

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 30 Number 1—June 2009

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Contents

From the editor	2
President's Message	3
Branch Reports	4
<i>13th AFFHO Congress Auckland January 2009</i> , Dianne Snowden	7
<i>The Road to Sandy Bay Leads to Hell on Sundays</i> , Sally Rackham	11
<i>Presentation Matters, The Annual School Concert</i> , Betty Jones	17
<i>Sarah Baker</i> , Rosemary Davidson	22
<i>A High Country Character</i> , Helen White	25
<i>Searching for my Lost Greenhalgh Family</i> , Beryl Dix	29
New Members' Interests and New Members	33
Supplement and Notice of Meeting	centre fold
Help Wanted	37
<i>Our Motorised Troupe 1912, Elsie Corrick 1894–1974</i> , Shirley Foster	38
<i>A Cautionary Tale, The Curious Case of Harriett Knibbs</i> , Don Bradmore	39
<i>Violet Tasma, A Tragic and Short Life</i> , Karen Laura Lee Wilson	41
<i>Mary Butler (c.1772–c.1812), Transported on the 'Lady Juliana'</i> , Pauline King	45
<i>A Textbook Defence, How a legal loophole nearly saved convict Charles Nibbs,</i> Don Bradmore	51
<i>St Johns Burial Ground New Town, Hobart Tasmania</i> , Rosemary Davidson	54
<i>Elizabeth Edwards aka Sophia Kirk, Early Launceston Needlework Teacher,</i> Diana Gourley	55
<i>Convict Stain, 'Not in Front of the Children'</i> , Wynnette Ford	57
<i>Genes on Screen</i> , Vee Maddock	60
<i>Do You Remember ...?</i> Kate Carlisle	62
Library Notes, Society Sales and Branch Library Acquisitions	64

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

From the editor

The first issue of another volume of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. I find it difficult to believe that it is thirteen years since I began my last session as editor. It is interesting to see that this issue has become very similar—it also has a strong female bias. There are only two articles submitted by a male, and they are both by the same person! So, I am putting out the challenge to all the male members of our society to start writing.

Although most of the articles are about women they cover a wide range of life styles—from the late 1700s to well into the 1900s.

Wynnette Ford's article, *Convict Stain, 'Not in Front of the Children'*, (page 57) brought back memories for me. I well remember holidays with my grandparents in Ulverstone where 'Children should be seen and not heard' was frequently reiterated.

I also found the story of George Reynolds, *A High Country Character*, (page 25) fascinating—and wonderfully enhanced by the portrait.

Thank you to all who have submitted such interesting and varied articles for this issue and for those who have assisted in other ways. Special thanks to Cynthia O'Neill and Leonie Mickleborough, Ross Buckley and Robert Tanner.

Thanks is also due to Launceston Branch for their production of the journal over the past four years.

I look forward to seeing all who are able to attend the 8th AGM at Bellerive in June.

Rosemary Davidson

Journal address

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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: Perkins and Nephew's store in Franklin. See article on page 11, *The Road to Sandy Bay Leads to Hell on Sundays*, submitted by Sally Rackham.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS I write this in April, the branches are well into preparations for their AGMs.

It is often the same people standing again for a position on the committee, usually because there is no one interested in taking on the job. But, have you ever given any thought to nominating for a position? I am sure that if you spoke to a committee person they would be most grateful for your interest. You most certainly would not be *thrown in the deep end*—you would be working alongside other team members and learn a great deal about your branch. It is important to all branches that their members are active within the branch. Please give it some thought and take the step forward at your next branch AGM.

With all the genealogical information that is now being made available to us via the internet, one that has created a lot of interest, at least in my branch, is the 1911 Census. Maybe because this census gives the opportunity to look at a generation that we can personally relate to such as grandparents etc.

Another item that is of help to family researchers is the jump drive/flash drive/memory stick. These are great for short term backups and for also transporting data from one computer to another. Although they are small in size, they can be very large in capacity, allowing you to transfer quite a lot of information.

This is a better alternative to floppy discs, they are easier to store, and small enough to pop in your pocket.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new editor for the Journal Rosemary Davidson and the editorial committee.

This is my last President's Message as I will stepping down from the State seat after five years in the chair. It has been a wonderful experience and I thank my team members for their support and guidance.

Reminders:

Write an article for the journal

Renew membership

Enter competitions:

Lilian Watson Family History Award

Short Story Competition

Remit AGM form early to win the President's Early Bird Prize.

Anita Swan

State President

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

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Well we are back in action for another interesting year in family research. Many thanks to all those members who have remembered to

renew their membership for this year. The year has started off on a good note, our first meeting concentrated on the new release of the 1911 UK census. As we now have a wireless connection it was a breeze to project the 1911 site onto a screen so all could see what was available from this site.

At the next meeting we were given a most interesting presentation by Ross Mackenzie on some of the London Cemeteries he has researched on his family members. The day meetings have also attracted the usual roll up of our members. The first day meeting for this year was held on the first Monday of March and the topic was 'Tasmanian Records Held by our Branch'; also our members were entertained by a playing of a UK National Archives podcast on 'Solving census problems'.

Last year we were lucky enough to receive a grant from the Australian Government for volunteers, which enabled us to purchase a data projector and an FM wireless microphone system. The data projector has now been purchased and proved invaluable at our first computer night in March when it was

used to display information in relation to a talk on 'Importing Digital Images into Genealogy Software'.

I would like to commend our members for their support to our branch activities, particularly our monthly meetings. The structure and format of our meetings are:

Day Meeting, held on the first Monday of each month except January and February. A very informal meeting where the topic is often related to hands-on information on the records we hold, and sometimes will include a guest speaker.

Monthly Night Meeting, held on third Tuesday of each month except December and January. Topics are wide and varied and mostly include a guest speaker.

Computer/technology Meeting, generally held last Thursday of the month from March to October. An interactive night, generally with a topic to start, then usually finishing with a very informative Q&A session.

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Our first meeting for the year was our traditional BBQ to which we invite our own members and members of the National Trust and our near neighbor, the Court House Museum.

A small group of ladies co-ordinate the setting up and the food and husbands

cook the meat, and all do a marvellous job. The tables were groaning under the weight of dishes of salads of all kinds, and later on a delectable lineup of sweets. The evening was fine except for a sudden heavy downpour towards the end. The speed with which the food disappeared into the library could have been a new land speed record.

The BBQ is our first fundraiser for the year and it was well attended. Also becoming a tradition is our 'Who do you think you are?' event. Last year the Latrobe Mayor, Mr Mike Gaffney, was our 'victim'. This year we invited Mr Phillip McKenzie, Principal of the Latrobe High School. Naturally Scots featured heavily in his ancestry, as did a soldier who served for many years in India.

We had no meeting in February but work is always going on behind the scenes and we now have another publication, *Cemeteries of the Port Sorell District North-West Coast, Tasmania*, in our bookshop. This cemetery transcription book features many of the small country cemeteries around Wesley Vale, New Ground, Northdown, and Moriarty—all too small to be individual publications but well-suited geographically to be compiled into one publication.

Our recent meeting in March was well enough patronized to encourage us to continue with daytime meetings. As a fundraiser we offered sandwiches and sweets. Our Library Co-ordinator, Glenice Brauman, and several of her Library Assistants, opened the library for the day and introduced those attending to a number of new CD-Rom accessions including the recently produced *Crime Report* for Tasmania that contains a vast amount of material on the victims and perpetrators of crime in Tasmania in the 1860s. A handout was prepared using

pages from the various CDs as examples of what to expect from these publications.

Having lulled our members into a false sense of security and well-being we now hope that enough new faces will present themselves at the AGM in April to fill all the vacant positions.

In February our Treasurer Mr John Dare had to relinquish his position for personal reasons. We are sorry to lose John and thank him for his many years of service to the Branch as a member of our Committee and as Treasurer for a number of years.

Hobart

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The branch is looking forward to hosting the 2009 State AGM, at about the same time as you receive this edition of the journal. We

believe the line-up of speakers and a great venue—Bellerive Yacht Club—will ensure a very good meeting. And we hope you will take the opportunity to visit our branch library on the Sunday—especially if you haven't visited before.

After a well deserved break, our volunteers are well and truly back to work, and we are looking forward to a great year. At the time of writing, nominations for our committee are open, and we have already received nominations from several people who, if elected, will be new to our committee. This augers well for the future!

At our February meeting, Tony Marshall, Manager (Access) Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, addressed us on the topic, 'Family History in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.' He explained the why and wherefores of the new arrangement at the State Library, and where Family History fits into it. As well, he took us through their new web site.

The March meeting saw one of our branch members, Dr David Woodward, speak on the topic, 'Criminals up the Family Tree—tales of my nine convict ancestors'. His tales of how they came to be convicted and sent to NSW or VDL were either sad, amusing, or very interesting, especially the case of the two ladies who set fire to a house especially so that they would be transported! It is great when our speakers come from amongst our own ranks.

General Meetings

Members are reminded that all general meetings are held at the Rosny Library building in Bligh Street on the third Tuesday in the month at 8:00 pm. Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

At the time of writing this report, planned addresses at our next three general meetings are:

- 21 April—Wendy Andrew: 'Footprints in Clarence Plains.'
- 19 May—Panel: 'Convict Lives: Women of Cascades Female Factory.'
- 16 June—Christine Woods: 'Imperial Lunatics of Port Arthur.'

Family History Computer Users Group

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

WISE Interest Group

The Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England group meets at the branch

library on first Sunday of February, May, August and November at 2:00 pm.

Family History Writers Group

This group has been meeting at the branch library on the third Thursday of each month between 12:30 and 2:30 pm. However, the meeting time is under review. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the Branch Secretary.

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

Huon Branch

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In May the Huon Branch celebrated its 25th Anniversary. In the twenty-five years the membership has only grown slightly but has continued to change as there are now only four of the first members remaining, two of whom are still active committee members. The first secretary was Betty Fletcher, now president, and first treasurer, Elaine Burton now Vice president. Betty Fletcher has served twenty-four years on the Branch Committee and Elaine Burton twenty-three years with both continuing in their current committee roles for 2009–10 along with the other 2008–09 committee members in their same roles.

Launceston Branch

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We are now well settled into the new premises at City Park Stables, 45 Tamar Street, Launceston. The prioritising of resources has been

necessary so items that are little-used or less relevant to 'family' history, are kept in storage, or have been disposed of. We had been used to plenty of space for members to spend the day and socialise, so to make researchers comfortable in the limited space available, and keep the noise to an acceptable level, this is one of the more difficult adjustments which has to be shared.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining toner and developer for the fiche printer, we are replacing the popular fiche with CD-Roms, and this programme is well under way.

In March a group enjoyed a tour to Deloraine where we met up with local historian and guide, Graeme Davis. Graeme generously gave of his time and expertise for the day and all were amazed at the area covered by the town of Deloraine and the number of historic homes (complete with fantastic gardens) and business buildings which are still occupied and lovingly cared for. The day concluded with a visit to the Deloraine Visitor Centre and one of the curators treated the group to a show of the 'then and now' photographs of various streetscapes and buildings, and then his huge collection of personally carved

wooden spoons! Thank you to Sandra Duck for arrangements and liaison with her father, Graeme.

We have been using other venues for meetings and are grateful to the City Library for the use of the Phil Leonard Room. The Annual General Meeting was held at the Riverside Presbyterian Church Hall and John Munday's presentation, 'Misty Memories', featuring digital photo restoration was appreciated by all. In May Helen Stuart led us through the processes of dating family photos. Thank you Helen!

Saturday 4 July: 7:00 pm. Committee Dinner, at Steve's Grill Riverside. Book at the library.

Wednesday 19 August: 2:00 pm: BIG meeting at Adult Education, York Street.

Saturday 25 August: to be advised. ◀

Tasmanian Ancestry Journal Competition

Send an article into the journal and be eligible to be for a prize in the best article competition.

The article should be limited to 2,500 words maximum, including endnotes and references.

Articles are welcomed in any format—handwritten, word processed, on CD or by email.

Articles to be forwarded by email to editors@tasfhs.org

or mail to

The Editor
TFHS Inc.
PO Box 191
Launceston TAS 7250

NEW RELEASES for Ancestry.com

Australian Records – Ancestry.com.au

Lists of Convicts with particulars 1788–1825; 1840–1842

Accessed from records held at the National Archives, Kew, this database is referenced in Australia as CO207/1-3. The information listed may include name of convict, trade or occupation, conviction date and place, sentence or term, vessel arrived on and a physical description of the convict.

NSW Certificates of Naturalisation 1849–1903

This database is made up from:

- Certificates of Naturalisation 1849–1903
- Lists of aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalisation were issued 1859–1876

Information given may include name, country or place of origin, age, ship of arrival and date, and place of residence.

British Records – Ancestry.com.uk

British Army WWI Pension Records 1914–1920

Records are for non-commissioned officers and other ranks discharged from the Army who claimed disability pensions for service in WWI.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914–1920

As nearly all soldiers who served abroad were awarded at least one medal, this collection of nearly 5 million names is the most complete listing of those men who fought in the British Army in WWI. There is a front and back to each of the cards which are arranged alphabetically. The information given may include name, regiment and number, corps, rank, name/s of medal/s received, theatre of war served in and date of entry, date of enlistment, date and reason for discharge etc.

Recently Updated Records

Australia and New Zealand Obituary Collection
England and Wales Birth Index 1916–2005
England and Wales Free BMD Birth Index 1837–1915
1861 Scottish Census
United Kingdom and Ireland Obituary Collection
United States Obituary Collection
1880 United States Federal Census
California Passenger & Crew List 1893–1957
Canada Obituary Collection.

**Both Ancestry.com.au and Ancestry.com.uk can be accessed at our
Burnie and Hobart Branch Libraries – see contact details inside back cover.**

13TH AFFHO CONGRESS

AUCKLAND JANUARY 2009

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

ONCE again I was fortunate to attend the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Congress, held every three years, this time in New Zealand from Friday 16 January to Tuesday 20 January 2009. The theme of the Congress was 'Preserving the Past for the Future'.

This was my sixth Congress. The first was in Launceston in 1991 and I missed Darwin in 2006. This congress, hosted by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG), was certainly one of the better ones: well-organised, full of variety, with very good speakers, workshops and displays. Well-known international speakers included John GRENHAM, Michael GANDY, Chris WATTS, Dick EASTMAN and Sherry IRVINE. The first session each day started at 8:30 am and it was usually 6:00 pm before we finished. The amount of newly-available information for family history research—and the ways of accessing it—is mind-boggling. For many of those who attended, the highlight was the Sunday morning session presented from London by Elaine COLLINS, Commercial Director of *findmypast.com*, about the 1911 Census, released only that week. It was done by satellite conference and was very impressive! The congresses have become more commercially oriented: venues were named after major sponsors and many of the sessions were presented by commercial organisations.

The venue was Kings College, in Otahuhu, Auckland, heritage-buildings

dating from 1896 in park-like grounds with mature trees.

Nearly 450 people attended with a large contingent from Australia, as well as the USA, England, Canada and Ireland. As the lone Tasmanian, you can imagine how I felt when my name tag had 'Richmond, Victoria'!

Papers from the congress have been published in hard copy (a huge book!) and on CD. Congress papers are too often a neglected source for family historians. To make it easier to find them, the NZ Society released Robyn WILLIAMS' 'Preserving Past Papers. A directory of papers from AFFHO Congresses, GRINZ Yearbooks and NZSG Conference'. I have deposited a copy in the TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch Library.

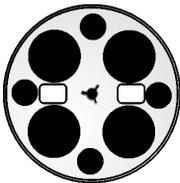
One of the best parts of the congresses is meeting people. One lunch time at the congress I was sitting by myself and a NZ lady invited me to join her. When I mentioned that I was from Tassie, she said that just before lunch someone asked her if she had seen 'the researcher from Tasmania' and 'wasn't that a strange thing that she should find me straight after'. Then another NZ lady on the other side of the table said that she had lots of Tasmanians in her family tree so, of course, I asked her about her family names. The first one she mentioned was RINGROSE (he married one of the Irish arsonists I studied for my doctorate) and the next name she mentioned was BRIGGS. I asked her whether he was William Peter Briggs who married

Bridget GALLAGHER—and he was! He carved the Speakers Chair in our House of Assembly but more importantly, from my point of view, Bridget arrived on the *Tasmania* (2) in 1845, a ship I am studying with an Irish friend, Joan KAVANAGH. My great-great-grandmother, Margaret BUTLER, arrived on the ship and William and Bridget witnessed her marriage in Hobart. For me, making these connections is the best part of any family history gathering.

The next AFFHO Congress—the 14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry—will be hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc. Titled ‘Your Ancestors in their Social Context,’ it will be held in Adelaide from 28–31 March 2012.

For more information, go to www.congress2012.org.au

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REMINDER

TFHS INC. 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Hosted by TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch at

Bellerive Yacht Club
64 Cambridge Road, Bellerive
20 June 2009

Registration and morning tea
from 9:45 am

SPEAKERS

Marcia Stacey

Director of Tourism Operations
Port Arthur Historic Site
Management Authority

Port Arthur: Today and the Future

Adrian Howard

Vice President
Friends of
Soldiers Memorial Avenue

Hobart Memorial Avenue

Brian Rieusset

Guest Speaker at the Dinner
Maria Island Convicts 1825–1832

Annual General Meeting
will commence at 1:30 pm
including presentations of

Lilian Watson Family History Award
TFHS Inc. Awards
Journal Article Competition
and
Family Chart Competitions

See back page of Supplement for Agenda

THE ROAD TO SANDY BAY LEADS TO HELL ON SUNDAYS

Sally Rackham (Member No.6258)

ANCESTORS can be thought of as characters in a silent movie. You may know what they looked like and where they lived, but their characters seem to elude you. Sometimes from unexpected sources, they come to life and the silent image is shattered by the words attributed to them.

When I first came to Tasmania I knew of a family connection to John PERKINS, a free settler who arrived on the *Wave* in 1838. I was never sure how our two families had kept in contact over the intervening years. One surprising day, the story emerged and John's character was at least partially revealed.

I need to start by going back a couple of generations. My great-grandmother was Martha Perkins, a niece of John. The Perkins family from Llanvirm y Fran, north of St Davids in Pembrokeshire, Wales, consisted of Henry and Mary who had four sons and two daughters, born between 1805 and 1814. My great great grandfather Peter, who was Martha's father, was the oldest and he took over the tenancy of this family farm in Pembrokeshire. The youngest son, William, also went into farming in the area. The two middle sons emigrated to Australia,

Thomas Perkins to Sydney and John Perkins to Tasmania.

Martha married Thomas GRIFFITHS a master mariner. Sailing and farming were common enough occupations in that part of the world. The magnificent countryside and the family connections drew my family back to the area for

holidays. Subsequently my aunt Eiluned LEWIS wrote a book, *The Captain's Wife*, a somewhat fictionalised account of the life of Martha, published in 1943. When the book was first published, it was responsible for my family re-connecting with their Tasmanian relations. This book has recently been re-published by Honno Press in Wales and publication this time round has stirred me to put pen to paper to record the story of John and the continuing

connections to my family.

John Perkins travelled to Tasmania with some friends (Henry BENNETT senior and junior) and on arrival they made their way to Launceston. The three friends established a drapery shop called Perkins, Bennett & Co. on the corner of Brisbane and St John Streets in Launceston and another in Campbell Town in September 1838. In March 1843, the firm was



John Perkins 1876

Reproduced with permission of the
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

dissolved when John Perkins withdrew from the partnership.¹

I have not yet been able to establish the connection, but it seems likely that there may have been a link between John Perkins and the WATCHORN family already living in Hobart. William Watchorn's wife was Susanna, née Perkins, who may have been a relative. Be that as it may, John must have visited Hobart where he met Emmely Watchorn and in April 1840 they were married at St Davids Church in Hobart.² After their marriage they lived in Launceston, appearing there in the 1842 and 1843 census. Portraits of them which were painted at this time now hang in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

After John had dissolved his partnership in Launceston they moved to Hobart

where he became a partner with his father-in-law in a drapery shop on the corner of Watchorn and Liverpool Streets—which then became Watchorn and Perkins. When William Watchorn died, John brought his nephew, also called John Perkins, out from Wales to Hobart to work with him. The shop, which now sold a wide variety of goods, became known as Perkins and Nephew. John retired from the business in 1871³ and in the early 1880s the business was sold by the younger John Perkins to Messrs WHITE and WALKER. At the turn of the century the business was said to be 'the oldest wholesale and retail grocery business in Tasmania'.⁴

John and Emmely had twelve children before Emmely died in 1863. In December 1865 John then married Elizabeth



Perkins and Nephew, corner Watchorn and Liverpool Streets.

Reproduced with permission of W L Crowther Library, State Library of Tasmania

¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 March 1843, p.306

² *Hobart Town Courier & Van Diemens Land Gazette*, 24 April 1840, p.2

³ Mary Roach's Visitors Book held by author

⁴ *Cyclopaedia of Tasmania*, Maitland & Krone, 1900, p.315

WILSON in Melbourne.⁵ John and Elizabeth had two more children. At various times he lived in Hampden Road; *Thornycroft*, Macquarie Street; and *Roseville*, Macquarie Street. In 1858 he was listed as owning (and living at) 248 Liverpool Street. He was also listed as the occupier of a house and garden at O'Briens Bridge, owner Ann BOWDEN.⁶ It may be that this property was tied up with the necessity of living in Kingborough if he was to stand for election in that area.

John's business seems to have flourished and in 1861 he stood for election to the House of Assembly for the seat of Kingborough. Tasmania had only had self-government for five years by that time and elections were very different from those of today. He was one of three candidates. At the poll, John Perkins received 103 votes, KNIGHT 92 and ABBOTT 1, with 10 invalid votes.⁷ At the time, one of the chief issues was the Protection of Trade. There is no indication of John's position on this issue but it was unpalatable to the House of Assembly, where many of the members were merchants with businesses built around the import trade. Parliament was dissolved and in December 1862 a new election was held at which John was the only candidate in his electorate. Perhaps this implied that his views on the main issues of the day were supported by the electors. He resigned from his seat four years later, in October 1866. He died in Hobart in August 1877. His obituary in the *Mercury* reported that

he will be remembered as the author of the project to increase the revenue by trade licenses, a system of which two of the members of the now retiring Ministry, Mr MEREDITH and Dr CROWTHER have ever since been enamoured.⁸

Politics must often have been part of the conversation in the Perkins household as John's eldest daughter, Emmely Jean, married William Robert GIBLIN a young lawyer who was admitted to the Bar in 1864. By 1869 he was a Member of Parliament, becoming Premier and later a judge in the Supreme Court.⁹ One of their sons, Lyndhurst Falkiner Giblin, had a distinguished career as a political economist.¹⁰

John's oldest son, William, became a lawyer and in 1867 he moved to New Zealand and became the Borough Solicitor in Greymouth on the west coast of the South Island. He married Jane Eliza WINTER in 1870 and they had eight children in New Zealand before returning to Hobart in 1884, where several more children were born. As well as setting up the law practice, Perkins & DEAR in Hobart, he was involved in several public capacities being chairman of the Rural Queenborough Board of Health; a Fisheries Commissioner; on the Central Board of Health and a churchwarden of the Anglican Synod. He built a large house—*Mawhera*, on the corner of Mawhera Avenue and Sandy Bay Road.¹¹ William was also encouraged into politics and in 1899 he was elected as an Independent for the seat of Pembroke in the Legislative Council. He

⁵ Victorian BMD records held at State Library of Tasmania. Registration No.4267

⁶ Valuation Rolls for the City of Hobart, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1858

⁷ *The Mercury*, 31 May 1861

⁸ *The Mercury*, 6 August 1877

⁹ History of Mt Stuart: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A040273b.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080661b.htm>

¹¹ Malcolm Ward, *Built by Seabrook*; p.74–75

was not to hold the seat for long as he died in Melbourne after complications from goitre in 1903. Although neither father nor son remained in politics for long, I believe they may have been the first Tasmanian family to have had two generations elected to Parliament.

In the time that John had lived in Hobart, he must have maintained a correspondence with his Welsh family. He visited Wales in 1876, and stayed for a while with a niece, Mary ROACH, née Perkins, in Liverpool and recorded in her visitor's book that he had come to see his brothers and sister,

and stand beside the grave of my dear father and mother. How precious are their memories to one who has been absent for 38 years.¹²

Perhaps he was also given the five pounds left to him some twenty years earlier in his father's will which had specified that this money was left to him 'should he return to this country'.¹³

The next known contact between the Welsh and Tasmanian families occurred when my great uncle, Osborne GRIF-FITHS, who was in the merchant navy, visited Hobart in the early 1900s.¹⁴ This appears to have been the end of it for the next forty years. However, the Tasmanian Perkins family still remembered their Pembrokeshire links. In 1944, when William Perkins' second daughter, Jane McELROY, was nearing the end of her life, a member of the family went to the Library in Hobart and selected a relatively new novel from the shelves. It was called *A Captain's Wife*. Jane was very taken by the book but did not know that the author was a member of the

family. Jane wrote to the author, Eiluned, via the publisher, saying that she had recognised St Davids as the setting for the book, and telling the author about her grandfather having come from Pembrokeshire to live in Tasmania. Jane, who then lived at 4 Stoke Street, New Town, had always been keenly interested in Tasmanian history, and presumably her family history too.¹⁵

I can imagine the delight that my aunt and my grandmother would have had when the letter reached them. Given the vagaries of the shipping during the war, it seems to me remarkable that the book made it to the Library in Hobart within a year of publication, and that the exchange of letters took place at all. My grandmother replied to Jane, only to hear six months later that her reply had arrived too late as Jane had died shortly after sending her original letter. Nevertheless, the correspondence continued with Jane's sister Edith, and from her information, my grandmother was able to add John's family details to our family tree. The original letter from Jane then sat among my aunt's papers for the next sixty years.

Fast forward the ancestral film another thirty years and my husband and I decide to come to Tasmania to work. When hearing the news my father went to the family tree and said we had relations who moved to Tasmania. When you are in your twenties as I was, this meant very little, but my father visited us in 1972 and took upon himself the task of tracking down the Perkins family in Hobart. He found Elizabeth Perkins helping at *Narryna* in Battery Point, and through her, he was introduced to Pat McRAE, her first cousin. Elizabeth and Pat were both grandchildren of William, and

¹² Mary Roach's Visitors Book

¹³ Henry Perkins's will, copy held by author

¹⁴ Edith Perkins correspondence to Eveline Lewis

¹⁵ Pretyman papers, State Library of Tasmania

therefore great-grandchildren of John. Over the years, I kept in touch with Pat and later with Tom VINCENT, another of William's descendents. It has given me a real feeling of connection to our adopted home to know that we had these links to John Perkins. I knew of his portrait in the museum, but otherwise he was just another of the characters in my silent movie and a large piece of the film that linked me to him was missing.

In 2005 I unexpectedly found that link. I was looking through my aunt Eiluned's papers when I came across Jane McELROY's letter that had re-established correspondence between the families. As further letters between Edith, then living at *Mawhera*, and my grandmother Eveline came to light they gave additional clues.¹⁶ These letters also shed light on John's older brother Thomas Perkins in Sydney.

I knew that Thomas had moved from England in 1833 and on a later trip back to England he wrote:

Left London for Sydney, New South Wales in December 1833. Returned from thence in 1835. Took a second voyage with his wife and son in 1840. In 1848 visited England and Wales, returning after seventy-seven days in his native country to that of his adoption. In 1862 in company with his wife and daughter made another visit to his native country, leaving his son, a squatter in Queensland, 1000 miles north of Sydney, and is writing this at the home of my dear niece Mrs Mary Roach at Liverpool, August 5 1862.¹⁷

Thomas also ran a draper's shop, situated in George Street, Sydney. He sold this

property for a good price and in 1852 he purchased five acres of land at Ballast Point, Balmain where he subsequently built a large house called *Minevia*. Thomas Perkins apparently had dynastic ambitions. He named his son Henry Australia Perkins (much to his relation's amusement), and he wanted the Ballast Point property to be passed on the eldest son of the eldest son. In due course his grandson Henry inherited the property but by then he lived in England, and it was sold in 1922.¹⁸ Henry Australia married Clara LARMER in 1873 and they lived in Sydney, although in the 1891 England census he was recorded as living in Greenwich, London. Thomas's daughter, Mary Clarissa Perkins, married Barton IRELAND and they moved to Auckland, New Zealand. Thomas Perkins died in 1882 in Sydney.

It was Jane McElroy's letter which gave a voice to John Perkins. In the letter she reported a conversation between John and Henry Perkins, his nephew and son of Thomas in Sydney.

"I did not see you at church this morning Henry, where were you?"

"I went for a walk down the Sandy Bay Road, Uncle John."

"The Sandy Bay Road leads to Hell on Sunday mornings, Henry."¹⁹

Suddenly, thirty years after we had arrived in Hobart, I could hear John's voice on my ancestral film. In common with his Pembrokeshire antecedents, he was apparently a strict Congregationalist. He

¹⁶ Lewis Family papers, Powys Archives Office, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, mid-Wales.

¹⁷ Mary Roach's Visitors Book

¹⁸ http://www.shfa.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/Appendix%20C_Site%20History1.pdf. For many years the property was owned by Caltex and used as an oil storage facility but the NSW Government has recently purchased the land with the aim of making the area into a public park.

¹⁹ Family correspondence held by the author

had superintended the Berea Sunday School in Hobart for many years. He was said not to be a 'money maker' though he seems to have done quite well for himself and his will shows he was moderately wealthy. In addition to the 'store and land situate at Franklin River, Huon and known as the Franklin Exchange'²⁰ he had his share in the firm of Perkins & Nephew which was then run by John Perkins the younger. He left many descendants who are scattered around the globe and his portrait in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery is a reminder of the youthful man who made his way across the world to find a better life. What a pity it has been so hard to find other records of his life, and how different his experience had been from that of his brothers who had stayed to farm in Pembrokeshire. ◀

JOHN PERKINS' EXTENDED FAMILY

Henry Perkins 1778–1852 St Davids m.14 March 1805, **Mary Perkins** 1785–1853

Peter Perkins, 1805–1891 Pembrokeshire, Wales m.17 Dec 1833 **Margaret Griffiths** 1815–1882

Sarah Perkins 1834–1835

Mary Perkins 1835–1899, m. Capt **Samuel Roach**, no children

Sarah Perkins 1837–1898 d. in Granchester, Queensland, Australia m. **James Howell**, three children b. in Queensland.

James Perkins 1838–1905 m. Ann

John Perkins. 1840–1842

Eliza Perkins b.1842

Martha Perkins 1843–1925 m. **Capt**

Thomas Griffiths. Seven children. (My great grand-parents)

Henry Perkins b.1844

Thomas Perkins 1847–1925 d. in Homestead, Pennsylvania, USA

John Perkins 1859–1914

Ann Perkins b.

Thomas Perkins 1807–1882 d. Ballast Point, NSW m.1835 **Clarissa Clarke** d.1886

Mary Clarissa Perkins 1841–1910 in New Zealand

Henry Australia Perkins. 1842, d. Sydney?

John Perkins 1812–1877 in Tasmania m.23 Apr 1840 **Emmely Frances Watchorn** 1820–1863 John emigrated to Tasmania in 1838 on the *Wave*.

Emmely Jean Perkins 1841–1926 m.

William Robert Giblin

William Watchorn Perkins 1843–1903 m.

Jane Elizabeth Winter

Mary Sussanah Perkins 1845 m. Henry

Freeman Andrews

Helena Meyler Perkins 1846–1896 m. John

McBeth

Henry Alleine Perkins 1848–1928 m. Mary **Elizabeth Green**

Elizabeth Walker Perkins 1850–1853

Herbert Howard Perkins 1851–1928 m.

Emily Colbourn

Frank Perkins 1853–1853

John Milford Perkins 1855–1894 m. Ellen

Teresa Ryan

Ernest Waddell Perkins 1856 m. Mary ?

Thomas Hedley Perkins 1858–1940 m.

Emily Dawson

Walter Dillwyn Perkins 1859–1882 m. Clair **Willis**

John remarried 1865 **Elizabeth Wilson**

Mabel Perkins 1867 m. **William Walch**

Raymond Perkins 1869 m. Louise **Allison**

William Perkins 1814–1887 m. **Anne Bowen** 1819–1884

Allet Perkins 1835–1840

Mary Perkins 1836

Henry Perkins 1838–1908

John Perkins 1840–1906 emigrated to Australia c.1860 where he m. **Matilda Lee** in 1864. Returned to UK by 1881. Was partner to John Perkins in drapery shop as Perkins & Nephew.

Eliza Perkins 1843

Hannah Perkins 1843

Emily Perkins 1846

Anne Perkins 1847

Martha Perkins 1850

Elizabeth Perkins 1809–1885 m. c.1835 **John Prosser** 1807–1876

Henry Prosser. 1837–1925

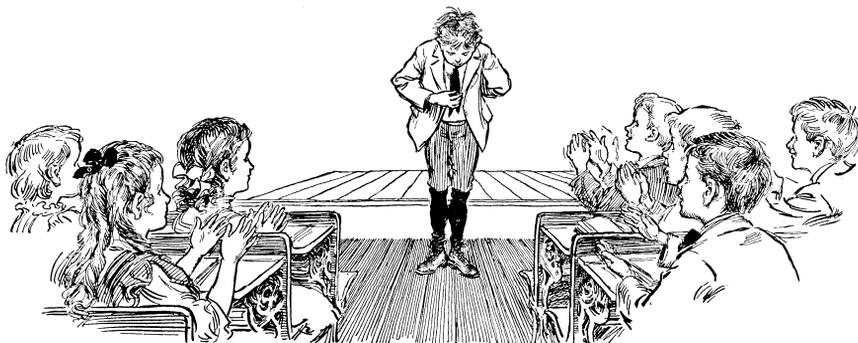
Anne Perkins b.1 Dec 1810, d.20 Jun 1811

²⁰ TAHO AOT AD960/11 p.326, John Perkins Will

PRESENTATION MATTERS

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL CONCERT

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



MANY schools currently provide an annual presentation event which includes items given by pupils for members of their community, but a little research shows that such gatherings are part of our State Schools' history and actually date back well over a century in Tasmania.

- A report in December 1873 noted that a celebration at Stanley Public School included readings and singing with an after piece, a charade drama in four scenes, by five of the scholars in character. The event finished with The National Anthem.¹
- At Glengarry Public School in December 1880 an entertainment was held and much appreciated by the parents and friends in attendance. The teachers, Mr Roderick and Mrs Hannah McLEOD, who were reported to have great musical taste, trained the youths under their charge to a high level of proficiency in time and tune. Mr

McLeod accompanied the children's performance of ballads and songs on the organ.²

Considerable newspaper space was given to the coverage of school concerts throughout the state, an indication of the importance of their place on the community social calendar. Advertisements were often inserted a few days to a week prior to the event and sometimes the same report of the presentation was repeated in the different regional papers to ensure a wide reader audience.

The underlying motive for the provision of school entertainments was not always the same. From the earliest years in Tasmania's education history, schools operated in a competitive environment, private school teachers and state school teachers each vying for their means of livelihood: the local pupil. In the early years, in some districts, this included the competing schools giving public end-of-year performances as a means of

¹ *The Examiner*, 25 December 1873

² *The Examiner*, 29 December 1880

displaying what they had achieved and could offer. It is evident from some newspaper reports that a number of Head Teachers relished the concert opportunity and used it in an almost entrepreneurial way to highlight the success of their school's operations: attendance improvements, new projects undertaken, building improvements, student achievement, etc. The State High School reports were given generous coverage from 1913 onwards and often extended over multiple columns. The names of local dignitaries who attended such functions were included sometimes, the mention of their association with the school presumably adding to its status within that community.

Prior to 1881, however, when local communities were required to raise one-third of the cost of providing a state school building, concerts frequently were held as fundraisers for such purposes. An example of this was when the Abbotsham community held a spelling bee and concert at the school there in March 1880 to help with funds for the erection of a teachers' residence.³

Interestingly, the tradition of concerts becoming an anticipated annual event seems to have grown from when the presentations were used for raising funds to provide the book prizes to be awarded at year's end. Newspaper reports on those events commenced in the 1890s. Hence began a predictable timetable of end-of-year events in many state schools: first the concert, then the presentation of prizes, often accompanied by, or followed with, a picnic and/or sports session which included the whole family and friends.

- In May 1891 it was reported that the pupils at Burnie State School gave an

excellent concert in the Town Hall before an audience of 600 people. Impressed locals wondered how the Head Teacher, Mr Edward BURTON, could have the patience and perseverance to get the children drilled to such a standard of perfection.⁴

- The children at Hamilton State School performed *Cinderella* at the local Town Hall in November 1892 to raise money for prizes.⁵
- Another successful concert in aid of prize giving was held at Scottsdale State School in May 1894. During the interval of ten minutes, the time was taken up with a spelling bee, conducted by Rev. BREGUET, by boys and girls of the school. There was proof that pupils had enjoyed the preparations for the concert when Mr William DOWNIE, the Head Teacher, indicated that attendance during the previous week was 120 per day compared to the previous month's average of 45.⁶
- *The Mount Lyell Standard and Strahan Gazette* reported on the 9 June 1897 that Cairns' Hall in Queenstown had never held a happier company than it did on the previous Wednesday evening when the school children, in the presence of their family and friends, were entertained by their Head Teacher, Mr David M DAVIS, and Dr ABBOTT. From 6:30 pm '100 ruddy-faced and well-dressed children' were regaled with cakes and sweets and other juvenile delights before being entertained by a collection of pictures shown by aid of the magic lantern operated by Mr C ANDERSON with commentary by Mrs Anderson about the various

³ *The Tasmanian Mail*, 6 March 1880

⁴ *The Tasmanian Mail*, 23 May 1891

⁵ *The Tasmanian Mail*, 25 November 1892

⁶ *The Tasmanian Mail*, 5 May 1894

local views. Dr Abbott then performed some well-received amusing conjuring tricks. It was next the turn of the children to present a number of musical, marching, instrumental and recitation items overseen by Mr Davis. The consumption of more sweets and fruit followed and the thoroughly enjoyed evening ended with a few games.

A study of the content of concert programs offers good instruction in the social tastes of the times, but sometimes indicates, through a number of the choices, a lack of what now we would call 'political correctness'. It was popular, for example, to include songs and acts with racial connotations which would be considered totally unacceptable today. Examples of drill demonstrations, no longer common, give us a glimpse of what was practised in schools and enjoyed by local communities in years gone by. It is also interesting to note that the occasion was sometimes followed by a local community dance.

- In December 1905 the Golconda State School concert at night included the floral march, wand drill and sash drill by the scholars, all of which proved a spectacular treat for the audience.⁷
- The 1913 concert at West Zeehan State School was rendered with satisfaction to all concerned and included a diversified program of part songs, action songs, nursery rhymes in character, character songs and hoop and club drill, all under the direction of Head Teacher, Mr George LIMB, and his assistants.⁸
- The 1920 school function in the Rocky Cape Hall commenced with musical, literary and humorous items rendered

by the children and concluded with *God Save the King*. After supper was handed round by the ladies, dancing was indulged in till the early hours of the morning.⁹

- In December 1931 a successful concert was held in the Bishopsbourne Public Hall. A varied program of choruses, action songs, ribbon dancing and dialogues was given by the children. Music for dancing was then supplied by Mesdames H G SHIPP, N SPENCER and Mr G PATERSON. The Chocolate Wheel was won by Miss Nora FOSTER.¹⁰

Newspaper reports frequently included great detail about the programs and gave the names of community performers and helpers.

- In December 1907 a very pleasant evening was spent in the Calder Hall on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to the local children at Calder Road State School. Mr TYRRELL occupied the chair. The piano used was kindly lent by Mrs COLLETT. Much praise was due to Messrs Tyrrell, BRAMICH, BAULD and PHIPPS for the able manner in which they assisted. Following is the program: *Overture*, Mr R Bauld; vocal duet, *Sea of Glass*, pupils; recitation, *Grandma*, Miss Ida SHARMAN; chorus, *Soldier's Life*, pupils; recitation, *After Blenheim*, Master SEWELL; duet, *Ellie Rhee*, Misses Collett and JOYCE; song, *The Lost Chord*, Miss KEARNEY; dance of 20th century, Misses Sharman, Vera and May Bramich; song, *Genevieve*, Mr BOCK; item, *Seven Little Calder Maidens*, pupils; dialogue, pupils; pianoforte solo, *Daisies*, Miss K Joyce;

⁷ *The Examiner*, 14 December 1905

⁸ *The Examiner*, 15 December 1913

⁹ *The Examiner*, 24 December 1920

¹⁰ *The Mercury*, 18 December 1931

song, *A Silver Cloud*, Mr F PORTER; *Action Song*, pupils; song, *Absent*, Miss K Joyce; recitation, *Pat and Me*, Master Edward Phipps; chorus, *Stay in Your Own Back Yard*, pupils; song, *Mother's Sweet Old Story*, Master Sewell; *Christmas chorus*, pupils; song, *Maggie*, Miss Kearney; vocal duet, *Flowers*, pupils.¹¹

During the war years a distinctly patriotic theme was included in many school concerts and it was reported regularly in 1914 that the proceeds were to be donated to the Belgian Relief Fund.

- At the 1914 Breadalbane State School performance the club and wand drills were very creditable, while the songs, *Tipperary* and *Red, White and Blue*, sung by the scholars, 'fairly brought down the house'.¹²
- In December 1941 the money raised at the annual school break-up at Beaconsfield State School was donated to the HMAS *Sydney* appeal instead of being used for prizes. As a substitute, children received certificates in recognition of their special efforts. It was noted that, at the concert, the children gave a splendid display of physical culture, including squad drill, fancy marching, games and pyramids. A special attraction was the springboard display.¹³

Cantatas often were part of the program, a number of the same productions being repeated by various schools throughout the state. A popular one was *Soot and the Fairies*, the South Nietta State School, for example, including such performance in its 1922 program.¹⁴ Apparently this was

an amusing musical item which included characters such as Lady Soapsud, who would be dressed in a white silk dress with cotton wool sewn all over it. Before the young actress appeared on stage, the cotton wool would be sprinkled liberally with Epsom Salts to give a sparkly effect of soapsuds.

- When *Soot and the Fairies* was performed by the Upper Flowerdale State School in 1908, the characters and their actors were listed as: Queen (Lydia WATTS), Captain Soot (Gordon Watts), Lord Bootlace (Byron Watts), Baron Handbrush (Harry REEVE), Dr Sunlight (Nellie SMITH), Doctor's Secretary (Joseph BROOMHALL), Lady Soapsuds (N ROBINSON), Wag (George Broomhall), Queen's Secretary (F SMITH), Black Brigade (W Smith, William Watts, J Broomhall and Phyllis BRAMICH).¹⁵
- At the end of 1900 the children at Cam Road West State School performed the cantata, *Red Riding Hood's Rescue* at a combined concert with Somerset State School held at the Drill Hall in Somerset¹⁶;
- Guildford Junction State School concert in 1908 included the cantata, *White Garland*.¹⁷
- In December 1915 the concert at Stowport State School included 'the good old yarn' of *Cinderella* which was reported to be well acted, while the correctly designed costumes were much admired. At the conclusion of the evening, every child received a

¹¹ *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 10 December 1907

¹² *The Examiner*, 21 December 1914

¹³ *The Examiner*, 19 December 1941

¹⁴ *The Advocate*, 3 January 1923

¹⁵ *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 27 June 1908

¹⁶ *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times* 10 December 1900

¹⁷ *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 22 December 1908

Christmas gift and a bag of lollies from the teachers.¹⁸

- Trowutta State School held its annual concert at the Trowutta Hall in December 1922 and the cantata performed was *Roses of Joy* featuring the characters of Queen, Jester, Magician and Dragon.¹⁹

Spare a thought for some of the poor teachers! Imagine the pressure that must have been felt by those who did not consider the possession of musical, artistic or dramatic ability a dimension of their own talents and yet were expected to stage a presentation. That it became an expectation cannot be doubted, particularly as the 1900s unfolded. It was thought to be part of every teacher's duty to attempt to involve the community in the activities of the school, and the Inspectors' Reports frequently included disparaging comment if the school had not provided a community entertainment during the previous twelve months. It must have caused many sleepless nights for some teachers! Parents would have been asked to dress their children in costume for performances, but much of the onus would have fallen on the teacher to provide for those who did not. One might visualise pre-concert late nights in the teachers' residences throughout the state, the occupants of each busily engaged in costume making, surrounded by such delights as fairy wings of wire and gauze, lengths of tinsel, silver foil tiaras and magicians' wands, cut-out cardboard angels' wings, and sprinkles of glitter lightly coating every available surface.

A single reprieve was given to teachers in December 1937 when no public break-up

sessions were allowed in schools as a consequence of health restrictions following an outbreak of infantile paralysis. Schools did not open until March (instead of February) in 1938 for the same reason.

It is interesting to note that many of the recorded memories of past scholars which appear in local school history publications contain reference to their happy or humorous reflections on the school concerts, and a number of readers are sure to remember with fondness or otherwise their own part in school presentations. For today's Tasmanian family historians, records of those events can be useful as a source of names of family members who attended the various schools over the years while, from a modern perspective, these important functions continue to make a valuable contribution to our State schools' ever-unfolding history. ◀

Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc. 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.

Those interested may find out more about the group and receive an application form by writing to:

The Secretary
Descendants of Convicts Group
PO Box 12224
A'Beckett Street
VIC 8006 Australia
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>

¹⁸ *The Advocate*, 18 December 1915

¹⁹ *The Advocate*, 14 January 1923

SARAH BAKER

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.860)

DURING the past year I have been working on an index of deaths and burials from records relating to the former Burial Ground at St Johns Church, New Town. Only one monument remains in the grounds, that of Captain Matthew Forster, the Comptroller General, who died in 1846. We knew that some tombstones had been removed and placed in a corner of Cornelian Bay Cemetery until moved to a new site in the former Paupers section. During the course of my research I discovered other headstones and vaults had been moved in 1963 to the Church of England Section F at Cornelian Bay.

I was unprepared for the number of burials I discovered. They have developed into my 'extended family' and as a result I have become intrigued by many, especially Sarah BAKER. Dying at the age of 104 she was the oldest person to be buried in the cemetery. A contemporary newspaper included the photograph of Mary and stated that 'this probably is a record span of life even in Tasmania, where longevity is proverbial.'¹

¹ TAHO *Tasmanian Mail*, 13 May 1899, p.20. Photograph reproduced with permission of Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office

Entry No.1724 in the burial register records that Sarah Baker of Flint House was buried on 1 May 1899 by the Rev. F T WHITINGTON.² Her death notice states she died on 28 April, widow of the late J W Baker, MRCS., England.³ Who was Sarah Baker—where did she come from?

Mr J W and Mrs Baker sailed as cabin passengers from London on 28 December 1834 aboard the *Vibilia* which arrived in Hobart Town on 22 April 1835.⁴ In 1823, John had received a letter from Downing Street in London to say he was to receive a land grant as a settler to Van Diemen's Land. Was the journey delayed and if so why? The land grant was 'disallowed on account of the delay in application' in June 1837.⁵ However, J W Baker



THE LATE MRS. SARAH BAKER.

apparently had sufficient funds to build *Kilburn Grange* at Boyer during the 1830s. A steep-gabled house of two storeys with single storey wings, it is regarded as perhaps the first example of domestic Gothic architecture in Australia.⁶

² AOT NS656/32, Burial Register for the Parish of St John New Town

³ *The Mercury*, 29 April 1899

⁴ *The Colonial Times*, 28 April 1835

⁵ AOT Panel D Vol.26 page 1008

⁶ *The Heritage of Tasmania, The Illustrated Register of the National Estate*

John Wright Baker, Esquire, was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1836 and was still a resident in New Norfolk at the end of 1838. Four years later a notice in the *Colonial Times* announced the forthcoming auction of a genteel cottage residence at the corner of Harrington and Davey Streets.

at present in the occupation of the proprietor, Dr. Baker, who is removing to another part of the town, more convenient for his professional avocations.⁷

In March 1842 the *Hobart Town Courier* announced the Grange, of 400 acres on the River Derwent, was to be raffled. Perhaps he needed the money as a couple of weeks later Dr John W Baker of Hobart Town is listed as the owner of the brig *Caroline*, 157 tons, 75'9" x 21'8". Was he after adventure or profit as were many other local indentities? Whatever his reasons for this change of occupation it was a short-lived affair. Six months later, on 5 November 1842, the *Caroline* left Hobart Town with Baker as master, for a voyage to Macao, with a cargo of sandalwood. It was noted that Capt. Baker refused to take the mail destined for Macao.

Soon after, disaster struck, although the news did not appear in the local newspaper for almost six months, at the end of March, and it was not until May that a death notice appeared.

On the 14th November last, at sea, after leaving the port of Hobart Town eight days, Mr. John W. Baker, surgeon, late of Alresford, in the county of Hants. His death was occasioned by the accidental discharge of his fowling piece. He lingered four days after the accident.⁸

A plaque was erected in memory of Johannis Wright Baker in St Matthews Church at New Norfolk. The reference to Alresford in Hampshire, England, has not revealed any further information. No will has been found for Dr Baker, or a marriage registration or children. Sarah survived her husband by over fifty years and although women of that era are notoriously difficult to research, she did leave a will which includes some clues as to her life and origins.⁹

Sarah left all her real estate, the whole of her library, pictures and furniture, to her nephew Colonel Thomas May EVANS. The residue of her personal estate was to be divided equally between her two nieces, Elizabeth Sarah SCOTT, widow of the late Honorable James Reid Scott, and Eleanor Marie BURGESS, wife of James Ogle Burgess. Thomas, Elizabeth and Eleanor were all born in Hobart, the only children of Michael Evans and his wife Dinah who arrived from England in 1837.

With help from the wills of Michael and Thomas Evans, and the discovery of family papers belonging to the Evans family in the Archives Office of Tasmania, I have been able to find the connection.

Evans and Son were watchmakers with premises in Sweetings Alley, Cornhill, City of London. Thomas Evans and his wife Sarah had nine children born between 1789 and 1812, with the first five being christened at St Bartholomew, Exchange, London and the last four at Saint Mary, Stoke Newington, London. Sarah Evans was born on 10 April 1795 and christened at St Bartholomew on 17 May 1795. Michael Evans was born on

⁷ *The Colonial Times*, 17 November 1840 p.2

⁸ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 May 1843

⁹ AOT AD960/1/22 p.404 No.5434

29 November 1806 and christened at Saint Mary on 29 April 1807.

Thomas' will was proven 9 October 1812 with only two sons actually named, James and Bloss, the others mentioned only as 'my children'. Sarah would have been seventeen and Michael six. In a will written by James Evans, father of Thomas, in 1810, he appointed Thomas as his trustee and mentions his sons-in-law, Michael LARKIN and William BYLES. A notation stated 'Sworn under twenty five thousand pounds'. As yet I have only found a note referring to the 'late' James Evans in April 1820, so his death date is unknown.

No marriage has been found for Sarah but John Wright Baker's name does appear among the Evans family papers in the Archives, particularly in a 'statement of the settlement of our affair relating to the deed of Gift with M Larkin' dated December 1829. Michael Larkin was a brother-in-law of Thomas and therefore uncle to Sarah. The statement includes the following extract.

also his Interest in a Bond for £400 & Int. thereon, from J. W. Baker & Wife payable at the death of Mrs A. Evans ... also his Interest in a debt due from J. W. Baker to him for which debt & Int. J. W. Baker has given a promissory note payable in 3 years.

A second paper concerning Trustees Stock in 3% consols dated 4 March 1834 and 27 November 1834, also refers to J W Baker. Sarah and John would have left London soon after. Was Sarah happy to leave her family and travel to the other side of the world with her husband of at least five years? It is clear her family was wealthy, with a house at Denmark Hill, south of the river at Camberwell, and business interests in warehouses in the

London docks area, as well as their watchmaking business.

John Wright Baker was born on 14 December 1798 and christened at St Lawrence Jewry and St Mary Magdalene, Milk Street, London, to William Baker and his wife Hannah WRIGHT. He was one of eight children born between 1794 and 1809. It appears his father, William, a Woollen Draper of the parish of St Lawrence Jewry, City of London, died in 1810 when John was only twelve years of age.¹⁰ How was he able to become a surgeon? Did his mother remarry?

Sarah's brother, Michael, married Dinah MAY at St Dunstons, Stepney, on 31 December 1836 and arrived in Tasmania the following year.¹¹ He became the manager of an insurance company and at the time of his death in 1892 was living at *Flint House*. I can only assume that Sarah lived with her brother and his family after the death of her husband. There is no mention of her in Michael's will when he died in 1892, but Thomas May Evans' will includes the following.

I direct my body to be buried in the Grave in St. John's Church yard New Town in which my father mother and my aunt Sarah Baker are buried and I further direct my executor to expend the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds in erecting a rough block of Granite upon the said Grave on which the names of those interred shall be inscribed.¹²

This imposing tombstone is one of those now to be found at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, while the search for more information continues. ◀

¹⁰ Information from *FamilySearch, IGI*

¹¹ *The Mercury*, 27 July 1892

¹² AOT AD960/1/48 p.138 No.14536

A HIGH COUNTRY CHARACTER

Helen White (Member No.5565)



GEORGE JAS GUILFORD REYNOLDS¹ was born on 5 March 1898 to Laurence Reynolds and Eva Jane BERRY. He was the third son and as with his brothers, Charles Laurence William and Arthur Alfred James, his birth was registered at Hamilton.²

When my father purchased the lease for *Macclesfield*³ from Duke WEEDING in 1960, George 'came with the place'. He lived in a rough hewn timber hut at the

top of a tributary of Hole in the Wall Creek on the 3 Mile Marsh Run. The roof was originally timber shingles but it was patched with sheets of old corrugated iron and lino. The outside of the walls also had scraps of lino to block up some holes.

At that time rabbits were in plague proportions and there were rabbit trappers everywhere in the Highlands. George's two brothers lived in a hut on *Cluan*, and 'Frid'y' MEDHURST lived up at *The Tops*. The rabbit cart driven by Lenny WATLING came twice a week and George had 'hides' set up along its route. One was just inside the gate between the *Cattle Hills* and Lake Echo Airstrip. This was where Mum first saw George, as he rose up out of the scrub, she said 'like a Bedouin out of the Desert'. There was another hide on the Home Run and a third on the Brown Marsh. A hide consisted of a long pole set into the forks of two trees and a long piece of hession draped down over it. The rabbits were hung from the pole and the hession was to keep off the flies. George must have sold the rabbits whole as I am not aware of him pegging out the skins to dry as Rex SULLIVAN⁴

¹ Portrait of George taken by a *Weekly Times* photographer in the late 1970s when he was still resident at *Macclesfield*
² AOT RGD 1898/980

³ *Macclesfield* on the northern end of Lake Echo was established as a Soldier Settlement Block at the end of WWII

⁴ Rex SULLIVAN lived in the main house on *Macclesfield*, I'm not sure of when he arrived but it must have been about 1965 or 1966. Dad invited him to live there as caretaker. He came down and stayed in the cottage at Melton Mowbray, once a year for a holiday. (We moved to *Tranquillity* in 1965.) Rex was down during the 1967 bushfires and saved many fences and a haystack walking round with a wet bag putting fence posts and spot fires out. He was a good friend to the

did on the walls of the sheds at *Macclesfield*.

George walked everywhere—well he strode actually. He was a tall wiry man with legs like broomsticks and he never appeared to be in a hurry. Mum said that when she and Dad were riding about on *Macclesfield* it was not unusual for George to just appear out of nowhere: although Rex Sullivan told us of one occasion when George ‘took to his heels’.

My father purchased a pony mare for me and she had a black colt foal. Dad was a great believer in developing sure-footedness in the young horses by turning them out into the bush for a few months after handling and weaning them. Hence ‘Middy’ was turned out in the Funnel Paddock which bounds the *Brown Marsh*. George was walking home one Sunday evening after his usual visit with Rex to watch the VFL replay on TV. The track through the *Brown Marsh* followed the fence between the two paddocks. As he went on his way, George felt a call of nature. It must have been a serious one as he climbed the fence to go into the bush in the Funnel Paddock. As I have said before, it was evening in winter, so the light was getting low. The young pony was in this bush paddock on his own and was always on the lookout for some company. He spotted George relieving himself and ‘thundered’ through the bush to greet him. George on hearing this terrible noise, which he certainly knew was not natural to the environment and catching a glimpse of this black apparition, took to his heels, leapt the fence and in his own words ‘ran’ back down to the house to tell Rex the ‘devil was after him’.

family and a huge loss when he died in 1979.

When my parents took on *Macclesfield* we lived at Oatlands and my father ‘commuted’ during the week. They had some furniture from Dad’s sister but it was sparse. George was most concerned about this and he brought my mother a carver chair with turned legs and arm supports. The chair had had much use during its life and is held together with fencing wire twitched diagonally between the legs. We still have the chair and it is a cherished possession.

Every Christmas George would turn up at the house with a big bunch of waratah for Mum, having walked out to Surveyors Marsh where he knew of a bush that flowered at the correct time. One year Rex came across some and bought it back, Mum didn’t think to put it out of the way and George saw it. He never bought her waratah again.

Money was very tight in those early days and it was all hands on deck at shearing time. George offered his services and a block of wood was set up to sit on, in the left hand corner of the board and George was asked to ‘do’ the bellies. The belly is the first piece of wool shorn from a sheep and the shearers usually throw it out of the way with their left hand before opening up the neck. It became obvious that George hadn’t done much shed work before, certainly not bellies. When he was faced with a ewe belly after a mob of wethers he held it up in both hands, gave it a puzzled look and pulled out the centre anyway. (Weathers’ bellies have an area in the centre of the belly removed due to urine stain.)

As I have described before, George had legs like broomsticks which were wrapped in strips of ticking material and he wore lace up boots over his ankles. He said the ticking was to keep out the



The years have not been kind to George's Hut. This photo was taken some time in the early 1990s, many years after George moved out.

snow in winter and snake bites in summer.

The source of Dove Creek is a permanent spring. George's hut is about half a mile below the spring and the creek provided him with permanent water. As he got older he found going out for water on a cold winter morning inconvenient so he dug a diversionary channel through the corner of his hut's earthen floor so he didn't have to go outside for water. This proved a little inconvenient after a period of high rainfall/snowfall when the creek flooded and also flooded his hut.

He also had a small vegetable garden fenced off with whatever he could find—old fence posts and scraps of rabbit netting, but he waged permanent war on the wombats who had scant regard for the wire netting. George got sick of patching the fence so instead he hung tin cans over the holes to make a noise and scare them away. This worked for a short time but soon he had to give this idea away as the noise of their comings and goings kept him awake all night!

George collected newspapers, which Rex and others saved for him, and every year he 're-papered' the inside of his hut to keep out the drafts. I think this may have been common practice as I saw a hut on Maria Island where the old newspapers were put to the same use.

The hut, as previously stated, sits on the eastern side of the 3 Mile Marsh Run. It is just over 300 meters above Waddamana and 4 kilometers (2½ miles) as the crow flies. George's sister Amy MOORE lived in 'Wadda', just outside the town boundary.⁵ George would visit with Amy, and sometimes stay when he went down to PILCHER's shop for his supplies. When the 'Wadda' shop closed George's supplies were delivered to Amy's for his later collection.

He was very house proud and determined to 'keep' a nice lawn at the hut.

⁵ My friend and I left our ponies tied up at Amy's, when we rode down to the village for a swim, Amy gave us tea and biscuits to fortify us for the long ride home across the bridge on the Bashan Road and through 'Lake Echo' back to the house.

Although the sheep, kangaroo and other wild life kept the grass short, it was quite uneven so George took to borrowing Amy's mower which he carried up from 'Wadda'. One very good year the grass got quite long and George found constant mowing could not keep it short so he spread sheets of tin around the place to stop it growing.

When the Hydro closed the village and it was taken over by the Education Department, the visiting children were a constant fascination to George, especially

A stray match took care of that, but George's hut still stands although, ironically, a wombat moved in and has dug a huge burrow in the middle of the floor.

We often dwell on the passing of time and sadly the 'High Country Characters' are becoming thin on the ground. The passing of George and his ilk sees the end of a simple, spartan lifestyle, where a pound of tea, a pound of flour, sugar and salt made-up the weekly grocery order. Milk (provided by Rex milking one of the Herefords) was a bonus and dripping was



George Reynolds and his sister Amy Moore at Amy's home in Waddamana

their gadgets. Rex told us of one occasion when he, George, was quite distressed when he thought some children had stolen his voice. They had taped him talking. He had never seen or known of such a thing. I never heard how he reacted when faced with a television for the first time, but he certainly rarely missed the football replay on Sundays.

As the years passed Amy moved into another house in Waddamana and George moved into Amy's cottage and from there to Bothwell. Amy's cottage is long gone.

saved from cooking any meat, to use instead of butter.⁶ ◀

⁶ As each cow in the four to five-strong herd calved they were brought in and milked. The cow was shared with the calf, the latter being locked away from the cow during the night for the cow to be milked in the morning. This practice continued with the heifers as they in turn calved and the herd remained quiet even when it reached thirty to forty.

SEARCHING FOR MY LOST GREENHALGH FAMILY

Beryl Dix (Member No.6149)

MY great-great-grandparents, John GREENHALGH and Alice HEATON, were married sometime in the 1830s. They had five children: James, John, Henry, Jane and Esther (my great-grandmother). In 1851 they were living in Manchester Street, Oldham, Lancashire.¹ John died of cholera in 1852, and his widow, Alice, married Charles BREARLEY (or BRIERLEY, as it was sometimes spelt) in 1853.² It seems it was not a happy or successful marriage, for by 1861 they were living apart and did so for the rest of their lives. In the 1861 Census, with the exception of the eldest son James who could not be found, all the children were still living at home in Manchester Road, including Mary Ann (née CLAYTON), the wife of son John.³

In 1871 I found most of the family living in four houses next to each other in Manchester Road, Oldham.⁴ My great-grandmother Esther had married and she and her new husband Abraham TAYLOR were living with her mother, Alice, at No. 350 Manchester Road. Henry and his wife Olivia (née FISHER) and two children were living next door at No. 352. The eldest daughter, Jane, had also married and she and her husband, William Lowe CROSSLEY, were living at No.

348. But this time John was missing. His wife, Mary Ann, was living at No. 354 with their four children. She was listed as Head and married. Where was John? I thought that perhaps a mistake had been made in the census and that Mary Ann was in fact a widow. I trawled through all the records I could think of but nothing came to light to confirm whether or not she was a widow. I still could find no trace of James, last recorded in the 1851 Census, and I assumed he must have died, although no record could be located.

By 1881 Mary Ann and her children had disappeared too. John Greenhalgh, her husband, was still missing, as well as James. Whatever could have happened? Searches through many records brought nothing to light. Then by the following census in 1891 Henry Greenhalgh, his wife Olivia and their children had also disappeared without trace. Some of the children had rather unusual names such as Oscar Fisher and Zera that I thought might be of help in finding them but, though I searched endlessly through death and census and any other records I could think of, using all sorts of name variations, nothing could be found of either family. I thought perhaps they had escaped the census taker, or that their surname had been translated into something bizarre which I could not recognise. I speculated that perhaps an epidemic of a contagious disease had claimed them as victims but found nothing that would suggest such an event or events, on a scale that would wipe out large numbers

¹ UK HO107/2240 p.11 1851 Census Oldham

² UK GRO Oldham 8d 471 (1852); UK GRO Manchester 8d 649 (1853)

³ UK RG9/3011 folio 97 p.33 1861 Census Oldham

⁴ UK RG10/4097 folio 60 p.33 1871 Census Oldham

of people, had occurred in the locality during that time. Even so, I considered it highly unlikely that they could all have died in an epidemic, though this was not impossible, of course. I bought a CD that listed churchyard burials in the area in which they lived, in the hope of finding a clue as to what might have happened. But all I found was the burial of John Greenhalgh, the father of James, John and Henry, in 1852.⁵

There the matter lay for quite some time. I resigned myself to the fact that the fate of this branch of the family would probably remain a mystery. I became a member of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society a few years ago and on joining listed my surnames of interest with them. Sometime later I received an enquiry from the USA about John Greenhalgh and Alice 'EATON'. After an exchange of emails I discovered that my missing Greenhalghes had all emigrated to the USA. Needless to say, I was elated to receive quite a bit of information from my new-found relative, which helped to fill the gaps in my records relating to these two families.

It seems that John Greenhalgh emigrated to the United States in 1869, arriving in New York on 12 August.⁶ I think it is logical to assume that he was seeking better prospects for himself and his family when he undertook what some would consider a rather hazardous venture. It is quite possible he may have known other workers who had already taken this step and succeeded in their efforts to improve their fortunes in a

young and progressive country. As far as I know, he travelled alone and made his way to Massachusetts, where the cotton industry was well established. He settled in Blackstone, Worcester County, on the border of Rhode Island. He had worked as a beamer in a cotton mill in Oldham, according to the 1861 Census. In the textile industry a beamer winds the warp on the roller before putting it on the loom. It is not known if he followed the same occupation in America but he probably worked in the cotton or woollen industry.

His wife Mary Ann, with their children, remained in Oldham. Even with four children, the youngest only one year old, Mary Ann continued to work as a cotton weaver, according to the 1871 Census. Perhaps she had help from her mother-in-law, Alice Brearley, who lived just next-door-but-one, in looking after them while she worked. John must have established himself successfully in Blackstone, for after a couple of years Mary Ann and their children joined him. They left Liverpool on 17 July 1871 on the SS *Malta*, arriving in Boston on 26 July.⁷ Mary Ann's occupation on the passenger list was given as Matron.

John died on 20 July 1891 at Blackstone, Massachusetts, at the age of 51. Mary Ann survived her husband and three of her four sons. She died in 1927 at the grand old age of 87 and was buried in the family lot at Blackstone cemetery.⁸

Twelve years after John Greenhalgh had emigrated, his younger brother Henry Greenhalgh, his wife Olivia and their five children, aged from 8 months to 14 years, set sail for the United States, arriving on

⁵ Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, *Chadderton, Failsworth & Hollinwood Churchyard Burials*, CD, 2005

⁶ Information from Sharon Valdez October 2006

⁷ Passenger Lists Boston 1848–90 List Nos.105–109

⁸ Information from Sharon Valdez 15 September 2006

6 September 1881 on the SS *Atlas*.⁹ They also proceeded to Blackstone, Massachusetts, where another five children were born. Altogether twelve children were born to Henry and Olivia, but two died in infancy in England.

Olivia, Henry's wife, was born in 1848 in Deptford, Kent, the daughter of William and Ann Fisher, née ROBERTS. What struck me was that William and Ann seemed to have a penchant for unconventional names. Of their six children, a son was named Utah and a daughter, Deseret. Two of the remaining four children were called Hector and Olivia but, rather surprisingly in view of the unusual names of their other children, the eldest son and daughter were given the popular but commonplace names of Thomas and Hannah. Only one of Henry and Olivia's twelve children bore an unusual name—their daughter Zera. In various records her name was also listed as Tera or Lera.

Henry had several occupations during his lifetime. He was listed in the 1861 Census as a pupil teacher at a church school, and in 1871 and 1881 as a clerk in an iron works. Apparently he suffered from asthma for many years and in the 1900 Blackstone Census, when he was 54 years of age, the space for occupation was left blank.¹⁰ Perhaps he was unable to work at that time due to ill-health. He died at home on 3 January 1907 of heart failure, aged 63. His obituary in the *Woonsocket Call*, Rhode Island, records that

Mr Greenhalgh was well-known and highly esteemed by everyone. He was a

kind husband and father and a genial, whole-souled man.¹¹

The obituary goes on to say:

He was a man of much intellectual ability and taught school for several years in the National schools of England. He had a number of certificates he received when he passed examinations for teachers positions. Among the schools he taught in were the Hollinwood National School in Manchester, England, and the Mechanics Institution of Werneth, Oldham, England. All of the schools he taught in were under the control of committees and officers of the Prince of Wales, now King Edward of England. Mr Greenhalgh was for a number of years a clerk in a big iron works in Oldham, England. Mr Greenhalgh came to America 25 years ago and settled in Blackstone. For a number of years he was overseer of spooling, twisting and winding in the No. 1 Mill, Waterford, when it was run by Evan, Seagrave & Co. He was an inventor and invented the nut lock. He also invented twister bobbins and other articles, on all of which he had papers from the patent office.

Henry's wife Olivia died on 29 June 1916 aged 68. Her obituary records that she was survived by eight of her twelve children: four sons and four daughters.¹²

The email from my American relative—which came as a bolt out of the blue—and the resulting correspondence brought many answers to the riddle of the fate of these missing members of the Greenhalgh family. Today there are numerous descendants living on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

For me, the icing on the cake was a short sentence in Henry Greenhalgh's obituary notice, which reads: 'He also leaves one

⁹ Information from Sharon Valdez
15 September 2006

¹⁰ USA Enum. Dist. 1587 Sheet 15 1900
Census Blackstone Mass.

¹¹ *Woonsocket Call*, Rhode Island, 4 January
1907

¹² *Woonsocket Call*, Rhode Island, 30 June 1916

brother, James Greenhalgh, in Australia.' This was the first time the name of James Greenhalgh, last heard of in the 1851 Census, had arisen. My US relative knows nothing of James apart from this mention. I have started to research this Australian connection, something completely new for me as I had always thought we were the first members of the family to come to Australia. James, however, has remained as elusive as ever and no further information about his life after he left England has yet come to light.

The mystery, and the search, continues ... ◀

Acknowledgement

I am greatly indebted to Sharon Valdez, Exeter, New Hampshire, USA, for providing information about my lost Greenhalgh family. Without her help their fate, undoubtedly, would have remained unknown.

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NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ACE Elizabeth	WGM WLS	1790-1870	6845
ALLARDICE James	Alvah BAN SCT	1715-1795	6847
ALLEN Richard	HRT ENG	c1800	6867
ANDERSON John	Gamrie BAN SCT	1802-1879	6847
BAKES Frederick	Deloraine TAS AUS	d.1920	6868
BAKES Jenny	Deloraine TAS AUS	d.1958	6868
BAKES Thomas	TAS AUS	d.1854	6868
BAKES William	Deloraine TAS AUS	d.1903	6868
BAKES William	Deloraine/Launceston TAS AUS	1852-1934	6868
BARTLETT Jane	TAS AUS	c1844	6859
BEECHEY Robert Henry	Goulds Country TAS AUS	b.1891	6853
BEECHY Margaret Lucy	Goulds Country TAS AUS	b.1895	6853
BOAG William	Maybole AYR SCT	1795-1830	6872
BONNEY & BRAMICH Maria	Deloraine TAS AUS	1859	6849
BOWDEN Elsie	TAS NSW AUS	Any	6834
BOWEN	WGM WLS	Any	6845
BRAMICH Claud Wilfred	Ulverstone/Burnie TAS AUS	1897-1926	6849
BRAMICH Frank	Latrobe TAS AUS	1870-1923	6849
BRAMICH Joseph	Deloraine TAS AUS	1858	6849
BRAMICH Maria (Bonney)	Moriarty/Latrobe TAS AUS	1870-1923	6849
BRAMICH Thomas	Deloraine	m.1859	6849
BRANSON Jane	Cosgrove DBY ENG./QLD AUS	1847-??	6844
CHAPMAN	Hobart TAS AUS	1900+	6856
CLARK James	Ellon ABD SCT	1716	6847
COATES Henry William	SA AUS	1839-1851	6858
COCKER Emma Louisa	Perth/Longford/Fingal TAS AUS	1872-1939	6865
COLLINS Jeremiah	Co Limerick IRE	1800s	6869
CONNOLLY Johanna	TIP IRE/TAS AUS	1800-1890	6844
CONNORS Ellen	Cork IRE	1800s	6869
CONNORS John	Cork IRE	1800s	6869
DANN Alfred Julian	LAN UK	c1850	6852
DEAN William B	Launceston TAS AUS	1839-1891	6862
DILLON	Gunnedah NSW AUS	1880-1920	6835
EATON	WGM WLS	Any	6845
EVANS Amy Eliza	Wilmot TAS AUS	1873-1944	6871
FERRALL Reginald	Launceston TAS AUS	1895-1954	6871
FLOWERS	Mole Creek/Chudleigh TAS AUS	Any	6851
FULFORD John	ENG/TAS AUS	1800-1900	6844
GAPES	AUS	Any	6835
GILLIES Alexander McBride	Dunedin NZ	1868-1918	6839
GORE John Henry	Any	1841-1913	6864
GOSSIP James	Logie/Buchan ABD SCT	1775-1860	6847
GRAY William	Cruden ABD SCT	1753	6847
GREENER	CO DUR ENG	prior 1945	6860
HABERLE Michael	Wurtemberg GER/Launceston TAS AUS	1800-1900	6843
HANLEY Thomas	Longford TAS AUS	c1844	6859
HANUSZEWICZ	Any	Any	6855
HARNETT Richard	Margate KEN ENG	1840	6864
HARRIS	Wynyard TAS AUS	19th C	6850
HARRISON Mildred	Transported <i>Glatton</i>	d.1817	6861
HARVEY James	Deloraine TAS AUS	1850s-1933	6865
HAWKINS	KEN ENG/MON WLS	prior 1990	6860
HAY David Wallace	Westbury TAS AUS	1830s d.1892	6861
HAY Peter	Cruden ABD SCT	1754-1835	6847
HEATH Jospeh	WAR ENG/L tonTAS/Ngambie VIC AUS	1750-1920	6843

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
HICKEY John Joseph	NSW AUS	c1870+	6852
HOWDEN	Any	Any	6855
HOWLETT James	Finsbury LND/Launceston TAS AUS	1750-1870	6843
HUTTON Alexander	ship <i>Broomielaw</i>	1859	6861
JOHNSON Harty	Preston TAS AUS	1800-1900	6871
JONES	Franklin Village TAS AUS	19th C	6850
JONES Emma Agnes	Perth TAS AUS	1850s-7Sep1921	6865
KEOGH Ignatius	IRE/VIC AUS	1772-1851	6859
LIAUBON Henry	TAS NSW AUS	Any	6834
LIAUBON Simon	Brazil/France/New Caledonia	Any	6834
LILLEY James	NOTT ENG/Swansea GLA WLS	1780-1870	6845
LIPSCOMBE	Sandy Bay TAS AUS	Any	6856
LOWE Geroge	KEN ENG/Convict VDL AUS	1783-1861	6858
LOWE Mary	TAS/VIC AUS	1819-1914	6858
LUCAS James	New Town/Moonah TAS AUS	1830-1862	6854
LUCAS William	New Town/Fingal	1852-1904	6854
LUCK James	Launceston TAS AUS	1800-1900	6871
MACARTHY, Ann	TAS/VIC AUS	1800s	6869
MARCH James	SOM UK	Any	6852
MASON	Derwent River TAS AUS	Any	6856
MATTHEWS Isabella	New Town/Moonah TAS AUS	1830-1896	6854
McALISTER	Any	Any	6855
McCABE	Sofala NSW AUS	1850-1900	6835
McGUINNESS	Carlton TAS AUS	1808+	6856
McLEOD Hannah	TAS AUS/SCT	1800+	6848
McLEOD Roderick	TAS/ AUS/SCT	1800+	6848
McVICAR Donald	N UIST SCT	c1800	6852
MORGAN Mary Ann	Deloraine/Westbury TAS AUS	1837-1890	6868
MORRIS Isaiah	ENG/Launceston TAS AUS	1800-1880	6843
NELSON Catherine	Hobart/Fingal/Georges Bay TAS AUS	1830-1880	6854
NIXON Isabella	LDY IRE	1770-1830	6872
ORPIN William H	MDX ENG	1848-1919	6862
OWEN	OXF ENG/AUS	c1800+	6841
OWENS	OXF UK/AUS	c188+	6841
PATERSON Alexander	ANS SCT/KEN ENG/RN	1856-1871	6844
PERHAM Elizabeth	SOM ENG	1837	6864
PETER	Launceston TAS AUS	19th C	6850
PICKETT	Mole Creek/Chudleigh TAS AUS	Any	6851
PURTON Shadrack	Westbury TAS AUS	1830s	6861
QUINN Catherine	Hobart/Fingal/Saltwater River TAS AUS	1865-1887	6854
QUINN John	Hobart/Fingal/Evandale TAS AUS	1830-1900	6854
RANSLEY	Derwent River TAS AUS	Any	6856
RICHARDSON Marianne Calmady	SA/VIC AUS	1839-1896	6858
ROLES	Deloraine TAS AUS	19th C	6850
ROWE Casimir	TAS/MIC/NSW AUS	1842-1915	6858
ROWE John Pearson	TAS/MIC AUS	1831-1878	6858
SAUNDERS	Derwent River TAS AUS	Any	6856
SINGLINE Margaret Lucy	Goulds Country TAS AUS	b.1895	6853
SMELTZER	Hobart TAS AUS	1833-1840	6835
SPICER James	Woodnesborough KEN ENG. RN	1856-1871	6844
STEWART Emma J	Plymouth ENG, TAS/VIC AUS	1818-1860	6841
STONE John	ENG. Launceston TAS, VIC AUS	1800-1940	6843
STRIDE Thomas	TAS AUS	1850-1900	6840
SUTTON Samuel	ENG/L'ton TAS/Gippsland VIC AUS	1800-1930	6843
TIPPETT Richard	St Newlyn East CON ENG	1790-1846	6870

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
TODD	TAS AUS	1900–2009	6840
TOTE Jane	Hobart TAS AUS	1842–1895	6840
TREGEAR	AUS	Any	6835
TRUSSELL	YKS ENG	Any	6845
VESSEY	Barnby, NOTTS ENG	pre 1900	6835
WATSON William J	SCT, TAS/VIC AUS	1808–1886	6841
WEBB Henry	TAS VIC AUS	1800s	6869
WEBB Mary Gertrude	TAS VIC AUS	1800s	6869
WHITFORD Richard	CON ENG/Liverpool LAN ENG	1820	6845
WILLIAMS William	WLS/TAS/VIC AUS	c1826+	6841
WILLIAMS William	Sorell Creek/New Norfolk TAS AUS	b.c1776–1854	6861
WILSON James	Belper/Brighton ENG. QLD AUS	1820–1895	6844
WOODWARD	TAS AUS	1846–2009	6840
WOODWARD	Any	Any	6855
WOODWOOD Charles	Hobart TAS AUS	1842–1852	6840
YEOLAND family	DEV ENG	1600–1850	6875
YOUNG Robert	'Entally' Launceston/Hobart TAS AUS	c Feb 1857	6867

All names remain the property of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. and will not be sold on in a database.

If you find a name in which you are interested, please note the membership number and check the New Members' listing for the appropriate name and address. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and don't forget to reply if you receive a SSAE.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

6833	HEEPS Mr Richard	833 Cookinburra Road richardnsam@gmail.com	BARNWARTHA	VIC	3688
6834	LIAUBON Mr Henry	225 Eilwood Road liaubon@bigpond.com	APPLETHORPE	QLD	4378
6835	DILLON Mr Mark Robert	55 Lower Jordan Hill Road markdillon0419@gmail.com	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
6836	GILLIGAN Ms Beth Maria	55A Lower Jordan Hill Rd	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
6837	CARSWELL Ms Josephine	Not for publication			
6838	RIDSDALE Mrs Marilyn Linda	32 Wilsdon Street marilynridsdale@gmail.com	QUEENSTOWN	TAS	7467
6839	McPHIE Mr Derrick Jay	86 Pelissier Street djmjb@internode.on.net	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
6840	WOODWARD Mr Wayne	5 Tirangi St, Hei Hei wwoodward@paradise.net.nz	CHRISTCHURCH	NZ	8042
6841	SMITH Mrs Pamela Jane	20 Rowney Road pamelajane@oceanbroadband.n et	ROBINSON	WA	6330
6842	SUTHERS Mrs Suzanne	47 Hawken Drive gsuthers@bigpond.net.au	St Lucia BRISBANE	QLD	4067
6843	PATERSON Ass Prof Peter J K	42 Alma Street peter.paterson@rmit.edu.au	LOWER PLENTY	VIC	3093
6844	PATERSON Mrs Clarice Jean	42 Alma Street peter.paterson@rmit.edu.au	LOWER PLENTY	VIC	3093
6845	WHITFORD Ms Jan	PO Box 325	HUONVILLE	TAS	7109
6846	MILLS Mr Ian John	10 Sunnyside Road ijmills@bigpond.net.au	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008
6847	PROCTER Miss S P	23 Fowler Street	MONTROSE	TAS	7010
6848	McLEOD Mr Raymond	34 Cherry Grove	DOVER	TAS	7117
6849	MASON Mrs Julie Marie	9 Kirriemuir Court	KAWUNGAN	QLD	4655

NEW MEMBERS

6850	ROLES Mr Mark Peter	PO Box 385	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
6851	RICHARDS Mrs Lynette Ruth	PO Box 131 ebony@activ8.net.au	RAILTON	TAS	7305
6852	HICKEY Ms Ethel	66 Oldaker Street et.may@bigpond.com.au	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
6853	WILSON Mr Geoffrey Alan	66 Rupert Street	WEST FOOTSCRAY	VIC	3012
6854	FRIPP Dr John Bradley	32 Nelson Crescent jbfripp@westnet.com.au	LESMURDIE	WA	6076
6855	KORTHOF Mr Alex	201 Gates Road shortgarden@optusnet.com.au	FLOWERDALE	TAS	7325
6856	RUSH Mrs Joanne Marie	PO Box 1180 eru53442@bigpond.net.au	TENNANT CREEK	NT	0861
6857	BROOK Mrs Rosemary J	Not for publication			
6858	ESCOTT Ms Ros	298 Davey Street escottros@esco.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
6859	COATES Mr John	298 Davey Street escottros@esco.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
6860	TULLGREN Mrs Ann	606 Nelson Road hatpinhouse@internode.on.net	MOUNT NELSON	TAS	7007
6861	GALL Mrs Janine	4 Kelp Street janine.gall@hotmail.com	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
6862	ORPIN Mrs Merilyn	81A Marilyn Road	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
6863	HOLLOWAY Mr Douglas G	26 Alice Place	BRIGHTON	TAS	7030
6864	BRIGHT Mrs Mary Alison	68 Lochner Street mbright121@gmail.com	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
6865	COCKER Mr Andrew John	17 Waverley Court andrew@cocker.id.au	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
6866	THOMSON Ms Lesley	Not for publication			
6867	SAURINE Ms Eunice Anne	1/20 Barwing Crescent esaurine@bigpond.com	RIVERSIDE	TAS	7250
6868	CHARLESWORTH Mrs Harriet C	PO Box 210 horstenarick@yahoo.com	HENEFER	UTAH	84033
6869	BENSON Mrs Margaret Ruth	65 Mooreville Road margaretruthbenison@yahoo.com.au	BURNIE	TAS	7320
6870	HODGE Mrs Leslie Anne	PO Box 232 leslie.hodge@gmail.com	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
6871	THOMAS Ms Jillian Rhonda	PO Box 282	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
6872	BOAG Mr Clive	315/100 Janefield Drive	BUNDOORA	VIC	3083
6873	REYNOLDS Mr Graeme Ernest	1/10 Kingsley Ave gepmrey@rocketmail.com	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
6874	REYNOLDS Mrs Pauline May	1/10 Kingsley Avenue gepmrey@rocketmail.com	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
6875	YEOLAND Mr Graeme Alan	684 Sandy Bay Road hyeoland@bigpond.com	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
6876	BRUCE-MULLINS Mrs Rosemary G	PO Box 301 admin@bladetech.com.au	SORELL	TAS	7172
6877	CLARKE Amanda Jayne	861 Hobart Road Manda-Chensy1980@hotmail.com	BREADALBANE	TAS	7258

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HELP WANTED

HANKIN/LUCAS/GRIFFITH

Seeking information on descendants of John Joseph Lucas married 1855 Bethnal Green, England, to Ellen MARTIN. Arrived Australia 1856. Children include: John married Mary Ann TOMLINSON; Joseph James married Catherine BENSON; Ellen Jane married William Walter HANKIN; Victoria married Edward GRIFFITH; Mary Louisa married David MILLER. Lived Emerald Hill and Collingwood areas in Victoria. Joan Crowle, 11 Davern Street, Pascoe Vale South, VIC 3044.

LAMBERT, Rebecca

Born c.1823 in Dublin, Ireland. She married Richard CONNERY/CONROY at St Joseph's Hobart on 29 November 1849, witnesses Jane Lambert and Thomas STUART. Children born Hobart were John, on 15 October 1850, (his god-mother was Jane Lambert), and Mary Ann, born 16 May 1852. Rebecca and Richard moved to Williamstown, Victoria, in 1852 where she had more children. Richard died in 1858 and Rebecca married John FLYNN/FLINN in 1861 at Williamstown. She was separated from him when she died in 1863 at Williamstown, Victoria. I am looking for information. Please contact Yvonne Grant email donevie@bigpond.net.au or ☎ (03) 9435 9858 Member No.6661.

McCLEAN, Maxwell George

Maxwell George McLEAN b.August 1920 in Tasmania, has a twin brother? Worked in Nawbola Tasmania in 1953 as a special ganger on the railway. Lived in Scottsdale. At some time his family may have come from Longford? Any information would be most helpful. Please ☎

Michelle Austen on (03) 6432 2395 or email mkamausten@yahoo.com.au Member No.6733.

MUIR/DELPHIN

Percy MUIR b.1879, son to John Downey Muir and Selina Jemima GARTH, had ten children between 1902 and 1918, with Amelia Caroline (Nell) DELPHIN, in areas Smithton, Irish Town, Wynyard and Devonport. No birth, marriage or death can be found for Amelia, whose parents could be John Delphin and Caroline TAYLOR. Percy married in 1925 to Ada BEDGGOOD, on the certificate he is listed as a 'bachelor'. Any information gratefully accepted. Heather Martin heathermartin44@bigpond.com or ☎ (03) 6272 6122 Member No.5938.

HELP WANTED queries are published free for members of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (provided their membership number is quoted) and at a cost of \$10.00 per query to non-members.

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Queries should be limited to 100 words and forwarded to:

editors@tasfhs.org or

The Editor, *Tasmanian Ancestry*
PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250

OUR MOTORISED TROUPE 1912

ELSIE CORRICK 1894–1974

Shirley Foster (Member No.6420)

ONE day Dad went to a motor dealer in Adelaide and said he'd like to buy four cars so he could tour without using the railways. He bought a single-seater for the advance agent, a tourer for the family, and two lorries to carry costume baskets, musical instruments and rolls of red arras to decorate the stage. We were the first motorised travelling troupe in the southern hemisphere.

Our father expected us to climb into the driver's seat and take off, with no instruction at all, across the 90 mile desert between Adelaide and Perth, but the joke was we could not carry enough water so we had to put the cars on the train. However we quickly became good drivers. We did some great mileages, sometimes as much as 200 miles per week in temperatures were up to 111 degrees [fahrenheit]. Quite often the roads were just tracks around trees. When these ran out we made our own tracks through the bush. We always carried spare parts. My brother would have all sorts of broken things to fix but my sister Ruby soon became an inspired mechanic. She could change a battery, spare wheel or fix spark plugs. In those days there were no self starters on cars. I was the chief cranker. I had to un-lock and open the gates on roads that went through private properties and crank the cars by hand. They would whiz through the loose sand and, sometimes, spin around back the way we had been coming.

When we went to Mildura we headed up the Murray River and, in the dark of the

night, drove along between the trees, dodging great red gums, hoping we wouldn't slip into the deep river. The edge of the Murray was like the edge of a dining table. When it rained thick slippery mud got wedged between the car wheels and the mudguards. Sometimes we were out all night with bogged cars. On one trip we broke a crown wheel and had four out of five cars bogged at the same time. Once, coming home from Mildura, we set out in white dresses in 111 degrees heat. No sooner had we started than a thunderstorm started and all the soil turned to red mud. We had to get out, take off our white shoes and stockings and help free the wheels. It amused us that as respectable young ladies with our strict Wesleyan Methodist up-bringing we were sometimes employed as drivers and mechanics.

One trip we travelled 250 miles in one week. Everyone came out to stare. The horses and cattle took fright but the people, who would be our audience, stopped to look at us. ◀

Endnote:

The Corricks were quite up to date in their mode of travelling. They travelled the whole of Victoria in their own motor cars. In some parts of the state their arrival by the motors caused much interest.

Transcribed from
The Tasmanian Mail, February 1914.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

THE CURIOUS CASE OF HARRIET KNIBBS

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

HARRIET KNIBBS, born at Hobart Town, Van Diemens Land, on 19 September 1837, was the eldest child of convict Charles NIBBS (*Phoenix II*, 1824)—by this time a ticket-of-leave man—and Anne CAVANAGH, who was the eldest daughter of convicts John Cavanagh (*Minerva*, 1818) and Johanna LYNCH (*Janus*, 1820).¹

Little is known about Harriet's early life except that her father died when she was about five years of age, leaving her mother with four young children. Not surprisingly, her mother soon re-married, her new husband being Benjamin CUTLER, another former convict (*Gilmore*, 1839) and, at that time, a police constable at Brighton, just outside Hobart Town.²

Busy with her new life—and two more children which she soon bore to Cutler—Harriet's mother may have had little time to give to her. This situation was probably exacerbated by the family's move to Westbury, in the north of the colony, when her step-father was sent to work there in 1844.³ In fact, it is possible that Harriet, one sister and a brother did not accompany the family to Westbury; they certainly appear not to have been with the parents at the time of the 1848 Census.⁴ There is evidence to suggest

that Harriet and at least two of her siblings were being cared for at Brighton at this time by their mother's married sister, Brigid BROWN aka WHEELER (née Cavanagh), who seems to have had no children of her own.

Later, Harriet may have made the move north herself, because, on 29 May 1854 she married Alexander WILSON, a 28 year-old farmer, at St Andrews Church of England, Evandale.⁵ Although the marriage certificate states she was 19 years of age, she could only have been 16 years and 8 months.

Between 1855 and 1868, eight children were born to the couple; all of these births were registered at Morven, near Launceston. But, on 22 January 1875, Harriet died suddenly. She had accidentally poisoned herself by taking arsenic or strychnine in mistake for Epsom salts. She was 37 years old.

Her death was reported under the heading *Fatal Case of Poisoning* in the *Launceston Examiner* on 26 January 1875:

A melancholy case of poisoning, having a fatal termination, occurred to a Mrs WILSON at Evandale, on Friday night last. Mrs Wilson, feeling unwell, rose about midnight to take a dose of salts, but unfortunately caught up a packet containing either arsenic or strychnine that was lying near, of which she took an unusually large quantity. Some considerable time elapsed before the error was discovered, when Dr OLD-

¹ TAHO NS756/1/6 C of E Baptisms, Parish of St Marks, Pontville, 1841 (No.25) Harriet was four when baptised.

² TAHO RGD 1552/1844/37

³ TAHO POL 324/1/2

⁴ TAHO 1848 Census, Westbury, Tasmania

⁵ TAHO RGD 1180/1854/37, Morven

MEADOW was sent for; all his efforts, however, proved unavailing, and Mrs Wilson lingered until midday on Saturday when she expired. An inquest, we believe, was held yesterday, the results of which, however, we have not heard.

In view of the circumstances—which may reasonably have looked suspicious to some—an inquest was inevitable. It took place at Evandale on 25 January 1875 and, at its conclusion, Coroner John RALSTON produced the following report.⁶

AN INQUISITION ... taken for our Sovereign Lady at the Police Office, Evandale, in the County of Cornwall, within the Island of Tasmania this 25th day of January in the 38th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen: Defender of the Faith, before me, John Ralston, Esquire, one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said island and its Dependencies, on view of the body of Harriet Wilson, then and there lying dead, upon the Oaths of John BYRON, Joseph ATKINS, William BARRETT, William BROWNRIGG, Robert FORTUNE, John HODKINSON and George McCLUTCHEY—good and lawful men of the said island, and duly chosen, and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to enquire for our said Lady the Queen, when, where and how, and after what manner the said Harriet Wilson came to her death, do upon their Oath say **THAT:** the said Harriet Wilson on the 22nd day of January in the year aforesaid, a quantity of a certain deadly poison called white arsenic in water did put, mix and mingle. The said Harriet Wilson not knowing that the said white arsenic was a deadly poison but supposing the same to be Epsom

Salts, and that the said Harriet Wilson, afterwards, to wit on the day and year aforesaid, did take, drink and swallow down this water with which the said white arsenic was so mixed and mingled, by means thereof the said Harriet Wilson then became sick and greatly distempered in her body, and this said Harriet Wilson of the poison aforesaid so by her taken, drunk, and swallowed down as aforesaid of this sickness occasioned thereby from this said 22nd day of January in the year aforesaid until the 23rd day of the same month in this year aforesaid did languish, and languishing did live on [until] the last mentioned day in the year aforesaid, [and] then the said Harriet Wilson did die. And so these jurors aforesaid do say that the said Harriet Wilson in manner and by means aforesaid be accidentally a casualty, and by misfortune came to her death, and not otherwise.

Undoubtedly, those close to Harriet would have been comforted by the result of the inquest—and to know that any criticism that might have been directed towards them was unjustified and any suspicion unfounded.

Under the heading ‘The Late Poisoning Case’, the following notice appeared in the Launceston *Examiner* on 2 February 1875.

At the inquest held at Evandale on the late Mrs Wilson, it was elicited in evidence that deceased had charge of the arsenic and Epsom Salts, and that **she could neither read nor write.**⁷

In Harriet’s sad death, there is a salutary message. Parents, be advised! Children, take heed! ◀

⁶ TAHO Coroner’s report 7470, 25 January 1875

⁷ Author’s emphasis

VIOLET TASMA CLEARY

A TRAGIC AND SHORT LIFE

Karen Laura Lee Wilson (Member No.6475)

I have a sepia photograph of my maternal grandmother, Violet Tasma LEE (née CLEARY). It shows the head and shoulders of a beautiful young woman wearing a ballroom gown. Encircling her dark, curly hair are three strands of pearls and a light-coloured ribbon by her left ear. She wears an elaborate amethyst necklace. Her light-coloured gown hugs her broad shoulders and is gathered at the centre of her bosom by a posy of fresh daisies. There is a wistful expression in her soft, dark eyes. Her lips are full and generous, with just a touch of a smile lifting the corners of her mouth.

For the last thirty years the photograph has sat on the top of my piano. Each morning I glance at my grandmother's lovely face and note the sad expression showing in her eyes. I have always been intrigued by the beauty and sadness of this photograph. Over the years I have asked my mother, now 94 years old, about Violet Tasma. My mother remembers very little of her—just a few tantalising memories: that she was a good mother; that her mother always dressed her in nice clothes; she got sick when her daughter Violet May was about 6 years old; around that time she was then sent to a boarding school run by

Catholic nuns; she was 12 when her mother died from tuberculosis. She could not remember the name of the school where she boarded and did not remember seeing her mother in the four years before she died. She also recalled that she had a happy childhood, her Auntie Lee had looked after her. Her father John Lee was greatly saddened by his wife's death and took to the bottle in sufficient quantities to cause his death four years later. That was all the information that was forthcoming from my mother about Violet Tasma. She couldn't even recall her mother's maiden name.



To find information about Violet Tasma I searched the NSW BDM on-line sites for details. I was lucky that the family resided in New South Wales at the time of her birth. Her parents' names were William James and Rose Helena Cleary. They were married according to the rites of the Church of England at the Church of Saint Matthias, Paddington on 1 June 1891.¹ Rose's parents were born in Tasmania. Once I had her parents' full names I began to get information about

¹ NSW Marriage Certificate 1891/6381

her family. Her parents were the children of two Irish convicts transported to Van Diemens Land. A number of their grandchildren were born in Sydney. William James and Rose Helena Cleary had six children born from their union: James Robert in June 1889 (out of wedlock); Myee Carrington on 4 May 1892; Violet Tasma, 20 December 1894; Aphra Roselle in 1897; Aurora Australis on 14 April 1900 and Arthur Stanley in 1903.²

At the time of Violet Tasma's parents' marriage, her father lived in Alexandria and he was a carpenter. When Violet Tasma was born in 1894 the address written on the birth certificate was 26 Victoria Street, Alexandria.³ In 1900, when Aurora arrived, the family resided at 476 Victoria Street. On Aurora's death certificate in 1901 the address was 31 Victoria Street.⁴

Violet Tasma married John Joseph Lee on 28 January 1914 in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church at Erskineville.⁵ Violet's mother Rose H Cleary gave consent to the marriage as her father was stated as 'absent from the State' at the time. John Joseph was 26 years old, a grocer by occupation and his place of residence was Alexandria. Violet Tasma was 19 and described as a 'machinist' at Erskineville. John's parents, John and Bridget Lee (née O'BRIEN) were born in Ireland and arrived in Sydney by assisted passage. Bridget O'Brien (21 years old) and her sister Margaret (19 years old) arrived on the *Spitfire* on 24 August

1860.⁶ John Lee arrived on the *Samuel Plimsoll* on 10 October 1874.⁷ He was 17 years old and his occupation was labourer. On 6 May 1885 John Lee married Bridget O'Brien at St Josephs Church, Woollahra.⁸ When their son, John Joseph was born on 31 January 1887, his father's occupation was that of publican.⁹ Their only child was born prematurely and according to my mother was wrapped up in cotton wool for the first few weeks of his life. Bridget Lee had contracted tuberculosis and died from its effects on 23 December 1897.¹⁰ Care of the young John Joseph was placed in the hands of his aunt, Margaret O'Brien, a housekeeper for John Lee, until her marriage to him in 1902.¹¹

A full-length sepia marriage photograph of Violet Tasma Lee and John Joseph Lee has survived. It shows the bride standing in formal bridal dress, complete with a lace-edged train, sheer veil, and white, medium heeled shoes. A chaise longue behind the bride is draped with her veil. She holds an enormous bouquet of flowers in her left hand to cover her stomach, while her right hand tentatively touches the left sleeve of her husband's dinner jacket. Underneath his jacket he wears a white waistcoat decorated with a chain with two gold medals. His shirt and bow tie are white. In his lapel is a small posy of white flowers. He is sitting by his bride's side, with both arms

² NSW Death Certificate 1925/011830

³ NSW Birth Certificate 1895/001908

⁴ NSW Birth Certificate 1900/017809

⁵ NSW Marriage Certificate 1914/000949

⁶ NSW State Records Authority. Assisted Immigrants Arriving in Sydney, 1860-79. Reel 2139, 2481

⁷ NSW State Records Authority. Assisted Immigrants Arriving in Sydney, 1860-79. Reel 2140, 2486

⁸ NSW Marriage Certificate 1885/003191

⁹ NSW Birth Certificate 1887/000660

¹⁰ NSW Death Certificate 1897/010659

¹¹ NSW Marriage Certificate 1902/004587

resting on an elegant chair. The couple are semi-smiling in the portrait.

On 2 May 1914 their only child Violet May was born.¹² The family's residence listed on the birth certificate was 155 Railway Parade, Erskineville. My mother has told me that Violet Tasma experienced a difficult labour and required a hysterectomy after the birth.

I do not have any records of Violet May's christening. My mother told me that she was baptised in the Catholic Church. When the priest asked, "What shall this child be named?" John Joseph's stepmother, Margaret Lee, interjected—"She shall be named Margaret Therese." "No," said Violet Tasma, "she shall be named Violet May." From this very dramatic public disagreement I presume the mother-in-law did not get along with her daughter-in-law, especially as the marriage was a 'shot gun' with the bride visibly pregnant at the wedding. If Margaret Lee had known of the convict heritage in the Cleary family, I suspect that she would have considered her stepson's choice of wife even more unacceptable.

When I tried to find out details of Violet Tasma Lee's death I was initially unsuccessful. Then I left an email message at the Rookwood Cemetery asking if there were any details of a grave for her. A woman, Dorne SAUNDERS, replied and asked had I ever considered that my grandmother may have remarried? Dorne had found a marriage listed for a Violet Tasma to a man named Arthur Edward CLARKE. I searched the NSW BDM records and found a record for their marriage on 28 October 1922, which took place in the District Registry

Office in Redfern, Sydney.¹³ The groom was 28 years of age; a fettler who lived in Mary Street, Surry Hills. Violet Tasma was 26, her occupation was 'home duties', and she lived at 13 Cooper Street, Waterloo. Witnesses to the marriage were Henriettie Clarke and the bride's sister, Myee HYLAND.

Violet's second husband, Arthur Edward Clarke, was a returned soldier from the First World War. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 23 August 1915, at which time he was 21 years old. Arthur lived in the parish of Lismore and his occupation was listed as 'coach driver'. Private A E Clarke was trained as a gunner. He transferred to 25th Field Artillery Brigade on 8 July 1916. As a result of action in the Battle of the Somme, he was admitted to the 1st Western General Hospital, Liverpool, England, on 1 November 1917, having experienced mild suffocation due to gas. He survived an attack of influenza and returned to Australia on 30 March 1919. On his discharge he was awarded three military medals.¹⁴ While in France, he met Violet Tasma's brother, Jim Cleary and her brother-in-law Ted Hyland. On his return to Sydney he was possibly introduced to his wife-to-be by Ted, Ted's wife Myee (elder sister of Violet Tasma), or by Jim Cleary.

My next step was to research the New South Wales Divorce index for information on Violet Tasma Lee and her husband, John Joseph Lee. I was forwarded an enormous file containing ninety-four pages of information regarding the divorce, which was filed on 9 April 1920 between John Joseph Lee, Petitioner, Violet Tasma Lee, Respond-

¹² NSW Birth Certificate 13931/1914

¹³ NSW Marriage Certificate 1922/013984

¹⁴ National Archives of Australia.
Australian Military Records.

ent and Ernest Gustaf WANQUIST, Co-respondent.¹⁵ The first legal evidence of trouble in the marriage is revealed in the following document—a request for Maintenance—Minute of Order of Court—Violet Tasma Lee (Complainant) versus John Joseph Lee (Defendant)—dated 18 December 1916 in which John Joseph Lee is to provide his

wife Violet Tasma the sum of one pound, together with 5/- a week for the child of the marriage, Violet May, born 3rd of May, 1915 and I order that the first of such weekly payments shall be made on the twenty-fifth day of December 1916. It is further ordered that the said Defendant do pay the said Complainant the sum of two pounds eight shillings for her costs and in default of payment on or before the first day of January 1917, that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour in the Gaol at Long Bay for the space of seven days unless the said amount shall sooner be paid. The complainant is to have the custody of the child.

A typewritten note appended at the bottom of the page dated 9 April 1920 states:

Order varied by reducing amount of One pound per week to 10/- per week, all payments in respect of child to cease, and legal custody of child given to John J. Lee.

In documentation dated 30 April, 1920, Violet denied adultery with Ernest Gustaf Wanquist; she stated that

the Petitioner had been guilty of cruelty to her; the Petitioner had deserted or otherwise wilfully separated from her before the alleged adultery ... and had left her so continuously deserted during two years and upwards and there was no collusion or connivance existing between

any person whomsoever and her this deponent.

Her husband hired a private detective who followed his wife around, taking five photos of her in group situations and submitted the photos to court. I am pleased to notice that in the photographs Violet Tasma looks happy. The detective lodged a handwritten note dated 10 April 1920 that he had caught the respondent in a compromising situation with another man on 23 March 1920. He provided explicit details in his notes which I consider too graphic to describe in this article.

On 27 May 1921 the divorce documents cite that on hearing

the oral evidence of the Respondent, and of Mrs Rose Cleary, Miss A Cleary and Mr Cleary ... his honour reserved judgment and found not proved whether the petitioner deserted or wilfully separated himself before the adultery ... whether the Petitioner has without just cause or excuse wilfully deserted the Respondent and without any such cause or excuse left her continuously so deserted during two years and upwards? Whether the Petitioner has been guilty of cruelty towards the Respondent?

The court ordered the marriage from the above date to be dissolved and legally binding with an extra six months leeway should further evidence be proved. No further evidence was offered.

On 10 August 1922 the Petitioner, John Joseph Lee swore that

My said child is at present attending the George Street, Redfern Public School under the name of May Cleary. The mother of the child is given as Rose Cleary, that is the Respondent's mother. The Respondent was recently before the Court in connection with a raid that was made at the Freshwater Camps. She called her employer to give evidence that

¹⁵ NSW Divorce Index. Divorce Number 0384. Year 1920. Papers

she was working for her own living, and the Magistrate discharged her. The Respondent is a Barmaid in Elizabeth Street, Sydney ... I have frequently seen the Respondent and her mother Rose Cleary under the influence of drink in Redfern. The Respondent, when drunk has a very violent temper.

Finally the divorce settlement took place on 26 September 1922 with both parties agreeing to the following.

(1) THE child May Violet Lee [note the name change] be placed at St. Mary's convent at Erskineville as a boarder as on and from Tuesday third day of October one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two the petitioner paying all school fees and other expenses of education and maintenance.

(2) THE child to spend alternate weekends with her father and then with her mother the child's school holidays being shared equally by the parents and while the child is with her mother the father making a reasonable allowance for her maintenance, the mother entitled to visit the child as and when she wishes subject to the regulations of the Convent school.

I can imagine how little support Violet Tasma received from her ex-husband, his stepmother, and the nuns at the convent to give her regular access to her daughter, Violet May. It is no wonder that Violet Tasma married as soon as she could after those long, stressful years of fighting to gain custody of her daughter.

There was more sorrow for her when her mother, Rose Cleary died in July 1925 from a malignant bowel.¹⁶ Rose Cleary was a great support to her daughter and granddaughter, Violet May, during those turbulent years of separation and family distress prior to her daughter's divorce. Tragically, Violet Tasma Clarke was

¹⁶ NSW Death Certificate 1925/011830

diagnosed with tuberculosis the year she married her second husband, Arthur EDWARD. She finally succumbed to pulmonary tuberculosis and died on 8 September 1926.¹⁷ The following day she was buried at the Sanatorium Cemetery at Waterfall in the Bulli Shire. On the death certificate her daughter's name was given as 'May' and her age was incorrectly recorded as 10.

In 1928 Violet Tasma's 'wicked' mother-in-law Margaret Lee died of a stroke at the age of sixty.¹⁸ On 15 May 1930 her first husband John Joseph Lee died of alcoholism at the age of 42.¹⁹ It was his daughter, 'May' who found him dead in bed: she had never been told of her mother's second marriage or met her mother's second husband. Arthur Edward Clarke lived to be 73 and died from carcinoma of the stomach at the Repatriation Hospital, Concord, on 6 October 1967.²⁰ On his death certificate it states that there is no information about his first marriage. He had remarried on 9 July 1927, to a widow Grace Constance BELL.²¹ The couple had two daughters, Constance (known as June) and Edna.

Now I know why Violet Tasma looked so wistful in that beautiful photograph taken of her at a ball around ninety years ago. ◀

¹⁷ NSW Death Certificate 1926/014031

¹⁸ NSW Death Certificate 1928/005651

¹⁹ NSW Death Certificate 1930/010176

²⁰ NSW Death Certificate 1967/038768

²¹ NSW Marriage Certificate 1927/01275

MARY BUTLER (c.1772–c.1812)

TRANSPORTED ON THE *LADY JULIANA*

Pauline King née Saltmarsh (Member No.6294)

MARY BUTLER, (my great, great, great, great grandmother), was born in London, England about 1772. Records of the Old Bailey Court Proceedings, 1674–1834,¹ show that Mary was found guilty before Mr Justice HEATH and a Middlesex jury on 12 December 1787, for the theft of money and notes. Mary Butler, along with Mary (Poll) RANDALL, had been found guilty of stealing money from Joseph CLARK. Joseph had said in court before the Middlesex jury and Mr Justice Heath on 12 December 1787 that ‘He was robbed on the 10 November last at 45 Cable Street, a house of bad repute’. The lodging house, or brothel at Cable Street, was at the time owned by 25 year-old Elizabeth SULLY. Mary Butler and Mary (Poll) Randall, who also lived at the notorious address, were aged 13. Found guilty of stealing, both Mary Butler and Poll Randall were sentenced to 7 years’ transportation to Port Jackson, New South Wales.

Mary Butler, along with other female convicts who were to be transported to Port Jackson on the *Lady Juliana*—the first ship to sail after the First Fleet—was held for some six months on the Thames before leaving Plymouth 29 July 1789. Reports indicate that the female convicts to be transported on the *Lady Juliana* were aged between 11 and 68. However, the vast majority of them were of child-bearing age.

Governor Arthur PHILLIP had earlier dispatched to England an urgent request for more women to be sent to the Sydney settlement. Male convicts of the First Fleet were known to be raping the convict women already in the colony and the violence among the male convicts was causing significant problems for the military and justice system. Governor Phillip was keen to have more women brought to the colony, not only to reduce the crime rate, but he also saw that women were needed to become wives, raise children and establish family life. Phillip saw this as important for setting a sound foundation of the new colony.

Shipping records show there were 226 females aboard the *Lady Juliana*, the majority of whom were reported to be London prostitutes. Most of the female convicts aboard had been found guilty of theft, as had Mary Butler. When the ship with its female cargo left Plymouth, 29 July 1789, Mary was aged 15 and no doubt wondered about her destiny as she left the familiar shores of England.

Most women aboard probably considered their transportation to New South Wales as a fate worse than death. However, the English authorities considered the cargo of female convicts as important and valuable and as a result, the women enjoyed good food, fresh air and more freedom than they had ever imagined. They were protected cargo. A surgeon was on board and sailors were permitted to take a wife among the convicts. Although this may not have necessarily been the choice of the women, they knew

¹ Old Bailey Records No.t1781212–18

that by agreeing to being allocated to a sailor aboard they would receive better treatment generally and be protected from being raped by others.

The *Lady Juliana* sailed to Port Jackson by way of Tenerife, Cape Verde Islands, Rio de Janeiro and the Cape, with lengthy stays in port. It was later claimed by crewmen that the *Lady Juliana* was nothing but a floating brothel for much of the voyage. The ship with her female cargo arrived at Port Jackson on 3 June 1790. The Sydney settlement at that time was faced with many problems including a shortage of food and in the opinion of many, the arrival of these women into the colony was seen as an unwelcome event—food and seeds were desperately needed, not additional mouths to feed.

On 1 August 1790, two months after Mary Butler arrived in Sydney, she was moved to Norfolk Island aboard the *Surprise* with other convicts, including fellow convict William SALTMARSH who had arrived in Sydney on the *Alexander* of the First Fleet in 1788.

On 13 August 1792, a son, William, was born on Norfolk Island to Mary. In records prior to 1810, her child William, is listed as William Butler, but from then on he is listed as William Saltmarsh. His father, William Saltmarsh (senior) left Norfolk Island on the *Pitt* on the 8 May 1792 so he never saw his son—in fact, there are no records of William Saltmarsh (senior) after he left Norfolk Island.

Mary formed a relationship with an Irish convict named James JORDAN on Norfolk Island, and she later became known as Mrs Jordan. In the official records of the island, Mary appeared as Mary Butler in most cases, such as in the victualling book, which lists her till 31 December 1795, as receiving rations. In the returns from the Norfolk Island in

1805–06 and 1808, she is recorded as being a woman whose sentence had expired.

Mary and James had five children on Norfolk Island:

Richard born 25 December 1794.

Catherine born 1801, died 1839, married James DAVEY 1819.

James born 1804, died 1888, married Ann EAGAN 1822.

Thomas born 1807, died 1887, married Abigail HANLON 1839.

John born 1809, died 1883, married Frances QUINN.

James Jordan had also been transported to Port Jackson arriving in September 1792. The following year he was sent to Norfolk Island where he appears to have become a respected settler. He worked as a pilot and coxswain on ships between Sydney Cove and Norfolk Island and in 1810 he settled on a 12 acre grant of land on Norfolk Island with his partner Mary Butler and their young family.

Due to the lack of records remaining, there is no way of telling whether James married Mary and because Mary was also a convict, confusion over the children's names occurs. Many children of female convicts were listed under the mother's surname regardless of their marital status. At the muster for February 1805, James was listed as a settler and a pilot for the government boat crew and free by servitude. Mary Butler was listed as 'a woman from sentence expired'. In August 1810, James received his Ticket-of-Leave.

The records for 1811 list them all as Jordin (Jordan) and November of that year showed the beginning of Mary's frequent visits to the hospital. In July 1812, her stay lasted fifteen days. On 8 January 1812, the records list James as



Norfolk Island Cemetery 2006
Author's photographs



the coxswain of the government boats at Norfolk Island and the assistant pilot.

Mary, Mrs Jordan, was admitted again to the hospital on 16 August 1812. The last recorded reference to Mary was when she was listed on 31 August 1812 as ‘a free woman, virtualled’.

Mary, wife of James Jordan and the mother of William Saltmarsh (junior born 1792), Richard (born 1794), Catherine (born 1801), James (born 1804), Thomas (born 1807) and John Jordan born in 1809, died at the age of 40 years on Norfolk Island before the end of 1812 and was buried at Emily Bay. Mary Butler, as Governor Phillip had hoped and planned back in 1789, and as one of the transported female convicts aboard the *Lady Juliana*, had indeed become a wife, a mother and a founder of family life in the new colony of Norfolk Island.

Mary’s legacy did not end there as her husband James Jordan continued on as founder of their family life in the years

ahead—not on Norfolk Island, but in Van Diemens Land at Norfolk Plains, now known as Longford, Tasmania.

Early in the 1800s, the Norfolk Island penal colony began to experience many problems, the main one being lack of supplies. The expectation that it would become a base for the refurbishing of passing ships was never realised. As a result, Lord HOBART, in 1803, informed the Governor of NSW that because of the high costs of maintaining the island, the British Government had decided to abandon Norfolk Island and move the people to Van Diemens Land.

This was an unpopular decision among the inhabitants, who, by this time were enjoying relatively comfortable and happy lives. Mary Butler/Jordan had

spent almost twenty-two years living and working on Norfolk Island as a wife and mother. One can only imagine the fear and concern felt by Mary and James Jordan and young William Saltmarsh at the prospect of being up-rooted from their home of some twenty years to re-settle on an unknown, inhospitable island many miles to the south.

James Jordan, his children and his step-son, William Saltmarsh, were selected for re-settlement at Norfolk Plains, later named Longford, in Tasmania. Sadly, Mary Jordan (Butler) had died so her husband James was faced with organising his young family for a new beginning at the yet to be developed settlement.

On 13 February 1813, James with his five children (the youngest, John was only 4 years of age) and his step-son, William Saltmarsh, aged 21, left for Port Dalrymple in Van Diemens Land aboard the ship *Minstrel*.

In 1812, Governor MACQUARIE had given instructions for the surveying of fifty farms along the banks of the South Esk River at Norfolk Plains for the free men coming from Norfolk Island. Captain RITCHIE, a Commandant of Port Dalrymple had a road following the river put through to Norfolk Plains.

After their arrival, James and Richard Jordan and William Saltmarsh, who were young men by this time, were granted land at Norfolk Plains. James senior received 80 acres, Richard 50, and William Saltmarsh 60 acres. As James and Thomas came of age, they also received grants.

James did not remarry, but he supported his children and Mary's son, William Saltmarsh as they made new lives in the new colony. He and Mary's children, who developed farms, married and raised their children, helped to found and

develop the settlement of Norfolk Plains, Tasmania.

Mary's son, William Saltmarsh, (my great, great, great grandfather 1792–1863) married Elizabeth STEVENS (1795–1840). Elizabeth, who had also been born on Norfolk Island, married William in Launceston in 1819 and they raised a family of eleven children.

As early settlers, particularly along the eastern bank of the South Esk River in Longford, the Saltmarshes and the Jordans did well. They utilised their initial land grants well and as time passed, they continued to accumulate considerably more land and became successful and respected members of their communities.

Mary Butler, the young girl, sentenced to 7 years' transportation, had left a fine legacy with the help of her husband James Jordan—bearing and raising children and establishing family life, firstly on Norfolk Island. Her children became the founders of family life and 19th century prosperity in Tasmania.

Governor Arthur Phillip's 1789 plans for the women aboard the *Lady Juliana* to fulfil the aim to marry and bear children, setting the foundation of family life as the cornerstone of civilisation in Australia, had succeeded. ◀

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HOBART BRANCH TWO NEW RELEASES

Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania: Index to City of Hobart 1847

Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania: Index to City of Hobart 1898

Following on from those for the years 1868, 1878 and 1888, these new publications now complete the current series of indexes to the Assessment and Valuation Rolls for Hobart as published in *The Hobart Town Gazette*. (1858, published by Trudy Cowley, is also available for purchase from Hobart Branch.)

The Rolls in the newspaper give the location, a description and value of the property, the name of the occupier and the name of the owner with, often, his or her address. Where the owner is deceased or absent, the executor, trustee or agent is usually named. All this information is included in separate alphabetical lists for Owners and Occupiers.

The *Hobart Town Gazettes* 1826–1899 are available on microfilm at TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch Library.

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A TEXTBOOK DEFENCE

HOW A LEGAL LOOPHOLE NEARLY SAVED CONVICT CHARLES NIBBS

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

AT eight o'clock on the evening of 15 March 1823, Charles NIBBS and a companion, John WILFORD, broke into the home of a Mr William COULTAS at St Margarets, Westminster, London, and stole

a bed, value 5 pounds; a quilt, value 10 shillings; a pair of breeches, value one pound; a waistcoat, value 10 shillings; fifteen yards of linen, value 30 shillings; eight pairs of stockings, value 5 shillings; four handkerchiefs, value one shilling; and a tablecloth, value 4 shillings.

A month later, Nibbs and Wilford were arrested by police officer, Thomas PACE, at *The Ship*, a public-house in Vauxhall, London. He had escorted them to Wilford's home where he had found a number of the articles that had been stolen from Coultas. Pace testified in court that he had noticed Nibbs and Wilford together on previous occasions and had suspected that they were up to no good.

At the Old Bailey in London on 14 May 1823, a guilty verdict was brought down in the case of Wilford, aged 42, but Nibbs, who claimed to be only 16 at the time, was found not guilty, there being insufficient evidence to convict him.

On the same day, however, a second charge of burglary was brought against the pair at the same court. This time they were charged with breaking into the home of a Mr George GILLINGS at St John the Evangelist, Westminster, London, and stealing a bed, value 3 pounds; a bolster, value 10 shillings; two pillows, value 6 shillings; a counterpane,

value 3 shillings; and a key, value 6 pence.

The men were tried before Mr Baron HULLOCK, at the Old Bailey the following day. Having been caught with the stolen goods in their possession, neither man made any defence. The verdict in both cases was guilty. On 25 June 1823, they were sentenced to death.¹

In trying to save his clients from the gallows, the lawyer for Nibbs and Wilford argued that the case against them should have been dismissed because the charge was factually incorrect. In its own small way, the trial became quite famous. For many years, the 'Nibbs & Wilford' case was used for teaching purposes in Law Schools throughout the world.

The following extract is taken from *Crown Cases Reserved for Consideration and Decided by the Twelve Judges*.

The indictment charged [Nibbs and Wilford] with burglariously entering the dwelling-house of George Gillings, in the

¹ See, among others, William Odnall Russell & Edward Ryan. (1825). *Crown Cases Reserved for Consideration and Decided by the Twelve Judges*. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, pp.517-518; John Frederick Archbold. (1828). *Peel's Acts: With the Forms of Indictments and the Evidence to Support Them*. London: William Benning, p.39; and Thomas W. Waterman. (1853). *A Complete Practical Treatise of Criminal Procedure in Indictable Cases*, New York: Banks, Gould & Co., p.307.

night time, and stealing therein a feather bed and other articles of the said George Gillings, and ten yards of baize and other articles of one John WEBSDALE.

The facts of the burglary and stealing were clearly established by evidence; but it was suggested on behalf of the prisoners that the dwelling-house in which the goods were, and from which they were stolen in the night time, ought not, under the circumstances of this case, to be considered—in point of law—as the dwelling-house of George Gillings.

As to this point the following facts appeared in evidence:

George Gillings, named in the indictment, was the owner of the house in question; it had been built by him; and he paid ground rent and taxes for it—but he never lived in it. In the preceding month of September, he and his wife had agreed to live separately, and upon that occasion he told her that she could have the house to live in; and she went to it accordingly, and had lived in it ever since.

Before the separation of Gillings and his wife, this house had been, for about six months, occupied by a tenant but Gillings himself had never, at any time, lived in it. When his wife had left him, he had given her a feather bed and several other articles of bedding, which were the things enumerated and described in the indictment as the property of George Gillings.

Mrs Gillings and a man called John Websdale, the person also named in the indictment, had for the last six months lived together as man and wife in this house; during which time Websdale paid the expenses of house-keeping but had never paid any rent to George Gillings, nor had he ever any conversation or communication whatever respecting the house with Gillings.

Gillings had had reason to suspect a criminal intercourse between his wife and Websdale before their separation, but he did not know certainly that she was going

to live with Websdale in this house when she quitted the Gillings residence.

The question was reserved for the opinion of the learned judges, namely, whether the house in which the burglary was committed and in which Mrs Gillings and Websdale were, at the time of the burglary, living in the manner stated above, was properly described in the indictment as the dwelling-house of George Gillings.

In Trinity term 1823, this case was considered by the judges who were of the opinion that the house was properly described as the house of Gillings, and that the conviction was right.

This legal argument, however, may well have been what saved Nibbs and Wilford from hanging. Shortly afterwards, their death sentences were commuted and they were transported for life to Van Diemens Land. They sailed from Portsmouth, aboard the *Phoenix* on its second voyage to Australia, on 29 March 1824. They reached Hobart Town, after 114 days at sea, on 21 July 1824.

There is no evidence that Nibbs and Wilford met again after landing and, at this stage, it is not known what eventually became of Wilford. Charles Nibbs's life in Van Diemens Land, however, was to be a relatively short one. He died, at about 35 years of age, in 1842.

His Conduct record shows Nibbs was charged only once—on 31 January 1829—with 'Insolence and Neglect of Duty'. For this offence, he was 'admonished'.²

By 1832, Nibbs had been given his ticket-of-leave, and within ten years he was operating his own business on the Derwent River. Newspaper advertisements in the invited local farmers to sell their produce—grain, hay and wool, especially—to 'Forbes's Store' at Green

² AOT CON31/9

Point, Herdsman's Cove (near Bridgewater), so that it can be

either stored on the wharf at Herdsman's Cove, sold on commission, or shipped to town on a daily basis in one of the boats belonging to C. Nibbs.³

On 20 July 1841, a notice appeared in *The Courier*, Hobart, informing all that Nibbs (with seven others) had been granted a Free Pardon. A Free Pardon, one without any conditions on it, was often issued to convicts who had distinguished themselves in some way (by their work as architects and bridge-builders, for instance), or who had given outstanding service to the colony (in saving the lives of people shipwrecked, for example.) The precise reason for particular convicts being given free pardons is often hard to discover, and it is not known why Nibbs received one. Perhaps it was for the service he provided with his boats at Green Point.

By this time, some romance had come into Nibbs's life! Baptismal records in the Church of England Parish of St Mark at Pontville, near Hobart, show that three children of Charles and Ann KNIBBS [sic] of Herdsman's Cove were baptised there on 28 November 1841—although it was not until 11 May 1840, three weeks before the birth of their third child, that Charles and Ann (née CAVANAGH) were actually wed.

On 13 July 1842, a fourth child of Charles and Ann Nibbs was born in Hobart. Within weeks of the arrival of this child, however, Nibbs was dead.

The cause of Nibbs's death is shown on the certificate as 'Mania'—one that was quite commonly given by doctors at that

time. It probably indicated that the person was in a distressed and highly emotional state, perhaps suffering from mental and physical exhaustion and depression as well as some other sickness such as pneumonia or diphtheria.

Although nothing has yet been found to suggest that Nibbs was actually insane, he does appear to have indulged in some unusual behaviour in his final years. On Wednesday, 25 April 1838, Charles Knibbs [sic] was charged by Constable CALVERT with having been found in the act of cutting down the sign-post of the *Rob Roy* public house. The landlady was sent for, but she declined to prosecute. The defendant was discharged.⁴

Why Nibbs would want to cut down this sign-post is anybody's guess. It seems unlikely he had a grievance against the landlady or she might have prosecuted him. Perhaps he had a drinking problem? Was this odd behaviour an early sign of his 'mania'? A check of police files to see if Nibbs had landed in trouble with the police previously proved fruitless.

Ann Nibbs, Charles's widow, left alone with four young children, soon remarried. Her new husband was Benjamin CUTLER, another ex-convict. Although she bore him at least two children, this marriage was short-lived too. By 1854, Cutler had left her and the children and moved to Victoria where he soon married, possibly bigamously, again. The rest of Ann's story is lost in the pages of history. ◀

(The author acknowledges the contribution to this research of Lesley McCoull, Taroona, Tasmania.)

³ See classified advertisements, *Hobart Town Courier*, Tuesday, 6 April and Friday, 9 April 1841

⁴ *Hobart Town Courier*, 4 May 1838

ST JOHNS BURIAL GROUND NEW TOWN, HOBART TASMANIA

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.860)

JOHN LEE ARCHER was commissioned by Lt.-Governor ARTHUR to design St Johns Church for the use of the children, in what was then the King's Orphan School, convicts and residents of the area. Built by convict labour, the foundation stone was laid in 1834.

Until 1836, burials took place at Trinity Cemetery in Campbell Street. The first recorded burial in St Johns Burial Ground was of a twelve-year-old boy, Thomas Hibben MORGAN from the Orphan School, which took place in December 1836. The last was that of Archdeacon F T WHITINGTON in December 1938. In this period of over 100 years there were about 2000 deaths and/or burials.

In 1963, many vaults and tombstones were removed to Cornelian Bay Cemetery and with the remains, relocated in the Church of England section F. These removals were privately arranged. The largest vault is that of the SWAN family with eleven known burials recorded. Many of the remaining headstones were also moved to Cornelian Bay about this time and placed in the south western corner near the old crematorium. More recently they have been relocated to an area in the former paupers section nearer the entrance to the cemetery.

A few buildings have since been erected on the burial ground site and only one memorial remains, that of Matthew FORSTER, Comptroller General, who died in 1846. (This could have been due to its size.) Nothing remains to indicate the area once occupied by the burial

ground, or to inform people of its history. Few even know of its existence.

Between 1836 and 1873 there were over 200 children from the Queen's Orphan School buried, including Aboriginal children, plus over 100 Catholic children thought to be buried in the small Catholic Cemetery on the site.

Until 1872, when the public cemetery opened at Cornelian Bay, burials were also of local paupers, labourers, convicts and tradesmen, plus administrators, teachers and workers from the Orphan School. However, there were also many local, Hobart, Sandy Bay and Eastern Shore identities, including politicians, (even a premier), lawyers, clergymen and business men, with their families. It was the resting place of George BAILEY (1858–1926), a cricketer in the first Australian XI, John DAVIES (1813–1872), owner of *The Mercury* newspaper, Lady PEDDER, wife of Sir John Pedder, along with many free settlers and pioneers. New Town was considered a place for gentlemen to reside, away from Hobart, where they could establish large houses and fine gardens for their family.

To find the burial ground site, turn left at St Johns Church, take the next turn to the right—the burial ground was on the left side of the road.

The Friends of the Orphan School and St Johns Park Precinct are to publish an index of the deaths and burials of those connected with the site. Further publications are anticipated to include biographical information and transcriptions from the surviving headstones. ◀

ELIZABETH EDWARDS aka SOPHIA KIRK

EARLY LAUNCESTON NEEDLEWORK TEACHER

Diana Gourley (Member No.4266)

A 'Stitch in Time' in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol.29 No.4 pp236–240 provides a comprehensive account of the teaching of needlework in Van Diemens Land, and later Tasmania, with a starting point of 1835. The author, Betty JONES, acknowledges that needlework teaching would have begun earlier and such was the case.

Mrs KIRK was appointed Teacher of Needlework at Launceston Public School in 1827 and remained in the position until 1833.¹ While the Schoolmaster, Mr John HEADLAM, was paid £50 per annum, Mrs Kirk received £10—probably quite a considerable sum in her eyes for someone with her personal history.

The first verifiable reference to Mrs Kirk was as Elizabeth EDWARDS when she was tried at the Old Bailey in London on 9 July 1800,² found guilty of stealing a silver mug from a wholesale warehouse in Friday Street,³ and sentenced to 7 years transportation. Henry HIGGINS, a witness for the prisoner, described her as a married woman of good character. Her husband had kept a broker's shop in Camden and then a greengrocer's.

Within four months, Elizabeth and her 4-year-old son, Charles, had left England arriving in Sydney aboard the *Earl Cornwallis* on 12 June 1801. There is scant information about her next few

years apart from arriving in Port Dalrymple in the very early and harsh days of European settlement in northern Van Diemens Land. At some stage (perhaps in Sydney) she met Private Matthew KIRK, a soldier in the NSW Corps, who was in the regiment that accompanied Lt Col PATERSON when Port Dalrymple was first settled in November 1804.⁴ A daughter, Sophia Kirk, was born to them both on 29 July 1805/6 and another daughter, Maria, in 1809. Elizabeth and Matthew were married⁵ and the two girls baptised⁶ on 4 March 1811 when the Rev. Robert KNOPWOOD made his first visit to Launceston.

Little is known about Elizabeth until her name appears as a teacher of needlework in 1827 though she appears in the *Musters of 1811, 1818, 1820 and 1822*.⁷ By this time she had discarded the name Elizabeth, calling herself first Eliza and then Sophia.⁸ She and Matthew also had a son, James, born on 22 September 1815.

Sophia Kirk had reason to be proud of a government appointment as a needlework teacher. It gave her a steady income and a position of respectability not always possible for someone who was illiterate

¹ AJCP 1194, CO 284/49–52; AJCP 1195, CO 284/53–56

² Old Bailey Trials No.537 pp451–53

³ To the east of St Pauls Cathedral and south of Cheapside

⁴ AJCP, WO 12/9902–3

⁵ AOT RGD 36/1 81/1811 St Johns, Port Dalrymple, Launceston

⁶ TAHO AOT RGD 32/1 191/1811, Launceston, Sophia; RGD 32/1 190/1811 Launceston, Maria

⁷ Irene Schaffer, ed., *Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists, Van Diemen's Land 1803–1822*, Hobart, 1991

⁸ The same name as that of a daughter

and with a convict background. Even when she was not reappointed in 1834, she continued to work, showing a sense of determination and independence. When she died on 17 May 1836, her son Charles gave evidence at the inquest⁹ that she had been working as a laundress 'at the Public house kept by Capt. Wales'. Charles's wife, Ann, stated 'Mrs Kirk earned enough to support herself and frequently did work when my husband requested her not to'. Certainly she had no need to work even though she was a widow.¹⁰ Charles whose house she had been living in, had become successful as a wheelwright, carpenter and land owner.

It was not long ago when families were ashamed of their convict heritage, resulting in creative recounting of their family origins. A brief account of the life of Mrs Kirk, Teacher of Needlework, provides no cause for shame. Rather we must admire the way she, like many other female convicts, established herself and her family in a new environment after transportation. ◀

Tasmanian Ancestry **Journal Competition**

Send an article into the journal and be eligible to be for a prize in the best article competition.

The article should be limited to 2,500 words maximum, including footnotes and references.

Articles are welcomed in any format—handwritten, word processed, on CD or by email.

Photographs/images will be returned on request.

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The Editor
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⁹ TAHO AOT Inquest No.89; SC 195/2

¹⁰ Her husband Matthew had died in July 1833.

CONVICT STAIN

‘NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN’

Wynnette Ford (Member No.2637)

I was born in the 1940s and ‘not in front of the children’ was the maxim most of us born in that era grew up under. That, and ‘children should be seen and not heard’. We were supposed to be the epitome of the three wise monkeys. We would see, hear, and say no evil.

I originally thought our convict ancestors were hidden because they were just that; convicts. No previous generation could acknowledge, or remember that anyone in *our* ‘respectable’ family was so lacking in morals to have needed to be sent to gaol.

I have just finished reading Babette Smith’s thought provoking book, *Australia’s Birthstain*. Through some twenty plus years of research, I had gradually become aware of most of the attitudes and social mores that caused the total disappearance of any family stories or legends that may have assisted me. But her book really showed me just how entrenched this wall of silence had become and why.

It almost equates to the American era of ‘McCarthyism’ which caused great personal and social fear. We did not have ‘Reds under the beds’, to be disassociated from as far as possible, but we *did* have close relative convicts. Who, just because they were *known* to have been convicts would have been stained indelibly (and by association their descendants, inhibiting their ability to achieve gainful employment) as being, either ‘licentious, depraved and immoral’ or, (horror of horrors) may have committed ‘unspeakable crimes’, i.e. homosexuality, whilst incarcerated.

Some of my convicts were up to five generations removed, so it was understandable that their origins were forgotten. But a couple were only three short generations back.

My father had remarked, “You might find some things you won’t like”. I don’t know that he knew any specifics, but I think he knew ‘rumours’—not that he told me any of them. I guess he probably knew I would ferret them out anyway. He did tell me that we were some sort of cousins to “MUNDY the Butchers” and to a well known sporting identity “Nuncky AYERS, whose family owns the bus line”.

Well yes, we were as it turned out. George MUNDY, who was on the *Calcutta* to Port Phillip Bay in 1803 and then to Risdon Cove on the *Ocean* in 1804, was my great, great, great grandfather. My link was my great grandmother, Ellen Sarah Mundy.

The Ayers? Slightly more off-centre. Jane BYRNES, daughter of convicts, born in New South Wales in 1836, had at 17, married ‘divorcee’ Thomas PAGE, arrived in Van Diemens Land and given birth to their daughter Maria, all within nine months, in 1853. (Pronounced Mar-eye-ah, snippet from an aunt.) Why did they leave NSW? To escape the stigma of Thomas’ past? A former convict? Being described as divorced in that era is unusual enough—upper class men were the only ones usually able to do so. If he was a former convict, VDL was an odd place to run to, right into the current hotbed of discussion declaring former

convicts and their families' existence in the community as a terrible and corrupting influence on society.

We will never know. His marriage certificate gave nothing away. Not even his age. It is possible he was the Thomas Page who died in Hobart on 1 December 1854. This man was aged 66, his death reported by his son James. If he was the man who married Jane, he was forty-eight years her senior. Another reason to leave New South Wales?

Jane PAGE took up with highly tattooed and extremely rebelliously behaved convict, Edmund HARROLD, alias EARL. Edmund arrived on the *Earl Grey* in 1843. Convicted of stealing 4 pounds of bacon, he was certified free in 1853, but was in trouble again in 1853/54. After starting a family with Jane in 1854 he seems to have reformed. Never marrying, they had nine children, one of whom married the Ayers.

Edmund died in 1885, but Jane lived on until 1930. An obituary for Jane 'aged 100' appeared in *The Mercury* on 22 March 1930. She was described as the 'Wife of an early settler'. Of course, *nowhere* in the article is the word convict mentioned in relation to her husband or parents. In 1930 it was still as much of a stigma as in 1853.

The article did mention the ship Jane came to Hobart on, the *Wild Irish Girl*. The original 1853 record show no Page's, only unnamed passengers 'in steerage'.

My mother's family? Just *so respectable*. Nothing disgraceful ever happened. Emphasis was placed almost solely on her paternal grandfather's 'Scottish origins'.

Sigh ... so many *fibs* in my family.

When talking to my great aunt on Mum's maternal side, I mentioned just how far I

had reached in my research into her family. Being then still extremely naïve, I stupidly mentioned that her own grandfather had a family with another lady (who had already had two other relationships—and several children) before marrying her grandmother. Extreme agitation was the immediate reaction. "My grandfather was extremely respectable, a *pillar* of the community". Then to head me off at the pass, so to speak, "My father had a sister, my namesake. She married a BULLEID in Victoria".

She succeeded in her aim. I was off on the scent of her elusive father.

What I hadn't got to mention (and I'm now sure that she knew) was that the lady the errant grandfather had eventually married was a convict. Arriving on the *Midlothian*, the third last convict ship to VDL in 1853, Catherine CANTILEN/CANTILLON was from Kerry. She had been convicted for 'Stealing clothes from Connor at Kerry, six months for a goose & six months for potatoes'. No matter that she probably stole from need during the famine. Within two generations, it was 'forgotten'.

The difficulty I have experienced when asking older members of the family for information is not unique. Have you have been told, "You won't find anything." "None of your business. Leave it/well alone."

Yes, our convicts did things that were not acceptable in polite society, but they survived the many horrors of the sea voyage and the infamous hulks and/or noxious prisons prior to that. My first convict was on the *Lady Juliana* in an unimaginable 309 days, my last on the *Midlothian* in a 'fast' 167 days. Could you imagine being below decks in such ships, with the wretched conditions, not

to mention the *smell*, sometimes for most of the voyage? I feel ill just thinking about it, let alone experiencing it; not to mention the actuality of serving the sentence imposed in a totally foreign environment. Not all behaved well during their servitude, but only one was flogged and placed in chains that I know of. That one may have also have briefly been to Port Arthur. All the others served their time 'respectably' within the assignment system.

In their lives, the women were sometimes treated like breeding cattle and the men like dumb animals, neither as if they had a will of their own. Women with children who had several 'husbands' were not 'depraved', they desperately needed a breadwinner to feed their children. They survived *and* thrived. If they hadn't, I wouldn't be here.

I wish the 'Stain' had not prevented me hearing family stories passed down about them. I proudly acknowledge them and record what I have learnt for posterity. ◀

ERNEST WILLIAM GIBSON, great grandson of David Gibson of Pleasant Banks, Evandale, Tasmania, married on 11 November 1903 at St Johns Church Darlinghurst, Sydney, to Eleanor Elizabeth BEDFORD.



Eleanor was born on 17 November 1877 at Ina Terrace which is where Edgecliffe Railway Station now stands.

Hazel Blair, Member No.1756, found this information while researching a business in Darlinghurst where the railway station now stands. The old shops were demolished about 1960.

Thank you Hazel—Ed.

*Tasmanian Family
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2009
*Lilian Watson
Family History
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for

a book

however produced
or published on paper,
dealing with family,
individual or biographical
history
and having a significant
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GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

IN the aftermath of the tragic fires in Victoria early this year the genealogical email lists were full of stories of a different sort of tragedy. Many stories were told of family historians who had lost not only their homes, but their family trees, heirlooms, correspondence, family photos, certificates and decades of research notes, much of which is irreplaceable.

After reading of these losses I must admit to looking around my own collection and imagining not having any trace of it. It's a scary thought. But I backup, right? Sure. There was the CD I made containing my family tree files and some photos which was supposed to go to my sister's place, but by the time I got around to actually sending it to her it was so out of date I thought I'd just wait and do it again, after I've entered this latest bit of research of course. Then of course there's the external drive which I could theoretically grab in case of evacuation—which only contains about half the photos (the rest aren't scanned) and a quarter of the most recent files because I haven't updated it lately. And of course I'd need a ute to load the folders of certificates and file cabinets of correspondence, not to mention the photo albums and other heirlooms just in this room.

Having failed my own advice my new resolution was to really back up my family tree. Not just the plain data, but all of it, for posterity, or until the next update at least.

Where to start? The first step is to organise what I have on the computer and back that up as it is before I start adding to it.

There are several things to consider before backing up. First, a DVD burner (external ones that plug in via USB are not very expensive these days) will save hours of trying to fit folders across CDs.

CDs/DVDs have a limited life span (estimated to be around eighteen months) and are easily damaged, so for this exercise it might be an idea to buy some of the more expensive ones on the market for 'archival' purposes. I would however like to meet the person who burned the CD that they tested as lasting 100 years (and presumably borrow his time machine), so don't believe all the advertising.

External hard drives have also dropped drastically in price in the last few years. Ideally, since they work best if used at least every year or so you would have two, one stored offsite, and swapped with the second one containing the latest updates every year. However even data stored on CDs or USB sticks is better than having nothing at all.

Next, be sure you know where your data is on your computer. Use new folders, label and sort files and photos, even separate them from less important documents so you can easily locate them for copying to the backup device.

By far the simplest way to backup your files is to not use backup programs. Backup programs generally have a flaw—you need to have the exact same program (sometimes even the same version) in order to ever access your data. Backups also often compress your files, and compressed files are more subject to errors, meaning you'll never view them again.

Backing up is simple. Make a note of every file/folder you need to keep. This should not include the program files. For example you need to back up your word documents, but copying the installed MS Word program will be useless as it won't function on another computer unless installed from the install disk. The same applies for your family tree program. You need to find the files created by the program and copy them, but not the actual program.

Once you know what you need copied, simply copy or burn to your external drive or DVD. Then store it offsite.

Of course this only works if you actually do the copying. Back up programs do have their place. Look for a program that doesn't compress or change the files format at all. You will need the same amount of space on the backup drive as on the master, but it is worth it to have accessible files.

Alternatively you can use a synchronisation program. These programs can be set up to copy any files or folders as they change. To try and show the difference imagine a folder *FT* containing two files, *family.doc* and *family2.jpg*. If I run a backup program then these two files are copied to the second drive. If I add *tree.doc* file, it too is copied to the backup. If I then delete *family.doc* from the main computer, it remains on the backup, so the main *FT* folder contains two files, but the backup contains three.

If I synchronise folder *FT* then the copy made on the external drive is exactly the same as the master all the time. Therefore, if I move a file, or delete it, the external is exactly the same. This can be a bad thing if you accidentally delete all your photos, but a good thing if you often rearrange the folders where your photos are stored. ◀

Websites of Interest

Information on early English marriage licences www.sog.org.uk/vg/index.html

Licences available through paid service at www.britishorigins.com/

Australian libraries and resources quick links www.nla.gov.au/oz/genelist.html

Old Bailey Punishments
www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Punishment.jsp#respited-for-pregnancy

There's a site for everyone—101 most useful sites www.telegraph.co.uk/scienceandtechnology/3356874/The-101-most-useful-websites.html

So many genealogy sites! www.pricegen.com/english_genealogy.html

Welsh castles
www.castlewales.com/home.html

Info on English BDM certificates, districts etc. www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/Familyhistoryandresearch/DG_175464

GRO site for online ordering of certificates www.direct.gov.uk/gro

Some very interesting old photos and descriptions www.old-picture.com/

Mostly Tasmanian lantern slide images
eprints.utas.edu.au/view/collections/lanternslide.html

Convict transportation registers database
www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts

University of Tasmania Royal Society Collection including pdf files of diaries, letters
eprints.utas.edu.au/view/collections/royalsociety.html

Australian newspapers
ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home

I always welcome suggestions of websites, so if you find anything useful please email to computing@hobart.tasfhs.org

DO YOU REMEMBER ...

Kate Carlisle

LIKE most of the old houses it stood back from the street, and my father had added to the lower story a shop front, quite handsome, for those days. By the end of the century the original building had been completely hidden by a new front, and “Coldstreams Old Savings Bank Drapery Mart” formed a row of shops uniform in appearance.

Just below us was my grandfather’s shop, R. MATHER & Son, now, J. B. Mather & Son, and adjoining, my uncle Robert’s linen draper’s shop in BROCK’s Buildings. These two buildings, except for their fine plate glass windows, continued unchanged.

At the corner of Elizabeth Street, stood “WALCH’s” formerly “TEGGS”, a good two storied brick building. At the opposite corner, on the South East side of the street and extending more than one third of the way to Murray Street, stood a row of two story brick stuccoed shops. These shops were rebuilt after fires in 1854 and 1859. There with an interval of little shabby one storied shops came a row of shops including BROWNELL’s original shop and extending to Miller’s Corner in Murray Street. These were erected under building leases on land belonging to George Carr CLARK whose property extended round the corner, and included the “Club Hotel”, the fashionable hotel in those days.

In those days all the shop windows had small old fashioned panes and, but by the end of the century they nearly all had plate glass fronts. On the western side of the street, the buildings were much more irregular. Amongst a few mean, two storied, brick shops, were a number of crazy, shabby, one storied wooden shanties, often with open fronts, like stalls,

occupied by greengrocers, butchers and small “general dealers”. HOGGINS had his pastry cook’s shop in a dilapidated, wooden building, whitewashed.

Much has changed since those words were told by the daughter of Robert Mather who arrived in Hobart Town in 1828 on the *Heroine* to establish himself as a merchant, specialising in drapery. They were recorded in the book, *All That We Inherit, The Walkers in Van Diemen’s Land*, by Peter Benson WALKER.

Robert Mather was a Christian man who treated his staff in a kind and considerate manner. His compassion and his gentlemanly manner were passed on to succeeding generations of Mathers. In 1900 there were adjacent shops owned by Andrew Mather & Co. and J B Mather & Sons and another by George Benson Walker. In the early 1900s the three shops were combined to make the building in Liverpool Street, which was used by SOUNDY’s and is still used today by Les LEES.

Many people from the Hobart district will remember shopping at Mathers—the quality of the merchandise and the friendliness of the service engendered loyalty from both customers and staff. A certain Miss GREEN used to go to Melbourne on buying trips for the Fashion Department. She would bring back items of clothing she knew specific customers would like. It was like ‘one big happy family’.

One of the staff members is Val ORPWOOD who had her 90th birthday in March. She began working for ‘Mr Andrew’ and ‘Mr Robert’ when she was

16 and her able assistant was Mildred CRUDGINGTON, who was from England and just 15. At the birthday party, no fewer than five other workmates from that era shared memories of the wonderful company where they had worked for so many years. Val spent most of her working life on the wool counter at Mathers until Mr Robert Mather sold the business in 1972.

Although many of the original family names have disappeared, there are many businesses in Tasmania today that can be traced back to the hard-working, risk-taking, men who established themselves as merchants in the early days of Hobart Town from 1820 to 1860.

On the 10 October this year, the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc. will be presenting the 10th Biennial Tasmanian History Conference with the title *Manufacturers and Traders of Van Diemen's land 1820–1860*. It will be held at Wrest Point and speakers from around the state will make presentations about the industries and traders of the period. Historical societies will present displays about their own districts. All are welcome to attend. ◀

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hotmail.com

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BOOK REVIEW

Prisoners In Paradise, The story of Olivia Gascoigne & Nathaniel Lucas, Featuring Norfolk Island's First Settlement 1788–1814, Trevor M. Lagström, published by Trevor & Judi Lagström, 2008, 29 River Road, Yarrowonga VIC 3730. 86 pages including cover, A5 format, soft cover.

This first part of this book is devoted to the early lives of Olivia GASCOIGNE and Nathaniel LUCAS. Olivia, from Yorkshire, was born in 1761 into an aristocratic, wealthy family with numerous estates complete with castles. The author gives reasons why she may have strayed from her 'safe' life only to be tried and sentenced to transportation. Nathaniel Lucas, born in Surrey about 1764, followed his father's trade and became a carpenter, then a boat builder and millwright. The author suggests that he was wrongfully tried and transported as a likely asset to the future colony.

Olivia sailed on the *Lady Penryn* and Nathaniel on the *Scarborough*—two of the First Fleet ships, and soon after their arrival were chosen to transfer to Norfolk Island. They married and became leaders in the new colony.

Lagström has included information on many contemporary figures, both those in charge such as PHILLIP and KING, as well as convicts.

They returned to Sydney in 1804 and when he died in 1818, Lucas had fathered thirteen children. Olivia later moved to Launceston with some of her family who married into well-known local families. Lagström and his wife are planning a trip to Tasmania later this year.

There are eighteen pages of coloured photographs and maps of Norfolk Island. The author does list some references and links, but unfortunately the book does not contain an index. ◀

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LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

BURNIE BRANCH

Books

Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *Index to The Kelso Chronicle 1860–1861*

Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Volume 4 1908–1909*

* Gaylard, Geoff, *One Hundred & Fifty Years of News from The Herald 1840–1990*

* General Register Office, *General Register Office Information for Adopted People and their Relatives England & Wales*

* General Register Office, *The Adoption Contact Register Information for people adopted in England or Wales and their birth relatives*

* General Register Office, *Access to Birth Records Information for adopted people living outside the United Kingdom*

* Grey-Smith, Donald, *Boat People of the Empire*

* Parkes, Elizabeth & Doggerr, Jean, *Thomas Diprose & Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's, Land Strangers*

* Rogerson, Pat, *Unraveling Our Past*

* Smith, Bessie, *Three Quarters of a Century of Hockey in Burnie 1921–1996*

State Library of Tasmania, Archives Office of Tasmania, *Church Registers held in the Archives Office of Tasmannia*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania Index to City of Hobart 1878*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Assesment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania Index to City of Hobart 1888*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index 1913–1916*

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DEVONPORT BRANCH

Books

Parkes, Elizabeth & Doggett, Jean, *Thomas Diprose and Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's Land—Strangers, Vol.2*

TFHS Inc. Devonport, *Cemeteries of the Port Sorell District North-West Coast, Tasmania*

TFHS Inc. Launceston, *The Weekly Courier – Index to Photographs, Births, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians – Vol.4 1908–1909*

HOBART BRANCH

Microform

* Kent FHS; *All Saints, Lydd: Christenings 1800–1873, Marriages 1754–1905, Burials 1800–1914.*

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Books

- * Arco Publishing; *Burke's Family Index*. [R 920 BUR]
- Alexander, A; *Glenorchy 1964–1998*. [994.61 ALE]
- * Baker, A; *Index to The Mercury Death Notices—1970*. [Q 929.38 BAK]
- * Beever, E A; *Launceston Bank for Savings, 1835–1970*.
- Bissett, B & M; *The Weekly Courier, Vol. 4 1908–1909*. [Q 929.38 BIS]
- * Bollard, B R; *The Bollards of Bedfordshire*. [Q 929.2 BOL]
- * Chambers, J; *Wiltshire Machine Breakers: Vol.1 The Riots & Trials*. [942.073 CHA]
- * Chambers, J; *Wiltshire Machine Breakers: Vol.2 The Rioters*. [942.073 CHA]
- * Cowra FH Group; *Boorowa Cemetery*. [Q 929.32099445 BOO]
- * Cox, W; *A Miscellany of Tasmania*. [805.85 COX]
- * Davis, Richard; *Irish Traces on Tasmanian History, 1803–2004*
- Divall, K; *My Ancestor was a Royal Marine*. [359.9 DIV]
- Falconer, H.; *Ticklebelly Tales & Other Stories: from the people of the Hydro*.
[Q 621.312134 FAL]
- * Fitzpatrick, F A; *Peeps into the Past—Pioneering Days on the Manning*. [994.42 FIT]
- * Foon, Julia; *The Harding Family*. [Q 929.2 HAR]
- Green, Anne; *A Model Municipality—Places of Management, Mentoring & Medicine in Launceston*. [Q 720.99461 GRE]
- * Hobart City Council; *Hobart City Council Voters List 1992*. [Q 929.34099461 COR]
- * Langston, B; *Cheshire Parish Registers*. [929.3109427 LAN]
- * McFie, Peter; *The World Beneath The City—Underground Hobart*. [Q 994.661 MAC]
- McLoughlin, G; *Craftsmen & Tradesmen*. [331.7 MCL]
- * McRay, M & M Dadson; *Pateena Road—Families and farms of the Pateena District*.
[994.63 MAC]
- Maxwell–Stewart, H; *Closing Hell's Gates—The death of a Convict Station*.
- * Morgan, S; *Land Settlement in early Tasmania*. [994.602 MOR]
- * Mouritz, J J; *The Port Phillip Almanac & Directory, 1847*
- * Muir, R; *The Villages of England*. [914.2 MUI]
- * Parkes, E & J Doggett; *Thomas Diprose and Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's Land—Strangers; Vols 1&2*. [Q 929.2 DIP]
- * Parry, S; *Journal of Northern Territory History, 1997*. [Q 994.29 JOU]
- * Purtscher, J; *The First True Friends of the Queen's Orphanage*. [362.7 PUR]
- Rigney, F L; *A Midlands Odyssey—A journey through parts of the Northern Midlands of Tasmania*. [Q 994.62 RIG]
- * Smee, C J; *The Pioneer Register—2nd Edition: Vol.VI*
- * Spiers, S M; *Monumental Inscriptions for Belhelvie Churchyards*. [929.3209412 SPI]
- * Steel, D & L Taylor; *Family History in Focus*. [779.FAM]
- * TFHS Inc.–Hobart; *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania: Index to the City of Hobart, 1888*. [Q 923.34099461]
- TFHS Inc.–Launceston; *The Kelso Chronicle, 1860–1861*
- TFHS Inc.–Launceston; *The Tasmanian Mail—A photographic index, 1913–1916*.
[Q 929.38 TAS]
- * Vernon, F.A. & M.N. Sprod; *The Whitehead Letters*. [Q 994.603 WHI]
- Waters, C; *A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles & Occupations*. [331.7 WAT]
- * Watt, M G; *The Hansson Family*. [Q 929.2 MAN]

* White, S; *A Patchwork Heritage: 13 Australian Families*. [929.2 WHI]

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Computer Disks

Berkshire FHS., *Berkshire Burial Index—2nd Edition*

* ArchiveCD Books; *Australian Bailliere's Gazetteers Set, incl. Gazetteer and Road Guide for: NSW 1870, QLD 1876, SA 1866, TAS 1877, VIC 1879*

ArchiveCD Books, *Australian Dictionary of Dates & Men of the Time*

ArchiveCD Books, *Tasmanian Reports of Crime, 1861–1865*

ArchiveCD Books, *Tasmanian Reports of Crime, 1866–1870*

ArchiveCD Books, *Tasmanian Reports of Crime, 1871–1875*

Hampshire GS; *Hampshire G.S. Members' Interests, 1999–2008*

Hampshire GS; *Hampshire Marriage Index, 1754–1812*

Hampshire GS; *Hampshire Marriage Index, 1813–1837*

New Zealand SoG.; *New Zealand Marriages, 1836–1956*

New Zealand SoG.; *New Zealand SofG Index, Version 5*

S&N Genealogy Supplies; *Lincoln's Inn Admissions, 1420–1888*

VicHeritage; *Australian Army War Dead (1885–1972)*

VicHeritage; *Pioneer Index Victoria, 1836–1888*

West Surrey FHS., *Surrey Baptisms not on the IGI*

West Surrey FHS., *Surrey Burials Index*

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LAUNCESTON BRANCH

Books

Bissett, M & B, *The Weekly Courier Vol.3 Index to Photographs, BDMs, Personal Items of Interest*

Bissett, M & B, *The Weekly Courier Vol.4 Index to Photographs, BDMs, Personal Items of Interest*

Boniwell, Robert R, *The Allison Story*

Dammery, Sally, *She Lived in Launceston. Isobel Horner of Waratah House*

Dimmick, L W *Home and a Range. The Hean Family of Tasmania*

Dimmick, Len W, *Fishes and Men. The Jones Family of Plenty Tasmania*

Friederichs, Dr Heinz F, *How to find my German Ancestors and Relatives*

Harrison, J N D, *The National Trust in Tasmania*

Heazlewood, Ivan, *Sesquicentenary of the Wesleyan Chapel - Whitemoor*

Jetson, Tim, *In Trust For The Nation. The first forty years of the National Trust in Tasmania 1960–2000*

Lamshed, Max & McLeod, Jeanette, *Adelaide Sketchbook*

Readers Digest, *Book of Historic Australian Towns*

Reschke, Mary, *William Pitt of Longford House*

Ruhen, Olaf, & Hatcher, *Port Macquarie Sketchbook*

Schaffer, Irene, *Jericho, Oatlands, Somercotes, Ross Excursion 31 October 1993*

State Library of Tasmania, Launceston, *Launceston & Country Properties*

TFHS Inc. Devonport Branch, *In Loving Memory Series. Wilmot Public Cemetery*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania*,
Index to City of Hobart 1868
Index to City of Hobart 1878
Index to City of Hobart 1888

TFHS Inc Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail* Vol.3 A Photographic Index
TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Kelso Chronicle, 1860–1861 Index BDMs, &*
Personal Items of Interest

Ward, Kirwan, & Rigby, Paul, *Perth Sketchbook*

Ward, Kirwan, & Rigby, Paul, *Freemantle Sketchbook*

Watson, Reg A, *Distinguished Tasmania Historical Parliamentarians*

White, Unk & Farrelly, Alan, *Newcastle and Hunter Valley Sketchbook*

White, Unk & Luck, Peter, *Canberra Sketchbook*

Woolmers Estate, *Woolmers Estate*

Computer Disks

ABM Publishing,

1871 Census :Cardiff Glamorganshire

1871 Census : Ramsgate, Kent

1901 Census : Romsey Hampshire

1849 Directory : White's Birmingham

Parish Records : Thorton Buckinghamshire

Parish Records : Ingham Suffolk

Parish Records : Windlesham Surrey

The War Illustrated. Reprisals : Their Sanity and Morality

Macbeth Genealogical Services

NSW Bounty Immigration New South Wales 1828–1842

South Australian Births Registrations 1907–1928

South Australian Marriages Registrations 1917–1937

Argus Newspaper Index Victoria : Births 1914–1931, Marriages 1931–1941

Federation Index Victoria 1889–1901 : Index to Births Deaths & Marriages

Edwardian Index Victoria 1902–1913 : Index to Births Deaths & Marriages

Inquest Index. Victoria 1840–1985

Purtscher, Joyce, *Tasmanian Paupers and Invalids : Brickfields, Cascades, Launceston and Port Arthur*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol.1X*

Oatlands District CD 1 : Oatlands Township, General, Campbell Uniting, St Pauls

Catholic, St Peters Anglican, Wesleyan & other Burials & Memorials

Oatlands District CD 2 : Jericho, Lower Marshes, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Woodsdale

& Other Burials & Memorials in the Oatlands District

VicHeritage, *Australia's Army War Dead 1885–1972*

BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

BURNIE Phone: (03) 6435 4103 (Branch Librarian)
Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee
Tuesday 11:00 am–3:00 pm
Saturday 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
The library is open at 7:00 pm prior to meetings.
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway, Cooee 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.

DEVONPORT Phone: (03) 6427 8997 (Branch Secretary)
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 The last Thursday of each month is flagged for evening events with a commencement time of 7:00 pm Meetings are held at the Mersey Regional Library in Devonport, the Branch Library in Latrobe or at other places as determined by the committee. Please check the website at www.tfhsdev.com or contact the Secretary.

HOBART Phone: (03) 6228 5057 (Branch Secretary)
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
Tuesday 12:30 pm–3:30 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Saturday 1:30 pm–4:30 pm
Meeting Rosny Library, Bligh Street, Rosny Park, at 8:00 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

HUON Phone: (03) 6239 6529 (Branch Secretary)
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
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 pm on 1st Saturday of each month, except January.
Please check Branch Report for any changes.

LAUNCESTON Phone: (03) 6344 4034 (Branch Secretary)
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)
Tuesday 10:00 am–3:00 pm
1st & 3rd Saturday 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Meeting Generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except January and December. Venue as advertised. Check the Branch News and the website <http://users.bigpond.com/ltntasfh> for locations and times.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Membership of the TFHS Inc. is open to all individuals interested in genealogy and family history, whether or not resident in Tasmania. Assistance is given to help trace overseas ancestry as well as Tasmanian.

Dues are payable annually by 1 April. Membership Subscriptions for 2009–10:-

Individual member	\$39.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$49.00
Australian Concession	\$27.00
Australian Joint Concession	\$37.00

Overseas: Individual member: A\$39.00: Joint members: A\$49.00 (inc. airmail postage).

Organisations: Journal subscription \$39.00—apply to the State Treasurer.

Membership Entitlements:

All members receive copies of the society's journal *Tasmanian Ancestry*, published quarterly in June, September, December and March. Members are entitled to free access to the society's libraries. Access to libraries of some other societies has been arranged on a reciprocal basis.

Application for Membership:

Application forms may be downloaded from www.tasfhs.org or obtained from the TFHS Inc. State Secretary, or any branch and be returned with appropriate dues to a branch treasurer. **Interstate and overseas** applications should be mailed to the TFHS Inc. Treasurer, PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250. Dues are also accepted at libraries and at branch meetings.

Donations:

Donations to the Library Fund (\$2.00 and over) are *tax deductible*. Gifts of family records, maps, photographs, etc. are most welcome.

Research Queries:

Research is handled on a voluntary basis in each branch for members and non-members. Rates for research are available from each branch and a stamped, self addressed, business size envelope should accompany all queries. Members should quote their membership number. Research request forms may be downloaded from www.tasfhs.org.

Reciprocal Rights:

TFHS Inc. policy is that our branches offer reciprocal rights to any interstate or overseas visitor who is a member of another Family History Society and produce their membership card.

Advertising:

Advertising for *Tasmanian Ancestry* is accepted with pre-payment of \$27.50 per quarter page in one issue or \$82.50 for four issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the journal editors at PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250.

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Huon:	PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109
Launceston:	PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

Branch Library Addresses

Burnie:	58 Bass Highway Cooee Tasmania 7320
Devonport:	Old police residence, 113 Gilbert Street Latrobe Tasmania 7307
Hobart:	19 Cambridge Road Bellerive Tasmania 7018
Huon:	Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh Tasmania 7109
Launceston:	45 Tamar Street Launceston Tasmania 7250

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

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009–2010

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Daphne Mitchell 6394 4991

Barrie Robinson 6328 1349

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Lucille Gee 6344 7650

Alternate Delegate

Daphne Mitchell 6394 4991

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with
Rule 14, that the

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
is to be held on

Saturday, 20 June 2009
at the

Bellerive Yacht Club
64 Cambridge Road, Bellerive
commencing at 1:30 pm

Voting is restricted to financial members of
the society and a current membership card
may be required as proof of membership.

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Presentation of the 2008 'Lilian
Watson Family History Award'
- 4 Presentation of TFHS Inc. Awards
- 5 Read and confirm Minutes of the
2008 AGM
- 6 Reports
- 7 Election of Office Bearers and
Endorsement of Branch Delegates
- 8 General Business

Anita Swan
President

See p.10 of this issue for further information