

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 34 Number 3—December 2013

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Society Secretary: secretary@tasfhs.org

Journal Editor: editors@tasfhs.org

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

Patron: Dr Alison Alexander

Fellows: Dr Neil Chick and Mr David Harris

Executive:

President	Maurice Appleyard	(03) 6248 4229
Vice President	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Vice President	Pam Bartlett	(03) 6428 7003
Society Secretary	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Treasurer	Peter Cocker	(03) 6435 4103

Committee:

Helen Anderson	Betty Bissett	Vanessa Blair
Judith Cocker	Geoffrey Dean	Lucille Gee
John Gillham	Libby Gillham	Julie Kapeller
	Dale Smith	

By-laws Coordinator	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Webmaster	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Journal Editor	Rosemary Davidson	(03) 6424 1343
LWFHA Coordinator	Lucille Gee	(03) 6344 7650
Members' Interests Compiler	John Gillham	(03) 6239 6529
Membership Registrar	Muriel Bissett	(03) 6344 4034
Publications Convenor	Bev Richardson	(03) 6225 3292
Public Officer	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Sales Officer	Maurice Appleyard	(03) 6245 9351

Branches of the Society

Burnie: PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320

petjud@bigpond.com

Mersey: PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

secretary@tfhsdev.com

Hobart: PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

Huon: PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

vsbtas@bigpond.com

Launceston: PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

bbissett@bigpond.net.au

Tasmanian Ancestry

Volume 34 Number 3

December 2013

ISSN 0159 0677

Contents

From the editor	126
President's Message	127
Branch Reports	128
<i>Vale Bev Surkevicius</i>	133
Important Notice for all Members	134
<i>Three Austin Sisters attend High School and become Teachers in the Early Twentieth Century, Elizabeth Parkes</i>	135
<i>School Records, the Value of Admission Registers, Betty Jones</i>	143
<i>Mulga Mick; Prospector, Miner, Author and Poet, a Lost Father Rediscovered, John O'Reilly</i>	149
<i>The Wall Breaching Power of a Headstone, Helen White</i>	152
<i>Voices from the Orphan School, George Jones, Apprentice Boy, Dianne Snowden</i> ...	153
Help Wanted	155
New Members' Interests and New Members	156
<i>Partridge Island, 'The Crown has no Claim ...', Part 1, Erika Shankley</i>	159
<i>Francis Flexmore's Encounter with Matthew Brady, Laurie Moody</i>	168
<i>Brickfields Hiring Depot, Anne McMahon</i>	171
<i>James Charlwood, Evandale Bound, Leonie Mickleborough</i>	175
<i>Book Review, Patchwork Prisoners: The Rajah Quilt, Geoff Dean</i>	179
<i>Colonization Circular</i>	180
<i>Genes on Screen, Vee Maddock</i>	181
<i>What is that Publication About?, Maurice Appleyard</i>	183
Library Notes and Society Sales	186
Library Acquisitions	187

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

From the editor

Luckily, or unluckily, the weather has been somewhat chilly and blustery which has assisted me in getting this issue ready for the printer in good time. It has been far too unpleasant to venture out to the garden which is sadly lacking attention.

This issue has become quite school orientated. A fascinating article from Elizabeth Parkes about the life of her mother and several aunties; the Queens Orphan Schools get several mentions and another interesting piece from Betty Jones which includes research into Errol Flynn's early school days.

John O'Reilly has contributed an absorbing but sad story of his father, 'Mulga Mick' and Dianne Snowden's account of the early years of young George Jones makes you hope he overcame the harshness and managed to find a happier life. It would be interesting if we could trace any descendants?

Coincidentally there is another George Jones in Leonie's article about James Charwood on page 175.

Helen White's article will give you pause for thought.

This issue also begins the story of Partridge Island, near Bruny Island, by Erika Shankley. She takes us back to the 1700s and then explores the lives of the first European settlers including the Naughton family.

Another festive season is almost here and I trust it will be safe and happy for everyone. I will be looking forward to receiving more of our members' stories before 1 January 2014—please don't leave it until the last day!

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.

© The contents of *Tasmanian Ancestry* are subject to the provisions of the *Copyright Act* and may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor and author.

Cover: Prefects, Launceston State High School, 1921. See article *Three Austin Sisters attend High School and become Teachers in the Early Twentieth Century*, page 135.

Left to right: back – unknown, Jean Linstead, Ena Smith, Cliff Reeves, Myra Kidd, Charles Stevens

Centre: Jean Kidd, Louisa McKenzie, Lucy Holbrook, Thelma McIvor, Doris Robinson, Olive Challis, unknown, Alice Bevan

Front: Phil Frith, Winnie Carter, Stuart Johnson?, Joy Austin, Mr R O M Miller, Fred Townsend, Mattie McKinnell, John Blake

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOST of you will have already received a copy of *Tasmanian Ancestry* in the new clear envelopes.

As with all new systems we did have a few 'teething' problems with our new distribution method and we apologise to those members who were inconvenienced in any way, by our errors.

It appears that several of the address slips were 'stuck' to the back of another one and a journal was not initially sent out to the second address. Thankfully, members who found a second address slip with their journal did let us know about the error and a copy was sent out, in one of the old envelopes, to those who missed out on the first distribution.

Thank you very much to those members who went to a great deal of trouble to let us know about the 'lost' addresses. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of your fellow members.

If there are other members who did not receive their copy of Vol.34, No.2; please let us know and a copy will be sent out.

Whilst the main reason for the change to the clear envelopes was to enable us to reduce our distribution costs, it has also allowed the Journal to 'advertise' itself as it travels through the postal/distribution system. Positive comments about the appearance of the magazine have already been received.

The new distribution system is largely the work of our innovative Treasurer, Peter Cocker who has been able to steer our budget closer to a near break-even situation.

An easier reminder format for subscription renewal has been trialled by Peter and it should be introduced to all

members with the next issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*; providing easier and more flexible payment options.

To further assist us in operating within our means, the Executive of the Society has decided to increase some membership fees for the 2014–2015 year. Our last increase was at the beginning of the 2010–2011 year.

The new fees will be effective from the 1 April 2014 and will be:

Individual members	\$40.00
Joint members *	\$50.00
Australian concession	\$30.00
Joint concession *	\$40.00

* (2 people at one address) ◀

Maurice Appleyard



CASTLEMAINE, August 9.

An extraordinary occurrence was reported to-day. An old woman named Catherine Ryan, better known as "Cumberland Kate," was proceeding to her residence in the diggings, near Clinker's-hill, on the night of the 31st ult., with the aid of a lantern. Nothing further was heard of her until the 7th inst., when a miner named Thomas Bees, a resident of Campbell's Creek, while walking across the diggings heard a cry. He proceeded to the hole whence the cry emanated, and to his astonishment saw Mrs. Ryan at the bottom of a hole 30ft. deep. She was brought to the surface, and found to be uninjured. She stated that she had been in the hole for seven days, and that she had sustained herself by catching as much water as possible in her hands during the recent heavy rains and drinking it.

The Mercury, 13 August 1894, p.3, c.2

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

[http://www.clients.tas.webnet.com.au/
general/burnbranch.htm](http://www.clients.tas.webnet.com.au/general/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 Burnie Branch has now embraced the on-line social media phenomena. It was decided several weeks ago to establish a Facebook

page. With understandable mixed feelings from our members the 'likes' that our page has received is gradually increasing. The content we hope to have on our page will include tips and help topics related to Tasmanian Family History, in particular the North West Coast. It will also be a site where branch information, news and meeting information will be posted. Together with our mailing list these two communication platforms will be the main method of informing our members of what is happening.

I encourage all to have a look at our branch Facebook page and 'like' us. The web address is <https://www.facebook.com/BurnieBranchTasFHSInc>

A very interesting talk by member Derek Smith on the Alexander Family was given at our August Day Meeting. The Alexander family settled in the Wynyard area and one of their members, Frederick M Alexander, became famous by his development of an educational process which became known as the Alexander Technique. Derek, through his teaching of the Technique, became interested in

the whole family and has researched many branches of the family both in Australia and overseas.

September turned out to be a technology month as our day meeting was based on new technology such as WiFi SD cards and new web sites for family history. This was followed by a Saturday morning workshop based on *Family Tree Maker* software and procedures to import media items. This was well attended and for a small registration fee members not only gained help with *FTM* but also enjoyed a bountiful morning tea.

The Burnie Branch would like to extend to members all the best for the coming season and hope that next year will be the year to break down those brick walls, also a big thank you to all the committee and volunteers who have helped our branch throughout the year.

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 committee of the Hobart Branch has continued its policy of being more proactive this year in putting itself in the public eye and providing more services for members and non-members. To date the branch has paid for on-screen advertising at the State

Cinema during March; conducted a successful 'Become your family's historian' series of workshops (to be repeated at least once in 2014); and participated in Tasmanian Heritage Week by offering free Branch Library access to non-members for the month of May.

National Family History Month was celebrated in August by again opening the Branch Library to non-members for no fee. In addition, member and library volunteer Michael Stevenson conducted a workshop—'Get the most from Trove'—in which he demonstrated techniques and ways of using the National Library of Australia website. In addition he produced a comprehensive set of notes. Again, such was the success of this session that it planned to repeat the workshop at later dates.

By the time this report is published the branch will have conducted two sessions of 'Breaking down your brickwalls' in which library volunteers with different expertise will be on hand to assist members and non-members with their family research 'stubborn problems'. In addition, the branch will have participated in the Bellerive Seafarers' Festival (Sunday, 29 October on the Bellerive Boardwalk, across Cambridge Road from our Branch Library) by setting up an information booth and a collection of books with a nautical theme.

Following the lead from Burnie Branch the Hobart Branch has established a service to assist members and non-member to purchase certificates from the UK General Records Office. Details are available at the Branch Library.

Tasmanian Community Fund

Hobart Branch was successful in a recent application for funding under of the Tasmanian Community Fund scheme. The grant of \$2600 has enabled the Branch

Library to upgrade its computer equipment with the purchase of a central storage unit and replacing computer monitors with flat screen, low energy monitors. The installation of a 12 Terabyte storage unit will house the branch's electronic resource material and produce immediate benefits in easier access to the data, increase storage space and more secure long-term storage of the valuable CD collection held by the Library. Stage One of the Project has already been completed. The physically smaller equipment provides more desk space for users. In addition, new computers have been installed in the workspaces dedicated to *Ancestry.com*. The benefit of these upgraded computers ensures we have continued compatibility with the latest developments of this database.

The branch is indebted to the Tasmanian Community Fund for this grant and acknowledges its assistance and generosity.

General Meetings

Our monthly general meetings continue to be well attended. Our guest speakers have, without exception been interesting, informative and entertaining.

Our guest speaker for the month of July was one of our regular attendees at our meetings, Andrew Cocker. Andrew presented an interesting account of the life of his great-great grandmother 'A very bad child— Sarah Elizabeth Briggs'. Andrew began the story of Sarah by detailing the life of Sarah's father Isaac Briggs (born 1789) and mother Alice Deane (born Halifax 1828). Isaac, a wool sorter/comber, was convicted of uttering forged notes in 1828 and sentenced to death. He was given a reprieve and sentenced to transportation for life. He spent at least four months on a hulk in the Thames before being transported in 1829

on the *Lady Harewood*. In VDL he spent time at the Hobart Penitentiary before being transferred to the Female Factory at South Hobart and in 1829 to Maria Island where his experience with wool was used to make garments for convicts. In November 1842 he was sent to Port Arthur, probably for bad behavior, arising from drinking. He died in 1852. His wife Alice, with daughter Sarah, left England in 1838 to join her husband. En route to Sydney the ship ran aground at Cape Town with no loss of life. Due to very bad weather the trip from Sydney to Hobart on the *Medway* took five weeks during which time Alice died and was buried at sea. One of the other passengers was Lady Jane Franklin—these events are recorded in Lady Jane's journals—who took an interest in Sarah (then 11 or 12 years old) and arranged for her to enter the Queen's Orphan Schools where she stayed until 1841. From the journal ...

She [Sarah] did not express any sorrow at her mother's death, but could have wished she had been buried on the land, she said – I mentioned at tea the favourable impression she had produced on me and then found that all the gentlemen partly Wright, Grant, Braim and Elliot agreed in thinking her very bad child and Captain who was never mistaken – he said in anyone's countenance thought she had one of the worst he had ever met.

Sarah (17) married John Cocker, who had been transported for desertion, in 1845 and they had 11 children. They moved northward to Barrington in a series of moves including to Campbell Town, Hadspen and Westbury. Sarah died in 1874. [See www.cocker.id.au].

Another regular attendee at our meetings, Maree Ring, was our guest speaker for the National Family History Month of

August. Maree's topic was 'Lost and rare convict records'. The introduction to the talk was an overview of the convict system and the history of record keeping in relation to convicts and related activities in VDL. Lt-Gov George Arthur was responsible for the procedure that was established to accurately records details of convicts and their movements - the Black Books. From the arrival of the *Calcutta* onwards there were 81940 names recorded and these are the basis of the Tasmanian Convict Database. The Tasmanian Female Factory Research Group has listed 13675 female records.

Between 1888 and 1890 it is estimated 50 sacks of documents were destroyed by dumping them in the Derwent River. These documents included the Port Arthur Library collection of New Testaments and Bibles. In subsequent years more documents were destroyed. In 1899 some documents were sold to collectors and were sold on to Angus and Robertson in Sydney; others were sold on to the Mitchell Library and now are referred to as the Dixon Collection. Some Campbell Street Gaol records were transferred to the State Archives but many were purposely destroyed by fire. One Maria Island record no longer fully exists following a boast Bernacchi made at a dinner he was hosting that he had access to family connections of his guests. Some pages have simply been removed from existing records, including that of Charles Davis.

Maree also spoke about and demonstrated how different documents record varying descriptions and interpretations of physical features of convicts, such as visage, hair colour etc. and changes that occurred in these physical features between transportation records and other records such as Certificate of Freedom. Several charts were shown on how Task

Work was implemented and used for those going through the Probation system with some convicts able to gain time off probation by working more proficiently.

Most of the attendees were unaware of the extent to which records have been lost or destroyed.

Dr Kris Harman from the University of Tasmania School of Humanities was the guest speaker at the September meeting. Her topic was 'Aboriginal convicts: Australian, Khoisan and Maori exiles.' Her interest in the Maori aspect of her talk was sparked by a visit to Maria Island where she saw the 1840s grave and headstone of Hohepa Te Umuroa. The talk focused on three groups of convicts—indigenous Australian aborigines, Maori and Cape Colony (South Africa) convicts, or as Kris preferred to call them, exiles. In her study of NSW records she identified 90 male Aboriginal convicts (1805 to the 1860s); 6 male Maori convicts (1846–1851); and 18 to 20 Khoisan convicts and 12 male soldier convicts from the Cape Colony of South Africa (1820–1851). Only one female convict was found and she had been found guilty of culpable homicide. The predominance of males was due to the frontier wars that were taking place at the time. All of the convicts had conduct records as for other convicts. Mosquito and Bulldog were two well-known Aboriginal convicts from the Hawkesbury River area north of Sydney. Mosquito spent time on Norfolk Island before being transferred to VDL where he was eventually hanged at the Campbell Street Gaol.

The term Khoisan is a combination of Khoi-khoi and San, two groups of the Cape Colony. While not being slaves, they were indentured labourers. One, David Stuurman, was the last of the Khoi

to own land. He died in the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney before he was due to be repatriated to South Africa.

New Zealand North Island frontier was involved mixed groups of indigenous men and some were all white groups. An early fracas was at Hutt River—1846 Boulcott's Farm Stockade—where there were white and Maori deaths. Five were sentenced for transportation for 'life'. One was Hohepa Te Umuroa, transported to Van Diemen's Land and then transferred to Maria Island. He died on Maria Island and headstone still remains there. His remains were repatriated to NZ in 1988.

This was a wonderful presentation and very much enjoyed by those present.

Reports of the October and November speakers—Donald Howatson: 'The story of New Town street by street' and Andrea Gerrard: 'Brownells, Tasmania's greatest department store'—will be included in the next issue of the journal.

As we approach the end of 2013 speakers are being organised for the 2014 calendar year but are yet to be finalized:

18 February: TBA

18 March: TBA

15 April: TBA

Volunteers and nominations/suggestions are always welcome.

Members are reminded that all general meetings are held at 'The Sunday School' St John's Park Precinct, New Town on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. While the topic of the monthly talks—on paper, at least—might not seem to be relevant to attendees' research, the presentations this year have been engaging and have provoked stimulating questions and discussion. Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

Family History Computer Users Group

The Computer Group is an active group of members who meet in the Branch Library (enter via the car park door) on the second Wednesday of each month under the expert leadership of Vee Mad-dock. Topics are varied and members are encouraged to share their problems and solutions.

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

Howard Reeves Branch Secretary

Huon

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

No report received

Launceston

<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org>
President Russell Watson (03) 6334 4412
Secretary Muriel Bissett (03) 6344 4034
PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250
secretary: bbissett@bigpond.net.au



Library refurbished: the layout has been revamped during several months and finishing touches have now been completed. Do come in

and make use of the enlarged work area and much more user-friendly facilities. Thanks to Anita Swan and Irene Taylor for their time and expertise in this area.

Workshop: in September, there was a good attendance at the 'Irish Research' Workshop.

Seniors' Week: The Branch was pleased with the number who attended the special

open day on Thursday 3 October, at the Stables. Time for each booking was limited to one hour, so that we could be of help to the maximum number who were interested in learning how to start their research. 'Thank You' to the willing volunteers who helped out on this extra opening day.

Website: Barrie and Janice Robinson are enjoying a five month break on a mainland safari. Barrie has kept in touch during this time and we thank him for keeping the website up-to-date.

VALE

Richard Alan (Alan) Leighton, Member 3484, passed away on 24 September after an extended period of ill health. Our sincere love and sympathy is extended to Bev and the family.

Alan joined the Launceston Branch on 31 August 1993 and from the outset played an active part on the management committee. Offices Alan held included: 1997–1999: Branch Vice-President. 2000–2001: Branch Treasurer. 2001–2002: Delegate to the Society Executive.

For a number of years Alan took on the huge responsibility of photocopying and binding all of the Branch publications, as well as the arduous job of looking after the maintenance of equipment.

The Examiner newspaper commenced placing the Personal Notices online in September 2000 and from that time until recently, Alan served the Branch by downloading the notices daily, ready for formatting.

Library: Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.—phone (03) 6344 4034.

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

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

Mersey

www.tfhdev.com

President Ros Coss

Secretary Sue-Ellen McCreghan

(03) 6428 6328

Library (03) 6426 2257

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

email: secretary@tfhdev.com



We have hibernated over the past few months and hope that spring will be bringing everyone out.

Christmas time is nearly here once again. We

had a wet winter and a very chilly one so it is nice to see the warm weather again.

Over the past few months we have had several what we call Cemetery walks. The latest being the Ulverstone Cemetery where we have been taking photos of the graves and headstones. We had eleven members there on a very windy day.

Over the winter we had new floor coverings laid in our library, in our kitchen, hallway and toilets. Looks amazing. We also had bats put in our ceiling and this has helped with the cold. We have our annual money raiser the Christmas Raffle, which will have three prizes, a Hamper, Decorated Cake and Wine. If you run out of ideas of what to buy for a Christmas present, come and visit us there maybe a recent publication or a voucher that would be well received.

Arrangements have been made for our Christmas Luncheon at Bellies in Gilbert Street Latrobe for Sunday 8 December at 12 when our Raffle will be drawn. Our Library closes on 6 December and reopens 7 January. Please have a very safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep up to date with our informative website. And remember to visit the Library—you will be so glad you did. ◀

VALE

BEVERLEY ANN SURKEVICIUS

(11 May 1929–18 July 2013)

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of one of our ‘founding members’. *Tasmanian Ancestry* Volume 1, Number 1, (June 1980) shows Mrs Beverley A Surkevicius was among the 101 foundation members of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania (the previous name of our Society).

Beverley was born in Devonport, the daughter of the late Roy and Vivian Best.

Despite her high Membership No.5345, (probably brought about when the numbering system was changed some time ago. Joint members once had the same number with the suffix A or B) Beverley was a member of the Tasmanian Group of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies that evolved into the GST.

It would appear that Beverley has been a staunch supporter of our Society from its commencement in 1980.

Early this month, following a decision to retire from the active pursuit of family history research, the Hobart Branch received a number of generous donations of family history material from Beverley. Amongst a wide range of family history journals, from the UK and Australia, were a full set of *Tasmanian Ancestry* (including the very scarce early issues) and many antiquarian copies of the AIGS journal *The Genealogist*.

A prized addition to our archive collection was Vol. 11, No. 11, the ‘Special Tasmanian Issue’ of *The Genealogist*. The Articles and Papers were provided by the Tasmanian Group with various articles written by Lilian Watson, Pamela Clark, John Marrison, and Neil Chick. ◀

MWA

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS

Please do not discard the address label enclosed with your journal

Renewal information for the coming Membership Year

This year the address label for your *Tasmanian Ancestry* journal is also your renewal invoice. The renewal labels will always be coloured, this year it is green. You have two different options of renewal which are described on the back of the label. You can also submit your research interests in the space provided. Please check your details carefully and indicate any corrections on the label.

If your label is white it indicates that you are already financial for the coming year and you do not have to renew until next year. You still can submit your research interests for the coming membership year however. Also you can make a donation to our society by one of the payment methods on the back of the label, which is tax deductible.

Fees may still be paid by cash, cheque or Postal Money Order at the counter of any of our five branches.

Remember the membership year ends on 31 March each year and if you do not renew, the March journal will be your last. If you have destroyed or lost your label from this journal, your address label for the March journal will duplicate this month's membership renewal advice.

Peter Cocker
Treasurer

THREE AUSTIN SISTERS

ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL AND BECOME TEACHERS IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Elizabeth Parkes (Member No.337)

THREE AUSTIN sisters attended the Launceston State High School between 1917 and 1926 and went to the Teachers' College in Hobart (also called the Philip Smith Teachers' College in its early years). They were Lala Maria (1903–1924), Joy Alice (1905–1972) and Gladys Mary (1909–2002). Their eldest sister Ada Beatrice (1881–1945) also became a teacher under very different circumstances and Gladys' future husband, Eric William George COULSON, also attended the teacher's college and became a teacher.

The sisters were born in the first decade of the twentieth century and their histories indicate much about the role of women in education from early in the twentieth century. Similar points could be made about men of their generation but apart from a brief account of Eric Coulson's education and teaching, this article focuses on women, in particular the Austin sisters.

Their parents were John Arnold and Alice Matilda (née DIPROSE) Austin and they were the youngest girls in a family of fourteen surviving children. Seventeen children were born to John Arnold and Alice Matilda. As well, John Arnold had children by his first marriage. They spent their first years on the Austin farm at Sisters Creek on the North-West Coast of Tasmania. In the early twentieth century their father, with some of his sons, was still clearing the heavily forested land in this remote part of Tasmania. The railway line along the coast only reached

nearby Myalla in 1913. All three sisters started their schooling at the Sisters Creek Primary School, but Gladys completed her primary school years at other schools.

Their father died in early 1915. He regarded education as important and this is reflected in his will. He made provision for his wife to maintain and educate his children who were still minors. Despite the fact that from the time of his death money was short, his three youngest daughters completed their secondary education, undertook teacher training and taught, for a short time in the case of Lala and Gladys for very different reasons, and for many years in the case of Joy. Being amongst the youngest of their generation (siblings and Diprose first cousins—153 in all), the three Austin girls, were able to take advantage of the newly established government secondary schools in Tasmania, as did their first cousin Florence Mabel Diprose (1901–1975), who also attended the high school in Launceston and taught for a short while. The existence of the high schools, initially Hobart State High School and Launceston State High School, and monetary support provided by the Education Department meant that for the first time bright girls from families with limited means, and in the case of the Austin sisters, from rural and remote areas, had the chance to get secondary and tertiary education and undertake a professional career. The Education Department's monetary support included probationary studentships at

high school and student allowances at teachers' college. These had additional living away from home allowances. While they were students, male and female allowances were the same but once they started teaching, female salaries were much lower and remained that way until the early 1970s!

Mr R O M MILLER, Headmaster of Launceston State High School, at the time the Austin sisters attended, acknowledged the opportunities made possible for students attending high schools. In his annual report given in March 1924, a lengthy document, he said:

The school was opened in 1913. Since that time the school has given a good sound secondary education to 1000 pupils, the majority of whom would not have had the benefits of higher education were it not for the establishment of state secondary educational institutions. Since we opened, 675 of our pupils have passed the junior public or intermediate examination, and 170 have passed the senior or leaving. Of the latter, a large number have proceeded to the highest educational institution in the land, viz., the University.¹

Despite the opportunities presented by the opening of the high schools, only a small percentage of children went to a high school.

Returning to their primary schooling, the three sisters again were fortunate in that the purpose built Sisters Creek Primary School started taking enrolments in about 1908. This was about half a kilometre from the Austin house.²

¹ *Examiner*, 13 March 1924, p.8 - accessed via Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au>, August 2013

² There was an earlier school in the church about two kilometres to the east of the new school. It had started by about 1895

From the start of the listings of the teachers in the Sisters Creek School register in April 1906 until December 1915, there had been nine or ten teachers in charge, some staying for only a few months. This was perhaps an indication of the difficulty in getting teachers to stay in isolated country schools early in the twentieth century. As well, the quality of the teaching varied greatly from bad to very good. Across the time the Austin sisters attended the school the numbers of pupils ranged from about 55 to nearly 80. Joy remembered that the Austin children were always top students at the school and that there was much bullying and rough play.

Despite difficulties with the school, the sisters all passed the Qualifying Examination which was essential to gain entry to the new high schools. Lala and Joy did this from Sisters Creek Primary School but Gladys did so from Wellington Square Primary School, Launceston.

During their high school and teacher training years, the girls supported themselves as much as they could, with probationary studentships at high school, student allowances at teachers' college and university, and, in the case of Joy and Gladys, University scholarships. Members of the Austin family encouraged and supported them in various ways.

The three Austin sisters went on to do teacher training and two gained degrees at a time when few, especially females, had a chance to undertake tertiary studies. Gladys and Joy had to resign on marriage, although Joy was able to return to teaching after her husband died.

Lala Maria Austin

21 February 1903 – 11 January 1924

Lala attended Sisters Creek School, from 27 April 1908. She passed the Education Department Qualifying Exam in 1916 and

was the first of the Austin girls to go to high school.

She started at Launceston State High School at the beginning of 1917, with her friend, Ida WALTERS and they boarded at the Misses DASHWOODS' boarding house, 5 York Street. She was joined by Joy at the boarding house in 1918. Lala was at high school for four years, and in her final two years she was a prefect. She sat the Senior Public Examination at the end of 1920.

In 1921, Lala was a junior teacher at Rocky Cape School, west of Sisters Creek. As she did not matriculate (she did not pass French), she did the teacher training D Course at the Teachers' College, Hobart, taking the examinations in December 1922, at the same time as Joy. For most of 1923, Lala was at Lilydale teaching infants, while her eldest sister Ada was teaching at nearby Underwood. At Lilydale, Lala boarded with her much older first cousin, Rebecca

VERTIGAN (née SMITH) and Rebecca's husband, Syd, a Presbyterian Minister at that time. She was in hospital for five weeks with peritonitis, as the result of a burst appendix and died in January 1924, aged nearly twenty-one years. She had only been at Lilydale a short while, but the comments in the 'obituary' notice says

When the news became known that Miss Lala M. Austin had passed away at the Public Hospital, Launceston (where an

operation for appendicitis was performed shortly before Christmas) on Friday, sincere expressions of regret were heard. The late Miss L. M. Austin had been assistant teacher in the state school during the last ten months. Her bright genial disposition, both in her duties and outside, gained her many friends in the district by whom she will be greatly missed.³

Joy Alice Austin

22 March 1905 – 29 March 1972

Joy was very keen to start school and she used to tell the story of how she took herself off to school at a very young age.

She just turned up one day in her dirty 'pinny', saying she was going to start school and so she did, for a short time! Joy was enrolled again at Sisters Creek School, at the beginning of February 1910 and passed the Qualifying Examination at the end of 1917. She started at the Launceston State High School in 1918 and was a keen student. She did very well in the Senior Public examinations

and gained a University Scholarship. Joy always spoke highly of the principal at the high school, Mr R O M Miller. She was the female senior prefect in 1921 and continued as a prefect in the first half of 1922, as it was considered that she was too young to do the usual period of junior



Lala Maria Austin 1903–1924

³ Fom a cutting: 'Lilydale. By Electra', kept by Lala's sister Elsie Austin – newspaper and date unknown

teaching. For most of her time at high school, Joy boarded with Lala at the Misses Dashwoods' house, but in mid 1921, when her mother moved to the new Austin home in Invermay, Joy moved home.

The authorities relented and Joy started at the Teachers' College, Hobart, in July 1922. It was unusual that a student attended college without doing time as a junior teacher. She did the B course, which most matriculants did. It involved six months at the teachers' college and then the first year of a degree. She started her Science degree at the University of Tasmania in 1923. After that year, she had to complete her degree part-time while teaching, as did other teachers in those years. University classes in the Science subjects were very small at this time and from 1924 Joy was the only woman

studying the subjects she took. She studied Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics and was the first woman to gain a double major in Mathematics. By 1931 about ninety men had graduated in Science from the University of Tasmania. Joy was the ninth woman to do so, graduating in May 1931.

In 1924, Joy taught at Burnie Intermediate High School. After that year she alternated between Hobart High School and Launceston High School until 1942 when she took leave and then resigned to be married. For much of that time, she

taught the senior classes in Mathematics, and also taught Science subjects. For much of her teaching career, Joy coached girls' hockey teams.

Joy married Archibald Reginald PARKES (1897–1948), a widower with four children, and at the time of his marriage to Joy, Registrar of Mines and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Launceston.

They were married in July 1942 and they had one daughter, the author, in 1943. Not long after their marriage, Arch developed multiple sclerosis and was ill for some years. He died in early 1948. Finances had been tight during his illness and after Arch's death, so Joy had to earn some money. She coached students at home, taught some night classes at the Technical College and taught for a time at Broadland House



Joy Alice Austin 1905–1972

private school.

Joy and her daughter went to live with her sister Elsie Austin at *Fairmount*, East Devonport, about June 1948 for a few years, so Elsie could look after Joy's daughter then Joy and her daughter moved to West Devonport in early 1952. Joy returned to teaching, initially at Burnie High School for the rest of 1948, and then at Devonport High School, teaching Mathematics, until she retired early in 1965.

Joy died suddenly of a stroke in March 1972, aged just sixty-seven years.

Gladys Mary Austin

4 March 1909 – 19 September 2002

In March 1914, Gladys started at Sisters Creek School, but in January 1915, her beloved father died and the next year the family moved to nearby Myalla. She attended the school there for three years, then the school at Somerset. After that she and her mother moved several times, settling in Launceston in July 1921 where Gladys attended Wellington Square Primary School.

Gladys was always keen on schoolwork and benefited from the high standard of teaching at the larger school in Launceston, as well as help from her sister Joy. At the end of 1922 she passed the Qualifying Examination for high school entry, and did well in her exams at Launceston State High School. At the Leaving Examination at the end of 1926, she gained a scholarship to the University of Tasmania.

For the first six months of 1927, Gladys was a junior teacher at Invermay Infant School and in the second half did her teacher training at Teachers' College, Hobart, taking the B course. In 1928, she started her Arts degree at the University of Tasmania and her Bachelor of Arts degree was conferred in May 1932.

Gladys taught for four years, the first two in Hobart taking infant classes then at Stanley for two years in 1931 and 1932, taking high school classes, quite a contrast to her two years as an infant teacher.

Gladys married Eric William George Coulson (1908–1961) in December 1932

at Stanley. Henry Austin, her half brother and owner of the *Bay View* Hotel, Stanley, gave Gladys away. The wedding was reported in the *The Advocate*, 6 January 1933, p.7. (The date of the wedding is incorrect in this article). Interestingly, and oddly, reference was made to 'Miss Gladys M. Austin, B.A.', 'Mr. Eric Coulson, B.Sc.' and 'Miss Joy Austin, B.Sc.', presumably a reflection of the fact it was very unusual for a bride and groom

and sister of the bride to all have degrees (or have completed the qualifications in Eric's case).

Gladys had to resign, as married women could not teach unless there were special circumstances. She did not teach again. Eric grew up at the farm *Rostella*, Dilston, on the Tamar River, and went to Launceston State High School. He also did his teacher training at the teachers' college in



Gladys Mary Austin 1909–2002

Hobart, in the second half of 1926. The following year he started his Science degree at the University of Tasmania which he completed part-time while he taught in Hobart, Devonport and Queenstown. He graduated in May 1933.

Eric taught in Queenstown for a few years, and their only surviving son was born there. Eric then taught at Launceston High School for two years, in 1936 and 1937, and then at Burnie for three years, until the end of 1940, when he joined the Air Force as an Education Officer during World War Two. Eric obtained a discharge from the Air Force and accepted a position in charge of

Mathematics and Physics at the Launceston Technical School in February 1945. As well as teaching, Eric managed the farm at Dilston. Eric died in October 1961, aged fifty-seven years, from a severe heart attack, and Gladys in September 2002, aged ninety-three years.

The eldest Austin sister, Ada, had very different education and teaching experiences from her younger sisters and brother-in-law Eric Coulson.

Ada Beatrice Austin
18 February 1881 – 27 February 1945

Ada, the eldest child of Alice and John ARNOLD, was born at the Don to the west of Devonport. It is not known how much formal education she had, likely very little. There was no school at Sisters Creek when the Austins moved there to farm at the end of 1889 and the older members of the family were very fortunate the ROSS family moved to the district. They were educated by Mrs

ROSS, in a hut behind the house, and presumably she received some payment. Her youngest sister, Gladys, remembered that Ada was knowledgeable in history and literature and used to read by lamp late at night. From a young age, Ada suffered from rheumatism or arthritis. At the Sisters Creek home, Ada was in charge of the shop.

After her father's death in January 1915, and at the age of thirty-four years, Ada had to earn a living. She was one of the teachers, usually young women, who

undertook a short teacher training course, and 'were destined to teach in small schools in isolated country districts.'

In January 1917 Ada was on the list of candidates who had 'passed the recent examination for the position of provisional teacher'. They had 'to pass a satisfactory examination in reading, spelling, grammar, composition, writing, arithmetic, geography and history ... and to give satisfactory evidence of good moral character and physical fitness.'

Provisional schools were established in a district when there were between ten and 20 children in regular attendance. From 1919 Ada was an uncertificated teacher.

She started teaching in 1917 and taught for fourteen years at a number of country schools, usually as the only teacher, teaching classes from prep to grade six. The numbers enrolled were mostly about twenty pupils. Ada had little formal education, but studied to gain extra

qualifications, and in 1920 finally passed the Junior Public Examination.

In 1923, she taught at Underwood, while her younger sister, Lala, was at the nearby Lilydale School. Her health had always been poor and deteriorated markedly in her last years of teaching.

The inspectors' reports can be very revealing about the schools and in the case of single teacher schools, about the teacher.⁴ The reports tell quite a story



Ada Beatrice Austin 1881–1945

⁴ Inspectors' reports for state schools where Ada taught – TAHO ED31/16 to ED31/32

about Ada's trials and tribulations as well as the good points in her teaching career.

Despite her limitations as a teacher (as reflected in the inspectors' reports), her influence on students was beneficial and she had the support of parents. The inspectors were often critical and there were times when she wrote strong letters refuting the points made or explaining them. Her health was never good and deteriorated markedly in her last years of teaching. For the first time, in 1921, a school inspector commented on her health problems. Ada's last school was Bishopsbourne, thirty-four kilometres south of Launceston, where she taught for six and a half years. The final report was in April 1931, just two weeks after her mother's death. HUGHES, the school inspector, who was new to Ada, wrote sympathetically:

For a number of years Miss Austin has been a martyr to rheumatism and so acute is it at the present time that she is almost an invalid. Even with the aid of a walking stick, she experiences the greatest difficulty in moving about the room and consequently she practically conducts the school from her chair.

As a teacher Miss Austin gives faithful and conscientious service to the limits of her ability and attainments.

It is not surprising that in the following month Ada's services were terminated on account of ill-health. Despite her age and infirmities, Ada's experience in many ways reflected that of female teachers who taught in small rural schools.

Fairly soon after she stopped teaching, Ada established a shop at East Devonport, not far from the ferry across the Mersey River. She died at the Devon Public Hospital, Latrobe, aged sixty-four years. She was buried at the Old Don

Congregational Cemetery with her father, his first wife and two of her half-sisters.

Conclusion

It is far beyond the scope of this article, but it would be interesting to analyse the life experiences of female students who attended the Teachers' College in the first decades of the twentieth century. Lists are in the *The Educational Record* from 1911. There are items throughout the journal about staff movements and examination results. The lists include students in the various courses at the college and staff at all schools. These would provide a basis for research on high school qualifications, which course they did at teachers' college, how many years teachers were listed and where they taught, when they resigned (often because of marriage) and those who returned to teaching or, in a few cases, entered public life.

Going through these lists, the author recognised the names of female teachers in high schools who appeared to be strong personalities, able, sometimes inspiring and who had an impact on generations of students. It would be unwise to name any, as others would be just as notable. A few went on to achieve much in other areas after some years teaching. One such woman was Dorothy Edna Annie EDWARDS (née FLEMING) (20 June 1907 – 9 March 2006), who contributed much to civic and cultural life in Tasmania.

The experiences of the Austin sisters represents many female teachers of their time—from Joy and Gladys, who were fairly unusual in that they gained degrees, to the struggles of Ada to gain minimal teacher qualifications and who taught in small country schools.

(they are organised by year, then by school number)

References

Biographies are adapted from those in *Thomas Diprose and Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's Land. Strangers*, Volume 2 and some information from Volume 1, by Elizabeth Parkes and Jean Doggett, self published, 2008 - available for sale until June 2014. See www.diprosefamilybook.com, until c.May 2014. (Full details of sources used are available in end notes in Volumes 1 and 2 of the Diprose book)

Relevant years of Northern *Churinga*, magazine of Launceston High School, *The Educational Record*, 1905–1967 (the official gazette of the Education Department of Tasmania) & *Calendar of the University of Tasmania*

R Davis, *Open to talent. The centenary history of the University of Tasmania 1890–1990*, University of Tasmania, 1990.

D Phillips, *Making more adequate provision. State education in Tasmania, 1839–1985*, Tasmanian Government Printer for the Education Department of Tasmania, 1985

Digitised newspapers via the National Library of Australia's Trove. These include, among many other items of interest, lists of high school examination results

There is a wealth of primary sources in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO) - the Archives Office of Tasmania. These include:

Sisters Creek Primary School Admission Register, vol. 1 - AC633 & Somerset Primary School Admission Register - ED276/1; Qualifying Examination - ED 244/3; Junior Public Examination (JPE) – 1913–1926 - AB664/1 (Ed Dept record), & Results, JPE - AE350/1/4, (Uni of Tas record); Senior Public Examination - AE359/1/1, AE350/1/4, AE379/1 & Record of student qualifications - AE354/1/3 & 4 (Uni of Tas records); Register of applications, and examination results, for probationary teacher- students - ED236/1; Roll Book of Graduates - AE377 (Uni of Tas); Inspectors' reports on staff, teaching and organisation of schools - ED31 (primary schools). ◀

The idea for this article was sparked by the centenaries of the Launceston State High School/Launceston College and the Philip Smith building, Domain, Hobart. Two books are forthcoming on education in Tasmania.

Launceston High School/ Launceston College Centenary book

The book will be 300 pages, obtainable from Launceston College and the cost is \$30 plus \$5 for postage. (A shorter version of this article will be in this book. There will also be an entry in the book on Dorothy Edwards, written by Elizabeth Parkes).

Contact details and information about when the book will be available:

Launceston College
PO Box 2062 Launceston Tasmania 7250
phone (03) 6332 7777
or email

launceston.college@education.tas.gov.au

A second book on the History of the Philip Smith building

on the Domain, Hobart is being compiled by members of the University of the Third Age (U3A) Hobart Branch.

The teachers' college building was opened at the site in 2011 and the story continues until 2013. It is planned to publish this book by the end of 2013. If you are interested in more details and/or buying a copy contact me (give an email address if possible) and I will pass on details to the relevant person.

Elizabeth Parkes
PO Box 167 Lindisfarne Tasmania 7015
ph (03) 6243 9369 or email
diprosebook.strangers@inet.net.au

SCHOOL RECORDS

THE VALUE OF ADMISSION REGISTERS

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



ERROL FLYNN is arguably Tasmania's most famous native-born international film actor, his Hollywood career spanning more than twenty years before his death in Canada in 1959 at the age of only 50. His starring roles in numerous films, including the 1938 production of *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, have been enjoyed by movie-watchers over several generations, and the one hundredth anniversary of his birth in Hobart was marked appropriately in 2009 with various celebrations. Much information is available now about Flynn's life, including details about his education. It is often noted that he went to various schools in Sydney and that he was also educated in England.¹ What is not always highlighted, however, is the fact that the actor also received some of his schooling in Tasmania.

Errol was enrolled at Elizabeth Street State School (in Hobart) on 9 September 1918 in Grade 111. The official school admission register states that he was born on 20 June 1909, and his religion was Church of England. His father, Theodore Thompson Flynn, was noted as a Professor [of Marine Biology at the

University of Tasmanian from 1911–1931] and their address was 'Westella' [181 Elizabeth Street, Hobart]. It is stated that Errol had previously gone to school in Sydney. He left for Albuera Street State School in November 1918, having attended at Elizabeth Street for 40 school days.² The entry for him at Albuera Street is dated 5 November 1918 and gives his address as Duke Street, Sandy Bay, thus explaining the reason for the change of schools. He is recorded as attending for 48 school days before leaving for Sydney in March 1919.³

Errol returned to Hobart in 1924, this time enrolling at Hobart High School in July of that year under the name of Errol Leslie FLYNN. He left in December 1925, his age then being 16. During that period the Flynn family lived at 'Pressland House' at 33 Melville Street⁴ [which operated in the 1840s as The Commercial Academy for boys, under the headship of Thomas Pressland COWLE].

The above information is an example of what family historians may find in school admission registers if their ancestors, famous or not, attended Tasmanian State schools. The Tasmanian Archive and

¹ Penny Armstrong, *Errol Flynn's Paternal Ancestry*, in *Australian Family Tree Connections*, July 2009, p.19

² TAHO: ED148

³ TAHO: AB860

⁴ TAHO: AA984/1/1

Heritage Office (TAHO) hold a number of such documents, the majority of which are available for viewing on microfilm.

The oldest surviving State school registers available at TAHO:

Sandy Bay from 1853, Ulverstone from 1870, Mathinna from 1872, Campbell Town from 1877, Hagley from 1879, Wynyard from 1879, Smithton from 1880, Penguin (Creek) from 1882, Stanley 1887–1906

What the registers contain:

- Date of entry to and exit from the school;
- Name (often with full Christian names), religion and date of birth/ or age in years and months on admission;
- Name of guardian (in most cases, male) and their occupation;
- Address at time of enrolment;
- Distance of residence from school;
- Last school attended (where applicable), date of leaving, and grade level at last school;
- Attendance details for each term while enrolled;
- Reason for leaving, or next school to be attended.

Some interesting points from the early registers:

- Occupations (some of which are now rare or no longer in existence);
- Frequency of exit and re-entry and the short lengths of time many pupils spent in any one school (or, indeed, overall in the system);
- Retardation of grade levels appropriate to ages;
- Reasons given for leaving, e.g., ‘dead’, ‘rabbit trapping’, ‘delicate’, ‘uncontrollable’, ‘ran away from home’, ‘required at home’;

- The Sandy Bay Public School register, dating from 1853, gives brief details of individual literacy attainments and whether or not the children could sign their own names when they left (with each child’s actual signature included where applicable).⁵

Uses as an aid to family history research:

- Includes names of siblings who enrolled and sometimes other children residing with a family (particularly useful if children were not born in Tasmania);
- Records dates of birth;
- Provides guardians’ names and occupations;
- Sometimes gives relationship of children to guardians who were not biological parents, e.g., aunt, step-father;
- Details families’ places of abode at specific times, including clues as to where they had been and were going next (including outside of Tasmania);
- Sometimes gives details of pupils’ occupations directly after leaving school, e.g., ‘messenger boy’;
- Sometimes gives additional information about an individual, e.g. health condition or other names used;
- Sometimes lists families over several generations if members attended the same school;
- Provides information about the locality in which the school was placed, e.g., names of homes and properties; how the inhabitants were employed; indications of peaks and troughs in the population over an extended period.

⁵ TAHO: ED87/1/1

A close-up of one school's admission register

The school at Stanley has one of the longest continuous histories in our state. Set up by the Van Diemen's Land Company in 1842, it was first taken over by the Church of England in 1845 and later by the Government in 1854. The Board of Education erected a bluestone brick school building, including a teachers' residence, which was ready for occupation in 1867 (and is now used as a private residence). In April 1914, a new weatherboard structure was opened as its more modern replacement on a site further along the road. It is worth noting that the school will hold celebrations to mark the 100th year of operation on that site on Saturday and Sunday, 26–27 April, 2014. Thousands of families can claim relationship to pupils who have attended this school throughout its history.

The one surviving admission register for the school in the possession of TAHO dates from 1887–1906 and contains 710 entries, including some scholars who enrolled earlier than 1887 but were still in the school at the later time. The predominant occupations of guardians cited in the volume reflect the basis of the town's economic development during that period: farmers, mariners, merchants, service providers and labourers.⁶

Although not perfectly kept from an administrative view-point, the register is



of particular historical significance in that it contains the entry for the admission of **Joseph Aloysius LYONS** (1879–1939), former Tasmanian Premier and later Prime Minister of Australia. Considerable detail on the life of Joseph Lyons following his birth at Stanley is available from a variety of other sources. Of most interest for the purpose of this article is the fact that Mr Lyons was enrolled at Stanley State School on 1 February 1892,

aged 12 years 4 months. His previous education was stated as having been undertaken at the Convent School [in Ulverstone], and his father was listed as a farmer at that time [living at Ulverstone]. Mr Lyons completed his education on 22 December 1894, aged 15 years 2 months, when he was appointed Paid Monitor at the Stanley School. It is interesting to note that three of Mr Lyons' siblings—Mary, Thomas and Gertrude—all of whom normally

resided at Ulverstone, were also enrolled for short periods at the school between 1891 and 1897. It is assumed that they, like their brother, stayed with their mother's sisters, the Misses Letitia (Ettie) and Mary CARROLL, who lived at Wharf Road in a little weatherboard cottage that still stands today on land that had been in the family's possession since 1853.

An earlier entry shows that **Henry Brune ATKINSON** (1874–1960), later in life a prominent Church of England Archdeacon and eminent orchidologist, was educated at the school in his formative

⁶ TAHO: ED105/1/1

years from July 1879 to June 1887, at which time he left to study at home with his father. Born at Gordon, Tasmania, son of Reverend Henry Dresser Atkinson and his wife Sarah Ann (née WARD), H B Atkinson followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps when he was ordained deacon at Holy Trinity Church, Launceston in 1901 after the continuation of his education at Church Grammar School, Launceston and the University of Tasmania. In 1905, he married Helen Bertha KNIGHT of New Zealand, and they had one daughter, Sheila. Serving in various roles in a number of church locations around the state over the next twenty years, by 1924, H B Atkinson was Archdeacon responsible for all Tasmania north of Conara, the west coast and Flinders and King Islands. From 1942–1944 he administered the Tasmanian diocese during the absence of the bishop and after the Bishop's death.

Archdeacon Atkinson retired to Launceston in 1949, and continued with his life-long interest in orchids which had been fostered by his father when they lived at Stanley. He collected and classified the Tasmanian varieties, eventually recording twenty-four previously unknown species, including one named after him, *Calandenia atkinsonii* Rod.⁷ Archdeacon Atkinson died at Launceston in June 1960.

The register makes note of the fact that several of the school's pupils left to take up four-year, fee-paid Government

Exhibitions to superior schools: Maude Ethel LEGGETT (July 1887), George BURGESS (July 1888), Reginald Atkinson (July 1888—younger brother of Henry Brune Atkinson) and Walter E Leggett (July 1895—younger brother of Maude Leggett). This was at a time when the Government did not provide high school education. 'Superior' schools were private schools offering that level of study at a standard approved by the Government.

Maude Ethel Leggett (1876–1911) was born in Queenscliff, Victoria, the only daughter of mariner, Captain Richard Leggett and his wife Margaret (née COULTER). She moved to Stanley with her parents in 1880 and grew up in Cockerill Crescent. Miss Leggett was a pupil at the Berjew's private school in the town in 1883, but transferred to the public school in July 1884. She developed a most distinguished academic record. In 1887, still a pupil at Stanley State School, Miss Leggett was



awarded a Government School Exhibition used to gain a high school education. She consequently attended Miss Hogg's Broadland House School in Launceston. In 1889, she gained distinction in the Junior Public Examination conducted by the University of Tasmania, being the first girl ever to head the list. Miss Leggett gained honors in 1890 for the musical examination of Trinity College, London. In 1891 she matriculated through Melbourne University, and in 1892 passed senior public first class, gaining four prizes. In 1893, while still at Miss Hogg's

⁷ Herbert H Condon, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 7, (MUP), 1979

she again passed first class senior public, gained prizes and was awarded the first ever Sir Richard Dry scholarship for modern languages. In addition, for some time Miss Leggett held a senior classical exhibition. In 1897, she took a Bachelor of Arts degree after passing the three successive annual examinations required. In 1899, at the age of 23, while engaged in teaching and receiving no help personally or by correspondence, she became the first Tasmanian woman to achieve the Master of Arts degree.⁸

In 1896, Miss Leggett commenced her own private educational institution, the Stanley Model School, conducted in a cottage next door to her parents' home in Cockerill Crescent. She died unexpectedly at Stanley in August 1911 aged 35, following a short illness associated with measles, and was buried at the local cemetery.

Another pupil listed in the register, **Frank Bathurst EDWARDS** (1887–1983), later became a Rhodes Scholar and Tasmanian politician. Mr Edwards was born at Bathurst, New South Wales, son of Henry Alfred Edwards and his wife Mary Ann (Marion), (née THOMPSON), and moved to Stanley with his parents in mid-1894. His grandparents, John and Martha (née HAGGETT) Edwards, had taken up residence in Stanley in 1854 and, as well as developing a very successful business as general storekeepers, contributed greatly to the shaping of the town through involvement in various community activities. By the early 1900s, the extended family owned a large number of properties in Stanley, particularly those along Alexander Terrace.

Frank Edwards was enrolled at Stanley State School in June 1894, aged 6, his

previous education having been received in Victoria. His older sister, Marion, was enrolled at the same time. Their father's occupation was recorded as mariner [but he had become a cordial manufacturer in the town by early 1896]. Frank remained on the school register until February 1899, when it was confirmed that he had been the recipient of a two-year scholarship to Hutchins School in Hobart. At the age of 14, he gained the junior public scholarship which entitled him to a further three years' education at Hutchins. In 1905, he was awarded the senior University scholarship which he used to study law. In 1909, after being unanimously selected to represent Tasmania as a Rhodes Scholar, Mr Edwards studied at Merton College, Oxford to extend his studies in law and attain a Master of Arts.⁹ Upon his return to Tasmania where he established himself as a solicitor, he married Jessie Madge ARCHER at Hobart in 1913. From 1921 to 1933, he represented Russell District as an Independent member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council, and then from 1934 to 1940 was elected as a Nationalist Member of the House of Representatives for the Mersey Ward.¹⁰

Mr F B Edwards, MHA visited Stanley State School in 1939, and addressed the children. He feelingly referred to the fact that the late Mr J A Lyons had often reminded him that they had a common bond in that they had both been taught 'in the shadow of the Nut'. The speaker urged the children to be friends one with the other, and try to do kind turns to others, as the late Prime Minister had done. When later shown the admission register in which was recorded the date when Joseph Lyons was enrolled and the

⁸ *Launceston Examiner*, 21 November 1899

⁹ *North Western Advocate*, 8 February 1909

¹⁰ www.parliament.tas.gov/tasparl/edwards

statement that he had left in December 1894 on his appointment as Paid Monitor, Mr Edwards offered, as a tribute to his late friend's memory, to have this valuable book bound in leather.¹¹ Mr Edwards died at Hobart in 1983, aged 95, and his ashes were scattered at Stanley.

Why relatively few admission registers are available

It is a sad reality that the majority of school admission registers are not in the safe-keeping of TAHO. The writer's long-term research on the history of Tasmanian schools, teachers and pupils from the early 1800s shows there were approximately 800 Government-funded schools in existence in this State between 1810 and 1960. Unfortunately, admission registers for only about 250 of those schools have been properly archived at TAHO, and few of that number are complete for any school's years of operation.

There could be a number of reasons for the registers not being at TAHO:

- Destroyed in school fires (a frequent occurrence over the years);
- Not preserved correctly (e.g., exposed to weather, pests or other forms of mistreatment over time);
- Destroyed when reviewing school files by people who were unaware of the future significance of the documents (local stories abound of witnesses to this happening in the past);

- Placed in other repositories, both private and public;
- Undisclosed (still in schools)

Since the 1990s, the Department of Education has dispensed with the traditional hard copy admission registers, and details are now entered and stored electronically at the schools. Copies are sent to the Department.



It is worth noting that an important change has been made in relatively recent times concerning access to information in some admission registers at TAHO. As issues relating to privacy have gained more prominence over the years, it has been deemed that some of the details recorded in registers could contain sensitive personal information. The statutory maximum period of release seventy-five years after creation of the record thus has been

applied to registers most recently placed with TAHO. This means that all records are on open access if they were created prior to 1938 (as at 2013) while those created after that date may be withheld.

Application can be made to view a closed record, and staff at TAHO can advise on the necessary procedure. The registers previously available for viewing on microfilm, some going up to the 1960s and beyond, are still accessible in their entirety. It is advisable to check the TAHO website to see what is available. ◀

¹¹ *Advocate*, 17 April 1939

MULGA MICK; PROSPECTOR, MINER, AUTHOR AND POET

A LOST FATHER REDISCOVERED

John O'Reilly (Member No.6355)

MY father, Michael Joseph O'REILLY (penname Mulga Mick) married three times. On his second and third marriage certificates and on his death certificate, his birthplace is shown as 'Roscrea', Co Tipperary, Ireland. However, on his birth certificate it is shown as 'The District of Shinrone in the Union of Roscrea in the County of Kings'. His father's dwelling place is shown as 'Mountheaton'. Local Townland maps confirm that:

Shinrone is a small town in Co Kings now Offaly just across the border from the larger town of Roscrea in Co Tipperary and Mountheaton is a single townland straddling the boundary of the parishes of Corbally and Dunkerrin.

In Samuel Lewis's 1837 publication *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, Shinrone is describes as

a post-town and parish, in the barony of Clonliss, King's county, 5 miles (W by N) from Roscrea, and 63¾ from Dublin; containing 2517 inhabitants of whom 1287 are in the town.

Mick's birth certificate shows he was born on 29 August 1879, his father is recorded as John O'Reilly, occupation

'R.I.C.' (Royal Irish Constabulary) and his mother as Mary O'Reilly, formerly CROOKS (or HOOKES?). I have not yet discovered any further information about my paternal grandparents John and Mary.

I understand, however, it was Government policy that members of the RIC were not allowed to serve as police in their native County, as they would be regarded by their fellow citizens as 'Authority Figures' representing the hated English oppressors (*perfidious Albion*).

Following his immigration to Australia, Mick initially worked as an itinerant prospector in various mainland States. After moving to Tasmania, it seems he may have

been working on the tin mines at Derby not far from the nearby DOHERTY property *Annadale* at Ringarooma. At that time the farm was being worked by the late Patrick Doherty's four unmarried daughters, including the youngest, Josephine, who became my mother. She and Mick were married at Derby on 12 September 1927, his age being shown as 48 and hers as 36.

I never knew my parents as I was under the impression that I was a double orphan. Josephine died on 24 August



1928, just four weeks after I was born. My father Michael was said to have resumed his roaming after she died and, so I was also told, died soon after.

I was initially looked after by her sister Rose and her husband Jim. However, an unmarried sister, Agnes, who was living in Melbourne returned to Tasmania when I was about 18 months old and claimed me to fulfill what she said was my mother's death-bed wish that she should rear me. When I was old enough to ask about my parents, I was told by my Aunts that I was a double orphan as my mother had died when I was born and my father, after having 'shot through and deserted me', had died when I was very young. They always spoke ill of Mick, telling me that he was a drunken wastrel who had deserted me as a baby.

I have recently discovered that in 1932, when I would have been about four, my father married again. His third wife was a widow, Louisa NEILSON (née COVENTRY), who had two adult daughters. They lived in New Norfolk, near Hobart, before moving to Spreyton, near Devonport. Mick became a prolific writer of letters to newspapers (many recorded in *Trove*). He is also said to have stood for Parliament. He died in 1958 in his eightieth year (when I was some thirty years old). Some years later I visited one of his stepdaughters, Ola (c.1911–1990) and learnt a considerable amount. I still exchange Christmas cards with some of her children.

It seems Mick had tried to keep in touch with my aunt Rose but, apparently, his efforts were rejected. I have in my possession a letter which he sent to her while he was in the Army in 1941. He gave 'Intelligence Section, Brighton Camp, Hobart' as his address. In it, he offered to send her an allotment from his pay for my

benefit. It would appear he presumed I was still living with her at that time. The offer was ignored.

I have also discovered that in 1936, Mick worked as a 'first-aid man' on the construction of the all weather road from Hobart to the 'Pinnacle' of Mount Wellington. He wrote poetry under the pen name 'Mulga Mick' and that year he had a book of his poems published. Its title was *The Pinnacle Road and Other Verses* and it is now out of print. One of them, *The Adams River Rush*, appeared in an anthology of Australian verse called *Australian Bush Ballads* edited by Douglas Stewart and Nancy Keeling, (Angus & Robertson, 1955). The publishers' note on the dust jacket reads:

Australian Bush Ballads presents a wide-ranging selection of 'robust, humorous and heroic' verse by those **larger-than-life figures from Australian literary history** – Adam Lindsay Gordon, 'Banjo Paterson', & Will Ogilvie. In addition, there is verse by 'Breaker' Morant, Joseph 'Tom Collins' Furphy, C. J. Dennis, 'Dryblower' Murphy, '**Mulga Mick**' O'Reilly and many many more. [emphasis mine]

While serving in the Army in 1942, he wrote his autobiography *Bowyangs and Boomerangs – Reminiscences of 40 Years' Prospecting in Tasmania*. In it he claims his parents brought him to Australia when he was only a few months old, had little schooling and did not learn to write until he was 25. When reading this book one needs to keep in mind that it contains several factual errors about his life, particularly his early years (he was, after all, a prospector and, like fishermen, they are reputed to have a tendency to 'gild the lily' somewhat). My aunts all claimed his book was mostly fantasy.

As mentioned, he was born in Ireland in 1879. It seems he originally married

there and had three children, two boys and a girl, but about 1910 he lost his wife and the two boys in the flu epidemic. On emigrating to Australia, he gave his then three-year-old daughter, Polly, to be reared by his sister. Polly (Mrs A R WARD) married a surveyor in England and visited Tasmania in 1958 in search of her father. The story '*Father, Daughter Meet at Devonport after 48 Years*' was movingly told in the *Devonport Advocate* of 9 April that year. If that were correct, it would appear he left Ireland about 1910 as a 31 year-old. During a visit to Tasmania in 1988, I met some people who had known Mick and I was told that after Polly visited him she came over to Victoria to try to find me. Apparently she found my Aunt Agnes in Melbourne who told her I had joined the Army and been killed.

However, he certainly worked as a miner and prospector in different States, as mentioned in '*Bowyangs and Boomerangs*'. In the last chapter, he describes mining activities during the osmiridium rush at Adamsfield (in the wilderness of South West Tasmania) in the 1920s and 1930s. In the *Illustrated Tasmanian Mail* of 13 January 1932 there was a full page photographic spread of mining operations at Adamsfield in which he is named in three of the six photos. Mineral Resources Tasmania published a report (1992/20) '*Notes on then history of mining and exploration at Adamsfield*' by C A BACON which reproduced that 1932 page in full (on p.24) and on p.8 quoted his poem '*Jack Brennan's Osie Lode*' in full. During a visit to Adamsfield in 1995, I met some former residents who remembered him and spoke highly of him.

In '*Bowyangs and Boomerangs*', he also claims to have enlisted in the First World War at Fremantle, WA, in October 1914 (he would then have been aged 35), and to have been discharged as medically

unfit (due to varicose veins) some three months later on 10 January 1915. I have not been able to confirm whether that is so. However, Australian Army records confirm he did in fact enlist during the Second World War at Hobart, on 16 May 1941, giving his age at enlistment as 49y, 7m and his date of birth as 29 August 1891. (As he was actually born in 1879, he had taken 12 years off his age which was then 61y, 8m). Those records also show he was, indeed, in an Intelligence Unit, but was their cook. After some two-year's service, he was discharged as medically unfit on 18 March 1943.

Mick passed away on 5 October 1958, a mere six months after the reunion with his daughter, Polly. The *Devonport Advocate* of 6 October contained a eulogy which included some of the incorrect claims in his book. It opened with the comment:

"Mulga Mick", prospector, author, and balladist, died in the Mersey General Hospital, Latrobe, yesterday. He was in his 80th year. His death removes one of the last remaining links with the most colorful period in Australia's history.

There was also a report of his graveside funeral service at the Latrobe cemetery which mentioned both the Devonport and Latrobe RSL Sub-branches were represented and that the 'Last Post' was sounded at the RSL Service.

Although I hope I have not been embittered by these (deliberate?) deceptions about my father, they have certainly affected my outlook and attitude to life. However, I now deeply regret that I never had the opportunity of meeting him nor my half-sister, Polly. I certainly don't hold any feelings of ill will towards him. After all, how could a single father have coped with bringing up a young baby in the Tasmanian bush and mining camps in the 1920s and 1930s? ◀

THE WALL BREECHING POWER OF A HEADSTONE

Helen White (Member No.5565)

I have been giving some thought to what to have on my headstone. Headstones are a little like wills and organ donor ship, discussion as to content, inscriptions, etc. is almost taboo. However as family history devotee's we all know how valuable an inscription can be. Having traced my MARSHALL/PALMER relations back to the British Isles and having other family members interested in pursuing those threads, I have been looking to find living relations. I was aware there was a chance that there were Marshall descendents in New Zealand and oral family history placed them, possibly, in the South Island, but the question was where to begin looking.

My great great grandfather Thomas Marshall, following his wife's death in 1870, took his eldest two sons, Richard Thomas Talbot and George Percival, and accompanied by his eldest brother George, travelled via *Queen of the Sea* to Dunedin in May 1875. His other two children later joined him and his brother George returned to Tasmania.

The second son and my great grandfather, George Percival Marshall, married in Napier, NZ and his oldest children were born there. That family returned to Tasmania c.1887/8 and a further three children were born, amongst whom was my grandmother, her sister and two brothers.

The core of this story is the discovery of descendents of Richard Thomas Talbot Marshall, the eldest son of Thomas, and how important an inscription can be. Unfortunately Thomas and his wife failed to register the birth of six of their seven children (three of whom died). However

there were notices in the newspaper to mark the births and deaths.

While trolling through TROVE and family notices in *The Mercury* I discovered a death notice for Richard Marshall

MARSHALL.—On February 16, 1916, at Timaru, New Zealand, Richard Thomas Talbot, eldest son of the late Thomas Marshall, Noble Farm, Sorell.

Yipee, this looked like the first breach of this particular brick wall. A search of Temuka Cemetery (closest to Timaru) found the website has photos of the headstones and Richard's gave me his wife's name, Alexandria. From there a search of NZ births yielded a couple of children, George Pagan Marshall amongst them.

He is also buried at Temuka and lucky for me George Pagan Marshall's wife was a far seeing woman, she included the names of their three sons on his headstone. An enquiry to the local Historical Society in Dunedin, asking if anyone knew of their current whereabouts elicited a positive response and I was able to make contact with a grandson of Richard T T Marshall. He and his wife have since visited Tasmania regularly and we have 'gatherings of the clan' because of this.

How many headstones list children's names? Would you include the next generation on your headstone? Would you include your parents on your headstone? Certainly your spouse may be there—especially if both sets of remains reside there. As 'custodians' of our family history it behoves us to be aware of our place in that history and hopefully provide our descendants with information to avoid 'brick walls'. ◀

VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

GEORGE JONES, APPRENTICE

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

ONCE the children from the Orphan Schools were old enough, usually between the age of twelve and eighteen, they could be apprenticed out to various masters and mistresses, often as farm labourers or domestic servants. Their circumstances, once they were apprenticed, could be precarious, as an observer noted in 1871:

The children of the Asylum when apprenticed out have no further care bestowed upon them. They have no home ties, no one to whom they are entitled to appeal, or from whom they can with childlike confidence seek advice. They are left to the tending of those who, it is to be feared, as a rule look on them as little better than so many beasts of burden, if not plagues and annoyances, to be cuffed and kicked about at pleasure. How their little hearts must pine and bleed, and how sadly must they often realize the poet's words:—

Alone, that worn out word,
So coldly spoken and so idly heard:
Yet all that poets tell or grief hath known
Of hearts laid waste, dwells in that word
Alone.¹

George JONES was one of these apprentices. Admitted to the Orphan Schools (by then known as the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children) when he was thirteen, there is very little information about his background. No details about his family were recorded when he was admitted. George had no one to look out for him but he demonstrated strength

of character, publicly standing up to a cruel master on more than one occasion.

The case first came to public notice in 1876 when George's master, Peter MITCHELMORE, had him charged with absconding from his service.² Mitchelmore thought George had taken off because he 'accidentally' hit him with a bullock whip. Earlier, George Jones had written to the Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum reporting that he had been 'ill-used' by his master. At the time, he was 14 but the complaint lapsed in the Magistrates Court because of insufficient evidence. When George was arrested for absconding in 1876, he told the police constable that he had been beaten and ill-used, and that he wished to get away from the house and his master. In Spring Bay Police Court, George stated that he had been beaten with a bullock whip and that he wished to return to the Asylum. He feared for his life. His indentures were cancelled before the case came to court—an admission that that there was some truth to George's assertion and that there was a case to answer. In Court,

George Jones stated: I am 16 years of age, and have been two years and a half in the defendant's service. I ran away because he beat me with a heavy bullock whip, when I was putting the bullocks in the cart. I was between the pole bullocks at the time he struck me. There were six bullocks, four besides the two pole ones. Mr. Mitchelmore struck at me, not at the bullocks; the whip hit me across the

¹ *The Mercury* 11 October 1871 p.2

² *The Mercury* 22 November 1876 p.3

shoulder and down the breast; it cut my breast which bled and was very painful. I think my life was in danger by his hitting me when I was between the bullocks. I gave him no reason for striking me. He said he would give me another, but did not. He has been in the habit of ill-treating me with the same whip by hitting me on the arms and the legs. He gave me mustard, pepper and milk to drink because I took some cream; he compelled me to drink it; it pained my mouth and throat very much when I drank it. I have tried to get bluestone to poison myself with, rather than go back to his place. I was arrested and taken back, and was then brought before the Police Office. I was not punished for running away. I was ordered to be sent back to the Asylum.³

George continued, bravely addressing the man who had beaten him:

I remember the day I ran away. We were ploughing. You struck me with the whip once, and I cried. You have beaten me at other times with the whip; I think about six times—once when drilling mangolds, once when gathering sheep, once when ploughing with bullocks ... that is all I recollect now.⁴

In response to questions in the courtroom, George indicated that his education had been neglected:

I can read and write a little now. Mr WHITE [his new master] has taught me since I have been here at the station. My master never taught me whilst I was in his service ... I was taught to read and write during the three years and a-half that I was in the school, but forgot them since.⁵

Several witnesses supported George's account. The Warden of the Spring Bay

Municipality Mr MACE found that the charge of ill-treatment was upheld, adding that he feared that this was only one of many similar cases:

children were ill-treated, as they had no one to look after them. He spoke strongly of the manner in which the boy seemed to have been, not only ill-used, but neglected in education, etc.⁶

Nevertheless, he concluded 'as this was the first case' the fine would not be a heavy one: Mitchelmore was only fined £2 and costs, which he duly paid.⁷

George's apprenticeship expired in October 1876 and he then disappears from the records. ◀

For more information about the Orphan Schools please go to Friends of the Orphan Schools website

www.orphanschool.org.au

St John's Park Precinct, New Town TAS

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

Special Interest Groups are subject to advertising rates.

Members are entitled to three free entries per year. All additional queries will be published at a cost of \$10.00. Only one query per member per issue will be published unless space permits otherwise.

Queries should be limited to 100 words and forwarded to

editors@tasfhs.org or

The Editor, *Tasmanian Ancestry*,
PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018

³ *The Mercury* 7 December 1876 p.1. pp.2-3

⁴ *The Mercury* 7 December 1876 p.1. pp.2-3

⁵ *The Mercury* 7 December 1876 p.1. pp.2-3

⁶ *The Mercury* 7 December 1876 p.1. pp.2-3

⁷ *The Mercury* 7 December 1876 p.1. pp.2-3

HELP WANTED

FERGUSON, KIRK and HERBERT

My great great grandparents John FER-GUSON and Ann KIRK married in Launceston on 19 September 1836.

They had 13 children, one of whom, John Charles Ferguson, was born on 6 January 1842 and married Beatrice HAMILTON (b.16 June 1846 in Campbell Town) in St Pauls, Launceston on 15 July 1869.

Their second daughter Ethel Mary Ferguson was born on 21 September 1874 in Launceston and is my grandmother.

She married my grandfather Arthur Stephens HERBERT in 1907, who was an engineer working on the Duck Reach power station. I would like to contact any descendants of John and Ann Ferguson who might still be living in Tasmania.

Please contact Richard Herbert on email herbert.home@btinternet.com

LEWIS AND DAVIS

Thomas LEWIS (1839–1924) and Elizabeth DAVIS (1839–1891) were married at St Davids Church, Hobart on 12 September 1863. Thomas was said to be a Malster by trade. Elizabeth had arrived per *Hoogly* on 21 December 1859 as part of a group of young women on an assisted passage arranged by the Tasmanian Emigration Society. Before marriage she was employed by Mrs Neil LEWIS (Senior) at her home in Collins Street, Hobart.

The 1848 census lists Thomas as living in Hobart; the 1851 census lists Richmond and Hobart. Family lore suggests they had a small shop at 171 Davey Street, Hobart but this may or may not be correct. The family later moved to Grass Tree Hill.

I need help to find parents for Thomas and Elizabeth, the latter having been said

to be a cousin of Charles DAVIS who became a successful hardware-store owner in Hobart. Please contact M Gregory: email mrig458@gmail.com or phone (02) 6721 3214

WILLIAM WELLS 1815–1880

Ship *Asia* arrived VDL 6 August 1840. Does anyone know of the property at Hamilton Tasmania that was run by a Mr PARKER as William worked there about 1847—its where about and is it still in existence. Also William's son Henry 1854–1928 who died at his daughter's, Mrs BARAHAM of Broadmarsh. Would any of Mrs Barahams relatives still be alive and have any family photos of Henry or William or family members. Henry's father died 1880, his mother Ann Wells née Martin 1815–1856). So when Ann died Henry was only two years old and with no other living relative than his father. Would Henry have gone into an Orphanage or would his father have brought him up, which I find unlikely.

I have been trying to find him in Orphanages but as yet have had no success. Can anyone help me please?

Ken Bibby PO Box 311 Mundaring WA or email jokinconvict@y7mail.com ◀



NEW MEMBERS and INTERESTS

See following pages 156–58

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

If you find a name in which you are interested, please note the membership number and check the New Members' listing for the appropriate name and address.

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and don't forget to reply if you receive a SSAE.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ARNOL	TAS AUS	Any	7502
BELL John	SCT	c.1800	7473
BELLETT Jacob	ship <i>Scarborough</i>	1788	7481
BENDER Charles	Port Arthur TAS AUS	1832+	7486
BOXHALL	Any	Any	7479
CASSIDY Bridget	Table Cape TAS AUS	1849+	7472
CLARK	TAS AUS	Any	7501
COBDEN Jane	Launceston TAS AUS	1839–1897	7503
COUGHLAN Catherine	Port Sorell TAS AUS	1850+	7472
COX Adelaide Lucy	Brighton TAS AUS	1900+	7493
COX John	TAS AUS	1807–1890	7497
DALEY Emily	Hamilton TAS AUS	Any	7496
DAVIDSON	TAS AUS	Any	7502
DIETRICH Annie	Heidelberg VIC AUS	1864–1946	7503
DIETRICH Peter	Wartenburg GERMANY	1836–1863	7503
DUNN Alice Maud	Launceston	1870+	7485
FINDLAY Mildred	Canberra ACT AUS	1900+	7499
FINDLAY Mildred	Launceston TAS AUS	1900+	7499
FITZGERALD Mary Agnes	Hobart TAS AUS	1815+	7500
GLEESON Sarah	Hamilton TAS AUS	1834+	7484
GRIFFITHS	Any	Any	7479
HARDING	TAS AUS	Any	7501
HARPER Ann	wife of Jacob Bellett	1788+	7481
HAUGHEY	Any	Any	7478
HAYES	Any	Any	7478
HEALY Mary	Forest TAS AUS	1850+	7472
HEALY Patrick	Forest TAS AUS	1850+	7472
HODGE Emma Sarah Eliza	Hamilton TAS AUS	1862–1902	7484
HODGE George	Hamilton TAS AUS	1820–1860	7484
HODGE John Thomas	Hamilton TAS AUS	1856–1938	7484
HODGE Sarah	Hamilton TAS	1834+	7484
HODGES	TAS AUS	Any	7501
HOLMES	Any	Any	7480
HOLMES Emma Sarah Eliza	Hamilton TAS AUS	1862–1902	7484
JOHNSON	TAS AUS	Any	7490
JOHNSON George	TAS AUS	1835–1914	7497
JONES	Any	Any	7478
JOSEPH	Any	Any	7480
KING Charles	Port Sorell TAS AUS	1850+	7472
LATHEY	TAS AUS	Any	7502
LAWRENCE John	London ENG	1780+	7486
LAWRENCE Margaret	London ENG	1788+	7486
LEARY	Southport TAS AUS	Any	7474
LIMBRICK	Any	Any	7480
LUTTRELL	Any	Any	7478
MARTIN John	TAS AUS	1820–1920	7497
MARTIN Mary Agnes	Clarence and Hobart TAS AUS	1815+	7500
McCONNELL Rose	Hamilton TAS AUS	Any	7496

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
McDARBY Ellen	Queens County IRL	c.1800	7473
MORLEY	TAS AUS	Any	7502
MORSE	TAS AUS	Any	7490
MOSS Mary Ann	TAS AUS	1844–1910	7483
NICHOLS Mary Agnes	Clarence Plains TAS AUS	1829+	7500
O'BRIEN	Any	Any	7478
PAYNE John Greaves	Beaconsfield TAS AUS	1900+	7493
PAYNE John Greaves	Launceston TAS AUS	1900+	7493
PEARCE	Hamilton TAS	Any	7496
PHILLIPS	Any	Any	7478
POLLARD Joseph Crawshaw	Bradford YKS ENG/Burnie TAS AUS	1828–1910	7483
PROPERTY: 'South Rhodes'	Stonehenge TAS	Any	7474
PROPERTY: 'Kewstoke'	York Plains TAS	Any	7474
REILLY	Any	Any	7479
RILEY	TAS AUS	Any	7490
SANDERS Emily	TAS AUS	1845–1930	7483
SANDFORD Charles	Launceston TAS AUS	1880–1886	7503
SHADWICK	Any	Any	7480
SHARKEY Sarah	TAS AUS	1833–1920	7497
SMITH Catherine Ann	Hobart	1816–d.1853	7485
SMITH Gordon Cornelius	Launceston TAS AUS	b.1908–1954	7485
SMITH Henry	Hobart TAS AUS	1844–1917	7499
SMITH John Cornelius	m.1890 Launceston TAS AUS	1871+	7485
SMITH John Thomas	Hobart m. Mary Ann GORDON	1847–1919	7485
SMITH Peter	Hobart m. Catherine A RAY	1806+	7485
SPOTSWOOD James Stafford	DEV ENG	1821+	7482
SPOTSWOOD John	Any	1785–1859	7476
STYLES	TAS AUS	Any	7501
TEMPLETON	Any	Any	7480
TOOMEY	Any	Any	7479
TRIFFETT Frederick	Hamilton TAS AUS	Any	7496
TRULL Ellen	TAS AUS	1837–1888	7497
VEITCH Andrew	SCT/TAS AUS	1833–1880	7483
WELLS Robert	TAS AUS	1865–1940	7497
WHITELEY	Any	Any	7479
WILLIAMS Job	Hamilton TAS AUS	Any	7496
WOODWARD	Any	Any	7480

Privacy Statement

Unless specifically denied by members when joining the Society, or upon renewing their membership, contact details and member's interests may be published in Tasmanian Ancestry and other publications of the Society. A copy of the 'Privacy Policy' of the Society is available on request at Branch Libraries or from State or Branch Secretaries.

The 'Privacy Policy' document sets out the obligations of the Society in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1988 and the amendments to that Act.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7472	POOLE Mrs Catherine	46 Giblin Street poolesc@bigpond.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7473	BYRNE Mrs Jennifer	PO Box 684	POSNY PARK	TAS	7018
7474	HAZELL Mrs Netty	South Rhodes 1020 Stonehenge RD southrhodes@harboursat.com.au	STONEHENGE	TAS	7120
7475	CLAYTON Mrs Helen	5 Alexandra Esplanade	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
7476	CLAYTON Mr Donald	5 Alexandra Esplanade	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
7477	FRENCH Ms Helen	PO Box 274	RIVERSIDE	TAS	7250
7478	LUTTRELL Mrs Clare	12 Union Street	LAUNGESTON	TAS	7250
7479	BOXHALL Mrs Patricia	61 Bird Street prboxhall@burnie	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7480	LIMBRICK Mrs Judy	9 Parkwood Court mlimbric@inet.net.au	CLAREMONT	TAS	7011
7481	CATELLI Ms Betty	PO Box 419	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
7482	MURRAY Mr Donald	9 Fitzgerald Street	SOUTH YARRA	VIC	3141
7483	NEILSON Mrs Ailsa	10 Kanuka Court	MOSGIEL	NZ	9024
7484	BUNYARD Miss Julie	12 Aberdeen Street juliebunyard@hotmail.com	GLEBE	TAS	7000
7485	SMITH Mr Douglas	13 Arlington Esplanade ems099@yahoo.com.au	CLIFTON BEACH	QLD	4879
7486	BRYANT Mr Gary	29 Drew Street	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7487	LOWE Mrs Anne	Not for publication			
7488	CAMPBELL Mrs Kathryn	Sunridge 698 Sunnyside Road kathryn.sunridge@hotmail.com	RAILTON	TAS	7305
7489	GARDNER Mrs Jennifer	14 Chardonay Drive jandagardner.com.au	HAWLEY BEACH	TAS	7307
7490	RILEY-GIBSON Ms Terrill	47 Murray Street	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7491	GIBSON Mr Andrew	47 Murray Street	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7492	TAYLOR Mr Graham	Not for publication			
7493	BLADEL Ms Fran	18 High Street franbladell [as given]	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
7494	EINDORF Mrs Judith	23 Purdon Street	OLD BEACH	TAS	7017
7495	EINDORF Mr Egon	23 Purdon Street	OLD BEACH	TAS	7017
7496	WILLIAMS Mrs Ann	34 Cromwell Street louise1112@bigpond.com	PERTH	TAS	7300
7497	McLEAN HELEN	PO BOX 223	BEACONSFIELD	TAS	7270
7499	KENT Mr Gregory	2/11 Ratho Street greg.kent1@hotmail.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7500	QUINE Mrs Teresa	C/- 28 Douglas Street wrtquine@hotmail.com	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008
7501	HARDING Mr Peter	35 Sirius Street	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7502	HARDING Mrs Judith	35 Sirius Street	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7503	BARRY Ms Maxine	4 Boondar Street barry.maxine@gmail.com	CHIGWELL	TAS	7011
7504	BARNES Mr Robert	18 Hill Street barnesr@southcom.com.au	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
CORRECTION of address					
7431	MALHAM Mr Victor	4400 Channel Highway	MIDDLETON	TAS	7163

PARTRIDGE ISLAND

‘THE CROWN HAS NO CLAIM ...’

Erika Shankley (Member No.5468)

Part 1

ROUGHLY oval in shape, Partridge Island juts out into D’Entrecasteaux Channel from the end of Bruny Island’s LABILLARDIERE Peninsula. The island is low lying, just over two kilometres long by 800 metres wide, rising from a rocky dolerite foreshore through gently sloping eucalypt woodland to a height of about 39 metres.

An interpretive sign near the jetty gives a brief outline of the island’s history but there are many twists and turns in its story and settlers have come and gone. Now there is little to show for their endeavours with the island’s vegetation gradually reclaiming its own.

EARLY EXPLORERS

On 30 April 1792, Partridge Island was ‘discovered’ by boats from D’ENTRECASTEAUX’s *Recherche* and *Espérance* when they ‘steered towards a small island’.¹ An account by Lieutenant de CRESTIN describes landing there and chasing flocks of birds which resembled partridges—thereby naming the island Île aux Perdrix (Partridge Island). He wrote

A short distance from the shore, three abandoned huts led us to believe that natives of the country inhabit this small island during certain seasons of the year.²

Indeed, Aborigines from the South East tribe on Bruny Island—the Nuenone—visited the island as they followed their seasonal food chain.³ A few days later *Espérance* sent a boat with crew members M. ROSSEL and M. de BONVOULOIR to determine the latitude of Partridge Island and carry out astronomical observations.⁴

The following year British explorer, John HAYES, named it Thistleton’s Island, honouring John Thistleton of the Bombay Marines. Then, in 1802, not long after British settlement on the River Derwent, Frenchman Nicholas BAUDIN wrote more volubly about a landing on Partridge Island.

The expedition’s botanist, Jean Baptiste LESCHENAULT DE LA TOUR, described the island as

being covered with trees, principally eucalypts and some she-oaks, with an undergrowth of Banksia and other plants, an undergrowth so thick that difficulty was experienced in forcing a way through.⁵

He continued:

The island was clearly often visited by the natives who reached it by wading across from Bruny Island. ... Soon after landing, natives were seen opposite ... and were persuaded to come over to meet the

¹ Edward Duyker & Maryse Duyker, *Bruny D’Entrecasteaux Voyage to Australia & the Pacific 1791–1793*, Melbourne University Press, 2001

² *Ibid*

³ PWS interpretive sign, *Partridge island*

⁴ Edward Duyker & Maryse Duyker, *Bruny D’Entrecasteaux Voyage to Australia & the Pacific 1791–1793*

⁵ Brian Plomley, ‘The French in D’Entrecasteaux Channel, 1802’, *Tasmanian Tramp*, no.24, 1982/1983

Frenchmen. The metal buttons of the Frenchmen's clothes attracted them most: perhaps they would use them in necklaces, because one native was seen wearing an English penny, clearly a relic of some earlier visitor.⁶

Little did the Aborigines realise that they were about to be dispossessed of their hunting grounds and that all visitors were not so friendly.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Captain John LAUGHTON 1825–1827

Grants of land in remote areas like Bruny Island were not favoured in the early days of British settlement. Then in 1816 Governor MACQUARIE wrote to Lieutenant Governor DAVEY that

I do not see any objection to lands being granted to Settlers and Other Persons on the Island of Brune.⁷

This paved the way for early settlers like Captain John Laughton to apply for land on Bruny Island, including Partridge Island.

Born in 1793 in South Ronaldsay, Orkney Islands, John Laughton, like many islanders, had the sea in his blood.⁸ He was very enterprising and was already described as a ship-owner and master mariner when he was elected as Harbour Master at Kirkwell in 1812.⁹ His adventurous spirit led him to enter the service of the Hudson Bay Company and later the East India Company. In the course of his travels he met Elizabeth

WILLIAMS, daughter of another seafarer, and they married in St Davids, Wales in 1817.¹⁰

Elizabeth followed her husband from port to port. Eldest son, Thomas, was born in Stepney in 1820¹¹ and John, in Barton-on-Humber in 1823.¹² Their third son, James, was born in Hobart Town in 1826.¹³

Captain Laughton sailed from London for Australia as Master and part-owner of the barque *Alfred* which arrived in Sydney in July 1824.¹⁴ He then continued on the *Prince Regent*, arriving in Hobart Town on 4 October 1824 after what was described as a tedious 18 day voyage.¹⁵ He hadn't intended to stay in Van Diemen's Land, but a venture with the brig *Governor Phillip* had fallen through. Then a shipment of oranges on the *Alfred* had shown a loss which caused one newspaper correspondent to quip that he deplored

the loss very much, as his mouth watered with expectation of being favoured with a delightful squeeze!¹⁶

John Laughton then decided to apply for some land and on 19 February 1825 he received a Location Order from Lieutenant-Governor Arthur for 274 acres on Bruny Island.¹⁷ This included Partridge Island, but was conditional on the arrival of his family.

⁶ Brian Plomley, *The French in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, 1802*, Tasmanian Tramp, no.24, 1982/1983

⁷ Richard Pybus, *South Bruny Island – Tasmania*

⁸ Eileen Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton family*; RGD34/1/1448; FamilySearch Batch No C110292

⁹ Orkney Archives K/1.10; Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton family*

¹⁰ Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton family*; FamilySearch Batch No 6936504/7529435

¹¹ Ibid; FamilySearch Batch No C05576–2

¹² Ibid; FamilySearch Batch No C02594–3
¹³ Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database 215097

¹⁴ Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton family*

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ *Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, 2 December 1824

¹⁷ CSO 1/53/1036

In the meantime, in an effort to recoup his losses, Captain Laughton invested in a sealing venture in Bass Strait in the schooner *Helen*. After three months he returned to Hobart Town with more than 1200 skins on board. A newspaper report quoted Captain Laughton as saying

the islands between Van Diemen's Land and the Mainland were infested with a number of gangs of runaway convicts, whose piratical outrages rendered navigation of Bass Strait dangerous to unarmed ships.¹⁸

The article continued

some ... attempted to carry off his boat; but the thieves [ran] aground on a reef, after a sharp skirmish, he recovered it.¹⁹

He was still away sealing when his family arrived in Hobart Town on the barque *Lang* on 17 December, 1825. That they were well satisfied with the voyage is evident from a letter published in the *Hobart Town Gazette* in which a number of passengers publically expressed their

admiration of your firmness, judgement, and presence of mind in moments of greatest peril [and the] general kindness of your disposition

to the ship's master, Captain J LUSK.²⁰

On his eventual reunion with his wife and family, John Laughton decided that the land on the Bruny shore was unsuitable for his purpose and applied for land elsewhere. In lieu, he was given a Land Order dated 4 May 1827,²¹ for 500 acres in the Macquarie Reserve, described as fronting

the Cockatoo Valley Creek adjoining Michael Brett's grant on the same side of the above creek.²²

However, he retained the right to occupy the land on Partridge Island where he intended to operate a fishing establishment.²³

It was whaling, however, which really interested him and to this end in 1826 he joined a select group who called themselves the Derwent Whaling Club.²⁴ This Club had been formed by James KELLY, William WILSON, Walter Angus BETHUNE and Charles Ross NAIRN and offered a prize to the person who first gave information about a whale in the River Derwent. Profits, they said, were to be divided into seven shares, five being shared amongst the members, one to be devoted to charitable purposes, and the seventh to the man who killed the whale.

The contrast between life in London and as settlers in the fledgling colony of Van Diemen's Land must have been great, especially for Elizabeth and her family. This would have been particularly apparent on Partridge Island where the living quarters, even by 1843, must have been basic and by 1848 the wooden cottage still only had three rooms. Apart from a base for fishing, about 25 acres of Partridge Island was soon under cultivation and there were several huts for farm workers.

In 1826 William COX, an assigned servant, and Andrew SWANS (or Swanson), free man, were employed on the island. Aborigines, too, still roamed the area and it was inevitable they came in conflict with European settlers. On 3

¹⁸ *Colonial Times & Tasmanian Advertiser*, 10 February 1826

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, (HTG), 18 February 1826

²⁰ HTG, 31 December 1825

²¹ Smith, *A Brief History of the Laughton Family*; *Colonial Times*, (CT) 17 March 1846

²² Ibid

²³ CSO 1/53/1036

²⁴ MMT_P_GSL233

December Cox and Swans were assaulted and wounded with spears and stones by a band of about twelve Aborigines, led by Bruni JACK (or Boomer), who, it was reported, spoke English and was described as 5 feet 8 inches tall, stout and well-built.²⁵ The group took potatoes, flour, sugar, firearms, ammunition, knives and various other utensils.

A few days later Cox and Swans travelled to town to make a deposition to the police. The *Hobart Town Gazette* reported that,

They have since returned, joined by a constable who, under the prudent guidance of Mr. Munro, superintendent at Birch's Bay, will no doubt apprehend the whole party.²⁶

The island was frequently used as an anchorage for ships sailing in and out of Hobart Town and whalers called in for fresh supplies. However, Captain Laughton spent much of his time away - at sea or drumming up other business ventures. He became Master of the *Cape Packet*, a whaler owned by James Kelly. The crew was a rough and ready lot and seaman, Thomas HOWARD, ended up in court for being absent from his duty on board and

uttering contumacious and threatening language ... and putting himself in a menacing attitude towards the Captain.²⁷

In partnership with W H MASON and Thomas ATKINSON, John Laughton commissioned David HOY to build a ship at his shipyard near Kinghorne Point on Bruny Island.²⁸ Named *Apollo*, the 96

ton brig was built for the Sydney trade and on her maiden voyage in October 1826 carried a cargo of timber.²⁹

Then, in 1827 John Laughton decided to clarify his position on Partridge Island as a formal grant had still not been issued. As a result he was given 10 acres and a promise of more if necessary, provided it did not interfere with the fair claims of others in the fishing trade.³⁰

However, 1827 proved a bad year for the Laughton family. On only its second voyage in March, the *Apollo* made heavy going around Cape Pillar, later foundering at Maria Island—fortunately without loss of life. An assertion in the *Government Gazette* claimed

that the vessel shipped such a quantity of water from some of her upper works not being sufficiently caulked, that she became completely water-logged.³¹

The claim was, of course, countered by David Hoy, fearing that such statements could injure his credibility as a ship-builder.

The loss of the *Apollo* as well as cargo worth about £500 was a severe blow. Looking for other avenues of making money, John Laughton purchased, for £63 at auction, the wreck of the ship *Hope* which had gone ashore on the beach opposite Betsy Island (now known as Hope Beach) in early hours of Sunday 29 April 1827. On Thursday 10 May he and Captain CUNNINGHAM, former Master of the *Hope*, inspected the wreck. A big swell was breaking on the beach and their boat was swamped, throwing both men into the water. Cunningham

²⁵ CSO 1/316/7578 pp.815–26; Bruny Island History Room

²⁶ *HTG*, 9 December 1826

²⁷ *Police Report*, 13 May 1826

²⁸ Bill Lawson & The Shiplovers' Society of Tasmania, *Blue Gum Clippers & Whale Ships of Tasmania*;

Harold Salter, 1986; *Bass Strait Ketches*, 1991; Maritime Museum of Tasmania

²⁹ *Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, 4 November 1826

³⁰ CSO 1/53/1036

³¹ Maritime Museum of Tasmania

was able to save himself but just as Laughton reached the beach, another wave swept him off his feet and he drowned.³²

A lengthy column in the *Hobart Town Gazette* about the tragedy said that

His active and enterprising turn had led him to make the most exemplary exertions for the sake of his family.³³

For a man who had only been three short years in the colony, he had accomplished much but had little real property. Nor had he written a will, which left his family destitute. However, they were well regarded and a collection was soon taken up to tide the family over—about £550 being collected within six days—including a donation of £21 from Lieutenant-Governor Arthur.³⁴

At a later date a memorial tablet inscribed ‘unfortunately drowned at Maria Island’ was erected by his eldest son, Thomas, in St Davids Cemetery.³⁵ However, Thomas was only seven at the time of his father’s death, so he may have been confused between the two disastrous events which occurred so close together. The name, Laughtons Point, at the northern extremity of Partridge Island, was gazetted by the Nomenclature Board on 1 February 1984.³⁶

Now widowed, Elizabeth applied to exchange Partridge Island for other land but her request was refused³⁷ and the family moved to live in Campbell Street,

Hobart Town in 1828.³⁸ Elizabeth remarried in 1840,³⁹ and lived with her new husband, Charles Frederick SALMON, at 62 Macquarie Street, Hobart Town. He died in 1844.⁴⁰

Elizabeth seems to have recovered her fortunes. In 1867, two years before her death, the Valuation Index shows her being the owner of 114, 116 and 118 Macquarie Street, Hobart Town. She died in 1869 at the ripe old age of 75.⁴¹

However, this was not the end of the family’s association with Partridge Island.

Thomas Laughton 1827–1849

Following her husband’s death, Elizabeth Laughton and her three sons had moved into town and whether anyone remained living on the island is not known. However, Partridge Island was regularly visited by ships, outward bound or heading up river to the docks in Hobart Town. It was inevitable that some would be wrecked on offlying rocks and reefs.

In 1822, the *Acteon* had been wrecked south of Partridge Island. Then in 1835, on the other side of D’Entrecasteaux Channel, there was massive loss of life when the convict transport ship *George III* struck the submerged rock which now bears its name.

A headline, ‘Piratical Seizure’ in the *Colonial Times* on 28 August 1829, was followed by the story of the hijacking of the brig, *Cyprus*. The ship had been on the way to the penal settlement in Macquarie Harbour when the crew was over-powered by convicts, who made

³² Pybus, *South Bruny Island - Tasmania*; Harry O’May, *Wrecks in Tasmanian Waters; Colonial Times & Tasmanian Advertiser*, 11 May 1827

³³ *HTG*, 12 May 1827

³⁴ *Ibid*

³⁵ St Davids Cemetery

³⁶ Nomenclature UID 21226D

³⁷ Pybus, *South Bruny Island*

³⁸ CSO 1/122a p.82

³⁹ *Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database 350317*

⁴⁰ *Ibid*

⁴¹ Memorial tablet, St Davids Park

their escape after setting the passengers and crew ashore at Recherche Bay.

The resourceful castaways built a small boat, using little more than a knife, a razor and canvas stretched over wattle sticks, which they waterproofed with beeswax and soap. In this precarious contraption two members of the crew set off using rough-hewn paddles, eventually reaching Partridge Island. Their light was spotted by the pilot aboard the sailing ship, *Orelia*, and everyone was rescued.

Then again in July 1835 Partridge Island once more provided refuge—this time for survivors from the barque *Enchantress*. Under the command of Captain ROXBURGH, the *Enchantress* was nearing the end of a long voyage from London. Seeking the shelter of D'Entrecasteaux Channel after dark, she hit Acteon Reef and sank within 20 minutes. Unfortunately, sixteen members of the crew and one passenger lost their lives but, after spending a cold night at sea, the survivors landed on Partridge Island the following morning. Again there appears to have been no one on the island and the castaways

remained there all that day and the following night, suffering severely from cold and hunger.⁴²

Eventually, Mr MADDEN's cutter *Friends* arrived and gave assistance. On hearing the news, Port Officer, Captain William MORIARTY

left for Partridge Island as quickly as possible by steam boat with food, clothing and comforts, which all, especially the ladies, were badly in need of.⁴³

The exploits of the Laughton family seemed very newsworthy, judging by the number of articles which appeared in the

daily press. Even in 1923, one hundred years after John Laughton first set foot in Van Diemen's Land there was a lengthy exposé of the family's fortunes in *The Critic*.⁴⁴

The eldest son, Thomas, was not yet 16 when he left school and in a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor, his mother requested help in getting him paid work. She said that

I find my expenses daily increasing, and of course wish by the employment of my eldest son to derive some means of providing for his two younger brothers, whose education I find an immense expense.⁴⁵

Thomas had been working in an ordinance store without remuneration for some time. However, a comment penned at the bottom of the letter by Acting Commissary-General MOODIE said that

I am led to believe from the enquiries I have made, that he is too young and ineffective.⁴⁶

Whether Thomas ever obtained a post with the Crown is not known but by about 1840 he is believed to have been in command of the Imperial Government schooner *Eliza* which carried officials between Hobart Town, Macquarie Harbour and Port Arthur.⁴⁷

In 1833 James TRIFFET applied for land on Partridge Island, but in his reply, Lieutenant-Governor Arthur wrote that no part of the island was to be disposed of by grant.⁴⁸ This was an interesting comment, given that the island had been the subject of a Location Order in 1827

⁴⁴ *The Critic*, 20 July 1923

⁴⁵ *The Critic*, 20 July 1923; Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton Family*

⁴⁶ *Ibid*

⁴⁷ MMT_P_GSL234_1_w; Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton Family*

⁴⁸ LSD 1/11 P. 343

⁴² *The Mercury*, 20 July 1835

⁴³ *Ibid*

and requests by Thomas' mother to exchange the island for other land had been refused.

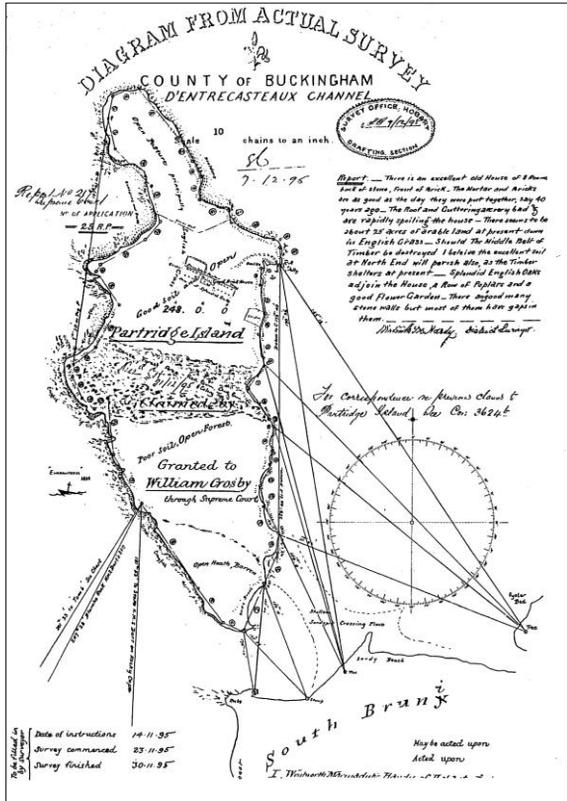
Elizabeth Laughton again applied for recognition of their title to Partridge Island by way of a grant in 1836.⁴⁹ She called on Arthur at Government House, pleading her case, and wrote him a lengthy letter. However, in an annotation on the correspondence the Surveyor-General penned

Mrs Laughton has no claim to Partridge Island, she having received land in another situation⁵⁰

It seems the government mistakenly believed that Partridge Island had been relinquished, together with the land on the Bruny shore, in favour of the location at Macquarie Reserve.

In 1843, an official census on 2 January shows there were six people on Partridge Island, all between 21 and 45 years of age. The house was described as being constructed of wood and, apart from Thomas Laughton, who is shown as the head of the household and proprietor, there were five other people 'gardeners, stockman, or persons employed in agriculture.'⁵¹ Three of these were free, and three under bond—one with a ticket-of-leave and two on private assignment.⁵²

The wheels of government turned slowly and the trail of paperwork hard to follow. Still no grant had been issued. Members of the family had occupied Partridge Island for nearly 20 years when on 3 March 1843, Thomas Laughton once again applied to the Crown to formalise



Survey Map of Partridge Island

There is an excellent old House of 3 Rooms, back of stone, Front of Brick. The Mortar and Bricks are as good as the day they were put together, say 40 years ago—The Roof and Guttering are very bad and are rapidly spoiling the house—There seems to be about 25 acres of arable land at present down in English Grass ...

Extract from Report as above—Signed by District Surveyor Wentworth Marmaduke Hardy 1895

⁴⁹ *Hobart Town Courier*, 30 December 1836

⁵⁰ *The Critic*, 20 July 1923, 'Notes by the Way'; Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton Family*

⁵¹ TAHO CEN1/1/73

⁵² Ibid

the claim.⁵³ Nothing more was heard for several years until on 21 February 1845 a Mr LOVETT landed on the island and served a Writ of Intrusion!⁵⁴ Somewhat shocked by this turn of events, Thomas surmised that there may have been an ulterior motive in removing him from the island—that consideration was perhaps being given to Partridge Island as a site for a Probation Station.⁵⁵

In August 1845 the Surveyor-General's office placed an advertisement in the newspaper for Lots of Crown Land available for rental which included

Special Lot, Partridge Island in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, lot 40, 270 acres, more or less ...⁵⁶

Perhaps there had been no response to the advertisement because the following November, 18 months after the Writ of Intrusion had been served, a letter to the Surveyor-General from the Colonial Secretary's Office asked whether Thomas Laughton had yet been ejected from the island.⁵⁷

Having lived on Partridge since he was a young boy, Thomas Laughton was not in a hurry to leave what he believed to be his inheritance and a court case ensued. The matter of the Queen v Laughton came before the court on 16 March 1846, His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir John Lewes PEDDER, presiding, together with a panel of twelve jury.

Thomas Laughton's solicitor, Mr John MONTAGU, produced the original Location Order as evidence but there was considerable argument as to whether this

was admissible and it ultimately had to be withdrawn. Nor did the judge take any notice of the fact that Thomas Laughton's father had fulfilled all the requirements imposed by the Crown, and despite three further attempts to clarify the issue, a grant had not been forthcoming and no explanation given. Mr Montagu completed his address by reminding the jury that the defendant had been in 'quiet and uninterrupted possession of the land on Partridge Island for twenty years.'⁵⁸

In his summing up the judge remarked

that the location order was in point of fact waste paper, and that nothing short of a grant from the Crown would establish a legal title.⁵⁹

However, the jury thought otherwise, and brought in a verdict of 'Not Guilty'—in other words, in favour of Thomas Laughton!⁶⁰

In the weeks that followed there were numerous letters in the newspaper deploring the action of the government. Despite this support, Thomas Laughton found himself in difficult financial circumstances. To cap it off, after fighting for his inheritance through the courts, Partridge Island was raided by a group of escaped convicts from Port Arthur. WEST and his gang, the report said, stripped the house of everything it contained—even the 'slop clothing of his servants, to the value of upwards of £50.'⁶¹ The newspaper article went on to say that the British Government is bound in honour to make good to Mr Laughton the loss he sustained—to him a little fortune.⁶²

⁵³ *The Courier*, 19 May 1843

⁵⁴ TAHO AB567/3/2

⁵⁵ *Colonial Times*, 17 November 1848

⁵⁶ *The Courier*, 13 September 1845

⁵⁷ TAHO AB567/3/2; CSO 24/73/2296; *Hobart Town Courier*, 25 March 1846

⁵⁸ *Colonial Times*, 17 March 1846

⁵⁹ *The Observer*, 17 March 1846

⁶⁰ *Colonial Times*, 17 March 1846

⁶¹ *Colonial Times*, 26 May 1846

⁶² *Colonial Times*, 26 May 1846

By 1848 Thomas Laughton had finally had enough and decided to sell Partridge Island. In September that year auctioneers, Messrs LOWES & MacMICHAEL, advertised the island for sale, describing it as having 22 acres in cultivation; a coastline abounding in kelp for manure; a garden enclosed by a substantial stone wall with many fruit trees; a cottage of three rooms; a slab barn 40 x 16 feet; a jetty; timber suitable for ship building and a secure anchorage which made it very well adapted for a whaling station—several whales being killed there each season. And, the advertisement goes on to say, ‘it abounds with springs of the purest water’.⁶³

The auctioneers felt obliged to add the court’s verdict had determined Laughton’s title to be a good one, although no grant had been obtained. However, despite the decision of the court, a notice gazetted by the Attorney-General’s Department warned anyone against buying the island as it was Crown property!⁶⁴

Thomas Laughton countered that he

had been subjected to great loss and inconvenience in defending himself against the Action of Intrusion, which, with other expenses, had embarrassed him in his circumstances.⁶⁵

It seems the island did not sell at auction and by this time Thomas Laughton must have been in dire straits. On 8 October 1846 he had taken out an Indenture of Mortgage to Hobart businessman Richard CLEBURNE. Cleburne had

advanced ... to Thomas Laughton ... the sum of £250 ... with the power to sell the hereditaments and premises in case of default in payment of the principal sums.⁶⁶

Thomas Laughton relinquished Partridge Island in final payment of the mortgage in 1849 and the island passed into the hands of Richard Cleburne.

In the meantime, Thomas’s younger brother, John, injured after falling from a horse at Bothwell, died at his mother’s residence in Macquarie Street on 6 September 1845.⁶⁷ James, the youngest of the family, was far more scholarly. He is said to have been an early pupil at the Hutchins School, a Latin scholar and solicitor, serving his articles in the chambers of Mr John DOBSON in Hobart. He died in 1895, aged 68.

Thomas left Van Diemen’s Land for the Californian gold rush about 1849. He was later employed by the Hudson Bay Company and is thought to have joined in the search for Sir John FRANKLIN.⁶⁸ In his last letter to his family he said he was heading north from Vancouver for a couple of years. He was never heard from again.⁶⁹ ◀

To be continued ...

[See Michael Roe, *An Imperial Disaster the wreck of George the Third*. Blubber Head Press, Hobart 2006

See <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/11730/> Gregory Jefferys, *Hugh Macintosh and Peter Degraives: the story of an Officer and a Gentleman*. Research MA thesis, University of Tasmania 2011, especially Section Three, pp.84–125 for a history of the colonial ship *Hope*.—Ed.]

⁶³ *The Courier*, 23 September, 1848

⁶⁴ *The Courier*, 4 October 1848

⁶⁵ *Colonial Times*, 17 November 1848

⁶⁶ LTO – ref:3/2242

⁶⁷ *Colonial Times*, 9 September 1845

⁶⁸ Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton Family*

⁶⁹ *The Mercury* 4 February 1938; Smith, *A brief History of the Laughton Family*

FRANCIS FLEXMORE'S ENCOUNTER WITH MATTHEW BRADY

Laurie Moody (Member No.5835)

FRANCIS FLEXMORE (c.1766–1835), aged about 22, a glass grinder by trade, lived at No.2a Shoe Lane in the city of London when he was arrested and charged with theft on 18 June 1878. A witness said he had seen Flexmore browsing through shops in Exeter Change, off the Strand, and watched him slip two plated shoe buckles into his pocket from a window display. Flexmore did not attempt to escape when the man seized him and sent for a constable. He appeared before the magistrate Sir Sampson WRIGHT later the same day and signed his name to a statement admitting the theft, which he said was motivated by (poverty). At his Old Bailey trial a few days later he said he had been very drunk at the time and thought he had paid for the buckles, realizing his error when he put his hand in his pocket to check what money he had. Three character witnesses spoke highly of him but he was sentenced to seven years' transportation. In May 1789 after nearly a year at Newgate Gaol, Flexmore was sent with a group of London convicts to the *Dunkirk* hulk at Plymouth.

A petition for mitigation of sentence from Flexmore's mother Sarah languished unanswered in the Recorder's office for months. A favourable report recommended a pardon on the condition of a payment of a two year good behavior bond commenting that his master was willing to employ him again. Either the Home Office disregarded that recommendation or his family was unable to

raise the bond money. In late November 1789, he was embarked on the *Neptune* transport.

In August 1791 more than a year after landing at Sydney Cove, Flexmore was sent to Norfolk Island. There within two months of landing he was in trouble when on 31 October 1791, he and George Wood were punished for repeatedly going to a place where birds could be easily caught for food. Flexmore received 100 lashes. After this lapse, his behavior was better and from at least 1803 he was employed as a constable on the island.

Flexmore also cultivated a farm on Norfolk Island, and from about 1878, after the death or departure from the island of Elizabeth Bruce's husband, Flexmore, Elizabeth (a First Fleeter, born c.1757, and tried at the Old Bailey) and her three children lived as a family. Two children were later born to the couple, George in 1798 and Francis in 1801. When the family sailed to Van Diemen's Land in September 1808 on the *City of Edinburgh* they left behind a 22 acre farm. Flexmore was granted land in the Queenborough/Sandy Bay area and later moved to Green Ponds (Kempton).

In 1809 he was mustered holding 40 acres (two and a half sown in wheat, two in barley, owning three sheep, three goats and four pigs. The couple and four children were probably rationed. In 1819, described as a constable of Hobart Town, he was holding 50 acres (nine sown in wheat, two and a half in potatoes, and a half in barley) with fourteen cattle, 400 sheep and 40 bushels of grain in store

(reflecting a steadily improving level of prosperity). By 1815 two of his sons were holding land nearby. He died at Greens Ponds on the 31 May 1835 and his burial was registered at Saint Mary's Kempton. His will left his widow an income of £25 per annum but she survived him by only two weeks, dying on 14 June. She was buried with him and a headstone marks their grave.

Note: The above information was supplied to me by Doreen McFARLAND who has been researching the Flexmore family.



The following article appeared in *The Mercury* 28 December 1872. Written by J E CALDER, it is an account of Francis Flexmore's encounter with Matthew BRADY the bushranger. It appears his son, also Francis, related the incident to Calder shortly before his death in 1874. I have taken the liberty of amending parts of the narration for easier reading.

From Mr. Flexmore I have recently received an account of Brady's visit to his father's house at Green Ponds, the same as that now occupied by his family there. The residence stands at the westernmost end of a rocky ravine through which a small stream of water passes that soon after unites with the creek known as the Green Water-holes. In front is a pretty large meadow, which was in tillage long before 1825; the main line of road through the country, which has been little altered from its original direction, then, as now, lay within a quarter mile of the house, and in full view of it.

It was at nine or ten o'clock of the morning of 26th of December [1825], as Mr. Flexmore's father (Francis) and himself were sitting in front of the house, that a party of horsemen, fourteen in number,

rode past and pulled up at the hut of a suspected colleague of Brady's named KELLY who lived about a quarter mile off. They were all well armed but this excited no suspicion at a period when all [were] armed; besides this, their appearance was so good they were taken for a party of mounted policemen.

On reaching Kelly's they all dismounted and went in. Soon afterwards, Brady and two others came out and returned on foot to Flexmore's, carrying their arms with them. It being Boxing Day and a general holiday, almost all the domestics were absent from the premises. The old gentleman and his son were still enjoying themselves in the bright morning summer sunshine when they [Brady & Co.] came up to them. On presenting himself, Brady saluted them with his usual politeness, for, as it was said, he could conduct himself properly enough when it suited him and he thus introduced himself ... and explained the purport of his business.

"Good morning, Mr. Flexmore."

"Good morning," replied the other rather stiffly.

"Do you know who I am, Sir?" said Brady.

"No, I don't," said Francis rather gruffly, for he had a little of John Blunt about him at times.

"Then I take leave to inform you that I am Brady, the bushranger who you have heard of before, for I've robbed half the settlers of this country and mean to rob the other half before I've done with them. Now, Sir, I'll trouble you for your money."

Flexmore was startled by this unexpected announcement, but was not thrown off his guard by it ... and feigned being pretty well out of cash just then. But Brady knew better than this; for the miscreant Kelly had been at the house in the morning with a pair of boots which Flexmore paid for ... [from] a little bag that had plenty more in it which he saw

him put back under a bed in the adjoining room.

Brady knew therefore that this was not true but seemed to believe it and said, "Then give me what little you have if you please." Mr. Flexmore rose up, none too willingly and went to his bedroom, closely followed by [Brady] ... and after rummaging through the pockets of some clothes ... handed [Brady] sixteen shillings which Brady accepted with a shake of his head and with a dissatisfied look said, "Pray, Mr. Flexmore, is that all there is in the house?" "Every farthing," he responded as bold as brass. "Come, come, old fellow," said Brady, laying politeness aside and placing the muzzle of his pistol to Flexmore's breast. "I see that civility is lost on you. I know, Sir, that you have more than this, so let me have it without another word." Then casting his eye in the direction of the bed he continued, "It's in a small bag under the bed; I know all about it, so bring it out or I'll shoot you like a crow!" ... seeing that no good was likely to come out of denying it ... [Flexmore] dived under the bedstead and brought the concealed treasure to light, about forty-five pound in notes.

Brady grabbed it immediately;

and having a pretty fair notion of its contents did not trouble to count them and thrust the bag ... into his pocket. The prize brought back his usual good humour ... being in no hurry to leave ... [Brady turned his attention] to the younger Flexmore ... he noticed a gold seal or two dangling from his watch pocket and demanded them, watch and all.

While young Flexmore was getting them

Brady amused himself by lecturing [Flexmore senior] ... about people of the present day not knowing how to deport themselves towards a gentleman, as he gravely styled himself ... In his time, he said, the master of the house who left his

visitor standing would be looked upon as a churl; but the times, he added, and the people too ... were not what they were in his young days (he was six and twenty). [Sounds familiar.]

By this time the watch was pulled out, but it being silver only the highwayman received it with no great satisfaction, but said, after pause ... he would wear it as a souvenir of their first meeting and then slipped it into his pocket quicker than it came out of young Flexmore's. He next made a snatch at the young man's hat, a new "Panama", and presented him with his own old one, saying he hoped both parties might benefited by the exchange.

Having got all he could from them, Brady took a look around at things generally. It was the ... look of a professional forager, which seemed to bode further mischief. ... His gaze settled on a well-conditioned horse, grazing in the home paddock a couple of hundred yards away.

It so happened Brady's horse was

apparently knocked up from overwork ... [so Brady] ... directed Murphy (one of his gang) to secure him, and to also take a look in the stable for another saddle to replace his own.

These matters being arranged, and the party reassembled, Brady vouchsafed a little advice to the Flexmores, which was to keep quiet until the next day about the morning's transactions, failing which they might rely on seeing him again directly after harvest, which was now near at hand, when he vowed, "he would burn the whole place down and shoot all who took part in betraying him."

Francis Flexmore's son George died in 1859 and Francis Jnr died in 1874. ◀

Note: The above article was researched from *Trove* and kindly provided by Judi and Brian DE LA PIERRE who are also connected to the Flexmore family.

BRICKFIELDS HIRING DEPOT

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

INTRODUCTION

Brickfields female hiring depot at North Hobart was a halfway house to domestic service, to marriage and relative freedom for female prisoners, or to further incarceration for those women who re-offended. It held the wild and the meek, the reckless and the recalcitrant. Powerless, illiterate women who were confined there waited for an opportunity for work and for tickets of leave. They were frequently objects of derision in the community. The Brickfields was viewed as a den of iniquity by Anna Maria NIXON, wife of Francis Russell Nixon, the Anglican bishop. Mrs Nixon found it necessary to keep her servants at home on Sunday afternoons when the females from Brickfields were let loose on the town.¹ As with most institutions of its type Brickfields developed support networks among its inmates and some women who were held there became lifelong friends.

Background

Brickfields Hiring Depot, together with the ill-chosen Dynnrnye House nursery, were the only additional facilities developed in Hobart Town for female convicts following the period of Lieutenant Governor ARTHUR (1824–1836). Brickfields was built by the Royal Engineers initially as a female factory during 1842. Construction was of brick and wood, which consisted of a large dormitory containing three-tiered berths, day rooms,

kitchen, stores, hospital, laundry plus a reception area. The matron lived in a separate house on the site. The complex was enclosed by a high paling fence and two male constables guarded the main gate. Brickfields provided accommodation for 200 women where their labour consisted of laundry and needlework. Schooling was offered for two hours per day, but few women availed themselves of the opportunity to learn and there were not sufficient books to teach them.²

The hiring arrangements on the arrival of the transports during the early 1840s were that officials were the first to come ashore at Hobart Town and the names of the prisoners called. The Principal Superintendent of Convicts listed his required number of servants. The remainder were allocated, first to the hospital, secondly to settlers in trade and finally to any household that could afford a servant.³ The women who remained were sent to Brickfields.

On being moved to Brickfields the personal effects of the women were placed in bundles deposited in the store, as the property which they were allowed to keep, was necessarily restricted. Any attempt to access their personal items was prohibited. The removal of such goods was deemed an offence, punishable by the police magistrate, (who was Mr A B

¹ Nixon, N, (compiler), *The Pioneer Bishop of Van Diemen's Land 1843-1863: Letters and Memories of Francis Russell Nixon D.D., First Bishop of Tasmania*. Hobart, 1953, p.33

² Brand, I, *The Convict Probation System: Van Diemen's Land 1839-1854*. Ed., M N Sprod (ed.). Hobart, Blubber Head Press, 1990, p.203

³ TAHO, Franklin, Jane, *Diary*, 23 July 1841, p.170, microfilm MS 248/92

Jones in 1849) for periods of fourteen days to one month hard labour at Cascades. When women at Brickfields were found selling and receiving apparel, their sentences were likely to be lengthened.⁴

Anna Maria Nixon was critical of Brickfields hiring depot in 1844 and she held Captain Matthew FORSTER, Director of the Probation System, responsible. She believed that he had little interest in female convicts and was reported as having said that the Government had no right to coerce these women. She bemoaned the fact:

so they are allowed full licence; they are left in total idleness; they dance, play, dress up for acting, and spend all that they have on tobacco and spirits.

Mrs Nixon explained the source of money obtained by the women:

the common scheme is for an idle woman to go into service on a month's trial (the mistress is obliged to keep her for a month or pay), and often the first week she proves herself totally inefficient, the mistress is thankful to be rid of her and the whole of her month's wages is spent in the Brickfields.

Furthermore, Bishop Nixon and his wife, Anna Maria, were informed that Captain Forster proposed to let 400 females loose upon the town every Sunday afternoon, which 'is to be desecrated by a ... hoard of wandering women'.⁵

Visiting magistrates William WATCHORN and William CARTER inspected Brickfields on 3 August 1844, in the belief that it was their duty, to report on

the establishment as a Female Factory under the Quarter Sessions Act. They detailed their visit:

It was about ½ past 9. The Prisoners were just commencing Breakfast. There was a total absence of all order & regularity, & the noise & confusion from Talk & Clatter were beyond description. On the appearance of the Superintendent, they requested to be shewn over the Buildings, this was done with evident reluctance. In the sleeping apartment the night clothes & bedding had not been removed to the open air. The floors were covered with expectation. Tobacco ashes showed certain tokens of persons having smoked there during the night or morning. On asking the Superintendent for an explanation of these things, he [said] ... The Comptroller General knew of their smoking & sanctioned it.⁶

The two magistrates found that the women had no employment. It was also revealed that the Brickfields inmates could, and did, send out articles to pawn. At times they purchased luxuries for their use in the depot. They were permitted to be out in the town during the evenings as well as on Sundays. The two magistrates described the prisoners as more like the unrestrained libertines of the pavé than women undergoing moral reformation.

The report of Watchorn and Carter caused the status of Brickfields to be clarified by the Lieutenant Governor. It was to be classed as a hiring depot rather than a gaol. It was stipulated that:

the Factory at the Brickfields tho' used heretofore as a Prison or House of Correction & therefore under the Visiting Magistrates according to the Act, yet that

⁴ Cowley, T M, *A Drift of 'Derwent Ducks': Lives of the 200 Female Irish Convicts Transported on the Australasia from Dublin to Hobart in 1849*. Hobart, Research Tasmania, 2005, p.170

⁵ Nixon, N, op. cit., p.33

⁶ Brickfields, <http://www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/hiring.htm#visit>, accessed 28/05/2008

it is no longer used as a Gaol or House of Correction.⁷

Attempts were made to impose order and more rigorous control. Communication by the Brickfields women with outsiders after 1844 was illegal. When a rule was infringed inmates were taken into police custody to be charged. Following a summary conviction by a magistrate the offenders were sent to Cascades Female Factory to serve their sentences. Typical offences were disobedience of orders, fighting in the yard, improper language, disorderly conduct, having money in possession, removing personal property, absconding and drunkenness.⁸ All such offences attracted one or more months of hard labour at Cascades.

By the end of 1844 a system of classification was in place at Brickfields as outlined in the following return:

HIRING DEPOT, BRICKFIELDS.

RETURN of Women disposable at the Hiring Depot, Brickfields, on 21st December, 1844: –

In the 3rd class	137
In the 2nd class	91
In the 1st class	71
Total	299

Received from Female House of Correction	12
Ditto private service	14
Total	26

Discharged to private service	34
Ditto Female House of Correction	5
Ditto Tickets-of-Leave	24
Total	63

GEORGE BROOKS, *Superintendent*⁹

As shown, the largest group, the third class, were the latest arrivals in the colony. These women, undergoing their preliminary period of punishment, were regarded as the worst conducted convicts. The second class were

well conducted but not so regular as those in the first class and not so long in the establishment.

The first class were

the best conducted, being the longest in the establishment as well as being nearest to emergence into the workforce.¹⁰

In 1849 an infant death rate of fifty per cent at the crowded Dynnryne House led to thirty-seven mothers and sixty-five infants being moved to Brickfields. The death rate dropped for a time but that stay was temporary as two years later Dynnryne House again became the principal nursery. Pregnant women who had been dismissed from service were also returned to Brickfields. Both assigned and hired female convicts were especially vulnerable to the sexual advances of their masters, as well as to males working on the premises. The females were ‘fair game’ by being forced, enticed, or complicit in sexual relations with these men but were cast off unceremoniously when they became pregnant.¹¹ The female convict was thus left in degradation and poverty. For her confinement she was moved to Dynnryne Nursery.

On 24 November 1852 Brickfields ceased operation as a hiring depot and was again converted to a nursery. Frederick MACKIE of the British Society of Friends visited Hobart Town three times between 1852

⁷ Ibid
⁸ Cowley, op. cit., p.170
⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 December 1844, p.1043

¹⁰ Brand, I, op. cit., p.243
¹¹ Castles, A, *Lawless Harvests, or God Save the Judges: Van Diemen’s Land 1803–55, a Legal History*. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2003, p.181

and 1854 on missions to encourage and instruct fellow Quakers living in foreign lands. He went to Brickfields on 12 January 1853 where he found the depot was being used as a lying in hospital chiefly for convicts. He recorded:

the buildings are mostly of wood and some scarcely watertight ... about 100 women and 90 children are now here. The children remain until they are 3 years of age and are then removed to the orphan school, the mothers are required to resign them to the care of the State.¹²

Brickfields functioned as a nursery until 1859 when it was designated an invalid station and used to accommodate some of the thousands of paupers who required institutional care in Tasmania at the end of convictism. ◀



ABERDEEN.

Illness:

Little Doris Keep is ill. She is suffering from a severe chill.

Accident:

Everyone is grieved to hear that Master L. Keep is suffering as a result of a piece of timber falling on his head.

The Advocate, 27 October 1922 p.4

[Aberdeen is approximately 10 km south from Devonport, Tasmania.—Ed.]

¹² Mackie, F, *Traveller Under Concern: The Quaker Journals of Frederick Mackie on his Tour of the Australasian Colonies 1852–1855*. Ed. M Nicholls, Hobart, University of Tasmania, 1973, p.68

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
Mersey Branch
117 Gilbert Street
Latrobe Tasmania 7307
Phone (03) 6426 2257



Monumental Inscriptions of Devonport District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania



Book 1

- Devonport General Cemetery

Book 2

- Devonport Bluff Cemetery
- Don Congregational Cemetery
- Don St Olaves Anglican Cemetery
- East Devonport St Pauls Anglican Cemetery
- East Devonport Methodist Cemetery
- Forth Beach Cemetery
- Devonport Catholic Church Memorial
- Paloona Private Burial Ground
- Mersey Gardens & Crematorium

\$35 per copy plus postage and handling

JAMES CHARLWOOD

EVANDALE BOUND

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

AS George JONES, the engine driver on the express train which left Hobart at 8 a.m. on 19 June 1888 approached the bridge near William BARLOW's *Cooley's Hotel*, South Glenorchy (now Moonah), he saw what he first thought was a dog, but soon realised it was 'the head of a man'. He 'whistled for the brakes to be applied', and railway guard Robert SWINTON immediately responded.

The man, on his back in the rivulet, 'was quite dead', and Jones could not say whether the engine knocked him into the rivulet or whether he fell from the bridge, 'a structure with open spaces between the planks'.¹ It may have been that while the man was on the culvert the cowcatcher of the engine 'caught him'. One of his boots and a sock were found close to the culvert, and it is likely he had been 'bathing his feet in the water' and sat on the line to put his socks and shoes on again before walking to the station. The fireman on the train stated that he saw the 'head of a person who appeared to be sitting on the line just as the engine approached the culvert', but there was not enough time to stop the express.² 'The poor old man' suffered from 'extreme deafness', and consequently was probably not aware that the train he intended catching was approaching. Jones gave instructions for the deceased's body to be taken to the hotel where it was handed to police, and

Jones and Swinton 'proceeded on with the train'.³

Identification of the body of 82 year-old James CHARLWOOD, 'an able, stout man who was quite fit to walk about and take care of himself', but who was very deaf, was made by John WITHRINGTON, superintendent at the Charitable Institution at New Town, where Charlwood had been an inmate for three months.⁴ He had obtained permission to leave the Institution to travel by train to Evandale, where he had previously resided, and at 7:50 a.m. that morning asked Withrington for a railway ticket. The superintendent told him it was too late for the express and he had no tickets, but Charlwood had £1 4s 9d. to purchase one at the station, the money having been given to him by the assistant-supervisor, Frederick Robert SEAGER earlier that morning.⁵

An inquest into Charlwood's death was held the following day at *Cooley's Hotel*, the proceedings conducted by Mr BELLETTE before Coroner Harold Stephen Robert WRIGHT and the jury: Mr Peter F WILKINSON (foreman), Major G R TUSS, Messrs William BURRELL, Henry MARRIOTT, Robert PIERCE, Samuel BRIDGES, George RICHARD

¹ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3

² *Mercury*, 20 June 1888 p.2

³ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3

⁴ The Institution (1879–1912) was housed in the former buildings of the Queen's Orphan Schools after the school closed; <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>; <http://www.orphanschool.org.au/>

⁵ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3

and Thomas Gordon PELL.⁶ Dr C A PAYNE, who examined the body, found there was an ‘extensive wound of the scalp reaching to the bone, whilst over the forehead and the crown of the head were numerous deep flesh wounds’, and both ears were ‘lacerated’. The doctor concluded that Charlwood’s death was due to ‘shock from the blow at the back of the head’. The ‘scalp wounds’ were most likely caused by the ‘rails, and probably also by the stones in the bed of the creek ... death having without doubt been instantaneous’.⁷

After hearing the evidence, and also viewing the body of the deceased, the jury members visited the bridge, where Police Officer John OGLE explained the distance from the bottom of the bridge to the bed of the rivulet was about 25 feet, and there was sufficient space between the planks of the bridge for a man to fall through.⁸ The jury concluded Charlwood was accidentally killed but there was ‘nothing to show whether it was by a blow from the Engine or by the fall into the creek’. They attached no blame to the driver, the fireman or the guard on the train.⁹

The deceased had lived 52 years in Van Diemen’s Land, after he arrived on 13 January 1836 aboard the convict vessel *Bardaster*, having left Plymouth 119 days earlier. The 24 year-old ‘Ploughman’ who could also ‘Milk’, was from Ryegate, and on 30 March 1835 at the Surrey Assizes was found guilty of stealing half a Crown and sentenced to seven years’ transportation. This was not his first conviction. He had previously been

found guilty of the highway robbery of Thomas DUDLEY at Ryegate, as well as convictions for assault and rape.¹⁰

Charlwood’s life in Van Diemen’s Land was dotted with offences after first being assigned to John BROWN at Bagdad. By May 1837 he was assigned to Mr BUTLER, who charged him with being drunk and disorderly, for which Charlwood was reprimanded and returned to Butler. In total he received 50 lashes and also one year of hard labour in chains for various offences including absence from his service with Butler ‘under suspicious circumstance’, and a recommendation he be sent to Port Arthur. It seems that Butler was satisfied with his servant’s work, because, instead of Port Arthur, Charlwood was returned to Butler, but from where, less than three weeks later, he stole a quantity of wheat valued at £1 10s and also two bags valued at 2s 0d. This time Charlwood was not as lucky. He was sent to the Cleveland Probation Party for three months then, a few weeks later, in June 1839 to Launceston at the Lieutenant-Governor’s discretion.¹¹

On 28 September 1840 Charlwood was granted his Ticket of Leave, but charges against him continued. Ten months later he was fined £1 0s 0d. after being found guilty of ‘Cruelty to dumb animals/in destroying a cat the property of James SCOTT’. He received his Free Certificate in 1842, and was free of charges until 19 October 1858 in Launceston when he charged James HARRISON with assault, and claimed Harrison had struck him three times on the head. Charlwood’s pig had trespassed onto Harrison’s land and an argument ensued,

⁶ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3; AOT online SC 195/1/67 Inquest 9429

⁷ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3

⁸ *Mercury*, 21 June 1888 p.3

⁹ AOT online SC 195/1/67 Inquest 9429

¹⁰ CON 31-1-7 image 0351 Conduct record; Appropriation List CON 27-1-2 image 00047

¹¹ CON 31-1-7 image 0351

resulting in the assault. Despite the assault by Harrison being proved, Charlwood had provoked Harrison, and he was fined 10s 0d and costs.¹²

Deafness was seriously affecting Charlwood by July 1859, when the wording in a warrant described him as James Underwood Charlwood, alias 'Deaf Jemmy', when charged with assaulting Elizabeth Harrison of Pleasant Hills, West Tamar, by 'catching her by the throat and by the hair at the head, and throwing her down over a chair'. He surrendered, and was granted bail with surety of £50 and two extra sureties of £25 to appear at the Police Office later that week.¹³

He regularly appeared in court on a variety of charges including breaking and entering the residence of Lieutenant DUTTON at West Tamar, where he stole 20 lbs of sugar and an American Bucket, and the theft of mangold wurtzils from to Edward ROSEVEAR's padlock.¹⁴

In July 1887, at about 81 years of age Charlwood was again in court when he claimed William ROLLINSON had not paid him £3 10s he was owed for having carted some wood. According to Rollinson he had taken his bedding to Charlwood's place and loaned Charlwood, the 'old man', £4, but Charlwood stated he had not been paid £4 10s due to him for 18 weeks' wages and 5s per week, and the £4 which Rollinson claimed was a loan. Charlwood considered his housing was 'charity', while Rollinson said Charl-

wood did not work, and had become 'a nuisance', therefore Rollinson asked him to leave. The verdict was in Rollinson's favour.¹⁵

His appearances in court indicate Charlwood remained around the Launceston area from 1839 to July 1887, and just twelve months before his death. What made him decide to move to Hobart is unknown, and was possibly unusual his age especially as he had lived most of his life around Launceston, and at the age of 82 he planned to return to the area. Instead of reaching his destination his last conscious decision seems to have been that of soothing his aching feet in the cool July water of the rivulet while waiting for the train.

No record has been found of any family members or of James Charlwood's marriage. On 21 June 1888 he was buried in a pauper grave at Cornelian Bay Cemetery.¹⁶



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS DERWENT CHAPTER

A new Southern Tasmanian Chapter of the fellowship of First Fleeters held an inaugural meeting on 3 August 2013. They intend holding meetings bi-monthly on the first Saturday. President, Judith Wood, would like to extend an invitation to interested persons. The next meeting will be on 7 December from 11:00 a.m. til 12:00 in the Board Room, Mezzanine Level of Royal Yatch Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade in Sandy Bay.

Phone: Judith 0404 807 338 or email **Fleeters1788@outlook.com**

¹² *Examiner* 23 October 1858 p 3; CON 31-1-7 image 0351 Free certificate no 236/1842; *Hobart Town Courier*, 6 October 1840, p.2; *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 September 1840, p.4

¹³ *Cornwall Chronicle* Saturday 16 July 1859, p.5

¹⁴ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 24 January 1866 p.5; *Examiner* 4 October 1878 p.2

¹⁵ *Examiner*, 7 July 1887 p.3

¹⁶ RGD35 Hobart deaths 1525/1888; Cornelian Bay Cemetery online record, No 1B 6877, Pauper section A, No. 501

A Photographic index to
The Tasmanian Mail

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

- Volume 1, 1894–1904—\$27.00
- Volume 2, 1905–1908—\$27.00
- Volume 3, 1909–1912—\$27.00
- Volume 4, 1913–1916—\$27.00
- Volume 5, 1917–1920—\$27.00
- Volume 6, 1921–1922—\$27.00
- Volume 7, 1923–1924—\$27.00
- Volume 8, 1925–1926—\$27.00
- Volume 9, 1927–1928—\$27.00
- Volume 10, 1929–1930—\$30.00
- Volume 11, 1931—\$25.00
- Volume 12, 1932—\$27.00
- NEW! Volume 13, 1933—\$27.00

Index to
The Weekly Courier

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

- Volume 1, 1901–1903—\$30.00
- Volume 2, 1904–1905—\$30.00
- Volume 3, 1906–1907—\$30.00
- Volume 4, 1908–1909—\$30.00
- Volume 5, 1910–1911—\$30.00
- Volume 6, 1912–1913—\$30.00
- Volume 7, 1914–1915—\$33.00
- Volume 8, 1916—\$30.00
- Volume 9, 1917—\$30.00
- Volume 10, 1918—\$30.00
- Volume 11, 1919—\$30.00
- Volume 12, 1920–21—\$30.00
- NEW! Volume 13, 1922–23—\$30.00

All available from
 TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch
 PO Box 1290
 Launceston TAS 7250
 Plus \$12.50 pack 1-4
 TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
 plus \$12.50 p&p

Index to
The Examiner

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

Now available—

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

Index to
The Examiner
 Obituaries & Funerals:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1941–1950 | \$25.00 |
| 1951–1960 | \$25.00 |

Available from
 TFHS Inc.
 Launceston Branch
 PO Box 1290
 Launceston
 TAS 7250

Plus \$12.50 pack 1–4
 TFHS Inc. Members
 less 10% discount,
 plus \$12.50 p&p

BOOK REVIEW



Patchwork Prisoners: The Rajah Quilt and the women who made it, by Trudy Cowley and Dianne Snowden.

Paperback: \$59.00
RRP, B5; pp.352;
850g, ISBN: 978-0-9756784-6-6. eBook

\$15; 978-0-9756784-7-3, formats: epub (iPad, Android), mobi (Kindle). Web site: <http://www.researchtasmania.com.au>

This captivating story begins in 1987 with the discovery of an old quilt in a Scottish attic. An inscription on the quilt indicated that it was crafted by female convicts on the ship *Rajah*, which arrived in Hobart Town in July 1841.

The quilt was dedicated 'To the ladies of the convict ship committee', a group of Quaker women, led by Elizabeth Fry, who worked toward the welfare and reformation of women prisoners in gaol and during transportation.

The quilt was acquired by the National Gallery and is now known as the *Rajah Quilt*. It is described as 'one of Australia's most important textiles,' and 'an extraordinary work of art; a product of beauty from the hands of many women who, while in the most abject circumstances, were able to work together to produce something of hope'. See also: <http://nga.gov.au/RajahQuilt/>

Trudy Cowley and Dianne Snowden, professional historians, became interested in the story and began to research the lives of the convicts involved. It soon became a labour of love, and their scholarship has created and compiled an immense resource of interesting and useful material.

The narrative starts with the story of Elizabeth Fry and the development of the society she formed, of Quaker women, to improve the life of female prisoners. There is information about the quilt and the women who probably made it. A lengthy investigation is presented into the convicts of the *Rajah*: their appearance; their crimes; assignments in the colony; skills; marriages; their children; where they ended up; their attainment of freedom, or not; how they died and where they were buried. There are over 70 illustrations, mainly of associated people and places. There is an extensive array of tables and charts which provide supporting analysis of relevant data.

The paperback is supported by an eBook version and an online database of biographic material. The eBook on iPad contains several noteworthy features: the reader can tap on an in-text reference number to examine the endnote, and return without loss of place; and, in a similar way, tap on a selection in a list of tables, illustrations or figures to visit the item and return. The eBook suffers with occasional formatting problems of tables with wrapped text in narrow columns, although meaning is never lost. Legibility is greatly assisted by the ability to double-click on an item, e.g. a table or photograph, to zoom to a full page. The pie charts are greyscale but have clear and precise labelling.

The 700 plus pages of biographies online are extensive and clearly presented. There is a facility to click on a link to the specific pages in the scanned convict registers, i.e. the conduct records and description lists. ◀

Geoff Dean (Member No.6020)

COLONIZATION CIRCULAR.

ISSUED BY



HER MAJESTY'S

COLONIAL LAND AND EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS.

No. 4.]

ISSUED MAY, 1844.

[PRICE 4d.]

CONTENTS.

Page	Page
PRELIMINARY NOTICE	1
EMIGRATION :—	
1. Names & Duties of the Government Emigration Agents in the United Kingdom	2
2. Names and Duties of the Government Emigration Agents in the North American and Australian Colonies.	2
3. Emigration from 1825 to 1843 inclusive	2
4. Cost of Passage to the various Colonies	3
DEMAND FOR LABOUR :—	
1. In the North American Colonies	4
2. In the Australian Colonies & New Zealand	4
PRICES :—	
1. In the North American Colonies	5
2. In the Australian Colonies	7
WAGES :—	
1. In the North American Colonies	8
2. At the Cape of Good Hope	8
3. In the Australian Colonies & New Zealand	9
DISPOSAL OF CHURN LANDS :—	
1. In the North American Colonies	10
2. In the Australian Colonies and New Zealand	10
3. In the Falkland Islands	11
4. In the West Indies	11
5. At the Cape of Good Hope	11
6. At Hong Kong	11
7. Summary of Modes of Sale, and Prices, in the land-selling Colonies	12
EXPENSES OF CLEARING, AND PUBLIC CHARGES ON LAND :—	
1. In the North American Colonies	12
2. In New Zealand	12
MISCELLANEOUS :—	
<i>Hints to Emigrants to the North American Colonies.</i>	
1. Caution to provide means for subsistence and transport after arrival	12
2. Tools	12
3. Time to arrive in the Colony	12
4. Length of the passage	12
5. Maintenance on arrival, &c.	13
6. Colonial Tax on Emigrants	13
7. Caution not to refuse good wages	13
8. Route for Emigrants to Canada West	13
9. Expense of erecting a log hut	13
10. Regulations for Passenger-Ships to North America	13
<i>Hints to Emigrants to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.</i>	
1. Length of the voyage	14
2. Outfit required	14
3. Table of distances of principal places in New South Wales	15
4. Expense of erecting a dwelling for an agricultural labourer	15
NOTICES :—	
On the Falklands	15

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

In the present publication the Commissioners have revised and corrected by the latest Official Returns in their possession the information contained in the previous numbers of the Colonization Circular, under the heads of Emigration, — Demand for Labour, — Wages and Prices, — and Sales of Waste Lands in the different Colonies. They have also inserted, under the head "Miscellaneous," notices on some other points likely to be useful to persons intending to emigrate.

The Circular will no longer be issued at irregular periods, as heretofore; but it is proposed instead, if found convenient to parties interested in Emigration, to publish annually one circular in the Spring, embodying the most recent information on the topics contained in the following pages.

By order of the Board,

S. WALCOTT, Secretary.

9, Park Street, Westminster,
May, 1844.

Colonization Circular

COST OF PASSAGE

Issued May, 1844

Cost of Passage to the British Colonies from some of the principal Ports of the United Kingdom.								
	CABIN		INTERMEDIATE			STEERAGE		
	Cost, including provisions		Cost, with Provisions		Cost, without Provisions		Cost, with Provisions	
Van Diemen's Land	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
London	£ 60	£ 90	£ 30	£ 40	£ —	£ —	£ 20	£ —
Liverpool	60	70	30	—	—	—	28	—
Greenock	50	—	30	—	20	—	18	—
Cork	Same as in London							

Colonization Circular, Issued by Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. No. 4 May, 1844. Price 4d. p. 3

GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

BREAKING up might be hard to do, but 'backing up' is easy, yet it seems to be the issue about which I receive the most queries.

There are a million and one back up programs available for download, or on just about every hard drive purchase, or preinstalled in Windows, and you don't need a single one of them. If you use a specific program to do your backup, then chances are you will need to have that same program (and maybe even the same version) to restore your files, which is fine unless your hard drive crash has sent you to a newer computer that won't run the old version. If you do need software in order to remember to back up regularly GFI Backup is free to download, just make sure you have it set to no compression. If you can access a file inside the backup without opening the program then it is safe to use. If when you click on the backup location it opens the program to access the file then find another program, or a different setting to save files.

Currently, with so many cheap portable drives available most backup devices are as big as or bigger than the hard drives we're copying from so there is no need to compress files. Zipped or compressed files always seem the weak point of past backups, the error message is usually that the file is corrupted, or that you need a different program to un-archive.

Avoiding these issues is simple. Get an external hard drive and attach to your computer. Make a folder '2013 DEC Backup'. Then copy and paste all the files you need into that folder. Here is where a properly set up program like GFI can make it really easy, but, once you

organise your data it's not that hard to set it up manually each week.

There are a lot of things on your computer that *don't* need backing up, so copying the entire C drive across is a waste of time.

First copy across your My Documents and My Pictures folders (or wherever you store your photos and documents).

Family tree programs all offer some sort of backup service in the program, but again those issues of compression and software versions arise. To avoid them, first know where your program saves your tree files. (Go to 'save as' and see where it points you.) You can be really smart and actually save as all your trees to a Family folder in My Documents, instead of settling for the default location selected by the program, meaning every time you back up your docs, your tree is safe too. Just as an aside, it doesn't hurt to make a GEDCOM export of your tree every so often too, just so if the absolute worst happens you could access the data in any program.

Emails are the next on the backup list. The backup instructions for each program and version differ, so put Google to work and keep a note of the process so you can repeat it next time. Don't forget to also back up your contact list/address book.

Similarly for your internet browser, whether Internet Explorer, Opera, Firefox etc., backing up your Favourites or bookmarks is usually a matter of going to organise them and then exporting to a file. With Firefox you can even back up the profile settings too (Google it) so when you have to reinstall Firefox everything will instantly look the same as you have it now.

What else needs to be backed up? Basically anything you have created. Programs can't be reinstalled from a copy, you need to have the installation software. However if there is something you've downloaded you might like to copy the install file to save downloading it again. Then look for other programs you use that create things. Do you edit videos, scan certificates, file recipes, make labels, produce charts or databases (like book or DVD libraries)? Basically if it asks you to save something you should be saving to My Documents or make a note of where it defaults to and copy that folder into your backup.

When you're done (you might need to leave it copying overnight), eject the drive and store it. Ideally you have two drives and store one off site and swap them after each backup.

Programs like GFI can be set to incrementally back up so it would automatically only back up the new versions of files or the newly created files at the next backup time.

If working manually you can of course just add in a few new photos if you know you've hardly touched anything else, but in general I recommend that you create a new folder '2014JAN backup' and back it all up again (that way if something is corrupted, you still have the slightly older version available). As the drive fills, delete the oldest backups.

The key is to do your backups regularly (and often). If using software to automate the process check regularly that the most recent files have successfully transferred across and that the drive isn't getting too full to allow the program to work.

Good luck and remember there are only two types of computer users. Those who have had a hard drive fail, and those who haven't had one fail ... yet. ◀

Church Records of Tasmania Vol. 1



Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Burials A-K

Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Burials L-Z

These two A4 books have been compiled from the complete collection of Burial Registers held by the Tasmanian Catholic Archives and mainly include records from the North West, West and Southern areas

Write to Resource Manager
TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch
PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018
or
email library@tasfhs.org

\$27.50 + \$4.25 p&p each book for members
\$30 + \$4.25 p&p for non-members

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

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

LIVING IN HISTORY: Tasmania's historic homes, the people who built them, and those who live in them now.

Published in 2011, this is the second collaborative work of Georgia Warner and Alice Bennett. The first was the successful *Country Houses of Tasmania*; published in 2009.

The pictorial descriptions of the interiors, exteriors and gardens of the twenty properties, including Government House, are quite stunning, complemented by the skilful design of text and photographs.

Some buildings have been in the same families since the 1820s; others have been saved from ruin or converted into homes after previous lives as anything from hop kilns to coach houses and public schools.

Featured properties are: *StrathAyr; Ratho; Tasman Island; Rouseville; Haggerstone; Government House; Cullenswood; Panshanger; Hamilton Old Schoolhouse; Ashby; Shene; Bowood; Fulham; Ormiston House; The Jolly Farmer Inn; Wybra Hall; Woodlands; Selborne; Clifton; Elphin House.*

PATCHWORK PRISONERS: The Rajah Quilt and the women who made it.

This large paper-back book of pp.327 by Trudy Cowley & Dianne Snowden was published in July 2013.

Patchwork Prisoners is a study of the 180 female convicts who were transported on the convict ship *Rajah* from England to Hobart in 1841. It is also a study of the *Rajah* Quilt and the convicts who may have been involved in making it during the voyage to Van Diemen's Land. The role of Miss Kezia HAYTER, the ship's Matron, in making the Quilt is also explored.

The *Rajah* Quilt is the only known surviving quilt made by female convicts on their voyage from the United Kingdom to Australia. It was found in a Scottish attic in 1987 and gifted to the National Gallery of Australia in 1989. The study is a valuable reference and resource for historians, genealogists and family historians.

GLENLEITH MEMORIES AND STORIES.

This A4 book, of pp.96 by Steve Balmforth was published in 2012.

The 'Glenleith' property at Plenty in the Derwent Valley in Tasmania, holds fond and special memories for many families, none more than the Balmforths.

Other major family names featured are: HARWOOD, RAINBIRD and WOOLFORD.

The book is a snapshot of a way of life that was commonplace for many rural communities in the late 1920s through to the late 1960s. The personal recollections of those who grew up, worked and have

family links to the ‘Glenleith’ property are recorded as a memory to a time long past.

The hop picking stories at ‘Glenleith’ and the inclusion of photographs that show some of the people and activities involved will bring back memories to many.

CELEBRITY FAMILY TREES:

The world’s most celebrated and scandalous dynasties.

This book of pp.180 was published in 2006.

The broad family trees of the celebrities are shown and illustrated with numerous photographs pertaining to the individuals mentioned. Families listed are: BARRY-MORES; BONAPARTS; BUSHES; CHURCHILLS; DAHLS; DARWINS; Du PONTS; FARROWS; FONDAS; FREUDS; GETTYS; HEARSTS; HEMMINGWAYS; HILTONS; HITLERS; KENNEDYS; KRUPPS; MITFORDS; NEHRU-GANDHIS; TOLSTOYS.

HARRIS FAMILIES AND HOW TO TRACE THEM.

This A5 booklet by Bill Lawson was published in 1990.

Bill Lawson is recognised as the foremost authority on the genealogies of the people of the Western Isles of Scotland. The wealth of information he has amassed on the whole of the Outer Hebrides and the major emigration areas is now housed in Co Leis Thu?—the Genealogical Service and Resource Centre in Northton, Isle of Harris.

The booklet provides information about 30 individual surnames that account for 96% of the 1851 population of the Parish of Harris (excluding St Kilda inhabitants).

Surnames are: MacLEOD, MacDONALD, MORRISON, MacLENNAN, Mac-

KINNON, MacASKILL, CAMPBELL, MacKAY, MacLEAN, MacINNES, SHAW, MacRAE, MARTIN, MacAULAY, MacSWEEN, MacDERMID, KERR, FERGUSON, MacKENZIE, MacKILLOP, MacCUISH, MUNRO, CUNNINGHAM, MacMILLAN, ROSS, MacCUSBIC, GILLIES, PATERSON, MacPHEE and MacQUEEN.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ST KILDA.

Published in 1975 by Tom Steel; this paperback edition was updated by Peta Steel and published in 2011.

The story of St Kilda has seized the imagination of people worldwide. A lonely archipelago off the coast of Scotland, the westernmost point of the UK, it is hard to believe that for over 2000 years, people lived there, cut off from the rest of the world.

With a population never exceeding 200 in its history, the sense of community amongst St Kildans was unparalleled. But, with the onset of the First World War, daily communication was established between the islanders and the mainland for the first time, steadily marking the beginning of the end of St Kilda. In August 1930, the 36 remaining inhabitants were evacuated.

Newly updated, the whole story can be told, and in particular what happened to the St Kildans after they decided to abandon Hirta (the main island) and settle on the mainland of Scotland.

THE NORTHERN GENEALOGIST: Edited by A Gibbons, FSA.

Digital version of the original book; produced by Anguline Research Archives.

Published between 1895–1903, these rare quarterly journals contain a fascinating mixture of transcripts, from the medieval

period up to the 19th century (including manor court rolls, wills, parish registers, marriage bonds, lists of strays, etc.) as well as family pedigrees.

The coverage is particularly good for Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, but there are also records from several East Midland and Northern counties of England.

HAMBLYN FAMILY HISTORY— 1841 to 1976: Plymouth to New Plymouth

This hardcover book, of pp.312 by M N Shaw was published in 1971.

It deals with the history of the Hamblyn Family who migrated to New Plymouth, New Zealand and their settlement in the Fitzroy District.

The first settlers came on the *Amelia Thompson* in 1841 whilst other family members arrived in 1855.

This work provides details of the Hamblyn Families and their descendants from 1841 to 1976 and is also a history of the Fitzroy District for the same period.

Other prominent family names researched are: ALLAN; BATTEN; BENDALL; BIRCH; BLANCHARD; CARTER; FOOTE; GEORGE; HEMMINGSON; HILL; JEFFERY; JOHNSON; MILLS; MUSCHAMP; RAYNOR; RUNDLE; TELFAR; WAGSTAFF and WILKIE.

THE SOMERSET YEARS

Government Assisted Emigrants from Somerset and Bristol who arrived in Port Phillip/Victoria 1839–1854

This A4 hardback by Florence Chuk was published in 1987.

Many Somerset emigrants were amongst the most successful pioneer landowners of Victoria. Men such as W J T Clarke (*Bridgwater*), and James and Thomas Austin (*Baltonsborough*) are well recorded in Victorian histories. Henry

Phillips (*East Pennard*) was instrumental in establishing racing in the Colony, and Samuel Thomas Gill (*Perriton*) became a much loved artist.

The small tradesmen and the labourers of Somerset and Bristol who became assisted emigrants also contributed to the history of the Colony.

This book is largely based on the shipping lists held by the Public Records Office, Victoria (PRO). All government assisted emigrants who arrived prior to 1855, and who stated that they came from Somerset or Bristol, were extracted from these lists. Other supported records in Victoria and Somerset were ‘trolled’ to discover additional emigrants or to verify the home parish of passengers.

Each ship that arrived in the colony with immigrants is dealt with separately. Departure and arrival dates are given, as is the name of the Master and Surgeon Superintendent.

Passengers’ names, age, occupation, religion, etc are quoted and in some cases, details of their life in the Colony are reported as well. ◀

?

Have you read the
**IMPORTANT NOTICE
FOR ALL MEMBERS**

on page 134
of this issue?

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/~
dcginc/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/)

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

Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 3 \$11.00
Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 4 \$11.00
Van Diemens Land Heritage Index, Vol. 5** \$25.00
p&p for each volume (\$4.15)

*Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1-20*** \$ 22.50
p&p \$8.35

*Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21-25*** \$15.00
p&p \$4.15

*Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 26-30*** \$25.00
p&p \$ 2.95

p&p \$13.50 for 3 or more books

CD-Rom

TAMIOT (p&p \$8.35) \$50.00

Microfiche

TAMIOT (p&p \$2.35) \$50.00

** members discount applies

Please note Society's change of address:

TFHS Inc.,
PO Box 326 Rosny Park
Tasmania 7018

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Burnie Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

Brown, Jonathan, *Tracing Your Rural Ancestors A Guide For Family Historians*
Cowley, Trudy & Snowden Dianne, *Patchwork Prisoners The Rajah Quilt and the women who made it*

Donaldson, John, *So you are totally new to Family Tree Maker 2012 Family Tree Maker for Mac 2*

Frost, Lucy, *Abandoned Women*

Frost, Lucy & Hodgson, Alice Meredith, *Convict Lives at the Launceston Female Factory*

*Huett, Sandra, *Only in Tasmania A collection of amusing, stories from Tasmania's past (or, history without the boring bits!)*

*Lord, Richard, *Inscriptions in Stone St. Davids Burial Ground 1804–1872*

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

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *The Advocate 1983*

TFHS Inc Mersey Branch, *Kentish Cemeteries*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Latrobe Cemetery Book 2*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Deloraine Cemeteries Book 3*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *The Advocate 1982*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *The Advocate 1981*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *The Advocate 2006*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Deloraine Cemeteries Book 1*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Deloraine Cemeteries Book 2*

Hobart Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

*Adam-Smith, P. *Launceston Sketchbook*

Armstrong, B; *Bellerive—Kangaroo Bay Historic Snapshots.*

Balmforth, S; 'Glenleith' *Memories & Stories.* [Q 929.209946 BAL]

Bennett, H. & Warner, G; *Living In History.* [728.3709946 BEN]

Cowley, Trudy & Diane Snowden; *Patchwork Prisoners.* [746.4609946 COW]

*Chuk, F; *The Somerset Years*

*Evans, L. & P. Pledger; *Contemporary Sources & Opinions in Modern British History.* [941.08 EVA]

*Gray, F; *A Seamless Web—The Richardson Family in Tasmania*

*Jones, B; *Decades of Decision 1860—.* [909.8 JON]

*Lawson, B; *Harris Families & How To Trace Them*

*Shaw, M.N. *Plymouth to New Plymouth—Fitzroy District 1841–1976.* [Q 929.2 SHA]

*Smee, C.J; *Born in the Colony of New South Wales 1811–1820.* [941.14 STE]

*Steel, T; *The Life and Death of St. Kilda*

*Wright, Ed; *Celebrity Family Trees*. [Q 920.02 WRI]

ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

*Anguline Research Archives; *The Northern Genealogist*

*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

Mersey Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

*Clark, David E [Comp]; *West Leake - Past and Present - Part Two - Ten Years On*
Coad, David; *Port Cygnet Irish Convicts*

*Harman, Eileen [Comp]; *The Gregory Family*

*Henslowe, Dorothea I; *Our Heritage of Anglican Churches in Tasmania*

*Nickols, Elizabeth [Comp]; *The Story of the Big Penguin*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Church Records of Tasmania Vol 1 Index to Miscellaneous
Catholic Deaths A-K*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Church Records of Tasmania Vol 1 Index to Miscellaneous
Catholic Deaths L-Z*

ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *The Advocate Personal Announcements Newspaper Images 2007*

*Indicates Donated Item



Australia's largest online
family history resource*

Research and build your
family tree online



 **ancestry.com.au**

*comScore, 2011

BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

BURNIE Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103
Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee
Tuesday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Saturday 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
The library is open at 7:00 p.m. prior to meetings.
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway Cooee 7:30 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. except January and February.

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 4527
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
Tuesday 12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Saturday 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Meeting Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town, at 7:30 p.m. 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 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 p.m. 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 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
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.

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 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.
Meeting Generally held on the 4th Saturday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:00 p.m. or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at 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 2014–15:-

Individual member	\$40.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$50.00
Australian Concession	\$30.00
Australian Joint Concession	\$40.00

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

Organisations: Journal subscription \$40.00—apply to the Society Treasurer.

Membership Entitlements:

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

Application for Membership:

Application forms may be downloaded from www.tasfhs.org or obtained from the TFHS Inc. Society Secretary or any branch and be returned with appropriate dues to a Branch Treasurer. **Interstate and overseas** applications should be mailed to the TFHS Inc. Society Treasurer, PO Box 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.

ISSN—0159 0677

Printed by *Mark Media*—Moonah Tasmania