

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 31 Number 4—March 2011

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 191 Launceston Tasmania 7250

Society Secretary: [secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)

Journal Editor: [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

Home Page: <http://www.tasfhs.org>

**Patron:** Dr Alison Alexander

**Fellows:** Dr Neil Chick and Mr David Harris

## **Executive:**

President	Maurice Appleyard	(03) 6248 4229
Vice President	Peter Cocker	(03) 6435 4103
Vice President	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Society Secretary	Muriel Bissett	(03) 6344 4034
Society Treasurer	Betty Bissett	(03) 6344 4034

## **Committee:**

Helen Anderson	Doug Forrest	Libby Gillham
Vanessa Blair	Lucille Gee	Sue-Ellen McCregan
Judith Cocker	John Gillham	Colleen Read

By-laws Coordinator	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Webmaster	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Journal Editor	Rosemary Davidson	(03) 6278 2464
LWFHA Coordinator	Anita Swan	(03) 6394 8456
Members' Interests Compiler	John Gillham	(03) 6239 6529
Membership Registrar	Muriel Bissett	(03) 6344 4034
Publications Convenor	Bev Richardson	(03) 6225 3292
Public Officer	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Sales Officer	Betty Bissett	(03) 6344 4034

## **Branches of the Society**

Burnie:	PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320 <a href="mailto:petjud@bigpond.com">petjud@bigpond.com</a>
Mersey:	PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307 <a href="mailto:secretary@tfhsdev.com">secretary@tfhsdev.com</a>
Hobart:	PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018 <a href="mailto:secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org">secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org</a>
Huon:	PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109 <a href="mailto:vsbtas@bigpond.com">vsbtas@bigpond.com</a>
Launceston:	PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250 <a href="mailto:bbissett@bigpond.net.au">bbissett@bigpond.net.au</a>

# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the editor

It is now near the end of January and apart from a few small alterations to make to this issue, it will be off to the printer this afternoon. I am still on holiday but there have been so many distractions—visitors, Christmas, birthdays and other commitments which have added to the confusion. Often people leave it until the deadline to send in articles and reports but I would be very happy to receive them earlier. This will provide more time to sort through the submissions and discover what is needed, or missing, to produce an interesting issue.

Having spoken to several new members Leonie Mickleborough has written a piece on 'Beginning Family History Research' (page 243). It has been quite a while since *Tasmanian Ancestry* included such articles and we are considering further pieces to assist new members. If you have an idea for a topic please let us know as soon as possible. Leonie has also suggested members should make more use of the 'Help Wanted' column.

Thank you to the regular contributors—please keep up the good work. I hope a flood of new material will arrive soon, as the cupboard is almost bare. If you haven't submitted anything before, please consider what you can write that will be of help or interest to others. Perhaps you can start with a short item of one or two pages.

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

PO Box 191, Launceston TAS 7250  
email [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

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

### Deadline dates are:

**1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October**

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

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

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### Cover:

Illustration supplied by Betty Jones for her article, *A Modest but Steady Income*, see page 209.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**B**Y the time you read this issue we will be well into a new calendar year and back into the search for information about our ancestors.

A change to note for 2011 is the 'disappearance' of the Devonport Branch from the pages of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. The members of that branch have decided to adopt the name Mersey Branch for the future. With their Branch Library located in the town of Latrobe, the new name probably more aptly reflects the area serviced by this Branch.

We now have two branches named after the major river in the area, rather than the largest city.

After a year of enjoying programmes such as 'Who Do You Think You Are' we have a new television programme to look forward to later in 2011. A new 8 x 30 minute factual series, 'Who's Been Sleeping In My House?' is being produced for ABC TV.

Each week this program will visit an Australian house and its owners in a quest to uncover the stories and history of their home.

The series will be presented by Melbourne-based archaeologist and cultural heritage expert Adam Ford, who takes viewers on an investigative journey. He will zigzag his way through archives, family albums, interviews, data bases, and home movies. Meeting social historians and relatives of past owners along the way, he pieces together a past that isn't recorded in the history books.

ABC TV's Head of Factual, Jennifer Collins said,

Each week we visit a house that you might drive past every day and never give

a second look. And yet within its rooms are the hidden stories of our past: the lives of the people who lived, loved, bore children, died or just moved on. This is our history, told by the people who have slept in our homes. It is an exciting original format for ABC TV audiences and promises to reveal both personal histories and stories of Australian significance.

The series will be supported by a website which gives viewers the tips and tricks to trace the history of their own homes.

It is believed that two Tasmanian homes will be featured in the first series. ◀

**Maurice Appleyard**

**Free Offer to Members**

Are you preparing to publish, or have published, a family history or local history book?

TFHS Inc. now offers one free quarter page advertisement in *Tasmanian Ancestry* to members.

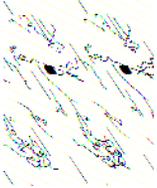
Contact the secretary  
TFHS Inc.  
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Launceston TAS 7250  
[secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)  
or the editor at  
[editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

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

**President Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103**  
**Secretary Ann Bailey (03) 6431 5058**  
**PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320**  
**email: petjud@bigpond.com**



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas and New Year break and trust 2011 will be a most fruitful year of research for you all.

Our November night meeting, the last night meeting for the year, was run as a cocktail party. In previous years we have finished up with a dinner meeting, but this year it was decided to hold a cocktail party instead. Nearly thirty members attended and had a most enjoyable evening. Besides the nibbles and refreshments, the raffle and lucky spots helped to entertain all.

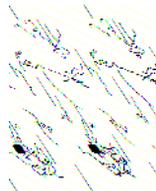
The last day meeting for the year was held on Monday, 6 December and all the members who volunteered as librarians and those who helped with indexing and other projects were invited to this meeting, followed by lunch. The new version of Family Tree Maker was shown to members and several took the opportunity of purchasing a copy. For those of you who are interested we now have Family Tree Maker 2011 available as either an upgrade, deluxe or platinum edition. It is now also available for Mac computers.

Our computer nights are still well attended and the first one for 2011 will be

on the last Thursday of March. Remember reminders for this and other meetings will be sent out via our branch mailing list. If you are not already subscribed it is recommended that you do. Go to [http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical\\_Societies/AUS-TFHS-BB.html](http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/AUS-TFHS-BB.html) for instructions on how to subscribe.

## Hobart

<http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org>  
**President Robert Tanner (03) 6231 0794**  
**email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org**  
**Secretary Howard Reeves**  
**PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018**  
**email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org**  
**All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527**



2010 was a great year for the branch. Membership levels were fairly well maintained, and although visitor levels were down a little, the library was constantly in use during our opening times. Considerable indexing has been carried out, and several publications have been produced.

At our October meeting, Beverley Richardson spoke on the topic, The Joys and Tribulations of Writing the Richardson Family History. This was most interesting, and I'm sure many of us learnt a lot. Those of us who haven't yet written up our family history gained quite an insight into this endeavour. A good follow up would be for all would be writers to attend our Writers Group!

As our November meeting was the last one for the year, we all 'brought a plate' to have a little extra on the supper table,

and as usual it was a fine feast enjoyed by all. Before that we had a panel of speakers each giving a short account of something they had experienced in their family history research. These proved to be very interesting, and quite different from each other.

### **General Meetings**

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

An old friend, Nicola Goc, returns in March to talk about her current research area of the personal/family photograph, whilst in April, Arthur Orchard will present a talk about his recently published book, Diary of an Anzac. This is very appropriate as Anzac Day follows shortly after our meeting. In May, Dianne Snowden will talk about free children who were transported with their convict parents.

Ten years of free access to Ancestry.com should make membership and use of our library very attractive. This results from a five year contract with the society as a whole, plus five years for the branch resulting from our supplying a further set of data.

### **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 under the expert leadership of Vee Maddock.

### **WISE Interest Group**

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

### **Family History Writers Group**

This group has been meeting at the branch library on the fifth Thursday of each month when it occurs. Members working on individual projects will share them with the group in an informal workshop. All welcome! For more details contact Dianne Snowden on [dsnowden@tassie.net.au](mailto:dsnowden@tassie.net.au) or (03) 6260 2515.

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

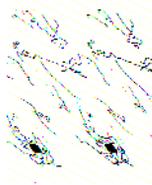
## **Huon**

**President Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546**

**Secretary Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529**

**PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109**

**email: [vsbtas@bigpond.com](mailto:vsbtas@bigpond.com)**



The branch recently purchased a 'Scanlab V Pro' microfiche and microfilm reader which when combined with a computer has enabled members to read and print film and fiche records. For many years we have been unable to print from film and for several years from fiche. A successful special afternoon tea was held to help fund the new equipment. Considering the purchase cost and the quality of the output the purchase has been considered a good alternative for our small library and should ensure another year of service to our members and visitors to the library.

## Launceston

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

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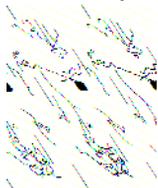
(03) 6394 8456

Secretary Muriel Bissett

Phone (03) 6344 4034

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

secretary: [bbissett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bbissett@bigpond.net.au)



Work is continuing on indexing of The Tasmanian Mail (a photographic index)—Volume 9 1927–1928 is now in work, and

indexing work is continuing on the next volume of The Weekly.

Christmas Luncheon and 30th Birthday celebrations were held at Judith's home, Redwood, on Saturday, 4 December. Judith's Australian, huge native garden is a delight and the bird life kept us entertained as we enjoyed the lovely meal. Many thanks, Judith!

At the time of writing we eagerly anticipate a visit to the Mersey Branch Library at Latrobe on 27 January, followed by a barbecue in Kings Park, with Mersey Branch members.

Our research volunteers continue to be kept busy and good use is being made of the Research Request form from the Launceston Branch website, thus streamlining the researchers' tasks.

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

**Wednesday 16 March:** 2:00 pm: National Library of Australia—Newspapers online, at Adult Education Rooms.

**Wednesday 20 April:** 2:00 pm: British Interest Group (BIG) meet at Adult Education Rooms.

**Tuesday 26 April:** 7:00 pm: Branch Annual General Meeting, at Harry Abbott Scout Hall, 1 St George's Square, East Launceston.

**Wednesday 18 May:** 2:00 pm: British Interest Group (BIG) meet at Adult Education Rooms.

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

## Mersey

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

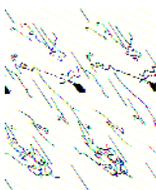
President Pam Bartlett

Secretary Sue-Ellen McCreghan

(03) 6428 6328

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

email: [secretary@tfhsdev.com](mailto:secretary@tfhsdev.com)



As we welcome in the new year of 2011 we have to catch up with what happened in the last month of the previous year.

In November we held our Legacy Users Group (LUG). This is proving very popular—all are welcome even if you are a beginner. Help is available.

We held our Christmas Luncheon at Villaret Gardens. Twenty-three members met and we all enjoyed a scrumptious meal. Our major raffle for the year was also drawn, four prizes in all. Congratulations to the winners.

On our last Library day we had a Happy Hour that was enjoyed by many. What a way to wrap up a very busy year.

As it is Devonport's turn for the AGM we have completed the main planning for this. We have put together an interesting program. Why not plan to come for the

weekend there is plenty to see and do. Our library will be open so if you have not visited us before why not plan to see us in June.

At the last State Executive Meeting our delegates put forward a name change for the branch. This was passed and our new name is Mersey Branch. We are very excited to have the name changed. It will take a while for this process to be filtered through all the appropriate channels but hope to have it up and running soon.

We have not completed our calendar as yet so please keep a check on our website and newsletters or phone the library or secretary for up important dates.

**Up-coming dates to date:**

31 March—trip to Ulverstone Museum

28 April—Branch AGM

A Photographic index to  
**The Tasmanian Mail**

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The Tasmanian Mail  
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**UNDERTAKERS  
OF  
HOBART  
Vol V**

**Index to  
Hooper & Burgess  
Funeral Records**

Part 1

September 1935 – December 1954

Part 2

September 1855 – April 1971



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

Available from Resource Manager

\$25.00 each + \$4.50 p&p

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch

PO Box 326

Rosny Park TASMANIA 7018

email [library@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:library@hobart.tasfhs.org)

# THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT 1920

Elsie Corrick 1894–1974

Shirley Foster

**S**HIRLEY FOSTER has been writing articles for *Tasmanian Ancestry* since 1999. Many relate to her famous forbears the CORRICKS, 'a celebrated family of musicians' who performed nightly and eventually settled in Launceston after touring successfully.

In July 1920, Prince Edward of Wales arrived in Tasmania and after visiting Hobart, caught an overnight train to Launceston where he stayed on the night of 21 July. Originally the Prince was to 'stay at Mount Pleasant, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reed'<sup>1</sup> but this was changed to the Brisbane Hotel. Thanks to Shirley, we learn Elsie Corrick wrote:

We have had thirteen in this house,<sup>2</sup> counting the maid, for the Prince of Wales' visit. It is ever so lively with the two young families together all excited to see the Prince. What do you think of Rhoda<sup>3</sup> and me even going to the races. He walked right next to me and I touched him. We roared laughing after and I felt an awful ass but Rhoda was right next to me and did the same so we felt quite proud then. The Albert Hall was glorious. It represented the Gorge with its water rushing down, hundreds of tree ferns and the floor glorious flowers. The stage was a pond with rainbow fountain and the hall had white pillars with electric shades in the top. I do think the Prince is charming.

With the present excitement over the engagement and forthcoming marriage of the current Prince of Wales it seemed appropriate to check the newspapers for descriptions of the 1920 visit. It appears not much has changed—the people were as enthusiastic then as they are now. The *Mercury* reported *The Tasmanian Mail* of 28 July 1920 would contain ten pages of illustrations!

The Prince is staying at the Brisbane Hotel, where he has a cosy suite of rooms. All day long the hotel was besieged with people watching for the Prince, and every time he appeared he got a tumultuous welcome. The State Government entertained the Prince at luncheon, but it was a purely informal affair, and there were no speeches. At night he dined privately in his apartments.

... More than an hour before the Prince was due to leave for the popular reception in the Albert-hall the people began to assemble in Brisbane-street, which was soon a mass of humanity swaying backwards and forwards, singing and cheering. Two or three women fainted and a number of children who were unable to stand the jostling in the crowd had to seek shelter in the porch of the hotel. Endless cheering greeted the Prince when he made his appearance, and the crowd surged around the Royal car, which the Prince and his staff had some difficulty in reaching.<sup>4</sup> ◀

[What will the newspapers be reporting about the Royal Family in another 100 plus years? —Ed.]

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<sup>1</sup> The *Mercury*, 20 May 1920

<sup>2</sup> 138 St John Street Launceston, Tasmania

<sup>3</sup> Rhoda MANSER had a sweet shop called 'The Golden' in Launceston in partnership with Ethel. She later married Bill KNUCKY a bank manager.

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<sup>4</sup> Extracts from *The Mercury*, 22 July 1920

# A THIRKELL BY ANOTHER NAME

## Part 2: Robert Thirkell

Richie Woolley (Member No.144)

HAVING determined that Robert THIRKELL was Elizabeth SOUTHERNWOOD'S father (see Part 1), I decided to investigate the background of my new-found ancestor. I soon discovered he was baptised in the parish of Aycliffe in Durham, England, in 1792, the son of George 'Thirkeld', a labourer, by his second wife, Elizabeth LITTLEFAIR.<sup>1</sup> The family lived at Brafferton, a hamlet within the parish, which was located between the village of Aycliffe and the town of Darlington. George's surname was recorded in a number of different ways in the Aycliffe register, with Thirkeld, Thirkel, Thirkle and Thirkilld among the variations used. This variability evidently persisted for many years, with the 1851 English census recording Robert's brothers, who were then living at various places in Durham and Yorkshire, as George Thirkell, James Thirkle and Ralph Thirkill.<sup>2</sup>

While the event does not seem to have been recorded, several sources indicate that Robert arrived here in 1820. He gave this date in a letter he wrote to the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1873,<sup>3</sup> and it was repeated in his obituary,<sup>4</sup> which also stated he had come to the colony 'with the late T. C. Simpson'. The latter individual was Thomas Cookson SIMPSON

(c1792–1832), another native of Durham,<sup>5</sup> and someone who, as will be detailed, was definitely associated with Robert at the relevant time.

Newspaper records indicate that a Mr. and Mrs. Simpson arrived in Van Diemen's Land in November 1820.<sup>6</sup> They had sailed to the colony on the *Caroline*, with Rev. Robert KNOPWOOD noting in his diary that although the pair had been married on board the ship, he had repeated the ceremony for them just a few days after they disembarked in Hobart.<sup>7</sup> He also noted Simpson's wife was a Mrs. TAYLOR, and official marriage records confirm that Thomas Cookson Simpson (c1792–1832) and a widow named Catherine Taylor (c1797–1829) were the couple married by Knopwood.<sup>8</sup>

Although Robert's name was not included in the list of the *Caroline's* passengers,<sup>9</sup> an article written some eighty years later about one of his sons asserts that the founder of the Thirkell family had indeed arrived in Tasmania in

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<sup>1</sup> Aycliffe Parish Register, Durham County Record Office

<sup>2</sup> Census details from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Ralph Thirkell (1797–1880) later migrated to Tasmania.

<sup>3</sup> Mercury, 21 August 1873

<sup>4</sup> Mercury, 20 November 1876

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<sup>5</sup> International Genealogical Index (extracted record); Launceston Advertiser, 1 November 1832

<sup>6</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 2 December 1820

<sup>7</sup> Nichols, Mary (ed), *The Diary of Reverend Robert Knopwood, 1803–1838*, (Hobart, 1977), p.344

<sup>8</sup> Tasmanian Marriage No.423, 1820. Catherine's first husband was James Taylor, a lieutenant in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment who died in 1818 while serving in Sri Lanka. [TAHO, CSO 1/1/1897/4491, p.157]

<sup>9</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 2 December 1820

November 1820.<sup>10</sup> The same account states Robert had been ‘under engagement’ to Simpson at that time, and a document compiled in 1823 confirms that Robert had by then been working for Simpson for ‘nearly four years’ and had ‘sole management’ of his ‘agricultural concerns’.<sup>11</sup> Simpson knew he would be given land on his arrival here—he brought with him a grant order endorsed by Lord Bathurst, British Secretary of State for the Colonies<sup>12</sup>—so it is entirely plausible he would have been accompanied to Van Diemen’s Land by the man who was going to manage his farming activities for him. In fact, official records generated in 1829 do state Robert had travelled to the colony on the *Caroline*,<sup>13</sup> so it seems reasonable to conclude he was indeed on board that vessel when it sailed into the Derwent in November 1820.

Simpson’s anticipated land grant eventually materialised as two adjoining lots, totalling 2400 acres, on the south-western side of the Macquarie River,<sup>14</sup> some 12 kilometres south-east of what is now Cressy, and about 25 kilometres north-west of Campbell Town. The new owner bestowed the name Newham Park on his estate,<sup>15</sup> but it appears to have occupied very little of his time. He was certainly a Launceston resident in early 1822,<sup>16</sup> and his ties to that town were further strengthened later that year when he was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace,<sup>17</sup>

which obliged him to serve as a local magistrate. British census records indicate that his daughter Caroline was born in Launceston,<sup>18</sup> evidently in June 1824,<sup>19</sup> and Simpson’s subsequent colonial correspondence suggests he was based in the same place throughout the period from 1825 to 1828.<sup>20</sup>

With Simpson living in Launceston, it would appear that the day-to-day management of Newham Park was left very much in Robert’s hands. His employer regularly supplied the colonial government with both wheat and beef,<sup>21</sup> and Robert was presumably responsible for the production of these commodities.

Robert’s personal prospects were significantly enhanced in 1823 when he was granted 100 acres on the northern bank of the Macquarie River.<sup>22</sup> His land was located about three kilometres to the south-east of the Newham Park homestead,<sup>23</sup> and a similar distance west of the Lincoln Township Reserve,<sup>24</sup> with the latter fact probably influencing Robert to name his property Lincoln Grange.<sup>25</sup> He soon decided, however, that the size of his farm was ‘insufficient to Maintain his Stock of Sheep and Cattle’, and just a few months after his grant was made official he wrote to Lieutenant-Governor William

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<sup>10</sup> *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, Volume II, p.176

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/91/2096, p.134. Robert had also worked for Simpson’s father.

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/187/4491, p.154

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, SC 41/1/1, p.23; CON 31/1/42, No.435

<sup>14</sup> TAHO, LSD 354/1/5, p.16, 105

<sup>15</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 26 April 1828, etc

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 January 1822,

19 January 1822, 13 April 1822

<sup>17</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 August 1822

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<sup>18</sup> **www.ancestry.com** Caroline Simpson and her husband George John Chapman left VDL shortly after their marriage in 1845 and were living at Biggleswade in Bedfordshire in 1851.

<sup>19</sup> *Tasmanian Baptism* No.4476, 1832

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/187/4491, p.157–177

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 March 1822, 4 May 1822, 29 March 1823, 3 June 1825, 17 December 1825, 4 March 1826

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, LSD 354/1/7, p.246

<sup>23</sup> *Somerset County Plan* No.59

<sup>24</sup> *Somerset County Map* No.1

<sup>25</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.445, 449

Sorell seeking additional land.<sup>26</sup> His petition was supported by Simpson, who assured Sorell that Robert was ‘a Man of Sober and industrious habits’ who possessed ‘considerable knowledge & skills in Agriculture’ and a capital reserve, including cash, of at least £300.<sup>27</sup>

The Lieutenant-Governor must have been impressed by what he read, as he recommended that Robert should receive an additional 200 acres.<sup>28</sup> It took some time, however, for the extra land to be made available, and it was not until 1825, by which time Sorell had been succeeded by George Arthur,<sup>29</sup> that a reduced allotment of 150 acres was finally located to Robert.<sup>30</sup>

While this delay may have been frustrating, Robert soon had other problems. A local newspaper reported in early 1827 that a man named Andrew WINCHESTER, one of Simpson’s assigned convicts,<sup>31</sup> had been sentenced to death for

stealing in the dwelling house of Mr. Simpson ... at his farm on the Macquarie River, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October last, 2 pairs of trowsers of the value of fifty shillings, and four handkerchiefs of the value of twenty-two shillings, the property of one Robert Thirkell, who was overseer to Mr. Simpson.<sup>32</sup>

The theft of his belongings was not Robert’s only concern. His 150-acre lot was inconveniently situated some dis-

tance away from Lincoln Grange,<sup>33</sup> and in April 1828 he wrote to Lieutenant-Governor Arthur seeking to have the location moved so it would adjoin his main farm, which had grown to 140 acres with the purchase of a small adjacent property.<sup>34</sup>

Robert carefully documented the improvements he had made to Lincoln Grange in an attempt to persuade the authorities his request deserved consideration, noting he had built a house, which he valued at £80, a barn (worth £75) and other ‘smaller buildings’ (£43).<sup>35</sup> Some 35 acres was either ‘cleared or under tillage’ and he owned two horses, 48 cattle and 500 sheep, all of which were enclosed within some 5.4 kilometres of fencing.

Unfortunately, all the land surrounding Lincoln Grange had been allocated, so Robert’s request could not be agreed to. The Surveyor-General, George Frankland, suggested instead that the 150-acre allotment, which was also enclosed by occupied land, could be replaced by a new one elsewhere of ‘four or five hundred’ acres.<sup>36</sup> However, the Lieutenant-Governor, who commented he was ‘much struck’ by what Robert had achieved, proposed a different solution, recommending that, if Robert was prepared to ‘dispose’ of all his ‘present Land’, he should be given a new 640-acre grant.

This alternative was eventually offered to Robert, but the fact that any new grant of such size would, of necessity, have to be taken outside the area of existing settle-

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<sup>26</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/91/2096, p.133

<sup>27</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/91/2096, p.134

<sup>28</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/91/2096, p.134

<sup>29</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 14 May 1824

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, LSD 408/1/1

<sup>31</sup> TAHO, CON 31/1/45, No.228

<sup>32</sup> Hobart Town Courier, 27 January 1827. Winchester was duly executed soon afterwards. [Colonial Times, 23 February 1827]

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<sup>33</sup> LTO, Somerset County Plan No.50

<sup>34</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, pp.442–443. The 40-acre allotment had been granted to a William Carey in 1823. [TAHO, LSD 354/1/6, p.91]

<sup>35</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.445

<sup>36</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.448

ment appears to have influenced his reaction, as after ‘much consideration’, he decided that ‘without a most material alteration’ in his ‘immediate prospects’, he ‘could not undertake to reside in a detached situation’.<sup>37</sup>

Despite Robert’s evident concerns about his ‘prospects’, it is hard to imagine that he was actually short of money. He had been fined the significant sum of sum of £50 in October 1827 for selling spirits without a licence,<sup>38</sup> but his work for Simpson and the output from his own farm should have guaranteed him a reasonable income at a time when he had no family to support. It seems more likely that he declined the Lieutenant-Governor’s offer because, having spent considerable time and effort establishing Lincoln Grange, he did not wish to abandon it and start again from scratch unless presented with an alternative that was just too good to refuse. He had certainly been prepared to sell his farm at one stage, but had failed to attract a buyer because he had ‘asked such a price as very few would be inclined to give’.<sup>39</sup>

Another potential reason for Robert’s reluctance to move to a ‘detached situation’ may have been a fear that this might increase his vulnerability to attack by Aborigines. There had been a number of violent clashes in the Campbell Town area in the 1820s,<sup>40</sup> with two farm workers killed in separate incidents in late March and early April of 1828.<sup>41</sup> This prompted a number of landholders living in the district to ask the local police

magistrate to take measures to ‘suppress’ the ‘Natives’,<sup>42</sup> but Robert was not among those who signed the petition calling for such action. If a much later letter sent to the Royal Society of Tasmania is to be believed, this may have been because he did not feel personally threatened by the local Aborigines, who he described as

a peaceable and inoffensive race of people, and in no case had he to resort to force to prevent mischief. On the first occasion the natives visited his place on the Macquarie River, about 20 men and the same number of women and children came, after which various numbers came at intervals. When he was engaged building a house the men came and curiously inspected the work, and would use gimlets and other tools. At other times ... he met them in the bush, and in no case had he any cause for fear ... [He] never considered it necessary to carry firearms to protect himself against them.<sup>43</sup>

Robert also noted that the visiting Aborigines were ‘much pleased to get potatoes’ from settlers, and suggested that ‘any injury sustained by the white people was entirely occasioned by their ill-usage of the [Aboriginal] females’.<sup>44</sup> Although the abuse of native women may have been a contributing factor to animosity between blacks and whites, Robert either failed to grasp—or did not wish to acknowledge—that the actions of settlers like himself, who had turned hunting grounds into farms, may have been a much more serious cause of Aboriginal resentment.

While Robert claimed to have had few problems with his indigenous neighbours, he continued to be troubled by some of

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<sup>37</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.449

<sup>38</sup> Hobart Town Courier, 3 November 1827

<sup>39</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.448

<sup>40</sup> Plomley, N J B *The Aboriginal/Settler Clash in Van Diemen’s Land, 1803–1831*, 1992, pp.42–45

<sup>41</sup> Hobart Town Courier, 12 April 1828

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<sup>42</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/170/4072, pp.52–54

<sup>43</sup> Mercury, 21 August 1873

<sup>44</sup> Mercury, 21 August 1873

his fellow Europeans. In January 1829 a former convict named Thomas ROGERS was convicted of stealing 'several articles' from the house of one Francis ROSE, including five shirts and a pair of boots belonging to Robert.<sup>45</sup> Like Winchester before him, Rogers was sentenced to death, with the execution carried out in February.<sup>46</sup>

Robert was still working for T C Simpson when this theft occurred,<sup>47</sup> but the end of their relationship was initiated in December 1828 when three local magistrates, one of whom was James Cubbiston SUTHERLAND (see Part 1), committed Robert to stand trial at the Supreme Court in Launceston, charged with stealing a cowhide.<sup>48</sup> The case, in which William DIPROSE was also a defendant, was heard in January, some three weeks after the Rogers trial, with Sutherland among those called to give evidence. He noted in his diary that the proceedings were spread over two days and that he had told the court that, prior to this incident, 'he had never known anything to lead [him] to believe that the prisoners were not honest men & industrious Servants'.<sup>49</sup>

Unfortunately for Robert, Sutherland's testimony did not sway the jury, and both he and Diprose were convicted. To make matters worse, the particular hide they had stolen had been taken from a cow belonging to Jocelyn THOMAS, a senior colonial official,<sup>50</sup> so a harsh sentence

was almost inevitable. After some deliberation, the judge decided that both men should be transported for seven years, which meant that they were to be placed in the same convict system that operated for offenders brought to the colony from overseas. Diprose, however, won a last-minute reprieve, perhaps because of ill health, with a notation on the trial record indicating that he was 'sent to Hospital but afterwards pardoned'.<sup>51</sup>

Robert was not as lucky. His punishment proceeded as directed by the court, and he was placed in a chain gang to begin his sentence.<sup>52</sup> He had arranged the lease of Lincoln Grange just prior to his trial,<sup>53</sup> but his 150-acre allotment later attracted the opportunistic attention of one of his neighbours, George ALSTON, who wrote to the surveyor, John Helder WEDGE, in May 1831, seeking to learn

whether the Location to Robert Thurtill, now in the Chain Gang, of 150 acres situated behind Stodart's Grant has been cancelled, and if so, that it may be included in the measurement of the Land I purchased from Government, it being in the midst of my property.<sup>54</sup>

Wedge passed the request on to his superiors, with the Colonial Secretary subsequently advising him that Lieutenant-Governor Arthur had decided that although Robert had been

convicted of Felony ... the Land was not necessarily forfeited for this offence, and that probably there would be some difficulty in resuming it, if it has been actually located.<sup>55</sup>

The latter condition had indeed been fulfilled, and Robert retained ownership

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<sup>45</sup> TAHO, CON 31/1/34, No.270; SC 41/1/1, p.23; Hobart Town Courier, 10 January 1829

<sup>46</sup> Launceston Advertiser, 23 February 1829; Tasmanian Burial No.2061, 1829

<sup>47</sup> TAHO, CON 31/1/42, No.435

<sup>48</sup> TAHO, CON 31/1/42, No.435

<sup>49</sup> TAHO, NS 61/1/2, 23 January 1829

<sup>50</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 11 February 1826; Colonial Times, 15 May 1829

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<sup>51</sup> TAHO, SC 41/1/1, p.98

<sup>52</sup> TAHO, SC 41/1/1, p.98

<sup>53</sup> LTO, Deed No.1/23 (Folio 183)

<sup>54</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.451

<sup>55</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.453

of the land. His next piece of good fortune came in August 1832, when he was issued with a ticket of leave.<sup>56</sup> This enabled him to live independently—provided he presented himself periodically at the local police office—as well as to work for his own benefit, and buy and sell land.<sup>57</sup> A complaint was made against him in February 1833 for striking one John STONE, but this was withdrawn and, with no other offences recorded against him, Robert was granted a conditional pardon in August 1833.<sup>58</sup>

There had been one particularly significant development while Robert was under sentence. His former employer, T C Simpson, had died in October 1832,<sup>59</sup> and the latter's executors had decided Newham Park would be offered for lease by public auction. The 'beautiful Estate', which had grown to 5,600 acres by this time, was said to be 'entirely fenced and subdivided', with a 'two-story House and every other requisite building for a first rate establishment'. Other records indicate the main residence consisted of nine rooms,<sup>60</sup> and it went under the auctioneer's hammer in February 1833,<sup>61</sup> with some 6000 sheep, 24 horses and 50 bullocks, various 'Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, and other agricultural implements', and the farm's crops being offered for sale at the same time.

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<sup>56</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 24 August 1832

<sup>57</sup> W D Forsyth, 'Governor Arthur's Convict System, Van Diemen's Land, 1824–1836', p.76–83

<sup>58</sup> TAHO, CON 23/1/3, No.435

<sup>59</sup> Launceston Advertiser, 1 November 1832. Simpson had remarried after Catherine's death in 1829. His second wife, Margaret Abbott, outlived him, and later married George Lord Taylor, who was Catherine's son by her first husband.

<sup>60</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/187/4491, p.167

<sup>61</sup> Launceston Advertiser, 7 February 1833

A subsequent newspaper article stated the stock had 'fetched extremely good prices',<sup>62</sup> with horses selling for 'between £26 and £28', bullocks selling for 'twelve guineas a pair', other cattle for £2 8s a head, and sheep averaging 9s 3d each. Although the report did not mention who had been the successful bidder for the lease, it seems almost certain that it was Robert, as he gave his address as Newham Park in January 1834 when he offered a £30 reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the theft of two of his bullocks.<sup>63</sup>

The 'beautiful Estate' of Newham Park remained Robert's residence over the next few years as he rebuilt his life. In February 1835 he advertised for 'a man and his wife; the man as ploughman, he must be accustomed to drive horses; and his wife to make herself useful in the house'.<sup>64</sup> With some irony, Robert also indicated that he would prefer to hire a man who had come 'free to the Colony', suggesting that he had not developed any particular sympathy for his fellow convicts during his time within the system. It is interesting to note, however, that he later employed large numbers of such men,<sup>65</sup> with three assigned to work for him at about the same time he was advertising for the married couple.<sup>66</sup>

Robert also disposed of his unsatisfactory 150-acre location at this time. George Alston had remained keen to have it, and Robert finally sold it to him for £75.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Launceston Advertiser, 28 February 1833

<sup>63</sup> Hobart Town Courier, 17 January 1834

<sup>64</sup> Hobart Town Courier, 20 February 1835

<sup>65</sup> TAHO, CEN 1/1/7, pp.103–104; CEN 1/1/48, pp.105–108

<sup>66</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 19 February 1835

<sup>67</sup> LTO, Deed No.1/4803. This document makes it clear the land in question was the same lot which had been mentioned by

This sale was the first of many transactions Robert was involved in during the next few years. He bought land in a number of locations, including Perth,<sup>68</sup> but his most significant purchase consisted of two adjoining 500-acre lots on the south-western bank of the Macquarie River, directly opposite Lincoln Grange.<sup>69</sup> This land had been located to George Lord Taylor and his brother James Owen Taylor,<sup>70</sup> who were T C Simpson's stepsons.<sup>71</sup> Robert had leased their land as early as March 1835, with George Taylor subsequently using his property as security when he borrowed £550 from Robert in April 1836.<sup>72</sup> Both lots were finally sold to Robert, who paid £1000 to complete the transfer, in March 1837, with Taylor's mortgage discharged as part of the deal.<sup>73</sup>

The two allotments acquired by Robert appear to have been among the many early grants and locations that were potentially invalid due to some technical flaws in their original documentation, and in September 1838 he applied to the Caveat Board,<sup>74</sup> which had been created in 1832 to resolve such problems,<sup>75</sup> to have his ownership of the land confirmed by the issue of a new grant. The relevant document was ready by April 1839,<sup>76</sup>

with the new title proclaimed and registered by the following August.<sup>77</sup>

In what was evidently a reference to his background in Durham, Robert gave the name Darlington Park to his 1000-acre property.<sup>78</sup> He had, however, acquired something even more significant than land during this period: a wife. His bride, who was some 27 to 28 years younger than her husband,<sup>79</sup> was Elizabeth Jane SCHUTTE (1820–78), with the couple's wedding taking place in Launceston on 17 January 1836.<sup>80</sup>

The lack of fluency in Robert's signature in the original record of this event<sup>81</sup> – and also some later land transfers<sup>82</sup> – suggests that his handwriting skills were underdeveloped, possibly due to a lack of formal education. This is perhaps not surprising, given that he was a labourer's son, and the deficiency probably explains the otherwise puzzling fact that correspondence nominally produced by him over many years is written in a number of different styles and concluded with as many different signatures (some examples can be seen next page).<sup>83</sup> These letters were clearly penned and signed for him by other people, a fact which almost certainly contributed to the inconsistency in the spelling of his surname.<sup>84</sup> This variability was officially noted when he

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Alston in 1831, and confirms that, despite the different spelling of their surnames, the Robert Thirkell who occupied Newham Park in 1835 was the same man who had earlier served in a chain gang.

<sup>68</sup> LTO, Deeds No.2/391, No.2/729, etc

<sup>69</sup> LTO, Somerset County Plan No.59

<sup>70</sup> LTO, Somerset County Plan No.9

<sup>71</sup> TAHO, CSO 1/1/187/4491, pp.57–159

<sup>72</sup> LTO, Deed No.1/6237

<sup>73</sup> LTO, Deed No.2/733

<sup>74</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 14 September 1838

<sup>75</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 4 April 1832,

6 July 1832

<sup>76</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 12 April 1839

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<sup>77</sup> TAHO, RD 1/7/47

<sup>78</sup> TAHO, CEN 1/1/48, pp.107–108

<sup>79</sup> Aycliffe Parish Register, Durham County Record Office; International Genealogical Index (extracted record)

<sup>80</sup> Tasmanian Marriage No.3366, 1836

<sup>81</sup> TAHO, NS 748/1/4

<sup>82</sup> LTO, General Law Deeds, No.3/9328, No.5/7173, No.5/6690

<sup>83</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, pp.442–443, 449; LSD 1/1/27, pp.244–248; CSO 24/1/4596/8165, p.165

<sup>84</sup> TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.443, 449; LSD 1/1/27, pp.247–248

sold his 150-acre lot, with the transfer document recording that the original location to Robert had been made, 'by mistake', under the surname 'Thirhill', rather than 'Thirkell'.<sup>85</sup> The men who administered the justice system also seem to have had trouble with Robert's surname, which was recorded as 'Thirkell' in court documents,<sup>86</sup> 'Threkeld' in the conduct register,<sup>87</sup> and 'Thirkill' when the issue of his ticket of leave was announced.<sup>88</sup> ◀

Robert's signature from 1836 (top) and some of the others that appear in his correspondence in the period from 1828 to 1856 (Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office)

[Robert and Elizabeth Thirkell's story will be continued in Part 3 of this article]

<sup>85</sup> LTO, Deed No.1/4803

<sup>86</sup> TAHO, SC 41/1/1, p.98

<sup>87</sup> TAHO, CON 31/1/42, No.435

<sup>88</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 24 August 1832

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Further to Betty Jones' article 'Moving On: Early Tasmanian Government Teacher Transfers', my grandfather Ernest HAWKE was a teacher at both Rosevale and Selbourne (northwest of Launceston) as 'half time schools' from March 1901.

He first wrote to the department seeking transfer in September 1903. It took another letter in January 1905 and in March a telegram to the department, followed by an explanatory letter the next month, before the department considered his request.

His reason for the move was that having a horse and trap, the upkeep of horse with a wife and child was a big tax on his salary, but without it he was dependent on the neighbours—and when they did do a favour and shopped for his family, my grandfather was expected to pay carriage, and he considered that cost nearly as much as the article itself.

He finally received his move to Jericho in July 1905 but within a year resigned and then moved to New Zealand. ◀

**Maree Ring**

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

#### New address

Members 6719 and 6720

Dale and Arianne SMITH

1 Breteeca Close

Port Sorell TAS 7307

#### Previously

PO Box 151

Deloraine TAS 7304

# A MODEST BUT STEADY INCOME

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)

**E**ARLY nineteenth century teachers in Tasmanian government schools came from diverse backgrounds, their earlier forms of employment often being quite disparate. The usual butcher, baker and candle-stick maker previous tradespeople were well represented in the original lists of teachers, along with those who had been domestic helpers, rural workers, church people and clerks. A few individuals, however, stood out as having been known for their skills and talents in other occupations and, initially, one might wonder why such people would have taken the decision to change their direction to teaching.

A study of their biographical details often reveals that a recurring theme for the change was the need of a steady income in times of difficulty. Teachers were paid only very modest wages, but the source of money from the government was, at least, regular and reliable. This article highlights two teachers with out-of-the-ordinary occupations prior to, and after leaving teaching. They were both talented musically.

## **Mrs Marian Maria CHESTER**

Mrs CHESTER was Female Assistant at Carlton Public School from June 1842 to 1844, and then at Bothwell from 1845 to June 1848. Her husband, William Chester (1812–59), held the position of Head Teacher in the same schools.

Marian Maria CRAWFORD married William Chester on 16 March 1830 in London, England. It seems that Mrs Chester was a vocalist with theatre experience in England before she came to Australia in about 1835. The newspapers of 1835–36 gave details of concerts in which she was featured both in Hobart and Sydney. In July 1835, she was described as ‘from the theatres of Drury Lane and Covent Gardens in London’.<sup>1</sup> Her singing career confirmed, Mrs Chester, accompanied by her husband, left Australia for a performance tour of India, starting in Calcutta in October 1836.

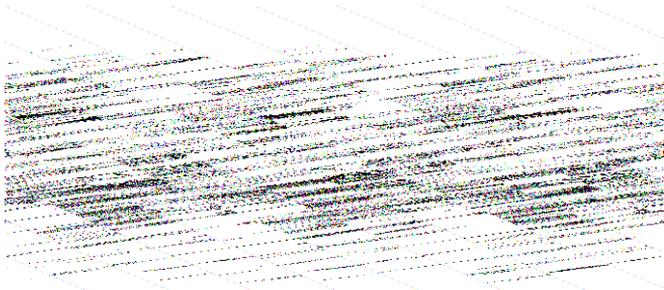


The life style, with its ups and downs of success, was sustained for a number of years in that country, until the family was involved in a terrible hotel fire in 1842. Apparently, during the confusion of the night concerned, Mrs Chester wrongly believed that her son had perished, not realising that a servant had been the infant’s saviour. Mrs Chester became traumatised at the thought of fire for some time as a result, not being able even, to tolerate the flicker of a burning candle. It took many months for her to regain her sense of reason, such that her singing career ended for a number of years.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Colonial Times, 28 July 1835

<sup>2</sup> The Maitland Mercury, 24 November 1859



By May 1842, Mr and Mrs Chester had returned to Van Diemen's Land, and opted for a life away from the public eye by taking up teaching. The job provided the pair with a modest but steady income. Mr Chester was also Postmaster at Carlton from 1842 to 1844. Life started to regain some rhythm for them, and the couple had a further two children there—Hermon Granado Chester in 1843 (died the same year), followed by Ernest Stevens Chester in 1844.

Eventually, Mrs Chester regained her interest in giving public performances. It was reported in April 1848 that singing had been revived in Bothwell since Mrs Chester had become the much loved schoolmistress there. Many private parties were held for the purpose of hearing her sing. Church music in the town also benefited from Mrs Chester's attention, with the choir of the Presbyterian congregation being organised, taught and conducted by her.<sup>3</sup>

Unusually, Mrs Chester was granted leave of absence by the Board of Education for a week in May 1848 to visit Hobart to give a public concert. By that time it was noted the family had financial difficulties, described in the Board's records as 'harassed and humbled by pecuniary misfortunes'.<sup>4</sup>

A substantial advertisement in the Colonial Times on 23 May 1848, highlighted Mrs Chester's third concert to be held at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Hobart, and outlined the program in which she was to present six songs. She was assisted by other musicians: Miss DULY, Herr IMBERG, Mr YOUNG, Mr H HOWSON, and several Amateurs. By June 1848 the couple had resigned from teaching and left the Colony. In October 1848, Mrs Chester was reported as giving concerts in Melbourne,<sup>5</sup> and in 1849–50 she was doing the same in New South Wales.<sup>6</sup>

In 1859, following the death of her husband at Newcastle, New South Wales, Mrs Chester suffered an attack of paralysis, which entirely incapacitated her from further professional engagement. A benefit musical evening was held for her in the hope of raising sufficient money to allow her to return to friends in England.<sup>7</sup> Mrs Chester set sail for London in December 1859.<sup>8</sup>

### **Julius Samuel IMBERG**

Mr Imberg secured employment with the Board of Education for a period of about

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<sup>3</sup> The Courier, 8 April 1848

<sup>4</sup> Archives Office of Tasmania: CB3/2

<sup>5</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 11 October 1848

<sup>6</sup> See The Maitland Mercury, 29 June 1850, for example

<sup>7</sup> The Maitland Mercury, 24 November 1859

<sup>8</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 13 December 1859

twelve months in the early 1850s. He was Head Teacher at Avoca Public School from August 1851 to April 1852, immediately followed by a similar role at Ross up to August 1852. His wife, Janet Smith (née GRAHAM) Imberg, held the position of Female Assistant and worked alongside him in both schools.

J S Imberg was recognized as a pianist of some acclaim, first noted in the newspapers of Van Diemen's Land as giving concerts in Hobart in 1846, when he was described as 'recently from Sydney', and referred to as 'Monsieur'. In January 1848, 'Herr' Imberg placed advertisements stating he was a Professor of Music who was planning to stay in Hobart for some time, and offering tuition in pianoforte and singing. He had been a pupil of Thalberg and Moscheles, and a member of the Conservatoire Royale at Paris.<sup>9</sup>

In January 1848, Herr Imberg gave a concert at the Town Hall, at which Lady DENISON and party were present. He married Janet (also known as Jennett) Smith Graham on 2 September 1848 at Hobart, and the couple had a daughter, Emma Jennett Imberg, born 29 June 1850, Hobart (who married William Henry LOCK in 1869 at Collingwood, Victoria). Herr Imberg was declared insolvent in 1849.<sup>10</sup>

In 1850 he was living at Elizabeth Street Hobart and had in his employ, from 1 May that year, an Irish convict, Mary Ann MURPHY, who was contracted for a period of twelve months at £7 per annum. (Over the years Herr Imberg employed three other Irish female convicts who had

all, like Mary Ann, arrived on the Australasia).<sup>11</sup>

The year for publishing his compositions was 1851. In February, it was announced a musical production, known as the 'Tasmanian Quadrilles', composed by Herr Imberg, and dedicated to Lady Denison, had been published locally as a lithograph 'in style superior'.<sup>12</sup> (It was republished in 1855). In July 1851 he released a new Polka, 'Welcome to the Spring', and dedicated it to the ladies of Tasmania.<sup>13</sup> The publications, however, did not make him his fortune.

Herr Imberg's fairly brief interlude as a teacher with the Board of Education started when, in July 1851, he responded to an advertisement which sought a capable Master and Mistress for a school at Avoca connected with the Church of England, but receiving government aid. In addition to the provision of a house, a combined salary of £100 was guaranteed.<sup>14</sup> Given the Imberg's financial situation, the deal must have been appealing in that it would provide them with a modest but steady income. Based on evidence of their previous and later lifestyle, however, it was unlikely such a situation would suit their tastes or needs long term. Accommodation provided for teachers in those times tended to be very basic and lacking in space and comfort. Indeed, there would have been little room for them to house their Irish servant.

A number of changes of address in and around Launceston followed over the next few years. By September 1852, after he left the employ of the Board, Herr Imberg was living at Cameron Street in

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<sup>11</sup> Cowley, T M, *A Drift of Derwent Ducks*, Research Tasmania, 2005, p.117

<sup>12</sup> *The Courier*, 1 February 1851

<sup>13</sup> *Colonial Times*, 29 July 1851

<sup>14</sup> *The Examiner*, 12 July 1851

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<sup>9</sup> *The Courier*, 8 January 1848, for example

<sup>10</sup> *The Courier*, 1 September 1849

Launceston, again advertising his services as a teacher of pianoforte and singing. In December 1852, Mr and Mrs Imberg were noted as living at Bona Vista House' in Lyttleton Street, Launceston. Added to Herr Imberg's list of qualifications then was that he was also an Honorary Member of the Philharmonic Society of Berlin.<sup>15</sup> At the beginning of 1854 he indicated to the public his intention to take music classes at Evandale. In October 1854, Herr Imberg advertised the sale of his rosewood grand pianoforte, as well as announcing to the public he was embarking on a new venture, a circulating musical library. He stated that the business was to commence in Brisbane Street, Launceston in January 1855, and invited subscribers to join.<sup>16</sup>



It can be assumed all did not go to plan. A hint was given in April 1855 when Mrs Imberg, who had been conducting a private school for young ladies since 1853, publicly announced that her school was continuing, and rumours to the contrary were not correct.<sup>17</sup> In June 1856

<sup>15</sup> The Examiner, 19 March 1853

<sup>16</sup> The Mercury, 28 October 1854

<sup>17</sup> The Examiner, April 1855

it was reported the Imberg family, by then residents of Upper Elizabeth Street in Launceston, were leaving the Colony. A very detailed inventory of household and personal items, listed room by room, was advertised to be auctioned prior to their removal.<sup>18</sup> The three members of the family then set sail for Melbourne to make yet another fresh start.

Herr Imberg lost not a moment in advertising himself again as a teacher of pianoforte and singing, this time from his residence at 130 Victoria Parade, Melbourne. By June 1857 he was operating Imberg's Musical Library in Collins Street. During that year he became a naturalised Australian. In January 1858, Mrs Imberg's freehold cottage and land in Richmond, Victoria was placed on the market.<sup>19</sup> A few months later, Herr Imberg was before the Insolvent Court in Melbourne, where he was described as of that city, professor of music, and music seller.<sup>20</sup>

By August 1858, Herr and Mrs Imberg were advertising themselves jointly as teachers in a school for young ladies at 196 Victoria Parade, Melbourne, with room for a few boarders.<sup>21</sup> In November 1860 Herr Imberg had relocated not too far away to 7 Gore Street where he was happy to receive pupils or attend at private residences. Julius Samuel Imberg died in Melbourne in February 1863, survived by his wife and daughter.<sup>22</sup> ◀

<sup>18</sup> The Examiner, 19 June 1856

<sup>19</sup> The Argus, 14 January 1858

<sup>20</sup> The Argus, 19 April 1858

<sup>21</sup> The Argus, 3 September 1858

<sup>22</sup> The Argus, 16 February 1863

# DISCOVERING MY IRISH ANCESTORS

## Part One

Pat Coy (Member No.413)

**F**AMILY legend, although vague and sketchy, gave me the starting point. We always knew that the FINNs were Irish. There was no doubting that. I remember, as a child, being aware of the friendly family feuds at family gatherings between the Irish and the Scottish sides of my family. My mother's side were all Scottish and my father's side Irish. This overflowed to my aunts and uncles and cousins also as three Finn siblings married three ELPHINSTONES; two of them siblings and one a first cousin. So the Scottish versus the Irish heritage became a long-standing source of friendly rivalry often acted out in the telling of stories or the singing of Irish and Scottish songs around the piano at Auntie Vera's. The Irish side usually won out on this score as they had the better singing voices. The Scottish, however, reciprocated by claiming that they were related to royalty! But getting back to family legend let me relate what my father, Thomas Finn, and two of his sisters, Vera and Doris Elphinstone, the three youngest of the Finn family, could recall about their Finn ancestors.

Their grandfather Finn [christian name unknown] came out from Ireland and worked as a convict warder at Port Arthur. He was later given a grant of land in the Huon and was drowned in the Huon River [date unknown]. He had a wife [name unknown] and they had some children including their father, also named Thomas, and Uncle Luke and Uncle Frank and a sister [name unknown]. After the drowning his widow remarried and went to New Zealand taking Frank with her. Thomas and Luke

stayed in Tasmania. They did not know what happened to the sister. Auntie Vera said that she thought that one sister was a Mrs. KING. The name HOBBS came into it somewhere, also. Frank Finn is supposed to have brought a race horse back from New Zealand to race in the Melbourne Cup [date unknown].

This was not a lot of information to go on but there were a few clues and I intended to make the most of them. My inexperience as a researcher in the early stages was also a handicap and I often got onto the wrong track and wasted a lot of time and money going up blind alleys. The order in which I relate the information I found is not necessarily the order in which I found it. However I recorded every scrap of information as I found it in the hope that eventually everything would fit together. Some of the family legend is vague and some of it is yet to be proven.

There were about eight male Finn free arrivals to Tasmania between 1833 and 1867, and numerous Finn convicts. So where do I start? Start with yourself, is the rule of thumb, and work backwards through the birth, marriage and death records. I tried to do this but soon became bogged down when some of these records could not be found.

The first useful pieces of information I found were the birth and baptism records of three Finn children in the Franklin Parish of the Catholic Church. Francis Finn was baptised on 19 June 1862, his parents being Luke Finn and Catherine Finn (née MALONEY), of Glaziers Bay. Ellen Finn was baptised on 29 July 1860 and Luke Finn was born on 29 May

1858.<sup>1</sup> There was no birth record for a Thomas or any other children to these same parents. However this information gave me the father's and mother's names. Luke was listed as a Pensioner at the birth of his son Luke and as a Farmer at the births of Ellen and Francis. Next I looked up the Land Grant Records and found on 25 January 1859 Luke Finn had been granted 10 acres in the Parish of Bedford, County of Buckingham, near Agnes Rivulet.<sup>2</sup> Why had he been granted land? Could it have been anything to do with his being a pensioner? Why was he entitled to a pension in the first place? I had to wait for quite a while to find out.

Having established the fact it was Luke Finn I was looking for I decided to go to the Shipping Records. I found a Luke Finn and Mrs Finn among the five adult passengers and three male children under 14 arriving steerage on the ship Emma Prescott from Melbourne to Hobart on the 16 February 1855. The ship had a crew of ten and brought general cargo. The ship's master was James STANTON.<sup>3</sup> So the Finns arrived from Melbourne in 1855, not Ireland. I searched Victorian Shipping Arrivals pre March 1855 to no avail. Perhaps they came steerage all the way and were not listed by name?

My next break-through came when, while browsing through the indexes of the Colonial Secretary's Department. I came across a reference to L Finn's Pension

being stopped while he was a patient in the hospital.<sup>4</sup> A memo dated 24 September 1855 from the Colonial Secretary's Office to the Internal Revenue Department and the Staff Officer of Pensions and the Auditor states:

Luke Finn, a pensioner in the receipt of 9 pence a day, having been admitted into hospital, the Staff Officer of Pensions has been requested to pay into the Internal Revenue Office the amount of pension accruing to him whilst a burden upon the Colony.

This memo was quickly followed by a petition to Major R RUSSELL, dated 28 September 1855, from Catherine Finn which reads as follows:<sup>5</sup>

The Humble petition of Mrs. Catherine Finn  
Herewith

That your petitioner Mrs. Catherine Finn is the wife of Luke Finn, pensioner from the East India Company, and that she is reduced to the lowest state by having no means of supporting herself and three children, her husband a patient in the Colonial Hospital, for which reason his pension will be stopped [which is 9 pence per day]. I hope Dear Sir you will use your influence in my favour with His Excellency The Governor, as at present she is much in need of that support and therefore Humbly prays to your Honour for that recommendation.

Your ever grateful  
Catherine Finn

The petition was endorsed and a footnote added stating:

She had pressed her case with much urgency and he believed it to be one of great distress. Under these circumstances he recommends the petition for the

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<sup>1</sup> RGD Birth Records for Franklin; Finn, Francis - 1862 No. 1287 125, Finn, Ellen - 1860 No.147 1839, Finn, Luke - 1858 No.509 33-36

<sup>2</sup> Land Grants 1858 Valuation Rolls for Southern Tasmania, compiled by Dr Trudy Cowley, Ref. Fr-752

<sup>3</sup> Shipping Records - Emma Prescott from Melbourne 26 February 1855 Ref. MB 2/39/18 P

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<sup>4</sup> Colonial Secretary's Dept CSD 1/11/183

<sup>5</sup> Petition by Catherine Finn to Major R Russell dated 28 September 1855

favourable consideration of His Excellency The Governor.

On 1 October 1855 a memo was sent to the Staff Officer of Pensioners and the Auditor stating that:

The Governor having acceded to the prayer of a petition of Catherine Finn that no stoppage of her husband's pension may take place whilst in hospital, the Memo No. 183 of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Ultimo is hereby cancelled.

Hospital records of the time do not disclose why Luke Finn was in hospital, nor for how long. But Catherine won her petition to keep his pension from being used to pay for his hospitalisation and was thus able to support her family.

Having found no further births in the Tasmanian records, apart from the three children born at Glaziers Bay in the Huon and armed with the additional knowledge they had three children before September 1855, I decided it might be worthwhile taking a look at the Victorian records prior to February 1855, when they arrived in Tasmania. My search was rewarded when I found the death record of James Finn, died 27 January 1855 at Pentridge, Melbourne, aged 1 year, the son of Luke Finn, Warder at Stockdale, and Catherine Finn, formerly Maloney.<sup>6</sup> The record also stated James was born at Pentridge, but no actual birth record was found. No other births were found in Victoria. So the Finns had been at Pentridge for at least a year. I wonder if their decision to return to Tasmania was a result of the baby's death or had they planned to come anyway. They sailed from Melbourne on 13 February, about two weeks after the baby, James, died.

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<sup>6</sup> RGD Melbourne Victoria, Finn, James died 27 January 1855 at Pentridge aged 1 year. Born Pentridge.

It is not certain when the Finns went to the Huon, but it was sometime between Luke's hospitalisation in October 1855 and the birth of their son, Luke, in May 1858. It is very likely their son, Thomas, was born before they went to the Huon because his baptism records were not with the Franklin Catholic records, and his birth record could not be found, yet it is believed he was born in Tasmania.

In July 1862 tragedy struck the Finn family again when Luke was accidentally drowned in the Huon River between Shipwrights Point and Glaziers Bay with three others in a boating accident. The accident was reported in the Mercury on 30 July 1862.<sup>7</sup> Apparently two of the bodies, those of John DUNCAN and Luke Finn, were not recovered as there were inquests into the deaths of only two of the victims, James CAIRNS and James McCORMACK. Luke Finn's death was never registered nor was there an inquest. At this sad time Catherine was left with a two week old baby and five or six other children to support as best she could. It is little wonder that twelve months later we find her back in Hobart applying for admission for three of her children into the Queen's Orphan School.<sup>8</sup> The application form names Thomas Finn, aged 7, Luke Finn, aged 6 and Ellen Finn, aged 3, and gives the following information:

Religion – Catholic  
Name of father – Luke Finn  
Residence – was drowned nearly 12 months ago at the Huon  
Ship to the Colony & date of arrival – Blenheim 1837

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<sup>7</sup> The Mercury Newspaper 30 July 1862, Fatal Accidents & Inquests.

<sup>8</sup> Colonial Secretary's Office Tasmania 6 June 1863. Application for Admission of Children into Queen's Orphan School. No.282.

Whether Free or Bond – Free. Pensioner  
in charge of Prisoners  
Maiden name of mother – Catherine  
Maloney  
Residence – Goulburn St. Hobart, next to  
St. Patricks  
Religion – Catholic  
Ship to Colony – Blenheim with husband  
Whether Free or Bond – Free  
How employed – Washing  
Report to the Inspector of Police for  
enquiry and consideration of the Court.

The mother of these children is a steady, respectable woman. Nearly 12 months since her husband was accidentally drowned leaving his widow with 7 children the youngest of whom was then only 2 weeks old. The three eldest are in service. Application is made for the admission of 3 into the Queen's Orphan Asylum. The father was a pensioner and formerly had an allotment of ground which, I am informed, has long since been sold by the deceased. The family have only been 3 weeks from Glaziers Bay, their late residence, having been subsisting upon what little effects were left by the father. No Benevolent Aid has been given them and the mother finds it now impossible to provide for the whole of her children. [sic]

9 July 1863

The three children were duly admitted to the Queen's Orphan School and Catherine kept the 11 month old baby, Francis, and no doubt, continued to support herself and him by taking in washing.

I now had a new piece of information. The family had arrived in the colony on the Blenheim in 1837. Too long ago, surely! I checked the records of the Blenheim 1 which departed Woolwich, 15 March 1837 and arrived on 10 July 1837, but found no clues. At about this stage I decided to recheck the birth records again, this time pre 1855, for it seemed possible the Finns may have come to Van

Diemen's Land before they arrived on the Emma Prescott in 1855. Sure enough, in the Index to Births in the District of Hobart 1851, almost obliterated by a crease in the paper, was the birth of a female child to Luke Fenn and Catherine Fenn, formerly Mulloney.<sup>9</sup> The child was born at sea on the 24 September 1851 on the convict ship the Blenheim 2 where the father was listed as a Pensioner. The Blenheim 2 sailed from Cork, Ireland, on 29 July 1851, arriving in Hobart on 31 October, 94 days later with 308 male prisoners. Included in the crew were a number of Pensioners who acted as convict warders. So Luke Finn brought his wife and family half way across the world to Tasmania on a convict ship, working his passage as a convict warder. He later went to Melbourne and worked as a warder at Pentridge before returning to Hobart after the death of James.

Another line of investigation I had to pursue was the fact that Luke Finn had been with the East India Company. This fact no doubt accounted for his receiving a pension. I read extensively the East India Company records available on micro film but found no references that were helpful. So I decided to have a researcher in England look up some records at the India Office Library. The search was very fruitful as she found the following amongst information on men who left the Company's service with a pension and returned to the United Kingdom.<sup>10</sup>

Luke FYNN Private Bombay Army  
15 yrs. 9 mths. Service  
Age : 34 yrs. Height: 5 ft. 7 ins.  
Complexion: swarthy

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<sup>9</sup> RGD Births Tasmania 24 September 1851. Female child to Luke Fenn & Catherine Fenn formerly Mulloney

<sup>10</sup> East India Co. Records L/Mil/10/301

Visage: Long Eyes: Hazel Hair : dark brown  
Trade: Labourer Character: Good  
Native of Co. Roscommon Enlisted:  
Athlone  
Arrived home on Samuel Buddington  
21 September 1842  
1 pound 3 shillings marching money  
Reason for discharge : Chronic  
Rheumatism

This told me what I really wanted to know; his age and where he came from. I remembered some information I had found on the IGI some time previously which reads as follows:

FIN, Lucam  
Catherinam Mullony  
Married 12 November 1842<sup>11</sup>  
Roscommon, Killtomb & Camma

I subsequently found the baptism of Thomas Finn in the St Joseph's Baptism Records, Hobart. He was born on 10 January 1856, after the family returned from Melbourne, and before they went to the Huon.

There were at least three other children of Luke and Catherine born in Ireland. Margaret, aged four and a half in July 1851, being confined to bed suffering from measles, after the Blenheim 2 sailed from Cork.<sup>12</sup>

In the IGI for Roscommon, Ireland, were the following:<sup>13</sup>

FIN, James - Christened 22 December 1843  
FINN, Mariam - Christened 6 November 1844  
Parents - Luke Finn & Catherine Maloney

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<sup>11</sup> IGI Roscommon Ireland Marriages 1842 M 701851 0318

<sup>12</sup> AJCP Surgeon's Journal for Blenheim 2 arrived Hobart 1851

<sup>13</sup> IGI Roscommon Ireland Christenings 1843 & 1844, Fin James C701850 1796, Finn Mariam C701851 2188

There is no record of either of the latter two children having accompanied the Finns when they sailed on the Blenheim 2 in 1851, nor of their existence in Tasmania. The fact they named another son James in 1854 seems to indicate that the first James may have died, possibly in Ireland. Mariam, who may have been known as Mary, could have accompanied her parents when they sailed from Ireland, but no record has been found. Another likely child of Luke and Catherine was John Finn. On 9 May 1865 there was the death of a John Finn, aged 18, in the General Hospital, Hobart.<sup>14</sup>

In Deaths at the General Hospital Jan. 1864 – June 1884, compiled by Joyce Purtscher, I found the following entry:

Finn John - R.C. Age 18. Admission 31 May 1864. Died 9 May 1865  
Disease of the hip joint. Arrived Blenheim. Born Ireland.  
Years in Colony 11. Remarks BBF [buried by friends]

Apart from the discrepancy in the date of arrival on the records John could well have been another child of Luke and Catherine.

It appears that Luke and Catherine had at least nine or ten children before he was drowned in the Huon River when Francis, the youngest, was two weeks old.

Luke was born in Ireland c.1808 and died in July 1862 at the age of 54, in Tasmania, leaving a widow and young family.

There are no words of comfort on his tomb

No man wrote his epitaph in stone  
His earthly deeds and trials are long forgotten

His resting place his watery catacomb. ◀

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<sup>14</sup> RGD Death Records 35/8 No.4998

# SMALLPOX VACCINATION ON THE CONVICT TRANSPORTS

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

**S**MALLPOX (variola) was a greatly feared viral infection during the nineteenth century. As an epidemic it seemed to be dreaded more than cholera although there were several strains of the disease and not all were malignant. Considerable numbers of convicts arrived in the colony with pockpitted faces. Two common preventive measures were used on the convict transports. The first was vaccination which inserted lymph from cowpox pustules into the arm of the child or adult. Re-vaccination was necessary after ten years. The second procedure was variolation or arm-to-arm inoculation using matter from the pocks of the smallpox patient. If it worked it produced a mild bout of smallpox. The variola could then be inserted in the arm of another subject.

Although inoculation gave lasting immunity from smallpox it was a risky practice. Firstly the person to be inoculated had to be free from eczema or other skin problems as well as having an uncompromised immune system. Secondly the patient was highly infectious during the course of the disease (about three weeks). For this period, there was a twenty-five percent chance of infecting others either through inhalation or touch.<sup>1</sup> Isolation was therefore necessary but it was not really feasible on board the sailing ships.

As early as 1806 the Swiss vaccinator Dr Jean de CARRO warned that 'inoculation should be shunned like goods from a plague-ridden country', but Britain was slow to act. The procedure was not banned until the Vaccination Act of 1840 by which time five children were dying each day from smallpox in London.<sup>2</sup> In Ireland during the 1830s inoculators, known as quacks, travelled about the country inoculating people with smallpox when cowpox was not readily available. The quacks were said to have done a great deal of mischief spreading infection and causing blindness.<sup>3</sup> Vaccination was not legislated in Ireland until 1841 when its use was permissive rather than mandatory. Here it was one of the duties of the medical officers at the workhouses. The Boards of Guardians, however, saw vaccination as an additional expense on already over-stretched budgets.<sup>4</sup> The result from both countries was that hundreds of children travelled on the convict transports without having been vaccinated while many were subject to the risky practice of inoculation.

The vaccine lymph for use on the convict voyages was issued by the British Admiralty at Deptford from where the transports departed. It was stored in dried form on glass slides sealed with paraffin

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<sup>1</sup> Information from Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner, Chairman on the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.135–136

<sup>3</sup> *Poverty Before the Famine: County Clare 1835*. Ennis, Clasp Press, 1996, pp.43, 62, 83.

<sup>4</sup> Kennedy, L, *Mapping the Great Irish Famine: A Survey of the Famine Decades*. Dublin, Four Courts Press, 1999, p.122

wax or on ivory or bone points placed in corked bottles. The 'shelf' life of the lymph was approximately six weeks as refrigeration was not available. To administer the fluid it was moistened by vapour then inserted in the punctured arm of the healthy subject. When the pustules rose it could be taken by lancet to the arm of another subject. Jabez HOGG in his *Domestic Medical Guide* (1856) reported that the incision to receive the lymph 'has been successfully performed with a pen knife, a razor or a needle'.<sup>5</sup>

Although vaccination was tried by the surgeons on the majority of the transports to Van Diemen's Land between 1840 and 1853, in most cases it failed. On some voyages, e.g. the *Emily* (1844) the lymph was damaged by spillage in the medicine chest. On others such as the *Gilbert Henderson* (1839–1840) the surgeon, Sir John HAMMETT, reported:

On opening the parcel containing the vaccine virus I found the glasses between which it was placed not properly closed or sealed.<sup>6</sup>

On other voyages it had lost its efficacy by exposure to heat in the tropics. On most passages though it was rendered useless by long keeping.

One successful vaccination was of eighteen children on board the *Tasmania* (1845) who were vaccinated in Ireland four days previous to embarkation. The lymph was taken by the surgeon on bone points during the voyage and handed in to the colonial Hospital.<sup>7</sup> In a second case a three year old boy, Patrick FARRELL,

had been sent from Rathkeale Workhouse at County Limerick to join his mother at Grangegorman Prison in Dublin prior to their embarkation on the *Lord Auckland* (1848–1849).<sup>8</sup> A few days after sailing Patrick was found to be suffering from smallpox. He was isolated and survived the disease. Several children who were sleeping in adjacent berths were vaccinated with the cowpox lymph from Deptford during the incubation of Patrick's disease. Later sixteen children received the variola from his pustules during the voyage. This was the risky procedure of variolation and their isolation was necessary. In any case fresh lymph was passed to the medical officer at Hobart Town on arrival. Farrell's smallpox was the only recorded case on the Irish convict transports between 1840 and the end of transportation in 1853.

Due to the large number of shipping arrivals at Hobart Town it became a distribution centre for the vaccine lymph. The *Launceston Examiner*, 10 May 1848, reported that the Sydney Health Officer had obtained lymph from Van Diemen's Land. Only one of the four bone points which he received was effective, but from the pustules raised on the subjects he was able to distribute 250 charges to applicants. He forwarded lymph to New Zealand, Tahiti, the Society and Friendly Islands and Adelaide.

Within Van Diemen's Land the method adopted for distribution of the lymph was for the Medical Department to advertise its availability as shown in the following notice.

#### **MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.**

1st December, 1850.

NOTICE. – Medical Practitioners and families residing in any part of Van Diemen's Land will be supplied, per post,

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<sup>5</sup> Hogg, J., *The Domestic Medical Guide: For Families, Clergymen, Emigrants and Sea Captains*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London, Ward and Lock, 1856, p.137.

<sup>6</sup> AJCP PRO 3196 *Gilbert Henderson* 1839–1840

<sup>7</sup> AJCP PRO 3211 *Tasmania* 1845

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<sup>8</sup> AJCP PRO *Lord Auckland* 1848–1849

with fresh Vaccine Lymph on application by letter addressed "On Public Service only" to the Principal Medical Officer, Hobart Town. The words "for Vaccine Lymph," and the name of the writer, to be inscribed on the corner of the address.

W. DAWSON, M.D., Dep. Insp. Genl. Hosp.<sup>9</sup>

The greatest risk to Van Diemen's Land from smallpox before 1850 was the arrival of the migrant ship Bussorah Merchant on 12 December 1837. This vessel had sailed from Cork with 235 emigrants. Smallpox broke out during the voyage and fifty-eight of the accompanying children died together with four adults. On arrival the ship was quarantined at North West Bay and the disease did not spread.<sup>10</sup>

Due to the uncontrolled distribution and use of the lymph it was not surprising that the medical practitioner Dr E S HALL warned in 1858:

Should [smallpox] get a footing amongst us we may expect it to be extensively fatal, for vaccination has been grievously neglected.<sup>11</sup>

In fact an outbreak of smallpox did occur in Tasmania eventually. This was at Launceston in 1887. The Launceston Examiner had warned in May 1887 that less than one third of the children born in Tasmania had been vaccinated.<sup>12</sup> Their concern was well founded as an outbreak of smallpox commenced on 24 September which resulted in eleven deaths.<sup>13</sup> ◀

<sup>9</sup> Hobart Town Gazette, 7 January 1851

<sup>10</sup> CSO 5/90/2004, p.86, AOT

<sup>11</sup> Hall, E S, 'On the medical topology and vital statistics of the city of Hobart, Tasmania, and its southern districts, for 1855', Australian Medical Journal, 3, p.98

<sup>12</sup> Launceston Examiner, 4 May 1887

<sup>13</sup> Launceston Examiner, 24-26 September 1887

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NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
BAKER Oliver	b Hobart ?, where? to whom?	1847+	7080
BARNETT Meso (?)	Bridport TAS AUS	1912-1971	7079
COHEN Isaac	b London ? ENG/AUS	1826+	7084
COHEN Julia	b Ballarat VIC AUS then TAS AUS	1854-1933	7084
DOOLEY John Patrick	Forth TAS AUS	1862-1925	7077
DOOLEY Michael	Forth TAS AUS	1862-1887	7077
DOOLEY William Ernest	Forth TAS AUS	1881-1960/1	7077
GUILLAM Thomas	Launceston TAS AUS	1835	7076
HOWLETT Emma	b Launceston TAS AUS	1834+	7084
HUNT Sarah Jane	Bothwell TAS AUS	1878-1972	7079
McCOY John	Edinburgh SCT	1774-1834	7076
PERKINS John (William)	NFK ENG/TAS AUS	1836+	7084
PLOUGHMAN George Lewis	Any	c1840	7079
ROBERTS George	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1837-1924	7079
THOMAS Mary	Norfolk Island	1794	7076
THORNE Mary Veronica	Derby TAS AUS	1893-1939	7077
VINCENT Eliza	b TAS AUS	c1826+	7084
VINCENT/COHEN Eliza wf Isaac	m Geelong 1852	c1826+	7084

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### A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7076	McKAY Mr Denis John	PO Box 1163 heldento@bigpond.com	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7077	AYRES Mrs Fay Veronica	16 Centreway Road	ST LEONARDS	VIC	3223
7078	BURR Ms Helen Louise	Not for publication			
7079	PALMER Ms Anne	37 Van Morey Road Anne.Palmer@utas.edu.au	MARGATE	TAS	7054
7080	HERRING Mrs Roslyn Mary	64 Wattlebury Road aringa@chariot.net.au	LOWER MITCHAM	SA	5062
7081	McKENZIE Ms Jane	Not for publication			
7082	MIDGLEY Mrs Lynette (Lyn)	Not for publication			
7083	KOTYNIA Dr Ria Caroline	Not for publication			
7084	STRAWN Mrs Coralie Jenifer	209 Eastbourne Road corton3@optusnet.com.au	ROSEBUD	VIC	3939
7085	STRAWN Mr Anthony (Tony)	209 Eastbourne Road corton3@optusnet.com.au	ROSEBUD	VIC	3939

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# HELP WANTED

## **FARNLEY Mollie (Marian Jane) née MURPHY**

Seeking memories, anecdotes or gossip about Mollie Fearnley née Murphy, of Hobart. Widowed in 1912, Mollie lived with her daughter Kathleen WILLIAMS, and grandson Max at 20 Bayley Street, Glebe, Hobart, from about 1924 to 1935.

Previously she lived in North Hobart at Yardley Street, Upper Arthur Street, Argyle Street and Mary Street, probably supporting herself by child minding.

After 1935 Mollie lived with another daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Cecil SHIMMINS at 'Euroa', 13 Loina Street, New Town, until her death in 1942.

Mollie's son, Frank Rowntree Fearnley, with his wife Helen, also lived in New Town. Mollie's husband was John Thomas Fearnley, whose family were well known Hobart butchers.

Any information whatsoever, will be appreciated. Robert Emirali (Member No.3113), phone (03) 6247 1055 or email [emcol2@iprimus.com.au](mailto:emcol2@iprimus.com.au)

## **McDONALD**

I have been frustratingly trying to trace my great great grandfather's Tasmanian links but unsuccessfully to date.

My grandfather was Donald McDonald (1899–1964) born in Sydney.

My great grandfather, Donald McDonald, (1876–1951) was born in Brisbane. According to my great grandfather's birth certificate, his father, my great, great grandfather, was born in Tasmania circa 1848, and lists his occupation as a brickmaker. He married a Jane GARWELL in Sydney in 1867 and moved to Brisbane, where a number of children were born, then moved to

Sydney where his remaining children were born.

Clearly the name Donald runs strong in the family, so I'm anticipating his father is also 'Donald', but I have not been able to discover anything about my great great grandfather, Donald McDonald's birth, parents or family in Tasmania.

Any assistance or information anyone can provide would be greatly appreciated [paul\\_barrett@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_barrett@hotmail.com)

## **WHITTON FAMILY**

An illustrated history of the WHITTON family, who were early settlers in the Channel district of Tasmania, has reached an advanced stage, with the aim of publication early in 2012.

Assistance from interested members of the extended family is now sought in locating additional photographs of any of the children of James WHEATON (Whitton) and Bridget LEWIS of Oyster Cove, from whom I descend through their son Arthur.

These children (and their spouses) were Maria (married Robert POLLEY); James (married Frances Harriet PHILLIPS – widow); Francis Thomas (married Hannah Maria KNIGHT); William Henry (married Esther May LANGFORD); Arthur (married Emily Louise McGAUGHAN); and Kate (married Henry Grantley GYNGELL).

I am especially eager to locate an image of James and/or his wife, Frances Phillips, as none have been located. Frances had a daughter, Alice, who married John William FARNELL. Both are buried at Kettering, and I am hopeful that a photo of either, even as part of a group, may have survived through the Farnell family.

## HELP WANTED (cont.)

I have already contacted several members of the extended family and gratefully acknowledge their assistance. Related family surnames mentioned in the text are representative of many of the early Channel and Huon families.

Please contact me if you consider that you may have a photograph of interest, even if this is a group photograph: e.g; a wedding or other family gathering. All contacts will be acknowledged, and any image used will be specifically attributed.

Kevin C Whitton, PO Box 4160  
Melbourne University VIC 3010

[kevin.whitton@bigpond.com](mailto:kevin.whitton@bigpond.com) ◀

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Queries should be limited to 100 words and forwarded to [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org) or The Editor, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250

## The Mercury

HOBART: 18 July 1888, page 2.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—Mr. Joshua Moore, well-known in the city in connection with the Derwent Livery Stables, and as a breeder of fancy fowls, met with an accident last evening, which might have resulted fatally but for prompt assistance given. Mr Moore it appears was on the point of shipping a number of his birds to Sydney by the s.s. Flora, which left at a late hour last night, and whilst in the act of stepping from the wharf to the steamer's deck to give a few last parting instructions as to the welfare of his pets, he missed his footing and fell into the water between the vessel's side and the pier. Hearing the splash, Mr. John Mason, the chief officer of the Flora rushed to the spot and without ado jumped down after Moore. He was quickly followed by a coloured man named Edward James, who got down by the battens on the piles in readiness to give assistance. The two succeeded in getting hold of Joshua, who, partially stunned and unable to swim, had drifted under the pier, and with the help of willing hands all three were soon on terra firma. P. C. Maddock, who witnessed the mishap, took Mr. Moore to the General Hospital where he was admitted, and by latest reports was satisfactorily recovering. It will be within the recollection of many that Mr. John Mason's coolness and promptness at the wreck of the Tasman were favourably spoken of, and he has on two other occasions been instrumental in the saving of life. Had the weather been rough both rescuers and rescued would have been in jeopardy of losing their lives by being crushed against the piles. As the matter stands, it is another argument in favour of lighting the harbour by electric light. ◀

# BOOK REVIEW

Baxter, Carol, Writing INTERESTING Family Histories, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., 128 pp., paperback \$22.00 ISBN 9780980704600 available from [www.carolbaxter.com](http://www.carolbaxter.com)

This book, first published in 2009 and already into a second and expanded edition is a thoroughly readable and helpful volume for anyone thinking of writing their family history. It is an excellent book if you are just starting the process of researching your family, or if you have already amassed a vast quantity of factual information that you want to turn into an interesting and vibrant account.

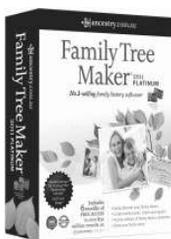
Carol's advice comes in short but pertinent chapters covering topics such as surnames, changing calendars, perspective and the narrative writing style to name but a few. She gives personal accounts of her work to illustrate her points, including the particular strategy she uses for writing up her results. While acknowledging that people have different styles, there is no getting away from her main message which is that a family history must be interesting to be successful. Hooking your readers into 'your' story by making it almost seem like a novel is one way to do this.

Carol has had extensive experience in the field of genealogy, having edited seven volumes of early NSW records, written two of her own family histories and more recently published two successful 'popular histories' of events that took place in the 1820s in Sydney. Illustrated with some delightful cartoons, the book is a practical and entertaining guide.

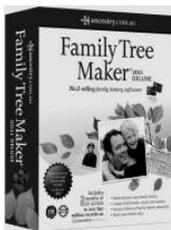
**Sally Rackham** ◀

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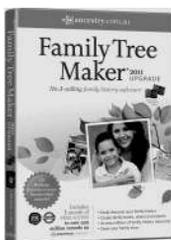
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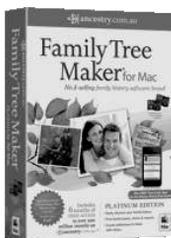
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# THE GREENNOW SISTERS

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

**S**ARAH and ANN GREENNOW were born in London. They came to Van Diemen's Land, separately, as young adults.

They were actually half-sisters. Their father was John Greennow (born about 1760) who had married three times. Sarah (1797–1843) was a child of his second marriage, Ann (1809–1887) of his third.<sup>1</sup>

How Sarah arrived in VDL is a mystery. She was not a convict, and there is no record of her arrival as a free settler.

She first appears in the pages of history in December 1820 when Dr Edward Foord BROMLEY (1777–1836), a Royal Navy surgeon who had arrived at Hobart Town earlier that year to take up the post of Naval Officer, wrote to his friend John PIPER (1773–1851) in Sydney to tell him that he had married. His bride, he announced, was Sarah Greennow, whom he described as his 'housekeeper'.<sup>2</sup> (From this, it is thought possible Bromley had brought Sarah with him from England and her arrival was never officially noted.)

They were married by Special Licence at St Davids Church on 23 November 1820 in a ceremony conducted by the Rev. Robert KNOPWOOD. Bromley was 43

and Sarah 23.<sup>3</sup> The witnesses were the respected magistrate A W H HUMPHREYS, who had arrived in the colony with Lt David COLLINS in 1803, and Walter CRAMMOND, a wealthy businessman.<sup>4</sup>

Four months after the wedding, Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Jane Bromley. Three more children were to follow: Edward Samuel Foord Bromley (1823), Sidney Smith Josias Bromley (1825) and Charles Bullen Sussex Bromley (1828).<sup>5</sup>

For three years after their marriage, life was good for Bromley and Sarah. In Hobart, he had been granted a residence and a large allotment of land. As Naval Officer, he was responsible for the collection of duties on certain imports to the colony and was entitled to retain five percent of all monies collected. He had also been appointed treasurer of the

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah's mother was Susannah SIMPSON, who John Greennow married at St Katherine Coleman, London, England, on 29 June 1794; Ann's mother was Susanna BERROTT, whom he married at St Giles Cripplegate on 15 November 1802.

<sup>2</sup> See Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol.1, pp.155–156. Piper was Bromley's counterpart in Sydney.

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<sup>3</sup> Bromley had been married previously and had at least two daughters by his first wife in England. Because his daughters joined him in VDL in 1822, it is believed his first wife may have died before his departure from England. His eldest daughter by his first wife was Elizabeth Ford Henrietta Bromley, who was baptised in VDL in 1828, at the age of 23. The certificate shows her mother's name simply as 'Susanna'.

<sup>4</sup> Bromley had known Humphreys since 1803. Both were on HMS Calcutta; which had brought convicts, under Collins, first to Sullivan's Bay at Port Phillip and, later, when that settlement was abandoned, to the Derwent.

<sup>5</sup> Two of the children died in childhood, Sarah Jane in 1826 and Charles Bullen Sussex in 1842.

Police Fund at a salary of £60 per annum. In effect, this meant he was the Colonial Treasurer.<sup>6</sup> Soon, he was also Foundation President of both the Agricultural Society and the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, and a magistrate. His name appeared frequently in newspapers of the day. A popular figure, he had invested in property and was on the way to becoming a wealthy man.<sup>7</sup>

But suddenly things went terribly wrong!

In May 1824, Colonel George ARTHUR was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land and had soon begun to look closely at the way financial arrangements were being handled. In September of that year, he discovered a huge discrepancy in the treasury accounts. He suspended Bromley from office immediately, charging him with the embezzlement of over £5,000—a huge sum in those days.<sup>8</sup>

A subsequent Commission of Enquiry established the deficiency was, in fact, greater than £8,000! In the Supreme Court trial of the case brought against Bromley in April 1825, this was reduced to £7,096.

Evidence presented at the trial seemed to clear Bromley himself of the theft. The court found that, in all probability, it was Bartholomew BROUGHTON, his convict clerk, who actually misappropriated the money. But, by his own admission, Bromley had been guilty of gross laxity, negligence and inefficiency in safeguarding the treasury coffers.

In the months which followed, all of Bromley's assets were seized, and much of his property sold off to recoup the treasury losses. But even then his liability exceeded £4,000.

For the next three years, he begged to be allowed to return to England to clear his name and to find money to support his wife and children, but every request was refused. Finally, in 1829, he was given permission to leave, subject to his entering into a bond requiring him to continue to repay what he owed.

His penniless wife, Sarah, was allowed to stay on at 'Montford', near Hamilton, one of his former properties. There, she struggled to provide for the children, at one stage even applying to have them taken into the Orphan School at Hobart.<sup>9</sup> Articles and notices published in newspapers at the time paint a dismal picture of a much-harassed young woman trying desperately to make ends meet.<sup>10</sup>

Back in England, Bromley appears to have had little success in generating interest in his plight. In an effort to earn money, he went back to sea, serving first as surgeon aboard Donegal, a guard ship at Sheerness, and later making voyages to New South Wales as surgeon-superintendent on the convict ships Surrey in 1833 and Numa in 1834. A condition of this employment was that the Admiralty be authorised to deduct £100 a year from his salary to offset his debt.<sup>11</sup>

In late 1834, after disembarking the Numa convicts in Sydney, Bromley made

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<sup>6</sup> In newspaper notices, Bromley signed himself 'Colonial Treasurer'. See, for instance, Hobart Town Gazette and VDL Advertiser, 23 April 1824, p.1.

<sup>7</sup> See Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol.1, pp.155–156

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> See, for instance, Colonial Times, 22 July 1834, p.7 and 12 August 1834, p.6

<sup>11</sup> See State Library of Tasmania. Material related to Bromley is included in papers of of P R Eldershaw who prepared Bromley's entry for Australian Dictionary of Biography.

one last brief visit to Van Diemen's Land to see Sarah. By mid-1835, however, he was back in England. There he died, a sick and broken man, at the Marine Infirmary, Woolwich, in 1836. He still owed over £3,000.<sup>12</sup>

Ironically, a number of the Van Diemen's Land properties that had been seized earlier but had not yet been liquidated were re-valued after his death. If sold now, it was calculated the revenue would well exceed the outstanding debt. Consequently, Lieutenant-Governor Arthur and treasury officials 'felt justified in directing that Dr Bromley ... be relieved from any further demand.'<sup>13</sup>



Two years before Bromley's death in England, Sarah's half-sister, Ann, arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a free settler. Although there is no direct evidence for the idea, it is tempting to think she came out to help Sarah at this difficult time.

Twelve years younger than Sarah, she had married in London in 1832. In January 1834, she arrived at Hobart aboard the Atwick with her husband, George William BARBER.<sup>14</sup>

In July 1834, Barber was granted the licence of the Mitre Hotel in Bathurst Street but seems to have remained there for only a short period. It is possible he was not in good health. He died at New Norfolk, at the age of 41, in July 1838. The record of his burial shows his occupation as 'schoolmaster'.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> As for Note 7, above

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Arrival of George William Barber and wife Ann on the Atwick: See TAHO MB2/39/1/2, p.11

<sup>15</sup> Geo. Wm Barber, licensee of Mitre Hotel, Bathurst St., Hobart: Hobart Town

After his death, Ann moved to Hamilton. Whether or not she went there to be closer to Sarah is not known but seems likely. What is less likely is that she could have given Sarah much support. Before her husband's death, she had given birth to two sons: William Robert Barber in 1837 and George James Barber in 1838.<sup>16</sup>

In May 1839, Ann, widowed less than a year, married Henry BROWN, who had recently been granted the license of the New Inn at Hamilton. There, for the next fifteen years, they were popular hosts. Their establishment quickly became a meeting place for the town and their hospitality won them lavish praise from the many prominent figures who attended functions there.<sup>17</sup>

The marriage also seems to have been a happy one. Between 1842 and 1848, Ann gave birth to five more children: Susannah Brown (1842–1929), Henry Edward Browne (1843–1920), Elizabeth Brown (1844–1929), James Charles Brown (1846–1887) and Robert Brown (1848–1934).<sup>18</sup>

However, in 1854, Henry Brown sold the New Inn. It is likely he, too, was ill. He died in December 1855 and was buried at Hamilton. In his will he made provision

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Gazette, 25 September 1834 and 8 October 1835. Geo. Wm Barber, death: Tas. Reg: 1/1838, New Norfolk.

<sup>16</sup> See Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Detail

<sup>17</sup> There are many newspaper references to the excellent hospitality of Henry and Ann Brown at the New Inn, Hamilton. See, for instance, *The Courier*, Hobart, 4 October 1851, p.2 and 5 October 1853, p.2.

<sup>18</sup> As for Note 16, above

for all the children, including the two sons of Ann's first marriage.<sup>19</sup>

By this time, Ann's half-sister, Sarah Bromley, had been dead for some years. She had died, at 46, in 1843, her death hastened no doubt by the anguish of separation from her husband and her struggle to maintain their home and provide for the children in his absence.<sup>20</sup>

In 1856, Ann, still with young children to support, married for the third time. She was 47. Her new husband was James JACKSON (1806–1892), a prominent Hamilton storekeeper, whom she had known for some years. He had been a frequent guest at New Inn functions.<sup>21</sup>

Sadly, this new marriage seems to have been an unfortunate one. There is some evidence that Ann and James Jackson lived apart for many of their remaining years. When Ann died, as Annie Jackson in 1887, she was not buried in the Jackson family vault at Hamilton but beside her second husband, Henry Brown.<sup>22</sup> ◀

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<sup>19</sup> Henry Brown's will, 1856: TAHO AD960/1/3, p.906, Will No.645

<sup>20</sup> Sarah Bromley's death: 17 July 1843, Tas. Reg: 49/1843/35

<sup>21</sup> James Jackson is frequently listed amongst guests at New Inn functions. See, for instance, Courier, Hobart, 20 March 1845.

<sup>22</sup> Annie Jackson née Greenow, death: Tas. Reg: 701/1887, Hamilton. For the reference to her burial, see Rieusset, The Jacksons of Hamilton, p.22.

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# LEARNING TO SWIM AT DYNNYRNE 1926–47

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

**I**N the 1880s the wood and coal merchant John Gibbs TOLMAN erected a house near the junction of Waterworks Road and Proctors Road in the Hobart suburb of Dynnynrne, and in 1897 he built the ‘Jubilee Reservoir’ on the hill above the house. Tolman used the water from the cement-rendered brick reservoir, which measured 39 feet by 27 feet, to irrigate his fruit trees, and family and friends frequently swam in the reservoir.<sup>1</sup> Octavius LORD purchased the property from Tolman, converted it into a dairy farm, and about 1917 sold it to Charles Henry (Bob) RICHARDSON. In 1926 Richardson’s wife Zoe, established the Top of the World Ladies’ Amateur Swimming Club (TOW) for ladies and girls and used the ‘Jubilee Reservoir’ for the club pool.<sup>2</sup>

Just two years later the club was granted affiliation with Tasmanian Amateur Swimming Association (TASA) and the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS).<sup>3</sup> Over the years a roster system was established and the parents of the child members helped with teaching at the club pool and with dry land demonstrations of strokes and diving. All those who swam at the pool helped with chores, including

gardening and pool maintenance. In mid 1931 Mrs Richardson’s father, Edward A STACEY built a log cabin, the floor of which was rammed with thousands of small stones. Furnished with tables and chairs made from packing cases, the cabin was used for meetings, concerts and gymnastics. The same year timber and fittings were purchased for a springboard.<sup>4</sup>

The TOW club held its first race day on 18 February 1928 at the Dynnynrne pool, where Trixie Richardson; Vera STEVENS; Sheila McSHERRY; Olga LEWIS; Lorna WILLIAMS; Nancy REARDON and Mavis BLAKE competed in the first race, 104 yards freestyle handicap. The first four swimmers in the 52 yards handicap under 14 years were Gwen JOHNSON, Fuzzy WELSH, Madge SARGISON and Joan Williams, while Janet WEIDENHOFER and Eileen RAY were the only entrants in the under 12 years 52 yards handicap. The order of finishing in the 52 yards backstroke championship was Trixie Richardson, Vera Stephens, Sheila McSherry, Lorna Williams and Joyce ELLIS; while the first three to finish the endurance race were Lorna Williams, Margaret DUNN and Gwen Johnson.

The second race day was held the following week, when Mavis Blake and Janet Weidenhofer tied for first place in the open dive, followed by Trixie Richardson, Debbie BURNETT and Eileen Ray, while the 104 yards breaststroke was won by Lorna Williams from Nancy Reardon and Debbie Burnett. These events were followed by a

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<sup>1</sup> Mercury, 27 March 1868

<sup>2</sup> See my article, ‘Goggles, Kickboards & Flippers’ *Tasmanian Ancestry* 24.2 (September 2003), pp.95–98 and ‘Top of the World Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club Inc. 1926–1998’, *Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Papers and Proceedings* 46.2 (June 1999), pp.104–16 for more details

<sup>3</sup> TOWLASC Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Season 1927–28

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<sup>4</sup> *Tasmanian Mail*, 9 December 1931

visiting boys' 52 yards handicap which was won by Tom GILLIS of Sydney, Dick SMITH, Hutchins School was second, and Ted Richardson of TOW was third. The other event was a lifesaving rescue won by Lorna Williams, and 'patient' Debbie Burnett. An exhibition of high and fancy diving was then given by Rex and Norman THOMPSON and Ray SHAW. Those present were also entertained by T W SIMPSON who gave some 'really clever stunts' in the water, the 'submarine' and 'torpedo' being 'warmly applauded'.<sup>5</sup> On the 10 March 1928 race day lifesaving rescues, handicap diving and duck diving added to the variety of events, and on 31 March the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hobart Cubs and Scouts (Hutchins School) were invited to compete in the visiting boys' race and medley.

On 24 November 1928 a successful Bush Fair was held to open the new season. The public were directed to reach the fair by taking the 'Proctors Road tram to the terminus, then follow the blue and white streamers to the Top of the World Swimming Pool, one of the Special Beauty Spots of Hobart.' The Mayor J WIGNALL opened the season and was welcomed by Mr Stacey who urged for the extension of the Proctors Road tram, pointing out that there were some 100 club members who alone deserved consideration. Cakes; sweets; novelties; afternoon tea; produce; cordials and chocolate bagatelle were sold, and raised about £40 0s 0d for club funds, while visitors were treated to an exhibition of swimming, diving and lifesaving.<sup>6</sup>

The pool surround was planned by the



Members of the families of brothers John Gibbs Tolman and William Watts Tolman by the 'Jubilee Reservoir' c 1900  
Photograph: Collection of author

<sup>5</sup> Mercury, 6 March 1928

<sup>6</sup> Monotone Sporting Record 24 November 1928; Mercury, 17, 24 November 1928

Patron, Edward A Stacey, and by December 1928 the additions were a summer house, diving boards and a water chute. By December 1930 additions included a gold fish pond, a bird bath and a fountain. The pool had been tiled in white and blue, with the name of the club in blue lettering just above the water, while the addition of an extra feed pipe enabled the pool to be filled much faster than previously. The press reported how the pool was a girls' swimming club, and as the holidays were in full swing, it was a 'great boon to the whole district'. From early morning until late afternoon there were 'tiny tots receiving not only instruction in swimming, but equally useful tuition in life-saving'.<sup>7</sup>

Prior to leaving for the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, Holland, the *Naldera*, the ship on which the Australian swimming team (except for the Victorians) were travelling, called into Hobart, and club members for fortunate to be able to meet the swimmers. The Richardsons extended a hearty welcome to team members, and made the visit for the ladies particularly enjoyable by 'motoring' them to some of the 'pretty surrounding districts'. The Olympians also spent a pleasant morning at the pool, where Edna DAVEY delighted those present with a few sprints.<sup>8</sup> In January 1929 Hobart

swimmers were also fortunate in having Gustav FROELICH, the German ex-world champion backstroke swimmer, demonstrate at several carnivals. During his stay in Hobart he used the TOW pool as headquarters for his teaching.<sup>9</sup>

At the beginning of the 1930s children were taught to swim with the aid of a canvas harness which went around their chest and attached by rope to a pole. Volunteers walked the side of the pool holding the children in the water while they mastered the strokes and, as they gained confidence and skills, the rope was gradually lengthened until they were swimming unaided. This method continued until the late 1950s or early 1960s. The club placed emphasis on lifesaving, and because the major lifesaving stroke was breaststroke, this was usually the first stroke taught.

Men from the Royal Australian Naval Squadron helped entertain the large crowd at the club championships in 1936 where an exhibition of under-water stunts was given by Petty Officer KELLY and Mr G TYSON of Launceston. Kelly also gave an exhibition of diving and carried a 56lb weight while walking up and down the bottom of the pool. The championship events held were mixed D Grade handicap, 52yds novice boys under 12, 75yds junior medley, diving and naval egg and spoon race.

At the 1937 AGM the question of including boys in the club was discussed at some length, but no decision was reached, and it was left to the incoming committee. By 1938 it was decided that a separate club was required to cater for male members, and a meeting was held in the log cabin on 22 December to form the Dynnryne Boys' Swimming Club. Zoe Richardson was

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<sup>7</sup> Mercury, 8 January 1931

<sup>8</sup> TOWLASC Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Season 1927-28; Edna Davey, a NSW resident was 3rd in her heat of the 400m free and 4th in her heat of the 100m free at Olympic Games. According to a bronze plaque at Sydney Olympic Pool Homebush 'Path of Champions', Edna was born 1909 in London. Member 'The Spit Ladies' Club'. She set a world record 1000m freestyle 15.46.6 in Sydney on 18 March 1929. Her son is Grahame Hamilton a 1956 Olympian and relay world record holder.

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<sup>9</sup> Illustrated Tasmanian Mail, 9 December 1931

elected president, Mr BLACKWOOD vice-president, R COOPER secretary and D McDOUGAL treasurer. J Ray and H F REYNOLDS also attended the meeting. It was decided the new club would have approximately thirty members younger than 14 years old, when boys could join a senior club. A membership fee of 7s 6d was set, 5s 0d for the girls' club for general upkeep and 2s 6d held for capitation fees or other costs the boys' club might incur. There would be three houses, Ray, Blackwood, and McDougall, and Thursday nights and Sunday mornings until 11am would be the boys' training times, and it was decided that Zoe Richardson approach Harold (Nunky) AYERS to be the club's coach.

On the 17th Anniversary of the club on 13 December 1943, both TOW and Dynnryne Boys' Club held races in grades and handicap events, diving and lifesaving rescues, and during the 1943-44 season the boys' club registered seventy-one financial members: Geoff and Ray BACON; Max BARNES; Alan BLINDELL; Bill and John BLOOMFIELD; Howard BROWN; John Burdett; David CALVERT; John CLARK; Brian CHOVEAUX; Bruce COLE; Ian and Max DARCEY; Peter DARCEY; Adrian and Brian DOYLE; Darrel EVANS; David and Vance FISHER; Don and Gordon GAFFNEY; Graeme GRIGGS, Barry GILL; John HELMS; Norman HOPWOOD; David and John HARVEY; Rowan and Nigel JOHNSTONE; Ian JOYCE; John and William KING; Barry KNIGHT; Darcey LATHAM; William LAW; Alan LORD; Don LOWE; John LIPSCOMBE; David MARTIN; David and Peter MURPHY; James MORAN; Doug and Len McCULLOCH; Dougal, Ian and Malcolm McDougall; Peter McKINLEY; Ramsay PALFREYMAN; Don REID; David and Glyn Salter; David SKINNER; Robert Skinner; Alan

SLEVIN; John Slevin; Douglas and Robert Smith; John STOPS; Richard SPERRING; Neil TATE; John, Geoff and Ray TAYLOR; Ian and Peter TRETHERWY; [?] Taylor; David WILLING; John WILLIS and Don YOUNG. On 15 January 1944 members in each of the house teams Stacey, Coulter and Sweeting competed against each other in lifesaving rescues, diving, water tricks and medley races (at which time a medley consisted of only three strokes, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle).

The Dynnryne Boys Club used the TOW Proctors Road pool, and conducted their race days in conjunction with the ladies' club until 1947 when the two clubs amalgamated, thus becoming the Top of the World Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club.

The club continued at the Dynnryne pool for sixty-four years, except for a major setback in February 1967, when the property was severely damaged in the disastrous state wide bushfires. All that was left standing was the pool, still with some water, partly burnt timber, sheets of iron, rubbish and the concrete block walls of the toilet block amidst tangled pipes, metal and debris. The fund-raising committee of Mesdames MILLS (chairman); McCULLOUGH; HAWKES; HOLDSWORTH; McCAMBRIDGE; RYAN; WEBB; MANN and Bonnie TILLEY (secretary), planned and organised two car art unions with six weekly prizes, wine tasting; cooking demonstrations; morning teas; Melbourne Cup luncheon; housie evening; cake stalls and film evenings. The Clarence Swimming Club and the Carlton Surf Lifesaving Club also assisted with funds which included the 'Battle of the Sounds' at the City Hall starring Ronnie BURNS. BP Australia, the Sandy Bay and Clarence

football clubs and the Hobart City Council also raised funds. After twenty months and the tireless assistance of many other members, especially Eric CARTER and Jim McCulloch (ably assisted by Rex PELHAM, Ross Smith and president Doug HURBURGH) who planned and organised the rebuilding of the pool, it was extended to 20 metres in length, and was ready for use.

By 1992 the club had operated at its Dynnyrne headquarters for sixty-four years, during which time thousands of youngsters had been taught to swim, and although the club had 360 registered members, the cost of operating the pool was increasing each year, and reluctantly the pool was sold. The club continues, however, with fewer members, and uses other Hobart pools for teaching and training. ◀

Unless otherwise stated, information is from Annual Reports, newspapers and personal communication with past club members. I am particularly grateful to Lin Weidenhofer for information and access to her scrap books. I also thank former club secretary, Bett Minchin, for access to notes and minutes of meetings, records which have since been deposited in TAHO.

# Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc.

**1788–1868**

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

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

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

[http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dgc  
inc/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dgc/inc/)

# ARCHIE STOCKER

## DCM WINNER OR NOT?

Peter Woolley

**D**ID 102 SERGEANT ARCHIE STOCKER of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen Contingent win the Distinguished Conduct Medal in the War in South Africa 1899–1902 or not?

### EARLY DAYS

**Birth:** No record of the birth of 102 Trooper Archie STOCKER in the Tasmanian Birth records could be found. While two or three births were found that could meet the criteria, there were insufficient details to accurately state which one was this particular Archie Stocker. No search has been conducted in any other state or outside Australia.

**Place of Enlistment:** He enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen from Huonville, Tasmania, between the periods 15 March – 26 April 1900, while the men were encamped at New Town.<sup>1</sup>

**Departure:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen departed Hobart on board the ss *Manhattan* on the 26 April 1900 and arrived in Port Elizabeth on the 19 June 1900.<sup>2</sup>

He was promoted to Corporal but no dates are known. His promotion was not listed in P L Murray, *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the*

*War in South Africa*, but is listed in R Lewis, *On the Veldt*:

Corporal Archie Stocker was slightly wounded (grazed wrist) on the 26 June 1900, the first of the contingent to be wounded in action.<sup>3</sup>

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on the 1 October 1900, and to the rank of Lieutenant on the 10 April 1901.<sup>4</sup>

### THE INCIDENT

He was involved in an incident on or about the 15 March to 24/25 April 1901, described by sources as follows:

on the 15 March<sup>5</sup> we left Pietersburg, and trekked towards the Olifants River. Colonel KITCHENER - brother of the Commander in Chief - was directing the movements of three or four columns to the southward, which we were operating to drive the Boers in our direction. It was our duty to watch the various drifts, and prevent the enemy's passage. It was at one of these drifts that Sergeant Stocker of Ours - who was afterwards promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the place of one of our deceased officers - was in charge of a small squad of the Tasmanians: Kenny WARD, O'MAY, SKINNER, KING, HAMILTON, HAYES, GEEVES, LITCHFIELD, ADAMS. Lieutenant REID, of South Australia, had charge of the other side of the drift. The day was closing in when about thirty five

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<sup>1</sup> J Bufton, *Tasmanians in the Transvaal War*, Hobart, 1905, p.278

<sup>2</sup> P L Murray, *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*, Department of Defence, Melbourne 1911, and J Bufton, *Tasmanians in the Transvaal Wr.*

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<sup>3</sup> R C Lewis, *On the Veldt*, Hobart, 1902

<sup>4</sup> Murray, *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa and Lewis, On the Veldt*

<sup>5</sup> Lewis, *On the Veldt*, pp.148–149. Perhaps this should read the 15 April?

Boers under Commandant SCHROEDER, together with their transport, came into the valley and camped there for the night, first placing a Maxim gun on the crest of the hill on their right flank. Our guide, Brink, who had been in the Boer Lines, but had for some time been on the side of the British, now crawled close to Schroeder's laager - so close that he overheard all the Boers' conversation. On his return he reported this to Stocker, who at once grasped the situation. Under cover of the darkness he proceeded to take up the main position overlooking the laager, and seized the enemy's Maxim gun. As dawn broke, Stocker and the Tasmanians with him poured a regular fusillade of rifle shots over and about the laager, in such a way as to give the Boers the idea that they were surrounded by a strong attacking force. The white flag was speedily hoisted. Stocker went down into the laager and collected all the enemy's weapons. A little later Lt Reid came along and took charge of the prisoners, who were marched off to our columns.<sup>6</sup>

Murray reports the incident as:

on 25 April, Sergeant Stocker gained great distinction for his share in the capture of 35 Prisoners.<sup>7</sup>

In his record of the South Australians, Murray makes no reference to Lt Reid's actions in the incident.

Wallace reports:

at dawn on the 25 April a patrol led by Lieutenant H. A. Reid from South Australia rushed a laager in a daring and successful raid, capturing 41 prisoners and a Maxim gun. Quick firing at a short range made the Boers believe that they were being attacked by a large party. In

his despatches General Kitchener reported: 'On the night of 24 April a very gallant act was performed by Lieutenant Reid, Imperial Bushmen Corps, who had been detached from General PLUMER's post near Commissie Drift. This officer when in charge of a patrol of 20 Australians located a Boer laager some 15 miles south-east of the drift, which he surrounded and boldly attacked at dawn. The enemy at once surrendered, Commandant Schroeder and 41 prisoners, with a Maxim gun being taken.'<sup>8</sup>

John Stirling reports the incident as Tasmanians; the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Imperial Bushmen.

In Lord Kitchener's despatch of 8 May 1901 he says: 'On the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> April a very gallant act was performed by Lt Reid, Imperial Bushmen Corps, who had been despatched from General Plumer's post at Commissie drift, on the Olifants River, Transvaal. This officer, when in charge of a patrol of 20 Australians, located a Boer laager some 15 miles S. E. of the drift, which he surrounded, and boldly attacked at dawn. The enemy at once surrendered, Commandant Schroeder and 41 other prisoners, with a maxim being taken'.<sup>9</sup>

Austin reports the incident under the heading of Commissie Drift:

One of a series of drifts along the Olifants River in north east Transvaal. A Boer commando led by Commandant Schroeder had been sighted in the area, and on 24 April 1901, a 20 man party of South Australian and Tasmanian Bushmen led

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<sup>6</sup> Lewis, *On the Veldt*, pp.148-149

<sup>7</sup> Murray, *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa* p.557

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<sup>8</sup> R L Wallace, *The Australians at the Boer War*, published jointly by the Australian War Memorial and AGPS, Canberra 1976, p.319

<sup>9</sup> John Stirling, *The Colonials in South Africa 1899-1902: their record based on despatches*, Blackwood, London, 1907, p.491

by Lieutenant Herbert Reid spotted the fires of a Boer laager. Placing his men into position, Reid waited until daylight before he attacked. Although outnumbered by the Boers, Reid outfoxed the enemy, and within a few minutes of the attack, Schroeder surrendered his party of 35 Zarp<sup>10</sup>, plus seven women and children who had, in traditional Boer custom, been accompanying the commando. In addition, 12 wagons, much ammunition and 100 animals were also taken. By shouting orders to his imaginary men, Reid was able to convince the Boers that they were guarded by a much stronger force, as they were marched back to Commissie Drift.<sup>11</sup>

Craig Wilcox reports the incident as:

To the north Plumer's veteran's were out patrolling too. On the night of 24 April near Commissie Drift, Lieutenant Herbert Reid and twenty men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen rode silently to a Boer laager, surrounded it, and rushed in at dawn. They bagged wagons, horses, cattle, a machine gun, and twice their own number of men including a commandant, Schroeder.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> This is the only mention that the Boers were members of the Zarp (The South African Republic Police). There is no evidence to say whether or not they were members of this para-military force. As they mainly worked around Johannesburg it is unlikely (but not impossible) they were in an area between Pietersburg and the Olifants River.

<sup>11</sup> Ronald J Austin, *The Australian illustrated encyclopedia of the Zulu and Boer Wars*, McCrae, Victoria : Slouch Hat Publications, 1999

<sup>12</sup> Craig Wilcox, *Australia's Boer War: the war in South Africa, 1899–1902*, South Melbourne, Victoria : Oxford University Press in association with the Australian War Memorial, 2002, p.200

## THE AWARDS

Arms and Armour Press Publication  
South African War Honours and Awards,  
1899–1902, 1902.

**Mentioned in Despatches:** Under Lord Kitchener's despatch, 8 May 1901,<sup>13</sup> which includes General Plumer's special despatch on Lieutenant Reid's capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager, and 40 men, near Commissie Drift, 25 April.

Imperial Bushmen 4<sup>th</sup> - Lieut H. A. Reid for the exceedingly smart manner in which he effected the capture of a force double his numbers, together with a Maxim gun.

Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen - Sgt Stocker succeeded in getting right behind laager during night, thereby enabling Lieut Reid to surround it, and rush it from all sides.

South Australian Imperial Bushmen - Sgt  
WARD.

**DSOs awarded:** Imperial Bushmen - Lieut H A Reid.<sup>14</sup>

**DCMs awarded:** Stocker is not listed.

The London Gazette lists the following recipients from the above incident:

4<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen. Lieutenant H. A. Reid. For the exceedingly smart manner in which he effected the capture of a force double his numbers, together with a Maxim gun. General Plumer's despatch on capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager near Commissie Drift, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 1901. Awarded D.S.O. By War Office telegram of 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1901.

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<sup>13</sup> This is a continuation of his despatch of the 8 March 1901

<sup>14</sup> The London Gazette No.27331 dated 9 July 1901 Lord Kitchener's Despatch from Pretoria, dated 8 May 1901, pp.62, 65 and 93

Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen, 102 Sergeant Stocker; succeeded in getting right behind the laager during the night, thereby enabling Lieutenant Reid to surround it, and rush it from all sides. General Plumer's despatch on capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager near Commissie Drift, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 1901.

South Australian Bushmen, Sergeant WARD; succeeded in getting right behind the laager during the night, thereby enabling Lieutenant Reid to surround it, and rush it from all sides. General Plumer's despatch on capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager near Commissie Drift, 2<sup>5th</sup> April 1901.<sup>15</sup>

Lewis in *On the Veldt*, shows in his list of his men that Stocker A was:

slightly wounded, promoted Sergeant, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1900, Lieutenant 10 Apr 1901, awarded D. C. M.<sup>16</sup>

Murray makes reference to any awards as:

Lt H. A. Reid – Despatches London Gazette, 16 Apr 1901<sup>17</sup>. D. S. O<sup>18</sup>

No reference to Sgt Ward<sup>19</sup>.

Trooper Stocker, Archie, Sergeant. Special Mention in General Plumer's

despatches, 8.5.01. D. C. M. Vide "Promotions". Under promotions he states – Sergeant Stocker, promoted Lieutenant, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1901.<sup>20</sup>

John Stirling, makes reference to any awards as:

South Australians; Lord Kitchener's despatch of 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1901. From General Plumer's Special Despatch on Lt Reid's capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager and 40 men, near Commissie Drift, April 25. South Australian Imperial Bushmen: Sgt Ward.<sup>21</sup>

Tasmanians. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Imperial Bushmen. 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901. Extract from General Plumer's Special Despatch on Lt Reid's capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager and 40 men, near Commissie Drift, April 25. "Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen: Sgt Stocker (promoted Lieutenant) succeeded in getting right behind the laager during night, thereby enabling Lt Reid to surround it and rush it from all sides at once"<sup>22</sup>

Wallace in *The Australians at the Boer War*, 1976, makes reference to awards as:

Lieutenant Reid was awarded the D. S. O.<sup>23</sup> And Sergeant Stocker, a Tasmanian Bushman, received the D. C. M.,<sup>24</sup> and was promoted to Lieutenant.

Leonard L Barton, in his book, *For Distinguished Conduct and Meritorious Service* (1984), states:

John Stirling in "the Colonials in South Africa 1899-1902" states that Stocker received the D. C. M. but this does not

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<sup>15</sup> Lord Kitchener's Despatch from Pretoria, dated 8 May 1901, a continuation of his Despatch dated 8 March 1901, p.4553, p.4567

<sup>16</sup> Lewis, *On the Veldt*, Appendix, p.158. No source listed to confirm this.

<sup>17</sup> The London Gazette No.27305 dated 16 Apr 1901 does not mention Lt H A Reid at all. He, Stocker and Ward are all mentioned in the London Gazette of 9 Jul 1901, p.358

<sup>18</sup> No source listed to confirm this

<sup>19</sup> It is difficult to identify Sgt Ward. There were 3 Wards from South Australia only one of which was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen and he was 116 Lance Corporal (according to Murray) B T Ward. He appears to be the most likely person.

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<sup>20</sup> No source listed to confirm this, p.560

<sup>21</sup> Stirling, *The Colonials in South Africa 1899–1902*, pp.463–64

<sup>22</sup> *The Colonials in South Africa 1899–1902*, Stirling, p.489

<sup>23</sup> No source listed to confirm this

<sup>24</sup> No source listed to confirm this

seem to be correct. A search of the records held at the Australian War memorial did not reveal any award of the D. C. M. to the following men, so listed in Murray. Stocker, Archie, 102, Trooper, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tas Imperial Contingent.<sup>25</sup>

Austin in *The Australian Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Zulu and Boer Wars*, 1999, states that:

as a result of this action, Reid was awarded the DSO and was Mentioned in Despatches, while Sergeant Archie Stocker, received a DCM, and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant.<sup>26</sup>

Wilson in his book, *Australia's Boer War*, 2002, reports that:

H. A. Reid was awarded the D. S. O.  
A. Stocker was awarded the D. C. M.<sup>27</sup>

## SUMMARY

From the above we learn that:

- From the incident, there were three men who were subject to receipt of higher recognition for their work, Lt H A Reid, Sgt A Stocker and Sgt Ward.
- They were all mentioned in Lord Kitchener's despatch, 8 May 1901, which includes General Plumer's special despatch on Lieutenant Reid's capture of Commandant Schroeder and his laager, and forty men, near Commissie Drift on 25 April.
- This despatch was promulgated in the London Gazette No.27331 dated 9 July 1901, and all three were listed.
- This Gazette also recorded the award of the DSO, to Lt H A Reid.

- There appears to be no official report of any award of the DCM to Stocker. It appears the record of Captain R C Lewis, when it was first mentioned (and no authority given) has been used by most subsequent authors to list the award to Stocker.

## MY ACTIONS

In sheer frustration, and on the advice of a friend (a DCM winner in Vietnam), I wrote to the DCM League in London seeking information on A Stocker's DCM. The Secretary of the League reported there was no record of a 102 Trooper (or Sergeant) Archie Stocker having received the DCM for the War in South Africa 1899–1902.

I have conducted a search of the London Gazettes (not all but most of the applicable ones) and found no record of Archie Stocker being awarded the DCM. The search continues.

## CONCLUSIONS

R C Lewis, in his opinion, obviously thought the incident warranted at least the award of a DCM, and perhaps even recommended such award, however it appears that it did not occur. The 'higher ups' presumably thought the award of the DSO, to the officer, was sufficient award for the incident. All subsequent despatches talk of the officer's 'exceedingly smart manner' in which he performed his duty.

It appears that, like so many other myths associated with the Boer War, the information having been recorded by the members Officer Commanding at the time (1902) in the first instance, and with no official source given, other writers have taken this to be the truth and have not researched the particulars to confirm the statement.

In his work, Leonard Barton, who was researching the issue of the medal and not

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<sup>25</sup> Barton, *For Distinguished Conduct and Meritorious Service* (1984), p.6

<sup>26</sup> Austin, *The Australian illustrated encyclopedia of the Zulu and Boer Wars* p.76. No source listed to confirm this

<sup>27</sup> Wilson, *Australia's Boer War*, 2002, pp.403, 28. No source listed to confirm this

the incident that preceded the issue, first pointed out the mistake in 1984, but still it persisted.

Following all this I have reached the following conclusion:

- Archie Stocker was Mentioned in Despatches as a Sergeant and did not receive the DCM, nor was he promoted to Lieutenant as a result of his work on the night/morning in question, but to fill a vacant position in the Contingent caused by the deaths of Lieutenants SALE and WALTER on the 8 April 1901 (Sgt Reynolds was promoted at the same time for the same reason).

### LATER DAYS

Archie Stocker appears to have vanished. He did not return to Tasmania with the Contingent, or more correctly, he was not recorded by J Bufton, Tasmanians in the Transvaal War, or the Mercury newspaper as returning with the Contingent. J Bufton has no information from Stocker in his record and has no photo of him in the photos of the Contingent.

### REQUEST

If anyone can dispute any of the above conclusions with official documents, I would gladly admit I am wrong. As a Tasmanian I would be only too delighted to have another award listed to the most decorated unit in the Boer War, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen. ◀

The Bruny Island Historical Society  
are holding an  
Open Day first Sunday in April 2011  
under the National Trust Calendar  
on Sunday 3 April 2011

**Heritage Listed Site  
Bruny Island Variety Bay Pilot Station  
(c1830) and Church (c1846)**

**Open Day at  
Variety Bay Pilot Station  
North Bruny Island**

on site 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Entrance - via Great Bay  
gateway will be well sign-posted

There will be an interpretative display  
and guided tours of both the Pilot  
Station and Church (*stabilised by the  
Bruny Island Historical Society in 2003  
under the Cultural Heritage Projects  
Program.*)

A great chance to see part of the island  
not normally open to the public.  
Bring a Picnic lunch, or just drop in  
No admission charge.

Hope to see you there!

### BRUNY ISLAND

#### Sunday Ferry Timetable

Depart	Depart
KETTERING	BRUNY ISLAND
7:45	8:25
9:30	10:00
11:05	11:35
12:05 pm	12:35 pm
1:45	2:15
2:45	3:15
3:45	4:30
5:00	5:30
6:30	7:00

Further information: Bev Davis - Co-ordinator  
Bruny Island Historical Society Ph. 62606366  
or Kathy Duncombe Ph: 62606287

email [kdunc@netspace.net.au](mailto:kdunc@netspace.net.au)

Background information on  
significance of site go to:

[www.keypoint.com.au/~brunyhistory  
/page5.html](http://www.keypoint.com.au/~brunyhistory/page5.html)

# LAURA DAVIS

(née TATNELL), FELMINGHAM, CANSLAWR

Helen Webster (Member No.2951)

**L**AURA DAVIS or sometimes DAVIES, mentioned in Tasmanian Ancestry, Volume 31, No.3, p.148, was my great grandmother. Laura's third husband was Benjamin Owen Davis born in 1849 to Owen Davis and Mary Ann Davis née MORRIS.

Owen Davis was Captain of the Sussex, a whaling ship owned by Charles and Phillis SEAL, well known shipping owners in Hobart in the early 1800s. Captain Davis (Davies) worked on various vessels belonging to the Seals throughout his whaling career.

Sometime after the death of his wife Mary Ann in 1857, Owen Davis, leaving his family in Hobart, moved to New Zealand where he became the first Harbour Master in Whangaroa. He remarried there in 1864 to Hariata HONGI, daughter of Hare Hongi a Maori Chieftain.

Laura Lillian TATNELL was the third child and second daughter born to Charles Thomas Tatnell and Ann WHITE in 1848 at Pittwater, Van Diemen's Land. These families were both well known in Sorell, Bream Creek, and Tasman Peninsula areas.

Laura firstly married Edward FELMINGHAM at St Marks Church, Bellerive in 1867. Edward was the son of William Felmingham and Mary McCALL. Laura and Edward had two sons: Edwin Felmingham born 1869 and William Felmingham born 1870, sadly both boys died young.

After Edward's death in 1871, Laura married Louis CANSLAWR in August of 1872 at Rev. Simmons, 287 Liverpool Street, Hobart. Louis was purportedly a

French sailor, but nothing is known of Louis' origins at this time. Laura and Louis had one daughter, Minnie Lillian Canslawr who was born in 1873. Louis disappears from the story at some point before Laura's remarriage to Benjamin Owen Davis.

Laura stated she was a widow when she married my Benjamin Owen Davis in 1875 at the Campbell Street Congregationalist Church.

Laura and Benjamin's family increased with seven children. Benjamin died in 1911 at their home at 28 Frederick Street, Hobart. Laura, at the time of her death, lived with Minnie Canslawr/Haynes/Allen.

The informant was Arthur ALLEN, the second husband of Minnie Canslawr. Minnie and her aunt Florence Tatnell both married HAYNES brothers as their first husbands! Albert James Haynes and Henry Edward Haynes were the sons of William Haynes and Jane THOMPSON.

Unfortunately both brothers drowned.

HAYNES.—Accidentally drowned. Henry Edward, aged 32, also Albert James, aged 29, who lost their lives in the ketch "Annie Ward," which sank in the River Derwent on November 15, 1899; third and fourth sons of William Haynes, of Sandford. Henry Edward leaving a wife and four children; Albert James leaving a wife and two children, to mourn their loss. Deeply regretted.<sup>1</sup>

Family names associated with Laura and Benjamin and their children are: PRICE, LINTON, RUSSELL, GILES and DEAN.◀

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<sup>1</sup> The Mercury, 16 November 1899, p.1

# MATTHEW FORSTER'S FAMILY

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.870)

**T**HE monument to Matthew FORSTER stands tall and solitary in the former burial ground of St John's Church in New Town, Tasmania. Much has been written of his achievements as a soldier and public servant but I wanted to know about his family. Several hours researching on the web brought some results.

Matthew was born on 27 October 1796 at Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, England, to John Randall and Margaret Forster. He had an elder sister Sarah, born 11 October 1795 and younger siblings William Frederick, born 1 December 1798; Amelia Margaret, born 5 July 1800 and Thomas Bowes, born 14 February 1803, all at Berwick-upon-Tweed,<sup>1</sup> while his youngest brother, John, was born at the Citadel, Plymouth, Devon, on 5 February 1814.<sup>2</sup> Their father, John Randall Forster, was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, having served in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Foot and 24<sup>th</sup> Foot.<sup>3</sup>

After studying at the Royal Military College, Matthew served in the 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment and then the 85<sup>th</sup> in the Peninsula campaigns and later in Ireland.

He sold his commission in 1830. I have not been able to find where or when, he married Saint Helena Jeanette/Janette WORSLEY, a niece of Lt-Governor Colonel George ARTHUR.<sup>4</sup> A daughter, Mary Caroline, was born in Limerick, Ireland<sup>5</sup> and soon after on 12 April 1831 this family, accompanied by a servant, set

sail on board the *Mary Ann* from Plymouth. A little over four months later the Forsters arrived in Hobart Town.<sup>6</sup> His career in Van Diemen's Land began soon after, firstly as Chief Police Magistrate.

By 1834 Matthew Forster and family were living in Wivenhoe, a Georgian style house he had built on part of the former Knopwood farm, Cottage Green.<sup>7</sup>

A son, John Arthur Fox Forster, was born in



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.familysearch.org>

<sup>2</sup> Mercury, 18 July 1887

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.napoleon-series.org/military/organization/Britain/Infantry/Regiments>

<sup>4</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography

<sup>5</sup> UK Census records 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901

<sup>6</sup> Colonial Times, 24 August 1831

<sup>7</sup> Rowntree, Amy; Battery Point To-day and Yesterday, Education Department

Tasmania 1951, p.95

See also Holiday A and Eastman W; Mansions, Cottages and All Saints, 1994, Printing Authority of Tasmania. Suggests Wivenhoe was built by Edward Montague [sic] (also a nephew of Lt-Gov. George Arthur) in 1834, and later owned by John FOSTER who passed it to his younger brother Henry.

Hobart on 16 December 1837<sup>8</sup> and in 1841 a Mrs Foster of Hampden Road advertised for 'a Woman Servant (free) to take charge of a Child three years old'.<sup>9</sup>

Matthew filled the office of Colonial Secretary during the absence of John Montagu from 1839–41 and was then appointed to the position of director of the probation system.<sup>10</sup> Also in 1841, some time before April, his youngest brother, John, arrived in Hobart.<sup>11</sup>

Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT replaced Arthur in 1843. Due to failing health Forster applied for leave in 1845 but died suddenly on the 11 January 1846 before a reply was received.

DIED—On Sunday morning, at 8 o'clock, of gout in the stomach, producing sympathetic inflammation of the brain, Matthew Forster, Esq., Comptroller-General of Convicts. ... He was characteristically kind-hearted, frank, candid, and sincere, he never broke a promise, forgot a friend, nor persecuted an enemy. He has left a widow and two children to deplore his irreparable loss.<sup>12</sup>

In his will Matthew Forster wrote,

I desire that my funeral may be perfectly plain and private and that not more than Fifty Pounds be expended thereon.

He left his watch and dressing case to his son John Arthur Fox and the rents and proceeds of his 'house and premises in Hampden Row and all other Real Estate to his wife Saint Helena Jeanette'. Forster also ensured his 'Dear Children', Mary and John, would receive 'support, maintenance and education'. In the event

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<sup>8</sup> TAHO RGD Births 8466/1838 and Hobart Town Courier, 22 December 1837

<sup>9</sup> Courier, 23 April 1841

<sup>10</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography - Online Edition

<sup>11</sup> Colonial Times, 6 April 1841

<sup>12</sup> Colonial Times, 13 January 1846, p.3

of their not reaching maturity any residue was to go to his 'Brother William Frederick Forster' in London.<sup>13</sup>

Mr Stracey advertised an auction to be held on the 29–31 January 1846 of the

Valuable property of the late Captain Forster, on the premises, in Hampden Road and Harrington-street ... Superb Furniture, Grand Piano, Plate and Effects.<sup>14</sup>

Mrs Forster and her two children, accompanied by a servant, departed on the Derwent on 29 January 1846 and arrived in London 11 June 1846.<sup>15</sup> John Arthur Fox Forster attended Charterhouse House School in London from 1848–53.<sup>16</sup> He is listed in the 1851 Census for Charterhouse, Finsbury as a 13 year-old Scholar on Foundation, birthplace Hobart Van Diemen's Land.<sup>17</sup>

John A F Forster married Kate Marion LAIDLAW in London in 1861. In 1871 he is in Putney, age 33, a senior clerk in military office. His wife Kate age 27, who was born in Scotland and a niece, Bertha WATSON, age 7, born in London, are living at 37 Charlwood Road. Ten years later he is Hotel Proprietor of the George Inn, Bray,<sup>18</sup> Berkshire, with a wife Jane Elizabeth, age 25, born Chiswick, Middlesex. In 1891 Arthur Forster [sic] is again a clerk in the Army Clothing Department with two daughters;

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<sup>13</sup> TAHO AD960/1/2 No.293. An inventory was filed 17 March 1848.

<sup>14</sup> Courier, 28 January 1846. This section of Harrington Street is now part of Sandy Bay Road but until the 1950s was known as the Deviation.

<sup>15</sup> Courier, 31 January 1846 and Caledonian Mercury, Edinburgh, Scotland, 15 June 1864

<sup>16</sup> Parish, William Douglas; List of Carthusians, 1800–1879, Google books.

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com UK Census records 1851

<sup>18</sup> Bray was formerly part of Windsor Park

Mary aged 9 and Janet age 8, at 62 Hanover in the parish of St George's. By the age of 63 he was a retired civil servant living at 23 Langton Street, Chelsea with his wife and daughters, Janet now 18 and Dorothy age 9.<sup>19</sup>

John A F Forster died in 1912 age 74 in the district of Holborn.

Mary Caroline Forster first appears in Rockstone Terrace, Southampton in the 1851 census. She is 20 years of age and living with an aunt, Elizabeth DIXON, a widow of 60. In 1861 she is with another aunt, Ann Arthur, born Plymouth, age 78, at 2 Hewers Row at Plymouth. Also nieces, Elizabeth Worsley, age 50, born Woolwich in Kent and Mary W BARKER age 13, born Cheltenham, Gloucester, were also living there—with all three are listed as 'Fundholders'. The 1871 and 1881 census list her as a lodger with Elizabeth Worsley. Both listed as 'Annuitants' in 1871 and 'Gentlewomen' in 1881, living at 6 Bystock Terrace, Exeter, Devon. In 1891 they have moved to London and living at 97 Abingdon Road, South Kensington. Elizabeth is now 80 and Mary 60. Mary is still in Kensington at 23 Campden Grove in 1901 but may have died in 1908.<sup>20</sup>

Saint Helena Jeanette Forster is listed in census records for 1851 and 1861 and at Rose Cottage in Dawlish, Devon, England 1871 and 1881 with the remark 'Imbecile'.<sup>21</sup> She died aged 78 at Newton Abbott, Devon, in 1884.<sup>22</sup> ◀

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<sup>19</sup> Ancestry.com UK Census records 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901

<sup>20</sup> Ancestry.com UK Census records 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901

<sup>21</sup> Ancestry.com UK Census Records, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881

<sup>22</sup> FreeBMD online

# BEGINNING FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Leonie Mickleborough  
(Member No.20)

**S**O you are new to family history research? Where do you start? This short article aims to provide some clues for the beginner, but basically, there is only one answer: start with yourself and work backwards. Start early with a basic family tree, even in its early stages this will often stimulate people's memories and clarify responses, and remember, the systematic recording of information and a reference to its source is vitally important.

Before you venture into Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO) or even your local TFHS Inc. library, do some basic background research. Collect anything available in your immediate family: birth, death and marriage certificates, old letters, newspaper cuttings, wills and photographs. This might save a lot of time and unnecessary searching. Ask family members for their reminiscences (and write them down) and ask if they can identify unknown people in photographs. Dates may be blurred, but remember to record all details and references, many of which can be checked against official records later and also used to prompt other family members.

Once this source is exhausted, work backwards starting with a full copy of your own birth certificate. The next step is a copy of your parents' marriage certificate, which should provide their full names and ages, the full names of

your grand-parents, including maiden names, and the date and place of marriage. Death certificates should also be obtained for deceased ancestors. This is the basic course of research. By progressing backwards, the next move being the birth, marriage and death certificates of all four grand-parents, and comparing information contained on them all. The least reliable personal information is likely to be that included on death certificates, because this has been provided by a third person. The person providing the information is most likely upset by the death, and may also be unaware of the correct family details.

A visit to your local TFHS branch library could be your next move, remembering that access to records is free to members. Apart from local, interstate and overseas CDs and microfiche and access to Ancestry.com the libraries hold copies of overseas member societies' journals, lists of members' research interests, dictionaries of biographies, local histories, burial registers, transcriptions of headstones, and a full set of Tasmanian Ancestry. A list of available sources at branch libraries is, however, beyond the scope of a short article such as this. Each issue of Tasmanian Ancestry lists each branch's latest 'Library Accessions', a quick glance at these lists indicates many valuable resources. Each journal also has a 'Help Wanted' section—use this service. Attendance at branch meetings offers opportunities to discuss research needs, and library volunteers each have their own 'specialties'.

So—how to record this vast amount of information? A computer-based family tree program is an advantage, even from an early stage, and there are many available, several of which are free. Personally, I use Legacy, a free program

available from <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/downloadlegacy.asp> which I find very user friendly. There is also a paid version with extra features. Standard family tree sheets are available at branch libraries for those without computer access. Whichever method is chosen, keep note of **ALL** references—such information will be invaluable later, especially when conflicting information occurs, which will, inevitably, happen.

Once you establish you have an ancestor who was born overseas, always consider that he or she might have been a convict—despite what you might have been told by elderly family members. If your convict was sentenced at the Old Bailey, a good website is <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/> while Van Diemen's Land convict records are available from the TAHO website <http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/database> but records of free arrivals are less detailed. Many wills are now also available on this site, and for newspapers see the National Library website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

Once you reach this stage in your research, it is probably time to return to your local branch library and search through overseas census returns to locate addresses, household members and neighbours. By the time you reach this stage, you will have progressed from having an interest in family history, to find it has become an obsession, and you will be writing articles for Tasmanian Ancestry outlining your problems and successes in research. ◀

# GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.3972)

**I**S your password secure? Most passwords people use are easily cracked. Do mix letters and numbers, lower and upper case. Don't use dates or names or words that have particular personal significance. For example use a friend's street name, or a cousin's house number not your own. Use passwords with at least six characters, eight is better. Never use the same password as for your email account especially on a site which requires your email as well. Change passwords regularly. This can be achieved by simply adding a number to the end and counting down. Choose a phrase or favourite book title and abbreviate it using initial letters or removing all the vowels.

## Sites of Interest

Information on the various musters and censuses in Australia

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/census.html>

Medieval Fines

<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/index.shtml>

Medieval soldiers

<http://www.icmcentre.ac.uk/soldier/database/search.php>

Nicely laid out quick reference guides for MS Office components

<http://www.customguide.com/computer-training/quick-references>

Surname groups across the UK in 1881 or 1998

<http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk/>

Lists of Australian award recipient

<http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/>

Irene Schaffer's website, Tasmanian & Norfolk Islanders

<http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schafferi/>

## Various Old Publications of Interest

Note the different formats they can be read in, or sent to an e-reader.

Description of silver fields at Zeehan and Dundas, published 1891

[http://openlibrary.org/books/OL23516802M/The\\_Wild\\_West\\_of\\_Tasmania\\_Being\\_a\\_Description\\_of\\_the\\_Silver\\_Fields\\_of\\_Zeehan\\_and\\_Dundas](http://openlibrary.org/books/OL23516802M/The_Wild_West_of_Tasmania_Being_a_Description_of_the_Silver_Fields_of_Zeehan_and_Dundas)

Diary of a working clergyman, published 1859

[http://openlibrary.org/books/OL1350078M/Diary\\_of\\_a\\_working\\_clergyman\\_in\\_Australia\\_and\\_Tasmania](http://openlibrary.org/books/OL1350078M/Diary_of_a_working_clergyman_in_Australia_and_Tasmania)

Official handbook of Tasmania published 1892

<http://www.archive.org/details/officalhandbook00justgoog>

List of prize winners in the Tasmanian International Exhibition, Launceston, 1891-92

[http://openlibrary.org/books/OL7246504M/Official\\_record\\_of\\_the\\_Tasmanian\\_International\\_Exhibition\\_held\\_at\\_Launceston\\_1891-92](http://openlibrary.org/books/OL7246504M/Official_record_of_the_Tasmanian_International_Exhibition_held_at_Launceston_1891-92)

James Bonwick's The Bushrangers, published 1856

[http://openlibrary.org/books/OL20443691M/The\\_Bushrangers\\_Illustrating\\_the\\_Early\\_Days\\_of\\_Van\\_Diemen's\\_Land](http://openlibrary.org/books/OL20443691M/The_Bushrangers_Illustrating_the_Early_Days_of_Van_Diemen's_Land)

Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh

<http://www.oldandnewedinburgh.co.uk/>



# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No. 4093)

**N**UMEROUS 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.

## **VOYAGE TO JAMAICA FROM TASMANIA 1845: Mary Yeoland's Diary**

This 27 page, A4 book, published in 1993, was edited by Irene Schaffer.

It contains the transcribed text of a diary written by Mary Blomfield Yeoland, who left Launceston in September 1845 with here parents aboard the *Tenassirim* bound for Mauritius. The family continued aboard the *Sea Gull* to Cape of Good Hope, the *Manchester* to Demerara, *Maid of Erin* to Barbados and the *Dart* to Jamaica.

They left behind, Mary's two brothers, George and William, who later married and settled in VDL.

## **THE MARSHALL BOYS— BROTHERS IN ARMS**

This A4 book was first published in 1999 by the author, Sally Watchorn.

The story of four brothers, from the Sorell area who joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse and fought in WW1.

Robert Blyth [Bob], Keith Palmer [Bill], Charles Stewart [Poss], and Norman George [Barney] Marshall all survived to return home in 1919.

This work contains a wealth of information about the boys and their part in

actions of the Light Horse. It is liberally illustrated with photographs of the men and the theatre of war in which they were involved.

## **PIONEER WOMEN PIONEER LAND: Yesterday's tall poppies**

Hardback, quarto book first published in 1987 by Angus & Robertson.

'Among the many women whose tenacity and courage helped to open up this country there were more than a handful who stood tall beside their sisters ...'

**Esther Johnston** (1771–1846); from First Fleet convict to Lieutenant Governor's Lady.

**Elizabeth Macarthur** (1767–1850); co-founder of the Australian Wool Industry.

**Emmeline Leslie** (1828–1902); the Duchess of Canning Downs.

**Mary McConnel** (1824–1910); founder of the Brisbane Children's Hospital.

**Georgiana McRae** (1804–1890); a Duke's daughter and award-winning artist in *The Antipodes*.

**Louisa Meredith** (1812–1895); pioneer writer, botanist, artist and conservationist.

**Frances (Fanny) Bussell** (1806–1881), **Mary Bussell** (1804–1887), **Elizabeth (Bessie) Bussell** (b.1812–d. England, date unknown), **Charlotte Cookworthy**

**Bussell** (b. date unknown–d. Paris, 1899); the female founders of Busselton.

**Georgiana Molloy** (1805–1842); the tragic 'Madonna of the Bush' and pioneer botanist of Western Australia.

**Mary Penfold** (1820–1896); pioneer of the South Australian wine industry.

**Caroline Louisa Atkinson** (1834–1872); a colonial Charlotte Bronte and talented artist.

**Mary Ann Friend** (b. date unknown–d.1838); the sad saga of the Swan River Settlement.

**Harriet Neville-Rolfe** (1850–1928); a professional artist at Alpha.

### **BOWSDEN JERICHO**

A 6-page, A4 manuscript produced in 1993 provides a short history of the foundation of the Tasmanian property and its owner, Dr John Hudspeth.

### **DOG OWNERS 1830: Being a list of persons who have given descriptions of their dogs at the Police Office, Hobart Town.**

An 11 page, A4 booklet compiled by Rosemary Davidson, published in 1993.

### **THE BAROSSA 1841–1842 or The Tailor's Tale: An account of the voyage of the Barossa 1841–1842 including a list of the 350 Convicts and the story of Henry Sandland, tailor and convict.**

A 32 page, A4 book compiled by Rosemary Davidson, published in 1993.

### **NEWS FROM THE MANNING: Rediscovered newspaper articles from Manning River Times 1869–1893 and Manning River News 1874–1887.**

This 153 page, A4 book compiled by Rod and Wendy Gow was published in 2010.

The articles of these NSW newspapers are transcribed in chronological order but are supported by an extensive alphabetical index at the end of the book.

### **MACFARLANE'S GENEALOGICAL COLLECTIONS**

This CD published in 2007, by Archive CD Books Australia, is a collection of genealogies of ancient Scottish families compiled originally in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century by Walter Macfarlane 'one of the

most laborious and accurate antiquaries of his age.' It was re-published in two volumes as Genealogical Collections Concerning Families in Scotland for 'private circulation' to members of the Scottish History Society in 1900 'with the special object of illustrating the History and Antiquities of Scotland'.

### **BERRIMA GAOL RECORDS 1840–47**

This 60 page, A4 book compiled by Kay Vernon and Billie Jacobsen was published in 2010.

It contains information derived from two indexes relating to this NSW Gaol; the **Berrima Gaol Entrance Book 1840–1842** and the **Berrima Gaol Description Book 1842–1847**.

Details include: ship to the colony, native place, aliases, and offences; where such information is known.

### **GOULBURN GAOL ENTRANCE BOOK 1847–1867**

This 67 page, A4 book compiled by Kay Vernon and Billie Jacobsen was published in 2010.

An alphabetical index of inmates received at this NSW gaol—includes: ship to the colony, native place, aliases and offences; where such information is known.

### **SHAMROCK IN THE CLOVER**

This paperback by Maureen Bennett was published in 1987. It contains a history of the Catholic parish of Deloraine (Tasmania); the Clergy and the members of the Congregation.

Some family history details have been provided by members of the following families: Burke, Cassidy, Charlesworth, Doyle, Enright, Gannon, Gleeson, Gowan, Griffin, Hay, Heffernan, Jago, Keane, Lewis, McCormack, McMahon, Powell, and Sullivan. ◀

# LIBRARY NOTES

## Society Microfiche Roster

	21/02/11	23/05/11	22/08/11	22/11/11	20/02/12
	20/05/11	19/08/11	18/11/11	17/02/12	18/05/12
<b>Burnie</b>	Set 3	Set 2	Set 1	Set 4	Set 5
<b>Devonport</b>	Set 4	Set 3	Set 2	Set 5	Set 1
<b>Hobart</b>	Set 5	Set 4	Set 3	Set 1	Set 2
<b>Huon</b>	Set 1	Set 5	Set 4	Set 2	Set 3
<b>Launceston</b>	Set 2	Set 1	Set 5	Set 3	Set 4

- Set 1** 1891 Census Indexes for Scotland  
**Set 2** GRO Consular Records Index.  
**Set 3** Griffith's Valuation for Ireland Series  
**Set 4** National Probate Calendars 1853–1943 and AGCI  
**Set 5** Old Parochial Records, Scotland and Lilian Watson Family History Award 2010 entries

## Devonport & Launceston Microfiche Roster

	21/02/11	23/05/11	22/08/11	22/11/11	20/02/12
	20/05/11	19/08/11	18/11/11	17/02/12	18/05/12
<b>Devonport</b>	Set 1	Set 1	Set 2	Set 1	Set 2
<b>Launceston</b>	Set 2	Set 2	Set 1	Set 2	Set 1

- Set 1** GRO BDMs Index 1943–1946  
**Set 2** GRO BDMs Index 1947–1950

## Society Sales

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Publications

Payment by Visa or MasterCard—now available (mail order only)

Mail orders (including postage) should be forwarded to:

Society Sales Officer, TFHS Inc., PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250

Books	Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 3 (p&p \$5.50).....	\$11.00
	Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 4 (p&p \$5.50).....	\$11.00
	Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 5 (p&p \$5.50) ** .....	\$25.00
	Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1–20 (p&p \$5.50) ** .....	\$22.50
	Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21–25 (p&p \$4.50) ** .....	\$15.00
	CD-Rom Tasmanian Federation Index (p&p \$2.50).....	\$231.00
	CD-Rom TAMIOT (p&p \$5.00) .....	\$50.00
	Microfiche TAMIOT (p&p \$2.00) .....	\$50.00

\*\* members discount applies

# LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

## Hobart Branch

### Accessions—Books

- \*Alexander, A; A Heritage of Welfare & Caring.
- ♣ Appeldorff, G; Memories of Collinsvale (Revised).
- \*Baker, Alan (Comp); Index to The Mercury Deaths—1973.
- ♣ Barnard, E; Exiled—The Port Arthur Convict Photographs.
- \*Beatty, Bill; Tasmania: Isle of Splendour.
- \*Bennett, M; Shamrock in the Clover.
- \*Brand, I; Macquarie Harbour Penal Settlements, 1822–33 & 1846–47.
- \*Broadbent, J; Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta.
- \*Bruny Island Community Ass. Inc; Bruny News Supplement: All from the Bruny News Feb 1996–Jun 1977.
- \*Buchanan, A; Children in the Colony 1826–7.
- \*Buckby, P; Around Circular Head.
- \*Burbury, Stephanie; *'Bowsden' Jericho*.
- \*Cargill, D; Berwickshire Monumental Inscriptions Vol. 3—The Western Parishes.
- \*Clark, A; A Collection of Shoalhaven History.
- \*Clarke, C M H; A History of Australia, Vol. II—NSW & VDL.
- \*Connolly, S J (Comp); The Public Record: Sources for Local Studies in the Public Record Office of Ireland.
- ♣ Cooper, I G; *Tasmania's Trolley Buses*.
- \*Coultsman-Smith; Town with a History—Beaconsfield, Tasmania.
- \*Cox, E (Comp.); Memorial Inscriptions in Caputh Graveyard.
- \*Cox, G W; Ships in Tasmanian Waters.
- ♣ Cox, R; Baptised in Blood—The shocking secret history of Sorell.
- \*Cumpston, J S; The Furneaux Group, Bass Strait, First Visitors 1797–1810.
- \*Davidson, Rosemary (Comp); *'The Barossa' 1841–1842 or The Tailor's Tale*.
- \*Davidson, Rosemary; Dog Owners 1830.
- \*Davis, B. Guide to Bruny Island History (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.).
- \*Day, D; Smugglers & Sailers.
- \*Devon Historical Society; Devonport 1890.
- \*De Vries, Susanna; Strength of Spirit: Pioneering Women of Achievement from First Fleet to Federation.
- \*De Vries-Evans, Susanna; *Pioneer Women, Pioneer Land: Yesterday's Tall Poppies*.
- ♣ Dunbabin, T; Making their own Way—The Dubabins on Maria Island, 1869–1876.
- \*Dunn, J; The Parramatta Cemeteries—*St. John's*.
- \*Emberg, B & J; Living Stones, Vol. I.
- \*Emberg, B & J; Living Stones, Vol. III.
- \*Evans, N; Roads to Water.
- \*Feldman, J; Gadsden—The First Hundred Years.
- \*Graeme-Evans, A. & M. Ross; A Short Guide (History) to Port Arthur 1830–77.
- \*Gowlland, R.W; *Some Van Diemen's Land Affairs*.
- \*Henderson, B (Ed.); Monuments & Memorials.

- \*Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes; The Hertfordshire Village Book.
- \*Highland Family History Society; Monumental Inscriptions—Croy Churchyard.
- \*Highland Family History Society; Monumental Inscriptions—Old Churchyard, Petty.
- \*Highland Family History Society; Monumental Inscriptions—Old High Church, Inverness.
- \*Hurley, Frank; Tasmania: A Camera Study.
- \*Jones, Paul, Maria & Barbara Johnston, Gwen Hardstaff; Jones, Benjamin & Mary (1772–1837) (1763–1838).
- \*Joy, W; The Exiles.
- \*Loney, J; Wrecks on King Island.
- \*Maclysaght, E; The Surnames of Ireland.
- \*Maddern, I T (Comp.); Light & Life—A history of the Anglican Church
- \*National Archives of Australia (Tas); Merchant Shipping Act Papers—Launceston Vessels, 1862–1948.
- \*Nixon, M & R Lefroy; Road to The Murchison.
- \*Nobbs, R; All Saints Church, Northern Island.
- \*Norris, K; *Australia's Heritage Sketchbook*.
- \*Phillips, D; Making More Adequate Provision.
- \*Pike, D; Paradise of Dissent—South Australia 1829–1857.
- \*Pink, Kerry; And Wealth for Toil: A history of North West and Western Tasmania 1825–1900.
- \*Perry, Dulcie M; The Place of Waters: A history of the first fifty years of Glenelg.
- \*Port Macquarie & Districts FHS; Port Macquarie—Hastings Pioneer Register, 1821–1900.
- \*Pownall, E; Mary of Maranoa.
- \*Reed, J; *Nugget's Place*.
- \*Reid, R & K Johnson; The Irish Australians.
- \*Robertson, S (Comp.); Memorial Inscriptions in Logier Church Yard.
- \*Robson, L; The Convict Settlers of Tasmania.
- \*Satchell, Tony; Linked By Chains and Lineage: Dunhill—Dove. A history of two Convict Families.
- \*Schaffer, Irene; *Derwent River Excursion: On board the 'Lady Nelson'*—Vol. 1, Sandy Bay–Battery Point–Kangaroo Point.
- \*Schaffer, I; Discovery of the Missing Deeds, Tasmania 1827–1828.
- \*Schaffer, Irene; Excursion—North Bruny Island.
- \*Schaffer, Irene; *Bothwell Excursion—20<sup>th</sup> October 1991*.
- \*Schaffer, Irene; *Mary Jane Cooke, Irish Immigrant, 'Windsor Castle' 1876 to Moreton Bay*.
- \*Schaffer, I; A Story of John & Elizabeth Faulkner.
- \*Schaffer, Irene (Ed.); Voyage to Jamaica from Tasmania—*Mary Yeoland's Diary*.
- \*Shaw, A G L (Ed.); Gipps—La Trobe Correspondence 1839–1846.
- \*Sheedy, K; The Tellicherry Five.
- \*Snowden, D; Caring for the Community, Hobart District Nursing Service Inc., 1896–1996.
- \*Spiers, S; The Kirkyard of Aboyne.
- \*Spiers, S; The Kirkyard of Crathe.

- \*Spiers, S; The Kirkyards of Glenmuck, Glentamar, etc.
- \*Stancombe, E H; *Highway in Van Diemen's Land*.
- \*Stewart, J; The Royal Highland Regiment (The Black Watch).
- \*Sullivan, C M (Comp.); Bowling Centennial.
- \*Taroona Historical Group; Taroona 1808–1986: Farm Lands to a Garden Suburb.
- TFHS Inc. Devonport; An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1984.
- TFHS Inc. Devonport; An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1984.
- TFHS Inc. Devonport; A Transcription of the Deloraine Public Cemetery.
- TFHS Inc. Devonport; A Transcription of the Deloraine Lawn Cemetery.
- \*TFHS Inc. Hobart; Undertakers of Hobart Vol. V: Index to Hooper & Burgess  
Funeral Records—Part 1, Sep 1935 to Dec 1954.
- \*‘Tiberius’; More Than a Century.
- \*Tutt, S; Sunshine Coast Heritage.
- \*van Sommers, T; Sydney Sketchbook.
- \*von Stieglitz, K; Entally.
- \*Vernon, K & B Jacobson; Berrima Gaol Records 1840–1847.
- \*Vernon, K & B Jacobson; Goulburn Gaol Entrance Book 1847–1867.
- \*Waight, Sally; Glenorchy Heritage Study—Stage Two.
- \*Watchorn, Sally; The Marshall Boys, Brothers in Arms.
- \*Webb, C; London Apprentices, Vol. 8—Gunmakers Company 1656–1800.

### **Accessions—Computer Disks**

- \*Archive CD Books UK; The Census of England and Wales—Sussex 1861.
- \*Archive CD Books UK; London Royal Blue Book 1860.
- \*Archive CD Books UK; *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections*.
- \*Archive CD Books UK; *Wise's NSW Post Office Directory 1900*.
- \*Eneclann; The 1848 Petitions (Irish Records Index Vol. 2)—The William Smith  
*O'Brian Petition*.

\*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

♠ Purchased through the Denise McNeice Memorial Fund.

## **Launceston Branch**

### **Accessions—Books**

- \*Baxter, Carol; Writing Interesting Family Histories.
- Barnard, Edwin; Exiled.
- Swan, Anita; Mount Direction A Mountain with a Message.
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; Undertakers of Hobart Vol. 5 Part 1.
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; Undertakers of Hobart Vol. 5 Part 2.
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; The Kelso Chronicle 1864–1865.

### **Accessions—Computer Discs**

- Police Gazette Index Tasmanian Compendium 1861–1933.
- Tasmanian Commonwealth Electoral Roll 1934.

# Mersey Branch

## Accessions—Books

TFHS Inc. Devonport, An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1984.

TFHS Inc. Hobart, Undertakers of Hobart Vol V - Index to Hooper & Burgess Funeral Records Part 1 - September 1935 - December 1954.

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## Accessions—Computer Disks

FFHS, National Burial Index for England & Wales Third Edition.

\*National Trust of Australia (Tasmania), Latrobe Photographic Database.

\*National Trust of Australia (Tasmania), Latrobe Photographic Database Supplementary CD.

\*Indicates donated item

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## **BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS**

**BURNIE** Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103  
Library 2 Spring Street Burnie  
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, 2 Spring Street Burnie 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.  
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am except January and February.

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**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 'Old police residence' 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)  
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.  
Meeting Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at or Branch Library in Latrobe at 10:30. Please check the website at [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com) for updates and any changes or contact our Secretary.

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**HOBART** Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527  
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 Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town, at 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

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

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

# 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 Society 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](http://www.tasfhs.org) or obtained from the TFHS Inc. Society 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. Society 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](http://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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# 31st Annual General Meeting

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*Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

ABN 87 627 274 157



*to be held at*

Axeman's Hall of Fame & Timberworks

1 Bell's Parade, Latrobe



Hosted by Mersey Branch, TFHS Inc.

**Saturday, 18 June 2011**

# 31st Annual General Meeting

## *Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

- 10:00 am            **Registration and morning tea**
- 10:25 am            Welcome by the President of Mersey Branch  
Presentation of 'Early Bird' Prize and  
Journal Article Competition
- 10:30 am            ***Peter Sims: One Family's Story***
- 11:20am            Tea/coffee break
- 11.30 am            **Father Terry Southerwood—*The Catholic Church—History and available records***
- 12:20                **Lunch**
- 1:15pm              **Wayne Smith—*Ripper Tassie Place Names***
- 2:30 pm              **Annual General Meeting**  
incorporating the presentation of the  
Lilian Watson Family History Award
- 3:00 pm              **Afternoon Tea**



*Book Stalls and new publications from Branches will be on offer during the day*

# Registration Form

Closing date for registration and payment is **1 June 2011**

The Branch Treasurer  
Mersey Branch TFHS Inc.  
PO Box 267  
LATROBE Tas 7307

Phone: 03 6428 6328  
email: secretary@tfhsdev.com

Name/s.....  
Address.....  
.....

I/we will be attending on Saturday, 18 June 2011

**Attendance cost, \$25.00 per person.  
Includes tea/coffee available throughout the day  
Cheque/money order \$.....is enclosed**

## Early Bird Prize

Register before **Tuesday 17 May 2011** and you could be in the draw for the President's Early Bird Prize.

**Please indicate by ticking options you will be attending:**

- Friday                      Library
- Saturday                    Dinner at Lucas' Hotel
- Sunday                      Sherwood Hall
- Sunday                      Library

# Options for AGM Weekend

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## Friday 17 June 2011

Mersey Branch library: open on Fridays, 11am until 3pm

For visitors coming to Latrobe for the weekend we can arrange later closing if we know in advance.

## Saturday 18 June 2011

**6.30pm** Meet at Lucas' Hotel, Gilbert Street, Latrobe for Dinner.

**7:00pm** **Dinner**  
Lucas's Hotel has a great menu, plus a 'specials' board.

As the hotel needs to know numbers in advance, please add a note to your registration form.  
Pay at the dinner.

## Sunday 19 June 2011

**10:30am** Assemble at Sherwood Hall to meet local historian **Mick Halley** who has been involved with the project from the outset.

This is an opportunity to hear the history of **Thomas Johnson and Dolly Dalrymple**

### **Alternatively:**

**10:30am** Our library will be open

*Information about accommodation options and attractions in Latrobe will be made available to Branches in time for March meetings*

Illustrations: Photos @The Axmans