

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 32 Number 1—June 2011

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 191 Launceston Tasmania 7250

Society Secretary: secretary@tasfhs.org

Journal Editor: editors@tasfhs.org

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

Patron: Dr Alison Alexander

Fellows: Dr Neil Chick and Mr David Harris

Executive:

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

Committee:

Helen Anderson	Doug Forrest	Libby Gillham
Vanessa Blair	Lucille Gee	Sue-Ellen McCregan
Judith Cocker	John Gillham	Colleen Read
By-laws Coordinator	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Webmaster	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Journal Editor	Rosemary Davidson	(03) 6278 2464
LWFHA Coordinator	Anita Swan	(03) 6394 8456
Members' Interests Compiler	John Gillham	(03) 6239 6529
Membership Registrar	Muriel Bissett	(03) 6344 4034
Publications Convenor	Bev Richardson	(03) 6225 3292
Public Officer	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Sales Officer	Betty Bissett	(03) 6344 4034

Branches of the Society

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

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

From the editor

An eclectic collection of articles and contributions are to be found in this issue.

Those who were fortunate enough to hear Nicola Goc at the Hobart Branch Meeting in March will be interested to read about one of Tasmania's early women photographers.

Shirley Foster's transcription from an old postcard of Cathedral Square in Christchurch, New Zealand, arrived not long after the disturbing reports of the recent earthquake.

Another of Betty Jones wonderful articles about education in Tasmania, this one centred in Burnie, which mentions my great aunt Mary Winifred Wellard.

Diana Gourley has written a detailed account of her research into the people mentioned in a letter she found amongst the possessions of her late auntie Betty.

Donald Cameron's query regarding a portrait of a woman painted by H J Quintin intrigued me. The only other paintings by Quintin I have found are of prize bulls! The son of Louis and Frances Quintin, Henry James was born in 1820 at Leominster in Hereford, England and can be found in the UK Census records 1841–1881. I would love to discover more, as I am sure Donald would love to find out if the lady is indeed Caroline Watkins.

And so much more but I don't have enough space to include them all, you will have to discover them yourselves.

Thank you to all the contributors who have so generously spent time writing and submitting their work. Please continue.

Rosemary Davidson

Journal address

PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250
email editors@tasfhs.org

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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Cover:

Illustration supplied by Betty Jones for her article, 'The State of Education in Burnie', 1885–1905, see page 11.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN constructing this article in April for the June journal, I am mindful that the branches are about to hold their Annual General Meetings. New committees will be formed, hopefully with a few new office-bearers to 'take up the reins' and continue to provide the services we all enjoy.

More likely the work of administering the branches will be continued by the same hard working individuals who currently hold office. Their dedication and hard work is appreciated and on your behalf I thank them for their efforts.

I understand that, as usual, the branches are struggling to make up the numbers for a full committee and would appreciate help and input from more members.

Although nominations closed quite some time ago, a branch committee can appoint a person to fill a vacancy that occurs/exists during the year. Please consider helping out. Contact a committee member and volunteer your services.

The Society itself, also suffers from the shyness of members standing for election or volunteering for appointed positions.

Many of our office-bearers carry out the duties of several positions and would be happy if others would offer to share the load. Talk to your Branch Committee if you are willing to help out in one of the many roles.

This coming year, 2011/12 we will need to find a new Lilian Watson Family History Award Co-ordinator. I understand Anita Swan, the current LWFHA Co-ordinator, will be retiring from the role at the Society Annual General Meeting in June.

Anita, a former Society and Launceston Branch President has carried out this role

since the AGM in 2007, along with a number of other positions.

This is an excellent opportunity to formally thank Anita on your behalf for her dedication and hard work in organising the competition and co-ordinating the judges' reports. ◀

Maurice Appleyard

NEW PUBLICATION

An Index to
**DEATHS AND BURIALS
IN THE PARISH OF ST JOHN'S
NEW TOWN**

Over 2000 entries
from 1830s to 1950s
including orphans and orphanage staff,
politicians, publicans and public servants,
settlers, merchants, convicts and more.

Compiled by
Rosemary Davidson
for the
Friends of the Orphan Schools
St John's Park Precinct
New Town Hobart TASMANIA

\$20.00 plus packing and postage

Contact the Secretary
Friends of the Orphan Schools
PO Box 461 North Hobart TAS 7002

email: sales@orphanschool.org.au
telephone: (03) 6285 2654

www.orphanschool.org.au



NOTICE OF MEETING

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

31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

is to be held on

Saturday, 18 June 2011

at the

Axeman's Hall of Fame & Timberworks

1 Bell's Parade, Latrobe

commencing at 2:30pm

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 2010 'Lilian Watson Family History Award'
- 4 Confirm Minutes of the 2010 AGM
- 5 Business Arising
- 6 Reports
- 7 Election of Office Bearers and Endorsement of Branch Delegates
- 8 General Business
 - 1 Annual General Meeting, Tasmanian Family History Society Inc., 16 June 2012—venue Ross.

Muriel Bissett
Society Secretary

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

President Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103

Secretary Ann Bailey (03) 6431 5058

PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320

email: petjud@bigpond.com



For the last three or four years the Burnie Branch has held three monthly meetings for most months: ie a monthly day meeting on the first

Monday of the month, a monthly night meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, and a computer meeting on the last Thursday night of the month. As well as these meetings the branch also has monthly working bee days and staffing by volunteers of the branch library every Tuesday and Saturday. Besides these branch functions our members represent our society on various community committees and volunteer at the Burnie LINC two days a month.

We find that with the volunteers we have and our membership numbers we need to rationalise our current activities somewhat. The committee decided we will reduce the number of monthly meetings from three to two. These will be still held on the first Monday of the month as a day meeting and the third Tuesday of the month as a night meeting. The Thursday night meeting will be cancelled but as most of our members either use a computer for their research or use the internet, at least one of the monthly meetings will have a technology theme and have an internet or computer base.

Our Branch Mailing List subscription is still increasing with nearly half of our

members subscribed. If members are not already subscribed please see me or the Librarian for help or go to <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-TFHS-BB.html> for instructions on how to subscribe.

Mersey

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

President Pam Bartlett

Secretary Sue-Ellen McGreghan

(04) 6428 6328

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

email: secretary@tfhsdev.com



We started the year with our Annual Barbeque at our library which thirty-six members attended including eight from Launceston Branch who took the opportunity to come early and visit our library. Decadent Desserts cooked up by members soon had the library silenced. We heard about a local man and his life in early Latrobe.

In February we had a talk on the convict past of Norfolk Island visited recently by one of our members. There is so much history on this small island although it is quite horrific what the convicts went through. Norfolk Island and New Norfolk are linked together as inhabitants found a new world to start a new life.

Recently we had a visit to the Ulverstone Museum, which also has a Local History Centre. Well worth a visit to see relics of yester year. There is a dentist chair, which brings back some bad memories, a local telephone exchange, a shop front with beautiful stained glass, tools, bikes and much more. Their local research centre has been well stocked for the local historian trying to find how a forebear

lived and where they lived. Also a huge photo collection, some not named. You just might find someone you are looking for—take the time and visit.

By the time you receive your journal it won't be long until the State AGM held in our beautiful town of Latrobe. The main venue, the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame, is beside Bells Parade, which was a busy port in the early days. Gone are the large wharf and warehouses but is a lovely place to take a stroll and relax. Just a short three minute walk from and you will find 'Sherwood Hall', an historic home that we will visit on Sunday morning with a local historian who will guide you through. Afterwards enjoy a visit to our library—you don't know what you may find.

We have some great accommodation in Latrobe and surrounding areas but it would be advisable to book early. If coming early for the weekend our library will be open on the Friday. Please send in your registration form. We sincerely hope to see you there, at the 31st Annual General Meeting of our Society held at the historic town of Latrobe.

Hobart

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

President Robert Tanner (03) 6231 0794

email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org

Secretary Howard Reeves

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527



2011 got off to a good start. Some of the 'Monday Group' were so keen they worked all through the holidays!

Towards the end of last year we got rid of all the computer cables going round the library and looking

untidily as well as being safety hazards. Properly installed cabling in the walls and ceiling has made a big difference but we have noticed some of our regulars still carefully stepping over cables that are no longer there! Old habits die hard.

The February General Meeting began with a guided tour of the St John's Park Precinct. The tour was led by Friends of the Orphan Schools members Joyce Purtscher, Rosie Davidson and Andrew Cocker. The tour and follow-up presentation in the Sunday School were very informative. Members and visitors were surprised by the extent of the precinct, its extensive history and the range of activities that have occurred on the site.

At the March General Meeting there was an excellent turn-out of members and guests/visitors to hear the presentation by Dr Nicola Goc of UTAS. Her presentation, 'Researching the Family Snapshot—The female sense of self', included a history of snapshot photography (George Eastman launched rolled film camera in New York in 1883, US\$25 for 100 snapshots was one third a man's wage), with examples of early cameras (1900: \$1 Box Brownie with the dominant users and purchasers being women) and discussion of snapshots and information about what messages the images tell us.

General Meetings

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

The next few meetings are:

Tuesday 21 June: Alison Alexander on the topic, 'Jane Franklin in Van Diemen's Land.'

Tuesday 19 July: To be announced.

Tuesday 16 August: A panel will discuss 'Computer Applications for Family Historians.'

Tuesday 20 September: Peter Hay on the topic, 'Sparrow Force.'

Family History Computer Users Group

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

WISE Interest Group

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

Family History Writers Group

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

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

Launceston

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

President Judith Whish-Wilson
(03) 6394 8456

Secretary Muriel Bissett
Phone (03) 6344 4034

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250
secretary: bbissett@bigpond.net.au



The Tasmanian Mail (a photographic index)—volume 9, 1927–1928 has been released and work is continuing on volume 10. The next volume, covering

1914–1915 of *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians* will be released in June.

A good number attended the 16 March workshop featuring National Library of Australia Newspapers Online, and much interest was generated.

Again, our research volunteers are kept very busy, and with one stalwart going on leave to the mainland for some months, Judy would appreciate hearing from any members who are able to help, for however few hours each week.

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

Wednesday 15 June: 2:00pm: Branch Meeting, New Zealand records, at Adult Education Rooms

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

Wednesday 17 August: 2:00pm: British Interest Group (BIG) meet at Adult Education Rooms.

Wednesday 21 September: 2:00pm: Branch Meeting, at Adult Education Rooms

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

Huon

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

No report received



CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

ELSIE CORRICK 1894–1974

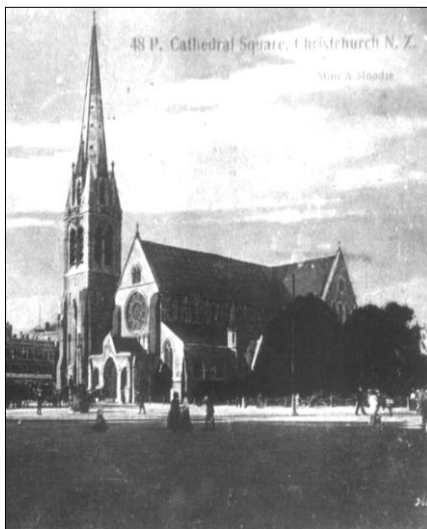
Transcribed by Shirley Foster

I was born in a beautiful garden city called Christchurch in the beautiful Canterbury Plains in the South Island of New Zealand. Christchurch is a Cathedral city with a big steeple in its centre called the square. A dear little meandering river called the Avon, supplies fishing for young anglers. This crystal clear river ambles everywhere thru many private gardens. It is only about four feet deep and many bridges cross it, and its garden banks are beautified by the swish swish of the dragging willow branches, and the flow of water amidst bright flower beds. Our home was quite near the Cathedral where my father, who was known as a Professor of Music, played the organ.

One of Dad's pianos in his Academy of Music had organs pedals attached so pupils could practice on it but I liked to play a tune using the real organ pedals. When Dad practiced on the Christchurch Cathedral organ I would tell him he was wanted in the vestry, which was a big fib. I would put my feet on them and they would shiver and shake, then I would pull out a stop or two and it would make my legs tremble. In those days people liked to be entertained by hearing 'storm' music on the organ. Sonny, my brother, said to me, "You must not pull out that one marked *Rain*". He told me that the stop marked rain would make it rain and then all the frogs would come out from under the organ. So I was afraid to touch it. I was tempted to pull it out a little way to see whether a little frog would come out, or maybe a tadpole, but I did not have the courage. My brother told me too

that there were going to be 'trams that went without horses' and I thought don't be silly, no trams could go without horses but he meant we were going to have trams with electricity.' ◀

I was born in a beautiful garden city called Christchurch in the beautiful Canterbury Plains in the South Island of New Zealand. Christchurch is a Cathedral city with a big steeple in its centre called the square. A dear little meandering river called the Avon supplies fishing for young anglers. This crystal clear river ambles everywhere thru many private gardens. It is only about four feet deep and many bridges cross it, and its garden banks are beautified by the swish swish of the dragging willow branches, and the flow of water amidst bright flower beds. Our home was quite near the Cathedral and



Cathedral Square, Christchurch,
New Zealand and a section of writing on
reverse.

VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

THE *BLACKFRIAR* 1851

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

IN Dublin in January 1851, nearly sixty children¹ boarded the *Blackfriar* to accompany their convict mothers to Van Diemen's Land.² John MOODY, Surgeon-Superintendent for the voyage, noted that 'a large proportion of the children had recently arrived from the provincial workhouses'.³ For the most part, the children on board convict ships were invisible and ignored. The newspaper report of the arrival of the *Blackfriar* in 1851, for example, neglected to mention the six children of convicts who died during the voyage:

Black Friar, barque, 620 tons, Greeves, from Ireland 24th January, with 260 female convicts. Passengers - J. Mardy, Esq., R.N., Surgeon Superintendent; C. and E. McCullough, C. White, matrons; Jane Creery, E. Walsh, Mr. J. Campbell and child, Amelia Irvin, Susan Tobin; 47 children of convicts. One free female (Margaret Rutledge) and one convict, died on the passage.⁴

Many of the *Blackfriar* children were admitted to the Orphan School. One of them was Ann GAINON or GUINAN, admitted to the Orphan School at the age of 7 not long after the *Blackfriar* arrived. In NSW, in the second half of the 20th century, one of Ann's descendants

married a descendant of Orphan School boy, William BUTLER, *Tasmania* (2), who arrived in 1845. Their time at the Orphan School did not coincide and neither family knew of the Orphan School link but it is an indication of how intertwined some Orphan School family connections were.

Ann's mother, also named Ann, was transported from Kildare for seven years for stealing a pig. At the time she was transported, Ann was 30, a country servant with reddish-brown hair and single. She had no colonial sentences.⁵ Shortly after Ann received her ticket-of-leave in September 1854, her daughter left the Orphan School to go to her mother. By 1857, when she received her Free Certificate, Ann was living in Campbell Town.

In 1860, in Campbell Town, Ann, then aged 18, married Simon WHITNEY, aged 32.⁶ In February 1849, Simon had been tried at Chelmsford Quarter Sessions for larceny and was sentenced to transportation for seven years. A stock-keeper from Hayes in Essex, he was 25 with reddish-brown hair and grey eyes. He arrived on the *Lady Montagu* in December 1852 and had no colonial offences.⁷ Ann and Simon had a large family in the Campbell Town district. Simon died in 1905, aged 79. Ann died at her residence in Campbell Town in

¹ Numbers vary from 47 to 59: *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 June 1851 p.2;

TAHO, CON15/1/7; ADM 101/12 (TAHO Reel 3189) *Blackfriar* 1851

² ADM 101/12 (TAHO Reel 3189) *Blackfriar* 1851

³ ADM 101/12 (TAHO Reel 3189) *Blackfriar* 1851

⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 June 1851 p.2

⁵ TAHO, CON41/1/30 [TAHO Image 106]; CON15/1/7 [TAHO Image 30-31]: Ann Guinan

⁶ TAHO, RGD 37 33/1869 Anny Gaynan & Simon Whitney

⁷ TAHO, CON33/1/110 No. 26674 Simon 'Witney' [TAHO Image 276]

1918, aged 74.⁸ Both were buried in St Luke's Church of England cemetery in Campbell Town. Little is known about Ann's life but her husband was highly regarded by his employers, as the following notice reveals:

WHITNEY.—On the 6th April, at Campbell Town, Simon Whitney, who for 30 years was in charge of the sheep on Glen Connell, Merton Vale, and Meadow Bank, in the Campbell Town district. A more faithful and honest servant never served a master.

—Inserted by his late employer, H. Scott-Hewitt, Aroha, North Motton.⁹

Simon's obituary neatly obscures his convict past:

A very old resident, in the person of Mr. Simon Whitney, passed away at his residence, Campbell Town, on Thursday evening at the age of 79. Deceased leaves a widow, three sons, and five daughters to mourn their loss. Mr. Whitney was born in 1825 in the county of Essex (England). He left his home in England in 1843, and went to India, which he left in 1849 for Tasmania, landing at Hobart. He came on to Campbell Town under engagement to Mr. Arthur Allison, of Streanshalh, and was for many years his overseer. During the later years of his life he lived on the township. Deceased was respected by all who knew him.¹⁰

An unusual circumstance involving one of the *Blackfriar* women arose in 1864. Mary Jane CAMPBELL arrived as one of three free passengers on the convict ship. According to the ship's list, Mary Jane was accompanied by a female child under the age of 14.¹¹

Mary Jane Campbell married Henry Scull in Hobart on 12 December 1853.¹² Mary Jane was then 24 and Henry was 30. They had at least three sons, all born at Kingston: the eldest was born on 25 February 1860 [John?]; the second, 18 March 1861 [Henry?]; and William, born 21 March 1864.¹³ James Campbell Scull [b. c1855] was admitted to the Orphan School on 16 June 1864, aged 9.¹⁴ His younger brother, Henry, aged 3 years 2 months, was admitted on the same date.¹⁵

When Mary Jane applied to have Henry and James admitted to the Orphan School, she was required to give details of her civil status and her ship of arrival. When she stated that that she had arrived on the *Blackfriar*, the authorities assumed that she had arrived as a convict; the admission application recorded that she was 'bond' and 'free by servitude'. Described as a cripple, of weak intellect, she was not believed when she stated that she had arrived free.¹⁶ She was admitted to the 'Asylum for the Insane' at New Norfolk on 25 January 1865, aged 37. She died there on 23 July 1891 aged 63.¹⁷

These are only two of the many stories associated with the Orphan Schools in New Town. You can read more on the Friends of the Orphan Schools website: www.orphanschool.org.au in the 'Find an Orphan' section. ◀

⁸ *Examiner* 30 July 1918 p.1

⁹ *Examiner* 12 April 1905 p.1

¹⁰ *Examiner* 11 April 1905 p.7

¹¹ The other free women on the *Blackfriar* were Jane Creery and Amelia Irwin: see TAHO, MB2/39/1/13 p.275

¹² TAHO, RGD 37 929/1853: Mary Jane Campbell & Henry Scull

¹³ RGD 33 1338/1860 Kingston: male child; RGD 33 1309/1861 Kingston: male child; RGD 33 1008/1864: William Scull

¹⁴ TAHO, SWD26/7, 27, POL392/1

¹⁵ TAHO, SWD26/7, 27, POL392/1

¹⁶ TAHO, SWD 26/6 May 1864 (James Campbell Scull and Henry Scull)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD 35 549/1891 New Norfolk: Mary Jane Campbell or Scull

THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN BURNIE 1885–1905

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



A government school was first established at Emu Bay (Burnie) in 1852, but for the next fifty years the provision of state education in that town only had a history of ‘on and off’ support from local residents. After classes were taught in a number of (often sub-standard) make-shift cottages around town for over thirty years, a new brick, purpose-built school was finally available for use in Alexander Street in July 1886.¹ Still the people of Burnie did not flock to enrol their off-spring there. Instead, small private schools, catering for families that could afford an alternative, started to flourish.

The first to recognise an opportunity were John BERJEW (1815–1894) and his wife, Catherine Jane Iles (née FOOKS) (1819–1904). Mr and Mrs Berjew, who had been operating successful private schools in Stanley since the 1850s, relocated to Burnie and opened a school in rented facilities in the Gospel Hall in Wilson Street in 1884. By that time, Mr and Mrs

Berjew were both heading towards the age of 70, and each had been involved separately in offering private education since they migrated to South Australia from England in 1840.² Although at the end of their careers, they needed to continue to work to supplement their income. In 1886, their school was relocated to their residence at (what is now) Strahan Street, South Burnie and, by 1892, their widower son-in-law, Sydney WRAGG, had added a purpose-built schoolroom to the side of his house on the same block for the use of Mrs Berjew’s classes. Mr Berjew had, by then, become incapacitated following a stroke. No records have been found to verify the number of students enrolled at the Berjews’ school at any one time, but it is speculated as being less than twenty. A prize list recorded in 1886 named ten students, and included the family names of CHAPMAN, HARRIS, HUGHES,

¹ *The Examiner*, 14 August 1886

² *South Australian Register*, 19 August 1846

JONES, SOUTHWELL, WISEMAN and WRAGG.³

A younger Mr James Hamilton ROYCE (c1855–1927) was next to appear on the private school scene in town when he opened Queen’s Grammar in February 1888. Mr Royce was born in Fife, Scotland, the eldest son of Wesleyan Minister, Reverend James Stephen Hamilton Royce and his wife, Elizabeth Jenkins (née BERRY). His father was a missionary in Fiji from 1857 until the family moved to Tasmania in 1861.⁴ They relocated to Victoria about a decade later, and Mr Royce passed the matriculation examination through the Melbourne University in 1876.⁵ He was a certificated teacher with the Victorian Education Department before setting up the school in Burnie. Mr Hamilton Royce emphasised his qualifications in Drawing, Drill and Gymnastics.⁶

Queen’s Grammar initially operated in the original Sunday school hall of St George’s Anglican Church in Cattley Street with an enrolment of just six boys. However, after continued solicitations from parents, girls were included in the school, and by the end of 1888 there were sixteen scholars in all. A move to a house around the corner in Alexander Street, very close to the new State School, followed. Forty-five children had been in attendance during 1889, placing stress on the existing facilities. Obviously encouraged by the growth in pupil numbers, Mr Hamilton Royce had a new detached schoolroom and classroom erected at the back of the residence, and eight rooms added to the house for the reception of

boarders.⁷ By September 1890, there were twenty-three boys and ten girls on the rolls. The school building contained sixteen rooms and was said to be in sound condition. Besides the eight good-sized airy dormitories, it included a large dining room. Pupils had the use of the adjoining block of land as playground.⁸ At the end of year prize-giving assembly in 1890, Mr Hamilton Royce stated that he planned to open a Preparatory School in connection with the present one.⁹

Unfortunately, the situation changed rapidly for Mr Hamilton Royce. It appears enrolments declined considerably during 1891. At the end-of-year presentation ceremony, Mr Hamilton Royce indicated his intention to close the school, though some parents tried to encourage him to extend for one more term. Patrons asked that local parents rally in support of Queen’s Grammar.¹⁰ However, the school closed quickly, and an auction was advertised in February 1892 to sell the furniture contents of the drawing room, dining room, eight bedrooms, kitchen, hall, music room, etc. The goods were described as all nearly new.¹¹ Over the years Mr Hamilton Royce’s female assistants included Miss BROWNLOW, Miss J BROWN, Miss WILSON, Miss MUMBY and Miss OVERELL.

The institution’s closure marked the end of Burnie’s first attempt to offer a ‘superior school’ to its residents, with Mr Hamilton Royce being a town pioneer in that respect. The curriculum included English and all its branches, Latin, French, Mathematics, etc.,¹² subjects not

³ *The Examiner*, 25 December 1886

⁴ *West Australian*, 2 October 1907

⁵ *The Argus*, 10 June 1876

⁶ *The Wellington Times*, 1 October 1890

⁷ *The Examiner*, 20 December 1889

⁸ *The Examiner*, 13 September 1890

⁹ *The Examiner*, 20 December 1890

¹⁰ *The Examiner*, 18 December 1891

¹¹ *The Examiner*, 4 February 1892

¹² *The Wellington Times*, 1 October 1890

previously readily available to the town's scholars. Some of the names of families whose children enrolled at Queen's Grammar during its short life included: ALDERSON, BERESFORD, BEVERIDGE, BORRA DALE, BOSKELL, BROWN, COLHOUN, DOWLING, EDGAR, FENTON, FORD, GATES, GROOM, JONES, JOWETT, LAWSON, LYNCH, MCKENZIE, MIDGLEY, NORTON-SMITH, REID, ROYCE, SHEEDY, SHEKELTON, SMITHIES, STUTTERD, WAKE, WEBER, WELLS, WISEMAN.¹³

Miss Sophie MUMBY (1862-1923), later calling herself Miss de Mumby, was first mentioned in association with private schools in Burnie when she became senior lady assistant teacher at Mr Hamilton Royce's Queen's Grammar in 1890. Born Sophia Elizabeth Mumby, 1862, Ballarat, Victoria, the second daughter of William Cashwell Mumby and his wife, Mary (née BROWN), she grew up in Ballarat where her father had a business as a gunmaker, locksmith and bell hanger. Prior to her arrival in Burnie, Miss Mumby had been an assistant at South Melbourne Ladies' College.¹⁴

In 1893, Miss de Mumby commenced her own establishment for girls, which she named the English Model School. It, too, initially operated out of the St George's Church Sunday school hall. In December 1893, parents and supporters of the school gathered at the Burnie Town Hall to inspect specimens of the pupils' work which included montmellick, tapestry, chenille, arasene and ivory work, along with examples of quality penmanship.¹⁵ Fancy embroidery and pen work became

the specialties for which the school was known. From 1894, The English Model School was conducted at Belmont House in Alexander Street, the former location of Queen's Grammar. Miss de Mumby relinquished the school in April 1902, and returned to Victoria on the grounds of ill-health.¹⁶ Her interest in the Burnie establishment was taken over by Tasmanian-born Miss Kate Sarah SHOOBRIDGE (1875-1950), who, with her sister, had previously been conducting a private high school for girls at East Devonport. In 1902, there were twenty-five girls and six boys on the rolls. Patronage was not sustained, however, and the school closed at the end of July 1903.¹⁷

Two years after the cessation of Queen's Grammar in 1891, the town's void in the provision of private classes for senior boys was filled by Reverend Herbert TRANMAR, who, since 1884, had been associated with the Church of England parish at Buckland. In December 1893, he advertised his intention to open the Burnie High School in January the following year. It was to cater for girls as well as boys.¹⁸

Herber Tennant Tranmar (c1845-1925) was born in England, the son of Reverend Francis Tennant and Mrs TRANMAR. He arrived in Victoria, Australia in about 1874 with his wife, Ellen (Ellie) Eliza (née COWGILL) (1847-1911) and their daughter, Mary. The couple subsequently had three more daughters in Victoria. Reverend Tranmar had a varied Church of England career, serving in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and Lord Howe Island. After his ordination as deacon in 1880 at Ballarat, in

¹³ December editions of *The Examiner*, 1888-1891

¹⁴ *The Examiner*, 13 September 1890

¹⁵ *The Examiner*, 21 December 1893

¹⁶ *The Examiner*, 18 April 1902

¹⁷ Archives Office of Tasmania: ED124

¹⁸ *The Wellington Times*, 19 December 1893

1883 he was ordained as priest at Brisbane. Reverend Tranmar's previous teaching experience was confined to England where he had taught at the Grammar School, Knutsford, Cheshire and the High School, Newport, in Monmouthshire as well as having been sometime classical master at Woodhouse School near Leeds in Yorkshire.¹⁹

The Burnie High School, which also included a junior school, was conducted in a house on Marine Terrace, South Burnie later well known as the Sunny Bay Guest House. As the three eldest of the Tranmar daughters (Mary, Charlotte and Agnes) became old enough, they assisted their father in teaching at the school until the establishment closed at the end of 1899. Mrs Tranmar was a sometime music teacher there. Among the family names included on the rolls over the school's six year period of operation were: ASHE, BOLTON, BRIDLEY, COUPER-JOHNSTON, DOCKING, DOWLING, HEINRICH, JONES, KENNER, NORTON-SMITH, OCKERBY, RAYMOND, RUDDOCK, SMITH, TRANMAR, WELLS, WETTENHALL, WILSON. The Tranmar family subsequently moved to Trevallyn in Launceston, where the Reverend offered his services as a teacher of pianoforte, violin, organ and singing.²⁰

Mrs Agnes Gribell TODD (c1850–1924) was born in Geelong, Victoria, the sixth

child of Thomas Ackerley ROBINS and his wife, Elizabeth (née FOWLER). She married David Todd in Geelong in 1871, and lived in Emu Bay from at least 1877. Mrs Todd opened her doors to private scholars in Burnie in June 1895 when she commenced operation from a cottage in Wilson Street, opposite the Gospel Hall.

The cottage was used by Mrs Todd for educational purposes until 1904 when she moved to larger premises fronting Charles Street.²¹ Mrs Todd's school became the town's longest-running private educational establishment, offering more than fifteen years of continuous service to the local community. That was an unusual feat for any small private school anywhere.

The first annual distribution of prizes for Mrs Todd's school took place in the Gospel Hall in June 1896 when it was stated that, after starting with just four pupils, there were then 35 children on the rolls.²² Mrs Todd taught music students in addition to her classroom scholars. Her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Maria Charlotte Todd, who married Howth farmer, Charles Edward DEAN in 1920, became the assistant. A former pupil of the school in 1906, Mrs M LOVEGROVE (née Frances Shipley Madge EVANS) stated in 1974 that Mrs Todd was a

stately, gracious lady in a lace bonnet and cape, who not only taught us the



¹⁹ *ibid*

²⁰ *The Examiner*, 14 February 1900

²¹ W WINTER, *The Advocate*, 1 December 1973

²² *The Examiner*, 29 June 1896

Three Rs – but also insisted that when we met her in the street we must pause, bow and say, “How do you do?”²³

Mr John James PERRY was also a long-term provider of private education in Burnie starting when he opened the Grammar School and Commercial College in 1897 from the second Sunday school hall at St George’s Church. Mr Perry instituted the first private tuition in Burnie in shorthand and typing. He was assisted by Miss Margaret Harcourt VERNON, who married Wilfred HODGMAN in 1907, and who conducted her own private school in the town for a number of years. Mr Perry’s establishment closed by June 1910 when he married Ethel E F BOATWRIGHT and the couple moved to Wynyard to live. Mr Perry then conducted the Wynyard Grammar School and Commercial College for some time.

Mrs Jean Porthouse Knowles MILLER (1858–1951) was born in Hobart, the eldest daughter of solicitor, John Woodcock GRAVES and his wife Jessie (née MONTGOMERY). She married solicitor, Francis Knowles MILLER at Hotham, Victoria on 7 October 1885, and the couple had two children in Burnie between 1887 and 1895. Mrs Knowles Miller set up a school in 1899 and conducted it in conjunction with a guest house on Marine Terrace, close to the town’s centre. Mrs Knowles Miller also operated a school of dancing at the Burnie Town Hall.²⁴ The school remained a small concern and had closed by the end of 1903.

Mr L C MACARTHUR, who had a Master of Arts degree from Glasgow University, bought Reverend Tranmar’s

interest in the High School, and opened his establishment in February 1900 under the name of Emu Bay College. The school, which took boarders, including some from King Island, did not prosper, however, and had closed by the end of 1901. From 1902 to 1904, Mr McArthur was listed as an Assistant Master at Launceston Grammar School.²⁵

In 1900, when Burnie’s population numbered approximately 1500, there were reported to be more children attending private schools in the town than the one provided by the government. At that time there were no less than six independent establishments and a Convent school competing for pupils with the State school. Roman Catholic education had commenced in the St Mary’s Star of the Sea Church in January 1900 with approximately ninety pupils recorded in the original intake.

By then, the government school was in real trouble. In March 1900, the newly appointed Head Teacher, Mr R H (Harry) CRAWFORD, advised the Education Department that he was not able to recommend any of his current pupils for the vacant position of Paid Monitor. He despaired at the standard and tone of pupils enrolled, and asked, instead, for the school to be provided with an Assistant Teacher to give him much needed support. His concerns were backed by Inspector BROCKETT soon after when it was recorded that the school seemed to be in a somewhat chaotic condition. An illustration given by the Inspector in April 1900 was that there were no less than five different systems of writing used in the school. He assessed that the school did not compare favourably with others working under

²³ W WINTER, *The Advocate*, 2 February 1974

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ *The Examiner*, 19 February 1902

greater disadvantage.²⁶ Although the school building was less than fourteen years old, its physical state appeared tired and run-down.

Robert Henry Crawford was born at Hagley on 25 July 1866, the son of blacksmith, Francis Henry POLLARD and Sarah Jane CRAWFORD. Initially educated at Hagley Public School, he won a State School Exhibition in 1880, which entitled him to four years' paid tuition at Launceston Church Grammar. Mr Crawford then joined the Education Department in April 1885 as a Pupil Teacher at Charles Street State School, and embarked on a career that saw him eventually rise to the very top of his profession. His first wife, Esther Ann REYNOLDS, died at Mangana in 1893, and he remarried in 1894 to teacher, Flora (Flossie) IRVINE. Mr and Mrs Crawford and family arrived in Burnie after having spent over three years at Franklin. Unfortunately, the second Mrs Crawford died at Burnie during their assignment. Mr Crawford married again in 1902 to teacher, Mary Winifred WELLARD from Dunorlan.²⁷

Mr Crawford was an ambitious teacher, just the right person to be placed at Burnie State School in 1900 when it was at low ebb in standing and performance. He was keen to further his career, and here existed a challenging opportunity for him to prove his skills and talent. That he did over the ensuing six years, specifically aided by his staff member sisters-in-law, the Misses Alice and Letty IRVINE. Mr Crawford received considerable praise for his work at Burnie for raising the school to one of excellence, recognised as a regional model. In particular, Mr Crawford was commended

for introducing a new system of drawing and manual work, and he was also acclaimed for nature study being taught on sound lines within the school. The number of pupils enrolled in the fifth and sixth classes exceeded all expectations. By the time Mr Crawford was transferred from the school in 1905, the enrolment had increased to well over 200,²⁸ and the number of private schools operating in Burnie (in addition to the Convent) had been reduced from six to two. On the outskirts of town was another government school at Romaine, which had been established in 1890, and catered for between thirty and forty pupils.

The rise and fall of Burnie's private schools over that 1885–1905 period generally can be linked to the up and down economic prosperity of the town, but other factors came into play. The standard of education on offer at the main government school over the years was an important consideration. Also, once the railway reached Burnie in 1901, it was easier for the parents who could afford to pay for private education to send their children to the larger boarding schools on offer in Launceston and Hobart. A small number of new private schools opened and closed in the town in the years that followed, including for example, Mrs HODGMAN's in Charles Street and later Brickwell Street, Miss POOLE's in Alexander Street, and Mr A H CLARK's Higher School in Queen Street, but there was rarely sufficient money to be made by their operators to sustain them for long. The introduction of government-provided high school education in Burnie by 1916 signalled the final death knell for the profitability of most local private establishments. ◀

²⁶ TAHO: ED31/1/5

²⁷ TAHO: ED2/1/782; file 955

²⁸ TAHO: ED31/1/5

MYRA BESSIE SARGENT

A WYNYARD PHOTOGRAPHER

Marion Sargent (Member No.1927)

IN her own quiet way Myra Bessie SARGENT was an extraordinary person. She was a lover of nature, gardens, flowers, music, literature and photography. She left a legacy from the early part of the twentieth century, for the future, with her photographs of people, places and events, particularly those relevant to Wynyard. She was one of the earliest female professional photographers in Tasmania.

Myra Bessie Sargent was born on 3 February 1878 at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England. She was the youngest child of George Hewlett Sargent, at the time a brewer's clerk for his cousin and brother-in-law Pierre Beuzeville BYLES, and Bessie DODD who were married on 20 December 1873 in St Margaret's Church, Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire. Her brother, George Newton, was to become a builder, and her sister, Amy Ruth, a nurse.

In 1886 the family migrated to Tasmania on the SS *Sorata*. Upon their arrival, they took up a grant of land at Glengarry. A few years later they moved to Rosevears on the West Tamar, where they had an orchard and pickle

manufacturing business. The children studied at St Michael's State School three days a week with Mr Arthur J CONROY as their teacher. On Sundays the family crossed the Tamar to attend St Matthias' Church at Windermere.



After experiencing difficult times at Rosevears, the family had moved to Launceston by January 1891, living at various locations around the town. Myra's father had a fruit shop in Wellington Street and later a grocery store in Charles Street. The Sargents worshipped at the Baptist Tabernacle in Cimetiere Street and the children attended the Margaret Street Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School where Myra won a prize for

gaining ninety-six per cent in her religious studies.

Myra and her sister, Amy, ran a short-lived private school at 36 Welman Street at the turn of the 20th century. Records reveal that a Mrs Sarah RULE and a Mrs MORRID also were involved in the school.¹ Myra is listed in the Assessment Rolls of October 1901 as the occupier of

¹ Wise, Post Office Directories, 1900 and 1901

the property (owned by Joseph DYSON, a butcher) but which later burnt down.²

Myra was described as a 'Lady Help' in the 1903 Electoral Roll and, in the following years, was living at home assisting her mother with domestic duties. On 1 July 1900 Amy had become a student nurse at the newly-opened Homoeopathic Hospital in Launceston and Newton served his apprenticeship as a joiner with J & T GUNN. During this time Myra learnt the art of photography at SPURLING's Studios at 93 Brisbane Street. In May 1906 she sent a postcard to Amy in Melbourne telling her how she had decorated the studio with laurel and made a laurel wreath which she hung on a picture of the Tasmanian Eight in the window. They had won a rowing race on the Swan River, Western Australia, and were to have their photo taken again in the studio that day.

The Sargent family moved to Wynyard in 1911 at the urging of Ralph MARGGETTS, a family friend. He predicted that Wynyard was about to develop considerably and that the Sargents should take advantage of its future prosperity. They rented from James HOUSE a cottage in Hogg Street which they named *Eythorne* after G H Sargent's birthplace in Kent.

In the following year, Myra established her own photography business in a Goldie Street shop, which she rented from Thomas B Margetts. During her time in business Myra captured numerous images of Wynyard residents. For many years her portrait of a soldier in his First World War uniform hung in the local Baptist Church vestry. She visited people's gardens and photographed children among the flowers. Myra also took pictures of street parades, regattas

and other community events, as well as various buildings and places around the Wynyard area. Her two most historically significant photographs, which can be viewed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, are those she took of the now extinct Tasmanian Tiger.

An interesting part of Wynyard's history, especially around the War years, is recorded by Myra's photographs; the inscription 'Sargent Photo' can usually identify her work. Many of her images were published in Launceston's *Weekly Courier* newspaper.

Myra's studio was described in a Christmas advertisement in *The Advocate* on 21 December 1915, page 4, as 'the home of art and music'. In addition to her photography business, Myra sold postcards and local view calendars, photograph albums and frames as well as pianos, organs, pathophone records, songs and music. However, when the chemicals used in the developing process had begun to affect Myra's health, she sold her business to Mr Kevin MIDDAP in about 1920.

A good friend of Myra's, Mrs Hebe WINDSOR, evidently was the main organizer behind the Winnowers' Club entertainments which were held to raise funds for the soldiers away at the Front during the First World War. *The Advocate* of 31 August 1915 provides a detailed account of the pedlars' parade, concert and dance, which had been held the previous Saturday at the Wynyard Town Hall. Myra sang the 'Kashmiri Song', the first of the evening. She also appeared in the role of 'Britannia' in the concluding tableau of 'Britannia Surrounded by the Nations'. Her brother Newton also sang a solo, was in the Wynyard Quartette Party and played some of the accompanying music.

² *The Examiner*, 12 September 1919, p.5

Myra's sister, Amy, who had served as a nurse in England and France during the First World War, bought a block of land at East Wynyard together with a foundation stone which was intended to commemorate the first War Service Home in Wynyard. Their brother, George Newton, built a house there in 1923–24 named *Poimena* (Aboriginal for 'home on the hill') which was occupied by the two sisters. Myra provided board for female schoolteachers. Amy was school nurse for the area between Circular Head and Latrobe from March 1923 until 1944.

Myra and Amy neither married nor bore children, but their brother lived next door at *Nareen* with his wife Ruth and two sons Eric and Charles. We have Myra to thank for the photographs she took of her nephews at play on the beach and in the garden, as the proud aunt watched them grow into 'sturdy Tasmanians'.³

After almost 41 years of marriage, Myra's father, G H Sargent, died on 22 October 1914 aged 70, at St Margaret's Hospital, Launceston. Her mother, Bessie, died suddenly on the Sunday evening of 3 March 1924 not long after Myra had been telling her jokes. She was aged 74 and was buried at the Old Wynyard Cemetery with her husband.

To Myra, a lover of nature, trees were almost sacred. Under the *nom-de-plume* of 'Mirage', she wrote articles on nature for the Launceston newspaper *Saturday Evening Express*. Myra was an associate member of the Wynyard Golf Club almost from its inception in 1915. She was associates' secretary for thirteen years and also filled the position of president. Later she was elected a life member in recognition of her services.

³ *The Weekly Courier*, 13 December 1934, p.18

Myra was actively associated with the local Baptist Church and was a highly respected citizen of the wider community of Wynyard.⁴

While working in her beloved garden Myra was pricked by a rose thorn, but refused to see a doctor. She waited until Amy returned home from work on Friday evening, saying, "Amy will see to it". But it was too late. When Amy arrived home she demanded to know why Myra was not in hospital. She had contracted tetanus, subsequently lost her arm, and finally her life on 31 August 1940 aged 62 years.

Myra's funeral, conducted by Rev. R T WOOTTON, was held at the Wynyard Baptist Church. During the service, he lauded Myra's attitude, characterized by faithfulness and trustworthiness, to her home, her friends, her work, her church and her God.⁵

Amy never recovered from her sister's untimely death and, at the onset of dementia, retired from nursing. When she died ten years later on 19 July 1950, Amy was buried at the new Wynyard Cemetery beside her devoted sister, Myra. ◀

CITATION OF REFERENCES

We have received queries regarding the correct method of citing references to material held in the Archives Office of Tasmania. Please refer to their 'Brief Guide 23: citation of references', at <http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/guides/lis/t/bg023>

⁴ *The Advocate*, 2 September 1940, p.2

⁵ *The Advocate*, 4 September 1940, p.2

THE CONUNDRUM OF GRANDMOTHER WATKINS' PORTRAIT

Donald Cameron (Member No.4989)

WATKINS' family oral history has it that the portrait below is of Caroline McGUIRE née Watkins née RUDMAN, who immigrated free to Van Diemen's Land in 1832, and married her first husband, William Lewin Watkins, in 1834, thereby becoming the founding mother of a Tasmanian family currently of some 600 names.

An inscription on the back of the portrait, *H J Quintin pintx 1874*, indicates the portrait was painted in that year. Since there is no record of QUINTIN having arrived in, or departed from Tasmania, it appears the portrait was painted in England. The manager of the Historical Photographs

Archives at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery advised that the bonnet and lace collar depicted in the portrait were very typical of dress worn by Hobart ladies in the period 1850–60, the latter years of Caroline's life.

Since Caroline Watkins died in 1860, possibly aged 45 years, Quintin could only have painted the portrait by working from a photograph, in all probability a 'likeness' taken in a studio and printed as a card. A common feature of studio likenesses of this period was that the subject was usually seated, the

background was dark and the composition included a book as in this portrait. Since multiple copies of likenesses were usually distributed to family and friends, the question for readers of this journal who have access to collections of old photographs is: does their collection contain a likeness in a composition similar to that of the portrait which could provide a basis for further research into the veracity of the oral history?



A further reason to seek comment from members is that Caroline Watkins also has a place in the story of the Women's Factory at the Cascades Hobart where, in 1843, she

was employed as a *searcher of female convicts*. If the oral history can be confirmed the portrait will be of interest to the Female Factory Research Group.

Members who wish to offer comment are invited to contact the writer. ◀

email ardcameron@netspace.net.au
66 Corinth Street Howrah TAS 7018
telephone (03) 6247 9126

A LETTER FROM M HEMMINGS AND THE FAMILY OF CHARLES WILLIAM TAYLOR

Diana Gourley (Member No.4266)

AFTER the death of my father's sister Betty Lillian PEIRCE in Launceston, Tasmania on 27 May 2004, I found all sorts of interesting bits and pieces amongst her possessions. One item was the following letter:

After filing it away for quite some years, the time came to study the letter in detail. I had no idea as to the identity of the letter's author, M HEMMINGS, though there were three clues: someone had written 'Charlie TAYLOR' at the top of the letter; it was addressed to Cousin Dorothy; and the author had provided an address—26 Park Lane in East Croydon. From this it was reasonably safe to assume the letter came from a member of the Taylor family living in Croydon, now a suburb of Greater London and that there was a connection with my great-grandfather, John Henry (J H) Taylor.

First I transcribed the letter. No easy task as some of the handwriting is not very clear. Nevertheless here is the result with no attempt at making any corrections:

26 Park Lane
E Croydon
Feb. 23

My dear Cousin Dorothy

You will no doubt be surprised to hear from – me – Just to let you know – that our dear Mother as passed – away – she suffered a good bit at the last. We had two nurses in up to the last 3 week She was wonderful for her age – My brother will miss her – as – he always had her – nevery marrying. A the moment I am staying with him as my time is my own - & it is a very luxury house – he as a very big practice – Mother always looked for letter from some of you - & the book you sent she enjoyed I hope you will write some times to lets us know how you all are – I love to be able to see Uncle – if it was not so far – but far too costly for a holiday, pleas give our love to you all. From M Hemmings

The next step was to decipher all the references. The first question was—who was Cousin Dorothy, the addressee?

This was not difficult. My great grandparents, John Henry Taylor, and his wife, Emma Helen Taylor (née MILES), migrated from Southampton, Hampshire to Launceston, Tasmania following their marriage on 22 July 1885.¹ Both had gone to Southampton from elsewhere.

¹ GRO South Stoneham, September 1885 2c 106

John Taylor was born in South Elkington, Lincolnshire on 17 November 1854² and had grown up in nearby Louth. Emma Helen had a more exotic history. She was born in Port Louis, the capital of the island state of Mauritius on 14 August 1863, her father being a merchant seaman and captain on ships trading in the Indian Ocean. Later the family moved to England—possibly in 1869—and lived in Southampton close to Emma’s father’s family. The letter had to be addressed to the fourth child and third daughter born to John and Emma in Launceston—Dorothy. She was born on 12 April 1892³ and grew up in a gracious home ‘Saxlingham’ in the suburb of Trevallyn.

The Examiner, dated 22 July 1924, records that at the age of 32, Dorothy married Richard Wallis in St Paul’s Anglican Church,⁴ Cleveland Street, Launceston, on 19 July 1924. Dorothy who was known to many as Wally—just look at her married name and you can see why—was only married for eight years when her husband died suddenly on 23 March 1932. An obituary in *The Examiner* the following day describes a valued employee who collapsed from a heart attack at his place of work—the Alexander Patent Racket Factory—where he was the foreman. He did not even reach hospital alive, dying in the ambulance which the factory employees had called. After Richard’s death Wally moved from their home at 25 Douglas Street, Newstead and returned to live at ‘Saxlingham’, with her father, older sister Florence (Flo) and later her brother

Morris. Following Wally’s death in 1979, the letter was passed on to her niece, Betty Peirce.

So who was the letter from? *M Hemmings* proved to be much more difficult to track down but with the assistance of the very useful internet sites <http://freebmd.org.uk/> and <http://www.findmypast.co.uk> I finally worked it out.

Using the handwritten reference to Charlie Taylor found at the top of the letter, I referred back to the Taylor family in the district of Louth, Lincolnshire and decided to follow up on John Henry’s older brother, Charles William Taylor, who was born in Louth early in 1848⁵. Like his younger brother, hairdresser Charles left the family home in Lincolnshire for London in the 1860s and according to the UK Census records he lived in the district of Croydon, Surrey. In 1870, at the age of 22, he married Louisa Fanny THOMAS⁶ then just 17 years old. Their daughter, Maud Mary Louisa Taylor, was born later that year⁷ and William Henry Taylor in 1872⁸. Charles obviously built up his own hairdressing business and for many years lived and worked at 29 High Street, Croydon, employing, at different stages, his wife, daughter and son.

I felt I had hit the jackpot when I found a marriage for a Maud Mary L Taylor (a hairdresser) to Joseph Blagrove Hemmings (a bricklayer and later a builder’s manager) in 1898 in the Horsham district of Sussex.⁹ Maud was 28 and Joseph was 21. The couple who had no children later moved to Croydon very close to Maud’s parents. In the 1901 Census, they were

² GRO Louth December 1854 7a 487

³ Reg No.255/33 1892 Launceston Tas

⁴ St Paul’s Anglican Church was opened in 1854 and it was demolished after the final service was held in October 1975 to make way for the building of the new Launceston General Hospital.

⁵ GRO Louth March 1848 14 ?1?

⁶ GRO Croydon March 1870 2a 271

⁷ GRO Croydon December 1870 2a 211

⁸ GRO Croydon March 1872 2a 259

⁹ GRO Horsham December 1898 2b 741

living in 'Grecian Villa' Bungalow Road, Croydon and by the 1911 Census, they were at 18 Sundridge Road, Croydon. So here was the author of the letter—Dorothy's first cousin Maud Hemmings (née Taylor).

When was the letter written? While Maud's letter is dated 23 February, there is no indication as to the year.

It is significant that when announcing the death of her mother in the letter, there was no mention of Maud's father, only her brother. Thus it was highly probable that Charles had already died. A search of the UK General Register Office (GRO) death indexes was required, keeping in mind both Charles and Louisa were still alive at the time of the 1911 Census on Sunday 2 April. My eye was caught by a Charles Taylor in the July-September Quarter of 1912; he died when he was 64 years old in the district of Croydon. The age was right, as was the district. I thought maybe this was 'my' Charles.

As many of you would know, a problem with the earlier UK death register indexes is the dearth of information: just the name, the registration district and in later years, the age. To establish whether or not the record is that of the person for whom you are searching, it is necessary to obtain a copy of a certificate hoping your guess has been right.

Assuming that I had found Charles, I next focussed on a death record for a Louisa Taylor in the April-June Quarter of 1919 in Croydon. While the age, 67 years, fitted perfectly, the middle initial was given as J, not F. So it could have been my Louisa with the wrong middle initial. Unfortunately when I purchased the record from the GRO, it was clear that

this was not 'my' Louisa. I needed to start again.

There was a niggling feeling that my assumption concerning the death of Charles was wrong too. I was particularly aware that I did not have a death record that included the initial for Charles's middle name—William. So I made another assault on the BDM Indexes.

I felt much more confident when I discovered a Charles W Taylor, 87 years, Croydon in the July-September Quarter in 1935. And then 3½ years later there was a death for a Louisa F

Taylor in the January-March Quarter, 1939 for an 87 year old in Croydon. I was so confident that this time I ordered both certificates and happily they turned out to be 'my' Taylors.

The death certificate for Charles William records that on 13 September 1935 at 26 Park Lane, Croydon, he died of tuberculosis in the home of his son. And the death certificate for Louisa Fanny



Cousin Dorothy as a young woman
Family photograph

states that after suffering from a tumour in the colon near the liver she died on 2 February 1939 also in William's house.

And so at last, here was the answer to when the letter was written. Louisa died on 2 February 1939 and Maud wrote the letter 3 weeks later on 23 February 1939. Her statement that her mother "suffered a good bit at the last" is not surprising, given the cause of death and the fewer options then for pain relief. Her main comfort would have been having both her children close by in addition to continual care by the two nurses Maud mentions.

One detail that I thought fitted neatly was that both Charles and Louisa died at the age of 87. And Charles's niece Dorothy, the addressee on the other side of the world, died 30 years after Louisa on 4 March 1979¹⁰ just a few weeks short of her 87th birthday.

In her letter Maud provided scant information about her brother, William: we find out that he had never married; and that he had a successful practice. My initial assumption was that his success was in the family's hairdressing business although the word 'practice' was somewhat ill-fitting. I was unable to find William in the 1911 Census but then I had some luck: I happened upon a listing for William Henry Taylor in *Kelly's Directory* (a nineteenth century version of today's *Yellow Pages*) of 1918. Here he was at 26 Park Lane, Croydon, the very address Maud supplied at the top of her letter. And he was no longer listed as a hairdresser. He was a chiropodist—or in today's terms, a podiatrist. This was quite a surprise.

However, after searching on the internet, I discovered that the two occupations of hairdressing (or barbering) and chiropody

were closely aligned. I found a photographic postcard (c1915) featuring a particular soldier, Nathaniel FRIEDLANDER, with his army unit, held by the Museum of London. Information associated with the postcard records Nathaniel, on demobilisation,

went back to barbering but decided to study part time to become a chiropodist. He studied evening classes at the School of Chiropody in Grays Inn Road, London and qualified in 1923. It was quite common at the time for barbers to be chiropodists as well, and Nathaniel worked as a barber/chiropodist with a firm of court hairdressers in Knightsbridge. In 1933 he bought his own hairdressing shop in Selkirk Road, Tooting and fitted out one of the upstairs rooms as a chiropody surgery."¹¹

William's house at 26 Park Lane was, according to Maud's description, 'an impressive residence' which must have included his surgery and may also have had premises for hairdressing or barbering. Moreover it had sufficient accommodation for his parents as they both died there.

The letter Maud wrote is extremely short yet it is amazing all the information that can be contained in short phrases. One such phrase is: '[At] the moment I am staying with him as my time is my own'. By 1939 Maud had actually been a widow for ten years with her husband Joseph dying in early 1929¹² at the age of 51 when Maud was 58. As Maud and Joseph were childless, her brother William was her only remaining close relative. No wonder her time was her own.

I had thought all the puzzles had been solved but somehow, in genealogy, a

¹⁰ Carr Villa Cemetery records

¹¹ <http://www.movinghere.org.uk/search/catalogue.asp?RecordID=57203>

¹² GRO Croydon March 1929 2a 849

story never ends. One query may be solved only to throw up another.

While the contents of the letter were now explained, I thought it would round off the yarn by finding Maud Hemmings' death. A short search of the FreeBDM website and there it had to be: Maud M L Hemmings, 92 years, Croydon, 1962.¹³ Another request for a certificate and another wait. Within two weeks back came the reply: yes, it was my Maud but how amazing! The informant was her daughter! This was after I had stated earlier she had had no children. It was a reasonably safe assumption as at the 1911 Census, Maud had been married a little over 12 years and she was 40 years of age. But there was a lesson here: do not take anything for granted in genealogy.

The death certificate for Maud Mary Louisa Hemmings records that she died on 28 December 1962 at Queens Hospital in Croydon of cerebral thrombosis; atheroma; congestive heart failure; and senile dementia. She reached the ripe old age of 92 and had survived her husband by 33 years. Her usual address was 281 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, the same as that of her daughter Vera M Riley, the Informant. Presumably, Vera had been caring for her elderly mother.

So it was back to the FreeBDM website and there she was: the birth of Vera M Hemmings was registered in the December quarter of 1912 in Croydon. I was delighted that Maud and Joseph finally had a daughter; Charles and Louisa had a granddaughter; and William had a niece. Vera's story continues with her marriage to Brian Turner RILEY in 1934 and they had at least one child: Ann Turner Riley in 1942 who went on to marry William J O ARNETT in 1964.

And so more puzzles have been solved than I anticipated: the more puzzles I solved, the more there were to investigate. It was exciting to have discovered quite a bit about a branch of the Taylor family that I would otherwise have known nothing about. Furthermore it may continue. When searching the website Genes Reunited¹⁴ for Vera Hemmings born in 1912, there was a listing for someone with the same name and year of birth. This meant that there was someone else registered on the website who was interested in the family history of Vera Hemmings. And this researcher was none other than a William Arnett. Surely this must be her son-in-law. I have sent him an email. Perhaps he will reply and be interested in sharing information. But if he decides not to, I am still quite content. ◀

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¹³ GRO Croydon December 1962 5g 66

¹⁴ www.genesreunited.co.uk

WILLIAM OLIVER

FROM CHELMSFORD GAOL TO HOBART GAOL

WILLIAM OLIVER, aged 18, was sentenced to ten years' transportation at Chelmsford in the county of Essex, England, in October 1843 for stealing caps with two other men, Samuel MARTIN and William INIFER.¹ Surviving records show they were taken from a shop in Braintree and from these court notes² and a newspaper report,³ it seems he barely deserved this fate, probably only being an accessory.

Oliver was transported on the first voyage of the *Equestrian* from London, arriving in Van Diemen's Land on 1 May 1844. From his convict records, he had three previous convictions including six months for stealing hair oil. He was only just over five feet tall, had several tattoos, and wore a ring on the third finger of his left hand, although stated he was single.⁴

He was sent to Southport Probation Station, but whilst there, seven months later, he absconded and was involved in robbing the house of the surgeon (doctor) at the station. He was absent for a week then captured and sent to Hobart Town Gaol on 23 December 1844. This case

went to the Supreme Court and was covered towards the end of January 1845 in the local newspaper, *The Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette*.⁵ It was said that he and two other men, brandishing sticks, demanded food and stole valuables from the doctor's wife, Mrs WHITFIELD, and her servant.

William was sentenced to twenty-four years imprisonment,⁶ the first four years to be spent at Port Arthur. He was in trouble many times and remained at Port Arthur until the end of May 1850, a total of 5 years and 4 months. His offences included disorderly conduct, insolence, having a pipe, having tobacco at his post, having tobacco in his cell, idleness, and neglect of duty. Punishments included the standard ones of the times: solitary confinement, hard labour in chains, and an extension of his sentence.⁷

In April 1855 he was granted a Conditional Pardon and in March 1857 a Free Pardon.⁸ But, this was not to be the end of his brushes with the law.

There was another William Oliver, living in the Brighton/Hamilton area, transported on the *Asia*, who married Mary PARKER at Brighton in February 1848.⁹

¹ Essex Record Office, England, Q/SPb 23 image 169; Criminal Register 1842, Home Office, p.278

² Essex Record Office, England, D/DR O21/4 Notebooks of Charles Gray Round as Chairman of Essex Quarter Sessions for 1843, Michaelmas Session 1843 ('No. 3'), p.22-23

³ *The Essex Standard, and General Advertiser for the Eastern Counties*, Friday 27 October 1843

⁴ TAHO, CON14/1/25 image 355-356, CON18/1/41 image 195, CON18/1/41 image 160, CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William

⁵ *The Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette*, Thursday 23 January 1845, p.3

⁶ CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William; *The Courier*, Thursday 30 January 1845, p. 2; *Colonial Times*, Saturday 1 February 1845, p.2

⁷ CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William

⁸ CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William

⁹ Tasmanian Marriage Indexes: Brighton: Registration Number: 1433; Index to

The one being discussed here was at Port Arthur prisoner barracks at this time and this William from the *Equestrian* I married Julia McCARTHY in March 1853 at St George's Church, Battery Point, Hobart.¹⁰ Their ages were given as 28 for the groom and 22 for the bride, which were correct.

Julia had been transported in 1848 from Ireland for arson,¹¹ along with friends and her older sister, Mary McCarthy.¹² Many Irish women committed arson deliberately in order to be transported to better their conditions in the period during and after the potato famine. Indeed, their records state they committed their crime 'for the purpose of being transported'.¹³

It looks like William and Julia may have met working for the same master as they were both separately hired by James BOON of Liverpool Street in Hobart. Julia was hired before the 1849 muster,¹⁴ and William in 1852 as noted on his record.¹⁵ There is however no record of their names on the online Index to Convict Applications for Permissions to

Marry 1829–1857,¹⁶ presumably as they had their Tickets of Leave by then.

William and Julia had a son named James who was born in October 1863¹⁷ and most likely named after William's father,¹⁸ when William's occupation was noted as a shipwright; no descendants of James have been traced. No evidence has yet been found of William working as a shipwright, possibly he was trained in this skill during his time at Port Arthur. Wife Julia died in 1873 at Bashan Rivulet, with the funeral held at Bothwell.¹⁹ There may have been more children in between these dates but nothing has been found in the Tasmanian Birth Registration indexes.

Newspaper records help in finding out more about William over the years, both facts that were certain and speculation that some articles referred to him. In April 1861 he could have been the tanner, referred to in an article, who was fined for having an animal skin which had not been entered into the records.²⁰ This looks like the same man who in October 1863 was accused of not having a licence for tanning.²¹ In 1862 a reward was offered for a lost bay horse.²² It seems there was possibly another William Oliver in the area so it is not certain.

William did however become a sheep farmer somewhere near Green Ponds

Convict Applications for Permissions to Marry 1829–1857, TAHO website

- ¹⁰ TAHO, CON15/1/5 image 227–228; CON19/1/7 image 154; CON41/1/22 image 104 McCarthy; TAHO Parish register of marriages, St. George's Church, Hobart; Tasmanian Marriage Indexes: Hobart: Number 290 [Macarty]
- ¹¹ TAHO, CON15/1/5 image 227–228; CON19/1/7 image 153; CON41/1/22 image 103 McCarthy, Mary
- ¹² TAHO, CON15/1/5 image 227–228; CON19/1/7 image 153; CON41/1/22 image 103 McCarthy, Mary
- ¹³ TAHO, CON15/1/5 image 227–228; CON19/1/7 image 153; CON41/1/22 image 103 McCarthy, Mary
- ¹⁴ Muster, HO10/41 p. 327, 1849
- ¹⁵ CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William

- ¹⁶ Index to Convict Applications for Permissions to Marry 1829–1857, TAHO website
- ¹⁷ Tasmanian Birth Indexes: Brighton: Birth Registration Number: 112
- ¹⁸ Father James and the brothers and sisters' names were given on the indents lists and this has proved to be accurate by checking the christenings on the online IGI and the Censuses for Bocking
- ¹⁹ *The Mercury*, Tuesday 11 March 1873, p.1
- ²⁰ *The Mercury*, Saturday 6 April 1861, p.2
- ²¹ *The Mercury*, 19 October 1863, p.2
- ²² *The Mercury*, Friday 28 November 1862, p.1

(now Kempton), probably by 1865 as the newspaper refers to Mrs Oliver living there in the reporting on someone else's court case.²³ In 1868 William was found not guilty of sheep-stealing from Bassett DICKSON. There is much detail in the newspaper report of the case.²⁴ He pleaded not guilty to stealing thirty-nine sheep, and for receiving sheep knowing them to be stolen. Bassett Dickson's nephew gave evidence and 'appeared singularly obtuse'. There was discussion of brands, ear marks, and sales at Richmond. Thomas William STANWIX, superintendent of police at Green Ponds gave evidence and S GRIFFITHS, the district constable from Richmond, was also present. It seems William was a 'resident of Richmond' and inexperienced, so the mix-up in the sheep was seen by the jury as a mistake rather than a crime, with them having similar brands and mixing whilst grazing.

In March 1870 he was in debt to the tune of around £32 to landowner Henric NICOLSON²⁵ of 'Cawood' who had taken William, of Bashan Plains, to court.²⁶ The bailiff of Hamilton stated in *The Mercury* he intended to sell 300 of William's sheep to cover this amount.

In 1878 it looks as if William offered a £20 reward for information leading to the conviction of whoever cut the throats of twenty-one of his sheep at Triangle Marsh.²⁷

In May 1880, at the Supreme Court, William was sentenced to six years imprisonment for sheep-stealing from

Henric NICHOLAS at Hamilton. By this time he was aged 55.²⁸ Again, this conviction is noted on his convict conduct register. His wife Sarah (no marriage record has been found for them) and son James were sentenced to two years for sheep-stealing for the same incident.²⁹ The *Launceston Examiner* reported the case 'elicited a great deal of interest, as the Oliver family have been carrying on wholesale sheepstealing for a long time.'³⁰

William would have served his sentence at the Hobart Gaol/Penitentiary and was released on 1 October 1884 with remission.³¹ Part of this complex still stands as The Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site.

He probably died in September 1892 at Hobart, aged 66. This is the only suitable entry found and would be the correct age.³²

Along with thousands of other convicts, William Oliver's life had taken a dramatic turn in October 1843 when he was sentenced to transportation and, thanks to his colourful life, there has been much more learned about him. There also must be much which lies undiscovered and details which have been lost forever. ◀

[Article and research by 'Rachael' in England, with additional research help from 'Bob' in Australia.]

²³ *The Mercury*, Saturday 4 March 1865, p.2

²⁴ *The Mercury*, Wednesday 8 July 1868, pp.2-3

²⁵ Probably 'Henric Nicholson' and Henric Nicolas' are the same person

²⁶ *The Mercury*, Thursday 17 March 1870, p.1

²⁷ *The Mercury*, Saturday 11 May 1878, p.3

²⁸ CON33-1-54 image 201 Oliver, William No.12877; *Launceston Examiner*, Friday 21 May 1880, p.2

²⁹ *Launceston Examiner*, Wednesday 19 May 1880, p.2

³⁰ *Launceston Examiner*, Thursday 20 May 1880, p.2

³¹ TAHO, Campbell Street Gaol records

³² Tasmanian Death Indexes: Hobart: Registration Number: 1482

HELP WANTED

HARRIS/COLLINS/WEEKS

Seeking information about the above families from the Westbury area. Samuel HARRIS married Jane COLLINS at Westbury in 1857, and a Samuel Harris married Sarah WEEKS at Westbury in 1873. Is this the same Samuel? If so what happened to Jane?

Any assistance or information anyone can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Helen Hall (Member No.4467) 276 Ocean Drive Bunbury WA 6230 or email helenvhall@iinet.net.au

HOWLETT James

What happened to James HOWLETT?

1799 Born St Lukes Finsbury London

1821 Master Bricklayer. Tried, found guilty of bumping pocket (which someone else picked) while building brick wall. Sentenced to transportation for Life

1822 Arrived on *Phoenix*

1833 Ticket of leave

1834 Married Mary INGLESBY, daughter Emma born.

1836 Son John born

1837 Conditional Pardon no.1428 granted

1838 Daughter Sophie born

1845 5 August CP Extended to Australian colonies

1851 Census—not living with Mary and John

1853 23 August convict record amended “L off”. **Meaning?**

Any information as to his later life/fate would be appreciated.

Please phone (03) 9435 0113 or email peter.paterson@rmit.edu.au

MURPHY, Marian Jane

Previous request seeking information on Mollie (Marion Jane) FEARNLEY (née MURPHY) has borne no fruit. She was reputedly born in Hobart circa 1856 but this date, taken from her death certificate, may not be accurate. Extensive research on every possible combination of names etc has resulted in only one main contender for our theory as to just who she was. Mary Ann Jane CULLEN was born 1853 to Rosanna Bridget Murphy (an alias) and Alexander Cullen—both convicts. Rosanna died early in 1857 and Alexander later in the same year was executed for murder, after which his daughter led a somewhat unenviable existence, rotating between the Queen’s Orphanage and various, and sometimes dubious, employers. The stigma of convict parents, a father executed, as well as being an orphanage inmate, would have been an impediment to be ‘disposed’ of as soon as possible. It is reasoned that as soon as Mary Ann Jane was old enough to be free from the orphanage she would have changed her name and possibly took on the surname of her mother (Murphy) but kept her given names with the exception Mary Anne Jane later became Marion or Marian Jane.

Nothing is known of Mary Ann Jane Cullen (Murphy) after she left the orphanage late 1860s until, it is **theorised**, that she married John Fearnley in 1890. Has anyone in their family history a record of a Mary Ann Jane Cullen (Murphy) in the years 1853 to 1890, or for that matter, any suggestions or comments. This is probably the last hope of proving our theory—anything and everything most welcome. Please

contact Robert Emerali, Member No.3113,
email emcol2@iprimus.com.au or phone
(03) 6247 1055

WILLIAMS

According to records held at the Devonport Library my great grandfather John Williams arrived in VDL on 30 June 1855 on the ship *Black Swan*. John worked for the THOMAS family at Northdown, married Elizabeth LIDDLE and raised a large family. Later John bought land at Nook. Also included in the same shipping record is a passenger, Evan Williams, with the same age as John. Was Evan the twin brother of John? What happened to Evan after his arrival in VDL? Any information about Evan would be appreciated.

Please contact Kathy Cook (Member No.6496) 13 Elizabeth Street Ulverstone TAS 7315, phone: (03) 6425 9007 or email kthyck@netspace.net.au

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NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ABBOTT Elizabeth	Ballarat/Rushworth VIC AUS/CON	Any	7097
ALLEN John	Smithton TAS AUS	1850+	7140
ANDREWS William	HEF ENG	1805	7121
APTED	Any	Any	7125
BARKER Jacob	Penguin TAS AUS. Where born?	c1878+	7106
BATES Johanna	Delahunty SCT/Hobart TAS AUS	b 1851. m 1868	7105
BELL Alexander	Ballarat VIC AUS/SCT	1800s mid+	7097
BERECHREE Francis	TIP IRL	c1800	7137
BERRY Ada	NW Coast TAS AUS	1870+	7114
BERRY Samuel	Moriarty TAS AUS	Any	7114
BISHOP Andrew	Stowport TAS AUS	c1850-1900	7090
BISHOP Emily	Stowport TAS AUS	c1850-1900	7090
BLACKIE William	ESS ENG	1814-1850	7089
BORLEY Frederick	Stowmarket ENG	1820-1850	7127
BOULTBEE	LEI ENG	1600s	7098
BROOMHALL James	Reedy Marsh TAS AUS	1834-1878	7101
BROOMHALL Mary nee COHEN	Reedy Marsh TAS AUS	1838-1878	7101
BUTTERWORTH George	Hobart TAS AUS	b 1846. m 1868	7105
CHIVERS	TAS AUS	Any	7113
COE [surname]	LIN ENG	1340-present	7109
COE [surname]	NTT ENG	1340-present	7109
COLBECK	TAS AUS	Any	7113
COLLIER Samuel	Nova Scotia CAN	1889-1910	7089
COLLINS	ENG	1800s	7098
CONLAN Domonic	Sligo Co. IRL/New Norfolk TAS AUS	1827+	7086
COO [surname]	ESS/SSX ENG	1340-present	7109
COURT	ENG	1800-1900	7129
CRUMP James	HEF ENG	c1801	7121
DAVIS Henry Harold	Any	Any	7088
DEEGAN	TAS AUS	Any	7113
DIREEN	TAS AUS	Any	7142
DUFFY Rebecca	Collinsvale TAS AUS	1850+	7140
DUNHAM John Thomas	b 1821 ENG-d 1877 Deloraine TAS AUS	1821-1877	7106
DWYER John	Any	Any	7087
FOGHT George	Evangelisch, Westhofen Westfalen, PRUSSIA	1800-1877	7122
FRANKLAND Eliz.	Campbelltown NSW AUS	1835-1850	7089
GALE Aaron	Hampshire ENG	Any	7095
GARARD Ann Amelia	Maitland, Sydney NSW AUS. London UK	Any	7110
GOODYER	TAS AUS	Any	7142
HALL Emma M A	Hobart TAS AUS	1861-1910	7117
HALL John	Hobart TAS AUS	1855-1907	7117
HARNETT Olive	Penguin? TAS AUS	1900+	7140
HARRISON	Kurwhsh? CLA IRL	1800s	7098
HERIOT Nancy	Ranelagh TAS AUS/m Sheppard, Ron	c1934	7093
HILL Eliza Julia	Hobart TAS AUS	b 1814	7105
HOBBS John	WIL ENG	1800+	7115
JACKSON Phoebe Ann	Liverpool ENG	1836 bc1814	7105
JAGO nee Atkinson Sarah Elizabeth	Chudleigh TAS AUS	1800-1950	7100
JAGO Herman Andrew	Chudleigh TAS AUS	1800-1950	7100

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NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
JEFFREY	SCOTLAND	1700s	7098
JOPSON	CUL ENG	1700s	7098
KENNY Margaret	Tipperary IRL	b c1806	7105
KILB, KELB Ada	NW Coast TAS AUS	1870+	7114
KUPSCH Frederick	Cygnets TAS AUS	1834-1870	7086
KUPSCH Frederick	Klien Blomberg PRUSSIA	1834-1870	7086
LATHAM John	Birmingham ENG & Franklin TAS AUS	1810-1885	7086
Latrobe Convicts	TAS AUS	Any	7094
MARSHALL John	b 1829 ENG-d Upper Castra TAS 1912	1829-1912	7105
McCARTER Rosina	NSW AUS. UK	Any	7110
McCARTHY	TAS AUS	Any	7142
McCow?	SCOTLAND	1700s	7098
McCREIDIE James George Capt	Hobart/Sydney? AUS/SCT	1800s mid+	7097
McLUNG Margaret & ancestors	Barclay. B Kilburnie AYR SCT	31 Mar 1912	7092
MIDSON	Any	Any	7087
MITCHELL Robert	AYR SCT	1795-1869	7114
MITCHELL Robert	Moriarty TAS AUS	1869+	7114
MORRIS John	TAS AUS	1805-1885	7130
MORRIS William	BRK ENG	1814-1874	7111
MUIR James Oddie	St Andrews ORKNEY	c1863	7121
MUIR Mina	St Andrews ORKNEY	1903	7121
MUNDAY Amelia	NW Coast TAS AUS	Any	7114
NEVILLE Mary	Hobart/Sydney AUS	Any	7097
PARFITT Joseph	Llangastock Brecon WLS	1850-1875	7102
PHILLIPS	Any	Any	7125
PILGRIM	Any	Any	7124
POWER James	Leith SCT	1863-1930	7089
RABE Hendrick	Collinsvale TAS AUS	1850+	7140
RAINBIRD	New Norfolk TAS AUS	Any	7117
REED John	YKS ENG	1909-1876	7122
REID Alice Harriet	Priory St Helens TAS AUS	c1850	7119
RICHARDS Alice Harriet	Priory St Helens TAS AUS	c1850	7119
RICHARDS Emily	St Helens TAS AUS	c1850	7119
RICHARDS George	Priory St Helens TAS AUS	c1850	7119
RITCHIE	SCT	1820-1842	7129
ROBERTS Alexander Tamlyn	Ballarat/Rushworth VIC AUS/CON	1800s mid+	7097
ROYAL Mary	b 1814 ENG-d 1884 Deloraine TAS AUS	1814-1884	7106
RUTHERFORD Robert	Northlands Cavan IRL	C1833-1854	7090
SAUNDERS nee JAGO Greta Elvie	Chudleigh TAS AUS	1900-1945	7100
SAYER Robert Alexander	Camberwell LON ENG	9 Mar 1904	7092
SCOLES Mary Jane	Levuka Island FIJI	1883-1948	7122
SCOTT John	Pitlochry DFS SCT	1800s+	7097
SCOTT Margaret	Northlands Co Cavan IRL	c1826-1854	7090
SCOTT Margaret	Eday ORKNEY	c1780	7121
SHEPPARD Mollie	m Arthur Wells, Ranelagh TAS AUS	b 1909-d 2000	7093
SHEPPARD Ron	Ranelagh TAS AUS	born 1912	7093
SHEPPARD Valmay	Ranelagh TAS AUS	born c1935	7093
SIMPSON James	UK	c1820-c1850	7128
SMITH Barbara	St Andrews ORKNEY	c1786	7121

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
SNAPE Hilda	Sydney NSW AUS	1880+	7140
SPEED Alma	NSW AUS	1880+	7140
STOKES Joseph	TIP IRL	c1800	7137
STREADER David Murray	Any	1820-1850	7095
TARGETT	Any	Any	7124
TASMANIAN Post Offices	TAS AUS	Any	7094
THORNBURY	Any	Any	7124
TRADE WIND	Any	Any	7124
TURNER	TAS AUS	Any	7113
TURNER	TAS AUG	Any	7142
VALLET Charles	Manchester LAN ENG	1900-1930	7089
WALKER nee JAGO Doris	Chudleigh TAS AUS	1880-1960	7100
WALKER Ken	Latrobe TAS AUS	Any	7115
WALKER Walter	Manchester ENG	1883-1910	7096
WALLEN	Any	Any	7124
WATTS William	Ramsbury WIL ENG	c1800	7137
WEEDING William Leech	Hobart	c1814+	7105
WELLS Arthur James	Queenstown/Ranelagh TAS AUS	b1909 where?	7093
WELLS William	b 1811 UK- d 1819 Forest TAS AUS	1811-1819	7106
WEST	Any	Any	7125
WESTON Robert William	Brighton ENG	1800-1840	7128
WHITE George Donald	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1860s-1920s	7122
WHITE Herbert Clifford	Hobart TAS AUS	1900-1960	7122
WIGG James Utting	? Norfolk ENG	Any	7095
WILLIAMS J	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7117
WILLIAMS Thomas	Llanvillo Brecon WLS	1769-1851	7122
WOAST	Any	Any	7125
WRIGLEY Fred	YKS & LAN ENG/NSW AUS	1857-1927	7110
WRIGLEY James	YKS & LAN ENG	1700+	7110
YAXLEY James	Penguin TAS AUS c1878	d 1951	7106

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BOOK REVIEWS

McDonald, James, *Three William McDonalds. A family history*, Sorley Boy Press, Canberra, 2010, 418 pp., paper-back. ISBN 9780987049704

This lengthy book, written in collaboration with John McDonald, will be of particular interest to the families of three generations of William McDonald who came to Australia in 1838. There was a brief period when some members of the family lived in Tasmania and this short section may be relevant to local historians in this State. It has plenty of photographs, maps, extracts from the family tree and copies of documents and newspaper articles which help to break up the text for easier reading, (although some of them would have benefitted from improved contrast to improve clarity).

The author, clearly states that there is an expectation that readers will not be 'foolhardy enough to digest the entire study' and so he provides an overview of the family history at the beginning. This would certainly be the place to start if browsing through the book. However the lack of an index for any of the people mentioned makes the task of finding any links into the story of the McDonalds rather a challenge and will limit the potential of the work.

Any written account of a family's history requires a dedication and persistence. Both these are demonstrated by the huge amount of work that has been undertaken to put the book together. Future generations of the family will be exceedingly grateful. The rest of us are unlikely to delve further than the overview. ◀

Sally Rackham

A NEW HISTORY OF THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL PHOENIX PARK DUBLIN 1765-1924)

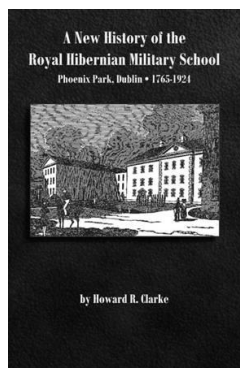
Howard Robert Clarke

At last, a complete history of the RHMS that has been wanting since the school closed in 1924. Although many records were lost in the London Blitz of 1940, Howard Clarke, a descendent of James Clarke, a student of the School in the mid-19th century, has spent five years researching the institution's history. The result is a magnificent volume that tells the story of its founding to its closure following creation of the Irish State in 1922.

This new history is a scholarly account of the first publicly-founded school in the British Isles for soldiers' children. The Phoenix Park property in Dublin was the home of more than 13,000 boys and girls from 1770 to 1922.

Founded in 1765 by the 'Hibernian Society', an Irish Protestant charity, Clarke explains how it was transformed during the 19th century into a British military school with admission restricted to the sons of soldiers. With the idea that they would follow their fathers and enlist in the British Army, the sons were trained at public expense.

Paperback by
Howard Robert
Clarke
ISBN 978-0-
9567864-0-1



THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

Mary Ramsay (Member No.1744)

THE title of this short paper is the title of a book written by Dudley Bright ASHFORD who was first a Congregational and then a Presbyterian minister. A Suffolk man he lived in many parts of the world—England, Tasmania, South Australia, Newfoundland, the United States of America and New Zealand. His well-written cheerful book is both an account of his life and a history of the THURLOW, BRIGHT and Ashford families. His eighth chapter is entitled 'A Tasmanian interlude' and tells of his move in 1911 with his wife from the King country in New Zealand to the Kempton Congregational Church in Tasmania.

Here they lived with Mrs GOODWIN

and her sons until the Manse was fit to live in. The Ashfords painted and wall-papered the Manse as he writes that the previous minister had been an eccentric old scholar and had covered all the walls of every room, including the outside lavatory, with Hebrew characters. The church treasurer was a Mr WILSON who bought them a fine horse and gig. The local doctor was Dr HENDERSON who delivered Beatrice Ashford of their first child, a daughter, Joan Thurlow Ashford. The baby was grizzly and unsettled until Dr PASSMORE of Bagdad prescribed a diet of Horlick's Malted Milk, raw beef and orange juice. From then on Joan thrived.

Rev. Ashford was disappointed in the



The Congregational Manse at Kempton
Photograph: Mary Ramsay



The former Kempton Congregational Church
Photograph: Mary Ramsay

number of men who came to evening service at Kempton but he noticed that on a Saturday morning a great many attended the rifle range which was at the back of the Manse. One morning he strolled over and was invited by Captain JOHNSON to participate, which he did and became very interested in the sport and won many competitions over the years.

Ashford knew his time in Kempton would be short and when he was called to a church in an Adelaide suburb he accepted—lured by only one preaching place instead of six and the challenge to build up a church in a fast growing suburban area. His place in the Kempton-Brighton-Bagdad parish was

taken by the young divinity student who had taken his church services when he went over to inspect the Adelaide placement in 1912.

Later in life the Ashfords returned to New Zealand and established one of their sons in a furniture making business which had a big sideline in making spinning wheels. It was a chance remark to a member of the Bothwell Historical Society that made me aware of this book. Ashford spinning-wheels are always for sale at the Bothwell Spinning championships and a member of the Ashford family comes over to sell them. Until this year we have never been aware of the connection between those spinning wheels and our neighbouring village of Kempton. ◀

PUNISHMENT ON THE FEMALE CONVICT TRANSPORTS

Anne McMahan (Member No.6463)

BOTH the English and Irish female transports shipped boisterous and turbulent women to Van Diemen's Land. Controlling their behaviour during the passages was a frustrating task for the surgeon superintendents. It was one of their duties to see that discipline was maintained but the crew were obliged to administer the punishments.

Transgressions which were punished ranged from minor disobedience, such as absence at muster on deck, creating a disturbance, petty theft or fighting and quarrelling. The limited methods allowed by the Admiralty's regulations frustrated some surgeons due to their ineffectiveness.

Thrasycles CLARKE, surgeon on the *Kains* (1831), which carried English females to Sydney, described the voyage as 'a hell afloat'.¹ Morgan PRICE, who undertook six voyages to Sydney and Hobart, told the Molesworth Committee in 1837 that the female prisoners were more troublesome than the males. He had concluded that this was due to the limited means of discipline to which he had recourse.² The correspondence with the Admiralty surgeon John MOODY claimed that the Irish women prisoners were the most troublesome of all.³

During the voyages of the 1820s and early 1830s collars were fitted to the necks of violent women, particularly for assault, as on board the *John Bull* (1821). Handcuffs were commonly used throughout the period of transportation. Some women were threatened with flogging and occasionally some were whipped. The mildest of punishments was the withdrawal of wine, lemon juice and sugar. This was used for disobedience such as the failure to come on deck at the appointed time. When more than one woman was to be punished at the same time they were put down the rear hatchway after the ladder had been pulled up where they were fed only bread and water.

Towards the end of the 1830s the voyages were subject to greater regulation. However, one method of punishment which remained in common use was the solitary box which was fitted on all the transports. Women under punishment were required to stand in the box for up to twelve hours where they were fed only bread and water. Upon being placed in the box some women wailed so loudly and swore so freely that it was necessary for peace and quiet to place a cistern of water on the top. This was then turned over on those who persisted in using their tongues and was always efficacious.⁴

On board the *East London* (1843), a number of women had turns in the box. One was punished for quarrelling and swearing, another for smoking tobacco in her prison berth and a third for purloining

¹ Bateson, C, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*. 2nd ed. Sydney, Reed, 1969, p.78.

² Price, M, *Report of the Select Committee on Transportation*, P.P., 1837, XIX, q.4135.

³ Moody, J, AJCP ADM 97/4607.

⁴ Bateson, C, p.76.

fat from the coppers. On the *Phoebe* (1844–45), an Irish female convict was made to stand in the box for twelve hours for attempting familiarity with the crew. During the passage of the *Tasmania* (1845) a prisoner who had secreted an iron bar in her berth and threatened other women with it was placed in the solitary box on three occasions. The most extensive use of the solitary box reported was on the *Duchess of Northumberland* (1852–53). The prisoner confined in the box had been caught attempting to steal a bottle of rum from the boatswain's mess place. Another had abused the matron but the box was not sufficiently strong to hold her. It flew open and a chain had to be tied around it. On this passage too the box was knocked over and its inmate at the time collapsed in fright.

Uncontrollable women continued to be handcuffed on the voyages. Two prisoners who were fighting on the *Royal Admiral* (1842) were handcuffed and linked with a distance chain while being restricted to bread and water for two days. A female convict on the *Emma Eugenia* (1846), who had been in an English jail nineteen times prior to her conviction, jumped overboard. She had handcuffs on at the time for striking and wounding the chief officer. The surgeon was able to seize her by the hair and pull her into the boat. Four English prisoners were absent from evening muster on the *Duchess of Northumberland* and were found in the forecastle. They were handcuffed and kept on the poop deck overnight where they sang doleful ditties until morning.

Surgeon Thomas SEATON on the *Sea Queen* (1844) recommended that straight jackets be procured for use as punishment. These had already been supplied to restrain manic prisoners. In some cases, though, it is obvious that

they were used to control unruly women. On the *Duke of Cornwall*, for instance, they were said to be in frequent use. One woman in a rage climbed the masthead wearing a straight jacket after striking the female pimp on board.

Head shaving was dreaded as a method of punishment. It publicised the prisoner's status as an offender and removed the adornment of her femininity. Its use was said to be disallowed after 1844 but it was reported on the *Kinnear* in 1849. The surgeon justified his action to the Admiralty by saying it was his only means of controlling women of such quality.⁵

The final punishment for misconduct on the voyages was being sent to Cascades Female Factory on arrival. This penalty was also applied at Ross Female Factory where Earl Grey in 1849 had additional separate cells installed specifically for the worst conducted women on the passages. ◀

Available for sale

CONVICTS AT SEA
the voyages of the
Irish convict transports
to Van Diemen's Land
1840–1853

pp.105, bibliography, index

by **Anne McMahon**

for sale at Fullers Bookshop enquiries:
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⁵ See AJCP PRO for surgeons' journals: *East London* (3193), *Phoebe* (3207), *Tasmania* (3211), *Duchess of Northumberland* (M series 711), *Royal Admiral* (3209), *Emma Eugenia* (3195), *Sea Queen* (3209), *Duke of Cornwall* (3192), *Kinnear* (3200).

THIRKELL BY ANOTHER NAME

Part 3: Robert Thirkell, John Frederick Schutte and Elizabeth Jane Schutte

Richie Woolley (Member No.144)

AS mentioned at the end of Part 2, Robert THIRKELL and Elizabeth Jane SCHUTTE were married in Launceston on 17 January 1836.¹ Elizabeth was born on 8 August 1820, probably in Marylebone in London, where she was later baptised.² Her parents were John Frederick Schutte (c1798–1860) and Jane TAIT, who were married in Marylebone on 1 July 1819.³

It is not entirely clear whether Elizabeth's father was known as John or Frederick, but in this article I have decided to refer to him as John, which appears to be the name most commonly attached to him.⁴ A tailor by trade, he had been sentenced to transportation for 14 years in February 1826 after being found guilty of the theft of some two and half yards of 'linen cloth' from his employers, William and John BOUSFIELD.⁵ He arrived here in August 1826 on the *Earl St Vincent*,⁶ and was immediately assigned to work at Government House,⁷ where he remained for several years.⁸ His conduct register confirms that he had left a wife and child

in England.⁹ In 1827 he applied to have them brought to the colony.¹⁰ His request was endorsed by Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, who probably knew John personally. Jane and Elizabeth, together with the families of several other convicts, eventually sailed to Van Diemen's Land in 1829 on board the convict transport *Lady of the Lake*.¹¹

John was living with Jane in June 1830 when his involvement in another convict's plan to escape from the colony earned him a three-year sentence to Macquarie Harbour.¹² It seems, however, this punishment was either cancelled or shortened, as in December 1832 John was recorded as being in assigned service to George Carr CLARK of *Ellenthorpe Hall*, some eight or nine miles west of Ross.¹³ He received a ticket of leave in October 1835,¹⁴ but was still working for Clark in May 1838 when three bushrangers raided his employer's property. John's 'praiseworthy conduct' during the attack earned him a free pardon.¹⁵ Although he was not specifically identified in a newspaper account of the incident,¹⁶ John may have been the man who, at considerable

¹ Tasmanian Marriage No.3366, 1836

² International Genealogical Index (extract from actual record)

³ International Genealogical Index (extract from actual record)

⁴ *Examiner*, 8 October 1851, 8 August 1854, etc

⁵ www.oldbaileyonline.org

⁶ TAHO, CON 31/1/38, No.752

⁷ TAHO, MM 33/1/5

⁸ TAHO, CON 31/1/38, No.752

⁹ TAHO, CON 31/1/38, No.752

¹⁰ TAHO, GO 26/1/3, p.67

¹¹ TAHO, GO 2/1/5, p.139; CSO 1/1/428/9639, p.240

¹² TAHO, CON 31/1/38, No. 752

¹³ TAHO, HO 10/48, p.167

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 October 1835

¹⁵ TAHO, CON 31/1/38, No.752

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Courier*, 11 May 1838

personal risk, alerted the household to the presence of the marauders. Alternatively, he may have been the unnamed individual who shot and killed one of the bushrangers during an exchange of gunfire.

After receiving his pardon, John remained in the Ross area for several months before moving to Campbell Town,¹⁷ where he worked as a tailor.¹⁸ He appears to have had his own business, with convict servants assigned to him on several different occasions during the period through to late 1839.¹⁹

It seems that John's wife was dead by this time, as he remarried at Campbell Town in June 1839.²⁰ His new bride was Mrs. Ann BECKETT, also known as MARTIN (c1800–1883), who had arrived here in June 1833 as a convict on board the *Jane*.²¹ While her colonial husband had been recorded as 'Fredk. John Schutte' when the couple applied for permission to marry,²² he identified himself as 'John Schultz' when the ceremony actually occurred, and both he and his daughter Elizabeth subsequently used SCHULTZ as their family name.²³ This change may have been made to disguise John's convict origins, a conclusion which is supported by the fact that the former

prisoner later claimed to have arrived in the colony as a free settler.²⁴

John's background was not his only source of concern. Unfortunately, his business did not prosper, and by November 1839 he was in such 'embarrassed circumstances' that he voluntarily agreed to have his assets sold by a third party, with the proceeds to be held in trust for his creditors.²⁵ This sale, which included John's furniture, stock-in-trade and 'book debts', eventually realised a little over £119.²⁶ John and Ann relocated to Launceston, but their financial woes continued, and John was eventually declared insolvent in June 1841.²⁷

It seems unlikely that John received any significant assistance from his son-in-law while he was struggling with his debt problem, it probably would have had a different outcome if he had been helped, but it is possible this changed at some point after Ann received a conditional pardon in July 1841.²⁸ An unnamed older couple, both of whom were ex-convicts, were the sole occupants of Robert Thirkell's *Lincoln Grange* property when the census was taken in January 1843,²⁹ and it is tempting to think that these people were John and Ann. This cannot be confirmed, however, and if the pair did indeed spend some time in the Macquarie River area, then they must have returned to Launceston in the months following the census, as a man named James HEATON was convicted there in June 1843 for being in the 'enclosed yard of Mr. J. F. Schultz' for 'some unlawful

¹⁷ Assignment lists, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 November 1838, 18 January 1839, 2 August 1839, 18 October 1839

¹⁸ *Launceston Advertiser*, 22 July 1841

¹⁹ Assignment lists, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 November 1838, 18 January 1839, 2 August 1839, 18 October 1839

²⁰ Tasmanian Marriage No.461, 1839

²¹ TAHO, CON 40/1/7, No.173

²² TAHO, CON 52/1, p.187

²³ Launceston District, Birth No.362, 1853; Campbell Town District, Birth No.139, 1854; Longford District, Birth, No.1000, 1856

²⁴ TAHO, CEN 1/1/97, pp.509–10

²⁵ *Launceston Advertiser*, 23 January 1840, 22 July 1841

²⁶ *Launceston Advertiser*, 22 July 1841

²⁷ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 26 June 1841

²⁸ TAHO, CON 40/1/7, No.173

²⁹ TAHO, CEN 1/1/47, pp.69–70

purpose'.³⁰ The brief newspaper account of the incident does not state exactly where in Launceston the offence occurred, but in September 1844 John, who described himself as a 'tailor and breeches maker', placed a notice in the press to advise 'his town and country friends' that he had moved 'to the corner of Patterson and St. John-streets', where he hoped for 'a continuance' of the 'past favours' of his clients.³¹

John and Ann were still living at St John Street when the census was held in January 1848, with three male convict servants sharing their rented accommodation.³² It is not clear whether John was still working as a tailor—the four men in the household were all classified as 'Shopkeepers & other Retail Dealers'—but in September he applied for a licence to sell alcohol on his premises, telling the relevant authorities that he was doing so 'for the accommodation of country people who might require a sandwich or a glass of wine'.³³ His application was refused, but John had clearly determined to enter the hospitality industry, and in September 1849 he took over the licence for the *Queens Head Hotel* at Perth.³⁴ He subsequently signed a contract to purchase the inn,³⁵ agreeing to pay the £400 purchase price in a series of instalments spread over the next few years, a process that was eventually completed in late 1853.³⁶

³⁰ *Examiner*, 7 June 1843

³¹ *Examiner*, 18 September 1844

³² TAHO, CEN 1/1/97, pp.509–10. The relevant return has been indexed under the name 'Shultz'.

³³ *Examiner*, 2 September 1848

³⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 2 October 1849

³⁵ LTO, Deed No.3/5160

³⁶ LTO, Deed No.3/8929

The hotel complex included some stockyards that had been built just a few months before John became the inn's licensee,³⁷ and these pens were the site of many livestock sales during the 1850s.³⁸ John presumably collected fees for such events but, even with this additional income, his career as an innkeeper was not particularly successful. He tried to sell the hotel in 1854, 'in consequence of the ill health of Mrs. Schultz',³⁹ but despite advertising for several months,⁴⁰ he was apparently unable to find a buyer. He suffered a further setback in June 1858 when fire destroyed his stables and 'coach-house', and only prompt action by a group of volunteers prevented the flames from spreading to the hotel.⁴¹ The financial loss caused by the blaze was exacerbated by a downturn in the colony's economy, and John placed the hotel on the market for a second time in January 1859.⁴² He was again unable to sell it, and just before his death on 30 December 1860 he was once more declared insolvent.⁴³ Ann remarried at Perth in 1863,⁴⁴ but her death notice still described her as the 'relict of Frederick Schultz, late of the Queen's Head Hotel, Perth', after she died in Launceston on 12 May 1883.⁴⁵

John's daughter Elizabeth enjoyed a more prosperous life than her father. She and

³⁷ *Examiner*, 26 May 1849

³⁸ *Examiner*, 20 April 1850, 14 September 1850, 31 May 1851, 21 February 1852, 24 May 1853, etc

³⁹ *Examiner*, 29 June 1854

⁴⁰ *Examiner*, 28 September 1854, 2 January 1855, etc

⁴¹ *Examiner*, 15 June 1858, 22 June 1858

⁴² *Examiner*, 6 January 1859

⁴³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 December 1860; *Examiner*, 1 January 1861

⁴⁴ Tasmanian Marriage No.519, 1863

⁴⁵ *Examiner*, 14 May 1883

Robert lived on the *Newham Park* property in the early years of their marriage.⁴⁶ They were still there when the census was taken in January 1842.⁴⁷ Their household at that time consisted of forty-two people, including eight children aged under 14 years, and a total of twenty-two adults who were either current or former convicts. The latter group did not include Robert himself, who was, quite legitimately, recorded among those who had come to the colony as free settlers.

The Thirkell family had moved into a 'Stone & Brick' house on *Darlington Park* by the time the next census was taken in January 1843.⁴⁸ Some of Robert's employees had followed him to his new residence, but others had

was obliged to impound cattle that had strayed onto his property.⁵⁰ Of more concern was securing a reliable water supply, and in 1842 he was one of the 'proprietors of land on the Macquarie River' who called a 'general meeting' to discuss the advisability of 'removing certain dams' on the river 'and its tributaries; and also for preventing the diverting of the water of the said river from its natural channel, and other matters connected therewith'.⁵¹ A number of plans were developed at this gathering, with those present also contributing 'little short of £1200' to a fund that was to be used to undertake the necessary works to ensure an improved supply of water, especially 'during the summer droughts'.⁵²



Darlington Park as it appeared in the 1960s
(Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, NS 165/1/57)

remained at *Newham Park*, which was still home to fourteen people, including two children, on census night.⁴⁹

Like all farmers, Robert had to contend with various problems. Some of them were relatively minor, such as when he

Robert was also a member of the organising committee for the Midland Agricultural Association,⁵³ and regularly exhibited his livestock at that body's

⁴⁶ Tasmanian Baptisms, No.7844, 1837; No.287, 1839; TAHO, LSD 1/1/27, p.244

⁴⁷ TAHO, CEN 1/1/7, pp.103-4

⁴⁸ TAHO, CEN 1/1/48, pp.107-8

⁴⁹ TAHO, CEN 1/1/48, pp.105-6

⁵⁰ *Hobart Town Courier*, 18 March 1836, 7 July 1837, 4 February 1842

⁵¹ *Hobart Town Courier*, 6 May 1842

⁵² *Launceston Advertiser*, 26 May 1842

⁵³ *Examiner*, 13 January 1847, 12 January 1848

annual shows at Campbell Town,⁵⁴ with his Durham cattle figuring prominently. One of his prize-winning cows went missing soon after appearing at the show in October 1849, with Robert offering a reward for its return of £10, if it had been stolen, or £1, if it had strayed.⁵⁵ The same animal was evidently still missing four months later, when Robert doubled the rewards for its recovery.⁵⁶

Darlington Park remained the Thirkell family residence throughout this period.⁵⁷ Robert's improvements to the property included the construction of a private chapel, which was in use by 1850.⁵⁸

While Robert was clearly a competent farmer, he also had other sources of income. Like many wealthy men of his era, he lent money to other people, with such loans, which invariably included interest payments, secured as mortgages on the borrower's land.⁵⁹ Robert probably also had tenants on some of his many properties, though this is difficult to verify in the period up to the early 1850s.

The healthy state of Robert's financial affairs ensured that he had sufficient funds to expand his landholdings on a regular basis. One of his major purchases was a 1813-acre farm named *Woodstock*, just west of Longford, which he bought in March 1852 for £4000.⁶⁰ Half of this

sum was secured as a mortgage on the property, but it took Robert less than three years to clear this debt.⁶¹

The Thirkells—or least some of them—seem to have moved into their new home within a few months of buying it, as Robert nominated *Woodstock* as his residence in June 1852 when he put together some thoughts on how to improve land drainage, fencing and road maintenance in the colony.⁶² The same address was also recorded for him just a month later when he asked for his name to be added to a petition supporting the continuation of convict transportation to Van Diemen's Land.⁶³ Robert certainly had strong opinions on this subject,

well knowing from experience that the present state of this Colony calls loudly for such [convict] labor, and in fact will continue to do so for years to come unless free laborers are imported in their place ... We all know that labor is required and the sooner we get it the better.⁶⁴

Official records indicate that Robert hired four convicts—two labourers, a baker and a shoemaker—in the seven months from 30 June 1852 to 29 January 1853,⁶⁵ and he almost certainly had other convicts working for him during the same period.

The labour shortage that worried men like Robert was caused by what he described as the 'gold mania' that drove many free men across Bass Strait to seek their fortunes on the Victorian goldfields.⁶⁶ Robert did not succumb to that particular urge, but decided to return to the Macquarie River area, with *Darlington Park* listed as the family's residence in

⁵⁴ *Hobart Town Courier*, 17 October 1846, 16 October 1847, 14 October 1848, 13 October 1849

⁵⁵ *Hobart Town Courier*, 3 November 1849

⁵⁶ *Hobart Town Courier*, 13 February 1850

⁵⁷ Tasmanian Baptism No.2911, 1846; LTO, General Law Deed No.3/3375

⁵⁸ *Mercury*, 24 July 1950; Dorothea I Henslowe, 'Our Heritage of Anglican Churches in Tasmania', p.68

⁵⁹ LTO, Deeds No.2/3348, No.2/6906, No.3/1058, No.4/9883, No.5/2087, etc

⁶⁰ LTO, Deed No.3/6661

⁶¹ LTO, Deed No.4/233

⁶² TAHO, CSO 24/1/4596/8165, p.160, 162–5

⁶³ *Hobart Town Courier*, 14 July 1852

⁶⁴ TAHO, CSO 24/1/4596/8165, p.178

⁶⁵ Legislative Council Paper No.10, 1853, p.16

⁶⁶ TAHO, CSO 24/1/4596/8165, p.165

March 1853 when one of the Thirkell children was baptised in Launceston.⁶⁷ This address was repeated some six months later when Robert advertised he had some small farms for lease,⁶⁸ and land records indicate that he was still living at *Darlington Park* in May 1854.⁶⁹ *Woodstock* was evidently leased to William FRENCH during this period,⁷⁰ but this arrangement ended tragically in August 1854 when French and his daughter Elizabeth died after their gig rolled over and trapped them under ‘mud and water’ in a roadside ditch.⁷¹

It is not clear whether or not Robert found another tenant for *Woodstock*, but his own residence was still being listed as *Darlington Park* in both May and July of 1856.⁷² It is likely, however, that some members of the family were then living at the northern property, as the birth of Robert’s daughter in February 1856 was recorded as happening in the Longford Registration District.⁷³ Further evidence that there was indeed a Thirkell presence at *Woodstock* during this period is provided in a letter written to the Surveyor-General on Robert’s behalf in April 1856, in which he complained about the activities of some duck hunters who were frequenting the lagoon just to the east of the homestead. Robert claimed that the shooters, who were most active on Sundays and at night, were disturbing his stock and causing ‘alarm’

within his family.⁷⁴ He requested that he be allowed to buy the remaining Crown Land—some 189 acres—near the lagoon so he could stop the hunters accessing the area, but he was advised that existing regulations did not permit the government to sell the land to him directly, with a public auction required for its disposal. Robert evidently requested this be done, as the requisite allotment was duly offered for sale on 8 June 1857.⁷⁵ Robert was able to buy it for the reserve price of £189 15.0,⁷⁶ which suggests he was the only bidder.

Although it took longer than Robert might have hoped to acquire the land near the lagoon—and thereby thwart the shooters—he must have been pleased with the final outcome. He would have been less satisfied, however, with the events that followed the theft of some of his sheep in 1856.⁷⁷ The stolen animals were among 423 wethers that Robert sold in July at his father-in-law’s yards at Perth.⁷⁸ The sheep were placed in a nearby paddock overnight to await collection by their new owners, but more than a hundred of them were found to be missing next morning. Some of these were soon located at Westbury in the possession of two men, Samuel HARRIS and Edward SMITH, who were duly charged with sheep stealing. The two men appeared in court in September, with Robert and his son George among those called to give evidence at the trial.⁷⁹ Another witness was a nine-year-old boy, Robert COLLINS, who said that he had seen Smith and another man driving

⁶⁷ TAHO, NS 748/1/5

⁶⁸ *Hobart Town Courier*, 6 September 1853

⁶⁹ LTO, Deed No.4/233

⁷⁰ *Examiner*, 2 December 1854

⁷¹ *Examiner*, 24 August 1854; Longford District Deaths, No.444, 1854; No.445, 1854

⁷² *Hobart Town Courier*, 29 May 1856; TAHO, LSD 1/1/27, p.250

⁷³ Longford District, Birth No.1000, 1856

⁷⁴ TAHO, LSD 1/1/27, pp.247–8

⁷⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 5 May 1857

⁷⁶ TAHO RD1/37/42

⁷⁷ *Examiner*, 7 August 1856, 4 September 1856

⁷⁸ *Examiner*, 24 July 1856

⁷⁹ *Examiner*, 4 September 1856

sheep towards Westbury on the relevant day. Such testimony did not sway the jury, however, and Smith and Harris were acquitted.

George Frederick Thirkell (1836–1926) had been nineteen years old at the time of the trial,⁸⁰ during which he indicated that he was living in the Macquarie River area.⁸¹ His home was almost certainly *Darlington Park*, with a much later newspaper article suggesting management of the property had in fact passed to him at about this time.⁸² While this cannot be precisely verified, George was definitely exhibiting sheep under his own name in 1858,⁸³ and appears to have been in full control of the farm by 1859 (though formal ownership was retained by his father).⁸⁴

George was the eldest of Robert and Elizabeth's known children, with the others being James (1838–1907), Jane Elizabeth (1846–1939), Elizabeth Andrews (1853–1853), Robert Alfred (1854–1882), Elizabeth Sarah (1856–1896) and Fanny Maria (born 1859).⁸⁵ The large gaps between some of the births may indicate there were other children who died in infancy, or that Elizabeth had suffered one or more miscarriages. The unusual second name given to the short-lived daughter born in

1853 almost certainly honoured Mrs Elizabeth BRANSGROVE (c1802–57), whose maiden name was listed as ANDREWS when she married her first husband, Henry Giffard HINKSMAN, in Westminster, England, in 1819.⁸⁶ She had been a guest of the Thirkells when the census was taken in 1843,⁸⁷ and she later bequeathed a house in Elizabeth Street in Launceston to Elizabeth, who she described as 'her friend'.⁸⁸

Elizabeth gave birth to her last child in April 1859 at *Woodstock*,⁸⁹ which was also her husband's full-time residence by this time.⁹⁰ Robert seems to have been a vigorous man for most of his life—he was at least 65 years old when his last child was conceived—and he continued to exhibit his Durham cattle and other livestock at the local agricultural shows until at least 1866.⁹¹ Wool from his flock was sold in London as late as 1869,⁹² but his health had almost certainly begun to fail by this time, as suggested by the fact that *Woodstock* had been offered for sale in November 1868. Notices of its availability were published in both Tasmanian and Victorian newspapers,⁹³ with the relevant advertisements stating that the

⁸⁰ Tasmanian Baptism No.7844, 1837;

Examiner, 24 September 1926

⁸¹ *Examiner*, 4 September 1856

⁸² *Mercury*, 16 March 1949

⁸³ *Examiner*, 5 November 1858

⁸⁴ *Examiner*, 27 October 1859

⁸⁵ Tasmanian Baptisms, No.287, 1839; No.2911, 1846; Launceston District, Birth No.362, 1853; Death No.865, 1853; Campbell Town District, Birth No.139, 1854; Longford District Births, No.1000, 1856; No.1387, 1859; *Examiner*, 17 April 1882, 30 July 1896, 8 November 1907; *Mercury*, 31 May 1939

⁸⁶ International Genealogical Index. Henry and Elizabeth Hinksman arrived here in August 1827 on the *Persian*. Henry died in 1831, and Elizabeth then married Thomas Bransgrove. He died in 1851, and Elizabeth married her third husband, William Bransgrove, in 1856.

⁸⁷ TAHO, CEN 1/1/48, pp.107–8

⁸⁸ TAHO, AD 960/1/4, No.764, p.316

⁸⁹ *Examiner*, 12 April 1859

⁹⁰ LTO, Deed No.4/7430; *Examiner*, 27 October 1859

⁹¹ *Mercury*, 26 October 1860, 9 October 1862, 4 November 1864, 9 November 1866

⁹² *Mercury*, 17 October 1864, 9 August 1869

⁹³ *Mercury*, 21 November 1868, *Examiner*, 24 November 1868; *Argus*, 24 November 1868

‘only reason for disposing of the property’ was ‘that the owner wishes to give up farming pursuits’. The estate included some nine to ten kilometres of

whitethorn hedges dividing the property into convenient paddocks ... There is a substantially-built brick house, containing twenty rooms, with store and closets; also dairy, laundry, kitchen, men’s huts, stables, coach-house, barn, &c. Also a well laid out garden, containing two and a half acres. There are two good wells, several ponds, and a large lagoon of purchased land fronting the house.

Although not mentioned in the advertisement, other records indicate that the ‘coach-house’ contained a four-wheeled carriage which was pulled by two horses.⁹⁴ This would have been a very useful form of transport for the ageing Robert, whose increasing frailty was evident in his signature, which had become almost illegible by this time.⁹⁵ Elizabeth had also taken on a more significant role in his business affairs, being listed as a participant in most of his future land transactions.⁹⁶

Robert’s health continued to deteriorate, and by 1873 he had been reduced to making his mark on official documents.⁹⁷ The same records indicate he was still living at *Woodstock*, which had failed to sell, perhaps because he had, as with *Lincoln Grange* in 1828, set the price too high. Whether or not this was so, Elizabeth clearly decided that her ailing husband required a change of residence, and in November she bought a house and a small area of land in Launceston on what was described as Patterson’s Plains

Road, paying £1700 for the property ‘out of moneys belonging to her for her separate use’.⁹⁸ Although the source of these funds was not specified, they had probably been accumulated, at least in part, from the rent Elizabeth received from the property left to her by Mrs. Bransgrove.

Elizabeth’s purchase, which was known as *Oakburn*, soon became home for the couple and their younger children, and it was there Robert died on 3 November 1876.⁹⁹ His body was taken to *Darlington Park* to be buried in a vault located under the property’s chapel.¹⁰⁰ Elizabeth did not long outlive him, passing away at *Oakburn* on 31 October 1878, and she too was taken to *Darlington Park* for burial.¹⁰¹

Elizabeth’s final resting place must have been on her mind prior to her death, as she directed her executors to place £100 from her estate in a secure investment and use the interest earned on the sum to keep both the chapel and the burial ground ‘in good order’.¹⁰² She bequeathed *Oakburn* to her daughters Elizabeth Sarah and Fanny Maria, with the latter also receiving ‘all furniture and household effects in or about’ the house. Elizabeth also directed that, if the sisters chose to sell *Oakburn*, they should share the first £2000 realised by the sale, with any amount beyond this figure to go to their brother, Robert Alfred Thirkell.

Robert Thirkell senior had also left detailed instructions for the disposal of his assets.¹⁰³ George received several

⁹⁴ Carriage Duty Returns, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 October 1868

⁹⁵ LTO, Deeds No.5/6137, No.5/8285

⁹⁶ LTO, Deeds, No.5/6184, No 6/543, No.6/932

⁹⁷ LTO, Deed No.5/9111

⁹⁸ LTO, Deed No.5/9611

⁹⁹ Launceston District, Death No.3200, 1876; *Examiner*, 4 November 1876

¹⁰⁰ *Examiner*, 4 November 1876

¹⁰¹ *Examiner*, 1 November 1878

¹⁰² TAHO, AD 960/1/13, No.2203, p.13

¹⁰³ TAHO, AD 960/1/11, No.1963, pp.261–67

properties, including *Darlington Park*, which is still owned by his descendants; *Woodstock* passed to Robert junior, who was also to receive *Lincoln Grange* after his mother's death; and James inherited *Pockthorpe*, a 2980-acre farm on Lake River which Robert had leased in 1845 and eventually acquired in 1856.¹⁰⁴

One property not mentioned in Robert's will was *Newham Park*. Although a number of early valuation rolls suggest he owned his former employer's farm,¹⁰⁵ he in fact only ever rented it.¹⁰⁶ It did not become family property until January 1897, when it was bought from its English owners by George Thirkell.¹⁰⁷ ◀

[Robert's story will conclude in Part 4 of this article to be printed in the September issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*.]

¹⁰⁴ LTO, Deeds No.3/718, No.4/3763; *Examiner*, 25 August 1853; *Hobart Town Courier*, 31 May 1856

¹⁰⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 20 April 1858, 3 December 1861

¹⁰⁶ *Mercury*, 20 November 1876

¹⁰⁷ LTO, General Law Deed No.9/7113

An index to

Launceston Examiner

This series covers the personal announcements from the *Launceston Examiner* from its inception on 12 March 1842 until 31 December 1899. In 1900 the name was changed to *The Examiner*.

There are Birth, Death and Marriage notices as well as deaths and marriages gleaned from news items.

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CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

DISTRICT, Portland Register No. 76 17 (a)

on (1) Dec 24th 1907 at St. Paul's Ch. St. Helens

Marriage by (2) License was celebrated between us according to the (3)
Rite & Ceremony of the Ch. of England

BRIDEGROOM.

Name (in full) Heber Dowling Palliser
 Residence, Present— found's County Usual— do
 Age (last Birth-day) 24
 Profession or Occupation Carpenter
 Condition (Bachelor or Widower) Bachelor
 If Widower { Former Wife deceased in Year 18 _____
 Children living, _____; dead, _____
 Birth-place Launceston
 Father's Name (in full) Benjamin Dowling Palliser
 Occupation Carpenter
 Mother's Name (in full) Mary Palliser (née Anderson)

BRIDE.

Name (in full) Emily Ethel Bradmore
 Residence, Present— found's County Usual— do
 Age (last Birthday) 15
 Profession or Occupation Home Duties
 Condition (Spinster or Widow) Spinster
 If Widow { Former Husband deceased in year 18 _____
 Children living, _____; dead, _____
 Birth-place found's County
 Father's Name (in full) John William Bradmore
 Occupation Miner
 Mother's Name (in full) Elizabeth Bradmore (née Pradlow)

This Marriage was celebrated between us

x Heber Dowling Palliser
Emily Ethel Bradmore

In presence of us Witnesses—

x Leonard Lewis Johnston
x Annie Bradmore

The above Marriage was duly celebrated by me at the time and place above named, and in the presence of the Witnesses whose Signatures are above written.

Witness my hand this 24th day of December 1907

Emily Ethel BRADMORE, Certificate of Marriage, 1907

THE MYSTERY OF MISSING MAIDA

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

FOR quite a number of years, I've been searching the records for any trace of my aunt (or, more correctly, my half-aunt, if there's such a term), Maida Lilian BRADMORE. Her birth was registered at Portland, Tasmania, in 1892, but then she seems to have vanished completely.¹

Now, at last, I think I might have found her! However, if I'm correct, I've uncovered an even deeper mystery!

Here is the story ...

About 1891, my grandfather, James John Bradmore (1865–1931) 'married' Elizabeth McLAREN (1871–1921). As no marriage certificate has been found, I'm assuming this was a *de facto* arrangement.²

This union did not last long, but it produced two children: Gloranne Beatrice Bradmore in 1891, and Maida Lilian Bradmore, in 1892.³

Shortly after the birth of the second child, James John went off to Victoria where he worked in the mines at Walhalla. However, he was back in Tasmania by 1898. On 18 July of that year, he married Eva Flora BROWNE at Oatlands.⁴ The marriage certificate shows him as a

'bachelor', and a 'miner' by occupation. This new marriage produced five children, one of whom was my father.⁵

There is no record of Elizabeth Bradmore née McLAREN marrying again. After James John left, she appears to have taken the children to Gould's Country, near St Helens. She died, as Elizabeth Bradmore, at Anson's Bay, in 1921.⁶

In 1911, the elder daughter married Frederick John Thomas BAILEY at St Helens.⁷ That marriage seems to have been successful; there were at least three children. She died as Gloranne Beatrice Bailey at St Mary's in 1945.⁸

But what happened to the younger daughter, Maida Lilian? No record of her marriage or death has been found.

Recently, however, a marriage certificate which might throw some light on the mystery was brought to my attention. It shows the marriage on 24 December 1907, of Heber Dowling PALLISER and an Emily Ethel Bradmore.⁹

¹ TAHO RGD Birth 1995/1892/33, Portland, Maida Lilian Bradmore.

² When James John Bradmore married formally at Oatlands, Tasmania, in 1898, he was described as a 'bachelor'.

³ TAHO RGD Births 2814/1891, Gloranne and 1995/1892, Maida Lilian, both at Portland.

⁴ TAHO RGD Marriage 859/1898/37, Oatlands, James John Bradmore to Eva Flora Browne: The marriage certificate notes James John was a 'miner' at Walhalla.

⁵ TAHO RGD Birth 1927/1909 Currie, King Island, 5 December 1908, Sydney Keith Bradmore.

⁶ TAHO RGD Death: 1661/1921 Elizabeth Bradmore née McLaren.

⁷ TAHO RGD Marriage 1223/1911

Gloranne Bradmore to Frederick Bailey.

⁸ Gloranne Bailey née Bradmore died at St Mary's on 29 September 1945.

⁹ The *Tasmanian Pioneer Index* shows the birth of Heber Dowling Palliser in 1883 (TAHO RGD Birth 3193/1883/33). It also shows six children born to Heber Dowling Palliser and Emily Ethel Bradmore between 1908 and 1918. In *TPI*, Heber's name is spelt variously as 'Heber', 'Hebe',

The mother of the bride is 'Elizabeth Bradmore née McLaren'. Her father's name is 'John William' Bradmore, a miner.¹⁰ The 'John William' is puzzling, but understandable in the circumstances. As there is no record of a 'John William Bradmore' in Tasmania, it seems likely that this is my grandfather's daughter.

So, did James John Bradmore and Elizabeth McLaren have *three* daughters rather than two, as previously believed?

No, that doesn't appear to be the case! There is no registration of the birth of an 'Emily Ethel Bradmore' in Tasmania. What's more, the marriage certificate shows Emily Ethel was 15 at the time which suggests she was born in 1892.

But 1892 is the year in which Maida Lilian Bradmore was born!¹¹

So, could it be possible that Emily Ethel Bradmore and Maida Lilian Bradmore are one and the same person?

Two further pieces of evidence from the marriage certificate seem to lend support to this idea. A witness to the marriage was 'Annie Bradmore'. Was this Maida's sister, Gloranne? Emily has signed her name as 'Emmily' rather than 'Emily'. Does the incorrect spelling of her own name suggest it was not her real name?

If my theory is right, I'm left with an even bigger mystery: **Why** did she do it? Any thoughts? ◀

'Hebu' and 'Herbert'. Emily's name appears as 'Emily', Emmy' and 'Emmie'.

¹⁰ There is no record, either in the *TPI* or at TAHO of a 'John William' Bradmore

¹¹ The *TPI* shows Gloranne Beatrice Bradmore was born 14 February 1891 and Maida Lilian Bradmore was born on 16 August 1892. It seems unlikely another child could have been born to Elizabeth McLaren in 1892.

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MR RICHARD DRY

AN IRISH PATRIOT IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

AN early arrival in Van Diemen's Land was the Irishman Richard DRY who came to the colony in 1807 as storekeeper to Colonel PAT-ERSON, the founder of the settlement at Port Dalrymple. Richard Dry was born at Wexford where he entered the business of clothier. As a young man he was inspired by the society of United Irishmen, the organisation founded in 1791 by Protestant radicals with the aims of parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation. The Society was suppressed by the government in 1794 and became a revolutionary movement plotting to set up an independent Irish republic with French assistance.¹

Under the *Insurrection Act* of 1796, the Lord Lieutenant was authorised to proclaim disturbed Irish counties. Curfews were imposed, meetings were banned, persons administering illegal oaths faced execution and those who took them were transported for life.² During this time most of the eastern seaboard, including Wexford and Cork, were in states of aggravated discontent. Double-crossing agents went direct to Downing street to reveal the activities of the United Irishmen. Magistrates were under threat, and acted with little regard for the letter of the law, the militia was being

infiltrated and the rebels were fomenting the Great Rebellion which finally erupted in May 1798 with the loss of 30,000 lives. All the while, spies abounded in every Irish city.

Richard Dry was one of five men convicted at the City of Cork Assizes in September 1797 where he was sentenced to transportation for life. As a political prisoner he was likely to have been held in Cork county gaol to await the arrival of the *Minerva*, the East Indiaman which was engaged in May 1799 to convey convicts to New South Wales.³ The Captain was Joseph Salkeld, accompanied by a guard consisting of a detachment of the NSW Corps commanded by Captain William COX.

The vessel berthed at Cork on 10 August 1798 but was delayed in Cove harbour for fourteen months, pending the arrival of a full consignment of convicts. The brig *Lively*, from Dublin, anchored in the harbour on 24 January 1799 carrying a batch of prisoners; 137 males and nineteen females who had been sentenced in Dublin. Surgeon John Washington PRICE, of the *Minerva*, inspected the *Lively* and was appalled at the state of these convicts. He said they were:

in the most wretched, cruel & pitiable condition ... They were all lying indiscriminately in the ship's hold, on the damp, wet & uneven planks without any sort of covering, without even a wisp of

¹ Pakenham, T, *The Year of Liberty: The Story of the Great Irish Rebellion of 1798*. London, ABACUS, 1997, p.18.

² Shaw, A G L, *Convicts and the Colonies: A Study of Penal Transportation from Great Britain and Ireland to Australia and other parts of the British Empire*. London, Faber and Faber, 1966, p.169.

³ Richard Dry was not taken on board the *Minerva* until 12 February 1799 as one of 24 prisoners from Cork five months after his conviction

straw to strew under them; half naked, some even without the shirt were to be seen lying under the hatch way exposed to all the inclemencies of the season, snow, frost, rain ...⁴

A number of these prisoners died at Cork before the *Minerva* sailed and it was some months into the passage before others recovered. Several batches of prisoners were brought to the harbour for the waiting vessel, including twenty-four men from Cork which included Richard Dry.

Still the *Minerva* was delayed awaiting additional rebels who were directly involved in the 1798 rebellion. These men were to be transported without trial. One such rebel was Joseph HOLT, a guerrilla fighter from the Wicklow mountains, who was brought to Cove with his wife and son in May 1799. He had been hunted in the mountains but surrendered in November 1798. Other rebels included Florence McCARTY, a Catholic lawyer, who had been a secretary to Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the military leader of the United Irishmen, Peter IVERS of Carlow, who had also acted under Fitzgerald's command, and the physician Bryan O'CONNOR, a deeply committed United Irishman who had practised at Cork. All three men, plus a Catholic priest, Father James HAROLD, were to be members of a plot to mutiny during the voyage.

The *Minerva* finally sailed from Cove on 25 August 1799, in convoy with the *Friendship*, containing its human cargo of 165 male and twenty-eight female convicts together with their children. On 15 September Captain REED, of the

Friendship, was told that as his ship sailed so slow, the *Minerva* could not wait so bade him farewell. By 26 September surgeon John Price received word from an informer on board, Dudley HARTIGAN, that a group of convicts was plotting to take the ship and run surgeon Price through with his own sword. Richard Dry was one of the plotters who were deemed to be the most desperate and treacherous of the prisoners. After their plan was revealed the mutineers were warned that some of their members would be hanged if Dudley Hartigan was harmed. With thirteen other conspirators, Richard Dry was placed in a strong room, located at the rear of the ship, and fitted with leg irons to be worn for the remainder of the passage.⁵

After calling at Rio de Janeiro the *Minerva* sailed into Botany Bay on 11 January 1800. The majority of the prisoners were disembarked at Parramatta. Here surgeon Price heard of a further conspiracy among the *Minerva* convicts. The plan was to seize the powder magazine, shoot any opponents and force the crew to take the ship back to sea. A regiment under the command of Major Joseph FOVEAUX surrounded the hut in which the forty men were said to be plotting. They were severely punished, several receiving 100 lashes.⁶ Governor John HUNTER complained to the imperial government that, among the Irish such as those who arrived on the *Minerva*, too many were 'bred up in genteel life or to professions unaccustomed to hard labour'.⁷ He wanted useful labourers in the colony.

Richard Dry was removed to Norfolk Island in January 1802, together with 100

⁴ Price, J W, *The Minerva Journal: A Voyage From Cork, Ireland, to Sydney, New South Wales, 1798-1800*. Ed. P J Fulton. Melbourne, The Miegunyah Press, 2000, p.3.

⁵ Ibid., p.84

⁶ Ibid., p.53

⁷ Shaw, A G L, op. cit., p.168

Irish rebels feared to be troublemakers in New South Wales. Other compatriots who had shared the passage of the *Minerva* were among those sent at a later date. They included Joseph Holt, Rev. Henry FULTON and Fr James Harold. This was during the first period of settlement of Norfolk Island when it had been placed under the command of Joseph Foveaux from 26 July 1800, now promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He dealt swiftly with another planned disturbance by the Irish prisoners on the island. On the word of an informer he hanged two men from the *Minerva* without trial.⁸ Foveaux's administration came to be characterised by fear and distrust. In particular, he was known for the brutality of the treatment of female prisoners which he condoned. The women were sold to free settlers as well as to convicts, for as much as £10, or as little as a gallon of rum.⁹

On 22 February 1805 many of the Irish convicts, including Richard Dry, were shipped back to Sydney from Norfolk Island. In 1807 he was sent to Port Dalrymple as a commissariat officer where he decided to settle. In 1809 he was granted a free pardon by Lachlan MACQUARIE, Governor-in-chief of New South Wales. In this year he and Anne MAUGHAN, a colonial-born free woman, were married. They bore three daughters and two sons. By 1817 Dry continued to serve as Commissariat clerk at Port Dalrymple but resigned when his appointment was not confirmed. Governor Macquarie rewarded his services by a

grant of 500 acres, together with rations, plus three convict servants for one year. Dry's first acreage was located beside the North Esk river, stretching towards the Meander river, at Hagley. He had also begun to purchase land and was supplying 4,300 pounds of meat, in half yearly contracts, to the government from his herds. As a grazier he held licences which enabled him to move his stock over a wide area. Richard Dry also obtained some of the merino rams which SORELL had brought from New South Wales. By 1827 he owned between 12,000 and 14,000 acres, had acquired considerable flocks of sheep and 4,000 head of cattle and grew a large quantity of wheat. The family settled at *Elphin* farm near Launceston which became his lifelong residence. Richard Dry also purchased the Adelphi estate from Alexander CLERKE together with Hagley, following the death of his neighbour William LYTTLETON. He became an influential citizen of the colony with varied civic and business interests. In 1822 he assisted the formation of the Port Dalrymple branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In 1828 he was one of the founders of the Cornwall Bank and, in 1832, of the Tamar Steam Navigation Company.¹⁰

The Dry family had a longstanding friendship with Thomas ARCHER's family as both men had arrived in the colony as commissariat officers. John Helder WEDGE, the assistant surveyor, was delayed at *Woolmers*, the Archers' residence, on 29 July 1825 where Miss Dry was a guest. Dr Thomas LANDALE, who was to be married to Harriet

⁸ The men hanged without trial in December 1800 were Peter McClean and John Whonohan

⁹ Rigg, V, 'Convict Life: "A Tolerable Degree of Comfort?"', in *Norfolk Island and its First Settlement 1788-1814*, ed. R Nobbs, Sydney, Library of Australian History, 1988, p.109.

¹⁰ 'Richard Dry', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1966, vol. 1, pp.328-329.

Dry, called at the Archers in the morning. John Helder Wedge provides a rare glimpse in his diary of a romantic interlude shared by the couple:

We let them remain together till near dinner; when we entered the room the lady hung her head and look'd modest – the Dr suffused with blushes – ie his face vied in redness with that of an enraged Turkey cock – ¹¹

Bushrangers were a constant threat, during the mid-1820s, with Matthew BRADY and his gang active in the north, where they robbed settlers of food and stock and carried off firearms and ammunition. Richard Dry's house, *Elphin*, was attacked on 4 March 1826. On this evening his guests included his daughter Harriett and her husband Dr Thomas Landale. While Brady's gang ransacked the house and a gun battle erupted outside, Brady told the ladies to lie on the floor as there was likely to be some hot work. The Colonial Surgeon, Dr R R Priest, rode up with a rescue party but was shot in the knee and his horse was killed. Dr Landale had a narrow escape as one of the bushrangers was about to shoot him but was halted by Brady who said the Dr 'would set a bone for us if it was requisite'. The bushrangers, having collected ammunition and provisions, vanished into the night. Parties were organised to scour the countryside. About ten days after the attack five of the banditti were killed. Shortly afterwards, the injured Brady was captured by a band led by John BATMAN. He was removed to Hobart and hanged on 4 May 1826. ¹² ◀

¹¹ Wedge, J H, *The Diaries of John Helder Wedge 1824–1835*. Hobart, Royal Society of Tasmania, 1962, p.17.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp.xl-xli.

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Presentation of the award will be
announced at the AGM
in June 2012.

'TRANSCRIBING TASMANIAN CONVICT RECORDS'

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

WITH the advent of many of the Tasmanian Convict Records being digitised and readily available on-line (via AOT or Founders & Survivors websites), it is worthwhile reviewing this publication by Susan Hood.

This sixty-three page, A4 book was first published in 2003 by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority and is rightly considered one of the 'Bibles' of family history research in Tasmania. Available at Port Arthur, it can also be purchased for \$19.95 from the Hobart Branch Bookshop. It may well be on-shelf in your local library.

Researchers, who have obtained copies of their ancestor's records or looked at them on-line, will be familiar with the great difficulty of reading the information they contain. The records are hand-written, in the 'Copperplate' hand or perhaps the earlier 'Clerical' hand. Contractions, abbreviations, spelling styles (including the use of the 'leading S') of the era are used; along with local abbreviations that are difficult to understand without local knowledge of the convict system/s and the Colony.

Susan Hood explains the difference between the Assignment Period and Probation Period Convict Records and the core information that one can expect to find in the various parts of the records.

Other sections cover: 'Óffence and Freedom Details' (Ticket of Leave, Conditional Pardons, etc); 'Location and Comments Details'; 'Additional Convict Records'; 'Abbreviation and Commonly

Used Terms'; 'Glossary'; 'Useful Resources'; and numerous 'Sample Transcriptions'. All sections are well supported with images of the records concerned.

With the judicious use of this book and a little perseverance it should be possible to transcribe all the information endorsed on your ancestors' records. ◀

THE 'SANDSTONE BOYS'

Laurie Moody (Member No.5835)

HAVING recently finished reading a copy of 'Battery Point Today and Yesterday' by Amy Rowntree, published 1951, I was rather intrigued by mention of the 'sandstone boys' (p.113). Apparently Captain TAYLOR skipper of the P.S. Kangaroo which operated from Hobart to Kangaroo Point between the years 1860-1902, was known as a thrifty man reputed never to miss a penny.

However, it appears he always managed to turn a blind eye to the 'sandstone boys' when collecting fares. Judging from Amy Rowntree's account, the 'sandstone boys' mostly consisted of small, ragged, rather dirty, barefoot boys who carried a heavy bag of sandstone pieces from door to door. The pieces of sandstone were used to whiten sandstone front steps no doubt belonging to the richer residents of Hobart and surrounding areas. If any member can elaborate further on the 'sandstone boys' I look forward to hearing from you. ◀

GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

FOR my WWI born mother making a mistake in a typed document meant retyping the entire page. When I would ask her to proof read my word processing she would make tiny pencil dots so as not to spoil my copy.

When I saw my first computers in high school they were in climate controlled rooms and the size of a small house. Interestingly enough one of the tasks I learned to do via those huge computer systems in the first computer studies class was to search the database of the 1881 census of a small village in Somerset, England. Today I can search that same census from my mobile phone.

Recently I related a story to a younger woman, about trying to plan a surprise, when I had just started teaching. She looked at me blankly when I mentioned the reason we didn't know the person's location was this happened before mobile phones. Her life has always included mobile communication devices.

The generation now entering the workforce view email as being too slow and rarely use physical (snail mail) post. They know where everyone is and what they are doing at the touch of a button. They expect replies within minutes. Photos of babies arrive before the mother has left the labour ward. In general they don't understand the concept of not having a phone or internet connection at all times. On YouTube a man posted a video of emails and messages sent by his girlfriend after he had left for a two week backpacking trip. She somehow missed the fact he had gone away. The messages start out with the usual, 'see you tonight', then, as he doesn't reply, progress to tales

of other men, revenge for ignoring her and breaking it off without saying a word for a week. The messages finish the day before he arrives home with declarations of her love and a plea to 'Ignore all emails and messages'. Apparently she dropped his belongings at his mother's who mentioned he would be home from his trip on Saturday. Needless to say he did read the emails and broke off with her. He notes the lesson learned was don't turn your phone off while travelling. The thing I noticed was the number of comments accusing him of being cruel and heartless to go away for a whole fortnight without being in phone or internet contact with his family or girlfriend. Modern life has made people used to having information and contact available instantly.

Where does this leave family historians? Are people who have Facebook pages for their babies, and toddlers using iPads bothering to write a list of their children in a family bible? Are they labelling the digital photos or depending on the sites to keep them attached to the captions they upload? More and more the researcher will be forced to depend entirely on 'official' sources unless steps are taken to record all this transient information. There are projects out there to capture web pages, but what about the journals, message sites like Facebook and MySpace, the contents of computers and smart phones and even private emails? **www.archive.org** has barely brushed the surface. It's not just about backing up our own computer contents, how do we ensure our modern lives are archived for future generations to understand? ◀

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.

FOCUS ON KU-RING-GAI: The story of Ku-ring-gai's growth and development

This 128 page book was first published in 1996 by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc.

This volume gives an overview of the pioneers and history of Ku-ring-gai Municipality in NSW.

It contains information on the aboriginal Kuringgai Tribe and the settlements of: Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon, Pymble, Turramurra, St Ives, Wahroonga, and Warrawee.

SHIPPING WONDERS OF THE WORLD: The Saga of the Sea

This two-volume set was published in the 1930s by The Amalgamated Press Ltd, London.

It was produced at the time when the RMS *Queen Mary* was the super-liner of the day. It contains information about all early types of ships, with many illustrations and photographs.

It deals with the square riggers on the run to Australia, the clippers built for the China Tea Trade, and all aspects of the development of 'steam' ships.

The ship your ancestor worked on or used as a source of transport to Australia is probably featured. If not, a vessel of the same type will be found. Consult the index in the back of volume two.

THE WILFRIDIAN: Christ College Centenary

This small, 40 page hardback book was first published in 1946 by the Theological Faculty in Christ College, Hobart, within the University of Tasmania to commemorate the Centenary of Christ College on 1 October 1946.

'*The Wilfridian*' is the journal of the Order of St Wilfrid.

It contains a history of the College and its office bearers including a list of students in residence in the Year 1946.

MORE MERRIMENT—writ in remembrance

This 220 page, hardcover book by Trevor Byard was first published in 1984. It is a companion book to 'Merriment of Parsons' (1981), 'Where Angels have no Business' (1982) and 'Kettlebroth for Tea' (1983).

In describing his book, the Rev. Trevor Byard wrote:

My first book 'Merriment of Parsons' was autobiographical and surprised us with the cordial reception it won from so many. Many have asked for 'more of the same'. This fourth book is not quite the same but is sufficiently similar to be called 'More Merriment'.

It contains nostalgic reminiscences of boyhood, pays tribute to characters and people in an average country town of the

1920's. It has some historic account of early settlers, and of the church that came to mean so much in my youth, and of that Methodism's early beginnings in two places I know and love – Tasmania and Bendigo.

Finally the book concludes with some detail of my 'Cornish connection' and how my Cornish Methodist great grandparents came from Cornwall to Van Diemen's Land in the 1840's.

KENT PARISH REGISTERS–VOL. 15

This CD-ROM (no.29), published by the Kent Family History Society, is the latest in the series featuring information from the very early parish registers.

It contains Christenings, Marriages, Burials and Banns but not necessarily all for each of the following parishes:

Bilsington: C 1562–1812; M 1570–1837; B 1562–1812; Banns 1754–1823.

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Shepherdswell: C 1813–1906; M 1837–1910; B 1813–1946.

St Lawrence, Thanet: C 1559–1938; M 1559–1906; B 1559–1898; Banns 1754–1784.

St Peters, Thanet: C 1582–1902; M 1582–1905; B 1582–1909

Thurnham: C 1625–1840; M 1625–1836; B 1625–840.

Westwell: C 1558–1952; M 1558–1959; B 1558–1955; Banns 1755–1823.



UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART

Vol V

Index to Hooper & Burgess Funeral Records

Part 1

September 1935 – December 1954



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

Further indexes will be published at a later date.

Available from Resource Manager

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- *Brown, Pat; *From Montagu Swamp To Togari "A Job Well Done"*
- *Brown, Pat & Williamson, Helene; *Womens' Stories Different Times – Different Lives – Different Experiences, A Circular Head Oral History Project*
- *McCarthy, Tony & Cadogan, Tim; *Tracing your Cork Ancestors*
- Pederson, Tana L; *Beyond the Basics, A guide for Advanced Users of FTM 2011*
- Pederson, Tana L; *The Companion Guide to FTM 2011*
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