriginal or another racial background. Apparently an Edward James worked for the Hobart City Council at the Franklin Square toilets at about the same time. Any information about any of the above, particularly Edward James would be appreciated. Graham Brown Member No.6982 email jengra@tastel.net.au ◀

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ANDERSON Alexander	Hobart TAS AUS	1882-1893	7145
ANDERSON George	N IRL	c1820+?	7145
ANDERSON John	George Town TAS AUS	1880-1921	7145
ATKINSON Jo	Emu Bay TAS AUS	1802-1890	7146
BANKS Richard	Wolverhampton ENG	c1770	7160
BANNON Wlm.	Longford IRL 1826	1826-1902	7146
BEATTIE	Uthw ? IRL	d.1961	7170
BOUCHAIR Heinrich	PRUSSIA	1800s	7148
BRADSHAW Eliz	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1807+	7147
BRADSHAW Thomas	Sydney? NSW AUS	1797+	7147
BROOKS Minnie Laura	VIC & TAS AUS	1900-1992	7179
BUSCOMBE Rosa Isabella	Richmond TAS AUS	1852-1935	7154
BUSHING Henry	Fingal TAS AUS	1800s	7148
BUTLER Brightie	Hobart TAS AUS	1890-1965	7179
BUTLER Sylvia (nee Kelly)	Hobart/St Marys TAS AUS	1890-1930	7179
BUTLER Walter	Hobart TAS AUS	1890-1980	7179
COGLAN	Wexford IRL	1750-1900	7158
COWIE William	SCT	c1795	7160
COX Ebenezer	Hobart Launceston TAS/Melbourne VIC AUS	1842-1916	7155
COX Henry Thome Cussens	Hobart & Launceston TAS AUS	1843-1882	7155
COX Mary Ann Templeton nee McGarran	Hobart Launceston TAS/Melbourne VIC AUS	1817-1903	7155
DALLAS	SCT	1819-1890	7170
DIXON Edith	TAS AUS	b.c.1865	7152
DUNCANSON family	TAS AUS	Any	7166
EGAN Joseph	m.Mary WARD Fingal TAS AUS	Any	7143
ELLEN Charles	ENG	Any	7163
FLEMING Ellen	Fingal TAS AUS	1800s	7148
GILLETT/JILLET Robert	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1807+	7147
GRAY Tresa Maria	NW TAS AUS	c1840-c1900	7145
HACKETT William Henry	Wandsworth LND ENG	1860+	7164
HANCOX Edward	TAS AUS	Any	7146
HAWKINS William	Bruny Island TAS AUS	1850+	7176
HEADLEY Alfred	Launceston TAS AUS	c1850+	7168
HENDERSON Robert	Edinburgh SCT	1825-1916	7143
HUGHES John	NW TAS AUS	1844-1905	7145
HUXLEY Ernest	Hobart TAS AUS	1910-1991	7180
HUXLEY Pearl nee Howard	Hobart TAS AUS	1920-2005	7180
KALBITZER Johann Charlotte Eliza	Any	Any	7154
KEMP George	Hollingbourne KEN ENG	1803+	7154
LAMBETH	ENG	Any	7163
LEAN	ENG	b.1 April 1862-1948	7170
LOWNIE Alexander	Gourdon KCD SCT	1843-1905	7164
LOWNIE Mary	Gourdon KCD SCT	1847-1890?	7164
MACKAY Charles	ECHT ABD SCT	1856+	7164
MACKAY Helen	ECHT ABD SCT	1857	7164
MANSFIELD Susannah	Franklin TAS AUS	Any	7173
MAYNE Arthur	Boat Harbour TAS AUS	1824-1886	7168
McALLISTER	Dublin IRL	1800-1900	7158
McCULLE/Y Andrew	County Down IRL	c1790	7160
McDONALD Catherine	VIC & TAS AUS	Any	7152
MERRICK Ike	VIC & TAS AUS	1900-1989	7179
MERRICK Patrick	Hobart TAS AUS	1936-1980	7179
MORRIS William	m.1881 Collinswood Fingal TAS AUS	1853	7144
MURCHISON	VIC AUS	1850+	7149

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
MURCHISON	Skye SCT	1800-1850	7149
NOYES	Dublin IRL	1800-1900	7158
OLIVER George	Any/convict age 14 in 1824	1810-1888	7143
O'NEAL Catherine	Fingal TAS AUS	1800s	7148
PADMAN (Wilson) Hilda	North TAS AUS	1877+	7165
PARKER Thomas	m.Alice WARD Fingal TAS AUS	Any	7143
PRYOR Edward	Theffield ENG	c1659	7160
REEVES Isaac	BKM ENG	c1785	7160
REIMERS Johann Frederick Matthius	Kingower VIC AUS	1827-1893	7154
RITTER Ada	North TAS AUS	1800s-197?	7165
ROSE Janet mother of Wm	Any	c1790	7144
SAUNDERS Dan	Campbell Town TAS AUS	c1809-1885	7146
SCHULTZ Johan	Belgium or Germany	Any	7163
SLATTER Charles	m.1848 Bledington GLS ENG	Any	7144
SPRENT James	Any	1808-1863	7152
STYLES Richard	Fingal TAS AUS	1800s	7148
TAYLOR Walter Basil	Sandy Bay Hobart TAS AUS	1900-1989	7180
TAYLOR Winifred	Sandy Bay Hobart TAS AUS	1900-1985	7180
THORNE James	Waratah TAS AUS	1832-1924	7145
THYNNE John	ENG	Any	7163
TIGHE	Dublin IRL	1800-1900	7158
TONKINS Ernest	Zeehan/Queenstown TAS AUS	1908?-1960	7165
TUCK Edward J R	AUS	1873+	7164
TULLOCH John father of Wm	Any	c1780	7144
TULLOCH William	Cawdor Nairn SCT	1820-1901	7144
URQUHART Murdo	m.Christine McDonald VIC/TAS AUS	Any	7152
WALKER James	PER SCT	c1780	7160
WALLER (Tomkins) Sylvia	Zeehan/Queenstown TAS AUS	1914-2003	7165
WALTON Thomas	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1852	7154
WARD Thomas S	b.Cornwall 1809/d.Fingal TAS AUS	1809-1888	7143
WHITELEY Albert	North TAS AUS	Any	7165
WILLIAMS Mary	Allostock CHS ENG	1811+	7154
WILSON T Capt	Hobart TAS/Sydney NSW AUS	1803	7149
WILSON T Capt	Norfolk Island AUS	pre 1830	7149

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7143	HALL Mr Peter Graham	200 Nelson Road pghall@iprimus.com.au	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
7144	HALL Mrs Helen Mary	200 Nelson Road jphall@iprimus.com.au	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
7145	WOOD Mrs Janine Lesley	18 Scotch Circuit jannharvey@gmail.com	HAWTHORN	VIC	3122
7146	O'TOOLE Ms Maureen	PO Box 87	NEWSTEAD	TAS	7250
7147	BRADSHAW Mr Barry	PO Box 87	NEWSTEAD	TAS	7250
7148	DAVIS Mrs Christine Jean	PO Box 8036 chris-davis2001@hotmail.com	TREVALLYN	TAS	7250
7149	FORREST Mr Peter Somerville	20 Doyle Avenue peter.forrest1@bigpond.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7150	COE Mr Patrick William	1456 Grasstree Hill Road grasstree@tassie.net.au	RICHMOND	TAS	7025
7151	COE Mrs Jennifer Kay	1456 Grasstree Hill Road grasstree@tassie.net.au	RICHMOND	TAS	7025

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7152	BENJAMIN Mrs Katrine	33 Coolamon Road katrine.benjamin@inet.net.au	TAROONA	TAS	7053
7153	WILLIAMS Ms Beverley Joan	2/72 Branscombe Road bjw1048@yahoo.com	CLAREMONT	TAS	7011
7154	SMITH Mr Glenn James	10 Scenery Court smithaus1@bigpond.com	BROOKWATER	QLD	4300
7155	COX Mr Geoffrey Noel Gray	3 Lyon Street ggcox@internode.on.net	ROSEBUD	VIC	3939
7156	OLIVER Mrs Margaret Dawn	670 Osmaston Road	OSMASTON	TAS	7303
7157	BIGGAR Mrs Deirdre Ann	Not for publication			
7158	McALLISTER Miss Sheelagh	77 Poet's Road sheelagh77@gmail.com	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
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7165	WILSON Ms Jennifer Faye	224 Rifle Range Road jennywilson85@y7mail.com	SANDFORD	TAS	7020
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7174	BROWN Dr David Llewellyn	17 Stringybark Road dave_katebrown@hotmail.com	BONNET HILL	TAS	7053
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VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

THE *TASMANIA* (2) 1845

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

THE *Tasmania* (2) 1845 sailed from Dublin on 2 September 1845 and arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 3 December 1845. It landed 139 female convicts: one, Ellen SULLIVAN, died on board, leaving behind an infant daughter.¹ As well as its cargo of convict women, the *Tasmania* (2) brought thirty-seven free children of twenty-three convict mothers. One child, Patrick FERGUSON, the son of Mary McGOWAN, died on board, aged four months.² Just a month before the ship arrived in Hobart, on 7 November, Sarah McARDLE gave birth to a son; he died before he was three months old.³

The children had been with their mothers in the Irish prison, Grange Gorman. When the ship arrived in Hobart, the majority of the children were separated from their mothers, most of whom were taken to the *Anson*. On 9 December 1845, twenty-four children were admitted to the Queen's Orphan Schools at New Town. Eighteen were admitted to the Female Orphan School and six to the male Orphan School.

Some of the children admitted on arrival were as young as two. Jane BRADSHAW's two-year-old daughter, Mary Jane CONNOR, was taken from her mother not long after the ship arrived and placed in the Female Orphan School.

She remained there until 11 February 1847 when she was discharged to her mother. Sarah BRENNAN's son Joseph RUTHERFORD, aged two and a half, was another who was separated from his mother shortly after arrival and placed in the Female Orphan School, where the youngest children were housed.⁴ He later transferred to the Male Orphan School.⁵ He remained there for more than ten years, until 27 March 1856, when he was apprenticed to Thomas RUMNEY at Cambridge.⁶ Another very young child admitted to the Orphan School on 9 December 1845 was Ann BYRNE, aged 2 years 3 months, daughter of Mary Byrne.⁷ Ann died at the Orphan School in May 1849.⁸

Esther BURGESS brought five children, aged between two and fourteen, with her.⁹ The youngest, Robert Burgess, aged 2, was admitted to the Orphan School on 13 May 1846 and died there on 15 November 1846.¹⁰ Esther Burgess, whose eldest daughter, Mary, was tried with her, fought hard to bring her daughter Elizabeth with her: in June 1845, she sent a petition from Carlow Gaol:

That your Petitioner has a Daughter 13 years of age with no person to look after her and must ultimately come to utter

¹ For the Surgeon's Report, see Adm.101/71 Reel 3211. For the women, see NAI, CRF 1845 M29 List of all the female convicts aboard the *Tasmania* (2).

² NAI, TR, 5, p.248.

³ Adm.101/71 Reel 3211.

⁴ AOT, SWD 28 p.26

⁵ AOT, SWD 28 pp.26, 21

⁶ AOT, SWD 28 p.33

⁷ AOT, SWD 28 p.26

⁸ AOT, SWD 28 p.26

⁹ AOT, SWD 28 p.26

¹⁰ AOT, SWD 28 p.27; RGD 35/2 1846

Hobart No.1236: Robert Burgess

ruin if your Excellency with your usual clemency and humanity will not allow her to go along with your Petitioner to New South [Wales]. That the Girl's Father being dead and having no friend or relative to look after her Petitioner humbly implores your Excellency will be graciously pleased to issue an order to have her sent to New South Wales along with your Petitioner and she shall ever pray.¹¹

Esther died in Hobart in May 1855, less than ten years after arriving in the colony.¹²

With Irish historian Joan KAVANAGH, I am writing a book on the women and children of the *Tasmania* (2). We would be pleased to hear from any descendants and can be contacted at:

dsnowden@tassie.net.au

Children admitted to the Orphan Schools 9 December 1845 from the *Tasmania* (2)¹³

Child	Age	Mother
James Austin	4y	Margaret Grady
Alicia Burgess	10y	Esther Burgess
Elizabeth Burgess	14y	Esther Burgess
Jane Burgess	8y	Esther Burgess
William Burgess	5y	Esther Burgess
William Butler	10y	Margaret Butler 2 nd
Ann Byrne	2½y	Mary Byrne
Joseph Carroll or Rutherford	2½y	Sarah Brennan
James Connell	3	Margaret Connell
Margaret Connell	11y	Margaret Connell
Patrick Connell	7y	Margaret Connell
Mary Jane Connor	2y	Jane Bradshaw
Anne Ferguson	9y	Mary McGowan
Bridget Grace	4y	Catherine Grace
Catherine Grace	3y	Catherine Grace

¹¹ NAI, CRF 1845 B 15 Esther Burgess

¹² AOT, RGD 35/ 4 1855/255 Hobart (Esther Burgess)

¹³ AOT SWD 28/1/2 pp.26–27; Male Admission Register p.20

Mary Grace	9y	Catherine Grace
Edward Griffin	3y	Mary Griffen
Eliza Griffin	11y	Mary Griffin
Mary Anne Griffin	6y	Mary Griffin
Sarah Anne Kelly	10y	Margaret Kelly
William Moran	2½y	Ann McNeil
Rose Murphy	11y	Mary Murphy
Margaret O'Brien	7y	Mary O'Brien 2 nd
Mary Ann Wall	4y	Mary Wall

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A NOTEWORTHY VOYAGE: THE *ROYAL ADMIRAL* (4) AN 1842 FEMALE CONVICT TRANSPORT FROM THE UK

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

THE embarkation arrangements for the female prisoners sent from gaols throughout England, Wales and Scotland on the *Royal Admiral* (4) started off badly. The 204 women and their seventeen children were conveyed to the London docks by rail. They arrived during February 1842 in a distressed and filthy state at 10 o'clock at night. The majority came with only the clothing they wore. They had been told at the prisons if they took more possessions these would be taken away and destroyed. Many were thinly clad without essentials for the voyage and suffered chills and rheumatism before the transport quit its anchorage in the Thames. After inspection, two convicts and one child were disembarked and two free settlers with their families of nine came on board.

When the passage commenced the weather initially was fine and pleasant but turned sultry and oppressive as they neared the equator. Sea sickness was prevalent and some of the women scarcely recovered during the whole voyage. Seven births occurred but two of the mothers were afflicted with dysentery and one with haemoptysis (spitting blood). The majority of the new born infants died. Some 226 cases of sickness were listed, particularly diarrhoea, dysentery and catarrh. Surgeon J R ROBERTS reported that the best behaved prisoners were those from the *Newgate* and *Edinburgh* prisons where they had

received the care and attention of the Ladies Committees initiated by Elizabeth FRY. The prisoners spoke freely of the kindness of these charitable visitors.

Although the convicts had embarked on the *Royal Admiral* (4) during February 1842, the ship did not sail until 5 May. The delay in departure was caused by several unusual events. Shortly after surgeon superintendent Roberts joined the ship at Woolwich, the first mate (RICE) on board was drunk with the master successively for five days. The master then jumped out of his cabin window and was drowned. The first mate, recovering from his alcoholic binge, then attempted to take his own life in the steward's berth but was confined under guard until the owner of the vessel arrived. He was then discharged. A temporary master was hired but the crew refused duty. A replacement, William T FELL, was appointed permanent master. Two of the mates were also discharged and the crew returned to duty. By this time eight weeks had elapsed but the transport was finally made ready to sail on 5 May 1842.

All went well during the voyage until latitude 30.20°S was reached when, on the morning watch all the crew were found drunk, with the exception of one man. The source of the liquor remained a mystery until the middle watch the following night when a light was noticed in the lazaretto. An apprentice boy LEACH and seaman BROWN were

seized as they emerged from the coal hole hatch located beneath their forecandle berth.

It was revealed that an empty water cask had been lifted out to enable the slim youth Leach to climb down, go through the space between decks and slip into the stowage room where the provisions and port wine were kept. Precautions were taken by the officers to prevent a repetition of this breach of the cargo. Several days later the culprits came as a deputation to the master asking to be forgiven which was to be determined at the Cape of Good Hope. At this port of call the first mate BARKER was discharged for mutinous behaviour and several of the crew, who were implicated in the 'wine affair', were suspended from duty.

As the voyage progressed, the crew, who remained active, became more insubordinate and troublesome. One seaman (KELLY) precipitated a disturbance by refusing the master's orders. He was immediately confronted by the master who carried a loaded pistol in his pocket. Kelly again defied the order whereupon the master fired the pistol at him but it failed to discharge. Kelly was handcuffed but the majority of the crew refused to perform their duties.

In wild and stormy weather as the ship sailed deep in the Southern Ocean, for seven weeks, the *Royal Admiral* with its cargo of women convicts, was worked by officers and the remainder of the crew. All wore arms to prevent a surprise attack. The watch was kept by master Fell and surgeon Roberts until the transport berthed at Hobart Town.

During the mutinous upheaval the female convicts remained orderly although the surgeon cryptically mentions that 'several

trying circumstances took place during the period'.

On arrival at Hobart Town, after a voyage of 142 days, thirteen members of the crew were taken in handcuffs to the Prisoners Barracks. They were afterwards sentenced to three months hard labour at the treadmill.

Eighty of the female convicts were sent on to Launceston on the colonial government barque *Lady Franklin* where they were landed in good condition for eventual assignment to settlers. ◀

Reference

AJCP PRO 3200 Royal Admiral (4) 1842

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A THIRKELL BY ANOTHER NAME

Part 4: Robert Thirkell

Richie Woolley (Member No.144)

ROBERT'S will indicates that he owned nearly 13,000 acres of land at the time of his death in 1876,¹ and he had certainly done extraordinarily well for someone who had come to the colony as the semi-literate son of a Durham labourer. He had achieved a far higher level of prosperity than his brothers who had remained in England (see Postscript), two of whom were described as agricultural labourers, with a third working on the railways.² While some of Robert's success was no doubt due to the timing of his arrival, which occurred during a period when the dispossession of the Aborigines created a supply of land that was often granted to settlers at little or no cost, he managed to translate that initial advantage into lasting prosperity. There were times during the early stages of this process, however, when he displayed what was, at best, a somewhat cavalier disregard for legal niceties, as indicated by his convictions for selling alcohol without a licence and stealing a cow hide (see Part 2).

Robert's transgressions may have been a potential source of embarrassment to his family—they were certainly not mentioned in his obituary—but they appear to have had little practical impact on his life after he completed his sentence for the second of his offences.³ His status within the wider community seems to have been relatively unaffected, something which was demonstrated as early as December

1835 when he combined with many of the leading men of the Campbell Town district, including a number of serving Justices of the Peace, to offer a very substantial reward for the provision of information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the murder of William SERGEANTSON.⁴ His acceptance within this group was again apparent in July 1836 when his name appeared alongside many of the same men in an address commending the conduct of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor, George ARTHUR.⁵

Robert was in even more select company in 1852, when he was mentioned in a petition sent to London by Lieutenant-Governor William DENISON.⁶ This document, which advocated the continuation of convict transportation to the colony, was endorsed by twenty-six men and one family, all of whom were major landholders, with the signatories including no less than twelve Justices of the Peace and three Members of the Legislative Council. The petition seems to have been organised by four men, including James John BAYLES and Charles HEADLAM, JP, both of whom were long-term Macquarie River residents.⁷ This pair must have known

¹ TAHO, AD 960/1/11, No. 1963, pp.261–7

² 1851 English census, www.ancestry.com.au

³ *Mercury*, 20 November 1876

⁴ *Hobart Town Courier*, 11 December 1835, 15 January 1836, 29 July 1836

⁵ *Hobart Town Courier*, 15 July 1836

⁶ *Examiner*, 25 February 1854

⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 2 December 1820, 16 April 1824; TAHO, LSD 1/1/1, pp.631–33, 641; AD960/1/2, No. 245, pp.117–119; LSD 354/1/5, p.153; LSD

about Robert's background, yet this did not prevent them adding his name to their exclusive list.

The views of Bayles and his fellow petitioners attracted the scorn of the *Examiner*, which was a strident critic of the system that brought British felons to the colony. On one particularly interesting occasion the newspaper expressed its surprise that Robert was among those pressing for the continuation of transportation, stating that his 'experience of convict evidence ought certainly to have been sufficient for a generation'.⁸ The writer was apparently suggesting that testimony provided by a convict or convicts had had an adverse impact on Robert's life, which was surely a reference to the latter's trial and conviction in 1829. It is clear that article's author knew about these events, and the tone of his statement also hints that the relevant evidence may have been unreliable. It is impossible to know, however, whether this was a common sentiment, which may have created some sympathy for Robert, or whether the newspaper remark was simply the product of a negative attitude towards convicts in general. Whatever the case, there is certainly no evidence that Robert and his family were ostracised by respectable society. William Race ALLISON, a Member of the Legislative Council, went so far as to describe Robert as 'a Gentleman', and lauded his 'great common sense'.⁹ The Thirkell children made good marriages to members of other landowning families,¹⁰

with Robert's daughter Elizabeth Sarah Thirkell securing a particularly high-status match with James COX the younger of *Clarendon*.¹¹

It seems that the only significant drawback of Robert's criminal record was that it would have prevented him from achieving a similar rank to some of his fellow 1852 petitioners, although his lack of full literacy—depending on the extent of the deficiency—may have precluded his appointment as a Justice of the Peace in any case. His son George, however, was chosen for this role in 1864 when he was still short of his 28th birthday.¹² He was one of the youngest men ever to hold such a position up to that time, and it is tempting to think that what could not be given to the father was bestowed upon his eldest son.¹³

It is not known whether George or any of his siblings knew that their father had spent time in the convict system, but it is hard to imagine that they didn't eventually become aware of it. The fact that one of Robert's later descendants apparently destroyed some of the family papers suggests that someone thought they contained something that needed to be concealed.¹⁴ It seems likely that this related to Robert's felonious past, although it is possible that it concerned the birth of his illegitimate child, Elizabeth SOUTHERNWOOD. At least one person within his immediate family must have known about her, as someone took action in June 1876, when Robert was

354/1/8, pp.120–21. The two men were brothers-in-law.

⁸ *Examiner*, 21 July 1852

⁹ TAHO, CSO 24/1/4596/8165, p.160

¹⁰ *Mercury*, 17 June 1862, 21 June 1880; *Examiner*, 23 August 1864, 18 October 1873, 4 May 1875

¹¹ *Examiner*, 8 May 1875; TAHO, AD960/1/6, No.1170, pp.339–49

¹² *Mercury*, 5 July 1864

¹³ Based on an analysis of the ages of those men who were commissioned in the period 1862–1864

¹⁴ Personal communication from a member of the Thirkell family

clearly unable to handle such matters, to formally register his gift to her (see Part 1).¹⁵ This followed a transaction in October 1875 when Robert sold a small parcel of land in Perth to Elizabeth's husband, William ADAMS.¹⁶ This lot was next to the block he had given to Elizabeth in 1844, and Robert's wife was listed as a party to the transfer, with her signature appearing on the relevant document. She was also involved with the simultaneous sale of another small allotment to Elizabeth Amelia Adams (1854–1927),¹⁷ the eldest surviving child of William and Elizabeth.¹⁸ Given this level of interaction, it is hard to imagine that Robert's wife didn't have some idea of the link that existed between her husband and the Adams family. It seems highly unlikely, however, that this connection was as significant to her as it—and is—to Elizabeth's Southernwood's descendants, who owe our very existence to the relationship, however transient, between Robert and Elizabeth's mother, Catherine MACK.

POSTSCRIPT

This final instalment of Robert's story provides an opportunity for me to tidy up a couple of loose ends. As I explained previously (see Part 2), Robert almost certainly arrived here in 1820 on the *Caroline*, but some other writers have suggested that it was the *Malabar* that brought him to the colony.¹⁹ The latter

vessel's sole voyage to Van Diemen's Land in the period through to 1833 was as a convict transport which sailed into the Derwent in October 1821.²⁰ There was indeed a Thirkell on board the ship, but he was Thomas 'Thirkill', who was transported for 'Stealing a Pocket Book'.²¹ Other records indicate that Thomas was born about 1798 in Westminster, London,²² and he completed his seven-year sentence in 1828.²³ His conduct record contains notations dated 10 August 1826 (when he was still under sentence) and 27 March 1830 (when he was free by servitude),²⁴ and it is clear he and Robert were two different men.

The other subject that I wish to discuss is Robert Thirkell's English background. I mentioned before (see Part 2) that he was baptised at Aycliffe in southern Durham, England, in 1792, but I did not explain how, in the absence of any Tasmanian document that lists his birthplace or even his county of origin, I had reached this conclusion. There certainly was a child of the appropriate name baptised at Aycliffe at the stated date, and the reasons for believing he grew up to be the man who migrated to Van Diemen's Land are as follows:

Firstly, the Durham child, whose absence from the Aycliffe burial register suggests that he survived infancy,²⁵ is the right age to be Robert. The latter was said to be 85

¹⁵ LTO, General Law Deed No.6/1892

¹⁶ LTO, General Law Deed No.6/1377

¹⁷ LTO, General Law Deed No.6/1378

¹⁸ Longford District, Births No.756, 1853; No.867, 1854; Death No.344, 1853

¹⁹ K R von Stieglitz, 'A Short History of Cressy and Bishopsbourne with some Notes on the Lake River Pioneers', 1976, p.29; F L Rigney, 'A Midlands Odyssey: A Journey through Parts of the Northern Midlands of Tasmania', 2008, p.264. The

Wayn Index also states that Robert arrived on the *Malabar*.

²⁰ Nicholson, 'Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Tasmania, 1803–1833'; 1983; Ship's Index, p.23; *Hobart Town Gazette*, 27 October 1821

²¹ TAHO, CON 31/1/42, No.166

²² TAHO, CON 23/1/3, No.166

²³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 April 1828

²⁴ TAHO, CON 31/1/42, No.166

²⁵ Durham County Record Office (DRO), Aycliffe Burial Register, EP/Ay 1/2

when he died in November 1876,²⁶ which indicates that he was born about 1791. While this is nominally out by a year, such a discrepancy is of little significance in an era when standards of literacy and numeracy were so much poorer than today.

Secondly, the parents of the Aycliffe baby were George and Elizabeth,²⁷ and both these given names figured particularly prominently among Robert's children (see Part 3).

Thirdly, the family home at Brafferton—a small settlement within the parish of Aycliffe—was less than seven kilometres north of the town of Darlington,²⁸ which is the likely source of the name that Robert gave to his principal farm, *Darlington Park*.

Fourthly, as previously mentioned (see Part 2), Robert had worked for both Thomas Cookson SIMPSON and his father, who was also named Thomas, while he was still living in England.²⁹ T.C. Simpson was a native of Durham, having been baptised in the county in 1792 at Norton,³⁰ and his father appears to have been buried at the same place in 1823.³¹ The western boundary of the parish is within eight kilometres of the eastern border of Aycliffe,³² which places the boy baptised at the latter place in very close proximity to the two men who

employed the Robert who migrated to Van Diemen's Land.

Finally, the Durham child had a brother named Ralph baptised at Aycliffe in 1797,³³ and a Ralph Thirkell, who was said to be 83, died on the *Hollywood* property at Cressy in Tasmania in 1880.³⁴

Such evidence, while I find it persuasive, remains circumstantial. Frustratingly, I have not been able to find any record of Ralph Thirkell's arrival here, as either a free man or a convict, and his death was registered by a local undertaker's son,³⁵ rather than a relative. As a result, I have been unable to confirm that he was, as I suspect, Robert's sibling.

Faced with a lack of conclusive proof regarding Robert's origins, I have, more recently, adopted the approach of trying to disprove that he was the Aycliffe child. This could be done by finding a record of the latter's death in England, or any mention of him there in the period after 1820, by which time the Tasmanian Robert had migrated to Van Diemen's Land.

The first opportunity to carry out such a test followed the publication several years ago of an index to burials in Durham during the period from 1813 to 1837.³⁶ The only Robert Thirkell (or Thirkill, etc) it mentions is a one-year-old boy who was buried at Egglecliffe in 1827, so it does not seem that the child baptised at Aycliffe in 1792 died in his native county during the period covered by the index.

The recent proliferation of online records has made it possible to carry out a more extensive search for possible references to the Durham Robert. No man of the

²⁶ Launceston District, Death No.3200, 1876; *Examiner*, 4 November 1876

²⁷ DRO, Aycliffe Baptismal Register, EP/Ay 1/2

²⁸ British Ordnance Survey, 1:50,000 Topographic Map No.93

²⁹ TAHO, CSO 1/91/2096, p.134

³⁰ www.familysearch.org

³¹ National Burial Index for England and Wales, Federation of Family History Societies and Associates, 2010

³² Humphery-Smith (ed), Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers, 1995

³³ DRO, Aycliffe Baptismal Register, EP/Ay 1/2
³⁴ *Examiner*, 30 November 1880

³⁵ Longford District, Death No.441, 1880

³⁶ G Bell and C Yellowley, Durham Burials, 1813–1837

relevant age and birthplace appears in English census returns for 1841, 1851, 1861 or 1871. The 1841 census did include a 45-year-old tailor named Robert 'Thirkettle' (indexed as 'Thirkill'), who was living with his family at Norwich in Norfolk.³⁷ The way in which adult ages were recorded in this census means that he was actually between 45 and 49 years old at the time, which made him worthy of attention, but his return indicates that he was born in Norfolk. This is confirmed in the 1851 census, which states that he was then 54, which also makes him too young to be the child baptised at Aycliffe.³⁸

Of more interest was a Robert 'Thirkell' who in 1841 was living at Stokesley in Yorkshire,³⁹ which, despite being in a different county, is only 26 kilometres from Brafferton.⁴⁰ This man was, however, aged from 40 to 44 years old, which is again somewhat younger than the Aycliffe Robert would have been. The Stokesley man was also said to have been born in Yorkshire, which makes it almost certain that he was actually the Robert 'Thirkill' who was baptised in 1798 at Seamer,⁴¹ a parish adjacent to Stokesley.⁴²

I have also checked the online index to registered English deaths,⁴³ which revealed three potential references to Robert Thirkell (under all variations of his surname). The earliest proved to be a nine-week-old infant who perished at

Sunderland in May 1840,⁴⁴ and the second registration was for an 84-year-old sawyer who died at Naburn in Yorkshire in May 1850.⁴⁵ The third entry related to a death in the Stokesley District in 1858,⁴⁶ and the National Burial Index for England and Wales indicates that this event involved a 60-year-old man who was buried at Stokesley itself,⁴⁷ which identifies him as the person recorded in the 1841 census.

The national index, which covers a much greater area (obviously!) and time span than the Durham list mentioned previously, yielded two other interesting burials. A Robert 'Thirkeld'—the spelling most commonly associated with the Brafferton family—was buried at Sunderland in north-eastern Durham in 1802, but at 18 he was too old to be the child baptised in 1792. A Robert Thirkell was interred at Staindrop in southern Durham in 1797, but he appears to have been an adult living at Hilton,⁴⁸ a hamlet within the stated parish,⁴⁹ which was home to another major branch of the Thirkell family.

A search of British National Archives catalogue also failed to yield any relevant entries relating to either of the Aycliffe brothers, Robert and Ralph.⁵⁰ The latter was unmarried and living at Stranton in

³⁷ www.ancestry.com.au

³⁸ www.ancestry.com.au

³⁹ www.ancestry.com.au

⁴⁰ British Ordnance Survey, 1:50,000 Topographic Map No.3

⁴¹ www.familysearch.org

⁴² Humphery-Smith (ed), Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers, 1995

⁴³ www.ancestry.com.au

⁴⁴ English death, June quarter, 1840, Sunderland district, volume 24, p.162

⁴⁵ English death, June quarter, 1850, York district, volume 23, p.502

⁴⁶ English death, September quarter, 1858, Stokesley district, volume 9d, p.289

⁴⁷ National Burial Index for England and Wales, Federation of Family History Societies and Associates, 2010

⁴⁸ DRO, Staindrop Burial Register, EP/Stai 1/4

⁴⁹ British Ordnance Survey, 1:50,000 Topographic Map No.92

⁵⁰ www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Durham in 1851,⁵¹ at which time Brafferton was nominated as his birthplace, but he does not seem to have been recorded in any later census. A Ralph Thirkell died in the Chorley area in Lancashire in 1869,⁵² but he was evidently born about 1819 rather than 1797. No other registered death appears to be relevant, nor does the National Burial Index contain any entry with an age that matches the child baptised at Aycliffe.

While all these searches have yielded nothing of obvious relevance, I have located one record that may be more significant. The particular item of interest is the marriage in November 1814 at Haughton-le-Skerne in Durham of a Robert Thirkell and an Anne BAINBRIDGE.⁵³ Haughton-le-Skerne is almost a suburb of modern-day Darlington,⁵⁴ and it is possible that the man who participated in the 1814 wedding was the child baptised less than seven kilometres away at Aycliffe in 1792. This is especially intriguing because, as I have learned recently,⁵⁵ there is a tradition among some of Robert's descendants that he had married at some point prior to his emigration, though nothing else is known about his supposed English wife.

Clearly, the Haughton-le-Skerne marriage needs to be investigated further. However, whether or not it proves to be relevant, the otherwise negative results of my English research are consistent with

my belief that the two Thirkells who died in northern Tasmania were indeed members of the family who lived at Brafferton during the late eighteenth century. Ralph does not seem to have married in England after his appearance in the 1851 census and, if he was the man who eventually came to Tasmania, he would have been a bachelor in his mid-fifties (at the very least) at the time of his journey. Such an individual would have been an unlikely migrant unless, of course, he already had relatives—such as a brother—at his chosen destination. It is also worth noting that his death was announced in the local press.⁵⁶ This seems a little unusual, given that Ralph was—according to an English census return and his Tasmanian death certificate—just a labourer who, moreover, left behind no widow, nor any children. Who paid for the notice? This question cannot be answered, but an obvious speculation is that it may have been one or more of Robert's children.

Returning to the family's English background, it is clear that their roots in the parish of Aycliffe were not deep. They went back no further than Robert and Ralph's grandfather George, who first appeared in Aycliffe records on 11 June 1747 when, with his surname recorded as 'Thircler', he married a local woman named Martha DAVISON.⁵⁷ The couple's third child, also named George, was baptised in the same parish in 1753.⁵⁸ He married his first wife Jane ORD at Aycliffe on 4 March 1776,⁵⁹ and they had two children—Ann (baptised 1777) and John (baptised 1779)—before Jane died

⁵¹ www.ancestry.com.au

⁵² English death, September quarter, 1869, Chorley district, volume 8e, p.280

⁵³ www.familysearch.org

⁵⁴ British Ordnance Survey, 1:50,000 Topographic Map No.93

⁵⁵ Personal communication from a member of the Thirkell family

⁵⁶ *Examiner*, 30 November 1880

⁵⁷ DRO, Aycliffe Marriage Register, EP/Ay 1/2. George was a native of Staindrop.

⁵⁸ DRO, Aycliffe Baptism Register, EP/Ay 1/2

⁵⁹ DRO, Aycliffe Marriage Register, EP/Ay 1/16

in 1780.⁶⁰ She was buried at Aycliffe, and it was also there that George married his second wife, Elizabeth LITTLEFAIR, on 10 December 1782.⁶¹ They had nine children, all of whom were baptised at Aycliffe: George (1783), Thomas (1785), James (1786), Mary (1788), Elizabeth (1790), Robert (1792), Jane (1794), Ralph (1797) and Martha (1800).⁶² The family had moved from Brafferton to Woodham Burn in the northern portion of the parish by the time the short-lived Martha was born,⁶³ and they later took up residence in the actual village of Aycliffe, which was listed as George Thirkell's former abode when he was buried in the parish churchyard in 1823.⁶⁴

At least three of George and Elizabeth's children were still alive in England in 1861.⁶⁵ George junior and his unmarried son Richard were residents of Skeeby, near Richmond, in northern Yorkshire; James and his wife Jane occupied a dwelling at Ryton in Durham; and Jane, whose married name was ROCHESTER, was a widow living at Aycliffe. All three nominated Brafferton as their birthplace and, for the reasons that I have outlined in this article, I believe that this settlement was also where Robert Thirkell of *Darlington Park* made his entry into the world. ◀

⁶⁰ DRO, Aycliffe Baptism and Burial Registers, EP/Ay 1/2

⁶¹ DRO, Aycliffe Marriage Register, EP/Ay 1/16

⁶² DRO, Aycliffe Baptism Register, EP/Ay 1/2. Robert was named after a paternal uncle, and Ralph carried the name of a maternal uncle.

⁶³ DRO, Aycliffe Burial Register, EP/Ay 1/2

⁶⁴ DRO, Aycliffe Burial Register, EP/Ay 1/14

⁶⁵ 1861 census, www.ancestry.com.au

UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART Vol V

Index to Hooper & Burgess Funeral Records

Part 1

September 1935 – December 1954



Harold J Hooper, previously the Manager of H C Millington & Co. Funeral Undertakers, founded the company Hooper & Burgess Funeral Directors at 195 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, in 1935 with Syd Burgess from Geeveston. The company is now owned by Turnbull Family Funerals in North Hobart. Information includes (where available) places of birth, death and burial, and names of parents or spouses.

Further indexes will be published at a later date.

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THE SAGA OF THE SARAH ANNS

Jennifer Clark

WHAT are the odds of two totally unrelated babies named Sarah Ann BULLOCK being born in Tasmania in 1847 when the population was just 70,000? This coincidence has led me on a more than twenty-five year journey researching two parallel families thoroughly. In the face of inconclusive evidence, I linked them both at various times to my family tree. Persistent research has paid off and a few months ago the proof I needed was found.

From the age given on her marriage and death records, it was fairly certain Sarah Ann GINN (née Bullock), my great grandmother, was born near Westbury, Tasmania in 1847. There was never any question that she was the daughter of William Bullock and Elizabeth BRISCO, who married in Sutton Maddock, Shropshire, on 12 September 1831.

That is, until research uncovered her apparent baptism in Hobart, Tasmania, on 26 December 1847.

Baptism Parish of St Davids, County of Buckingham on 26 December 1847. Born 24 October 1847 Sarah Ann, daughter of Robert and Christina Bullock. Abode Hobart Town.

Quality or Profession: Private 96th Regiment.

Family stories linked Sarah Ann firmly to William and Elizabeth Brisco. The older generation had never heard of Robert Bullock and Christina (maiden name unknown), yet faced with the baptism

certificate and no other evidence of the existence of another Sarah Ann, we tried to find an answer. It was concluded that Sarah Ann was born to Robert and Christina, but that as Christina was known to have died before 25 April 1850 when Robert

Bullock/BULLIFF married again in Hobart, Tasmania, to Julia LENNARD, the young Sarah Ann was sent to live with her aunt and uncle in Westbury. Christina Bullock's death record has never been found.

Over the years, as I fluctuated between which Bullock family I was descended from,

I had contact with descendants from both lines. We shared many stories and theories but Sarah Ann's parents were never confirmed.

Robert and Christina Bullock (later known as Bulliff)

Robert Bullock was baptised on 2 January 1807 in Bradford, Yorkshire, the



Sarah Ann Bullock born July 1847

son of James Bullock of Clayton, weaver and Hannah (maiden name unknown). He was attested for the 96th Regiment of Foot at Bradford in the County of York on 14 April 1826 at the age of 19 years and served twenty-two years and 303 days, during which period he served abroad: Bermuda one year, Nova Scotia eight years and Australia seven years. On 30 October 1840, Robert Bullock, along with thirty men of the Light Company of the 96th Regiment, embarked on the *British Sovereign* prison ship at Deptford, Kent, accompanied by five wives and nine children (not named). The convicts, all Irish men, embarked at Dublin in December. They disembarked at Hobart Town, Tasmania, on 27 March 1841.

While serving with the 96th Regiment in Van Diemen's Land, Robert was stationed at Port Arthur, Ross, the Tasman Peninsular and Hobart Town. In 1847 he went to Norfolk Island for a short time. Pension records of soldiers settling abroad 1845–1854 stated:

Robert Bullock, Regiment HM 96th Foot, admitted to pension 13th November 1849, intended place of residence Launceston, South Australia.¹

No records have been found to show when and where Robert Bullock and Christina were married. It is not known if Christina was one of the wives on the *British Sovereign*. Coincidentally an Army birth in Antigua of a Christianna Bullock on 31 October 1831 to a Robert Bullock was found. In great excitement the certificate was sent for, only to show that Robert Bullock was a Sergt of the 86th Regt and his wife was Jane. Subsequent purchase of their marriage certificate showed that Robert Bullock married Jane McCOURT on 16 July

1827, on the Island of Trinidad. Research of the Army records confirmed they were different people.

Known children of Robert and Christina Bullock

1 James Bulliff



Baptism in Hobart Town, Parish of St Davids in the County of Buckingham. Baptised 15 May 1842 (born 28 April 1842). James son of Robert and Christiana Bulliff, Hobart Town, Private 96th Regt.

James Bulliff is thought to have married Clara MEECH of Wellington, NZ, about 1868. He was a pilot on the Wairau River, near Blenheim and died in Blenheim, New Zealand, on 7 January 1886. They had eight children.

2 John Bulliff, later known as John Bulliff BENNETT

There is no record of the birth of Robert and Christina's second known son John, who was said to have been born in Hobart, about 1846. After years of frustrating research into her Bennett family, his great grand-daughter Barbara Molloy of Christchurch, NZ, found that John Bulliff Bennett (as he became

¹ WO23 31

known) married Mary Ann SULLEN in Freeman's Bay, Auckland, on 28 June 1875. Further research revealed that in 1869 John Bulliff was the plaintiff in a court case in Thames, NZ. It is not known why he changed his surname from Bulliff to Bennett. John and Mary Ann Bennett had three children. Captain John Bulliff Bennett died in Wellington, New Zealand, on 2 August 1912.

Two years ago Barbara Molloy was 'over the moon' when her cousin in Auckland found a letter dated 5 July 1875 from Jas Bulliff, in Blenheim, to his brother Captain Bennett of the barque *Prince Alfred*, in Lyttelton, thus confirming her long-held belief that John Bennett was originally John Bulliff—and probably before that, John Bullock! Barbara's dogged determination and persistence had finally paid off.

3 Sarah Ann Bullock

Baptism Parish of St Davids, County of Buckingham on 26 December 1847.

Born 24 October 1847 Sarah Ann, daughter of Robert and Christina Bullock. Abode Hobart Town.

Quality or Profession: Private 96th Regiment.

It has been the existence of the baptism record above which led to so many years of speculation and research. No further records have been found to show what may have become of Sarah Ann.

Various Tasmanian records show Robert Bullock's name as Bullock, Bulliff, BULLOFF and BONLOFFE! Robert is shown to have signed records with an X and his Yorkshire accent is presumed to have caused the change in the spelling of his surname. Over twenty years ago, Shirley Pease of New Plymouth, granddaughter of Robert's son James Bulliff, employed a researcher who found the crucial evidence that Robert Bullock and

Robert Bulliff were one and the same. Robert died a pauper at the New Town Charitable Institute in Hobart, Tasmania.

Death certificate: Ref. 1478 16 August 1890 death of Robert Bulloff New Town Charitable Institute, born England, male 84 years - labourer.

Cause: Senile's Debilitas. (Note on side - the correct name of deceased is Bullock) signed by Supt of Institute.

The information on the death certificate and findings so generously shared by Shirley Pease, provided the foundation needed for further research. Unfortunately Christina Bullock's maiden name is unknown and a record of her death has not been found.

William Bullock and Elizabeth Brisco

Parish Records of Tettenhall near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, show the christening of William Bullock on 14 October 1798, the son of Andrew Bullock and Nancy HARDWARE. William enlisted with the Plymouth division of the Royal Marines in Shropshire in July 1813 by a recruiting party led by Lieutenant Forbes. Sixteen months later he was discharged. Five years later, on 16 August 1819, he enlisted in London with the East India Co. for the Army of Bengal, sailing on the *Astell* in 1820. He spent the next nine years in Bengal, being discharged in December 1828. After his discharge, William probably returned to Staffordshire. In 1831 he married Elizabeth Brisco:

Marriages solemnized in the Parish of Sutton Maddock in the county of Salop in the year 1831.

William Bullock of this parish, bachelor and Elizabeth Briscoe of this parish, spinster, were married in this church by licence with the consent of (left blank) this 12th day of September 1831 by me John Nunn, curator of Stockton.

This marriage was solemnized between us (Signed) William Bullock, Elizabeth Briscoe, In the presence of, (X) the mark of Jane Gosnall. Signed Francis Ray.²

It is thought that Elizabeth Brisco came from the Staffordshire/Shropshire area. Baptisms have been found for three Elizabeth Brisco's in this area about 1809. There were possibly other baptisms not recorded. Research has eliminated one family but failed to confirm if either of the other two was for Elizabeth Bullock (née Brisco). Her parents and siblings have therefore not yet been found. Elizabeth Brisco's prayer book was handed down to her granddaughter Elizabeth Ginn and remains in the family. It has the inscription 'Elizabeth Brisco 1826' indicating that she was literate and probably from an educated family.

William and Elizabeth Bullock departed London for Tasmania on the *Countess Dunmore* on 27 May 1833, arriving Launceston 24 October 1833. A Thomas Bullock was a fellow passenger. No details were given to indicate if he was their child, a relative or had no connection to them. It is not known where the family lived or what William worked at after their settlement in Tasmania. Two and a quarter years after their arrival, William secured a job as watchman on the Tamar Bank. Research at the Tasmanian Archives in 1995 by Desmond Judd BEASLEY of Cooranbong, NSW (at the time an unconfirmed third cousin), found the following letter written by William Bullock in February 1836.

² Francis Ray witnessed other marriages. The marriage banns showed William Bullock was a lessee of tolls.

---? 10th, 1836, To His Excellency Lieut Colonel George Arthur

The Memorial of William Bullock late a Corporal in the Service of the Honourable The East India Company -

Your Excellency

I beg leave to state that I am an invalided soldier after nine years and four months service in India as testified by the accompanying discharge and certificates of my officers and official documents relative to prize money from Bhurtpore, that having a family and but small means I have to request that your Excellency will be pleased to appoint me to some humble situation.

I have the honour to be Your Excellency
... William Bullock.³

The above letter indicates William and Elizabeth Bullock had children at that time but no records have been found to show who they were. Andrew, below, may have been one of them.

Known children of William and Elizabeth Bullock

1 Andrew Bullock

No baptism record found. He is shown as a passenger, along with his father and brother William Thomas, on the *Sea Witch* which departed Launceston in 1852 for the Victorian goldfields. Family stories say he went to New Guinea and was never heard of again.

2 William Thomas Bullock

Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of Launceston in the County of Cornwall, VD Land in the year 1836. No.7111. When baptised: 6 April 1836. When born: 17 March 1836. Child's Christian name: William Thomas. Parents names and surname: William and Elizabeth Bullock. Abode: Launceston. Profession

³ AOT: C501/849/17943

of father: Watchman, Tamar Bank.
Ceremony performed by W H Browne.

William Thomas Bullock went to the goldfields in Victoria in 1852 and settled in Mansfield, Victoria. He first married Elizabeth Maria Jane CHATER on 16 January 1860 in Mansfield and they had four living children. Elizabeth died in 1877. A year later William married Elizabeth SHERMAN and they had 11 children. A red herring in this family was a daughter Christina Bullock. It was wondered if she had been named after her possible aunt?

3 John Bullock

Birth certificate: Unnamed. 4 June 1843, male, son of William Bullock, cow man and Elizabeth Bullock, formerly (left blank).

Signed W Bullock, Muddy Plains, father.
Reg. 10 June 1843. Signed Charles Field.
(No baptism record found).

Descendants of John Bullock confirmed his birthday was 4 June 1843. John Bullock married Lavinia PUGH in Westbury, Tasmania, on 24 May 1875. They had eight children.

4 Possibly Sarah Ann Bullock

Born 1847 – but no baptism record found.

Sarah Ann married George Ginn in Westbury on 26 August 1869. They had four children, the youngest daughter Sarah Ann died of diarrhoea in Launceston, age 5 months, on 6 January 1877, the same day as her mother Sarah Ann.

One family story said that Sarah Ann Bullock had seven brothers all over 6ft tall, except the youngest whom they called 'Kiddie'. This story has not been confirmed but it seems very likely William and Elizabeth Bullock did have other children, whose births/baptisms have not been found.

The search for Sarah Ann Bullock

Family stories prove Sarah Ann Bullock was definitely brought up in the household of William and Elizabeth Bullock in Westbury **but** was she their daughter or a niece? The existence of the only birth/christening record of a Sarah Ann Bullock in Tasmania in 1847 to Robert and Christina Bullock in Hobart posed a dilemma. Sarah Ann's marriage to George Ginn on 26 August 1869 in Selbourne, Westbury, the private house of Mrs Bullock, gave her age as 22. Her death certificate eight years later on 6 January 1877, gave her age as 29, indicating she was born in 1847. Neither of the certificates gave the name of her parents.

The 1848 census of Westbury, Tasmania, showed there was one female under 2 years living in the house of William Bullock. It was believed this was Sarah Ann who had been sent from Hobart to live with her aunt and uncle. Research into the backgrounds of both Robert and William Bullock followed. It revealed Robert was born in Yorkshire and William in Staffordshire, England. No family connections could be found. It was then thought that Christina and Elizabeth Briscoe were sisters but Christina's maiden name could not be found.

I had linked 'my' Sarah Ann to Robert and Christina Bullock but I continued to have niggling doubts. I left the Bullock research and concentrated on other family lines. However in 2008 I had another 'burst' of Bullock research. I reviewed all my notes and came to the conclusion that Sarah Ann Ginn (née Bullock) was definitely the daughter of William and Elizabeth and changed my line of descent. I sent out an email detailing my reasons, to descendants of both Bullock families. Some were convinced but others still had doubts.

The major factor which led me to change my mind was because the 1848 census of Westbury showing a daughter under 2 years living with William and Elizabeth Bullock, was taken on 1 January 1848. Sarah Ann, daughter of Robert and Christiana, was born 25 October 1847 and christened on 26 December 1847 in Hobart. I thought it highly unlikely that five days later a two month old baby would have travelled the 230kms from Hobart to Westbury to live, especially as her mother still appeared to be alive and the roads would have been poor.

A few months ago I was shocked to see that my early unconfirmed research had somehow made its way on to a large number of Ancestry.com family trees. People had obviously copied from each other and Sarah Ann's parents were firmly documented as Robert and Christina. How was I to correct what I believed was erroneous information? I made contact with most of the people on the Ancestry site and on enquiring into one person's connection to the Bullock family, was told that

Sarah Ann was first great grand aunt of husband of my second cousin 1 x removed!

A few of the contacts were receptive to the new theory and offered to help with research. Barbara PICKWORTH from Alexandra, Victoria, a 'new' third cousin had a relative in Hobart who offered to search the Archives. In April 2011 she discovered what so many others had looked for in vain—an unindexed film of Westbury baptisms. Many entries were faint and hard to read but there they were, the proof needed, the previously unknown baptisms of Sarah Ann and her brother John to William and Elizabeth Bullock!

Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of Westbury in the County of Westmoreland in the year 1845. Baptised 3 December

1845, born 4 June 1843, John, son of William and Elizabeth Bullock of Quamby, labourer. Ceremony performed by John Bishton.

Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of Westbury in the County of Westmoreland in the year 1847. Baptised 11 August 1847, born 20 July 1847, Sarah Ann, daughter of William and Elizabeth Bullock, of Westbury, labourer. Ceremony performed by John Bishton.

It is remarkable there were two Sarah Ann Bullocks born in Tasmania in 1847, to ex British Army fathers. It is so easy to assume and link into the wrong family. Persistence, perseverance and dogged determination to find the truth had finally paid off. I had the theory but not the proof. I had great pleasure in putting one of the Bullock families into the file of 'ancestors I used to have'. Contact with many descendants of lateral branches has played a crucial role in solving this mystery. I am grateful to my 'new' second and third cousins and those 'I used to have', in Australia and New Zealand, for their help in breaking this longstanding brick wall. ◀

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General Register Office for England and Wales (Army BDMs)

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand

National Archives, Kew, England

Parish Records, Bradford, Yorkshire, England

Parish Records, Sutton Maddock, Shropshire, England

Parish Records, Tettenhall, Staffordshire, England

Registry of BDM Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Tasmania Archives, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

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PRIVATE PATRICK CROWLEY

BRITISH REDCOAT, 50TH REGIMENT OF FOOT

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

PATRICK CROWLEY, a former British Redcoat, died at Campbell Town on 19 August 1854.¹ He was 46 years old. He had lived in Tasmania for only four years, having arrived as a ‘pensioner soldier’ aboard *Eliza* in April 1850.²

Born about 1808 in the Parish of St Finn Barr, County Cork, Ireland, Patrick enlisted in the 50th Regiment of Foot—at that time stationed at Cork—with the rank of private (and regimental number 368) on 10 July 1825.³ Acknowledging that he had enlisted voluntarily, he signed his attestation papers three days later and received the customary bounty of two shillings and sixpence.⁴

Seven months later, he sailed with a detachment of his regiment to Jamaica, a colony in the West Indies, where the proposed abolition of slavery by the British Parliament was causing unrest, and slave owners were living in fear of revolts and up-risings.⁵ The presence of

British regiments was required to maintain order. The 50th Regiment of Foot had been there since 1819 and was to remain there until recalled to Britain in 1827.⁶

On 15 April 1829, Patrick Crowley married seventeen year-old Mary McCORMACK (also seen as ‘McCormick’ and ‘MacCormick’) at Deane, Lancashire, England.⁷ A son, Michael, was born to the couple the following year.⁸

In 1834, the 50th Regiment of Foot embarked for New South Wales.⁹ One role of the troops was to guard Australia against external attack but their main tasks were to maintain civil order, particularly against the threat of convict uprisings, and to suppress the resistance of the Aboriginal population to British settlement.¹⁰ Regimental records show that Patrick arrived on Norfolk Island in February 1835.¹¹ He was accompanied

¹ Patrick Crowley, death: AOT RGD35 263/1854

² Patrick Crowley, arrival in VDL: TAHO CSO24/1/264, p.331; CSO24/1/274, p.185

³ Birth date and place taken from enlistment papers (via Australian Joint Copying Project, obtained from Kath Lewis, great granddaughter of Ellen Crowley, by email. Birth date and place taken from enlistment papers (via Australian Joint Copying Project, obtained from Kath Lewis, great granddaughter of Ellen Crowley, by email)

⁴ *Ibid.*, see Attestation document

⁵ See ‘Jamaica History’ at <http://jamaica-guide/info/past.and.present/history/index.html>

⁶ See history of 50th Regiment of Foot at <http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/britishinfantry/50thfoot>

⁷ See Patrick Crowley—IGI Individual Record: www.familysearch.org/eng/search/framesetsearch.asp

⁸ Michael Crowley, birth: see birth certificate of his son, Louis Michael Crowley (NSW Reg: 01524/1875), showing father born Lancashire, England, 1830

⁹ As for Note 6

¹⁰ See website of Australian War Memorial: <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/colonial.asp>

¹¹ Patrick Crowley’s service record (via Australian Joint Copying Project, obtained from Kath Lewis, great granddaughter of Ellen Crowley, by email.

by his wife, Mary, and son, Michael. Shortly after arrival, Mary gave birth to a second child, a daughter, Ellen.¹²

In June 1836, Patrick was transferred to Liverpool, near Sydney, where he remained for a year. In June 1837, he was transferred again, this time to the Illawarra district of New South Wales and was stationed there until December 1840 when the 50th Regiment of Foot was ordered to India where it acted as a deterrent to a Burmese force at Tenasserim.¹³

Whether Mary and the children had accompanied Patrick to Liverpool and the Illawarra is not clear. It is possible that they had remained on Norfolk Island. In any event, they were not with Patrick when he left Australia.

In India, the regiment suffered heavy losses—to outbreaks of cholera as well as in battle.¹⁴ The 50th Foot fought in the Gwalior campaign and was in the thick of fighting throughout the First Anglo-Sikh War of

1845–1846.¹⁵ Although the regiment remained in India until 1848, some members, including Patrick, were back in England well before that. It's likely that those who were returned early were in poor health.



A private of the 50th Regiment of Foot, c.1846.

<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/army>

In mid-1846, after twenty years of service, Patrick requested a discharge from the regiment on medical grounds.¹⁶ On 12 June of that year, he was examined by a medical practitioner at Chatham Barracks, Kent, England. Noting that Patrick was thirty-nine years old, five feet five and a half inches tall, with black hair, a dark complexion and hazel eyes, the examining doctor wrote:

Worn out from length of service, and from fatigue, privation and exposure to the inclemency of the weather when on detached duty in the penal colony of N.S.Wales. Is addicted to intemperance.¹⁷

The concluding remark is an interesting – and puzzling—one! There is nothing in Patrick's service record to indicate

¹² Personal communication: Julie MacDonald, a descendant of Mary McCormack, email February 2009

¹³ As for Note 6

¹⁴ See 'Diary of Richard Pelvin': <http://win.somegriffin.com/Pelvin/RichardPelvinDiary1.html>

¹⁵ As for Note 6

¹⁶ See medical report in Patrick Crowley's discharge papers (via Australian Joint Copying Project, obtained from Kath Lewis, great granddaughter of Ellen Crowley, by email

¹⁷ Ibid

that alcohol had caused problems during his time of service. In fact, elsewhere on his discharge papers the following remark appears:

With regard to the Character and Conduct of Private Patrick Crowley, No. 368, the Board have to report that upon reference to the Defaulter's Book and by the Parole testimony that has been given, it appears that his Conduct and Character have been 'Good'.¹⁸

Three days later, the Principal Medical Officer, Chatham Barracks, added this note to the examining doctor's report:

After an examination at this General Hospital, I was of the view that Private Patrick Crowley is unfit for service, and is likely to be permanently disqualified for military duty.¹⁹

* * *

Within a year or two of his discharge, Patrick remarried in England. (As no record of this marriage has been found, it is thought that this might have been a *de facto* arrangement.) His new 'wife' was twenty-three year old Ellen REGAN. A son, John, was born in 1849.²⁰

In early April 1850, Patrick, accompanied by Ellen and son, returned to Australia as a military pensioner. Since 1826, the British Government had used 'pensioner soldiers' as guards on convict ships, a scheme that meant that no guards were needed on the return trip.²¹ In this capacity, Patrick arrived at Hobart aboard *Eliza IV* which had left London on 24 December 1849 carrying sixty males and

about the same number of female convicts. They reached Hobart on 15 April 1850.²²

In Van Diemen's Land, 'pensioner soldiers' were required to contribute twelve days' military service each year, and to stand ready to be called out to defend the colony in case of invasion or civil uprising. In return, they were given small grants of land which they were required to occupy and improve for seven years.²³

The land Patrick was granted was Lot 12, Campbell Town, and that's where he settled with his new family.²⁴ In Campbell Town, Ellen gave birth to another son in 1851 and a daughter in 1853.²⁵

However, undoubtedly weakened by his years of 'privation and exposure to the inclemency of the weather', Patrick did not live long at Campbell Town. He died there on 19 August 1854. His death certificate shows the cause as 'bronchitis'.²⁶

On 22 April 1855, less than a year later, Ellen Crowley remarried at neighbouring Oatlands, Tasmania. The fact that she married as 'Ellen Regan' strengthens the notion that her previous marriage may never have been formalised. Her new husband was John WRIGHT to whom

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Patrick's second wife, Ellen, and son, John, accompanied him on convict ship *Eliz*; see Note 2, above

²¹ See Maree Ring, 'Military Pensioners': http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history

²² Convict ship *Eliza IV*: Details at Convict Ships to Tasmania 1812-1853: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipsTAS.html>

²³ As for Note 21

²⁴ Personal communication: Julie MacDonald, email February 2009

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Birth record of second son (also Patrick) not located; birth of daughter (Margaret): AOT RGD37 102/1853, Campbell Town

²⁶ Patrick Crowley, death: AOT RGD35: 263/1854

she bore at least two sons, James in 1857 and Thomas Joseph in 1859.²⁷

* * *

But what became of Patrick's first wife, Mary née McCormick (or McCormick/MacCormick)?

It is thought unlikely that Patrick ever saw her again after leaving her prior to his departure for India. However, it's quite possible that, before he died, he was reunited with Michael, the son that she had given him in England before going out to Norfolk Island. Michael is known to have been working on the big 'Adelphi' estate at near-by Westbury at the time of Patrick's arrival at Campbell Town.²⁸

As for Mary herself, she is known to have been living at Yass, New South Wales, in the late 1840s. There, she re-married in 1848. Her new husband was Charles CARROLL an ex-convict.²⁹ In Yass, she gave birth to a daughter, Letitia, the first of several children that she bore to Carroll. She died at Gundagai, New South Wales, in June 1884.³⁰ She was in her early seventies.

Interestingly, Michael, her son by Patrick Crowley, was almost certainly with her when she died. On 9 July 1855, he had married the daughter of a local farmer at

Westbury and had left Tasmania for the New South Wales goldfields shortly after. However, the gold proved elusive and life there seems to have been a continual struggle for Michael and his family.³¹

At Gundagai, on 10 April 1884, six weeks before the death of his mother, Michael also passed away. He was 54 years old. The cause of death was phthisis, a form of tuberculosis common among miners at that time.³² ◀

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²⁷ Ellen Regan and John Wright, marriage:

AOT RGD37 1108/1855, Oatlands

²⁸ History of 'Adelphi': See Ivan C. Heazlewood's *They Sowed, We Reap*.

(2002). Whitmore, Tasmania:

Whitmore Historical Group.

²⁹ Mary McCormack and Charles Carroll, marriage: NSW Reg: V/1848, Yass.

Carroll's convict history: personal

communication, Julie MacDonald, February 2009.

³⁰ Mary Carroll, formerly McCormack nee Crowley, death: NSW Reg: -/1848, Yass, via 'Ancestry'

³¹ Michael Crowley married Sarah Bradmore at 'Adelphi': AOT RGD 3/1855, Westbury

³² Michael Crowley, death: NSW Reg: 009495/1884, Gundagai

TASMANIA'S GHOST TOWNS and SETTLEMENTS

Michael Holmes

I am researching a book on the above topic. My interest stemmed from my boyhood watching Wild West Ghost Towns on black and white television and reading about Adamsfield, one of Tasmania's numerous classic Ghost Towns, where osmiridium and gold were mined from the 1920s.

After forty years or so I finally got to visit Adamsfield. I later returned to camp there and explore the area. Whilst huddled around a campfire, in the snow (temperature about -4°C) I started to wonder how and why people lived in such a desolate place.

I knew of similar places—Balfour, Gormanston, Linda, Lottah and so on.

Initially I thought there might be say a dozen or so such places—enough for a small book. Something to do; might require a few field trips etc.? A nice little hobby?

How wrong I was!

What constitutes a Ghost Town or Settlement?

My research so far has led me to the conclusion that there are very few hard and fast rules other than the presence, or intended presence, of humans in sufficient numbers, with sufficient private and public facilities and services, to be regarded (then) as a town, or virtually a town.

What is important is not to judge a town or settlement by today's standards.

Hence the title 'Tasmania's Ghost Towns and Settlements'.

I have been patiently gathering 'evidence' of their existence actual or on paper only. Photographic evidence is the most useful.

Other forms of key evidence/information include old maps, newspaper articles, proclamations (not all were proclaimed, not all were proclaimed under the same Act of Parliament), Town Reserves, Crown Land sales, town plans.

Not all towns evolved at the official site—Tunnack for example. People tended to live where they worked, not where the government thought they should. Many places had more than one name. Then there is the question of the correct spelling.

At this point in time I have excluded towns and settlements such as Probation Stations where people were forced to live, unless there are compelling reasons to include such—e.g. Victoria Valley Township or Darlington on Maria Island.

Given the size and complexity of the project, I have decided to exclude most of the numerous towns and settlements swallowed up by the spread of urban areas, particularly Greater Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie.

All information, particularly un-published photographs of towns, buildings etc. would be appreciated.

I am finding it particularly hard to locate sufficient information to make a judgement on the following:

Cluan (Cluan Creek)	Near Westbury.
	Large private estate or town?
Dunorlan	Originally large private estate.
	Did it ever become a town.
	Railway station, hall, first store from late 1880s.
Lagunta	Near property of 'Kingston' along Kingston Road east of Epping Forest.
	May even be Kingston.
Lyttleton	Township Reserve 1845 Middle Arm Tamar River.
	May also have been a town or large property of same name near Longford.
Morley	Township Reserve 1845.
	On Marlborough Road.
Neville	Frankland's Map 1837.
	Township Reserve 1845 on River Clyde.
	An 1884 map suggests it was between Bothwell and Ouse near Young's Sugarloaf?
	May be Hollow Tree.
Newstead	Town Reserve.
	Oatlands district, on the road from Ross to East Grinstead about 3 miles west of East Grinstead, on the north bank of the Macquarie River/Upper Macquarie River.
Ramsbury	Table Cape.
	The Table Cape Inn was nearby.
	Probably on west bank of the Inglis River on Table Cape Road or near Wynyard golf course?
Unidentified	Junction of Magnet Road and Corinna Road near Waratah tip?
Walton	Frankland's Map 1837 Township Reserve 1845.
	Near Gulliver's Lagoon (Nala) Oatlands or on road from Oatlands to East Grinstead at the head of Kitty Rivulet, 10 miles north east of Oatlands.

Any information please contact Michael at
13 Sanfrancisco Street, Midway Point TAS 7171
phone home: (03) 6265 2500 or mobile: 0409 652 505
email: michaelholmes@internode.on.net

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1788-1868

Any person who has convict ancestors, or who has an interest in convict life during the early history of European settlement in Australia, is welcome to join the above group.

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The Secretary
Descendants of Convicts' Group
PO Box 115
Flinders Lane Victoria 8009

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>

GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

IT'S all very well to have everything on the computer sitting at home. You can pull up the family tree file, the word documents of relevant notes, answer the latest emails, and show off scanned photos, all at a moment's notice. If you have a laptop it's relatively easy to carry most of that information along with you on your travels, whether across the river or over oceans. But what if you didn't know you were going to need it? You had no idea the sister of your host's neighbour would be a fount of information on the area you're researching, or you didn't go to Canada to do family tree so you never expected to literally trip over a grave of a probable family member. Now you need your family files—all sitting safely at home. Of course you might have carried them with you, on a laptop, CD or USB stick—all of which were stolen when your luggage went missing at the airport. What about that list of contacts and travel itinerary which you always carried with you, which has just been lost in the fire which swept through the hotel, while you stood outside? How will you get that information now?

Luckily, with a little bit of forethought, you won't have to wait until you get home to discover you've been talking to the missing link in the family tree, or to find your pen friend's unlisted phone number to tell them you've been delayed. As long as you can access the internet you can retrieve your files. There are several online storage options, some free, some fee based. Some like Google Docs works well for viewing word documents and limited other formats, but not for

GEDCOM files or things that require other software. The simplest solution at present is Dropbox. www.dropbox.com. Once downloaded and installed on your computer (laptop, phone, etc.) Dropbox creates a folder (or box) into which you 'drop' any files you wish. Documents, videos, music, photos, the data files from Legacy, scan of your travel documents, anything you may ever want to be able to access from somewhere else. If you install Dropbox on a couple of computers, then you will soon have synced files without effort. No more putting things on USB to transfer them to the laptop before going to the library (providing the laptop can access the internet, at least at home before you leave if not while you are out).

Anything in the drop box is available on any other computer where you've installed Dropbox (with your login). The files are also available from your Dropbox website. This means they are accessible from any internet source.

You can also set up shared folders, so instead of sending that large file attached to an email, you can put it in Dropbox, share it, and email the link to the file instead.

It's not a perfect system. If the internet goes down, or you forget your login or password then you may experience delays. On the other hand if, as you travel you drop copies of the photos you take into the Dropbox website (making sure to log out on a shared computer before leaving), when you return home all your photos should be waiting for you, even if your camera card has been corrupted or lost along the way. ◀

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

NUMEROUS publications are named in the Acquisition Lists of the various branches of our Society but on some occasions the title does not give a clear indication of the subject matter. The following details of a few in the Hobart Branch Library may help to describe some of the more obscure titles and deserve a look. **Perhaps the publication may also be held in your local library?**

IMPRESSION BAY: Convict Probation Station to Civilian Quarantine Station.

A5, 117 page book first published in 1992.

This contains the story of the fever (Typhus) immigrant ship *Persian*, along with her passengers quarantined at Impression Bay (Premaydena), Tasman Peninsula in 1857.

The immigrants, totalling 325 people, were either sent under the Bounty System (118 people), going entirely to relatives or employers who had nominated them whilst the Government guaranteed to pay the passage money, or Highlanders, chiefly crofters and fishermen (201 people), who were sent out through the Highland and Island Emigration Society.

AARON PRICE—THE UNSUNG: A factual convict story of cruelty, rebellion, anxiety, slavery and freedom.

A4, 69 page book by Meg Morrison first published in 2008.

This book records the life of Aaron Price, 1794–1882; one man's journey of exile through Worcester, Sydney, Norfolk Island and Tasmania.

Aaron and his second wife, Elizabeth Smith, had eleven children on Norfolk Island before their resettlement at Cambridge, Van Diemen's Land. A son was later born in Hobart.

The book also contains a substantial chart of the descendants of Aaron and Jessie.

AMONG THE CARRION CROWS.

A5, 183 page, paperback version of Dame Enid Lyons' book published in 1997.

Dame Enid Lyons was the first woman to enter the Australian House of Representatives. She was also the first woman to become a Member of Cabinet.

This is her story of seven and a half years in the world of the 'carrion crows', told with biting candour, wit and wisdom.

She called it: 'History without tears. Not so much about the things that were done as about the people who did them,' yet it is a significant achievement. Her courage and sense of humour led Dame Enid Lyons to some fascinating insights into Australian politics and her fellow parliamentarians.

THE CYCLE OF TIME—An enduring epitaph of the Old Don Congregational Cemetery.

A4, 265 page book, compiled by Barbara Pendrey first published in 2000.

This book, lovingly researched by Barbara Pendrey (née Jeffrey) and Molly Pendrey (née Bates) is about the cemetery at Don (near Devonport, Tasmania).

Although details of grave sites in the various sections are covered, and some photographs of tombstones and memorials have been included, this work con-

tains a wealth of relevant text pertaining to those interred in the cemetery.

Newspaper reports of illnesses, accidents, inquests, deaths, obituaries, death and funeral notices have all been transcribed into the pages of this publication. Newspaper references are also provided.

SKETCHES OF DELORAINE (2008); HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF DEVONPORT (2002); LATROBE'S HERITAGE (1999); HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF THE ULVERSTONE DISTRICT (2004) and SKETCHES AROUND OLD MORIARTY (1993):

These five small books, with sketches by Josephene Badcock and calligraphy by Jan Richardson, have been published over a number of years.

These fine, detailed pencil sketches feature buildings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, augmented by other listings from the National Trust Register. Examples of early homesteads, fine mansions, historic residences, churches, banks, stores, etc are all featured. ◀

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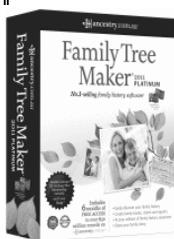
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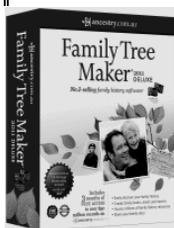
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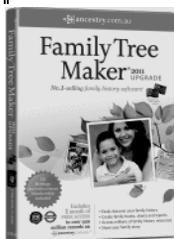
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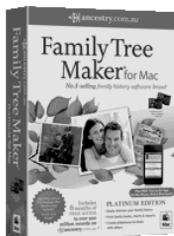
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- *Kelly, John, *A Bereaved City Bendigo 1914*
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- ♠Fenton, J; *Wyn and Clyde: Side by Side in Tasmania's Far South West*. [639.2092 FEN]
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- *Lyons, Dame Enid; *Among the Carrion Crows*. [329.994 LYO]
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*Southerwood, W T; *Priceless Heritage, The Tasmanian Catholic Community 1772–2010*

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The library is open at 7:00 pm prior to meetings.
Meeting Branch Library, 2 Spring Street Burnie 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am except January and February.

MERSEY Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257
Library 'Old police residence' 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 am–3:00 pm
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.
Meeting Our meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at or Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:00 pm. Please check the website at **www.tfhsdev.com** for updates and any changes or contact our Secretary.

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
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Wednesday 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Saturday 1:30 pm–4:30 pm
Meeting Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town, at 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

HUON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6529
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh
Saturday 1:30 pm–4:00 pm
Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required
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Please check Branch Report for any changes.

LAUNCESTON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)
Tuesday 10:00 am–3:00 pm
Saturday by appointment only (03) 6344 4034
Meeting Generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except January and December. Check the Branch News and the website **http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org** for locations and times.

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