

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 30 Number 3—December 2009

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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

From the editor

I am delighted to be able to include the photograph of Miss Wayn on the cover of this issue. To most of us she was hidden away in the archives somewhere, a revered name without a face. We have pored over her indexes, discovered the answers to many of our questions and unravelled further queries. Now we are able to learn more about her life from her citation on the *Women Tasmania* website. Those who have not been fortunate enough to have visited the Archives Office of Tasmania can now view the Wayn Index online at the State Library of Tasmania website.

Also included is the citation for the founding president of our society, Lilian Watson, who is probably just a name to many of our more recent members. It is fascinating browsing all the entries and I was pleased to see the name of a Launceston branch member, Glenn Burt, amongst earlier awards. Congratulations Glenn!

Well-known Tasmanian author, Carmel Bird, has generously allowed me to include her story of Mathinna. This brought back memories, especially of my grandfather's library in Ulverstone which included both volumes of *The Cyclopaedia of Tasmania*. Thank you Carmel.

There is also an article from Neil Chick, one of our society's Fellows and a founding member. Perhaps this will help you uncover an elusive marriage?

Enjoy reading over the forthcoming festive season but an urgent plea for articles for the next and future issues.

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.

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Cover: *Amelia Wayn*, see pp.144–145. With thanks to Archives Office of Tasmania for their kind permission to reproduce this photograph.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS I prepare these notes for the journal at the beginning of October, I realise how difficult the task has been for past presidents.

Much that can be reported will have already occurred before the journal is printed and advance news subjects are limited. My comments are therefore limited to some past events in the life of our society. The message is that all of these events relate to the many hours of volunteer work provided by members.

The 'Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women' 2009 inductees were announced on 7 August. The Honour Roll was established by the State Government in 2005 to recognise the contributions women have made to Tasmania.

Of the thirty women added, fourteen were posthumously inducted for contributions that went back many years. Lilian Watson, founding president of our society and the first 'Fellow of TFHS Inc.', was one of the posthumous inductees. Fittingly, her addition to the roll occurred during National Family History Week.

At the August meeting of the society, the executive officers and your branch delegates approved an increase in membership subscriptions for the 2010/2011 year. All rates were increased by one dollar. Remarkably, this is the first increase in subscriptions since the 2000/2001 period, despite the continual increase in costs over a ten year period. During that time, thanks to the endeavours of past executive committees the society has continued to evolve without passing on cost increases to members.

Series 2 of the Australian *Who Do You Think You Are?* program commenced on

Sunday, 27 September at 7:30 pm on SBS. The first celebrity featured was Ron Barassi. Hobart branch had a small connection to the research on this subject. Its publication *Convict Applications to bring out families to VDL (also NSW, Vic & WA) Index 1827-1873*, was featured in tracking down an ancestor. It was pleasing to see our society mentioned in the credits at the end. I understand that public interest generated new sales of the book the very next day.

Sigrid Thornton, Ben Mendelsohn, Maggie Beer, Christine Anu and John Butler were featured in the following episodes.

In the immediate future, is the period when all branches will close for the holiday period; usually mid-December until mid-January. This is the time when our volunteers can have a well earned rest from the many tasks that enable the society to function. On behalf of all members, I thank them for their efforts during 2009.

To all members, I wish you a very merry Christmas and great happiness in the new year as you overcome those 'brick walls' in your research. ◀

Maurice Appleyard
State President

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

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I guess everyone is now over the wet winter we have just endured. Even though we had wet weather and swine flu our branch still enjoyed good attendance at branch functions and patronage of our branch library.

Our July meeting was our winter dinner meeting and all those who attended enjoyed themselves, even the 'hot seat' quiz we ran. Most of our meetings during the last few months revolved around either computer technology or the internet.

It must be a sign of the times with many researchers using computers and the internet more and more for their family history research. Judy and Peter attended the recent 25th VicGum Conference at Phillip Island and brought back some useful ideas to share with the members.

The computer and internet topics we had were:

- July day meeting—Using the *Genealogist* site
- August day meeting—New Zealand records on the internet
- August night meeting—Finding photos and images on the internet for family research
- August Computer night—A look at the new *Windows 7* operating system

- September night meeting—Web sites from magazines
- September Computer night—A quick look at *FTM 2009*.

A reminder that all our information from the branch is sent out via our branch mailing list. If you haven't subscribed as yet, go to this address and follow the instructions to subscribe.

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-TFHS-BB.html>

By the time you read this we will be winding up for the year. We have our final night function for the year on the 17 November which will take the format of a dinner. The committee of Burnie branch wish all a merry Christmas and look forward to a successful research year in 2010.

Devonport

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Hard to believe it is nearly the end of the year. We have sent out our last newsletter for the year that contains raffle tickets for our annual Christmas Hamper fundraiser.

September—our monthly meeting was held at our library where a member, Dale Smith, conducted a show and tell style display on the family history software program he is using, being *Legacy*. This program is one of many that could fulfil

your need to correlate your family tree for the future. It was very informative and a few of our members have expressed interest in forming a *Legacy* help group. This will be posted on our website when it is up and running.

October—we held a display of how to preserve your photos by way of scrapbooking. The point of scrapbooking is to preserve your photos using acid free paper, ensuring a longer life span.

November—we had a bus trip to Westbury with a choice of visits to Culzean Garden, Pearns Steam World or the White House Museum. In the next issue there will be a report on this.

December—Our Christmas dinner will be held on the 11 December at Villaret Gardens near Elizabeth Town. Price will be \$33 per head and we have chosen to forgo the \$5 gift. There will be a possible car pool from the branch library. If you are interested please phone the branch library or secretary as soon as possible.

Our library closes at 3:00 pm on the 18 December and reopens on the 5 January 2010.

January—our first meeting back will be the 28 January with a BBQ at 6:00 pm at our branch library. This will be updated on our website.

If you are finding it hard to buy a relative a Christmas gift, why not buy a Gift Voucher for use in our branch library. Our branch catalogue is now available on our website. If you need to know any information regarding the library please email our secretary or look at our website.

Wishing our members a safe and joyful Christmas and a bright and happy new year.

Hobart

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After two years of investigation, purchase and trials, we now have, fully operational, our machine which can scan microfiche and film and send the results to a computer. At present this machine is only operated by our staff, but visitors may ask, for example, to have appropriate records scanned onto a USB stick so that they may take them away in a digital format.

Our branch library committee, under the expert guidance of Judith Mudaliar, continues to keep our library functioning at a very high level. Our volunteer library assistants are always very willing to help anyone who is attempting to find that long lost relative, or to try to break through the inevitable 'brick wall'. Each month the committee seems to come up with three or four titles—be it book, CD or other medium—which are submitted to the branch committee for approval and purchase. And so our resources continue to grow.

At our July meeting, Heather Felton gave us 'Some tips on researching and writing history.' This talk was illustrated with examples from her own work, and we all benefited from her knowledge and experience.

The August meeting heard Julie Gardam talk about the history of Tinderbox. Julie has published a number of books on this

region, and her knowledge and expertise made her talk very interesting.

In September Dr Cassandra Pybus spoke on the topic, 'Black Convicts.' Her enthusiasm for this subject, and her extensive knowledge of it, made for an enjoyable and informative session.

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 two general meetings are:

- 20 October—Ann Ricketts: 'The Norfolk Islander Land Grants of Queenborough from Chaffey's Point to Garth's Point.'
- 17 November—Christina Henri: 'Vessels of Hope.'

There is no General Meeting in December. Our first General Meeting for 2010 will be on Tuesday 16 February.

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.

The WISE Interest Group and the Family History Writers Group

These groups are in recess for the remainder of this year.

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

Huon

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No report

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Work is continuing on three main publications, with further releases in the new year: *The Tasmanian Mail*—1921–1922; *The Weekly*

Courier, 1912–1913 and *The Kelso Chronicle* (Scotland), 1858–1859.

Within the next year or so, we envisage release of the *Walch's Red Book* CD, further releases of *The Examiner* (1961–1970); a section of the Carr Villa Memorial Park project and a continuation of the *Gone but not Forgotten Series*.

On Wednesday, 23 September, some members together with records and equipment, travelled to the Scottsdale Library and were available to help those who visited. The time spent was well worth while and it was good to make some sales of publications.

On Thursday we had an excellent response to the Seniors Week feature—'Search for your Family' and our volunteers were kept busy from the time of opening.

On Wednesday, 24 November, we are looking forward to an afternoon tea for the volunteers, and a tour through the City Park Studios, and on Sunday, 29 November, many of our number will enjoy the day at the Christmas break-up for Northern Historical & Family History Society Groups, which is being held at York Town Historic site.

Tuesday 1 December: 3:00 pm: Library closes for holidays.

Monday 11 January: 9:00 am: working bee.

Tuesday 12 January: Library re-opens.

Tuesday 26 January: Library closed for the Australia Day holiday.

Watch the website for details of branch activities for February and March. ◀

Index to **The Examiner**

Index to Births, Deaths & Marriages from
The Examiner Newspaper
from 1900–1965

Now available—

Volume 1, 1900–1910	\$27.00
Volume 2, 1911–1920	\$33.00
Volume 3, 1921–1925	\$24.00
Volume 4, 1926–1930	\$27.00
Volume 5, 1931–1935	\$27.00
Volume 6, 1936–1940	\$35.00
Vol 7, 1941–1950-Births	\$30.00
Vol 8, 1941–1950-Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 9, 1941–1950-Marriages	\$30.00
Vol 10, 1951–1955-Births	\$28.00
Vol 11, 1956–1960-Births	\$30.00
Vol 12, 1951–1955-Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 13, 1956–1960-Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 14, 1951–1960-Marriages	\$30.00
Vol 15, 1961–1965-Deaths	\$30.00

**Index to *The Examiner*
Obituaries & Funerals:**

1941–1950	\$25.00
1951–1960	\$25.00

Available from
TFHS Inc.
Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290
Launceston
TAS 7250
Plus \$10.50 pack of 4
TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
plus \$10.50 p&p

A Photographic Index to **The Tasmanian Mail**

This series covers the photographs
which appeared in
The Tasmanian Mail from 1894–1935

Now available—

Volume 1, 1894–1904—\$27.00
Volume 2, 1895–1908—\$27.00
Volume 3, 1909–1912—\$27.00
Volume 4, 1913–1916—\$27.00
Volume 5, 1917–1920—\$27.00
Volume 6, 1921–1923, in progress

Available from
TFHS Inc.
Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290 Launceston
TAS 7250
Plus \$10.50 pack of 4
TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
plus \$10.50 p&p

Index to **The Weekly Courier**

Index to photographs, BDM notices and
personal items of interest to Family
Historians which appeared in
The Weekly Courier from 1901–1935

Now available—

Volume 1, 1901–1903—\$30.00
Volume 2, 1904–1905—\$30.00
Volume 3, 1906–1907—\$30.00
Volume 4, 1908–1909—\$30.00
Volume 5, 1910–1911—\$30.00
Volume 6, 1912–1913, in progress

Available from
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Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290 Launceston
TAS 7250
Plus \$10.50 pack of 4
TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
plus \$10.50 p&p

TASMANIA'S HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN

Lilian Delsa Watson

Awarded for service to cultural
heritage

Born: 31 July 1932

Died: 10 March 1996

Entered on roll: 2009

Family history gives a lot of people a lot of pleasure ... when you learn about history you understand yourself better.

(Lilian Watson, 1995)

Lilian Watson was born in Queensland in 1932. She moved to Tasmania in the 1950s and it was here that her interest in family history developed. This interest grew into the formation of the Tasmanian Family History Society, an organisation used by thousands of people to trace their family history.

Lilian was married and had six children. Despite heavy family commitments, Lilian's knowledge of genealogy was such that she became a well-known national figure whose expertise was sought by many.

In 1973, Lilian became accredited as a Genealogical Researcher. A few years later, Lilian organised a meeting under the umbrella of the Melbourne-based Australian Institute of Family Studies. The first Genealogical Society of Tasmania was formed in 1980, with Lilian the founding President.

From 1978 to 1998, thousands of Tasmanians benefited from Lilian's tutoring of family history through Adult Education. She also wrote a series of books, became a regular



contributor to the *Tasmanian Ancestry* journal and wrote a weekly column for *The Mercury*.

In 1980, Lilian led a campaign which resulted in the release of Tasmania's pre-1900 birth, death and marriage records, the first such release in the English speaking world. Another major achievement instigated by Lilian was the transcribing and recording of all headstones in Tasmania.

Lilian's achievements have been recorded in *The World Who's Who of Women*, and family history awards have been named in her honour. Lilian was awarded the first Fellowship Award of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania, becoming one of only four recipients of the Society's highest honour.

Lilian Watson passed away in Hobart on 10 March 1996. In 2001, the Genealogical Society of Tasmania became known as the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Since its formation, it has achieved a membership of 7,000. This is Lilian's legacy.

Amelia Lucy Wayn MBE

Awarded for service to cultural heritage

Born: 1862

Died: 11 August 1951

Entered on roll: 2009



Amelia Lucy Wayn was probably born in Germany in 1862, the daughter of Amelia and the Reverend Arthur Wayn. Reverend Wayn was appointed curate at St Andrew's Church, Evandale, Tasmania, in 1864 and for 30 years Amelia accompanied her father (widowed in 1877) around the parishes in which he was the incumbent.

Following her father's retirement, Amelia trained as a nurse at Launceston

Public Hospital. Moving to Hobart, she ran the Fairfield Private Hospital from 1900 to 1915, before going to Launceston as matron-in-charge of the military base hospital until she was demobilised in 1921.

In March 1921, Amelia was appointed in a temporary capacity as a 'lady indexer' of the Tasmanian archival records, dating from 1820 which were held by the Tasmanian Chief Secretary's Department. She quickly became recognised as the 'authority on the historical records of the State' and over the next 20 years she undertook work and provided replies for a wide range of researchers.

The *Index to Tasmanian Government Records and Colonial Newspapers* (Wayn Index) was undertaken from 1 January 1920 until 31 December 1940 and contains colonial records from 1 January 1825 to 31 December 1840. The handwritten card index compiled by Amelia, often on a voluntary basis, has proven an invaluable tool to researchers to the present day.

In 1941, Amelia was awarded an Order of the British Empire – Member (Civil) for public service in Tasmania. Amelia continued her indexing and research up until 1949, when a full-time archivist was appointed. The massive indexes and compilations that she created are held in the Archives Office of Tasmania, a lasting memorial of her work.

Amelia died in Hobart on 11 August 1951 and was cremated at Cornelian Bay. ◀

Special thanks to *Women Tasmania* and the *Honour Roll of Women* for permission to reprint.

TO BE HANGED?

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

ABOUT half the criminals condemned to death during the 17th and 18th centuries did not go to the gallows, but were transported to the colonies or imprisoned. Three of my ancestors fit this example, and were transported to Hobart Town between 1818 and 1825. They were: Nison JACOBSON for forgery; John TATTERSALL ‘burglariously’ entering the house of a calico-printer and stealing ‘a quantity of silver and copper coin, two bottles of spirits, and other articles’, and James FREEMAN for horse-stealing. Between 1803 and 1853, the period of transportation to Van Diemen’s Land, commutations of hanging sentences were common. The grounds for mercy were that the offence was minor, that the convict was of good character, or that the crime committed was not common enough in that county to require an exemplary hanging.

Several of the important statutes in England which made death the punishment for theft had been passed in Tudor times, but by the 16th century, the ‘benefit of clergy’ made it increasingly possible to avoid the gallows. After the 1750s the increasing use of the royal pardon, by which transportation could be substituted for hanging on the recommendation of the judges, meant the number of executions did not increase at the same rate as the number of convictions, and added to the numbers being transported.

The nature of a criminal trial gave vast discretion to men of property other than the prosecutor, and the law did not allow

those accused of felony to employ an attorney to address the jury, therefore a poor man’s defence could be a hesitant, confused statement. If he had a clear alibi he was lucky, but to establish innocence in more complicated cases might be very difficult, even when the judge was sympathetic. Character witnesses were therefore extremely important, and frequently used. In character statements the word of a man of property had the greatest influence, and judges respected the evidence of employers, respectable farmers and neighbouring gentleman more than neighbours and friends.

Judges also used the pardon when necessary to meet the requests of local gentry or to reconcile popular feelings of justice. The bench could ultimately decide who to recommend for mercy and who to hang, but was not usually willing to antagonise a body of respectable feeling. When necessary, the pardon allowed the bench to recognise poverty, as an excuse, even though the law itself did not. ◀

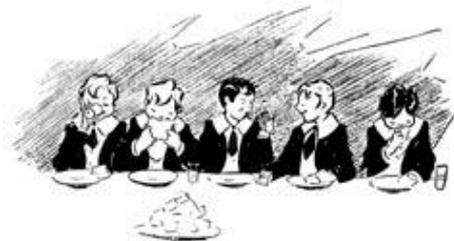
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Douglas Hay, ‘Property, Authority and the Criminal Law’, in Douglas Hay, Peter Linebaugh, John G Rule, E P Thompson and Cal Winslow, *Albions Fatal Tree: Crime and Society in Eighteenth-Century England*. London: Penguin Books Ltd, 1975, pp. 22, 42–44.

Lancaster Gazette, 18 September 1829.

STATE HIGH SCHOOL BOARDING HOUSES 1915–1927

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



ALTHOUGH the Tasmanian Government officially started to accept responsibility for public education from 1839, it was not until 1913 that the first State high schools were opened in Hobart and Launceston. More restricted provisions followed in Burnie and Devonport in 1916, while Junior Technical schools were introduced for boys alone in Hobart and Launceston, and for both boys and girls in Zeehan and Queenstown in 1919. Huonville Intermediate High was started in 1920, but closed two years later owing to lack of local support, and Scottsdale Intermediate High School began operation in 1922. Other post-primary schools were gradually set up in the years that followed.

Unlike present procedures, not all children were automatically eligible to enter those institutions at that time. From 1912, students wishing to enroll at State high schools the following year had to sit for the Qualifying Examination (later known as the Scholarship Examination and Ability Test), success at that externally-set test being essential for admission. Entrance to the Junior Technical schools required the same qualification.

Great inequities in relation to both access and participation existed, the system favouring those students who lived in the school centres or within easy travelling distance of them. A newspaper article highlighted some of the difficulties faced by children living outside of Burnie: In 1918, hope was expressed by parents of pupils from Wynyard who were attending Burnie High School that their children would not have to continue leaving home before daylight and getting back after dark. Tatlow's Stables were arranging to get children to Burnie each day leaving Wynyard at 7:45 am. and returning from Burnie at 4:30 pm. The cost was expected to be 7/6 per head per week, but it was anticipated that the Government would meet half of that expense.¹

For the majority of country pupils who wished to continue their education, living away from home became a forced necessity, be it staying with relations, friends of the family or at other boarding facilities, the additional cost and inconvenience to parents for this being obvious. Participation by such students

¹ *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 16.5.1918

Hobart

Mrs CHANCE	"Moana", Elizabeth Street, Hobart	1915–1924
Mrs DORE	Queen Street, Hobart	1915–1916
Miss DOSSETOR	7 Scott Street, Glebe	1915–1924
Mr FAULKNER	Claremont House, Elizabeth & Warwick Sts, Hobart	1918–1924
Miss L GARRARD	St Michaels Hostel for Girls, 11 Pine St, West Hobart	1922–1924
Mrs HUMBLE	Commercial Road, North Hobart	1915–1924
Mrs KEARNEY	24 Lansdowne Crescent Road, Hobart	1919–1921
	268 Park Street, Hobart	1922–1924
Mrs H J KNOTT	Claremont House, Elizabeth & Warwick Streets, Hobart	1915–1917
Mrs LAUGHLIN	27 Jordan Hill Road, Hobart	1918–1919
Mrs LUCAS	56 Warwick Street, Hobart	1918–1922
Miss PITT	56 Warwick Street, Hobart	1915–1917
Mrs T RIGBY	Corner Elizabeth & Elphinstone Streets, Hobart	1918–1919
Mrs J STEWART	137 Forest Road, West Hobart	1917–1924
Mrs K SUTTON	25 Tasma Street, Hobart	1918–1927
Mrs A W WATERWORTH	Church Street, Hobart	1917

Launceston

Mrs BOND	14 Stone Street, Launceston	1921–1927
Mrs J BREADEN	24 French Street, Launceston	1927
Mrs BROWN	35 Bourke Street, Launceston	1915–1924
Mrs COOKMAN	292 Charles Street, Launceston	1915–1927
Mrs M DEN	109 George Street, Launceston	1915–1917
The GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY	11 Stewart Street, Launceston	1917–1921
	Mission House, Canning Street, Launceston	1922–1927
Mrs J GOODALL	144 St John Street, Launceston	1915–1924
Mrs M GREEN	40 Charles Street, Launceston	1922–1927
Mrs HOLROYD	6 Hill Street, Launceston	1918–1920
Mrs HOOPER	Methodist Hostel for Boys, 85 Patterson Street, L'ton	1921–1923
Mrs JAMES	10 Holwell Street, Launceston	1922–1927
Mrs M E LINDSAY	"Raeburn", Trevallyn	1918–1923
Mrs LYNCH	12 Wilson Street, Launceston	1916–1924
Miss A A MARSH	14 Bourke Street, Launceston	1915–1917
Mrs McDONALD	Patterson Street, Launceston	1917–1918
Mrs NASH	115 Cameron Street, Launceston	1915–1923
Mrs E A PECK	85 Upper Frederick Street, Launceston (Girls Only)	1915–1917
Misses POOLE	Hostel, Park Street, Launceston	1927
Mrs L T POTTER	13 Abbott Street, Launceston	1921
Mrs T K ROBSON	Richards' Avenue, Launceston	1922–1924
Mrs RUSTON	Mulgrave Crescent, Launceston	1923–1927
Mrs M SOLOMON	24 Brisbane Street, Launceston	1917–1923
Mrs K SUTTON	25 High Street, Launceston	1915–1917
Mrs P WINGROVE	24 French Street, Launceston	1915–1917

was considerably lessened as a result, as illustrated in an analysis of the Hobart High School Admission Registers for 1913 with reference to the previous Tasmanian schools attended by the students. Eighty-one per cent of that first intake had gone to Hobart city and suburban schools, while the other nineteen per cent came from those in southern, northern and west coast country locations.¹

However, it is interesting to note that, as an aid to parents in the country, approved boarding-houses in Hobart and Launceston were mentioned regularly from 1915 in *The Educational Record* (a monthly professional periodical published by the Education Department). To be recognized, it was necessary for the boarding-house to receive a satisfactory report from the medical officer of the Department or a member of the staff of the high school. It was also a requirement that the head of the establishment report quarterly to the Director of Education on:

- a) the general conduct of the students in the house;
- b) the time given by students to study;
- c) how and where students spent their evenings when absent from the boarding house; the hours kept by them; and
- d) any other information as considered necessary by the officer making the enquiry.²

These residences in Hobart and Launceston were listed in various editions of *The Educational Record* between 1915 and 1927, and are set out under the name of the proprietor, the address and the years of operation. ◀

¹ Archives Office Tasmania: AA984

² *The Educational Record*, Education Department, Tasmania, 15.4.1915

Book launch of

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Kent and Van Diemen's Land.
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and Elizabeth Parkes

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September 2009, pp.74-75

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GEORGE COATSWORTH HOPWOOD INFAMOUS CUTTHROAT?

Margaret Nichols (Member No.3225)

MY great great grandfather, George Coatsworth HOPWOOD was described as an 'infamous cutthroat' by Captain James COLNETT, captain of HMS *Glatton*.

The description was in Colnett's progress report to his superiors at the Admiralty written at Rio de Janeiro on 12 December 1802.¹ Colnett's letter reads:

I also came at the knowledge of a most notorious Gang who had sworn to plunder all on board. The leader, a most infamous cutthroat named Hopwood, but nicknamed himself and Gang on board the Hulks and Jails the Swellers. They have been used to Rob every one with impunity threatening to murder those who accused or represented their conduct. Their threats kept the greatest part in Awe and here he also supposed his good appearance and plausibility would prevent my believing anything to his prejudice. On finding the contrary general satisfaction was restored to the Convicts; who now in return looked with contempt on their oppressor thus disgraced and having no other alternative he was forming a plan to take the Ship which I was early informed and ordered the leader to be heavily Ironed and Hand Cuffed to the joy and relief of mind of the greatest part of the unfortunate and to prevent any surprise; gave orders for a double watch of officers to be kept.²

In Captain Colnett's log, the punishment is described but not the crime:

¹ AJCP PRO Admiralty Records Adm 1/1632. Letter to Admiralty 12 December 1802.

² *ibid*

Friday 19 November 1802: ... 10 A.M. punished Francis HAUGHTON, Richard RUSTON, James CHAPMAN, James LEWIS, James PURNELL, William THORNBUR, George Hopwood, William CURTIS and William DENNISON (convicts) with 3 dozen lashes each.³

Taking over the ship was an ill-advised plan. The *Glatton* was a naval ship, refitted to transport convicts and free settlers to New South Wales. It was the first naval ship used for the purpose and, as such, an experienced captain was chosen to lead the 'experiment'. Colnett dealt harshly with any offence on board and recorded all punishments in detail. He commented that:

the good discipline I have kept up by punishing the Convicts for every crime agreeable to the articles of war.⁴

On board were 400 convicts of both sexes, twenty-four settlers and their children as well as a contingent of sailors and soldiers. Nine convicts plotted to take over the ship with George as the ring-leader. What would have motivated them to do this against almost unassailable odds, including lack of manpower, lack of firearms, lack of knowledge of navigation and seamanship? Was it boredom, a belief in their own invincibility (you would think somewhat shattered by their current status),

³ AJCP PRO Adm. and Secretariat. Log books, etc. Captain's Logs' 51/1467, *Glatton*, J Colnett.

⁴ AJCP PRO Admiralty Records Adm 1/1632. Letter to Admiralty 12 December 1802.

desperation to stay close to England or just plain bravado and stupidity? We'll never know.

George Hopwood was on board the *Glutton* having been convicted of theft in July 1801 and sentenced to seven years' transportation to New South Wales. His crime was 'feloniously stealing in this county [Kent] two brass guns value £100 the property of His Majesty'. A writ for his arrest along with several others was taken out in Maidstone on 16 March 1801. Subsequently George was apprehended in London and handed over to the Sheriff of Kent.⁵ It appears that his accomplices were not apprehended with him. As the *Glutton* did not leave for New South Wales until September 1802, George spent twelve months in the hulks. Captain Colnett's comments bear this out.

George was born on 12 March 1777 to John Hopwood and Elizabeth COATS-WORTH.⁶ He had at least two siblings, both born in the parish of St Leonards, Shoreditch. John was born in 1775 and William in 1779.⁷ Although a record of his birth has not been located, there is strong evidence to indicate that George was the middle brother.

Nothing is known of George's life in London until his arrest in 1801. The theft of the two brass guns was committed in June 1799 on one of the wharves in Deptford. The guns belonged to the Revenue cutter *Repulse*, which was under repair and the guns landed during the work. George's brother, John Hopwood, was arrested sometime later and convicted of the theft at the March Assizes in 1801

and sentenced to five years in prison. George was involved as he was driving the cart containing the guns. When challenged he escaped to London. Affidavits asserting John's innocence and attesting to his good character were presented in April 1801.⁸ One of the petitioners was John Hopwood, John and George's father. He petitioned for clemency for his son John on the grounds that John had a wife and three children and expecting another shortly.⁹

The *Glutton* arrived at Botany Bay in March 1803. In a letter to Governor King on 3 May 1803 Captain Colnett states:

I will thank you to send, by the officer who delivers this, the depositions I left with you of Hopwood, the convict's, theft of one of our seamen.¹⁰

George was still causing Captain Colnett grief, but by 3 May, George was already on his way to Norfolk Island having been shipped off there by the first available means. It is likely that George travelled to Norfolk Island on the *Buffalo* which left Sydney on 21 April and arrived at Norfolk Island on 9 May.¹¹ Norfolk

⁵ PRO ASSI 35 241/3

⁶ Information from a family Bible which notes that 'George Coatsworth Hopwood died on September 2nd 1829, 52 years, 5 months and 21 days – on a Wednesday'.

⁷ IGI

⁸ Judges Reports and Returns Maidstone 1801 – The Affidavits. HO 47/28.121630

⁹ It is still not known what happened to John Hopwood. There is no record of his being transported to New South Wales at this time, despite the fact that there is a report in the *Maidstone and Kentish Journal* for 17 March 1801 which reads 'Hopwood John, charged of Felony. Transported for 14 years.' He was still in gaol two years later.

¹⁰ *Historical Records of Australia. Series I. Governors' Despatches to and from England. Volume iv. 1803-June 1804.* Fredk. Watson (ed) (Sydney, 1915), Colnett to King, 3 May 1803, p.273

¹¹ This is borne out by the comment in the *Sydney Gazette* of 24 April 1803. On Saturday the 16 instant and 2 following

Island was not yet the place of second offence it was to become later, but it would appear that the Sydney authorities had already determined that it was an excellent place to send someone like George, who had displayed all the symptoms of being a potential nuisance to the authorities.

George spent the next six years on Norfolk Island. In that time he worked off his sentence, had a small holding of land, worked as a sawyer and also supplied wheat, barley and pig meat to the Government Stores.¹² There is no evidence that he ran up against the authorities during this time. This period must have been one of severe adjustment for George. He would have been living a rural existence, very different from a life in London.

The decision to evacuate Norfolk Island was taken as early as 1803 when Lord Hobart informed Governor KING in a despatch dated 24 June 1803. George was evacuated on the *City of Edinburgh* which left Norfolk Island on 9 September and arrived in Hobart on 2 October 1808. Most of the Norfolk Island inhabitants were not happy leaving the island, having cleared land and built up a good living. There were many promises of compensation, the most persuasive being that in the new location they would be granted four acres for every acre of cultivated land and two acres for every acre of waste land. The land grants were not honoured until 1813 after Lachlan MACQUARIE visited Tasmania. George Hopwood was granted 60 acres of land at

days, a number of prisoners convicted of misdemeanors, were shipped on board the *Buffalo* for NI.

¹² Norfolk Island papers. Colonial Secretary Index to papers relating to NI 1794–1829. AONSW COD 472 copy of 4/1171B.

Crayfish Point in Queenboro, where the suburb of Tarooma is now.¹³ This was registered in the Colonial Secretary's Office in Sydney on 31 July 1816. By then George was a family man. He had married Ann SHERBURD, a freeborn Norfolk Islander, the daughter of Second Fleet convicts William Sherburd and Esther THORNTON, in February 1809 and over the next eighteen years they had nine children.

George appears to have worked his land. In the general muster taken in late 1819, George and his family and two government servants were self-supporting and he had cattle and sheep grazing on the 60 acres. At this time the *Government Gazette* records that George was supplying fresh meat to the Government.

In 1818 George's life took a different turn when he is recorded as having a licence to run a public house, *The City of London Arms*, in Hobart. In late 1819 he was the proprietor of the *Green Gate* in Collins Street. He ran this public house until his death in 1829, when his wife Ann and son George took over the licence until 1835. An article in the Hobart publication, *The Critic* in 1923 stated that:

The *Green Gate*, in the [18]20s was kept by a Mrs. A. Hopwood and judging from a sketch of it in an old picture of the city, it was a very humble looking establishment which did a thriving business amongst seafaring people. It was a few doors above the old *Ship Inn*, on the site of which hostelry stands the Union Bank of Australia. The prominent place of business in proximity to the *Green Gate* was the boat yard of Mr. Risby. ... There is no mention of the *Green Gate* in the [18]50s, and if an old hand's statement is

¹³ Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788–1825. Fiche 3262 Index to Land Grants in VDL 1810–1823.

worth anything it saw its demise in the [18]40s.¹⁴

The *Green Gate* was obviously a landmark in Collins Street as there are numerous references to it in the newspapers of the 1820s. Addresses for sales were described as opposite or near the *Green Gate* in Collins Street.

George's uncle, William Hopwood, was transported for theft in 1816 and arrived in Tasmania in 1820. His petition to the Governor for a grant of a town allotment in 1821 states that William 'was assigned to his nephew Mr George Hopwood, Publican of Collins Street' on his arrival in Hobart.¹⁵ George presumably helped his uncle become established as a watch and clock maker.

George's philanthropy did not stop with his family. A case of real distress was reported in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of 20 November 1819.

The widow and five children of Benjamin Briscoe, who was unfortunately drowned in the River Derwent a few weeks ago, are by that unhappy accident deprived of their only source of support. She, therefore, most humbly submits her melancholy case to the humanity of the public, in the hope that she may be enabled by its assistance to provide for her infant family. ... She has to acknowledge her most sincere gratitude for the generous donations of: ... Mr George Hopwood – 10/-.

Sarah BRISCOE was born on Norfolk Island and she and her family would have been known to George. They were evacuated to Hobart a year before George. The Hopwood/Briscoe connection recurs in my family in 1936, when my mother, Faye Hopwood, married my father,

Malcolm COX, a descendant of the distressed Sarah Briscoe.

In December 1820, George and his family had a pew reserved in St Davids Church, Hobart for their use. Row 13 includes Hopwood, BARNES, RANSOM, WALLIS, CONNELLY, EDDINGTON and DEVINE—all of whom were publicans.¹⁶

A notice in the *Hobart Town Gazette and Tasmanian Advertiser* of Saturday 2 June 1821 announced that:

The Provisional Committee of Van Diemen's Land, under the Sanction of His Excellency the Governor in Chief, and His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, for promoting their Resolutions of a General Meeting, held on the 23d of January last, at Port Jackson, in Behalf of the Emancipated Colonists, give Notice, that they will continue to sit on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evening, during the ensuing Week, at Mr. Hopwood's, Collins-street; where the Committee will be happy to receive all Persons feeling interested in the great Object of the General Meeting, and desiring to give their support thereto.

Meetings to debate and inform emancipated colonists of the changes in the law which would affect their ability to own property and other civil liberties, were held for several months in various hotels in Hobart. As an emancipated colonist, George would have had a vested interest in informing himself of the details of the meetings. Perhaps he was actively involved? The fact that meetings were held at his inn suggests this.

¹⁴ *The Critic* 20 July 1923 p.3, col.1

¹⁵ LSD 1/4 Page 427. 6 October 1821, p.427

¹⁶ *Historical Records of Australia Series III Despatches and Papers relating to the settlement of the states. Volume iii Tasmania January–December 1820*, Fredk Watson (ed) (Sydney, 1921), p.681.

In 1826, the *Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser* included the following advertisement:

LOST, about three Weeks ago, a NOTE of HAND, drawn by Mr. Boulton, in favour of Mr. Wm. Able, Sen. for the Sum of £6 15s. dated October 1st, 1825, payable 5 Months after date.—Any Person finding the same will be handsomely rewarded by leaving the same at Mr. HOPWOOD'S, the Green-gate, Collins-street.¹⁷

The proprietor of a 'humble looking establishment' he may have been but he was considered reliable enough to be trusted with a possible return of a stolen note of hand.

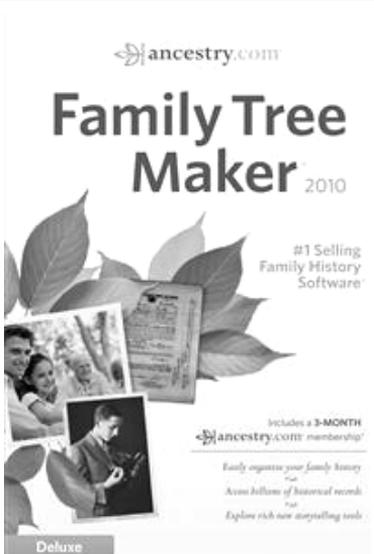
George's death was reported in the *Colonial Times*:

Death of Mr George Hopwood - landlord of the Green Gate in Collins Street, aged 52. An old Norfolk Island settler, leaving a numerous family.¹⁸

Was George Hopwood really an 'infamous cutthroat'? There is strong evidence that he was a loving family man, a softie moved by a family in distress to donate a substantial amount of money, a regular churchgoer, a trusted citizen and a man ready to fulfil his family obligations. But he was a convict, ran a humble public house and he appears to have left his brother to take the blame for the theft of the two brass guns. Perhaps he was a little bit of all of these things? ◀

¹⁷ *Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser*, Friday, 13 January 1826, p.4.
<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/2446944>

¹⁸ *Colonial Times*, 4 September 1829.



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MATHINNA

A SHORT STRANGE SECRET MISTY SMOKY MYSTERIOUS HISTORY

Carmel Bird

SOMETIMES people ask me how growing up in Tasmania has affected my work as a fiction writer. I lived in Tasmania for the first twenty-three years of my life, and from the beginning I was fascinated by the short, strange, secret history of the place. I entertained myself quite a bit by reading the books in our house. I still have some of the books, and so I can refer to them in detail, not having to rely on memory.

Among the large and gloomy books which inspired me were two volumes called *The Cyclopedea of Tasmania*. This was a curious compendium of facts from the state's past, published in 1900. I loved looking at these books. They consisted of page after page of photographs of people and buildings, as well as text, and they were such imposing volumes, so self-important and arresting. Most of the people in them were men with beards and wide, staring eyes. Very, very occasionally there was a picture of a woman such as Miss Marion Oldham who was the Principal of the Wattle Grove State School, but women were generally not part of the main narrative.

There is Mrs Ferrar, who appears seated beside her husband. Mrs Ferrar 'remembers some exciting scenes in connection with the early days of the colony, when the aborigines were as thick as the proverbial bees, and as troublesome as wild beasts.' I wonder if Mrs Ferrar spoke those words. Once Mrs Ferrar was speared and clubbed, but 'happily with no serious results'. The

phrase 'speared and clubbed' is one I have always found particularly arresting. It is so plain, so stark, bluntly violent, so inarguable. This prose is much more lively than is usual in *The Cyclopedea*. 'As thick as the proverbial bees, and as troublesome as wild beasts.'

There is a description of 'one of the handsomest shops in the colonies'. This is quite interesting, because the entry in *The Cyclopedea* begins by describing the shop itself, before explaining what Mr A. P. Miller – Chemist, Druggist, and Distiller – does. The shop is so elegant and ornamented, with its bevelled glass and embossed gold lettering, its sheoak drawers with crystal knobs, its windows decorated with designs of Tasmanian wildflowers and birds. Mr Miller was one of the first people in Tasmania to use the oil of the blue gum tree in the manufacture of creams and soaps and ointments. So *The Cyclopedea* is not without its glimpses of literary felicity. I really liked Mr Miller, a character who came to life among hundreds of characters who didn't.

Mostly the prose is incredibly dull. Its very leaden nature stimulated my imagination, and the titles of institutions were enough to set me thinking. Imagine the Church of England Home of Mercy for Fallen Women. Then, there is an absence of children. In a photograph of a giant tree (Tasmania is famous for giant trees) a small girl in a white pinafore and bonnet sits at the root of the tree, while to the left, almost invisible, there sits a

woman in black, wearing a stern hat. Both figures have their hands folded on their lap. To the right a man lounges against the base of the tree, his back to the other figures, his hat rather jaunty, his hand on his hip. He stares into the distance. The woman and child suggest themselves as fairy folk. Behind the tree, which reaches up into the heavens beyond the frame, all is misty, smoky, mysterious. How could I not be affected by all this? I was, of course, deeply affected.

Another notable absence from the pictures and the narrative is that of the Chinese population which was actually considerable. Even as a child I wondered about that. This is a white, generally Protestant, serious, respectable history. Yet as I will explain, it awakened and nourished my interest in the stories of indigenous Tasmanians.

The businessmen who subscribed to the publishing costs of the books were the principal characters in the narrative of *The Cyclopedia*. The authors, generally, are not acknowledged, so it is often impossible to know who was behind the story, responsible for the language, at any time.

One particularly fascinating section is at the back of Volume Two – ‘Curious Facts of Old Colonial Days’. It includes entries headed ‘State Morals in the Early Days’ and ‘Strong Drink in Van Diemen’s Land’. Then there are six pages titled ‘The Aborigines of Tasmania’. This part has no photographs. It seems to be a little afterthought. It is followed by a section called ‘Miscellaneous’. The section about the Aborigines begins with the information:

A special interest attaches to the aboriginal inhabitants of ‘the garden island’ inasmuch as they have become

utterly extinct; and that too within the memory of many persons who are still in the prime of life.

There follows a selection of notes from James Bonwick’s work *Daily Life and Origin of the Tasmanians*. The extinction is stated as a fact, uninformed by pathos, let alone outrage.

Now I was prepared to believe what the book said, that this race of people had ‘completely disappeared off the face of the earth’. I found the idea remarkable and horrifying, and it is not only with hindsight that I say I felt there was something really creepy about the prose itself, this smooth, confident story of what was being named ‘extinction’. ‘They have become utterly extinct.’ ‘Extinct’ was not then a word often, or ever, used in ordinary conversation. I was interested in it. It sounded like a whip.

When I was very young I went to the Hobart Museum where I saw the tiny skeleton of Truganini who was supposed to have been the last of the Tasmanian Aborigines. I had never even seen a human skeleton before, let alone the skeleton of the last member of a lost race of people. I felt awe and a dreadful, shocked sadness. I remember the skeleton as being somehow unrelated to human life, so tiny, so museumy – more like the remains of a bandicoot or something. So this was extinction.

Then there was another book I used to pore over, a cheap green-bound volume published in 1928, *Tasmania’s North-East*. This one is written in a much more lively and personal style, and I really liked that about it. The author, Mr A. W. Loone, invents headings such as ‘Child Shockingly Mutilated’ and ‘Experience With Grasses’ and ‘The Joke that Failed’. This was clearly a better class of story.

The author also quotes James Bonwick, but the burden of his narrative is one of deep compassion and a very real sorrow. He believes the accepted version of the extinction of the race, but his regret is palpable. Other texts I read were informed with a smug congratulation that extinction had been achieved. A most curious feature of this book is that its final chapter, called a 'Conclusion' concerns three important Tasmanian Aborigines. It felt to me even as a child that it was a peculiar way to end a book that seemed to be about the pioneers and adventurers and early settlers of the district. It was not usual to end on this note. It is no afterthought, but rather a lament which insists on being spoken, which sits most powerfully as the final statement of the book. The last glossy illustration is a reproduction of the Thomas Bock portrait of the Aboriginal known as Jack of Cape Grim. One of the three Aborigines in the last chapter is Truganini, one is King Billy, and the third is Mathinna.

The first sentence in this chapter says: 'The history of Mathinna is melancholy in the extreme.'

The entire hidden tragedy and mystery, lit with the flashes of what horrors I knew of the fate of Tasmanian Aborigines, exercised a fascination over my early imagination, but possibly my heart was most deeply touched by the story of this girl. Mathinna. This little girl. There was a smudgy black and white reproduction of Thomas Bock's portrait of her in some other book belonging to my father, but I no longer have that book. I used to stare and stare at the picture, convinced somehow that the sitter was looking into my soul. Or I was looking into hers. (A portrait of the Princes in the Tower actually had a similar effect on me. I would keep returning to these

sweet boys – they resembled girls – who had been murdered and disposed of, never to be found.) I can't recall when I first saw the picture of Mathinna in colour, but I had imagined that her dress was pink. In fact it is red. The redness seems now to be somehow very significant. I recall my mother telling me that it was actually right to put red shoes on little girls, but wrong to put red shoes on little boys. In fact I really expected Mathinna should have been wearing a white dress. I would have given her a white dress, I thought. Did somebody agonise over the colour? Or was it just that there was a handy piece of red cloth? I was very attracted to portraits of children, and I had several prints of these framed on my bedroom wall, and I thought about them a lot. I am quite sentimental – I have to tell you that for me this picture of Mathinna is the saddest, sweetest, dearest image, and its meaning for me is entwined with my own early life and early reading, as a child, in Tasmania.

Let me tell you what I know about the story of Mathinna.

In 1833, two years before Mathinna was born, her people of the South West tribe were captured by George Augustus Robinson as part of his re-location program, and removed to the Aboriginal settlement on Flinders Island. This settlement was part of a failed experiment in the management of the native people of Van Diemen's Land. Mathinna was born on Flinders Island and was separated from her family, sent to live with the school-teacher as part of a policy to educate the children in white ways as early as possible in their lives. She was in fact the second child her parents had lost to the white authorities. So from the very beginning of her life Mathinna was alienated from her own people. Her

name was to begin with 'Mary' but was later changed by white folk to 'Mathinna', suggesting to me a rather complex and bewildering confusion of black and white identity.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the colony of Van Diemen's Land was John Franklin, and in 1838 he and his wife Jane visited the Aboriginal settlement at Wybalenna on Flinders Island. They inspected the place and were entertained by the Aborigines with song and dance, and they gave out gifts of beads, handkerchiefs, knives, and marbles. Two years later the Lt-Governor and his Lady returned to Wybalenna, and this time they arranged for the child Mary (soon to become known as Mathinna) who was now five, to live with them at Government House in Hobart Town.

Mathinna was suddenly elevated to the status of a child of colonial aristocracy. She shared a governess with Eleanor, the daughter of John Franklin, and rode in the carriage with Lady Franklin. It was at this time that Lady Franklin commissioned Thomas Bock to paint Mathinna's portrait. Eleanor Franklin kept a diary in which she mentioned Mathinna only twice, a fact that I see as significant in what it reveals about Eleanor's relationship or lack of it with Mathinna. I will quote these entries which I first read when I was about twelve.

Eleanor wrote:

The last Aborigines were caught about a fortnight ago, and sent to Flinders Island, so that our little native girl is the only one remaining here. She is improving I think, though it will be a long time before she becomes quite civilised.

The other entry, in which Eleanor copies out a letter written by Mathinna, is, in the context of Mathinna's life, one of the most moving and touching passages I

have ever read in its simplicity and its vivid revelation of a life. It is a statement in the form of a letter to Mathinna's step-father (her own father died when she was two). It seems to me that there is a conflation of three fathers – the step-father, Lt-Governor Franklin, and God. The letter is dated 14 November 1841, and it reads:

Mathinna is six years old. Her mother Eveline, father, modern name Hannibal, Cape Sorell tribe. I am good little girl. I have pen and ink cause I am good little girl. I do love my father. I have got a doll and shift and a petticoat. I read. My father I thank thee for sleep. I have got red frock. Like my father. Come here to see my father. I have got sore feet and shoes and stockings and I am very glad. All great ships. Tell my father two rooms.

This period in Mathinna's life, when she had her own bedroom and her pet possum, when she danced for visitors in her English clothes, did not last long. Two years in fact. Two years during which time she became the pet of the Europeans, but could no longer relate to her own people. The Franklins left Van Diemen's Land and returned to England in 1843, leaving her behind. She was placed in the Queen's Orphan School in Hobart where she was utterly different from and unacceptable to the other children. A year later she was back on Flinders Island living with the school master. Fanny Cochrane, an Aboriginal girl who was Mathinna's age, and who in fact lived to be seventy, was living there as well. The Aborigines at Wybalenna were dying. Mathinna's step-father died when Mathinna was eleven – her mother was already dead. When she was twelve Mathinna was returned to the Queen's Orphan School.

At New Norfolk, north west of Hobart, the governor had a country house which

Mathinna had visited when she was a member of the Franklin household. She was now taken there for a Christmas treat, as an orphan from the school. Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Denison gave a big party, with plum pudding and gifts. There was a tent on the lawn for white folk and a tent for black folk. The Europeans were very interested in the Aborigines, since such people had not been seen in public in southern Van Diemen's Land for a long time. There was a genuine desire to give the Aborigines a good time at the party, but there was also a sense in which they were a collection of freaks on show. It is so sad and poignant to imagine Mathinna as one of the Aborigines who played and danced for the European audience, she who not long before would have been among the privileged white children herself. And it was only a day outing. In the evening the carriages took the visitors back to the Orphan School.

The Orphan School was an abject Dickensian place of overcrowding, disease, hunger and punishment. The Denisons were interested in trying to improve the conditions, paying visits and taking gifts, and giving prizes for good work. By the time Mathinna left the school at the age of sixteen, she was the only Aboriginal left. She went to live at the tragic settlement at Oyster Cove where the dwindling group of Aborigines were dying of loneliness, disease and broken hearts.

By the time she was twenty-one Mathinna was trading her body for alcohol, and one night when she was drunk she fell into the water, and she drowned.

I try to match the end of this story with the image of the child in the red dress, and I fancy that in the soft hands, gentle smile, and in the intense and searching

eyes of the portrait, I can feel the tragedy of the child's future already written.

You can see that I have a special affection for and relationship with this portrait. I have carried a framed print of it round with me for a long time. Some years ago I went to live in an old house in Melbourne. I was using one of the rooms as a store-room for the time being. But for some reason I banged a nail in the wall and put up one picture, the picture of Mathinna. In the middle of the night, the ceiling of that room came crashing down. Now I realise that that ceiling was ancient and unstable, and that I had disturbed it by hammering the nail into the wall, but I choose to wonder. Would the ceiling have descended if the picture had been of my father in his cricket team?

When I was discussing this essay with Marion, the editor of this book, I told her the anecdote of the ceiling. That night, another piece of ceiling, this time in the bedroom, fell down, disturbed, I like to think, by my telling of the story. I have now had all the ceilings in the house replaced. They are superb. Growing up in Tasmania has affected my reading, my writing, and my ceilings. ◀

Carmel grew up in Tasmania, and the influence of the landscape and history of the island is often apparent in her work.

Carmel has taught writing to students in schools, universities and communities, and has edited several literary journals.

Her next novel will be *Child of the Twilight*, to be published by HarperCollins early in 2010.

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'NOTORIOUS STRUMPET' THE SHORT, BOISTEROUS LIFE OF CONVICT JOHANNA LYNCH (c.1798–1840)

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

IN *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1990), Phillip TARDIF told the story (albeit briefly in most cases) of each of the 1600 convict women transported to Van Diemen's Land in the first three decades of European settlement. At the time of its publication, the book—now out-of-print—was described by the eminent historian Manning CLARK as one 'written with immense scholarship and an eye for pity for all human beings.'

One of the 1600 women named in the book was my great, great, great grandmother, Johanna LYNCH. Not satisfied with the few short details provided by Tardif, I went looking for more information. Here's what I discovered.

Johanna Lynch, 21, was convicted of larceny at Waterford, Ireland in 1819, and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia. She left Ireland on the ship *Janus* in late 1819 and arrived at Port Jackson (Sydney) on 3 May 1820. There, she was one of sixty-eight female convicts (of a total of 104) who were transferred immediately to the government brig, *Princess Charlotte* and sent off to Van Diemen's Land, forty-three of them to be landed at Hobart Town and the remainder at Port Dalrymple, near George Town, north of Launceston.¹

It is interesting to speculate why Johanna Lynch was among the sixty-eight women who were trans-shipped to Van Diemen's Land.² It is even more interesting, perhaps—in view of what was to become of her—to speculate why Johanna's name appears first on the list!

The journey of the *Janus* from Ireland to Port Jackson has been described by Charles BATESON in *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*, in quite unflattering terms. Bateson writes:

The 1820 voyage of the *Janus* formed the subject of an enquiry ... The *Janus*, which was really a whaler, embarked her prisoners at Cork, and running out to Rio in 64 days, she completed the passage to Port Jackson in 150 days. Her master, Thomas J. MOWAT, had been ordered to call at Hobart, but when the [medical] superintendent, James CREAGH, died off the Tasmanian coast, Mowat chose to disregard his orders [and sailed directly to Port Jackson.]

[At the enquiry which followed], the magistrates reported that prostitution had prevailed 'in a great degree' throughout the voyage, and that [allegations that] Mowat and his officers had not made due exertions to prevent it were 'true and well-founded in fact.'³

¹ *Princess Charlotte* left Sydney on 16 May 1820 and entered the River Derwent at Hobart Town on 30 May 1820. See Governor Lachlan MACQUARIE's 1820 Journal, <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/digital/lema/1820/1820may.html>

² TAHO NSW Reel 6007; 4/3502, pp.37–8. List of Female Convicts trans-shipped from the ship *Janus* to VDL on *Princess Charlotte*; May 1820. See List 1, #1: Johanna Lynch.

³ Bateson, C. (1974). *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*. Sydney: Reed Publishing.

Once ashore at Hobart Town, Johanna Lynch soon came to the notice of the authorities. The female Muster Lists of 1821 and 1823 both make mention of the fact that she (now referred to as ‘Ann’ Lynch’) was cohabiting with a convict by the name of John CAVANAGH.⁴

Convict John Cavanagh arrived at Hobart on *Minerva* on 7 June 1818. He had been convicted of burglary at Wicklow, Ireland, in March 1817, and sentenced to transportation for seven years. He was 21, five feet six and a half inches tall, with dark brown hair and blue eyes. He could neither read nor write but there was nothing in his convict record to suggest he was a violent man.⁵ However, by March 1824, when given his ‘Free Certificate’, Cavanagh was known as a trouble-maker and nuisance. At the time of his death a couple of years later, he was ‘a dangerous thug’.

⁴ Tardif, *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls* (1990), p.400. According to Tardif, the Muster records for Johanna Lynch come from *Historical Records of Australia*, Series III, Vol.4, pp.635–6, (AJCP Reel 997). It should be noted, however, that the corresponding male Muster Lists make no mention of this. The male Muster List of 1823 states only that Cavanagh was ‘married’ and he had ‘two children’. It does not name his wife or either of the children. Was ‘Ann Lynch’ the woman to whom he was supposedly married? Were they Ann Lynch’s children to which this Muster referred? It is likely that the answer to both questions is ‘Yes’, but no marriage certificate has been found. See http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON40-1-5,358 Image No: 285.

⁵ Cavanagh’s ‘Description List’ is at TAHO CON 23/1/1, 98. His convict record can be found at http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON31-1-6,358 Image No: 38.

As darkness was falling in Hobart Town on Sunday, 7 May 1826, Cavanagh had tried to rob a certain Mr NOTMAN who was walking home alone beside the river in an isolated part of the town. In the violent scuffle that followed, Cavanagh himself was strangled to death!

In a colourful account of this episode, the *Hobart Town Gazette* of Saturday, 13 May 1826, reported Cavanagh had first knocked Notman down ‘with a violent blow with a stick’, and then the pair had ‘struggled for a length of time, each having alternately the advantage’. When Cavanagh had shouted: ‘We had better drop this or one of us must die’, Notman had released him, but, ‘in consequence, he was again attacked, and received a dreadful blow on his face which stunned him and rendered him insensible’. When Notman ‘recovered himself’ he felt Cavanagh ‘rifling him’. In the struggle which followed, a silk handkerchief, which Cavanagh had taken from Notman’s pocket, became ‘tightened round the villain’s neck’. This appears to have ‘held by the knot’ as the struggle continued until, at last, Cavanagh ‘remained motionless’. In advising readers that the Coroner’s verdict was ‘Justifiable Homicide’, the *Hobart Town Gazette* concluded ‘Mr Notman’s escape with his life was most providential’.

A year after Cavanagh’s death, a Tasmanian census recorded three fatherless children by the name of Cavanagh—Anne, 6, Brigid, 4, and Thomas, 3—were living with their mother in Goulburn Street, Hobart. The report added the mother was a prostitute.⁶ The ages of the children indicate Anne was born late 1820, Brigid about 1822, and Thomas about 1823.

⁶ District of Hobart Town Census, 1828, ‘Return of Children Having Only a Mother’, TAHO CSO1/1/918

There can be no doubt these were the children of John Cavanagh and Ann Lynch. A list of Catholic baptisms in Hobart reveals that three Cavanagh children were baptised on 21 January 1827.⁷ Although their ages were not stated, their names were given as ‘Anne’, ‘Brigid’ and ‘Thomas’, the ‘children of John Cavanagh & Ann Lynch’.

By about 1826, Johanna (‘Ann’) Lynch had been given her freedom. Her freedom, however, did not keep her out of trouble. In 1830, she was twice convicted on charges of drunkenness. On the first occasion, on 19 May, she was fined five shillings. On the second occasion, on 23 June, she was ordered to find sureties for her good behaviour or be sent to gaol. Finding sureties meant that she was required to find somebody who was prepared to guarantee her future good behaviour by risking a large sum of money. If this trust was violated, the surety would be forfeited to the courts. It is not known whether Ann found such sureties or not, but it seems likely she did because she appears to have escaped gaol on this occasion.

Later in the same year (22 October 1830), Ann was convicted of ‘being a maintainer of a bawdy house’—a brothel—and was again ordered to find sureties for her future good behaviour.⁸ Once again, it appears she was successful.

In 1835, Ann was again before the courts. On 25 April, in company with a convict named James STANLEY, she appeared in the Richmond Courts (Tasmania) accused of ‘stealing a promissory note, value five pounds, and other Monies, the property of Edward CUNNINGHAM’. Both defendants were found ‘Not Guilty.’⁹

⁷ TAHO RGD 32/1/1 Nos: 2376, 2377, 2378

⁸ Tardif, *op.cit.*, p.400

⁹ Tasmanian Convict Department, Prisoners Tried before VDL Courts of Quarter

On 15 December 1835, Ann’s luck ran out and she was sent to gaol. In company with a woman named Maria MANSFIELD, she appeared before Mr F ROPER, Esq., charged with a *breach of the peace*. It is likely she was involved in some kind of brawl or, intoxicated, had made a nuisance of herself in a public place. Both were convicted of the charge and sent to the Richmond Gaol for two weeks. They were released on 28 December 1835.¹⁰

On 20 January 1838, Ann was gaoled again. Brought before the Supreme Court in Hobart Town, she was charged with the theft of ‘one waistcoat, value ten shillings, the property of James BROWN.’ She was found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment at the Female House of Corrections.¹¹

Within five years of Ann’s release from this term of imprisonment she was dead. She passed away on 12 October 1843 at Black Brush, near Brighton, then an isolated part of the colony. The cause of death was shown as ‘Decline’.¹² Just what ‘decline’ means here can only be guessed at, but it is possible alcoholism and venereal disease were involved. She was 42 years old. ◀

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

Sessions, Apr. 1836–Dec. 1843. ML, Tas. Papers 220, CY Reel 1927; see also ML, Tasmanian Papers, Reel P3–10, ML 328, Frame (121 and 124) CY 151].

¹⁰ See ‘Richmond Gaol, Return of Prisoners’, ML, Tasmanian papers, Reel P3–10, ML 328, Frame 124, CY151.

¹¹ The trial was reported in *Hobart Town Courier*, 26 January 1838, p.1, column 1.

¹² TAHO RGD 35/1/18, 21/1841.

CONVICT WILLIAM JONES WRITES TO HIS WIFE IN ANGLESEY

Mark Dillon (Member No.6835)

AN article, 'Letter from Convict in 1823 bears Rare Markings', by Brian Peace FRPSL, in *Sydney Views*, a philatelic magazine, caught my eye recently. An illustration shows the front of a letter sent from Launceston on 10 June 1823 to Wales, 'by convict William JONES to his wife in Anglesey'. It states that this piece was rare for its bearing both Launceston and Hobart undated circular hand stamps. The article goes on to say:

The letter from Jones entreats his wife to leave Wales and come to the *land of plenty*. He states that his Master has promised to pay for her and the child's passage and that wages for labour are *from 5 to ten shillings per day*. He goes on to say that: ... *the journey is not dangerous and you will come over in about 3 months* ... In respect of the women prisoners and sailors Jones advises: ... *keep them at a distance or they will rob you* ... Finally he asks that she writes to him *at Mr Joseph BONEYs, Launceston, Van Diemens Land, New South Wales*.¹

Checking the National Library of Australia's searchable newspaper database gave me no obvious candidates, though Bonneys of Launceston were an important family. Mr Joseph BONNEY married Miss Jessie HARVIE on 20 May

1826.² They had a son Christopher born on 8 August 1827, at Norfolk Plains.³

The Archives Office of Tasmania on-line Name indexes to Tasmanian convicts shows many William Jones, of course. But the quotes from the letter above sounded starry-eyed so I assumed he had arrived in 1822 or 1821 and so began to check the on-line Conduct Registers.

I stopped when I found William Jones, also Roberts, convicted on 18 April 1821, for 'stealing wearing apparel in a Dwelling house' and sentenced to life. He arrived on the *Claudine* on 15 December 1821. On the Conduct Register is written 'Stated W & 1 ch at the Isle of Anglesey North Wales'.⁴

I don't know if his wife and child came out—I suspect not, as he was in trouble a few times. Still assigned to Bonney in 1829, he absconded and was forwarded to the police magistrate at Norfolk Plains. He absconded again in 1829, and remained absent until apprehended at Coal River. By 1835 he had received his Ticket of Leave when was fined 5/- for being drunk. The final remark states he received his Conditional Pardon on 22 June 1838.

² *Colonial Times, and Tasmanian Advertiser*, Friday, 2 June 1826

³ According to Gavin & Helen Moore's genealogy at <http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~jgavinmo>

⁴ AOT: CON31 Conduct Registers of Male convicts arriving in the period of the assignment system CON31/1/23 online digital p.75 manuscript p.51 no.153 Jones Wm

¹ *Sydney Views*, May 2009, p.22, Journal of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Society. Original letter held at the Public Records Office, Kew, England.

But Joseph Bonney was not only an agent of immigration later in his life, he was also the benefactor of just such a scheme he offered to William Jones.⁵ According to Pam Woodward's *The History of Calder House* website:

Mr. Bonney was the son of a convict Joseph [Bonney who] was transported to Sydney and escaped to Van Diemen's Land. There, Joseph, the father, was able to persuade the authorities to have his wife and eventually the remainder of his large family, including the sixteen year old Joseph brought to the colony at His Majesty's expense ... Joseph was treated favourably by the authorities and granted several large tracts of land including "Woodhall", ... named after the manor house in England from which his father had stolen, to feed a starving family.⁶

According to correspondence and queries posted to genealogy forums, Joseph Bonney, the original convict, has a confusing and difficult history to research, with wives and children in England and also in Van Diemen's Land who end up meeting each other, possible escapes from Sydney to Van Diemen's Land, and his second and temporary Hobart Town wife ending up with the Captain Bonney had been assigned to in Sydney.⁷

⁵ www.calderhouse.com.au/history.htm states 'On June 28th. 1855, he was presented with a silver service for his activities as agent for St. Andrew's Immigration Society in returning to England the previous year and selecting one hundred and thirty seven immigrants for the Colony.'

⁶ www.calderhouse.com.au/history.html

⁷ Liz Penprase, Alan Bonney, Alex Green, Sally Steel and others archived on Roots-web lists for AUS-NSW-COLONIAL-HISTORY, AUS-PT-JACKSON-CONVICTS, AUS-TASMANIA

Neither William Jones, nor Joseph Bonney are ancestors of mine, so I've left the snippet of a story there. Let me know if he is one of yours and you can fill in the details! ◀

YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT

Author and family historian Cherry Gilchrist is writing a new book (*Growing Your Family Tree*) about the personal experience of researching family history, and would like to include your stories and thoughts on your own family research. She has prepared a survey and writes:

Although I am based in the UK, family history is very much an international pursuit now—our story lines usually cross continents—and it would be extremely good to have reports from other parts of the world, not just Great Britain.

I would be very grateful if you could notify your members about this project in the next newsletter, and/or via your website or forthcoming event.

*The survey contains questions as guidelines, but you can write as little or as much as you wish. Your personal details will be kept confidential. **The deadline is 31 March 2010.***

To view and respond to the survey, please either download it from her website www.cherrygilchrist.co.uk or write, enclosing an sae, via her literary agents: Cherry Gilchrist, c/o Rupert Crew Ltd, 1a King's Mews, London WC1N 2JA. She would love to hear from you!

TRAWLING PENGUIN GENERAL CEMETERY BURIAL RECORDS

Ross Hartley (Member No. 6949)

DEFUNCT graveyards stockpile a treasure-trove of information just waiting for the curious. Penguin General Cemetery is no different; it began operations in 1869 but closed in 1977 though the occasional burial occurs. 1 861 burials are recorded. Penguin's is the only Tasmanian heritage listed cemetery between Devonport and Stanley. And while some people find challenge in genealogical studies, others, like the author, take comfort in simply honouring the dead. Gifting honour comes in many guises, from erecting memorials, naming the dead, publishing their stories, to fleshing-out burial records.

This article reports an ongoing project on Penguin's burial records, and it's one which carries significant implications for managing and marketing the future directions of this wonderful cemetery.

There are three versions of these records, all in table format: Central Coast Council's, a second online (<http://www.genealogylinks.net/australia/tasmania/tas-cem.htm>), the third is Penguin History Group's 2004 publication. None is user-friendly for sorting and searching the data. And interestingly, while much of the data is common across all three, notable differences stand out so that for many burials it's the combination that yields the most comprehensive information.

In setting out to travel around these burial records the first task was to create a data set both user-friendly and searchable. *Excel* spreadsheet proved ideal for this,

allowing the user to sort and combine data in any pattern.

That task is completed, based initially on the most comprehensive version available, the Penguin History Group's. Not all data has been transcribed however, only data on surname, first and middle names, death date, age, section, grave number, and whether there's a headstone. Not transcribed (yet) are data on relatives, for which there is much, but it's spasmodic.

Statistical overview of burials

In typing so many records one becomes intimate with Penguin's dead; all sorts of curios jump off the page.

For instance, the absence of foreign names, and the numbers of married women buried simply under the title of 'Mrs' with no personal information recorded. Then we have those graves shared by 'wife 1' and 'wife 2'. There are 106 children's burials with no recorded first names. Quite a few graves have multiple occupants, one shared by people with different surnames. A galore of burials record first initials only rather than first names, and so on. And most strange are six burials without locations.

The most common surname is Smith (55) followed by Ling (47), Fielding (33) and Barker (29). William (89) tops the first names for males, Mary (52) for females. Most popular middle names were Henry and May, respectively. The year 1970 was the best for local funeral parlours, and the most popular exit ages were 83, 76 and 74.

Excel is particularly useful for clustering gaps in the data, a summary of which is shown in Table 1. Here we have the numbers of graves without headstones; graves in the old and new sections; burials without ages, death dates or first names. Table 1 invites an opportunity to

fill in the information gaps, thereby building a dynamic burial record, and a robust research tool. Sorting the gaps, chronologically or alphanumerically, can then streamline and direct that research, allowing a systematic and orderly rather than an ad hoc approach.

Table 1:
Statistical overview of Penguin General Cemetery burials 2009¹

Feature	Numbers
Graves with headstones	1262
Graves without headstones	588
Graves in old section	1306
Graves in new section	550
Full death date recorded	1677
Death date not recorded	*184
Age recorded	1349
Age not recorded	**512
Christian name recorded	***1726
Christian name not recorded	135
Middle name recorded	****1121
Middle name not recorded	740
Grave location unknown	6

¹ Includes up-to-date burial records

* An additional 52 record death year only with a further 71 recording month and year only.

** Of which 106 are recorded as babies, infants or children only.

*** Of which 25 record an initial only.

**** Of which 76 record an initial only

An example illustrates this. There are fifty-two records for which death year only is given (1881 to 1991). A simple search of the *Tasmanian Federation Index Deaths*, just one of the many resources available, yields twenty-four exact dates (and other information), for deaths up to 1930. So sleuthing (or corroborating) missing data is not difficult. It takes little nous, and no time, except when doing so across the up to half of the 1861 burials with incomplete records, that is.

Case study on sourcing missing data

Earlier this year Penguin honoured seven pioneers with headstones. An account of

this was published in the Australian *Family Tree Connections* magazine (October 2008, pp.24–27).

The starting point of that project was incomplete, and sometimes contradictory, burial records. One man was an unknown; another had a Christian name only, while a third just a surname. Death dates and ages were missing for some. Against this dearth one might have predicted a daunting task, but no. Researching and corroborating all seven was a day's work.

Herein lays a salutary lesson for the novice. Table 2 summarises the steps

taken by the author in researching these men.

And it all started with talking to the local (regional) librarian. The rest unfurled automatically. Librarians know what's available and in which resources to look.

They also direct you to the Archives Office of Tasmanian, which houses a wealth of historical documents just waiting for the light of someone's day. Additionally, archival staff finds them for you.

Table 2:
One novice's experience in finding information on seven long-dead (1900–1924): a case study with Penguin General Cemetery

Steps	Resource warehouse	Outcome
Google online	Internet	A version found
Check local Council	Central Coast Council	Incomplete table in <i>Word</i>
Check local history group	Penguin History Group	Published record book
Cross reference data		Yielded a more complete data set
Visit local Library	<i>Tasmanian Federation Index</i> (Deaths) CD	More information found
	Microfiche newspapers of the day	More information found
	Indices of <i>The Advocate</i> newspaper's Births, Deaths & Marriages	More information found
email Tasmanian Archives Office of Tasmania, TAHO (Hobart)	Death certificates and Coroners' reports	Further information found
	Other pertinent records*	Found more information
Advertising & media coverage	Online Message boards & chats; press releases	Generated interest & drew responses
Publish research	<i>Australian Family Tree Connections</i>	Additional information & interest forthcoming
Update official records		A more complete record to research in future

* *Series number AUD17 Register of payments of salaries & other allowances to officers of public authorities; Item number PWD243/1/119 Marrawah Tram, Series number PWD242 General correspondence & associated papers relating to tramlines generally; Item number POL709/1/43 Head Office Police – Tasmania Police Gazettes (1915).*

Surprisingly, given so few burials were researched, the project involved accessing new data from every resource cited in Table 2, which is a considerable range of documents. Each added something new, fleshing out the details. Imagine the mine

awaiting those curious to research and document the whole-of-cemetery.

As a consequence murky data morphed into meaningful information and knowledge.

Future directions

The plan is to continue recovery of the cemetery record's missing data, starting with nameless children and the burials up to 1900.

Penguin General Cemetery is not unique. But being defunct and heritage-listed elevates its significance. Unfortunately, it lies 'out of sight' and therefore 'out of mind', with no signage directing visitors to it, no amenities—not even a bench seat, no interpretive plaques, no brochures or self-guided walking tours, and no landscaping. That's a lot of 'nos'. Additionally, many of the ancient monuments cry-out for restoration.

This will change with time, with town-folk willing to make it happen. The power of two is important to the sex life of ideas, of course. It takes but vision, and working together for the common good, respecting each others competence. But let's be aware of benchmarking what we do here in Penguin against best-practices across the world. Second best isn't good enough, and community decision-making is a must.

In time a more robust spreadsheet version of the burial records will be handed over, dually, to Central Coast Council and the Penguin History Group, ensuring this dynamic resource is widely available. ◀

Acknowledgement

Gratitude to Penguin's Joy Dunn for her generosity and goodwill in proofing the transcribed cemetery records in *Excel*.

REUNIONS

JONES FAMILY REUNION

Seeking the descendants of Britton JONES and Sophia KIRK for a reunion on Saturday, 16 and Sunday, 17 January 2010 in Launceston, beginning with morning tea at Franklin House. Please contact Diana Gourley on (02) 6282 5164 or email gourley@netspeed.com.au (Member No.4266)

MANNIX FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of Timothy MANNIX and his wife Mary Ann née BURNIE, who settled in the Devonport district in the 1850s, are invited to attend a gathering at Barrington, Tasmania on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 April, 2010.

Contact Sue Dooley Phone (03) 6492 3123 or email susie.kd@bigpond.com

HELP WANTED

ALLARDYCE, Claud

William and brother Claud (born? Ban SCT) arrived TAS AUS 1822 *Deveron* and 1835 *Perthshire*, respectively. William lived in Bothwell, died 1843. What happened to Claud? Miss S Procter, 23 Fowler Street Montrose TAS 7010 (Member No.6847)

BOLTON

Seeking information on any George BOLTONs in Tasmania pre 1840. Please contact Mrs Erica Riis, 11/22 Verney Street Caloundra QLD 4551. (Member No.6363)

HELP WANTED

CHILCOTT

Seeking information about Charlotte CHILCOTT, born 7 February 1874 at Longford, Tasmania, to Ann Jeanette Chilcott; father's name not recorded. (An Ann Janet Chilcott, servant, aged 30, died at Launceston on 6 May 1882.) No further information about Charlotte has been found. Does anyone know what happened to her? Pauline Bygraves, 19 Ferguson Place, Flynn, ACT 2615 (Member No.5113) or email bygrap@y7mail.com

McGIVERN, Mary Ellen

Born about 1856, was my father's grandmother. Married William SHARPE on 13 July 1875 at Franklin. She died 9 February 1911. We would like to know if she was born in Tasmania and where her parents originated from. Any information would be gratefully appreciated. Contact Patricia Everden at 44 Home Hill Road, Ayr, QLD 4807 or email jpever4@bigpond.com (Member No.6792)

McGREGOR or MACGREGOR

Any information on McGREGORS who arrived pre 1840. Please contact Mrs Erica Riis, 11/22 Verney Street Caloundra QLD 4552. (Member No.6363)

ROBERTS, KENNER and SHUTER

These families are referred to in *Thomas Diprose and Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's Land. Strangers* (Chapter 15). Elizabeth Parkes now has more information on these families in England and Australia. For details contact me at PO Box 167, Lindisfarne, TASMANIA 7015 or phone

(03) 6243 9369. For email contact: go to www.diprosebook.com or use email address you already have.

SALMON, BROOKS, LAMB

I am writing a book about the pioneer families who settled in the Colebrook area. I particularly would like any information about the families listed above, from 1830s to 1967 when the bushfires did a great deal of damage to the town. Please contact: Helen Osbourne (Member No.6060) email lisgoold@hotmail.com or phone (03) 6428 6804

WOODWARD/TATE/MOORE

Seeking information on descendants of Charles James WOODWARD, born 5 June 1823, St John, Hampstead, Middlesex. Charles was Court Martialled, Dublin Ireland, transported for a period of seven years, married Jane TATE, 15 December 1846 at Bothwell. Children Richard James born 1847, Charles James born 4 April 1848, female born 4 August 1849, Edward John born 14 July 1850. Charles was granted a Probation Pass in 1845 went to work in a bakery in Bothwell. (Can anyone help me on information about the bakery?) Charles was freed 1852 and departed for Melbourne, without his family. Charles started a second family with a Mary MOORE. Did he meet Mary while still in Hobart or when he arrived in Melbourne? Can anyone help me with Mary Moore. Any information would be most helpful. Wayne Woodward, 5 Tirangi St, Hei Hei, Christchurch 8042 NEW ZEALAND (Member No.6840) email wwoodward@paradise.net.nz

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ADAMSON Sara Ann	Hobart TAS AUS	1840–c1884	6950
BEATTIE	Kirkcudbrightshire SCT	1798	6959
BENHAM	SRY ENG	1800-1900	6931
BILSON	TAS AUS	1800+	6932
BONMAN	TAS AUS	1800+	6932
BREADEN/BREADON	Ireland	Any	6938
BROWN/BROWNE	Norwich NFK ENG	1800	6940
BUGG	TAS AUS	Any	6957
BUTT	TAS AUS	Any	6957
CARSON	Kirkcudbrightshire SCT	1798	6959
CURLING Arthur, Jane, Catherine	Chn of Thomas	Dec 1822-Sep 1825	6954
CURLING Edward & Charles	Sons of Thomas	Dec 1811-Sep 1825	6954
CURLING Jane, wife of Thomas	Guilton/Rockthorpe, Lake River TAS AUS	Dec 1822-Sep 1825	6954
CURLING John, Robt, Henry	Sons of Thomas	Dec 1822-Sep 1825	6954
CURLING Thomas Oakley [or Ochy]	Guilton/Rockthorpe Lake River TAS AUS	Dec 1882-Sep 1825	6954
DANIELSEN	SA AUS	1800–1900s	6932
DOUGLAS	Kirkcudbrightshire SCT	Any	6959
DUNNE Annie	Launceston TAS AUS	186–c1815 [sic]	6950
FRASER	Kirkcudbrightshire SCT	1798	6959
GALE	TAS AUS	Any	6957
GEE	Rathmoylan IRL	Any	6938
GOBBEY	ENG	1800	6941
GOBBY	ENG	1800	6941
GUNN Henry	SCT	1800+	6948
HAMMANT	TAS AUS	Any	6957
HOLDEN	TAS & VIC AUS/LAN ENG	Any	6957
JONES John	TAS AUS	1800s	6947
KANE/KEANE Mary Ann	IRL/Sassafras & Sheffield TAS AUS	1834–1903	6935
KENNEDY John	SCT UK	1740+	6944
KERRISON	TAS AUS	1800+	6932
LARKIN	Any	Any	6942
LING John	Brighton TAS AUS	1837–1865?	6945
LYONS Elizabeth J	Hobart TAS AUS	1879–1936	6937
LYONS Neville A	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1916–1991	6937
LYONS Norman L	Hobart TAS AUS	1885–1945	6937
MACKRILL William	Launceston TAS AUS	1805–1858	6950
MALONE Catherine	Huon (?) TAS AUS	Any	6947
MARSHALL Henry	TAS AUS	c1834	6939
MARSHALL Henry	SCT	1805	6939
MATHER	Any	Any	6946
McCLENAGHAN Elizabeth	WEX IRL/Fingal TAS AUS	1884–1900	6951
McCLENAGHAN George	IRL/Fingal TAS AUS	1884–1917	6951
McKAY Agnes	Glasgow SCT	b.7 October 1806	6944
McKAY John	Glasgow SCT	b.5 September 1805	6944
McKAY John	SCT UK	1770+	6944
McKAY Margaret	Glasgow SCT	b.8 May 1804	6944
McKAY Mary	Glasgow SCT	1800+	6944

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
McKENZIE Agnes	Hobart TAS AUS	c1817-1887	6950
MILNER Henry	London ENG	1800+	6948
MURRAY	Kirkcudbrightshire SCT	1780	6959
NICHOLLS Charles	UK/Launceston TAS AUS	1842-c1918	6935
NICHOLLS Sarah Jane	Deviot & Launceston TAS AUS	1880-1921	6935
PEACE Mary Ann	Launceston TAS AUS	1832-1905	6950
POULETT-HARRIS Charlotte Maria	Any	Any	6955
PROCTOR Sarah Ann	Any	Any	6955
REINMUTH	Any	Any	6942
ROWCROFT Charles	Bothwell TAS AUS	1822-Sep 1825	6954
ROWLAND	Any	Any	6946
ROWLANDS	Ulverstone and Port Sorell TAS AUS	1800s	6946
SELLERS William	Hobart TAS AUS	1808-1860	6950
SELWYN Esther	? & Deviot TAS AUS	c1853-1934	6935
SHAW John	UK/Sassafras TAS AUS	c1825-c1890	6935
SULLIVAN	IRL	Any	6933
TYLER	SFK ENG	Any	6933
TYNDALL Elizabeth	WEX IRL/Fingal TAS AUS	1884-1917	6951
WALTER George	Any	Any	6955
WARNER Mary Ann	Hobart TAS AUS	c1830	6939
WHITE (WYATT)	New Zealand	1800-1900	6931
WILSON	Any	Any	6942

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NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

6930	FERGUSON Miss Helen May	Not for publication		
6931	BILSON, Mrs Barbara Lesley	15 Derwent Laken Rd rod@bilson.net.au	OTAGO TAS	7017
6932	BILSON Mr John Rodney	15 Derwent Laken Road rod@bilson.net.au	OTAGO TAS	7017
6933	CLARK Mr Neil Graeme	2/2A Easton Avenue neilgclark@bigpond.com	WEST MOONAH TAS	7009
6934	TOMLIN Mrs Sandra Maree	PO Box 86 sandra.tomlin@education.tas.gov.au	ELLEDALE TAS	7140
6935	HAMILTON Dr Catherine	172 Snake Track	LILYDALE NTH TAS	7268
6936	ALCOCK Mr David	Not for publication		
6937	FALLS Mrs Clarice	PO Box 133 claricefls@yahoo.com	SHAVER LAKE CALIFORNIA	
6938	HACKELTON Mrs Marilyn Ann	72 Salisbury Drive marilynjohn@shoalhaven.net.au	NOWRA NSW	2541
6939	VONK Mrs Jessie	23 Hillside Court Jessievonk@gmail.com	SPREYTON TAS	7310
6940	STORAY Mrs Judith Ann	PO Box 134E	EAST DEVONORT TAS	7310
6941	STORAY Mr Kenneth Ian	PO Box 134E	EAST DEVONPORT TAS	7310
6942	WATT Mrs Norma	6 Swansea Court normawatt@gmail.com	LINDISFARNE TAS	7015
6943	HODGSON Dr Alice Meredith	PO Box 447	SANDY BAYTAS	7006
6944	GRAHAM Ms Jennie Lee	22 Edith Terrace silkie54@yahoo.com.au	BALAKLAVA SA	5461
6945	SCOTT Mr Michael Henry	2 Peartree Close joandmikescott@hotmail.com	HUONVILLE TAS	7109
6946	ROWLANDS Mr Robert John	9 Hyndes Road	PORT HUON TAS	7116
6947	ROWLANDS Mrs Beverly Rohrda	9 Hyndes Road	PORT HUON TAS	7116
6948	MILNER Mr Barry Walter	4/11 Henry St	RAVENSWOOD TAS	7250
6949	HARTLEY Dr Ross	PO Box 334 baruinga@yahoo.com	PENGUIN TAS	7316
6950	OTTO Ms Louise	18 Elmore Avenue selotto@optusnet.com.au	CROYDON VIC	3136
6951	McCLENAGHAN Ms Lynette Corinne	142 Granville Street lynette_mcclenaghan@msn.com	WEST LAUNCESTON TAS	7250
6952	WILLIAMS Mrs Sheila	Not for publication		
6953	WHITE Mrs Patricia	1056 Nugent Road ellenbank@users.tasmanet.com.au	WATTLE HILL TAS	7172
6954	CURLING Ms Dorothy Lucyann	The Yehudi Menuhin School, Cobham Road Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham dorothylycann@btinternet.com	SURREY KT11 3QQ	UK
6955	CARTER Mrs Melissa Jane	C/- Southport Store, Main Rd	SOUTHPORT TAS	7109
6956	HAYES Mrs Anne-marie	PO Box 212 anne-marie.hayes@westnet.com.au	SHEFFIELD TAS	7306
6957	BROWN Mrs Margaret	1/67 Ashley Street margieab4@bigpond.com.au	WEST FOOTSCRAY VIC	3012
6958	BOWER Ms Liesa Carol	29 Lauriston St liesabower@y7mail.com	KYNETON VIC	3444
6959	CARSON Mrs Noeline Ann	1436 Bridgenorth Road keya10@act108.net.au	ROSEVALE TAS	7292

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

NUMEROUS publications are named in the Acquisition Lists of the various branches of our society but on some occasions the title does not give a clear indication of the subject matter. The following details of a few in the Hobart Branch Library may help to describe some of the more obscure titles and deserve a look.

List of European Tombs in the BELLARY DISTRICT with Inscriptions thereon Edited by Eileen Hewson.

An A5 booklet published by Kabristan Archives, Wem, Shropshire, UK in 2008. The book; *List of European Tombs in the Bellary District with Inscriptions thereon*, written by J J Cotton MA, was first printed in 1894 at Bellary as an A4 booklet and was the forerunner to the revised and enlarged edition detailing inscriptions and graveyards of the whole of the Madras Presidency published in 1905. Bellary, in the Indian state of Karnataka, was a British Cantonment and the deaths recorded are mainly those of army personnel and their families. The most common cause of death appeared to be cholera which swept through young and old alike. No one was spared; even the veterans of many campaigns were wiped out in a flash. There was no cure. As the inscriptions are in date order, an index for adult burials has been added by Eileen Hewson for easy reference.

The Deanery of Woodleigh—A CD published in 2006 by the Devon FHS. Containing over 25 000 events, it is an index of baptisms, marriages and burials in the parishes of Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-Tout-Saints, Char-

leton, Chivelstone, Churchstow, Dodbrooke, East Allington, East Portlemouth, Kingsbridge, Loddiswell, Malborough, Moreleigh, Ringmore, Salcombe, Sherford, Slapton, South Huish, South Milton, South Pool, Stokenham, Thurlstone, West Alvington and Woodleigh. With photographs of the churches and extracts from *White's Devonshire Directory 1850*, *Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of England 1844* and *Kelly's Directory of Devonshire 1902*.

The Career of William Thompson, Convict. Edited by J Clark, this A5 size book was recently published by the Port Arthur Management Authority.

‘William Thompson was a twenty-one year old shoemaker when he was transported for Life for burglary. In 1900 noted Tasmanian photographer John Watt Beattie wrote down 80 year-old Thompson’s reminiscences. This narrative covers his life story in Van Diemen’s Land from his arrival in 1841 to his departure from the convict system almost twelve years later. Other sources have added a small amount of information on his life as a free man. About fifty convict narratives have been published but Thompson’s story is special. It comes direct from his lips and it paints for us a vivid picture of convict life ‘behind the scenes’, in all its complexity and colour. It is a welcome antidote to the official record, or the many myths that have grown up around convict experience.’ Although this is about only one convict, it should be a great help to all researchers as it describes, so very well, the life and conditions that so many others experienced. ◀

WAS YOUR ANCESTOR A CONVICT

Richard Gould

RANK and NAME	UNIT	BORN	NATIVE PLACE
Pte AHERNE Maurice	EIC	?	Unknown
Pte BALE James	RM	1805	Somerset
Pte BRETT James	16	1807	Kilmovee Co. Mayo
Pte BYRNE John	60	1805	Kilcoole Co. Wicklow
Pte CLARKSON Alfred	36	1806	Ebony Kent
Pte CRINE John	38	1808	Rossinver Co. Slogo
Pte D'ARCY Martin	18	1804	Toomevara Co. Tipperary
Pte DONOHOE Michael	27	1805	Castlebar Co. Mayo
Pte EVANS Edward	75	1810	Oswestery Shropshire
Pte FAHEY James	16	1809	Carracross? Co. Meath
Pte FOGARTY Thomas	5	1809	Dromineer Co. Tipperary
Pte GLANCY John	27	1818	Enniskillen Co. Fermanagh
Pte HALLORAN John	10	1806	Clonlea Co. Clare
Pte HAYES Thomas	10	1805	Cullen Co. Tipperary
Pte HOLMES William	22	1803	Corwen? Denbighshire
Cpl KEENAN John	95 th	1801	Craughwell Co. Galway
Pte KENNEDY James	EIC	?	Unknown
Pte MAGOVEN John	27	1808	Killisandra Co. Cavan
Pte McORMOND William	19	1807	Kilcullen Co. Kildare
Sgt McPHERSON Robert	RA	1807	Orwell Fife
Pte MURPHY Patrick	4Dr	1808	Tallanstown Co. Louth
Pte O'HARA Luke	89	1808	Clongesh Co. Longford
Pte O'NEILL Patrick	61	1808	Armagh Co. Armagh
Pte ROBINSON Charles	60	1805	Clonfeacle Co. Armagh?
Pte ROCHE/ROACH John	95	1805	Co. Carlow or Co. Tipperary
Cpl SHAW Sam. John	RA	1809	Drumboe Co. Down
Pte SHEEHY Michael	10	1807	Dungarven Co. Waterford
Pte STRANGWAY Joseph	94	1805	Upperwood? Co. Laois
Pte WESTLAKE Henry	73	1803	Plymouth Devonshire
Sgt WOODHEAD Joseph	Dr	1811	Rotherham Yorkshire

THE *Hobart Town Gazette* of the 19 November 1850, p.1003, carried the above notice from the Enrolled Pensioners' Office: It is hereby notified that the ship William Jardine with the [above] undermentioned Military Immigrants arrived on the 14th instant, and that these immigrants wish to obtain employment.

Key:

Sgt	Sergeant
Cpl	Corporal
Pte	Private
95	95 th Regiment of Foot
6Dr	6 th Dragoons
RA	Royal Artillery
RM	Royal Marines
EIC	East India Company

GUARD ON THE *WILLIAM JARDINE*?

(Member No.6059)

TRADE	WIFE	OCCUPATION	LOCATION
Labourer	Ann	Laundress	Longford
Farmer	Jane	Housemaid	Evandale
Labourer	Mary	Housemaid	Spring Hill Bottom
Labourer	Mary	Laundress	Uncertain
Shepherd	Sarah	Dairy Woman	Fingal
Labourer	Catherine	Laundress	Westbury
Labourer	Ellen	Housemaid	Spring Hill Bottom
Labourer	Judith	Housemaid	Port Cygnet
Labourer	Margaret	Housekeeper	Evandale
None	Anne	None	Avoca
Labourer	Anne	Housekeeper	Oatlands
Gardener or Groom	Anne	Nurse	Fingal
Labourer	Bridget	Housekeeper	Spring Hill Bottom
Labourer	Judith	Housekeeper	Spring Hill Bottom
Labourer	Anne	Housekeeper	Spring Hill Bottom
Cloth Dresser	Mary Ann	Dressmaker	Uncertain
Farmer			Pontville
Servant or Groom			Fingal
Shoemaker	Mary	Housekeeper	Campbell Town
None	Ann	Laundress	Hobart
Servant			Evandale
Labourer	Anne	Housekeeper	Westbury
Servant	Emma	Dressmaker	Port Cygnet
Groom	Alice	Housekeeper	Westbury
Labourer	Mary	Laundress	Spring Hill Bottom
Weaver	Hannah	Laundress	Westbury
Sawyer			Spring Hill Bottom
Labourer	Margaret	Housekeeper	Westbury
Shoemaker			Oatlands
Clerk	Bridget	Seamstress	Kempton

Details regarding year of birth and native place were added using pension records held by the British National Archives, Kew (WO 97 series).

The immigrants comprised military pensioners who had been discharged from the British Army, the East India Company military and the Royal marines, mostly in the latter half of the 1840s.

This coincided with the Great Famine in Ireland so it is no coincidence that three quarters of them were Irish, no doubt seeking an escape from the starvation and disease that was rife in their homeland. The group formed part of the Enrolled Pensioner Force (EPF) that came to Van Diemen's Land as guards on convict ships between April 1850 and August

1852.¹ After the expiration of their six months enrolment period shortly after arriving in Hobart, they would be allocated crown land (usually a five acre lot) near the major towns. This would enable them to settle there and turn out in aid of the civil authorities at short notice, if required. As an incentive to stay in the colony, they were to be given freehold title to their land after seven years had elapsed. While they received a small daily pension from the British government (9 pence halfpenny average for the rank and file, 1 shilling and 6 pence for sergeants), the intention was that they should find regular employment and cultivate their land to make ends meet.²

Unfortunately most of the land where the pensioners were settled was of poor quality and unsuitable for farming. Around Spring Hill Bottom near Colebrook, it was hilly, stony and heavily timbered. In Oatlands, the second biggest settlement after Westbury, the land was level but the soils were shallow, infertile and underlain by sandstone. Commenting on the plight of the pensioners generally, the *Hobart Town Courier* observed:

The mode in which these men have been treated, we are sorry to say, reflects great discredit upon the local authorities. They came out ... with orders for land and allowances for houses ... A *show* of providing them with land ... from two to five acres of barren land in the interior townships!³

Not only did the pensioners have a battle to make their land productive, but they also had to compete with the convicts for rural employment. The probation system was in operation when they arrived which meant any better behaved convicts could be hired out to landowners at lower wages than those applicable to free settlers. The convicts had further advantage over the pensioners by being provided with free lodging on the landowner's property whereas the latter usually lived some distance away and were forced to travel.⁴ By 1859, of the 526 members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force who had arrived in Van Diemen's Land with their families, ninety-one had died and 103 had left for Victoria and other colonies in search of work.⁵ ◀

ROOKWOOD CEMETERIES

Did you know you are able to search Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney online? It is free to search once you have registered.

<http://rookwoodcemetery.com.au/>

Also try

Rookwood Independent Cemetery at
<http://rookwoodindependent.com.au/deceased.aspx>

and Catholic cemeteries including
Rookwood may be found at
<http://catholiccemeteries.org.au/>

¹ CSD 1/44/3944 List of Convict Ships with Pensioner Guards, 14 August 1857

² CSD1/44/3994 Earl Grey to Denison, 13 December 1849

³ M Ring, 'Oatlands Military Pensioners', in *Oatlands District Historical Society Chronicle*, No.4 (October 2006), pp.33–34

⁴ I Brand, *The Convict Probation System: Van Diemen's Land 1839–1854* (Hobart, 1990) p.237

⁵ F B Russell, 'Pensioner Returns', Paper 43, *House of Assembly Journal*, (Hobart, 1859).

APPLICATIONS BY CONVICTS FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY

Dr Neil Chick, *FTFHS* (Member No.49)

AMONG the many indexes now online at the website of the Archives Office of Tasmania is the Index to *Applications for Permission to Marry*. This class of documents is now filed in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office at the State Library of Tasmania in record series CON 45/1 and CON 52/1 through CON 52/7. They comprise both applications of persons still under sentence for permission to marry and applications of free persons to marry convicts. These record series had been indexed by Archives Office staff on 28 286 75mm x 125mm cards that were arranged in alphabetical order in twenty-two drawers in the old Archives Office Search Room at 71 Murray Street. It was my privilege to transcribe and edit these cards into an electronic database to prepare the Index to go online.

Permission was required before a prisoner of the Crown could marry.¹ The earliest application in CON 45/1 dates from August 1829 with the request of John HARRIS, convict per *Countess of Harcourt* to marry Mary WESLAKE, convict per *Borneo*. They were married on 10 August in Hobart.² There are close to 1 400 records in this volume, from August 1829 to 1832. Then there is a one year gap before the seven volumes of CON52 begin. The last entry in CON 52/7 was for 9 October 1858, five years after

the last convict ship had arrived in Van Diemen's Land, when Jeremiah REED, convict on the *Hyderabad 2* applied to marry Eliza TONKIN, free person. This request was refused. The gap of one year between CON 45/1 and CON 52 exists because the applications for that period have not survived. An attempt has been made to fill it by manual linkage between the convict lists and the actual marriages, but the results have yet to be tested for completeness.

It has been standard advice to family historians for the few decades since the index cards were first produced that an application for permission to marry frequently provides the only record of marriage or cohabitation for persons whose actual certificate of marriage has not survived—or was never made out.

1 Transcription

In indexing the applications, cards were produced for each party to the intended marriage. The writer computerized these cards using *Filemaker Pro* database software in 2002 and 2003. The process of linking the applications to the Registrar General's transcripts of marriage certificates proceeded concurrently with transcription. The writer used his own (incomplete) full transcription, begun in 1977, of the record series RGD 36/1 through RGD 36/3 and RGD 37/1 through RGD 37/62. This transcription was supplemented by reference to the *Tasmanian Pioneer Index*, the database produced (from microfilms of the nineteenth century civil registers) by forty-eight volunteers, mostly members

¹ P R Eldershaw, *Guide to the public records of Tasmania. Section 3: The convict department record group*. Hobart: 1965. State Library of Tasmania, p.37.

² RGD 36/01 : 1829/1281

of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and published on microfiche in 1993 by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, in association with the Archives Office of Tasmania, which retains Crown copyright. A CD-ROM version was also published the same year. The linkage was manual, and was performed in order to get an idea of what proportion of the applications was successful. Almost two-thirds (64.48 per cent) of applications for permission to marry can be matched with a marriage record in the Registrar General's Department files, even though in many cases there were multiple applications made before one was successful.

On completion of the first iteration of entry to the database, it was seen that the names of many ships were incomplete. Many vessels made more than one voyage bringing convicts to Van Diemen's Land, and some names were used by more than one vessel. Early in its history, the Convict Department developed a system of numbering vessels that, through time and in various hands, was adhered to with greater or less felicity. There were four voyages of the *Emma Eugenia*, all transporting women, and two of the *Duchess of Northumberland*, the first carrying men, and the second women. As an extreme example, there were seven voyages by ships named *Asia*, the first six transporting only males, and the last voyage only women. The convention was established to refer to a male convict on the *Asia* by the number of the voyage, 1 through 6, but to refer to the women's ship just as *Asia*. Of the 442 ships represented in the *Convict Applications for Permission to Marry*, 344 had only one sailing, sixty-five had two, twenty-three had three, seven had four, and ships named *Asia* had seven sailings. Charles BATESON has publish-

ed further data on each of these ships: tonnage, where built, captains, surgeon superintendents, and details of the voyage.³ Many of these vessels, in addition to their convict cargo, also had military personnel and other passengers on board.

The applicants for permission to marry were largely ignorant of this convention of numbering ships, and for the ninety-eight ships that had more than one sailing, usually the ship number is absent from the convicts' applications and their corresponding index cards. The potential for ambiguity increases with the number of sailings, a subject we shall return to later.

2 Validation

When the first cycle of sorting of the cards was completed, it was suspected there were numerous cards that did not have a matching entry for the other party. This was confirmed when a duplicate of the database was produced, with the order of applicants reversed. The two files were compared and 727 additional records were made. The disparity is understandable—as the applications were originally indexed, the task being fitted into the diverse work schedules of many staff members, a second card was not made out for 2.5 per cent of applications. Some discrepancies were found between card pairs, and these were evaluated and corrections made, particularly in the spelling of names of the parties. Many cards would list more than one application. Sometimes the ship's name would be given in full on one card but not on the other. Sometimes the duplicate card would not list all the sources of information.

³ Charles Bateson, *The convict ships, 1787–1868*. 2nd ed. Sydney: 1983. Library of Australian History.

The next stage in the data validation process saw the names of all convicts compared with entries in the Archives Office's own computerized *Tasmanian Convicts*,⁴ which was the product of a joint project of the Archives Office of Tasmania staff and members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. This database had been compiled using the *Microsoft Access* database system. *Access* has the facility to apply the Russell-Soundex name-coding system. Using *Tasmanian Convicts* enabled voyage numbers to be added to ships' names for thousands of records.

There remained, at the end of this lengthy process, some 364 anomalous entries. Of these, seventy-two had ambiguities that were able to be resolved, while 307 records could not be matched with a person on the ship stated in their application. So we must presume that the applicant either could not remember or deliberately falsified the name of the ship he or she had sailed on. Curiously, 113 persons listed with a convict ship's name could not be matched with *any* entry in *Tasmanian Convicts*.

Why would a convict record the wrong ship's name on an official application? Given the stigma associated with transportation, why would a free person list himself or herself as a present or former prisoner of the Crown if this were not the case? The database field for ship of arrival may instead state that the person was 'free' which could mean that the person arrived free, or was free by servitude, that is, an 'emancipist' and some applicants so described themselves. In addition, the terms 'pass holder' and

'ticket-of-leave' were used by persons still under sentence, but who were no longer dependent upon government stores, though not by persons whose sentence had expired. The application would then be processed which would involve a Convict Department clerk matching the name of the applicant with that recorded in one of the volumes that became the Archives Office of Tasmania record series CON 31 for males and CON 40 for females. If the match could not be made, permission would be refused. Yet a marriage did take place for half of those applications for which no match could be found in *Tasmanian Convicts*.

For example, consider the application of Sarah APPLEBY—who stated that she was transported on the *Emma Eugenia*, a ship that made four voyages—and of Andrew IMRIE, free person, which was dated 17 June 1851.⁵ There are no matches in *Tasmanian Convicts* for Sarah Appleby, yet we find a marriage for Andrew IMERI (note spelling variation) aged 25 and Sarah Appleby, aged 26 on 23 July 1851 in the registration district of Morven (present-day Evandale).⁶ A search of the birth and christening records transcribed by the Registrar General's Department was also made. This located the births of a daughter to Sarah Appleby: Mary Ellen Appleby, born out of wedlock on 17 February 1850 and registered at Launceston,⁷ and of a son: James Imeri, born 29 December 1851 and registered at Morven,⁸ born five months after the marriage.

Similarly, Mary Ann BALDY, who stated she arrived on the *Margaret*, applied to marry one Peter HARRISON, free, in

⁴ Archives Office of Tasmania, 2000. *Tasmanian Convicts: The complete list from the original records*. CD-ROM database. Hobart : the author.

⁵ CON 52/3 p.242 and CON 52/4

⁶ RGD 37/10 : 1851/0863

⁷ RGD 33/25 : 1850/02651

⁸ RGD 33/29 : 1852/00351

July 1847.⁹ There are no matches for Mary Ann Baldy in the lists for the *Margaret*. Using Russell-Soundex matching, we find that a Mary BLADE arrived on the *Martin Luther*, and a Mary BOLD arrived on the second voyage of the *Aurora*, but both of these arrivals postdate the application. We find on linking with the marriage records that a Peter HANSON (note spelling variation), adult, married Mary Ann Baldy, adult, on 24 August 1847 at Launceston.¹⁰ No children were found for this marriage in the Tasmanian records.

It is hard to postulate what the truth might have been in these and many other cases. CON 45/1 and CON 52/1 through CON 52/7 are indexes to letters of application that have not themselves survived. I can only suppose that the Convict Department clerks who were responsible for the indexing of them, or the Archives Office staff who made out the cards, or the writer in computerizing them—or all three—made some errors along the way.

3 Sources of spelling variation.

We need to know why the completed index to *Convict Applications for Permission to Marry* contains so many variant spellings. In the applications, 18.6 per cent of surnames had variant spellings after the matching of the convict and marriage records. Some of these are listed in *Table 1*. The first entry, in bold face is the surname as it appears in the record of a marriage. The alternative spellings come from the application/s for permission for that marriage or from the records of surnames of children born to it. *Table 1* also illustrates how English speaking record keepers had particular difficulty dealing with Scots and Irish Gaelic surnames. The extreme case so

far found is of eighteen linked records for the one family unit, yielding fourteen different spellings of Mary McAUSKIN's surname. It is very likely that some of these variations are due to errors in transcription during the creating of the indexes upon which *Table 1* depends. *Table 1* is a timely reminder to the researcher to go beyond the initial letter in searching for alternative spellings.

Table 1 Some variant spellings of surnames

Beaven [Beahan or Beven or Biven or Bearan or Bevan]
Bennworth or [Benniworth] or Benneworth or Beneworth or Bennyworth or Pennyworth
Borruston [Boraston or Bursten or Bouston or Borreston or Borrison or Boriston]
Bury [Berry or Bary or Beaureau or Burey]
Calaghan [Callagan or Calahin or Calaghin]
Caplin [Capling or Capeland or Capelin or Copeland]
Culling [Collins or Colling or Cullan or Cullen or Collier or Cooling]
Edyrean [Edyvan or Adgren]
Effie [McFie or Aphey or Hayphey or Heyfa or Afey or Heafey or Healey]
Gunning [Guning or Gunnen or Goning or Gunnin or Gunner or Gunnan]
Hannigan [or Gaggin or Hanghegan or Haughegan or Galhahan or Geohegan or Galegan or Geoghan or Groghan]
Hawriga [Hirugan or Horrign or Horagan or HorO'Day or Canarr]
Hehir [O'Heir or Eyre or Hair or O'Hea]
Hinchey [Hinchy or Henston or Hanchion or Huchon or Hinchon or Henshaw]
Holmes [Hulme or Homes or Hainge]
Hopson [Thompson or Hohn or Hopson or Hobson or Robson]
Howis [Harris or Harriss or Houisee or Howiss or Howes or Howeis]
Inchbald [Inchbold or Inchbowl or Inchbould]
Kenna [Canarr or Kennagh or Kinnear or Connell or McKenna or Canaa]
Lavender [Cavander or Lecorden or Tavener or Teniston or Tivedon or Tiverden]

⁹ CON 52/2 p.382

¹⁰ RGD 37/06 : 1847/1228

Leveston [Loverton or Liverton or Leverton or
Levertone or Leverstone or Lawston or
Levington]

Loddon [Lauden or Lodden or Langdon or
Laughton or Lawton or Lauton or Lorton]

Magarichan [or Magavehian or Magaughian or
McGathure or Megehan or Magrahan or
McGahan]

McAuskin [McAnslan or Maccoslin or
McCoglin or McCuslin or McCaulsie or
Macaslin or Coslin or Ausline or McCoslin or
Macanslin or McAustin or Maccousline or
McAuslin]

McDonnell [Donnelly or Macdonald]

McGovern [or Magonemon or McGowran or
McGovern or McGoveran or McGovan or
Macgovan]

McNulty [McInulty or Macnalty or Macanelty or
McNalty or Macinalty]

Meehan [Moran or Mehan or McKean or
Mahorn or Maheen or Mahane]

Reavely [Ravely or Reveley or Reeveler or
Rigby or Rieveley or Reilley or Revelley or
Reolley or Revley]

Rowlands [Robins or Rawlins or Raulings or
Ralings or Rawlings]

Scally [Scatty or Skelly or Seally or Sealley or
Kelly]

Sheey [Sheehy or Shery or Sheeny or Shehy
or Sheahy]

Staines [or Stanes or Styles or Stynes or
Stines or Stynas]

Wratt [Rait or Wratt or Batt or Wrett or Ratte or
Wiatt or Whrette or Whrute or Meett or Ratt
or Whratte]

About 7.5 per cent of forenames had variants after matching. Why are there such large and different levels of variation? This question is best answered by an examination of *Tables 9.2 and 9.3*. These allow comparison of the 20 most common forenames for each gender. English forenames in the nineteenth century came dominantly from a relatively restricted repertoire, mostly of Norman-French, Anglo-Saxon, Irish and biblical origins. There are, however quite

distinctive differences between the genders as to naming behaviour in that female forenames are much more likely to vary *for the same person* among the classes of records under examination. To cite an example: Norah DALEY, a convict who arrived on the *Lord Auckland* applied on 10 August 1852 for permission to marry Patrick DONNELLY who arrived on the *Elizabeth & Henry*.¹¹ No ships' numbers are given in the application. They married on 11 September 1852 at New Norfolk.¹² He was aged 34 and she 46—so of course there was little likelihood of success in a search for children to this marriage, and indeed not one was found. In the record of marriage, her forename is recorded as Nora, which is phonetically identical to the forename given in the application. But on checking their entries in *Tasmanian Convicts*, we find her listed as Honora Daley, a transportee on the *Lord Auckland 3*, and him as Patrick Donnelly on the *Elizabeth & Henry 1*. The Russell-Soundex name-coding algorithm differentiates between Honora and the other spellings (Nora and Norah = N600, but Honora and Honorah = H560) and so would fail to link the convict record with the marriage record.

It should be immediately apparent from *Tables 2 and Table 3* that there are far fewer equivalent, pet and nicknames among the twenty most common male forenames than for the equivalent ranking female forenames. Only three forenames out of twenty for the males are groups of frequent alternate use: Harry replaces Henry three times; Edwin or Edmund, though they are valid and distinctive names on their own, are used interchangeably with Edward thirty-nine times, and the abbreviation, Sam,

¹¹ CON 52/5 p105

¹² RGD 37/11 : 1852/1172

replaces Samuel twice. In contrast, only four forenames out of twenty for the females stand alone: Charlotte, Caroline, Martha and Emma, and of these Caroline is found as an alternative name for women elsewhere called Catherine at least thirteen times, so argument could be made that these two names should be conflated. Even more common is the use of Margaret as a substitute for Mary and

vice-versa. Among the men, John and James are frequently substituted for each other. We should emphasize that we can be certain, in nearly all instances, that the matched entries refer to the *one* person because the addition of the third nominal item: ship's name to surnames and forenames, vastly increases the discriminating power of the data.

Table 2 Frequency of male forenames in the Applications

Rank	Male forenames	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative %
1	John	2776	9.568	9.568
2	William	2363	8.145	17.713
3	James	1516	5.225	22.938
4	Thomas	1487	5.125	28.063
5	George	920	3.171	31.234
6	Henry/Harry	589+3=592	2.040	33.275
7	Joseph	534	1.841	35.115
8	Charles	512	1.765	36.880
9	Robert	440	1.517	38.397
10	Edward/Edwin/Edmund	383+19+20=422	1.455	39.851
11	Samuel/Sam	366+2=368	1.268	41.119
12	Richard	335	1.155	42.274
13	Michael	208	0.717	42.991
14	Patrick	181	0.624	43.615
15	Daniel	152	0.524	44.139
16	David	145	0.500	44.639
17	Peter	127	0.438	45.076
18	Francis	122	0.421	45.497
19	Frederick	112	0.386	45.883
20	Isaac	79	0.272	46.155

Table 3 Frequency of female forenames in the Applications

Rank	Female forenames	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative %
1	Ann/Hannah/Nancy	2561+240+23=2824	9.734	9.734
2	Mary/Maria	2415+239=2654	9.148	18.881
3	Elizabeth/Eliza	1159+505=1664	5.735	24.617
4	Margaret/Peggy	1138+11=1149	3.960	28.577
5	Jane/Janet/Jean	805+108+85=1008	3.474	32.051
6	Sarah/Sally	877+10=887	3.057	35.108
7	Catherine/Katherine	806+7=813	2.802	37.911
8	Ellen/Helen/Eleanor/Nelly	598+76+63+2=739	2.547	40.458
9	Bridget/Biddy	449+18=467	1.610	42.067
10	Susan/Susannah/Susanna	158+61+5=224	0.772	42.839
11	Harriet/Harriett	115+50=165	0.569	43.408
12	Charlotte	151	0.520	43.929
13	Caroline	148	0.510	44.439

14	Rose/Rosannah/Rosanna/Rosina	78+25+22+14=139	0.479	44.918
15	Martha	128	0.441	45.359
16	Honora/Norah/Honor/Honorah/ Honorina	63+31+25+6+2=127	0.438	45.797
17	Frances/Fanny	80+47=127	0.438	46.234
18	Emma	123	0.424	46.658
19	Johanna/Johannah/Joan	109+7+5=121	0.417	47.075
20	Isabella/Isobel	117+3=120	0.414	47.489

From these data we can conclude that, in 93.6 per cent of applications, the forenames will be drawn from this restricted set of forty names/name-groups (or seventy names if taken individually). It is an acknowledged fact that women, servants, children and the poor are less likely to appear in official records of pre-industrial times.¹ This being the case, it might be considered a reasonable hypothesis that women might be less likely than men to behave consistently when it came to stating their names, both in written documents, and in the verbal attestations which became written documents at the hands of civil and ecclesiastical officials. The data strongly support this hypothesis.

4 Convicthood as contraceptive?

There is other informative data that can be derived from the *Convict Applications for Permission to Marry* that relate to fertility and migration. The number of entries in the database was finalized at 29 012, representing 14 506 applications. Of these 18,708 (9 354 couples) can be matched with a record of actual marriage. The actual number of marriages was 8 462, which shows us that about 10.5 per cent of applicants made more than one application. When an attempt was made to match the brides and grooms of these

marriages with the parents of children found in the birth registers and the admittedly incomplete transcriptions of the baptism records, 5 073 of these 8 462 marriages, or 59.95 per cent proved to be childless. This is an extraordinarily high figure.

What are the components of this convict-hood effect on fertility? Of these 8 462 convict marriages, 3 653 (43.17 per cent) have an actual age at marriage in the record. A further 1 005 (9.88 per cent) state the bride to be adult, and another 60 (0.7 per cent) state the bride to be a minor: under the age of 21.

Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation was derived for these data. The correlation between the stated age of the bride at the time of marriage and the proportion of brides of that age whose marriage was childless was very high, which was expected. For those brides, aged from 15–46 who were under sentence at time of marriage, $r=0.9658$ and for those who stated they were free (which includes those who were freed), $r=0.9398$. Both are significant at the $\alpha < 0.0001$ level.

5 Convicts, emancipists and emigration

Table 4 also needs to be considered in the light of the time period over which the *Applications of Convicts for Permission to Marry* was being compiled. The Californian and Victorian gold rushes were contemporaneous. Many former convicts, both single persons and newly married couples, emigrated, especially to

¹ Alan MacFarlane, in collaboration with Sarah Harrison and Charles Jardine, *Reconstructing historical communities*. Cambridge: 1977. Cambridge University Press, p.207.

Victoria. Not a few of those who left had sentences that were still current! The incentives, metaphorically, and in the case of those still under sentence, literally, to escape from the 'Botany Bay of Botany Bay'² were considerable. A consequence was the active effort made, especially for the north of Van Diemen's Land, to recruit free, experienced agricultural labourers from the south-eastern counties of England to replace them. Thus began the Launceston Emigration Aid Society.³

Another consequence is that *Table 4* must be considered to be an artifact. The record linkage process that has found so many couples to be childless did so *not* because they had no children at all. It did so because the children of many such couples cannot be located in the civil records of Tasmania. In addition, numerous progeny (and descendants) of Tasmanian pioneer families were born in Victoria. It was the interest in their Vandemonian convict ancestors that incited many members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria to participate in producing the CD-ROM index to the Tasmanian Convict Records.⁴ No systematic attempt has yet been made to identify every emigrant family from Van Diemen's Land and, after 1856, from Tasmania, in the

Victorian, New South Wales or West Australian parts of the *Australian Vital Records Index*.⁵ Thus many families cannot be fully reconstituted from the Tasmanian records alone. Furthermore, any future and more sophisticated demographic and sociological analysis of the Tasmanian family reconstitution data must proceed with this caveat very firmly in mind.

6 Criteria for marriage

Why would an application for marriage be refused when it was in the interests of the authorities to redress the serious imbalance in the ratio of males to females? The authorities regarded marriage as having an ameliorating effect on the inherently socio-pathological nature of the convicts.⁶ This subject has been thoroughly investigated by Anne SUMMERS⁷ and Portia ROBINSON,⁸ among others. (There existed a kind of circular reasoning on the part of the colonial officials and the clergy. Because convicts had been convicted of crimes, they were therefore *ipso facto* depraved. Rev. John YOUL's testimony to the BIGGE Inquiry on the depravity and dissipation

² John West, *The history of Tasmania with copious information respecting the Colonies of New South Wales Victoria South Australia &c., &c., &c.* edited by A G L Shaw. Sydney: 1852. (1981) Angus & Robertson, p.30.

³ Kevin Green. *Immigrants recruited by the Launceston Immigration Aid Society, 1855-1862*. Hobart: 1994. K A Green

⁴ Archives Office of Tasmania, 2000. *Tasmanian convicts: the complete list from the original records*. CD-ROM database. Hobart: the author.

⁵ Intellectual Reserve Inc., *The Australian vital records index*. Salt Lake City: 1998. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 4 CD-ROMs.

⁶ *Historical Records of Australia*, Series III, 3: 365, 442. (Hereafter abbreviated to *HRA III*).

⁷ Summers, Anne, *Damned whores and God's police: the colonization of women in Australia*. Ringwood: 1975. Penguin.

⁸ Robinson, Portia, *The women of Botany Bay: a reinterpretation of the role of women in the origins of convict society*. St Leonards, NSW: 1982. Macquarie Library; and Portia Robinson, *The hatch and brood of time. A study of the first generation of native-born white Australians 1788-1828, Vol. 1*. Melbourne: 1985. Oxford University Press.

of the convicts in the northern settlement is evidence of this habit of thought.⁹ Conversely, the fact that Lieut-Governor David COLLINS had mistresses in Sydney and Hobart Town, who bore him children, and Lieut-Governor William SORELL openly lived with his mistress, Mrs KENT, and passed her off as Mrs Sorell¹⁰ while entertaining clergy at Government house, is evidence for an underlying hypocrisy in late Georgian society which extended right up to the debauched monarch, George IV, himself.)

Some of the answers to the above rhetorical question are found by examining the convict's Conduct records.¹¹ To start, marriage of serving convicts was regarded as a privilege to be earned. Assigned servants had to have a reasonably clean record. Women who were frequently drunk and disorderly, insolent, or 'on the town' were routinely refused. Despite the official disapproval of prostitution, it thrived. Then there was the problem of previous marriages to consider. There were several options. For a person transported for life and thus forbidden to return home on pain of execution of a commuted death sentence,

English law provided that after a period of seven years the spouse remaining in England could remarry, because the transportee was considered to be 'as good as dead'. Similarly, the convict could apply in Van Diemen's Land, if his or her record in the colony was good, to have the spouse sent out to the colony at Government expense. Or he could marry again in the colony even though his first spouse was still alive in England, without the colonial remarriage being considered bigamous. There are many such cases, even among those sentenced to transportation for just seven years. Testimony before the Bigge Commission of Enquiry by Rev. Robert KNOPWOOD and Rev. John Youl confirms official ecclesiastical acceptance of the practice.¹² Indeed the late Lloyd ROBSON estimated that a quarter of convicts transported to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were married.¹³ This estimate for Tasmania has been revised by John WILLIAMS.¹⁴

Whether formerly married or not, convicts under a seven year sentence were permitted to marry after three years, and those under a fourteen year sentence could marry after six or seven years. For those who met the criteria: the well behaved, even these time limits were often relaxed. It was all at the Lieut-Governor's pleasure. And permission once granted could be and sometimes was revoked and the marriage annulled, as Dr

⁹ *HRA III, 3: 443*

¹⁰ *HRA III, 3: 681–685*. For fascinating discussions on official double-standards, see Alison Alexander, *Governors' ladies: the wives and mistresses of Van Diemen's Land governors*. Hobart: 1989. Tasmanian Historical Research Association, and Alison Alexander, *Obligated to submit: wives and mistresses of colonial governors*. Hobart: 1999. Montpelier Press.

¹¹ For males arriving during the Assignment System, 1803–1843, the conduct records are found in series CON 31, and for females for the same time period the conduct records are found in CON 40

¹² Testimony by Rev. R Knopwood: *HRA III, 3:366*. Testimony by Rev. J Youl: *HRA III, 3:445*.

¹³ Lloyd Robson, *The convict settlers of Australia*. Melbourne: 1965. Melbourne University Press.

¹⁴ John Williams, Irish convicts in Tasmania. Hobart:1989. *Bulletin of the Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, 2 (3): 19–29*.

Dianne SNOWDEN has pointed out in a recent article.¹⁵ For the intransigent and for recidivists, applications might be made repeatedly to marry the one person and repeatedly refused. Then there are the curious cases where (usually a woman) there was a string of applications over a five-year period, for permission to marry a string of men (usually free) which were all refused. Sometimes though she would eventually win her man, often a convict or an emancipist.

7. Women on the *Atwick*

Take for example the women on the *Atwick*. These were a rather wild lot of 150 female prisoners who arrived on 31 January 1838 after a fast 115-day voyage from London. For these 155 applications for permission to marry survive. Over three years Elizabeth FOSTER applied to marry four different men, two free and two under sentence and married John SCOTT, convict per *Katherine Stewart Forbes* on the second attempt. There is one recorded child. Christine GILMORE made no fewer than seven applications and succeeded on the last of four for free man, John BATTERSBY. By then he was 40 and she 26. There are no children recorded in the registers of Tasmania, Victoria or New South Wales. Catherine Grant over a period of six years was refused for Henry GRIMSTON and Robert WILLIAMS, and twice for Henry ARBERRY (or Arbury) by whom she had a son Henry through a prenuptial conception. Jessie MITCHELL made four attempts over five years and failed all. Agnes Campbell ROBINSON, aged 26 married George FARRIS, 42 and free, after four attempts over five years. The

conduct records of all these women are colourful. But not all were disreputable, disorderly and disillusioned. Of the *Atwick* women, half never married in Van Diemen's Land. Thirty-three women married convict husbands at their first attempt, and ten married free men at their first attempt. Similar discussions could be given for the women on other vessels. Many, like *Atwick* convict, Rachael Horton, who once cannily stated she was transported on the *Gilbert Henderson*, with a much milder group of women, had large families.

8 Time of Marriage

For the period 1829 to 1859, 63.8 per cent of successful applicants succeeded in marrying in the year of their application, 79 per cent within a year of applying, 95.8 per cent within two years, 97.7 per cent within three years and 98.4 per cent within four years. There was considerable unevenness in the rate of arrival of female convicts. When a comparison is made between the number of female convicts arriving per year and the number of female convicts marrying, strong similarities are revealed. Comparing year by year yields a Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation of $r=0.6658$, which is significant at the $\alpha<0.001$ level. Comparing the number of marriages the year after the convict women arrived has a correlation coefficient of $r=0.8126$. This drops a little for a two year delay to 0.7811, but rises to the highest level, $r=0.8553$, for a three year delay, significant at the $\alpha<0.0001$ level, then drops off with each additional year of offset. From these statistics we can infer that the rules were largely being followed.

9 Convicts and Catholics

What proportion of all marriages was of persons who were or had been convicts? This cannot be determined just from the

¹⁵ Dianne Snowden, Convict marriage: 'the best instrument of reform'. Hobart: 2004. *Tasmanian Historical Studies*, 9: 63-71.

marriage records except for a few years of records by Rev. Robert Knopwood, colonial chaplain before the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor George ARTHUR in 1825. He routinely recorded the ship of arrival for a period of years. During this period many Roman Catholic convicts, if they were to marry at all, were obliged to marry in the established United Church of England and Ireland. Many of those of Irish extraction chose to 'live in sin' rather than submit to what they thought were the 'unauthorized and ineffectual ordinances of excommunicants'! Those who had children outside marriage rejoiced at the arrival of Father Philip CONELLY in 1826, who regularized their unions and baptized their children. His records from 1826 to 1836 were entered into the volume that has become NS746/1 in the Archives Office of Tasmania. The marriages were transcribed after 1838 into volume 1 of RGD36 and the baptisms into RGD32/1. There are even a few burials that found their way into RGD34. However, many unions, births of children and burials went unrecorded.

We may yet be able roughly to determine the number by counting the female convicts who embarked from Irish ports, but significant numbers of Irish men and women were convicted in Lancashire and even further afield, and can only be identified by the 'Irishness' of their surnames. Insightful comments on the Irish convicts, the greater number of whom were Roman Catholics, are given by John Williams.¹⁶ Being both Roman

Catholic and convicted, they were doubly discriminated against.

Ignoring the poorly recorded period around 1833, the lowest percentage of those marrying who were convicts is 29.81 per cent in 1843, which is just before the rapid rise in female convict numbers, and again in 1849 following the cessation of transportation to New South Wales. The highest percentage occurred in 1851 when fully two thirds of all recorded marriages are shown by my record linkage techniques to have at least one of the partners under sentence. This figure of 66–67 per cent, derived from the *Applications for Permission to Marry*, thus understates the marriages of persons who had once been convicted. This year is also three years after the peak arrival of 687 female convicts in 1849. There were many marriages of free persons who had once been convicts, but who were both now free. For them, permission was not required, only a marriage licence from the Registrar of the Anglican Diocese if affordable,¹⁷ or endurance of the delay required by the publications of banns. ◀

**Do you have a Manx Connection?
CONVICTS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN**

Patricia Power, Lhoobs Cottage, The Eairy, Foxdale, Isle of Man IM4 3JA via UK is undertaking research for her book on the lives of convicts after being transported from the Isle of Man.

See *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 18 No.1,
June 1997 p.22 for further information.
Contact Mrs Power at above address.

¹⁶ John Williams, Irish female convicts and Tasmania. *Labour History*, No. 44; 1983. and John Williams, Irish convicts in Tasmania. Hobart: 1989. *Bulletin of the Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies*, 2 (3): 19–29. .

¹⁷ These records are at the Archives Office of Tasmania in class NS373/1–3.

IN SHIPS THEY CAME TO THE LURE OF GOLD

Pauline Quirk

THE GRAND SS *Great Britain*: History for many thousands of years has been about ships, their places of departure and arrival and of course the people who sailed in them. Except for the arrival of the First Fleet, the Australian gold rushes became benchmark times for our progress as a nation when mateship and hardship went hand in hand with survival.

Our grandparents were among those who travelled from Melbourne to Western Australia to the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie discoveries about 1896. We are the fourth generation of our ancestors to live on Australian goldfields. My parents and their family broke with the goldfields tradition when we became Tasmanians in 1949.

Ancestry searches brought a great ship to our notice. Great grandfather, Thomas Griffith LEWIS from Wales sailed on the SS *Great Britain* at the age of 20 on Voyage 21, which left Liverpool on 20 October in 1861. The voyage took sixty-four days, had a crew of 141 and carried 535 passengers.

In his foreword, HRH The Duke of York, CVO ADC and Patron of the Great Britain project said that,

With research so far carried out in Bristol we know the identities of more than 60,000 Victorian men, women and children who sailed in the *ss Great Britain*.

One of these adventurers was Thomas Lewis who was born at St Dogmaels, South Wales in 1843 where he lived with his parents. St Dogmaels, not far from

the larger town of Cardigan, is on the western coast. Living near a large harbour, Thomas was brought up with ships and the sea. It was natural that once he ventured from home he would be undaunted by a long journey by ship. His father had the title of a master mariner, which can only be attained by many years at sea, and promotions to larger ships. At the time the Welsh were described as energetic and spirited immigrants.

He set off on his journey thinking about his good fortune to travel on what was the most frequent manner of transport—steam ships. Less lucky were the last of the convicts who came on sailing ships in appalling conditions and a comparison of conditions between the two types of shipping is unavoidable.

At 19 years of age Thomas Lewis booked a passage to Australia on the famous SS *Great Britain*. At this time convict ships were still sailing to Australia from England and in the same year that Thomas sailed on the *Great Britain*, the convict ship *Palmerston* sailed for Western Australia. (The very last convict ship to put down its unenthusiastic pioneers in Australia, was *Hougoumont* in the Swan River in 1868.) The *Palmerston*, a 978-ton ship, departed from Portland with 296 convicts and three died on the voyage. It left on 10 November, 1861 and arrived in Western Australia on 11 February 1862, a voyage taking ninety-three days.

It was much different for Thomas Lewis, named on the passenger list as a 'gentleman' aged 20, although he was 19

at the time. The SS *Great Britain* sailed from Liverpool for Melbourne on 20 October 1861 on voyage number 21 about one month earlier than the convict ship *Palmerston*. What a contrast of journeys for her passengers.

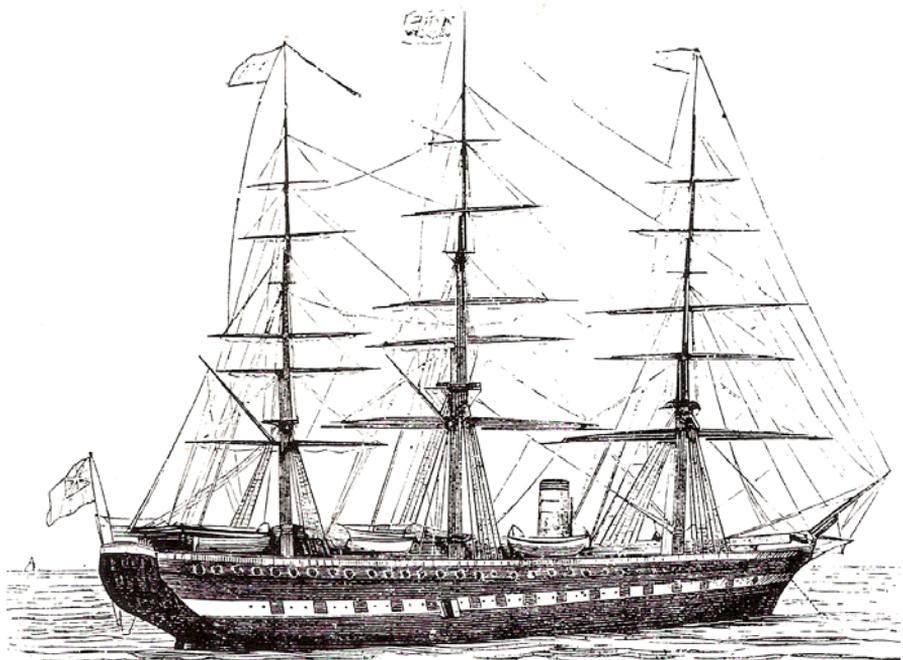
The *Great Britain's* displacement was 3 675 tons, had an overall length of 322 feet with a breadth of 50 feet 6 inches. The 1861 voyage to Melbourne was completed in sixty-four days (about thirty days shorter than the convict ship), with 141 crew and 551 passengers, 140 sheep, 36 pigs, 528 fowl, 444 ducks, 96 geese and 48 turkeys. These statistics appear somewhat tedious until you visualise the two ships—one transporting convicts in cramped and intolerable conditions and the other a modern liner sailing with paid passengers.

The SS *Great Britain* was a success story particularly on the run to Australia and

could be described as the Australian *Mayflower*. It was a sailing ship before it was a steamship and made many voyages from Britain to the United States. It was built by the BRUNEL family, ship-builders and traders of Bristol.

The competition between sailing packets crossing to New York was keen and Brunel set out to make a wooden paddleboat to rival those already trading the Atlantic. The development of screw propulsion was new and Brunel decided to change the plans and undertook new designs. The new ship had an iron keel, six masts to carry the auxiliary sail, and wire rigging was used instead of hemp. The *Great Britain* made commercially successful voyages across the Atlantic but in 1846 ran aground on Northern Ireland.

GIBBS, BRIGHT and families who made modifications in Liverpool to accom-



moderate the new engines, eventually bought the SS *Great Britain* back to life. A magnificent dining saloon was included plus a promenade deck for passenger use. The masts were reduced from five to four, and the refit increased the number of passengers, of whom fifty could travel first class.

The *Great Britain* served the rush to the goldfields of Australia and increased the demand for paid passengers wanting to travel to this new country and make their fortune. The liner made thirty-two round trips to Australia between 1852 and 1875 and carried 15 000 passengers. This ship had also carried British troops to the Crimea War (1856) and the Indian Mutiny (1858). In 1853 the ninth version came into being with two funnels and three masts.

It looked as if this great pioneer ship was going to be allowed to slide into the sea in her old age. Her last voyage, number 47, in 1886 ended in the Falkland Islands where she became a hulk after being towed to Sparrow Cove, three miles from Port Stanley. From 1936 appeals were launched for her return to Britain and restoration. There began a 7 000-mile tow on a pontoon to Bristol, which was reported as having only an 80 per cent chance of arriving safely. She returned to her original dock in Bristol in 1970 and since then has created enormous interest as her restoration continued from 1988. It is being restored to the 1845 version of her original six-masted appearance. Through its alterations it became two funnelled and four masts, two funnels and three masts and finally one funnel with three masts.

Bound For Australia—Voyage 21: The passenger record of the *Great Britain* abounds with people listed as labourers, miners, blacksmiths and farmers; trades

people such as butchers, merchants, grocers, stonemasons, a horse dealer and an engineer or two. Fares to Melbourne, advertised as ‘unrivalled,’ were listed at 55 to 70 guineas for the After Saloon (first class), 25–30 guineas for Second Class (on deck), 18–20 guineas for Third Class and 15–16 guineas for Steerage. Thomas Lewis, listed as a gentleman, probably travelled in first or second class.

The shipping company imposed disciplinary rules on board. There are many accounts of passengers losing their liberty for a while. This discipline was extended to all classes and included a dress code; gambling was prohibited, card playing banned on Sundays, and linen changed every eight days. This was a typical Victorian society on the high seas. Life on board was pleasant enough, days in the sunshine, socialising, reading, singing, dancing and dining. During the 1871 trip the noted novelist Anthony Trollope wrote sixty-six pages a day of his novel *Lady Anna* and it was completed by the time he reached Melbourne.

Most voyages had ‘tranquil’ conditions but rough seas at times kept passengers below. On the very first voyage to Australia (voyage 9), in 1852 the whole crew of the *Great Britain* deserted in Melbourne. Several of them struck it rich when, with two of the passengers, spent several days digging. They stumbled on a shaft and one of them decided to go down. He dug away until he handled some promising rocks. They were sent up for inspection in the sunlight. They found they had really struck it rich. They celebrated their good fortune and decided to return to England on the same ship before they lost it all in the gambling dens or another prospecting adventure.

Many passengers were heading for the gold rushes in Victoria and it included

people of all social conditions. Women voyaged to Melbourne seeking husbands or searching out labour in a time of shortage. A passenger on voyage 9 in 1852 described a rush from others aboard to join his party to the diggings. Violence, drunkenness and gambling meant a stretch of isolation below decks. Some people spent all of their money and then conducted raffles for personal effects such as watches, rings, cigars and clothes. Women in general were considered to be troublesome and the cause of many brawls. There was one fight because a married woman considered another had winked at her husband. Death on board was not unusual and new babies often didn't survive. Some people were already malnourished, suffering from 'consumption', or an excessive alcohol habit and died during the journey.

Off to the diggings! The great journeys to Australia began with the discovery of gold. News of the gold rush was heard across oceans and continents and began a human exodus first to California and then to colonial Australia. It enticed many thousands to set off for distant lands. There were no supersonic aeroplanes so they set off in great ships on voyages to they knew not where. Their source of information was by word of mouth, rumours and misleading newspaper articles.

Working class men sought to escape the rigid class systems of Europe, particularly Britain and Ireland, so they sailed to Australia for a different freedom. These optimistic prospectors were seeking streets paved with gold. Their adventures would change the social, economic and political landscape of Australia. The background to the arrival of these pioneers was one against history being made. It was a country being shaped and fashioned into the nation in which we live today.

The consistent discoveries of gold and the rushes that followed inspired more than a million people to make voyages to Australia between 1851 and 1888. Most of them arrived on sailing ships docking in Sydney and Melbourne. The population of the colonies rose from half a million in 1851 to more than one million by 1860. The Victorian population increased six-fold and for a while Melbourne was the largest city. These numbers became a high proportion of goldfields inhabitants.

Advertisements were placed in England to attract people to the colonies. Offers of free passage were eagerly sought and the authorities were receiving hundreds of applications each day. It was a tempting proposition when reading the advertisements but sometimes the reality was quite different. A poster for a popular play of the time written by John Courtney, and was first performed at the Surrey Theatre, in London, on November 1852.

Off to the Diggin's! or, London Schemes in 1852, was a two-act play, with a cast list of a most Dickensian flavour, takes a humorous look at the fervour of emigration to the diggings contrasted with the reality of colonial life. (Hocking.)

The early settlers to Australia had little money and work. They prospected for gold with an optimism of fantastic rewards. Specimens of gold were found near Bathurst in 1823 and traces near Hartley in NSW in 1839 and 1845. The colonial Governor GIBBS was concerned and did not wish to encourage speculation about finds of gold for fear of disruption and trouble from the populace. He said, "Put it away man, or we will all have our throats cut."

More serious was the threat that a rush could affect the stability of the vast sheep runs and pastoral life if workers made off for the diggings.

The gold discoveries, from about 1846, occurred almost annually. In 1851 it happened in the towns of Ophir, Sofala, Araluen and Braidwood in NSW. The prospectors chased each rush, so much so that Melbourne's population was depleted from 25 000 to 5 000. The Ballarat finds brought them back again to Victoria and Melbourne's population was growing by the thousands each week. To accommodate the latest influx, Canvas Town, a tent city, was set up on the Yarra River. The new arrivals took all the available accommodation before they set off for the journey to the diggings. Many never experienced the prospector's life. Melbourne proved too distasteful and they returned to the ships never having landed their luggage. Some of the prospectors did not survive the heat, dust, flies, disease, alcohol, robbery and murder.

The Bendigo, Mt Alexander, Heathcote and Maryborough finds then followed. In 1854 the fortress of the Eureka Stockade erupted in Ballarat over miners' licences. Our gold rush history reads like a calendar of Australian immigration.

Gold was found too at Kiandra in the Snowy Mountains in 1859. In 1867 discoveries were made at Gympie and Ravenswood, and 1872 in Charters Towers—all in Queensland. It started another migration. The next year, the Palmer River in the gulf country attracted the prospectors, but the tropical conditions and ill-equipped prospectors meant that many did not return. The heat and diseases left many diggers stranded and starving.

Some of the early rushes were disastrous. It was speculated that this rush was fabricated to inject new population into the newly separated colony of Queensland. (Hocking.)

The Chinese were better adapted for the terrain and difficult travel and most of them survived. They were unwelcome competitors on diggings with already too many men and an easy target for disgruntled miners. In 1855 there were 4 000 Chinese on the Victorian fields and a tax was put on them to keep numbers down. However, they paid shipmasters to put them ashore at Robe, South Australia and they then walked over the border into Victoria avoiding the tax. Discrimination was common and about 1860 a cry was heard across the NSW diggings, 'Rule Britannia! Britannia rules the waves! No more Chinamen allowed in New South Wales!'

The Queensland discoveries were made in far northern Queensland about 1877 and 18 000 Chinese walked to the Palmer River. This was a tremendous feat considering the distance from the southern diggings. They were more climatically suited to the tropical weather and the difficult terrain. The Europeans, poorly prepared, wore their flannel underwear and moleskin trousers. They insisted on their western diet of meat, flour and alcohol and many of them died from thirst and starvation.

The enduring WA eastern goldfields discoveries at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in 1892 and 1893 beckoned across deserts and across the seas. The Australian population in the decade from 1851–1861 almost tripled from 437 000 to 1 168 000 almost solely due to the discoveries of gold.

Voyage 21 was also notable because it carried the All England Eleven, the first English cricket team to play against Australia. This team was 100 per cent sponsored and consisted mainly of Surrey men being paid £150 each plus travelling expenses. This team lost only two

games; the first defeat was by 22 against men from Victoria and NSW and they contended it was due to the wining and dining in the colonies. In the words of one of the visiting Englishmen, "I didn't think too much of their play, but they are a wonderful lot of drinking men." The match in Victoria was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on New Year's Day 1862. Each team had eighteen players and a crowd of 20 000 to 25 000 attended on the first day.

The first landfall in the Colony of Victoria was at Hobson's Bay which was some distance from the new port of Melbourne. Smaller craft, steamers and ferries took the new arrivals further up the river to land on the shores of Melbourne on the Yarra Yarra River. By the time Voyage 21 arrived in Hobson's Bay hundreds of trading vessels filled the bay. Making the Yarra more navigable from Hobson's Bay to the city wharves became urgent and The Melbourne Harbour Trust employed Sir John Coode. He proposed that the existing course of the Yarra be deepened to increase the wash over the bar.

Cabs and carriages were more common than bullock wagons and there were churches, banks and a university. Early in 1860 it became clear that much had to be done about sanitation, the slums of the inner suburbs and the troops of urchins. There were major upgrading plans for the bay being debated. The Ballarat uprising was over, the Carlton Brewery was established, the Melbourne Football Club was formed and suburban railway lines had been constructed. A year later the railway came to Ballarat. Bushrangers still abounded in the countryside.

As the 19-year-old Thomas Lewis disembarked in Melbourne on Christmas Eve 1861, he was not to know that he was

to become a well known South Melbourne councillor, real estate agent, extensive property owner, secretary and co-founder of The Enterprise Building Society, member of South Melbourne Bowling Club, husband of two wives, father of ten children and would live in the boom and bust times of 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

It happened that the rush never ended. Kalgoorlie is still producing the low metal. These discoveries catapulted Australia and its colonies into one of its most prosperous eras in our history. It was from these beginnings that we became a nation in 1901.

The nostalgia for a past heroic era was captured by a child of the diggings, Henry Lawson. He wrote as a young poet, captivated by the golden age. (Macintyre.)

Henry has the last say about those golden years with several verses from his poem about the goldfields:

The Roaring Days by Henry Lawson (1889)

The night too quickly passes
And we are growing old,
So let us fill our glasses
And toast the days of Gold;
When finds of wondrous treasure
Set all the south ablaze,
And you and I were faithful mates
All through the roaring Days!

Then stately ships come sailing
From every harbour's mouth,
And sought the land of promise
That beckoned in the South;
Then southward spread their streamers
And swelled their canvas full
To speed the wildest dreamers
E'er borne in vessel's hull.

The rough bush roads re-echoed
The bar room's noisy din,
When troops of stalwart horsemen
Dismounted at the inn.
And oft the hearty greetings
And heart clasp of hands
Would tell of sudden meetings
Of friends from other lands.

Oft when the camps were dreaming,
And fires began to pale,
Through rugged ranges gleaming
Swept on the Royal Mail.
Behind six foaming horses,
And lit by flashing lamps,
Old Cobb and Co. in royal state,
Went dashing past the camps.

O who would paint a goldfield
And paint the picture right,
As we have often seen it
In early morning's light;
The yellow mounds of mullock
With spots of red and white,
The scattered quartz that glistened
Like diamonds in the light.

The azure line of ridges,
The bush of darkest green,
The little homes of calico
That dotted all the scene.
The flat straw hats with ribands
That old engravings show;
The dress that still reminds us
Of sailors long ago.

But golden days are vanished,
And altered is the scene;
The diggings are deserted,
The camping-grounds are green;
The flaunting flag of progress
Is in the West unfurled,
The mighty Bush with iron rails
Is tethered to the world.

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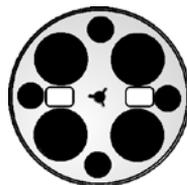
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MAP: *Melbourne Harbour Trust general plan shewing harbour improvements as recommended by Mr John Coode in his report of 17 Feb 1879—scale 1,000 ft to 1 inch.*

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JOHNSONS GALORE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Margaret Prestedge

MY interest in family history and I suppose history in general, started in 1998 when a distant cousin contacted my husband with the news that his great, great, great grandfather had been an 'involuntary government assisted migrant' to Tasmania and had arrived with David Collins in 1804, 150 years prior to our own arrival as migrants from England.

Since then I have been collecting ancestors, many and varied, nobody rich or famous and no sign of nobility from either side of the blanket. A convict or four, a couple of smugglers, a privateer, a town crier, the odd licensee and a preponderance of 'Ag. Labs.' and 'fecund paupers'. Most of what I have learned has been with the help of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. and Archives Office of Tasmania, especially in the early stages, and more recently through contacts made over the internet with those searching for the same families. I have been humbled by how many wonderful people have been willing to share information and I've been introduced to many previously unknown relatives by email, and made many new and rewarding friendships.

For quite some time I have been searching for my mother's JOHNSON family who lived at Cliffe at Hoo in N.W. Kent, but could get no further than my great grandfather, William Johnson, born in 1837, for whom I have a birth certificate, that tells me that his parents were George Johnson and Mary SEAMARK. None of my earlier

Johnsons of Cliffe at Hoo appear on the IGI, and notices on bulletin boards at various Family History Web sites have not so far produced a positive result.

About a month ago I was browsing the web looking for something else entirely when one of those serendipity moments occurred that seem to happen from time to time in family research. I came across the City of Medway Archives site at: <http://cityark.medway.gov.uk> and decided it might be worth exploring. Imagine my utter delight when I found that the Parish Registers for the Hoo Peninsular from about 1560 onwards, are available on line and access is free! Apparently the project was funded by a large grant from the British Heritage Lottery. Let us hope some other areas will get on board and embark on similar projects. I should emphasise that these images are of the actual register pages, not transcripts, and that makes them so much more valuable for research purposes and if reading the old English script of some of the earlier records is difficult, help is available at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pa> **laeography**

Prior to finding this site my only experience of parish registers had been copies of single item register entries passed on to me by other researchers, or transcripts, and my very limited knowledge of old English script came from a couple of early wills and inventories from the 1600s. To have the actual register entries accompanied by margin notes written by the officiating

clergyman gave me a whole new insight into history, and especially life on the Hoo marshes.

As is usual for the 17th and 18th centuries, the infant and maternal death rates are horrendous by our standards and we understand that poor hygiene, nutrition and housing all played a part, but until the late 1800s when parts of the Hoo marsh were drained to promote better agriculture, malaria was a scourge that claimed many lives. I had never realised before that malarial fever existed in parts of Britain, probably because it was then referred to as 'the ague' or 'marsh fever'.

Another feature of the burial records are the number of entries, often more than one to a page, that say simply 'A stranger found drowned'. Who were these people? Were they perhaps the loved breadwinners of a family, who left home one morning and simply never returned. How did they drown? Did they fall out of fishing boats or get caught by the tide on the marshes? Did the bodies float in from the Thames estuary and come ashore at Hoo? I'll never know except to wonder whose ancestors they were and were any of them mine!

The time frame of the earliest records is very clearly set on the first page of the register of St Helens at Cliffe at Hoo where it says,

In the year of our Lord God 1558 and in the first year of the rayne of our Sovereigne Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queene of England, France and Ireland.

Also a margin note in the same register tells that on 25 July 1588 'The camp was begun at Tilbury in Essex' which would have been when the great Spanish Armada was sighted.

Curious entries that are so frustrating for the family historian are those like the

burials of 'John the boy bit by a mad dog'; 'Sarah the woman who shot herself' and 'the woman hermit living on the marsh' where no indication of family names are given.

Also at St Helens in 1562.

The 25th of Maye was baptised Gillian Cole the daughter of John Cole. And was buried the 11th October in the year 1582. Being a mayde well beloved of all her neighbours.

Makes you really wish you had known the young lady.

The incumbent at All Saints in the Parish of All Hallows notes that a coffin measuring 8 ft long by 5 ft wide was too big to go into the church so the service was held at the graveside.

'Buried in woollen' was a note at the end of many entries during the latter part of the 1600s with just an occasional 'Buried in linen'. I was curious about this and contacted a genealogist friend at Coventry in England to see if she had an explanation and this is the answer I received.

During 1660 – 1680, the Burial in Woollen Acts required that the dead, but not plague victims, should be buried in shrouds of pure English wool to the exclusion of a foreign textiles. This was to help the woollen trade in England.

Also an affidavit had to be sworn in front of a Justice of the Peace confirming that the body had been buried in wool. There was a penalty of £5 if any other material was used. A duty also had to be paid, this was usually about 3d, and was noted in the parish register. The incumbent would then write the word Affidavit or note A. or Aff. against the relevant entry in the parish register.

If the family were poor and could not afford a woollen shroud, the entry might have the word "naked" written in it but

most duties were paid for by the Overseers for the Poor or Commissioners, as they were also called.

Affidavits may have been copied into the Parish registers, also notes of burials and affidavits along with fees paid may be found in the Churchwarden's accounts or vestry minutes. The law stayed in force until 1814 but was usually ignored after 1770.

Other notes in the baptisms registers provoke thought about the status of women in the 18th century, like the following:

'At St. Helens, James Johnson basterd sonne of Anne Johnson, supposed sonne of ... ' (illegible). You can almost hear the sniff of disbelief in that one.

'January 1757 at St. Werburgh was baptised John sonne of William Wade by Elizabeth – a purchased wife'. That raised my eyebrows and caused my imagination to run riot. Was Elizabeth to be congratulated or commiserated with? Was William so ill favoured that he could not win a wife through courtship, or did he just need a breeding machine to produce an heir? Maybe he was a knight in shining armour that rescued Elizabeth from a life of poverty and misery. You can probably tell that I read too many historical novels when I am not pursuing family history, but I'm now convinced that the real life romance of the parish registers beats all. ◀

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TALES FROM ST JOHNS CEMETERY

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.860)

CORONER'S INQUEST

On the 3rd instant an inquest was held on the body of Mary Ann Curry, aged six years, at the "Crown and Anchor," New Town, before John Price, Esq., Coroner. William Saddler deposed that he lived at New Town; that he saw deceased alive on the day before in the afternoon, about 5 o'clock; that she was then sitting beside the pond where her dead body was found; that her brother and sister were with her; that shortly afterwards he (Saddler,) being then about ten yards away from the place, heard the boy Hugh Curry cry out that his sister had fallen into the pond; that he went to them and there saw some of her clothes in the water; that he immediately ran for the father of the child, who went to the pond and searched it for about twenty minutes; but could not find her; but in a quarter of an hour afterwards a man named Donnellow succeeded in getting her body out.—Dr. Officer, Surgeon, of Campbell-street, stated that he attended the deceased about half-past 6 o'clock, she was apparently dead; he made attempts to restore animation without success; the deceased had all the appearance of having died from drowning.—Mr. Curry, the father of deceased, corroborated the testimony of Mr. Saddler, and said the pond was very deep, considerably beyond his own depth, and without fence.—Thomas Donnellow also gave evidence to the same effect; he thought the body might be under water about twenty minutes.—Verdict—Accidental drowning.¹

Mary Ann CURREY, eldest daughter of Hugh and Ann Currey, was buried in St Johns Burial Ground on 5 March 1845,

aged 3 years and 8 months.² Almost thirteen years later the following appeared in Sydney and Hobart newspapers—the brother mentioned in the previous report?

CORONER'S INQUEST AT SYDNEY

AN Inquest on view of the body of Hugh Currey, aged 21 years, a native of Hobart Town, and lately a grocer there, was held yesterday at the King's Head, George-street North. Deceased had been drowned in the Harbour by the upsetting of a waterman's skiff, during a pleasure excursion on Saturday, the 27th ultimo, in company with three other young men. All except one of the party were unskilled in the management of a boat. They went out about half-past three o'clock, and having sailed round the Novara Austrian frigate, they were making for H.M.S. Iris, and had come within 200 yards of Pinchgut, when, about five o'clock, a squall caught the sail; deceased hauled the sheet taught instead of easing off, and in an instant the boat filled and overturned, all the party having been seated on the leeward side. Deceased made a hard struggle for several minutes to reach Pinchgut Island, whilst his companions held on to the boat as best they could till a company of soldiers came off in a boat to their deliverance. The body of the deceased was found early yesterday morning in a bight beyond Bradley's Head by a fisherman who was on his way to the Heads. Verdict—drowned accidentally. Three of the party, including the deceased, were Rockhampton adventurers, and were about returning to Hobart Town.—*Sydney Herald*, 4th instant.³ ◀

¹ *Courier*, 13 March 1845

² TFHS Inc., TAMIOT

³ *Courier*, 13 December 1858

GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock

I'm three quarters of the way through scanning the thousands of slides stashed away in this house, taking my own advice and backing up my family history. Dad's slides, Mum's slides, my slides, and then I inherited my aunt's as well. I'm scanning most of them, especially if they have any chance of family relevance or historical interest. I must admit though that a shiny clean white concrete Tasman Bridge looks rather strange to me with evenly spaced pylons, and I have no idea who is pictured in the 1959 supper group at my aunt's. At least I won't have to drag out the antique projector and screen to show my cousins in the hopes that they can identify someone.

In order to scan slides you need a slide scanner, or a scanner with a light fitting in the lid. I have to admit to being very impressed with the quality and ease of use and the software of my two year old Epson printer/scanner/copier. I can scan four slides at a time in the frame that stores in the lid. Once the slides are dusted (soft brush, rub it on plastic first to create some static) and inserted, I can preview them (having chosen a positive film setting). I then have the options to pick a size. Bearing in mind that most printers need an image dpi of 300 dpi per inch you must remember with slides that the original size is only just over an inch wide. So if you scan at 300 or 600 dpi which are reasonable resolutions for scanning prints, you will end up with a very small image. To get a basic print you need at least 1200 dpi. The table below shows the approximate print sizes from the various resolutions.

Scan dpi	Optimal print size from 35mm slide/negative (in inches)
300	1.1 x 1.7
600	2.3 x 3.4
1200	4 x 6 (or possibly 5 x 7)
1600	6 x 9
2400	9 x 13
2700	10 x 15
4000	15 x 22

Remember that when you double the scan resolution, it doubles the demand upon the computer memory (RAM). There will come a point where your computer will lock up, freeze, or simply tell you it can't scan at a particular resolution if you venture too high. I have been scanning most 'record' shots at 1200 dpi, family shots at 3200 and the occasional really good photo at 4200.

A lot of these slides have gone red or blue with age. In fact I have one very good forty year old photo of Russell Falls in flood that is entirely in shades of pink. Pink ferns, pink water, pink sky. Although I could play with colour balance settings in a photo editing program after scanning I have discovered that the 'colour restoration' setting in the scanner window automatically detects the imbalance and corrects it. Green ferns, blue sky—automatically. I have to pick the photos though, if I correct a slide that isn't badly skewed, the results are disastrous.

Next is a 'dust removal' setting which works wonders, especially where there is

a lot of pale sky. Many slides that have darkened with age have also benefitted from the use of a 'backlight correction' as well.

I save as jpg (high quality). I would love to save as tiffs but the size and time required doesn't make it feasible with this many images.

My slides scan in with name which is the initials of the photographer and a number. Once scanned I add a date and details of place to the name. For those where too many characters are required to fit in a name field, I enter the basic name in an Excel spreadsheet and add the names of people, places, dates and any other details. Each slide is then sorted into folders according to subject. These folders are then backed up on another hard drive, and when I've completed the next box, burned to CD.

I hope your archiving is coming along well.

Websites of Interest

Going backwards: These sites store copies of old websites or old data. Some search on keywords. Others enable the entering of an old URL. Very handy for checking sources of old data.

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/>

<http://odi.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/>

<http://www.archive.org/index.php>

http://www.archive.org/details/national_library_of_australia also includes items such as

<http://www.archive.org/details/australhomejour49homerich> the Australian Home Journal scanned and available online, one of several such sources for adding social commentary to your family history.

State Library Family History Portal
<http://www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/familyhistory>

London *Gazette*

<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/search>

NSW Government Railways staff 1902

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/1902/index.html>

Parish registers for Medway, Kent

<http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> and go to Parish registers online from menu on the left.

Europeana

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

collections of literary and art treasures throughout Europe's libraries and museums. The timeline feature could be useful for adding cultural information to your history.

Compatibility patch for older Microsoft Office versions to be able to open and use MS Office 2007 documents.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displayLang=en#QuickInfoContainer>

Old spelling /handwriting questions and answers

<http://www.askoxford.com/asktheexperts/faq/aboutspelling/oldfashioned>

Becoming Tasmanian, including Tasmanian convict background

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/php/BecomingTasmania/BTMainPage.htm>

British Isles photographs

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/> ◀

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	19/02/10	14/05/10	14/08/10	19/11/10	18/02/11
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LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

HOBART BRANCH

- Cassidy, D; *List of Reported Convict Absconders from Van Diemen's Land 1530–1534*.
[Q 365.9946 CAS]
- Clark, J (ed.); *The Career of William Thompson, Convict*
- * Daniel, A; *John Munday—First Fleet Marine & His Descendants*
 - * Dobson, D; *A Directory of Scots in Australia 1788–1900* [994.00411 DOB]
 - * Hodgson, A. Meredith; *Prospecting The Pieman* [919.466 HOD]
- Nash, M; *The Bay Whalers—Tasmania's shore-based whaling industry*
[630.2809 NAS]
- * Nickols, E; *Millers, Maltsters and More—7 Generations of Shelverton Family History*
 - * Paul, R; *Old Walhalla—Portrait of a gold mine* [994.56 PAU]
 - * TFHS Inc.—Hobart; *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania: Index to Town of Launceston 1898* [Q 929.34099463 TAS]

CD-Rom

- Archive CDbooks Aus; *Jubilee History of Tasmania*
- Archive CDbooks Aus; *Police Gazette—Victoria . 1855*
- * Archive CDbooks Aus; *Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory 1890*
- Devon FHS; *The Deanery of Woodleigh*
- Devon FHS; *Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief*
- Hampshire Genealogical Society; *Baptism Index-Hampshire 1752–1812*
- Herefordshire FHS; *Herefordshire Marriage Index 1538–1837*
- Paskeys; *Passenger Arrivals at Port Phillip and Other Victorian Ports Index 1846*
- State Records NSW; *Old Register – One to Nine*

LAUNCESTON BRANCH

- Cassidy, Dianne J E; *New Norfolk Invalid and Mental Asylum, Patient Admission Register 1830–1930*
- Clark Julia, (ed.); *The Career of William Thompson, Convict*
- Cumbria Family History Society;
- Diocese of Carlisle Marriage Licence/Bonds Vol. III 1752–1762*
 - Diocese of Carlisle Marriage Licence/Bonds Vol. IV 1763–1774*
- * Delbridge, Noel; *Land of Hope and Gladys*
 - * Encyclopedia Britannica;
 - Book of the Year 1963*
 - Book of the Year 1964*
 - * Fraser, Elvie; *The Fraser Family Ancestors Part One*
- Hardstaff, Gwen, *Cider Gums & Currawongs,*
The Lake Country of Tasmania to the 1950s
- * Hoole, Gavin & Smith, Cheryl; *Step by Step Guide to Creating Your Family Tree Using Your Computer*
 - * Hyland, Jeanette E; *Maids, Masters and Magistrates*

Launceston Branch Compilation;

The Anglo-Norman Surnames of Ireland

The Origins of Photography & its Evolution in Ireland

The Irish Surname Expert

Not in Front of the Servants

Common Surnames of Irish Counties

Heraldry in Ireland

Maritime Boats

Launceston Times

My Place

Lipp, Euphemia; *Grant William Borrodaile Wilson and his Family*

MacRae, Mary & Dadson, Mary; *Pateena Road, Family & Farms of the Pateena District*

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

*Phillips, Beverley; *A New Beginning Charles Glover from Leicester, England to Tasmania*

Rieusset, Brian; *Maria Island convicts 1825–1832*

South Australian Police *Localities Directory of SA Police Stations and Criminal Investigation Branches 1983*

TFHS Inc. Devonport Branch;

Cemeteries of the Port Sorell District North-West Coast, Tasmania

An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1989

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania*

Index to City of Hobart 1847

Index to City of Hobart 1898

Index to Town of Launceston 1868

Index to Town of Launceston 1878

Index to Town of Launceston 1888

Index to Town of Launceston 1898

* Denotes complimentary or donated item.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

2010 Lilian Watson Family History Award

For a book, however produced or published on paper,
dealing with family history and having significant Tasmanian content.

Entries close 1 December 2010

Further information and entry forms available from
TFHS Inc Branch Libraries or
PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250

Presentation of the award announced at the AGM in June 2011.

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 Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at or Branch Library in Latrobe at 11.00. Please check the website at www.tfhsdev.com for updates and any changes or contact our 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://www.launceston.tasfhs.org> 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 2010–11:-

Individual member	\$40.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$50.00
Australian Concession	\$28.00
Australian Joint Concession	\$38.00

Overseas: Individual member: A\$40.00: Joint members: A\$50.00 (inc. airmail postage).

Organisations: Journal subscription \$40.00—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 editor at PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250.

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