



# *Tasmanian Ancestry*

*Volume 2 No. 2  
1981*

ISSN<sup>o</sup>  
0159-0677

\$3.00

*Registered for Postage as a Publication, Category "B"*

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Volume 2. Number 2.

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## Editorial

by  
Neil Chick

Several members have spoken or written to me about expenses and methods of producing the journal. Aubrey Best of Penguin shared with me the *MacNeil Clan News*, a corner stapled A4 size production, which is, as the name implies a newsletter, not a formal journal. Launceston's publications committee has investigated costs in detail, and suggest a solution may lie in photoreduction prior to printing. Those of you who have seen my *Methods of Cemetery Transcription and Research in England and Wales, Part I* know that such a method is not without its problems if using paper plates. It works well with bromide negatives and metal plates, but with paper plates, the final product is a copy of a copy of a copy, and each stage involves inferior technology. As for Roneo or Gestetner copying, David J.R. Nicholas wrote:

... 'I would like you to know that I consider your Society's magazine one of the best that is issued. Being a member of all Australian Societies and some 40 English Family History Societies, I believe the publication has been a credit to you and your members. I can well understand your costing problems, as I was involved considerably with this problem with *Descent* the publication of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Unfortunately, as I see it, members must pay for a good magazine through subscriptions. I must say that I personally abhor societies which publish Roneo or Gestetner publications.' ... It is good to get this kind of feedback. *Continued on page 57.*

# *President's Message*

by  
Lilian D. Watson

Our Library is open and I am most grateful to all who have helped physically and financially. Its purpose is to make accessible data which will assist members but I found it so pleasant to just talk to friends there last Saturday and I stayed much later than I thought. More details are printed in this journal on page

Much can be done to increase our resources, but of course this depends greatly on finances. If each household contributed just \$10 to the Library Fund, we could make available resources to the value of over \$2500. I often read of books I would like to have on my shelf but which would exceed my budget. Perhaps we could share the cost and share the benefits. Which books would you like us to acquire?

Every effort will be made to minimise expenses in order to build up the library, from which we feel every member can benefit despite distance. Less than \$200 was spent to completely furnish the Library as members and friends have donated and lent many items.

In order to accomplish more and enable more members to contribute ideas and services, some new committees have been formed. The Publications Committee will be responsible for the compilation, printing and distribution of the journal and research notes, Mrs. Val Watson acting as secretary/co-ordinator.

Mrs. Shirley Johnson will serve in a similar capacity in the tombstone copying and indexation committee. We want to make these records readily available as soon as possible.

Mrs. Theo Sharples will have able assistance from a committee eager to staff and maintain the library, and other committees will organize the Dinner scheduled for July at the Bellevue and the Seminar on Saturday 1 August.

I was obtaining data on a Dawson family of Bellevue, Bellerive recently and would not be surprised if our dinner venue was once their home.

We are sorry that some northern members will find it hard to attend the Dinner and Seminar but time was too short to arrange alternatives. We thought that planning both on the same weekend would help. Perhaps people from the Hobart area could provide accommodation for a few visitors if that would help. There again at least part of the Seminar could be taken northward at a suitable date.

The Society Council has to try to cater for the needs of the Hobart area as well as for the general membership, and this can cause

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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problems. The work being done in the distant areas of Tasmania is much appreciated, and our unity of interest is vital for the progress of the Society in general. Northern members often have ancestors from the south and vice versa; this alone would encourage us to work closely together. The exchange of minutes has been suggested to help us to better understand what is being done in each area.

Does your journal bear a little green sticker? If so, this means that you have not renewed your subscription which became due on 1 April. If no subscription is received that will signify to us that you do not require to extend your membership. Some societies request a small printing fee to encourage members to renew subscriptions promptly as much paper work can be avoided this way. So far this has not been necessary for us, but we shall review the situation next year.

It was decided some months ago that, for the present, the *genealogical dictionary* to the families being researched by our members will be printed on loose pages and enclosed, a few at a time, with each journal. Do file these for future reference. Some members failed to complete their application for membership forms, and omitted to list all of the family names, locations and dates in which they are interested. If you wish to have your names included in the *Research Dictionary*, please send them to the Secretary. You may also have discovered new family names since you applied for membership.

I was excited to see two listings of Lockwood families of Yorkshire included in a directory just received from N.S.W. Then I turned a page and saw a Marshall family listed too, right in the area from which my family came. I turned to the list of people who had submitted the names and was surprised to find that the Marshall name had been sent in by the late Reverend A. Broadfield. He was a foundation member of our society and I had exchanged several letters with him not knowing that we shared a common interest. How I wished he had added this name to his list.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve one more year as President of the Society (2 consecutive years are the limit according to the Constitution). It is exciting to be a part of a useful growing organization which is not too set in its ways to adopt better methods as may prove necessary. May this year be one of progression and better service to members, and may the members feel free to contribute ideas and help one another.

### CHECK LIST

Please return the enclosed form if you are able to attend the Dinner 31 July, and/or the Seminar on 1 August.

Please submit your family names for the *Research Dictionary*, if you have not already done so, also your membership subscription if this has been inadvertently overlooked.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Please make a donation to the Library if you possibly can.

If your journal bears a green sticker your subscription is now due. This is the last issue unless you renew promptly.

Would any Member who is financial and who has not received a Membership Card please contact the Secretary.

### *Our Library*

"Our Library" is now a reality. It is open

Wednesday and Fridays	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

and by arrangement for members who must travel long distances. It is situated at 3 Percy Street, Bellerive (next door to the Real Estate Office). Admission is free to members; visitors are charged 60 cents at present. The bus stop is just around the corner near the Bellerive Post Office. A Tranmere bus leaves Fitzgerald's Department Store in Collins Street about every 20 minutes on week days. An off-street parking lot is right outside the door and another is just across the road.

The actual door to the Library is not facing the street but just around a corner from the blank brick wall. A fine sign executed by Mr. Parssey is on the door and he is willing to make another for the front wall. There are no steps to climb.

By the grace of the Clarence Council we have the lease of three rooms (not just the two previously planned) and so have about 415 square feet at our disposal. Sufficient furnishings for the present have been given, lent and purchased for just under \$200 though more bookshelves will need to be built shortly and a filing cabinet and drawers are on the priority list. Fire and malicious damage insurance cover has been taken out on the building contents. Our rental is \$10 per year with the understanding that we take care of any improvements necessary inside the building.

Electricians, Roger Fagg, Bill Harding and Ian Travers have been very helpful, and members of the Society have donated time and items to make the rooms a pleasant place. My husband felt suddenly inspired to lay a heavy piece of vinyl given by Evelyn Brown, and somehow I found myself acting as his assistant and denying other persons the privilege of helping! What is dignity when a task needs doing?

We gathered many items from many sources yet somehow everything

## OUR LIBRARY

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seems to go together. Grey, gold, cream, brown and white all harmonize, although a bright mural will need to be painted over soon.

A 'Library Shower' held on 2 May gave members a chance to examine the premises and bring contributions of cash, books and stationery. A heater and curtains were also welcome. It was pleasing to learn that most were pleasantly surprised with the potential of the place. What does one expect for \$10 a year? Probably we should have taken 'before and after' photos.

A Library committee will work with Mrs. Theo Sharples, a fully qualified Librarian, to prepare and maintain the books etc. Hours of opening will be adjusted if this seems best, so please make use of the library to give us encouragement.

Mr. Brian Thurley has kindly loaned us a photo-copier free of charge. A basic machine perhaps, but certainly something we could not have afforded as yet. This will be useful when out-of-town members wish to obtain copies of books or papers. We trust they will send money for postage and copying. We cannot lend books at present.

We have a desk and a power point for a microfiche reader; a small number of books (some very useful ones among them); some indexes of tombstone inscriptions; a card index to families being researched, and a lot of optimism. The 1828 Census of N.S.W. and the new Directory of families being researched by various Australians have been very popular, but the journals received from other Societies have a wealth of data in them too. The International Genealogical Index is eagerly awaited later in the year.

One of our members kindly donated \$100 toward the reading machine which will be necessary for this important index. We are most grateful. Almost \$200 was donated on 2 May and another \$300 worth of items.

Another benefit is that it is a comfortable place in which to hold committee meetings. The tombstone inscription committee seems to have renewed enthusiasm, and we look forward to receiving all of the material that has so far been gathered.

Now that we have a place it is hoped that copies of family histories (published or in manuscript), charts, books etc. will be made available to the library. We are prepared to purchase books as our budget permits. It is enjoyable just to gather there to talk together. Do join us and bring your friends.

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'The wonder of the world, the beauty and the power,  
The shape of things, their colours, lights and shades;  
This I saw. Look you also while life lasts.'

— from a Cumberland tombstone.

# *English Surnames*

by  
John Marrison

## INTRODUCTION

A surname is a living monument to the past, and every surname has a story. Some of the stories which surnames tell give intimate glimpses of the days when those surnames came into existence in the 13th and 14th centuries, and also of those earlier centuries when the place-names and Christian names from which many of them have derived came into being. A surname thus is a relic of the past just as much as is an historic building or a by-gone in a museum.

It is hoped to show how names grew out of the sights and sounds of the past and how, through them, we can understand not only the countryside and the crafts of long ago but even the hopes and fears of the brave men who once lived as we live now.

The word 'surname' means 'after name', derived from the Middle English 'surnoun' which is in turn derived from the Old French word 'surnom'. Sur means over and nom means a name. It has the meaning of family name, as distinguished from a given or Christian name.

How do the true origins of a surname become accurately defined? The etymologist (or person who researches the origin or development of a word) must be able to collect numerous early forms of the name, the earlier the better, and from these deduce an etymology in the light of the known history of the language. For example, consider the surname 'Dartnall'. An early form of this name is 'Robert Darkynhole', circa 1435, which is apparently derived from a Kent and Sussex place name found as 'Durkinghol' in 1240. The name is shown later as 'John Darkenhole', circa 1539 and as 'Robert Darknoll' circa 1540, and 'John Dartnoll' in 1551. It will be seen from the example that successful detection depends on examination of early forms of the name in the areas of origin. This method has become established as the standard requirement for verification of origin of a name. This standard follows that required for interpretation of placename origins.

It has been established that between 30,000 and 100,000 different surnames still exist today in England and that possibly 20,000 or so have had satisfactory explanations found for them to date. The remainder await the genealogical searching back through time to place of family origin. If this is done and if early records survive, many mysteries will be cleared up. But some surnames have multiple origins and we may not be able to differentiate between the various derivations. A simple example of multiple origins is the surname 'Moore'. This can be derived from the Old French word for swarthy ('Maur') or from local residence of the family on or near a tract of open or waste ground, that is a 'moor', or from a specific place such as 'Moore' in Cheshire or 'More' in Shropshire.

## ENGLISH SURNAMES & THEIR ORIGINS

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#### ROMAN NAMES

The Roman dominance in England extended from the first century A.D. to the fifth century. The Roman system of nomenclature consisted of three names: for example, Gaius Julius Caesar.

Gaius: 1. *Prænomen*, the first or personal name;  
Julius: 2. *Nomen*, the middle name indicating the Gens or clan; and  
Caesar: 3. *Cognomen*, the third or family name.

The Roman system of naming, like much else, failed to survive the demise of Roman culture in England upon the invasions of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

#### OLD ENGLISH NAMES

These were usually a simple system of nomenclature using a single name. Family connections were indicated chiefly by the devices of alliteration and variation. For example, the same letter was frequently used to begin names of all members of a family: Mildthryth, Mildburh, Mildgyth were all daughters of one Merewald. Some Old English Christian names survive: Edward, Edmund, and Edgar, as also do the patronymic surnames derived from them: Edwards and Edmunds. Other surnames such as Bugg and Wragg, which derive from the Old English personal names Bugge and Raggi, also survive. A third method of showing family connections was by the repetition of names, usually in alternate generations, by naming a child after his grandfather.

#### DANISH NAMES

Danish nomenclature had no great effect on the general system existing in England though the Danes and Norwegians used their native names of course. These do not appear to have become current outside the portion of England invaded and settled by the Danes called the Danelaw, that is the eastern half, approximately, of England.

#### EFFECTS OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST

With the Norman Conquest of 1066 a great change came over the personal nomenclature of the English people. The Old English names had, with a few exceptions, disappeared by the end of the 13th century and the Norman names such as William, Richard, Robert, John and Henry together with Mary, Anne, Joan and Elizabeth formed the bulk of the popular names used. However the limited variety of Christian names combined with the increasing population must have led to much confusion. Identification of the individual began to be very difficult and the need for it greater. It is against this background that there arose the Norman system of hereditary surnames, connected with, and arising out of the inheritance of land.

Fairly general adoption of surnames began in the 13th and 14th centuries, a process that began in the south of England and after a period of some hundred years extended to the north of England. It should be noted that hereditary surnames were not generally used in

## ENGLISH SURNAMES & THEIR ORIGINS

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Wales until the 17th century and the names of the Highland clans of Scotland were hardly used as surnames in the full sense of the word until the 18th century.

As already hinted, a large number of these English surnames were patronymic, which means derived from the name of the father or ancestor. Even more were place names, indicating the residence or place of origin of the bearer. Others were names of trades or callings and yet others were nicknames. The various classes of surname derivation will be discussed in full later. In the early years of surname formation, before a surname became fixed and hereditary, a man might very well be known at different times or in different places by different names, e.g. the same man was known as John Hervy, John FitzHervie de Sudwerk, and John de London. It was a long time before the custom of keeping a single hereditary surname became general. The compulsory keeping of parish registers from 1538 onwards may have largely completed the process in England.

#### THE PARISH REGISTERS

The modern form of many of our surnames is due to the parish registers. In these, from late Elizabethan times, is to be found the solution to many problems. The parson was often dealing with illiterates; he had no previous spelling of the name to guide him; he merely wrote down what he heard or thought he heard. This was done frequently some time after the event, and thus human error was bound to creep in.

At a time when there was no recognized system of spelling, his phonetic efforts were apt to vary, and these, combined with the genealogical materials in the registers prove clearly that names such as 'Farrer', 'Farrah', 'Farrey', 'Farrow' and 'Pharaoh' are but a single name, and that the names Dayman and Diamond are identical. The tendency to make a strange surname conform to a known pattern has had an enormous influence on surname development. An interesting aspect of this habit was the way in which local names, once they moved from their places of origin, were converted into recognizable words, e.g. 'Birt-whistle' became 'Birdwhistle', 'Fawcett' became 'Falsehood', 'Smarthwaite' became 'Smoothways' and 'Pitchford' became 'Pitchfork'. The process of simplification is still continuing.

#### MODERN INVESTIGATIONS INTO SURNAME DERIVATIONS ON A REGIONAL BASIS

Through modern research into regional surname origins, in publications such as the *English Placenames* series, it has now become possible to identify many cases of the exact parish of origin of a certain surname and even to study the geographical spread of the name through the centuries. Naturally, to achieve this, earlier records than parish registers are used. We have already seen that the formation of surnames predated the beginning of the keeping of parish or church records by some two hundred years. The most striking single fact to arise from the study of placenames in, for example, the West Riding of Yorkshire

## ENGLISH SURNAMES & THEIR ORIGINS

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is the large number of distinctive local names which, in most cases, must have had a single family origin. Even names formerly thought to have multiple origins must be looked at again in the light of this conclusion. A further feature of the study has been that family surnames have persisted in or near the place of origin throughout the six hundred years of their development. Until 1851 there had been little apparent alteration in the established pattern of short distance migration which characterized the area from 1379 onwards. However, only one serious attempt has ever been made to deal with the overall distribution of English family names, that by H.B. Guppy. He followed the maxim that when a family has been settled in a particular place or district for two or three centuries then that place must be regarded as the home of both the family and the surname, even though the ultimate origin and source of the name can be proved elsewhere. In his book *The Homes of Family Names*, London, 1890, H.B. Guppy's aim was to ascertain the homes of surnames for each county. He takes as his basis the names of farmers, 'the most stay-at-home class in the country,' extracting them from Kelly's *Post Office Directories* and ignoring those with a relative frequency of less than seven per ten thousand in a county. What he produced is a valuable mass of material on the distribution of the names of the farmers of the country about the year 1890, but he gives little information on the real homes of family names. W.G. Hoskin's book, *The Midland Peasant* gives an interesting insight into the migrations of the common man and his life in the villages of the Midlands.

### DIALECTIC FORMATION OF SURNAMES

Certain surnames often appear today in a form which indicates by their dialectic formation their origin in a particular area, e.g. the name ROYDS indicates a Yorkshire or Lancashire pronunciation for RHODES. HOYLE is in a dialectic form from the same area and is the same name as HOLE. NADLER is a medieval Essex and London form of NEEDLER. HELE in Devonshire is HALE in Shropshire. Dialectic formation of a surname may assist one in determining the county of origin. The publications on regional surnames are increasing in number.

### SURNAME ORIGINS FROM A SPECIFIC PLACE

If the searcher is lucky enough to possess a name derived from an identifiable place today, one that has not changed or altered out of all comprehension, it may be possible to pinpoint with accuracy the actual place of origin of one's name and family. It must be remembered that the family may have had many homes down through the years and that the place of origin may well not be the place of family ramification.

### VARIATIONS IN SURNAMES IN WRITTEN DOCUMENTS

The searcher conducting either a search of parish registers or having one conducted on his behalf should first consider, and be conversant with, all known variations of the name in question. With a little thought it is possible to establish other names of a similar sound which

can be confused with your name. For example, MARRISON can be confused with MORRISON, HARRISON, MALLINSON, MARATHON, MARMION, MARRIS, MARSON and with many others in the writer's experience. This confusion can extend quite easily to civil or government records of whatever date. Civil servants are certainly not notorious for vivid imaginations! Hence the need to mention the known variations of the name when a request for search is made.

#### THE LEGAL ASPECT OF NAMES TODAY

It is now usually assumed that a man's legal appellation is the Christian name given him in baptism by his god-parents or alternatively the given names inserted in the registration of his birth, together with the surname of his father, or in the case of an illegitimate child, of his mother. The fashion of giving more than one Christian name did not become widespread until the 17th century although even then this appeared predominantly amongst the upper classes. The general trend of fashions becoming popular with the upper classes and then flowing on to the more conservative lower classes prevailed once again.

*Editor's note: Mr Marrison's paper on surnames will be concluded in the next issue of Tasmanian Ancestry.*

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# *Where is William?*

by  
Theo Sharples

I know where I should have found William, because I had got the exact reference for the location of his grave from the cemetery office at Cornelian Bay in Hobart. I went to Section P in the Church of England area, found the fourth row and sought the 10th headstone in from the southern end of the row. I looked for his 'neighbours' from the list of surrounding graves which Mrs. James, in the office, had given me, but none of them was there. The area was, in fact, rather 'light on' in respect of headstones, though not of mounds that might once have had headstones. I guess that what remains of my great-grandfather William Rennie who died on 11 March, 1888, aged 55 years, is under one of those mounds and that his tombstone has succumbed to the ravages of time.

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Some people find cemeteries fascinating; others do not. On the Monday after Mr. Eddington's talk to the Society about Hobart cemeteries, Val Watson and I spent an interesting day at Cornelian Bay. Although some of our friends expressed amazement, even shock, when we mentioned our day's outing ('Whatever did you want to spend a day there for?' 'Well,' we said, 'it's our hobby, you know'), nevertheless we can recommend the peacefulness of a cemetery on a mild autumn day as a not unpleasant atmosphere in which to pass a few hours. Urban activity is not far distant, yet here you could be miles away from people and traffic and other distractions, so tranquil is it. Another acquaintance was highly amused at the thought of what he called 'tea among the tombstones', but we had to have our lunch somewhere, didn't we? And we were quite comfortable sitting in the car, parked under a shady tree.

At Cornelian Bay, burials and cremations are listed by date in a book (or rather, several big, thick books) so that the enquirer must know the date of death or burial before the existence of a particular memorial can be verified. Up to 1900, burials are also listed in an alphabetical card index so that sometimes it is possible to cross-check, or find relevant information, by this means. Incidentally, cremations began about 1936 at Cornelian Bay.

One thing we discovered was that office records and headstone inscriptions are not always synonymous and one must keep an open mind at all times.

Sometimes names appear, seeming to be unrelated to the family represented by the remainder of the inscription. Then, after some head-scratching and mathematical calculation, you may discover that the name is that of a first (or second) wife, or a stepchild. These

## WHERE IS WILLIAM

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things, though not exactly what one is searching for, may nevertheless lead to the desired information. The sum total of isolated pieces of information may also help to build up the picture of the local or social history of a particular area or a particular time.

As anyone who has done cemetery transcription can confirm, inscriptions on tombstones and other memorials can yield a lot of information about a person. Usually one finds the dates of death, sometimes of birth; sometimes places of birth and/or death are given. At the columbarium at St. Mary's Church of England at Triabunna, there is one which gives a marriage date. Often the names of parents, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters are given. Sometimes you get the whole story of a person's life and career. For this kind of interesting reading, I can recommend the tombstone of John Allen in the cemetery at Bicheno. It includes mention of a shipwreck in the ice off Cape Horn and of a single-handed encounter with a tribe of aborigines.

On the day of our excursion, Val was quite successful with her Pedders, including one or two 'bonus' ones she hadn't really been looking for. My Rennies were more elusive, and two of them proved to be too early for Cornelian Bay records. I did, however, have my 'bonuses', quite unexpectedly. One was a little girl whose given names were Theo Ruth. I never thought to find another female named Theo, but I noticed that this one died at the age of eight years - perhaps she couldn't stand it any longer. My other bonus was three Sharpleses, all dying in their 20's towards the turn of the century, at a time when my husband had thought there weren't Any of Us in Tasmania. Perhaps none of them was One of Us; we have to do some further investigation about that lot.

Wandering around Cornelian Bay, we found many different styles of monuments from the very ornate to the very simple. A modern fashion seems to be the display of a coloured photograph of the deceased person on the headstone. Materials vary from painted wood to polished granite. Numbers of headstones from St. David's and Queenborough cemeteries have been placed at the lower boundary, beyond the Crematorium area. There is also a comprehensive monument which lists many names of persons who were interred at Queenborough.

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Although William wasn't to be found, Val and I agreed that we had had a fruitful and most interesting day and (as we used to say in our school compositions) 'we arrived home tired but happy'.

# Family Climacteridae

by

Jacqueline JOHNSTONE,  
Audrey HUDSPETH, and  
Neil CHICK

JOHNSTONE, J., HUDSPETH, A. and CHICK, N., 1981. Family Climacteridae (Australian Tree Creepers), *New Ornithologist*, Vol. 23, pp 1265-1268

## ABSTRACT

Until now, tree creepers were thought to be confined to the Australian mainland. This ornithological note reviews the variety and distribution of the continental species and defines the Tasmanian form for the first time. The new species has been named *Climacteris genealogica* Johnstone 1981.

## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The history of Australian ornithology is replete with the valuable contributions made by amateur bird watchers. This paper is another example. The new species was first identified by Mrs. Jacqueline Johnstone who supplied most extensive notes on the habits and distribution. These form the bulk of this paper. Supplementary observations by the junior authors have been incorporated.

The division of the genus *Climacteris* is as follows. The biological name is followed by the common name in parenthesis and the distribution follows:

- C. affinis* Blyth (white-browed tree creeper): semi-arid interior Australia.
- C. erythrope* Gould (red-browed tree creeper): S. Queensland to Victoria.
- C. leucophosa* Latham (white-throated tree creeper): SE Australia & S. Qld.
- C. melanota* Gould (black tree creeper): Cape York Peninsula.
- C. melanura* Gould (black-tailed tree creeper): Northern Australia.
- C. minor* Ramsay (little tree creeper): Cairns district.
- C. picinna* Temminck (brown tree creeper or woodpecker): SE & Central Aust.
- C. rufa* Gould (rufous tree creeper): SW Australia & Western South Aust.
- C. wellsii* Grant (allied tree creeper): mid Western Australia.
- C. genealogica* (family tree climber): Tasmania. A new species, defined below.

## DESCRIPTION

Plumage: variable, strong seasonal variations. See discussion.

Bill: long, curved, frequently dipping into purses and wallets.

Wings: small and degenerate, not unlike those of the emu *Dromaius novae-hollandia*, Latham). The species has never been observed to fly. Wings seem to be used solely for balance.

Legs: long, frequently encased in gum boots.

Tail: extremely short.

Voice: variable in pitch. Adult males tend to be an octave lower

## FAMILY CLIMACTERIDAE

### 2

than juveniles and adult females.

(1) **Song:** infrequent. Usually silent when foraging singly; quiet muttering sound when in pairs; noisy chatter when in groups.

(2) **Calls:** variable. Calls end either on a rising note such as 'Canyouhelpmereadthisone' 'Yougottacrowbarjim' or on a falling note such as the two-part 'Hey...comeandlookwhowevefound'. Alarm calls include 'Lookoutherecomestherain' and 'Ithinkjustsawasnake' which cause flocks to scatter rapidly.

**Nest:** constructed solely of paper. Extremely variable in location, size and structure.

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

(1) Boobyalla, NE Tasmania: A pair were seen furtively foraging on the outskirts of the old settlement in rough, overgrown wasteland. After having disturbed some wild cattle they were seen to run with astounding rapidity to safer ground.

(2) Gladstone cemetery, N E Tasmania: 6.30 a.m. in gentle rain, one sporting a petasus stramentum acutus (pointed straw hat) and with a large sacus plasticus (plastic bag) for shelter and freedom of the upper part of the body, and the other lying prone on an old broken slab of sandstone, probing at strange hieroglyphs, sub umbraculum (under an umbrella). They seemed very unwilling to be observed in such unusual attitudes.

(3) Cornelian Bay, SE Tasmania: a pair were observed wandering disconsolately, with much shaking of heads and a plaintive murmuring. Their motion comprised a curious dance: twenty paces to the left, twenty paces to the right. Purpose of these motions unknown.

(4) Mathinna, NE Tasmania: another pair were observed sitting on a large pipe in the main street, listening to the **chatter** of a local identity.

(5) Sorell, SE Tasmania: Many pairs were seen in the cemetery, working along the undersides of fallen stones as much as the upper, exploring crevices inaccessible to most birds. They explored crevices or cracks in marble and sandstone, peeled back lichen, probed and tested the surface. Observations have confirmed the species as joining Darwin's Galapagos finch as a tool user. Tools used included styli, icypole sticks, spades, crowbars, stiff brushes, mirrors, chalk. It is capable of moving slabs of stone larger than itself.

### DISTRIBUTION

Confirmed sightings have been recorded for all settled areas of Tasmania. Flocks gather in libraries, churches, burial grounds.

## FAMILY CLIMACTERIDAE

### 3

museums, post offices and many private dwellings. The species has not been observed outside of settled areas. Variations in plumage, location song and habits, suggest there are several distinct varieties.

#### DISCUSSION

It is possible that the Tasmanian species should be elevated to genus status because of strong morphological and habit differences from the mainland species of *Climacteris*. If so, the term *Climacteris* (ladder climber) should not be used. Possible alternative generic terms include:

*Epibetorus* (one who climbs) and the full species name therefore, keeping to the Greek: *Epibetorus phraterodendron* (one who climbs a family tree) Alternative names have been suggested: *Conscribillo sepulcri* (tomb scribbler) and *Nux arbori famillii* (family tree nut).

It seems to one of the junior authors that it is premature to invoke full generic status. He proposes four variants of the new species should be recognized:

*Climacteris genealogica* var *aristocratica*, distinguished by its very large bill and an almost exclusive diet of Burke and Debrett. Very gaudy plumage.

*Climacteris genealogica* var *criminis*, distinguished by broad arrow markings on the plumage and ring marks on the legs. It has a slow staggering gait as if pulling a heavy load.

*Climacteris genealogica* var *sepulcri*, habitat restricted to cemeteries and graveyards. Frequently seen nesting in columbaria.

*Climacteris genealogica* var *lexicographica*, a bird of nervous habit, very short sighted and easily flustered. Builds very elaborate and bewildering nests of file cards, indexes and calendars of wills.

Bird watchers among our readers are invited to send in further field notes. Latin scholars and taxonomists are invited to submit alternative nomenclature.

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#### BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES PRIOR TO 1900

This information has been received from the Registrar General's Office: 'As the records of Births, Deaths and Marriages prior to 1900 are no longer under the control of this Department, any further enquiries relating to this period should be directed to

The Principal Archivist,  
State Library of Tasmania,  
91 Murray Street,  
Hobart, 7000.'

Any members requiring certificates should contact the Society's Research Coordinator, c/o Box 78, Claremont, 7011.

# *Don't Ever Speak of That Again!*

by  
K. M. Bennett

It takes a 'black sheep' in the family to make us realise just how much times have changed.

While tracing my family, I came across a mystery concerning my great-great grandfather, James. Working backwards from myself, I had reached James and his wife, Elizabeth. James, I discovered, had been born in Edinburgh in 1830/1, and married in Geelong, Victoria in 1852.

Everything so far seemed in order. I went on to obtain the death record of my great-great grandmother, Elizabeth, which would tell me, hopefully, the names and ages of all children still living at that time. But, strangely, this record gave only the name of her second husband, a well-to-do widower. James, her first, was not mentioned, nor were any children given - even though the informant of her death was the husband of one of James's daughters! Why leave such a big blank? Surely, I thought, some of the details could have been filled in, even if he only put his own wife's name and age? Why leave it all out? It seemed almost as if the family wanted to forget James altogether.

A little curious now, I made some inquiries among the older members of the family. They elicited little. No one seemed to know very much at all about James, though the stories about the second husband came thick and fast. I was told by one great aunt that she, being curious about James, had asked about him and been told by her mother, Elizabeth's daughter, never to speak of it again! Why was the subject forbidden?

I made a further, though seemingly unrelated, discovery. James's name appeared in the 'Parents of the bride' columns on the marriage certificates of all three of his daughters, and one of them had endowed him with a hitherto undiscovered second name, 'Thomson'. I felt sure it was a mistake on her part, but nevertheless set it aside for future reference.

The only way to discover more about James was to work backwards again, and find his arrival in Victoria. There were three James with the correct surname. One from Glasgow and two from Edinburgh. I rules out the one from Glasgow. That left two. One was an Unassisted passenger who had gone his own way to find work. But he was a little too old. That left number three.

## DON'T EVER SPEAK OF THAT AGAIN!

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Further inquiries led to the discovery that this third James was an 'exile', a convict who had been pardoned and transported. He had arrived in Victoria with other exiled prisoners from Pentonville, Millbank and Parkhurst prisons, and was subsequently put to work near Colac as a shepherd. He was fifteen years old, originally from Edinburgh prison. Both birthplace and year fitted. But there was more proof to come.

The court and prison records in Edinburgh were very helpful. I discovered that James had been charged, with one other, of housebreaking and, with three others, of the crime of reset (passing goods known to have been stolen). His friends pleaded not guilty; James pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years transportation. The prison record, in addition to giving me information as to the colour of his hair, eyes, his height and state of clothing, told me where he had been born and was currently residing. But the most interesting fact was the name of James's partner in the housebreaking: John Thomson.

James's daughter had put his second name as 'Thomson'. Even if Thomson was not, in fact, his second name, his daughter had obviously heard it, somewhere, in connection with her father. I felt sure, then that this was the right James. It seemed to explain reticence concerning him, and the eagerness to relate stories of the more acceptable second marriage. It also explained those words my great aunt remembered so vividly: 'Don't ever speak of that again!'

THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT  
WHEN YOU ASK

*I. R. Harrison*

61 ABBOTSHAM ROAD,  
BIDEFORD, DEVON,  
ENGLAND.

TO TRACE YOUR ENGLISH ANCESTRY  
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO  
PAY IN ADVANCE.

# Back to the Farm (After 140 Years)

by  
Gordon Asher Boyce

My great-great-grandfather was born in 1798 in a delightful English village in Warwickshire, near Stratford-upon-Avon, called Pillerton Hersey. Quite an old village! well described in the *Domesday Book* in 1085 A.D.:

'10 hides (a hide sometimes described as, enough land to sustain one family), land for 10 ploughs; in lordship 3; 8 male and 4 female slaves; 23 villagers with a priest; 1 man -at-arms and 5 smallholders who have 9 ploughs. A mill at 5 shillings, woodland 1 league long and 1 wide; in Warwick. The value was £10 (1066), now £17 (1085). Earl of Baldwin held it freely.'

On 31 December 1816 Samuel married Sarah Widdows, born in July 1798. On 15 October 1817, Solomon Shepherd was born, and baptized in the same parish church on 25 December, 1817, Christmas Day, entry in register No. 42, by the same vicar, the Rev. John Smith. Seven more children followed, four girls and three boys. In 1840, now aged 23, Solomon was advised by doctors to leave England and go overseas to improve his health. He was an experienced blacksmith/farmer by this time. He sailed in the ship *Westminster*, sometimes recorded as the *Westminster Abbey* and landed at Sandridge, near where Melbourne now stands (or sits!) in 1841. Let us read his own words as related to a newspaper reporter:-

'Sailing in the ship *Westminster*, he landed, after a voyage of six months, at Sandridge, three miles from Melbourne, to which place the passengers walked. 'Marvellous Melbourne', as it was afterwards named, was then a collection of huts on the edge of the bush, giving no hint of the magnificent city it was afterwards to become. A few squatters had settled there, and there also the dingoes (wild native dogs of yellow colour) killed the sheep whenever the chance offered, so that the flocks had to be guarded by night as well as by day. Still wilder blacks also gave trouble, and occasionally speared a settler, and between dogs and natives, life and property were none too safe.

After a time, Mr. Shepherd crossed over to Tasmania, and worked as a blacksmith (which trade he had learned in Birmingham) for a Mr. Bewley, near Launceston. There he married and leased 160 acres of rock, bush and ridges,

cultivating the meagre soil for 16 years. By then the Victorian gold rushes had come and gone, and prices for all kinds of produce were very low; for example, Mrs Shepherd bought a cow for £1/1/- and drove it home on foot. She was a good housewife, and in addition to milking a number of cows had a large poultry run, and reared as many as 120 turkeys a year, to say nothing of fowls, ducks, calves, the livestock including a number of horses. By way of rent Mr Shepherd was paying £36 a year, either in cash or in wheat (which then was worth 2/6 a bushel) grown on land ploughed among rocks and trees. The grain was sown by hand and reaped with a sickle, threshed by hand with a flail, cleaned with a hand fanner, and then taken to a flour mill to be ground. At the time, when the gold rushes were in full swing, Mrs Shepherd got high prices for her turkeys, £1 a head being paid for them dressed ready for the table, while potatoes jumped from 18/- to £22 a ton.'

On 3 October 1843, in Christ Church, Longford, Solomon married Catherine, daughter of Francis and Catherine Donovan, a farming family of Cork, Ireland. Mrs Donovan was a McCarthy of Cork. Solomon and Catherine had nine children born in Tasmania of whom one died before they all left for New Zealand. My grandfather was aged six when they sailed away on the schooner *Northern Lights* (Captain Tobin) on 1 September 1840, arriving in Invercargill, New Zealand, 18 days later. I understand that Captain Tobin usually tied up his 90 ton schooner at the Franklin Wharf, Hobart.

The farm in Tasmania always intrigued me. I wondered what it was like, and I wondered where it was. So in October 1980 we set out to find it, combining a pleasant holiday with family history, a highly recommended activity. With very willing and very adequate help from many people and organizations, which I have listed at the conclusion, we found the Deed of lease and then found the farm.

'Lease in Valuation Roll of District of Morven, page 7: 125 acres in Norfolk Plains, called 'Annandale', of £50 annual value. Leased to Solomon Shepherd. Landlords: Joseph and Isaac Solomon, Launceston.'

Joseph Solomon was convicted of 'capital offences' at Kent Assises in England on 2 August 1819, commuted to 'life', then transported to New South Wales, thence on to Tasmania in the *Castle Forbes*. He was granted his 'indulgence of emancipation' on 8 September 1828. He evidently became a landowner by 1840 and died in Evandale in May 1851.

The farm, near Perth and Longford, is now only a small part of a large property called 'Cluden Newry Studs'. We were welcomed at the homestead, 'Jessiefield', by Mr and Mrs Richard Hughes, who were wonderfully hospitable to us, and took us on a Land-Rover tour of the property, pointing out where 'Annandale' had been. I must confess I had a lump in

## BACK TO THE FARM AFTER 140 YEARS

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my throat as I looked at the piece of land where 140 years ago my ancestors Solomon and Catherine had sweated and toiled to eke out a meagre living in harsh, primitive conditions. Now all was beautiful pasture.

In 1859 the family had decided to shift to New Zealand. Once again, let us hear the reporters:

'In 1860 Mr and Mrs Shepherd and family embarked on the vessel *Northern Lights*, which they chartered for their own use, in order to convey all their possessions from Tasmania to their new home. Included in the cargo were farm implements, blacksmith's tools, three drays, six horses, about forty fowls, a hive of bees, two dogs, as well as several tons of flour brought from his Tasmanian farm, thirteen miles out of Launceston. The wheat for this flour was grown from land cultivated with a wooden plough, reaped with a sickle, thrashed with a flail and ground at a mill. The flour proved a wonderful help to the family, for flour was £5 a bag at that time. Also on board were two men hired to look after the livestock. The *Northern Light* reached the shores of New Zealand in September of 1860, and the combined cost of the passengers' fares and freight amounted to £200.'

So concluded the Tasmanian episode of my Shepherd ancestors. It forms but a tiny portion of a much larger Tree, but genealogy is like this, it keeps growing and growing and... . Good fun, isn't it?

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NOTES During about the last ten years' research, I am indebted to:  
The Archives Office of Tasmania, 91 Murray Street, Hobart.  
The Municipality of Longford, Mr B.M. Viney, F.I.M.A., J.P., Clerk.  
The Australian High Commission, Wellington, New Zealand.  
The Land Titles Office, G.P.O. Box 541F, Hobart.  
Mr and Mrs Richard A. Hughes, 'Jessiefield', Longford.  
Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum, Hampden Road, Battery Point.  
The William Sorell Chart of Van Diemen's Land of 1824.  
*The Mercury*, Hobart, 29 January 1862.  
*The Southern Cross*, Invercargill, 1913, 1920, 1927 and 1939.  
The Public Trustee, Invercargill, New Zealand.  
*Domesday Book* of King William I, 1085 A.D. (Morris translation).  
Warwickshire County Record Office, Warwick, England.  
The Birmingham and Midlands Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.  
The Parish Church, Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire, England.  
The Registrar General's Department, Hobart.  
Records of Christ Church, Longford, Tasmania.

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# *Grice Family Reunion*

by  
Kevin Grice

The descendants of ROBERT and ANN GRICE held their family reunion on the weekend 11-12 April at Richmond. More than 250 attended with some having travelled from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Four generations of descendants were represented with quite a number having met for the first time.

The Richmond Town Hall was used for the occasion and an attendance register was signed prior to the name tag being issued to each individual. Stands were set up to display a large family tree, documents, old letters, photographs, historical information and items of general interest. A glass display case protected various old and valuable items. A good quality copying machine proved worthwhile, with over 550 copies taken - even reproductions of old black and white photos being surprisingly good.

The Hall was still being prepared when people began arriving at 2 p.m. on the Saturday afternoon. The atmosphere was soon buzzing with conversations and excitement as 'old and new' relatives met. A few tears of joy were seen and they told their own story.

In the evening, the Warden of Richmond, Mr. H. McLeod welcomed the members to the Municipality that Ann and Robert Grice arrived at in 1855 under the Bounty Immigration Scheme. The Warden declared the reunion open after giving a brief resume of the historical and political situation prevailing at the time.

A fourth generation descendant from Queensland presented the family history supported with colour slides and photos.

After a couple of items of entertainment the eldest male and female descendants present shared in cutting the anniversary cake. Supper time with dancing and reminiscing followed.

Sunday commenced with many attending Church Services at Richmond's historic churches prior to a wreath laying service at the graves of Robert and Ann. The Rev. W. Cuthbertson conducted a Blessing of the Family at the grave-side service.

A barbecue lunch preceded the afternoon activities, which included the laying of a wreath at the grave of Dickinson and Mary Grice at Tea Tree and the inspection of the Langtoft property, the site of the original family home. The stone two-storey Georgian-style house which was in the family for over one hundred years was of tremendous interest to many. On the way back to Richmond, the property of Carrington was visited as this was the first place of residence for Robert and Ann who were sponsored to Tasmania by Mr. Esh Lovell,

## GRICE FAMILY REUNION

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the then owner of the property.

The reunion was organised to be informative and to permit present generation descendants to become familiar with the area in which their Tasmanian ancestors settled, as well as to meet one another. The reaction was one of thorough enjoyment and a keen desire for an annual get-together - planning has started again!

### *New Members*

Mrs Lesley Adams<sup>2</sup>  
Mr & Mrs D. Arnold  
Mr & Mrs A. Best  
Mr & Mrs A. Blake<sup>2</sup>  
Mrs V.M. Bottle  
Mrs M.L. Bone<sup>2</sup>  
Mrs J.A. Bugg  
Mrs B.A. Carosella  
Mrs R.S. Clark  
Miss K.F. Clerke  
Mrs C.J. Collins  
Mr & Mrs R. Collins  
Mr G.A. Cox<sup>2</sup>  
Mr M.R. Crago<sup>1</sup>  
Miss M.E. Cross  
Mr C.E. Docking  
Mrs G.L. Frost  
Miss C. Garland<sup>2</sup>  
Mrs L.M. Geard  
Ms M.P. Gee<sup>1</sup>  
Mrs D.M. Girvan  
Miss H.M. Goold  
Mrs G.A. Haines  
Mr & Mrs G.R.W. Harding  
Mrs J. Harding  
Mr P. McD. Hart  
Mr M.F. Healy<sup>2</sup>  
Mr E.G. Howard<sup>2</sup>

Mrs P.B. Bhogal<sup>2</sup>  
Mrs G. Jack  
Mr & Mrs C. Jago  
Mrs C. Johnson  
Mrs A.D. Jones  
Mrs E.M. Jones  
Mrs V.M. Joseph  
Mrs E.M. Keating<sup>2</sup>  
Mr I. Kregor  
Mr & Mrs B. Lacey  
Miss T.M. Larkin<sup>1</sup>  
Mr B.M. Lucas  
Mr Roger McLennan  
Mr J.J. Meehan<sup>2</sup>  
Miss A.M. Page  
Mr & Mrs A.J. Parnell  
Mr G.S. Parssey  
Mrs M.P. Pawsey<sup>2</sup>  
Mr & Mrs G. Radford  
Mrs M. Perry<sup>2</sup>  
Mr P.E. Rainbird  
Miss E.L. Rynders  
Mr R. Saunders  
Mrs H.M. Shaw  
Mrs M.H. Sheehan  
Mr A.J. Stewart<sup>2</sup>  
Mr J.W. Stewart  
Mr P.J. Street  
Mrs V.M. Whittle

1 New South Wales

2 Victoria

3 South Australia

4 Queensland

5 Western Australia

6 A.C.T.

7 Northern Territory

8 New Zealand

9 England

10 U.S.A.

## Notes & Queries

BLAKE/BLAKES. Thomas Michael BLAKE sent to Tasmania in December 1828 on convict ship *Roslen Castle*. As a free man, married Sarah Ratcliffe (nee Phillips) November 1840 at Clarence Plains, blessed with four children Thomas, Mary, Louisa and Rosena. Sarah bore two children from former marriage to later deceased James Radcliffe. (Mr. Bruce Blake, 42 Harold Street, Shepperton, Vic. 3630).

GOUGH. What happened to the GOUGH family after 1829? Did GOUGH marry again I wonder and what happened to Mary Anne? Would members have any information on a Mrs. Bradley of Oatlands (1829) and a Mrs. Manning of Bagdad (1829). These are the two ladies who took the orphaned Gough children, Esther and Mary Ann after their mother had been killed by the aborigines and brought them up and educated them. (Mrs. Lesley Adams, 31 Macclesfield Rd., Avonsleigh, Vic. 3782).

HARRIS. Any information on Thomas HARRIS and his wife Mary Sullivan is sought. They are buried in St. Peter's Church, Oatlands but arrival date and marriage date is not known - also the number of children that were born to them. (Mr. E.M. Travers, 24 Mitcham Rd., Claremont, Tas. 7011)

HODGETTS. Thomas *Searborough* 1790 and Harriet *Neptune* 1790; Sally (21 in 1820) md. Richard Lawson 1825; Betsey (17) md. George Lucas 1823; James (16) md. Mary Cox 1827; Daniel (14); Hannah (10) md. William Dalrymple Keating 1829; Jane (8); Harriet (1); all arrived Tasmania 1819; settled Norfolk Plains, Cressy, Longford; also JOHN HODGETTS md. Olivia Lucas 1811 settled in Tasmania 1816 (?). (The Reverend B.G. Marsh, the Rectory, Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty, N.S.W. 2570 (046) 51 2226.

HUBBARD. George and Amelia Betts. Known children Ruby, married David SAMPSON, and Kate. Are there any others? No trace of birth certificate for George or Amelia in Tasmania, yet supposed to have been born there. Any information, please. (Mrs. B. Sampson, 56 Rosella Road, Empire Bay, N.S.W. 2256)

MAHER. Descendants of Dennis MAHER and Catherine Hewitt who came from England on the *Cornwall* in 1851 and settled in Oatlands, are sought. Many limbs of this particular tree are bare. Both are buried in St. Peter's Church, Oatlands. (Mr. E.M. Travers, 24 Mitcham Rd. Claremont, 7011)

ANN RATT/MRATT. b. 27 Mar 1824, emigrated Nottingham to Nelson, N.Z. 1842. Married John LLOYD, lived Tasmania (Hobart?). Names of LLOYD children thought to include Louisa, Julia, Ann, John Robert, William Joseph, George Whitfield, Martin Luther, Christian Pierce. Rev. C.P. LLOYD died 4 Jan 1899. A daughter (Ann?-Mrs. Muller?) was Methodist?

## NOTES & QUERIES

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preacher 'Sister Miriam'. Information, contact with descendants.  
(Mrs. E.S. Curnow, 200 Hill St., Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand).

RYAN. Robert James RYAN - sailor at Don, Tasmania 1880-1883. Married Emma Chawin at Church of St. Olives, Don on 3 November 1883. Moved to Burnie and carried on business at Burnie as barber and tobacconist. Died 22 October 1913. Had 12 children but one died.  
(Mrs. E.M. Keating, 34 Dunstan St., Macleod, Victoria, 3085)

SHORE Thomas and Margaret, bounty immigrants from Edinburgh, sponsored by William Kermode. Arrived Hobart June 1855 on the *Catherine Sherer* with family, Margaret, Mary, James, Elizabeth (md. Laban GRICE 1858), Jane and Agnes. Any information re family and descendants, please.  
(Mrs. B. Somers, 4 Welch Street, North Manly, 2100, N.S.W.)

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### ....TRANSITIONS....

MARRIAGE: On Saturday 27 June 1981 at Sandy Bay:

Gail Louise BURNETT to Malcolm ISHERWOOD

We wish our former Assistant Secretary and her husband all the happiness they could wish for themselves. Many members would love to have a like honeymoon which includes plans for visiting the incomparable library of the Genealogical Society of Utah in Salt Lake City and Brigham Young University at Provo where the famous World Conference on Records and many other genealogical congresses have been held!

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DEATH: On 21 May 1981 in Hobart, aged 58:

Walter Carl CHARLSTON, a member of the Society.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Rosemary and his brothers and sisters.

### GENEALOGIST AND RECORD SEARCHER

Did your ancestors come from Bristol, England?

Geoffrey T. Roberts is offering to research specific genealogical problems in the Bristol and Avon area, for a fee. Please write with full details of requirements to:

Geoffrey T. Roberts,  
Genealogist & Record Searcher,  
4 Beryl Grove,  
Bristol, BS14 9EB,  
England.

# Calendar

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT OR EVENT	PLACE
JUL 7 (Tues.)	8	Launceston Meeting	Kings Meadows
14 (Tues.)	8	Rev. Richard Cartledge: Anglican Records,	Burnie
21 (Tues.)	8	Bring and Tell Night	Rosny
28 (Tues.)	8	Council	Bellerive
31 (Friday)		<i>Genealogical Society Dinner, Bellerive</i> (see insert)	
AUG 1 (Sat.)		<i>Seminar: Everyone has Ancestors, Rosny</i> (see insert)	
4 (Tues.)	8	Launceston Meeting	Kings Meadows
11 (Tues.)	8	Workshops	Burnie
18 (Tues.)	8	Workshops	Rosny
25 (Tues.)	8	Council	Bellerive
SEP 1 (Tues.)	8	Launceston Meeting	Kings Meadows
8 (Tues.)	8	Father Bishop: Catholic Records	Burnie

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## EDITORIAL

*(Continued from Page No. 33)*

Further investigation and suggestion on the production of the journal and research notes are welcome! I would also like to see some new artwork on the cover for 1982, so ~~out~~ with your pencils and paper. We may yet experiment further with photoreduction in order to increase the content of the journal without increasing weight and postage fees. I welcome Audrey Hudspeth and Val Watson and their assistance! Audrey is Assistant Editor and Val is coordinating the production of publications. They are ably assisted by a team and I welcome the lightened of my load.

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## Annual Report

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the progress of the Society for the financial year ended 31 March 1981. As any organization is only as strong as its active members, I feel I would like to commend you for your support and encouragement during this first year.

### General Meetings

Ten meetings have been held here at Rosny College and attendance has several times been over 60. Topics have ranged from Mr. Henry's slides and commentary on early Tasmanian buildings, my report and Neil's on the Australasian Congress on Genealogy last Easter, Our Beginner's Night, discussion on overseas research, Mrs. Mary MacRae's talk on the holdings of the Archives Office of Tasmania, to our tour of the Allport Collection led by Mr. Geoffrey Stillwell. Member's Night in September was particularly enjoyable. We learned more about surnames from Mr. Marrison in October and in November Mr. Bert Johnson showed us slides of early sailing ships and we discussed conditions on board some of them. This year we have learned about research on German families and

## ANNUAL REPORT

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about early cemeteries in the Hobart area. A good photo of one of them has been enlarged and framed by Mr. Sharples and hung in the library.

#### New Branches in the North

In September the first step was taken to begin holding meetings in Launceston and 50 people attended the first meeting in November. Speakers were provided from Hobart that night, but in December, February and March presentations were made by Launceston people ... Mrs. J. Headlam on her research; Mrs. V. Hamilton on the resources of the Queen Victoria Museum; Mr. A. Reeve on local cemetery records; and Mr. P. Leonard of the Northern Regional Library on **its** holdings. A workshop was held in March.

Several of us travelled north again in December for the Burnie inaugural meeting, with the temperature 35°! 60 people attended that night and they have continued to hold good meetings. We expect to receive news from both Launceston and Burnie for publication in the journal.

#### Cemetery Transcription

Has been undertaken both by organized groups and individuals as time has permitted. As so many tombstones are falling into disrepair the copying of these unique records is urgent and future generations will be in debt to those who unselfishly undertake this task. Unless you have participated you will not appreciate how exciting it is to discover the memorial to someone from your family or from history's pages. The National Trust has shown an interest in our copying project during the year.

#### Current membership figures

These show that we have 193 Tasmanian members, 44 from other Australian States and 10 from overseas - a total of 267 up to the end of March. Another 30 new subscriptions have been received for the current financial year.

#### Tasmanian Ancestry

was the name chosen for our quarterly journal which is exchanged with 12 other Societies. Our aim is to present material which will benefit our members, and according to letters received and comments made, this is being achieved. Mrs. P. Clark, Mr. Neil Chick and Mrs. Sue Waters have edited, and produced three volumes of the journal.

#### Research

has been ably handled by Mrs. Sue Waters and a few assistants and I am sure the enquirers have benefited even more than the coffers of the Australia Post. Sue is unable to continue this task this year and to her we say our sincere 'thankyou'

## ANNUAL REPORT

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### Library

A library of our own was sought during the year and the Clarence Council has granted us a six month lease of three modest rooms at 3 Percy Street, Bellerive, the cost being only \$5.00. Much repairing, repainting, cleaning and planning have been going on, and the hunt for cheap but adequate furnishings has been extensive. Donations and loans of various items have helped the budget greatly and local business men have been generous. Mr. Brian Thurley has loaned a photocopier. Light fittings and floorcoverings etc. have been donated.

A 'Library Shower' is scheduled for Saturday the 2nd May - 2 to 4 p.m. and should help fill the empty spaces. Already among our small collection are some useful books and papers and I feel confident that, as our membership grows, we shall acquire a great deal of valuable reference material. Each of us has a valuable record of family history which we can copy for the Library.

The 1828 Census of N.S.W. is a recent important acquisition, and we should have the International Genealogical Index microfiche by the end of this year - an exciting prospect!

The Executive Council, The Committees in Hobart and in the North have all accomplished a lot of work. Improvements are being introduced as we find need for them and I would like to see the tasks spread among the members even more this year. It has been a pleasure for me to get to know these helpful people as we have worked together. It has often amazed me to find a person with a certain skill just when that skill is especially needed.

We were sorry to have Mr and Mrs. Doug Clark move to Queensland during the year and regret that several other members of the Council are unable to continue in the positions which they have held. Miss Gail Burnett, Mrs. Janice Daley, Mr. John Morrison, Mrs. Susan Waters and Ms. Paret Reiljan all have needed to relinquish their positions and we sincerely thank them for their efforts during the year. We greatly miss Mr. Le-Howarth's assistance too.

I believe the recording of genealogy to be a sharing endeavour. Each researcher is compiling his or her part of the record of the human family to which we all belong. Do not be surprised if you someday find you are connected to the person sitting right next to you.

### Pre-1900 Registrar General's Records

Last July the microfilms of the birth death and marriage registers of the Registrar-General, prior to 1900, became available to the public. They were placed in the care of the Archives Office of Tasmania for general use and have been steadily used by researchers of family history ever since. A small announcement appeared in the *Mercury* only last month, but this release of records was a big step and has set a precedent to the rest of the nation.

## ANNUAL REPORT

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When we first approached the Attorney-General and Acting Registrar-General on this matter some eighteen months ago their first reaction was not very promising. We are extremely grateful to them for reconsidering our persistent requests and taking the necessary steps to release these records for family historians.

Our first year as a Society has been busy, productive and exciting. May the second one be even better!

Lilian D. Watson  
PRESIDENT

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## *Financial Report*

1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981, including subscriptions in advance and preliminary payments, 22 December 1979 to 31 March 1980.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	\$	¢	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	\$	¢
Balance of bank account of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Tasmanian Branch		184.47	Bank charges, postage, travelling, telephone	469.37	
Subscriptions, 1980-1981	2639.03		Refund of 25% of subscriptions to Launceston and Burnie Branches	242.97	
1981-1982 Subscriptions in advance		252.00	Advertising	33.80	
Donations		288.55	Purchase of Books and Notes for Library	758.93	
State Government Grant		250.00	Stationery	793.79	
Sales of books and notes		676.66	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry, and Research Notes Series</i>	1255.40	
Sundries, card sales		81.30	Total	3554.26	
Bank Interest		31.60	Bank balance 1 April 81	849.35	
		4403.61			4403.61

### Bank Reconciliation Statement

Credit Balance, Savings Bank of Tasmania	911.49	Launceston Branch balance	85.07
Less unpresented cheques	62.14	Burnie Branch balance	52.37
Credit balance as per cash book:	849.35	Bernard Denholm, B.Com., Treasurer.	

Audited by Eric M. Travers, Honorary Auditor.

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## THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

The Society aims to promote the study and practice of Genealogy and Family History at all levels. The Society meets regularly in three centres: at Rosny College, Hobart, Kings Meadows High School, Launceston and Uniting Church, Burnie. A calendar of meetings, excursions, seminars and other activities is published in each issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. Society news is frequently featured in the local press.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

Membership is open to all interested in Genealogy, whether resident in Tasmania or not. Dues are payable each year by April. Rates of subscription are as follows: Members \$12.00; Joint Members (Husband & Wife) \$15.00; Student & Pensioner Members \$8.00; Corporate Members \$15.00.

### SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

*Tasmanian Ancestry* (International Standard Serial Number 0159-0677) is the Official Journal of the Society, and is published quarterly each issue priced \$3.00 to non-members. News, articles of interest or scholarship, research notes and queries are welcomed. Non-members may insert queries for a fee of \$3.00 per insertion. Casual advertisement is at the rate of \$15.00 per  $\frac{1}{2}$  page. Rates for a year's insertion are \$40.00 for  $\frac{1}{2}$  page, \$60.00 for  $\frac{3}{4}$  page and \$100 for a full page (4 issues). Members' queries are published free. *Genealogical Society of Tasmania Research Note Series* (ISSN 0159-9445) appears irregularly and gives detailed attention to particular research problems. Published so far are 'Archives & Family History Societies in the United Kingdom'; 'Civil Registration'; and 'In Search of Irish Ancestry'. Further titles are planned and in progress.

### THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

The Library is at 3 Percy Street, Bellerive. Its use is free to Members. Non-Members may use it for a fee. Donations of family papers, photographs, charts, books and maps, as well as of cash are most welcome to develop the Library.

### RESEARCH

Brief queries from members and the public will be answered upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope. The Society's Registrar keeps a card file of Members' research interests which helps avoid duplication of research and aids relatives to get in contact. Non-members may insert or extract data from the file upon payment of a fee of \$3.00. Detailed research enquiries may be forwarded to a professional researcher for private arrangement with patrons.

### INDEXING

Persons who can assist in indexing newspapers, cemeteries, registers and books should contact the chairman of the appropriate committee.

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