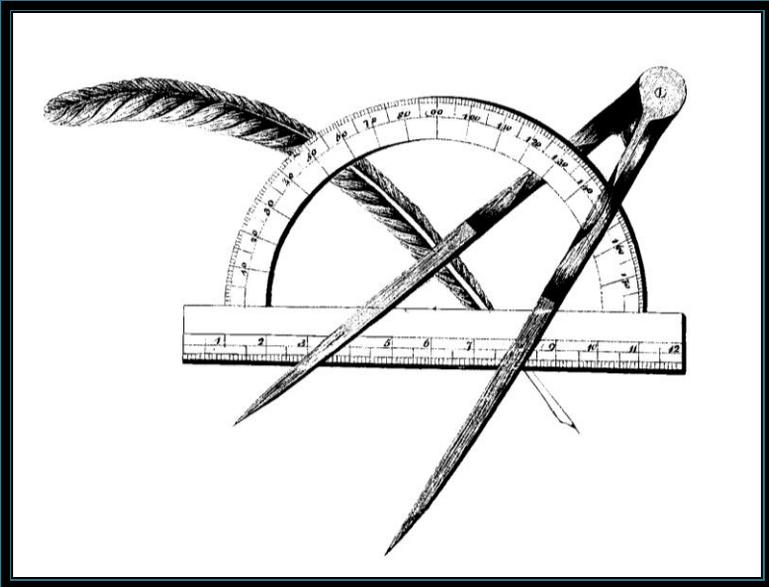


# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 33 Number 1—June 2012

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the editor

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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PO Box 1290 Launceston TAS 7250  
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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>

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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.

## Branch

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**All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527**



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](mailto: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>

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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

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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.

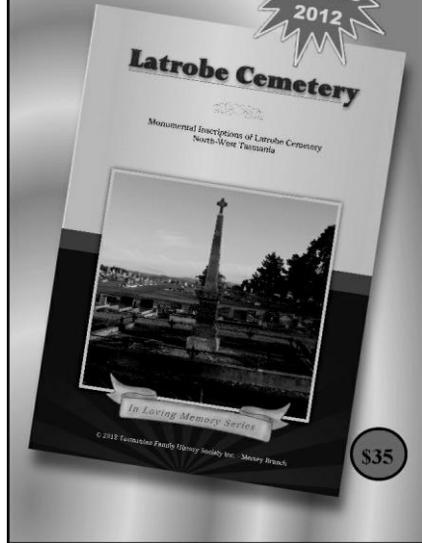
There is much to learn about this district. The tour starts at 10:00 and finishes around 3:00. Morning tea and lunch are included for a small fee. If anyone is interested in the tour please phone the branch secretary for details. This is a tour not organized by our branch.

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)

**A**BAZAR 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>



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

<sup>1</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 11 January 1867

<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> 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,

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<sup>3</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 29 April 1878

<sup>4</sup> *The Mercury*, 17 December 1887

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<sup>5</sup> *The Mercury*, 15 November 1904

<sup>6</sup> *The Examiner*, 8 December 1914

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

A successful juvenile fancy dress ball was staged in the Moorina Town Hall in August 1905 in aid of that school's piano fund.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>



### 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

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<sup>7</sup> *The North Western Advocate*, 26 December 1906

<sup>8</sup> *The Mercury*, 24 August 1905

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<sup>9</sup> *The Mercury*, 2 November 1908

GOURLAY and Messrs C WILLIAMS and W and R MARRIOTT. The net proceeds were about £7.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup>

### 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup>

### 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.<sup>15</sup>

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

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<sup>10</sup> *The Mercury*, 13 August 1929

<sup>11</sup> *The Mercury*, 5 June 1924

<sup>12</sup> See Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office: ED31 series

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<sup>13</sup> *The Examiner*, 6 June 1923

<sup>14</sup> *The Advocate*, 24 September 1932

<sup>15</sup> *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.<sup>16</sup>

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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup>

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



<sup>16</sup> *The Mercury*, 11 June 1929

<sup>17</sup> *The Advocate*, 10 March 1927

<sup>18</sup> *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.<sup>19</sup> 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. ◀

<sup>19</sup> *The Mercury*, 15 September 1932

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

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

**B**ETWEEN 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 'Strutt's Cottage' still exists in Bathurst Street, Hobart.

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

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

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*.<sup>5</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup> *The Mercury* 21 September 1860 p.3

<sup>5</sup> *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.<sup>6</sup>

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. ◀

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<sup>6</sup> *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](http://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)

**M**Y grandfather Henry Claye Watson's family links with India go back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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*.<sup>2</sup>

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*.<sup>3</sup>

The Furlonges initially settled on a ninety acre property at Myrtle Bank, adjacent to properties later taken up by the SKEMP and BULMAN brothers.<sup>4</sup> 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

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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'

<sup>5</sup> Parsons, p.16

by the colonel of his regiment.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Parsons, p.15; Veda M Veale, private communication.

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

<sup>8</sup> HD Love, *Vestiges of old Madras*, vol. 2, p.138.

<sup>9</sup> Love, p.187

<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

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.<sup>12</sup>

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.<sup>13</sup>

In 1750, Eliza Walsh married the much older Joseph Fowke, thus becoming grandfather Watson's 2<sup>nd</sup> (2X) great grandmother. Her brother John Walsh became my 4<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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

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

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<sup>11</sup> Green, p.5

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup> Bence-Jones, p.34.

included Philadelphia AUSTEN, Jane Austen's aunt.<sup>16</sup> 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'.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup>

### 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

<sup>16</sup> Bence-Jones, p.86

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

<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> 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

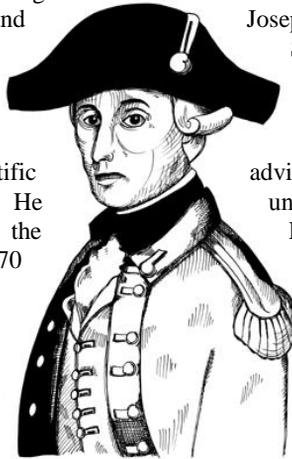
a gentleman well acquainted with philosophical and polite literature, and particularly versed in the natural history and antiquities of India.

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

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.<sup>21</sup>

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)

<sup>19</sup> Green, p.5

<sup>20</sup> Green, p.5

<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup>

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.<sup>23</sup> 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.

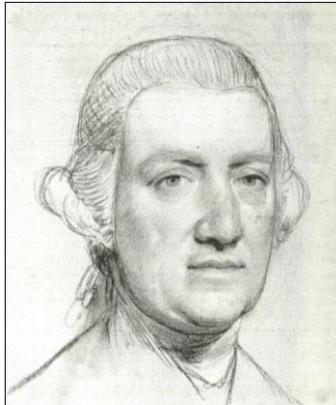
**Last years in Bengal**  
In 1755, Joseph Fowke, is reported to have provided an eye witness account of the Great Lisbon Earthquake in a letter to his brother:

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.<sup>24</sup>

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 18<sup>th</sup> century.

My 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather Joseph Fowke, one of the more colourful 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

<sup>22</sup> Edwin Danson, *Drawing The Line*, John Wiley, 2001, p.199.

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

<sup>24</sup> 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 London<sup>25</sup> was probably a Mr Lawrence Fowkes (not Fowke), an Irish resident of Lisbon.<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> *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.*

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

<sup>27</sup> 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 others<sup>28</sup>

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.<sup>29</sup>

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:

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<sup>28</sup> 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).

<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup>

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.<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup>

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.<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup>

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.<sup>36</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>32</sup> Green, p.23.

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

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<sup>34</sup> John Benn-Walsh.

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

<sup>36</sup> 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](mailto: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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7239	FORREST Ms Kerry	2/5 North Terrace kerry@boyrenaissance.com.au	BURNIE	TAS	7320
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7249	JONES Mr David Andrew	Not for publication			
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7257	DYER Mr Alan Francis	U411 Karingal Community 32-36 Lovett Street adyertas@gmail.com	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7258	HOBBINS Miss Tabitha	4/164 Oldaker Street	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
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7260	ARMOUR Mrs Margaret Rae	2154 Frankford Road amarmtas@hotmail.com	FRANKFORD	TAS	7275
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7262	ATKINSON Mr Frank Montague	PO Box 574 atkinson_frank@hotmail.com	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7263	FERGUSON Mr Michael Darrel J	PO Box 537 michael.ferguson@parliament.tas.gov.au	LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
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7268	PEARSON Mr Eric	PO Box 146 mastertag@bigpond.com.au	ESK	QLD	4312
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7275	Mrs Sandra Henwood	2 Edward Street	PORT SORELL	TAS	7307
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7278	COSS Mr Russell	103 High Street	SHEFFIELD	TAS	7306
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7280	MEDWIN Mrs Evelyn Joan	1 Ritchie Avenue	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7281	PASCOE Mrs Patricia Mary	729 Wollombi Road pascolin@bigpond.com	BISHOPS BRIDGE	NSW	2326
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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](mailto: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](mailto:erika.shankley@gmail.com)

# WILLIAM STANLEY SHARLAND

Rosemary Davidson (Member No.870)

**W**ILLIAM 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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).<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> AJCP PRO 3195, *Emma Eugenia* (4) 1846  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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](http://www.goldcoastfhs.org.au).

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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'.<sup>2</sup>

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'.<sup>3</sup> 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'.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 Adolarus William Henry Humphrey 28 November 1827; in her VDL convict record Agnes is documented as Thompson.

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

<sup>4</sup> CSO 1/247/5960, 21 December 1827.

<sup>5</sup> *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*.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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'.<sup>8</sup> 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'.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup> 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,<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> Isabella

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

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

<sup>7</sup> Laura is a descendant of Isabella Duff and Lynda Grierson is a descendant of Richard and Sophia Love.

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

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

<sup>10</sup> County of Bourke Victoria 1893/162.

<sup>11</sup> *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.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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.<sup>15</sup> 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).<sup>16</sup>

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.<sup>17</sup>

It seems that following James' death, Isabella moved to Brandy Bottom.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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. ◀

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

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

<sup>15</sup> CEN 1/1/46 Brighton 1843, p.97.

<sup>16</sup> RGD 35 Richmond deaths 68/1849.

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

<sup>18</sup> CEN 1/1/115 Richmond 1851, p.125.

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

<sup>20</sup> RGD Deaths Northcote Victoria 14212/1918.

# HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES IN THE HOBART AREA c.1925

Compiled by Laurie Moody (Member No. )

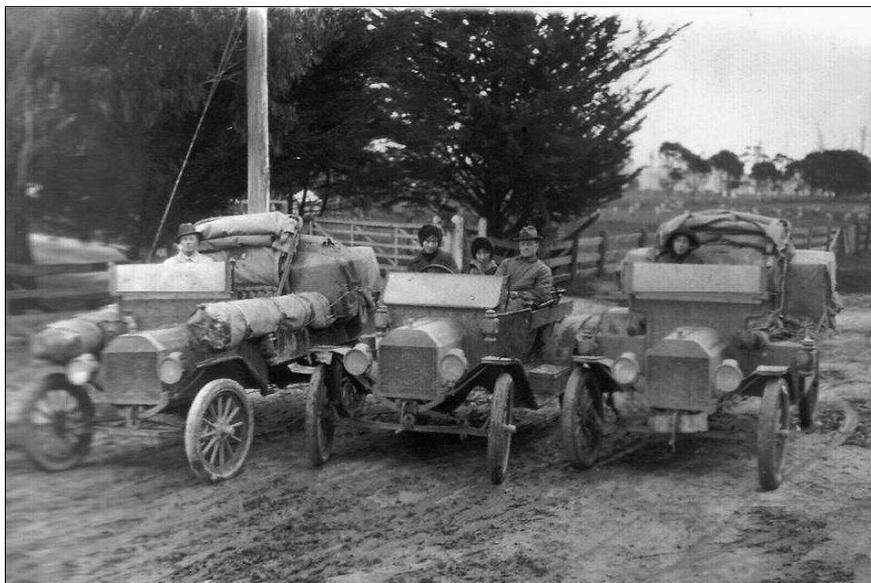
Town	Hotel/Boarding House	Per Day	Per Week	Proprietor
Bellerive	Clarence Hotel	8/-	55/-	E. T. Connolly
	Bellerive Place	10/-	60/-	Mrs S. Lucas
Brown's River	Burwood	10/-	56/-	Mrs. W. H. Wise
	Australasian Hotel	12/-	70/-	E. Preuss
	Northampton House	8/6	45/-	Miss Thompson
	Mt. Royal	10/-	63/-	Mrs. E. 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	

<b>Town</b>	<b>Hotel/Boarding House</b>	<b>Per Day</b>	<b>Per Week</b>	<b>Proprietor</b>
	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

**T**HE 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

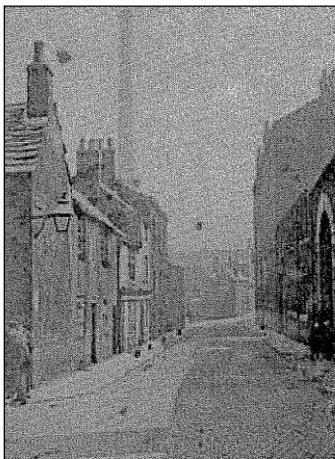
#### EARLY LIFE

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

<sup>1</sup> *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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>3</sup> *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.<sup>4</sup>

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

<sup>4</sup> *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)

**A**MONG 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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

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.<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>7</sup>

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

<sup>7</sup> 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

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

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.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup>

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

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

<sup>8</sup> 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

<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup>

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.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *Colonial Times*, 10 August 1827

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup>

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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<sup>13</sup> As for Note 1, above

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

<sup>15</sup> Bromley returned to Port Jackson in 1835 on the convict ships *Numa*

<sup>16</sup> See Notes 1 and 12, above

# SOPHIA HOPWOOD

## 'HARBOURER OF PROSTITUTES'

Margaret Nichols (Member No.3225)

IN the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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<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)

**O**UR 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

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. ◀

<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>y</sup> 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<sup>y</sup> 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<sup>y</sup> 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](http://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)

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

<b>Burnie</b>	National Probate Calendars 1853–1943 and AGCI
<b>Hobart</b>	1891 Census Indexes for Scotland
<b>Huon</b>	GRO Consular Records Index
<b>Launceston</b>	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		

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## 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—50<sup>th</sup> 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/~dgcginc/>

## Australia's No. 1 website for family history resources<sup>^</sup>

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

**BURNIE** Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103  
Library 2 Spring Street Burnie  
Tuesday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
Saturday 1:00 pm–4:00 pm  
The library is open at 7:00 pm prior to meetings.  
Meeting Branch Library, 2 Spring Street Burnie 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.  
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am except January and February.

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

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**HOBART** Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527  
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive  
Tuesday 12:30 pm–3:30 pm  
Wednesday 9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Saturday 1:30 pm–4:30 pm  
Meeting Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town, at 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

---

**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](http://www.tasfhs.org) or obtained from the TFHS Inc. Society Secretary, or any branch and be returned with appropriate dues to a branch treasurer. **Interstate and overseas** applications should be mailed to the TFHS Inc. Society Treasurer, PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250. Dues are also accepted at libraries and at branch meetings.

## Donations:

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

## Research Queries:

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

## 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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Supplement to

# Tasmanian Ancestry

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Volume 33 No. 1—June 2012

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Huon:	PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109
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Mersey:	Old police residence 113 Gilbert Street Latrobe Tasmania 7307
Hobart:	19 Cambridge Road Bellerive Tasmania 7018
Huon:	Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh Tasmania 7109
Launceston:	45 Tamar Street Launceston Tasmania 7250

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

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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](mailto:archives.liaison@ffhs.org.uk) on 20 April 2012.

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 33 Number 2—September 2012

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

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

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

**Patron:** Dr Alison Alexander

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

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Vanessa Blair	John Gillham	Dale Smith

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Public Officer	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Sales Officer	Betty Bissett	(03) 6344 4034

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

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## From the editor

A much travelled issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*—it was mainly compiled in Devonport but completed in Hobart. This resulted from my decision to move back to my origins on the north-west coast and consequently I have been busy hunting for a new home and selling the old one. The next issue should be produced in Devonport all going well.

Happily we have an excellent fund of articles but unfortunately not enough space to use them all in this issue. My apologies to those who have not been included this time, but *nil desperandum*. Thank you to all contributors and keep up the excellent work.

This morning I realized an article which appears in this issue has already appeared in an earlier volume of *Tasmanian Ancestry* in an abbreviated form. Could contributors please advise if they have previously submitted articles concerning the same topic so readers may be referred to them? I should make more use of my index to *Tasmanian Ancestry*!

Please make note of the new postal address for the Society following the Annual General Meeting in June. It is now PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018. The email for submitting articles remains the same, **editors@tasfhs.org**

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018  
email **editors@tasfhs.org**

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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

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### Cover:

Illustration supplied by Betty Jones for her article, 'The First Subsidised Schools', see page 79.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011/2012

**T**HIS report marks the completion of my third year in the role of President of our Society.

Membership, as at 31 March 2012 is down 1% on the previous year; an improvement on last year's 5.5% decrease. A total of 1240 financial members were recorded, suggesting the trend of dwindling numbers may be slowing up. Whilst most membership areas are down—Branches, Interstate, Overseas—the percentage decrease is half that of the previous year. The exceptions were Burnie and Hobart Branches with slight increases. Hopefully this trend will continue. Membership fees provide our largest source of income.

Visitor numbers to our Libraries appear to have increased. This was especially noted at Hobart Branch when free entry was granted during periods such as Heritage Month, Seniors Week or Family History Week. New memberships received during these periods out-weighed the slight loss of entrance fees.

Branch Annual Reports suggest that income from sale of publications and paid research have been much lower over the 2011/2012 year. It is not clear whether this trend is due to the presence of so much 'on-line' material available to family history researchers or economic reasons. Certainly regular sales to various Libraries, Family History Societies and book suppliers have decreased markedly.

During the year, the Branches continued producing and publishing indexes and other reference material for the benefit of all researchers and to raise funds. As reported in *Tasmanian Ancestry* at various times, Launceston Branch has

published at least seven new index books and Mersey Branch has published at least another eight. During the same period, the Society published the third index to our journal *Tasmanian Ancestry*; covering volumes 26–30.

Branches continue to expend funds to upgrade their computers and/or reader/printer equipment in order to provide relevant access to the numerous records held in-house and on-line. The Society's registration, with the DonorTec organization has enabled us to purchase software and occasionally hardware at very generous prices from donor companies.

The Society continues to maintain a presence and contributes to the efforts of a number of organizations during the year. We were represented on the board of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, the Joint Tasmanian Archive Consultative Forum, and the Digital Information Group [Tasmanian organizations involved in the collection of historical data].

The life of our Society depends on the volunteers who give of their time in so many areas of our organization. Without them, none of our services and achievements would exist. On your behalf, I thank them for their efforts over the 2011/2012 membership year and their willingness to continue into the next period.

I should particularly like to acknowledge Rosemary Davidson who has consented to continue in the role of Editor for *Tasmanian Ancestry* and Dr Alison Alexander who is willing to act as Patron of our Society for another term.

Finally, I wish to formally acknowledge the retirement of Muriel Bissett as

Secretary and Betty Bissett as Treasurer of our Society with the close of this AGM. Most of you would be fully aware of the hours of dedicated service they have given in these roles for more than a decade. So much of the current fabric of our Society can be directly attributed to their efforts. Their endeavours have been appreciated by so many members over those years in office. ◀

Maurice Appleyard  
**Society President**

Entries for the  
 Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

**2012  
 Lilian Watson  
 Family History Award  
 Close 1 December 2012**

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

Further information and entry forms available from  
 TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries or  
 email [secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)

**CIRCULATION OF 2011  
 ENTRIES**

Launceston Branch	June-August 2012
Burnie Branch	August 2012
Mersey Branch	November 2012
Hobart Branch	February 2013
Huon Branch	May 2013
Launceston Branch	August 2013
Distributed to gifted branch November 2013	

**LILIAN WATSON FAMILY  
 HISTORY AWARD**

**T**HE Award was established in 1983 and first awarded in 1984. In 1996 it was renamed the Lilian Watson Family History Award to honour the memory and the contributions to genealogy and family history of Mrs Lilian Watson who died in March 1996. She was the Foundation Chairman of the Society in 1980 and the first Fellow of the Society, elected in 1995.

There were seven entries for the 2011 Award—listed in alphabetical order by author with the branch where they are to be deposited.

*Henry Hinsby : A Distinguished Apothecary of Hobart Town,*  
 Terese Binns—Hobart Branch

*Barnard born & bred : Tasmanian branches and Norfolk roots,*  
 Jacquie Drohan—Launceston Branch

*Viv & Hilda : meeting the Robeys of Maria Island,* Kathy Gatenby—  
 Launceston Branch

*Boat People of the Empire—(revised edition),* Donald Grey-Smith—  
 Hobart Branch

*For Many Years a Boat Builder : The Life and Life's Work of Jacob Bayly Chandler,* Nicole Mays—Hobart Branch

*The Bells of Old Bailey : from the cobbled streets of Victorian London to the dusty streets of Hobart Town,* Lynne Christison Rhodes—Launceston Branch

*The Sea Shall Not Have Them : Narrative of Stephen and Margaret White, who were shipwrecked near Tristan da Cunha on the Blenden Hall in 1821, and their arrival in Van Diemen's Land 1832,* Irene Schaffer—Hobart Branch

**WINNER OF THE 2011 AWARD**  
 Jacquie Drohan, *Barnard born & bred : Tasmanian branches and Norfolk roots.*

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. AWARDS

The two Awards—The Meritorious Service Award and the Fellowship Award were instituted in 1995.

The Fellowship Award was discontinued in June 2002.

## **Fellows:**

Lilian Watson, Hobart, 1995  
Neil Chick, Hobart, 1999  
David Harris, Devonport, 2000  
Denise McNeice, Hobart, 2000

## **Meritorious Service Award:**

Joyce O'Shea, Hobart, 1996  
Frank O'Shea, Hobart, 1996  
Pat Harris, Launceston, 1996  
Merle Fitzmaurice, Devonport, 1997  
Audrey Hudspeth, Hobart, 1997  
Theo Sharples, Hobart, 1997  
John Grunnell, Launceston, 1997  
Thelma Grunnell, Launceston, 1997  
Anne Bartlett, Launceston, 1997  
Vernice Dudman, Burnie 1998  
Irene Schaffer, Hobart, 1998  
Jean McKenzie, Hobart, 1998  
Bet Wood, Launceston, 1998  
Dawn Collins, Burnie, 1999  
P V (Villy) Scott, Burnie, 1999  
Morris Lansdell, Hobart, 1999  
Thelma McKay, Hobart, 1999  
James Wall, Hobart, 1999  
Alma Ranson, Launceston, 1999  
Betty Calverley, Launceston, 1999  
Doug Forrest, Burnie, 2000  
Isobel Harris, Devonport, 2000  
Allen Wilson, Hobart, 2000  
Sandra Duck, Launceston, 2000  
Betty Bissett, Launceston, 2000  
Muriel Bissett, Launceston, 2000  
Helen Anderson, Devonport, 2001  
Louise Richardson, Devonport, 2001  
Maree Ring, Hobart, 2001  
Jenny Gill, Launceston, 2001  
Geoff Rapley, Launceston, 2001

## **TFHS Inc. Awards (name change):**

Margaret Stempel, Burnie, 2003  
Suzanne Loughran, Burnie, 2003  
John Dare, Devonport, 2003  
Audrey Trebilco, Devonport, 2003  
Rosemary Davidson, Hobart, 2003  
Glenn Burt, Launceston, 2003  
Shirley (Betty) Fletcher, Huon, 2005  
R Alan Leighton, Launceston, 2005  
Anne Hay, Hobart, 2006  
Leonie Mickleborough, Hobart, 2006  
Cynthia O'Neill, Hobart, 2006  
Colleen Read, Hobart, 2006  
Beverley Richardson, Hobart, 2006  
Bryce Ward, Hobart, 2006  
Marjorie Jacklyn, Hobart, 2007  
Vee Maddock, Hobart, 2007  
Joyce Purtscher, Hobart, 2007  
Maurice Appleyard, Hobart, 2007  
Leo Prior, Hobart, 2008  
Kathy Bluhm, Hobart, 2008  
Werner Bluhm, Hobart, 2008  
Coralie Mesecke, Huon, 2008  
Judith De Jong, Launceston, 2008  
Barrie Robinson, Launceston, 2008  
Helen Stuart, Launceston, 2008  
Elaine Garwood, Devonport, presented 8/6/09  
Anita Swan, Launceston, 2009  
Judith Cocker, Burnie, 2010  
Helen Anderson, Devonport, 2010—Award for  
Continuous Meritorious Service  
Glencie Brauman, Devonport, 2010  
Rosie Marshall, Devonport, 2010  
Brenda Richardson Hobart, 2010  
Judith Whish-Wilson, Launceston, 2010  
Julie Kapeller, Hobart, 2012  
Dr Dianne Snowden, Hobart, 2012

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TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.  
STATE EXECUTIVE—GENERAL ACCOUNT

AUDIT REPORT—2012.

The audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. The procedures included the examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements.

The Tasmanian Family History Society is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

*OPINION*

As an audit procedure it was not practicable to extend my examination of income beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the books and records of the Society.

Notwithstanding the above I am satisfied that the Society has kept appropriate records and books and that the financial statements show a true and fair view of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. affairs at the 31 March 2012.



Des Britza FIPA  
AUDITOR  
11 April 2012

**TFHS Inc. Society Executive—General Account**  
**Statement of Receipts & Payments**  
**for the Year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012**

2010 / 11		2011 / 12
<b>\$12,966.12</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 1 April 2011</b>	<b>\$14,943.06</b>
	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
12,645.00	<b>Membership Subscriptions</b> - Interstate	11,761.00
12,444.60	<b>Membership Subscriptions</b> - Branch	12,111.30
763.00	<b>Donations</b>	783.00
2,757.75	<b>State Sales</b> - TFI CD-Rom	1,472.17
426.05	- Books, CD's, Fiche	293.10
4,764.50	- TAMIOT	1,368.50
44.67	<b>Bank Interest</b> - Cheque Account	3,133.77
327.36	<b>Sundries</b> - Insurance Reimbursement	32.52
918.00	<b>AGM Registrations</b>	130.56
356.50	<b>Journal Receipts</b> - Advertising & Sales	214.00
1,880.00	- Subscriptions	1,740.00
4,014.71	<b>Funds Collected</b> for Branches – Membership	2,865.00
334.00	<b>Funds Collected</b> for Branches – Donations	241.00
1566.00	<b>Funds Collected</b> for Branches – Royalty	892.83
-	<b>Funds ex TPT At Call Account tfr to Branches</b>	3,600.00
<b>43,242.14</b>	<b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>	<b>37,720.98</b>
<b>\$56208.26</b>	<b><u>Total Funds Available</u></b>	<b>\$52,664.04</b>
	<b><u>Payments</u></b>	
3,415.18	<b>Insurance</b>	4,062.07
1,848.00	<b>Cost of Sales</b> - TFI CD-Rom	2,217.60
-	- Books, CD's, Fiche payments	1,808.16
500.35	- TAMIOT Payments	203.50
680.45	<b>Bank Charges</b> - Merchant Cards	560.48
17,991.37	<b>Journal Payments</b>	18,403.40
-	<b>Administration Payments</b>	
-	- Advertising	296.94
2,000.38	- AGM Expenses	500.00
203.20	- Audit Fees/ Corporate Affairs	204.40
5,268.80	- Executive Travel	4,880.80
368.46	- Lilian Watson and Other Awards	200.00
1,034.02	- Membership Expenses	793.90
626.66	- Postage/Boxes & Telephone - Internet	536.99
74.54	- Printing and Stationery	1,305.91
397.90	- Room Hire	460.70
230.55	- Subscriptions (AFFHO)	256.78
4,084.34	Funds collected for Branches – Membership	9,436.42
975.00	Funds collected for Branches – Donations	2,956.00
1,566.00	Funds allocated to Branches – Royalty	1,048.00
-	Funds allocated to Branches – Royalty	892.83
<b>41,265.20</b>	<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	<b>41,588.46</b>
<b>\$14,943.06</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 31 March 2012</b>	<b>\$11,075.58</b>
	<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>	
	Balance as per Westpac Cheque Account 31/03/2012	11,075.58
<b>\$5,310.01</b>	<b>Reserve Funds</b> - Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees At Call	<b>\$5,505.98</b>
195.97	Interest received 12 months ending 31 March 2012	214.53
-	Less withdrawal	-3,600.00
<b>\$5,505.98</b>	<b>Total Investment Funds</b>	<b>\$2,120.51</b>

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.**  
**Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2012**

	Bur	Hob	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	<i>Consolidated Totals</i>
<b>Opening Balance 1/4/2011</b>	<b>6,796</b>	<b>5,078</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>14,943</b>	<b>36,055</b>
<b><u>Add Receipts</u></b>							
Membership Subscriptions	2,916	14,451	543	4,613	3,691	26,737	<b>38,338</b>
Donations	438	609	281	569	958	1,024	<b>2,831</b>
Fund Raising	451	200	246	260	1,827	0	<b>2,984</b>
Research	91	1,009	20	3,120	310	0	<b>4,549</b>
Sales	4,410	5,556	204	6,248	5,009	4,027	<b>21,146</b>
Interest	24	14	9	11	86	33	<b>176</b>
Library Revenue	1,120	2,074	14	836	1,079	0	<b>5,123</b>
Sundries	3	1,245	0	227	3,983	347	<b>5,173</b>
Journal ( <i>Tas Ancestry</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	1,954	<b>1,954</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>9,453</b>	<b>25,158</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>15,884</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>34,122</b>	<b>82,274</b>
<b>Tfrs from term loan a/c</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16,884</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>22,320</b>
<b><u>Total Funds Available</u></b>	<b>16,249</b>	<b>32,068</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>17,744</b>	<b>38,750</b>	<b>52,664</b>	<b>140,648</b>
<b><u>Less Payments</u></b>							
Membership Subscriptions	1,246	6,436	155	2,248	1,573	0	<b>0</b>
Insurance	0	98	0	33	0	4,062	<b>4,062</b>
Fund Raising	150	0	0	129	375	0	<b>653</b>
Research	0	0	0	200	8	0	<b>208</b>
Items for re-sale	3,538	2,445	0	3,420	2,503	4,229	<b>12,722</b>
Bank Fees	0	37	0	0	4	560	<b>602</b>
Library Payments	1,407	8,050	792	4,709	4,924	0	<b>19,882</b>
Sundries	14	818	0	233	2,774	2,441	<b>3,838</b>
Journal ( <i>Tas Ancestry</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	18,403	<b>18,403</b>
Assets/Capital	2,075	4,835	254	1,684	3,513	0	<b>12,362</b>
Administration Payments	185	4,031	133	877	1,347	11,892	<b>15,511</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>8,615</b>	<b>26,750</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>13,533</b>	<b>17,021</b>	<b>41,588</b>	<b>88,243</b>
Transfers to term loan a/c	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Balance as at 31/3/2012</b>	<b>\$7,634</b>	<b>\$5,318</b>	<b>\$2,437</b>	<b>\$4,211</b>	<b>\$6,729</b>	<b>\$11,076</b>	<b>\$37,404</b>
Term Investments, Float etc.	\$11,177	\$15,000	\$2,154	\$7,969	\$15,220	\$2,121	<b>\$53,641</b>
<b>Total Cash Reserves</b>	<b>\$18,811</b>	<b>\$20,318</b>	<b>\$4,591</b>	<b>\$12,180</b>	<b>\$21,949</b>	<b>\$13,196</b>	<b>\$91,045</b>

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

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

**President Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103**

**Secretary Ann Bailey (03) 6431 5058**

**PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320**

**email: petjud@bigpond.com**



The last three months have seen a continual regular appearance of a core diehard group of our members. It is

amazing just how many

'finds' these regulars uncover with their consistent perseverance. How often do we hear the story of somebody who has found the birth date of that elusive three times great aunt back in some isolated island off the coast of Scotland. I guess the message is never give up, keep trying and researching and one day the answer to your questions will be found.

By popular choice we have decided we will not hold night meetings at our branch for July and August. Our Day Meetings, which have been well attended, will still occur as usual on the first Monday of each month. If you haven't been to one yet, come down and join in. Our day meetings start at 10:30 with a brief overview of recent accessions to the Branch Library plus a brief synopsis of interesting articles in recent magazines. This is followed by the main topic for the meeting. In recent meetings this has taken the form of a podcast or video of either a research topic or some general interest area such as historical houses or similar. As our day meetings are in the morning and conclude with a soup and sandwich luncheon, a small fee is expected.

Volunteers continue to support our activities of indexing and other projects, but we still welcome any member who would like to offer some time to help. There is always plenty to do.

Peter Cocker Branch President

## Hobart

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

**President Robert Tanner (03) 6231 0794**

**email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org**

**Secretary Howard Reeves**

**PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018**

**email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org**

**All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527**



The branch would like to congratulate Maurice Appleyard on being re-elected as President of the Society, to Colleen Read on being elected

as Secretary and to Ian Cooper who was subsequently appointed Minute Secretary. Hobart Branch would also like to record our appreciation of the work done over many years by Betty and Muriel Bissett who did not seek re-election. They will be missed.

We are busy setting up a new computer purchased very cheaply through DonorTec. Moving everything from Windows XP to Windows 7 is proving to be quite a task!

Indexing and checking continues to occupy the Monday Group, and we are planning a morning tea for the Mayor of Clarence, Doug Chipman, to demonstrate the cameras and other equipment purchased with a grant from the Clarence City Council, and Sister Carmel Hall of the Catholic Archives, in appreciation of

her generosity in granting access to the Burial Registers as a branch indexing project.

The guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting in April was Sacred Heart College Principal and Military Historian Craig Deayton on the topic 'The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion'. Craig is the author of the acclaimed book *Battle Scarred*, the story of the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which was largely a Queensland battalion, but with remnants of other battalions, and included a Tasmanian company. He took on the writing role because so little had previously been written about the battalion. Most other battalion histories have been sponsored by the Australian War Memorial, written by ex-servicemen and family members and tend to be uncritical of leadership and decision-making. He provided interesting details of the research and writing process, his access to family diaries and photographs, some of which he included in his presentation. While figures relating to battles and casualties were included in Craig's talk, he also presented interesting details relating to the social history of the period and insights into battalion structures. The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion existed for just seven months and suffered heavy casualties on the Western Front. At the conclusion of the meeting Craig presented the Branch Library with a copy of his book and a number of members took advantage of his generous discounted book price.

Twenty-seven members and visitors attended this meeting.

The guest speaker at the May meeting was Professor John Hunn, who addressed the meeting on the topic of the Royal Society of Tasmania—'Why Royal? - The Genesis of the Royal Society of Tasmania'. In his introduction, Prof. Hunn reminisced about his time as a messenger boy in the 1940s delivering

messages to the St John's Park precinct, the venue of our meetings.

Prof. Hunn's first association with the Royal Society of Tasmania was, when as a student, he attended a lecture presented by Howard Florey (penicillin). Using a PowerPoint presentation which included a wonderful collection of portraits of significant scientific figures, Prof. Hunn presented a detailed background of scientific method and developments from 100AD to the formation of the Royal Society in London in 1660. The Society promoted and espoused a philosophy of experiment; and encouraged teamwork, religious tolerance, and the use of plain language in writing. Because there was value, at the time, in King Charles II's favour—including access to the bodies of the executed for medical research—and the personal interest he took in science and scientific development, the society of scientists became known as the Royal Society and established itself as a powerful institution between 1660 and 1670. John Franklin arrived in VDL in 1837 and became involved in intellectual activity, including many scientific, agricultural, botanical and historical organisations and held meetings at Government House. Franklin was responsible for the groundwork which led to the establishment of the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1843, although it was Governor Eardley Wilmot who signed the documents. The Royal Society of Tasmania is the third oldest Royal Society, preceded only by London and Edinburgh.

Twenty-three members and visitors attended this meeting.

The guest speaker at the June meeting was Craig Joel, an honorary research associate in the Department of History and Classics at the University of

Tasmania. He addressed the meeting on the conflict between Sir John Franklin and his Colonial Secretary John Montagu. This is the theme of Craig Joel's book 'Sir John Franklin and John Montagu - A tale of ambition and unrealised hope.'

In the early years of convict arrivals in Van Diemen's Land there was little supervision of convicts under the assignment system. Convicts were largely used as free labour—in 1832 ten government officials employed 105 convict servants—in the care of land-owners and in the view of some, this was akin to slavery. A review by John Biggs indicated transportation needed to be seen as a harsh punishment for crimes committed while paying its own way and attempting to reform convicts. Governor Arthur was sent to VDL to implement the details of the assignment system set out in the Biggs Report. Arthur was recalled in 1836 to be replaced by John Franklin, inexperienced in convict management, and needing to rely on Montagu and Forster. From the late 1830s there were moves to change to a probation system. Tensions between Franklin and the 'faction' led by Arthur's nephew Montagu and Police Chief Mathew Forster erupted, with the probation system gradually being adopted. Franklin found himself in a position where he was not supported by his Colonial Secretary and Forster, Montagu's brother-in-law became responsible for the probation system which floundered through to 1847. In the view of Joel, the public dispute between Franklin and the 'faction' profoundly affected the development of the colony.

Thirty-one members and visitors attended this meeting.

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 18 September:** Tony Hope—'A Quarry Speaks of the Kennedy, Elliott, Wells and Peacock families from early days.'

**Tuesday 16 October:** Ros Escott—'The Convict, the Surgeon and the Prima Donna.'

**Tuesday 20 November:** 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.

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

Robert Tanner Branch President

## Launceston

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

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The Branch workshop held on 20 June attracted a capacity number and although there were some teething problems with the change-over of computers at the AEC, members, particularly those not familiar with the program, gained much from the time spent

on 'Researching on FamilySearch'. Thanks to Helen and her team of helpers!

The branch newsletter is now mailed out as well as appearing on the webpage and it was pleasing to get positive response to the advertising for the June workshop.

Again, we mention research requests: 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* (1919) will be available in September, and work on 1920–1921 is well on the way. The next volume of *Tasmanian Mail* will cover 1932.

**VALE:** We were saddened to see the death notice for **Mrs Lena Kimpton**, (née Begent) member No.630, who joined the Society late in 1983. Lena was a WWII widow, and a few years ago, after she had helped at Anzac Hostel and attended the Anzac Day service, she returned to her car and was knocked down, injured and robbed. Prior to this Lena participated in all aspects of the branch activities and was a regular volunteer for library duty. Her cheerful presence will be missed.

**Athol Saunders:** Athol passed away on 30 June at the age of 97 years. Up until a few years ago, Athol and his wife were regulars at the library, and will be missed.

**Library:** Tuesday, 10am–3pm—phone (03) 6344 4034. Other days (except Saturday and Sunday), by appointment only.

**Wednesday 19 September:** 2pm Branch, Computer Room, Adult Education Centre, York Street—Shipping and Immigration records.

**Wednesday 17 October:** 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

[www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)

**President Ros Coss**

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The Branch's recent publication *Latrobe Cemetery* has been very popular. There was a small write-up in the local newspaper which has brought many new people into our Library. Of course there were some who didn't know we existed. Another publication is the *The Kentish District* with a companion disk. By the time this journal is out *Deloraine and District Cemeteries*, two volumes should be released. Numbers have been down when we hold our meetings so we decided to hold a 'Meet and Greet' on the last Saturday June. This proved to be popular as we had twenty people attend, including new members and one who is very interested in being able to start her family tree. One of our members, Dale, has been busy helping several members to make a family tree chart. This is then professionally produced and the finished product is amazing.

On the 29 August we are having a trip to Burnie Branch with a light lunch.

In September we will have a Members Day on the 22 so as not to interfere with the AFL Grand Final. We will have an informative discussion on *Legacy* a free

program for collating your family tree. This will be a BYO lunch. In October we propose a visit to Historical Deloraine for a guided tour of the town. In December we will have a Christmas Lunch (venue to be advised) and our annual Christmas raffle will be drawn. Our closing date for our Library will be Friday the 7 December and reopen on 8 January 2013. More will be available on our website, at the Branch Library or by phoning the secretary.

## Huon

**President Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546**  
**Secretary Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529**  
**PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109**  
**email: vsbtas@bigpond.com**

### Index to **The Weekly Courier**

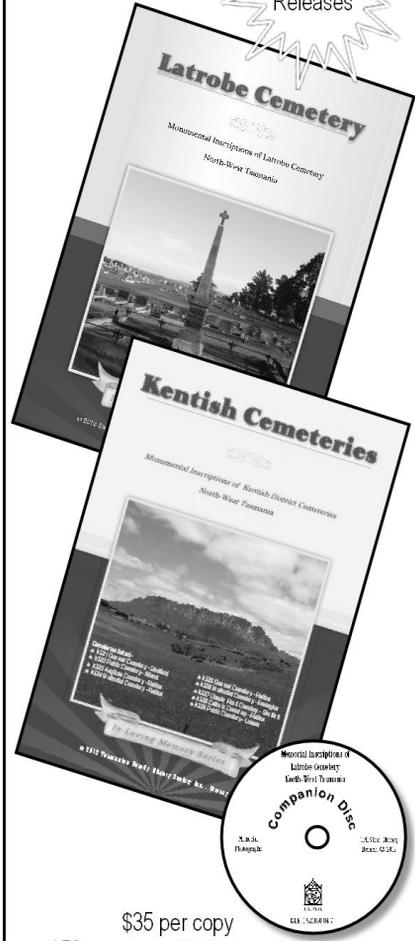
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# JULIA HEFFERNAN

Pauline Bygraves (Member No.5113)

**A**T first glance there appeared to be no link between Julia HEFFERNAN, my ancestor, and Judith HEFFERNAN (sometimes spelt HEFFERMAN), a convict transported to Van Diemen's Land for larceny in 1848. Julia was reputedly born in England, whereas Judith was born in Ireland. Julia was the wife of Charles READ, a cabinet maker, while Judith married Charles HART, a shoemaker. While delving into the records for further information about Julia and how she arrived in Van Diemen's Land, it turned out Julia and Judith had a great deal in common.

Julia Heffernan and Charles Read are recorded as the parents of the following children born at Hobart between 1855 and 1872:

Charles Read born 22 March 1855<sup>1</sup>

Mary Ann Read born 20 February 1857<sup>2</sup>

William Joseph Read born 21 March 1859<sup>3</sup>

Henry James Read born 11 April 1861<sup>4</sup>

Albert Bernard Read born 17 May 1863<sup>5</sup>

Francis Edward Read born 19 December 1864<sup>6</sup>

Bernard Read born 13 August 1866<sup>7</sup>

Alfred Ernest Read born 12 March 1868<sup>8</sup>

Catherine Read born 16 August 1869<sup>9</sup>

Amy Isabella Jane Read born 9 July 1872.<sup>10</sup>

While the birth records for the Read children spell Julia's maiden surname in various ways (Heffernan, HEFFRON, HEFRON and HAFFRON), the details for the father are consistently given as Charles Read, occupation cabinet maker. No marriage record has been found for Julia Heffernan and Charles Read. Julia Read died at Lansdowne Crescent, Hobart on 2 July 1889, aged 55.<sup>11</sup> Her death record indicates that she was born in England. Since Charles Read (junior) was born at Hobart in March 1855 and Julia is named as his mother, she must have arrived in Van Diemen's Land before then, but when and how? Her name does not show up on any of the immigration lists, either assisted or unassisted.

On the other hand, Judith Heffernan's arrival in Van Diemen's Land is well documented. She landed at Hobart per the *Lord Auckland* on 10 January 1849 from Dublin, Ireland, aged 16 years. According to her convict conduct record,<sup>12</sup> Judith Heffernan was from County Tipperary, Ireland. She was tried at the Thurles Quarter Sessions, Tipperary, on 3 May 1848 and found guilty of stealing a gown and shoes, the property of John MULLINS, Tipperary. With two previous convictions (six months for stealing a gown and three months for stealing geese), she was

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<sup>1</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 1984/1855

<sup>2</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 243/1857

<sup>3</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 2374/1859

<sup>4</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 4278/1861

<sup>5</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 6121/1863

<sup>6</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 7427/1865

<sup>7</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 8740/1866

<sup>8</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 9962/1868

<sup>9</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 582/1869

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<sup>10</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 2696/1872

<sup>11</sup> AOT RGD35 Hobart deaths 638/1889

<sup>12</sup> AOT CON41/1/20 image 96 (Judith Heffernan)

sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Her convict indent<sup>13</sup> lists Judith's trade or occupation as nurse girl and her religion as Roman Catholic. She was single and could read (but not write). Her relatives are named as John (brother) and Cath, Peggy, Mary and Bridget (sisters) living in County Tipperary.

Physically, she is described as being 4 feet 8½ inches tall, with a fair complexion, large head, sandy brown hair, round visage, low forehead, brown eyebrows, grey eyes, small nose and mouth, with a round chin. She had a scar on her nose.<sup>14</sup>

The list of offences and sentences on Judith's convict conduct record include gross insolence and disobeying of orders, for which she received six months' hard labour (May 1850), and using indecent language as well as refusing to give her name when asked, for which she received three months' hard labour (January 1853). Her Ticket of Leave, which was granted in December 1851, was revoked in February 1853 but restored in October 1853. She received a Conditional Pardon in January 1854.

Judith Hefferman, Ticket of Leave, *Lord Auckland* and Charles Hart, Ticket of Leave, *Maria Somes*, both residing in Hobart, received permission to marry in December 1851.<sup>15</sup> They wed at St Georges Church, Battery Point, Hobart, on 2 February 1852.<sup>16</sup> Judith was aged 20 and Charles was 23. Charles Hart,

occupation bootmaker, was tried for stealing pork from a storehouse in Hertford, England. He was found guilty of larceny and transported to Van Diemen's Land where he arrived on 9 August 1850.<sup>17</sup>

Judith and Charles Hart's son, Charles (junior), was born at Hobart on 20 February 1852,<sup>18</sup> and died on 13 June 1852.<sup>19</sup> For both events, the informant was his mother, living at Argyle Street. Charles Hart was in the service of Mr SERJEANT, Argyle Street when, on 11 April 1852, he absconded.<sup>20</sup> (Apart from an entry on Hart's conduct record revoking his Ticket of Leave on 4 October 1853 for misconduct, nothing further is known about him.)<sup>21</sup>

On the birth registration of Charles (junior), his mother's name is recorded as Julia Hart (née Hafron), rather than Judith. Julia Hart is also named as the mother on Charles' death record. In his 1901 guidewritten to assist government officials and others to identify the various forms and spelling of Irish names, Robert E MATHESON, Registrar-General in Dublin, provided 'Judith' and 'Julia' as examples of given names used interchangeably.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> AOT CON15/1/5 image 93 (Judith Heffernan)

<sup>14</sup> AOT CON14/1/20 image 96 (Judith Heffernan)

<sup>15</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette*, Tuesday, 23 December 1851, p.1051

<sup>16</sup> AOT RGD37 Hobart marriages 226/1852 (Hart—Heffernan)

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<sup>17</sup> AOT CON33/1/96 image 101 (Charles Hart)

<sup>18</sup> AOT RGD33 Hobart births 1171/1852

<sup>19</sup> AOT RGD35 Hobart deaths 1489/1852

<sup>20</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette*, Tuesday, 20 April 1852, p.338

<sup>21</sup> AOT CON33/1/96 image 101 (Charles Hart)

<sup>22</sup> [www.archive.com](http://www.archive.com) *Varieties and Synonymes of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland for the Guidance of Registration Officers and the Public in Searching the Indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages*, Sir Robert E Matheson, HM Stationery Office, Dublin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1901, 94p.

With this information, it seems very likely that Julia Heffernan, wife of Charles Read, and Judith Heffernan are the same person. This hypothesis is supported by the burial record for Julia Read which states that she was born in Ireland (as opposed to her death record which says England).<sup>23</sup> Julia Read was reputedly aged 55 when she died in July 1889, which means that she was born about 1834. Judith Heffernan was supposedly 16 when she arrived in Van Diemen's Land in January 1848, making her birth year about 1832. While the two birth years do not match exactly, they are close enough together not to exclude the theory that Julia and Judith Heffernan are one and the same person.

Charles Read, aged 17, chair and sofa maker, was convicted at Warminster, Wiltshire, England on 27 June 1837. His crime was stealing a handkerchief. He was deemed to be of bad character, had been in prison before, and was sentenced to seven years' transportation. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land per the *Lord William Bentinck* on 25 August 1838.<sup>24</sup>

In December 1843, a recommendation was made on behalf of Charles Read, *Lord William Bentinck*, to the Queen for a Conditional Pardon.<sup>25</sup> This was approved in February 1844. In any event, his sentence expired in July 1844,<sup>26</sup> so by the time he married he was 'free'.

Charles Read, 'free', and Jemima CLEMENTS, *Garland Grove*, in private service, Hobart Town received

permission to marry in May 1844.<sup>27</sup> They married on 14 August 1844 at St Davids Church, Hobart Town.<sup>28</sup> The marriage record states that Charles Read, aged 24, was a cabinet maker, and Jemima Clements, aged 24, was a 'convict per *Garland Grove 2<sup>nd</sup>*'.

Jemima Clements was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in London on 9 May 1842. She faced two charges of larceny. The first was for stealing a jug, valued at threepence, the goods of William SHEPHERD, a china-dealer in Goldsmith Row, Hackney Road. The second for stealing 3 lbs weight of veal, value one shilling, the goods of George SUTTON, in Goldsmith Row, Hackney Road. She was found guilty in both instances, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.<sup>29</sup> She arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 20 January 1843.

Jemima's conduct records show she was often in trouble with the authorities.<sup>30</sup> She had stints in solitary confinement for misconduct and was sentenced to several periods of hard labour. On 13 May 1844, she received three months' hard labour for being absent, which may explain why she did not marry until August 1844 when permission had been received three months earlier. Then, in 1846 she was given nine months' hard labour for assisting another convict (Maria Goldsmith) to abscond from the Colony.

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<sup>23</sup> Alex Clark & Son Funeral Records, 1885–1909 Vol II, Ref 3/89

<sup>24</sup> AOT CON31/1/36 image 158 (Charles Read)

<sup>25</sup> *Colonial Times*, Tuesday, 12 December 1843 p.4

<sup>26</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 June 1844 p.728

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<sup>27</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 June 1844, p.616

<sup>28</sup> AOT RGD37 Hobart marriages 1100/1844 (Read—Clements)

<sup>29</sup> Old Bailey Proceedings Online ([www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)), May 1842, trial of Jemima Clements (t18420509–1611–1612), accessed 30 January 2012

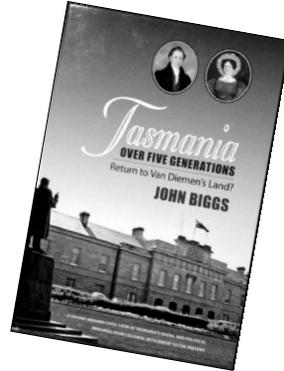
<sup>30</sup> AOT CON40/1/2 image 241 (Jemima Clements)

## BOOK REVIEWS

No children have been identified from the Read-Clements marriage. It may have been a marriage in name only, given Jemima's troubles. Only a week after her marriage, on 22 August 1844, she was sentenced to two months' hard labour for being absent.

With Julia Heffernan and Charles Read both having previously married and without any evidence of their respective spouses being deceased, they would not have been free to marry each other. It is therefore not surprising that no marriage record has been found for them. Julia was also Catholic. Nevertheless, their relationship lasted for more than thirty years—from at least 1855 (and probably earlier) until Julia's death in 1889. Charles Read (senior) died in 1895.<sup>31</sup> They are buried in the Roman Catholic Section of Cornelian Bay Cemetery, where there are two large headstones recording their names and those of several of their children. ◀

*Tasmania over Five Generations: Return to Van Diemen's Land?* John Biggs, Forty Degrees South Publishing (Hobart, 2011). Hardcover pp.379.



The narrative of five generations of the Biggs family in Tasmania is the subject of this book. Organised as a chronological study of the state's history, commencing with the arrival, from Bedford, of John's g-g-g-grandparents, Abraham Biggs (son of John and Susannah), his wife Eliza (née Coleman) and their five children to the convict colony of Van Diemen's Land in 1833, each generation is detailed, concluding with the author and his family in 2011. The main source of information was a substantial collection of letters, many of which were written by Abraham.

The fifty-two chapters are divided into seven parts. The first five parts concentrate on the life of one generation, Abraham (1799–1875), Alfred (1825–1900), Walter (1865–1958), Oscar (1904–1968) and the author, John. The final two chapters focus on the period from 1957 when John left the state to live overseas, and the final section details his response after returning forty years later.

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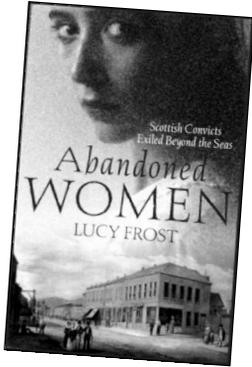
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See page 35 **HELP WANTED**

<sup>31</sup> AOT RGD35 Hobart deaths 209/1895

The quality of the book and illustrations are outstanding, and the family tree in the front is clear and easy to follow. This publication covers many regions of the state's political, religious, education and forestry background as seen mainly through the eyes of the Biggs family members. Although I would have preferred the whole book to have been written in the first person, rather than some in the third person, this does not detract from the publication which views the emerging colony from its early colonial days to its present status set against the social and political life in which they lived, and would be a welcome addition to the bookcase of anyone interested in the life of the colony during almost 180 years. ◀

***Abandoned Women: Scottish Convicts Exiled Beyond the Seas***, Lucy Frost, Published by Allen & Unwin, 2012, Soft cover, pp.240.



*Abandoned Women* tells the stories of the lives of seventy-eight female convicts and their fourteen children transported from Scotland to Van Diemen's Land in 1838 on the *Atwick*. These women—single and married mothers, widows and orphan girls—struggled to survive and had few

options other than theft and prostitution. They hailed from the squalid tenements of Glasgow and Edinburgh and were convicted of crimes ranging from prostitution and petty theft to arson to assisting a murderer.

Remarkably, there was only one death during the four-month sea journey, largely due to the program of regular food, exercise and cleanliness instigated by the surgeon superintendent. It was a different story on arrival in Hobart, when most of the children were separated from their mothers and entered the nursery at the Female Factory at Cascades. The women were then free to go out on assignment. The impact of separation on mothers and children was profound. Infants died in the putrid conditions of the nursery; children older than three years were sent to the Orphan Schools where discipline was strict but at least they were taught a trade and learned to read and write. Some died during their time there but of those who survived most were reunited with their mothers.

The stories of the subsequent lives of these women and their children make enthralling reading. For some women transportation was a second chance, for others it was a tragedy—it brought opportunities as well as punishment. Some women made good marriages and became worthy citizens. Others remained intractable, their lives ruled by their unwillingness or inability to conform to the social mores of the time.

Lucy Frost writes sympathetically about the trials and tribulations of these women. Superbly researched, they come to life in the gripping stories through which we learn their fate. The convict women and their children transported on the *Atwick* in 1838 have received a measure of justice in the form of this fine book. ◀

# THE FIRST SUBSIDISED SCHOOLS, 1912

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)

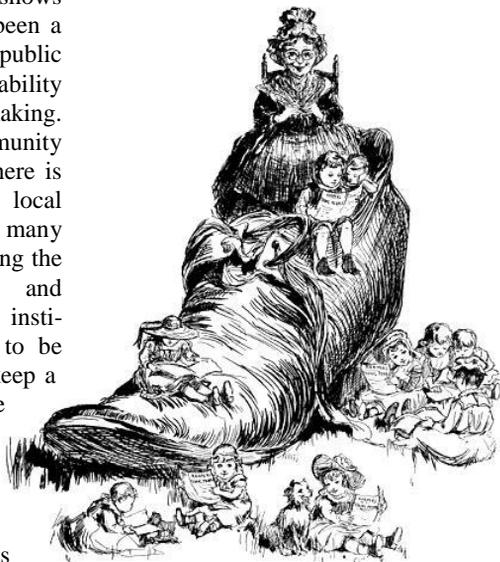
**C**LOSING schools has always been an emotive and difficult procedure, as recorded in newspapers, both past and present. In 1920, for example, when the Education Department decided to close the school at Lower Wattle Grove because it had an enrolment of only fifteen pupils, members of the local council expressed their wrath. Among the points raised, Councillor WELLING asserted that the move was unfair. He reasoned that the Department could fine parents for keeping their child home to pick blackberries, but, on the other hand, the Department could take a school away from children for months without apparent consequence.<sup>1</sup>

A review of any education system shows that school closures have always been a reality in both the private and public settings, and that economic viability frequently underpins decision-making. Quite understandably, most community members become alarmed when there is talk about the loss of their local educational facilities. There are many factors, separate from simply shutting the doors of the school building and transporting children to another institution along the road, that need to be considered as valid arguments to keep a school in operation. These include important economic and social issues within communities.

It is interesting to be aware that consideration of the economics of providing and maintaining buildings and teachers for small numbers of pupils

was as much a factor in school closures in Tasmania one hundred years ago as it is today. A big difference, however, was that around 1912, close to 73% of the 376 schools listed by the Education Department each had fewer than fifty pupils enrolled in them, and nearly 40% of that mix individually catered for less than twenty children.<sup>2</sup> Another difference was that there was no organised form of transport such as today's bus systems that could take pupils to another school relatively close by.

The main purpose of this article is to step back one hundred years to look at how the Education Department responded to community angst when schools had to be closed, and how it provided for the



<sup>1</sup> *The Mercury*, 7 April 1920

<sup>2</sup> *The Educational Record*, List of Schools, 15 January 1911

displaced students. In so doing, thirteen very small schools are identified, along with their teachers and pupils in 1912. The choice of that year is not just because it was a century ago; it was also the year the Education Department introduced the idea of subsidised schools, a system that remained in place, with modifications, for more than thirty years.

Considered a rung below Provisional schools in the hierarchy of size, subsidised schools were situated in country areas which were most likely isolated and, initially, had very small pupil enrolments of between eight and twelve. They were parent-subsidised but, for each pupil enrolled, the Government provided a grant to the community towards the provision of a teacher. The teacher in charge, 'found' and employed by the community, did not receive a direct salary from the Education Department, payment instead depending on decisions made by the local Education Board. By 1926, the Government paid £6 per pupil per annum up to a maximum of ten enrolments, and it was stipulated that at least two families had to be represented in the enrolments. The subsidy was increased to £8 per pupil in late 1927.

The parents of children attending the school were required to provide a building for a classroom, as well as a suitable residence for the teacher at a very nominal charge. Young beginners who had passed Class 6 were encouraged to apply for vacant situations in such schools and be on probation while qualifying for higher positions. Teachers could be as young as 15 years (though at least 16 was more common) with no training when they took up their first positions. In later years, parents often placed advertisements in local newspapers in the hope of attracting a subsidised teacher. In 1920, for example,

A D COWIE advertised the position, to be filled immediately, at the subsidised school at Flowery Gully.<sup>3</sup>

From 1912, whenever the Department decided to close a State school because enrolments had dropped below about fifteen, it provided the local community members with an application form for seeking allowances in relation to commencing a subsidised school. At the same time, it was made clear that it was up to the community to decide if it wanted to pursue the idea. In the eyes of the Department, those schools were viewed in most respects as private ones assisted by the Government. For financial accountability reasons, however, State school inspectors visited regularly to see that basic standards were being met, and to determine whether subsidies should be continued. According to Departmental records, towards the end of 1912 there were thirteen schools receiving Government subsidies under the new system.<sup>4</sup>

### **Chester Subsidised School**

(West Coast, Tullah district)

Mrs May PERRY was appointed to the newly-opened school on 17 August 1912. Born 23 February 1881, Buckingham, Kent, daughter of George and Maria (née NIGHTINGALE) GALLOWAY, she arrived in Tasmania as a child in 1888 with her parents and seven siblings. Miss Galloway started her teaching career with the Department at Devonport in 1900, and from there had appointments at Central Castra, Ulverstone and Lower Wilmot State Schools. She married Charles Henry Perry on 9 September 1905 at Sheffield, and continued teaching. Her position at Chester was preceded by one at Guildford Junction. Mrs Perry later lived in a variety of

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<sup>3</sup> *The Examiner*, 1 May 1920

<sup>4</sup> TAHO: ED250/1

locations, including Elliott, Upper Burnie, Preston, Mengha and Stanley prior to being widowed in 1948, but did not return to teaching. She died at Caulfield, Victoria in 1958.

Pupils: Gilbert ADAMTHWAITE, Maurice Adamthwaite, Charles BEUTHIN, Jean Beuthin, Marion Beuthin, Nelly Beuthin, Frank DAVIS, Frank HEARPS, Norah Hearps, Doris PERRY, Lillian A POWE, Charles ROUGH, Dorothy Rough, Henry Rough, John Rough, Lilla Rough, Ada SMITH, Elsie Smith, Harry Smith<sup>5</sup>

**Clifton Vale Subsidised School** (Dysart district)

It was in September 1912 that Miss Ruby Irene HARREX took up her position as its subsidised teacher, that being her first teaching role. Born 20 September 1890, New Norfolk, third daughter of Alfred William Edward and Florence Jane Catherine (née ALOMES) Harrex, Miss Harrex was educated at Osterley and Jericho State Schools. Following her time at Clifton Vale, which ended in 1914, Miss Harrex undertook a short teacher training course at the East Launceston Practising School, and was then appointed as a Provisional Teacher to Glen Fern State School. She married Cecil Norman WILLIAMS at New Norfolk on 26 April 1916, and continued teaching at Glen Fern for a short period. Mrs Williams was widowed in 1961, and died at New Town in August 1973.

Pupils: Benjamin BENNETT, Ellen Bennett, Sydney Bennett, Amy HAWES, Gwen JESSOP, Ethel NICHOLAS,



Sigma Nicholas, Albert PALMER, Jane Palmer, Leonard Palmer, Mary Palmer, Stanley Palmer, Sydney Palmer, Thomas Palmer, Amy SHEARING, Ethel Shearing, Lucy Shearing, Stella Shearing, Carleena WATSON, Gladys Watson, Phyllis Watson, Walter Watson<sup>6</sup>

**Garden Island Creek Subsidised School** (Huon district)

Miss Maud Emily HARRIS was the subsidised teacher from 1912–1914. Born 28 February 1885 at Hobart, youngest daughter of James and Eliza (née SMITH) HARRIS, Miss Harris had attended Garden Island Creek State School herself, having spent four years in the sixth class. She married Roy Lyndon CLENNETT on 11 December 1915 at Garden Island Creek, and they had five children. Mrs Clennett was widowed in 1951, and died in 1971.

Pupils: Pauline BEECH, Agnes BRIT-TAIN, Alice Brittain, Dorothy Brittain, Edward Brittain, George Brittain, Hazel Brittain, Leslie Brittain, Mary Brittain, May Brittain, Myrtle Brittain, Olive Brittain, Richard Brittain, Rose Brit-tain, Stanley Brittain, Albert COULSON, William Coul-son, Stella HARRIS, Jack HAWSON, Edward HAY-NES, Stanley Haynes, Sydney Haynes, May MILLHOUSE,

Thomas Millhouse, Robert TURNER, Raymond WOOD<sup>7</sup>

**Goshen Subsidised School** (St Helens district)

John Charles BROWN was born on 5 February 1887 at Latrobe, son of George and Martha Sophia (née PARISH)

<sup>5</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

BROWN, and was educated at Lefroy State School. In 1910 he married Lilian Mary Dorcas POLDEN at Kindred. When Mr Brown applied for the position at Goshen in October 1912, he indicated that he was a married man with one child and, unless he could have free use of the residence, he would not be able to afford to accept. In October 1913, his youngest son contracted Scarlet Fever and the school had to be closed for six weeks. In November 1913, Mr Brown wrote to the Department, angered at having had pay deducted from his subsidy during the time that the school was closed. In response, the Department declared that, since he was not a teacher of the Government in the proper sense of that term, but a teacher of a private school which was assisted by the Government, Mr Brown was not entitled to such payment and that no exception could be made. Mr Brown tendered his resignation in March 1914,<sup>8</sup> and turned his efforts to becoming a Minister of Religion. He served in a number of circuits in Tasmania before transferring to Victoria in 1934. Reverend Brown was widowed in 1940, and remarried at Willaura, Victoria in 1943 to Myrtle Anne SHALDERS. He died at Preston, Victoria in February 1952.

Pupils: Alice FOWLER, Allan LE FEVRE, Linda Le Fevre, Leslie LEHNER, Hazel McAULIFFE, Jessie McAuliffe, Fred NISBET, W F J Nisbet, Gifford C POLDEN, Vernon ROBINSON, Eric SINGLINE, Henry Singline, Reginald Singline, Dulcie TRELOGGEN, Eileen Treloggen, Ina Treloggen, Ira Treloggen, Jean Treloggen, Roy Treloggen, Vera Treloggen, Algy WHITTAKER<sup>9</sup>

**Kelso Subsidised School** (West Tamar district)

Miss Jean SKELLY was the teacher from October 1912 to February 1913.

Pupils: Annie BREWARD, Edie Breward, Edith Breward, Ivey Breward, Madeline Breward, Mary Breward, Willie Breward, Jack JACKSON, Phyllis JONES, Richard Jones, Victor Jones, Cyrill MARSTON, Ella Marston, Ernest Marston, Olive Marston, Phillis Marston, Ivan SLATER, Trevor Slater, Wanda Slater, Adelaide SQUIRES<sup>10</sup>

**Leprena Subsidised School** (Esperance district)

Teresa Eileen WALDIE was born on 19 January 1894 at Brighton, the daughter of William Joshua and Amy Catherine (née BASS) Waldie. She was educated at the Convent schools at Pontville and Deloraine. Miss Waldie started her teaching career with the Education Department as a monitor at Hastings State School from 1910 to 1912. On 4 November 1912, aged 18, she became the subsidised teacher at Leprena. By 1924, Miss Waldie was nursing at New Norfolk.<sup>11</sup> She died in Victoria in 1948.

Pupils: Arthur BELBIN, Nora Belbin, Thelma Belbin, Alex BLACKNEY, Violet Blackney, George CLARKE, Percy Clarke, Olive DAVIDSON, Roland Davidson, John DENT, Beryl DILLON, Esma Dillon, Jack Dillon, Ada DONOHUE, John Donohue, Madge Donohue, Coralie DOUBLE, Edyth Double, John Double, Rita Double, Grace GRUNDY, Thomas Grundy, Madge HANLON, James HEATHER, Myra Heather, Richard Heather, Colin JOHNSTON, Keith Johnston, Mervyn Johnston, Nita Johnston, Eric KNIGHT,

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<sup>8</sup> TAHO: ED10/01016/1917

<sup>9</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

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<sup>10</sup> *ibid*

<sup>11</sup> *Examiner*, 9 February 1924

Marjorie MURRAY, Algernon SMITH, Cassie Smith, Charlie Smith, Doris Smith, Jamie Smith, Harold WATTS, Harry Watts, Thomas Watts<sup>12</sup>

**Maurice Subsidised School** (North East district)

Mrs Maud Madge Walgrave Margaret HEATHORN was subsidised teacher from December 1912 to May 1913. Born 22 November 1874, Launceston, the daughter of Charles and Louisa (née BRICKNELL) LESLIE, she was educated at a State School in Melbourne, a Ladies' College in Sydney, and at Miss Hoff's private school in Launceston. For some considerable time she was employed as governess to Miss Scott of Ringarooma. Miss Leslie taught with the Department briefly in the late 1890s, and also conducted a private school at Dairy Plains in 1900. She married William Marshall Heathorn at Launceston in July 1903, and they had three children. When Mrs Heathorn applied for a school to be established at Mt Maurice in 1912, her address was 'Summer Ville', Maurice. She was willing to find a room for the school and offered her own services as a certified teacher.<sup>13</sup> Mrs Heathorn died at Ringarooma on 4 February 1944.



<sup>12</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>13</sup> TAHO: ED9/929/1912

Pupils: Michael CONROY, Edward DIPROSE, Florence Diprose, Grace Diprose, Ruby FORSYTH, Alfred HAAS, Tasman Haas, Dorothy HEATHORN, Ida Heathorn, Irenie Heathorn, John Heathorn, Margaret McDOUGALL, Richard McDougall, Thomas McDougall<sup>14</sup>

**Mt Lloyd Subsidised School** (New Norfolk district)

Mrs Ellen Mary Victoria LEESON had had previous teaching experience at Queenstown, Barton, Mt Lloyd and Crotty when she took up the position of subsidised teacher in November 1912. Born 24 May 1890 at Hobart, daughter of George John and Mary Victoria (née PROBIN) LEE, she started her teaching career in 1907. Miss Lee married Lance Henry Leeson at Hobart on 17 April 1911, and they had six children. Mrs Leeson died at Mt Lloyd on 23 October 1950.

Pupils: Ella CLARK, Ellen Clark, George Clark, Henry CRANFIELD, James Cranfield, Edgar EISZELE, Nita Eiszele, Russell Eiszele, Ivy FEIL, Nelly Feil, Rita Feil, Jessie GILBERT, Maurice Gilbert, Mavel Gilbert, Clara LEESON<sup>15</sup>

**Nietta Subsidised School** (Ulverstone district)

Born 19 July 1881, London, daughter of Harry and Martha ((née BLACKWELL) WINTER, Nora Pattie Winter arrived in Tasmania in 1885. Miss Winter was educated at Deloraine State School. Her parents ran the general store and post office at Railton before moving to Needles and later to a farm at Nietta. Miss Winter briefly took up the position of Paid Monitor at Dairy Plains State School in 1903.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>15</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>16</sup> TAHO: ED2/11958; file 2211

Having passed the State School Examination for Licensed Teachers some years prior, Miss Winter became the first teacher at Nietta, working in a building constructed on her parents' property in 1910.<sup>17</sup> The school became a subsidised one from 18 November 1912. She was a dedicated teacher of ballet and music and was described by those who knew her as a 'fine lady'. Miss Winter also performed at many coastal concerts. She died on 10 May 1983 at Ulverstone.

Pupils: Bertie ASHTON, Harriet M COX, Eric Cox, Daniel J HARRINGTON, Mary M Harrington, Robert J Harrington, Doris E THOMAS<sup>18</sup>

**Priory Subsidised School** (St Helens district)

This school provided Miss Annie Crossly REID with her first teaching experience when she took its charge in September 1912. Born 17 March 1882, Ringarooma, daughter of Henry Thomas and Mary Leese (née UNWIN) REID, she was educated at St Helens State School. Miss Reid passed the Provisional Teachers' Examination in 1915 and continued her long career into the 1940s. Miss Reid was buried at St Helens in 1977.

Pupils: Eileen BECKITT, Winnie Beckitt, Lachlan CAMPBELL, Lillian Campbell, Claude CHAPPLE, Elsie Chapple, Hilda Chapple, Ivy Chapple, Beatrice CLELAND, Vincent Cleland, Ida CLIFFORD, Mervyn Clifford, Stella Clifford, Vera Clifford, Alex REID, Ivion Reid, Geoffrey RICHARDS<sup>19</sup>

**Riversdale Subsidised School** (Richmond district)

Stuart MacArthur MORTYN was born on 27 January 1889 at Hobart, the son of

Albert William Frederick and Mary Edith Jean (née MacARTHUR) Mortyn. Mr Mortyn passed the Junior Public Examination in 1908. After his short time at Riversdale School from September 1912 to February 1913, Mr Mortyn studied to become a Clerk of Holy Orders and subsequently served in various locations throughout the State. He married Emma Elizabeth Mary RITCHIE in 1935. Reverend Mortyn died in Hobart in 1974.

Pupils: Marjorie ADAMS, Esta BINGHAM, Dorothy COTTON, Francis Cotton, Margaret Cotton, William Cotton, Eileen DOWNS, Beatrice FARRELL, Joshua FERGUSON, A C KEAN, Bertha KEAN, Mabel Kean, Sydney Kean, Agnes LYNE, Brewis Lyne, Iris Lyne, Mavis Lyne, Beryl WILSON, Stella Wilson<sup>20</sup>

**Sandford Subsidised School** (South Arm district)

Mrs Caroline MORRISBY taught at Sandford from 1906–1909, prior to her marriage. Born 11 June 1877, Basalt Hill, Daylesford, Victoria, daughter of Charles and Caroline (née HANCOCK) MOODY, she came to Tasmania in 1896, and joined the Department in 1899. Miss Moody married Thomas William Morrisby at Launceston in 1910, and the couple had at least six children. She returned to the Sandford school when it became subsidised in November 1912. Mrs Morrisby was buried at Sandford in October 1966.

Pupils: Earle H D BOWDEN, Martha G Bowden, Roy W G Bowden, Willie J HAYNES, Edward HUXLEY, Gordon Huxley, Rita Huxley, Raymond MORRISBY, Henry A REARDON, Elvie B RICHARDSON, Francis J Richardson, Lucy J Richardson, Stanley SPAULDING, Alan B STEEL<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> TAHO: ED9/1561/1909

<sup>18</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>19</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

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<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

**Scopus Subsidised School** (Circular Head district)

Born 8 January 1889, Deloraine, daughter of James and Sarah Ann (née HUGHES) EVERETT, Emily Adeline Everett attended Rubicon Bridge State School for nine years. Miss Everett had no teaching experience prior to taking up the position at Scopus in 1912, but she went on to have a very long career with the Department, one which extended into the 1950s.

Pupils: May BUTTERWORTH, Dorothy CHEQUER, George Chequer, Herbert Chequer, Nellie Chequer, Amy CUNNINGHAM, Hannah Cunningham, Roy Cunningham, Willie Cunningham, Clemeth CURE, Maud Cure, Pearl Cure, Roy Cure, Ruben Cure, Horace DAVISON, Alfred GREEN, Clarence GRIFFITHS, John Griffiths, Rachel Griffiths.<sup>22</sup>

The records kept by the Education Department from 1912–1943 identify more than 260 schools as part of the subsidised schools scheme.<sup>23</sup> It is not hard to appreciate, therefore, that thousands of our ancestors throughout the State had associations with that form of education as promoters, pupils or teachers. It is easy to identify the negative features apparent in the operation of those very small schools, and there are many interesting tales contained in the records. It seems more important to complete this article however, simply by emphasising that subsidised schools played a significant role in the history of Tasmania's education system. They provided an opportunity for small groups of pupils living in isolated areas to receive face-to face-teaching in a semi-traditional school setting when there was little alternative available to them. ◀

<sup>22</sup> TAHO: ED54/1

<sup>23</sup> TAHO: ED250/1

## NEW RELEASE



### **Index to Clark Bros Funeral Records Vol. III Part 3 A–K**

**July 1945 – June 1979**  
and

### **Index to Clark Bros Funeral Records Vol. III Part 3 L–Z**

**July 1945 – June 1979**

These two A4 books complete the valuable records available for Clark Bros Funeral Directors in Hobart and follow on from

Part I March 1910 – February 1928 and  
Part II February 1928 – July 1945.

Write to Resource Manager  
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# LOOKING FOR GREAT GRANDMA'S PARENTS

Jeanette Brunton

I am searching for a couple of convicts who I think are my great-great grandparents. The search so far has been intriguing, but with a rather sad part.

My great-grandmother Ellen SMITH knew nothing of her parents. She told her children late in her life that she had spent time in an orphanage and had begun employment as a domestic aged 10. She thought she had been born in a small town in Southland, New Zealand, but the only person with her name in Southland in 1864 was born in Invercargill, the largest city in Southland, with a birth certificate naming Henry Smith, painter, and Maria CARR as parents.

Convicts with these names and trade received permission to marry in 1853, and were married on 5 September 1853 in the parish church, Oatlands. Maria, on marriage, had decided to change her name from Mary, which is the name on her convict record.

Henry was transported from England in 1851, and Mary from Dublin in 1852. They had two children born between 1854 and 1862, and three born in Port Sorell between 1871 and 1877.

In late 1863, Mary was sentenced to three months hard labour for 'feloniously stealing' in Hobart. I wonder if they thought, on her release in December, that leaving Tasmania for New Zealand might be a good idea? I have not been able to find any shipping records yet which would provide evidence of any Smith family trans-Tasman travel.

If these two are my great-grandmother's parents, they left her in New Zealand when they returned to Tasmania. Seems odd, but there is a *Police Gazette* notice that an Ellen Smith was charged under the Criminal and Neglected Children's Act and sentenced in January 1871 to five years in an industrial school in Dunedin, Otago. She was five at the time, and perhaps had been found wandering the street. Not just odd, but very sad.

By the way, my mother said she was the sweetest, gentlest and kindest of grandmothers, a superb gardener and cook.

Does anyone know of Australian descendants of Henry and Mary/Maria? The other children were Isaac, Elizabeth married John HICKS, William, Mary and Emily, married William Albert HARDY.

Maybe I am just fantasizing, but I would be grateful for any guidance. Next year my husband and I will be visiting Tasmania and would love to make contact with any descendants.

I am a member, number 20625, of the New Zealand Genealogical Society. ◀

Yours sincerely

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# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS ISABELLA JONES FORMERLY FORBES

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

**I**SABELLA JONES was living at the Old Wharf in Hobart in 1870 when she asked that her three young sons, George, James and Thomas, be admitted to the Orphan Schools in New Town (by then known as the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children).

Isabella was familiar with the Orphan School: as Isabella FORBES, she had been admitted there on 31 October 1850, along with sixteen other children (aged between 2½ and 13) who had arrived free on 27 October 1850 with their convict mothers on the Irish convict ship *Duke of Cornwall*. On Isabella's admission application, her parents were named as Ann and William Forbes. Her mother, Ann Forbes alias EAKIN(G), also brought her son William.<sup>1</sup>

In July 1852, Isabella was discharged from the Orphan School and sent to her mother who had married Jesse FISHER *Maitland* in August 1851.<sup>2</sup> Ann Fisher, wife of Jesse, died in May 1871 at the age of 50 on the Tasman Peninsula.<sup>3</sup>

Two years after leaving the Orphan School, in 1854, Isabella married Cain JONES, a sawyer aged 25, in St Davids Cathedral Hobart.<sup>4</sup> According to her

marriage record, Isabella was 18 but she is more likely to have been 16. Witnesses to the marriage were Jesse and Anne Fisher, both of whom signed their mark. Cain was a convict who arrived on the *Equestrian* (1) ten years earlier in 1844.<sup>5</sup>

Between 1855 and 1869, Isabella and Cain had seven children: Elizabeth Ann (born August 1855);<sup>6</sup> William John (born Port Esperance May 1857);<sup>7</sup> Robert (born Esperance November 1860);<sup>8</sup> male child (born Esperance November 1862);<sup>9</sup> male child (born Esperance October 1864);<sup>10</sup> male child (born Esperance March 1867);<sup>11</sup> and an unnamed female child (born Esperance April 1869).<sup>12</sup> From the

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<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/54 No.12825: Cain Jones [Image 149]

<sup>6</sup> RGD32 4597/1855 Hobart: Elizabeth Ann Jones. She was born 2 August 1855 and baptised in St Davids, Hobart, 12 August 1855. Her parents were living in Melville Street and her father was a 'surveyor'.

<sup>7</sup> RGD32 5024/1857 Hobart: William John Jones. William was born on 21 May 1857 and was baptised in St Davids Hobart on 12 July 1857.

<sup>8</sup> RGD33 970/1860 Esperance: Robert Jones (15 November 1860)

<sup>9</sup> RGD33 431/1862 Esperance: male Jones (21 November 1862). This may have been Henry, who died in 1870, aged 10.

<sup>10</sup> RGD33 638/1864 Esperance: male Jones (4 October 1864). His father, Cain, was a sawyer living at Folkestone.

<sup>11</sup> RGD33 380/1867 Esperance: male Jones (15 November 1860). The birth was registered by C. Pulfer, friend, Esperance. Father's name recorded as Cane Jones.

<sup>12</sup> RGD33 355/1869 Esperance: female Jones (23 April 1869). The birth was

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<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON15/1/6 pp.244-5 Image 248-9

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, SWD28; RGD 37 147/1852 Hobart: Ann Forbes & Jesse Fisher. Anne's age was recorded as 30 and Jesse was 27.

<sup>3</sup> RGD35 500/1871 Tasman Peninsula: Ann Fisher. Ann, aged 50, died of cancer of the womb on 23 May 1871. She was the wife of Jesse Fisher, of an attendant at Port Arthur.

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, RGD37 1854 215 Hobart: Isabella Forbes & Cain Jones

time they were living in Esperance, Cain was consistently recorded as a sawyer and Isabella as 'Isabella Jones formerly Forbes'. Cain was the informant for all but the last two birth registrations.

In March 1870, tragedy struck the young family and the incident was reported widely. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, for example, carried the following:

A tragical occurrence happened at the Drysdale Saw Mills, Port Esperance, on the 25th ultimo. Shortly after 12 o'clock, whilst the engineer to the works (Cain Jones) and his two sons, boys aged about 10 and 13 years respectively, were engaged in the engine-shed, the boiler, it is supposed through not being supplied sufficiently with water, burst. The man was blown a distance of twenty-four feet, and so severely injured that that he expired in about four hours after the explosion. The two boys were also very seriously injured by the shock, and scalded, and one of them, the youngest, has since died.<sup>13</sup>

Isabella's son, Henry Jones, aged ten, died on 27 February 1870 in Hobart.<sup>14</sup>

The inquest for Cain Jones was held at the Dover Hotel on 26 February 1870. It determined that he 'came by his death' on 25 February 1870 at Walter Drysdale's sawmill at Port Esperance. He was in charge of the boiler attached to the engine at the mill but allowed the water to get too low, the fire became red hot, and caused the boiler to explode at 12 o'clock, Cain Jones was 'so burned and scalded that he did linger for four hours, and so lingering did die'.<sup>15</sup>

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registered by Thomas Connolly, constable, Port Esperance.

<sup>13</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 March 1870 p.3 (from the *Examiner*)

<sup>14</sup> RGD35 9193/1870 Hobart: Henry Jones

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/53 Inquest No.6704; RGD35 1870/130 Esperance: Cane Jones

On 28 February 1870, an inquest was held on the body of Henry Jones, young son of Cain and Isabella:

An inquest was held at the General Hospital, Hobart Town, on the 28th February, by Mr. A. B. Jones, district coroner, on the body of Henry Jones, a lad ten years old, who died there from the result of injuries caused by the explosion of a boiler ... The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "accidental death." Another brother was also severely scalded, but is recovering. Cain Jones, the father of the lads, and the engineer at the mills, was so severely injured that he died four hours after the explosion. The accident is attributed to the supply of water in the boiler having been allowed to fall too low before refilling.<sup>16</sup>

The inquest stated that Henry Jones was employed in the engine room of a steam sawmill at Esperance when it exploded. He was covered with scalding water and steam over his head, face, and body, 'mortal scalds' which led to his death two days later.<sup>17</sup>

After Cain's death, Isabella received government financial assistance of 2/6 per week from 1 April 1870. She had four children under 12 but by December 1870 had only one to care for, the other three were admitted to the Queen's Asylum on 4 May 1870.<sup>18</sup>

George W EDWARDS<sup>19</sup> recommended that Isabella's three children be admitted to the Asylum:

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<sup>16</sup> *The Mercury* 26 March 1870 p.3

<sup>17</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/53 Inquest No.6714

<sup>18</sup> I Schaffer & J Purtscher, *The Sick and the Poor in Tasmania 1870. Persons in Receipt of Public aid [HAP 1871]*, New town 1994, p.32: Allowance case No.899.

<sup>19</sup> Probably George George Wild Edwards, appointed bailiff to the Sheriff (formerly Superintendent of Police at Richmond): *The Mercury* 4 October 1870 p.2

This is a most pitiable case, the applicant is already in receipt of aid, but she is quite incompetent to have charge of her own children. At first when she applied for aid on her removal from country to Hobart I observed something peculiar in her manner and looks, but thought that the sudden death of her husband might have been the cause, and that she would soon recover the shock. I have since had opportunities of observing her, and from my own judgement, and from information received from other persons, I am convinced that it is important that these children should be removed from her, she is a poor helpless creature, cannot wash or do needlework ... Two of her children recently burned by accident whilst sitting near the fire. I visited applicant on Saturday night at 9 pm when I first saved one of her children from being burned. Two were lying quite naked on a few rags on the floor. This person has one boy now in hospital and a young one in arms.

Tracing the Jones children in the Orphan School admission records is complicated by their common surname. However, the Register of Applications for Admission contains the following:

No.15 George, James and Thomas Jones  
Admitted on Colonial Fund 4 May 1870  
Allowance case no.899

No.30 Robert Jones  
Admitted on Colonial Fund 8 August 1870  
Allowance case no.899, same family as  
No.15

No.35 Margaret Jones  
Admitted on Colonial Fund 26 August 1872  
Allowance case no.899<sup>20</sup>

In May 1870, George Jones, aged 12, was admitted to the Male Orphan School. His stay was brief: he was discharged on 30 August 1870, when he was apprenticed to his mother.<sup>21</sup>

By the time that George was discharged, his younger brother Robert Jones had been admitted to the Male Orphan School: he entered on 20 August 1870, when he was 11. He was discharged in May 1874 when he was apprenticed to Henry LAIRD at Emu Plains, Westbury.<sup>22</sup>

James Jones, aged 5, was also admitted to the Orphan School on 4 May 1870. He was discharged to Thomas O'REILLY at Port Cygnet on 5 June 1874.<sup>23</sup> In October 1879, James absconded from O'Reilly. He was described as 16 years and 5'3" with brown hair, dark complexion, has large wart on tip of his tongue; wore light billy-cock hat, blue jumper and dark trousers.<sup>24</sup>

According to the Register of Applications for Admission Margaret Jones was admitted to the Orphan School on 26 August 1872.<sup>25</sup> Other evidence suggests she was admitted on 19 May 1879 and discharged on 15 May 1886. She may also have been admitted to the Girls Industrial School under the name of

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[[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)] Orphan No.2898: George Jones. See also Joyce Purtscher (compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1883* (New Town, 1994), np: Isabella's name was recorded as Mary Ann.

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, SWD27, 32/1, 53, 54,

HAP1871/63. Friends of the Orphan Schools [[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)]

<sup>23</sup> Orphan No.2926: Robert Jones

TAHO, SWD27 (p.102); TAHO, SWD26/13, 32/1, 52/2, 54; Friends of the Orphan Schools

[[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)] Orphan No.2903: James Jones

<sup>24</sup> Joyce Purtscher (compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1883* (New Town, 1994), np

<sup>25</sup> TAHO, SWD 27/1/1 p.102

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<sup>20</sup> TAHO, SWD 27/1/1 p.102

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, SWD27, HAP1871/63. Friends of the Orphan Schools

Sarah. Margaret Jones, aged 14, was transferred to the New Norfolk Asylum from the General Hospital on 15 March 1886.<sup>26</sup>

On 18 July 1870, William John Jones was admitted under the Colonial fund 'for the purpose of being apprenticed out'.<sup>27</sup> He was apprenticed to James SHORT down the Huon. His apprenticeship expired in 1875 but he is recorded as absconding in 1878.<sup>28</sup> This is likely to be Isabella's son.

In November 1872, Isabella gave birth to a daughter, Eliza Jones, in Hobart.<sup>29</sup> The birth was registered by Mr R ATKINS, Superintendent, Cascades. By this time, there were a number of different institutions on the site of what was formerly the Cascades Female Factory, including a female pauper institution and the Gaol and 'House of Correction for Females.' It is not clear which institution Isabella was in and this may be the last record of her. The life of Isabella Jones formerly Forbes— orphan school child and orphan school mother—was characterised by deep sadness and tragic circumstances. ◀

**Friends of the Orphan Schools,  
St John's Park Precinct:  
[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)**

<sup>26</sup> Friends of the Orphan Schools [[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)] Orphan No.2929: Sarah or Margaret Jones

<sup>27</sup> TAHO, SWD27 (p.102); Friends of the Orphan Schools

[[www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)] Orphan No.2938: William John Jones

<sup>28</sup> Joyce Purtscher (compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860–1883* (New Town, 7008), np

<sup>29</sup> TAHO, RGD33 1872/2932 Hobart: Eliza Jones (9 November 1872)

## REUNIONS

### BUTLER REUNION

A reunion for the descendants of  
**ALFRED ALEXANDER  
BUTLER**

will be held at the  
SHENE Property at Pontville on  
**Sunday 25 November 2012**

ALFRED was born on the 5/07/1826, the first son of GAMALIEL BUTLER & SARAH PAINE to be born in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). He married Isabella Logan and they had 12 children.

*Shene* was at one time a residence of Gamaliel & Sarah.

David and Anne Kernke, who are undertaking an enormous conservation project of the property, now own it.

To assist in obtaining an idea of numbers and to receive further information of the reunion, interested descendants should contact either of

the following by the

**25 August 2012**

Ashton & Jill Butler

email [ashtonbutler@bigpond.com](mailto:ashtonbutler@bigpond.com) or

phone (03) 6229 7707

mobile 0438 348 881

Ross & Margaret Butler

phone (03) 6243 6862

A reunion to celebrate 160 years since the arrival of the **Zes Gezusters** aka **Six Sisters** emigrant ship

Will be held on

**SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2013**

AT GEELONG, VICTORIA,  
AUSTRALIA.

For more information, please contact reunion organizer, Rob Newland at

[robjnewland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robjnewland@yahoo.com.au)

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ALTMANN Johann Gottlieb	GERMANY	1800–1850	7297
BAILEY John	Oatlands TAS AUS	1840–1900s?	7290
BAINES Rosetta	Gravesend KEN ENG	c. 1815	7306
BARNARD	Devonport TAS AUS	1850+	7310
BARNARD Ernest & Charlotte	Mole Creek/Launceston TAS AUS	1868–1953	7326
BARNARD Lews	Mole Creek/Launceston TAS AUS	1904–1941	7326
BARNARD Walter & Leah	Launceston/Westbury/Deloraine TAS AUS	1857–1901	7326
BARNES William	Spreyton/Port Sorell TAS AUS	–1860	7325
BARRY Michael	Port Fairy VIC AUS	c. 1830–1900	7308
BARRY Sydney Sylvester	Port Fairy VIC AUS	c. 1878–1930	7308
BECKER William	NZ	c. 1904–1953	7313
BECKER William Augustus	b.Fingal TAS AUS	1871	7313
BLACKABY William	HRT ENG	1823–1900s	7309
BLANEY Thomas	Any	1883–1952	7309
BLOMQUEST Mary Gladys	Hobart TAS AUS	1896–1948	7307
BROWN John	Launceston (occ. baker) TAS AUS	1821–1885	7326
BYRES	Cruden ABD SCT/TAS & NZ	c. 1700	7287
CASTRAY Luke Richard	Launceston & Hobart TAS AUS	1800–1900	7293
CASTRAY Luke ?	Wynberg Western Cape Province SAfrica	1750–1850	7293
CASTRAY Luke Randolph	Hobart TAS AUS	1850–1950	7293
CASTRAY Luke Richard	Fort Beaufort SAfrica	1850–1950	7293
CASTRAY Wilfred Albert	Hobart TAS AUS	1850–1950	7293
CHAMBERS	Any	Any	7322
CHISHOLM Colin	TAS AUS	1862–1931	7318
CLARK Ada Mary	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1890–1980	7323
CLARK Alexander	Launceston & Hobart TAS AUS	1806+	7288
CLARK Alexander James	Launceston & Hobart TAS AUS	1844+	7288
CLARK, Elizabeth Mann	Launceston & Hobart TAS AUS	1821+	7288
COLEMAN	UK to Sheffield TAS AUS	prior to 2012	7287
COOK	ENG	Any	7312
COOPER	TAS AUS	Any	7287
CORNISH	Oatlands & Parattah TAS AUS	1830s+	7294
DALWOOD Winifred	Reefton NZ	1844–1916	7323
DISHER Ethel	Hobart TAS AUS	1890	7321
DORLOFF Olga	Adventure Bay Bruny Is TAS AUS	1885–1900	7305
DUCIE Patrick	Evandale TAS AUS	1830–1912	7318
DUMONT Emma	VIC AUS	1875–1910	7297
DUNCAN	Inverbervie SCT	1750–1900	7324
DWYER Patrick	Sorell TAS AUS	1840–1890	7290
EASTLEY	DEV ENG	Any	7303
EMERY	Oatlands & Parattah TAS AUS	1830s +	7294
FAHEY Jeremiah	Co Clare IRL	c. 1800	7306
FITTON Charles	ENG	1852+	7292
FLETCHER Mimosa Louise	Glen Huon TAS AUS	c. 1881–1970	7308
FOSTER	TAS AUS & NBL ENG	1800–1920	7310
GARTH Amy	Longley & Hobart TAS AUS	1900–1975	7321
GARTH Leonard George	Hobart TAS AUS	1900–1975	7321
GAZE	Redruth CON ENG/TAS AUS	Any	7287
GUEST George	Hobart TAS AUS	1767–1841	7305

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
GUY Leila Kathleen	Hobart TAS AUS	1900-1970	7321
HANLON Richard	IRL	1852+	7292
HARDING	Cookham BRK ENG	Any	7316
HARRIS Thomas	Calder & Wynyard TAS AUS	-1924	7325
HARRIS William	Hereford HEF ENG	1800-1950	7315
HAYES	WIL ENG/TAS AUS	1800+	7310
HENDERSON	Any	Any	7289
HILL	Devonport TAS AUS	1820+	7310
HOUSE Elizabeth	TAS AUS	1857	7314
HOUSE Joseph	TAS AUS	1850-1856	7314
HUDSON	Longford TAS AUS	Any	7316
JUDGE Bridget CON	Launceston TAS AUS	1814-1846	7302
KNOWLES George Edward	Hobart TAS AUS	1871-1948	7307
KNOWLES Mary Gladys	Hobart TAS AUS	1917-1997	7307
LAMB John	Mayne St Invermay TAS AUS	1900s	7291
LANGTON Patrick CON	Launceston TAS AUS	1804-1823	7302
LEARY Daniel CON	Hobart & Launceston TAS AUS	1817-1829	7302
LEESON Herbert	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1878-1936	7323
LEWIS John Allen	QLD AUS	1880-1963	7297
LOCKETT	ENG	Any	7312
LOWE Richard	NTT England	1810-1876	7307
LOWE Roland George	Gretna TAS AUS	d.1901	7307
LOWE Leslie Rex	Hobart TAS AUS	1913-1942	7307
MACLEAN John	Evandale TAS AUS	1859-1943	7318
MAHER Catherine	Oatlands TAS AUS	1800-1891	7290
MAHER Denis	Oatlands TAS AUS	1800-1889	7290
McBEAN Donald	Inverness SCT	1800-1850	7297
McCREA Maud	TAS AUS	1916-1980	7297
McNAIR Jane	TAS AUS	1856	7314
MOODY John CON	Launceston TAS AUS	1833-1865	7302
MORRIS	SCT	Any	7303
MORRIS William prior 1712	PEM WLS/TAS AUS 1700s.	1700s	7287
NASH Lily	Bristol ENG	1880-1900	7297
PARKER	NFK ENG/TAS AUS	1800+	7310
PEPPER George	Franklin TAS AUS	1863-1936	7308
PEPPER John CON	transported to TAS AUS	c1845-1870	7308
PERRY John	South Weald ESS ENG	1760-1840	7315
PERRY Lewis	South Weald TAS AUS	Any	7315
PERRY William	South Weald ESS ENG	c.1782	7306
PLUNKETT	Co FIR IRL	prior 1855	7299
PLUNKETT	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1856-1950	7299
POLLEY Franklin	Mathinna TAS AUS	1811-1875	7318
POLLEY Harry	Mathinna TAS AUS	1865-1958	7318
PULLENS	UK/TAS AUS	Any	7287
REED Samuel	Kirk Smeaton STH YKS ENG	c.1730	7306
RODD William John CON	Launceston TAS AUS	1817-1846	7302
ROGERS Joseph	Launceston TAS AUS	1824+	7292
RYAN Johanna Rosary	Triabunna TAS AUS	c.1894-1970	7308
SATTLER family	Germany	1800+	7322

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
SCOTT James Eric	Launceston TAS AUS	1900s	7291
SHORT John	Blackburn LAN ENG	1790-1850	7315
SIMPSON Harriet	SCT	1824+	7292
SMITH Percy	Smithton TAS AUS	Any	7316
SMITH Percy	Melbourne VIC AUS	Any	7316
STARK	Kilkintilloch SCT	1750-1900	7324
STOCKS Mark	Leeds YKS ENG	1800+	7315
TAYLOR James Playford	Reefton NZ	1843-1900	7323
TAYOR William George	Reefton NZ/VIC AUS	1875-1937	7323
THOMAS	Bagdad TAS AUS	1839+	7322
TIPPER James	Norfolk Island & TAS AUS	1844-1900	7326
TIPPER John	Deloraine & Launceston TAS AUS	1844-1874	7326
TUCK Samuel	Evandale TAS AUS	1868-1934	7318
TUSCAN Ann	Sorell TAS AUS	1840-1890	7290
WALTERS Henry	Deloraine & Mole Creek TAS AUS	-1887	7325
WHITFORD Joseph John CON	Sorell TAS AUS	1830-1850	7302
YATES Alice	ENG	1852+	7292

## NEW MEMBERS

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7284	MARTIN Ms Gwendoline Zilpha	PO Box 2 gwenmartin@dodo.com.au	LATROBE	TAS	7307
7285	METTAM Mrs Sandra	Not for publication			
7286	PERRY Mrs Diana Mary Bowen	30 Tranmere Road	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7287	MORRIS Mr David William	Not for publication			
7288	CLARK Mr Michael Anthony	Not for publication			
7289	HENDERSON Mr David John	4 Mawson Place	MAYFIELD	TAS	7248
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7292	ANDERSON Mr Glen	Circular Ponds Mayberry	MOLE CREEK	TAS	7304
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7294	BECK Ms Lynne Marie	9 Norla Street lynn.beck44@gmail.com	TRANMERE	TAS	7018
7295	CASWELL Fay Therese	Not for publication			
7296	LORING Mrs Christine Laurel	145 Flagstaff Road nickynoodle@eftel.net.au	LINDISFARNE	TAS	7015
7297	WRATTEN Mr Neil	106 Norma Street nana.poppy@bigpond.com	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7298	JOHNSON Mr Robin Alwyn	1 Venice Street jarob4@bigpond.com	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7299	PLUNKETT Ms Lise	3/180 Strickland Avenue lise.plunkett@bigpond.com	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7300	WINZENBERG Ms Tania	3/180 Strickland Avenue	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7301	GREENSTREET Miss Barbara Patricia	19 North Huon Road	RANELAGH	TAS	7109

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7303	SPEED Miss Joan Mary	U2/ 18 Mylan Crescent	SHOREWELL PARK	TAS	7320
7304	ARTHUR Mrs Althea	PO BOX 1122 jonthea@gmail.com	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7305	GUEST Mr Roger Bruce	PO Box 2272 roger@reviewgroup.com.au	REDCLIFFE NORTH	QLD	4020
7306	PERRY Mr Denis Roland	65 North Road slkdrp@dcsi.net.au	WARRAGUL	VIC	3820
7307	LOWE Mr Brian Rex	29 Morcom Avenue	RINGWOOD EAST	VIC	3135
7308	LOWE Mrs Rosary Lenore	29 Morcom Avenue	RINGWOOD EAST	VIC	3135
7309	BLACKABY Mr Edney Thomas	Not for publication			
7310	PACKER Mrs Dianne	21 Rochester Drive dialin47@bigpond.com	SALISBURY HEIGHTSSA		5109
7312	COOK Mr Neville John	32 Futuna Avenue njpj64@yahoo.com	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7313	BECKER Mr Kevin Gordon	54 Simpson Street	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
7314	BECKER Mrs Joan Lilliam	54 Simpson Street	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
7315	SHORT Mrs Nolene Marjorie	275 Mount Street	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7316	SHORT Mrs Carmen Laura	275 Mount Street	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7317	DYER Mrs Ellen Jane	25 Wiena Crescent	MIANDETTA	TAS	7310
7318	POLLEY Ms Kim	PO Box 84 kim.polley@bigpond.com	LONGFORD	TAS	7301
7319	BENNETT The Hon John Myles	PO Box 10 jmylesb@etas.net.au	ROSS	TAS	7209
7320	BENNETT Mrs Bronwyn Jeanne	PO Box 10	ROSS	TAS	7209
7321	GUY Mr Ralph Leonard	16 Whelan Road phyra@westnet.com.au	KARDINYA	WA	6163
7322	CHAMBERS Mrs Maxine Anne	Not for publication			
7323	CANTRELL Miss Rebecca	78 Main Road	SORELL	TAS	7172
7324	DUNCAN Mr David	18 Old Summerleas Road dmcpd@bigpond.net.au	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7325	McKENNA Mrs Beverley Dawn	50 Belton Street b_mckenna@bigpond.com	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7326	DROHAN Mrs Jacquie	drohan@netspeed.com.au			

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# HELP WANTED

## BRUNY ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION PHOTOS

Did you have a Tasmanian ancestor in WW1? In 1919 the flu pandemic killed more than the war worldwide, and all southern Tasmanian soldiers, had to spend a week in quarantine, on Bruny Island before they were reunited with their loved ones. If you have any old photos or letters referring to the Quarantine Station FOBIQS [Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station] would love to hear from you. Please phone Kathy Duncombe on (03) 6260 6287 or email [kdunc@netspace.net.au](mailto:kdunc@netspace.net.au)

## EVANS, Henry Tudor

Seeking information of any kind on the life circumstances and activities in Tasmania (VDL) of Henry Tudor EVANS, born 1830 at Tea Tree, the third son of James and Elizabeth Evans (née HALLEN), who arrived in Hobart Town, 30 December 1822 and settled on a grant of land at Tea Tree in 1823. There is no official information yet discovered of the life achievements of Henry while living in Tasmania, or the date on which he moved to Victoria, apart from the fact of his marriage at the age of 41 years to Alice FIELD in 1870, their union producing seven children (four girls and three boys) by 1895 while living at Echuca but no record of vocation there has yet emerged. Any information of any kind of Henry Tudor Evans' life in VDL will be welcomed by John Evans, phone (03) 6243 9789 or by mail to 8 Begonia Street, Lindisfarne Tasmania 7015.

## POINTON

William POINTON (born 1848) married Mary Margaret RITTER, (born 1852) on

30 April 1872. Help wanted with death notices and/or obituaries for William (died 5 December 1929) and Mary (died 1935). Also names and birth dates of children born to this marriage and any other information. James Charles Pointon (born 24 May 1871) did he marry, names of children and years of birth? Death notices and obituaries for James (died 8 December 1942). Please contact Julie Gough, PO Box 450 Mowbray Tasmania 7248 or phone (03) 6346 5325

## SPENCER, William Alger

On 9 May 1864, William Alger SPENCER, ex-convict per *Maria Somes 2*, aged 44, married Frances HOGG at the church of Holy Trinity in Launceston. I don't believe they had any children. I know William died 5 May 1878 but I know nothing of his wife. I would be pleased to hear from anybody in Tasmania who is researching a Spencer or Hogg family and who might have more information. Contact R Spencer, Everton Cottage, Old Christchurch Road, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire UK SO41 0JJ.

## WHERRETT

Would like to make contact with any descendants of John Thomas WHERRETT 1796–1876, wife Mary ? 1793–1847. Can you help? Contact Carol Rodway ☎ (03) 6248 6639

## WILKES

Information sought regarding Watkin William WILKES who arrived on the *Ambrosine* in 1857. Contact Eric Hearn, [erichearn@bigpond.com](mailto:erichearn@bigpond.com) or 305 Redwood Road, Kingston Tasmania 7050 ◀

# WILLIAM BRYAN (1800–1865)

## AN IRISH SETTLER IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Anne McMahan (Member No.6463)

**W**ILLIAM BRYAN an Irish landholder in the Westbury district was a member of a gentry family who came well credentialed to the Colony in 1824. He had been recommended to the colonial office by Colonel TALBOT of Malahide castle and assisted by his brother Robert at the Irish Bar. Another brother, Samuel, had emigrated to Van Diemen's Land during 1822 and been granted 2000 acres on the South Esk river. Early in 1833 William Bryan also sponsored an Irish family friend, Samuel WINTER, to emigrate to the Launceston district. The Winters later became prominent settlers in the western district of Victoria.<sup>1</sup>

Initially William Bryan was granted 500 acres at Glenore near Carrick. With the assistance of his brother Robert he received a further grant at Clarence Plains on the West Tamar. By 1830 he had amassed 11,000 acres at Cluan, White-more and Carrick worked by thirty assigned servants. He built a flour mill on Penny Royal Creek to serve the wheat farmers of Norfolk Plains together with a wharf to transport their produce.<sup>2</sup>

In 1833 William Bryan ran foul of Lieutenant-Governor ARTHUR which brought his enterprise in the colony to an end. In that year one of Bryan's convict

herdsmen, Samuel ARNOLD, whom he had recently punished for cruelty, was charged with cattle stealing and sentenced to death by a military jury. The police magistrate who presided was William LYTTLETON. On leaving the court Lyttleton told some men including Mr Richard DRY that another person ought to have been standing in the dock (meaning Bryan). His remark caused William Bryan to send a friend, Thomas LEWIS, to demand an explanation whereupon Lyttleton reported Lewis to the attorney general. He was charged with provoking a duel.<sup>3</sup>

During his trial Lewis had an altercation with judge Algernon MONTAGU known for his reprehensible language towards prisoners from the bench. Lewis demanded compensation for the abuse by the judge. This could not be denied as there was no court of appeal so the executive government was obliged to investigate. Arthur denied Lewis' right of appeal thus rendering the court proceedings unconstitutional. Lewis was fined £150 and sent to jail for 18 months.<sup>4</sup>

Following the trial William Lyttleton was persuaded by his neighbour Richard Dry that he had sworn falsely. He attempted a retraction but without any result. The aggrieved Bryan tended his resignation as a justice of the peace but Arthur, who had

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<sup>1</sup> Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: a social history of the Western district of Victoria 1834-1890*. Melbourne University Press, 1961, p.26

<sup>2</sup> 'William Bryan', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 1, Melbourne University Press, 1966, pp.172–173

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<sup>3</sup> John West, *The History of Tasmania*, Vol. 1, Launceston, Henry Dowling, 1852, p.167 facsimile

<sup>4</sup> Lloyd Robson, *A History of Tasmania*, Vol. 1, Melbourne University Press, 1983, p.298

been annoyed by Bryan's direct dealings with the colonial office, struck Bryan's name from the commission of the peace and recalled his twenty-two assigned servants. The action was taken in the middle of harvest so that Brian incurred substantial financial loss. Bryan then went to Hobart Town to seek a supreme court hearing from a civil jury which was refused. In 1835 he departed for London to seek redress from the Crown.

By the end of 1834 William's brother Samuel Bryan had been drawn into the conflict with Arthur. He had complained that he was being denied a supply of assigned servants. He also advised Arthur that he would hand them back rather than risk the treatment accorded to William. Thereupon Samuel was informed that instructions had already been given to reassign them to 'the service of respectable settlers'.<sup>5</sup>

The next clash involved the nephew of William Bryan namely Robert Bryan his overseer. He too was charged with cattle stealing. The convict constables whose evidence was used against him were open to suspicion as the practise of snaring a targeted settler was well known at the time. The method adopted was to slaughter a branded beast and throw the hide onto the property of the settler who was chosen to be 'done'. Their rewards were reduced sentences. The constables alleged that Robert Bryan had driven a branded beast home and the next day they discovered the hide in the scrub on his land. Robert Bryan was sentenced to death by a military jury. This was later commuted to life imprisonment under the 1836 act (6 William IV no. 17) which abolished capital punishment for sheep

stealing. Lady FRANKLIN saw him at Port Arthur in March 1837. She wrote 'Bryan, the cattle stealer was watchman, good looking, rather handsome and gentlemany – behaves well'.<sup>6</sup>

Within the community disputes about the fairness of the trial of Robert arose among correspondents to the *Colonial Times*. The editor, Henry MELVILLE, was found guilty of contempt and jailed for 18 months for his trial report which was critical of Arthur. It was commonly asserted according to John WEST that Robert Bryan had been sacrificed 'if not by the contrivance then by the concurrence of government'.<sup>7</sup>

In London William Bryan launched an elaborate attack on Arthur's administration claiming, among other issues, that he had increased his personal wealth by executive projects. His allegations were supported by a damning report by Jorgen JORGENSON who had served as a constable at Ross. It revealed corruption by officials through theft of government property during the building of Ross bridge which reflected badly on Arthur's administration.

Back in Hobart Arthur intercepted Bryan's mail to a sympathiser, James HACKETT, in which he had been critical of the English officials HAY and STEPHEN. He had also portrayed Old England awakening after sleeping in slavery for 700 years. Arthur duly sent the correspondence to Hay and Stephen at the colonial office while he set about refuting each of Bryan's charges.<sup>8</sup>

At the end of January 1836 Lord GLENELG, Secretary for War and

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<sup>5</sup> C.M.H. Clark, *A History of Australia*, Vol. 2, Melbourne University Press, 1968, p.283

<sup>6</sup> Lady Franklin, *Diary*, 24 March 1837. TAHO MS 248/156.

<sup>7</sup> John West, *op.cit.* p.168

<sup>8</sup> Lloyd Robson, *op.cit.* p.298

Colonies, signed Arthur's recall at the end of his 12 year term. Arthur was unhappy. He protested to Glenelg that Bryan had escaped from the hands of justice. He was suspicious that the charges Bryan had made may have influenced the decision. He wrote in protest:

So sudden a recall when, under the scheming of a small party of discontented persons, statements as false as they are malicious against my government and myself personally are before Your Lordship.<sup>9</sup>

Glenelg offered Arthur reassurance that the events were unconnected but it was time for him to go.

William Bryan was said to have come back to Van Diemen's Land in 1844 but returned to Ireland and resided at Rathony near Dublin. He joined the Irish Confederation and served on its council during 1847.<sup>10</sup> He died at Cork on 18 August 1865. Bryan's colonial lands were not sold on his departure. Instead his 11,410 acres were leased to twenty-nine tenants. Robert Bryan had returned to his 408 acre farm at Glenore following the issue of his conditional pardon in July 1845.<sup>11</sup> He remained there with his family until his death on 1 February 1881. ◀

<sup>9</sup> Craig Joel, *A Tale of Ambition and Unrealised Hope: John Montagu and Sir John Franklin*. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2011, p.19

<sup>10</sup> Richard Davis, *Irish Traces on Tasmanian History 1803-2004*. Hobart, Sassafras Books, 2005, p.64

<sup>11</sup> TAHO CON 35/1

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# CALLING FOR MISSING DATA IN PENGUIN GENERAL CEMETERY'S 1800+ BURIAL RECORDS

Ross Hartley (Member No.6949)

**O**PENED in the late 1860s, Penguin General Cemetery closed decades back though still sees the occasional burial. Heritage-listed in 2007, it is unique within Central Coast Council, and the only heritage-listed cemetery between Devonport and Stanley. It is largely ignored as an asset apart from the Penguin History Group erecting an onsite map, installing numbered grave markers, and repairing historical cemetery gate-entry posts. The Group also publishes a paper-based version of cemetery records, more recently transcribed to spreadsheet for easier manipulation and research. Council is credited with completing some much-needed landscaping earlier this year, as well.

The cemetery, and its historical value, is already being promoted nationally and internationally through published research, including papers on:

- Discovery of century-old pauper burials including the 1915 'John Doe', resulting in naming and honouring these pioneers with headstones
  - Statistical overview of cemetery burials with a process for reconciling conflicting recorded data sources
  - Archival information on Penguin's 'John Doe' in the hope of locating relatives in Ireland, an ongoing pursuit
  - Transcribing the Penguin History Group's paper-based burial records to spreadsheet, updating records in the process
- Best practice in assessing deterioration in historic cemetery monuments.

Against this backdrop, and in order to respect and honour the cemetery's heritage-listing to better promote interest in its tourism marketability, it is recommended that a number of matters need tackling, as soon as possible. Simple and inexpensive as these are, all they require is the will to make them happen.

## **Thinking strategically**

Realistically, what's needed is:

- 1 Decision on a single, dynamic, up-to-date copy of burial records available, both as hard copies via the Penguin History Group and on the Central Coast Council website, with a protocol for continually updating records. At present there are too many versions available.
- 2 Erection of a heritage sign pole, near the iconic Big Penguin in the centre of town opposite the Information Centre, pointing to each of the handful of Penguin's heritage-listed assets, showing distances.
- 3 Placement of a large sign, onsite, naming the cemetery as 'Penguin General Cemetery'. The current sign, on the gate post, is tiny and illegible.
- 4 Installation of interpretive signage onsite, showcasing the cemetery's history and heritage value to the community.
- 5 Building a comfortable bench-seat within the existing small circular landscaped garden, possibly dedicating the garden to the cemetery's 80+ unnamed babies.

- 6 Researching missing data to provide a more comprehensive burial record. Open, perhaps, to school history students, under an 'adopt-a-grave' strategy.
- 7 Resealing the circular roadway within the cemetery grounds.
- 8 Devising documentation and accountabilities for ongoing management of the asset.

In many ways, it's the last point, Point 8, which underpins execution of the other seven. At present, decisions are basically ad hoc. Best-practice management of the asset, which the cemetery warrants, requires a structured approach; a management plan, in other words. It all begins with this; everything else then follows. And part of that plan, with its objectives, milestones, timelines and accountabilities is to decide on a single, current, dynamic version of the burial records, always working from the most recently updated, hence the need for version control. And finally, to work out a protocol by which the public can research and contribute meaningfully to the dataset. This is of paramount importance.

### **Incomplete burial records**

What follows are three tables, detailing the missing burial data, specifically focussing on Christian names and death dates only. What is not published is the 501-long list of records missing age of death, and the handful of burials for which plot numbers are, surprisingly, unknown.

In publishing these records housing the missing data, the rationale is simply to invite a response towards creating a more accurate, dynamic, and complete record of burials in Penguin General Cemetery. By not publishing, we deny the public an opportunity to interact with the dataset.

Whether it is relatives or just interested researchers, in publishing we open the records to scrutiny and feedback. For this result to be realised, however, we must first place the information in the public domain, for the widest possible audience reach. At present, audience reach may be somewhat limited.

Having said this, certain caveats need to be flagged upfront. First, there is no intended criticism of the record's incompleteness. The extent to which it is complete is an achievement, indeed; its very existence largely attributable to the Penguin History Group. Second, the record may well contain errors, whether these are factual, the result of transcription iterations, or a consequence of issues attributable to version control. Third, there is no intention to embarrass relatives of the families cited.

And now to look at the dataset under scrutiny, for which a response is invited. Forty-five burials, all in the old section of the cemetery and without headstones, record surnames only (Table 1).

An additional twenty-five burials record Christian name initials only (Table 2).

By far the largest missing dataset, apart from the previously mentioned age of death, is the date on which death occurred, some 107 in fact (Table 3). This table may duplicate a handful of records from tables 1 and 2.

**See following pages:**

Table 1

## Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which there are no Christian names

Surname	Death date	Plot no.
Brown		769
Buckingham		40
Clark		727
Clerke		126
Cole		500
Darrell		47
Drew		657
Dyke	18 Jul 1903	290
Evans		12
Evans		240
Gordon		122
Hales	10 Aug1911	361
Hardy		465
Hayes		46
Hayes		46
Herd		639
Howard		150
Jenkins	18 Dec 1903	189
Kidd		651
Ling		739
McCarthy	11 Nov 1903	282
Monson		667
Paton		238

Surname	Death date	Plot no.
Penfold	8 Jan 1907	324
Phillips		641
Roe		46
Rowden		255
Russell	4 Jan1914	737
Russell		737
Short		295
Short		969
Smith		215
Smith		217
Smith		726
Smith		726
Spinks		480
Spinks		688
Stocks	23 Jan 1908	373
Stott	16 Dec 1913	307
Stott	24 Aug1910	360
Sushames		487
Sushames		714
Tatlow		736
Titley		663
Viney	29 Jun 1907	268
Wilson		41

Table 2

## Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which initials only appear in lieu of Christian names

Surname	Christian name	Middle name	Death date	Age	Plot no.
Alder	W				513
Barker	T	W	15 June 1900	25	252
Blight	(Son)		17 March 1885	14	655
Cameron	I		8 August 1905		230
Campbell	D		19 September 1955		S
Dale	J	W C	4 August 1907	62	329
Davis	A	H	10 September 1946		830
Davis	R	W	19 August 1955	74	T
Dobson	M	W	29 August 1918	21	499
Evans	E				243

**Table 2 continued**

**Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which initials only appear in lieu of Christian names**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian name</b>	<b>Middle name</b>	<b>Death date</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Plot no.</b>
Hawkins	A	E Ira	25 December 1961	56	109
Herd/Hurd?	J	W V	3 June 1906		314
Knight	H	A	18 August 1953		445
Lawler*	Margaret		30 May 1936		963
Nicholas	J				812
Radford	J				493
Smith	J	H	21 June 1908		343
Sushames	J		8 May 1907		714
Sushames	M	J	00 January 1946	43	605
Townsend	E	J	29 August 1952		1141
Walker	A	W			49
Walton	W	H Rev	3 April 1910	77	734
Wilkins	H				501
Wilson	J	N General	1 May 1918	82	683

\* Christian name located on the headstone in researching this article

**Table 3**

**Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which death dates are not recorded**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian name</b>	<b>Middle name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Plot no.</b>
Alder	W			513
Archer	Elizabeth			705
Barker	Elijah			653
Barker	Sarah	Lapham		662
Barker	William			662
Bennett	Anne			340
Benneworth	Albert	Neil		162
Billings	Nellie			458
Brown				769
Buckingham				40
Burns			3	758
Burns	Robert	C Alder		756
Cameron	Alexander (jnr)			228
Clark				727
Clarke	Matilda			822
Clerke				126
Close	Ellen		7	490
Cole				500

**Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which death dates are not recorded continued**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian name</b>	<b>Middle name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Plot no.</b>
Conroy	Colin	Gregory		N14
Darrell				47
Deverell	Neil			15
Deverell	Maria			262
Dick	Bessie			752
Dick	Harvey	S		860
Dobson	William			383
Donoghue	Ethel	May		968
Drew	William			657
Drew				657
Dyke	Nina		35	847
Edwards	Dick			1001
Emmerton	Kenneth	William		384
Evans				12
Evans	James			240
Evans				240
Evans	E			243
Gillard	Daughter			641
Gillard	Sarah			967
Gordon				122
Greenhill	Charles			752
Groom	Cecil	Edward		171
Groom	Frank			496
Hall	George			492
Hardy				465
Hayes				46
Hayes				46
Hensley	John			715
Herd				639
Howard				150
Howell	Monie	Eva	1	664
Keogh	Margaret	Ann		376
Keogh	Louise	Maud		457
Kidd	William			651
Kidd				651
Ling	Mervyn			10
Ling	James			363
Ling	Eliza			638

**Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which death dates are not recorded continued**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian name</b>	<b>Middle name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Plot no.</b>
Ling	George			739
Ling				739
Mainwaring	Florence			724
Mather	Margaret			753
Monson	Daniel Snr			667
Monson				667
Mumford	Mary			137
Murfett	Olive	Emily	12	472
Nicholas	J			812
Ockerby*	Mary	Alice	24	754
Panton	Margaret			294
Parsons	James			665
Paton				238
Phillips				641
Powe	William Snr			220
Radford	J			493
Randall	Val			F4
Robinson	Ivy			182
Roe				46
Rook	Dellis			789
Rowden				255
Russell				737
Russell	Robert			737
Short				295
Short				969
Smith	Charles			37
Smith	Albert			191
Smith				215
Smith				217
Smith				726
Smith				726
Snooks	Rosemary		18	514
Spinks				688
Spinks				480
Spinks	Benjamin			648
Stingel	Marjory			523
Stone	John Snr			183
Stone	June			183

## Burials at Penguin General Cemetery for which death dates are not recorded continued

Surname	Christian name	Middle name	Age	Plot no.
Stone	Ida	Adelaide		833
Sushames				487
Sushames				714
Tatlow				736
Titley				663
Truscott	John	Henry		484
Walker	A	W		49
Wilkins	H			501
Wilson				41
Wilson	John			700
Woods	Jessie			149
Wright	Ann		88	233

\* Christian names located on the headstone along with a death date of 27 November 1899

### Conclusion

The aim, to build a dynamic record of burials at Penguin General Cemetery, is a laudable undertaking. The cemetery, after all, is heritage-listed, and thus worthy of dedicated research. Such research can be as simple as locating and reading the headstone, where these exist, as was demonstrated above, in two cases. Other research resources include the Tasmanian Federation Index—Deaths, *The Advocate* and its predecessor—Obituaries, Central Coast Council records, and other online records.

The challenge lays in having the manpower to contribute, of course and this is where the new Tasmanian history curriculum for high schools students could play a part. With each student ‘adopting a grave’, not only would a galore of missing data likely be found, but perhaps also those graves with headstones could be inspected and assessed for deterioration, cared for, photographed, and uploaded to the national online cemetery database of headstones.

So much could come to pass. If only ... ◀



One of the more unusual headstones in the Penguin General Cemetery

Photograph Ross Hartley

# HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES IN THE LAUNCESTON AREA c.1925

Town	Hotel/Boarding House	Per Day	Per Week	Proprietor
Launceston	Launceston Hotel	17/6+	—	Mrs. Huston
	Brisbane Hotel	18/-+	—	J. W. Quigley
	Racecourse Hotel	8/-	—	W. J. Neeson
	Volunteer Hotel	8/-	—	J. F. Schadel
	Bridge Hotel	8/-	—	A. Grimes
	Metropole	12/-	84/-	G. T. Gladman
	Criterion Hotel	12/-	—	M. H. Biggins
	Cornwall Hotel	12/-+	—	F. Ansell
	Newstead Hotel	8/-	—	W. J. Southerwood
	Royal Hotel	8/-	44/-	Mrs Hiscutt
	Central Hotel	8/6	—	J. T. Smith
	Commercial Hotel	8/-	—	J. J. Sheehan
	Courthouse Hotel	8/-	—	D. W. Rainbird
	Imperial Hotel	8/-	50/-	Mrs Hardesty
	National Hotel	8/-	45/-	J. H. Edwards
	Orient Hotel	7/-	30/-	O. E. Kennedy
	Globe Hotel	8/-	42/-	Mrs. Cunningham
	Enfield Hotel	10/-	—	A.G.Wildman
	Retreat Hotel	8/-	45/-	H. J. Luck
	Royal Tasman Hotel	8/-	35/-	F. Heerey
	The Pines	10/-	63/-	Mrs. Jack
	Cliveden	10/-	63/-	Mrs. Clark
	The International	6/6+	39/-+	George Perry
	Aorangi	8/-	42/-	Misses Hammond
	The Towers	10/-+	63/-+	Mrs. Glenn
	Rialannah	8/6	50/-	Misses Heathorn
	Cressy House	7/-	35/-	Mrs. Patman
	Selby House	7/-	30/-	Mrs. J. Thompson
	Commonwealth			
	Coffee Palace	7/-+	40/-+	S. Luck
	Russell's Dining Rooms	6/-	35/-	Mrs. A. Russell
	—	6/-	35/-	Mrs. Foot
—	7/-	35/-	Mrs. Keats	
Pinenest	7/-	50/-	Mrs. Peck	

Town	Hotel/Boarding House	Per Day	Per Week	Proprietor
	—	6/-	35/-	Miss Long
	Wentland	8/-	42/-	Mrs. G. W. Plank
	Moreton House	10/6	63/-	Mrs. Eddy
	G.F.S. Lodge	6/+	27/6+	The Matron
	Nairana	8/-	42/-	Mrs. Cumming
	—	7/-	35/-	Mrs. Thomas
	Athlone	6/-	30/-	Mrs. Bonner

The above information was provided by Laurie Moody and 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, the Government Printer. ◀



# Australia's largest online family history resource\*

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family tree online



\*comScore, 2011

# THE GENEROSITY OF UNCLE GEORGE

## THE GOOD FORTUNE OF JAMES AND MARY ANN SALTER

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

AT one time or another in our lives, many of us have needed a little financial assistance and have wished that we had a rich uncle who could help out. For most, that has been a vain wish; wealthy and generous uncles seem to be in short supply these days!

In 1825 however, when James and Mary Ann (née HANNABUS) SALTER made it known that they were migrating with their three children to Van Diemen's Land, Uncle George Salter, an ex-convict, childless and about sixty years of age, was only too pleased to be able to help them.

Before their departure, George wrote to the young couple to advise them that

one hundred and fifty head of horned Cattle, five breeding mares, one hundred Sheep, Pigs and Poultry, also all kinds of Implements of Husbandry for Agricultural Pursuits

would be waiting for them when they arrived.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, in preparation for their arrival, George had 'sown for their Sole Use and Benefit' ten acres of wheat on his own land and guaranteed to provide 'all the food, drink and clothing they and their servants would need for twelve months ... and more, if necessary'. He promised as well 'to render their every assistance' with 'Carts, Bullocks and Servants if they required it'.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Quotations and details of George Salter's life in VDL are taken with permission from the research notes of Beverley Pykett, of Devon, UK, a member of the Salter family

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

And his largesse didn't stop there; later, he gave James 700 acres of land!

So, who was this George Salter, and how was it that he had been able to accumulate the wealth that allowed him to act so generously?

On 8 November 1787, England's *Exeter Flying Post* published a description of 'a terrible affray' that had taken place at Roncombe's Gate, Devon, a few days earlier. The fight had involved three Officers of Excise and a gang of smugglers. Two of the excise-men, JENKINS and SCOTT, had been killed and a number of the smugglers 'much hurt'.<sup>3</sup>

A week later, the same newspaper reported a reward of £200, an immense sum in those days, was being offered to any member of the gang—except the leader, William VOISEY—who could provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the others.

On 27 December, the paper published a 'Wanted' notice which included good physical descriptions of Voisey and gang members Thomas GODDARD, Daniel GOSLING, William Salter and his son Peter Salter.

This, and the earlier reward notice, had the desired effect. Within days, several members of the gang had been captured. Among them was 'uncle' George Salter.

At the Exeter Assizes, on 17 March 1788, George and his fellow smugglers were convicted of the murders of the excise-

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<sup>3</sup> *Exeter Flying Post*, 16 November 1787

men.<sup>4</sup> In sentencing them, the judge had said:

Let them be severally hanged by the Neck until they are dead on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March ... and let their bodies be delivered to Robert PATCH, surgeon, to be dissected & anatomised & and let the Gaoler, until the time of their execution as aforesaid, confine them in cells or places separate & apart from other Prisoners & no person whomsoever except the Gaoler or his servants have access to them without a licence from the Judge, the Sheriff or his Under Sheriff, & until the time of their Execution let them be fed with bread & water only, except they should be desirous of receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

On 31 March 1788, William Salter, 59, Peter Salter, 26 and Daniel Gosling, 29, were hanged at Heavtree Gallows, near Exeter.

George Salter, then about 23, had been granted a last-minute reprieve and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

On 8 May 1788, he was taken aboard the prison hulk *Dunkirk* moored at Plymouth to await transportation. In late 1789, he was transferred to the *Neptune* which, as part of the Second Fleet, set sail on 19 January 1790 and reached Port Jackson on 26 June.

Upon arrival, he was put in charge of 'horned cattle' and quickly won the trust and respect of Governor PHILLIP. When his sentence expired in 1795, Governor HUNTER, who had taken over from Phillip, granted him thirty acres on the Parramatta Creek and, by 1800, his farm was in a flourishing state—fully cleared, with ten acres sown with wheat and

twenty with maize.<sup>53</sup> He owned a horse—there were still only very few of them in the colony and they were very expensive to buy—and a pig. He had also found romance with an Irish convict, Winifred (Winnie) MARSH, who had arrived on the *Royal Admiral* in 1792.

By 1802, however, he had leased out his farm and moved to Sydney. While he was still officially on the Government payroll as Superintendent of Horned Cattle, he had set himself up as a dealer in all sorts of commodities, including land, livestock, grain and liquor. In the next few years his name was often in the newspapers, usually in connection with court cases over business dealings, most of which he seems to have won.

Because he was becoming quite wealthy, many were surprised when he announced in 1810 that he was planning to leave the colony. But, for some reason he changed his mind. He remained in Sydney for the next several years.

Just why he had announced that he was leaving is not clear, but it is possible that he wanted to get away from Winnie. There had been no children of the relationship and it was not always a happy one. By 1814, Winnie was living alone at the Parramatta farm.

As early as 1812, George had started a relationship with Mary PICKETT née THOMPSON, the wife of Samuel Pickett, a man with whom he had had business dealings—and quarrels, some of

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<sup>4</sup> George's trial: Exeter, Devon, England, 17 March 1788

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<sup>5</sup> On this land, which soon became widely known as 'Salter's Farm', George constructed a small wooden dwelling. Still standing, this house is believed to be one of only three surviving eighteenth century buildings in Australia and the earliest to be associated with a convict. See [http://camwest.pps.com.au/heritage/route\\_sites/index.html](http://camwest.pps.com.au/heritage/route_sites/index.html)

which had ended up in court. Around this time, too, he made a number of trips to Van Diemen's Land where he had purchased farming land at River Styx, west of Hobart.

In early 1813, Lachlan MACQUARIE, who had been appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1810, wrote to Lieutenant-Governor DAVEY in Hobart, to inform him George was leaving New South Wales to reside in Tasmania and that he warmly recommended he be given the job of Superintendent of Government Herds there. Referring to George as a 'very honest sober man', Macquarie suggested that 'a Salary of Fifty Pounds Per annum' would be appropriate.

In a dispatch to Macquarie later that year, Davey remarked how 'very useful and active' George had been 'in recovering so many of the Government cattle that had been lost or run wild through the shameful neglect of former Superintendents'.

In 1818, George built a two-story house at Lot 10, Macquarie Street, Hobart, a valuable piece of land in one of the main streets of the central business district. At Lot 9 in the same street was the 'Hope Inn'. A year or two later, the first Bank of Van Diemen's Land was constructed on Lot 11.

On 28 March 1824, Mary Pickett, who had accompanied George to Van Diemen's Land, passed away. Records suggest that George sold or mortgaged some of his property in Hobart to ensure that Mary's two children, who had sometimes lived with them, received an inheritance.

The following year, George was granted 300 acres in the Sorell district of Tasmania. The land was 'bounded on the North by the River Derwent, on the East by the Broad River, and on the South and West by unallocated land'.

As a consequence, when his nephew James wrote from Devon, England, to say that he was bringing his family to Van Diemen's Land, George was well placed to be able to assist them to settle in.

James, Mary Ann and the children—James Henry (born 1815), Elizabeth (1819) and Mary Mayne (1823) arrived at Hobart aboard *Harvey* on 3 May 1825.<sup>6</sup> In the colony, they were granted additional land by the Government and prospered in the years which followed. They had four more children, the first of whom, born in 1828, they very understandably named George.<sup>7</sup>

However, Uncle George lived for only seven years after the young family's arrival. He died at the age of 71 in 1832.<sup>8</sup>

Strangely, perhaps, he left the use of all the land and buildings at his River Styx property to two of his servants, Charles FENTON and Matilda RANSLEY—both of whom had been in his service for some years—for the term of their natural lives. His Will stipulated, however, that, after the deaths of Charles and Matilda, the property was to pass to four year-old George, the son of his nephew James, the first of Salter family to be born in Van Diemen's Land.<sup>9</sup>

Young George did eventually inherit the property but not until 1882, fifty years later! He was then 54 years of age. His father had died in 1859, his mother in 1862, both undoubtedly grateful for the help they had been given by a generous man.<sup>10</sup> ◀

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<sup>6</sup> See [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/immig/imgships\\_h.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/immig/imgships_h.htm)

<sup>7</sup> George Salter, son of James and Mary Ann: birth, 1826/2062/32, Hobart

<sup>8</sup> Death: 2601/1832, New Norfolk.

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AD960/1/1 p.99, Will No. 61

<sup>10</sup> James, death, 624/1859/35, and Mary Ann: death, 343/1862/35, New Norfolk

# SPIKE ISLAND—CORK HARBOUR

## DID YOUR ANCESTOR SPEND TIME THERE?

Kerrie Blyth (Member No.414)

**S**PIKE ISLAND is situated directly inside the great harbour which services Cork City in Ireland and is a place I became aware of many years ago through my family history research. During a visit to the Archives Office of Tasmania (now TAHO), I located two convict records containing information about my paternal great great grandfather Jeremiah CORKERY. I discovered he spent 18 months on Spike Island prior to being shipped to VDL to complete his 10 year sentence. This sentence had been handed down on 2 January 1849 for the theft of two sheep from Mr Agnew. Cork Harbour was of the two main embarkation points for Irish convicts being sent to Australia. After the convicts had been tried, they were marched to Cork or Dublin to be held in gaols or hulks until the ships were ready to transport them. In Jeremiah's case he was marched to Cork Harbour and subsequently Spike Island.

The name of the island and the part it played in Jeremiah's life has always intrigued me and during Easter 2011 I had the good fortune to visit Spike Island and discover its fascinating history. My partner Jim and I were on a self-drive holiday and during the month of April had covered some 4,000km around the highways, country lanes and sheep tracks of both Northern Ireland and the Republic. During Easter we booked in to a bed and breakfast hotel in the fishing village of Cobh (known as Queenstown from 1849–1921).

Cobh is a delightful place with quaint houses, a stunning cathedral and steep

streets perched on the hills overlooking Spike Island. Our room was in the attic of a three story house which provided magnificent views of the town, the cathedral spire, the harbour and Spike Island. From the dormer windows we watched the comings and goings of passenger ferries from France, Netherlands and England, merchant ships, fishing boats and the local bird life. A peregrine falcon was of particular interest as it had made a nest on the nearby cathedral spire at eye level with us which allowed us a 'birds eye' view of her daily routines.

Arriving on Good Friday we were thrilled to discover that guided tours to Spike Island were commencing for the season the very next day at 2pm. I considered this to be one of those very lucky holiday incidents! After some initial concerns that there were not enough people to warrant making the boat trip, we set off and motored to the island, passing by the docks where the Irish navy are based and the terminal where the great cruising liners of the world offload their passengers. It was from this harbour the *Titanic* sailed in 1912.

The tour to Spike Island was organized and conducted by Irish historian and author Michael Martin and once we landed on the island he spent the next ninety minutes showing us points of interest and entertaining us with his insightful knowledge of the land, buildings, history and the people. Michael conveyed the story of the true plight of the Irish during the famine years with great passion and explained how so many thousands of

people, just like Jeremiah, had been forced to steal food to provide for their families. By law they were not allowed to beg for food or aid in public places. In his book, *Spike Island: saints, felons and famine* Michael noted that the Vagrancy Act, (which made it an offence for every person wandering abroad and begging or placing themselves in any public place, highway, public court or passage), criminalized people who were victims of the famine.

However, Spike Island has a rich and deep history which covers periods far earlier than when it was being used for the incarceration of convicts. Its earliest origins saw the foundation of a monastery by St Carthage in the seventh century, followed by a period in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of a military fort. This disused fort is now known as the John Mitchell Fort, named after the ‘Young Irishman’ whose name is familiar in Tasmanian history. The gun emplacement has a commanding view of the entrance to Cork Harbour and still has in place the massive gun which protected the harbour from any ships trying to enter. Guns were also located on the headlands on either side of the entrance for extra security.

A visitor to Spike Island in 1848 commented;

The island is rough in its appearance, containing some one hundred and eighty acres and has been a fortified island from about 1791–2. Here we found convicts from every part of Ireland who were deemed worthy of an exile from home for the space of seven years. The number of these victims was about eight hundred and forty; some employed in digging out rocks and leveling rough places, some in making mats of cocoa-nut bark, some knitting, and some marching round a circle made up on the pavement for exer-

cise and punishment. A school is kept where for two hours in rotation all who are of suitable age, and cannot read and write, are taught these branches. The teacher remarked, when pointing to three hundred pupils, "these persons are docile, and I believe honest; their only crime being taking food when starving". Some of these young men and boys had thrown a stone into a bread-shop, some had stolen a turnip, and some a sheep; but everyone was induced by extreme hunger to do the deed. But we are gravely told in Ireland that property must be protected, though life should be squandered. The teacher added "I cannot look on these men and boys as criminals".

Jeremiah Corkery lived and worked on Spike Island during his long wait to be placed aboard the ship *Hyderabad 3* which eventually took him to VDL in a trip lasting three months. He arrived in Hobart on 13 December 1850 and after serving a relatively short sentence, with few misdemeanours against his name, he gained his Ticket of Leave in February 1854 and a Conditional Pardon in December of the same year. He married an Irish woman called Judith O'CONNOR. Together they raised eleven children, many of whom were named after Jeremiah's siblings and parents whom he was forced to leave behind in County Cork.

Jeremiah lived to the ripe old age of 81 and died at his home in Prosser's Forest (Northern Tasmania) from influenza on Christmas Day 1899. On his death certificate he was listed as an 81 year-old farmer who was born in England. I don't imagine he would have been pleased to be called English! ◀

*Spike island: saints, felons and famine* by Michael Martin, published 2007 by Nonsuch Publishing, Dublin

A Visit to Spike Island Prison, <http://www.ucc.ie/ucc/depts/history/famine9.htm>

# ALBERT EDWARD BIRD

## A FLAWED CHAMPION

John Bird (Member No.5995)

### Part Two

#### VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA

The Pedestrians sailed on the *Lincolnshire*, a three-mast clipper of 1,025 tons, built and launched in 1858. She had a length of 207.5 ft with a beam of 32.8 ft and depth of 20.5 ft operating exclusively on the Gravesend to Port Phillip run during 1858–79, making a total of twenty-eight voyages. She departed Gravesend on 20 September 1869. There were 125 adults and twenty-one children travelling to Australia.



Clipper *Lincolnshire*

At the commencement of their trip they experienced the full force of the heavy gales that prevailed. The ship had to pull into Portsmouth on 28 September after beating about the English Channel for eight days. Albert's fears of sea travel surfaced, and the ship was not outside English waters. Six weeks after sailing, on 2 November, the ship crossed the equator near the St Peter and St Paul Archipelago. According to custom, the day was observed as a half holiday and highlighted by the presence of 'King Neptune'. A stage was erected on the Quarter deck and passengers gathered to watch proceedings. At 10 o'clock King

Neptune and his entourage arrived, and over the next few hours handed out 'punishments' to those members of the crew who had not previously crossed the Equator. After several hours of great amusement, King Neptune said farewell.

Continuing south it became cooler. By the sixtieth day of sailing, the ship reached the Cape of Good Hope and was heading east in the Great Southern Ocean. The ship was now subject to the strong winds and currents of the Roaring Forties, the seas much rougher but the ship was accompanied by thousands of flying fish, whales and porpoises. After a spell of fine weather it was subject to more very heavy conditions when, after running before a gale for a few days, the ship was compelled to heave to. All passengers were confined below decks, the main hatchway secured, and the ship was brought to the wind until the violence of the gale moderated.

After seventy-five days the coastline of Australia was seen on the port side. As they sailed past many passengers were surprised they could not see any signs of life on the coast line.

Everyone woke early on the morning of 16 December. There was a great sense of excitement as eighty-eight days after leaving England they would arrive in Melbourne. However, looking at the coastline the passengers could only see rugged mountains and trees—it looked most desolate, uninhabited and uninhabitable. The first sign of life was at Cape Otway which the ship passed at 7:00 am, and that was only a lighthouse and two

houses. About noon they came to the small bay at Queenscliff. The ship moored close to shore and a Health Officer came aboard to check the well being of the passengers. Gradually they approached Melbourne which first showed itself in the shape of long lines of white houses on the coast—Brighton, St Kilda and Williamstown successively coming into view. In the background the passengers could see the city of Melbourne, its tall buildings standing out against the sky.

The ship reached the roadstead at Hobson's Bay, a partly sheltered area for anchored vessels at 4:00 pm. A steam tug came out and escorted the ship to her berth at Sandridge wharf. At last Albert and the passengers were once more on *terra firma*.

### 100 DAY CONTRACT IN VICTORIA

The arrival of the English pedestrians was promoted throughout all the Australian colonies.



Melbourne Cricket Ground 1870s

Albert, Frank and George had their first look at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Boxing Day and went through their training routines in the intervals between races. Albert's running style was greatly admired, many spectators cheering as he ran past the main section of the ground.

Somewhat amusingly, on 7 January 1870 Albert was arrested at Merri Park in Northcote, an inner Melbourne suburb, for 'racing in a scanty costume'. The

judge at the Fitzroy Magistrates Court dismissed the charge but asked Albert to wear more clothing next time he had to appear in public for training or racing purposes. Merri Park is within 400 metres of where Albert's son William, and later his descendants lived from 1918 until 2002.

The pedestrians' first appearance was on 8 January at the MCG, a crowd of 10,000 in attendance. Their performances were below expectations. Albert finished second in the 880 yard handicap race and failed to place in the one mile event. Although unsuccessful, Albert's running style created a very favourable impression with the crowd who frequently loudly applauded him.

The champions' second athletics meeting on Saturday, 12 February, was also at the MCG, the crowd in excess of 11,000. Albert, from scratch, beat eleven competitors in a one mile handicap race running the fastest one mile time ever in the colony, four minutes thirty-five seconds. *The Argus*, Monday 14 February reported Bird

defeated them with the greatest of ease ... The crowd got so excited over Bird's performance that before he reached the winning post they broke through the bounds that separated them from the course, and rushed from all quarters to the pavilion gate, causing much excitement.

### Country Victoria

Albert was continually successful at a number of athletics meets in Victorian provincial towns over the next two months. Having travelled to Ballarat, his time of four minutes 30½ seconds for his run on 14 February was nearly five seconds faster than his run at the MCG.

Two days later at Maryborough the locals were treated to another fine performance by Albert, who easily won the one mile

race, albeit nearly seven seconds slower than in Ballarat, a time of four minutes thirty eight seconds being recorded.

On 19 February Albert appeared at Eastern Oval Geelong where a crowd of 4,000 witnessed the sports. *The Argus*, 21 February reported

Bird displayed a wonderful fleetness of foot, winning the one mile handicap race ... great excitement and interest were evinced by the public ... on Bird's appearance there was quite a furore of cheering ... Bird was most enthusiastically cheered on winning.

That night Albert travelled to Bendigo where he won the one mile handicap giving starts of up to 140 yards.



Bendigo 1870

Albert's time was four minutes thirty-seven seconds. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* on 26 April wrote 'Bird won easily and was chaired into the pavilion by the crowd.'

In Ballarat on 24 March Albert put in a poor performance in a one mile handicap race at the Western Cricket Reserve, the *Brisbane Courier* commenting, 'Bird was Boomed and hissed' running second in a very slow time of four minutes forty-seven seconds.

Three days later at Easter Oval Lake Wendouree on the outskirts of Ballarat, in a complete reversal of form, Albert ran a solo one mile in a time of four minutes 30½ seconds.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Such was the public excitement about the English Champions that at the completion of the 100-day contract they decided to extend their stay and travelled to New South Wales. The 5 April saw Albert, HEWITT and TOPLEY board the 460 ton ss *Rangatira* at Port Melbourne for the trip to Sydney. Favourable weather made for a pleasant trip and the *Rangatira* arrived in Sydney on 9 April.

### Sydney

Albert ran second in a one mile handicap event in Sydney on 18 April, losing by less than twenty yards to the winner, Wheeler who was off 215 yards. Albert's time was four minutes thirty-one seconds. Wheeler ran a time of four minutes 17½ seconds. The crowd, although disappointed Albert had not won, applauded him loudly at the completion of the race. *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 April indicated Albert's failure to win to be attributed to the handicap given 'put him at such a disadvantage the chance of coming ahead of all competitors was a very faint case'.

It was not his only loss that day as, unbeknown to him, Albert's father William died in Sheffield.

### Country New South Wales

Albert then competed at a number of provincial athletic meetings.

Spectators at Bathurst witnessed another race between Albert and Frank Hewitt on 7 May, this time over 800 yards. In yet another race almost too close to call, Hewitt was announced the winner. A time of two minutes four seconds was recorded.

The annual New South Wales seven hundred yards steeplechase race was held in Bathurst on 14 May. It attracted a large number of cross-country runners. Unfortunately, heavy overnight rain made

the course water logged. *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Chronicle* reported that the runners

were cheered when they went onto the course ... Brennan kept the lead until the fourth hurdle, Bird went up to and passed him and led over the fifth ... came in a winner by several yards.

Brennan's jumping of the fences was admired by the crowd—he cleared them better than Albert. There was an excuse. This was his first attempt to jump fences. Albert's superior running made the difference. When asked how he thought he handled the hurdles Albert replied, 'I somehow just flopped over them'.

On 28 May, Albert entered an 880-yard race against several colonial pedestrians, giving up a start of ninety yards. Albert never put on full speed until the race was half over, too late to catch Campbell who won by eight yards.

Three days later on 1 June he won a one mile handicap race from scratch in a time of four minutes twenty-eight seconds, the fastest time recorded in New South Wales. *The Empire*, on 2 June reported 'if he had given his opponents quarter mile start it might have been an even race'.

A week after his previous 880-yard race he competed in another race of the same distance this time giving starts of up to 150 yards. Continuing with his excellent form Albert won a very tight finish by less than a yard in a time of two minutes four seconds.



*The City Arms Hotel Newcastle*

Whilst in Newcastle Albert stayed at the *City Arms Hotel*, where he met Alice, daughter of Joseph WALMSLEY, the proprietor of the hotel.

At Maitland on 12 June Albert was entered in an 880-yard handicap race in which he was starting from scratch, all other runners having an advantage of at least forty yards. The *Maitland Mercury and Hunter Valley Gazette*, 14 June reported

Coming to the finish line the second time around Albert slackened his pace and took it easy running beside Grant who was leading at the finish post when by some mistake, an official come onto the track and put out the winning tape, one lap early. Albert continued and ran a very fast final lap as he believed the race was not over and claimed the first prize money ... After much heated discussion it was decided to re-run the race in an hour's time, with Albert giving all runners a further twenty yards start.

Determined there would no further controversy Albert started out a very fast pace and kept up this speed for the entire race. The crowd were soon cheering loudly as Albert's beautiful running style was on full display, and although Grant again ran well, Albert overtook him on the final lap winning easily.

Returning to Newcastle, and after a short courtship Albert and Alice were married at the Registry Office on Saturday 10 December. Alice was fifteen, a month shy of her sixteenth birthday, her father giving his consent to the marriage.

## QUEENSLAND

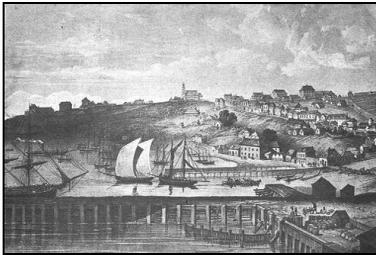
Albert and Alice travelled north to Brisbane where he competed in a three mile race handicap race on 14 December. Giving a start of 275 yards, Albert got within 100 yards of the leader but succumbed to cramp and had to withdraw. *The Brisbane Courier* commented that if

Bird could have held out a short time longer (the leader) Ford would have had to give in.

## NEW ZEALAND

During January an offer was made to Albert and Hewitt to travel to New Zealand and to compete against the local pedestrians, an offer they readily accepted. Albert, Sarah and Hewitt sailed from Sydney on the ss *Duke of Edinburgh*, arriving in Auckland New Zealand on 2 March 1871.

### Auckland



City of Auckland 1871

As part of their trip to New Zealand, Albert and Frank Hewitt agreed to support a number of charities helping the underprivileged. Albert appeared at the Auckland Theatre Royal on 23 March in aid of the Home for Destitute Children, *The Daily Southern Cross*, 24 March commenting

in 'Rough Diamond', Bird impersonated the character of Cousin Joe in a most excellent manner, and throughout the piece was enthusiastically applauded.

In a charity event at the Albert Barracks, on 7 April, Albert playing with Press XI against the Theatre Royal displayed his all-round sporting prowess, top scoring with thirty nine runs and taking twelve wickets.

On 10 April Albert competed in a one mile handicap race at the Albert Barracks. All competitors had at least a 100 yards start. At the end of the fourth lap HOP-

KINS was fifty yards ahead of him. *The Daily Southern Cross* of 11 April stated

people began to think that the great champion was not the man he had been represented to be ... but then about 300 yards from winning-post a cry was raised "There he goes" and sure enough he was going, ... at apace which was truly astonishing, considering the distance he had already travelled. On arriving at the winning post he was greatly cheered.

His time was four minutes thirty-two seconds.

On 12 April Albert was in a two mile handicap race giving his competitors 250 yards start. *The Southern Cross*, 13 April reported

He won easily and passed them with the rapidity of a deer. Throughout the race he was frequently cheered, and at the finish received a perfect ovation.

On 17 April Albert and Sarah were passengers on the ss *Phoebe* travelling to Canterbury and Christchurch.

### Christchurch

In late April the *Canterbury Press* announced

Mr Bird has accepted a bet of £200 to £50 that he does not run 30 miles in 3 consecutive hours ... a feat nothing approaching to which has ever been witnessed on this side of the line ... The race to be run before the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

On 10 May Albert was to run in a one mile event but to the disappointment of some spectators, ran off the course after two laps. Albert complained about the unfair handicapping but did not help his empathy with the crowd by affronting the handicappers in public.

### Dunedin

Travelling to Dunedin, Albert won a one mile handicap race at the Queen's Birthday meeting on 24 May. An excellent time of four minutes and thirty one seconds was recorded.

## Canterbury

Saturday, 3 June, saw Albert run against the clock endeavouring to run one mile in under four minutes and twenty five seconds. The roads to be run on were in very bad disrepair, to the extent many locals did not expect Albert to run. Despite this handicap Albert ran a time of four minutes forty two seconds. It was the common view that if the course had been better prepared, the target time would have been easily achieved.

## Christchurch again

Two weeks later saw Albert at his best and his worse. On 17 July he started a run, trying to complete eleven miles in less than one hour, but after one mile he suddenly disappeared off the course. The crowd in attendance expressed their displeasure at Albert's action and he was loudly booed and derided.

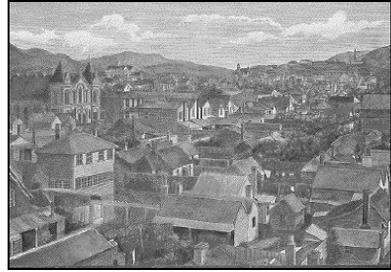
In an effort to placate the crowd, Albert later agreed to a five mile race. Albert, giving starts of up to 800 yards, won easily providing further examples of his wonderful running style at top speed. A time of thirty minutes fifty-five seconds was recorded.

## Wellington

Albert then travelled to Wellington where on 7 August he competed in the one mile, two mile and five mile events on one day. In greasy conditions he fell early in the one mile event and had to retire. He was declared the winner of the two mile race, although losing by the distance of one foot it was found that the winner KELLY, had been under-handicapped by twenty yards. Albert's running prowess was shown to its best in the five mile event, the *Canterbury Press*, 26 April stating

he gave evidence of what he really could do. About the need of the third mile he put on several spurts ... His strides seem more like the bounds of a deer than those of a man.

The time record was thirty-two minutes one second.



Wellington New Zealand 1871

Back in Christchurch Albert made good his earlier declaration he would run thirty miles in three hours. Commencing at the village Hororata he reached the finish in Christchurch in two hours fifty nine minutes.

Albert and Sarah left Wellington in early October 1871, sailing for Melbourne.

## BACK TO VICTORIA

After almost two years of continual travelling Albert and Sarah decided to remain in Melbourne and rest for a while.

In February 1872, Albert and Alice journeyed to Ballarat, travelling on a Cobb and Co. coach. Albert had agreed to run in a five mile race at the Back Creek Ground in Ballarat on 17 February against two other competitors, each running half the distance. Although defeating the first runner comfortably, there were doubts as to his performance against the second runner, only winning by five yards when well ahead with less 200 yards to go.

They then travelled north, stopping at Castlemaine, a country town in central Victoria, where Alice gave birth to their first child, a daughter Sarah born 3 June 1872. ◀

To be continued

# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

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

## **BATTLE SCARRED: The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the First World War.**

This hard cover book, by Craig Deayton, was published in 2011.

It tells the story of the life and death of the Australian battalion from their formation in 1916 to disbandment in May 1918.

‘... The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion fought in some of the First World War’s bloodiest battles. From their first calamitous experience of war under the shell fire at Poziers, to the costly and futile attacks on Mouquet Farm and the frigid winters on the Somme they suffered through the fighting on the Western Front in 1916. ... Finally, at the Battle of Dernacourt they fought in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division’s titanic struggle to save Amiens from the great German offensive of 1918. It was at Dernacourt that the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion found itself squarely in the path of the heaviest attack ever faced by Australians in this or any war. Fatally weakened by their losses, and under a cloud after the formal inquiry into the battle, the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion was broken up. For the Queenslanders and Tasmanians of the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion, disbandment meant not

only the loss of their battalion, but disgrace and heartbreak as well. ...’

## **HILL END & TAMBAROORA PIONEER REGISTER TO 1920: A record of our ancestors who lived and worked in the area from early days until 1920.**

This first edition CD was published in 2006 by the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group.

Hill End is a village situated on the Central Tablelands of NSW, 80 kms north of Bathurst and 70 kms south of Mudgee. It is all that remains of the once famous Tambaroora Goldfields.

The Gathering Group have compiled information about those attracted to the area by ‘The Glint of Gold’, about their life on the goldfield and after when the gold ran out.

Details are provided about births, marriages deaths, and places of burial; if known. The later occupation of the pioneers are recorded in most cases and details pertaining to at least the next generation are generally shown as well.

As with any gold-rush, prospectors ‘flooded in’ from all directions. A good place to look for a missing ancestor or just more details about one that returned home after a period of absence. ◀

# LIBRARY NOTES

## Former circulating microfiche

Now permanently at:

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

## Lilian Watson Family History Award 2011 entries

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

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## 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 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Books	<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 3 (p&p \$5.50).....	\$11.00
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CD-Rom	<i>Tasmanian Federation Index</i> (p&p \$2.50).....	\$231.00
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# LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## BURNIE BRANCH

### Accessions—Books

- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth Death & Marriage Notices Volume 9 1917*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians Volume 8 1916*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth Death & Marriage Notices Volume 10 1918*
- Blatchford, Robert & Elizabeth, *The Irish Family and Local History Handbook*
- Frost, Lucy, *Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory*
- Hicks, Shauna, *Resource Directory for Victoria*
- \*Hodgson, Alice Meredith, *Prospecting the Pieman*
- \*Hookway, Eileen, *A Horseride for a Church*
- \*Hyland, Raymond John, *The Family of John and Eleanor Johns*
- Jaunay, Grahame, *Family History research in South Australia*
- \*North Meols Family History Society, *Christ Church Baptisms 1821–1838*
- \*North Meols Family History Society, *Leyland Road Wesleyan Chapel Marriages 1882–1939*
- \*North Meols Family History Society, *One named extract of the Family Johnson 1595–1837*
- \*North Meols Family History Society, *Churchtown (Ind.) Congregational Church Baptisms 1806–1825*
- Paton, Chris, *Irish Family History Resources Online*
- Paton, Chris, *Getting the most out of findmypast.com.au*
- Paton, Chris, *Tracing Your Family History on the Internet*
- Paton, Chris, *Researching Scottish Family History*
- Paton, Chris, *Discover Scottish Church Records*
- Pederson, Tania L, *Beyond The Basics, A Guide for advanced users of FTM 2012*
- Royden, *Tracing your Liverpool ancestors*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Almanacs Medical 1863–1979/80*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Volume 10 1929–1930*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Volume 11 1931*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Almanacs CWA 1937–1980*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Road Trusts 1863–1907, and Surveyors 1863–1979/80*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Latrobe Cemetery, Inscriptions from North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *An Index to 'The Advocate' Personal Announcements 2003*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *An Index to 'The Advocate' Personal Announcements 2004*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *An Index to 'The Advocate' Personal Announcements 2005*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Kentish Cemeteries, Inscriptions from North-West Tasmania*

## HOBART BRANCH

### Accessions—Books

\*Australian Bureau of Statistics:

*Tasmanian Year Book No. 20—1986.* [R 919.46 TAS 1986]

*Tasmanian Year Book No. 21—1988.* [R 919.46 TAS 1988]

\*Baker, A; *Index to The Mercury Deaths 1979.* [Q 929.38 BAK]

\*Bradmore, D J; *Dr Edward Foord Bromley, R.N. (1776–1836): Surgeon, Civil Servant and Magistrate, V.D.L.* [Q 994.602092 BRA]

\*Branagan, J G; *Bush Tramways & Private Railways of Tasmania.* [385.09946 BRA]

\*Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics; *Tasmanian Year Book No.1—1967.*  
[R 919.46 TAS 1967]

\*Crowncontent; *Who's Who In Australia, 2002.* [R 920 WHO.A 2002]

\*Deayton, C; *Battle Scarred: The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the First World War.*

\*Debrett's Peerage Ltd; *Debrett's Handbook of Australia & New Zealand.*  
[R 920c DEB]

\*Debrett's Peerage (Australasia) Pty Ltd:

*Debrett's Handbook of Australia, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.* [R 920c DEB 4<sup>th</sup> Ed]

*Debrett's Handbook of Australia, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.* [R 920c DEB 5<sup>th</sup> Ed]

\*Howard, R; *A Forger's Tale: Henry Savery, Australia's First Novelist.*  
[Q 823.1 HOW]

\*Information Aus. Group P/L:

*Who's Who In Australia, 2000.* [R 920 WHO.A 2000]

*Who's Who In Australia, 2001.* [R 920 WHO.A 2001]

Joel, Craig R; *A Tale of Ambition and Unrealised Hope.*

\*MacFie, Peter and Steve & Marjorie Gadd; *On The Fiddle From Scotland To Tasmania 1815–1863.*

\*McHugh, E; *Bushrangers: Australia's Greatest Self-made Heroes.* [Q 994.03 MCH]

\*Rickards, Elizabeth (Ed.); *The Heritage of Huon Football.*

TFHS Inc. Mersey:

*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements, 2004.* [Q 929.38 IND]

*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements, 2005.* [Q 929.38 IND]

*Kentish Cemeteries: Monumental Inscriptions of Kentish District Cemeteries.*  
[Q 929.32099465 INL]

Mersey; *Latrobe Cemetery: Monumental Inscriptions of Latrobe Cemetery.*  
[Q 929.32099465 INL]

### Accessions—Computer Disks

\*Archive CD Books; *Police Gazette N.S.W. Compendium, 1911–1915.*

\*Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group; *Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register to 1920.*

\*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

# LAUNCESTON BRANCH

## Accessions—Books

- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians, Volume 9, 1917*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty—*The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians, Volume 10, 1918*
- \*Crocker, Henry—*Crocker Families : John & Mary Crocker (nee Giles), Henry & Sarah Crocker (nee Coleman) and their descendants—from Devon to Australia, New Zealand & South Africa.*
- \*Frost, Lucy (editor), *Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory*
- \*Heaton, J H—*The Bedside Book of Colonial Doings*
- \*Launceston Historical Society Inc.—*2011 Papers and Proceedings : Volume Twenty-Three*
- \*Legerwood Hall & Reserves Committee, (compiled by Cindy Walsh & Patricia Champion)—*Legerwood Memorial Park : A living remembrance for the young people of the Legerwood district who we loved and lost*
- \*National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)—*The Three Cities : Hobart-Glenorchy-Launceston*
- \*Norfolk Island Historical Society, *Government House*
- \*Plomley, N J B—*The Tasmanian Aborigines.*
- \*Progress Association of Underwood—*A History of Underwood : to commemorate the Celebration of the Centenary of Underwood. February 14, 1849-February 14, 1959.*
- \*Rackman, Sally, Compiler, *Index to Volumes 26–30 of Tasmanian Ancestry*
- \*Readers Digest—*Heart of England*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*Kentish Cemeteries : Monumental Inscriptions of Kentish District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*Latrobe Cemetery : Monumental Inscriptions of Latrobe Cemetery North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2004 Covering the North West Coast of Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch—*An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2005 Covering the North West Coast of Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch—*The Tasmanian Mail : A Photographic Index, Volume 11, 1931*
- \*von Stieglitz, K R, OBE—*A History of New Norfolk and the Derwent Valley*

## Accessions—CD-Roms

- Archive CD Books, *Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1861–1865*  
*Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1866–1870*
- \*Donohoe, James Hugh, BA, Dip. FHS—*The Paracensus of Australia 1788–1828*

\*Denotes donated item

# MERSEY BRANCH

## Accessions—Books

- Binns, Terese; *Henry Hinsby A Distinguished Apothecary of Hobart Town*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp]; *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians Vol. 10 1918*
- \*Brauman, Glenice & Oakley, Marilyn; *Index of St Joseph Catholic Church Records Baptisms 1857-1911, Marriages 1838-1853 St Mary's Catholic Cathedral Hobart Baptisms 1868-1911*
- \*Cassidy, Jill; *The Dairy Heritage of Northern Tasmania - A Survey of the Butter and Cheese Industry*
- Crocker, Henry; *Crocker Families - From Devon to Australia, NZ & South Africa*
- \*Nickols, Elizabeth [Comp]; *Footprints of Faith - History of the Catholic Community in Penguin*
- \*RSL Tasmania; *Our Heroes: Tasmania's Victoria Cross Recipients*
- \*Stones, June; *St Andrew's Anglican Church Sprent 1890-1998*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2005*
- \*TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1996-2000*
- \*TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2001-2005*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol. 11 1931*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Kentish Cemeteries – Monumental Inscriptions of Kentish District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania*

\*Indicates donated items

## 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/~dcginc/>

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Library 2 Spring Street Burnie  
Tuesday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
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The library is open at 7:00 pm prior to meetings.  
Meeting Branch Library, 2 Spring Street Burnie 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.  
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am except January and February.

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**HOBART** Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527  
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive  
Tuesday 12:30 pm–3:30 pm  
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**HUON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6529  
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh  
Saturday 1:30 pm–4:00 pm  
Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required  
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 pm on 1st Saturday of each month, except January.  
Please check Branch Report for any changes.

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**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034  
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10:00 am–3:00 pm  
Monday to Friday 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.

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**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 'Old police residence' 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)  
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.  
Meeting Generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:00 pm or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com) or contact the Secretary for updates.

# 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.

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Australian Joint Concession	\$38.00

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Application forms may be downloaded from [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org) or obtained from the TFHS Inc. Society Secretary, or any branch and be returned with appropriate dues to a branch treasurer. **Interstate and overseas** applications should be mailed to the TFHS Inc. Society Treasurer, PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018. Dues are also accepted at libraries and at branch meetings.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 33 Number 3—December 2012

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the editor

After spending the past three months packing and unpacking it was a bit of a struggle to get back to the computer. I have been pulled in several directions—being a person easily sidetracked—by grandchildren and gardening, publications and plaques, but the journal is almost ready to send to the publisher!

Irene Schaffer has submitted an article for our next issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* on the settlers from Norfolk Island. A gathering at Norfolk Plains is being organized for March 2013 to celebrate their arrival from Norfolk Island 200 years ago. There are thousands of descendants of these settlers and I am sure many will be interested in attending. For information see page 132 for details.

Among articles in this issue there are success stories of ancestors who were lost but found, including Janine's Chinese great great grandfather. We can all learn from her persistence. Good luck to Hilary in her search for another of her great grandfathers.

David Coad's well-researched article on tracing Irish ancestors will be read with interest by many members.

Thanks to Leonie Mickleborough and Cindy O'Neill who have assisted and supported me so magnificently.

Enjoy the festive season—and the articles in this journal.

Rosemary Davidson



## Journal address

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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### Cover:

Illustration supplied by Betty Jones for her article, 'Educating the Poor, the Murray Street Free School, 1872-1896', see page 145.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**A**T the time of writing Maurice was holidaying with his daughter in Scotland so it was my job as Acting President to produce this message. I would like to thank our secretary, Colleen, who drafted it for me.

In his last report, Maurice made special mention of the volunteers who give so many hours to our society. Whether it is as a regular library assistant offering guidance to members and visitors; preparing and assisting at workshops and open days; giving talks to other organisations; uploading data to and maintaining the many computers now in operation at branches; serving on a committee at branch level or for the society; or working on the many indexes now offered for purchase, each and everybody's contribution is of immeasurable value.

I would like to look at the evolution of the many publications we now have available for purchase and pay a special tribute to those involved. As family historians we all recognise the immense value of indexes to original records yet many would be unaware of the innumerable hours spent entering data, and the time taken in checking and re-checking before publication.

Prior to 1993, the society's only publications for sale were the first three volumes of *Van Diemen's Land Heritage: Biographical and Genealogical Indexes to Families of Tasmania 1803-1978*, edited by founding member, Neil Chick. He later compiled and edited another two volumes in the series.

It is now nearly twenty years since the very first indexes were published at branch level. These were the three volumes of *Whitton's Indexes to The Mercury Birth, Death and Marriage Notices 1858-1899*, compiled and

produced by Hobart Branch in May 1993. Since then, both the society and branches have published a very large number of other indexes to BDMs, photographs and other items of personal interest found in Tasmanian newspapers.

With advances in our technical skills, the society, after huge input by many members state-wide, published the index to *Tombstone and Memorial Inscriptions of Tasmania (TAMIOT)*, firstly in 1999 on microfiche and later in CD format. Meanwhile, branch members have compiled and published indexes to many other local resources central to researching family history: undertakers' funeral records; owners and occupiers listed in assessment rolls; church burial records; cemetery headstone and/or burial records; passengers arrivals and departures from early newspapers; dignitaries listed in *Walch's Almanacs*; Lower Court records etc. Three indexes to our journal, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, have also been compiled for the society thanks to the generosity of members Kate Ramsay and Sally Rackham. Lists of all these publications can be found on the society website and on branch websites.

Other valuable indexes listed are those that have been donated by generous individual members. All these indexes have played a vital role in the growth and development of our five branches. Over the last twenty years, the income derived from sales has been essential for the purchase of many new resources and updating of expensive equipment for the benefit of us all. And the camaraderie and long-lasting friendships engendered amongst members working with a common goal continues to enrich our society. ◀

**Robert Tanner Acting President**

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

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

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The Burnie Branch Library has moved again! When we moved into the Burnie City Council owned building at 2 Spring Street we

were advised that it was to be only a temporary home until the joint venture, at the old Acton Primary School, between the State Government and Council came into effect. This joint project was to provide facilities for not-for-profit and community organisations in the Burnie region. Unfortunately this did not eventuate and we were advised in August that the Cradle Coast Authority was moving into 2 Spring Street and needed 60% occupancy of the building. The only rooms available for us were upstairs with no kitchen facilities or after hours toilet use. This was not acceptable and so we decided to return to our old location at 58 Bass Highway Cooee.

The previous tenant had removed the floor covering so we had to purchase carpet, have it laid before we could properly move in. With some careful planning and the use of professional movers we got 45 metres of broadloom carpet laid, moved our entire library of books, computers and furniture etc. and didn't have close the library for our members for even one day. The last day our Library was open at Spring Street was Saturday 22 September and the first day

open back at Cooee was Tuesday 25 September. Big thanks to our Librarian Judy for coordinating the move and thanks to all those who were able to offer assistance with the move.

We have now settled back in and due to the fact that some of the walls and other items have been removed during our absence it is much friendlier. Due to our move we have not had as many meetings as we normally have. Our first day meeting in our new/old premises was a showing of one of the Royal Upstairs Downstairs episodes. Our major final year function will be a Dinner meeting on the third Tuesday in November (20).

Our Branch Library will close on Tuesday 11 December and reopen on Tuesday 15 January. The Committee and branch members of Burnie wish all the best for the coming festive season and the New Year.

Peter Cocker Branch President

## Hobart

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On 2 August the branch held a morning tea to thank the Clarence City Council for a grant which enabled us to purchase new cameras and associated equipment, and to thank the Catholic Archives for allowing us to index some of their records. The Mayor of Clarence,

Doug Chipman, attended on behalf of the council, and Sister Carmel and Ros Guidici represented the Catholic Archives. The on-going projects associated with these items were demonstrated and discussed. This proved to be a most enjoyable social occasion and a great public relations event.

Recently, Colleen Read and I went to Millingtons at Mornington to present Peter Fuglsang, one of the directors, with a copy of our latest publication, the *Index to Clark Bros 1945–1979 Undertakers Records*. Whilst there we collected a few more Clark Bros record books so a start can be made on the next volume in the series covering 1950–1970. The Monday Group was anxiously waiting for more so they could start photographing and indexing. They are also looking forward to their annual Christmas BBQ in early December to celebrate another successful year.

I continue to be amazed at the amount of volunteer work done at the branch. Looking through a few of the secretary's monthly reports I noticed 160 volunteers signed the book in June, 174 in July and 185 in August. Whilst some of these were people signing in several times, it still indicates a very healthy amount of volunteer activity in the branch.

The guest speaker at the July meeting was Patrick Howard, Burnie born but he spent his early years in Zeehan on the West Coast. In his presentation—*Early West Coast Pioneering Families*—he spoke about his early years in Zeehan, including his school years travelling to St Virgil's College in Hobart; his Reynolds and Howard pioneering and convict ancestors; and working alongside family members in the family sawmilling, retail and hardware businesses in Zeehan. After leaving the family businesses Mr

Howard worked for the public service in Tasmania, then in Western Australia and NSW in remote areas as an outreach social worker and in the Department of Native Affairs in New Guinea. Years after graduating from the University of Tasmania he undertook further studies at the Curtin University to develop his research and writing skills. His first published book, *To Hell or to Hobart*, was about his family history which he researched for four and a half years including extensive research in Ireland and Britain.

Since retiring in 1999, he has published books on the West Coast and particularly the mining history of the Zeehan area which he spoke about in considerable detail, based on his personal and extensive research area. Two books on this theme have been published: *The Zeehan El Dorado* and *Farewell Heemskirk, Goodbye Dundas*.

Twenty-seven members and visitors attended this meeting.

The guest speaker at the August meeting was John Morse, presenting a talk 'Tracing my ancestors into China'. John spoke briefly about his paternal line including his grandfather, a pioneer of Preolenna near Wynyard. The main part of his talk focused on his mother's parents Nellie Pearson (born 1886 in Victoria) and Charlie Jamison (an English missionary in China) who met and married while working as Three Self Church missionaries in China in 1915. John spoke about the history of Christianity in China, the extent of the underground churches and the opening up of China to the rest of the world in the early 1970s.

When Nellie Pearson applied to become a missionary she was just 22 and working as a housemaid in Melbourne. In pre-

paration for their trip to China, John and Jane Morse visited the Mission's headquarters in Boronia (Victoria) and found Nellie's original handwritten June 1908 application. Nellie undertook 18 months of training before travelling to China. The missionaries worked in five cities in China—Anshun, Kunming, Guiyang, Zunyr and Xingyi. John's mother was born in China as were her two older sisters. His mother and her parents returned to Australia in February 1928 leaving the two older girls in China to continue their schooling. The intention was to return when the political situation improved. After three years the older sisters returned to Australia.

Twenty-seven members and visitors attended this meeting.

The guest speaker at the September meeting was Roger McNeice OAM speaking on the topic 'Colonial Fire Fighting 1803 to 1883'. Roger McNeice has written a number of books relating to the history of the present-day Tasmanian Fire Service. His latest publication, *Fight the Fiery Fiend* deals with colonial fire fighting during the period 1803 to 1883. Roger pointed out that the colonial press referred to outbreaks of fires as 'visits by the fiery fiend'. In his talk he described the fear of fires arising from highly combustible houses built of wood and shingle, straw interiors, wood fires for cooking and heating, candles for lighting and often co-joined. He described the formation of fire brigades initially by insurance companies (Tamar Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Derwent and Tamar Fire and Marine Insurance Company) and the purchase of the first fire fighting equipment—the pumper (the first in 1827), hand filled using buckets and operated by six men to produce a jet of water. All colonial fire fighting was conducted by volunteers, and in the early

years there was no coordination or sensible leadership and little participation by the police. Premises displayed insurance company markers and the insurance company brigades fought fires at premises displaying the insurance company's own marker (ignoring others'), and fought over fires at premises with no marker.

Olof Hilmer Hedburg, a Swedish whaler, settled in Hobart in late 1844 and set up a merchant business. He became very prominent as a fire fighter and served as superintendent of the fire service for thirteen years.

Two major fires occurred in Hobart in 1854: a major bushfire in the northern region of Hobart, and a 'city' fire which razed all buildings in the area bounded by Argyle and Harrington Streets and Collins and Liverpool Streets. This fire was caused by rats eating matches near stores of explosives. The government introduced legislation in 1883 to form the Hobart and Launceston brigades.

At the conclusion of the meeting Roger donated a copy of *Fight the Fiery Fiend* to the Branch Library. The book contains histories of the formation of brigades elsewhere in the state and, as with other books by the author, it contains lists of names of fire fighters and describes some of the social history of the brigades, making the books of interest to family historians.

Twenty-two members and visitors attended this meeting.

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 February:** Mary Ramsay—‘Researching Eliza Forlong, an Australian Pioneer.’

**Tuesday 19 March:** Sue Newitt—‘Aboriginal children at the orphanage.’

**Tuesday 16 April:** Doug Wyatt and Keith Glyde—‘Artillery in Tasmania 1901–2011.’

### **Family History Computer Users Group**

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

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

Robert Tanner Branch President

## **Launceston**

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The Branch workshop held on 19 September attracted a good number and those who attended were much helped with the time spent on

Shipping and Immigration records. Thanks to Helen and her team of helpers!

Again, we mention research requests: if any local member has time to spare, their help with research as well as typing indexes, etc., would be much appreciated. This is a very good source of income for the branch. Work is continuing on *The Tasmanian Mail* and *Weekly Courier*

indexing: the next volume of *Weekly Courier* (1920–1921) will be available in late November, and work on 1922–1923 is well on the way. Volume 12, 1932, of *Tasmanian Mail* was released in October and Volume 13, 1933 will follow in the New Year.

**Seniors’ Week 2012:** The Open Day on Wednesday 3 October proved to be very well worth while and we were delighted with the number who pre-booked and took advantage of the help offered and the branch library facilities.

**Library:** Tuesday, 10am–3pm—phone (03) 6344 4034.

Other days (except Saturday and Sunday), by appointment only.

**Wednesday 11 December:** 2pm: Afternoon tea for the volunteers.

**Wednesday 11 December:** 3pm: Library closes for the Christmas break.

**Monday 21 January:** 9:30am: Working Bee.

**Tuesday 22 January:** 10am: Library re-opens.

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

## **Mersey**

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In August we had arranged a visit to Burnie Branch which we had to cancel. We propose to visit in the New Year.

At our September 'Meet and Greet' we had seventeen members and four visitors; of these two signed up to become members there and then. Over the past several weeks we have had five new members which is great news. Visitor numbers to the library are also on the rise.

The publications committee members are working well towards adding to our list.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Lucas Hotel in Latrobe on the 2 December where our annual fundraiser raffle will be drawn. If you are interested in joining us please phone the secretary. We reopen on 8 January and will be holding our annual BBQ on 19 January. On Australia Day we have been invited back to Sherwood Hall which was the home of Thomas Johnston and Dolly Dalrymple to showcase our library. Keep a check on our website for any updates or phone the Secretary. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year for 2013.

## Huon

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 Secretary Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529  
 PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109  
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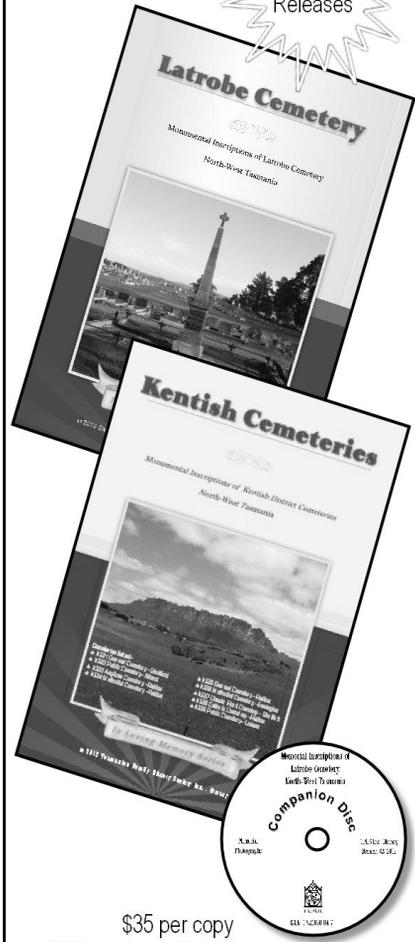
### STOP PRESS

A Gathering on the Norfolk Plains in March next year will celebrate 200 years since the first settlers arrived from Norfolk Island in 1813. The program will run from Friday 1 March until Sunday 3 March at Longford. Descendants are reminded to register in participation of **Descendants Day**

2 March by contacting Northern Midlands Council's Tourism Officer, Fiona Dewar, on email [Fiona.dewar@nmc.tas.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.dewar@nmc.tas.gov.au) or phone 03 6397 7321

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New Releases



\$35 per copy  
 \$50 per copy with Companion Disc of headstone images

# WILLIAM OWEN (OW-EN) MY CHINESE ANCESTOR

Janine Hunt (Member No.743)

FOR many years I had been trying to find information to prove that my ancestor William OWEN was Chinese. My great-grandmother, Florence May Owen was born 22 February 1892 in Launceston to Susan STEVENS and William Owen. According to Florence's birth certificate, William was a cook and steward on the ship SS *Linda*.<sup>1</sup> This was all the information I had on William. Florence was brought down from Launceston to Hobart and left with a family when she was young, and did not see her mother and father again. As she grew older Florence wanted to know about her parents, and having heard about Florence's background from both my mother and grandmother, I became determined to find out more about her family tree.

Judging by her appearance, family members had always said Florence may have been of Pacific Islander descent. So I looked for any 'William Owens' in Tasmania, and I found one. This William Owen was naturalized in 1886 and was born in Canton in China 1860 and his

proper name was 'OW-EN' which he later changed to become his surname of 'OWEN' and made 'William' his first name.<sup>2</sup> I still had to prove this was my ancestor, and after many years I finally found confirmation by accident, while

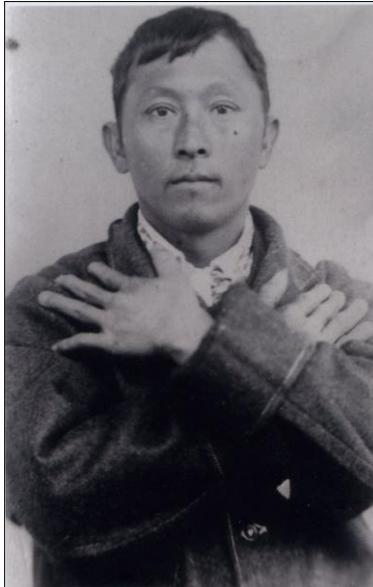
going through the *Tasmania Police Gazette* (Archives Office of Tasmania) while on another mission. In 1893 a warrant was issued in the Municipality of Launceston, and at the George Town Police Court:

William Owen is charged on warrant issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, by E. Whitfeld, Esquire, J.P., with disobeying a summons to appear at the Police Office, Launceston, to answer a charge of having, on and since the 21<sup>st</sup> day of

February, 1893, left his female child by the one Susan Stevens, at Launceston, without any means of support.

Description. A Chinaman. See P.G. 1893, page 31, Prisoners discharged. Now supposed to be a steward on the s.s. *Yolla*.<sup>3</sup>

What a find! I finally found my ancestor! Then I found out about Trove. What a



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<sup>1</sup> RGD35 Launceston 154/1892

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<sup>2</sup> AOT CSO 13/1/90/2039

<sup>3</sup> AOT POL 709/1/24 Z641, Z639-40

great way of finding information through newspapers! So, I put William Owen's name in and focussing on just the Tasmanian results, I was lucky to find him mentioned in the *Launceston Examiner* on Thursday, 25 August 1892.

#### SLY GROG SELLING

William Owen (Chinese) was charged with having on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst, at Flinders Island, sold liquor, he not being the holder of a licence under the Licensing Act 1859.

The defendant pleaded not guilty.<sup>4</sup>

According to the witness Thomas MANSELL, William Owen was not a resident of any Bass Strait island. He had rented Mansell's cutter 'Dream' in July, and as well as food supplies, he also loaded '5 gallons of rum, gin, and whisky' and during stops at Barren, Green and Prince Seal Islands, he sold supplies without holding a licence.<sup>5</sup>

'Sly grog selling' had been active in the Straits, and after obtaining a search warrant, the police constable, Percy NAPPER, had taken William Owen, 'late steward on the ss *Linda*' to George Town in a police boat.<sup>6</sup>

William Owen was found guilty, and in sentencing him to a fine of '£20 and costs, in default, six months' Imprisonment', Magistrate H GLOVER condemned the 'practice of taking spirits for sale amongst the half-castes at the islands', and hoped Owen's fine would be a 'warning to others'.<sup>7</sup>

Armed with this information, I tried the Archives Office of Tasmania for gaol records as I knew some photographs existed of prisoners starting in the 1890s.

They didn't have any photo records for the year I was after, but then I remembered that on one of my visits to the Campbell Street Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts there were images of some prisoners on a screen. I asked the Curator, Brian RIEUSSET, if he would look to see if there was any record of my William Owen. William Owen was there and I was rapt to get a phone call to say Brian had found William's records and there was even a photograph of William! His record reads:<sup>8</sup>

Name: William Owen

Reg No: 437

This photo taken 30/8/92 – Photo Rego.

No. 181

Native Place: Hong Kong China

Year of Birth: 1860

Religion: Protestant

Education: Cannot Read

Height: 5.0

Build: thin

Weight: 8st 8lbs

Complexion: Sallow

Hair: Black

Eyes: Hazel

Trade: Cook

Particular Marks: Married, Chinaman

When Convicted: 22.8.92

Where: P.O. George Town

Offence: Breach of Licenses Act

Sentence: Six (6) Months Discharged  
21.2.93

Now, not only did I find my ancestor was Chinese, I had a photo of him too, *and* I know now *never* to give up looking for your ancestors. Try *Trove*, Naturalization and Gaol records—it may surprise you what you find. ◀

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<sup>4</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 25 August 1892, p.3

<sup>5</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 25 August 1892, p.3

<sup>6</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 26 August 1892, p.3

<sup>7</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 25 August 1892, p.3

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<sup>8</sup> Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Court, Campbell Street Hobart

# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## SUSAN CHICKLEY'S CHILDREN

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

**S**USAN CHICKLEY, a country servant from County Cork, was transported to life for burning a house.<sup>1</sup> On her arrival in Van Diemen's Land in September 1849, on the *Australasia*, Susan stated: "I committed the offence for the purpose being transported".<sup>2</sup> In March 1850, Susan was admitted to the Colonial Hospital in Hobart and the following month, she was transferred to the 'Asylum for the Insane at New Norfolk' because she was 'subject to paroxysms of maniacal excitement'.<sup>3</sup> While she was in the Colonial Hospital, it was reported that

her conduct in that period has afforded decided proof of insanity. At times she is quiet, at other times extremely excited and irritable. She threatens violence and attempts to strike other patients without the least provocation. She is generally very restless and fancies at times that she has got a Bee buzzing in her head. She has made several attempts to go over the Hospital Wall and will not bear to be spoken to or submit to the regulations.<sup>4</sup>

Initially, Susan was reasonably settled in the Asylum but her behaviour deteriorated by August:

After quarrelling with other patients in the washhouse [she] came into the Building and excited another patient ... to violence. Was herself also very violent – threatened Mrs. Bentick[?] with the broom.<sup>5</sup>

In October, Susan was found by another patient 'in the privy' in the act of cutting her arm with a piece of glass:

This attempt at suicide appears to have been made because she was not brought before a board head yesterday. Today she expresses her regret.<sup>6</sup>

Susan was discharged, to the Cascade Factory, in April 1851.<sup>7</sup> A month later, in May, she was readmitted to the Asylum from the hospital for 'mania'.<sup>8</sup> Susan was again discharged to the Cascades Female Factory, then assigned to William Henry ELLIS at Green Ponds and later to C BONNEY at Bridgewater. It was during this time she met her future husband, a Scottish hairdresser from Edinburgh named Hugh FAIRLEY; tried for stealing a jacket at Glasgow Court of Justiciary in 1846, was transported for 10 years and arrived in 1850 on the *Blenheim II*.<sup>9</sup>

Susan and Hugh married at Green Ponds in May 1852.<sup>10</sup> In October 1852, a preg-

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<sup>1</sup> Dianne Snowden 'A White Rag Burning': Irish Women who committed arson in order to be transported to Van Diemen's Land', University of Tasmania, PhD Thesis, 2005. See also T M Cowley *A drift of 'Derwent ducks': lives of the 200 female Irish convicts transported on the Australasia from Dublin to Hobart in 1849*, self-published 2005.

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON 41/1/24 No.1007 image 34 (Susan Chickley); TAHO, CON 19/1/8 image 10 (Susan Chickley); TAHO, CON 15/1/6 No.29 image 12 (Susan Chickley); NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1852 (Susan Checkley)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, HSD 246/8/Folio 139

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, HSD 246/8/Folio 139

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<sup>5</sup> TAHO, HSD 246/8/Folio 139

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, HSD 246/8/Folio 139

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, HSD 254/1

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, HSD 254/1

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, CON 33/1/95 No.22140 image 90 (Hugh Fairley)

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, RGD 37/1/11 1852/34 Brighton (Hugh Fairley & Susan Chickley)

nant Sarah was sent to the Cascades Female Factory to wait for the birth of her child. At the time, Hugh was serving a twelve-month sentence for stealing from William Henry Ellis at Green Ponds. In February 1853, Susan gave birth to a daughter, Sarah, in the Factory.<sup>11</sup> Although her birth was legitimate, Susan's daughter was registered as Sarah Chickley and her father's details were not recorded. She was baptised, however, as Sarah Fairley in St Josephs Catholic Church Hobart.<sup>12</sup>

In May 1855, Susan's second child, Edward, was born at Coal River.<sup>13</sup> His father, Hugh Fairley, a labourer, registered the birth. He was baptised in St Johns Church at Richmond.<sup>14</sup> In September 1856, a son, Charles, was born at Lower Jerusalem.<sup>15</sup> Charles was also baptised in St Johns Church at Richmond.<sup>16</sup>

In 1858, Hugh was the occupier of a hut and two acres at Jerusalem (now Colebrook).<sup>17</sup> This appears to be the last record of him in the colony; he may be one of many who simply left for a fresh start in another colony.<sup>18</sup> This may have been a factor in the admission of the Fairley children to the Queen's Orphan Schools. In January 1859, just after

Susan was granted a conditional pardon, her three children—Sarah aged five; Edward (or Edmond), aged three, and Charles, aged two—were admitted to Orphan Schools at New Town.<sup>19</sup>

Five-year-old Sarah Fairley died in the Female Orphan School on 23 July 1861 from typhoid pneumonia after measles.<sup>20</sup> Charles Fairley died of 'pulmonary consumption' at Oatlands; he was described as a cooper's son aged 17.<sup>21</sup>

Edward Fairley, a labourer, remained in Tasmania, marrying Eugenia WALKER at Christ Church, Cullenswood in 1877. The day after the marriage, Eugenia gave birth to a daughter, the first of ten children (registered as FURLEY), many of whom were born in the Fingal Valley and St Helen's area.

In May 1863, Susan (described as a widowed laundress) married Thomas MERRICK, a cooper, in Oatlands.<sup>22</sup> Her sons were discharged to her from the Orphan Schools two years later. Susan died on 6 June 1908, of a 'cerebral haemmorrhage'.<sup>23</sup>

The story of Susan Chickley and her children highlights the close links between three colonial institutions: the Female Factory, the Queen's Orphan Schools and the 'Asylum for the Insane at New Norfolk'. ◀

**Friends of the Orphan Schools, St John's Park Precinct: [www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)**

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<sup>11</sup> TAHO, RGD 33/1/4 1853/2103 Hobart (Sarah Chickley)

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, NS 1052/1/8 p.188 (Sarah Farrelly)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, RGD 33/1/33 1855/1375 Richmond (Edward Fairley)

<sup>14</sup> TAHO, NS 1052/1/2 p.498 (Edward Farrelly)

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, RGD 33/1/34 1856/1461 Richmond (Charles Fairley)

<sup>16</sup> TAHO, NS 1052/1/3 p.4 (Charles Farrell)

<sup>17</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette* 25 May 1858 p.763 (Hugh Farley)

<sup>18</sup> Hugh may have died in NSW in 1892: *Sydney Morning Herald* 26 April 1892 p.7 (High Fairly); NSW Death Record 1892/643 (Hugh Fairlie)

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<sup>19</sup> TAHO, SWD 6/1/1 p.19 (Charles & Edmond Fairly); TAHO, SWD 27/1/1 pp.43 & 47 (Edmund & Sarah Fairley)

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, RGD 35/1/6 1861/2880 Hobart (Sarah Fairley)

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, RGD 35/1/42 1873/410 Oatlands (Charles Hurley)

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, RGD 37/1/22 1863/607 (Susan Fareley & Thomas Merrick)

<sup>23</sup> TAHO, RGD 27/1/1 1908/329 Oatlands (Susan Merrick)

# TRACING THE LIVES OF IRISH CONVICTS BEFORE TRANSPORTATION

David Coad

**T**RACING the lives of Irish convicts after they were transported to Tasmania is not that difficult given the existence of records from the Convict Department (now mostly accessible online), census material, birth, baptism, marriage and death records, court records, as well as other miscellaneous archive material. What is more problematic is trying to discover information about Irish convicts and their families prior to transportation. This article examines various possibilities available to the researcher who wants to trace the lives of Irish convicts before they arrived in Hobart.

The civil registration of births began in England and Wales on 1 July 1837. In Scotland it started 1 January 1855 whereas in Ireland it began 1 January 1864 (marriages for non-Catholics were recorded after 1845). These dates mean it is impossible to find birth certificates for convicts as they were born before civil registration began. The only way of finding a date of birth is to locate a baptism record which may or may not also give a date of birth. When convicts arrived in Australia they were asked to provide the name of their native place. Irish convicts were only required to give the name of the county in which they were born, not the parish or place. The records of English convicts taken on arrival in Australia usually provide the name of a place and a county. Scots gave the name of the city where they came from. This means it is extremely difficult to locate baptism records for Irish convicts. Each county was divided into a large number of Catholic and civil

parishes. Not knowing the name of the place of birth hinders the search for surviving baptism records. As convicts were also asked to provide the first name of their parents and siblings, this can sometimes help in the search for a baptism record. Convicts were mostly born in the 1820s and 1830s; some earlier in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. The date at which baptism records survive for each of the hundreds of parishes in Ireland varies. Some parishes go back to the eighteenth century; others survive from the 1830s only or even much later. Surviving baptism records have been microfilmed from the original parish registers and are available for consultation at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. If the parish the convict comes from is not known, the multiplicity of parishes in a given county means that searching all parishes on microfilm is not feasible.

Helped by the parents' names listed in Tasmanian convict registers and the names of towns sometimes contained in newspaper coverage of trials, there is a possibility of finding the baptism of a convict (or that of one of the children of a convict born in Ireland) on the 'rootsireland' website where over nineteen million Irish vital records are searchable. The search engine allows the user to put the name of a parent or two parents and restrict the search to a particular county or to enlarge it to encompass all of Ireland. Surviving baptism records can be found that provide the name of the baptised child, a date, the names of the parents, the name of the

parish where the baptism took place and the names of the sponsors. Rather than provide the date of baptism for convicts (such records tend not to have survived), the site is more useful for obtaining information about the names and dates of the children of convicts born before transportation. If the parish in which an Irish convict was born is known, there is a way of finding out the extent of surviving vital records from this parish. The website 'irishtimes.com' lists every Roman Catholic in Ireland and provides the exact dates for which baptism and marriage records survive.

The most helpful source for finding information concerning the background of a trial which resulted in a sentence of transportation is local newspaper coverage. The amount of coverage one is likely to expect depends on the nature of the offence. The more unusual the offence, the more text it tended to generate in a newspaper column. Theft of sheep, cows or clothes (usually called 'wearing apparel' at the time) did not inspire editors. If the offence was attended by violence, then this factor meant an article describing the circumstances surrounding the trial was more likely to be written. When a convict acted in concert with a group of offenders faced with what was perceived to be social injustice then newspaper interest could be quite considerable. A violent collective crime fuelled by victimisation sparked off pages of newspaper comment. Irish newspapers from the nineteenth century have been microfilmed and may be consulted either at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin or the British Library in London. LINC Tasmania offers online access for its members to the newspaper archive 'British Newspapers 1600–1900'. While the vast majority of newspapers searchable on this database are English or

Scottish, one newspaper contained in the database, the *Freeman's Journal* which was published in Dublin, does contain reports on trials that took place in Dublin and elsewhere in Ireland.

Apart from newspapers, there can be another means of localising Irish convicts. Hoping to obtain a commutation of their sentence, some Irish convicts petitioned the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by outlining the reasons why they should not be transported. The Lord Lieutenant was the main representative of the English Crown in Ireland. Before 1836 these applications for clemency are known as Prisoners' Petitions and Cases (PPC) and after that date Convict Reference Files (CRF). The number of petitions is considerable: more than 7,500 petitions from male convicts exist and almost 1,000 from female convicts. These 'memorials' have survived and are held by the National Archives of Ireland in Dublin. The petitions have been microfilmed and copies sent to libraries in Australia as part of the Australia Joint Copying Project (AJCP), a venture that began in 1945 between libraries in Australia and depositories of records in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO) received a copy. Convict petitions are extremely useful for many reasons; one being to localise where a convict came from in a particular county.

It might seem logical to expect that trial records for Irish convicts would provide details of where an offender was born. Unlike the trials of English, Welsh and Scottish convicts, almost nothing has survived from Irish trials. The main element from Ireland is the Transportation Register (TR). This centralised register of criminals lists scarce information: the name of the convict, the age of the offender, the nature of the

crime, the name of county in which the trial took place and the date of the trial. Sometimes the name of the prison in which the convict was placed awaiting transportation was noted. The TR has been indexed and can be consulted online at the website of the National Archives of Ireland. Only registers dating from after 1836 exist. All the earlier ones were destroyed in a fire at Dublin in 1922. The TR is particularly useful since it acts as an index for Convict Reference Files. No separate index exists of convict petitions for clemency. However, if a petition exists, the letters CRF (and a reference) will be included in the TR record of a convict. The Family History section of the Hobart Reading Room has a guide which allows the user to locate the correct microfilm once a CRF reference number is known.

When researching convicts who lived in England and Wales, finding evidence of previous convictions is relatively easy by using the Criminal Registers database on the 'ancestry' website. Finding traces of previous convictions for Irish convicts is not so easy. The 'findmypast.ie' website is gradually providing access to an increasing number of Petty Sessions Court records in Ireland. However, these records only begin in the early 1850s. The site offers chunks of Petty Session records for a limited number of courts covering year periods between 1851 and 1910. Generally these records tend to be too late to locate information about the previous convictions of Irish convicts.

After convicts were sentenced to transportation they were kept for some time in the local county prison. Registers from some of these prisons still exist and can be useful in gleaning information about convictions. In Limerick, for example, the register of the Limerick County Prison kept a record of the sentences

accrued by prisoners. Most convicts made the journey to Dublin where they awaited transportation in prison for months. Male convicts were sent to Kilmainham Gaol or Newgate Prison near Smithfield. Mountjoy Prison, opened in 1850, also took male convicts, some of whom then proceeded to Spike Island near Cork. Female prisoners made the journey from their local county gaol to Grangegorman Female Penitentiary in Dublin (opened in 1836) where they were taught domestic skills that would make them more easily employable in Australia. Prisoners from some southern counties went to Cork Gaol instead of Dublin and left Ireland at Cork. Registers from these temporary convict depots, where they survive, are kept at the National Archives of Ireland. Those dating from after 1790 have been indexed by the 'findmypast.ie' website. The only drawback of the Irish Prison Registers database on this website is that it is not possible to know the National Archives of Ireland reference for the information displayed. Physical descriptions of all prisoners who arrived in these depots were taken down upon arrival (and sometimes even the hour of arrival is noted). The number of previous convictions was noted and at times the exact place of the trial. Female convicts with children took them to Grangegorman where they were placed in a cell with their mother. Convicts were discharged from these depots a matter of days before they left Ireland. Vessels departed from the port of Kingston (now known as Dun Laoghaire) near Dublin or from Queens-town (now known as Cobh) in Co. Cork.

In the absence of comprehensive trial records in Ireland, census records may be a means of tracing where a convict lived previous to transportation. The population of Ireland was the object of a

national census taken every ten years after 1821. The vast majority of Irish convicts would have been listed on the census of 1821, 1831, 1841 or 1851, depending on their age. In some cases they would have been listed on more than one census. Unfortunately almost the entire census records of Ireland for the years listed above were destroyed in the same fire that eliminated Transportation Registers dating from before 1836. These records were held at the Four Courts in Dublin. The Irish Public Records Office was situated in this building that exploded during the Civil War opposing supporters of the Irish Free State and the Irish Republican Army. Censuses taken from 1861 to 1891 were deliberately destroyed by the Irish Government before 1922. The first Irish census to survive in its totality dates from 1901. The website of the National Archives of Ireland provides a searchable version of the 1901 and 1911 Irish census. The only Irish convicts, details of whom were included in a census, are the ones who happened to be living in England, Scotland or Wales at the time of a census.

Given the scarcity of records providing information on Ireland's offenders in the first half of the nineteenth century (no trial records, a register of sparse details and destroyed census material) we have to look elsewhere for traces of their lives. In an attempt to investigate the surnames of convicts in a particular county, it is possible to refer to the Tithe Applotment Books which date from 1823 until 1837. These books are the results of land surveys taken in order to determine how much tax each landholder was forced to pay to the Irish Church, the established Church of Ireland at the time. The Tithe Applotment Books are useful for providing a geographic location for the names of landholders as the townland

was listed where they occupied land. It is possible to look for the names of the father of a convict in a particular county and see if this name occurs in the Applotment Books. At times, there is only one person listed in the Applotment Books who corresponds to the name of the father of a convict. In this case, a townland and a parish can be potentially linked to the family of a convict. Other times, a multiplicity of names prevents such a correspondence.

A later land survey known as Griffith's Valuation can also be consulted. Valuations list all occupiers of land in Ireland. They date from 1848 until 1864. These land records allow us to see the number of landholders with a particular surname in each county. For each person listed on the Valuation we are able to know the name of the townland where they occupied land, a description of the tenement is given (whether there was just land or a house as well, gardens and 'offices', that is, other buildings on the site), the total area of the holding, the rateable annual valuation (land and houses are given separately) and finally the total annual valuation of rateable property (the addition of the previous two categories). The date at which the Irish convicts examined in this book were transported usually means they left Ireland too early to be included in Griffith's Valuation. It is not impossible, however, to find a likely record for the spouse some of them left behind or male members of the family (brothers or a father). We can also see how preponderant a particular surname was in a specific county at the time of the Valuation. This can vary from one of two families to hundreds with the same surname.

The National Archives of Ireland holds papers from the Chief Secretary's Office (CSO) which can be a potential aid for

researchers. The Chief Secretary was the head of the secretariat for the Lord Lieutenant. The CSO papers are made up of letters, reports and official returns. This correspondence is vast. Indexes to it take up 337 volumes which refer to about 3,770 cartons of archive material. One component of the CSO papers is known as 'Outrage Reports'. Written by chief constables, these reports on 'outrages', that is, incidents worthy of police attention, tend to survive and can be of potential help for discovering circumstances surrounding a crime committed by a convict who was transported to Australia. A project is underway to provide public online access to the registered papers of the CSO. For the moment only the first five years (1818–1822) have been made available. For records dating from after 1822, it is necessary to carry out a search in Dublin.

Some male Irish convicts, while carrying out their sentence in the colonies, applied to the administration in order to have members of their families brought to Australia. These official applications, available at TAHO (MM71/1/4 and MM71/1/5), usually provide the name of the parish or townland in Ireland where the family lived. Such information is helpful in exploiting Irish records when trying to pin down the native place of a convict whose family emigrated. Arrival records of family members in Hobart Town provide the following details of each person: age, occupation, religion, literacy, the name of the county where they were born. Another useful source for finding information on family members who came to Tasmania is the Register of Applications for Passages to the Colonies for Convicts' Families held at The National Archives in Kew (CO386/154). A copy of this register is available on microfilm at TAHO.

We can obtain an idea of what conditions were like on board the vessels which brought convicts to Australia from the medical journals kept by the doctors (called surgeons at the time) who were responsible for the health of all passengers (crewmen, guards, prisoners and a small number of immigrants who usually accompanied the floating prison). Most of these journals still exist and are held at The National Archives in Kew. The website of the Archives provides transcriptions of the journals where the names of all patients who reported sick during a voyage are listed. The medical journals from convict vessels are in two parts: a comprehensive list of the name of every passenger who reported sick, the date an illness was reported, the nature of the illness and the date the patient was cured. As well, surgeons wrote a number of case studies of protracted illnesses declared on board, some of which ended in the death of the sufferer.

The resources listed above have all been exploited in my book *Port Cygnet Irish Convicts* (2012). The bibliography provides an extensive list of resources available for the researcher intent on locating information on Irish convicts before and after transportation. ◀

#### **A SNAKE ADVENTURE.**

A little girl had a sensational experience at Don Heads yesterday morning. She went to sleep near the old pier, and was awakened by a black snake crawling over her neck. Fortunately the reptile did not bite her, but the shock from the close contact with it was so severe that it was fully half-an-hour before she recovered her speech.

*The North Western Advocate*, 3 February 1911

# NEVER GIVE UP—FOUND AT LAST!

## ONE MISSING GREAT GRANDFATHER

Hilary Martin (Member No.3734)

**T**HE early part of William HALL's life was relatively easy to establish almost twenty years ago. He was born at Robertown, part of Dewsbury, Yorkshire, where he lived his early years, as part of a large mining family.

William followed in the family tradition of coal mining. He had married Betty ROE-BUCK, born 1834 at Kirkheaton, Huddersfield—not far across the fields from Robertown—at All Saints Church, Liversedge in 1856. Betty died shortly after the birth of their daughter, Mary, and was buried at All Saints Church, Robertown, on 21 January 1857. William married Ann HEMINGWAY (my great grandmother), of

Littletown on 12 November 1860, and Mary lived with William and Ann (her step-mother), until the 1870s.

I can't find William in the 1851 or 1861 Census. Perhaps because following their marriage William and Ann moved around from pit to pit as shown by the birth and death records of children and on census returns. They went from Robertown, to Rothwell, Earlsheaton, Gawthorpe cum Osset and Soothill Nether.

The first daughter, **Amanda**, was born 1 August 1862, at Rothwell engine house,

another colliery, and baptised much later on 2 August 1869, at All Saints Church, Robertown. On her initial registration she was 'a boy named Monder'. This was subsequently changed by Statutory Declaration of William and Ann Hall, 20

August 1875.

Next was **Selina** Jane, born 18 January 1866, at Littletown, and buried, aged 1, on 9 November 1867 at All Saints Church, Robertown.

**Rachel Ann** was born 15 May 1868, at Robertown, and baptised 2 July at All Saints Church. She married Walter MITCHELL, a woollier, on 28 August 1893 at Earlsheaton Parish Church.

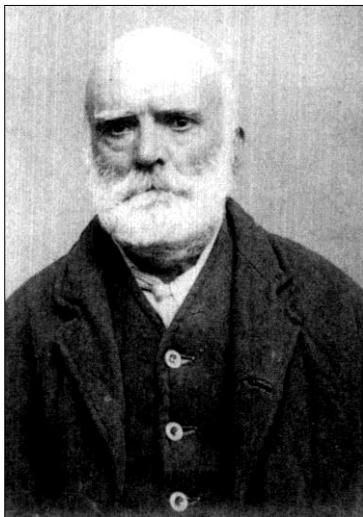
The only son, **Allen**, was born 1 October

1870 at Upper Carr, Liversedge but died aged 7 months of bronchitis and convulsions 4 May 1871 at Street Side, Chickenley Heath, Earlsheaton, Soothill.

By March 1871 the family was living at Chickenley Heath in Earlsheaton, Soothill.

William (39) coalminer, Ann (34), Amanda (8), Rachel Ann (2), Allen (6 months), plus a boarder Mary HEMINGWAY, aged 15, Ann's niece, daughter of her brother, Joseph Hemingway.

The family continued to grow.



William Hall

**Charlotte and Sarah**, twins, were born at Spring Gardens, Earlsheaton on 14 March 1872 and baptised at All Saints Church, Robertown—perhaps on their home visit to celebrate Christmas.

**Martha** was born 24 April, baptised 20 October 1874 and died 20 October 1874 of diarrhoea at Spring Gardens, Earlsheaton.

**Lilian** was born on 1 June 1877, and died aged 20, a domestic servant, on 7 November 1897, at The General Infirmary of acute croupous, pneumonia and exhaustion.

**Elizabeth Emmeline** Hemingway Hall, my grandmother, was born 19 January and baptised 19 August 1880 at Ossett cum Gawthorpe, Dewsbury.

Richard Bell in his book *Around Old Ossett*, describes Ossett in the early 1800s.

The market place was a sea of mud, sewage ran down the roads in open drains in front of houses, cellars were undrained and often served as receptacles of evil smelling liquid a couple of feet deep. Wells were the only source of an imperfect and tainted water supply. There were no street lights. No wonder there was a high death rate.

I doubt if Robertown was much different. Bell continues,

Although the Public Health Act was passed in 1848, and neighbouring towns acted upon it, setting up a Board of Health and putting things to right would mean paying higher rates, so the townspeople of Ossett did nothing. Not until 1875, nearly 40 years later, was an Act passed enabling the Ossett Local Board to borrow and spend the money on street repairs, sewage works and a piper water supply. Better late than never.

Well, this was just in time for William and Ann and their family to move to Ossett shortly before the birth of my grandmother, Elizabeth.

At the 1881 Census, William (47), a coal miner, and Ann (43), were living with

their family: Amanda (18) a millhand, Rachel A (12), scholar, Charlotte and Sarah (9), scholars, Lilian (3) and Elizabeth (1) at 178 Royd's Lane, Ossett cum Gawthorpe.

**Martha Ann (or Jane)** was born 7 August 1881 at Ossett and christened 19 August 1889.

My great grandmother, Ann of Syke Lane End, Soothill Nether died of scirrhus of stomach, on 18 October 1886. Amanda's husband, Charles Crosby, was Informant.

With young children it was inevitable that William, a coal miner, aged 55, should re-marry. So, on 31 December 1887 at the Register Office, Dewsbury he married Sarah Elizabeth SPENCER, age 58, of Dublin, Ireland, his housekeeper, a widow with adult children. Their address was Syke Lane End, Soothill Nether.

By 1891 Census William, now a 'deputy in coalmine', was living with Sarah Elizabeth (64) at Syke Lane End, Soothill, Nether, with his family—Rachel Ann (22) carder machine feeder, Lillian (13) rag sorter, Elizabeth Elvin (Emmeline) (12) and Martha Jane (Ann) (11), both scholars.

Regarding the position of deputy in a coalmine. Maureen, an Internet contact, said

My Dad was a deputy in the West Riding of Yorks. They were an overseer or a foreman. They had to ensure that any area where their men were going to work was safe and free from gas.

At the 1891 Census, Amanda, born Rothwell and aged 28, was living at 37 Lawrence Street, Leeds, with her husband, Charles Albert CROSBY, aged 30, born Leeds, a miner, and their son, John William aged 7, born Leeds, a scholar. Rachel Ann married Walter MITCHELL, a local coal miner in 1893. His parents worked in the wool trade. In 1911 Rachel Ann, a widow, was working as a scribble minder still at Earlsheaton.

Sarah, aged 19, was working as a domestic servant to George PARKER, a solicitor's managing clerk, and his family in Hebden Bridge.

Charlotte may have died in 1888.

Selina, Allen and Martha died in infancy.

Lillian, a rag sorter, died aged 20, in 1897, of lung problems and pneumonia.

In the 1891 Census, living just next door but one to William and Sarah Elizabeth and his family were John and Sarah Ann HAZLEHURST and their family. Sarah Ann was Sarah Elizabeth's elder daughter.

By 1901, Sarah Elizabeth Hall, single, (74), was visiting her daughter, Sarah Ann Hazlehurst and family, still in Syke Lane End, Soothill Nether. On 6 April 1902, Sarah Elizabeth Hall, aged 75, of Syke Lane End, Soothill died of senile decay and bronchitis. Her daughter, Sarah A Hazelwood, was the Informant.

In 1902 my grandparents married listing his father as deceased so I stopped looking for him after 1902.

During the earlier part of this year I decided to again look for any William Hall born about 1833 in the Dewsbury area. I found one death in 1913 that could fit—but after buying the death certificate, the details didn't really match. This William was a coal hewer, married, and from Leeds—and when alive had been living in the Wakefield Asylum.

I sent to the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum Archives for his details, where the staff were most helpful and £18 pounds later I received the records of the Leeds Union transfer, Admission records, a summary reception of Pauper Lunatic records, regular reports of health and mental wellbeing of his time at the Asylum and a photo. It took me four days to be brave enough to open the envelope and there it was—admitted by Amanda Crosby,

William's eldest daughter. So I had found him at last.

William spent the latter part of his life at Wakefield Lunatic Asylum, where he was recorded as a patient, a coal miner, born in 1833 in the United Kingdom. During the early 1890s his behaviour had become more difficult. He was depressed, had tried to hang himself and threatened to knock Amanda's head off. This was probably only the tip of the iceberg. The cause appears to have stemmed from alcoholism. Between 1893–97 he was admitted to Leeds Union Infirmary, the old workhouse from where he was transferred to the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum on 29 July 1897.

In 1905 he was reported to be suffering from dementia and depression. He was an old, small man, occasionally noisy and confused but generally a decent man in fair health—a good worker. However, towards 1910 the deterioration in his mental health was evident though his general health remained reasonable until shortly before his death in 1913.

Like many he had a difficult life—working in the atrocious conditions of coal mining, left on the death of his first wife with a baby, then the deaths of half the children to his second wife before her own death. After his third marriage his own health and temper appears to have gradually worsened until the family fell apart. After all this time I don't know whether I am pleased to have found out what happened or saddened to learn he had spent his final sixteen years in a lunatic asylum, estranged from his family and living in fairly basic conditions until his death at age 80.

Now I just have one more great grandfather, John WARDLE to find—his death is equally baffling. Well documented until 1871, with Alice, his second wife, a widow, in 1881. I'll keep you posted. ◀

# EDUCATING THE POOR

## THE MURRAY STREET FREE SCHOOL, 1872–1896

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



**F**OR twenty-four years, from 1872 to 1896, the Murray Street Free School, designated exclusively for children whose parents or guardians could not afford to pay their fees, operated in Hobart. Situated in the block between Patrick and Brisbane Streets, in the street after which it was named, the school was located opposite the site currently occupied by the Harvey Norman store.

From a modern perspective, one may wonder why a decision would have been made to set up a Government school that so publicly identified its pupils as the children of paupers and excluded them from enrolment at the other Hobart public schools. Indeed, such obvious discrimination would not be tolerated today. The object of this article is to acquaint readers with the reasoning behind the establishment of the school, provide an

overview of its operation, and learn more about some of the teachers employed there.

### **The context in the early 1870s**

- The colony was still recovering from the economic depression of the late 1850s and 1860s. There were many unemployed married men, often with large families to provide for, living in Hobart;
- four Ragged Schools were operating in the town: Watchorn Street, Lower Collins Street, Cascade Road, and St Luke's. Those schools catered for about 450 of Hobart's poor children by 1872, but they were not part of the Board of Education. The Orphan Schools had been in existence for over forty years;
- all children attending Government schools in Tasmania had been subject to the payment of weekly school fees

since the establishment of the Board of Education in 1839 (with the practice continuing until 1908). Families who believed they were unable to pay fees could make application to their school's Local Board to have the amount reduced or, in special cases, entirely remitted;

- an increasing number of children in public schools were being classified as free scholars, many with parents who apparently would not, rather than could not, pay fees. In 1871, there were reported to be 633 free scholars attending the five Board of Education schools in Hobart—Trinity Hill, Battery Point, Goulburn Street, Macquarie Street and Central (Bathurst Street);<sup>1</sup>
- there was a growing cost for Government as a result of the above. The Government paid three pence per free scholar to schools since fees formed part of the Head Teacher's salary;
- school authorities thought that many free scholars' parents were not showing sufficient interest in their children's education, reinforcing a perception that what came free was not always valued;
- irregular attendance by many free scholars contributed to their educational underachievement and perceived lack of moral development. In 1871, Chief Inspector Thomas STEPHENS revealed that of the 633 free scholars aged between 4 and 15 in Hobart schools, only thirty-nine had progressed past the third class—most achieved only second class

standard, which was more commonly attained by six year olds;<sup>2</sup>

- despair resulted on the part of senior Board of Education members, who felt that the current system was not having enough positive influence on the control and education of Hobart's poor, neglected and destitute children.

### The concept

It was deemed by those in authority that some change had to be made on the provision of free admission to arrest the extravagant and alarming dimensions it had reached in the Hobart city schools. That change needed to secure two objectives:

1. to excite and stimulate in the minds of as many parents as possible the desire and effort to keep their children above the level of pauper schooling;
2. to provide a single free school for the reception, and the educating up to a certain point, of those children whose parents or friends could or would pay absolutely nothing.<sup>3</sup>

Plans for the school were in place at least twelve months before it officially came into existence.

In 1871, rules and regulations were released for such an establishment, the following being adopted:

1. 'In order to make better provision for the education of neglected children, the Board have resolved to establish a free school in the building known as the Infant School, Murray Street, for the reception of children for whom no fees are paid by their parents or guardians, such children to be admitted upon the order of any Local School Board in Hobart Town, or of

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<sup>1</sup> *Journal of House of Assembly*, 1876, Paper 106

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<sup>2</sup> *Journal of House of Assembly*, 1876, Paper 106

<sup>3</sup> *The Mercury*, Editorial, 20 December 1873

any officer appointed by the Board of Education for the purpose.

2. 'On and after the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1871, the Board will discontinue payment of capitation fees for children in the public schools in Hobart Town, except upon a certificate from the Local Board to the effect that a sum equal to one-half of the cost of their instruction, calculated at 3d per week for each child, has been paid to the teacher by the parents or guardians of such children, or from other sources.



3. 'No teachers in any free school shall be allowed to receive school fees for or on account of any children attending such school, but their fixed salaries will be supplemented by such allowances as the Board may from time to time direct.
4. 'Any children who shall have reached a standard of proficiency qualifying them for class IV, as defined by the program of instruction, may, with the approval of the Board of Education, be transferred from a free school to any ordinary public school.'<sup>4</sup>

### The scholars

The school opened on 6 May 1872 for twenty infants and thirty boys and girls of more advanced ages. That intake was made up of free scholars from the recently defunct Macquarie Street School and those from the local neighborhood.

At the time of opening, no scholars from the other four public schools had been

enrolled. Many parents of children in those schools, who had previously been excused from paying fees, now strained to contribute three half-pence per week or sixpence a month for each child, with the same amount being matched by the Board of Education, in order to save their children from being sent to the free school.<sup>5</sup> Statistics indicated that between 300 and 400 children were thus rescued from being openly classified as paupers:

- in one school, out of forty hitherto certified as too poor to

pay, twenty-four were at once paid for;

- in a second, out of nearly 100, only three were removed to Murray Street;
- in a third, out of seventy-six non-paying, sixty-three began to pay;
- in a fourth, out of 145 certified as too poor to pay, forty-five were removed and 100 paid.<sup>6</sup>

The above figures suggest that the Board's Objective Number 1 for forming the school was achieved quickly. An improved regularity of attendance never known before in those same 'saved' children was also noted, and it was concluded that the children themselves and their parents seemed to appreciate more highly the schooling for which they paid.<sup>7</sup>

From the beginning, the school was capable of catering for 198 scholars, but during the 1870s and 1880s it operated

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<sup>5</sup> *The Mercury*, 7 May 1872

<sup>6</sup> *The Mercury*, Editorial, 20 December 1873

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

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<sup>4</sup> *The Mercury*, 2 March 1871

below that capacity. From the early 1890s however, when economic conditions worsened again in Tasmania, numbers started to grow. There were 253 on the books in 1891, and attendance had increased to 304 by 1894.<sup>8</sup>

Some insight into what was taught and valued at the school can be gleaned from newspaper reports of the time. The Head Teacher, Mr HALL, was said to excel in the teaching of singing, his own voice well-trained and able to go up and down the scales with ease. In 1874, it was reported that the singing of the scholars was soft, melodious and well sustained.<sup>9</sup> At the breaking up of the school for the Christmas recess in 1880, a prize was awarded for knowledge of Scripture History. Other prizes took the form of wearing apparel, books and work-boxes, etc. Each scholar was given a large bun as they exited. Discipline at the school was described as of the superior kind, and the teachers were given due praise.<sup>10</sup>

A report in the *Tasmanian Mail* at the end of 1881 noted that Mr Hall had described the education given as of a plain, substantial and efficient character. The school was reaching up to 178 pupils at that time, many of them being boarded out by the Government. At the end of year break-up, upwards of ninety articles of wearing apparel, made in school, were distributed, along with prizes from the Local Board for writing, arithmetic, Scripture knowledge and regular attendance.

It is interesting to note that, even in the Free School, inequities still existed. Mr Hall wrote to the Board in 1876 expressing his dismay at the restriction

concerning boarded out children who had not passed the third class being refused issue of copy books. Mr Hall stated that some children had been at school for years and thus not yet used a pen. It appears that the regulation was changed soon after.<sup>11</sup>

‘Boarding out’ was the term used to describe the placement of children in foster care in private homes. It seems likely that most of those in such situations in Hobart from 1872 to 1896 would have attended the school.

### The Teachers

When the school opened in 1872, Mr and Mrs Hall were in charge of the main section, while Miss PEGUS was responsible for the infants. The staffing of the school became somewhat of a family affair for the Halls, who were later assisted by their two daughters, Jessie and Elizabeth. Their niece, Mary SMELLIE, also taught at the school for about fifteen years in all.

The list of teachers included: Mr Charles Hall (1872–1896), Mrs Jane Hall (1872–1890), Miss Henrietta PEGUS (1872–1875), Miss Jessie Ann Hall (1872–1888), Miss Harriet Ann FULLER (1875–1878), Miss Mary Elizabeth Smellie (1878–1885 and 1888–1896), Miss Elizabeth Mary Hall (1880–1886), Miss Ruth Matilda WARLAND (1885–1896), Miss Margaret IRVINE (1886–1887), Miss Sarah Bennett CLARK (1887–1890), Miss Sarah Edith MOWAT (1891–1896), Miss Susanna Mary JONES (1893–1896)

**Charles Eadie Hall** was the school’s Head Teacher throughout its operation. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1821, the son of tailor, Robert Hall and his wife, Janet (née CAIRNS). Mr Hall

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<sup>8</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/3

<sup>9</sup> *The Mercury*, 19 December 1874

<sup>10</sup> *The Mercury*, 22 December 1880

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<sup>11</sup> *The Mercury*, 5 December 1876

trained at the Glasgow Free School and partially at the British and Foreign Training School in England.<sup>12</sup> (TAHO: ED13/1/30) He married Jane CREASY at St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands, England in 1847. He was listed in the 1861 Scottish Census as living in Dumfries, his occupation being a teacher at the Ragged and Reformatory School. By 1864, he was in Australia, living in Ballarat, Victoria, where he was Superintendent of a Ragged School. That year, Mr Hall joined the Tasmanian Board of Education. He taught at Hamilton Public School from 1864 to 1869 before being transferred to Macquarie Street School from 1870 to 1871.

Mr Hall became very well respected for his Free School work, and in 1883 the pupils presented him with a writing desk.<sup>13</sup> However, by 1891, the Inspector noted that Mr Hall's age (then 70) seemed to be telling on his energy in general management. The circumstances required exceptional vigor in the Head Teacher.<sup>14</sup> At that time, Mrs Hall had become unwell, and Mr Hall was widowed in 1892. In March 1896, the Department advised him that his services at Murray Street would no longer be required after 30 June 1896 when the school was to cease operation. Mr Hall was granted leave on full pay to December 1896 in consideration of the length of his service, and was paid an additional £50 as



compensation for his loss of service.<sup>15</sup> He died at Flowerpot in 1910.

**Mrs Jane Hall** was born in London, England in 1818, the daughter of excise officer, Edmund Creasy and his wife, Ann (née YARDLEY). The Halls had three daughters in Dumfries, Scotland between 1855 and 1862, the eldest of whom died at sea in January 1864. In the 1861 Scottish Census, Mrs Hall was listed as a school matron. The Halls also assumed responsibility for rearing from a young age Mary Smellie (1852–1897), a niece of Mrs Hall, and took her with their family to Australia. In September 1890, Mrs Hall was granted twelve months' leave to take effect from the date of expiration of three months' leave already granted.<sup>16</sup> She died at North Hobart in 1892.

**Miss Henrietta Sophia Pegus** was born in 1842 at Oatlands, daughter of Captain Peter and Mary Sophia (née SKARDON) Pegus, and joined the Board of Education as a Pupil Teacher at Trinity Hill Public School in 1859. After nearly six years there, Miss Pegus spent six months teaching at the Frederick Street Kindergarten in Launceston, and was then appointed as Head Teacher to the Murray Street Infant School in Hobart in 1866. When the new Free School was established, Miss Pegus was placed in charge of its infant children. She married Hungarian-born widower and Art teacher, Charles George Boyeslav (William) SCHUETZ, in 1875 at Hobart. After retiring from teaching for the next twenty

<sup>12</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/3

<sup>13</sup> *The Mercury*, 22 December 1883

<sup>14</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/3

<sup>15</sup> TAHO: ED13/1/57

<sup>16</sup> TAHO: ED13/1/45

years, Mrs Schuetz resumed her career at Invermay State School in 1895. She died in Hobart in 1924, her last address being 'Wroughton Cottage' in Elizabeth Street, the former home of her deceased parents.

### **The site**

Erected by subscription in 1834, and conducted as an Infant School from then up till the end of 1871, the building was ornamented with two Doric columns. Originally set up and administered by members of the Hobart Town Infant School Society, the school was placed in the hands of the Board of Education from the mid-1850s. In 1871, it catered for sixty pupils between the ages of two and ten.<sup>17</sup>

In preparation for the opening of the free school, some modifications were carried out to the building. The gallery from the main room was fixed up in a reduced form in what had been the Committee-room, and desks and seats were brought from the recently defunct Macquarie Street School for the use of the older pupils. Trifling repairs were undertaken, and all the walls were whitewashed. The path leading to the street was levelled and covered with gravel. Similar attention was given to the drainage of the 60 by 40 yards of playground that had hitherto been defective.<sup>18</sup>

In 1874, concerns were aired about the unsatisfactory ventilation in both school-rooms, particularly the Infant room. The floors were said to be on a level with the ground outside, and in one part below, causing dampness to the walls. In summer, an unwholesome smell apparently rose through the floor as a consequence of the contents of two great toilet closets, catering for over one hundred children,

percolating through the soil below. In 1876, the Board was ordered to supply plans and estimates for outbuildings to the Government, and £89 was approved for the construction of such facilities.<sup>19</sup>

The cottage adjoining the school, originally used as the Infant school master's family residence from 1834, was pulled down in 1875.<sup>20</sup> No residence was provided for the teachers at the free school during its time of operation.

In 1884, the building was described as still consisting of two rooms, the larger of which was kept warm by two fires; the smaller one, occupied by the infants, was becoming overcrowded.<sup>21</sup> At least one teacher claimed to suffer from health problems related to the condition of the Infant room. Miss Smellie, when applying to rejoin the Department in 1896, explained that for some time she had suffered with hearing problems. The bad ventilation and constant exposure to draught in the old Infant room had brought on chronic inflammation in her right ear, and for a time Miss Smellie was obliged to place herself under a specialist in Melbourne.<sup>22</sup>

Approval was given for the Education Department to purchase the land adjoining the school in Murray Street from William WALTON in 1885 at a cost of £350.<sup>23</sup> In 1887, Ebenezer Chapel, erected in front of the school in 1870, was purchased by the Government at the low cost of £1050.<sup>24</sup> It was reported in 1888 that LEE & TUCKER had been contracted to repair and alter the Chapel

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<sup>19</sup> *The Mercury*, 4 May 1876

<sup>20</sup> *The Mercury*, 24 April 1875

<sup>21</sup> *The Tasmanian Mail*, 31 May 1884

<sup>22</sup> TAHO: ED2/1/1565; file 1802

<sup>23</sup> *The Mercury*, 21 July 1885

<sup>24</sup> *The Mercury*, 6 July, 1887

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<sup>17</sup> *The Mercury*, 22 December 1871

<sup>18</sup> *The Mercury*, 4 May 1872

into a State School,<sup>25</sup> and it was ready for its new purpose two months later.<sup>26</sup> By 1891, the former 1834 school building was described as going to decay and an eyesore.<sup>27</sup>

### **The closure**

In January 1896, the Premier, Sir Edward BRADDON, addressed a memo to the Director of Education giving reasons for the proposed closure of the Free School. Economic and social considerations were foremost. There was evidence that the average cost of maintaining the Murray Street School during the previous three years had been £393. A saving of a further £260 per annum in Government fees could be made by placing the current scholars in standard State schools. The move was also to help relieve the Free School children from the stigma of pauperism.<sup>28</sup>

The Department announced that the school was to close on 30 June 1896, and the Government advised that, in future, no State schools would be continued as free schools.<sup>29</sup> A month after the closure, Premier Braddon noted that, of the 300 children who had been attending Murray Street, 233 were now going to State schools, and sixty-two were being educated elsewhere.<sup>30</sup>

It seems ironic that the school, set up on economic and social grounds, closed for virtually identical reasons twenty-four years later. ◀

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<sup>25</sup> *The Mercury*, 3 July 1888

<sup>26</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 5 September 1888

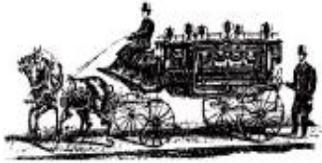
<sup>27</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/3

<sup>28</sup> *The Mercury*, 9 January 1896

<sup>29</sup> TAHO: ED13/1/57

<sup>30</sup> *The Mercury*, 30 July 1896

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# HENRY TINGLEY

## 'I am doing well'

### ASSIGNED TO WILLIAM LYNE

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

**F**OUND guilty at Sussex Assizes on 26 July 1834 of horse stealing and sentenced to transportation for life, both 19 year-old Henry TINGLEY from Uckfield and 20 year-old Henry CARTER from Kirkfield, arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 2 March 1835 aboard the *Waterloo*. The voyage from Portsmouth had taken 103 days. Both men were single, were ploughmen, had previous offences and had body marks. Tingley's right arm was decorated with a bird and tree, a sailor flag and 'T.H.'. A woman and a fish marked his left arm. Carter's inside left arm had a ship's anchor, and they both had a 'cross' between the finger and thumb on their left hands.<sup>1</sup>

In Van Diemen's Land their experiences differed, and no evidence has been located to suggest they maintained contact. Carter was sent to the public works, had numerous offences, and spent time on the Cleveland Road Party, while Tingley was assigned to William LYNE at Great Swan Port on the east coast, where he served his sentence.

Just three months after arriving, when writing to his father Thomas and his mother at Newick, near Uckfield Sussex, Tingley was full of praise for his 'good master'. Tingley was 'very comfortable indeed' and had 'plenty to eat and drink'. Each week he was allowed 'two ounces of tea, one pound of sugar, 12 pounds of

meat, 10 pounds and a half of flour, two ounces of tobacco', while annually, the government supplied 'three pair of shoes, two suits of clothes, four shirts'. Tingley explained to his parents how he only had to 'keep a still tongue' in his head and do what his master wanted, and he was treated 'as if he were at home'. He was already able to make a 'few shillings' by hunting or shooting kangaroos, 'ducks or swans, tigers, tiger-cats or native cats' and he had 'dogs and gun of my own'. He already knew he could only be injured by snakes which were 'about five or six feet long', and which would 'get away if they can'. He hoped his parents would not 'fret' about him as he was 'doing well'. As evidence of his agricultural interest—or perhaps because he wanted to make home brew—he asked for instructions 'to farm hops from the beginning to the ending'.<sup>2</sup>

Tingley was grateful he was away from 'beer-shops' and there was 'ne'er a one within 20 miles'. There was another convict at *Apsley* who, he explained, was 'a shoemaker, and he is learning me to make shoes', and he thought that in two years he would be able to make a pair for himself. Even though he was doing 'a great deal better than ever' at home, his only 'uncomfortableness' was being

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<sup>2</sup> 'Experiences of a Convict. 1835.' (Copy of a letter from Henry Tingley to Thomas Tingley, Newick, near Uckfield, Sussex) in C M H Clark, *Select Documents in Australian History 1788–1850*, pp.131–33

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<sup>1</sup> CON31/1/43 00153; CON31/1/7 00308

away from his family. His feeling of 'wanting' his family with him would be removed if they were able to join him. He suggested this could be achieved if his parents could have the parish pay their passage and also give them £60. His parents would then be able to take him off the 'Government for £1 for eight years to work' for them until the end of his sentence.

To his brothers and sisters he had a message. He hoped they would 'never give your poor mother and father so much trouble as I have'. He also relayed that he had enquired about Henry HART and the NEWMANs from Uckfield, but had not heard 'anything about them'.<sup>3</sup>

William Lyne (c.1782–1854), to whom Henry Tingley was assigned, had arrived with his wife Sarah (née Bishop) (1786–1873) and five children in October 1826 aboard the *Hugh Crawford*. Lyne received a 1,500 acre land-grant which he selected at Moulting Lagoon, Great Swan Port which he named *Apsley*.<sup>4</sup>

In December 1828 the land commissioners described the grant as 'the largest Swamp' they had seen in the colony. Maybe in time the land might 'become a valuable property', but for many years it would be 'a dead loss'. It was 'only fit for Cattle' during summer when the Apsley River from the north ran into the swamp, while in winter, it was 'one vast sheet of Water'.

To the commissioners, the only solution was to form a channel to the bay and build a 'strong embankment', but the price of labour and the fluctuating value

of produce precluded the possibility of improvement at the time. Lyne had built his hut on the 'most heavily timbered and worst part' of his farm. He was 'very industrious and honest', but could not 'bear to part with a shilling'.<sup>5</sup>

Henry Tingley remained at *Apsley*. He had no recorded offences, and in April 1843 received his ticket-of-leave and his conditional pardon in November 1847.

In March 1847 he successfully applied to marry convict Barbara GORDON. They married in Launceston on 19 May 1847. Barbara, who had two previous convictions and had twice been imprisoned for stealing wool, was a house servant from Inverness. In April 1841, after being found guilty of stealing two handkerchiefs, she was sentenced to seven years' transportation and arrived at the River Derwent aboard the *Garland Grove* on 10 October. She was assigned soon after arrival, and the punishment for her offences, which were mainly for being absent without leave, disturbing the peace, obscene language and drunkenness, ranged from fines of 5s 0d to six months in the Launceston Female Factory.<sup>6</sup>

The marriage produced at least four children, all born in the Launceston area: Thomas (1848–1926), Catherine (b1851), Henry (1854–1939) and Alexander (1857–1923). Barbara died 4 November 1891 at Ringarooma, and it is possible Henry died in October 1901.

Three of William and Sarah Lyne's five children married into the families of two brothers Adam (1774–1845) and John AMOS (1776–1848). Adam and John

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<sup>3</sup> 'Experiences of a Convict. 1835'

<sup>4</sup> Cunneen, Chris, 'Lyne, Sir William John (1844–1913)', *ADB*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/lyne-sir-william-john-7274/text12609>

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<sup>5</sup> A McKay, *Journal of the Land Commissioners for VDL 1826–28*, pp.97–98, 141.

<sup>6</sup> CON40/1/4 00195; CON19/1/3 00020

who were born at Melrose, Scotland, arrived in the colony in 1821 on the *Emerald*, and Adam's capital of £1,500 entitled him to a grant of 1,000 acres. He selected a location on the Swan River at Cranbrook, which he named *Gala*.<sup>7</sup>

John and Hannah (née HARDY) Amos' daughter Caroline (1820–70) married William Gladwin Lyne (1811–89) in 1841, and after Caroline's death, William married her younger sister Martha (1819–1907). Adam (1807–34), son of Adam and Mary (née TATE) Amos married Susannah Lyne (1821–94), and his sister Mary (1814–76) married Susannah's brother Henry Richard Lyne (1819–75). The other two Lyne children also married. Elizabeth (1818–95) married William WILSON and John (1810–1900) married Lillian Cross CARMICHAEL (née HUME) in 1843, and in 1891 he married Martha MURRAY.

Although Henry Tingley admitted having caused his parents 'much trouble', the experience he gained while assigned to his 'good master' meant that he was able to start a new life and family in the colony. It seems unlikely that other family members managed 'to come to this country' which, Tingley described as being 'far before England'.

Henry Tingley was an assigned convict who took advantage of his situation. He started a new life far from home after being transported under the British convict system and it is indeed fortunate that a copy of the letter he wrote to his parents on 15 June 1835 has survived. ◀

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<sup>7</sup> Rand, A, 'Amos, Adam (1774–1845)', *ADB*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/amos-adam-1703/text1847>

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# HELP WANTED

## **AIKEN**

I would like to make contact with descendants of James AIKEN who arrived at Hobart aboard the *Cape Clear* in October 1883. The Aiken family originated from Earlston in County Berwickshire. With James was his wife Mary, sons Charles and wife Mary née STUART, Murray and wife Elizabeth née HOPE, John, and their sister Johanna. All were skilled in wool manufacturing and cloth finishing. Among the Tasmanian-born family is Murray William AIKEN (1890–1958) who married a Victorian, Pearl (Perl) HEATLY (1899–1949), in 1919. Please contact Meredith Hodgson on 0400 241 066 or PO Box 447 Sandy Bay TAS 7006.

## **BISHOP**

Looking for descendants of Edmund BISHOP, born 15 June 1856 and his wife Elizabeth née HARRISON born approximately 1858, of Oatlands Tasmania. As I am currently researching the Bishop Family Tree I would very much like to make contact with living descendants of Edmund and Elizabeth. Please contact Kerry Bishop at PO Box 41408 CASUARINA NT 0811, phone (08) 8927 3451 or email: [Kerry.bishop2@bigpond.com](mailto:Kerry.bishop2@bigpond.com)

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CRUMP Queenie May	Geraldton WA AUS	1900s	7340
CRUMP William	Geraldton WA AUS	1900s	7340
DARK Leonard James	Hobart TAS AUS	1796+	7359
DART Leonard James	Hobart TAS/Sydney NSW AUS	1796+	7359
DEAKES	Hobart TAS AUS	1800-1960	7348
DERMODY Peter	Loughreg IRL	1790	7332
DERMODY Richard	Galway IRL	1820	7332
DOOLIN Patrick	Kings IRL	c.1798-1868	7359
DUNIAM Hubert	d.Emu Bay TAS AUS	1801-1885	7345
FYFE	SCOTLAND	1700-1890	7341
FYFE	Melbourne VIC AUS	1750-1880	7341
GIFFARD William	London ENG	1830+	7356
GLEN John	Dunedin NZ	1860-1940	7335
HALLY	Aucherterada SCT	1760-1860	7330
HALLY	NZ	1862-1960	7330
HEFFERNAN Patrick	Tipperary IRL	c.1825-1903	7359
HOLMES Mary	UK Census	1901	7338
HOOPER George	Ross/Sutton HEF ENG	c.1800 or pre	7353
HOPWOOD Elizabeth	Launceston TAS AUS	1861 or pre	7353
JOHNSTON	Any	Any	7351
KELLY	Tunnack TAS AUS	1800	7348
KENNEDY	Tunnack TAS AUS	1800	7348
LAWRENCE Tasman	Longford TAS AUS	1876 or pre	7353
LEESON	IRL	1770-1900	7350
LYALL Alexander	Glasgow SCT	1800	7332
MANSFIELD	Franklin TAS AUS	1850+	7356
MARSDEN Daniel	Worksop NOTTS ENG	1730s or pre	7353
MOORE John Leece	Tapanui NZ	1865-1920	7335
MORRIS Emma Georgina	Dunedin NZ	1870-1920	7335
NEWBURY Mary	HRT ENG	1780	7332
NIMMO Agnes	Southport TAS AUS	1817-1882	7354
OAKES Courtland	Hobart TAS AUS	1890+	7356

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
OMANT John	HRT ENG	1780	7332
PEGLER Charles	Any	Any	7360
RATCLIFFE James	Port Arthur & Hobart TAS AUS	1796-1837	7354
READER Edward Charles	b.Macquarie Plains TAS AUS	1876-1930	7345
SCHMIGOTZ Martin	b.AUS 13 Sep 1881	1881	7334
SCHMIGOTZ Martin	TAS AUS	1903+	7334
SIDNEY Thomas	ENG	1800	7332
SLATER John William	Manchester ENG	1820-1900	7338
SPICER	Melbourne VIC AUS	1770-1860	7341
STIVEN Thomas	Melbourne VIC AUS	1850-1870	7335
THOMAS Mary Elizabeth	Hobart TAS AUS	1830-1901	7359
WAKJER	Any	Any	7338
WARNE Hettie M	DEV ENG	1895-1979	7335
WESTON William Pritchard & family	Any	1804-1950	7347
WHITE James	Hobart TAS AUS	1832-c.1860	7359
WHITES + DALY	IRL	1700-1890	7341
WHITES + DALY	Hobart TAS AUS	1700-1885	7341
YOUNG	Christchurch NZ	1750-1858	7341

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7328	BELL Mr Linley Albert	Not for publication			
7329	CAZALY Mrs Geraldine Joyce	1 Lisa Court	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7330	BOGUS Mrs Dianne	21 Derwent Avenue cbogus@netspace.net.au	LINDISFARNE	TAS	7015
7331	BARRY Mr Rodney John	8 Danval Place rodbarry47@gmail.com	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
7332	SIDNEY Mrs Peta Suzanne	16 Richardson Avenue psidney@keypoint.com.au	DYNNYRNE	TAS	7005
7333	BUTLER Mr Ashton	24 Tingira Road ashtonbutler@bigpond.com	BLACKMANS BAY	TAS	7052
7334	BUTLER Mrs Jillian	24 Tingira Road ashtonbutler@bigpond.com	BLACKMANS BAY	TAS	7052
7335	HUMPHREYS Mrs Janice Violet	5 Oates Street mrsjhumphreys@yahoo.com.au	MONTELLO	TAS	7320
7336	WILLIAMS Mrs Robin	Not for publication			
7337	RAYNER Mr Daryl James	Not for publication			
7338	CHRISTIAN Mrs Cynthia Elizabeth	456 Pass Road cynthia.c@inet.net.au	CAMBRIDGE	TAS	7170
7339	SURTEES Ms Glenyce	643 Forth Road	FORTH	TAS	7310
7340	CAMPBELL Mrs Chrisa Emily	PO BOX 161 carue1010@gmail.com	SHEFFIELD	TAS	7306

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7344	McALPINE Mrs Colette Frances	2 Heathcombe Crescent colette.mcalpine@gmail.com	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
7345	CROSSIN Mrs Judith Anne	14 Wendy Avenue jer67962@bigpond.net.au	CLARENDON VALE	TAS	7019
7346	GILL Mrs Doreen	Not for publication			
7347	SYMS Mrs Maggie	52 Bain Terrace maggie-syms@yahoo.com.au	TREVALLYN	TAS	7250
7348	GREEN Mr John	45 Baker's Creek Road john.green.jg@gmail.com.au	LUCASTON	TAS	7109
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7351	PALMER Mrs Beverley Joyce	PO Box 312	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7352	RUSSELL Ms Susan Anne	33 Spencer Street russell.sue22@yahoo.com.au	BROOKLYN	TAS	7320
7353	PATCHETT Mr John Laurence	8 Hellyer Avenue patchett@southcom.com.au	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7354	RATCLIFFE Mr Ian Justin	Not for publication			
7355	BISHOP Mrs Kerry Lyn	PO Box 41408 kerry.bishop@bigpond.com	CASUARINA	NT	0811
7356	JONES Mrs Eileen Joan	13 Beach Road bry.eil@bigpond.net.au	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
7357	EVANS Dr Caroline	10 Lansdowne Crescent carolineevans@iinet.au	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
7358	GIBSON Mr Ian Douglas	Not for publication			
7359	HALLAM Mrs Lyn	190 Stormlea Road lyn@wedgegardens.com	NUBEENA	TAS	7184
7360	BIRD Mrs Margaret Josephine	PO Box 145 palmara1@bigpond.com	RICHMOND	TAS	7025
7361	ELLIS Ms Suzanne Maree (Jacqui)	7 South Terrace	LAUDERDALE	TAS	7021

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# THE *GILBERT HENDERSON* (1839–1840)

## A TIMELY RESCUE

Anne McMahan (Member No.6463)

THE *Gilbert Henderson* (1839–1840)<sup>1</sup> was chartered as an English female convict transport late in 1839. Sir John HAMMETT, MD was engaged as surgeon superintendent and Mr J TWEEDIE as master. The female convicts were collected from a number of English and Scottish prisons namely Millbank, Liverpool, Exeter, Ilchester, Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen, amounting to 185 women with twenty-four of their children. Among them were twenty-four Irish prisoners who had been convicted in England where they had lived lives of petty crime. Twenty-three were transported for larceny and one for uttering counterfeit coin for which she had been convicted twice previously. The embarkations included a free woman, six passengers and two free girls.

Sailing from Deptford during February 1839 was a winter departure so the weather was cold and wet. Upon getting down the English Channel and entering the Bay of Biscay the winds became adverse and the weather stormy with a high sea running. These unfavourable conditions persisted for three weeks.

At first the women were afflicted with sea sickness from the rolling of the ship. This was followed by constipation caused by the change of diet to salt and dried rations. Surgeon Hammett found it necessary to administer laxatives to almost every woman on board. These included copious doses of castor oil.

There were nine prisoners in advanced stages of pregnancy who had suffered from the sea sickness so surgeon Hammett decided it was necessary to call at Teneriffe for fresh vegetables. All nine women were delivered of their infants during the passage of which two were stillborn.

As the water supply was diminishing rapidly it was found necessary to call at the Cape of Good Hope. Table Bay was chosen as the anchorage rather than the safer port, Simons Bay, to enable the lighters to ship the water which occupied a period of eleven days. Meat and fresh vegetables were obtained.

During the remainder of the voyage the prisoners suffered the usual ship board accidents, namely bruises and sprains, while several were scalded by boiling liquid from saucepans being overturned. An apprentice seaman was also injured while closing a ventilator. His right finger required amputation to the first joint.

Ten cases of hysteria were recorded on the voyage. This condition was viewed as **the** female affliction during the nineteenth century. It was known as a disease at the time but its treatment was not well understood by the surgeons on the transports. It lay somewhere in the vacuum between a real and imagined illness. Certainly for the sufferers it caused extensive physical discomfort through convulsions, gripping spasms and vomiting. At times it was confused with epilepsy. One of the women diagnosed with hysteria described herself as suffer-

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<sup>1</sup> AJCP PRO 3196 *Gilbert Henderson* (1839–1840).

ing fits for as long as she could remember. She also said that her father was subject to 'the falling sickness'.

As the *Gilbert Henderson* sailed into the Southern Ocean during April 1840, the child of the convict Julia LECKY fell overboard. Master Tweedie instantly ordered the ship to be brought to. He leapt overboard from the poop deck and swam towards the child by then a considerable distance away. On reaching the child astern of the transport he held her head aloft until a boat was launched and they were taken on board. Sir John Hammett reported the timely rescue by the master to Lieutenant Governor FRANKLIN on arrival.<sup>2</sup>

Of the twenty-four children who accompanied their mothers, twelve were vaccinated against smallpox with lymph supplied by the Admiralty. The procedure failed in all cases. The lymph had been stored between glass plates but the paraffin seal had broken in the medicine chest during rough weather. The failure of vaccination was common during the voyages. Apart from the defective seals it could have been caused by exposure to heat within the tropics or by long keeping as the lymph had an effective life of approximately six weeks.

Towards the end of the voyage the tragic death of an infant took place. In fact, on the day before arrival at Hobart town, on 26 April 1840, the mother of a four-month old infant obtained four drops of tincture of opium from a nurse under the pretext of curing her headache. The mother administered this to her daughter, Emma MARTIN, who died the following morning. The mother stated that Emma, who was born on board in December 1839, remained in a weakly state. She

had been restless at night so the mother was unable to get sufficient sleep. Surgeon Hammett concluded that the administration of the drug, although injudicious, was done innocently and had not been intended to destroy Emma's life. The body of the infant was taken on shore for burial and no further action ensued. ◀

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<sup>2</sup> TAHO CSO 5/237

# THE PROFESSIONAL MISFORTUNES OF THE DOCTORS OF THE PENAL COLONY OF SARAH ISLAND, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND\*

Anita Pierantozzi with Dr Peter Stride

**\*The professional misfortunes of the doctors of the penal colony of Sarah Island, Van Diemen's Land two hundred years ago: Are international graduates better supported in rural and remote communities today?**

## Abstract

The penal colony on Sarah Island, the harshest in Australian history, was established in Macquarie Harbour on the isolated Tasmanian west coast in 1822 by Lieut-Gov William SORELL to imprison recidivist convicts. The overseas trained doctors posted there, often recently arrived in Van Diemen's Land (VDL), experienced misfortunes related to the brutal environment and the professional isolation with current parallels. The island's history, including the doctors' involvement, retains a macabre fascination and residual tragic aura, which has inspired historical novelists and historians over nearly two centuries.

## Introduction

The occupation of Australia by Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was partially motivated by the requirement for a new penal settlement. English justice, long perceived as barbaric in Europe, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century still sentenced malefactors to being hanged, drawn and quartered. Many of the foulest offenders of British justice who escaped the gallows were sent to VDL. Here, many re-offended, necessitating a harsh escape-proof environment believed essential to reform vicious characters. The remote Macquarie Harbour was ideal, but the penal colony's brutality promoted malevolence in convict and gaoler alike, and appeared partially responsible for the doctors' professional misadventures. The circumstances and

character of the island and its inhabitants are reviewed, followed by individual details of the doctors.

## SARAH ISLAND:

### The site and its history

Sarah Island lies at 42° 14' S longitude, 145° 10' latitude, twenty-two miles down Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast. Discovered by James KELLY in 1815 while circumnavigating VDL, the island was named after the wife of Thomas William BIRCH, a local doctor and entrepreneur, who financed Kelly's voyage. Birch's primary motivation for financing the trip was to source commercial opportunities such as Huon pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*), which Kelly observed in abundance on Sarah Island. Discovery of immense open deposits of coal on the harbour's north shore was also made eighteen months later. However, it was Kelly's discovery of Huon pine, an ideal ship building timber resistant to termites, malleable but durable and water-resistant,<sup>71</sup> that was the most profitable and influential in the establishment of the Sarah Island penal settlement seven years later.

The convict population of VDL increased rapidly and with no secure prison for the violent malefactors, the free inhabitants felt vulnerable and harsh punishment was hard to deliver. Lt-Gov William Sorell considered Macquarie Harbour an ideal remote rugged escape-proof environment,

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<sup>71</sup> K M Bowden, *Captain James Kelly of Hobart Town* (Melbourne, 1964)

where convict labour could harvest coal and Huon pine.<sup>72</sup> Despite escape being difficult and hazardous, a considerable number of attempts were made.

Sailing from Hobart Town to Macquarie Harbour was equally as dangerous. The journey through the Roaring Forties with fifty metre high waves, adverse weather conditions and prevailing northwest winds, made sailing slow and difficult.<sup>73</sup> Sailing there could take weeks, with ships navigating anticlockwise around VDL to the west coast in severe winter weather, while the return journey took only days. Access to Sarah Island and Macquarie Harbour was made by the difficult passage through Hell's Gates, the seventy-five metre wide harbour entry where millions of tons of tidal water flow through the gap every minute at a maximum of ten knots.<sup>74</sup> Many ships entering without concurrence of wind and tide were wrecked with total fatalities on the north shore.

The remote site and the cruel nature of convict and gaoler negated any observation and moderation by the limited contemporaneous humanitarian concepts of Hobart Town. The only extant contemporary written convict account, the Davis' memorandum, describes the first Commandant, Cuthbertson, as 'the most inhuman Tyrant the world has ever produced since the Reign of Nero'.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> L C Mickleborough, *William Sorell in Van Diemen's Land: Lieutenant-Governor, 1817–24: A Golden Age?* (Hobart, 2004)

<sup>73</sup> H Maxwell-Stewart, *Closing Hell's Gates*. (NSW, 2008)

<sup>74</sup> Bowden, *Captain James Kelly of Hobart Town*; R Hughes, *The Fatal Shore* (Sydney, 1987)

<sup>75</sup> Davis Memorandum by Convict Davis Servant to Mr Foster, Superint of Convicts, Norfolk Island —1843 – relating principally to Macquarie Harbour

Sarah Island was described as a

colonial benchmark, the nadir of punishment and as the most wretched outpost in the British Empire, hated by convicts, military and civilian settlers alike.<sup>76</sup>

The island, with its overgrown ruins, is quiet and deserted today, apart from visiting tourists. As Butler states

there was a brooding silence, a sense of profound sadness, a feeling that the human misery that had been endured here has been absorbed in sweat and blood into the very soil.<sup>77</sup>

### Settlement

The initial settlement group sailed from Hobart Town for Sarah Island in December 1821 but encountered problems even before disembarkation. The *Sophia* carrying forty-four male convicts of reputed 'bad character and incorrigible behaviour', eleven male convicts with good character and trade skill, eleven male convicts with useful skills, eight female convicts, seventeen soldiers accompanied by three wives and eleven children, all controlled by Commandant CUTHBERTSON. Assistant Surgeon SPENCE, the pilot and the superintendent of convicts, arrived on Sarah Island on 3 January 1822. However, off the South Cape, the *Prince Leopold*, carrying the skilled carpenters and important supplies, was blown off course in a gale and arrived several weeks later, thus delaying construction of accommodation.<sup>78</sup>

The surgeon's quarters took three months

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<sup>76</sup> Hughes, *The Fatal Shore*

<sup>77</sup> R Butler, *The Men that God Forgot* (Richmond, 1975)

<sup>78</sup> H Julen, *The Penal Settlement of Macquarie Harbour* (Launceston, 1976); T Lempriere, *The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land 1839* (Sydney) Mitchell Library. Facsimile Royal Society of Tasmania, 1954, pp.10, 12, 37, 42.

to complete, and the hospital opened after five months. Although the first crop of wheat and potatoes was sown on cleared land by July, food shortages had already caused scurvy and sickness, predominantly dysentery.<sup>79</sup> However the government soon sent a further sixty-seven convicts, including more females, depositing convicts on Sarah Island, before hearing feedback on the settlement's progress or on its maximum convict capacity.<sup>80</sup> The ships returned loaded with Huon pine, and some of the abundant, but poor quality coal. In December 1823, Lt WRIGHT was appointed the second settlement commandant, arriving a few days after his unfortunate predecessor, Cuthbertson drowned, probably by accident.<sup>81</sup>

### **Surviving Sarah Island:**

#### **Food, Disease and Death**

Soon after Wright's arrival in January 1824, an overdue supply ship caused a food shortage. This was further compounded by the settlement never achieving self-sufficiency due to the poor quality soil and the wet weather. Macquarie Harbour, one of Australia's wettest places, receives 200cm rainfall and has 300 wet days annually.

Although wheat crops failed, potatoes grew on the island. Near the harbour entrance, assisted by free convict labour, the pilot, James LUCAS, cultivated and managed a large crop of potatoes which were sold to the settlement. Lucas also had administrative approval to sell whale oil, obtained with convict labour help, to

the settlement.<sup>82</sup> Financially successful outsourcing generating disproportionate profits is not a new concept.

Lempriere wrote, probably between 1828–1830, that fertility finally improved with blended mainland topsoil, compost, wood ashes and clay such that:

The gardens however, finally produced peas, cauliflowers, cabbages, beans, onions, carrots, turnips, radishes, celery, lettuces, etc of a quality and size which would not have disgraced the stalls of Covent Garden.<sup>83</sup>

Protein, vitamin and calorie deficient diets led to an array of health problems. The convicts' optimum daily caloric intake reached 3,000, adequate for twenty hour's hard labour weekly. The actual forty or more hour's weekly labour was fuelled by body stores of fat, causing progressive malnutrition and disease.<sup>84</sup> Meat for convicts was often two or three years old and fresh meat was rare.<sup>85</sup>

Scurvy was almost inevitable as crops failed, supplies arrived infrequently and convicts' punishment included restricted rations. Lieut-Gov George ARTHUR banned days without employment, the current Australian 'sicky', stating

the sick and weak prisoners (exempted by the Assistant Surgeon from hard labour) are kept on the Island sawing Firewood, hoeing Potatoes, spreading Lime, piling Boards etc.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> I Brand, *Sarah Island* (Tasmania, 1984).

<sup>80</sup> P Collins, *Hell's Gates: The Terrible Journey of Alexander Pearce, Van Diemen's Land Cannibal* (Australia, 2002)

<sup>81</sup> Lempriere, *The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land 1839*, pp.10, 12, 37, 42

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<sup>82</sup> Lempriere, *The Penal Settlements*, pp.10, 12, 37, 42

<sup>83</sup> Lempriere, *The Penal Settlements*, pp.10, 12, 37, 42

<sup>84</sup> H Maxwell-Stewart, *Convict Workers, 'Penal Labour' and Sarah Island: Life at Macquarie Harbour, 1822-1834*, in J Bradley and I Duffield, *Representing Convicts: New perspectives on convict forced labour migration* (London, 2000)

<sup>85</sup> Hughes, *The Fatal Shore*

<sup>86</sup> I Brand, *Sarah Island*

Convicts also suffered health problems related to the damage caused by repeated flogging and working chest deep in the cold water, summer or winter, making Huon pine rafts and transporting them to the Sarah Island shipyard. Although doctors' duties included cancellation of this work if water temperature was below 10°C, this was infrequently applied.

In spite of the violence and deprivations, the most common causes of recorded deaths were escapes and drowning. Seventy-four perished escaping, the majority drowned.<sup>87</sup> Six however were eaten by fellow escapee Alexander PEARCE, Sarah Island's cannibal, who was executed in Hobart in July 1824.<sup>88</sup>

### Discipline

The Commandant had jurisdiction as magistrate and Justice of the Peace. He heard charges and imposed punishment without appeals. The maximum imposable sentence was fourteen days solitary confinement or 100 lashes. Recorded minutes of charges and punishments were sent to the deputy judge advocate three monthly.<sup>89</sup>

An average of 167 prisoners per year received a total of 33,273 lashes between 1822 and 1826.<sup>90</sup> The number of lashes varied with status, from twenty for clerks and thirty six for skilled ship construction workers, to seventy or more for unskilled field or textile factory labourers. Failure to work the day after a lashing resulted in another flogging.

Thirty percent of flogging sentences were for attempted escapes. Recaptured escapees were sentenced to 100 lashes and six months in leg irons, which were painful, caused leg ulcers in water-macerated skin, and prevented escape by swimming. Homosexual acts, consensual or coerced, described as 'unnatural acts', were common and punished with seventy five lashes.<sup>91</sup>

The Sarah Island cat o' nine tails was particularly brutal, even by contemporary Royal Naval standards. Sharp lead inserts were woven into the double whipcord with metal capping at the end.<sup>92</sup> This commonly used lash ripped away, not just skin and fat but underlying muscle. The convicts walked away from the triangles with their blood and flayed flesh squelching in their boots.<sup>93</sup> The flagellator, and surgeons mate applying hogs lard, competed to alternately destroy and heal the flogged convict's back, described as 'like of Bullocks liver'.<sup>94</sup>

During a flogging, the doctor monitored the victim's health to ensure 'safe' continued punishment. The Davis letter described one victim, William HOLIDAY, who died while being lashed. Butler's fictional 'The Men God Forgot' took this account almost verbatim from Davis, though named him John OLLERY, a convict sentenced to fifty lashes for minor insolence.<sup>95</sup> Ollery fainted after thirty lashes over two hours amid heart-rending screams and cries for mercy, but was revived with water thrown over him. After five further lashes he was found to be dead, having suffered the last lashes as

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<sup>87</sup> Julen, *The Penal Settlement of Macquarie Harbour*; W Hirst, *Great Convict Escapes* (NSW, 1999)

<sup>88</sup> N Shakespeare, *In Tasmania* (Australia, 2004); D Sprod, *Alexandra Pearce of Macquarie Harbour* (Hobart, 1977)

<sup>89</sup> P Collins, *Hell's Gates*

<sup>90</sup> Julen, *The Penal Settlement of Macquarie Harbour*

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<sup>91</sup> Brand, *Sarah Island*

<sup>92</sup> Hughes, *The Fatal Shore*

<sup>93</sup> Hughes, *The Fatal Shore*

<sup>94</sup> Davis Memorandum by Convict Davis  
Servant to Mr. Foster

<sup>95</sup> R Butler, *The Men that God Forgot*.  
(Richmond, 1975)

a corpse. Primary sources state that John Ollery was sentenced to twenty-five lashes in April 1823 for work refusal and disobedience. After ten strokes, Surgeon Spence, declared Ollery unfit for further punishment, but he died five days later.<sup>96</sup>

Lt Gov George Arthur's 1824 communication to Commandant Wright clarifies his intent:

Nothing ... is more likely to lead to the Moral improvement of the most abandoned Characters ... than a rigid course of discipline, ... the constant employment of every individual convict in very hard labour is the grand and main design. Banishment to Macquarie Harbour ... must be ... considered by the ... Convicts a place of such strict discipline that they ... dread the very idea of being sent there.<sup>97</sup>

Unceasing labour, total deprivation of Spirits, Tobacco and Comforts of every kind, the sameness of occupation, the dreariness of situation, ... will, reform the vicious characters who are sent to you ... You must find work and labour, even if it consists of opening cavities and filling them up again.<sup>98</sup>

### Doctors on Sarah Island

Seven surgeons served on Sarah Island between 1822 and 1833.<sup>99</sup> Two others were sent, Dr Charles CONSTANTINI in 1833 as a convict transported to Australia for theft, and Dr Walter WILLIAMSON who was captured en route in 1829 by escaping convicts on the brig *Cyprus*.

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<sup>96</sup> Butler, *The Men that God Forgot*; L Frost and H Maxwell-Stewart, *Chain Letter* (Melbourne, 2001)

<sup>97</sup> *Historical Records of Australia (HRA) Series III, vol v (1824)*, p.631

<sup>98</sup> Brand, *Sarah Island*

<sup>99</sup> Maxwell-Stewart, *Closing Hell's Gates; Australian Medical Pioneers Index*, Geelong Hospital Library, Barwon Health <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/> (accessed 13 April 2012)

Only Dr William DERMER was university qualified with an MD.

Dr Thomas JAMISON, initially a surgeon on Norfolk Island and subsequently New South Wales Surgeon-General from 1802, advised Governor KING in 1805 about the required competency for doctors in isolated settlements as follows:

Only those should be entrusted whose intimate acquaintance with physical application and competent experience in the symptoms and progress of disease shall enable them to act on their own unassisted decision with safety to their patients.<sup>100</sup>

However, a spell on Sarah Island was not conducive to promotion, and those sent usually lacked ability.

The doctor was the second most senior officer after the Commandant. He could return patients with chronic diseases, accidents and old age, plus sick convicts needing treatment to Hobart Town. This was the only professional support available. Sorell requested a resident chaplain, but the initial lack of an available, suitable chaplain meant the doctor, perceived to be placed second on the moral high ground, performed as locum vicar. The doctor's duties included taking the church services, delivering a sermon and readings from the Anglican prayer book.<sup>101</sup>

The brief orientation to the VDL colonial medical service was followed by the moral disintegration of many of the doctors who served on Sarah Island. The length of time spent in the colony by each doctor before landing on Sarah Island is listed and contrasted to his career outcome in Table 1.

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<sup>100</sup> *HRA I, vol v, (1805)*, p.480

<sup>101</sup> Mickleborough, *William Sorell in Van Diemen's Land*

Table 1

Name	Duration of time in VDL before arrival on Sarah Island	Problems
Charles CONSTANTINI	Immediate	Convicted convict
Henry CROCKETT	Six months	Child abuse ? Sale of Pearce's skull
William DERMER	85 days	Reduced to half pay, complaints, disputes
James SPENCE	124 days	Deregistered for sexual intercourse with a patient
Robert GARRETT	One year, eight months	Alcoholic, deceased ruptured aortic aneurysm prior to disciplinary action with deregulation
John BARNES	Three years, eight months	Fabrication of evidence. No adverse effect on career
DANIELLS	Months	Theft of government stores
Walter WILLIAMS	nil	Captured on <i>Cyprus</i>
De LITTLE	Months	Absence from duty

### JAMES SPENCE

Dr James Spence qualified LRCS in 1818 in UK and arrived in Australia on the *Mary* in September 1821. Within four months he was appointed to the new settlement on Sarah Island where he arrived in January 1822 as second officer to the commandant. Spence was the island surgeon when the infamous Alexander Pearce escaped. Spence complained about the poor annual remuneration, then £162.17.6, when he served in the Maria Island penal colony for six months in 1827.

Spence went overseas to India and London for ten months from 1829–30. His only professional problem thus far was the minor complaint about remuneration. However Dr Spence was subject to an enquiry chaired by Edward ABBOTT, Civil Commandant ‘by order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor into matters relating to the Colonial Hospital at Launceston, on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> 1831’.<sup>1</sup> Spence admitted a convict, Jane TORR, to Launceston Hospital with purported epilepsy, a diagnosis unsubstantiated by other medical staff or

witnesses. Torr, who always appeared to have plenty of money and new clothes, reluctantly admitted spending nights with Spence. Spence offered no defence.

According to the published trial transcript, John AYTON, the overseer, had been seen bringing men and drink into the women’s hospital, which a patient described as ‘more like a bawdy house’. Once Ayton was seen bringing four or five Chinamen into the hospital, where, one at a time went into the women’s ward. Spence’s involvement in these other irregular activities was uncertain but his known activities were incriminating.<sup>2</sup>

The Colonial Secretary’s Office letter to Spence stated:

I am directed to inform you, that it is with very great pain, His Excellency has found your conduct to have been so irregular and improper, as well as discreditable to the service. He deems it necessary you should be suspended from the situation of Assistant Colonial Surgeon, until the pleasure of the Secretary of State shall be known; and your immediate removal from the Hospital at Launceston, is therefore, indispensable.

<sup>1</sup> Archives Office of Tasmania (AOT), Spence. 1831. PD. p.605.

<sup>2</sup> AOT Spence. 1832. ID 821. p.233.

Spence's permanent dismissal from the colonial service was confirmed in 1832.<sup>3</sup>

### **HENRY CROCKETT**

Crockett, assistant surgeon on Sarah Island in 1823, graduated in 1822 and arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Prince of Orange* in July the same year. Two female convicts received minor convictions for dealings with Crockett, one for disobedience, the other for abuse in June and November 1823. He assisted in the post mortem examination of Pearce and is believed to have sold the skull to Dr Samuel MORTON, an American scientist.<sup>4</sup> This act may not have been acceptable even by the medical ethics of the day.

Crockett's next problem appears in *Hobart Town Gazette* of 10 October 1825, when he marries an Emily VARDON, then age 14, possibly in response to rumours of underage sexual intercourse and pregnancy. Whatever the truth, and there is no recorded child from the marriage, the day after the wedding he resigned his position, claiming to be the victim of a deep-laid and infamous plot. Three days later he wrote to the Lt Gov. seeking to withdraw his resignation claiming to have been forced into a marriage. His second request was denied and he departed from VDL in April 1826 aboard the *Caudry*, perhaps to commence practice in India.<sup>5</sup> Emily subsequently married a Gavin RALSTON in 1832, having borne him a child the previous year, though it is not clear if she was widowed, divorced or a bigamist.

### **ROBERT STOCKER GARRETT**

Robert Garrett, born in Galloway Scotland in 1798, arrived in Hobart Town

in April 1822 on the *Medway* to take up a post as Second Assistant Colonial Surgeon. He was reputedly a competent doctor, but had two character defects, some related to his Scottish origins, alcohol and 'attitude', which antagonised officers and convicts alike. In 1823, now married to Martha, the illegitimate daughter of Lt John BOWEN RN, founder of the original settlement in VDL, he was posted to Macquarie Harbour.<sup>6</sup>

His initial relations with the settlement staff appeared convivial, but they soon deteriorated. A convict gardener paraded through the doctor's yard wearing underpants at the most, upsetting Martha. Garrett suspected a conspiracy between the gardener and Wright's servants, and wanted an enquiry with appropriate justice to include these soldiers. Wright felt this would damage the small community and refused. Garrett was offended and became increasingly difficult. His relationships with the other officers deteriorated.<sup>7</sup>

Douglas, the settlement secretary, was once charged with insolence and drunkenness. Garrett defended him, saying that at the alleged time of the offence, Douglas was with him and had not been drinking. The case was initially dismissed, but subsequently generated animosity. Garrett's regular protestations of limited drinking were doubted.<sup>8</sup>

More trouble followed shortly after when Garrett was involved in the most famous escape from Sarah Island. In June 1824, Matthew Brady and fourteen convicts

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<sup>3</sup> AOT Spence. 1832. ID 821. p.233.

<sup>4</sup> Sprod, *Alexander Pearce* (Hobart, 1977)

<sup>5</sup> *Australian Medical Pioneers Index*

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<sup>6</sup> J Boyce, *Van Diemen's Land* (Melbourne, 2008); Wright Family History, [http://members.trump.net.au/ahvem/Family/Wright/Life at Sarah Island.html](http://members.trump.net.au/ahvem/Family/Wright/Life%20at%20Sarah%20Island.html)

<sup>7</sup> Wright Family History

<sup>8</sup> Wright Family History

seized a boat and captured Garrett. Some escapees favoured flogging him as a reprisal against Garrett and the authorities. Despite Garrett's arguments and 'trembling lips', a cat of nine tails was prepared and the doctor's coat removed. Fortunately for Garrett, Matthew Brady, a beneficiary of Garrett's kindly hospital treatment, arrived and prevented a flogging. Brady said Garrett was a good doctor who was kindly disposed to the convicts hence Brady was released. Lempriere states 'It is easier to conceive than describe the delight which his escape caused the worthy doctor'. The episode reveals an unusual but cogent reason for courtesy to all patients!<sup>9</sup>

Garrett's behaviour deteriorated, perhaps because of the primitive housing, the harsh climate with more rainy days than Scotland, or the stresses of caring for the unpleasant convicts, perhaps the detritus of the British Empire. Wright wrote to his colleague, Captain COTTON, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Adjutant:

Months ago this redoubtable man (he calls himself 'the Doctor!') quarreled with the Detachment collectively and almost individually!

Wright distanced himself from Garrett which

irritated than soothed the feelings of this pugnacious gentleman and his regular system of petty annoyances was pursued more rigorously.<sup>10</sup>

Garrett criticised the commandant's dog, his substandard accommodation, the chimneys smoking, and dirty water accumulating behind his house. Later in January when Garrett had wine and

dined well, he argued publically with Wright repeatedly shouting that he was no gentleman. Wright's diary described Garrett as vulgar, abusive and offensive. Following more disputes, Wright ordered Garrett to return to Hobart with letters to the Lt Gov detailing their dispute and Garrett's behaviour.<sup>11</sup>

Garrett's alcohol consumption was debated by both men before and during an enquiry. Garrett's letter to Lt Gov. Arthur strongly denied an alcohol problem.

In regard to my being in an apparent state of intoxication I beg leave to state that this is so palpably erroneous that I have only to refer your Honour to any individual then at Macquarie Harbour ... as to my habits of temperance and sobriety. I can safely say the charge is most untrue.

The enquiry asked Parsons, the store-keeper, if he had ever seen Garrett intoxicated at Macquarie Harbour, to which Parsons answered 'I have, frequently so.' KINGHORN, the Captain of supply vessel *Waterloo* returning Wright to Hobart, replied to the same question 'I have frequently seen him in a state of intoxication.'<sup>12</sup>

Misfortune, controversy, inquests and hints of incompetence continued to follow Garrett. In 1828 his professional competence was questioned over a mid-wifery case.<sup>13</sup> Later that year, a coronial enquiry examined the death of a patient following a minor gunshot injury. The jury was encouraged to attribute death to alcoholic cirrhosis and 'a visitation of God',

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<sup>9</sup> Lempriere, *The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land 1839*, pp.10, 12, 37, 42

<sup>10</sup> Wright Family History

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<sup>11</sup> Wright Family History

<sup>12</sup> Wright Family History

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Courier (HTC)*, 17 May 1828

but Garrett may have missed infection in the leg spreading to the abdomen.<sup>14</sup>

Collins notes Garrett treated the Rev. KNOPWOOD when suffering from painful bladder stones. Garrett catheterised him to relieve retention, bled him and prescribed laudanum. Following this therapy Knopwood passed a stone with relief of pain.

Garrett had a second term on Sarah Island and then returned to Launceston. Alcoholic problems continued, coming to public attention in 1831 when Assistant Surgeon James Spence was suspended. Commandant FAIRWHETHER's report to Arthur stated that Garrett's

habits of intemperance are notorious and well known to most of the respectable people of Launceston. ... When in that state [Garrett] is not permitted to [be] seen by any persons but those of his family and servants.

Arthur knew Garrett had not controlled his drinking as advised in 1825. Another Board of Enquiry found he was frequently incapable of performing medical duties while under the influence. By December 1834 Arthur's patience expired. He regretted that Garrett had not grasped the 'opportunity afforded since 1825 of redeeming his character' and suspended him from his duties. Arthur considered

his vice ruinous to any gentleman but more particularly so to an officer entrusted with the lives of his fellow creatures.

Arthur asked Scott to inform Garrett of his suspension, but Garrett died suddenly

of a ruptured aneurysm on 12 December 1834 before receiving the communication. *The Courier* described his death as 'the visitation of God. Some disagreeable, unexpected intelligence, acting on a sensitive mind, is assigned as the primary cause.'<sup>15</sup>

### JOHN BARNES

John Barnes qualified MRCS in England and arrived in Australia as surgeon superintendent of the vessel *Deveron* in 1822. He commenced his appointment at Sarah Island in 1826 after four years in VDL, and was the only surgeon to leave with his reputation enhanced. Some authorities believed Barnes to be the most competent doctor to serve there. Barnes noted the frequency of rheumatism, scurvy, dysentery, all manner of lung infections and local inflammations. He left the colony in January 1828.<sup>16</sup>

Barnes gave evidence to the Select Committee on Transportation of the British Parliament in 1839.<sup>17</sup> Barnes described the geography of the harbour, the offences of the convicts and their diet, plus the number of escapes and their outcomes. He reported that the Commandant was usually the oldest officer of sufficient rank, and implied that some lacked competence. He reported that the worst behaved convicts were detained in a penitentiary on Small Island. Although deemed a minor punishment by the Commandant, Barnes noted they were usually soaked in water when embarking

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<sup>14</sup> *HTC*, 27 September 1828; William Crowther, 'Some aspects of Medical Practice in Van Diemen's Land 1825–1839,' *Medical Journal of Australia*, no.17(1935): 518

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<sup>15</sup> Peter Stride, 'Robert Garrett, Tasmanian Penal Colony Surgeon: Alcoholism, medical misadventure and the penal colony of Sarah Island,' *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh*, 2011; 41: 256–62

<sup>16</sup> *Australian Medical Pioneers Index*

<sup>17</sup> Brand, *Sarah Island*  
Maxwell-Stewart, *Closing Hell's Gates*

and disembarking from boats rowed between Small and Sarah Islands. When locked in at night, they usually slept in wet clothing as fires were extinguished at 8:00 p.m.<sup>18</sup>

Barnes detailed the number of floggings from official records. He related his belief that floggings failed to reform convicts. They appeared more desperate subsequently. One convict stated to Barnes that his next offence would be murder to ensure execution rather than the lash again. Barnes said he had never seen a convict suffering illness following a flogging. Some required brief hospitalisation, but men's backs usually healed rapidly.

Barnes outlined the exploits of Alexander Pearce obtained from the 'Black books of the settlement' which are now lost. Lord HOWICK asked if the convicts frequently attempted escape, to which Barnes replied,

I believe that was their constant desire. A great number of convicts did escape from Macquarie Harbour, and whenever they had an opportunity to escape, they certainly took [it].

Barnes also claimed to be present on the island when Constable George REX was murdered and when Alexander Pearce was arrested. These statements are best seen as lapses of memory, but could be seen as false self-aggrandisement under oath.<sup>19</sup>

### J DANIELLS

Dr Daniells commenced duties on Sarah Island in May 1827, a few months after arrival in VDL. He was accused of embezzling rations, which he may have fed to his chickens. After some very acrimonious hearings, a bad-tempered

Daniells was reprimanded and ordered to pay restitution.<sup>20</sup>

### WALTER WILLIAMS

Dr Williams never reached Sarah Island. While sailing on board the Government brig *Cyprus* for Macquarie Harbour with thirty-one convicts, they encountered a severe westerly gale and high seas. The Captain ran for shelter to Recherche Bay where William SWALLOW, one of the hardened criminals, led a mutiny and took control of the *Cyprus*. Forty-four men, women and children were left on the shore of Recherche Bay with minimal supplies. Two of the group, POBJOY and MORGAN, sailed out of the bay in a rickety coracle and some twenty miles back to Hobart Town before being rescued at sea by the barque *Orelia*. Details of his feats and the voyage of the *Cyprus* are part of early Tasmania's folklore.<sup>21</sup>

Swallow, after many adventures and escapes, was finally captured and tried for mutiny at the Old Bailey in October 1830. He claimed he was compelled to join the mutiny and that Dr Williams would corroborate his evidence. Curiously Williams had just arrived in London and did support this evidence. Dr Williams sought compensation for what today we would call post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the episode. Lords Commissioners of the Treasury pronounced:

Their Lordships were pleased to sanction the grant by the Colonial Agent of 90 pounds which together with the 60 pounds paid to Dr Williams in the Colony, completed the extent of the remuneration to which the council considered him entitled

Much of William's subsequent career in

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<sup>18</sup> Julen, *The Penal Settlement of Macquarie Harbour*

<sup>19</sup> Maxwell-Stewart, *Closing Hell's Gates*

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<sup>20</sup> R Davey, *The Sarah Island Conspiracies*. Australia: The Round Earth Company, 2002.

<sup>21</sup> Hirst, *Great Convict Escapes*

Tasmania was as a JP and magistrate. Such dual employment was common amongst the few educated professionals in VDL.<sup>22</sup>

### WILLIAM DERMER

William Dermer, born in 1803, studied medicine at Cambridge, and obtained his MD in 1825 from the University of Edinburgh for his thesis 'De Synocho'. He arrived in Hobart on the *Duckenfield* in June 1831, with his pregnant wife Catherine. Their son, George, was born five weeks later. Dermer was appointed Surgeon at Macquarie Harbour, commencing work eleven weeks after arriving in VDL.

Controversy followed his career. A scandal occurred when his cook, Sarah SIMMONS, received a convict named LAWS into Dermer's kitchen where Laws remained till five in the morning for uncertain purposes. Dermer, a devout Scot, filed charges against Sarah, though she was effectively defended by the clerk, John DOUGLAS, himself in love with Sarah in spite of her probable promiscuity. Sarah Simmons was sentenced to ten days' solitary confinement for 'leaving her master Dr Dermer's premises without permission and harbouring a prisoner at unseasonable hours'.<sup>23</sup> Back in Hobart Town Dermer complained to the Convict Department that the inmates of the Female House of Correction at Cascades in Hobart under his care were dirty and lice ridden. He also complained to the Colonial Office that settlers were tardy about paying his fees.

*The Courier* recorded a 'typhoid like fever' outbreak in Hobart in 1840 for which Dr Dermer was partially respons-

ible.<sup>24</sup> Eighty-two deaths among 914 cases was recorded, double the usual death rate. Dr Robert OFFICER, Principal Medical Officer, and Dermer reported that the fever was:

confined almost exclusively to the lower classes due to the fact that they showed so little stamina. They [convicts] lack a determined resolution ... to look forward ... to any improvement. This view is confirmed by the little anxiety they show about their recovery and the indifference with which they meet their death.<sup>25</sup>

Poor response to the doctors' treatment was clearly the patients' fault as early as 1839.

Dermer was appointed for two years as Colonial Assistant Surgeon to Port Arthur in 1845, and was promoted to Colonial Surgeon 1846. In 1849 an inquiry reviewed the death of one of his patients while at Port Arthur. A boy prisoner at Port Arthur died while Dermer was having a brief meal break after hours of attendance. Dermer was reduced to half pay, a precedent that today may equally appal clinicians and appeal to medical administrators. The main criticism at the time was inadequate medical records, a persisting medical defence problem today. The verdict went against Dermer, perhaps the unwitting scapegoat in a medical power struggle, though he was denied a copy of the report. Subsequently he complained of injustice to the Lt Gov. of Tasmania, Sir William Denison, and was reinstated.<sup>26</sup> Dr Dermer left the Colonial service in 1851 after 20

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<sup>22</sup> Hirst, *Great Convict Escapes*

<sup>23</sup> Davey, *The Sarah Island Conspiracies*

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<sup>24</sup> W Rimmer, *Portrait of a Hospital*. Hobart: The Royal Hobart, Mercury Walch Printers, 1981

<sup>25</sup> *Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette*, Friday 6 March 1840

<sup>26</sup> AOT Dermer. GO33/59/495-819.

years of service, returning to England.<sup>27</sup>

### **WILLIAM DE LITTLE**

Dr De Little qualified LRCS in 1829 and arrived in Australia on the *Cleopatra* in 1832. His year's service as Assistant Surgeon on Sarah Island commenced soon afterwards, though the island was now predominantly for ship building, rather than for subjugating brutal criminals. His uneventful stay attracted little publicity, though he abandoned his hospital on alternate days to take Gould painting, and fought the other officers over the ethics of hunting.<sup>28</sup>

### **CHARLES CONSTANTINI**

Constantini arrived on Sarah Island in December 1827. Born in Paris in 1803, he was a qualified surgeon and a competent artist. He was convicted of theft at London's Old Bailey and transported on the *Ocean* in 1822. He arrived in NSW in 1823, and was assigned to service in Bathurst. Gov. Brisbane's last free pardon was granted to Constantini for saving the life of a child bitten by a snake.<sup>29</sup>

Subsequently Constantini was employed in VDL as Hospital Superintendent and Assistant Surgeon. However he was sentenced to seven years gaol for recurrent theft in 1833. He was initially on Sarah Island where he produced sketches which with Lempriere's and Gould's still persist today as the best depictions of the penal colony.

### **Conclusion**

Overseas trained doctors sent to a remote and brutal environment with no mentoring or supervision, lapsed into theft including sale of body parts, possible

perjury, alcoholism, sexual relations—one with a child, one with a patient, experienced enquiries alleging professional incompetence and poor documentation, and suffered disqualification or received half pay. Parallels with Australia today are not too obscure.<sup>30</sup> Bundaberg's recent cause célèbre according to a former Federal Health Minister 'walked into an environment tailor-made for disaster to occur'.<sup>31</sup> ◀

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[Readers may be interested to read 'A Young Englishman's Observations of the Aborigines During Five Years in Van Diemen's Land', edited by Dr Ian Gregg, which appeared in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol. 21 No. 1, pp.19–21, June 2000 and 'Who was Dr John Barnes?' by Michael Ritchie which appeared in the same issue, pp.25–33. —Ed.]

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<sup>27</sup> AOT Dermer. 1852. CO/280/256, GO/75/765–768.

<sup>28</sup> Davey, *The Sarah Island Conspiracies*.

<sup>29</sup> Maxwell-Stewart, *Closing Hell's Gates*

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<sup>30</sup> J Dunbar, P Reddy, S May, *Deadly Healthcare* (Australia, 2011)

<sup>31</sup> Carolyn M de Costa, 'Bundaberg revisited', *Medical Journal Of Australia*. 2012; 196: 79

# ALBERT EDWARD BIRD

## A FLAWED CHAMPION

John Bird (Member No.5995)

### Part Three

#### **S**OUTH AUSTRALIA

In July the family travelled by horse and buggy to South Australia. The trip took eight days and was very tiring for Alice and baby Sarah.

#### **Adelaide**

Albert declared he could run eleven miles in an under one hour.

*The South Australia Advertiser*, Wednesday, 27 August wrote,

The race was of 52 laps of 370 yards and 120 yards added, so that the Champion had to pass the winning post fifty three times ... he displayed a wonderful running style which many in the crowd continually commented upon. The race was run so closely to the hour, however, this slight failure did not occasion much disappointment and there was general conviction, that the Champion could have won the race with ease, if he laid himself out for it a little earlier.

#### **Country South Australia**

Over the next few months Albert competed successfully at a number of provisional towns in South Australia. On the 11 September at Gawler he again ran eleven miles against the clock, finishing one minute one second over time, despite having to put up with rain, a dust storm and a very poor running surface.

On 18 September in the mining town of Kapunda on the York Peninsula he again ran this distance, the time being sixty-one minutes ten seconds. In the local press

it was considered by many, that having undertaken the same task only a week ago, to be a quite remarkable feat.

Travelling to Moonta, on 25 September, Albert performed the remarkable feat of running the eleven miles in fifty-six minutes thirty seconds. The *Adelaide Register* reported on 26 September that Albert 'ran 11-miles in 3-minutes under the hour'. The *South Australian Register* stated,

the champion's style was greatly admired, and in his great feat was praised as a wonderful exhibition of speed and endurance ... and he came in at double quick time amid loud cheering.

This was the third time he had run this distance in two weeks. Two days later he attempted to run six miles in under thirty minutes and completed the journey in twenty-nine minutes thirty-seven seconds. Again, the *Warraroo Times* reported Bird

set off with that remarkable pace for which he is famous ... making strides which have not inaptly been compared to that of an emu.

In Adelaide on 5 October Albert raced Frank Hewitt for the last time in a one mile event, losing by less than a yard. Albert then travelled to other provincial centres, having success in a six mile event at Strathalbyn and a three mile race at Goolwa. At Glenelg he won a ten mile race against ten other runners, each competing one mile.

On 14 October the *South Australian Advertiser* wrote that the Amalgamated Picnic held at Strathalbyn on Tuesday 8 October appeared to have been

a thorough success—Mr Bird was announced to run his great feat of eleven-miles in an hour in which he will allow 6 young men to compete with him for first 6-miles. On the 47<sup>th</sup> lap the Champion

complained of his knee giving way and on the 49<sup>th</sup> lap, with 4 laps unfinished, he had to retire. He had run for 59 minutes and 35-minutes, having beaten each of 6 runners easily. It was readily agreed on a good ground he could easily have accomplished the feat.

The Goolwa Show was next on Albert's agenda. On 12 October the *South Australian Advertiser* reported:

One attraction of the show was for Bird to run against 3 whites and 3 aborigines alternating each ½-mile. The distance of 3½-miles was run in 17 minutes. In each instance, Albert with one of his great spurts was able to outrun his opponent although in one instance one of the aboriginals showed excellent speed. When Bird put on a spurt expecting to quickly run pass his opponent, but found he had his work to do. For his opponent likewise made a spurt and on completing his distance was only beaten by a few yards.

On 23 October 1872 Albert appeared in Adelaide Law Courts, charged for alleged non payment of Agent fees. He was sentenced to 21-days for an unsatisfied judgement obtained by late agent. However Albert petitioned to be declared insolvent for in *forma pauperis* and it appears his imprisonment was deferred pending and outcome of his petition. At a hearing in January 1873 the judge intimated he could not entertain the charge which the opposing creditors had made, and awarded the insolvent a second class certificate.

The Oddfellows Picnic was held at Milang on 24 October. The *South Australian Advertiser*, 28 October reported:

The great event of the day was left to 4-o'clock where there was great excitement to witness the champion runner A. E. Bird to go against the six best natives to be found around the districts, to run each man a ½-mile ... He seemed a small

individual to challenge six strong looking fellows. At 4.15 pm the first native took his start, and 50 yards from the winning post Bird quickly passed him and won easily. The second man ran ahead for a while when Bird overtook him and he fell back when the winning post was to the fore. No 3 quickly overtook Bird until 60 yards from the winning post when Bird put on a spurt and won by 2 yards. In race 4, Bird just got ahead at the finish. The fifth man shot out like an arrow, but Bird picked up again and won by 10 yards. Bird beat the last aboriginal by 8 yards amidst a general rush into the area to embrace the champion the man who beat 6 blacks.

On Monday 10 November at athletic meeting at Gawler Albert was entered in a one mile race and a five mile handicap race in which he would run against ten local runners, each to run half a mile. He disappointed in the one mile handicap race failing to catch the leading runners. In the five mile race Albert was beaten by Harvey and Manson. From all accounts it appears he seemed to play with his opponents and did not run to win. As such, it was a major disappointment.

A public holiday was held on the 28 December in celebration of the 36th anniversary of the foundation of South Australia. The *South Australian Advertiser*, 31 December reported:

As was customary on this day, Glenelg received the chief share of public attention. Of course the main interest was felt in the race of the day in which Bird the champion pedestrian was to run against nine competitors each running a mile. Albert easily defeated the first 5 runners.

He was leading Carter, the sixth competitor near the finish line, but suddenly collapsed. The Champion was carried into an adjoining house, and after a short time revived. The cause assigned for his

sinking was not so much exhaustion as slight sunstroke, he having run the whole distance without any covering on his head.

Over the next three weeks Albert travelled to many regions in South Australia. He arrived in Angaston 15 January 1873, and was to run from Angaston to Tanunda, a distance of seven miles, in less than forty minutes. In front of a large crowd, he commenced his run at the *Angaston Hotel*, arriving at the Tanunda Post Office, in thirty-nine minutes twenty seconds.



Tanunda 1873

The next day in nearby Greenock, Albert was backed to run from Greenock to Angaston, a distance of eight miles in under forty-five minutes. The race commenced at 3:00 pm from outside the Saddlers Shop. He arrived at the *Angaston Hotel* at 3:44 pm, one minute under the 45 minutes.

The next morning Albert was to run from Angaston to Truro, a distance of ten miles in under an hour. At 4:30 pm on 19 January the Mayor of Angaston flagged Albert on his way. Shortly before the end of the race Albert was advised that in order to reach the finish line by 5:30 pm he would need to increase his speed. About 800 yards from the finish line Albert seemed to find a second wind. Coming into the main street, to the disbelief to many people Albert, put on one of his spurts, running faster than at

any stage of the race, and crossed the finishing line at the Post Office in fifty-nine minute ten seconds.

Travelling to Burra on 8 February Albert, in his best ever performance, completed the eleven miles in fifty-seven minutes fifteen seconds, some two minutes forty-five seconds under the hour.

Later in the month Albert travelled to Mount Gambier announcing he would again run eleven miles in one hour. On 24 February he completed 7¼ miles in forty-three minutes and fifty seconds and then retired from the race, which he attributed to a toe injury.

Albert, Alice and Sarah returned to Melbourne and sailed for Tasmania, arriving in Hobart in early August 1873.

## TASMANIA

### Hobart

Albert's arrival in Hobart had an immediate impact in the community. *The Hobart Mercury*, 14 August commented

The lovers of pedestrianism will doubtless be interested in knowing that Mr A. E. Bird, the champion long distance runner, has arrived in Hobart, and purposes getting up some matches shortly.

Albert immediately hired out the military barracks for a series of races in Hobart on 25 August, including a parade for the neatest costume. His every move seemed to attract attention., *The Mercury*, 23 August reporting 'This afternoon at 4 o'clock Bird takes a breather in the domain'.

The weather on Saturday afternoon, 30 August, was not conducive to pedestrian events. The main race of the day was to be Albert's solo attempt to run eleven miles in one hour against eleven runners each completing a mile. However Albert did not compete due to being intoxicated. *The Mercury*, 1 September was very critical of Albert:

no man after such a short residence in it, ever left without so much contempt as A. E. Bird, the champion of the world.

Albert redeemed himself on 2 September by running the distance in six minutes over the hour, although he had to contend with about one and a half miles of rough newly laid metal. He attempted the same feat again on 9 September but just failed. *The Hobart Mercury* giving the following account of the race.

He ran pluckily throughout and took no refreshment on his journey, 7 miles accomplished in 38 minutes 50 seconds and 10 miles in 59 minutes later took his seat on a vehicle back to town and was loudly cheered on all sides. It should be mentioned that 2 miles had to be traversed on newly metalled road and all things considered, it must be allowed he showed himself to considerable advantage.

On 30 September Albert was to run four miles from Walkers Brewery in Collins Street to *Scott's Hotel* under twenty minutes. He completed the race with five seconds to spare in spite of several hills along the course and a dust storm.

In a race billed as 'the great race, England vs. Tasmania' on 11 October, Albert raced against the Tasmanian champion TINKER over the same course as on the 30 September. Despite giving Tinker thirty seconds start and having injured his foot in training he won easily. *The Mercury* 13 October commented his 'steady leaping strides and beautiful form drew forth an expression of common admiration'.

On 1 November Albert offered to run six minutes under thirty minutes, but failed to show up, his agent blaming the poor state of the road. However three days later he completed the six mile run in twenty-nine minutes and fifty seconds from *Fern Tree Hotel* Huon Road to the *Globe Hotel* in Davey Street.

There was another disappointment on 10 November when Albert, after stating he would run twenty miles in under two hours at Rosny, gave up after ten miles in one hour.

On 22 November Albert attempted another race against the clock. He was to run on the Cascade Road again starting the *Fern Tree Hotel* and finishing at the *Steam Hammer Inn* in Upper Macquarie Street Hobart. This was a distance of 200 yards less than five miles, and to be run in less than twenty-four minutes. Albert began his run at 3:30 pm and ran past the door of the *Steam Hammer Inn* in twenty two minutes and fifty five seconds, completing a feat considered by many as almost impossible. He was one minute and five seconds within the target time.

On 7 December Albert raced another local pedestrian, EVANS, in a four mile race. Albert completed the distance in nineteen minutes twenty-five seconds. Evans, who tired visibly towards the end of the course, took twenty-seven minutes three seconds.

In December, Albert, his wife Alice and a man named James SOUTHALL were charged with assault after an altercation with John PAGE, publican of the Lemon Springs *Coach and Horses Hotel*. They were summoned to appear in Oatlands on 6 January 1874, but failed to attend. They were arrested on 9 January but the case was dismissed at the Oatlands Court on 23 January.

On 1 January 1874 at the Cascades, the first great (five miles) cross-country steeplechase in Tasmania was held. Starting from scratch Albert won on a course involving running up hills, down dells and over fences. He completed the course in twenty-four minutes. Later, on 19 January he raced two locals, giving them a minute and a half start over a two and a quarter mile course and winning easily.

## Launceston

In February Albert and his family moved to Westcombe Street, Launceston. This was to remain their family home.

On 17 March Albert was backed to run eleven miles from *Russell's Hotel* Perth to the *International Hotel* in Brisbane Street Launceston. He completed the distance one minute and fifteen seconds under the hour, running eleven miles in fifty eight minutes and forty-five seconds. The *Launceston Examiner* of 17 March was full of praise:

it is something really wonderful for any man to perform, particularly when it is considered that the road traversed is exceedingly hilly and in some parts very rough ... After a bath, he made his appearance to the public, apparently as fresh as ever.

On 3 June Albert raced Samuel Page's mail coach between Perth and Campbell Town, a distance of thirty-two miles, running along the main Launceston to Hobart road. This race generated a lot of interest in Launceston and especially Perth and Campbell Town where the race was to start and finish. After four miles Albert arrived at a place named 'Poor Man's Corner'. Here there was a bend in the road which also involved a slight climb which permitted Albert to stretch his lead. The Powranna railway crossing was reached after nine miles. At the township of Epping Albert was able to gain a further lead on the mail coach as the quite unexpected twists in the road made it slow going for any coach.

At the half way mark, Albert arrived at *St Andrew's Inn* on the outskirts of Cleveland. He was leading by 250 yards and soon reached Conara. He was eight miles from the finish. Shortly afterwards Albert gained further advantage as the road undulated up and down for a short distance.

With less than two miles to go Albert ran through Brookville, past St Lukes, Campbelltown with the finish line only 200 yards away. It appeared almost every one of the 1,000 residents of Campbell Town were in the Main Street as he crossed the finishing line at *Powell's Hotel*.

Albert was immediately swamped by the crowd, lifted on the shoulders of several men and paraded along Main Street to a cheering boisterous crowd. The coach arrived some three minutes later.

Albert returned to competitive running on 11 August. He was backed to run from Perth to the weighbridge at the foot of the Sandhill Launceston, a distance of ten miles within one hour. Albert reached the Sandhill toll-bar completing the race in fifty-six minutes. The *Hobart Mercury* observed

the speed and grace of his movements as he bounded along the road, exhorted the admiration of all who witnessed the performance.

Early on the morning of 26 August 1874, Albert and Alice's second daughter, Florence, was born. Later that day Albert was backed to run from Snakes Banks to the *Wellington Inn* Launceston, a distance of twenty one miles in under two hours and fifteen minutes.

The *Hobart Mercury* reported

By three-o'clock a large number of people were outside The Eagle's Return hotel to watch Albert depart and a crowd estimated to be in excess of 2,000 had already congregated at the winning post outside the Wellington Inn. At precisely two minutes past three o'clock Bird bounded away on his journey followed by three or four well horsed buggies. He proceeded on with a wonderful springing stride ... reaching the Perth railway gates—the first ten-miles-in four minutes under the hour. Passing through Perth a considerable crowd had collected, and as

he left the village the number of horse-men and vehicles in his wake had greatly increased. He continued to run strongly and reached Breadalbane at twenty minutes past four, the distance accomplished being thirteen miles in one-hour and eighteen minutes.

On arriving at Young Town the severe exertion was beginning to tell on Bird, who began to exhibit some symptoms of distress. He, however, soon gathered himself together with wonderful determination, and raced on to the toll-gate, about one and half miles from home. Shortly after 5:00 pm a cloud of dust was observed at the furthestmost turn of Sandhill Road and "here he comes" was the cry of the crowd accompanied by cheers. In a few moments a figure was seen coming, at a good pace down the hill, and ... passing the winning post at exactly fourteen minutes past five—three minutes under the stipulated time.

He achieved the feat running the distance three minutes faster than the stipulated time.

That night Albert appeared as Cousin Joe in the play 'Rough Diamond'. At the end of the first act, he received a valuable gold pin for his feat.

Unfortunately, Albert's feats were at times accompanied by questionable dealings and accusations of fixing and stake money not produced. On 3 September Albert brought a case against Robert KEENE the Younger who he alleged was given £20 stakes money in regards his run from Snakes Banks to Launceston on 26 August, and who refused to give them up. Keene appeared in the Recorder's Court on 25 September, and as a consequence of his acquittal, he charged Albert with perjury. At the court hearing on 8 October, the Attorney General decided to place Albert, Keene and another person, HARRIS on trial for conspiring to defraud the public.

At the end of the court hearing on 17 October the Judge reviewed case in relation to each defendant. In regards to Albert he said

it was sworn by Bird ... there was an agreement and he found it hard to see how a man could say at a court of law there was such an agreement but went onto say that he had not kept to the agreement inasmuch as he had purposely won the race. Why then he did not go to Harris and say I have gone back on the arrangement, I will not run unfairly? There was just this with Bird, did he enter into the conspiracy or did he merely propose that the race be lost without agreeing to it. He may have repented on the road, but the jury must say whether it was so.

The jury found all three guilty. Albert was sentenced to six months' gaol and transported to the Launceston Gaol. He was to remain in gaol until his release on 25 March 1875.

Albert returned to public prominence on 15 April 1876 when he again appeared at the Theatre Royal with *The Launceston Examiner* announcing

a complimentary benefit to A. E. Bird is arranged for Monday evening at the Theatre Royal when Bird will appear as Cousin Joe in Rough Diamond.

The next day Albert announced that on Easter Monday he would run from Campbell Town to Launceston, a distance of forty-one miles in less than five hours. Albert set out from *Engelbert's Hotel* Campbell Town at 12:30 pm. When he arrived at Cleveland, the first ten miles had been covered in just under an hour.

Albert, still running at a good pace, entered the Epping Forest. He passed many gateways on his run, several with family members shouting encouragement and providing a diversion to this monotonous stage of the race. Leaving the forest, Albert crossed the Hawkridge

Bridge near Powranna and arrived at Snakes Banks at 2:35 pm. It was then on through Symonds Plains. Shortly after Albert crossed the Perth Bridge and arrived at the township at 3.40 pm. He stopped at the Perth Hotel for fifteen minutes for a wash, a rub-down and a cup of tea. He headed north at 4:00 pm going up Gibbet Hill. The road then dipped down through Breadalbane where patrons of the *Wool Pack Inn* shouted support. Albert came to the *Cocked Hat Hotel* about two miles north, at 4:43 pm. By this time the crowd around *All-The-Year-Round Inn* at the Sandhill Launceston, the finishing post, had become very dense, totalling over 4,000 persons.

At 5:24 pm people waiting at the finishing area could see a cloud of dust and the sudden appearance of a crowd at the road higher up, giving an indication of Albert's imminent arrival. Then down the hill came Albert, crossing the finishing line at 5:26 pm amid deafening cheers from the crowd who nearly suffocated Albert in their eagerness to pat him on the back. Albert had run from Campbell Town to Launceston, a distance of forty-one miles in four hours eleven minutes.

The *Launceston Examiner*, in its account, finished by saying, 'it is a marvellous performance', while the *Hobart Mercury* of the 13 May mentioned, 'this speed, ... is unprecedented in this colony.'

### Family Tragedy

On 14 October 1876 William, my grandfather, was born. Another child, an unnamed boy born on the 8 November 1878 sadly died four days later.

Albert's occupation on the birth certificates of William, Lillian, Alexander and the un-named son, was a porter. On the 18 November 1876 he acquired a

licence to act as a porter at the Launceston wharf.

Lillian, Albert and Alice's third daughter was born on the 9 October 1880 and their third son, Alexander born on 16 April 1883. Tragedy befell the family on the 10 September 1883 when Alice, at the young age of twenty-eight died after contracting tuberculosis. Worse was to follow when on the 4 December, Alexander also died from tuberculosis.



Alice Bird and son William 1880

These deaths, and the fact that Albert had fallen on hard times and was without regular employment, were to prove devastating blows. On 25 March 1884 Albert pleaded guilty in court to failing to pay one pound five shillings for the support of his children. He was given two opportunities pay the money. Reappearing in court on 31 March Albert stated he still could not pay, as he was still to be paid wages for his current job. He was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

During Albert's stay in gaol his daughters Sarah and Florence were placed in the

Launceston Industrial School for Girls, remaining there until they turned sixteen years of age. William was placed into care and later 'adopted' by Thomas and Rosa HUGHES. It is probable Albert had very little, if any, further contact with them.

After completing his sentence, Albert endeavoured to resurrect his running career. On the 20 November 1884 he entered a one-mile race in Hobart but collapsed after one lap.

It appears that soon after Albert moved to New South Wales. It is likely he took his daughter Lilian with him, as she is known to have been in a Newcastle Catholic convent in the late 1880s and later married in Sydney. It would seem Albert's involvement with Lilian after 1884 was minimal as on her marriage certificate his christian names were given as Alfred John.

Controversy followed Albert to Sydney. He competed successfully in a number of races in and around Sydney, culminating in another disappointment when on 2 April 1887 in a race to celebrate St Patrick's Day he suddenly dropped out of the race for no apparent reason. *The Tasmanian Mail* of 2 April reported,

Albert was in Sydney. By all accounts the whilom crack has much difficulty in keeping body and soul together as he had in playing many parts in Tasmania.

Nothing is known about Albert from that time until 31 January 1908 when he was found destitute, wandering the streets of Port Melbourne, an inner southern suburb of Melbourne and arrested for his own protection. At the Port Melbourne Court

he was remanded for seven days for medical treatment. At the hearing on 20 February, the South Melbourne Bench ordered 'Albert E. Bird ... a champion pedestrian of former days, to be sent gaol for six-months ... unfortunately there was no other place than gaol to send him to.'

He was admitted to the Benevolent Society on 22 February but apparently

discharged himself on the 15 April. He travelled to Bendigo where, in June 1908 he was placed in the Benevolent Asylum remaining there until 1914.

Other interstate newspapers commented on Albert's plight. *The South Australian Advertiser* on 8 February 1908 and *The Tasmanian Mail* of 22 February 1908 reported 'Albert Edward Bird who 40 years ago was champion long

distance runner of England has fallen on evil times in his old age ...'

Albert died in Bendigo on 14 February 1916 and was buried two days later in a paupers' grave at White Hills Cemetery on the outskirts of Bendigo.

Albert was a man of many parts, an outstanding athlete, a brilliant runner who could dazzle the crowds, an actor and well-known identity, particularly in Tasmania in the 1870s. Unfortunately Alfred's life involved much controversy. He was such a flawed character, a life with so many highs and lows. ◀

Albert's career has been documented in a book written by Glenn Piper, 'Peds of the Past 1837-1920-Famous athletes and pedestrians with particular reference to Sheffield.'



# GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

**N**O man is an island, and likewise, no person should research alone. As more and more resources become available via the internet it seems greater numbers of people are chasing relatives, locked in solitude in their houses. The need to visit libraries, family history centres or even cemeteries is being lessened daily. Or so it appears to many.

The truth is that as researchers, now it is even more important that we support our internet finds with visits to local repositories or, if we aren't in the location we are researching, with contact with locals and other researchers themselves.

Personally, I can credit some of my greatest breakthroughs to friends I've made during the researching. Last week I got an email from my grade three teacher (always be nice to your teachers) asking, "Is this one of yours?" The attached information was a Benevolent Society's report on the state of my grandfather's family, (my father the 4-month old infant listed at the end of the eight children) who, since he had been committed, were now dependant on the income of the elder two children. Apart from all the confirmations of events we had assumed or surmised, this document lists the name of grandfather's previous employer, so now I have a chance to follow up on some family stories of the painting jobs he was supposedly involved in during his career. All this because she noticed the Maddock name while going through an unindexed book.

People researching alone can easily fall into the trap of 'see a name—claim a name,' when a name appears within the

narrow field of visible records, then it *must* be the one they are after. Without knowledge of the many other resources not online or only produced locally, it is possible to waste many hours chasing the wrong people. Recently I had the horrible experience of having to tell a cousin, who had been working online on the other side of the country, that he had spent hours deciphering records and creating individual timelines of two convicts, neither of whom were members of our tree. In one case Joyce Purtscher's book of *Deaths in the General Hospital* clearly showed the ex convict as arriving on a ship that contained a Wm Leman, not the Wm Lemon that had been assumed from the other records. The other was not our convict at all, which was evident when you compared her illegitimate son's birth registration with the legitimate birth of our lady's daughter—only three months apart. No way could they be the same woman. Again local knowledge filled the gaps.

Local knowledge and experience researching an area cannot be beaten and we are so lucky in Tasmania that many experienced people volunteer in the society's libraries. (Can I add, volunteering in a family history library is one of the easiest ways to learn about available resources.)

If you don't live in the area you are researching, apart from joining the local family history group, the best way to make 'friends' is by joining an email list such as Rootsweb. I have mentioned Rootsweb many times in here, and joining is largely self explanatory (and free), but if you haven't signed up for at

least two lists (a surname group and an area group) then you're not really researching to the best of your ability. The majority of these lists are manned by several experienced researchers, often locals who often not only have access to resources but are willing to do look ups. Others are often willing to walk the cemeteries or photograph houses, while others will simply pull you up on your mistakes. These are all useful traits. The knowledge we've assumed something that isn't possible, or missed a name, or married off the wrong brother, or even missed a census entry because we didn't think laterally enough helps strengthen the tree.

Dedicated research of a single line is another case where isolation can lead to errors. A single child, who has but one child and only one grandchild, etc., is a rarity not the rule. Often in chasing the brothers, sisters, aunts, step siblings, great uncles etc., you can come across the most wonderful family information, and even stumble on your individual—a witness at a wedding, an executor of a will, present in a family photo, registering a relative's child and more.

When I'm on Rootsweb lists I'm constantly bombarded with links to sites or other resources relevant to my research. If you become active in the groups (and have your surnames listed in your email signatures especially) people will become familiar with your families too and you'll start getting messages like 'Did you know there are four Maddocks listed on a park bench just down the road from me?' Or even, 'Hey I was looking through this library book and I saw ... are they yours?'

So don't just rely on the databases online, get in touch with the people. You don't need to send them your entire research, but they are invaluable for helping find

supporting evidence or breaking down walls.

One of the reasons I don't post a huge list of URLs each journal is that so many of the sites I come across are very specific—baptisms in a single parish church, transcription of a single building's memorial plaques, a collection of medieval records or an obscure book title scanned online. Very interesting to a select few, but not to the many and since TFHS Inc. does not only focus on Tasmanian research but supports its members in researching worldwide, it is impossible to even begin to post sites for everyone. Often too it is easier to google the type of site you want than try to retype the long URL printed. Not to mention the fact that sites tend to move and disappear frequently rendering the address useless.

So, despite the fact I may have a few sites listed here, don't forget to keep checking with google or your search of choice to see what else may have turned up. Try your search several ways, for example 'births Surrey', 'early church records Surrey', 'Surrey historical births', 'where can I find old Surrey birth records?' If you still can't find what you want, post a query on Rootsweb.

For some newspapers and other records that are not included in Trove, browse the State Library of Tasmania's digitised content—<http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/Tasmaniasheritage/browse/digitaltasmania/digitisedgroup#news>

Ever useful old occupations  
<http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html>

UK & Irish library catalogue search  
<http://copac.ac.uk/>

Early Modern English sources—<http://www.quelle.org/emes/research.html> ◀

# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

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

## **A FORGERS TALE: The extraordinary story of Henry Savery, Australia's first novelist.**

This small paperback by Rod Howard was published in 2011; winner of the Walter Stone Award for Life Writing.

Henry Savery (1791–1842); business man, forger, convict and author. Born 4 August 1791, Somerset, England. Died 6 February 1842, Port Arthur, Tasmania. Transported in 1825 to VDL for forgery. Released in 1840 and his novel *Quintus Servinton* was published. Arrested again in 1840 for forgery and sent to Port Arthur and died; possibly from a stroke.

‘Born to fortune but spurned by fate, a single act of folly launches young Henry into an extraordinary spiral of calamity. Banished to the end of the earth, bankrupt and betrayed, denied even the sanctuary of death, he surveys the gothic ruins of his past from an empty Hobart Town gaol cell and begins pouring out the story of his tortured journey—conjuring a thinly veiled autobiography that will become Australia’s fist published novel.’

Rod Howard writes about the life of Henry, his journey from Bristol to Port

Arthur and how it is reflected throughout his novel.

## **ON THE FIDDLE FROM SCOTLAND TO TASMANIA 1815–1863 The Life and Music of Alexander Laing (1792–1868) Convict, Constable, Fiddler and Composer.**

A4 book published in 2009 by Peter MacFie, Steve and Marjorie Gadd contains sixty-five original melodies, drawn from a rare manuscript; with historical commentary. Although its ‘spiral binding’ is not a popular style for library shelves, it is on this occasion, ideal for the work. When fully laid open, the music can be easily read by those who may wish to play the tunes.

As a convict, Alexander Laing was assigned in the Pittwater district in 1817 to T A Lascelles at his grant *Nonsuch*. In this district, by 1821, Laing was Gaoler and Chief District Constable in the new village of Sorell. Here he seems to have written some of his earliest melodies; e.g: *Sorell Wind Mill; Gordon Street Sorell; James Gordon, Forcett Tasmania; Iron Creek Pittwater; Lady Franklin’s Reel.*

From 1851 to 1860, he was at New Norfolk in the Derwent Valley, first as town Gaoler and then Wardsman at the Asylum. He continued composing and dedicating them to people and places in the district with the names given to the melodies; e.g: *Lady Elizabeth Macquarie at New Norfolk; Mrs W A B Jameison Glen Leith VDLand; Quick Step Derwent Rifles, New Norfolk; Miss L Price’s Wedding at New Norfolk.*

This work shows the much maligned, Alexander Laing in a totally different

light, revealing a 'sensitive side of his nature' despite his long battle with alcoholism. The life and times of Laing are recorded and 'A unique aspect of the Alexander Laing Manuscript, uncovered following detailed research, is the ability to associate particular melodies to the localities in which he lived and worked, and the people with whom he socialised.' The background behind the people and places featured are provided to enhance an appreciation of the melodies recorded.

**DR EDWARD FOORD BROMLEY,  
R.N. (1776–1836): Surgeon, Civil  
Servant and Magistrate, V.D.L.**

This A4 book was first published in 2012 by D J Bradmore.

'The story of Dr Edward Foord Bromley is a tragic one. Born into a well-to-do English family in 1776, he trained as a surgeon and served with distinction in the British Navy during the long war against France, 1793–1815. During a brief lull in the war in 1803, he visited the Australian colonies as surgeon aboard HMS *Calcutta*, which carried 300 convicts to Sullivan Bay, near present day Sorrento, Victoria, to establish a penal colony.

When the war was finally over, he transferred to the convict service. As surgeon-superintendent on *Ocean* (1816), *Almorah* (1817) and *Lord Wellington* (1819), which brought convicts to Port Jackson, he was much admired not only for his medical skill but also his kindness. During these visits to Sydney, he expressed interest in a colonial appointment and, in 1819, was offered the post of 'Naval Officer' at Hobart Town. He took up the appointment in March 1820.

For the first three and a half years, all went extremely well. Good-natured, generous and fun-loving, he was soon a popular figure in colonial society. He was made a Justice of the Peace and a

Magistrate. He was elected Foundation President of the newly created Bank of Van Diemen's Land and inaugural Vice-President of the Agricultural Society of Van Diemen's Land. He was granted land and had made wise investments in property. But, in 1824, after only four years in Van Diemen's Land, things went terribly wrong! In 1829, he returned to England in disgrace. Seven years later, he died there, a sick and broken man.

The story of his rise to prominence and his spectacular fall from grace makes fascinating reading.'

**A TALE OF AMBITION AND  
UNREALISED HOPE: John Montagu  
and Sir John Franklin**

This large paperback by Craig R Joel was first published in 2011 and already reprinted for 2012.

'When Sir John Franklin, polar hero and explorer, succeeded George Arthur as the governor of Van Diemen's Land in January 1837, there was an expectation among some of the colonists that the old, autocratic bureaucracy would be replaced by a more liberal regime.

Franklin was, however, inexperienced in penal and colonial affairs; he could not easily evade the advice of Arthur's close officials, the 'action' to their critics. A 'change of men and measures' was not forthcoming, and Franklin relied on Arthur's favourites to administer the penal establishment.

Against a 'backdrop which ranges from London to Hobart, from the imperial metropolis to the colonial frontier, from the empire's hub to its rim', Craig Joel tells how a civil servant came to usurp Franklin's authority in his desire to curry favour with British ministers, and in the process profoundly affected the political development of the colony.' ◀

# Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc. 1788-1868

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

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

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

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

## LIBRARY NOTES

### Former circulating microfiche

Now permanently at:

#### Burnie

National Probate Calendars 1853-1943 and AGCI

#### Hobart

Old Parochial Records, Scotland

#### Huon

GRO Consular Records Index

#### Launceston

1891 Census Indexes for Scotland

Griffith's Valuation for Ireland Series

### Lilian Watson Family History Award 2011 entries

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

## 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 326 Rosny Park  
Tasmania 7018

### Books

<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 3</i> (p&p \$5.50)	\$11.00
<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 4</i> (p&p \$5.50)	\$11.00
<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 5</i> (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
<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$5.00)	\$50.00

### Microfiche

<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$2.00)	\$50.00
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\*\* members discount applies

### Please note Society's change of address:

TFHS Inc.,  
PO Box 326 Rosny Park  
Tasmania 7018

# LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## HOBART BRANCH

### Accessions—Books

- \*Biggs, J; *Tasmania Over Five Generations—Return to Van Diemen's Land.*  
[994.6 BIG]
- Bissett, M & B; *The Weekly Courier—Index to photographs, etc, Vol. 10, 1918.*  
[Q 929.39 BIS]
- \*Clark, J; *People, Places & Plants*
- \*Clegg, J; *Carcoar Historic Village*
- \*Daringhurst Gaol Entrance Book, 1850–1854
- \*Footsteps & voices—*A historical look into the Cascades Female Factory*
- \*Glimpses of Glenorchy
- \*Ginnidera—*Forerunner to Canberra*
- \*History of Wedderburn.
- \*Johnson, J; *Franklin History: 'The Bowmont'—A story of three era.*
- Frost, L; *Abandoned Women—Scottish Convicts Exiled Beyond the Seas.* [364.3709946]
- \*TFHS Inc. Hobart; *Undertakers of Hobart, Vol. III,—Index to Clark Bros. Funeral Records,*  
*Part 3, July 1945–June 1979, A–K.* [Q 929.31099461 UND]  
*Part 3, July 1945–June 1979, L–Z.* [Q 929.31099461 UND]
- TFHS Inc. Launceston; *The Tasmanian Mail—A photographic index, Vol. 11, 1931.*  
[Q 929.38 TAS]
- \**Tasmanian Inventions & Inovations*
- \*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

## LAUNCESTON BRANCH

### Accessions—Books

- Bissett, Muriel & Betty; *The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians*  
*Vol. 11, 1919*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty; *The Weekly Courier : Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices & Personal items of interest to Family Historians*  
*Vol. 12, 1920–21*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol. 12 1932*

### Accessions—CD-Roms

- \*ABM Publishing and S & N Genealogy,  
*1851 Census, Conisford, Norfolk*  
*1861 Census, Dorchester, Dorset*  
*1871 Census, Oxford, Oxfordshire*  
*1871 Census, Leicester – Part*  
*1871 Census, Edmonton, Middlesex – Part*

*Parish Records, Leicestershire, Vol. 1. – Marriages*  
*Parish Records, Essex, Vol. 1 – Marriages*  
*Parish Records, Dorset, Vol. 1 – Marriages*  
*Parish Records, Hertfordshire, Vol. 1 – Marriages*  
*Parish Records, Lincolnshire, Vol. 1 - Marriages*  
*Universal British Directory, Vol. 1, Part 2 – London*  
*Universal British Directory, Vol. 2, Part 1, A-B*  
*Universal British Directory, 1793–1798, Vol. 3, Part 1, E-K*  
*Universal British Directory, 1793–1798, Vol. 4, Part 1, N-S*  
*8 Irish County Index Maps—3 sets*

\*ABM Publishing and S & N Genealogy, *Parish Records, Leicestershire, Vol. 1 – Marriages*

\*Diamond Publishing

*The Norfolk Poll Book*

*The Treble Almanac and Dublin Directory 1783*

*Newcastle Calendar*

*The National Roll of the Great War, 1914–1918*

*London Marriage Licences, 1821–1869*

*Surnames of the United Kingdom, A-Z*

*The Universal Directory of Great Britain, 1791. Vol. 1. London Section*

*The Universal Directory of Great Britain, 1791. Vol. 2. Abbotsford to Dudley*

\*Future Publishing Ltd

*Oxford Listings – Sample*

*Surrey Listings – Sample – Guilford, Farnham & Mickleham*

*Surrey 1851 Post Office Directory*

*1821 Hendon Census - Samples*

*Nottingham Names – Sample – 19th Century*

### **Accessions—CD-Roms**

Archive CD Books, *Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1861–1865*

*Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1866–1870*

\*Donohoe, James Hugh, BA, Dip. FHS—*The Paracensus of Australia 1788–1828*

\*Denotes donated item

## **MERSEY BRANCH**

### **Accessions—Books**

Badcock, Josephene; *Significant Buildings of Kentish*

Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp]; *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians Vol. 11 1919*

Knolle, Wendy K [Comp]; *Index to News Items & Obituaries of WWI Servicemen & Women in Tasmania Weekly Magazines Volume 1 Tasmanian Mail*

Knolle, Wendy K [Comp]; *Index to News Items & Obituaries of WWI Servicemen & Women in Tasmania Weekly Magazines Volume 2 The Weekly Courier*

Knolle, Wendy K; [Comp]; *Index to News Items, Obituaries & Photographs of World War 11 Tasmanian Servicemen & Women published in the Launceston, Tasmania, newspaper The Examiner from 1 January 1942 to 30 June 1943*

Lyons, Peter; *Lasting Legacies*

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\*Indicates donated items

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# BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

**BURNIE** Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103  
Library 2 Spring Street Burnie  
Tuesday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
Saturday 1:00 pm–4:00 pm  
The library is open at 7:00 pm prior to meetings.  
Meeting Branch Library, 2 Spring Street Burnie 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.  
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am except January and February.

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**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  
Meeting Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town, at 7:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

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

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**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034  
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10:00 am–3:00 pm  
Monday to Friday 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.

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**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 'Old police residence' 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)  
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 am–3:00 pm  
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.  
Meeting Generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:00 pm or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com) or contact the Secretary for updates.

# 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](http://www.tasfhs.org) or obtained from the TFHS Inc. Society Secretary, or any branch and be returned with appropriate dues to a branch treasurer. **Interstate and overseas** applications should be mailed to the TFHS Inc. Society Treasurer, PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018. 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 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018.

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