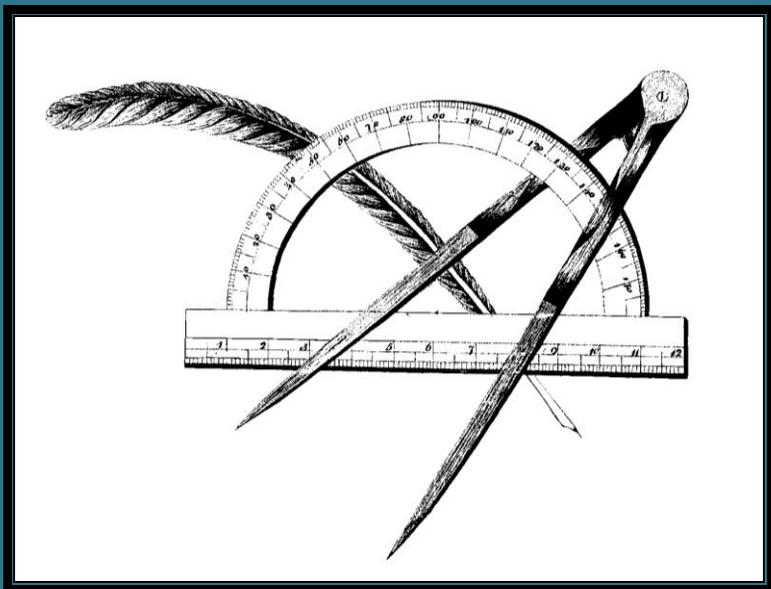


Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 33 Number 1—June 2012

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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

From the editor

A month or two ago it was arranged for a friend and I to visit the Information and Land Services Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to see what maps of the St John's Park, New Town, area were available. We learnt they were busy digitising their holdings with the aim of putting them online. With the wonders of a 'smart board' we were shown some beautiful and interesting maps with the capability of overlaying and building up an image displaying the changes and development in the area.

One was a beautifully drawn and painted map of land originally granted to Thomas Hayes in New Town. In 1816 it was owned by Thomas Luttrell who named it *Prospect Farm* and in 1823 by Bartholomew Broughton when it became known as *Newtown Park*. It was later acquired by Charles Swanston soon after his arrival in 1829. (It is worth re-reading *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol.32 No.2, p.87.)

This map was one of those produced by William Stanley Sharland (see page 34) with his 'logo' in the top right-hand corner. I left the building on a real high and would like to thank the two men who generously gave of their expertise and assistance to 'put us in the picture'.

Rosemary Davidson

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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Cover:
'Compass, Divider & Quill', copied from the original on Plan 14 Buckingham (by William Sharland, 1823) and reproduced with the kind assistance and permission of Information & Land Services Division, DPIPWE (see p.34)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ONCE again, I am writing this article in April for inclusion in the June journal. Branches are about to hold their Annual General Meetings and at the Society's AGM, new office bearers will take over the role of providing the services that we all enjoy.

I am advised Muriel and Betty Bissett (Secretary and Treasurer) will not be standing for Executive Officer positions at our AGM in June.

Muriel and Betty have become 'an institution' in our Society. For many of us (some with long periods of membership) they have always carried out the duties of these positions.

Tasmanian Ancestry for December 1997 first reported Muriel as Secretary whilst Betty appears as Treasurer in September 1988. I understand they have held these positions continuously ever since; except for one period (seven years ago) when they swapped roles for a year.

This remarkable achievement was carried out whilst also holding Executive Officer positions in the Launceston Branch; and at various times carrying out the work of Membership Secretary, State Sales Officer, *Tasmanian Ancestry* Editors, etc for shorter periods of time.

On your behalf, I thank them for all the effort they have put into these roles and their time freely given, that has been for the benefit of all members over the years.

What have we to look forward to in our next Society year?

I am advised by Artemis Films, in West Australia, that they have started production of the fifth Australian series of *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Hopefully we may see this very popular series 'go to air' towards the end of the calendar year.

Hobart Branch has reported that they have recently purchased new digital cameras and associated equipment, thanks to the generosity of the Clarence City Council's Community Support Grant.

A camera will be used by their CHAMP (Cemetery Headstones and Memorials Project) group to capture images. Perhaps the next municipality CD to be published in the *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania* series will be about Clarence.

Another camera will be used by a project group to store and preserve heritage information from various registers. I understand another volume in the series *Undertakers of Hobart* will be published shortly.

As this issue goes to press, I marvel at the dedication and hard work of our current Editor, Rosemary Davidson, who took on the role again 'just for one year' about four years ago. Thank you Rosie. ◀

Maurice Appleyard

Carr Villa Memorial Park

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TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch
PO Box 1290 Launceston TAS 7250
plus \$5.50 p&p
TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
plus \$5.50 p&p

Notice of Meeting

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

32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

is to be held on

Saturday 16 June 2012

at the

Town Hall, Church Street, Ross

commencing at 2:15 pm

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

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome by the President
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Presentation of the 2011 'Lilian Watson Family History Award'
- 4 Presentation of TFHS Inc. Awards
- 5 Confirm Minutes of the 2011 AGM
- 6 Business Arising
- 7 Reports
- 8 Election of Office Bearers and Endorsement of Branch Delegates
- 9 General Business:
 - i Annual General Meeting,
Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.—15 June 2013
Venue to be advised

Muriel Bissett
Society Secretary

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

President Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103

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Our first meeting for the year was on the third Tuesday night in February. The topic was the 'British Newspaper Archive' site. This site

is managed by the same company that manages 'Scotland's People' and 'Find My Past' so they have a lot of experience in this type of website offering. If you haven't seen the site the address is <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Our first day meeting for the year was 5 March when many of our regulars turned up to listen to a podcast from BBC Radio Scotland from the 'Digging up your Roots' series. These podcasts are available from time to time and are taken from the one hour broadcast hosted by Bill Whiteford. Each episode has a particular theme and the presenters answer questions provided by listeners.

It was decided for our March night meeting we would have a question/answer and problem solving session. Members were invited to send in aspects of family history that they were stuck on or general problems they had encountered with any aspect of their research. The request went out via our mailing list and responses came back. Two were selected and answers and solutions provided. We also had a look at the new online sync features in 'Family Tree Maker 2012'.

Our April day meeting was a session on looking at the different methods of capturing a digital image from the many coloured slides we all have in the back of the cupboard.

Our Library continues to be well patronised by members and visitors and a reminder to members if you want to use a computer at the branch to access 'Ancestry' or some of the other sites to which we subscribe, a booking is necessary. You need to visit the library on a Tuesday or Saturday to make a booking as the booking sheet is kept there.

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The year 2012 has started with much activity in the branch. Work has continued on copying and indexing the Catholic records

kindly loaned by the Catholic archives. Research requests are coming in fairly constantly, and visitors to the library are continuing at a reasonable rate, although there has been a slight decrease in numbers over the last few years. One worrying aspect of the branch's work is the fact that expenditure has exceeded income a little more, and we are slowly but surely eating into our financial reserves. Our committee is spending quite some time looking at ways of

increasing our income. Expenditure has already been pruned to essentials.

Thirty-six members and visitors attended the first meeting for 2012 to hear Tom Dunbabin's presentation, *Making their own way - The Dunbabins on Maria Island 1869-76*. Tom spoke about his desire to make the book a story—a family and social history—and not just a collection of facts. The presentation included background relating to the writing of the book and the resources used—including fifty letters held in the family, *Trove* (newspapers on-line) and how Excel was used to record and sequence events. The PowerPoint presentation included a collection of photographs and other images of Maria Island. Tom spoke of his family's lease of the whole Island—by brothers Tom and John who died at the age of 34 in 1875, after which the lease on the Island was not renewed.

Paul Kregor, a member of GST when it was affiliated with the Genealogical Society of Victoria, was the guest speaker at the March General Meeting. His talk titled 'Pittwater Families—Their part in our families', was a variation on the theme of his 2011 Bowen Lecture: 'Macquarie Land Grants 1811 to 1816: Families of the Pittwater, Coal Valley and Clarence Plains'. In his talk to the branch, Paul gave a detailed description of the conditions and establishment of the Sorell district as a food bowl for the Hobart settlement due to the unreliability of food arrivals from Sydney. This and the arrival of Norfolk Islanders provided the impetus for land grants to be made. The allocation of land grants was a tedious process with some farmers occupying (and farming) their land for three to five years before the paperwork was completed, much of it under Macquarie's watch in 1813. People in

authority in the colony used their influence to secure for themselves grants of some of the best land, but often acted as absentee landlords and used free convict labour and appointed overseers. For less important people the grants of 20 acres—a viable size in England—were too small for anything other than bare subsistence farming and many recipients were lacking in farming skills. The success rate was low. The talk included stories of some of the early settler families of the Pittwater area.

My thanks go to our secretary, Howard Reeves, for the notes on guest speakers.

General Meetings

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

Speakers planned for the next few meetings are:

Tuesday 19 June: Craig Joel—'Sir John Franklin and John Montagu—A Tale of Ambition and Unrealised Hope.'

Tuesday 17 July: Patrick Howard—'Early West Coast History and Pioneering Families.'

Tuesday 21 August: John Morse—'Tracing My Ancestors into China.'

Tuesday 18 September: TBA

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 or 6260 2515.

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

Huon

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No report received

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The last committee meeting with Judy as president was held on Tuesday, 3 April and whilst we are sad to see her leave for the mainland, we wish Judy and Lloyd a wonderful time of retirement and pursuing interests that have been 'on hold' for too long. Judy, you will be greatly missed!

Russell Watson who has been a former committee member and continued to act

as our publicity officer, is now in the Chair. Welcome, Russell as the new President! We are pleased to report two new members on the committee and willing delegates to Society meetings.

Requests for research in the Launceston Branch area continue to flow in and have kept the volunteers very busy. This is an excellent source of income for the Branch; if any local member has time to spare, their help with research as well as typing indexes etc would be much appreciated.

Work is continuing on *The Tasmanian Mail* and the *Weekly Courier* indexing. The next volume of *Weekly Courier* (1918) is now out and Volume 11, 1919 is well on the way. The latest volume of *Tasmanian Mail*, also released in June will cover 1931. The end, 1935, is so near, yet so far!

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

Wednesday 20 June: 2pm: BRANCH meeting: 'Researching on FamilySearch', Computer Room, Adult Education Centre, York Street

Wednesday 18 July: 2pm BIG, Computer Room, Adult Education Centre, York Street

Wednesday 15 August: 2pm BIG, Computer Room, Adult Education Centre, York Street

Wednesday 19 September: 2pm BIG, Computer Room, Adult Education Centre, York Street.

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

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In February some members of our library went on a tour of Port Sorell and surrounding districts. The tour began at the highest point in

Port Sorell, where the Bowls Club now stands. After morning tea we boarded a bus and headed off on a journey back in time, which had us weaving about the local district. We passed a farm house where some of the outbuildings were used as a gaol. We went to where the Heidelberg Inn stood as well as hardware shop, grocer, wheelwright and blacksmith's shop. It is all gone and hard to believe it was there. As there was a large number of German immigrants in the area, it was named Heidelberg, but at the outbreak of World War I the name was changed to Harford. Port Sorell also played a big part in shipping history.

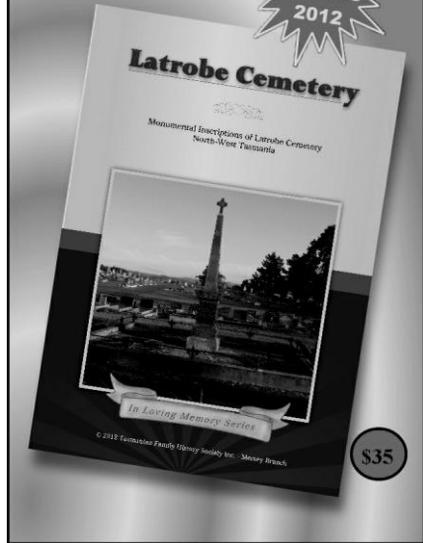
There is much to learn about this district. The tour starts at 10:00 and finishes around 3:00. Morning tea and lunch are included for a small fee. If anyone is interested in the tour please phone the branch secretary for details. This is a tour not organized by our branch.

By the time you receive this journal the New Year for the society would have started. Our branch has been busy with new publications. Please keep watch on our branch website and we welcome any ideas for outings and speakers.

When was the last time you visited our library? Call in and visit us soon. ◀

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
Mersey Branch
117 Gilbert Street,
Latrobe, Tasmania 7307

New
Release
2012



Admission to Townsville Orphanage c.1879–c.1911

Now Available Online

The Queensland State Archives has placed the admission register and index to admissions for the Townsville Orphanage online.

You will find the index at:

<http://bit.ly/HxaSbY>

Previously published in QFHS
'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER" April 2012
Vol.12 No.4

PAYING FOR THE SCHOOL PIANO

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)

ABAZAR was held over two days in January 1867 in the old church in aid of the Hagley Public School. Eight fat sheep, two pigs, fat geese, turkeys, pure Dorking fowls, canaries and rabbits were drawn for in sweeps. A number of stalls were set up, with a high arch erected over the front of each. One novelty on the stall provided by Lady DRY was a gypsy encampment. On the stall of Mesdames BOUTCHER and BEVERIDGE a stool beautifully ornamented with bead work, and the representation of a dog on worsted work, framed, were much admired. £192/8/4½ was realised.¹

Most readers will remember having participated in fundraising activities during their own school days, and many will also remember having helped organise or contribute to such events in their adulthood. Fund raising has always been part of school culture. As early as 1854, the Rules and Regulations of the Tasmanian Board of Education stated that the inhabitants of any community seeking to receive public funding for the erection or renting of a building to be used as a school house or teacher's residence must contribute at least one third of the cost involved from their own local resources.²



In addition to building funds, schools also looked to the public for contributions towards the provision of additional materials and equipment.

Today, in the quest to find new ways of tempting people to make financial contributions, school organisations can be aided by suggestions from professional agencies that specialise in trying to make the process easier. Internet sites

abound now with advertisements by companies that

offer creative and diverse ideas, along with more traditional strategies, to groups wishing to raise money for their special cause. Not-for-profit group and institution mailboxes can be filled with glossy brochures which provide suggestions for raising

maximum dollars: '-athons', fun runs, pre-packaged food products (chocolates, pizzas, pies, lamingtons), tokens, items of clothing, useful trinkets, books, raffles to win luxury homes, cars and holidays ... The ideas are endless, it seems. And don't forget the humble hamburger-/sausage sizzles, social functions and trivia nights.

This article aims to give readers a snapshot of school fundraising motivators and methods of the past. It is interesting to note that some of the ideas used then are still popular today. And who knows, some readers may even be reminded of a good idea that they can take to their next

¹ *Launceston Examiner*, 11 January 1867

² Government Notice No.17, Colonial Secretary's Office, *Government Gazette*, 7 February 1854

fundraising committee meeting for consideration.

The building fund

By April 1878, community members of Penguin Creek were raising money towards the erection of a new public school and teacher's residence. To that end, a bazaar was held in the large hall at Jenkins' Hotel, realising £30. A wide range of useful and fancy articles were arranged on three stalls presided over by Misses PATON, CLERKE, RAYMOND, COCKER, MAXEY and LODDER. Misses PARSONS and HALES and Mrs JOHNSON took charge of the refreshments stall. The following evening, a concert was held in the Temperance Hall.³

Senior scholars from Burnie State School held a bazaar in December 1887 to provide funds for improving the playground, supply gymnasium, swings, croquet lawn and other means of recreation for children attending the school. A total of £19/1/- was raised.⁴ What grand dreams some of those were for a school playground during that era! Needless to say, the ideas did not all mature to reality, but no doubt the money raised was put to useful purpose.

End-of-year prizes

The awarding of prizes to scholars as a means of recognising hard work and reinforcing appropriate conduct has been a long-established practice in schools. Funds were raised to pay for such awards through a variety of means, the school concert being one of the most popular.

At Ouse in 1904, the King's birthday was kept up by a large picnic given for the pupils of the school by parents and leading residents. A concert was held in the evening at the recently re-opened

Town Hall, which had been in the hands of builders for some time. An additional fourteen feet had been added to its length, and a spacious supper room had been built. A special feature of the evening was a display of dumb-bell drill and club swinging, which reflected great credit on the children and their teacher. The children, with coloured streamers, formed a pretty sight, which delighted the audience. After the concert, dancing was kept up till daylight. The proceeds of the concert went towards the cost of end-of-year prizes to be presented to the school children.⁵

A successful euchre tournament was held in the Ormley State School in December 1914 to provide funds for prizes for the school children. A good supper was handed round, and the singing of 'Sons of the Sea' and the National Anthem brought a pleasant evening to a close.⁶ Euchre evenings remained popular as a fundraiser in many schools throughout the State for decades, and were frequently held in conjunction with a dance.

The piano fund

As singing and music became a more established part of the curriculum, school communities responded to requests from teachers to purchase a piano, or sometimes an organ. The costs involved were considerable, and fund raising over a lengthy period of time usually was required to meet the debt.

The Deloraine State School held a Fair in December 1906 to raise money towards the piano fund. Entertainments included chip carving exhibits by the scholars, picture gallery, electric battery, guessing peas, guessing dolly's name, art gallery, fancy goods, patriotic stall for boys, cakes, books, confectionery, produce,

³ *Launceston Examiner*, 29 April 1878

⁴ *The Mercury*, 17 December 1887

⁵ *The Mercury*, 15 November 1904

⁶ *The Examiner*, 8 December 1914

flowers, fairy bower, cordials, plum puddings, post office, messengers, lolly box weight guessing, and afternoon tea.⁷

A successful juvenile fancy dress ball was staged in the Moorina Town Hall in August 1905 in aid of that school's piano fund.⁸ Fancy dress balls were often remembered fondly by former pupils as one of the highlights of their school years. It seems that children and adults alike have always liked to dress up and indulge in make-believe for one night, at least.

A quick perusal of the newspapers printed after the turn of the twentieth century across the State provides detailed description of this popular means of raising funds, and frequently includes the names of participants and the characters they represented. The balls were enjoyed at all economic levels, but it seems that home-made costumes were the norm. For example, sometimes there was a competitive section for best paper costume. Crepe paper was cheap and used extensively to add form and colour to outfits. It could be glued, pinned, taped or sewn, and deft hands would stretch and shape it with finesse. Parents hoped that it did not rain on the night of sallying forth their young folk, as the paper would stain if it became wet. It was also advisable to wear respectable undergarments when dressed in the

product, just in case of unforeseen accidents!

There was usually a grand march for which the children had been trained, sometimes for several weeks in the lead-up to the event. On the night, proud parents jostled for a vantage position on the sidelines, the whole of the space provided for spectators crowded as each onlooker speculated about the merits of the individual costumes. At Bream Creek State School's Ball in 1908, it was reported that all shades of society were represented, ranging from the King and his courtiers, to the butcher and his boy.⁹

Sewing machines

For well over one hundred years, the teaching of sewing to girls from the youngest ages up was an accepted part of the school curriculum in Tasmania. Plain hand needlework was the most widely taught but, as the decades unfolded, consideration was given to the incorporation of



more modern techniques as well. Learning to use a treadle sewing machine thus became a requirement of Education Department courses for older girls. Teachers looked to their local community members to assist with the provision of the machines.

A largely attended and successful dance was held in Fitzgerald public hall in 1929 in aid of the State School sewing machine fund. The promoters were the members of the Parents' and Friends' Association. Music was provided by Mrs J O

⁷ *The North Western Advocate*, 26 December 1906

⁸ *The Mercury*, 24 August 1905

⁹ *The Mercury*, 2 November 1908

GOURLAY and Messrs C WILLIAMS and W and R MARRIOTT. The net proceeds were about £7.¹⁰

An enjoyable social was conducted in the Triabunna Hall in 1924 in aid of the local State School's sewing machine fund. The sum of £5/5- was taken clear of expenses, which amounted to 15 shillings. The first items were those of Miss GARRITY, Edith HOWELLS and Dudley LUTTRELL. A selection was given on the fife by Master Jack KEOGH and other school boys. Mrs CAHILL's music pupils gave items, and the school children gave three patriotic choruses, which were rendered heartily.¹¹

Library books

Past annual Inspectors' Reports on individual schools sometimes are useful for studying trends and ideas that received emphasis at different times in the development of the Tasmanian education system. By the beginning of the twentieth century, it was common for inspectors to record in such reports the number of books contained in a school's library collection.¹² This, of course, placed pressure on teachers to try to increase the size of the library, and fundraising efforts sometimes concentrated on that target.

The quiet village of Alberton was the scene of a large gathering of parents and visitors from Ringarooma and New River, Alberton in 1923 on the occasion of a sports program organised by the school committee to raise funds for a school library. Much interest was shown in the wood chopping contest, the nail

driving for the ladies, and the races for the children.¹³

In 1932, the Stanley State School Parents' Association held a pedlars' parade in the Town Hall to raise funds for library books. This followed their previous efforts to bolster such funds through holding a euchre tournament and also a street stall.¹⁴

Wider general funds

A range of school causes, including playground and gardening equipment, wireless sets, film projectors, tape recorders, cameras and other such technology, were identified for fund raising as the years progressed. Sometimes the goal of such activities was simply identified as being for general school funds.

A touching purpose for the raising of school funds was noted in a newspaper report in 1935, when it was stated that the members of the newly formed Mothers' Club at Campbell Street State School in Hobart were focussing their efforts on feeding and clothing malnourished and needy children in their school. Up to that time, the mothers had held two dances to find the money necessary to provide soup daily during the winter months. It was also the intent of Club members to buy sufficient flannel material to make and provide each of the fifty-three nominated needy children on their list with two new warm undergarments.¹⁵

Ideas for seeking financial donations seem never ending, including differing forms of beauty parades that were popular fundraisers, particularly prior to society's more recent attention to gender equity and political correctness. For

¹⁰ *The Mercury*, 13 August 1929

¹¹ *The Mercury*, 5 June 1924

¹² See Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office: ED31 series

¹³ *The Examiner*, 6 June 1923

¹⁴ *The Advocate*, 24 September 1932

¹⁵ *The Mercury*, 6 August 1935

example, a queen carnival was staged by the Glenorchy Parents' Association in 1929 to raise funds for the school, the result realising £109/9/-. The event was brought to a conclusion in the Lyric Hall, Glenorchy with the crowning of the Queen of Progress, June WICKS, who was responsible for raising approximately £40. The Queen of Lavender, Mary STOWE, who raised about £30, also took part in the ceremony. The queens paraded round the hall accompanied by several 'princesses' and attendants, the Queen of Queens being attired in white and gold, and the Queen of Lavender and her entourage in white and lavender. They marched to the stage where the queens were enthroned. A crown was placed on the winner's head, and both girls were presented with a gold bangle from the Parents' Association. The queens and their attendants were then rewarded with boxes of chocolates. The training of the children for the ceremony was carried out by Mrs MARTIN and Miss MCGUIRE.¹⁶

Another twist to the beauty contest theme also used to boost school coffers is exemplified as follows: A very successful Fair and ugly man's contest was held in 1927 to raise funds for the Myalla State School Parents' and Friends' Association. The six stalls of the fair each ran an ugly man and so healthy competition was aroused among the stallholders. The participants were Neil ELPHINSTONE,

Adam ELPHINSTONE, Mr LAWSON, Mr J S MASLIN, Mr TAYLOR and Mr HARDMAN. Following a properly scrutinised count of votes, Mr Maslin, the school's Head Teacher, was crowned king of the ugly men and presented with a pocket wallet.¹⁷

Yet another aspect of the people pageant was the baby competition. This could take the form of real babies being sponsored by committees to raise money through a variety of means, or the more common way of photographs of beautiful babies being used to attract a vote by payment result.

Today, the competition is usually based on guessing who can identify correctly well-known

figures (such as school staff) from a selection of baby photos. In 1945,

the East Devonport State School Parents' Association raised

£342/14/4 towards school funds when four committees gave support to four babies: Pamela

ROBINSON, Esme

ATKINSON, Brenda JEFFREY and Beverley IVORY. On the finals night, the four mothers and their babies entered a crowded hall where they were presented with posies and gifts. Following the announcement of baby Robinson as the winner, a concert was provided by local artists. After supper, a dance was held.¹⁸

Events based on the provision of food have always been crowd-pleasers, and many have been mentioned previously in this article. One more seems worth a



¹⁶ *The Mercury*, 11 June 1929

¹⁷ *The Advocate*, 10 March 1927

¹⁸ *The Advocate*, 2 July 1945

mention. The Lilydale Parents' Association held a successful American tea in the Druids' Hall, Lilydale in 1932 for the purpose of augmenting their funds.¹⁹ American teas enjoyed popularity for a number of decades in Tasmanian fundraising circles, and references to their success usually included mention of the different stall holders at such events.

In Conclusion

Fundraising for school causes is a long-established practice, its results, over the years, providing scholars with many additional and often essential resources and support. It is interesting to reflect that a number of the ideas used to raise money have been based on providing social occasions and public entertainments within communities. In our ancestors' times, when people were often more geographically isolated, having a worthwhile, enjoyable reason to come together was an important motivator for participation. Today, in times when people are more connected geographically, but sometimes still exist in a social vacuum, fundraising events can continue to provide a sense of community. Many money making activities involving children and adults, as ever, include an element of fun or excitement, and it is no wonder that we remember our participation in such events so favourably. Tasmanian schools and their pupils still benefit greatly from the generosity shown through community fundraising efforts, and we all remain indebted to the organisers and helpers, past and present, who have made or make such functions possible. ◀

¹⁹ *The Mercury*, 15 September 1932

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VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS: 'A BOY NAMED HENRY OSBORNE'

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

BETWEEN 1828 and 1879, more than 400 children died in the Orphan Schools at New Town. Many of the children died from infectious diseases, exacerbated by crowded conditions in the institution. Others died accidentally.

One of the most haunting deaths was that of Henry OSBORNE, son of convict Martha Osborne, who arrived with his mother on the *Sir Robert Seppings*. Henry was admitted to the Orphan School when he was four on 19 July 1854. His mother, Martha, was tried at Wells Quarter Sessions on 25 March 1851 and was transported for seven years for larceny (stealing brass). A dairymaid from Somerset aged 34, Martha was single, with one child, when she arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 8 July 1852.¹ Shortly after she arrived, Martha was at the hospital and sent from there to the House of Correction where she was assigned to G. D. GALBRAITH at Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital. In November 1853, she was assigned to STRUTT in Bathurst Street.² Martha had no colonial offences and she was granted a ticket-of-leave on 6 June 1852 and recommended for a conditional pardon on 24 October 1854. This was approved the following year, on 14 August 1855; this is the last record of her.

Henry was three when he arrived with his mother from England, and old enough to be admitted to the Orphan Schools. Martha's convict indent records the name of Henry's father, and adds that she had a brother, Henry, at her native place.

Henry died on 16 September 1860, aged eleven, after eight years in the Orphan Schools.³ He was buried two days later in the St John's Burial Ground at New Town, with nothing to indicate his place of burial.

An inquest was held into Henry's death and its findings were published in *The Mercury*:

An inquest was hold at the Queen's Orphan School, on the 18th instant, to enquire into the death of a boy named Henry Osborne, 11 years of age, an inmate of the institution, who died on the previous Sunday, it was supposed from the effects of eating stearine candles, containing a small quantity of arsenic. After a careful investigation before A. B. JONES, Esq., and an intelligent jury, a verdict was returned of died from natural causes, namely, pleuro-pneumonia. This decision was based on the evidence was based on the evidence of Drs. CROWTHER and BENSON, the former of whom made a post-mortem examination and discovered the marks of inflammation in the lungs, with consequent congestion in the brain. The case excited considerable interest from the fact of forty-five boys being affected with similar symptoms with the deceased, although in a milder form.

¹ TAHO, CON41/1/34 Martha Osborne *Sir Robert Seppings* 1852 No.130 Image 152; CON15/1/7 pp.281-281 Image 284-2851 CON19/1/10 Image 142

² 'Strutt's Cottage' still exists in Bathurst Street, Hobart.

³ RGD 25 Hobart 2417/1860 (16 September 1869): Henry Osborne

We may add, that no blame was attached to the officers of the institution.⁴

An account of Henry's death was considered sufficiently unusual to be published in at least two intercolonial newspapers, the *Empire* and the *South Australian Advertiser*.⁵ The latter recorded:

SINGULAR DEATH IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

The Hobart Town Mercury of the 19th of September contains the following strange report of a coroner's inquest:

An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at the Queen's Orphan School, New Town, before A. B. Jones, Esq., Coroner, to enquire into the death of Henry Osborne, aged 11 years and 2 months, an inmate of the establishment, who died on the 16th instant.

The Coroner explained the nature of the case to the Jury, to the effect that it had been reported to him that the deceased had died under somewhat strange circumstances, and that 23 of the children were similarly affected. It had been supposed that the illness had arisen from the boys eating the ends of composition candles.

William Pennefather LATHAM, head schoolmaster, having been sworn, and deposed to a view of the body of the deceased, said—The deceased had been in the establishment ever since I have been here. The deceased has partaken of the same food as the other children. He was admitted into the hospital before tea on the 14th, and died on the morning of the 16th. He complained of headache. There were lights burnt in the dormitory—composition candles or stearine. I kept the key of the dormitory. Forty-five boys had been ill, of whom twenty-six were in No. 2 dormitory.

By a Juror—The boy had previously enjoyed good health.

Jas. M. QUINN stated that he had sent some boys to the hospital; they complained of pain in the head and stomach, and were sick. The moment a boy was ill he was sent to the matron, who had him removed immediately to the hospital, where he remained until he was discharged by the medical officer. Witness had charge of the keys of No. 2 dormitory at night. The candles burnt were composition candles.

Mrs. Ann BOURNE, sub-Matron of the Establishment, said—I sent the deceased to the hospital on the evening of the 14th, about tea time at 5 o'clock. He was not discharged thence before the doctor saw him. Boys were never discharged before the doctor saw them. The boy died on Sunday last. Dr. Benson saw the deceased the same evening. The candles were placed in the dormitory lanterns by the housemaid. The lanterns were then locked, and the keys were handed to the masters. The lanterns were cleaned by the housemaid not by the boys.

Sarah ROLLINSON, nurse in the hospital at the Orphan School, deposed to the deceased coming into the hospital on Friday evening. He said he was sick and had a pain in his chest. Witness asked him if he had been eating candles, and he said yes. He held up the first joint of his forefinger, and said he had eaten about half the size of that. Several other boys had been admitted into the hospital, all but three said they had been eating pieces of candles. Some told witness without asking, and the others she asked. Some of the boys said they got the pieces of candle out of the yard, and others said they picked the bits which they had stuck to the lanterns. There are lanterns used in the hospital, and witness cleaned them in her own room. The deceased had a cold and cough about two months ago. He had been employed as an assistant in the

⁴ *The Mercury* 21 September 1860 p.3

⁵ *Empire* 26 September 1860 p.3

hospital, and was so employed from Monday to Friday.

Dr. W. Benson, Superintendent of the Queen's Orphan Schools, stated—I find from the books that the deceased had been in the establishment since the 19th July, 1853. He was admitted into the hospital on Friday evening, and complained of headache, in the stomach, and sickness. He was vomiting. His pulse was small, sharp, and quick. There was great drowsiness, with coldness of the extremities. I directed the use, both externally and internally, of stimulants, and I saw that these remedies were applied. These means were used, but without rousing the boy from the state of stupor, checking the vomiting, or increasing the vital power. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th, titanic muscular action (spasms and cramp) first appeared and convulsions ensued, and continued till midnight, when they ceased, and the boy died. I omitted to mention that from the first he had a peculiar tallowy appearance of countenance, with an unnaturally brilliant appearance of the eyes, whenever he opened them, which was seldom. He was not conscious at all times. He told me he had been eating candles, and said he had eaten a piece the previous Saturday. He did not say what kind of candle. He must have known that other boys had eaten candles. He said it was the burnt end of the candle that he ate—about an inch in length. Eighteen boys had been previously affected, and in all 45 had been attacked. All had headaches, and the greater number sickness. All had been partaking of the same food, and of water from the same source, and so have the rest of the establishment, including the officers, but no symptoms of a similar character had yet appeared either on the girls' or infants' side, or among the officers or their servants. The piece of candle now produced was of the same kind as those used in the establishment. I was not present at the

post mortem examination, but I saw that the brain was vascular and the lungs congested. I should say that this was the cause of death. Such appearances are sometimes compatible with death from arsenic. I do not speak from experience, but from reports of cases. The symptoms of the deceased were also compatible with pneumonia, which would produce congestion of the lungs. The dormitory is ventilated by fans, and by openings in the walls. In my opinion the dormitories are not sufficiently ventilated. There are three candles in each dormitory which are kept alight all night.

Dr. TURNLEY said—At the request of Dr. Crowther I made an analysis of the stomach of the deceased for the detection of arsenic. I am of opinion that no arsenic was present in the tissues of that organ. I also analyzed a portion of the stearine candles, manufactured by Howard & Co., of London, and in these I was unable to detect the presence of arsenic. I firmly believe that those candles do not contain arsenic. The candles were the same which Dr. Crowther received from Dr. Benson.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict:—Died from natural causes, namely, Pleuro-pneumonia. The jury attached a rider to the verdict—calling the attention of the Government to the insufficient ventilation of the dormitories.⁶

Details between the newspaper reports vary, particularly in regard to the composition of the candles. None consider, however, why the boys were eating candles: was it for a mischievous dare? Were they simply hungry? The answer will probably never be known. The circumstances surrounding young Henry's brief life and shocking death highlight the vulnerability of those in the Orphan Schools. ◀

⁶ *South Australian Advertiser* 3 October 1860 p.3

A Memorial Garden acknowledging the children who died in the Orphan Schools was officially opened by Aileen ASHFORD, Commissioner for Children, on Sunday 26 February 2012. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Orphan School descendant, Mrs Shirley KERIN. A presentation was made to Joyce PURTSCHER, in recognition of her meticulous research over many years on the lives of the orphans. The Memorial Garden was established by the Friends of the Orphan Schools, St John's Park Precinct, a community group formed under the umbrella of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmanian). Plaques naming the children who died at the Orphan Schools will be progressively added. Contributions are welcome.

www.orphanschool.org.au



top
Shirley Kerin and Aileen Ashford
at the unveiling ceremony

right
The plaque and section of the
Memorial Garden

Photographs ©
Friends of the Orphan Schools



MY GRANDFATHER HENRY WATSON'S ANGLO-INDIAN FAMILY

Paul Edwards (Member No.6425)

MY grandfather Henry Claye Watson's family links with India go back to the 17th and 18th centuries. He was born in Calcutta in 1870 and came to Tasmania as a two-year-old orphan. Proud of his family links to British India, he named his Nabowla properties *Calcuttaville* and *Fowkestone*. However it appears that he was largely unaware of his connection to the FOWKE, MASKELYNE, WALSH and CLIVE family members who played significant roles in 18th century India.

Watson and Furlonge Family Emigration to Tasmania

My grandfather, Henry Watson, was born in Fort William, Calcutta. His parents were Lieutenant Colonel William Watson of the 9th Bengal Native Infantry, and Isabella Fowke, the impoverished granddaughter of a second generation nabob. He arrived in Tasmania from England in 1873 as an orphan with his adoptive parents, his cousin Laura Furlonge (née RYVES) and her husband Charles FURLONGE. His father, William Claye Watson, an officer in the Bengal Army, had died in Calcutta in 1869 aged 53, of 'febril Intmt with Agonic decline of the heart & kidneys', and had been buried in Fort William. His mother Isabella returned to England where she died of tuberculosis two years later aged only 32.¹ Her father, Charles Fowke, the son of wealthy nabob, Francis Fowke of

Boughrood Castle, Radnorshire, had migrated to Braidwood, New South Wales in 1866 with his daughter Matilda and son Edward. His sister Elizabeth BELL had moved there in 1840 with her husband Thomas, previously surgeon-superintendent to the convict ships *Eliza*, *Portsea* and *Prince George*.²

It seems that both Charles Furlonge and Charles Fowke had fallen on lean times and had migrated to the colonies in order to better their financial circumstances. Charles Furlonge wrote an account of his experiences as an emigrant which was first published under the title *Emigration to Tasmania* and later as *A settler in Tasmania*.³

The Furlonges initially settled on a ninety acre property at Myrtle Bank, adjacent to properties later taken up by the SKEMP and BULMAN brothers.⁴ Skemp refers to Charles Furlonge as 'a retired civil servant from Ireland—one of the Dublin Castle gentry' and goes on to write that he

lost all he had, including his commuted pension, in a wild cat mining venture, and

¹ Frances Parsons, 'The Making of One Tasmanian', Hobart, 2006, p.12; Veda M Veale, private communication; James Moore, private communication.

² Eileen and Harry Green, *The Fowkes of Boughrood Castle: A study in social mobility*, Tenby, 1973, pp.27–9

³ Charles Furlonge, *A Settler in Tasmania 1873-1879*, Sullivan's Cove, Tasmania, 1982. First published anonymously in 1879 under the title *Emigration to Tasmania*.

⁴ J R Skemp, *Memories of Myrtle Bank*, Melbourne, 1952; Julian Burgess, *The Outcome of Enterprise, Launceston's Waverley Woollen Mills*, Friends of the Library, Launceston, 2010

the Myrtle Bank property passed into the hands of a trading bank.

However he would have retained the carriage of Henry Clay Watson's Bengal military orphan's pension, initially £24, rising to 44 guineas annually.⁵ The boundaries of his old property, now a timber plantation, are still intact. The Furlongs then moved down the hill to the Lisle goldfields and later settled closer to Nabowla after the Lisle gold rush ended.

Henry Watson served in the police force until 1897. During that time he selected land at Nabowla following the end of the gold rush, married Ada Grace WADLEY of Bracknell in 1894 and built his first home *Calcuttville* south of the railway line, between Lisle Creek and the Little Forester River. The nearby railway siding came to be known as 'Calcutta Siding' or 'Little Calcutta'. He purchased his second home, *Bankton*, from George PEDDLE, of 'Peddle Chair' fame. He named his third and last Nabowla home *Fowkestone* after his maternal family, where he and Ada raised a family of twelve and which he farmed until his death in 1943. He was evidently proud of his Indian connections although his knowledge of them would have been rather limited.

The Watsons in 19th century India

My grandfather first became aware of his parentage, Indian birth and adoption rather late in his youth when he applied to join the police force and was obliged to produce a birth certificate. He apparently only then discovered that his deceased parents were Lieutenant Colonel William Clay Watson of the Bengal Army and Isabella Henrietta Fowke, daughter of Charles Fowke who had himself migrated to Braidwood a few years before the death of his daughter and son-in-law.

My great-grandfather, William Clay Watson, was born in 1817. Like his son Henry, he was born in Fort William, Calcutta. He was 21 years older than Isabella Fowke, who presumably had travelled to India, like many other young English women before and after her, to seek a husband, a practice that continued into the 20th century. They married in 1861. He had entered the Bengal Army as an ensign in 1839 and followed in the Indian Army



Ada Grace Watson (née Wadley) and Henry Clay

footsteps of his father Lieutenant Colonel Richard Augustus Clay Watson, two uncles, and a grandfather, Major) William Watson, who had joined the East India company army in 1768 following service in the British army in the West Indies. William Watson married Catherine Clay(e) in 1780, probably in Calcutta and fought in the Mahratta Wars, apparently with distinction, being formally presented with 'a highly caparisoned white charger'

⁵ Parsons, p.16

by the colonel of his regiment.⁶ The East India Company, Bengal, and Indian armies generally had a better structured promotion system than the British Army, where commissions were for sale to the highest bidder.⁷ Despite the lower professional and social status, this would presumably have made Indian Army service attractive to minor gentry like the Nottinghamshire Watsons.



Lieutenant-Colonel William Claye Watson at left and Isabella Henriette Watson, née Fowke above

Passages to India: The Fowke, Walsh, Maskelyne and Clive families in India

The earliest mention of the Fowke family in India is of Randall Fowke (1673–1745) who was in the Honourable East India Company’s service in the ‘gunroom crew’ of Fort St George, Madras, in 1701.⁸ He married Anna MAY, the

daughter of ‘a Portuguese gentleman and a native of Bombay’, sired four children, became a trader in diamonds, and rose to become second in council to the Governor of Bengal.⁹ His three surviving sons, Edward, Joseph and Francis, were all born in Fort St George, entered the service of the Honourable East India Company and traded privately on their own accounts. Joseph was sent to England and privately tutored at the family’s *Brewood* estate by Dr Samuel JOHNSON, with whom he maintained contact throughout Johnson’s lifetime.¹⁰ Joseph returned to Madras in 1736 where he traded in opium and diamonds, together with the younger John Walsh, a member of another old Honourable East India Company family who in 1750 was to become his brother-in-law.

⁶ Parsons, p.15; Veda M Veale, private communication.

⁷ Byron Farwell, *Armies of the Raj*, W W Norton, New York, 1991, p. 46

⁸ HD Love, *Vestiges of old Madras*, vol. 2, p.138.

⁹ Love, p.187

¹⁰ Raymond Fowke, ‘Fowke family tree’, Papamoa NZ, 2005, Book 1, p.474

John Walsh's father Joseph, previously deputy Governor of Bencoolen, Sumatra, had been dismissed for maladministration and returned to England in 1726 under a cloud. He was appointed a Free Merchant by the Honourable East India Company in Madras and became secretary to Governor Thomas PITT but again apparently blotted his copybook by financial malfeasance and died suddenly in 1731. His widow Elizabeth (née Maskelyne) died shortly after, leaving her surviving children, John and Elizabeth, in comfortable circumstances from the residue of their father's estate. John Walsh returned to Madras as a Writer in 1742.¹¹

Two years later, his 17-year-old cousin Edmund ('Mun') Maskelyne, also arrived in Madras as a Writer for the Honourable East India Company, just a few months before another young Writer arrived, the 19-year-old Robert CLIVE. Walsh, Maskelyne, Clive and the older Joseph Fowke formed a close association which was to last all their lives and which was consolidated by two marriages between their families.

In one of the 'ripping yarns' of the early Raj, Clive, with Mun Maskelyne, Jack Walsh and two others, disguised themselves as Muslim labourers and escaped from Fort St George shortly after Madras fell to the French in 1746. They managed to reach Fort St David unscathed after skirting French-occupied Pondicherry and several days of 'boys' own' adventures. Maskelyne and Clive then enlisted in the Honourable East India Company army as ensigns. This was the beginning of Clive's meteoric military and political career.¹²

Three years later, we get a picture of the Anglo-Indian life of the English girls who

travelled to Bengal and south India in search of suitable husbands from the letters of Eliza Walsh who followed her brother John to Fort St David. In 1749 she wrote to her aunts, Jane and Sarah Maskelyne, in England that she enjoyed

being carried about on a palanquin by four servants with an armed soldier in front & a boy on hand to smooth her petticoats.

In the following year she added

[it is]just like living in a country town in England but in a much grander manner.¹³

In 1750, Eliza Walsh married the much older Joseph Fowke, thus becoming grandfather Watson's 2nd (2X) great grandmother. Her brother John Walsh became my 4th great-granduncle and his cousins Mun, Peggy and Nevil Maskelyne became my first cousins—six generations removed.

In 1752 Eliza Walsh, now Eliza Fowke, and her cousin Edmund, now Captain Maskelyne, persuaded his orphaned sister Margaret (Peggy) to come out to Madras from England. Eliza Fowke wrote Mun:

had laid out a husband for Peggy if she chooses to take so long a voyage for one, that I approve of extremely, but then she must make haste, as he is in such a marrying mood that I believe the first comer will marry him.¹⁴

Clive had apparently been much taken with her portrait on a locket belonging to her brother Edmund.¹⁵

Margaret Maskelyne arrived in 1752 in a party of hopeful young women which

¹¹ Green, p.5

¹² Mark Bence-Jones, *Clive of India*, Book Club Associates, London 1974, p.20

¹³ Ormathwaite Collection, Vol ii, Letters from Eliza Walsh, 1749, 1750: Mss Eur D546, India Office Select Materials, British Library, London.

¹⁴ Ormathwaite Collection, Vol ii, Letter from Eliza Walsh, 1752: Mss Eur D546, India Office Select Materials, British Library, London.

¹⁵ Bence-Jones, p.34.

included Philadelphia AUSTEN, Jane Austen's aunt.¹⁶ Margaret married Robert Clive the following year and returned with him to England several days later, despite her allegedly 'being prevented from being beautiful by her too large nose and too thick eyebrows'.¹⁷

Clive had by this time made a reputation as a bold and successful military leader in the battles of Arcot, Arni, Kaveripak and Trichonopoly, as well as already having accumulated a considerable fortune—a far cry from his starting salary of £10 a year (plus free board) offered by the Honourable East India Company seven years previously.

In 1750 Clive, now 29 years of age and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, returned to India as deputy governor of Fort St David together with Margaret and several young cousins including Jane KELSALL who was later to marry another lifelong Clive supporter, Henry STRACHEY. War with France had been resumed and in 1756 Calcutta fell to Suraja Dowla, the French-allied Nawab of Bengal, responsible for the so-called 'Black Hole of Calcutta'. Clive and Admiral WATSON (no relation) recaptured Calcutta early in the following year, 1757.

The Battle of Plassey, for which Clive is best remembered, followed in the same

year and was won by guile rather than by military force. Colonel Clive, his paymaster John Walsh, now Lieutenant Colonel, the Honourable Company, its victorious army and navy all benefitted enormously from the ensuing financial settlement and distribution of the defeated Nawab's rupees, jewels, gold and silver plate. Mir Jafar, the Nawab's commander,

who had been persuaded to withhold his support from the Nawab during the battle, became the new Nawab as part of the arrangement with Clive. Clive acquired a controversial annuity 'Jagir' of £27,000 (around half a million dollars equivalent today) from Mir Jafar and in addition collected a similar amount as a lump sum. All together it is estimated that some 125 nabobs repatriated an average of £145,000

each after the Battle of Plassey.¹⁸

The Return to England

Robert Clive returned to England in 1760 in poor health but with a fortune in addition to his annuity. The plundering of Bengal by the British after Plassey led to great hardship among the Indian population, to corruption and to abuse of office by both Honourable East India Company and native Bengal officials. It also contributed to Clive's political difficulties, his subsequent fall from grace on his return to England and to dissension inside the Honourable East



Margaret (Peggy), Lady Clive
(née Maskelyne) (1735–1817),
c.1760

¹⁶ Bence-Jones, p.86

¹⁷ Derek Howse, *Nevil Maskelyne, The seaman's astronomer*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1989, p.7.

¹⁸ Charles Kindleburger, *A financial history of Western Europe*, Taylor & Francis, 2006, p.236

India Company between the HASTINGS and Clive camps. Popular reaction against the perceived greed of 'John Company' and its nabobs fuelled tension between the Company and the English parliament, led directly to William PITT's *India Act of 1784* and finally to the end of the Company's rule and the official beginning of the British Raj in 1858.

John Walsh had become Clive's private secretary and army paymaster in the 1750s. After the Battle of Plassey he too retired to England in 1759 with a considerable fortune, equivalent to about \$10 million in today's money. He became MP for Worcester in Clive's interest.¹⁹ Walsh never married but kept a succession of mistresses. He supported the radical politics of the European enlightenment, the French and American revolutions and befriended free speech advocate and libertine John WILKES.

He also pursued scientific interests with distinction. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1770 and won its prestigious Copley Medal in 1773 for his pioneering experimental work in France on electric fish, a sea change from his adventurous and roistering days with Clive and friends in India.

Walsh's certificate of election to the Society described him as

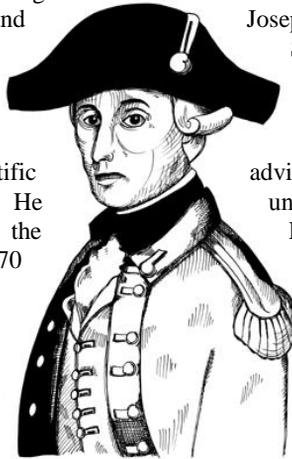
a gentleman well acquainted with philosophical and polite literature, and particularly versed in the natural history and antiquities of India.

More candidly perhaps, he was later described as 'a man of great courage, gross appetites, abrasive manners and high intelligence'.²⁰

Walsh's experiments anticipated the better known work of Galvani and Volta and he has been nominated by science historians as one of the forgotten founding fathers of modern neurophysiology and biophysics. Unfortunately, he neglected to publish his crowning achievement, which was to draw a spark (in the manner of his acquaintance, fellow gentleman scientist, and Fellow of the Royal Society, Benjamin FRANKLIN) from an electric eel, thus demonstrating its electrical character beyond all doubt. He had, however, demonstrated the effect to Joseph BANKS and other Royal Society colleagues, no doubt thinking this to be sufficient unto the day.²¹

Walsh remained a close advisor and confidante to Clive until Clive's death in 1774. Edmund Maskelyne died in England a year later, at the age of only 47. He had accompanied his brother-in-law as Clive's aide-de-camp on his third and last Indian tour of duty as Governor of Bengal from 1764-67.

His sister Peggy Clive lived another 43 years, until 1817. She renewed a childhood interest in astronomy, assisted by her brother the Rev. Nevil



Colonel John Walsh MP FRS (1726-1795)

¹⁹ Green, p.5

²⁰ Green, p.5

²¹ M Piccolino & M Bresadola, 'Drawing a spark from darkness, John Walsh & electric fish', *Trends in Neurosciences*, vol. 25, pp.1-7, 2002.

Maskelyne FRS, ‘The Seaman’s Astronomer’, who had become the Fifth Astronomer Royal in 1765.

Maskelyne opposed the premature introduction of the marine chronometer and developed the alternative lunar method of longitude determination for East India Company and Royal Navy ships, founded the *Nautical Almanac & Astronomical Ephemeris* (still used today) and, like his cousin John Walsh, won the Society’s prestigious Copley Medal. Maskelyne’s medal was awarded for astronomical observations of the deflection of a plumb bob by *Schiehallion*, a Scottish mountain. He is said to have ‘weighed the earth’ by this means.²²

Maskelyne took the side of the ‘men of science’ against the ‘fly-catching Macaronis’—typified in the popular satirical press of the day by SOLANDER and President Joseph BANKS—in the politics of the Royal Society, prefacing what was to become a longstanding division between mathematicians, astronomers and physicists on the one hand and natural scientists on the other.²³ He played a major part in the astronomical and navigational planning of COOK’s first Pacific voyage to observe the transit of Venus, and his second and third voyages to test marine chronometers for the determination of longitude.

The island of St Helena, administered by the East India Company as a convenient port for home bound East Indian clipper, attained transient astronomical importance as a result of HALLEY’s and Maskelyne’s observations there. It became one of the first southern hemisphere observatory sites for observing and cataloguing bright stars for navigational purposes.

Last years in Bengal

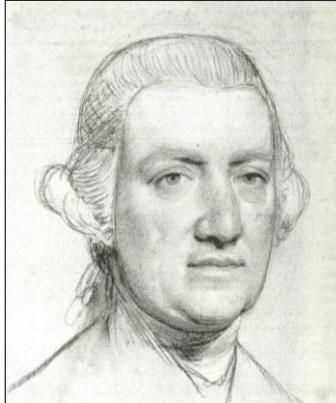
In 1755, Joseph Fowke, is reported to have provided an eye witness account of the Great Lisbon Earthquake in a letter to his brother:

Everywhere candles were being lit to mark All Saints Day. The churches were full of worshippers. Everything was normal

and the bells rang out just after 9am. Then, there followed a rising roar, the ground shook abruptly.²⁴

The quake levelled two thirds of the city, killing 50,000, inspired Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, and is believed to have accelerated the enlightenment and anti-clericalism which swept Europe in the latter half of the 18th century.

My 4th great grandfather Joseph Fowke, one of the more colourful 18th century Fowke family members, whose own grandfather was in fact Portuguese, had returned to England after the Battle of Plassey with his third wife, Walsh’s sister Eliza, and their three children, Francis,



Rev. Dr. Nevil Maskelyne FRS
(1732–1811)

²² Edwin Danson, *Drawing The Line*, John Wiley, 2001, p.199.

²³ Edward Smith, *The life of Sir Joseph Banks*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

²⁴ English trader Joseph Fowke describing his breakfast with merchant José Alves e Francisco in Lisbon on November 1, 1755, according to an article in *The Algarve Resident*, November 17, 2005.

Margaret and Arthur. Until recently it had been believed that either he or his brother had witnessed the Great Earthquake as suggested by the newspaper report cited above. However, recent research has now established that the author of the graphic eye-witness account of the quake published in London²⁵ was probably a Mr Lawrence Fowkes (not Fowke), an Irish resident of Lisbon.²⁶ This attribution also serves to simplify our retrospective view of my great grandfather Joseph Fowke's somewhat complicated domestic arrangements.

Following the early death of Eliza in 1760, Joseph Fowke went back to Calcutta in 1771 in an attempt to recoup a fortune lost in high living and gambling, having refused the Governorships of both Madras and Bengal because they carried no emoluments. Dr Johnson, his former tutor, said of him:

He was a scholar and agreeable man and lived very prettily in London until his wife [Eliza] died. After her death he took to dissipation and gaming and lost all he had.²⁷

²⁵ *Fowke(s), 'A genuine letter to Mr Joseph Fowke(s), from his brother near Lisbon, dated November 1755. In which is given A very minute and striking Description of the late Earthquake', printed for M. Collyer n.d., London; 'A letter from Mr Joseph Fowke to Mr Collyer, Dec 15 1755'; The Lisbon earthquake of 1755,; some British eyewitness accounts, Judite Nozes (ed), The British Historical Society of Portugal, Lisbon, 1990.*

²⁶ Private correspondence between the author and Edward Paice, author of *Wrath of God, The Great Lisbon earthquake of 1775*, Quercus, London, 2008.

²⁷ Dr Samuel Johnson, (Joseph Fowke's childhood tutor), as reported in Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson LL.D, 1840*, footnote 2, p.500.

The children appear to have been cared for in England by their uncle Jack Walsh and aunt Peggy Clive. Joseph's son Francis returned to Bengal in 1773 at the age of 18 as a Writer, followed three years later by Margaret, presumably in search of a husband. Joseph and other traders opposed Governor Hastings' reforms and Joseph, encouraged by Francis, attempted to impeach him for corruption. Hastings retaliated by putting Joseph and Francis on trial for conspiracy in 1775. During the trial Hastings expressed his own view of Fowke:

[he has] a violent and morose temper; and, while under that influence, too apt to insinuate actions ... to base and bad motives in others²⁸

Eliza had written of her husband:

He has a good humour and is not extremely apt to fall into passion, but when he does so, it is to a degree of madness.²⁹

Father and son were acquitted but a prominent Indian, Maharajar Nuncomar, was found guilty and summarily hung. This was regarded as judicial murder by influential figures in England and led to Hastings' seven-year-long trial (and eventual acquittal) by the English Parliament.

Joseph was an enthusiastic amateur violinist with conservative musical tastes. He loathed the newly invented clarinet:

²⁸ Joseph Fowke, *The Trial of Joseph Fowke, Francis Fowke, Maha Rajah Nundocomar, and Roy Rada Churn, for a conspiracy against Warren Hastings, Esq. etc.*, T Cadell, London, 1776, p.13. (Governor Warren Hastings, at the trial, 1775).

²⁹ Ormathwaite Collection, Vol ii, Letter from Eliza Walsh to her aunts: Mss Eur D546, India Office Select Materials, British Library, London.

This Clarinet D'Amor [is] a coarse instrument, worse to my ears than the grunting of Hogs.

He also inveighed against the 'noisy modern music' of Haydn—the Prince of Coxcombs', preferring the earlier music of Corelli, Geminiani and Handel.³⁰ Francis and Margaret (Tippey) shared their father's musical interests and were prominent in the musical life of Bengal until their return to England in 1786.³¹

They also appear to have inherited an interest in languages and mathematics, probably from their mother's side of the family. Francis invented a form of shorthand, was fluent in Persian and published a number of papers on the structure of language. One of his grandsons, Colonel Francis Fowke RE, a distinguished military engineer and inventor, designed the Royal Albert Hall rotunda, the Natural History Museum and other notable public buildings.³² Margaret herself developed a late interest in mathematics, particularly celestial mechanics, when she was in her thirties encouraged by her uncle Nevil Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal.³³

John Walsh bequeathed his considerable estate to his niece, Tippey, who in 1787 married John BENN, her brother Francis' former assistant in Benares. Francis had been the British Resident there on a

number of occasions despite repeated dismissals by Hastings. Armed with his wife's inheritance, John Benn accepted the offer of a baronetcy and Margaret Fowke became Lady Benn-Walsh, adopting her benefactor uncle's name. Their son John Benn-Walsh became the first Lord Ormathwaite in 1868. He contributed an unpublished memoir of his mother to the British Library.³⁴ This, together with the extensive correspondence between her father Joseph, her mother Eliza, their children, and other members of the Fowke, Benn, Walsh and Maskelyne families contributed to the Library by Capt. Fowke's son, Frank Rede Fowke, one time Assistant Secretary of State for Science, constitute an invaluable archival resource.³⁵

Francis was also offered a Tory baronetcy at the end of the century, but is reported as saying that he would rather have a good string quartet.³⁶ He built *Boughrood Castle*, a Georgian manor house, on land bought from John Walsh in Radnorshire near the Welsh border and lavished money on 'quartet parties' and other musical pursuits, leaving little (but sufficient) for his fifteen children to quarrel bitterly over. His son Charles, my great-great-grandfather vainly contested his father's will before migrating in reduced circumstances to Braidwood, NSW, with two of his children to join his sister Elizabeth Bell in 1866.

His daughter Isabella, my grandfather's mother, had been obliged to enter domestic service in Wales before she travelled to Bengal and married William Watson in 1861. Sadly, her short married

³⁰ Quoted by William Dalrymple in *White Mughals: love and betrayal in eighteenth-century India*, Harper Collins, 2002, p.412.

³¹ Ian Woodfield, *Music of the Raj*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000, pp.12-14; 76-128.

³² Green, p.23.

³³ John Benn-Walsh, 'Memoir of Margaret Elizabeth Benn-Walsh (nee Fowke)', by her son John Benn-Walsh, 1st Baron Ormathwaite, 1758–1836, Mss Eur 032, India Office Select Materials, British Library, London.

³⁴ John Benn-Walsh.

³⁵ Fowke Family, Ormathwaite Collection, Mss Eur D546, India Select Materials, British Library, London.

³⁶ Green, p.1.

life in Bengal was followed by an even shorter widowhood following her return to England in 1872. Her orphaned son, my grandfather, apparently remained largely ignorant of the colourful history of his mother's family. ◀



Henry Claye Watson (1870–1943),
1917

Acknowledgements

My particular thanks to my mother Veda Veale and my cousin Frances Parsons for their encouragement and assistance in this research. Thanks also to Fowke family descendants: nephew James Moore (London); cousin Honary Kingston (NSW); Raymond Fowke (NZ) and Baroness Camilla von Massenbach (London) for their assistance.

Paul Edwards, *Mars, Mammon and Venus in British India: Tasmanian Family Connections*. Papers & Proceedings, Annual Symposium, April 16 2011. "The Indian Connection with Tasmania", Launceston Historical Society, Launceston, Tasmania, April 2012.

A GATHERING ON THE NORFOLK PLAINS 2013

Irene Schaffer

DESCENDANTS' DAY

venue in Longford TBA

Saturday 2 March 2013

TASMANIA'S Norfolk Plains were named to acknowledge the Norfolk Islanders who resettled in this part of Tasmania on arrival from Norfolk Island in 1813. The area comprises the towns of, and rural properties around Longford, Cressy, Bishopsbourne, Illawarra and Perth.

The feature event will be a Descendants' Day on Saturday, 2 March 2013. Families descended from one of the original Norfolk Islanders are invited to set up family history displays and across the day, interact with other families and community members, share their family history, network, buy and sell family books, scan and exchange articles, photos etc. The venue for the Descendants Day will be selected once we know the number and size of the displays to be accommodated.

School students' work will be displayed in 'Discovering the Norfolk Plains' the outcome of a year's study of the area and people.

Those wishing to participate can contact Fiona Dewar, the Northern Midlands Council's Tourist Officer, phone (03) 6397 7321 or email fionadewar@nmc.tasgov.au

My website will be used to pass on information—please feel free to contact me at <http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schafferi> or (03) 6272 2124

Many will remember the Descendants Day in Hobart at the City Hall in 2008, when we celebrated the arrival of the first passengers to arrive from Norfolk Island 1807–08 and it is hoped that they will join in with the northerners to help them celebrate their day. ◀

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ALLEN	TAS AUS	1800	7280
ALLWRIGHT	Hobart TAS AUS	1820+	7265
ARILAT Leopold	Prussia/St Mary's TAS AUS	1863-1958	7261
ATKINSON William	Burnie TAS AUS	1870-1948	7262
BAKER W ?	Huon & West Coast TAS AUS	1890-1930	7262
BASS Albert	NSW, SA or other States	1924+	7255
BATES Charles	WAR ENG. Launceston TAS AUS	1812-1898	7261
BENT Andrew	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1880	7240
BRIGGS	STS ENG	1800+	7282
BROMLEY Edward Foord	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1880	7240
BROUGHTON Bartholomew	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1830	7240
CAMPBELL Agnes	Devonport East TAS AUS	Any	7251
CHORLEY Matthew	Falmouth TAS AUS	1860	7250
COLLINGS John	Clifton? NSW AUS	1860-1880	7241
CONIBEAR/REID	Hobart TAS AUS	1845+	7265
CORNFORD	Lismore NSW AUS	pre 1920	7258
COTTON	Any	Any	7242
COX Catherine	Kingston TAS Aus	m.1876	7243
CRAWFORD Robert	Bombay INDIA	1857-1875	7247
CRAWFORD Robert	Evandale TAS AUS	1875-1899	7247
DALY Isabella	Falmouth & Ringarooma TAS AUS	1865	7250
DELANEY Agnes	Kingston TAS AUS	b.1880	7243
DELANEY Agnes	Sydney NSW AUS	d.1954	7243
DELANEY Fenton & Margaret	Hobart	m.1854	7243
DELANEY Michael	Hobart TAS AUS	b.1854	7243
DELANEY Michael	Kingston TAS AUS	m.1876	7243
DEVOY Elizabeth	Dublin IRL	1854-1885	7255
DONNELLY Catherine	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1859	7283
EDWARDS Cyril St Clair	Devonport TAS AUS	Any	7256
ELLIOTT Herbert	Burnie TAS AUS	1870-1950	7262
ELLSTON Henry Richard	Hobart TAS AUS	1864-1936	7283
ELMS Daniel (ELMES)	Abinger SRY ENG	1740+	7255
FAULKNER	Any	Any	7242
FLYNN Peter	Co. Wexford IRL	1700-1920	7252
FLYNN Peter	Co. Offaly IRL	1700-1920	7252
FLYNNE Susan Emily	Hobart TAS AUS	1866-1936	7283
FOREX	Walton-on-Thames ENG	1700-1900	7265
FORREST	Cobar, Lidcombe, Wellington NSW AUS	Any	7239
FORWARD Jane B	Launceston TAS AUS	1870-1953	7262
FREEMAN James	Barlestone LEI ENG	1798-1866	7261
FROGGATT-TYLDESLEY James Tallis	IOM ENG	1915-1925	7241
GILLIE	DEV ENG	Any	7277
GODWIN	STS ENG	1800+	7282
GREGORY	Hobart TAS AUS	1700-1900	7265
GRINLY James	Port Chalmers NZ	1873-1879	7247
HERRON Ann	Port Sorell district TAS AUS	Any	7251
HILL	Any	Any	7242
HOCKLEY Julius S	Takeley ESS ENG	1842-1860	7255
HOSKIN Alexander	Launceston TAS AUS	1873-1953	7281

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
HOSKIN Ann Adelaide	Hobart/Evandale/Launceston TAS AUS	1840-1915	7281
HUME Richard	SCT/TAS AUS	1812-1887	7261
HUNT James	Norwich NFK ENG	1808+	7255
IRONSIDE John	Edinburgh SCT	1700-1920	7252
IZARD George	TAS AUS	1845-1940	7261
JENNER William	Pelgreen Wadhurst SSX ENG	1845-1916	7253
JONES	TAS AUS	1800	7280
KEMP John	Biddenden KEN ENG	1833-1889	7253
KEMP Martha	SSX ENG	1850-1882	7253
KEMP Naomi	SSX ENG	1824-1897	7253
KILLINGBACK Zenna	Geeveston TAS AUS	Any	7251
LOHREY Maria	Ringarooms & Goulds Country TAS AUS	1877	7250
LUTTRELL Malvina	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1880	7240
MARSHALL	Any	Any	7242
MARTIN Ellen Sayer Marshall	Nhill VIC AUS/Smithton TAS AUS	1902-1950	7241
MAUGHAN/MORGAN Peter	TAS AUS	c. 1859-1896	7283
MAY	Sydney NSW AUS	pr1945	7258
McBAIN	Any	Any	7242
McCORMACK H T	Franklin TAS AUS	1866	7277
McDEVITT Alexander	TAS AUS	1863+	7270
McKISSACK Robert Maxwell	Bendigo/Tungamah VIC AUS	1899-1946	7247
MORTIMER Henry William	South Arm & Battery Point TAS AUS	1825-1850	7245
MORTIMER Henry William	Hobart TAS AUS	1825-1850	7245
MORTIMER Henry William	Mortimer Bay TAS AUS	1825-1850	7245
NIMMO Agnes	TAS AUS	1854-1925	7270
PALMER John	TAS AUS	c. 1849-1893	7270
PARKER Michael	Bombay INDIA	1850-1875	7247
PARKER Michael	Evandale TAS AUS	1875-1903	7247
PERKINS	NSW AUS	pre 1930	7258
ROBB Alexander	SCT	b.1811	7241
ROBB Francis	Sydney NSW AUS	1877	7241
RONAN Philip	IRE/NZ/St Mary's TAS AUS	1845-1913	7261
SAVIGNY ?	Mary St, Launceston TAS AUS	1890-1950	7262
Sheffield & Kentish districts Pioneers	TAS AUS	Any	7257
SMITH Thomas	d New Town Infirmary TAS AUS	1850-1912	7281
SMITH Thomas	b IRL 1824	1824-1912	7281
SMITH William	b Pipers River TAS AUS	1873-1953	7281
STINGEL Henry	Ringarooma TAS AUS	1897	7250
TAYLOR James	Devonport East TAS AUS	Any	7251
TEMPLETON Alexander	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1860	7250
THOMAS Eveline	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7251
TOWNSEND David	Ringarooma TAS AUS	1889	7250
TRIPP Caroline	New Brunswick & Wodstock North Oxford ONT CAN	1816-1855	7241
WEEDING	TAS AUS	1820+	7265
WOOD Michael	Port Sorell district TAS AUS	Any	7251
YOUNG Montague A	Sheffield & Ridgley TAS AUS	1870-1954	7262

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

HELP WANTED

CONROY, Rebecca née LAMBERT

Rebecca was born c1823, Dublin Ireland, parents shown as C Lambert and Mary Ann Lambert (RYAN). She married Richard CONROY/CONNERY, born c1823 at Loughlin, Limerick Ireland, at St Josephs Hobarton on 29 November 1849. Witnesses were Jane Lambert and Thomas STUART. Richard arrived as a convict on *Ratcliffe 1* in 1845. Both John, born 15 October 1851 (godmother Jane Lambert) and Mary Ann 16 May 1852, were born in Hobart. They moved to Williamstown, Victoria, late—Richard became a senior sergeant in the police force. They subsequently had more children including Elizabeth Jane, born 1859. Richard died in 1858 and Rebecca married John FLYNN/FINN in Williamstown 1861. Mary Ann and Elizabeth went to New Zealand however it is not known when, why or with whom. Seeking any information of Rebecca prior to 1853 and Richard's time in Van Diemen's Land. Also any information concerning Mary Ann and Elizabeth after their mother's death and time in New Zealand. Please contact Yvonne Grant at donevie@bigpond.net.au

CUNNINGHAM

Alexander born 1822 arrived per *William Jardine* 1850 m. Mary HOGAN 1854 Clarence Plains. I know where Mary died but not where Alexander died. Do you? Contact Carol Rodway ☎ (03) 6248 6639

DAWSON

Benjamin arrived per Lady Kennaway 1835, m. Elizabeth BROAD 1846. Known children Betsey (Elizabeth) married Joseph WARD, Emma m. Henry MOORE and Emily m. William

McARDLE. Can you help? Contact Carol Rodway ☎ (03) 6248 6639

HEWITT

Would like to make contact with any descendants of Thomas Elmslie HEWITT 1832–1911 married 1873 Ada Jane WHITE who died 1909. Contact Carol Rodway ☎ (03) 6248 6639

ILES

Jane, born circa 1823, married George WATKINS 1840 Clarence Plains. Jane's surname also spelt HYLES, EYLES, ISLES. Do you have her name in your family tree? Contact Carol Rodway ☎ (03) 6248 6639

PARTRIDGE ISLAND

John LAUGHTON settled on Partridge Island at the southern end of Bruny Island in D'Entrecasteaux Channel in 1825. His son Thomas Laughton continued the association until 1849 when the island passed to Richard CLEBURNE. His son, second William Percy Cleburne lived on the island about 1860–1874, when a series of leaseholders took over. Names such as Arthur TURNER, Louis RAPP, Lewis BELTZ, Thomas ROBERTS, WALKER & Co, Arthur DAVIS, Arthur BLYTH, Charles STANLEY, I W Pike were all associated with the island between 1874–1937 when Cleburne's executors sold the island to William KEOGH. Keogh's executors then sold to Herbert Leslie CLARKE in 1944. Well-known yachtsman George DIBBERN bought the island in 1951 and Dr Richard HAM bought it from the executors of his will in 1974. Any information on any or all of the above would be appreciated! Please contact Erika Shankley erika.shankley@gmail.com

WILLIAM STANLEY SHARLAND

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.870)

WILLIAM SHARLAND (1801–1877), second son of John Sharland and his wife Jane, was born in Ellesmere, Shropshire, England where his family settled after his father's retirement from service in India. John had purchased landed properties in Shropshire and Sussex, but due to a depression caused by the corn laws, he fell on difficult times. Along with many of his contemporaries he decided to emigrate to Van Diemen's Land.

William, his brother John Frederic and their father, John, arrived on the *Elizabeth* in July 1823. John settled on a land grant of 1800 acres near Hamilton and in 1825 was joined by his wife and daughter, Anne Jane.

It was not long before William, at the age of 23, entered the Survey Department as a copying clerk under George EVANS. Soon after, he was receiving a salary of £100 as assistant surveyor and in February 1827, under Edward DUMARESQU, was given even greater responsibility.

Among William's work was a survey and plan of Launceston, plans of streets and areas in Hobart Town and he laid out the towns of Oatlands, Bothwell, Hamilton, New Norfolk and Brighton. He was credited with the discovery of Lake St Clair in 1827.

During this time he became a considerable land owner with several grants totalling nearly 3000 acres plus the lease of another 2200 by 1831. He was among the hop-growing pioneers and imported hops from Kent in 1847.

William often visited Government House during the years of FRANKLIN, DENISON and YOUNG. He formed an especially close bond with Denison which continued long after his departure.

He became a member of the Legislative Council in 1848, then in 1857 member for Cumberland in the Upper House. He represented New Norfolk in the House of Assembly between 1861–72.

William Sharland married Frances Sarah SCHAW, daughter of Major Charles Schaw, in 1835 and they produced a large family of six sons and eight daughters. Sarah died in 1859 and William married Margaret FYFE at Longford in 1861.

On 23 October 1877, W Stanley Sharland died at home in Davey Street, Hobart aged 76 and was buried at New Norfolk.

The deceased, though naturally of a very quiet and unobtrusive disposition, took an active interest in all the principal questions that agitated the Parliament and colony those early times, and in all that he did he was ever animated by a desire to forward the best interests of the country. He lived a long and busy life, and has passed away amid the mournings of a very large circle of friends and the general regret of the poor, to whom for half a century he was a considerate friend.

A feature of Sharland's work is the detailed drawing of a 'logo' or 'signature' depicting some of the tools of his trade—'Compass, divider and quill'—see cover. ◀

References:

The Mercury, Thursday 25 October 1877 p.2.
Australian Dictionary of Biography, Online edition

THE *EMMA EUGENIA* (4) 1846: A DISAGREEABLE VOYAGE

Anne McMahan (Member No.6463)

THE *Emma Eugenia* (4) sailed from Portsmouth on 10 February 1846 on her third voyage to Van Diemen's Land. She conveyed 170 English female convicts accompanied by some of their children who were reported to be in a sickly state at embarkation. Two were dying and one infant expired between the Downs and Portsmouth.¹

The surgeon superintendent on the passage was John WILSON who had served on her former voyage without loss of life. For this journey he reported that he had received letters on Service from Woolwich, Portsmouth and Tenerife that a number of the women sent on board were aged, infirm and unlikely to be able to undergo the wear and tear of so long a voyage. Many had broken down constitutions arising from dissipated lives. Eight were named as prostitutes on the Sick List. One woman who suffered from confirmed phthisis readily acknowledged that she had worked on the streets. This prisoner died during the voyage and surgeon Wilson remarked bitterly

It is not easy to get at the motive for sending a patient of this description so far for the purpose of being buried.²

Consumptive prisoners however were frequently sent on board the convict transports. In some cases it was thought that their health might be improved by the sea voyage. In other instances their grievous illness was incorrectly diagnosed, for instance, by surgeon

Edward CALDWELL of the *East London* (1843).³ In still other situations gaol officers contrived to get rid of such chronically ill women.

Some of the prisoners who were embarked on the *Emma Eugenia* (4) had suffered dreadfully while inmates of Millbank prison which, by 1840, had been designated the depot for female transportees. One such woman who died during the voyage with chronic diarrhoea was in the habit of saying that she had been bent double with pain at the washtubs while in Millbank. Another prisoner died of disease of the uterus of long duration. A third woman succumbed to diarrhoea. She was the mother of a blind child who had been brought on board from Millbank in a dying state.

For the first four weeks of the voyage of the *Emma Eugenia* (4) the weather was wet and foggy. Beds and bedding could not be aired. Seasickness afflicted most on board and there was the utmost difficulty in attempting to keep the prison clean. This was exacerbated by those prisoners who were disorderly and careless of their persons. They despoiled the decks and at night surgeon Wilson found it necessary to inspect the prison with a police lantern. Initially he considered that his efforts to maintain cleanliness were utterly hopeless but he persisted and some progress was achieved.

After two weeks at sea, on 28 February 1846, a commotion broke out in the

¹ AJCP PRO 3195, *Emma Eugenia* (4) 1846
² Ibid.

³ AJCP PRO 3193 *East London* (1843)

prison with frantic women yelling 'fire, fire'. The uproar was caused by one woman waking suddenly from sleep and seeing flashing lights. She thought the vessel was on fire and her screams were taken up by almost all the 164 women. Pandemonium ensued. The surgeon rushed down to the prison to quieten the prisoners and identify the reason for the panic. It was a false alarm caused by flashes of lightening on tin pots hanging on pegs in the hospital. Some women became ill as a result of their terror including the well-behaved prisoner who had initiated the disturbance. She died three days later.

One young woman on the voyage was reported to have been the servant of a merciless mistress. She fretted throughout the passage and brooded over her fate. She complained of constant headaches and in her distress contracted diarrhoea and died three weeks before arrival. Her illness and death were attributed to 'nostalgia' by surgeon Wilson.⁴

While in the tropics the clumsy wooden fittings which had been erected to barricade the prison impeded the circulation of air. The sweltering heat caused a further disturbance. Some women went into fits, others began gasping while still others fainted. The surgeon went from one mess to the other trying to calm the prisoners. The following day he had the whole upper part of these fittings knocked away by the ship's carpenter.

A strategy adopted by ill-disposed women was to feign illness to avoid punishment. They regularly presented themselves at the hospital door for medicines. Typical offences for which they had been due to be punished

included pilfering from others in the prison at night. Surgeon Wilson wondered whether their acts were due to malice, mischief or merely a desire to keep their 'hands in'. He lamented the deficiency of competent mess women whose task it would have been to maintain order at night.

During the last weeks of the voyage as the transport sailed deep into the Southern Ocean the weather deteriorated. The wet, cold and rough days made it impossible to wash or dry clothes. As parts of the deck were also leaky some berths in the prison were almost constantly wet in spite of the use of swinging stoves. Chills resulted and fever spread rapidly caused by body lice. The ailing women were unable to leave their beds.

Finally on 5 June 1846 the *Emma Eugenia* (4) sailed up the Derwent River to drop anchor at Settlement Cove. It had been a passage of 125 days during which there were six deaths of prisoners. Eleven women suffering a range of diseases including scurvy were sent to the colonial Hospital. ◀

The Gold Coast Family History Society in Queensland, Australia, launched a Members' Interest List last year that can be accessed by any researcher, worldwide.

The list can be found on the website at www.goldcoastfhs.org.au.

All enquiries are secure and are passed on to the relevant member via the facilitators.

⁴ J Wilson to Sir W Burnett, 14 July 1846, AJCP ADM 4604

AGNES HUNTER (née THOMPSON) LOCATED

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

IN December 2005 I sought information on Agnes (or Nanny) THOMPSON/THOMSON convict per *Lord Sidmouth* who arrived in Hobart Town on 10 February 1823.¹ Convicted of assault as Agnes HUNTER at Jedburg Court of Justiciary Scotland on 22 April 1822, the 20 year-old was sentenced to seven years' transportation. Her husband Robert Hunter remained at Kelso, Roxburghshire and there were two children 'there' and 'one with him'.²

Although not my forebear, my interest in Agnes was because, in 1827, in an application to Lieutenant-Governor George ARTHUR, my ancestor John TATTERSALL of Accrington Lancashire (convict per *Maria* 1820) claimed he and Agnes Thompson had formed a 'Mutual affection' and were 'desirous to be joined in the Holy State of Matrimony'. According to John Tattersall, he had earlier rented a house for Agnes, but after he left town (presumably to work in the country as a constable in the Field Police) she was charged with being 'on her own hands' and was 'most unfortunately' ordered to the Female House of

Correction at South Hobart where she and three children were in the 'most pitiable situation'. When Agnes arrived at the Factory she was possessed of 'some little property', but during her imprisonment it had been 'squandered in various ways'.³ What later became of the three children is unknown, and a search of the indexes to the Queen's Orphan Schools has, so far, not linked any children to Agnes Hunter or Thompson.

In response to Tattersall's application, Principal Superintendent of Convicts John LAKELAND was critical of Agnes, who he thought was a 'scheming woman'. Across the corner of his report, dated 21 December 1827 Lakeland wrote: 'Agnes Hunter being unable to prove that her former husband is dead. JC 28 Feby'.⁴ The following August Agnes Thompson was employed at the Male Orphan School, and two months later Chief Constable CAPON found her guilty of being drunk at the *Scotch Thistle* public house (on the south-east corner of Barrack and Liverpool Streets). As punishment she was confined to a cell on bread and water for seven days. On 16 May 1829 Agnes was again admonished, this time for obstructing Constable YOUNG in the execution of his duty, and on 30 May, on the expiry of her sentence, her certificate of freedom was issued.⁵

¹ TAHO CON 40/1 online image 162 of 374; see also 'Is Agnes your ancestor?' *Tasmanian Ancestry* 26.3 (December 2005), pp.170–71.

² National Archives of Scotland AD14/22/96 'precognition against Agnes Hunter for the crime of Assault' 1822; TAHO CSO 1/247/5960 Evidence of Police Magistrate Adolarius William Henry Humphrey 28 November 1827; in her VDL convict record Agnes is documented as Thompson.

³ TAHO CSO 1/379/8600 Humphrey's evidence; CSO 379/8611/1 Tattersall to Arthur, November 1827.

⁴ CSO 1/247/5960, 21 December 1827.

⁵ *Scotch Thistle* licensed 1823–41, see David J Bryce, *Pubs in Hobart from 1807*,

No marriage took place between John Tattersall and Agnes, and despite earlier stating he had a wife and children in Lancashire, in 1833 at Green Ponds (now Kempton), John married Sarah WATERS convict per *Harmony*.⁶ Further details about Agnes remained a mystery, but now several years after submitting Agnes Thomson for inclusion in the Female Factory Research Group database Laura McDUFF made contact.⁷

Sometime after 1829 Agnes married James LOVE. Details of James' arrival in Van Diemen's Land have not been traced, although family legend has it that he was a Scottish whaler and arrived about 1822. James and Agnes Love had three sons, all born in Hobart Town, the first was Thomas about 1830. According to St Davids Church baptism register, Richard James was born in September 1832 and John Darke on 20 March 1833, although with only five months between these dates, there seems to be an error. Both Richard and John were baptised on 26 May 1833 by the Reverend William Bedford. The church baptism notes that at the time James was a 'boatman'.⁸ No birth or baptism details have been located for Thomas.

Although no marriage record has been located for James and Agnes, it is implied on the Marriage Register in 1854 for their son, 24 year-old Thomas Love in which his mother is noted as 'Agnes Thomson

maiden name'.⁹ Similarly, his mother is recorded as 'Agnes Love MN Thompson' on the entry in the Death Register for their son Richard, who died 7 September 1893. His age is given as 63 years and the cause of his death, 'Malignant tumour of Liver (&) Exhaustion'. The informant was Richard's brother John.¹⁰

Agnes only lived another two years after John's birth in 1833. During the evening of Thursday 31 April 1835 she was 'thrown out of a boat ... at Old Beach, and unhappily drowned'. An inquest was held at the *Star and Garter* public house at Compton Ferry (Brighton) in early May before Frederick ROPER Esquire, but unfortunately no record of the inquest appears to have survived.¹¹ Agnes (noted as 42 years-old, but who, according to her convict record, would have been about 33) whose abode was Old Beach where James was a farmer, was buried on 3 May 1835 in Hobart Town,¹² having not seen her three children in Scotland since she left in 1822.

Left with three young boys aged between two and five years-old, within seventeen months, on 31 October 1836 at St Davids Church Hobart Town, James Love married Isabella (Bell) DUFF (née PRYDE) who had arrived aboard the *Mellish* on 22 September 1830.¹³ Isabella

Davadia Publishing (Rosny Park, 1997), p.143; CON 40/1/9 image 162.

⁶ TAHO NS 356/3, Parish of Cluny, District of Green Ponds, 29 April 1833.

⁷ Laura is a descendant of Isabella Duff and Lynda Grierson is a descendant of Richard and Sophia Love.

⁸ TAHO NS 282/8/11-4 St Davids Church baptism register, p.85; RGD 32 Hobart Town 4757/1833 and 4758/1833.

⁹ Cathedral Church of St James Melbourne, marriage register 1854/1075 Thomas Love to Mary Ann Quested 25 April 1854.

¹⁰ County of Bourke Victoria 1893/162.

¹¹ *Hobart Town Courier* 6 May 1835, p.2 the inquest was on Monday 4 May, according to *Colonial Times* Vol 20, no.992, 5 May 1835, p. 143 it was on Saturday 2 May.

¹² RGD 34 Hobart burials 3907/1835 St David's Church, Rev William Bedford.

¹³ RGD 36 Hobart Town marriages 3197/1836; NS 282/10/1/1-4 St Davids Church marriages 1836 no.114, signed

had been sentenced to seven years' transportation on 15 July 1829 at Edinburgh for 'Vending Base Coin'. This was not her first conviction. She had previously been imprisoned for '2 months - 3 months each time' for 'Uttering base Coin' four or five times. Similar to Agnes, Isabella had left her husband and three children in Scotland when she was transported.¹⁴

It can be assumed that James and the three boys remained in the area around Brighton, as it was at Tea Tree Brush in the January 1843 that James Love was a householder, the gender and ages of other household members matching those of Isabella and the three boys.¹⁵ James died at Richmond on 4 November 1849 from disease of the liver at the age of 56 years, at which time he was listed as a 'farmer'. The informant was his son Thomas, who signed with an 'X', and was living at 'Brandy Bottom' Jerusalem (now Colebrook).¹⁶

Richard moved to Victoria about 1853, worked as an Ostler at the West Meadows Hotel, and at the age of twenty-four married 14 year-old Sophia COWELL who was born at Castle Camps Cambridgeshire, daughter of Mary Cowell and Amos LUCAS. Sophia also used the surname of 'Rook', being that of her step-father Francis. After their marriage Sophia and Richard lived around Romsey/Lancefield and had seventeen children, fourteen of whom had descendants, many still living in the

region. Sophia died at the age of 54, and Richard on 7 September 1893.¹⁷

It seems that following James' death, Isabella moved to Brandy Bottom.¹⁸ It is also likely that Isabella married Daniel WEIR on 25 May 1853 in St Andrews Church of Scotland in Hobart Town. In the Church register Daniel is listed as a labourer, and both Daniel and Isabella signed with a cross. Daniel, a convict from London on the *Prince Regent* had arrived on 10 January 1830.¹⁹ Daniel and Isabella moved to Melbourne, where Isabella later died. Thomas also moved to Melbourne and on 25 April 1854 married Mary Ann QUESTED and died at Northcote, a Melbourne suburb, in 1918 at the age of 88 years.²⁰ John died at Warrambool, a Victorian coastal town in 1899.

Through searching and much help from family descendants, especially Laura McDuff, the puzzle of Agnes Thomson has been solved. She had not 'disappeared' after all, but was simply 'hiding' in various records under different surnames. ◀

'Bell Duff'; The *Mellish* left Spithead on 6 June 1830.

¹⁴ TAHO CON 40/1/3 image 65 on which the alternate names are shown.

¹⁵ CEN 1/1/46 Brighton 1843, p.97.

¹⁶ RGD 35 Richmond deaths 68/1849.

¹⁷ RGD Deaths in District of Romsey County of Bourke 1893/162.

¹⁸ CEN 1/1/115 Richmond 1851, p.125.

¹⁹ RGD 35 Hobart Town marriages 621/1853; CON 31/1/46 online image 335.

²⁰ RGD Deaths Northcote Victoria 14212/1918.

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES IN THE HOBART AREA c.1925

Compiled by Laurie Moody (Member No.)

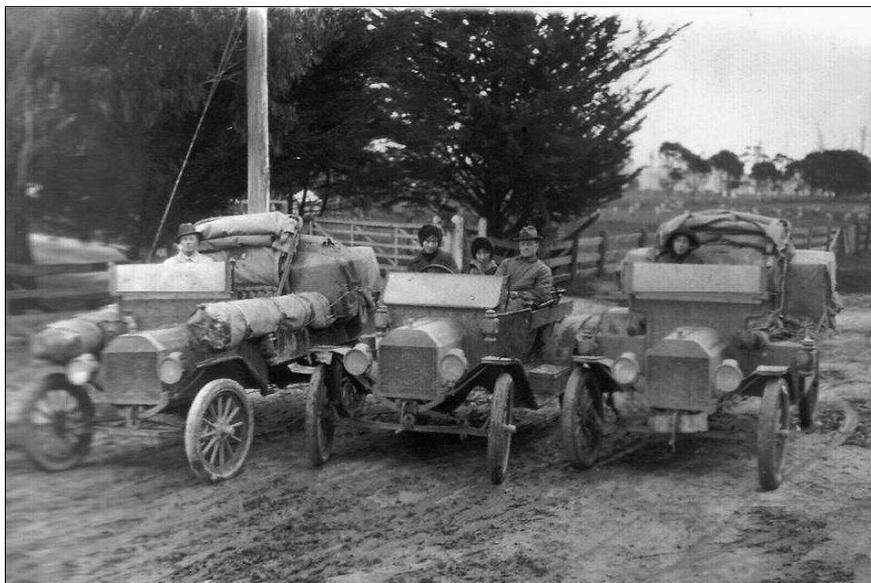
Town	Hotel/Boarding House	Per Day	Per Week	Proprietor
Bellerive	Clarence Hotel	8/-	55/-	E. T. Connolly
	Bellerive Place	10/-	60/-	Mrs S. Lucas
Brown's River	Burwood	10/-	56/-	Mrs. W. H. Wise
	Australasian Hotel	12/-	70/-	E. Preuss
	Northampton House	8/6	45/-	Miss Thompson
	Mt. Royal	10/-	63/-	Mrs. E. Bouchard
Bridgewater	Derwent Hotel	8/-	42/-	W. H. Maloney
	Railway Hotel	8/-	56/-	Ellen Webster
Collinsvale	Hilldrop	8/-	45/-	A. M. Kingston
Hobart	Carlton Club Hotel	12/-+	—	—
	Freemason's Hotel	12/-	70/-	Miss Kelly
	Arcadia Hotel	9/-	50/-	G. Rometch
	Hotel Alexandra	8/-	40/-	M. J. Donnellan
	Beach House	12/-+	77/-+	M. T. Heathorn
	Imperial	13/6	90/-	The Imperial Ltd.
	Goulburn Hotel	8/-	50/-	J. P. Knowles
	Tattersall's Hotel	10/-+	—	The Manager
	Customs House	10/-	63/-	T. H. Sullivan
	Man-at-the-Wheel	6/-	37/6	W. W. Wickins
	Lenna	By arrangement		Miss Kremmer
	Dunloe	8/-	42/-	Mrs Walker
	Gallipoli	8/-	50/-	Mrs Dennis
	Asmoor	8/-	42/-	Mrs W. J. Eiszele
	Lalla Rookh	8/-	56/-	Mrs Wells
	Hollydene	8/6	—	A. E. Anderson
	Ingomar	11/-	63/-+	Miss Besier
	Woodbourne	7/-	42/-	Mrs L. V. Jones
	Malunna	6/-	35/-	Mrs E. Hill
	Pressland House	10/-	63/-	Miss Dawson
Aberfeldie	10/-	63/-	R. A. Crow	
Eltham	9/-	63/-	Misses Coleman	
The Astor	10/-	63/-	Miss Hildyard	
Toogooloowa	10/-	63/-	Mrs Moses Ward	

Town	Hotel/Boarding House	Per Day	Per Week	Proprietor
	Winsome	5/-	—	Mrs Elliott
Hobart cont;	G.F.S. Hostel	6/-	30/++	Matron
	Wellington House	6/-	35/-	Mrs Coker
	Coraleigh	6/-	35/-	Mrs Goscomb
	East View	4/-	25/-	Miss Stump
	Marieville	10/-	60/-	Miss Gaul
	Y.W.C.A. Hostel	7/-	35/++	Matron
	Hawthorn	8/-	35/-	Misses Propsting
	Bangor	6/-	35/-	E. A. Barwick
	Mayfield	4/-	30/-	Miss Newman
	Hampden Villa	6/-	35/-	Miss Fox
	Anglesea	Furnished Flats	42/-	Miss Hinds
	Nurses' Club	6/6	42/-	Miss Pitt-Hammond
	Arne	7/6	26/-	Miss Newman
	Ranelagh	8/-	42/-	Mr H. Faulkner
	Trevor Terrace	B&B	25/-	Miss Cavanagh
	Queenborough	10/-	63/-	P. G. Fahlborg
	Hurstville	6/-	35/-	Mrs M.E. Hurst
	Fern Tree Hotel	10/-	63/-	A.Totenhofer
	Mountside	10/-	63/-	T. J. Smith
	Fern Tree villa	10/-	60/-	Miss Smith
	Leslie Farm	8/-	45/-	C. Saunders
	Claremont House	8/6	42/-	M. Evans
	Roxburgh House	10/-	63/-	Mrs B. Mellor
	Westella	10/-	63/-	Mrs M. E. Page
	Monatth	—	42/-	Mrs Edwards
	Edgehill	7/-	42/-	Mrs V. A. Worth
	Surrey House	By arrangement		A. Tillack
	Conara	By arrangement		Miss Hull
Lindisfarne	Croydon	10/-	42/-	Miss McLean
Mt. Wellington	Springs Hotel	12/-	70/-	E. W. Lacey

The above information was provided by Laurie Moody sourced from the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau booklet *Guide to Tasmania* produced circa 1925. Unfortunately, the booklet has no cover and it can only be assumed the production date is around 1925. The booklet contains 187 pages and was printed by John Vail, Government Printer. ◀

THE SQUATTERS' JOY

Shirley Foster



The Corrick Cars
© Author's collection

THE CORRICK Family of Entertainers helped put 'T' model cars on the map. These durable, incredibly tough but fragile looking cars were first imported into Australia in 1908. By 1909 only 348 had been sold, but a year or so later nearly 800 were shipped in. Albert Corrick, the entrepreneur, bought four, a single seater, tourer, and two 'lorries', in Adelaide. He planned that his son and six lady-like daughters would drive (without licence or instruction) from Adelaide to Perth Western Australia where they would give concerts. But much to their amusement, on their first 'tryout trip', they discovered they could not carry enough water so Albert was forced to put his fleet of cars on the train.

'The Girls', however, soon became very proficient drivers and accustomed to cranking cars, opening gates, following camel drivers' and drovers' routes as well as doing road-side repairs. Some were done with fencing wire. Golden haired, brown eyed Ruby, they said, was an 'inspired mechanic'. The rugged reliable cars with their huge ground clearance of 25cm enabled them to be driven through water and over very rugged terrain. The cars gave exceptional performance even when grossly overloaded with the Company's luggage, stage props and movie equipment.

Country people came to stare. And T model Fords became known as 'The Squatters' Joy'. ◀

ALBERT EDWARD BIRD

A FLAWED CHAMPION

John Bird (Member No.5995)

Part One

NEARING THE END

The old pedestrian, Albert Edward Bird, whose destitution and physical breakdown have been the subject of a good deal of comment at the local court lately, was yesterday sent to the Benevolent Asylum. He had been committed to the gaol hospital for treatment, but the Mayor obtained his admission into the institute named.¹

I immediately thought *this is my great grandfather*. How did he fall on such hard times? Why was he called a pedestrian? What story did Albert Edward BIRD have to tell?

Since then, tracing his life story has been a journey of highs and lows, one of many, many emotions—pride, surprise, empathy, humour, confusion, wastefulness, excitement and even a little disappointment.

The story commences at Pea Croft, a poor area of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England and ends in an unidentified pauper's grave on the outskirts of Bendigo in central Victoria Australia. Much of the story of Albert relates to his time in Tasmania.

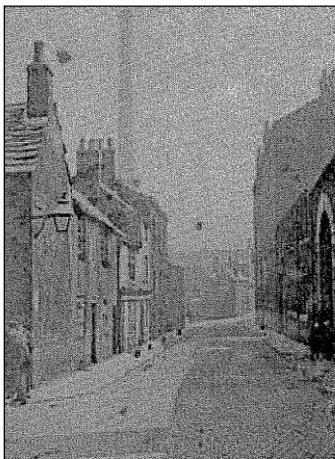
EARLY LIFE

Albert Edward Bird was born on 15 August 1846 at Court 26 Pea Croft, Sheffield, Yorkshire, the only child of William Bird and Sarah MOSLEY. William, an etcher and engraver, and Sarah had lived in Pea Croft since May

1843. They previously resided at 56 Ward Street, a home they had occupied since their marriage on 28 January 1828. It is surprising that the family moved to the Croft's district which was one of the most notorious in Sheffield, especially in the early 1800s. Families living there seemed to suffer an unusually high number of deaths, the most likely cause being the unsanitary conditions.

In June 1849 the family moved a mile south east to Arundel Lane. In March 1856 the family again relocated, moving north to 43 Pond Street.

Albert was fortunate his parents were able to pay to send him to a local private Dame school, which appeared to offer the best elementary education for working class children until they were about ten or eleven years old. The fees were about 3d per week and the quality of education the children received varied enormously, although the curriculum included basic reading and writing. From the age of eleven until fourteen Albert went to Park County School in Duke Street. Luckily



Pond Street Sheffield

¹ *Port Melbourne Standard*, 22 February 1908

for Albert, his education gave him the ability to read and write.

Upon turning fourteen, Albert left school to follow his father's trade, commencing an apprenticeship to be an etcher. However he was a very gifted athlete, and keen to pursue an athletic career. Encouraged by his parents, Albert began to take his running seriously in his late teens.

AMATEUR CAREER

Albert's amateur career began at a sports meeting at Hyde Park, Sheffield, on 8 July 1867 in a one mile handicap race. Starting from scratch, Albert won easily from a field of nineteen pedestrians. He ran the first two laps in the middle of the field, moving forward during lap three to be running fifth with one lap to go. He continued to pass the other competitors, taking the lead with thirty yards to go, eventually winning by three yards. Later that day he won the 880 yards handicap, starting off ten yards. In an exciting race with a field of twenty-four, Albert showed a great turn of speed to win his second race of the day, this time by five yards.

On 22 August at nearby Rotherham in a one mile race, Albert competing against another thirteen 'peds', ran second to the experienced John SNOW of Manchester. Although putting in a strong finish, Albert was unable to catch Snow.

Two days later Albert competed in a three mile race at Barnsley. It was a physical, and at times, rough race, not helped by an uneven track. Albert was always among the leading pedestrians and managing to stay out of any trouble, beat the other twelve starters, winning by fifteen yards.

Albert, in his first attempt at a long distance event, won a ten mile cup from scratch at a sports day held in Bramley, a suburb of Leeds in Yorkshire on 8 September. The race commenced at a quick pace with the runners jostling for

position. Albert settled into a mid-field position, his easy running style greatly admired by many of the spectators. By the mid way mark Albert was running in sixth position thirty yards behind the leading group of runners.

At the eight mile post, two runners broke away from the rest, and shortly after they had 100 yards lead. Albert sought to limit the distance and from then onwards, displayed outstanding running skills, went to the lead and was soon twenty yards ahead, a distance he kept to the finish.

TURNING PROFESSIONAL

First Year as a 'Ped'

Over the next few weeks Albert contemplated becoming a professional 'ped'. Pedestrianism was a nineteenth century form of competitive walking and running, often professional and funded by wagering. During the 1860s Pedestrianism was at its peak. It was a massive spectator sport and attracted thousands of spectators.

The idea of a person from a working-class family having the rare opportunity of achieving success and making money for doing something he enjoyed, greatly appealed to Albert. His parents were very supportive particularly as Albert had completed his apprenticeship as an etcher.

Albert's first race as a professional pedestrian was in cold and windy conditions at Royal Oak Park Grounds Manchester on 28 December 1867. It was a sensational heat of the 880 yards handicap race involving twenty-one competitors, most experienced pedestrians. The race was very physical, with much pushing and jostling. Albert, who was off fifty-four yards, ran a close second, despite giving the winner Robert MANSELL a seventeen yard start.

At some time in January-February 1868 Albert ran in an 880 yard handicap race at

Manchester, finishing second to John RIDLEY of Gateshead.

Albert's third appearance as a professional was on 22 February at the City Grounds Manchester in an 880 yards handicap event, worth £100. Albert, starting from thirty-five yards, won his heat, beating John FLEET off twelve yards and Bob ROGERS, off twenty-two yards. Two days later in the final, Albert won in a time of one minute fifty-five seconds, beating Bob HINDLE of Paisley and John Ridley. Albert was running mid field at the halfway mark, about twenty yards behind the leading runner. With a marked increase in his tempo, he quickly caught up with the leading pedestrians to be level with 100 yards to the finish. With a great spurt that was to be a trademark of many of his races, Albert won by two yards. His backers were ecstatic, winning over £3,000.

The Norfolk Football Club conducted an athletics sports day on 10 April at Brammall Lane Stadium, Sheffield. Albert entered the 700 yards Long Steeplechase over twelve hurdles and two water jumps.

Butterey took the lead which he held until going down Brammall side, when Bird, ... took command and held the same to the water, but not being fast enough out of the water J. P Donovan, who had fifty five yards was the winner; A. E Bird scratch a close second. Time one minute 54½ sec.²

On 25 April Albert ran second to Frank HEWITT, in a one mile handicap sweepstakes for the Champion Mile Cup at Royal Oak Park Ground Manchester. It was the first of many races between the two pedestrians over the next five years.

Commencing off twenty yards, Albert lost by less than one foot to Hewitt, who

was off thirty-five yards, and who dropped exhausted at the finish. Top Scottish runners Robert McINSTRAY and Robert Hindle, both experienced pedestrians, and expected to vie for first place, finished behind Albert. Many in the large vociferous crowd thought Albert had won, *Bell's Life* mentioning a

considerable dissatisfaction was expressed.

The referee had to be given protection as he left the course followed by an angry throng of spectators incensed at his decision.

Albert was back at Hyde Park on 6 June, running the fastest one mile time in England that year of four minutes thirty seconds, easily defeating the ex English champion Jemmy NUTTALL. Although Nuttall was expected to win, Albert started strongly and was ahead by twenty yards at the half way mark. Nuttall then endeavoured to assert his superiority, and by the end of the third lap was just behind Albert.

Many people in a raucous crowd of about 5,000 seemed to sense Nuttall would shortly overtake Albert and win comfortably. However, Albert seemed to find a second wind and quickly extended his lead to ten yards. It appears that the effort to catch up with Albert during lap three was telling on Nuttall, as Albert was beginning to draw away to win by thirty-five yards. It was the best running effort of Albert's short career.

Albert had a number of other successes over the next few months at smaller meetings, including a one mile victory in Sheffield at the South Yorkshire championships.

In October Albert was offered, for £10 a side, to race credentialed sprinter STANEY of Gorton, over 140 yards at the Queens Ground Sheffield. The race was held on 22 November, Albert winning by five yards in a time of fifteen seconds.

² The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 14 April 1868

A crowd of 3,000 people attended the Royal Oak Park Grounds on 12 December to witness a match race between John Fleet, and Albert for the English 1½-mile Championship. Fleet started a short priced favourite. Albert took the lead and held it until the third lap when Fleet went ahead and made the running at an increased pace. In the last lap, Albert again caught up and for the next 200 yards they ran together, before Fleet again went forward. Fleet powered ahead and Albert was unlikely to catch him. The winning time was seven minutes ten seconds.

Bird ran with gameness but, in our opinion, with bad judgement as it was evident the somewhat slow pace during the first half of the journey was all in Fleet's favour.³

Albert's first year as a professional pedestrian was a great success. *Bells Life* commented Albert was 'now one of the most renowned long-distance runners Sheffield has ever produced'.

Second Year as a 'Ped'

On 2 January Albert ran in the 1869 New Year Pedestrian Gala held at the Royal Patent Gymnasium Grounds. According to *Powderball and Pedestrianism*,

a crowd of 15,000 were present and the surrounding heights offered a free sight to almost 3,000 more.

The one mile handicap was framed from Albert, off scratch, with the veteran Bob McInstay given twenty-five yards start. The winner was ROSS of Edinburgh from seventy-five yards, in a good time of four minutes thirty-seven seconds, with McInstay second and Albert third.

Back at Hyde Park Sheffield on Monday 1 February Albert competed in an 880 yards match race, for £50, against Robert Hindle of Scotland. In recent times

Hindle had won several 1,000 yard handicap races. Prior to the race Hindle had been training in Manchester for three weeks, staying at the Grapes Inn, Salford, familiarising himself with the Hyde Park course. Albert was also frequently at the oval, every inch being familiar to him since boyhood.



Hyde Park Sheffield 1860s



Bramall Lane Cricket Ground Sheffield

Rain fell heavily on Sunday night and at intervals during the day; consequently, the course was anything but good going. There were over 1,600 spectators, despite the inclement, windy weather.

Albert showed superior pace to lead early and maintained a lead for over three laps. Hindle, the firm favourite, who appeared to be playing a waiting game, drew up to Albert and they ran side by side until about 250 yards from the finishing post. Hindle's supporters, confident he was running a great tactical race, shouted "Hindle will win!" However Albert, showing great stamina and rallying to the call of his friends, raced to the lead and

³ *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 14 December 1868

looked the winner half way down the straight. At this stage Hindle pulled up beaten, as Albert was putting on another spurt. Without turning his head to see where Hindle was, Albert ran in a winner by forty yards in a time of two minutes.

both men though so young, have been of no mean order ... Hindle stands 5ft 7½ and weighs 10st, and is a fine well-made young fellow. Bird strips lighter, his weight being 9st 4 lbs and his height 5ft 6½, but a more beautiful stepper we have rarely seen. He is an inch less than his opponent, but his stride is fully as long.

... Bird was hailed with loud applause by his friends as he left the enclosure.⁴

A crowd of over 7,000 gathered at Hyde Park Manchester on 22 March. A one mile rematch race, for £50, with Frank Hewitt was scheduled. It was almost twelve months since they last raced each other, on that occasion Hewitt winning by less than a foot. Since their last meeting Hewitt had continued his extremely successful career, winning nine races and only losing one in the last four months.

Both runners had many admirers who took great interest in the build up to the race, often watching them train.

At 5:50 pm Albert and his trainer 'Laddie' LEDGER entered the enclosure. Albert was looking in 'rare fettle'. His appearance was the signal for a burst of applause from his family and friends. Hewitt quickly followed, attended to by his trainer 'Flash' HALL. To complete the distance, three and a half laps of the ground had to be covered. The starter sent the runners off and Albert, better anticipating the report of the starter's gun, quickly jumped into a two-yard lead with instructions to make all the running. Increasing his pace, Albert was twenty yards ahead after two laps. Albert looked

a certain winner, but Hewitt, who had been waiting on him, made up ground and when they rounded the turn into the straight, with the finishing line 200 yards away, Hewitt was only six yards behind. Both groups of supporters thought their runner was going to win. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* on 23 March reported;

Bird from this point put on the steam and came away and won by six yards. The winning time was four minutes twenty nine seconds.

Bell's Life commented, '... a finer race has never been witnessed in Sheffield.'

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* on 25 March reported;

Last evening Albert Bird, the pedestrian and may we say the champion of England for this distance, viz., one mile celebrated his victory at the house of Mr Thomas Payton, mine host of the Prince of Wales Sycamore-street, in honour of his defeating well-known Frank Hewitt last Monday. Upwards of 50 sat down to an excellent repast. The evening was enjoyed by all present, and kept up until a late hour.

The largest crowd to witness an athletics meeting in Sheffield travelled to Bramall Lane Cricket Ground on Easter Monday, 22 March. Albert won the one mile cup, valued at £50, starting from scratch and beating fifty-eight others. Like many races at this time, it was a very rough affair with much bumping, elbowing and shoving occurring going unpunished by the officials. Albert was in the leading group at the half way mark when he was pushed forcefully in the back, stumbling and almost falling. It took a short time for him to get back into stride but he quickly made up the lost ground and had a short lead with about 150 yards to go. Again he was subject to some unsportsmanlike like actions, once more being pushed in the back. However, Albert

⁴ *Bell's Life*, 2 February 1869

kept his feet, quickened his pace and won comfortably by ten yards.

The next race against Frank Hewitt was on 28 June at Hyde Park, this time in an 880 yards handicap race. Albert was given ten yards start. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* reported,

It will be remembered that the same met in March last ... Bird winning in a well contested race. Bird setting out the work at a fast speed ... after 500 yards Hewitt came on even terms. They raced locked together for 200 yards but when passing the skeleton tent Hewitt had his man beaten winning in a time of one minute fifty eight seconds,

one of the fastest times ever run in England. Albert's time was two minutes and one second.

Eight months after their race for the 1½ mile championship of England, another match race was arranged for August 1869 between Albert and John Fleet. Fleet who, until twelve months ago had, for several years, been one of English champion runners over 1½ miles was seeking to atone for last year's unexpected loss to Albert at the Royal Oaks Ground Manchester.

On 9 August in front of a crowd of over 2,000 spectators, Albert won an 880 yard race for £100 in a time of two minutes 2.5 seconds. Albert, who liked to lead early, was again slow off the mark and Fleet took an early lead, which he maintained for the next 400 yards. Then Albert had what was described by *Bell's Life* as 'a change of gear' and quickly sprinted away from Fleet leading by ten yards with 200 yards to go. Despite Fleet making up ground late in the race, Albert's break was too much and he won by three yards. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* on 10 August had extensive coverage of the event. Fleet, upset by his

defeat, immediately asked for a re-match that was agreed to by Albert.

The re-match three days later, provoked much excitement in Sheffield and over 5,000 persons were in attendance. Albert led early and then both athletes ran side by side for a further 100 yards, at which time Albert again took the lead. He maintained his lead until within sixty yards of the finish, when Fleet overtook him to win by a yard in a very fast one minute 59.2 seconds; *Bell's Life* observed 'Bird though beaten, is anything but disgraced, as the time will show'.

AN OFFER OF A LIFETIME

Albert attended his cousin Elizabeth's marriage to Joseph FLETCHER in Wolverhampton on 23 August 1869. On his return home to Sheffield a letter was waiting. Its contents were to offer Albert a once in a life time opportunity.

In order to provide the Australian public an opportunity to see, and compete, against sportsmen from England, several sporting teams visited Australia in the 1860s. It was hoped to bring a cricket team from England in December 1869, but the arrangements were cancelled. It was decided England's premier pedestrians should replace the cricket team and compete against Australian pedestrians. Albert was chosen as one of three runners offered the chance to travel to Australia.

In September, George COPPIN brought Albert, promoted as the Champion Long Distance Runner of England and two other 'English Champions', Frank Hewitt, the English champion short distance runner and George TOPLEY, the English champion long distance walker, to Australia for a 100 day professional running program. ◀

To be continued.

JOHN PYNER

INTRIGUING 'BIT PLAYER' IN A FAMILY SAGA

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

AMONG the many joys of family history research is the occasional discovery of an intriguing story about someone who played only a minor role in the lives of the central characters. One such person in the sorry saga of the BROMLEY family was a convict by the name of John PYNER or PINER).

As many readers will know, Dr Edward Foord Bromley, a former British Navy surgeon, was Colonial Treasurer of Van Diemen's Land from 1820 to 1824 but his term of office ended in disgrace when he was accused of embezzlement from the public purse of the staggering sum (at that time) of more than £8,000.¹

John Pyner arrived at Hobart Town aboard *Richmond* on 30 April 1822. On 15 August 1821, he had been convicted of a felony at the Leicestershire Boro' Assizes and sentenced to transportation for life. Twenty-six years of age, he was five feet three inches tall, with dark brown hair and a scar on the left side of his upper lip. He told the authorities he was also known as John POWNELL.²

His Conduct Record is interesting. It reads in full:

Transported for Felony. Gaol report: Transported before & escaped from the 'Ganymede' hulk. Stated convicted in France from the Waggon Train for theft – transported for seven years, served 2

years and 8 months and then ran from 'Ganymede'. S [single] or M [married]: Not stated.³

Just what is meant by this is unclear in a number of respects, but a likely interpretation is that, at some time before he was sent to Van Diemen's Land, Pyner had been serving with the British Army or Navy in France. (His convict documents show his trade or calling as 'seaman'.) While in France, he had been charged with theft from a supply convoy. Sent back to Britain for trial, he had been found guilty and sentenced to transportation for seven years. While awaiting transportation, he was imprisoned on the hulk *Ganymede* but had escaped after two years and eight months there. Recaptured, he was charged with some new felony (or was his escape the felony?) and sentenced to transportation again, this time to Van Diemen's Land, for life.

But the really intriguing part of his story lies in what happened after he reached Hobart Town ...

Upon arrival, he was assigned as a servant to Dr Bromley who had arrived in the colony two years earlier and was already one of Hobart Town's most prominent citizens.⁴

Bromley's official title was 'Naval Officer, Hobart' and, as such, he was responsible for the collection of all

¹ See P R Eldershaw's short biography of Bromley in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bromley-edward-foord-1829>

² TAHO CON23/1/3, Pyner's 'Description List'

³ TAHO CON31/1/34, Image No. 80 Pyner's Conduct Record

⁴ TAHO HO 10, Piece 45. Bromley arrived at Hobart aboard *Castle Forbes* on 1 March 1820

shipping fees in the harbour as well as the duties payable on the importation of alcohol and certain other restricted goods. Within weeks of his arrival, he had also been appointed Treasurer of the Police Fund, established by Governor Macquarie in 1810 to provide for the creation of a police force. In addition to the payment of salaries and expenses of other locally appointed officers, this account was used for the purchase and provision of a diverse range of other items including straw and firewood for the gaol, shoes, candles, nails, wire sieves for the government mill, blacksmith's work, school masters' salaries, rewards for apprehending escapees, firewood for Government House and compensation to the chief constables in lieu of the provision of jackets and shoes. In these roles, Bromley was, in effect, the Colonial Treasurer and often signed himself as such.⁵

An affable, kindly and popular man, he had friends in high places. One of his closest friends was William SORELL, Lieutenant-Governor of the colony since April 1817 and who, in early 1824, was making preparations to return to England following the announcement of George ARTHUR as his replacement. When Sorell made it known he was looking for a suitable servant to assist him and his family on the long ocean voyage, Bromley seems to have had no hesitation in recommending Pyner, despite the fact that he had served only two years and two months of his life sentence.

And so, when Sorell and his family boarded *Guildford* bound for London on 13 June 1824, Pyner, for whom a full

⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette and VDL Advertiser*, 23 April 1824, p.1 for Bromley's use of the title 'Colonial Treasurer'

pardon had been hastily arranged, was with them. A short time later, he was back in England again, a free man.

Among the first pieces of news he might have received from Van Diemen's Land after reaching London was that his former master, Bromley, the man who was chiefly responsible for giving him back his freedom, was in serious trouble.

At about the time *Guildford* had left Hobart, Lieutenant-Governor Arthur had been informed that a very large amount of money was missing from the Treasury coffers. Enraged, he had called Bromley in and demanded an explanation.

Unable to account for the losses except to say that he thought some or all of it might have been stolen from the Treasury Chest (a strong-box which he kept under his bed at his home) by one or more of his household servants, the good-natured Bromley became the subject of what has been referred to since as 'a wide and pitiless exposure and denunciation' by Arthur.⁶

Although it soon became clear that Bromley himself had not taken any of the money, he was held responsible for its loss because, by his own admission to a Commission of Information which Arthur had established, his guardianship of it had been careless in the extreme.⁷

⁶ Robson, Lloyd. (1983): *A History of Tasmania*, Vol.1, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, p.289

⁷ The Commission of Information, one of several formal enquiries into the matter, met in Hobart in early November 1824. Although it found that Bromley *owes to the Crown the sum of £8,269.0.8d*, it recommended that he be given the *most favourable treatment by the Government* because of the plundering of the strong-box by his servants. He was never formally charged with theft or

By the time *Guildford* had reached London, Bromley had been stripped of all his property and assets so that they could be sold to the highest bidder in order to recoup the losses. That this would leave him, his young wife and children penniless and homeless did not seem to bother Arthur at all.⁸

Would Pyner have felt sorry for Bromley? That is difficult to say. But, even if he had, he did not have long to dwell on it. Within weeks of his arrival back in England, he himself was in trouble with the law again.

On 24 January 1825, Earl BATHURST, Britain's Secretary of State for the Colonies, wrote to Sir Thomas BRISBANE, the Governor of New South Wales, informing him that Pyner had been arrested again and expressing bewilderment and displeasure that he had been granted a pardon and allowed to return to England.⁹

In part, Lord Bathurst's letter read:

A Prisoner named John Pyner, who was transported to Van Diemen's Land for a second offence, having been found at large in this Country, the late Lieut. Governor [Sorell] has been called upon for an explanation of the circumstances, under which a free pardon had been granted to the Individual in question, and it appears by his answer that, on the occasion of his quitting the Colony to return to Europe, you had placed at his disposal a certain number of Pardons to

embezzlement. See *Hobart Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 19 November 1824

⁸ Lists of the confiscated Bromley properties and other assets were published in newspapers at the time. See, for instance, *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 20 May 1825

⁹ Bathurst to Brisbane, 24 January 1825, *Historical Records of Australia*, NLA

be disposed of amongst such of the Convicts, as he deemed most deserving of this favour, and that John Pyner was one of the persons whom he had so selected. As much inconvenience may arise from this indiscriminate system of granting pardons, I have to convey to you His Majesty's commands that, on no future occasion of a similar kind, should this practice be repeated.¹⁰

Then, on 10 August 1827, the *Colonial Times* (Hobart) carried the news that a man by the name of John PINER (sic), a former convict who had worked in the Bromley household at Hobart, had been executed in England for a crime committed there after he had returned from Van Diemen's Land. The paper gave no details of the new crime. Nor did it say where and when the execution had been carried out.¹¹

What the newspaper did reveal, however, was that, before he was hanged, Pyner had confessed to the gaol authorities that he and other servants of the Bromley household had 'repeatedly plundered the Treasury Chest'. This statement, the report continued, was 'fully borne out by the testimony of a female now in the colony, who was present at the time'. The woman was not named in the report.¹²

¹⁰ *Colonial Times*, 10 August 1827

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Recent research suggests the unnamed woman might have been Elizabeth WICKS, another of Bromley's convict servants. On 20 November 1824, she was charged in the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land with the theft from the Bromley residence of several items of women's clothing. However, because Bromley did not appear at court to press charges, the case was dismissed. See *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 12 November 1824.

Although Bromley had imagined at first that Pyner's death-bed confession would exonerate him, he was soon to discover it made no difference whatsoever to his circumstances. By the time news of it had reached Hobart, the fact that his servants had broken into the strong-box under his bed was already well-accepted. Bromley's crime, it had been established, had not been theft or embezzlement but gross carelessness and negligence. Thus, what Pyner had admitted only served to underline the laxity and inadequacy of his former master's supervision.

By June 1829, despite the seizure and sale of all he owned, Bromley still owed the government over £4,000.¹³ At that time, the authorities allowed him—most reluctantly—to return to England where he hoped to be able to raise the money to clear his liability. However, finding himself unable to do so, he had no option but to go back to sea.

For the next five years he served as surgeon-superintendent on ships carrying convicts to the colonies. Under an agreement between the British Admiralty and the authorities at Hobart, part of his salary was to be deducted regularly and forwarded to Hobart in restitution of the Treasury losses.¹⁴

In February 1834, after disembarking a cargo of convicts at Port Jackson, he made one last brief visit to his wife and children in Van Diemen's Land.¹⁵ By now a sick and broken man, he soon returned to England where he was admit-

ted to the Marine Infirmary at Woolwich. He died there on 29 June 1836.¹⁶

As far as Pyner is concerned, nothing more is known. To date, efforts to discover the nature of his new crime (if there was one) in England, as well as the date and place of his execution, have been unsuccessful.

For the family historian, the antithesis of the joy of making the incidental discovery of a story of this kind is the pain of not being able to follow it through. In the case of Pyner, it seems likely that the rest of his story could be unearthed in England but that would require a time-consuming and costly search, one probably not justified by the importance of his place in the Bromley family saga. ◀

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¹³ As for Note 1, above

¹⁴ Ibid. For further details, see Bromley's service record at British Admiralty, ADM 104/12/f.37

¹⁵ Bromley returned to Port Jackson in 1835 on the convict ships *Numa*

¹⁶ See Notes 1 and 12, above

SOPHIA HOPWOOD

'HARBOURER OF PROSTITUTES'

Margaret Nichols (Member No.3225)

IN the 21st century a single mother has many safety nets. For example, she can apply for government assistance, the legal system will ensure that maintenance is paid or she can use her education and experience to work. This was not the case in 19th century Australia. There was no government assistance, few charitable organisations, attitudes towards single mothers in a male-dominated society were unsympathetic and jobs were scarce for illiterate and uneducated women who often had a large family to support.

Here is a brief outline of one woman's experience in late 19th century Hobart.

Sophia HOPWOOD was born Sophia LUCAS in 1830 in Hobart, Tasmania, the daughter of Thomas Lucas and Sophia SHERBURD. As is common with nineteenth century women, nothing is known about her life until 1853 when she married Henry William Hopwood in Kingston, south of Hobart. Henry and Sophia were first cousins as their respective mothers were Sherburd sisters. Sophia was pregnant when they married in March 1853 and their first child Louisa Ann was born in August 1853. Six more children were born to the couple at regular two-year intervals. Their last child, Henry Tasman was born in 1865. Their father was a mariner and the childrens' birth places reflect this—Kingston, Hobart, Battery Point and Swansea. Henry's chosen profession kept him at sea for most of the year, particularly from the 1860s as he became more successful. This would have placed a great strain on the marriage.

Henry and Sophia separated sometime between 1865 and 1872. During these years Henry began a relationship with Jane PATTON in Spring Bay. They had four children who were born between 1872 and 1882.

The most obvious and public sign that all was not well was the advertisement Henry placed in *The Mercury* three times in August 1869:

I hereby caution the public, especially auctioneers, from buying, receiving from or selling for my wife Sophia Hopwood, any goods, household furniture, etc., the same belonging to me without my written authority. Henry Hopwood, Constitution Dock, Hobart.

Oh dear, things were declining rapidly.

Sophia was on her own from 1872 onwards and possibly earlier. She was 42 years old and had seven children, five girls and two boys, aged between 19 and 7. On the 18 and 20 May 1872 the death and funeral notices for Sarah Sophia Hopwood, aged 17 appeared in *The Mercury*. Sarah was described as the second daughter of Captain Henry Hopwood of the *Kingston*. There is no mention of her mother in either notice.

Sophia was not doing well in 1872. On 17 September she was tried for larceny, found guilty and spent two months in gaol.

In July of 1875 Sophia brought a maintenance case against Henry. It was reported in the *Mercury* as a case in the City Police Court,

Sophia Hopwood summoned William Hopwood, her husband, to show cause why he should not support her.

The outcome was not reported.

How was Sophia to live? She and Henry were estranged and he was supporting a new family in Spring Bay. Sophia became an independent business woman and opened a brothel. This move was not without its adverse consequences. From 1884 to 1892 Sophia was in front of the court on various charges—‘keeping a disorderly house’, ‘allowing prostitutes to assemble on her premises in Argyle Street’ and ‘harbouring prostitutes’. In most cases a fine was levied and paid. However in June 1886 she was unable to pay the fine for keeping a disorderly house and spent six months in gaol from 8 June until 6 December. In August 1892 she spent another month in gaol on the same charge.

This is how Sophia’s case in the City Police Court of May 1887 was reported:

An old offender named Sophia Hopwood was charged with keeping a disorderly house in Brisbane street. Police Constable CARPENTER gave evidence as to disorderly conduct there on Sunday morning, and on other occasions. The house was a brothel, frequented by women of bad character. Corroborative evidence was given by another constable as to the character of the house. For the defence a married woman named Catherine ANSON, and a male witness named Alfred POVEY, said that three men attempted to force an entrance into the house on the night in question, and when they were being repelled the police arrived. The defendant was in bed at the time. There were no women of bad character in the house. Their Worships decided to dismiss the case.

Perhaps their Worships had personal knowledge of the house in Brisbane Street?

Sophia’s daughter Louisa Ann Hopwood appeared to have aided her mother in their chosen profession. Louisa was fined

£5 in January 1889 for ‘keeping a brothel’. However, later that month she was not so lucky and spent three months in gaol and was discharged on 22 April. Louisa gave birth to two children during the period when the brothel was active, in 1883 and 1888. In both cases, the father’s name was unknown on the birth certificates. If Louisa was a working girl, then pregnancy was an unfortunate occupational hazard.

However, Sophia did not have a head for business and did not make any money. She died in the New Town Charitable Institute in Hobart in 1911. At the time of her death six of her children were alive and living in Hobart. Perhaps they were ashamed of their mother and left her to her own devices.

It is not possible to know whether Henry left his wife because he had found another woman or whether Sophia’s conduct drove him away. Nevertheless, it is a sad story which illustrates the vulnerability of women in 19th century Hobart (and elsewhere) where officially there was no provision for women who separated and who were unlikely to attract much sympathy from the religious-oriented charitable operations. The position of a man in such circumstances was undeniably much better. ◀

Sources

Registrar-General Births, Deaths and Marriages
National Library of Australia, *Trove*, Digitised Newspapers.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q=Archives Office of Tasmania, SC243/1 Registers of Prisoners received into and discharged from Gaol, Hobart.>]

Previously published in *The Ancestral Searcher*, December 2011.

KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

Allison Carins (Member No.668)

OUR university student granddaughter interviewed my husband Peter and me for a Health Science project on ‘Ageing’—asking about our attitude to growing old—how we remembered the past etc.

Peter told her how his father kept diaries for thirty years till he died and which he himself continued to do until the present time. He showed how memories stored in the mind needed to be brought out of the ‘storehouse’ from time to time to keep them fresh. He also advised her not to fill the ‘storehouse’ with rubbish! (Note: Don’t get irritated by grandfather telling the same stories over and over—that’s his way of keeping them alive. Listen, write or record them—they will otherwise be lost.)

Peter gave Sara an illustration of the value of some stories told to him and stored away, of things that happened before he was born in 1924! These concerned Mr MUCKRIDGE who lived in Derby in North East Tasmania.

Not long ago, a friend of ours was in the cafe in Derby when a man and his friends stopped there. The visitor asked around if anyone knew of Mr Muckridge, his grandfather, who had had a shop there many years ago. My friend replied, I’ve only lived here for thirty years, but I know someone who may be able to help. A phone call to us and the party drove the five kilometres to visit us. Peter said to him, “Mr Muckridge was at Derby before I was born, but I can tell you three stories about him.”

First, Mr Muckridge not only had a shop, but also a Model T Ford which he used

for carrying mail and passengers to the various centres from Branhholm, which was as far as the train travelled then. On 11 November 1918, Armistice Day, Peter’s parents moved from Nabowla to Winnaleah. Tom brought some household goods, including the fowls, with the horse and buggy, while Agnes and three small children came by train. Furniture also arrived by rail. Agnes hadn’t even been to the new property. She bravely and trustingly left a beautiful house, ‘Rocklyn’, which Tom had built.

Mr Muckridge met the train and first took them to Winnaleah to a hut that Tom had used earlier, the only place he knew of owned by Tom. Agnes refused to get out of the car. “Tom said there was a house”. So Mr Muckridge said, “Well you can stay in the car and come with me on my rounds to Moorina and we’ll find the right place”. Eventually they arrived at ‘Fernbank’. There was a modest cottage—but it was a house.¹

The second story concerned the CANNELL family. He was a blacksmith at Herrick. Two families went for a day’s shooting picnic out on the Boobyalla Road towards the NE Coast. During lunch, Mr Cannell leaned his gun against a tree. His young daughter, Velda, went to touch it; he grabbed it and it went off, badly shattering his arm and shoulder.

They were about thirty kilometres out in the bush from Herrick. Mrs Cannell tore up her petticoat to stem the bleeding and drove him with the horse and jinker to Derby, a further eight kilometres, to see

¹ Previously published in *My Father Told Me*, by Peter Carins.

Dr Von SEE. In those days the only ambulance was a special rail car but the train had gone. So Mr Muckridge and his Model T were enlisted to take the injured man to Scottsdale from where he was sent by train to the hospital in Launceston. Mr Cannell recovered. Velda herself told us the story when she was 90 years old.¹

The third story was this. Mr Muckridge took a party in his Model T Ford to Anson's Bay to catch bream. The account handed down and often told with amusement and scepticism, was, "Mr Muckridge said, 'You can't catch bream unless you have porcelain rings on your fishing rod,'" As Peter finished telling this, the visitor exclaimed, "I have that fishing rod with the porcelain rings, it was my grandfather's!"

So Peter, out of his 'storehouse of memories' was able to pass on all this information—this man could well have passed through Derby that day none the wiser, except for the encounter with our friend at the cafe. He also bought the two books containing the stories and much background about the district—so it was rewarding visit. ◀

¹ Story told in *Neika a History of Herrick*, by Peter Carins.

EARLY BURIALS AT THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL O'BRIEN'S BRIDGE, GLENORCHY

- 1832 William Harding aged 32 yrs, 28 May
- 1832 Master Chapman of Hobarttown, 6 yrs 4 mths.
- 1833 Jan^y 10 Susannah Risby aged 78
- 1833 March 20 James Davis', female child 5 weeks old
- 1833 June 19 Elizabeth Bumpstead female child, 12 mths.
- 1833 August 10 Robert Clarck 31 years of age
- 1833 Aug 28 John Oakley 24 years old.
- 1833 December 8 Mr Chapman's daughter of Hobarttown.
- 1834 Feb^y 24 John Oakley son of deceased
- 1835 April 23 Mary Waddle daughter ? Waddle.
- 1835 Oct 9 Mary Ann Nash wife of Jo? aged 46 yrs.
- 1835 Dec 19 George Oakley Junior 24 yrs of age.
- 1836 Jan^y 14 Dorothy Oakley wife of George Oakley, aged 44 yrs
- 1836 Apr 4 Mary A Berresford wife of Joseph Berresford aged 46
- 1836 June 16 Ann Rodman wife of Jonas Rodman, 26
- 1836 Aug 16 John Rosendale son of Geo Rosendale, aged 15 yrs.
- 1836 July 13 wife of John Webber aged 31 yrs.
- 1843 Nov 1 George Oakley aged 52
- 1857 Sept 29 John Johnson aged 78
- ? A. Manton aged 2 yrs.
- Jane Warrender Watchorn daughter William Watchorn of Hobarttown aged 20 yrs.

This list from Irene Schaffer's website at www.tasfamily.net.au/~schafferi was sent to her by Cheryl Macfarlane who found it among family papers. Cheryl thinks it may have been copied by Elizabeth Oakley, daughter of George and Dorothy Oakley, before she and her siblings left Tasmania for Melbourne in 1843 after the death of her father. Check Irene's website for further information. ◀

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

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

BALMAIN CEMETERY REVISITED

This CD was published by the Central Coast Family History Society in 2011.

The old Balmain Cemetery closed in 1912. In 1941, the area was dedicated as a public park and ultimately developed into the Leichhardt Pioneers Memorial Park. Relatives were advised, but few headstones were relocated. Conversion began in 1942 to remove the headstones and level the area. Headstones were used for the retaining wall surrounding the 11 acres of the site.

Whilst the CD does not contain headstone transcriptions of the 10,608 pioneers interred there between 1868 and 1912, it does contain death, burial details, and other family information gleaned from public records.

TAYLOR ANCESTORS: William Henry NICHOLS and Louisa FOSTER; Thomas Lewis Nichols and Mary Ann VINCENT; John Vincent and Susannah RIVERS.

This book was published in 2009 by Pat Taylor.

It 'contains the history of three Taylor ancestors and their families; William Henry Nichols, his parents Thomas Nichols and Mary Ann Vincent and her parents, John Vincent and Susannah Rivers.

William Nichol's daughter Adelaide Matilda Nichols was to marry George Taylor and become part of the Taylor ancestors.

The Vincent and Nichols families were early settlers in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and as time passed the families spread throughout the colonies of Australia and New Zealand'.

TAYLOR ANCESTORS 2: William Foster & Elizabeth RUSSELL; William Foster & Maria THOMPSON; William Thompson & Maria HAMILTON.

This book was published in 2010 by Pat Taylor.

This book tells the stories of three more Taylor ancestors and their families. It details the foundation of the Taylor family in Australia, dating from the First Fleet in 1788.

William Foster and Elizabeth Russell were the parents of Louisa Foster whose story can be found in *Taylor Ancestors*. ◀

LIBRARY NOTES

Former circulating microfiche

Now permanently at:

Burnie	National Probate Calendars 1853–1943 and AGCI
Hobart	1891 Census Indexes for Scotland
Huon	GRO Consular Records Index
Launceston	Griffith's Valuation for Ireland Series Old Parochial Records, Scotland GRO BDMs Index 1943–1950

Lilian Watson Family History Award 2010 entries

21/05/2012	Launceston	20/08/2012	Mersey
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Lilian Watson Family History Award 2011 entries

21/05/2012	Launceston	20/08/2012	Burnie
19/11/2012	Hobart	18/02/2013	Huon
23/05/2013	Mersey		

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	<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 3 (p&p \$5.50).....	\$11.00
	<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 4 (p&p \$5.50).....	\$11.00
	<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 5 (p&p \$8.00) **	\$25.00
	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1–20</i> (p&p \$5.50) **.....	\$22.50
	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21–25</i> (p&p \$4.50) **.....	\$15.00
	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 26–30</i> (p&p \$2.80) **.....	\$25.00
	(p&p \$10.50 for 2-3 books)	
CD-Rom	<i>Tasmanian Federation Index</i> (p&p \$2.50).....	\$231.00
CD-Rom	<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$5.00)	\$50.00
Microfiche	<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$2.00)	\$50.00

** members discount applies

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

HOBART BRANCH

Accessions—Books

- *Baker, D; *The People of Hope Island, Port Esperance*. [Q 994.652 BAK]
- Bissett, M & B; *The Weekly Courier—Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians: Vol. 8, 1916*
- *Fripp, J B; *The Antecedents of Beatrice Catherine May*. [Q 929.2 MAY]
- *Gregory's Publishing Co.; *Sydney & Blue Mountains 2004 Street Directory*. [912.9441 GRE]
- Hobart City Council; *Women's Sites & Lives in Hobart*. [Q 919.464 SCR]
- *MacDonald, W; *Memoirs of a Hobart Boy*. [Q 929.2 MCD]
- *McDonald, J; *A short history of Crofting in Skye*. [994.1 MAC]
- Morley, A J; *Memories of Tasmania's West Coast*. [Q 380.9946 MOR]
- *Taylor, Pat; *Taylor Ancestors*
- *Taylor, Pat; *Taylor Ancestors 2*
- *The Mercury; *VP Day—50th Anniversary, 1945–1995*. [Q 994.6 VPD]
- Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS; *Darling Downs Biographical Register to 1900: Part 2, L–Z*
- Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS; *Darling Downs Biographical Register to 1920*

Accessions—Computer Disks

- *Archive CD Books; *Pastoral Possessions of New South Wales*
- *Archives CD Books; *Police Gazette—NSW Compendium 1921–1925*
- *Archives CD Books; *Police Gazette—Queensland Compendium 1921–1925*
- *Central Coast FHS; *Balmain Cemetery Revisited*
- Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS; *Darling Downs Biographical Register to 1900: Part 1, A–K*
- *Denotes complimentary or donated item

MERSEY BRANCH

Accessions—Books

- *Bigwood, Chris; *A Biography of Frederick Russell Yates Bellchambers - An Everyday Tasmanian*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp]; *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians Vol. 9 1917*
- *Cole, Jean & Church, Rosemary; *In and Around Record Repositories in Great Britain and Ireland*
- *Conghail, Maire & Gorry, Paul; *Tracing Irish Ancestors*
- Female Factory Research Group; *Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory*
- Hookway, Eileen; *A Horseride to Church - The Story of St Paul's Anglican Church, Springfield, near Scottsdale and its Congregation*
- *Jones, Edward F; *Matthew Flinders The Discoverer of Coochie Mudlo Island*

*Indicates donated item

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 VIC 8009
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dgcinc/>

Australia's No. 1 website for family history resources[^]

AUSTRALIAN COLLECTIONS

- NEW: New South Wales Gaol Description and Entrance Books 1818-1930
- NEW: New South Wales Registers of Coroners' Inquests 1796-1942
- Australia Birth, Marriage & Death Index
- Australian Convict Collection
- Queensland Passenger Lists 1848-1912
- Victorian Passenger Lists 1839-1923
- Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954
- NSW Free Settlers 1826-1922
- Census of NSW (1828)

UK COLLECTIONS

- NEW: 1911 England and Wales Census Summary Books
- NEW: London Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1812
- NEW: Fife, Scotland, Voters Lists 1832-1894
- UK Prison Hulk Registers 1802-1849
- All UK Census up to 1901
- London Parish Records (from 1538)
- Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes
- Incoming Passenger Lists 1870-1960
- England Alien Arrivals 1810-11 & 1826-1869

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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.

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

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
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.

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.

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 2012–13:-

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 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.

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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Mersey:	Old police residence 113 Gilbert Street Latrobe Tasmania 7307
Hobart:	19 Cambridge Road Bellerive Tasmania 7018
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Launceston:	45 Tamar Street Launceston Tasmania 7250

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

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NEWS FROM FFHS

A report received from Lady Teviot, Federation Family History Societies representative at the Probate Stake Holders Meeting held in London on 17 April 2012, included news of Soldiers Wills.

SOLDIERS WILLS

The discovery of 300,000 Soldiers Wills in boxes which have never been entered in the Calendars will become available online by the end of the year is of great interest.

They cover the Crimean War, the WWI and WWII. No mention was made of the Boer War. The records apply to non commissioned officers.

The order of which it is thought wills and administrations will come online is:

Probate 2006 to current

1996 to 2005

1940 to 1995

1858 to 1900

1901 to 1939

There was some discussion as to whether the last two were in the correct order of availability. ◀

Information received by email from Beryl Evans, FFHS Archives Liaison Officer, archives.liaison@ffhs.org.uk on 20 April 2012.