

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 39 Number 1—June 2018

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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

From the Editor

First of all I need to ask our members to consider writing an article, their story, or an account of how they managed to break through one of their brick walls and submitting it to **editors@tasfhs.org**

Secondly I would like to thank Don Bradmore who always keep our files stocked with at least two or three articles—and even more. Thank you Don, and all our other regular contributors.

By the time this reaches you the State AGM at Ross will only be a few weeks away. I am looking forward to hearing the speakers present their papers which cover a diverse range of subjects. *Whaling in early Hobart Town and Scrimshaw* (Colin Thomas) before moving to the *Chinese in the Portland Municipality and the European migrants at Pyengana* (Garry Richardson). Alison Alexander will conclude with *The O'Connors of Connorville: wealthy graziers employing many Tasmanians*.

On page 32 of this issue can be found an account of William Hunt who died 10 March 1954 in Penguin at the age of 98. At the time he was thought to be the oldest war veteran in Australia. Thanks to Julie Kapeller for alerting me to his story in this year of our centenary commemorations.

Perhaps we will be able to include articles concerning family connections who served their country in the next two issues of *Tasmanian Ancestry* in September and December 2018.

Rosemary Davidson

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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Cover: a' o a e' ourtesy of
<https://discovertasmania.com.au/accmodation/hamiltonscottagecollectionemma-scottage> See page 25, *Hamilton Hand-Me Downs*, Robin Flannery

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAVE you had a look at the old journals on our web site? If you do, you will find some very interesting articles and other information written by early members, many of whom are no longer with us. I was doing just that recently when I came across a 'President's Message' written by John Grunnell in 1990. I thought to myself that there are many things that haven't changed much since then. And it was most opportune because I had been wondering what I might write about in this my last 'President's Message'. Here is part of what John wrote.

Nearly Annual Meeting time again. Time to take stock of the year's activities and to plan for the coming year. Annual meeting time is always something to which I look forward, mainly I think, because it gives every member a chance to 'stand up and be counted' and if they feel strongly enough about things, to nominate for office on either State or Branch committees. In my opinion, when every committee position is strongly contested by members, it signifies a vigorous and healthy Society. Let's hope we experience a mild stampede for nomination this year. Elsewhere in this Journal you will find details of the forthcoming State Annual Council meeting, which promises to be a good one. A good attendance by all branch members will guarantee that.

Tasmanian Ancestry, Volume 10,
Number 4, page 134.

Sadly, 2017 saw the passing of Judith Carter. Judith was co-author, with Don Bradmore, of the 2016 Lilian Watson Family History Award winning book, *Sarah Bromley: Success, Sorrow and Scandal in Van Diemen's Land*. The

award was presented to Don, as Judith could not be present, at last year's AGM. I believe Judith collaborated with him on other research. Judith was a frequent contributor to *Tasmanian Ancestry*. I am sure Judith will be much missed not only by her family but by all who had the pleasure of sharing their research with her. Interestingly, when Don was asked to tell us a bit about Judith, he admitted he had never met her. Their collaboration was done entirely via the internet. Such is the modern way of family research!

As mentioned above, this is my last 'President's Message', at least for now, as I am not seeking re-election this year. I have enjoyed my three years as president of the society, but the time has come to hand over the reins to someone else. One of the things that impressed me during this time is the willing cooperation of the five branches. Sharing experiences and knowledge is a sign of a healthy society. A little friendly rivalry is a good thing, as this spurs us on to achieve more. I feel sure this attitude will continue well into the future. ◀

Robert Tanner

NEW SOCIETY SECRETARY

As the current secretary will have completed six years in office, as stipulated in Rule 8 (a) in the society's Constitution, nominations are called for a new secretary to be appointed at the AGM on 23 June. See Nomination Forms which are available from branch secretaries or
secretary@tasfhs.org

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

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Our first Day Meeting for the year was held on Monday, 5 March. The guest speaker was member Elizabeth Nickols who compiled

the book *Fair Dinkum Dutch Courage*. This book describes the Dutch immigrants and their families who settled in the Ulverstone/Penguin area during the years immediately after WW II. During lunch the Easter raffle was drawn, which was shared between member Colleen Williams and Maree Bowles.

I also showed members how to create a travel blog using the free site **www.findpenguins.com** This is one of the best sites for creating a blog of your travels which can be shared with your family and friends. For each entry (called a footprint) you can upload six photos and a description of what you did for that location. At the end of your journey you have the option of creating a hard cover book. This book is printed in Germany using high quality paper and ink. If you upgrade from the free version to the premium version (\$25.00) you can upload ten photos plus a video for each footprint and if you order a book you get a 5 per cent discount and also a free ePublication of your book. I have purchased two travel books so far. I have received the first and the second is in the mail.

There has been an increasing interest in DNA as a tool for family history research. At our next meeting one of our members will share his experience and the information he gained from using a DNA test.

Peter Cocker, **Branch President**

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The *Monday Group* began again at the beginning of February and the members are well into their activities for the year. The group has

been together for many years and are involved with producing indexes for publication. This activity involves scanning, compiling, typing, proofreading and correcting before the final product is ready for publication.

Another activity the group undertakes is the packaging and sealing of *Tasmanian Ancestry* when it is ready to be posted out to our members. There is always a lot of fun and friendship interspersed between the serious business—it must be the reason why so many of us keep coming back.

In February, our Monthly General Meetings recommenced, and we took the opportunity to farewell Irene Schaffer. Irene will be remembered for her service and generosity to the branch over many years. We wish her well in her new life in Queensland.

General Meeting Reports

The guest speaker at the February meeting was Ms Elizabeth Jack, Director of Learning and Information Network Centre (LINC) Tasmania. As director she is responsible for the statewide network of library services and online access centres, community learning, adult literacy and, the state's archives and heritage services. LINC consists of 51 sites, some small and served by volunteers and has 120,000 members. She was to be accompanied by Mary Bent, Chair of the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board, which consists of four members appointed by the Minister, four local government members and four library users. The TLAB Strategic Action Plan for 2017/18–2020/21—available on request from LINC sites and on the internet—has just been released and identifies three goals through which the Board will seek 'to take on a greater leadership role by actively contributing to the state's cultural and heritage domain and raising the profile of LINC Tasmania as a major cultural icon'. These are matched with LINC Tasmania actions. Consistent with the notion LINC being a 'cultural icon' its physical appearance should present itself as such. The present Murray Street building is 'beyond its use-by-date and in need of renovation and refurbishment' in line with modern library design.

The talk illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation showing the design of modern library facilities.

The guest speaker at the March meeting was Department of Education Senior Curriculum Officer (History) David Boon. David gave an engaging talk on *Connecting family histories to the Australian curriculum*. He introduced his talk by showing the Australian Curriculum requirements for Years 2 to 5 which include topics such as students' place in

their families; how communities have changed and remain the same; First Fleet; and colonial history and reasons for migration. To illustrate the approach he champions, he spoke about his teaching at Albuera Street Primary School where he used the local history around the school (such as St Georges Burial Ground, 1842–72 and old neighbourhood buildings) to develop research skills in his students. Using Trove and computer search engines students studied old photographs and maps to identify buildings; research former local identities, servants and convicts; transcribed convict records; and deciphered damaged headstones. These activities developed students' problem-solving skills in a research and rich history-learning environment.

In a second context, David spoke about students studying the origin of street names in the neighbourhood of Blackmans Bay PS making connections between Norfolk Island land grants and the street names in Blackmans Bay.

Speakers for 2018

June 19: Ann Owen, Justice Department—*What the Department of Justice BDM unit does and why.*

July 17: Christine Woods—*The fact and fiction of our mysterious Mary.*

August 21: Pat Howard—*The first publicans of Zeehan—pillars of the community?*

September 18: John Sargent—*The O'Mays and their ferry business.*

Louise Rainbow, **President**

Huon

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No report received

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Our **March workshop** was held at Launceston LINC, where we welcomed both members and non-members along to hear John Sherman

present on using the FamilySearch website. As with our previous workshop on the Ryerson Index, using online tools for research appears to be popular and remains a focus for our members. Any requests for future workshop topics are welcome; please contact the Branch Library to pass on your ideas.

Throughout March and April preparations were well underway for **The Branch AGM**, to be held at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall on Tuesday, 17 April. As always following the meeting, members are encouraged to stay for supper and hear from our guest speaker. Thank you to John Dent for being this year's guest, presenting on the very interesting topic, 'Kerry Lodge'. Thanks also to our volunteers and committee members for your ongoing support. We look forward to another interesting and rewarding year, and welcome any new members who may have joined us recently.

Our **DNA Discussion Circles** continue to occur, with our fourth group meeting scheduled for May at the Branch Library. Along with sharing successes and interesting findings from using DNA for research, attendees can also learn more about the types of tests available through a question and answer section. We have even had some members discover they

are connected (making for a lively discussion as you can imagine!). Those who may be interested in attending an ongoing group can register their interest by coming into the Branch Library or contacting us by email.

A reminder to our Launceston Branch members that the **Branch Newsletter** will now be distributed electronically, and available to view or download from our website. Please contact us to ensure your email details are up to date (if you have been receiving this by mail). Printed copies are still available for collection from the Library for those without email.

Check the website for the detailed list of publications available from Launceston Branch.

Mersey

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A prelude to our Annual General Meeting in April will be a soup and sandwich lunch—to get everyone in a positive frame of

mind ready to enjoy our meeting. The 'old' committee are looking forward to welcoming and encouraging new members, of course some of the loyal 'old' committee will continue where needed for the love of family history.

Members and friends are looking forward to a scrapbooking afternoon, where we can learn to make a keepsake from our own family history.

Anzac Day will be commemorated by Mersey Branch with a display of photos

and details of some of the 400 men from Latrobe and district who served in World War I. There were fourteen nurses from the district and their details and photographs will also be on display. Mersey branch holds a list of the 400 servicemen. This list includes enlistment particulars which have birth date and place also next of kin. Service details have dates and places where soldiers served. Injuries and fatalities and enquiries from families are also available. This is an ongoing project and any information and or photographs would be gratefully received.

Mersey Branch look forward to another year of family history including holding U3A courses, indexing the *Advocate* and our library catalogue, a visit to Burnie Branch and of course helping with research. ◀

***Tasmanian Family History
Society Inc.***

**2018 Lilian Watson
Family History Award**

*for a
Book*

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

***Entries Close
1 December 2018***

Further information and entry forms are
available from

TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries

or

www.tasfhs.org

or

The Secretary

PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

email: secretary@tasfhs.org

NOTICE OF MEETING

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

38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

**is to be held at 1:50 p.m.
on Saturday 23 June 2018,
in the Town Hall Supper Room
at Ross**

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Presentation of the 2017 Lilian Watson Family History Award'
4. Presentation of TFHS Inc. Awards
5. Announcement of 'Best Journal Article Award'
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2017 AGM as circulated at the meeting
7. Business arising from the Minutes
8. President's Annual Report
9. Treasurer's Annual Report as circulated at the meeting
10. Business arising from Treasurer's Report
11. Election of Office Bearers
12. General Business
13. Closure

Colleen Read, Society Secretary

CONVICTS RACHAEL CHAMBERLAIN AND SARAH FENTON WERE THEY AS BAD AS THEIR REPUTATIONS SUGGEST?

Don Bradmore (No. 6756) and Judith Carter (No. 7707)

AMONG the most notorious of the almost 14,000 female convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land (VDL) between 1812 and 1853 were Rachael CHAMBERLAIN (CHAMBERLIN) and Sarah FENTON who arrived together aboard *Mary Anne I* (2) which sailed from Portsmouth on Christmas Day 1821 and reached Hobart Town 2 May 1822.

With Henry WARINGTON as master and James HALL as surgeon-superintendent, the ship carried 108 female prisoners, 45 of whom were to be disembarked at Hobart Town and the remainder at Sydney.¹ The voyage was relatively uneventful. Nevertheless, Surgeon Hall's report on the women who were to be put ashore at Hobart Town makes it clear he had not enjoyed it.² While this was not his first voyage as surgeon-superintendent on a convict vessel, it was the first time he had responsibility for female prisoners and he had found the task extremely taxing.³

Since the earliest days of transportation, the authorities had struggled with the problem of prostitution at sea. Various ways of preventing contact between the sexes had been tried but none had met with much success. In the early 1820s, the problem was perceived to be worsening and surgeon-superintendents were coming under increasing pressure to be more vigilant in keeping crew members from the women and vice versa. While the master was nominally in command of all aspects of ship-board behaviour, his prime responsibility was for the safe arrival of the vessel at its destination. The prime responsibility of the surgeon-superintendent was for the well-being—moral as well as physical—of the prisoners.⁴

Hall took this responsibility very seriously but the task of keeping the men and women apart proved to be beyond him. The report he wrote as *Mary Anne* approached Hobart Town lists a number of women whom he found necessary to punish for having sexual relations with members of the crew—usually by locking them for days at a time in a small, dark hold in the bowels of the ship, sometimes

¹ Convict ships to Tasmania: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipsTAS.html>; *Hobart Town Gazette (HTG)*, 4 May 1822, p. 2

² Hall was surgeon-superintendent aboard *Agememnon* which landed 178 male prisoners at Sydney in September 1820: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipNSW2.html>

³ James Hall: *Medical and surgical journal of the female convict ship Mary Ann for 27 October 1821 to 25 May 1822*. The

National Archives (UK) Reference: ADM 101/52/1.

⁴ Damousi, J (1997). *Depraved and Disorderly: Female Convicts, Sexuality and Gender in Colonial Australia*. Melbourne: Cambridge U.P.; Bateson, C (1983). *The Convict Ships, 1787–1868*. Sydney: Library of Australian History.

in chains, and feeding them on a diet of bread and water. These extracts from his report give evidence of his frustration at a situation he could not control:

Sarah APPLETON, very sly, of a silent demure habit; has committed prostitution on board and has been punished ... Sarah FLETCHER, a dangerous woman to man; under a fair face and simplicity of manners lie a lustful heart, a lying tongue and great hypocrisy in religion, a prostitute ... Ellen ELLERBECK, reprobate, hypocrite, has committed prostitution on board and has been punished ... Hannah WHITELY has been found to be a vile dissembler and prostitute ... Hannah READING, a dirty reprobate and vile prostitute; very abandoned depraved girl ... Elizabeth BOUCHER, dirty, prostitute and thief ... Mary DAVIS, a dirty reprobate, vile prostitute, a very depraved, abandoned girl ... Sarah HELLIWELL, a very sly abandoned prostitute ... Ann WILLIAMS, has been impregnated by one of the sailors ... and is now threatened with a miscarriage which she may have excited; a bad woman, has borne children; swearer; disorderly, a prostitute.⁵

Hall also made scathing remarks about a number of other *Mary Anne* women, referring variously to Mary LOYD, Jane BUCKINGHAM, Martha BURGESS, Catherine FLANAGAN, Mary Ann GRIFFIN, Isabella HAMILL, Mary HART, Catherine HILTON, Eleanor PHILLIPS, Catherine TAYLOR, Louise VAUGHAN, Elizabeth WORRAL and two women by the name of Mary ROBINSON as ‘vile’, ‘dirty’, ‘depraved’, ‘abandoned’, ‘refractory’, ‘loose’, ‘idle’, ‘insolent’ and/or ‘disorderly’.⁶

⁵ James Hall: *Medical and surgical journal of the female convict ship Mary Ann for 27 October 1821 to 25 May 1822*. The National Archives (UK) Reference: ADM 101/52/1.

⁶ *ibid.*

However, it was for Rachael Chamberlain and Sarah Fenton that Hall saved his worst comments. Of Chamberlain, whom he saw as the ring-leader of this troublesome group, he wrote:⁷

... a most infamous character, a confirmed thief and vile prostitute, a sly woman, hypocrite, blasphemer, drunkard, revengeful, reprobate, refractory, insolent; her husband [a convict] at Sydney and her brother [a convict] at VDL.⁸

And of Fenton:

... as desperate and depraved a character as has ever been transported; capable of doing murder; reprobate; never easy but in mischief; fond of exciting uproar and mutiny; a feigner of illness; a hypocrite, the Devil incarnate; has been repeatedly punished with temporary benefit; kind treatment has no effect.⁹

Was Hall accurate in his assessment of these women? Lending support to his opinion of them are their gaol reports in England as they awaited shipment to VDL. Chamberlain’s report states that she had been in ‘thirteen different gaols’ previously.¹⁰ Fenton’s report describes her as a ‘bad character’, suggesting that she, too, was already well-known to the authorities.

⁷ In his *Medical and surgical journal of the female convict ship Mary Ann for 27 October 1821 to 25 May 1822*. The National Archives (UK) Reference: ADM 101/52/1, Hall lists others who were ‘connected with Chamberlain’s infamy’.

⁸ James Hall: *Medical and surgical journal of the female convict ship Mary Ann for 27 October 1821 to 25 May 1822*. The National Archives (UK) Reference: ADM 101/52/1.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ Conduct records: Chamberlain—TAHO CON40/1/1, Image 257, p. 23; Fenton—TAHO CON40/1/3, Image 154, p. 14

According to Philip Tardif in his authoritative *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls* (1990), both women were shipped off to the harsh penal settlement on Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour on the western side of the island on 4 May 1822, just two days after their arrival at Hobart Town.¹¹ The decision to remove them immediately must have been influenced by Hall.

But were these two women ever at Macquarie Harbour? Recent research has failed to find any documentary evidence of them ever being there. However, on Saturday, 11 May 1822, this announcement appeared in the *Hobart Town Gazette*:

Sailed on Sunday last for Macquarie Harbour, H.M.C.B. 'Duke of York', Mr CHASE, Commander; having 35 male and 2 female convicts on board, under sentence of transportation to that Settlement.¹²

Given the date of the arrival at Hobart Town of *Mary Anne* (2 May) and the date of departure for Macquarie Harbour of *Duke of York* (4 May), as well as what is already known about the relatively few women who spent time at Sarah Island, could the '2 female convicts on board' have been anyone else but Chamberlain and Fenton?¹³

Did these women deserve to be treated in this way? Were they really as bad as Hall's report suggests? In an attempt to

answer these questions, we went searching for more information about them. We hoped to be able to put a little flesh on their bones.



Rachael Chamberlain (née BERRY) was born at Bristol, England, about 1796.¹⁴ Nothing is known of her childhood. At the aged of eighteen, she married a 32-year old widower, Abraham CHAMBERLAIN (CHAMBERLYN, CHAMBERLAYNE, CHAMBERLYNE), at St Mary's, Newington, London.¹⁵ Two years later, Abraham was convicted of larceny and transported for seven years. He arrived at Hobart Town on 11 June 1818.¹⁶ In 1821, Rachael, who had been supporting herself through prostitution since her husband's departure, was convicted of larceny.¹⁷ She had stolen a quantity of bedding, valued at forty shillings, from a room in which she had been lodging with a man by the name of Joseph NIXON. At the trial, Nixon was acquitted after Rachael told the judge he had left her before the articles were taken, but she was found guilty and sentenced to transportation for seven years.¹⁸

If, as Tardif claimed, Chamberlain was shipped off to Sarah Island immediately after her arrival in VDL, she was there for

¹¹ Tardiff, Philip. (1990). *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls: Convict Women in Van Diemen's Land*. North Ryde: Angus and Robertson; *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser (HTG)*, 11 May 1822, p. 2.

¹² *HTG*, 11 May 1822, p. 2

¹³ Irene Schaffer. 'The Forgotten Women Convicts at Macquarie Harbour, 1821–1826' at <http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schafferi/index.php?file=kop28.php>

¹⁴ Year of birth calculated from age 28 given on arrival at Hobart Town

¹⁵ Marriage Entry No. 858 in 'London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1921, Southwark, St Mary, Newington, 1814', via 'Ancestry.com', accessed 18 January 2017

¹⁶ TAHO CON31/1/6, Image 44 (name shown as 'CHAMBERLYN').

¹⁷ Chamberlain's convict documents at TAHO mention she had been 'on the town'

¹⁸ Old Bailey online: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org>; reference t18210718-018

a short time only. Her conduct record shows that eighteen months later she was back at Hobart Town. On 15 December 1823, while assigned to Hobart Hospital as a washerwoman, she was charged with co-habiting with convict George HARRIS (aka George KAYLOCK and KEY-LOCK) and returned to the Female Factory.¹⁹ Harris/Kaylock was a 21-year-old shoemaker from London who arrived in VDL two years earlier after being convicted of a felony and sentenced to transportation for life.²⁰

Chamberlain's next assignment was to the influential Hobart Town merchant Anthony Fenn KEMP but, on 12 March 1824, she absconded from his residence. Soon apprehended, she was sent back to the Female Factory again.²¹ But even within the confines of the prison, she was a nuisance. On 1 May 1824, she was charged with insolence and disobedience, singing obscene songs and falsely accusing the keeper of the Factory with stealing government provisions.²² On this occasion she managed to escape with a reprimand but she was not so fortunate when, on 30 November of the same year, she was charged with disorderly conduct for fighting with fellow inmates in the prison barracks. This time she was locked in a cell and fed on bread and water for a week.²³

Soon after her release, Chamberlain took up with Harris/Kaylock again and, in April 1826, she gave birth to a son by him. But this relationship was to be

relatively short-lived. On 17 June 1825, Harris/Kaylock absconded from the Public Works Department to which he had been assigned. For this offence he was banished to Norfolk Island.²⁴ As far as is known, Chamberlain never saw him again.²⁵

The removal of Harris/Kaylock from Hobart Town did nothing to improve Chamberlain's behaviour. In 1827, she was gaoled for stealing a pig. In 1828, she was gaoled again, this time for receiving stolen goods. In 1830, she was charged with causing an affray in Hobart's central business district and, in 1831, with assaulting a neighbour.²⁶

On 7 March 1829, she admitted her son, now three years old, to the Queen's Orphan School at Hobart Town. She gave his name as 'Richard George Chamberlain' and stated that his father was 'Abraham Chamberlain' but there is no evidence she had ever met her former husband in VDL.²⁷ In adulthood, the child was always known as 'Richard George Kaylock', suggesting that he himself knew his father was George Harris/Kaylock.²⁸

By 1828, Rachael was living with convict Charles BRADNOCK who had been sentenced to fourteen years' transportation for larceny in England in 1818.²⁹ In 1830, she gave birth to his son, Charles Thomas Bradnock, and in 1833

¹⁹ TAHO CON40/1/1, Image 257

²⁰ TAHO CON31/1/18, Image 122

²¹ TAHO CON40/1/1, Image 257

²² TAHO CON40/1/1, Image 257; Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC): <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/lists/Riots.pdf>

²³ *ibid.*

²⁴ TAHO CON31/1/18, Image 122; *HTG*, 17 June 1825, p. 1; *HTG*, 12 August 1825, p. 3

²⁵ Marriage to Ryan: NSW BDM 575/1840 V1840575 24B

²⁶ TAHO CON40/1/1, Image 257

²⁷ http://www.orphan.school.org.au/showorphan.php?orphan_ID=890

²⁸ Richard George Kaylock, *obituary: Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record*, 13 May 1910, p. 2

²⁹ TAHO CON31/1/1, Image 165

to a second, Alfred Joseph Bradnock.³⁰ However, her relationship with Bradnock, a heavy drinker, was never easy. In 1833 and again in 1834, now calling herself 'Mary' Chamberlain, she took Bradnock to court claiming he had beaten her violently, putting her in fear for her life.³¹ Not surprisingly, the connection ended shortly afterwards. In August 1835, Bradnock was convicted of stealing and receiving and sentenced to transportation 'beyond the seas' for fourteen years. Reporting the trial, the *Hobart Town Courier* commented: 'This is a happy riddance, for Bradnock has for years kept a notorious sly grog and receiving shop.'³² It is likely Rachael had been involved in his criminal activities. In 1834, and again in 1835, she was gaoled for unspecified felonies.³³

While Chamberlain might have been glad to see the last of Bradnock, her economic circumstances were probably precarious after his departure. In 1839, a police constable at New Norfolk was charged 'with having been found in a disorderly house, kept by a woman named Chamberlaine (sic)'.³⁴ Was this Rachael? It seems likely that it was. Had she resorted to prostitution again to maintain herself and the two Bradnock children?

In October 1842, Chamberlain, now 46 years old, married a 39-year-old farmer and fisherman, William NEWTON. The

marriage entry shows her name as 'Mary Rachael Chamberlain and her age as forty.'³⁵ Newton seems to have been a good man who readily accepted Rachael's sons and brought them up as his own. After the marriage Rachael lived quietly and avoided further trouble. She passed away as 'Mary Newton' at Hobart in 1850. The record of her death shows her age as 47 but she was probably in her early fifties.³⁶



Sarah FENTON's story has proved to be more difficult to piece together. As with Rachael Chamberlain, little is known about her early life. On 17 April 1820, she was convicted of petty larceny at Leeds Quarter Sessions, Yorkshire, England, and sentenced to transportation for seven years.³⁷ All that is known about her when she arrived at Hobart Town is she was 28 years old and she could neither read nor write. What had her upbringing been like? Was she married? Had she left children behind? Had she been 'on the town'? There are no answers to these questions.

Very clearly, Fenton had caused havoc aboard *Mary Anne* and had made the voyage to VDL a miserable one for Surgeon Hall. About her, he noted in his report:

... [there are] continual uproars in the hospital from the turbulent conduct of this patient; yesterday she took her bed and left the hospital into which she was carried back by force; it is impossible to have any conversation with her as she uses violent language and refuses to take her medicine

It is not difficult to believe that Hall recommended her immediate removal to

³⁰ Charles Thomas BRADNOCK: 3357/1830/RGD32; Alfred Joseph BRADNOCK: 4872/1833/RGD32

³¹ *The Tasmanian*, 8 February 1833, p. 7

³² *The Hobart Town Courier*, 28 August 1835; *Colonial Times*, 1 September 1835, p. 8

³³ 'Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court & Selected Records, 1800-1899', Gaol Record Book Reference No. GD135-2-1, December 1834 and April 1835, via 'Ancestry', accessed 10 March 2017

³⁴ *Colonial Times*, 30 July 1839, p. 7

³⁵ Marriage: 77/1842/37, Hobart

³⁶ Death: 210/1850/35

³⁷ TAHO CON40-1-3, Image 154

Sarah Island upon arrival at Hobart Town.

However, as in Chamberlain's case, no documentary evidence of Fenton ever being at Macquarie Harbour has been found and, if she was there at all, it was only for a very short time. On 29 January 1823, eight months after her first arrival at Hobart Town, she married 31-year-old Anthony ARMSTRONG at St Davids, Hobart. He had been in VDL since 1818 after being sentenced to seven years' transportation for receiving stolen goods.³⁸

The muster of 1823 shows Fenton and Armstrong together at Bagdad, about 25 miles (40 kms) north of Hobart Town.³⁹ There, on 16 May 1829, Fenton (now using the name 'Ann' Armstrong) gave birth to a son, Robert Armstrong and, on 13 August 1831, to a daughter, Mary Ann Armstrong.⁴⁰ During these years, she appears to have lived quietly at Bagdad, avoiding all trouble with the law. But, on 16 February 1834, Anthony Armstrong passed away and, thereafter, Fenton's problems with the authorities recommenced.⁴¹

Again as with Chamberlain, the fundamental cause of Fenton's new troubles might well have been economic circumstances. On 18 May 1834, just three months after her husband's death, she admitted her son Robert, then six, to the Queen's Orphan School at Hobart. He

remained there for the next eleven years. Two years later, she admitted her daughter, Mary Ann.⁴² Was it financially impossible for Sarah to keep the children with her?

On 20 April 1837—now fifteen years after her arrival at Hobart and 'free by servitude'—Sarah was found guilty in the Supreme Court at Hobart of stealing four £1 notes. She was sentenced to be 'transported for life' to Launceston, and to spend two years in the Female Factory there. The sentence was carried out immediately. A little over a year later, while still in prison at Launceston, she stole money again. This time, her existing sentence was extended by twelve months. Eventually released around 1840, she was assigned to a family named HILL but, on 6 January 1841, she was charged with misconduct. She was sentenced to three months' hard labour to be served—interestingly—at the Cascades Female Factory back at Hobart.⁴³

Afterwards, Sarah was sent to the Brickfield Barracks—a 'hiring depot' at Hobart—to await re-assignment. While there, she offended again. In fact, she was found guilty of committing two separate offences on the same day—7 December 1842. For the first offence—insolence to a supervisor—she was sentenced to six months' hard labour at the Cascades; for the second—disorderly conduct—she was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement at the Cascades for six days. Released after this term of imprisonment, and assigned to PEARSON, she was charged again on 12 June 1844, this time for being drunk. She was sentenced to three

³⁸ Armstrong TAHO CON31/1/1, Image 12; marriage: RGD36/1/1, no. 606, Hobart

³⁹ 1823 muster in 'New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Musters, 1806–1849' via 'Ancestry', accessed 10 March 2017

⁴⁰ Children: Robert Armstrong, 3286/1829/32 and Mary Ann, 4186/1831/32, both Clarence

⁴¹ Anthony Armstrong: death, 3761/1834

⁴² Admission of children to Queen's Orphan School: See <http://www.orphanschool.org.au>; Reference: SWD, CSO5/86/1885

⁴³ TAHO CON40-1-3, Image 154

months' hard labour, again at the Cascades.⁴⁴

Gladly for her, and perhaps for the authorities also, that was to be Fenton's last gaol term. On 21 December 1844, she was granted her ticket of leave.⁴⁵ She was only ever charged once more—on 6 July 1847—again for drunkenness. She was fined five shillings.⁴⁶ On 4 April 1848, she was granted a conditional pardon.⁴⁷ Nothing more was heard of her again.

It is thought she died at 72 on 5 November 1866 but there is considerable doubt about that. An entry in 'Digger', the 'Tasmanian Pioneer Index', shows the death of a 'Sarah Armstrong' at Hobart on that date but notes this woman was also known as 'Sarah Reed'.⁴⁸ Did Sarah marry again? Did she change her name to 'Reed' to hide her convict past? Could 'Reed' have been her maiden name, perhaps? We have no answers to these questions.



So, were Rachael Chamberlain and Sarah Fenton *really* as bad as their reputations suggest? Do they deserve to be ranked amongst the more notorious of the female convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land? The answer to both of these questions must be a resounding 'No!' They were not murderers or violent thugs and when given the opportunity both seemed to try hard to be good wives and mothers. But neither comes across as a particularly likeable character. Both were common thieves. Lacking in self-discipline, they were ill-tempered and

rebellious. That said, it must be acknowledged they lived in incredibly difficult times, especially for women and even more so for women who were uneducated and poor. In both cases, it can be seen that, without a man to provide for them and their children, they had few options but to resort to prostitution and/or theft to stay alive.

It must also be acknowledged it was ill-fortune that saw them put aboard *Mary Anne* with James Hall as their surgeon-superintendent. Subsequent events were to prove that Hall was a very strange man whose own behaviour might have incited much of their misconduct. By all accounts he was a competent and conscientious doctor but tactless in his supervision of females. BATESON (1974) referred to him as a 'zealous, meddling and litigious individual', declaring he was 'temperamentally unfitted for the post of surgeon-superintendent'.⁴⁹

Tellingly, on Hall's next voyage to the Australian colonies, on *Brothers* in 1824, he had similar problems with a group of female prisoners he could not control. After that, he seems to have had enough of convict ships and expressed the desire to settle permanently in New South Wales. The governor at the time, Sir Thomas BRISBANE, wrote to Earl BATHURST, Britain's Secretary of State for the colonies, urging him not to allow Hall to reside in Sydney because of a doubt about his 'moral character'.⁵⁰ It is likely Chamberlain and Fenton, had they heard of it, would have applauded that decision. ◀

⁴⁴ *ibid.*

⁴⁵ *HTG*, 24 December 1844

⁴⁶ TAHO CON40-1-3, Image 154

⁴⁷ *HTG*, 27 April 1848

⁴⁸ Possible death: 6482/1866/35, Hobart

⁴⁹ Bateson, C. (1974, 2nd ed.) *The Convict Ships, 1776–1869*. London: A H & A W Reed, pp. 225–26

⁵⁰ *Historical Records of Australia (HRA)*, Series 1, Vol. XI.

INSPECTION AND PROMOTION OF TEACHERS

SKILL/EFFICIENCY MARKS, 1910 1947

Betty Jones (Member No. 6032)

THE CONTEXT

In March 1910, when Mr William Taylor McCOY officially took over as the new Director of Education,

¹ Those involved claimed they did not know what their duties were; what their classification was; what positions they were entitled to; and what salaries were attached to those positions when they attained them.² One of Mr McCoy's first undertakings was to address the perception that the system of classification and promotion of teachers had become unfair under his predecessor, Mr William Lewis NEALE.

Much has been written over time in this forum by this writer about the administration from 1905 to 1909 of Mr Neale.³ His eventual downfall, despite his many major achievements for Tasmanian education, could be attributed mainly to his widely unpopular manner. Mr

many teachers in Tasmania were looking for clarification of their conditions for advancement.



William Taylor McCoy, Director
of Education, 1910 1919

McCoy, although driven by the same education policy principles as his predecessor, succeeded where Mr Neale had failed by exuding a necessary, more tactful and persuasive approach in his direct dealings with teachers throughout the state. This article focuses on Mr McCoy's new system for the inspection and promotion of teachers.

William Taylor McCoy,
BA, JP (1866–1929)

was born in Sydney, New South Wales, son of bootmaker, James McCoy and his school teacher wife Eliza (née WILSON) and grew up in a family committed to the Methodist Church. In 1894 in Sydney, he married Rachel ARMSTRONG. Mr McCoy had been a head teacher in country and town schools in New South Wales before being appointed an inspector in that state. His working knowledge of efficiency/skill marks for teachers in New South Wales informed his decision to work with the Tasmanian inspectors to implement a similar system soon after his arrival here. He was a

¹ Image courtesy of *The Weekly Courier*, 14 August 1919

² *The Mercury*, 16 July 1910

³ See, for example, Jones, Betty, *School Days, School Days ... Land of Youth and Dream*, Tasmanian Family History Society Inc, Hobart, 2017 pp. 86–97

capable administrator, endowed with a strong capacity for work, but his over-riding most generous-hearted, sympathetic nature was his stand-out quality in his role as director.⁴

Efficiency and service marks

From July 1910, the procedure for promoting teachers to a school of a higher grade was determined by the classification of the teacher, his or her efficiency and length of service. The scheme was devised over four months by Mr McCoy in collaboration with the inspectors and Mr John A JOHNSON, Principal of the Training College. The efficiency of a teacher was judged according to a scale of marks which had been unanimously approved by the board of inspectors. The estimate was based on the inspector's observation of –

- (a) The teacher's endeavour to carry out the suggestions given in the rules of inspection;
- (b) His interest in his work;
- (c) His ability to manage a school or class;
- (d) The effectiveness of his teaching;
- (e) The diligence with which he performs his work;
- (f) The tact shown in dealing with children and parents.

[Note the exclusive use of 'his/he' was in keeping with practices of those times.]

The director then assigned a mark after considering the inspector's report and such other evidence of the teacher's work as may have been recorded in the office. [The assigned mark, a combination of the efficiency and service scores, was also known as a 'Skill Mark'.]

By those means it was thought to be possible to compare the efficiency of one teacher with another. Up until that time

such comparison could only be done to a very limited extent.

Length of service was recognised by marks up to 10 and service on the west coast was counted as 50 per cent extra. One skill mark was allocated for each two years of service.

The previous system of examination and inspection was considerably modified and the old plan of examining for results disappeared.

In considering the methods of instruction, the inspector was to form his judgement on such questions as the following [Keeping in mind that, at the time, there were no public high schools in existence.]

Is the teaching effective? Does the method arouse interest, stimulate inquiry, and promote the mental activity of the children? Are the children being trained to observe, to think and to tell for themselves? Do they take an active part in the work of instruction, or are they passive recipients of what the teacher tells them? Is the instruction suited to the age and experience of the pupils? Is a taste for reading suitable literature, as evidenced by the use of the school library, being fostered?⁵

Requirements for advancement

Schools were reclassified into six classes (I–VI) according to the average annual attendance of scholars, IA being the highest. To qualify for entry to each level, the head teacher was required to attain a minimum skill mark according to the school's classification. It is interesting to note that female head teachers were not to be given appointments above Class V, the second lowest level. This was also at the time when female teachers were required

⁴ *The Educational Record*, 15 August 1929

⁵ *The Examiner*, 19 April 1910, p. 4

to resign upon marriage.⁶ Thus in 1910, the following minimum skill marks were required for head teachers at each level: Class IA 61–70; Class I 51–60; Class II 41–50; Class III 31–40; Class IV 21–30; Class V 11–20; Class VI 1–20.

Other positions: First Assistant 31–40; Second Assistant and Infant Mistress 21–30; other teachers 1–20.⁷ First Assistants (a position only available to males at that time) were placed in Class I and II schools.

In January 1911, the government listed approximately 700 staff throughout the state in over 370 schools, ranging in classification from Class I to Class VI and below (Provisional and Assisted). There were only four schools in the Class I category: Battery Point, Charles Street, Beaconsfield and Trinity Hill; four in Class II: Goulburn Street, West Zeehan,⁸ Wellington Square and Queenstown; eight in Class III: East Launceston, Invermay, Glen Dhu, Central Hobart,

West Devonport, East Zeehan, New Town and Burnie; 18 in Class IV; 45 in Class V; 149 in Class VI; 117 Provisional, and 31 Assisted.⁹

Teachers' promotion from Class to Class was also reliant on their passing specified examinations. Similarly to skill marks, these were graded according to the different classification of schools and ranged from passes at the Junior Public and Senior Public examinations (forerunners to Matriculation/Higher School Certificate) through to five university subject passes. In tandem with those qualifications, there was also a requirement that teachers pass examinations in Departmental subjects based on the study of specified text books that included an emphasis on the ideals of the New Education.¹⁰

Below: West Zeehan School 1910
Classified as Class II



⁶ See Jones, Betty, 'Charged with Entering the Bonds of Matrimony', *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol. 34, No 4

⁷ *The Examiner*, 18 April 1910

⁸ *The Tasmanian Mail*, 14 July 1910; image courtesy of TAHO, see below

⁹ *The Educational Record*, 15 January 1911

¹⁰ Phillips, Derek, *Making More Adequate Provision, State Education in Tasmania, 1839–1985*; Education Department of Tasmania, 1985, p. 112

Skill marks records

The skill marks allocated to all teachers in the system from 1910 to the 1940s are not easy to find, as most of the details tend to be ‘hidden’ in a multitude of annual inspectors’ reports for each school, now housed at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO) in Hobart.¹¹ However, one accessible snapshot of the spread of skill marks is available. An incomplete set of service cards maintained by the Education Department on a considerable number of male teachers up to the 1940s (possibly started retrospectively in about 1912) lists personal employment details for each named individual and, among other things, documents service and efficiency marks from 1910 where applicable.¹² The set has been digitised and is available on TAHO’s online web site.¹³ Unfortunately, not all records within the set have survived. Nevertheless, it is a very useful resource.

The image below shows part of a card relevant to Arthur Frame DALZIEL (1878–1953), who joined the Department in 1900. It displays the nature of some of the information contained within the set.¹⁴

NAME <i>Dalziel, Arthur F</i>										
DATE.	SCHOOL.	POSITION.	CLASS OF SCHOOL.	SALARY.	CERT. PORTF.	EFFICIENCY MARK.	SERVICE MARK.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.	
<i>1.1.31</i>	<i>Mole Creek</i>	<i>HT</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>330-15</i>	<i>3A</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>22/6/31</i>	
<i>1.1.32</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>330-15</i>	<i>3A</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>15/6/32</i>	
<i>1.1.33</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>330-15</i>	<i>3A</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>15.6.33</i>	

Mr Dalziel assumed the headship of Mole Creek in 1908 and his first skill mark in 1910 was 43¼.

Discussion

Skill marks allocated to teachers ranged from less than 5 to 90, highlighting an extremely wide gulf between the very competent and not so competent within the system. The efficiency mark component, in particular, became an important part of a teacher’s life over the ensuing thirty plus years. The service mark was introduced in 1910 at a time when it was seen as necessary to pacify many ‘old-guard’ teachers in the system who felt threatened by the rise of progressive, more qualified new-comers during the directorship of Mr Neale.

Charles William (Carl) MORRIS, OBE (1888–1971), joined the Department as a pupil teacher at Sheffield in 1904 and resigned as Headmaster of Launceston High School at the end of 1952. He then rounded up his length of service to 50 years by undertaking relief Head Teacher positions in and near Launceston. After his retirement, he wrote a book, *Arches of Time*,¹⁵ which included much positive detail on his personal teaching ex-

periences, including his memories of the introduction of skill marks in 1910. At that time, Mr Morris was in his first year

¹¹ See TAHO: ED31 series

¹² TAHO: ED238/1/1

¹³ <http://stors.tas.gov.au/ED238-1-1>

¹⁴ TAHO: ED238-1-1, ‘D’, Image 22

¹⁵ Morris, C W, *Arches of Time*, Hobart 1972

as an ex-student at Queenstown State School, having spent the previous four years at the new Training College in Hobart. He remembered Mr McCoy touring the state, in company with the relevant district inspector, personally inspecting every school, acquainting himself with all teachers in the service, introducing the new skill marks, and setting standards for inspections. By all accounts, Mr McCoy was viewed as a kind and capable man, his consistent, searching inspection technique garnering widespread respect.



William Charles (Carl) Morris 1888 1971¹⁶

Mr Morris recounted, with justifiable pride, his personal experience of being allocated a skill mark of 41 by Mr McCoy at that 1910 inspection, when the average for a first year ex-student was said to be 21–31. Mr McCoy noted that only one other teacher of similar experience (Mr Percy HUGHES, ex-student at Trinity Hill, who eventually became the first Tasmanian-born Director of Education) had received the same rating. As a result of those inspections, Mr Morris and Mr Hughes never gained

the expected Class III certificate, their first classification being Class II.¹⁷

Many teachers, such as Mr Morris and Mr Hughes, improved their scores each year and no doubt were pleased to receive affirmation of their skill development. Some other men recorded as attaining high marks during their careers included:

- BARKER Arthur Owen (88)
- BENJAMIN Albert Grey (80)
- BLACKWOOD Harold Edwin (81)
- BLAIKIE Thomas William (88½)
- BROOKS George Vickery (87)
- BURING Albert Gustave Adolph (85)
- CORNOCK Wilfred Gordon (78)
- DAGLISH Harold John (73½)
- DOE Thomas Edward (79)
- DUNCOMBE Edwin Walter (85)
- HARRIS Harold Gordon (83)
- HAMILTON Anthony (88)
- HILLS Willie (84¾)
- HOWARD William Woodman (71)
- HUXLEY George Hambrough (81)
- JONES John Francis (85)
- LEE Robert E (75)
- LIMB George (90)
- McCABE Francis John (74)
- MESTON Archibald (81)
- MILLER Raymond O M (87¼)
- MULLIGAN Cyril Jack (80)
- MULLIGAN Joseph Augustus (77)
- ORCHARD John Raymond (78)
- SMITH Henry (71)
- SMITH Richard (90)
- von BERTOUCHE Victor (90)
- WATERWORTH Alfred Gwin (74)
- WELLINGTON Stephen John (72)
- WRIGHT Charles Alfred (87)
- WRIGHT Robert Stuart (90)
- WRIGHT Walter (90).¹⁸

By carrying out a review of the details contained in the Department's previously

¹⁶ Image courtesy of TAHO: PH40-1-627

¹⁷ Morris, C W, *Arches of Time*, Hobart 1972, p. 69

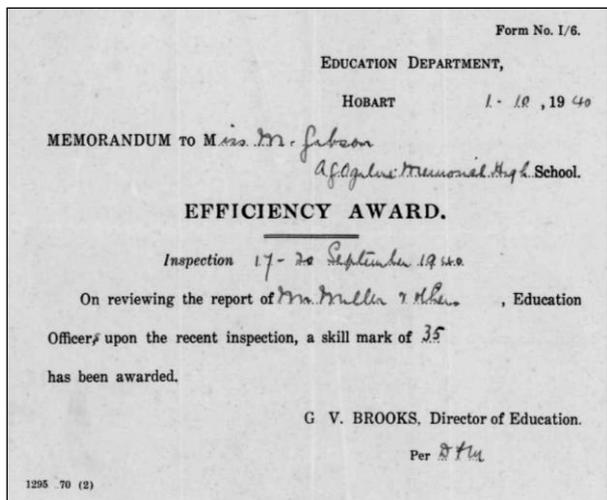
¹⁸ TAHO: ED238/1/1

described set of cards for male teachers, it can be seen that progression was not necessarily the norm. A number of teachers peaked at a certain numerical rating and then continued to 'stagnate'; the marks of some others actually showed regression over time. It seems unlikely the procedure, brutal to say the least for those at the lower end of the skill scale, actually kept teachers in the system for long. Numerous examples of teachers with low to middling marks resigning early in their careers exist in the set of cards. Perhaps the system helped them to focus on their future prospects with the Department and helped them to make personal decisions sooner rather than later. That is not to suggest, however, that the Department used skill marks to weed out low performing teachers. One teacher, continuously employed since 1879, from 1914 was allocated an efficiency mark of 1, supplemented by his full service mark of 10 (total skill mark 11). Long recognised as a poor performer,¹⁹ the person concerned finally resigned in 1922, aged 63, having notched up 43 years of service.²⁰

Changes in the 1930s

For some time during the 1930s, the abolition of skill marks was urged by teachers at large. In 1937, following suggestions for a new system put forward at the annual conference of the Teachers' Federation by Mr Robert LEE, it was agreed to trial a new proposal and hold

skill marks in obedience for two years. The alternate scheme was based on the substitution of reports after inspection stating whether the teacher's work was satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Decisions concerning promotion were then to be made according to the number of such ratings allocated by the inspectors over a specified number of years.²¹ At the end of the trial period, however, teachers asked for a return to the original skill mark system, which then continued in its basic form until the end of 1947.



Example of an Efficiency Award Certificate, 1940, Miss Mary Fraser GIBSON (1911 1994) Commercial subjects teacher, A G Ogilvie High, 1937 1940

Image kindly supplied by Louise Gibson, her niece

The 1940s

During World War II, men on active service were allocated compensatory skill marks to keep them in line with others still in the teaching service. Upon their return to duty, the ex-servicemen could continue to build their marks without

¹⁹ TAHO: ED31/1/6

²⁰ TAHO: ED238/1/1

²¹ *The Examiner*, 25 August 1937

suffering loss due to their military absence.²²

Dissatisfaction and a desire for change seemed to peak again by mid-1947 with Letters to the Editor of local newspapers including disparaging comments about the allocation of marks by Education Officers without appropriate input from head teachers.²³ The Teachers' Federation also alleged that the use of skill marks had become unsatisfactory as a means of determining salary increases. It was reasoned that teachers should receive annual increases over time in line with other public service employees.²⁴

Final thoughts

The use of skill marks for salary and promotion purposes lasted for over thirty years. Director McCoy used his powers of persuasion and a tactful, sympathetic manner to convince teachers in 1910 that the procedures would be beneficial to them. His proposal was greeted with great enthusiasm at a time when teachers were wanting to put behind them the deep divisions that had developed in the service under Director Neale. Materially, it could be argued that most teachers benefited little from the new regulation. However, it served the immediate purpose of helping the system to heal. ◀

²² *The Mercury*, 14 October 1942

²³ *The Mercury*, 21 May 1947

²⁴ *The Mercury*, 30 August 1947



MARITA BARDENHAGEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History is a biennial award to honour the memory of well-known historian Dr Marita Bardenhagen.

The aim of the Award is to encourage local historians to publish the results of their research.

The Award is for a book with significant Tasmanian local history content.

The Award will be determined by an independent judging panel of three, approved by the Trustees of the Award.

Entries for the Award will close on 14 June 2018.

For more information about the Award, please contact

Dr Dianne Snowden at
dsnowden@tassie.net.au

VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

T O O ,

Dianne Snowden (Member No. 910)

Latrobe

10 June 1865

Please to you

Mrs. Horne

Am about to trouble you if you have the kindness to Let me hear how my poor Children Johnney and Maregrt Pearson I have not ad the opportunity of writting since I Left [p]rison I now take the opportunity of sending ten shilings to them for Loleys please mam I am at service at Mr Williams at Ballahoo since i Left and mi time Will not be up untill Crismas month and plase god I will [co]me ans see mi Children you ma think me verey cruel [] not coming to see my Chilren before give my kind Love to my poor Litle Children and I wold think it a very grat kindnes and I wold feel forever obligest to you in Sending me a Bit of My Childrings Hair.

So no more at pres[ent]

From your poor Broken

Hearted mother

Roseanna Pearson¹

Roseanna PEARSON wrote her letter in 1865—well beyond what many people would consider to be Tasmania’s penal period. Yet Johnny and Margaret Pearson were very much a legacy of this time and the institution which housed them was an integral and ongoing part of the convict era. Johnny and Margaret Pearson’s mother, Roseanna Pearson, was tried as

¹ TAHO, SWD26/1/5 Pearson. An annotation to the letter reveals that the children did not receive their ten shillings for lollies: the money was retained by the authorities and was to be used for the maintenance of the children or as a subscription to the Orphan School band.

Ellen McCARTHY in Limerick City in 1850 and was sentenced to transportation for seven years for receiving stolen wearing apparel. When she arrived in Van Diemen’s Land aboard the *Blackfriar* in May 1851, she was described as a 20-year-old brown-haired, blue-eyed country servant, nearly 5 feet tall, with a ruddy complexion and a rather large mouth (which, it seems, got her into a lot of trouble!) A frequent absconder from her place of service, she also had colonial punishments for insolence, using improper language, assault, smoking and refusing to work.²

Ellen married 55-year-old widower, Samuel Pearson, in 1855 in St Georges Church, Sorell.³ Two years later, in Hobart, Ellen received her Free Certificate, having served her sentence.⁴

Ellen and Samuel, a mariner, had a son, John Henry Pearson, born on 24 August 1858 at Sorell.⁵ Their daughter, Margaret, was born on 18 November 1850 at Sorell.⁶

In March 1861, when Samuel Pearson died in H.M. General Hospital in Hobart, his son, Johnny, aged 3 years 8 months,

² TAHO, CON41/1/30 No. 1271 Ellen McCarthy *Blackfriar* 1851

³ TAHO, RGD37/1/14 District of Prosser’s Plains and Sorell 1855/1188 Ellen McCarthy and Samuel Pearson

⁴ TAHO, CON41/1/30 No. 1271 Ellen McCarthy *Blackfriar* 1851

⁵ TAHO, RGD33/1/36 District of Sorell 1858/1962 John Henry Pearson

⁶ TAHO, RGD33/1/37 District of Sorell 1859/2098 John Henry Pearson

was left in the nursery of the hospital. His mother could not be located; she was supposedly in Oatlands or 'in the bush'. In 1862, application was made for the admission of John to the Orphan School.⁷

The following year, 1863, a further application was made for Johnny's sister, Margaret, aged 3 years and 6 months, to be admitted to the Orphan School; she had been deserted by her mother.⁸ The application noted that Margaret's mother had been admitted to hospital in August 1861 but had subsequently absconded from there, leaving Margaret behind. Margaret was transferred from the hospital to the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children in July 1863.⁹ It is not known when Margaret was discharged from the Asylum.

By 1865, Roseanna Pearson was living with 'a sober and industrious shoemaker' named KENNEDY at Ballahoo Island. They planned to marry and send for Roseanna's children. It was about this time that Roseanna wrote her letter to the Orphan School, enclosing ten shillings for lollies for her children. According to the admission application, Pearson and Kennedy were married in 1865 but no marriage record has been located.

Two years later, as Rosannah DUNN, she applied for the two children to be readmitted to the Orphan School. Attached to the application file is a copy of the 'electric telegraph' which noted that,

Roseanna Dunn is a very bad [c]haracter she has been for ten and twelve [y]ears the companion of thieves. She lived with Philip Burton as [w]ife a long time. He is at Port Arthur [serv]ing a sentence of six years for [b]urglary. She has lived with several bad characters. She married Dunn [short]ly before his conviction.¹⁰

Another electric telegraph message the same day reported that she was a 'bad character, abandoned and vicious ... a regular frequenter of Public Houses and is quarrelsome'.¹¹ A letter of support, however, noted that since her husband had been at Port Arthur, she had been finding it difficult to support herself and her children. She had been selling oranges in the streets of Launceston and, with another woman, had been splitting wood in the bush. She stated that if she could get a situation, she could support one of her children. Johnny was readmitted.

In 1874 at New Norfolk, as Rosanna SULLIVAN, Rosanna was convicted of larceny and sentenced to imprisonment for three months. Beyond this she has not been traced.

Margaret Pearson may have married James MOODY in Hobart in 1894.¹²

Margaret and John had at least one other sibling, George Pearson, who was born about 1860 and who died in 1884. George Pearson, a labourer aged 24, died of *disease of the brain* on 27 June 1884 at Torquay.¹³ A newspaper notice mentioned George's intestacy,

⁷ TAHO, RGD35/1/6 District of Hobart 1861/2678 Samuel Pearson; TAHO, SWD26/1/5 [Images 344–351] 30 June 1862 John Henry Pearson. Samuel Pearson, a tailor or seaman, was born in Essex and arrived on the *Shiplee*.

⁸ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 21 [Images 376–378] 21 July 1863

⁹ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 21 [Image 377] 23 July 1863

¹⁰ TAHO, SWD26/1/5 30 June 1862 John Henry Pearson

¹¹ TAHO, SWD26/1/5 30 June 1862 John Henry Pearson

¹² TAHO, RGD37/1/53 District of Hobart 1894/222 Margaret Pearson and James Moody

¹³ TAHO, RGD35/1/53 District of Port Sorell 1884/572 George Pearson

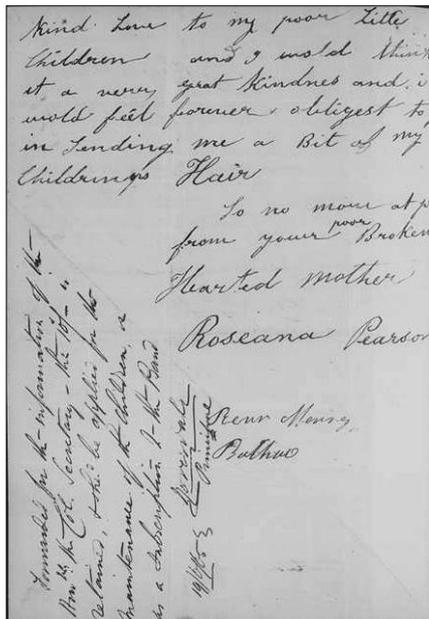
In the matter of the intestate estate of George Pearson, late of Torquay, deceased, on the motion of Mr. Finlay (Finlay and Watchorn), His Honor made an order for the distribution of the proceeds of the estate.¹⁴

John Henry Pearson, aged 21, was tried in the Supreme Court Launceston on 3 April 1879 for rape. A sentence of death was recorded but this was commuted to imprisonment for 15 years.¹⁵ His convict record noted,

The sum of £21.12.4 being the above prisoner's share of the intestate Estate of his brother George Pearson was received by the Sheriff on 2 December 1884 from the Curator of Intestate Estates and deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank Hobart 4 December 1884 Account No. 385.¹⁶

On 9 May 1881, John, aged 24, was transferred from the Hobart Gaol to the 'Hospital for the Insane' at New Norfolk. He was admitted suffering from 'amentia' (intellectual disability). He was discharged on 26 April 1884.¹⁷ On 4 December 1893, aged 38, he was readmitted from the 'Hobart Hospital for the Insane' (Cascades) suffering from 'chronic mania'. There was no discharge date recorded.¹⁸

Rosannah Pearson's letter to the Orphan School in 1865—signed 'your poor Broken hearted mother' and requesting a piece of her children's hair—is a rare fragment revealing the heartbreak and suffering the removal of children caused. Rosannah may have been frequently in trouble with the law but she still remembered and missed her children. ◀



Second a e o o anna' le er with annotation

For more stories about the children admitted to the Orphan Schools, see Friends of the Orphan Schools, St Johns Park Precinct: www.orphanschool.org.au

¹⁴ *Mercury* (Hobart) 3 November 1884 p. 1; TAHO, CON37/1/11 p. 6042 John Henry Pearson

¹⁵ TAHO, CON37/1/11 p. 6042 John Henry Pearson; *Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) 5 April 1879 p. 2; *Tasmanian* (Launceston) 12 April 1879 p. 4

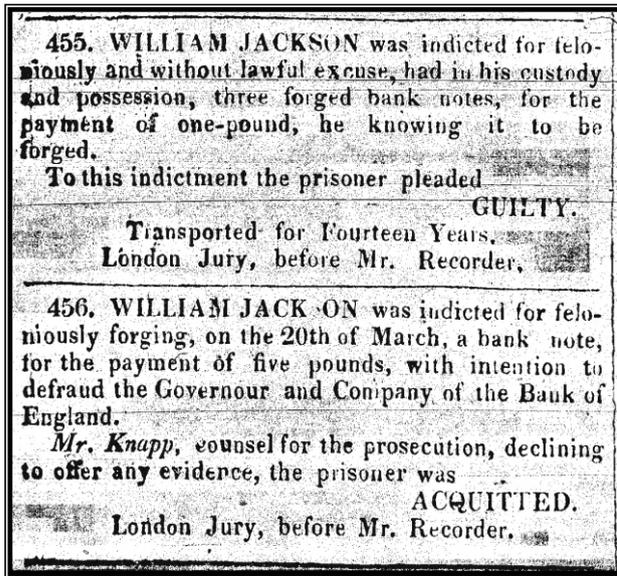
¹⁶ TAHO, CON37/1/11 p. 6042 John Henry Pearson.

¹⁷ TAHO, CON37/1/11 p. 6042 John Henry Pearson; TAHO, HSD247/1/1 1881 No. 1132 John Henry Pearson

¹⁸ TAHO, HSD247/1/1 1893 No. 1868 John Henry Pearson.

HAMILTON HAND-ME-DOWNS

Robin Flannery (Member No. 5263)



MY mother, Rita May JACKSON, was born to Arthur Gordon and Elsie (née BROUGH) Jackson at Linda, Tasmania, on 15 September 1910.¹ Around 1917, the family moved to Victoria where my mother married Vincent FLANNERY in 1937.² He passed away in 1976.³ My mother took her own life in 1980.⁴

Before they died, I had not thought to ask my parents about their ancestors and they hadn't passed on any information about them to me or my younger sisters, Noelle and Denise. However, that void in family history was a wake-up call to trace our

family's ancestry and ensure it is handed down to future generations.

Our father was illegitimate, having been born on 17 April 1910 at the Smith Ward, Women's Hospital, Carlton, Victoria, to Annie SMITH, aged 22.⁵ Extensive research and enquiry has failed to reveal anything more about Annie or how or why her son Vincent was taken in by the Flannery family and embraced as one of their own.

Our mother's father, Arthur, was born at Hamilton, Tasmania. He was the son of James Arthur Jackson and grandson of James Jackson whose father was the

¹ RGD Birth: 13952/1910, Linda, Tasmania

² VPRO 64/1937, Port Melbourne, Victoria

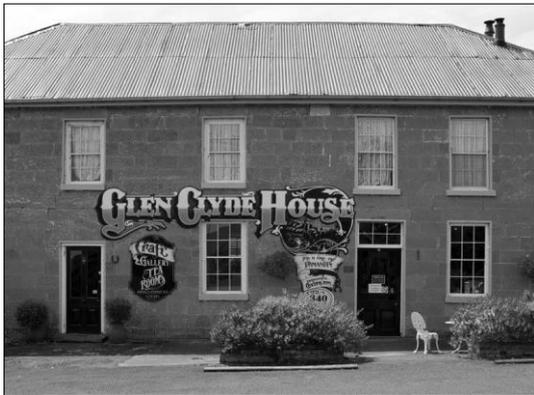
³ VPRO death: 17271/1976, Fairfield, VIC

⁴ VPRO 12318/1980, Port Melbourne, VIC

⁵ VPRO Birth: 7390/1910, Melbourne, VIC

transported convict William Jackson— see notice on previous page.⁶

Despite William's nefarious ways, his sons James and Henry came free to Australia. They became prominent businessmen at Hamilton and are the



Glen Clyde House, courtesy of www.glencl Clydehouse.com

subject of *The Jacksons of Hamilton: A brief study of a pioneering family in Tasmania* [ISBN 0646160516] by author and historical researcher Brian RIEUSSET. In his book, the author throws out a bait:

Each of the many descendant families of the Jacksons have a separate story to tell, all of which can and should be the subject for further research by family historians.

That provided me with the stimulus to record my Australian ancestry. In 2003, my sisters and I produced a book—*Pros & Cons*

and Cops & Robbers: Common men and women for an uncommon country. [ISBN 0646389017] A copy is held by the Hobart Branch of TFHS Inc.

As part of the research, my wife Karon and I travelled to Hamilton where we saw buildings constructed by James Jackson in the mid-1800s. And they are still trading! Glen Clyde House operates as a café and gallery where we couldn't resist purchasing several works of local Huon pine by Tasmanian artisans. Jackson's Emporium also houses a café and carries specialty products of the Derwent Valley.

That tangible evidence of my ancestral past sparked emotion. I pondered how I could have shared pride with my great, great grandfather if he had strolled with me that day and reflected on his life, as I absorbed what he had contributed to today's society. He could have also told me more about his convict father



⁶ Courtesy of *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 02 February 2018), April 1815, trial of WILLIAM JACKSON (t18150405-32, 33)

a on' or u courtesy of www.discovertasmania.com.au/attraction/jacksonsemporium

William, a former tailor from Buckinghamshire, England, who became a storekeeper at Ouse, some 15 kilometres from Hamilton.



Family album: Michelle and Kylie Broad

Karon and I took our granddaughters, Kylie and Michelle BROAD, to Hamilton in the year 2000 and we stayed at ‘Emma’s Cottage’, one of Hamilton’s historic c. 1830s convict-built sandstone cottages.

In 2004, my sisters and I and two Jackson-descendant cousins (Judy WILKIE and Albert THOMAS) crossed Bass Strait to attend a dinner commemorating the bicentenary of Hobart Town’s founding. Our spouses accompanied us and we took the opportunity to travel west to the former mining precincts where Rita, Irene, Gordon and Olive—children of Arthur and Elsie Jackson—were born between 1910 and 1917. Along the way the group stopped off at Hamilton, Arthur’s birthplace, and spent several hours wandering and observing the many historic buildings, including the relics of our ancestors.

Eleven years later, our son Scott Flannery took his children, our grandson Mitchell and granddaughter Olivia, to Hamilton.

The ancestry message was continuing to be handed down with the name Jackson and the near on 150-year-old Emporium as the focal point for another family memento.

By 2015, all our grandchildren had visited Hamilton and Karon and I were great grandparents as, by then, Kylie and Michelle had married.

Michelle and Jean-Henri BEUKES have two daughters: Scarlett and Geneviève. They currently live in England where Michelle has spent time tracing haunts of our several convict ancestors, particularly around East London.



Family album: Olivia and Mitchell Flannery

Kylie and Michael ROELOFS have two boys, Riley and Lucas, and gave their sons middle names of James and Jackson respectively. The name of James Jackson has been preserved and passed on, however cryptically, after seven generations.

William Jackson [b1788]
 [d 20 July 1860]
 Convict transported aboard *Ocean 1*.
 Arrived Sydney 30 January 1816

↓

James Jackson [bc 1806]
 [d 27 December 1892]
 m [28 April 1851]

Mary Hallier Rayner [b 7 October 1833]
 [d 3 April 1856]

↓

James Arthur Jackson [b 10 June 1855]
 [d 18 July 1935]
 m [6 December 1877]

Edith Maud Burgess [29 February 1856]
 [d 14 September 1936]

↓

Arthur Gordon Jackson [b 1 June 1886]
 [d 5 November 1922]
 m [15 July 1909]

Elsie Brough [b 18 October 1890]
 [d 21 March 1978]

↓

Rita May Jackson [b 15 September 1910]
 [d 25 March 1980]
 m [10 September 1937]

Vincent Francis Flannery [b 17 April 1910]
 [d 6 July 1976]

↓

Robin Francis Flannery [b 19 October 1939]
 m [1 May 1959]

Patricia Karon Bussey [b Butcher 30 October
 1942]

↓

Jeannette Marie Flannery [b 16 December 1962]
 m [10 September 1983]

Philip Richard Broad [b 21 November 1952]

↓

Kylie Marie Broad [b 25 September 1985]
 m [28 May 2011]

Michael Peter Roelofs [b 19 December 1985]

↓

Riley James Roelofs [b 21 December 2012]
 Lucas Jackson Roelofs [b 7 February 2015]



Family album: Riley James Roelofs and
 Lucas Jackson Roelofs

We can but hope future generations will remember our current mob as proud ancestors as they receive hand-me-downs of warts-and-all information about their forebears and learn that they are part of something bigger than their individual selves; an opportunity that eluded my sisters and I in earlier life. ◀

WANTED

Have you stories waiting to be told?

We are in urgent need of material for future issues of *Tasmanian Ancestry*

Can you help?

Please email

editors@tasfhs.org

or contact

secretary@tasfhs.org

NEW MEMBERS INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
<i>Duke of Wellington</i>	Ship		7938
<i>Friendship</i>	Ship	1819	7938
BARRETT Adrian	Sydney NSW AUS	c.1935	7943
BARRETT William	Melbourne VIC AUS	1869–1950	7943
BOUTCHER Charlotte Elizabeth	Westbury TAS AUS	1850–1885	7936
BOXALL John	Eaglehawk Neck TAS AUS	c.1850	7932
BUGG Jonathon	Layham SFK ENG	1800–1893	7936
COGHLAN Thomas	Swansea TAS AUS	1840–1900	7929
EVANS Francis	Pittwater/Sorell/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1812	7932
GASCOIGNE (LUCAS) Olivia	Buried TAS AUS 12/6/1830	1800–1850	7935
GRAVELEY Charles W H	London ENG	1831–1924	7936
GRUBB John Coleman	Doddington NTH ENG	1810–1890	7936
HEADLAM John	Eggleston DUR ENG	1775–1843	7942
HEWSON William	Liverpool LAN ENG	1800–1930	7935
HOLLOWAY Thomas Henry	Launceston TAS AUS	1859–1923	7936
KELLY Ann	Launceston TAS AUS	1820–1830	7935
KELTON	SCOTLAND		7939
LONGLEY Minnie Rosanna	Port Davey TAS AUS	1864–1870	7945
MACNICOL Walter	Dundon ARL SCT	1839–1907	7942
McKIBBEN Joseph Clyde	Geeveston TAS AUS	1910	7945
PIDDINGTON James	Sussex ENG	1795–1845	7942
PRYOR	Cornwall ENG		7939
PUREFOY Mary Anne	Eyrecourt GAL IRL	1846–1903	7942
RANICAR Anthony	CANADA	1918–1974	7943
RANICAR Arthur	Wigan LAN ENG	1862–1920	7943
REES Catherine	Tenby PEM WALES	1837	7944
ROBERTS Edward Henry	Huonville TAS AUS	1880	7945
ROBINSON James Thomas	Windsor BRK ENG	c.1867	7944
SENIOR David	Farnley Tyas WRY ENG	c.1834–1920	7942
SHADDICK Catherine Emily	Deptford KEN/SRY ENG	1868	7944
SMITH John	Newcastle on Tyne ENG	1787–1853	7942
STEWART	East Lothian SCT		7939
VAUGHAN Anne	Tenby PEM WALES	c.1814	7944
WARN	SFK ENG/SCT		7939
WELLS John William	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1825–1913	7936
WILKINSON Martha	Windsor BRK ENG	c.1844	7944

See page 31 for Additions/Corrections

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

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7929	MARSH Ms Linda	2/102 Granite St lindamarsh_1@hotmail.com	PORT MACQUARIE	NSW	2444
7930	BLACKWELL Mr Arthur	430 Elderslie Rd	BRIGHTON	TAS	7030
7931	BLACKWELL Mrs Denise	430 Elderslie Rd	BRIGHTON	TAS	7030
7932	BUCKMAN Ms Michelle	PO Box 9280 michellebuckman@bigpond.com	PACIFIC PARADISE	QLD	4564
7933	EDWARDS Mr Andrew	18 Main St andrew@edwardsdistribution.com.au	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
7934	CROWDEN-EDWARDS Ms Roslyn	18 Main St roz001@bigpond.com	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
7935	HEWSON Mrs Marlene	119 Dunns Creek Rd	BATEMANS BAY	NSW	2536
7936	WELLS Mr Malcolm	22 Harpers Rd wellsmalcolm@bigpong.com	BONNET HILL	TAS	7053
7937	WELLS Ms Margaret	22 Harpers Rd	BONNET HILL	TAS	7053
7938	FRETWELL Mrs Leonie	PO Box 31 lfretwell@bigpond.com	BURRA	SA	5417
7939	STEWART Mr John	594 Rifle Range Rd john.esindi@gmail.com	SANDFORD	TAS	7020
7940	KEEGAN Mr Maxwell	6 Delta Ave frankeegan12@gmail.com	YOUNGTOWN	TAS	7249
7941	BESSELL Miss Elizabeth	1 Stanfield St elizabethannbessell@hotmail.com	ROKEBY	TAS	7019
7942	RANICAR Mrs Marguerite	PO Box 351 ranicar@bigpond.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7943	RANICAR Dr Jeremy	PO Box 351 ranicar@bigpond.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7944	HURST Mrs Gillian	23 Elwood Dr kghurst@live.com.au	LINDISFARNE	TAS	7015
7945	HAUSER Mrs Lynn	34 Axiom Way lynnhauser1@gmail.com	ACTON PARK	TAS	7170

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.

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ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

The published email address of the following members was incorrect in Volume 38 Number 1 June 2017 so we are publishing a correction and reproducing their Members Interests.

7842 MULLIGAN Mr Graham sallie_m@bigpond.net.au
7843 MULLIGAN Mrs Sallie sallie_m@bigpond.net.au

NEW MEMBERS INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
BISHOP James	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1827–1844	7842
BYE Kezia	NFK ENG/Longford TAS AUS	1837–1922	7843
BYE Rachael	Longford/Perth TAS AUS	c.1850–1903	7843
BYE William	Perth/Longford TAS AUS	1857–1928	7843
HARRIS Henry	Longford TAS AUS	c.1860	7843
HARRIS John	WIL ENG/Longford TAS AUS	c.1806–1867 or 1880	7843
HILL Alfred	Longford TAS AUS	c.1871–1944	7842
MASON Mary Anne	Deloraine TAS AUS	c.1875–1924	7843
MULLIGAN Patrick	Westbury TAS AUS	c.1849–1913	7842
NUTTLE Thomas	Mathinna TAS AUS	c.1880	7842
O'LEARY Edward	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1870	7842
POTTER James	Longford TAS AUS	1855–1922	7843
STEBBINGS James Best	Longford TAS AUS	c.1880	7842
SMITH Henry	Port Sorell/Sheffield TAS AUS	1855–1914	7843
TERRY George	Hobart/Launceston/Deloraine TAS AUS	1832–1875	7843
WILLIAMS Mary Ann	Launceston/Deloraine TAS AUS	c.1860–1894	7843
YOUNG Rebecca	IRE/Evandale/Longford TAS AUS	c.1814–1898	7843
YOUNG Robert	Longford TAS AUS	c.1870–1930	7843

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
e en an o on , rou
PO Box 229 COLDSTREAM Victoria 3770

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>

MR. WILLIAM HUNT DIES AT PENGUIN IN 99th YEAR



THE death occurred at Penguin yesterday afternoon [10 March 1954] of Mr. William HUNT, who is believed to have been the oldest war veteran in Australia. He was in his 99th year, and saw action in the Sudan War.

The second oldest resident of Penguin, Mr. Hunt had been in bad health for some time. He turned out to see the Queen on February 23, and had a relapse.

Mr. Hunt died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. E. E. LING, of Crescent St. He would have been 99 on September 28 next.

Born in 1855 at Bridport, Dorsetshire, England, he joined the British Army in 1878 and served in the 8th Railway Co., Royal Engineers. He was a fully qualified engineer.

At the age of 27 he left for Egypt, where he drove the first armored locomotive which carried wounded soldiers under heavy fire from the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, in which General Wolseley routed Arab Pasha's forces, which revolted against the Egyptian Government in 1882.

For 14 years he was employed by the Egyptian Government as an engineer attached to the Nile Flotilla, which patrolled the Nile from Aswan to Wadi Haifa. He was in three engagements with the Dervishes.

Mr. Hunt was decorated with the Egyptian Medal with three bars, and received the Khedive's Star as well as being mentioned twice in despatches.

Both Generals GORDON and KITCHENER, with whom Mr. Hunt was well acquainted, travelled with him when going to Khartoum and Omdurman during the Sudanese campaigns with the

Mahdi, in which General Gordon was killed in 1885, and in which General Kitchener was successful in 1898.

Owing to ill health, Mr. Hunt returned to England in 1898.

Coming to Tasmania in 1908, he took up 22½ acres of virgin forest at Karoola, where he planted an orchard. He remained there for seven years and made great improvements to his property.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Mr. Hunt donned the uniform of the Australian Army as a sergeant. He volunteered for service in France, but was turned down.

Mr. Hunt moved to Penguin in 1915, and bought a property on which he stayed two years. He then bought a general store at Castra, but later returned to Penguin, where he started a market garden on three acres of land.

Mr. Hunt took a keen interest in gardening, and in his active years at Penguin always had a good showing of blooms. He chose to live at Penguin because it was a quiet seaside resort, similar to towns on the Sussex coast of England.

Although in bad health, Mr. Hunt would not miss seeing the Queen during her visit to the Coast. He later received a message of greeting from Her Majesty.¹ ◀

¹ *The Advocate*, 11 March 1954 p. 4 and *The Mercury*, 11 March 1954, p. 3

*The Tasmanian Almanack for the year of our Lord 1826;
being the second after leap year.*

*Calculated for the Meridian of Hobart Town,
Longitude 147° 25' E.—Latitude 43° 5' S.*

Hobart Town: compiled and printed by Andrew Bent.

A DIRECTORY.

A

Appleton and Co. General Dealers, Liverpool-street.
Atkinson, Thos. General Dealer and Ship Agent, Campbell-st.
Atkinson, Francis, General Dealer, Elizabeth-street.
Austin, James, Stock-owner and Victualler, Roseneath Inn.

B

Barnes, Francis, Publican and Settler, Macquarie-street.
Baker, William, Cryer of the Supreme Court, Macquarie-street.
Barratt, Mrs. Midwife, Bathurst-street.
Basstian, Neil, Baker and Sailmaker, Bathurst-street
Bethune and Grant, Merchants and Commercial Agents, at the Stone Wharf, near the Wharfinger's Office.
Bent, Andrew, Colonial Times Office, Elizabeth-street.
Bedford, Rev. Wm. Junior Colonial Chaplian [sic], Liverpool-street.
Beaumont, G. Superintendent [sic] of Penitentiary, Campbell-street.
Belbin, James, sen. Inspector of Stock, Macquarie-street.
Belbin, James, jun. Carpenter, Liverpool-street.
Bell, Andrew, Stonemason, Liverpool-street.
Bisdee, John, Keeper of the County Gaol, Murray-street.
Bock, Thomas, Portrait Painter, Historical and Writing Engraver, Murray-street.
Boon, John, Bread and Biscuit Baker, Collins-street
Boote, John, Publican, Harrington-street.
Bowden, John, Publican, Brisbane-street.

Blackwell, John, Parchment and Glue Maker, New-town
Blay, James, jun. Miller, Liverpool-street.
Bradley, F. General Dealer, Liverpool-street.
Briggs, John, Merchant and Commercial Agent, Bathurst-st.
Broughton, Bartholomew, Stock-owner and settler, New-town.
Brownlow, Robert, Waterloo Inn, Harrington-street
Butler, Gamaliel, Attorney, Bathurst-street

C

Cartwright, George, Notary Public and Solicitor, Macquarie-st.
Carvosso, Rev. B. Wesleyan Missionary, Brisbane-street.
Carter, William, Carter, Murray-street.
Caldwell, Robert, Retail Dealer, Elizabeth-street.
Cash, Samuel, General Dealer, Liverpool-street.
Cash, Samuel, General Dealer, Liverpool-street.
Champion, F. Merchant and Commercial Agent, Macquarie-st.
Champion, Valentine, Derwent Distillery, Macquarie-street
Clark, George Carr, Waterloo Flour Mills, Liverpool-street.
Clark, Mrs. Boarding School, Murray-street
Clarke, George, Waterman, Collins-street.
Cleburne, R. Commission Agent and Dealer, Liverpool-street.
Collicott, J.T. Auctioneer and Post master, Murray-street.
Conolly, Rev. P. Roman Catholic Clergyman, New-street.
Connolley, Henry, Harness Maker, Liverpool-street.
Cole, Thomas, Boat-builder, Davey-street.
Cook, William, General Dealer, Elizabeth-street.
Copeland, Peter, Publican, Campell-street.
Cotton, William, Blacksmith, Brisbane-street.

Ckoulson, W.A. Agent for small Debts, Collins-street.

Crowther, Dr. Surgeon, &c. Murray-street.

Crisp, James, Veterinary Surgeon, Elizabeth-street.

D

Dawes, Frederic, Attorney, Macquarie-street.

Darby, Robert, Blacksmith, Elizabeth-street.

Deane, J.P. Auctioneer and General Dealer, Elizabeth-street.

Dean, John, Baker and Ship Biscuit Maker, Liverpool-street.

Dennett, William, Publican, Campbell-street.

Devine, Thomas, Publican, Elizabeth-street.

Dixon, Thomas, Currier and Tanner, Liverpool-street.

Dixon, Thomas, Publican, Goulburn-street.

Donaldson, John, Boot and Shoe Maker, Collins-street.

Donn, Charles, General Dealer, Argyle-street.

Drabble, — Supt. of the Female Factory, Murray-street.

Dunn, John, Merchant and Dealer, Elizabeth-street.

E

Eddie, John A. Merchant and Commercial Agent, Macquarie-st.

Edington, John, Publican, Argyle-street.

Evans, G.W. Surveyor-General, Murray-street.

F

Fawkner, John, sen. Dealer, Collins-street.

Farrall, John, Taylor and Pelisse Maker, Elizabeth-street

Fereday, Dudley, Sheriff, Bathurst-street.

Fergusson, A. Wheelwright and Blacksmith, Elizabeth-street.

Fergusson, Joshua, Publican, Campbell-street.

Fisher, W. Cabinet-maker and Upholsterer, Murray-street

Fitzgerald, Mrs. Publican, Goulburn-street.

Fletcher, Deputy Assistant Commissary, New-town.

Fraser, Simon, Taylor and Draper, Liverpool-street

G

Gardiner, J. Cashier and Secretary to the Bank, Macquarie-st.

Gatehouse, George, Brewer, New-town.

Gellibrand, J.T. His Majesty's Attorney-General, Davey-street, and Derwent Park Farm, near New-town.

Giles, William, Master Bricklayer, Brisbane-street.

Gillett, Robert, Butcher, Campbell-street.

Glover, C. Grocer and Tallow-chandler, Murray-street.

Glover, Mrs. Mangler, Murray-street.

Grant, James, Merchant, Macquarie-street.

Guest, George, jun. Publican, Campbell-street.

Guy, Benjamin, General Dealer, Collins-street.

Gwynn, John, Fisherman, Campbell-street.

H

Hamilton, W.H. Naval Officer, Macquarie-street.

Hanson, John, Carpenter, Campbell-street.

Hayes, John, Under Sheriff Bathurst-street.

Haines, Mrs. Straw Bonnet Maker, Harrington-street.

Henry, Benjamin, Retail Dealer, Elizabeth-street.

Hone, Joseph, Master of the Supreme, Court, Murray-street

Hood, Samuel, Agent to Edward Lord, Macquarie-street.

Hobbs, James, Wharfinger, Harrington-street.

Houshold, R. Cabinet-maker and Upholsterer, Elizabeth-street.

Hopkins, Henry, Ironmonger, and Dealer, Elizabeth-street.

Hopwood, George, Publican, Collins-street.

Hopwood, William, Watchmaker, Liverpool-street.

Howe, G.T. Gazette, Office, Elizabeth-street.

Humphrey, A.W.H. Superintendent of Police, Harrington-st.

I

Innis, William, Publican and Mariner, Bathurst-street.

J

Jackson, John, Cabinet-maker, Elizabeth-street.

James, Jon, Blacksmith, Elizabeth-street.

James, John, Baker and General Dealer, Wellington Bridge.

Johnson, J. General Dealer, Liverpool-street.

Johnson, W. Publican, Liverpool-street.

Jones, Benjamin, Stock and Land-owner,
Elizabeth-street.
Jones, John, Smith and Farrier, Liverpool-street.

K

Kemp & Co. Merchants and Commercial Agents,
Macquarie-st.
Ker, David, Merchant, Elizabeth-street.
Kerr, John, Merchant, Elizabeth-street.
Kearney, Mrs. Stock-owner and Dairy Woman,
Argyle-street.
Kelly, James, Harbour Master, Collins-street.
Knopwood, Rev. R. retired Clergyman, Cottage
Green.
Knox, John, Corn Chandler, Elizabeth-street.

L

Lakeland, John, Principal Supt. of Convicts,
Macquarie-street.
Langford, George, Tailor, Draper, and Hosier,
Elizabeth-street.
Lamb, William, Builder, Campbell-street.
Lear, William, Builder, Campbell-street.
Lear, William, Baker, Elizabeth-street
Lempriere, Thomas, Commercial Agent, Murray-
street.
Lempriere, Mrs. Boarding School, New-town.
Lewis, Thomas, Publican, Liverpool-street.
Lloyd, William, Butcher, Collins-street.
Lord, William, Butcher, Collins-street.
Lord, Mrs. Maria, General Dealer, Elizabeth-
street.
Lovell, Esh, Timber Merchant and Dealer,
Elizabeth-street.
Lowes, T.Y. and Co. Merchants, Collins-street.
Lucas, T. Publican, Campbell-street.
Lyndsay, William, Carpenter and Builder,
Elizabeth-street

M

Macarthur, Rev. A. Presbyterian Clergyman,
Campbell-street.
Mannington and Co. Tallow Chandlers and
Dealers, Liverpool-st.
Martin, John, Publican, Argyle-street.
Mason, Horatio W. Merchant and dealer,
Liverpool-street.
Mather, Robert, General Dealer, London House,
Elizabeth-st.
Maycock, William, Publican, Argyle-street.

McDonald, M. Publican, Murray-street.
Mc Dougall, John, Brewer, Liverpool-street.
Montagu, Capt. Secretary to Governor ARTHUR,
Macquarie-st.
Moodie, Afleck, Assistant Commissary General,
Macquarie-st.
Monro, G. Hatter, Liverpool-street.
Morrison, A. Watch and Clock-maker, Elizabeth-
street.
Mortimer, John, Butcher, Liverpool-street
Morrisey, George, Publican, New-town.
Morris, Benjamin, Ship Inn, Collins-street.
Moses, Moses, Baker, Elizabeth-street.
Murray, R.L. General Agent, Murray-street.
Murray and Burns, General Dealers, Elizabeth-
street.

N

Nicholls, William, Carpenter and Undertaker,
Liverpool-street
Nichols, Thomas, Upholsterer and Mattress-
maker, Argyle-st.

O

Ogilvie, James, British Hotel, Liverpool-street.

P

Parramore, William, Attorney, Davey-street.
Patterson, Alexander, Attorney, Macquarie-
street.
Paterson, Frederick, Carpenter, Collins-street.
Panton, George, Veterinary Surgeon and Farrier,
Argyle-st.
Parker, John, General Dealer, Murray-street.
Parrott, William, Butcher, Elizabeth-street.
Pedder, Honorable John Lewes, Chief Justice of
the Supreme Court, Macquarie-street.
Petchey and Wood, Brewers and Publicans,
Davey-street.
Pearce, John, publican, Murray-street.
Phillips, Moses, Baker. Elizabeth-street.
Pitt, Richard, Chief Constable, Collins-street.
Presnell, William, Carter and Brewer, Argyle-
street.

R

Reed, Lawrence, Retail Dealer, Argyle-street.
Reeves, John, Engineer and Brass Fonder,
Murray-street.
Roberts, A.F. Soap Manufactory, Liverpool-
street.

Roberts, J. Baker and General Dealer, Argyle-street.
Ross, Hugh, Solicitor, Macquarie-street.
Ross, Charles, General Dealer, Collins-street.
Rook, G. Bedstead and Chair-maker, Elizabeth-street
Russell, William, Harness-maker, Liverpool-street.

S

Sarell, D.W. Barrister and Attorney, Liverpool-street.
Schultze and Co. General dealers, Elizabeth-street.
Scott, James, Colonial Surgeon, Liverpool-street.
Scott, Thomas, Deputy Surveyor General, Murray-street.
Scott, Thomas, Saddler and Harness-maker, Argyle-street.
Shoobridge, William, Hop Grower, Macquarie-street.
Shribbs, Edward, House and Sign Painter, Bathurst-street.
Simmons, Lieut. Inspector of Public Works, Collins-street.
Simons, J.T. Publican, Murray-street.
Smith, Batey, &Co. Tailors, Drapers, and Mercers, Elizabeth-st.
Smith, Philip, Plumber, Painter, and Glazier, Murray-street.
Smith, Thomas, Baker, Argyle-street.
Sorell, William, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Macquarie-st.
Solomons, J. and J. General Dealers, Liverpool-street.
Solomons, Mark, General Dealer, Elizabeth-street.
Somerville, W. Publican, Liverpool-street.
Spode, Samuel, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Campbell-street.
Stace, T. Timber Merchants, Liverpool-street.
Stapleton, J.W. Piano Forte-maker, Elizabeth-street.
Stephen, A. Barrister and Attorney, Macquarie-st.
Steel, — Butcher, Liverpool-street.
Stodart, Robert, Tavern-keeper, Macquarie-street.

Stocker, T.W. Derwent Hotel, Elizabeth-street.
Stokell, G. General Dealer and Timber Merchant, Macquarie-st.
Stone, Thomas, Govt. Schoolmaster, Macquarie Point.
Swan, John, General Dealer, Elizabeth-street.

T

Thomas, Evan Henry, Publican, Wellington Bridge.
Thomson, James, Hobart town Academy, Melville-street.

W

Walker, John, Government Miller, Collins-street.
Wallace, H. Merchant and Dealer, Elizabeth-street.
Walkinshaw, William, Merchant, Macquarie-street.
Welsh, John, Inspector of Distilleries, &c. Macquarie-street.
Westbrook, Dr. Surgeon and Druggist, Collins-street.
Whitaker, Samuel, Cabinet-maker, Harrington-street.
Wilson, Wm. Merchant and Commercial Agent, Campbell-st.
Wilson, John Ivy, Publican, Brisbane-street.
Wilson, Thomas, Pork Butcher, Liverpool-street.
Wintle, Samuel, Boot and Shoe-maker, Elizabeth-street.
Williamson, Joseph, Merchant and Dealer, Liverpool-street.
Williamson, Ramsay, Shoemaker, Elizabeth-street.
Williams, Rachel, Publican, Melville-street.
Wise, George, Spruce and Ginger Beer Warehouse, Elizabeth-st.
Wise, W. Druggist, Murray-street.
Worthy, William, Parish Clerk, Davey-street.
Worley, Richard, Butcher, Elizabeth-street.
Wright, Thomas, Waterloo mills, Liverpool-street.

Y

Young, Thomas, Barrister and Attorney, Liverpool-street. ◀

Tasmanian Facsimile Editions No. 4, Melanie Publications 1980. Pages 69–70

NINE MILE MARSH CONVICT STATION, VICTORIA VALLEY

Jennifer Jacobs (Member No. 1826)

I knew my husband was not going to be happy as we turned from the Lyell Highway into Strickland Road and the GPS announced there was 16 km of unsealed road before us. That was before we turned right into Victoria Valley Road, to another unsealed 5 km section. Riding ahead with my sister, I watched through the rear vision mirror as he disappeared into clouds of billowing dust. We had spent two nights at Derwent Bridge and I had announced that as we were close enough on the way back, I wanted to see the remains of Nine Mile Marsh probation station at Victoria Valley.

My interest was aroused when, as part of one of the convict courses at UTAS, I had studied Frederick BISHOP, the second of my great, great grandmother's three husbands. Upon arrival in 1845, Frederick had been sent to Victoria Valley.¹ Being completely unfamiliar with this probation station, I checked maps and researched the area. Discovering that it was north of Ouse, I spoke with my neighbour who had lived in the region for many years. A few days later she brought me a copy of the *Highland Digest* containing an article and a map, a copy of which I clutched as we bumped along the road.² So excited was I upon realising we had reached the

spot, that I missed the marker at the junction with Bashan Road.

Patchwork was the only word to describe the vast plain that appeared through the forest to my left. Amid the surrounding rolling landscape, it was just so flat. On this beautiful autumn day, it was hard to imagine the hardships, the cold and the desolation of this area in 1842, when the government used convicts to clear and drain the land to create a farm.³ After three years, the 800 acres was to be sold in 50 acres lots to raise money to cover the cost of incarcerating 300 convicts whose duty it was to perform the task.

How excited they must have been when assigned the duty of digging a drain twenty-one feet wide and nine feet deep across the landscape in order to capture the waters of Kenmere Rivulet which drowned the valley in winter.⁴ A reservoir was to be constructed at the head of the marsh to provide irrigation in summer and to run the mill wheel which would grind the vast quantities of grain to be grown on the fertile ground.

Alas, a year later, the station was failing in its purpose. The potato plants had been spindly and sickly due, it was supposed, to poor preparation of the land. It had not been manured or turned over satisfactorily and the potatoes, planted with a dibble, after the New Zealand fashion,

¹ TAHO: CON33/1/59. p. 13827, Frederick Bishop *Barossa 2*, 1844

² Shoobridge, John, Tasmanian Trail Convict Dam, *The Highland Digest*, Centralink, Ouse Online Access Centre. July 2016, p. 5.

³ Quit Rents. (18 March 1842). *The Courier* (Hobart, Tas: 1840–1859), p. 2.

⁴ *The United Services* magazine Vol 42, H Coulbourn 1843 – E Books Google p. 210–11

did not thrive.⁵ Convicts were then ordered to break the ground between the rows and one can imagine that their aim with the hoe may have been a little astray. As winter arrived, frost descended heavily upon the plants. Accepting a challenge, the overseer charged the men with constructing 'cats' each with 20 grass tails with which the icy residue was to be beaten away. Is it any wonder that the crop was looking a little sad? Pruning away the shattered and slimy remains did not improve the situation, yet somehow, it was still hoped to harvest a crop.

It seems the one sergeant and twelve guards were finding their task overwhelming. In March 1843, a letter to the *Colonial Times* stated that scarcely a cart managed to get past the station without being robbed and thought should be given to arming the carters.⁶ In November, it was suggested in another newspaper that the men were spending half their time 'kangarooing' and the rest complaining about their provisions and abusing their overseers.⁷ They may have had a basis for their complaints. When siting the station, no thought had been given to the distance and the time required to negotiate the rural roads and even when goods could be delivered without spoilage the transport cost of £9 per ton was prohibitive.⁸ Fresh meat had to be abandoned in favour of salted meat.

Green spikes of wheat and oats gave new hope for a new direction in agriculture as spring arrived but the climate (which one correspondent likened to that of Macquarie Harbour) again took control and it failed to ripen.⁹ Buildings had been erected for a doctor and other services but almost immediately abandoned. Nobody, it seems wanted to live there and suffer winter temperatures up to 17 degrees below freezing. Cattle were killed by the cold and wet and sheep could only survive in the summers.

By April 1844, some progress had been made with road construction.¹⁰ A bridge over the River Dee and more cleared roads had opened up the area considerably. However, there were still complaints that escaped prisoners roamed the area. In January, Mr BISDEE had been robbed at gunpoint and in June, George BULL had been threatened with a noose around his neck.¹¹ Fifteen prisoners previously from Norfolk Island, now of Victoria Valley broke out from the Hamilton lock-up in December in an attempt to steal arms and escape into the bush.¹² Clearly the penal station was not under control.

A final potato crop was planted in the hope that the land could be sold at increased value before, in an incident packed final few days beginning late January 1845, the station was abandoned and the

⁵ Probation Gang Farming. (14 February 1843) *Colonial Times* (Hobart, Tas: 1828–1857), p. 2.

⁶ Domestic Intelligence. (16 May 1843) *Colonial Times* (Hobart, Tas: 1828–1857), p. 3.

⁷ Victoria Valley. (1 November 1843) *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas: 1835–1880), p. 2.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ Local. (13 October 1843) *The Courier* (Hobart, Tas: 1840–1859), p. 2.

¹⁰ Domestic Intelligence. (9 April 1844) *Colonial Times* (Hobart, Tas: 1828–1857), p. 3.

¹¹ This Day's Post. (17 January 1844) *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas: 1835–1880), p. 3.

¹² Money. (18 December 1844) *Launceston Examiner* (Tas: 1842–1899), p. 3. (Evening).

men were walked to Port Cygnet.¹³ With one convict overseer to 100 men, supervision was not strong. Assembled near the Clyde Bridge in humid weather, they were allowed a cooling bathe in the river. However, they came close to the main road and were described as a disgusting and disgraceful sight and people could not cross the bridge while they were there. At 'Shawfield', they treated Mr SHAW in a brutal manner, forcibly stole several gallons of spirits from him, and attempted to rob other persons and buildings on their way. The whole entourage was stretched out over two or three miles on the road.

However, back at the Valley, the early autumn was preparing with icy tentacles

of frost which would creep across the flats and one again melt the healthy green potato crop into a sodden mess. Profit from the planting was not forthcoming. Despite years of advertising and lowering of prices, nobody wanted to take on the gamble of Victoria Valley.

From a sign posted at a high point on the hill, we were able to see the remains of the drains crossing the manicured pasture. In 2017, it was hard to imagine the scene alive with busy workers and tilled paddocks as we shared the peace with a few birds and grasshoppers. Yet, there was more to see. A short way back along the road we found the track leading to a wide rock wall, the remains of the dam. Fifty feet through at its base, and curving



Remains of the dam wall
Photograph: Jenny Jacobs

¹³ Hamilton. (6 February 1845), *The Courier* (Hobart, Tas: 1840–1859), p. 3.

across the rivulet, it was quite impressive despite the blackberries and scrub which threatened to engulf it. Of the mill for grinding the grain there was no sign, as it had never been built.

Though we did not see buildings, they were mentioned by J E CALDER, Surveyor-General when he visited in 1860.

We “heave in sight” of some ungainly hovels that once formed the Victoria Valley Probation Station which have unluckily escaped destruction amongst the general wreck of the system of which they are remaining, though not a very abiding monument. These disconsolate looking wigwams appear to very little advantage by contrast with the rich and beautiful savannah on the margin of which they are planted.¹⁴

Calder also mentioned that in the winter of 1837, weather in the area had been so severe that all vegetation and timber of the lowlands had been destroyed and skeletons of dead trees dotted the landscape for years afterwards.

One has to question the wisdom of a government that decided that this was a good place for a Probation Station.

Arriving home, I reached to retrieve our bags from under the canopy of the ute. Thick brown dust had infiltrated every fold and caked itself along the zippers. My memories overrode the inconvenience. ◀

THE COURTS OF ASSIZE, OR ASSIZES

THE courts of assize, or assizes (*/ə'saɪzɪz/*), were periodic courts held around England and Wales until 1972, when together with the quarter sessions they were abolished by the Courts Act 1971 and replaced by a single permanent Crown Court. The assizes exercised both civil and criminal jurisdiction, though most of their work was on the criminal side.¹ The assizes heard the most serious cases, which were committed to it by the quarter sessions (local county courts held four times per year), while the more minor offences were dealt with summarily by justices of the peace in petty sessions (also known as magistrates' courts).

The word assize refers to the sittings or sessions (Old French *assises*) of the judges, known as ‘justices of assize’, who were judges who travelled across the seven circuits of England and Wales on commissions of ‘oyer and terminer’,² setting up court and summoning juries at the various assize towns. ◀

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia
10 March 2018

¹ O Hood Phillips. *A First Book of English Law*. Fourth Edition. Sweet & Maxwell. London. 1960, pp. 54 & 55.

² oyer and terminer—English law (formerly) commission issued to judges to try cases on assize. Collins English Dictionary 1987.

¹⁴ Topographical Sketches of Tasmania. (27 January 1860) *Hobart Town Daily Mercury (Tas: 1858–1860)*, p. 2.

THE INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN TASMANIA

Yvonne Airey (Member No. 5230)

WHEN my great Aunt Alice Maude BLACKETT returned to Australia after serving as a Nurse in WW1, the war was to catch up with her again in the form of the Influenza outbreak of 1919.

When she retired as Matron of the Queenstown Hospital in June 1922 (to take charge of Levenbank Private Hospital in Ulverstone), the newspapers of the day glowingly referred to the actions of Matron Blackett and her off-sider, Sister Clara F JONES, during that outbreak.

Reference was made to the splendid work and self-sacrifice of the nursing sisters during the war and the appreciation expressed by many diggers

who owed their quick and complete recovery to the efficient care of Matron Blackett while she was on active service in the Launceston Hospital.

Their appreciation was loud and clear for the services rendered in the last three years, probably the most trying in the history of the hospital.

It was recounted that shortly after their arrival at the hospital, the epidemic broke out and 'for the work she did on that occasion alone the community would be ever grateful to Matron Blackett'.

The story was well known that within a few days the whole town was stricken. Both doctors and all the nurses except the Matron and one probationer were ill. With the aid of volunteers, almost entirely untrained, she managed to run the institution so efficiently that not one of the ordinary patients contracted influenza. When the hospital was filled the Matron may have been seen driving

round visiting the worst cases and prescribing treatment. More hospital accommodation being essential, she was one of the first at the Imperial Hotel, directing operating there.¹

In August 1919 the Mount Lyell Company had handed over the Imperial Hotel building as a temporary hospital under the control of Matron Blackett from Queenstown Hospital and assisted by members of the Red Cross.²

In fact it was Alice's second brush with the influenza. In the diary of the troopship *Arawa* on which she returned to Australia, OC Troops Major P J HIGGINS noted

an epidemic of influenza broke out among the crew immediately after leaving England. Precautions were taken to prevent spread of disease and although influenza broke out among the troops, it was quickly stamped out.

Born on 19 July 1878 at Launceston to William Alexander Blackett, a Wesleyan Bush Missionary, and Margaret (née MADDEN), Alice did her training at Lyell District Hospital in Tasmania.³ As Nurse S334, Sister Blackett was on active service as a Staff Nurse in Egypt when she enlisted on 5 November 1915, going on to serve at Marseilles, then Wimereux in France and later in England, with the 2nd Australian General Hospital.

¹ *The Advocate*, Burnie TAS 28 June 1922

² *Hobart Mercury*, 19 August 1919. See <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/68487> for image of the former Imperial Hotel.

³ RGD 33/1/56 Launceston

Sister Alice was affected by gas and invalidated home, returning to Australia with a contingent of 600 sick and wounded soldiers on the *Arawa* on 14 September 1918, finally arriving in Launceston a few days later via the steamer *Loogana*. On 17 November 1918 she was discharged with 'defective vision'.

Alice retired to St Kilda in Melbourne in the 1940s and died there on 20 May 1947. She was cremated and today a rose blooms in her memory at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery (formerly the Necropolis) in Melbourne. Her name is inscribed on the Paterson Street Methodist Church Roll of Honour (now the Pilgrim Uniting Church), Launceston. ◀

FamilySearch.org Website

THERE have been changes to the *FamilySearch* website, in that, from 13 December 2017 it will prompt users to register for a free *FamilySearch* account to continue to access the extensive records.

As a Family History Society we are unable to establish a 'generic account' to enable our visitor's access to the site, therefore each user of *FamilySearch* should have his or her own account. The site is very user friendly and it is quite simple to set up an account. Our staff will be happy to assist you if required.

FamilySearch's explanation for this change is that 'In order to accommodate continued growth of these and future free services, *FamilySearch* must assure all its partners that its content is offered in a safe and secure online environment. Patrons creating a free account and signing in fulfil that need.' ◀

Clinton Ayers, Hobart Branch Library

INDEX TO COURT RECORDS OF TASMANIA Vol. 1 1827-1834

and

INDEX TO COURT RECORDS OF TASMANIA Vol. 2 1821-1833

These indexes have been compiled from four of the early *Tasmanian Papers* held at the Mitchell Library, NSW, as described in an article by Malcolm Ward in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 37, No. 3 December 2016, pp. 136-138.

Volume 1 is an index to
DLSPENCER165 1&2
and DLSPENCER 434

Volume 2 is an index to
DLSPENCER 96

The accused persons before the courts in Launceston and Hobart are mainly convicts transported directly to VDL, but many came via NSW.

Where possible their ship to the colony and police number have been included.

Many witnesses are also named.

\$25.00 each plus p&p \$6.30 each

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AUSTRALIA 7018

WHO MURDERED ALICE HUGHES? THE HUNT FOR THE VICIOUS KILLER OF A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL AT BRIDGEWATER

Don Bradmore (Member No. 6756)

IN mid-March 1859, the small community around Bridgewater, Tasmania, was shocked by the horrific murder of little Alice HUGHES, who was viciously attacked in broad daylight, less than 150 yards from her home.¹ Although the girl's mother was able to give police a good description of the man believed to have been the savage killer, and a long line of men was arrested on suspicion of their involvement in the revolting crime during the next ten years, none was ever brought to trial. Whilst officially the murder remains unsolved, there is reason to believe today that the name of the likely perpetrator is known and that he received his just deserts when hanged in Victoria twenty-five years later for the murder of another young girl in strikingly similar circumstances.

Alice Hughes was born in Van Diemen's Land on 7 September 1851, the second child of former convict Thomas Hughes (*Isabella*, 1833) and his wife, also Alice (née STEEL), a free woman.² They were given permission to marry in October 1838 and soon afterwards Mrs Hughes gave birth to a son, John (or Jack).³ At the time of the murder, the family lived at High Sunderland, near Bridgewater where Thomas was employed as a log-splitter in the nearby forest.⁴

At the inquest held on the day after the murder, Mrs Hughes stated that, at about

ten past eleven on the morning of Wednesday, 16 March 1859, a stranger came to the door of her hut and asked for a light for his pipe.⁵ Seemingly in no hurry to be on his way, he then asked Mrs Hughes for the time and enquired whether she had any ducks for sale. When she said that she did not, he asked whether she had a gun for sale so that he might shoot some ducks for himself, adding that her husband had mentioned to him that he had a double-barrelled shotgun that he was prepared to sell. Mrs Hughes told the man that he would have to speak to her husband about that matter, and that he should come back when her husband was at home. The stranger, however, was very persistent. He assured Mrs Hughes that he had no intention of stealing the gun. He said he just wanted to look at it because he had come nine miles to see it and wanted to know that it would suit him before having to make the long trip back. Explaining that she could not handle the gun herself, Mrs Hughes said that she would fetch her son Jack, who was working nearby, to show it to him. She then turned to her daughter Alice and asked her to run into the bush to tell her brother that he was needed at home.

After Alice left, the man sat by the fire in the hut for another couple of minutes to relight his pipe and then announced that he would go out to meet Jack on his way back to the hut. A minute or so later, Mrs

¹ Death: RGD35/19/1859

² Birth: RGD33/67/1851

³ CON52-1-124, p. 80

⁴ *Courier* (Hobart), 17 March 1859, p. 3

⁵ Inquest report: *Courier* (Hobart), 19 March 1859, p. 3

Hughes also left the hut to meet her son and daughter as they returned. At that moment, Jack emerged from the bush—but he was alone. In answer to his mother's question, he said he had not seen his sister.

When Mrs Hughes told Jack about the stranger who had come to the hut, he ran inside, took up his father's gun, and headed off in the direction Alice had taken. Fearful, Mrs. Hughes ran after him. Within minutes, they had found the blood-soaked body of little Alice lying dead beside the bush track. There was no sign of the stranger. A neighbour by the name of CAREY, whom Mrs Hughes had called to the scene immediately, hurried to Bridgewater to get the police.

Mrs Hughes was able to give the police a detailed description of the man who had come to the hut. He was about 35 to 40 years old, she said, and quite tall and slender. He had no moustache, beard or whiskers but a sallow complexion. His dark brown hair was short and curly at the back. He had a distinctive, rather effeminate, voice and spoke with a particular kind of drawl. He was wearing a dark blue pea-jacket, dark trousers and a pair of light blucher boots. He wore a white straw hat with a turned-up brim. Around the crown of the hat was a black ribbon about a half an inch wide.

A local doctor named BRENT, asked to examine the body the next day, told the inquest that the cause of death was a vicious slashing of the child's throat and death would have been instantaneous. The wound was jagged in appearance, suggesting it had been delivered with considerable violence by a blunt instrument, possibly a pocket-knife, while the girl's head was being held forcibly back.

Even before the inquest, a man known in the district as Joseph TONGUE, alias

'Charcoal Joe', had been taken into custody on suspicion. However he was soon released when Mrs Hughes told police that she had known Tongue for several years and that he was not the man they were looking for.⁶

Immediately after the inquest, a reward of £50 was offered by the police for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer.⁷

A week later, Henry SPARKES (aka SPARKS), a former convict (*Hindustan* 1840), now free by servitude and working as a farm labourer, was arrested in Hobart by a detective named McGUIRE and charged with the murder. However, he, too, was released when he was able to prove he could not possibly have been in the Bridgewater area at the time of the girl's death.⁸ It is not clear from newspaper reports why Detective McGuire thought Sparkes could have been involved but the description of him in his conduct documents certainly suggests a physical likeness to the wanted man. Moreover, McGuire might have been influenced by the fact that Sparkes had been tried for murder once before. He had arrived in the colony as a 14 year old after being convicted at the Kent Assizes of stealing three halfpennies. He had spent his early years at the infamous boys' prison at Point Puer, part of the Port Arthur complex. There, in 1843, he had been charged with the brutal murder of a prison officer but had been acquitted

⁶ *Courier* (Hobart), 19 March 1859, p. 3

⁷ *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, 22 March 1859, p. 3

⁸ *Courier*, 23 March 1859, p. 1; *The Courier*, 25 March 1859, p. 1; *Launceston Examiner*, 29 March 1859, p. 2

at his Supreme Court trial for lack of evidence.⁹

On 27 March, another former convict, Michael FALVEY (*Lord Dalhousie*, 1852), was charged with the murder. He had been convicted of housebreaking at Cork, Ireland, in October 1848 and sentenced to seven years' transportation. By April 1855, he had been granted his certificate of freedom.¹⁰ Although he was still only in his mid-twenties, he matched Mrs. Hughes' description in several respects. He was 5 feet 4 inches tall, of slender build, and of a pale complexion. Like those before him, however, Falvey was released within days when Mrs Hughes, who was brought in to look at him, told police that he was not the man who had called at her hut.¹¹

Seven months went by without further progress being made but, in late October 1859, John BROWN, a ticket-of-leave holder, was arrested for absconding from the Brighton district. In custody, he confessed to Alice's murder and repeated the claim several times. However, the authorities refused to believe him because he was known to have confessed previously to crimes, including murder, which he could not have committed. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for absconding and then released.¹²

But, in early December 1859, the police finally believed they had their man.

Former convict John VIGORS (alias VICARS, VIGERS, VICKERS, EDWARDS, DOUBLE), (*Asia* 4, 1936), who had led a life of crime, was arrested and charged with a string of offences including the violent murder of a man named SPRATT at Swanport, shooting with intent to murder a landowner named MASSEY and his employee BAKER at Ellerslie, the murderous assault upon an immigrant girl in the service of a man named WRIGHT at Hamilton, robbery with violence at EASTON's store at Hamilton and the same offence at the home of a man named DEAN at New Norfolk. At the time, police claimed to have 'very strong grounds' for suspecting that Vigors had also murdered Alice Hughes, stating publicly that 'when suddenly taxed with the murder of this girl perspiration started out on his face and he made no reply' and that 'there were other circumstances which strengthen suspicion'.¹³ Again, Mrs Hughes was taken to Oatlands, at government expense, to identify Vigors but she was unable to confirm the suspicions held by the police and that matter was not pursued. In late December 1859, Vigors was acquitted of the murder of Spratt but found guilty of attempting to kill Massey and Baker. He was hanged at Oatlands New Year's Eve, 1859.¹⁴

In May 1860, police were again very confident that they had solved the crime when a man named John HART was apprehended at Oatlands. This time, Mrs Hughes picked him out of a line-up saying that he greatly resembled the man

⁹ Conduct report: CON33-1-4, Image 158; Supreme Court Trial: *Colonial Times*, 1 August 1843, p. 3

¹⁰ *The Mercury*, Hobart, 30 March 1859, p. 2; *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, 31 March 1859, p. 3

¹¹ CON33-1-109, Image 98; *Launceston Examiner*, 2 April 1859, p. 2

¹² *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, 31 October 1859, p. 2

¹³ *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, 15 December 1859, p. 3

¹⁴ 20 December 1859, p. 3; 29 December 1859, p. 2; 31 December 1859, p. 2; 3 January 1860, p. 3; *Launceston Examiner*, 22 December 1859, p. 2; 2 February 1860, p. 3; *Mercury*, 5 December 1883, p. 3

who had come to her hut except that his hair was longer and his whiskers fuller. At a hearing in the Police Court at Brighton on 1 June 1860, a man named WILTSHIRE, a storekeeper at New Norfolk, said he had sold a pair of boots to a man who bore a strong resemblance to Hart. He stated that the boots were No.7 in size (as Hart's were) and that the soles left an impression in the soil which exactly corresponded to drawings of the impressions found near Alice Hughes' body.¹⁵ As a result, Hart was committed for trial. However, after reviewing all the evidence, the Attorney-General decided to ignore the bill and Hart was released. Later, it was reported that the Attorney-General had thought that the unsatisfactory character of the information given by Mrs Hughes threw great difficulty in the way of detection.¹⁶

On 21 February 1861, a man carting a load of corn through the bush at High Sunderland came across a man's body, or rather a man's skeleton. The skull and bones had been bleached from exposure to the sun, indicating they had been there for eighteen months at least. The cause of death was not obvious. An inquest held the following day was adjourned for a month when none of the witnesses called were able to cast any light on the identity of the man or the circumstances that had led to his death. What was noted, however, was that the dead man's clothes—a blue cloth jacket (with a pipe in one pocket and a pocket knife in another), moleskin trousers and lace-up boots—closely matched the description of the clothes of the stranger who had called at the Hughes' hut almost two

years earlier. As it happened, however, the dead man was never identified and the circumstances that led to his death were never discovered.¹⁷ Who was he? Was he the man responsible for the sickening murder of little Alice Hughes?

In mid-May 1862, Charles FLANDERS, a soldier who had been transported as a convict (*Royal Saxon to NSW, Waterlily to VDL, 1840s*) for insubordination in India, was charged with the murder of a six-year-old girl, Mary Ann RILEY, at Bagdad some two or three weeks earlier. According to newspaper reports, he had previously been arrested on suspicion of having murdered Alice Hughes but had been released when he could not be satisfactorily identified. In a letter he wrote just before he was executed, he admitted his guilt in the matter of Mary Ann Riley's death but swore he had not murdered Alice Hughes. He was hanged at Hobart Town Gaol on 23 June.¹⁸

On 7 February 1863, the *Mercury* (Hobart) reported that a man named ELSTON had been apprehended at Brighton and charged with the murder of Alice Hughes. He was remanded to Hobart Town for examination. As Elston's name was never raised in connection with the murder again, it is assumed that he was able to prove his innocence.¹⁹

A couple of days later, James HARRISON was apprehended by police and held on suspicion of being Alice's killer. However, on 13 February a detective told a court hearing at Hobart that, after

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, 25 May 1860, p. 2; 4 June 1860, p. 2; 9 July 1860, p. 3; *Launceston Examiner*, 5 June, 1860, p. 2

¹⁶ *Launceston Examiner*, 11 August 1864, p. 3

¹⁷ *Mercury*, 26 February 1861, p. 2; *Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 March 1861, p. 2

¹⁸ *Launceston Examiner*, 1 May 1862, p. 5; 22 May 1862, p. 5; 10 June 1862, p. 5; 26 June 1862, p. 5; *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 June 1862, p. 3

¹⁹ *The Mercury*, 7 February 1863, p. 2

making further enquiries, the police were now certain that Harrison could not have been the murderer as he was at Recherche Bay at the time the crime was committed. He was discharged immediately.²⁰

In April 1864, a former convict named James DODD (*Marquis of Hastings*, 1839), alias McDONALD, McDONOUGH and 'Jemmy the Rover' was apprehended at Table Cape on the grounds that he answered the description of the murderer.²¹ Again, Mrs Hughes was called in to see if she could recognize Dodd but, unhesitatingly, she said he was not among the men in the police line-up. Commenting on this situation, the *Mercury* editorialized:

It is to be hoped that the police will not apprehend parties for this offence, unless the grounds for suspicion are strong. The number of men already brought before the Bench on suspicion of being the murderer has entailed a very heavy expenditure on the government.

Dodd, aged 50, died at the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum in early 1865.²²

On 20 September 1864, the *Launceston Examiner* announced confidently:

It would appear that the murderer of Alice Hughes is at last in the hands of the police.²³

The man to whom the article referred was Michael HINES (aka HYNES) from whom police had already extracted a confession. Once more, Mrs Hughes was asked to identify the man from several in a police line-up but again informed the police that the murderer was not among

them. It was then learnt that Michael Hines could not have been the killer as he was in gaol at Hobart at the time. He was discharged at once.²⁴

In June 1865, Abraham CRABTREE (*Katherine Stewart Forbes*, 1832), alias Abraham CRABFIELD, alias George WENTWORTH, alias John BRAY, alias 'Hopping Abe' was arrested in Bendigo, Victoria, on suspicion that he was a convict illegally at large. A violent man, he already had a long criminal record of serious crimes including murder and attempted murder, burglaries, robberies and horse-stealing and had spent many years in prison, often with hard labour and sometimes in irons. He told police he had been tried and acquitted of the murder of Alice Hughes in Tasmania but his claim appears to have been false because no account of that trial has ever been found. However, Crabtree certainly had been charged with the murder of another girl, two-year-old Sarah Ann SHARPE (also known as ARK-WRIGHT), in Tasmania in September 1861. At his Supreme Court trial for that crime, the judge had decided there was insufficient evidence against him to proceed, and he had been discharged 'by proclamation'. In Bendigo in 1865, he was released again when he was able to prove he was not illegally at large and that the Tasmanian authorities had allowed him to relocate to Victoria. For the next dozen or so years he was in and out of prisons in Victoria and New South Wales but, in early 1878, he was charged with murder again. The man he was accused of murdering was William HATTON, a fellow he called his 'mate'. Crabtree had cut Hatton's throat near Mudgee in New South Wales. At his trial

²⁰ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 14 February 1863, p. 3

²¹ *Launceston Examiner*, 26 April 1864, p. 3

²² *The Mercury*, 17 May 1864, p. 3; death: RGD35/373/1865

²³ *Launceston Examiner*, 20 September 1864, p. 5

²⁴ *The Mercury*, 21 September 1864, p. 2; 26 September 1864, p. 2

in June that year, it was reported that Crabtree was so remorseful he had tried to cut his own throat but had failed in the attempt. He was found guilty of Hatton's murder and sentenced to death. Shortly afterwards, the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. He was sent to Berrima Gaol where he died within a few months.²⁵

And there, with Crabtree's death in 1878, the murder of little Alice Hughes might well have been forgotten, primarily because by this time Mrs Hughes, Alice's mother, the only one able to identify the killer, had passed away.²⁶

However, in December 1883, Henry MORGAN, a 50-year-old farmer and father of ten children, was arrested and charged with the brutal murder of a ten-year-old girl, Margaret NOLAN, at Panmure, near Warrnambool, in Victoria. What struck police at the time was how startlingly similar the circumstances of this murder were to that of Alice Hughes in Tasmania twenty-five years earlier and how accurately Morgan's appearance tallied with the description of the man wanted in that case.²⁷

²⁵ Convict record: CON31/1/7, p. 152; *Mercury*, 1 August 1861, p. 3; *Launceston Examiner*, 11 August 1864, p. 3; *Cornwall Chronicle*, 14 June 1865, p. 2; *The Star* (Ballarat), 8 August 1861, p. 3; *The Argus*, 7 August 1861, p. 6 and 10 September 1861, p. 5; *The Age*, 17 June 1865, p. 5; *Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser* (Victoria), 28 June 1866, p. 2; *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 2 March 1878, p. 4; *Tribune* (Hobart), 18 June 1878, p. 2; Crabtree's death: NSW 4625/1878, Berrima

²⁶ Mrs Alice Hughes, death 1869, unrecorded (see Footnote 33, below); Thomas Hughes 35/17/1879, Brighton

²⁷ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 8 December 1883, p. 2

Moreover, it was soon discovered that Morgan had lived in Tasmania before relocating to Victoria and he was questioned closely about his whereabouts at the time of Alice's murder. In the face of these questions, Morgan was reported to have 'maintained a stolid indifference' and to have 'said little'.²⁸ On 10 May 1884, he was brought to trial at Warrnambool for the murder of Margaret Nolan. He was found guilty and hanged at Ararat Gaol, Victoria, on 7 June 1884.²⁹

With Morgan's execution, the Alice Hughes mystery seems finally to have been solved.³⁰ But was it? Although a confession was never extracted from Morgan, newspapers of the day reported that, from evidence in the possession of the police, there could be no doubt he was the same person who murdered Alice Hughes at Bridgewater, on March 16, 1859.³¹

Why had it taken such a long time to close this case? According to one contemporary report,

the monster in the Tasmanian case escaped justice for so long because in those days communication was very slow, the police were by no means astute outside the ordinary routine of dealing with convicts, the colony was very unsettled, and these difficulties added to the delay that occurred before the discovery that the crime had been perpetrated and to the inability of those

²⁸ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 15 January 1884, p. 2

²⁹ *The Argus* (Melbourne), 7 June 1884, p. 6

³⁰ *Daily Telegraph*, Launceston, 7 December 1883, p. 2; *Tasmanian News*, Hobart, 7 June, 1884, p. 2 *Advocate*, Burnie, 18 August 1921, p. 1

³¹ *The Argus* (Melbourne), 19 November 1883, p.6; Death: Vic Reg: 3337/1884

who had seen the perpetrator to describe him accurately.³²

A headstone marking the neglected grave of the Hughes family stood for many years in a small cemetery at Brighton, Tasmania, but when that place fell out of use in the 1920s, it was relocated to St Marks Church Cemetery at Brighton. The headstone is almost unreadable but can be seen to say simply:

Alice HUGHES,
Died 29 Oct 1867,
Alice HUGHES,
daughter of the above,
Died 19 March 1859, Aged 7 years,
Thomas HUGHES,
Died 11 April 1879.³³ ◀



Courtesy of L Atkinson,
thegardensfamily.com

³² *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, 28 November 1883, p. 4

³³ <https://thegardensfamily.com>

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BOOK REVIEWS

OF ANGELS AND EAGLES

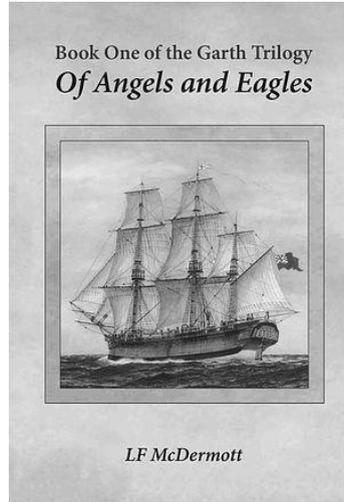
By L F McDermott

Of Angels and Eagles is the first book in *The Garth Trilogy* by Lynette McDermott. While the books are based on real events and people, the author points out that *The Garth Trilogy* is nonetheless a work of fiction which she was drawn to write on discovering that she was a descendant of Edward Garth, Susannah Gough, Jacob Bellett and Ann Harper.

The story begins in England, in the early years of the Industrial Revolution, where the deplorable conditions in which the working class lived meant many people, including children, resorted to a life of (often petty) crime to survive. Edward Garth, Susannah Gough, Jacob Bellett and Ann Harper were all convicted of alleged crimes and transported on the First Fleet to Port Jackson, in what was then known as the Great South Land.

At that time the English government was concerned that the French might occupy Norfolk Island and it was decided to establish a settlement there. A small number of free men and convicts, including Edward, Susannah, Jacob and Ann, were among those chosen to establish this outpost under the direction of Lieutenant (later Governor) Philip Gidley King. They worked hard and cleared the land, constructed homes, planted crops and successfully built new lives in this remote spot.

Edward married Susannah, and Jacob married Ann. They tell their own stories by way of narrative, from which we learn how these two families coped with the difficulties of surviving in this previously uninhabited and undeveloped island, and how they made the most of the oppor-



tunities which arose. They were successful and contented and expected to stay on the island for the rest of their lives.

Matters took an unexpected turn, however, when it was learned that the settlement was to be closed because of its remoteness and the high cost of maintenance. After twenty years on Norfolk Island, the Garth and Bellett families were devastated at this news but had no choice, they could not remain. After the last of the settlers had left, a small party remained on the island to destroy homes and slaughter stock. By 1808 the Garths and Belletts had chosen Van Diemen's Land in which to settle, an island like Norfolk but different in so many ways from the place they loved and where they had hoped to stay forever.

In this well-researched book, we are given an understanding of the lives and times of the first settlers on Norfolk Island, their successes and failures, and the distress caused when the settlement was abandoned. This book would particularly interest readers with an historical connection to Norfolk Island.

PERSEVERANCE

By L F McDermott

Perseverance is the second book in *The Garth Trilogy* and covers 55 years from 1809–1864. The story continues with the Garth family being the first to leave Norfolk Island and resettle in Sandy Bay in Van Diemen's Land. They are followed some months later by the Belletts, who take up a land grant at Pittwater near Midway Point.

Hobart Town was a defensive outpost and penal colony facing shortages and rationing, and promises made to Norfolk Islanders were often broken when they arrived. The Garth and Bellett families had to accept the land grants they had been allocated and make the best of the situation. Life in the new colony was harsh; settlers faced many challenges, including bushrangers, escaped convicts, disease, increasing conflict between the settlers and the aboriginal people, as well as establishing new homes on untamed land.

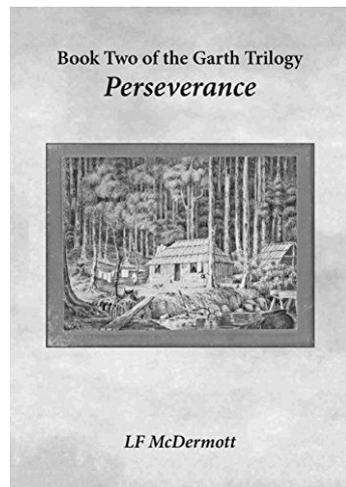
The story focuses mainly on the second generation. James, the eldest son of Edward and Susannah Garth, is adventurous and dreams of exploring more of the Derwent and Huon Rivers. He befriends Pukara, an Aboriginal boy, and they communicate by drawing pictures in the sand. Through this enduring friendship he gains knowledge of their way of life and lives in harmony with them. He marries Mary, a daughter of Jacob and Ann Bellett.

James is ambitious and determined to succeed. Through perseverance he establishes a timber mill and boat-building business at Fleurieu, near Port Cygnet, for which he later receives a land grant. We accompany him when he sails on local waterways, and later on his journey to New Zealand on *Caledonia*, a ship

which he had built. James and Susannah raise a large family and we follow their lives over many years, sharing their aspirations and disappointments, the times of joy, tragedy, heartache, love and loss. The narratives of their parents and siblings also continue to engage us in the details of their day-to-lives. Life is hard and illness, injuries and death are commonplace events.

Backdrops to the story include the political and social history of the time, the conflict between the original occupants of the land and the settlers, and attacks from bushrangers. The survival of these early settlers, who overcame sometimes overwhelming obstacles to wrest a successful living from the harsh environment, is a testament to their resilience and perseverance.

The author writes engagingly about the Garth and Bellett families, their trials, tribulations and successes in the early days of Van Diemen's Land. In the third book of *The Garth Trilogy*, we will be introduced to the next phase in the lives of these families. ◀



Beryl Dix

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?**

CRIME, CLEMENCY & CONSEQUENCE IN BRITAIN 1821–39

This Quarto book, of 170 pp. by Alison Eatwell, was published in 2017 by Pen & Sword History.

A rare, intimate and vivid picture of the criminal nation from 1823–39.

Provides unique glimpses of everyday routines, working condition, illnesses and relationships.

Uses original petitions held by the National Archives, Kew.

Covers crimes ranging from murder to misdemeanours.

From the woman accused of bigamy, to the young men caught up in a duel and the middle-class forger, this book allows us a glimpse of the rich mix of criminals, their crimes and sentences, in early 19th Century Britain.

With no statutory right of appeal against either their verdict or sentence at this time, the prisoner's only hope for relief was to petition the Crown for mercy via the Home Office, and with sentences including death and transportation, the stakes were high. The petitioner's objective was to prove the prisoner

worthy of mercy, usually by establishing their respectability, and it is upon these petitions this book draws.

Many of the thousands of petitions, held by the National Archives in Kew, reveal fascinating incidental information about the prisoner's personal life or circumstances which cannot be found in other records. The supporting documentation, witness depositions or character references, often give us rare details of everyday routines, working conditions, illnesses, relationships, and life in a locality. As cases are followed in this book, some far beyond the Home Secretary's decision, the criminals, supporters, prosecutors and judiciary are brought to life, occasionally with surprising results. Read as individual cases, each subject is fascinating: viewed together, the collection reveals a unique, intimate and vivid insight in to life in 1820s and 1830s Britain.

SIMMONS

This A4 booklet, of 25 pp. by Dorothy Nicholas was published in 1996.

It contains information about the author's fourth generation ancestor, Lieutenant James Simmons who arrived in VDL in 1823. Descendants of Lieutenant Simmons, down to the author, and beyond for another four generations are also featured.

THE LONG WAY HOME

This paperback book of 155 pp. by Ray Denney was published in 1993.

Ray Denney, a clergyman's son, was a country bred Tasmanian of firm Christian upbringing whose arduous youth was

lived out in the harsh years of the Depression ...

Eventually he commenced serious training for the Ministry in Melbourne; but after only one term the advent of World War II and the fall of France called him to volunteer for service in 2 A.I.F., characteristically seeking work as a medical orderly ...

Late in 1942 he was transferred to my 2nd Aust. C.C.S. and sailed from Suez via S.S. *Orcades* in a tryst with destiny. Singapore fell whilst we were at sea and after an abortive landing on Sumatra, we finally disembarked at Tanjongpriok, Java ...

We left Java as massed human cargo in the *USU Maru* and after a brief stay in Singapore, reached Thailand after five days of massed discomfort into rice trucks ...

There followed the long agony of Burma-Thailand Railway construction where he slaved as a 'hammer and tap' rock driller, as well as in the terribly arduous care of his sick and broken workmates ...

Despite his serious malnutrition, malarial attacks and dysentery he survived to make the terribly risky 70 day journey to Japan on a broken hulk termed the 'Byoki Maru' (sick ship) ...

There he survived again working in mines posing danger, hunger, misery and cold until the momentous day of delivery following the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ...

Sir Edward Dunlop

THE PEOPLE OF DYCE, FINTRAY & NEWHILLS 1696

This A5 booklet, of 37 pp. was first published in 1999 by the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS.

The information it contains was transcribed from the *List of Pollable Persons within The Shire of Aberdeen, Volume VI (Presbytery of Turreff)*.

The list of the Poll and Payable Persons in the various parts of each Parish are faithfully reproduced [including the archaic spelling of names, occupations, and locations].

The booklet also contains hand drawn maps of the old parishes of Dyce, Fintray and Newhills, (showing boundaries, major roads and villages) in the centre.

For each of the parishes; alphabetical indexes of individual names are provided, together with a small list of the number of people following the occupations listed. Small place name indexes are also provided.

KILRENNY AND CELLARDYKE— 800 Years of History

This Quarto book, of 250 pp. by Harry D Watson, was published in 1986.

This book traces the history of the parish and burgh of Kilrenny from the twelfth century to the present day. Particular attention is paid to the fishing village of Cellardyke which developed in the sixteenth century as Kilrenny's port of 'seatoun'. In its heyday Cellardyke was one of the major fishing ports on the east coast of Scotland and even today, almost sixty years after amalgamating with its neighbour Anstruther, the village retains much of its former character and individuality ...

Historical facts culled from an impressive variety of original sources are intermingled with anecdotes, oral tradition and tragic tales of disaster at sea to provide a unique blend of information ...

Also mentioned are such ... notable personalities as Cardinal Beaton, the Reverend James Melville, Captain Alexander Rodger, pioneer of the China tea-clipper trade, and Sir William Watson Hughes, once the richest man in Australia. ...

Further connections to Australia can be discovered on page 120 where the author records ...

But not all Michael Doig's fellow-townsmen were content to sit back and wait for the Grim Reaper. On Thursday, May 27th, 1852, twelve Dykers left for the Gold Diggings of Australia, to be followed shortly afterwards by four more. They were Thomas WATSON, David RODGER, David MURRAY, David BIRRELL, David BROWN, John SMITH, James CUNNINGHAM, Leslie BARCLAY, George FOWLER, James DAVIDSON, Alexander FOWLER, David WILSON, William DOIG, Alexander MELVILLE, William BLACK and James SHARP ...

REDEMPTION ON THE DIAMOND CREEK AND RICHMOND FLAT

This A4 book of 115 pp. by Allan Meirs, was published in 2013.

It tells the story of the author's ancestors, starting with the convict John YATES (*Morley*) and his wife Mary (née BARBER, uxor SCOTT) and their early life in VDL.

Conditions were harsh in VDL so the family eventually left Launceston on 8 December 1846, aboard the *Swan* for the Port Phillip Settlement.

They settled in the Diamond Creek area (a tributary to the Yarra River. The family prospered and inter-married with the HARDING family of Richmond Flat.

Family trees and developed histories featured are:

YATES-BARBER/SCOTT
SCOTT-BARBER
HARDING-SCOTT
HEATHER-SCOTT
BOULTER-JAMES
MORRIS-WARRY
HEATHER-HARDING

MORRIS-BOULTER
MORRIS-HEATHER

THE PEOPLE OF TURRIFF & AUCHTERLESS 1696

This A5 booklet, of 60 pp. was first published in 2000 by the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS.

The information it contains was transcribed from the *List of Pollable Persons within The Shire of Aberdeen, Volume VI (Presbytery of Turreff)*.

The list of the Poll and Payable Persons in the various parts of each Parish are faithfully reproduced [including the archaic spelling of names, occupations, and locations].

The booklet also contains hand drawn maps of the old parishes of Turiff, and Auchterless, (showing boundaries, major roads and villages) in the centre.

For each of the parishes; alphabetical indexes of individual names are provided, together with a small list of the number of people following the occupations listed. Small place name indexes are also provided.

ALBERT GORDON BAIKIE—An appreciation of his life

This Quarto size booklet, of 54 pp. was published in 2002 by the University of Tasmania.

The Albert G Baikie Clinical Library of the University of Tasmania was named after its Founding Professor of Medicine ... In the year 2002, it is 35 years since Professor Baikie and his wife, Dr Margaret Baikie, came to Tasmania. This publication is a collection of memories of many of his associates, and provides an insight into Professor Baikie's life, and his many and varied achievements in research, the development of a new medical school, and teaching, which

resulted in many of the students attaining chairs in Australia and overseas. ...

A Notebook of the Life and Times of A FELON IN OUR FAMILY—William Campbell; His wife, Jane, and their Generations and of The Williamses

This Quarto size book, of 145 pp. was self-published by Kenneth Erica Eckersall in 2017.

William Campbell, Tailor of Leith, Edinburgh. Transported beyond the seas to V.D.L., thence to Brunswick, Victoria.

LUCIEN DECHAINEUX 1869–1957—A Retrospective

This A4 book of 52 pp. was published by the University of Tasmania School of Arts, to coincide with the opening of the University of Tasmania's Centre for the Arts in September 1986.

Lucien Dechaineux was one of Tasmania's most distinguished art educators occupying teaching positions at the Government Technical School, Launceston (1895–1907) and, latterly, as Principal of the Hobart Technical College (1907–1938. He was also head of the Art Department. In this capacity, Dechaineux is linked to the Tasmanian School of Art, which in the 1960's grew out of the Art Department at the Hobart Technical College.

Regarded as a formidable pedagogue, he also pursued an active painting career and played a prominent part in the cultural affairs of Tasmania during his lifetime ...

REVELATIONS OF A RETIRED LAWYER

This A5 book of 221 pp. by E R ("Cobber") Henry was first published in 1980.

Written by Hobart lawyer Eric Rutherford Henry, founder of the legal firm E R Henry, Wherrett and Benjamin, this work

provides a broad historical background to the early legal fraternity of Hobart.

Antidotes recorded often mention other 'giants' of the Tasmanian legal profession such as:

A G Ogilvie; Reginald Wright; Dobson, Mitchell & Allport; Butler, McIntyre & Butler and many others.

WHO WAS WHO IN THE HUNTER VALLEY TOWNS IN 1888

This A4 book of 160 pp. Compiled by John Turner from original sources, was published in 1984.

Contents include biographies and historic engravings relating to:

Aberdeen; Adamstown; Burwood; Carrington; East Maitland; Glebe; Hamilton; Haydonton; Islington; Jerry's Plains; Lambton; Linwood; Morpeth; Murrurundi; Newcastle; New Lambton; Merewether; Muswellbrook; Paterson; Plattsburg; Raymond Terrace; Rutherford; Tighes Hill; Scone; Stockton; Waratah; West Maitland; Wallsend; Wickham.

The Newcastle Directory for 1888 ◀

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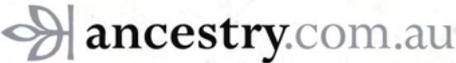
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