

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 35 Number 2—September 2014

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Libby Gillham	Julie Kapeller	Sue-Ellen McCregan
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# Tasmanian Ancestry

Volume 35 Number 2

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

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## From the editor

The end of another year rapidly drawing near! It has been a hectic one so far so I am hoping the saying 'bad beginning happy ending' will transpire.

I do know of one good thing happening very soon—the society is delivering a new computer which will be much faster than this apparently tired and exhausted machine.

Another piece of good news is Elizabeth Parkes is to be congratulated on winning the prestigious Alexander Henderson Award for her book *Thomas Diprose and Elizabeth Children Diprose of Kent and Van Diemen's Land. Strangers. Volume 1 and Volume 2* written with Jean Doggett. This has been awarded annually since 1974 by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies for the best Australian Family History. Details should be in the September AIGS Magazine, *The Genealogist*.

September is the beginning of Spring so the weather should have improved by the time you receive this journal. Again it contains a variety of articles and topics which will provide an interesting read. Many read it from cover to cover as soon as it arrives while others happily browse.

Please note: Vernice Dudman is also a member of Burnie Branch Committee—contact (03) 6431 1378. Unfortunately her name was omitted off the list in the June Supplement in *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018  
email [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto: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:** 'Bacon Curer', see *Do You Recognise these Photos?* from Kathy Duncombe, page 76. (On reverse – American Company – Australian Photographic Melbourne Office 73, Little Collins St. No. 1223 – Duplicat copies of this 'carte' can be had PRICE ONE SHILLING EACH)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013/2014

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

Membership, as at 31 March 2014 was down 0.8% on the previous year; a total of 1194 financial members were recorded. Whilst most branches have had a slight decrease in numbers, membership from interstate and Hobart areas were found to have increased.

Attendances at our libraries, by both visitors and members were reported by most branches to be down, compared to the previous year. However Burnie and Hobart Branches experienced increased participation from researchers using their services. Hobart enjoyed a 32% increase from members and a 48% from visitors.

The increase may be possibly attributed to the various efforts of members to promote the Society. Colleen Read continues writing articles for the seniors' magazine *Prime Times* and Hobart Branch has again conducted segmented advertising at a local picture theatre.

Income from sale of Society Publications has been negligible during the 2013/2014 year. However, if the Society and the branches had been able to fill the numerous requests for copies of the *Tasmanian Federation Index* CD, the sales income would have been quite healthy.

During the year, the branches continued producing and publishing indexes and other reference material for the benefit of all researchers and to raise funds. As reported in *Tasmanian Ancestry* at various times: Launceston Branch has continued producing more volumes in their *Tasmanian Mail* and *Weekly Courier* series; Mersey Branch has con-

tinued producing more volumes in their *Advocate Personal Announcements* series, and re-published many of their *In Loving Memory* cemetery indexes in a new and updated format and Hobart Branch has published another volume in their *Undertakers of Hobart* series.

Branches continue to expend funds to upgrade their computers and/or reader/printer equipment in order to provide relevant access to the numerous records held in-house and on-line.

The Society's continued registration as a not-for-profit body with the Connecting Up organization, has enabled branches to purchase software, and occasionally hardware, at very generous prices from donor companies. Hobart Branch, in particular, has benefited from this affiliation. Hobart and Huon Branches were successful in obtaining grants for upgrading from the Tasmanian Community Fund (Round 28) and the Bendigo Bank; respectively.

Whilst the Society's income has been much less over the past year, the innovative work of our Treasurer has reduced our expenditure during the same period. He has turned a net loss of \$1,240 from last year into a net profit of \$6,995 for the 2013/2014 year.

Members have obviously been pleased with the increased ease and flexibility of payment methods for subscriptions now available.

The Society continues to maintain a presence and contributes to the efforts of a number of organizations during the year. We were represented on the board of the Australasian Federation of Family His-

tory Organisations; the Joint Tasmanian Archive Consultative Forum, and the Digital Information Group [Tasmanian organizations involved in the collection of historical data].

The life of our Society depends on the volunteers who give of their time in so many areas of our organization. So many of them continue in multiple roles and without them none of our services and achievements would exist. I thank them for their past efforts over the 2013/2014 membership year and their willingness to continue into the next period.

I urge other members to make themselves available to take on some of the tasks that are essential to the smooth operation of the Branches and the Society. Members should be aware that our constitution determines that Society Officers are elected ... *subject to a time limit of six (6) consecutive years in any one of the defined offices of the Executive.* Both the current President and Vice-President have held their positions for five years.

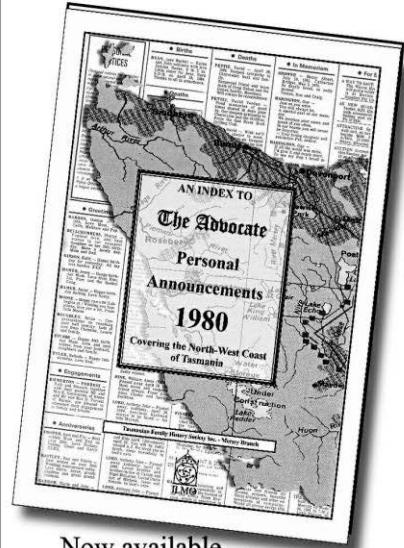
For many members, the major motivation to continue belonging to our Society is the enjoyment they get from reading our quarterly journal *Tasmanian Ancestry*. Our Editor, Rosemary Davidson continues to produce an excellent product that we all enjoy and I thank her for the dedicated work that she continues to provide.

Finally, I wish to formally acknowledge the retirement of Hobart's Sheila McAllister as Journal Distribution Coordinator. Sheila's efforts during the period that all distribution was consolidated to be dispatched from one location, followed by the introduction of the 'clear envelope' system were invaluable and greatly appreciated. ◀

**Maurice Appleyard**

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

An Index To  
**The Advocate**  
Personal Announcements



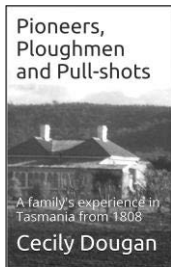
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1982	1992	2002
1983	1993	2003
1984	1994	2004
1985	1995	2005
1986	1996	2006
1987	1997	2007
1988	1998	2008
1989	1999	2009

\$20 per copy plus postage and handling

# LILIAN WATSON FAMILY HISTORY AWARD 2013

**Cecily Dougan, *Pioneers, Ploughman and Pull-shots: a family's experience in Tasmania from 1808*, North Hobart, 2012. 165 pp., notes, bibliography, index.**



Cecily DOUGAN had a variety of ancestors in Van Diemen's Land. She starts her family history with her great-great-great-great-grandparents James and Ann MORRISBY, Norfolk Islanders who arrived

in 1808 and were granted land at Clarence Plains. From then on Cecily documents her family history thoroughly, in particular writing about people who stand out, such as George Morrisby, the champion ploughman; Annie Morrisby, postmistress; and Margaret BOMFORD, midwife. This is an excellent way to approach writing family history, as it brings life and variety to the narrative. Cecily's research has clearly been extensive and accurate, and her story is enjoyable to read.

Cecily includes all sorts of interesting anecdotes about her family, with excellent illustrations. I particularly liked the Morrisby christening gown, beautifully sewn by Annie, and photographs of little girls in beautiful outfits for school carnivals. There are also interesting family recipes, and stories of making them.

The variety continues, with German and Scottish antecedents brought into the narrative, as well as an early air crash, and an Indian maharaja. Cecily's father Ron Morrisby was a champion cricketer, who

travelled to India in an Australian team at the invitation of the Maharaja of Patiala.

Cecily closes the book with an autobiography, and I must confess to an interest here. She is a friend of mine and we shared similar childhoods, so I found this engrossing. Her description of training as a nurse at St John's Hospital in the late 1960s reminds us how such institutions have changed, even in our own lifetimes.

This book is an example to us all. Write up your own family history! Cecily Dougan has produced an excellent book, interesting, well written, well illustrated and produced. Yet, and I am sure she will not mind me saying this, we all have interesting ancestors like this in our families, and many of us have similar life stories. From a typical Tasmanian background, Cecily has produced a book to treasure—and I am sure it will be treasured by generations of her family.

**Alison Alexander**

## **Other LWFHA 2013 entries were:**

*Wherever you may go*, by Susan Phillis, gifted to Launceston Branch

*The Watt family: from Bounty Immigrants to Mining Entrepreneurs*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Michael G Watt, gifted to Hobart Branch

*A History of the Quinns, Hanlons, Nimmos, McDevitts and Palmers in Tasmania* by Dorothy Jones and Wendy Friedrich, gifted to Hobart Branch

*A Convict and his Four Daughters* by Beverley Smith, gifted to Launceston Branch

*Andrew Ballantyne's journey and other family stories* by Avon Ballantyne, gifted to Burnie Branch.

**The 2013 LWFHA entries will be at:**

Launceston Branch June-August 2014  
Burnie Branch August meeting 2014  
Mersey Branch November meeting 2014  
Hobart Branch February meeting 2015  
Huon Branch May meeting 2015  
They will be distributed to the gifted branches at the May meeting 2015

**OTHER AWARDS AT AGM**

**The winner of the Best Journal Article Award** for Volume 34 was Don Bradmore author of, *Convict Edward Myers, Gifted with a Touch of Genius*, published in *Tasmanian Ancestry* in Vol. 34, No. 2, March 2014, pp. 221–30.

Brian Hortle, of Hobart Branch, was presented with a **Meritorious Service Award Certificate** by Patron, Dr Alison Alexander.

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

**2014  
Lilian Watson  
Family History Award**

for a **Book**

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

**Entries Close 1 December 2014**

Further information and entry forms available from  
TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries

**www.tasfhs.org**

or

The Secretary  
PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK  
TAS 7018

email: **secretary@tasfhs.org**

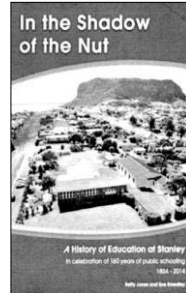
# In the Shadow of the Nut

*Second Expanded Edition*

## A History of Education at Stanley 1854 – 2014

Compiled by

Betty Jones and Sue Smedley



This A4, 300-page book, published to mark Stanley Primary School's centenary of education on its current site, describes Government schooling in the town from 1854 as well as providing a history

of the Van Diemen's Land Company's contributions from 1827.

Over 700 photographs and illustrations dating from 1858;

Names and dates for most students enrolled from the 1850s to 2014;

Biographies of early distinguished pupils, including Joseph Lyons, a former Prime Minister;

Lists with dates of all teachers, 1827–2014;

Individual notes on most teachers from 1854–1960;

General history about Tasmanian school conditions, procedures and curriculum.

Available from:

Betty Jones, PO Box 820 Burnie, TAS 7320

email: **colinandbetty@keypoint.com.au**

Phone: (03) 6433 0460

or

Sue Smedley, PO Box 17 Stanley, TAS 7331

email: **smedleyjas2@gmail.com**

Phone: 0428 581285 or (03) 6458 1285

Cost: \$35 per copy if collected in Burnie or Stanley; add \$14 for postage and packaging elsewhere in Australia



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

I have audited the accompanying accounts for Tasmanian Family History Society Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2014 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Included in income were amounts received from collections, sales, and general income. Examination of these income items was limited to a review of cash transactions and amounts received as recorded by the books and receipting records of the Society.

Subject to the effect of the above statement on the accompanying accounts I am of the opinion that:

- a) The Society has kept proper accounting records and other books during the period covered by the accounts.
- b) The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up and in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (1964) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of the results for the period ended on that date according to the information given to me, the books of the Society and the explanations given.
- c) The accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Society's financial position according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me.
- d) The rules relating to the administration of the Society's funds have been observed.
- e) I have obtained all the information required.

Devonport

12 June 2014



**NEIL WILKINSON**  
Registered Company Auditor

**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

**General Account**

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the Year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

2012/13		2013/14
<b>\$11,075.58</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 1 April 2013</b>	<b>\$11,956.59</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
11549.00	Membership Subscriptions IS/OS	13988.89
11226.00	Membership Subscriptions -Branch	13709.00
660.00	Donations	516.00
1706.01	Society Sales - TFI CD Rom	745.60
354.80	- Publications	170.40
425.00	- TAMIOT CD	510.00
23.85	- P&P Received on sales	18.35
66.29	Bank Interest	38.64
134.23	Insurance Reimbursement from Branches	95.00
720.00	AGM Registrations	160.00
294.00	Journal Receipts - Advertising and Sales	175.00
1720.00	- Subscriptions	1600.00
2512.00	Funds Collected for Branches - Membership	4176.00
170.00	- Donations	204.00
211.75	-TFI Royalty	0.00
45.74	- Sales	519.45
2120.51	Funds ex TPT transferred	0.00
<b>\$33,939.18</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$36,626.33</b>
<b>\$45,014.76</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$48,582.92</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
4200.96	Insurance	4560.46
0.00	Sales - TFI CD Rom	0.00
0.00	- Publications	0.00
0.00	- TAMIOT	0.00
750.12	Bank Charges	367.00
16897.60	Journal Payments	16424.15
1124.04	Administration Payments	
0.00	AGM Expenses	635.00
156.00	Advertising	0.00
2974.80	Audit Fees/ Corporate Affaris	189.60
200.00	Executive Travel	1361.20
219.32	Lillian Watson and other awards	200.00
315.00	Membership Expenses	0.00
472.56	Repairs and Maintenance	0.00
415.86	Postage, PO Box, Internet	1054.24
450.00	Printing and Stationery	905.54
228.47	Room Hire/Meeting Expense	287.40
3109.00	Subscriptions AFFHO and FFHS	150.00
1148.00	Branch Payments - Membership	2896.00
211.75	- Donations	134.00
45.74	- Royalty	0.00
138.95	- Sales	466.05
<b>\$33,058.17</b>	Capital Items	0.00
	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>\$29,630.64</b>
<b>\$11,956.59</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 31 March 2014</b>	<b>\$18,952.28</b>
<b>-\$1,239.50</b>	<b>Trading Surplus</b>	<b>\$6,995.69</b>

## Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

### Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Burnie	Hobart	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	Consolidated Totals
Opening Balance	5,747	2,895	2,521	3,459	5,167	11,957	31,746
<b>Add Receipts</b>							
Membership Subscriptions	3,642	15,849	724	5,013	4,008	32,597	45,624
Donations	269	1,030	76	250	623	516	2,630
Fund Raising	1,703	0	140	215	1,725	0	3,783
Research	120	1,225	50	2,556	143	0	4,094
Sales	2,815	4,819	55	3,909	8,379	1,444	19,482
Interest	16	14	12	13	7	39	100
Library Revenue	1,137	1,713	17	465	918	0	4,249
Sundries	0	3,691	3,000	3,140	0	255	9,355
Journal ( <i>Tas Ancestry</i> )						1,775	1,775
<b>Total receipts</b>	9,703	28,341	4,073	15,559	15,803	36,626	91,092
Transfers from term loan a/c	0	0	0	9,317	0	0	9,317
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>15,450</b>	<b>31,235</b>	<b>6,595</b>	<b>28,334</b>	<b>20,970</b>	<b>48,583</b>	<b>132,155</b>
<b>Less Payments</b>							
Membership Subscriptions	1,274	7,109	337	2,619	1,508	0	0
Insurance	0	95	0	0	0	4,560	4,560
Fund Raising	8	0	0	0	398	0	406
Research	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
Items for re-sale	2,702	3,734	0	1,986	4,611	0	11,093
Bank Fees	0	40	0	0	0	367	407
Library Payments	5,298	7,622	3,077	6,709	3,509	0	26,215
Sundries	0	903	0	3,015	0	969	4,117
Journal ( <i>Tas Ancestry</i> )						16,424	16,424
Assets/Capital	911	3,967	0	3,137	4,840	0	12,855
Administration Payments	271	3,187	167	826	1,952	7,310	10,351
<b>Total Payments</b>	10,464	26,657	3,581	18,392	16,818	29,631	86,529
Transfers to term loan a/c	0	0	0	7,000	0	0	7,000
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$4,986</b>	<b>\$4,579</b>	<b>\$3,014</b>	<b>\$2,943</b>	<b>\$4,153</b>	<b>\$18,952</b>	<b>\$38,626</b>
<b>Term Loans, Float etc</b>	<b>\$12,120 *</b>	<b>\$16,192</b>	<b>\$2,364</b>	<b>\$8,098</b>	<b>\$16,391</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$55,164</b>
<b>Total Cash Reserves</b>	<b>\$17,106</b>	<b>\$20,770</b>	<b>\$5,378</b>	<b>\$11,041</b>	<b>\$20,543</b>	<b>\$18,952</b>	<b>\$93,790</b>
<b>Value of Assets</b>	<b>\$85,500</b>	<b>\$161,428</b>	<b>\$34,213</b>	<b>\$63,800</b>	<b>\$83,712</b>	<b>\$8,494</b>	<b>\$437,146</b>

\* Includes special purpose grant from Burnie City Council

# 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**



Our Saturday morning workshops continue, our last one at the time of writing was an informative session on using *MS Word*. Our

next workshop will be on producing reports, charts and books from *Family Tree Maker*. This will be in mid-July so will have been completed by the time you read this report. In June Peter and Judy Cocker presented a session for the Burnie School for Seniors on *How to get started on Your Family Tree*. There were several interested people in the group and it is hoped that we get some new members.

Unfortunately one of our new Committee members was missed off the list in the last *Tasmanian Ancestry*. The committee would like to welcome long term member Vernice Dudman back to our Committee. We also have pleasure in advising members that we have renewed our subscription to *The Genealogist*. This is available free to members and there is some different material that is available that you may not find on other sites. Also as material has been indexed separately to other sites and a different search engine is used, sometimes you can find that missing person that will not show up on other sites.

A reminder that our *Weekender* and *Advocate* indexes are available for

searching at our library, for *Advocate* entries post 1950 we have just passed the 10,000 entries mark. Not only are BMDs indexed but also photos, sporting events and news items, these are all searchable on computer, ask our librarian for access. There is also an expanding collection of Obituaries, these are in folders with an index and have been taken from local newspapers.

Peter Cocker Branch President

## Hobart

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

**President: Beverley Richardson**

**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**



On Saturday mornings between mid-June and mid-October the Hobart Branch is conducting a series of 90-minute workshops on a range of family history related topics. All sessions are being offered for \$5 (\$10 non members) per session with proceeds being diverted to our Library Fund to update printing equipment. The topics for the sessions conducted by Brenda Richardson, Louise Rainbow, Rebecca Read, Michael Stevenson and Joyce Purtscher range widely and include use of on-line resources; how to access BDM records from different countries; using *Trove*; accessing wills in Tasmania and the UK; and Tasmanian welfare agency records. The Branch is also offering a 'one on one' service to those historians who have hit 'brickwalls' in their research.

The sessions have limits on the number of participants so it is necessary to book. Registration forms are available on-line, at meetings and in the Branch Library.

### General Meetings

The Hobart Branch of the Society has continued its regular general meetings featuring invited speakers on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 'The Sunday School' in the St Johns Park Precinct in New Town on the third Tuesday of the month.

The speaker at April meeting, also the AGM of the Branch, was Brendan Lenard, Hobart City Council Senior Cultural Heritage Officer, who presented a Power-Point illustrated talk, *History begins at home*. In this presentation Brendan used three Hobart properties to illustrate the importance of connecting people with places.

The Victorian sandstone St Peters Anglican Church (designed by Henry Hunter in the 1860s, added to the Tasmanian Heritage Register on 9 December 1998) located at the corner of Lord and Grosvenor Streets in Sandy Bay, was formerly located at the site of the Hobart Marine Board Building ... hence a Victorian sandstone church in a 1920s suburb. Between 1907 and 1916 the Sandy Bay site was the location of the Hobart Golf Club and a young member, Clyde Pearce became the first Australian-born winner of the Australian Open. In the years 1915–17 the land was subdivided by Co-op Estates Ltd for housing. The subdivision was a popular release of land and 275 houses were built within a period of five years. Ninety-nine percent of the houses erected before 1944 still exist. Pearce was killed in action at the Battle of Messines in 1917 and the church became a memorial to him with funds provided by his parents.

The area in West Hobart around Lansdowne Crescent and Petty Street (named after Henry Petty Fitzmaurice Lansdowne) was formerly known as Crescent Fields and was subdivided around 1853. The house at 5 Petty Street was built for Thomas Arthur Stump by George Batt at a cost of £1300. After 1919 there was a requirement that plans be submitted and held. The architects were Butler and Rodway, better known for their design of the Tepid Baths, and Butler for the City Hall. (Approval of the house plans occurred in five days!) The talk illustrated use of *TROVE* as a research method, searching old newspapers.

Five neighbouring houses in the wedge-shaped subdivision bounded by New Town Road (177, 179) and Pirie Street (60, 62, 64) New Town were built over a period of time for German immigrant, Mrs Louisa Albat after she sold *Fairy Glen* at Bismark (now Collinsvale). Her daughter's estate was left to the Hobart City Mission and resulted in one house being converted into low cost flats.

In conclusion, Brendan listed some of his many sources of information ... published stories, local histories, articles in THRA and other historical society journals, architectural studies, conservation plans, PO directories, LINC, government gazettes, assessment and valuation rolls (going back to 1847) giving information about owner/occupiers and value and so on. This was an outstanding and engaging presentation for the thirty members and visitors.

The May meeting guest speaker was Eleanor (Den) Robin who spoke on the topic *Family myths, historical fact and tantalising mysteries* in relation to John Watson, ship builder of Hobart and Port Arthur. She became interested in

researching Watson when she realised information in the public domain about Watson was inaccurate or inadequate. The Watson family has had a long history and association with sailing and the sea. There are many family stories and myths—shipbuilding in Southampton; one of Drake's ships was Watson-built and fought the Spanish Armada; a Watson saved General Wolfe in part of the conflict with the French in Canada—but verifying many claims is still 'work in progress'.

What is true is—John Watson was a naval architect and master shipwright, building at least twenty-eight large wooden vessels (including *Eliza*, *Emily*, *Flying Childers*, *Middleton*, and several whaling boats) and refitting and maintaining many others. Part of his legacy was in training native youth and young convicts in shipbuilding; in the promotion of Blue Gum timber; in timber buildings in Hobart and Middleton; and the construction of the Cape Wickham Lighthouse on King Island.

He was born 1 November 1801 at Beverley, Yorkshire and learned his trade from his father. John left England in 1832 on the *Norval* and had free passage for himself and wife by working as the ship's carpenter. Sometime after his arrival in Hobart he was asked to establish a government dockyard at Port Arthur. The workforce consisted of convicts and Point Puer boys. Watson left Port Arthur in 1886 when one of his daughters was molested by an apprentice.

Back in Hobart Watson set up his own business and continued to work with timber in building boats in Battery Point and Long Bay on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel as well as employees' cottages.

John Watson's enterprises suffered severely in the Depression of the 1840s

and in 1855 put his Long Bay property up for auction and in 1856 his Battery Point properties up for sale. At the age of 55 Watson was under pressure as the breadwinner of his large extended family. However he accepted government appointments to build the New Wharf for the Marine Board of Hobart and later the supervised the construction of the 48 metre Cape Wickham Lighthouse.

John Watson died suddenly on a family outing at Brown's River (Kingston) on 16 March 1887. Both the *Mercury* and the *Examiner* newspapers carried long obituaries.

Twenty-four members and guests attended this meeting.

The guest speaker at the June meeting was Alexander Barr from LINC Tasmania presenting 'Navigating the LINC Tasmania website: A family history perspective.'

Using a 'live' connection to the LINC website, Alexander showed the twenty members and guests the new-look website for Family History Resources accessed through <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au>

As can be imagined, the talk included details of the materials accessible through the website, search and navigation tips and links to other resources and collections and research hints for beginner family researchers (and reminders for experienced ones too). The website developers have endeavoured to make the website more user-friendly and intuitive to use.

Among other resources and links, the online resources provide information, links and hints about Aboriginal ancestry; arrivals and departures; births, deaths and marriages; convict life; education; work; home; life as a child in care; court records; prison records; Royal Derwent

Hospital patient records; military records. New search facilities have been incorporated to allow users to access resources, data and indexes relating to arrivals; censuses; the Colonial Tasmanian Family Links database; convict applications for permission to marry; Tasmanian convicts; departures; divorces; inquests; naturalisations and wills.

If you have not visited the LINC website for some time, now is a good time to become re-acquainted with the resources held by our State Library.

### Speakers for 2014

To date the following speakers have been arranged for the General Meetings in 2014:

19 August: Brian Rieusset 'A Story for the Record Books'

A missing prisoner record book dating back to 1892, sat on top of a wardrobe for decades, was then kept as a family heirloom, before being handed in and donated as public possession to the State Archives. Brian Rieusset will detail the book's journey and present examples of the 525 prisoners, including some ex convicts, who are contained in the book and did time in Campbell Street Gaol

16 September: Maree Ring 'My Grandfather's Diary'

The story behind the diary of a teacher, a New Zealand enlistee in WW1 and a casualty of the War.

21 October: Sally Rackham 'Photographic History of the Queen's Domain ... An App tour'

Sally has been involved with TMAG in the development of a phone/tablet app enabling users to take themselves on an interactive guided tour of Hobart's Queen's Domain.

18 November: Andrea Gerrard 'Lost on the Somme, 1916'

While Australia lost over 8,000 men at Gallipoli, our greatest losses would occur on the Western Front beginning with the Fromelles and followed shortly after by the battle at Pozieres and then at Mouquet Farm just a short distance away. Tasmania's 12th Battalion were in action at both Pozieres and Mouquet Farm and suffered heavy casualties. This is a biographical project looking at the lives of some of these men and the contribution they had made to Tasmania and the lost potential that occurred with their deaths on the field of battle.

If you have the opportunity to attend our general meetings ... do so! The talks are well prepared and delivered by our speakers and the Branch has updated its sound system, making the presentations much easier to hear. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Howard Reeves Branch Secretary

## Launceston

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

**President Russell Watson (03) 6334 4412**

**Secretary Muriel Bissett (03) 6344 4034**

**PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250**

**secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com**



**Workshop:** the next branch workshop will be held on Wednesday 17 September, 2:00 pm at Adult Education rooms, 51 York Street. The subject—'Military

Research'. A booking is essential.

**Family History Month:** During the months of August and September, come in to The Stables and view the fine display of military memorabilia and browse the CDs and books which will help with your military research.

**Seniors' Week:** Launceston Branch will host an 'Open Day' on Thursday 16 October, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Theme: 'Researching Your Family History'. A booking is essential for a 1-hour appointment.

**Holidays:** Break-up, Tuesday 9 December 3:00 pm.

**Library:** Tuesday, 10:00 am-3:00 pm—phone (03) 6344 4034. Other days (except Saturday & Sunday), by appointment only.

**Check the website** for more detail on the Branch Dinner, workshops and for a list of publications now available from Launceston Branch.

## Mersey

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

**President Ros Coss**

**Secretary Sue-Ellen McCreghan**  
(03) 6428 6328

**Library (03) 6426 2257**

**PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307**

**email: [secretary@tfhsdev.com](mailto:secretary@tfhsdev.com)**



Our Library has continued to be a hub of activity with a number of new projects already on track, but we still need additional volun-

teers to assist in a variety of tasks.

If any of our Members have even a few hours of spare time, now and again, your assistance would be most welcome.

The 'Loving Memory Series' has been enhanced with the completion and publishing of Book 1 of the Ulverstone General Cemetery. The Central Coast Council have been generous in their support enabling us to complete the indexing and inscriptions relating to burials in both Ulverstone General

Cemetery and all of the other Cemeteries within the District.

The next project in this series is to photograph all of the plaques found in the Central Coast Lawn Cemetery. Provided that the weather is kind to us, a Group of Volunteers will assemble on the 26 June, to begin the task of photographing the 3,500 plaques to be found in the area.

The indexing of Births, Deaths and Marriages as found in the classified section of *The Advocate* has continued and a further milestone has been reached with books relating to 1980 and 2009 published.

We have co-operated with the Group from Port Sorell, who are promoting the establishment of the 'University of the Third Age' within the area. The new organisation began its activities last April, and has now released additional activities bringing the number of courses to twenty-four. They cover a diverse range of activities and interests ranging from local history, medications, creative arts, languages, and technology, cooking, games, relaxation and social occasions.

During the past month we have conducted courses for persons wishing to learn how to produce their own Family Trees. Mersey Branch has made a commitment to conduct additional courses at a later date.

Mersey Branch is working with the Melrose Progress Association to capture the history, stories and events of Melrose and surrounding area and to record them for preservation for future generations. Representatives of the Progress Association are conducting interviews with senior citizens and are recording their stories, and experiences of living in the rural area between the years of 1840 to 1990.

Preservation will probably include a book, signage, a history trail and a website.



Another Group of volunteers are compiling the names, photographs and all relative information pertaining to WW1 veterans that have had an association with the Latrobe area. Many were featured in our Anzac Day promotion which included displays at Well's IGA store, the Latrobe Council Office and our History Centre.

Keep watching our website for upcoming activities or call in at the Library.

## 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

## VALE

**Pam Bartlett**

**(Member Number 993)**

Pam joined the TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch on the 1 February 1985. In 2009 Pam was nominated for Branch Vice President and in 2010 became President of the Branch. At a State level she became Vice President in 2011 until her passing. Pam was an enthusiastic member and was on the committee to organize the AGM at the Axeman's Hall of Fame in 2010. Pam had a busy life and worked with the Orchid Society and National Trust to name a few.

Always Remembered.

Index to

## The Examiner

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

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(released June 2014)

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# DO YOU RECOGNISE THESE PHOTOS?

Kathy Duncombe (Member No.2012)



J. Rankin, *The Best Four In Hand.*

**T**HANKS to the article in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 34 No 2 re the mystery photos in my beautiful family album I have managed to place a couple more photos, (Strouds) and am gradually scanning all the photos in the album (62) in the hope that some people who contacted me maybe recognise a couple more.

Also see photograph on the front cover—*Bacon Curer.*

They may be family friends of SLATERS, GRIGGS, OXBROWS or STROUDS. I would love to hear from anyone who may have ideas or suggestions as to how I can further my quest.

Thank you for your ongoing support  
[kdunc@netspace.net.au](mailto:kdunc@netspace.net.au) or (03) 6260 6287



Un-named

# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## MARGARET CONNELL & ST COLUMBA FALLS

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

WHEN Cork widow Mary CONNELL was transported to Van Diemen's Land on the *Tasmania* (2) in 1845, she brought three children with her.<sup>1</sup> Margaret aged 11, Patrick aged 7 and James aged 3, were all admitted to the Queen's Orphan Schools on 9 December 1845, shortly after arriving in the colony.<sup>2</sup> Several other children from the ship were admitted at the same time.<sup>3</sup>

In March 1849, Margaret was discharged from the Orphan School to H HUIISH, Hobart. Her mother married in July that year but Mary's sons were not discharged to her until April 1851.<sup>4</sup> Shortly afterwards, in July 1851, Mary's colonially-born son, William Connell, aged four, was admitted to the Orphan School.<sup>5</sup> He was discharged in April 1858, to his mother, 'now free'.<sup>6</sup> Tracing Patrick, James and William has proved difficult from the time they were discharged from the Orphan School; in contrast their sister is well-documented.

Margaret Connell, a minor, married farmer George COTTON, 'of full age', on 9 July 1851 at the Hobart Town residence of Independent minister, Rev.

Frederick MILLER.<sup>7</sup> Witnesses were John MATTHEW, Isabella Matthew and J B Cotton.

George Cotton (1829–1916) was the son of Quakers Francis and Anna Maria (née TILNEY), who arrived in Hobart Town on the *Mary* in 1828 and settled at Kelvedon on the East Coast.<sup>8</sup> Gwen WEBB, in her history *Pyengana: The New Country*, erroneously stated that Margaret Connell, an Irish nursemaid, arrived with the Cotton family in 1828.<sup>9</sup> Another version of Margaret Connell's story appeared in 1986 in Frances Cotton's history of the Cotton family, *Kettle on the hob: a family in Van Diemen's Land*.<sup>10</sup> Frances Cotton wrote:

When George was 22 years of age, he travelled to Hobart Town to stay with his sister Maria in Liverpool Street. Maria's children had a nursemaid named Margaret Connell, the daughter of a woman convict. Here was a situation ready to take fire and soon George was in what his father termed "a pitiable state". George insisted on getting married at once and

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<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON 41/1/8 No.767 Mary Connell [Image 19]; TAHO, CON15/1/3 pp.224–25 Mary Connell [Image 230–231]

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, SWD 28/1/1 pp.20, 26.

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, SWD 28/1/1 pp.20, 26.

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/8 1849/390 Hobart: Mary Connell & Michael Cooke; TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.20

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, SWD6/1/1 p.4: William Connell

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.33: William Connell

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<sup>7</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/602 1851 Hobart: Margaret Connell and George Cotton

<sup>8</sup> *The Mercury* 23 April 1883 p.3 (obituary, Francis Cotton). See also Michael Bennett, *Quaker Life in Tasmania. The First Hundred Years* (Hobart, Tas.: University of Tasmania Library, 2007) p.30

<sup>9</sup> Gwen Webb, *Pyengana: a new country* (Hobart: Mercury-Walsh, [1975]) p.4.

<sup>10</sup> Frances Cotton, *Kettle on the hob: a family in Van Diemen's Land, 1828–1885*, [Orford., Tas.: Joan Roberts, 1986]

the ceremony took place at the Registry Office in Hobart on 7 July 1851.<sup>11</sup>

As already noted, Margaret and George married at the residence of Independent Minister Rev. Miller; no record of a Registry Office marriage has been located. Webb suggests that George Cotton married 'the Irish nursemaid' in the Quaker Meeting House in Hobart.<sup>12</sup>

Cotton continues:

Margaret claimed to be the daughter of a French Lady, but Father's enquiries at the Orphan School proved this to be incorrect. She had arrived with her mother on a convict ship. "We are filled with distress and apprehension", writes George's mother, but she is kind enough to ask her daughter Maria to see that Margaret has a suitable dress to be married in.<sup>13</sup>

According to Cotton, George and Margaret were allocated 'some acres' of land and a cottage three miles from Kelvedon: 'After the birth of the first infant, Margaret decided to go to Hobart with her husband, leaving the child in the care of the policeman's wife at Rocky Hill'. It seemed that in the eyes of her in-laws Margaret could do nothing right!<sup>14</sup>

George's father Francis believed his son (or perhaps more accurately Margaret) to be profligate: 'Any money George earns is soon spent'. George's mother be-moaned the marriage. George left the colony for the goldrushes in February 1852 with his brothers Henry, Thomas and Tilney but had little to show for it on his return.<sup>15</sup>

George also seems to have been litigious. In 1864, George was appointed Superintendent of Police for the Glamorgan municipality.<sup>16</sup> In 1867, when George was still Superintendent of Police, other members of his family were involved in a dispute over theft of a boat. There appears to have been ongoing bickering between the Cottons and their neighbours and, in court, allegations were made about George's behaviour.<sup>17</sup>

In June 1870, the Warden of Glamorgan, John MEREDITH, advertised for a new Superintendent of Police, to fill a vacancy created by George Cotton's resignation.<sup>18</sup> In September 1870, 'in a case of great public interest', George appeared in the Police Court at Swansea, charged by John Meredith, of *Cambria*, with trespass.<sup>19</sup> The case was dismissed but Meredith warned George against doing it again. The following month, politician Charles Meredith presented a petition in the House of Assembly from George Cotton, 'late Superintendent of Police in the Municipality of Glamorgan'. George wanted 'a searching inquiry' into the circumstances of his dismissal as Superintendent of Police which he attributed to the action of the Warden.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75

<sup>12</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.4

<sup>13</sup> Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75

<sup>14</sup> Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.564 *Tamar; The Mercury* 26 July 1864 p.1 (advertisement for position); Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75

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<sup>16</sup> *The Mercury* 26 July 1864 p.1 (advertisement for position)

<sup>17</sup> *The Mercury* 19 November 1867 p.2

<sup>18</sup> *The Mercury* 15 June 1870 p.1. The salary was £182 per annum including a uniform.

<sup>19</sup> *The Mercury* 14 September 1870 p.3

<sup>20</sup> *The Mercury* 19 October 1870 p.2. For Charles Meredith, see Sally O'Neill, 'Meredith, Charles (1811–1880)' Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/meredith-charles-4187/text6731>, published in hardcopy 1974, accessed online 12 July 2014

For a time, Margaret and George lived at Mathinna, where their youngest son Clement O'CONNELL was born in 1873.<sup>21</sup> Later, with their growing family, they moved further north, settling on the South George River on a rich and fertile piece of land which Margaret named St Columba.<sup>22</sup> Margaret's two sons, Gus and Charles, discovered the St Columba Falls, which, according to Webb, were named by Margaret.<sup>23</sup>



St Columba Falls, W. Pyengana, Portland  
Photograph J W Beattie W L Crowther  
Collection

Note standing figure at the bottom of image  
Margaret (Connell) and George Cotton  
had a large family:

- <sup>21</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5; TAHO, RGD33/1/51 1873/408 Fingal: Clement O'Connell Cotton
- <sup>22</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5. St. Columba was an Irish saint, also known as Colm, Colum and Columcille
- <sup>23</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5. cf Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75, who credits George Cotton with the discovery of the Falls

Augustine 'Gus' Cotton	b.1854
George Fordyce Story Cotton <sup>24</sup>	b.1856
Emily Eliza Cotton	b.1857
Fanny Clara Frances Cotton	b.1860
Charles Edward Cotton	b.1861
Margaret Mary Cotton	b.1865
Agnes Pius Cotton	b.1868
Unnamed female Cotton	b. & d. 1870
Clement O'Connell Cotton	b.1873

Margaret's children were educated at Catholic Colleges in Hobart and Melbourne. A daughter, Pearlle, conducted the first private school in Pyengana. Charlie and Gus were noted runners.<sup>25</sup>

In 1895, daughter Margaret Mary, Charles and Augustine appeared in St Helen's court for obstructing a bailiff:

At St. Helen's Court on Monday, before Mr. H. Dawson, S. M., and Mr. W. S. Allanby, J.P., Margaret M. Cotton, Charles Cotton and Augustine Cotton were proceeded against by Mr. Sub-Inspector Hall for obstructing and resisting S. Moore, an assistant bailiff, while in the lawful execution of his duty. After a mass of evidence had been taken, the Bench found that the bailiff's evidence had not been shaken in any way, and find the accused M. Cotton £3, C. Cotton £3, and A. Cotton £2, with £1 1s 6d. costs.<sup>26</sup>

- <sup>24</sup> Named for Dr. George Fordyce Storey who arrived with the original Cotton family and settled at Kelvedon: see Mary Bartram Trott, 'Story, George Fordyce (1800-1885)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/story-george-fordyce-2706/text3799>, published in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 12 July 2014
- <sup>25</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5
- <sup>26</sup> *The Mercury* 27 April 1895 p.2 see also *the Mercury* 27 July 1895 p.2 S: Grant v.Cotton; Johnston v.Cotton

One daughter eloped with a man who worked for the Cottons. The couple arranged for the priest at St Helen's to marry them and some family members and locals combined to distract Margaret and George. Webb's romanticised account reads:

A capable horse-woman, Mrs Cotton was soon in hot pursuit, along narrow tracks, over logs and through the bogs she rode, as fast as she dared, only to arrive at the church at midnight as the couple emerged, man and wife; she never forgave them.<sup>27</sup>

Margaret was probably never reconciled with George's family: Frances Cotton concluded her account with the comment: 'Old people about the district say they still remember seeing a wild-looking old lady driving a horse and cart at breakneck speed'.<sup>28</sup> Gwen Webb's account was more generous:

Mrs. Cotton was a hardworking woman, but she had a most generous heart. Many a mouth would have been empty but for her in those early days of struggle and hardship. She had wonderful ideas for making money – and spending it. The fine river flats were cleared and cultivated with a single furrow plough which the boys carried over the hills from Mathinna on their backs. These paddocks were set out with fruit trees, mainly apples and to this woman must go the

honour of being the first woman to export apples from Tasmania. The reason was circumstantial as the only outlet for her crop was by ship from St. Helens. The boat brought supplies direct from Melbourne and the apples, together with tin from surrounding districts made up the return freight.<sup>29</sup>

Gwen Webb remembered finding the same varieties of apples which she had picked in Cotton's orchard growing wild in former miners' camps in Victoria.<sup>30</sup>

Margaret's husband, George, died in 1916.



Emily Eliza Cotton  
Photo courtesy of Clare Hopkins

Mr. George Cotton, an old resident of the North-East Coast, died at the residence of his daughter (Mrs. M. Grace) at Derby on Monday. Deceased was born at Swansea 87 years ago, and has been a resident of that part ever since. He was at one time superintendent of police, and harbour-master for a number of years. His wife died a few months ago. There are four daughters and four sons left to mourn their loss. One son, Mr. George Cotton, and a daughter, Mrs. M. Grace, are resident at Derby, and Mr. Gus Cotton at Ringarooma.<sup>31</sup>

No death for Margaret has been located.

Margaret and George's last surviving child, Margaret Mary SINGLINE, died in 1953 at Ringarooma.<sup>32</sup> ◀

<sup>27</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.6

<sup>28</sup> Cotton, *Kettle on the hob* p.75

<sup>29</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5

<sup>30</sup> Webb, *Pyengana*, p.5. One variety was 'Ladies Fingers'.

<sup>31</sup> *Examiner* (Launceston) 15 November 1916 p.3

<sup>32</sup> *North-Eastern Advertiser* 4 December 1953 p.5

# BUILT OF BLUESTONE IN 1866

## STANLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)

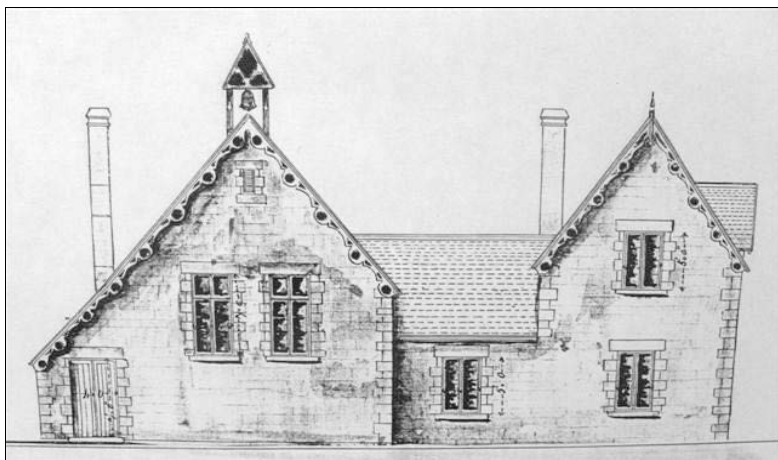


Photo Source: Courtesy of Stanley Primary School

A distinguishing feature of the Board of Education's first purpose-built school and teachers' residence at Stanley, Circular Head in the 1860s was that it was constructed of bluestone. The material was ordered by the successful local building contractor, John ALFORD, and it arrived at Stanley wharf from Victoria in 1866 as ship's ballast in two separate loads on the schooners, *Elizabeth* and *Waterlily*.<sup>1</sup>

It was, indeed, unusual at that time for some sixty scholars in an isolated area of the colony to be provided with a new school built from such material at the comparatively high total cost of £900. This was during the era when most Government schools were conducted in rented, make-shift premises such as

churches or rooms in local, often dilapidated, cottages. So, why was such a seemingly grand structure, designed by Government architect, Henry HUNTER, erected at Stanley? Some brief background information on the development of the town and its occupants, along with a few facts about the operations of the Board of Education in the mid-nineteenth century may help with an answer.

Sitting snugly beneath the unusual geological feature long known as 'The Nut', Stanley was first settled in 1826 as a centre for the agricultural business activities of the English-based Van Diemen's Land Company. It was not until 1854 that the Board of Education finally provided teachers for the school which was established in early 1842 by the Company for children of its

<sup>1</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 21 and 28 February 1866

employees and conducted at five different sites over its time.<sup>2</sup> By late 1863, the latest school room in a wooden cottage in Fletcher Street (site six) rented by the Board had become unsuitable for the purpose: the roof was too low and the size too small for the comfort and health of the sixty children on the rolls. The town's inhabitants pressed for the construction of a more fitting, purpose-built replacement which would reflect the growing status of the town. A local committee, consisting of the Reverend Father M BURKE, Reverend H E DREW, and Messrs H T A MURRAY, F W FORD and F HOLMES, with the addition of Inspector of Schools, Mr Thomas STEPHENS, was formed to make arrangements for securing a grant of land promised by the Van Diemen's Land Company, and to collect the funds necessary for the erection of a school as soon as possible.<sup>3</sup>

It is worth noting, at this point, some of the Rules and Regulations of the Board concerning Buildings (drawn up in 1854 and not revised until 1868) included clauses stating that:

When new school buildings were erected using grants from the Board of Education, members of local communities had first to subscribe at least one-third of the intended cost;

Applicants for grants for new school structures had to submit their plan and building specifications for approval of the Board before construction commenced. [It was not until the 1880s that the Board provided its own generic plans for new small school buildings in country areas];

Eight superficial feet of building space was to be allowed to each child, with a height of at least 10 feet to the wall-plate; Certification of proper completion had to be forwarded to the Board and approval of the work given by the Inspector of Schools before payment of the whole sum granted could be made.<sup>4</sup>

One of the school building committee members, Mr F W Ford, established considerable personal influence over the final quality of the new school house when he donated £100 to the community's subscription fund, pending a further contribution of £200 by Stanley inhabitants. That philanthropy enabled a high standard of outcome to eventuate. The Board of Education finally contributed £616 18s 4d after £308 9s 2d was raised locally.<sup>5</sup>

Frederick Wilbraham Ford (1820–1893), the son of a Minister of religion, was educated at Eton and Oxford before he emigrated from Gloucestershire, England to Van Diemen's Land in 1841 in search of adventure as a colonist. A year later, he made his first purchase of land at Table Cape on the north-west coast. After living there for four years, in 1845 he married Eleanor Elizabeth KING (1818–1885) and they moved to farm at Forest, Circular Head. The couple had four sons and five daughters between 1847 and 1860: Selina Sophia, Mary Jemima, Frederick Forrester, Fanny Eliza, Lucy Jane, Charles Tasman, Henry Flinders, Elizabeth Eleanor and William Wilbraham. Expansion of their holdings followed and Mr Ford became a very successful, large-scale farmer. He purchased land from the Van Diemen's Land Company at Stanley when it was made

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<sup>2</sup> See *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 33, No 4: *Early Education at Stanley, 1842–1854* by Betty Jones

<sup>3</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 21 December 1863

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<sup>4</sup> *Colonial Times*, 16 February 1854

<sup>5</sup> *Board of Education's Annual Report, Journal of Legislative Council*, 1868



available to the public in 1853, as well as leasing from them the house and 596 acres of the *Highfield* property from 1857.<sup>6</sup> He also became a highly-regarded produce merchant and was remembered later for his 'ever-generous heart and a desire to deal honestly with all men ...'<sup>7</sup> F W Ford's involvement in community affairs, apart from being associated with local education, was reflected in his roles as an early warden of the Stanley Marine Board (1868–1892) and a long-term Justice of the Peace.

Mr Ford's interest in bluestone as a prized building material can be seen from constructions on his own properties, including a number at *Highfield*, and it seems probable that this passion influenced the choice of material used for the erection of the new schoolhouse in 1866. In 1858, Mr Ford purchased a bluestone house (previously built for pioneer, Charles O'CONNOR) near the Stanley wharf and commissioned the erection of a large store in the same material close by to enhance his thriving produce and commission business. It is interesting to note that there were only four other buildings in the town made from bluestone at that time, all considered substantial and reflecting prosperity—the VDL Company Store (built 1843), the Church of England Rectory (built 1843), the first St Pauls Church (built 1844), and a house in Alexander Terrace, now Number 30 and known as *Captain's Cottage* (also built for Charles O'Connor between 1854 and 1858).

The schoolhouse, with its shingled roof and attached two-storey, six-roomed teachers' residence, was finally com-

pleted in 1867. The main classroom measured 50 feet by 20 feet and the walls were 19 feet high. However, a newspaper article described the building as 'not at all a handsome specimen of architecture', its walls being disproportionately high. It was hoped the planting of bushes in front of the building, along with the addition of fencing, would help to improve that blemish on what was otherwise considered an extremely solid structure.<sup>8</sup> Similar sentiments were maintained about 15 years later when a newspaper report included a description of the school, stating that it was 'a hodge podge sort of place with massive walls.'<sup>9</sup> One of the main criticisms stemmed from the fact that the VDL Company's donation of land had consisted of only half an acre and proportions of the school house seemed better suited to a larger allotment of at least another two acres.

The new school was opened officially by Reverend Mr Howard E Drew on 23 September 1867 at a special celebration to mark the importance of the occasion for the town. The local ladies prepared an impressive feast of cakes and other refreshments which were laid out on long tables prior to the ceremony's commencement at 2:00 pm. At that time, the school children entered the building and the Stanley Band played the *National Anthem*. Mr Drew and others gave speeches, and the formalities were followed by feasting. The children were accompanied by adults both young and old, and then spent the next two to three hours on Mr Drew's paddock where a series of amusements had been organized. These included foot races, jumping in sacks, games with balls and swinging, as well as the occasional shower of lollies.

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<sup>6</sup> Peter J Ford: *The Fords of Ford Green, Tasmanian Branch From the Year 1841*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2002

<sup>7</sup> *Wellington Times*, 8 June 1893

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<sup>8</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 8 October 1867

<sup>9</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 8 December 1883

After a return to the school by the gathering, tea and coffee were served. Later in the evening, the children were entertained by a magic lantern show presented by Mr John Edwards.<sup>10</sup>

### The first teachers

Mr Hubert (Henry) and Mrs Phoebe DUNIAM were appointed as teachers at Stanley from September 1854 and stayed in their positions for the next fifteen years, making them the first teachers at the new building.

Born 3 November 1801 in Teignmouth, Devon, England, son of John Harper Duniam and his wife Elizabeth, (née BABB), Henry Duniam emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in 1835, arriving in Launceston on the *Charles Kerr*. Originally a mariner in England, Mr Duniam then worked as a clerk, accountant, storekeeper and ironmonger in Elizabeth Street, Launceston after his arrival in Van Diemen's Land. In early 1851 he returned to England, but was back in Launceston by August 1853. At that time he advertised the opening of a Day and Night School in Brisbane Street with a note stating that Navigation was taught.<sup>11</sup> Twelve months later he was accepted by the Board of Education to conduct their first school at Stanley.

A former pupil of the Stanley Public School, Herbert J EMMETT (1852–1935), recalled how Mr Duniam taught the boys how to box the compass [the ability to name all 32 clockwise points of the compass in order], a skill that stood some of them in good stead in later life. The same pupil also remembered Mr Duniam was a local correspondent for the *Cornwall Chronicle* in the 1860s and

reported daily on local shipping arrivals and departures.<sup>12</sup>

Prior to the new school house and residence being occupied in 1867, the Duniams resided and conducted the Board of Education's school first at Fletcher Street and next in Burnie Street. Mr Duniam was a warden of St Paul's Church in Stanley and also a Masonic Lodge member. At the age of 68, he became a Government pensioner receiving £36/14/1 per annum from 1 October 1869 when he retired due to ill-health.<sup>13</sup> Upon Mr Duniam's retirement from teaching, the inhabitants of Stanley presented him with a testimonial, along with a copy of *Cassell's Illustrated Bible*. An additional £4/2/-, raised by subscription, also was given.<sup>14</sup> Mr and Mrs Duniam moved to Mt Hicks near Wynyard to live with one of their sons, and it was there Mr Duniam died on 9 July 1885.

Mrs Phoebe Duniam was born on 14 January 1818 in London, the daughter of Dr Frederick MORDAUNT and his wife Temperance, (née BOULTER). She arrived in Launceston in November 1835 from London aboard the *Charles Kerr* in the company of her mother and step-father, William NEALE, a gardener.<sup>15</sup> Miss Mordaunt, formerly a seamstress, married Hubert Duniam at Launceston on 1 March 1838. The couple had ten children between 1838 and 1857, the first four of whom died in childhood, two in tragic circumstances. In Launceston in 1853, 12 year-old Dullius Edwin Duniam

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<sup>10</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 8 October 1867

<sup>11</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 17 August 1853

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<sup>12</sup> *The Advocate*, 11 October 1932

<sup>13</sup> Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office (TAHO): ED13/1/9

<sup>14</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 7 October 1869

<sup>15</sup> Canada, Immigration & Settlement Correspondence Lists, 1835 on *Ancestry.com*

did not return home from a fishing expedition to the Cataract Gorge and days later was found drowned in the South Esk River.<sup>16</sup> Less than two years hence, Hubert Harper Teignmouth Duniam, aged 11 years, died from disease of the spine, the local story (but not confirmed in newspapers at the time) being that the boy met his end following a fall from a cliff on The Nut at Stanley.

Mrs Duniam was employed at Stanley Public School from 4 September 1854 as Female Assistant to her husband and Teacher of Needlework. She became a Government pensioner receiving £4 per annum from 1 October 1869 after her retirement due to ill health.<sup>17</sup> Mrs Duniam died at Mt Hicks, Wynyard on 5 May 1904, aged 86 years.

### **The builder**

John Alford (1811–1868) was born in Middlesex England and arrived in Tasmania as a convict in 1830 aboard the *Mary III*, having been convicted of felony. He was working as a carpenter for the VDL Company and had been granted a Ticket of Leave by the time he married Ellen Ann FLANAGAN (c1817–1873) at Launceston in November 1841. Mr and Mrs Alford had ten children born at Stanley between 1842 and 1857: Ellen, Joseph, John, Francis, Ambrose, James, Thomas, Frederick, Henry and Robert. By 1844 they were living in Burnie Street and Mr Alford had changed his occupation to that of dealer. Another move by 1858 took them to Alexander Terrace where they owned and operated a general store. In late 1865 Mr Alford was elected Chairman of Trustees and also appointed Collector of Road Rates.<sup>18</sup> In addition, he continued to undertake work

as a carpenter-builder in the district and twice tendered to construct the new school before his bid was successful. It is interesting that before the school was finally completed and approved by the Building Committee, Mr Alford allowed the substantial premises to be used in January 1867 for a New Year's Ball held by the local cricket club.<sup>19</sup> Mr Alford died from a liver condition, and was buried at Stanley in 1868.

### **Distinguished past scholars**

The bluestone school continued in full use until the end of 1913, with over 1000 pupils now identified as being enrolled during that period. A number of those scholars went on to achieve recognition in a range of fields.

Joseph Aloysius LYONS (1879–1939), teacher, parliamentarian, State Premier and Prime Minister of Australia, was arguably the school's most famous past pupil. Born at Alexander Terrace in Stanley, the son of Michael Henry and Ellen (née CARROLL) LYONS, he started his formal education at Ulverstone State School before transferring to the Convent School in that town. By the age of nine he had to take up part-time work to help out with difficult financial circumstances within his family. He returned to Stanley in early 1892, then 12 years old, to live at Wharf Road with his maternal aunts, Misses Ettie and Mary CARROLL, so he could again become a full-time pupil and finish his education. Mr Lyons applied for a teaching position with the Education Department on 22 November 1894 and worked his way from Paid Monitor to Assistant Teacher at Stanley over a period of about six years. He then remained in the employ of the Department in other schools until

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<sup>16</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 22 October 1853

<sup>17</sup> TAHO: ED13/1/9

<sup>18</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 13 December 1865

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<sup>19</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 11 January 1867

1909 when he made the change to politics.<sup>20</sup> Much has been published elsewhere about his parliamentary career that followed. Despite his fame, Mr Lyons never forgot his humble beginnings at Stanley. When visiting the school during his time as Minister for Education and State Premier, Mr Lyons often was reported as saying fondly that he had vivid memories of being born and educated ‘in the shadow of the Nut’.<sup>21</sup>

Some other early scholars who achieved well in different spheres include Mr Evelyn Temple EMMETT (1871–1970), OBE, who became an early director of the Tasmanian Tourist Bureau, established the Hobart Walking Club and made literary contributions by writing books about Tasmania; Miss Maude Ethel LEGGETT (1876–1911) who, in 1899, was the first woman in Tasmania to achieve a Master of Arts degree; Archdeacon Henry Brune ATKINSON (1874–1960), a clergyman and orchidologist who collected and classified 24 previously unidentified Tasmanian orchids; and Mr Frank Bathurst EDWARDS (1887–1983) who became a Rhodes Scholar, lawyer and State politician and who often reminisced with Joe Lyons about their lives and education at Stanley.

### Changes

In 1911, one of the Inspectors described the schoolroom as bearing more the aspect of a prison than of a modern school.<sup>22</sup> It was clear the premises had become outdated and lacked basic standards of sanitation, ventilation and lighting. Following the completion of a new school building in 1914, the old school’s living quarters were retained for use as the teachers’ residence until 1973. The school-

room itself developed a more varied history, but retained traces of its original purpose on and off for a long time.

From 1923 to 1928, when enrolments were too large to house all children at the new school, infant classes were again held in the old building. New windows which could be opened had been added in 1923 and the area had been made very comfortable.<sup>23</sup>

High School classes were provided there for local students between 1930 and 1934. The building was also used by members of the Parents’ Association in the 1930s and ’40s as a venue for regular euchre tournaments as part of fund raising pursuits, and over those and the next few decades it was the centre for various other community activities. In 1980 it was necessary for the Education Department to utilise the old building in an official capacity again, this time for Kindergarten and Playgroup.

Today, almost 150 years after it was first erected, the bluestone building in Pearse Street, owned and occupied as a private residence since the early 1990s, still stands as a significant landmark in the town. Descendants of Frederick Wilbraham Ford can take pride in knowing that his original generous donation to the school sparked what remains a visible part of Stanley’s heritage.

The newer school building, officially opened in 1914, recently celebrated its one hundredth anniversary of operation on its Wilson Street site, as well as marking 160 years’ of continuous government education in the town. Many thousands of pupils, just like former Prime Minister Joe Lyons, have been able to, and can still proudly boast they were educated ‘in the shadow of the Nut’. ◀

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<sup>20</sup> TAHO: ED2/1/1879; file 2113

<sup>21</sup> *Circular Head Chronicle*, 29 April 1914

<sup>22</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/14

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<sup>23</sup> *North Western Advocate*, 25 August 1923

# COULD THIS BE TRUE?

Ray Welsford (Member No.6385)

**T**HIS is a tale which begins in Van Diemen's Land (VDL), moves to Victoria then South Australia and tragically ends back in Victoria. Interest arose because the Helen KERNEN involved is most probably my wife's gggrandmother.<sup>1</sup>

Robert WATTS and Helen Kernen were married by William BEDFORD, jnr, Chaplain, by Banns at the Schoolhouse in Campbell Town on 27 June 1836. Robert and Helen were respectively Bachelor and Spinster, both were 'of this Parish', and both signed the register with their 'mark'. Their ages are not recorded.<sup>2</sup>

According to their marriage certificate, Thomas KEASMITH and Ellen GRIF-FITHS were witnesses to the event. Why Robert and Helen were in Campbell Town or what they were doing there remains a mystery, as no record has yet been found of their arrival in the colony. It is also interesting that while other marriages on the page show annotations such as 'convict per Hydery', 'TL Phoenix', and similar, there are no such annotations for Robert and Ellen—were they 'free' or was this an oversight?<sup>3</sup>

It is true there were several convicts by the name of Robert Watts,<sup>4</sup> though using the available records, there is no reason to link any of these to the Robert whose story is being told here. As for Helen, there are several KIERNAN convicts listed but they all arrive after 1836.<sup>5</sup>

In the hope it might throw some light on Robert and Helen, the marriage witnesses were investigated. Records show Keasmith and Griffiths were married, again at the Campbell Town School House by William Bedford, jnr, on 24 October 1836, just a few months after Watts and Kernen.<sup>6</sup> Both Keasmith and Griffiths were convicts—Keasmith on the *Woodford* arriving 28 August 1828, and Griffiths per the *Edward*, arriving 4 September 1834. Keasmith was tried in

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WATTS and all spelling variations of Kernan. There were no 'sensible' Watts entries. Ellen Kiernan appeared twice, but in 1851 and 1854. The only other was Anne Kernan who arrived on the *Sarah*, ex London on 14 February, 1835. Date OK, but name 'wrong'. Perhaps interesting that Robert and Ellen's first born was named Anne!

- <sup>4</sup> Robert Watts, *Maria* (1), 1 December 1820  
Robert Watts, *Claudine*, 15 December 1821  
Robert Watts, *Commodore Hayes*, 16 August, 1823  
Robert Watts, *Royal George*, 18 October 1830

- <sup>5</sup> Index to Tasmanian Convicts at <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au> was searched for Kernan, Kernen, Kiernan, Kiernen, Kieran, and Kieren. The only name found was Kiernan—there were several listed, but all arrived later than 1836.
- <sup>6</sup> RGD 36, 3582/1836

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<sup>1</sup> I have used throughout the spelling on the Marriage Certificate. In various places the spelling of the surname is KERNAN, KIERNAN, KIERNEN, KIERAN. Further, Ellen and Helen both appear in the various records.

<sup>2</sup> RGD 36/3572/1836, Marriages solemnized in the Parish or District of Campbell Town in the County of Somerset in the Year 1836

<sup>3</sup> The Index to Passengers & Ships Arrivals – 19<sup>th</sup> Century at <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au> was thoroughly searched for

Lancaster, and transported for larceny, having previously been given 6 months for house breaking and 12 months for shoplifting. He was a frequent offender in the colony, both before and after the marriage. Griffiths was tried in Middlesex, and transported for stealing—she too had prior imprisonments and was recorded as being 6 months ‘on the Town’. Again, she was a frequent colonial offender, both before and after the marriage.<sup>7</sup> No children of the marriage have been found in Tasmania or Victoria.<sup>8</sup>

Most of the colonial offences of both Keasmith and Griffiths occurred after Watts and Kernan left VDL for Victoria. An examination of the lists of convicts on the *Woodford* and the *Edward* gives no clue to any connection between the two couples. Did they work at the same property in the Campbell Town area? There does not appear to be an appropriation record for Keasmith, while Griffiths was assigned to Samuel CARR of Hobart Town.<sup>9</sup> The ‘permission to marry’ records do not include any reference to Watts or Kernan. There is no evidence to show that Watts and Kernan were convicts, so it is reasonable to conclude that they were ‘free’.

There is no record of any children born to Watts and Kernan in VDL and on 13 March 1837, Robert and Mrs Watts sailed

from Launceston for Port Phillip on the *William*.<sup>10</sup>

Once in Melbourne, children were born at regular intervals, including

Anne Watts, born 7 November, 1838, Melbourne, baptized on 26 May, 1839<sup>11</sup>

James Watts, born 3 September, 1839, Melbourne, baptized 22 September, 1839<sup>12</sup>

Robert Watts, born in July 1841, Stringy Bark Forest, baptized 31 October, 1844 (sawyer)<sup>13</sup>

William Watts, born 4 March 1843, Melbourne, baptized 5 March 1844<sup>14</sup>

In each case, the father is Robert, the mother Ellen. All were registered at the Church of England Parish of St James.

Robert Watts was hired as a servant by John GRAY for 12 months from 4 March 1837. All did not go well as later that year Robert was given one calendar month in prison for insolence and refusing to work.<sup>15</sup>

The 1841 Census of Port Phillip records that Robert Watts, wife Ellen and two infant children under 4 years were living in a wooden hut at Back Creek.<sup>16</sup>

Sometime after the birth of the fourth child, William, the family must have moved west as the birth of a fifth child,

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<sup>7</sup> TAHO CON 31/1/38, Image 320 and CON 40/1/3, Image 284

<sup>8</sup> A diligent search of the records for both states, complicated by the fact that in the available records the male is variously recorded as Thomas Keasmith, Thomas Keesmith, Thomas Kea Smith, Thomas Kee Smith, Thomas Smith, failed to identify any possible children

<sup>9</sup> CON27-1-1, Image 16. Griffiths was 30 years of age, a house servant who could wash & iron and act as a ‘plain cook’.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au> – departures – POL458/1/2 p.80

<sup>11</sup> 1839/12256 at Melbourne : also *Historical Records of Victoria: Volume 3 “The Early Development of Melbourne 1836-1839”*, Page 598, Record No.29

<sup>12</sup> 1839/12281 at Melbourne: also *Historical Records of Victoria: Volume 3 “The Early Development of Melbourne 1836-1839”*, Page 600, Record No.54

<sup>13</sup> 1841/12638 at Stringybark

<sup>14</sup> 1844/13646 at Melbourne

<sup>15</sup> Melbourne Court Register, 4 December 1837

<sup>16</sup> 1841 Census – Reel 2509, Page 59, Item 4/1244A

my wife's great grandmother, Emily Georgina, was registered in Belfast (Port Fairy) on 29 April 1845<sup>17</sup> and baptized on 27 January 1847.<sup>18</sup>

What happened then is something of a mystery, as on 22 August 1855, Ellen Watts married John TAYLOR (sheep farmer) at Trinity Church, Adelaide. Ellen was initially described on the marriage record as a Spinster, but this has been struck out and replaced by Widow.<sup>19</sup> She is recorded as being 30 years old. Assuming there was more than one Ellen Watts around, I might not have paid too much attention to this if it was not for the fact that on 3 March 1857, Thomas Taylor was born to John Taylor and Ellen Kernan,<sup>20</sup> this taking place at Lowries Hill, County Robe, South Australia.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> 1847/34064

<sup>18</sup> The births and baptisms of all five children are further confirmed by Victoria's Early Church Records, sourced on a CD of that name produced by The Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Parish of St James, County of Bourke Nos.29, 54, 408, 1418  
New South Wales Presbyterian Baptisms No.153

<sup>19</sup> Marriages in the District of Trinity, Adelaide – 1855/2703. Also South Australian Marriages 1842-1916 CD (Book 23, Page 22)

<sup>20</sup> South Australian Births 1842-1906 CD (Book 12, Page 122)

<sup>21</sup> The exact location of Lowrie's Hill has proved elusive. The *South Australian Register*, Tuesday, 8 April 1862, has a reference to the road at Lowrie's Hill, while the same newspaper on Tuesday, 27 May 1862, has this reference: *The improvements upon the roads near Robe are fast approaching completion. The part of the road to Biscuit Flat, which crosses the swamp at the foot of Lowrie's Hill, will be of great service during the winter.* There was a Church at Lowrie's Hill, on the Bagdad Road which turns

Married as Watts, but Kernan at the birth—too much of a coincidence!

Thanks to the power of *Trove*, the following two notices placed in the *Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser* in April 1860 have been located:-

**M**ISSING FRIENDS,—If James and Robert Watts, formerly of Port Fairy, will write to the subscriber they will hear of their Mother and Sister. E. S. F. H. Miller, Advocate, &c., Mt. Gambier.

**W**ILLIAM WATTS, formerly with Mr. Patrick Lynch, Farmer, Cape Bridgewater, near Portland, is respectfully requested to forward his address to E. S. F. H. Miller, Esq., Mount Gambier<sup>22</sup>

If only we could go back in time, we might have the whole story!

Again, there is a gap which my research has not been able to fill. On 16 November 1866, Ellen Taylor (a servant) claiming to be a widow since March 1863 married George GILL (a blacksmith) in Hamilton, Victoria. Again, interest is heightened by the fact that Ellen declares her parents to be John Kernan (Private Gentleman) and Mary BURNS, and she was born in County Monaghan.<sup>23</sup> Ellen also declares seven living and one dead child from previous marriage(s).<sup>24</sup> This

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north off the Robe-Kingston Road (Correspondence with South East Family History Group, Millicent).

<sup>22</sup> <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/64513960> - 2 April 1860. There were similar entries on 6, 9 & 16 April 1860.

<sup>23</sup> Victorian Marriage Register 1866/3653

<sup>24</sup> 7 living and one dead child – so far 6 living children (5 Watts and 1 Taylor) have been accounted for—was there a Watts not registered, or is there another Taylor somewhere? Work continues.

time it is the Taylor/Kernen connection which is of interest.

Another small anomaly relates to Ellen's age. On the marriage record, it is very clearly recorded as 42, consistent with the 30 recorded in Adelaide back in 1855. A couple of days later, her death records it just as clearly as 47.

It seems to me the use of the Watts and Kernan names in the Taylor marriage/-birth, and of Taylor and Kernan in the Gill marriage is sufficient to link these three events together—to accept the Ellen involved in all three is the same person.

The tale ends tragically on the day of Ellen's third marriage. While travelling from Hamilton to Dunkeld in a buggy, her new husband was thrown out. The horse bolted—at some stage Ellen became entangled in the buggy wheel—when the horse was eventually stopped some miles down the road, her remains were discovered still tangled in the wheel. Ellen was laid to rest in an un-marked grave in the 'old' cemetery at Dunkeld.<sup>25</sup>

What happened to Robert Watts and John Taylor? Two very good questions. If as claimed, Ellen was a widow at the time of her marriage to John Taylor, then Robert Watts must have died before then. While

there are more than twenty deaths for Robert Watts listed in the Victorian records, the only possible one for 'our' Robert wasn't until 1870.<sup>26</sup> Leading up to this death, there are some references, including, in 1869

Letter read from Mr Richard Lewis, of Rifle Downs, asking that Robert Watts be admitted into the (Benevolent) Asylum, he being 77 years old, and almost blind. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Lewis, requesting his subscription.<sup>27</sup>

Robert Watts died at the Benevolent Asylum, Portland, on 19 February, 1870. He was 77 years old, a labourer, born Devises, Wiltshire—his parents recorded as Thomas Watts (labourer) and Jane. He was buried in Portland North Cemetery. His marriage details are 'not known', though three children were claimed, names 'not known'. The death was registered by the Master of the Benevolent Asylum.<sup>28</sup> If this is the correct man, then clearly Ellen was not a widow as claimed when she married John Taylor in Adelaide in 1855.

What of John Taylor? According to the record of Ellen's marriage to Gill in 1866 she had been a widow since March 1863, so Taylor died then. No sensible record for such a death has so far been found. Then there was the son, Thomas, born 3 March 1857. Again, no sensible record has been found for his marriage or death. ◀

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<sup>25</sup> Victorian Death Register 1866/10294. See also *The Hamilton Spectator*, Saturday, 17 November and Saturday, 24 November 1866 for detailed descriptions of the events surrounding the marriage and the accident. Note also there are two cemeteries at Dunkeld—the 'old' one is south east of the township, turn south onto the Blackwood Road, cross the railway, and turn left (east) onto Old Cemetery Road—this is where Ellen is buried. Word of mouth says that this site was too rocky—much basalt close to the surface—so a 'new' cemetery was established north of the township adjacent to the Racecourse on the Halls Gap Road.

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<sup>26</sup> Robert's Death Record  
<sup>27</sup> *Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser*, Monday, 15 February 1869—report of meeting of the Committee of the Benevolent Asylum. There is a reference to Robert Watts having died in a similar report on 28 February 1870.  
<sup>28</sup> Victorian Death Certificate 1870/2330.



# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ABBOTT George Ester	Hobart TAS AUS	1841+	7568
ANDREWS Stephen	Launceston TAS AUS	1870–1957	7569
ASHENDEN William A	KEN, ENG. Armidale NSW AUS	1792–1846	7590
AUSTIN William	Armidale NSW AUS	1860–c1925	7590
BEECH Lillian Lavinia	Any	Any	7574
BILSON	Any	Any	7574
BOSTOCK George	VDL/TAS AUS	1829–1860	7567
BOSTOCK Robert Walker	VDL/TAS AUS	1819–1890	7567
BRAMPTON William	Forth TAS AUS. London	1800s	7565
BRIANT William James	Devonport TAS AUS, Melbourne VIC AUS	1860–1920	7553
BUTCHER Victor Alfred	Berrigan NSW AUS	1899	7584
CHADWICK William	Any	1845+	7582
CHARLTON William	Any	Any	7574
CLARKE Rebecca	Launceston TAS AUS	1872–1947	7569
CLARKE Zachariah	1st Fleet. Norfolk Is. Info prior to 1804	prior 1804	7569
CLINGELEFFER Peter	Germany	1833–	7559
CLINGELEFFER Rose Clara	TAS AUS	1881–1974	7559
COLLIS Henry & Amy	Launceston TAS AUS	1880s–1920s	7553
CONNELY Hannah	IRL, TAS AUS	Any	7574
COX Ann	VDL/TAS AUS	1829–1865	7567
CRONLY Patrick	Tullamore, Offaly, IRL	1750–1850	7565
CULLIFORD Mary Ann	Hobart TAS AUS	1832+	7568
DASMAR Anna Margareta	Germany & TAS AUS	Any	7561
DENNETT Thomas	VDL/TAS AUS	1819–1825	7567
DERBYSHIRE Elizabeth	Derbyshire UK	1821–1876	7555
DESAILLY Francis Wisdom	MDX ENG. TAS AUS	1772(?)–1864	7586
DESAILLY Lewis Mathew	MDX ENG	Any–1805	7586
DOVER John Ormrod	Adelaide SA AUS	1900+	7584
FISHER John & William	ENG, TAS AUS	Any	7574
FLINN Maria	child to John Paine, Hobart TAS AUS	c1843	7568
FOSSEY	Westbourne SSX ENG	1700–1900	7570
GEEVES	TAS AUS	Any	7571
GEYER Godfrey William	Germany. Tenterfield NSW AUS	1831–1891	7590
GRISSNER Mary Caroline	Germany & TAS AUS	Any	7561
HALPIN Henry	Irish Palatines, Beaufort VIC AUS	1806–1885	7589
HAWKINS William	Hobart TAS AUS	1827+	7568
HAYES John Thomas	Ireland & Liverpool ENG	c1840	7589
HOLT John	Launceston TAS AUS	1826–1878	7553
HOLT John & Mary	Launceston TAS AUS	1856–1915	7553
HUTCHESSON Esther May	Mount Gambier SA AUS	1900	7584
JONES Mary	WLS	1800–1880	7555
JOST/YOST Peter	Germany & TAS AUS	Any	7561
KELVEY Thomas Roderick	Melbourne VIC AUS	1840–1880	7591
LANE	QLD AUS	Any	7571

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
LOWE Richard	City of London, UK	1810-1878	7555
MAHONY Bridget	IRL	1814-1888	7555
MATHEWS James	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1800s	7565
McENERNEY Mary Leone	Calcutta, India & Hobart TAS AUS	1896-1938	7589
MENZIES Esther May	Mount Gambier SA (YAHL)	1900	7584
MILLS Hannah, nee BURTON	Hobart TAS AUS	1823-1875	7587
MILLS Henr, hb of Hannah	Hobart TAS AUS	1819-1863	7587
MONCUR Elizabeth	SCT	1827-1893	7555
NICHOLS/NICHOLLS Samuel William	LONDON ENG	1788+	7575
ORTIGER Joseph	France & India	1802-1884	7589
PAINE John	Mr Bisdee, Oatlands & Port Arthur	1826-1846	7568
PEARSON Alan Charles	Scottsdale TAS AUS	1943	7584
PILLINGER James	Norfolk Island, Tunbridge TAS AUS	1800s	7565
PINDER Melchi	Tunbridge Wells KEN ENG	1800-1850	7570
POTTER Thomas/ Mary Ann	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1800s	7565
PREST Catherine	Launceston TAS AUS	1880s	7553
PROUSE Katharine	Northern TAS, AUS	1800s	7565
RAWLINS	SA, NSW, QLD, AUS	Any	7571
RHODES Robert	Van Diemen's Land/TAS AUS	1790-1890	7567
ROBERTSON Thomas	Bressay, Shetland SCT	1799-1846	7590
ROBINSON George William	Hobart TAS AUS	1801-1839	7589
ROBINSON John	Oatlands TAS AUS	1820-1876	7588
ROCHESTER George	North Shields, ENG	1810-c1880	7590
SCHMELZKOPF	SA & QLD, AUS	Any	7571
SKEGG	SA, VIC, TAS, AUS	Any	7571
STEPHENS Edmund Hamilton	Hutchins, Hobart TAS AUS	1898-1940s	7553
TERRY Charlotte	TAS AUS	Any	7561
WALKER, Elizabeth	VDL/TAS AUS	1819-1890	7567
WALTER	TAS AUS	Any	7571
WATSON Elizabeth	St Marys Northam Southampton UK	1828-1907	7578
WRIGHT, Thomas	Tettenhall UK	1802-1857	7555
YOST Peter	TAS AUS	Any	7561
YOST Peter William	TAS AUS	Any	7561

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

# NEW MEMBERS

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7551	MOORE Mr Roger	10 Arncliffe Rd	AUSTINS FERRY	TAS	7011
7552	WELLS Mrs Pamela	Not for publication			
7553	ROBINSON Deb	41 Eencee Drive rigga@aapt.net.au	ST LEONARDS	TAS	7320
7554	CHASEMORE Mrs Kath	Not for publication			
7555	TURNER Ms Marje	19 Nubeena Rd tarannacottages@bigpond.com	TARANNA	TAS	7180
7556	LOWE Mr Colin	19 Nubeena Rd tarannacottages@bigpond.com	TARANNA	TAS	7180
7557	ARTHUR Mrs Lynette	Not for publication			
7558	ARTHUR Mr Gary	Not for publication			
7559	HOOPER Mrs Mandy	28 Manuka Dr mandyh66@hotmail.com	BURNIE	TAS	7320
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7563	ALEXANDER Mr ROBERT	719 Princes Hwy shiralex1@bigpond.com.au	HEATHMERE	VIC	3305
7564	STOTT Ms PAMELA	Not for publication			
7565	CRONLY Rev Bro JAMES	St Anthony's Shrine, 182 Power St jcronly@gmail.com	HAWTHORN	VIC	3122
7566	ADDISON Ms MARGARET	Not for publication			
7567	WATTERS Mr Leslie	16 Ashburner St lwe@bigpond.net.au	HIGGINS	ACT	2615
7568	JEFFREYS Ms Susan	27 Wynchewood Ave suej09@y7mail.com	MALLABULA	NSW	2319
7569	RITCHIE Mrs Margaret	67 Billson St colmar@tadaust.org.au	WONTHAGGI	VIC	3995
7570	STATHAM Mrs Marilyn	PO Box 50 stathamhouse4@bigpond.com	FINGAL	TAS	7214
7571	SKEGG Mrs Tracy	477 Nelson Rd tracyskegg@gmail.com	MOUNT NELSON	TAS	7007
7572	KNIGHT Mrs Violet	Not for publication			
7573	KNIGHT Ms Marilyn	Not for publication			
7574	GILL Mrs Lillian	218 Tranmere Rd lillianmgill@bigpond.com	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7575	NICHOLS Mr Graeme	4 Nelson Ave graeme.nichols@bigpond.com	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7576	GUY Mrs Beverley	3 Tilyard St beverley.guy@bigpond.com	MONTROSE	TAS	7010
7577	DOOLEY Mrs Lorraine	10 Newlands Ave lorraine.larry@bigpond.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7578	BOOTH Ms Anne	18 Tasma St annegbooth@yahoo.com.au	EAST LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
7579	FLETCHER Mr David	Not for publication			

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7581	RADCLIFF Mrs Kaye	37 Sunhaven Dr	PORT SORELL	TAS	7307
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7583	KOLA Mrs Elizabeth	68 Henslowes Rd	ULVERSTONE	TAS	7315
7584	PEARSON Mrs Rosalie	5731 Frankford Rd alan.rosie@bigpond	WESLEY VALE	TAS	7307
7585	LAVENDER Mrs Marilyn	Not for publication			
7586	DESAILLY Ms Elizabeth	PO Box 106 eadaa@me.com	DODGES FERRY	TAS	7173
7587	WATSON Miss Jennifer	7 Sturdee Rd jenniferjoanwat@ozemail.com.au	BLACK ROCK	VIC	3193
7588	ROBINSON Mr Tony	47 Herlihy Rd tonyrobinson6@bigpond.com	LWR TEMPLESTOWE	VIC	3107
7589	ROCHESTER Dr Kathleen	36 Baynton St	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7590	ROCHESTER Dr Stuart	36 Baynton St	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7591	REID Mrs Jennifer	PO Box 97 alick.reid@bigpond.com.au	CYGNET	TAS	7112

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# NICHOLAS CLEMENTS, *THE BLACK WAR: FEAR, SEX AND RESISTANCE IN TASMANIA*

A book review by Alison Alexander

**St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 2014. 266 pages. Includes footnotes, bibliography and index. RRP \$34.95.**

‘Our forebears, black and white, were the same as you and me: imperfect mammals who generally did what they thought was right, or at least, what they felt was necessary.’ Reading a book on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, Nicholas Clements realised that all involved feel they are right, their cause just. Did the same apply in Van Diemen’s Land’s Black War? He looked at the sources of the day to find out, and tells a parallel story from two points of view, Aboriginal and white. His research has been admirably thorough, as he consulted an enormous variety of sources (surely everything possible), and presents a compelling picture of the war as people experienced it.

Clements states that there was no period when Aborigines and whites lived together harmoniously; from 1804 to 1824, there was always some violence, though there were also friendly meetings. The war (roughly 1824 to 1831) was triggered by the white gender imbalance. Convicts and bushrangers on the frontier, with no white women, abducted many Aboriginal women and often treated them with extreme cruelty. The men retaliated, whites fought back, and the Black War started. It was the most brutal of such wars in Australia, and the most evenly matched: the Van Diemonians were Australia’s most effective Aboriginal combatants.

Whites had three options: moving the Aborigines offshore, conciliating them (which increasing violence made impossible) or exterminating them. The

government and the urban middle class would never agree to extermination, but on the frontier many favoured this solution. Whites killed Aborigines for revenge or sport, to gain women and children, and to suppress their threat. There were some terrible acts which make horrific reading. It was ‘war to the hilt on both sides’.

Was it genocide? Not by the government, which desperately tried to avoid this. Possibly by colonists, but Clements states that attitudes and circumstances were not those usually associated with genocide.

Clements compares the two sides’ method of fighting. The whites sent out official and unofficial parties, specialising in campfire ambushes that were very effective. The Aborigines were skilled at guerilla warfare, continuing an extraordinarily effective resistance against a technologically and numerically superior enemy. However, they did not do as much damage as they could have through arson and killing stock, possibly because they did not realise how effective these weapons would have been. The dominant emotion on both sides was fear.

In 1830 Lieutenant-Governor Arthur was forced to act, and ordered the Black Line to capture the southern Aborigines. It was a harrowing ordeal for the white men involved (short of food, equipment, shelter ...) while the Aborigines evaded capture easily. However, by this date their numbers had been so drastically reduced that when Robinson began his friendly mission, it was relatively easy to persuade them to surrender. They had little option.

Clements describes two other areas of the war: the north-west, Aborigines against the Van Diemen's Land Company from 1827 to 1842; and the sea frontier, mainly involving sealers abducting women. He concludes that for all people involved, the war was a terrible cycle of violence, misery and fear. It cost whites retarded economic development and many lives, but their society remained intact. It cost the Aborigines their way of life and their lives.

This was not a battle between good and evil, concludes Clements. All involved saw themselves as victims, just trying to survive. Many people were cruel, but they were all victims of circumstance. Judging people contributes nothing to our understanding of the war. It was an extraordinary event that drove many people to do the unthinkable.

This is a compelling, convincing, well-written and accessible account of an important period in Tasmanian, indeed Australian and world, history. The thorough research (almost every sentence has a footnote) gives strong support to Clements' claims. There are two issues I would have liked to see discussed more fully. One is Clements' claim that the war was triggered by whites abducting Aboriginal women, though he quotes claims that the whites taking the Aborigines' land and therefore hunting grounds (the traditional explanation) was as important. Strictly speaking, discussing responsibility for the war was not part of Clements' aim, but claiming this trigger leads to the question of the larger responsibility, which he does not pursue.

Another issue is the extent of fear among whites: if it was so pervasive, why, for example, did Mrs Prinsep take an unnecessary journey right through the danger zone at the height of the war? Why were any women and children in

this zone at all? If their lives were in real danger, surely they would have left, despite any difficulties. This too is worth more discussion—but condensing a PhD thesis to a much shorter book has to lead to many omissions Clements must have regretted.

I feel this is a better history than many which have tackled the subject. In particular, no one who reads this well-researched book can uncritically accept Keith Windshuttle's version (*The fabrication of Aboriginal history: volume one, Van Diemen's Land*, 2002). Clements provides too much evidence that refutes Windshuttle's claims. One theme which Clements does not state overtly but strongly implies is how similar the whites and black were as people—the same aims, motives, desires, to live peacefully with their families. Windshuttle, and other authors, see the two groups as separate, the Aborigines almost as a different species. This naturally inclines both author and reader to side with the group most like them, the whites.

This is a magnificent achievement, with four aspects I particularly admire. One is Clements' conversion of an academic PhD to such a readable book, not an easy task. Another is his teasing out of the Aboriginal point of view from a mass of small pieces of evidence—extremely challenging. A third is the way he remains impartial, presenting both sides fairly, with no suggestion of taking sides—very difficult with such an emotional and divisive topic. The third, connected aspect is his treatment of evidence, not accepting it uncritically but seeing it in context. I do not think this book is the last word on the subject, but it is a major contribution to an important period of our history. ◀

# ANNABELLA ROSA (ROSE) WILSON (NÉE CAVELL)

## WHERE IS SHE NOW?

John B Wilson (Member No.6897)

**A**FTER many years of constant searching for our Annabella Rosa WILSON's grave and for details of her death and burial, we've drawn a big blank thick brick wall. Annabella was my paternal great grandmother.

I've located two graves in Australia for other Annabella Rosa Wilsons and I've visited both of them to check. One is in Ringarooma in Tasmania and the other is in Inverell, NSW. Neither of these graves was our Annabella's. How many other Annabella Rosa Wilsons could there be? At least one more I hope—somewhere.

Annabella's line grows from George CAVELL, a solicitor from the parish of Ramsholt, Suffolk, England who married Elizabeth KING in Ipswich, Suffolk, at St Lawrence's Church on 29 December 1820. Their son Francis Theodore Cavell, who was born 11 September 1831 in Ipswich, Suffolk and died in 1897 at Snapper Point, Mornington in Victoria,<sup>1</sup> married Frances Jane DONNE who was born 1832 Dublin, Ireland and died 6 May 1890, Snapper Point, Mornington.<sup>2</sup> They married on 20 December 1853 in St Andrews Church in Brighton, Victoria.<sup>3</sup>

Francis Theodore and Frances Jane had ten children, one of whom was Annabella Rosa, born 3 July 1865 in Moorooduc,

Victoria.<sup>4</sup> Annabella Rosa married my paternal great grandfather Edwin Wilson on 1 March 1883 in a private dwelling in Mornington.<sup>5</sup>

Edwin, born 26 November 1858 in Derrimut, Melton, Victoria<sup>6</sup> and died January 1940, Brisbane, Queensland, was one of the sons of John Williamson Bowman Wilson, born 18 December 1830 Cambridge, Tasmania, died 13 February 1893 Snapper Point Victoria,<sup>7</sup> and Agnes Eliza McDONNELL or McDONALD (née SMITH), born 3 December 1831 at sea off the coast of Antwerp, Belgium. Agnes died 1 May 1883 in Mornington, Victoria.<sup>8</sup> John and Agnes had married on 8 January 1851 at O'Brien's Bridge, Hobart Town.<sup>9</sup>

Edwin and Annabella produced nine children, amongst whom was my paternal grandfather Albert Corry Wilson born 17 April 1885 in Mornington, Victoria<sup>10</sup> and died 20 July 1949 in Sydney, NSW.

Over the late 1800s or early 1900s, Edwin, Annabella and their family moved to Brisbane. Some few years later Annabella and Edwin separated and while Edwin and the children, we believe, stayed around Brisbane, Annabella's movements after this are really a mystery.

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<sup>1</sup> VIC Death Registration #6916

<sup>2</sup> VIC Death Registration #9691

<sup>3</sup> VIC Marriage Registration #1497

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<sup>4</sup> VIC Birth Registration #18648

<sup>5</sup> VIC Marriage Registration #264

<sup>6</sup> VIC Birth Registration #16045

<sup>7</sup> VIC Death Registration #3768

<sup>8</sup> VIC Death Registration #3829

<sup>9</sup> RGD37 Hobart Marriage 1851:498

<sup>10</sup> VIC Birth Registration #13652

In some of our family stories, Annabella seems to have been an experienced nurse and even a matron at various hospitals, some of which we suspect may have been in country Queensland west of Brisbane. We know she used to visit the streets in Brisbane where some of her children lived. Some of the family stories suggest that at times she would be in the street outside their homes and most often would not approach nor knock. We don't know if she and Edwin ever divorced or, if they did, if Annabella ever re-married. We know of no photograph of her.

I search not only for details of her death and place of burial but also of any other details of her life and family links. Does any reader know of Annabella's place of death or burial? Does any one know where any of Annabella and Edwin's children and any other descendants are now? What other family details do you know and could pass on to me?

Do you know any details of the families of either Francis Theodore Cavell or of Frances Jane Donne, or of any of their siblings or of their other children, and any ancestral lines?

I have been the Administrator of the Rootsweb Cavell Message Board for some years now, but this and other web based resources have not been able to answer my questions about our Annabella Rosa. Sometimes in 'official' records we've found her name had been spelt as Arrabella and a few other ways.

It took years of research to find out if our Cavells were in any way related to Edith Louisa Cavell—the English WWI heroine. That research was based on the use of 'Corry' as a given name in our male Wilsons. In my Wilson paternal line the given name 'Corry' had never ever been used before Edwin married Annabella, my grandfather (Albert Corry

Wilson), my father (Corry Barraclough Wilson) and myself (Corry John Barraclough Wilson) are the first Wilsons to have 'Corry' included in our names.

This use of 'Corry' is what drove me to see if there was any link with Edith's Cavells because in her ancestral lines and in her family's descendants, the name 'Corry' was so often used for many male members in her extended family both before her birth and after her death in Brussels. We know that Edith and Annabella were cousins and were both born in 1865.

Some of us have experienced stories our 'old aunts' might have told about connections with famous people. When some told me we were related to Edith Cavell, I asked how do you know we're related? The almost automatic answer was "Well someone in the family told me long ago **and they wouldn't have lied to me!**"

Dad's mum got very sick of calling out 'Corry' causing all three of us to come running when she really only wanted one of us. So for me my mum dropped the use of my 'Corry' and I've been just 'John' ever since!

As I have mentioned above, this fore-name 'Corry' had never ever been used in any of our Wilson lines until after Annabella Rosa Cavell married my paternal grandfather Edwin Wilson.

Please help me to smash down my brick wall. ◀

Many thanks, John B Wilson  
(Corry John Barraclough Wilson)

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Our Wilson website:

<http://www.bonniewilliam.tps1.com.au/>



# PUB SIGNS OF OLD HOBART TOWN

Lou Daniels (Member No.3646)

**M**ANY people have found the signs of the old pubs of Hobart Town rather curious. Where did they come from and why were they chosen?

Pub signs have an ancient history. Richard II who reigned in England from 1377 to 1399 first decreed all inns should carry a sign, and they became a significant way of identifying not just the inn but the whole neighbourhood. This was still true in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hobart Town, where a substantial proportion of the population was illiterate, including many licensed victuallers, and there were no house numbers. There was no street lighting either, and public houses had to keep a lamp burning outside the front door and were fined if they failed to do so.

Richard II was remembered in Hobart Town, if not by deliberate design, by the 'White Hart', which was his heraldic sign. The 'Royal Oak', of which there were two in Hobart Town, commemorated Charles II, who hid in an oak tree while being hunted by Roundhead soldiers at the end of the English Civil War. According to Bill Bryson,<sup>1</sup> the sign outside a 'Royal Oak Inn' usually had the king hiding somewhere in the tree.

Clearly the signs used in Hobart Town were dominated by memories of the old country. Those who opened the houses signed them nostalgically with names from their own place of origin, or after pubs they had known. Because so many of the signs were actually heraldic coats of arms, it is no surprise that many of the

houses were called the something Arms. Many English cities were remembered. The 'Bedford Arms', 'Birmingham Arms', 'City of Bristol Arms', 'City of London Arms' and the 'City of Norwich Arms' had the coat of arms of those cities hanging over their doors. The latter house was built and opened by Thomas LOVICK who was born in Norwich. The 'Bath Arms' carried the coat of arms of the City of Bath in Somerset. Thomas LODDER who opened it in 1846 was born in Bath in 1811.

Others with similar signs were the 'Cumberland Arms', the 'Dallas Arms', the 'Devonshire Arms', the 'Downshire Arms', the 'Manchester Arms', the 'Oxford Arms' and the 'Somerset Arms'.

Others were simply named for a town or city in the old country and these may well have carried the coat of arms as well. Examples are the 'Canterbury Inn', the 'Cornwall Hotel', the 'Gibraltar', the 'Isle of Wight', the 'London Hotel' and the 'Northumberland Inn'.

Patriotism was a significant motive for the signs hung outside new public houses. The Scots had the 'Highlander' opened by Archibald CAMPBELL in 1828, the 'Blue Bells of Scotland' opened in 1832 by Alexander McLEOD, the 'Caledonian Inn' opened by John JACKSON in 1844, the 'Jolly Scotsman' opened in 1843 by John KIRK,<sup>2</sup> and the 'Saint Andrew's Inn' opened in 1838 by Alexander

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<sup>1</sup> Bill Bryson; *Mother Tongue*, Penguin, 1990 p.194

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<sup>2</sup> A sign of the beginnings of local nationalism came in 1847 when Martha Willison briefly changed this sign to the 'Jolly Scotsman and Australian Youth'. It was probably too long to catch on.

McLEOD. Donald McLEAN opened the 'Scotch Thistle' in 1823. Donald McCORMACK opened the 'Edinburgh Castle' in 1824.

The Irish had the 'Brian Boru' in 1834, the 'Hibernian Inn', curiously opened by a Scot, Ramsay WILLIAMSON, in 1845, the 'Irish Harp' opened briefly by Francis HEANEY in 1834, the 'Land O'Cakes' opened in 1839 by Matthew MUIR, and changed to the 'Phoenix' soon after. There was the 'Maid of Erin', another short-lived house opened in 1833, and two by the name of 'St Patrick Inn', one on the corner of Goulburn and Barrack Streets opened in 1833, and the other in Harrington Street, opened in 1828. Laughlan REYNOLDS, born in Ireland, opened the 'Shamrock in 1831'.

The Welsh had just 'The Leek Inn' opened by Richard LEWIS, a proud Welshman, in 1829. It lasted just one year.

As for the English, there were too many to list. The 'Albion Hotel' in Elizabeth Street, formerly the 'Cat and Fiddle', was signed by Evan Henry THOMAS in 1823. The 'Britannia' appeared the same year, and the first of two 'British Hotel' commenced the next year with George OGILVIE as licensee. The second 'British Hotel', also in Liverpool Street, opened in 1843, with Thomas Ogilvie in charge. The 'Rose and Crown' in North Hobart began in 1830, and appropriately later became the 'Empire Hotel'.

Some of the more unusual names were what I call nostalgia signs. The 'White Conduit' for example, was named for the 'White Conduit' house in Pentonville, London, a pleasure gardens by 1730 that began as an ale house built beside a field in which was a water conduit faced with white stone. The gardens must have held some pleasant memories for Richard RAY who opened the Hobart pub of that

name. The 'Bagnigge Wells' likewise recalled a spa opened to the public on the Fleet River in London in 1760 and which was a fashionable meeting place with a bowling alley and skittle alley. Thomas CONNOR opened his 'Bagnigge Wells' at O'Brien's Bridge (Glenorchy) in 1834.

Charles COX opened the 'Salutation Inn' in 1846. The *Colonial Times* on 27 November 1846 welcomed this new house, and expressed just how nostalgic Hobart Town's residents were then for the old country:

THE SALUTATION TAVERN.— Amongst other signs of social feeling, if not of social improvement, is the partiality evinced by many of our colonists to revive and perpetuate recollections of their native land, and in nothing is this home-feeling more remarkable than in the names of their estates and houses, the designations of their shops, and the signs of our inns and taverns. Amongst these latter we have particularly noticed the very comfortable hostelry of Mr Cox, junior, in Liverpool Street, who, in remembrance of the famous Salutation Tavern in Newdegate Street, London, has bestowed upon it that designation. There are many in this town who well remember the Salutation in London, not less on account of its excellent accommodation, than from the pleasant company of the grave and gay citizens they were wont to meet there, and who came to the tavern to enjoy their pipe and tankard, as regularly as St Paul's clock struck eight.

Another category had their signs derived from the coats of arms of various trades. These houses reflected their locality, and often served as houses of call for tradesman needing work. If you wanted a cabinetmaker to do some work for you, you called on the 'Cabinetmakers' Arms' and left a message. The 'Jolly Hatter's Inn', Melville Street, opened in 1823, and was signed by William CHAMPION, by

trade a hatter. It was a well-known house of call for carpenters and joiners, sawyers, wheelwrights and coachmen, and shoemakers. The unions that represented these trades also met at the 'Jolly Hatter'. The tradesman's signs included the 'Bakers' Arms', the 'Bricklayers' Arms', 'Butchers' Arms', 'Cabinet-makers' Arms', 'Carpenters' Arms', 'Fisherman's' Arms', 'Haberdashers' Arms', 'Hammerman's' Arms', 'Joiners' Arms', 'Masons' Arms', 'Moulder's' Arms', 'Plasterers' Arms', 'Quarryman's' Arms', 'Sawyers' Arms', 'Shipwrights' Arms' and the 'Waterman's Arms'.

Hobart's status as a seaport meant many houses had seafaring signs. Whaling was the earliest industry, and so the first recorded public house was the 'Whale Fishery', opened in 1807. A second 'Whale Fishery' followed in 1832, the 'Whalers' Return' in 1835, and the short-lived 'Generous Whale' in 1839. With the death of the industry the pubs changed sign, the 'Whale Fishery' became the 'Duke of Edinburgh' in 1867, and the 'Whaler's Return' the 'Nautilus' the same year. Clearly whaling was out of fashion.

The 'Dolphin Inn' was in Wapping, the Old Wharf area, and the 'Mariner's Compass' in Murray Street. The 'Marine', which started life as the 'Sailor's Delight', was also in lower Murray Street, just above the Wharves, alongside the 'Customs House Hotel'. Along Salamanca Place on the New Wharf, were the 'Nautilus' and the 'Neptune', and later the 'Rear Admiral Hornby'. The 'Sailor's Return' was on the Old Wharf in Hunter Street opposite the docks. Hobart's premier hotel for many years was the 'Ship' in Elizabeth Street. At Battery Point was the 'Patent Slip', just beside the shipbuilding yards, and the 'Shipwrights' Arms'.

As technology brought the age of sail to an end, so the age of steam was heralded by the 'Steam Packet Inn' in 1847 on the Old Wharf, the 'Steam Hammer Inn' in 1869, formerly the 'Britannia', in Macquarie Street, and the 'Steam Navigation' in 1854 on the corner of Elizabeth and Bathurst Streets.

The railway came to Hobart about 1866, and in that year the old 'Emerald Inn', in Molle Street, became the 'Railway Inn', and the old 'Crown and Kettle' in Elizabeth Street became the 'Railway Hotel'. In 1857 a new house was opened in Morrison Street on the Old Wharf signed the 'Telegraph', another acknowledgment of the wonders of new technology. The 'Lord Nelson' on the Macquarie and Campbell Street corner became the 'Locomotive Hotel' in 1872.

Hobart Town inherited some very old signs with a long history. The 'Crossed Keys' is the symbol for St Peter, and thus the Papacy. The 'Seven Stars' and the 'Hope and Anchor' are both religious symbols. Two houses, the 'Saracen's Head' and the 'Turk's Head', both come from the days of the Crusades. The 'Elephant and Castle' is supposed to be a corruption of Eleanor of Castile, a long ago Queen of England. Hobart's house was clearly named for the famous house on the south side of the Thames. It is easy to imagine a number of others as thatched Tudor buildings in the green English countryside. The 'Brown Bear', the 'Bull and Mouth', the 'Bull's Head', the 'Cat and Fiddle', the 'Coach and Horses', the 'Cock and Magpie', the 'Crown and Kettle', the 'Dog and Duck', 'Dog and Partridge', 'Dusty Miller', the 'George and Dragon', the 'Grasshopper', 'Hare and Hounds', 'Harvest Home', 'Hop Pole', 'Horse and Groom', 'Noah's Ark', 'Ocean Child', 'Rising Sun', 'Plough and Harrow' and the 'Thatched House'

are all good examples.

We can imagine the creativity of the artists who painted the signs, although few records remain of what they were. This is a whole field of colonial art that seems lost. The *Critic* columnist early last century reported a few that were remembered. The sign outside the 'Good Woman Inn', Argyle Street, created some controversy in the 1890s. Some women demanded its removal, as it showed a headless woman; hardly subtle. The 'Hen and Chickens' had a large sign, 6 feet by 4 feet, depicting a farmyard. The 'Adam and Eve' in Liverpool Street had a sign that gave the landlord 'at least plenty of colour and paint for his money'. According to the *Critic*, it

was a source of wonder to strangers, whilst its impossibilities gave much amusement to lovers of the fine arts. Adam resembled a cross between a native aboriginal and an Eskimo, and his face carried such a high colour as to cause one to liberally receive the impression that he had been on a three days' wild burst, and was looking about for a pick me up.

Quite a number of houses were signed for famous people. There was one Duchess, Queen Victoria's mother, the 'Duchess of Kent'. Six Dukes joined the list, two signed for the 'Duke of York', the second being the 'Duke of York and Soldier's Friend'. The 'Duke of Wellington' was one of several harking back to the Napoleonic Wars. Benjamin JACKSON opened it in 1846, the year the Iron Duke retired from public office. The 'Duke of Clarence' was probably named for William IV, who carried that title before his accession. He had been dead seven years when the house opened in 1844. I'm not sure who the 'Duke of Leinster' was.

Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, was the son of Queen Victoria who made the first Royal Visit to Tasmania in 1868,

arousing great patriotic excitement. The 'Whale Fishery' was changed to the 'Duke of Edinburgh' in 1867. The old 'English, French and American Hotel' in Macquarie Street became 'Prince Alfred' in May 1867. The 'Volunteer Hotel' in Argyle Street became the 'Galatea Hotel' in December 1867, the name of the Royal Navy ship that carried the Prince to Hobart.

The 'King George Inn', previously the 'Tontine', was signed in 1824 for the reigning King, George IV. His brother and successor scored the honour of the 'King William the Fourth', opened by John SOLOMON in 1832, and also the 'William the Fourth', both in Liverpool Street, which must have caused confusion. John BAILEY opened this house in 1834. It changed to the 'Manchester Arms' in 1854. The 'Queen Adelaide' in Adelaide Street, South Hobart was signed for the Queen of William IV.

Queen Victoria was honoured by a house of that sign opened in 1851, but its life was brief. It may be it was not thought appropriate to call a pub after the Queen. If so, the thought was ignored. The first 'Young Queen' opened at Roseneath Ferry in 1838, the year after her accession. A second in lower Collins Street opened in 1854. There were two 'Victoria Taverns', the first opened in 1838 by William GARTH on the corner of Murray and Elizabeth Streets, and the second by Gilbert HIGGOTT and John McGRATH in lower Collins Street in 1839. The 'Prince Albert', signed for Victoria's Consort, opened in New Town in 1840. There was a 'Prince Albert' in Macquarie Street for two years from December 1856.

The 'Prince Napoleon' in Battery Point was opened in 1857, while Napoleon III was Emperor of France', and France was an ally of Great Britain. The 'Prince of Orange', signed after the Protestant

William of Orange who defeated James II and ruled as William III with his wife Mary, opened in 1844. We can assume that Edward JONES, the first licensee, was a staunch Protestant.

There were ten houses named after Lords. Two celebrated the naval hero 'Lord Nelson'. Both opened in 1834, one on the corner of Macquarie and Campbell Streets, and the second in Argyle Street. This house closed in 1839, while the first became the 'Lord Raglan' in 1855. Lord Raglan was a Field Marshall in the Crimean War, and at the time was a hero who ordered the Charge of the Light Brigade a year before the sign was changed.

The 'Lord Rodney' opened in 1846, signed for a naval hero who destroyed a French flotilla preparing to invade England in 1759. Another naval hero was Rear Admiral HORNBY, who led a Flying Squadron of the Royal Navy to Australian ports in 1869 and 1870, including Hobart in January 1870. In December 1869 George SWAN opened his new house on the New Wharf and signed it the 'Rear Admiral Hornby'.

The 'Lord Palmerston' in Harrington Street was signed in 1866 having been the 'Manchester Unity Arms'. Lord PALMERSTON, Prime Minister of Great Britain, had died the previous year. Lord HOBART, for whom the city was named, was Secretary of State for War and the Colonies in 1803. He also had a pub signed for him in Barrack Street in 1843. Lord MELBOURNE was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1834 and again from 1835 to 1841. The house in Melville Street opened in May 1840 while he was in office. There was also a 'Lord Morpeth Inn', in Collins Street, but this seems to have been another case of nostalgia. Francis LAIDMAN opened it in 1847. Laidman was born in Northumberland, probably at Morpeth, in 1814.

There were two Marquis. The 'Marquis of Hastings' opened in 1847 and the 'Marquis of Waterford', previously the 'Golden Anchor', was changed in 1849 by John DIXON.

A number of Knights were also honoured by hotels. Sir George ARTHUR, Lieut-Gov. of VDL, had a hotel named for him in 1843. He had left in 1836. A house in Murray Street likewise honoured his successor, Sir John FRANKLIN, in 1848. Franklin died on an Arctic journey of exploration in 1847, and somewhat belatedly became a local hero. Sir Thomas BRISBANE was Governor of NSW from 1821 to 1825 with a new house signed to him in Murray Street after 1834. The old 'Black Bull' was re-signed as the 'Sir Thomas Picton' in 1857.

Probably the most interesting of the Knights of the Realm was Sir William DON. He was an actor who died on 20 March 1862 at 'Webb's Hotel' while staying in Hobart. In December 1865 Samuel HARRIS licensed a house in his name to commemorate him. His wife, also an actor, continued to visit and perform. Quite how an actor on tour of Australia was also a knight might make a good story.

Florence NIGHTINGALE, the Crimean War heroine, had a house signed for her in Morrison Street on the New Wharf in 1857. Florence Nightingale returned to England in 1856 from the Crimea. Appropriately it was a lady publican who opened the house, Elizabeth JONES. The 'Inkerman Inn', Argyle Street, was signed for the Battle of Inkerman fought in the Crimean War on 5 November 1854. Sarah HEAVER opened her pub in 1855.

Other historical figures were found among the signs, including the 'Black Prince', 'Rob Roy' and 'Robin Hood'. Even the first American President found a

niche with the 'General Washington', signed in 1847 by William ROBERTS. It had been the 'Sir John Falstaff', became the 'Excelsior', then 'Wiggins Hotel'.

Of course, a number of houses carried the name of their licensees. The 'Horse and Jockey' at New Town was close to the New Town Racecourse, and was the terminus for the coach line that brought the punters out from the city. It was much better known as 'Cooley's Hotel', and still is, after long time licensee Thomas Todd COOLEY who ran the house from 1839 to 1886.

'Currie's Club Hotel' was the 'Union Club Hotel' until Edward CURRIE took over in 1873. Peter DUDGEON ran 'Dudgeon's Cellars' from 1832 to 1834. 'Stodart's Hotel' was opened by Robert STODART in 1824. It became the 'Macquarie Hotel' when he left in 1827. 'Webb's Family Hotel' was the 'Bedford Arms' until 1861, when John WEBB took over. It later became 'Hadley's Hotel', another licensee-named house. 'Ottaway's Hotel' in Liverpool Street was formerly the 'Royal Hotel' until George OTTAWAY took over in 1854. Job BYE opened 'Bye's Hotel' in Campbell Street in 1846. In 1867 William McLAREN took over the 'Exchange Tavern' in Collins Street, and signed it with his name.

There were a number of houses signed by their geographic location. The 'Cascade Tavern' obviously took its sign from its proximity to the Cascade Brewery in South Hobart. The 'Custom House Hotel' in Murray Street was opposite the original Customs' House, now Tasmania's Parliament House. The Derwent River gave its name to four houses, two Derwent Hotels, one in Murray Street, the other in Elizabeth Street, the 'Derwent Brewery' which was licensed between 1830 and 1836, in Collins Street, and the 'Derwent Inn' at the Risdon Ferry. The

'Ferntree Tavern' opened in 1861 by Alfred HALL on the slopes of Mount Wellington at Fern Tree.

The 'Lime Kiln Inn', which became the 'Crescent Hotel', in Murray and Burnett Streets, gained its sign from the lime burning industry that existed in the area in early days. The 'Beach Tavern' at Sandy Bay clearly advertised its primary attraction, as did the 'River View' further down Sandy Bay.

One of the earliest pubs in Hobart was the 'Calcutta', probably named for the ship that brought the first settlers to Hobart. Maria SERGEANT held the license in 1818 at the first Licensing Court.

The area around the Theatre Royal in Campbell Street reflected the theatrical tradition. In 1854 the 'William the Fourth' became the 'Garrick's Head'. GARRICK was an actor and theatre manager who dominated the English stage for thirty years. The 'Sir John Falstaff' was signed for the Shakespearian comedy character. It was also in Campbell Street, and played the role of saloon for the Theatre. There was also a bar in the basement of the Theatre Royal known as the 'Shades', but this was not licensed separately.

A couple of houses had literary allusions in their signs. William MITCHELL opened the 'Doctor Syntax', still operating in Sandy Road, in 1846. According to Amy Rowntree in her *History of Sandy Bay*, (1959):

Its sign was a picture of the learned but absent-minded schoolmaster mounted on his grey horse and approaching the fingerpost on which were half a dozen arms pointing in a bewildering number of directions. The doctor, a drooping figure, sat hesitating which one to select. The name was taken from an old poem called Dr Syntax in search of the Picturesque. One verse ran:

Among the high, or with the low  
Syntax had never made a foe  
And although the jest of all he knew  
Yet while they laughed, they loved him  
too.

Charles DICKENS was very popular in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hobart, and the 'Pickwick Tavern' in Liverpool Street reflected this. It was opened in 1839 by James WILLIAMS, just after *The Pickwick Papers* had been serialized for the first time and caused a sensation, even in faraway Hobart Town.

Another was the 'Paul Pry' on the Old Wharf, opened by William WIGGINS in 1832. According to *The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, the new and enlarged edition of 1894, by E Cobham Brewer, Paul Pry was:

An idle, meddlesome fellow, who has no occupation of his own, and is always interfering with other folk's business. (John Poole: Paul Pry, a comedy.) The original was Thomas Hill.

There was a popular English newspaper of that name earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and there are still many pubs in England with the sign.

Sport was not a major contributor, but certainly the racetrack left a mark. Apart from the 'Horse and Jockey', there was the 'Turf Tavern' in Murray Street and the 'Turf Club' at Glenorchy. In 1845 William TURNER built the 'Bowling Green Hotel' in Fitzroy Place, including the first lawn bowls green in Australia. Unfortunately it did not take off, and closed in 1854.

Animals and birds found their way onto the signs of many houses. These ranged from the 'Antelope' in Goulburn Street opened by Joseph LACEY in 1834, to the 'Woodpecker' in Harrington Street, opened by Richard HILL in 1843. Neither is indigenous to Australia. Local

fauna made little impression, save for the emu, the kangaroo and the black swan. The emu gave its name to two houses, the first in Brisbane Street in 1823 and the second in Liverpool Street in 1844. The kangaroo also scored twice, the first in 1820 on the corner of Liverpool and Harrington Streets. This house became the 'Red Lion'. The second lasted no longer. It was in Lenah Valley, originally known as 'Kangaroo Bottom', opened in 1857. There were four locations for the 'Black Swan Inn', finally settling in 1840 in Argyle Street. It could be argued that the 'Black Snake Inn' also represents an indigenous animal. It was named for the rivulet on the banks of which it stood at what is now Granton.

For some reason there were eight houses starting with White, several of them animals—the 'White Horse', 'White Hart', 'White Lion', 'White Pheasant' and the 'White Swan'. The 'White Pheasant' is supposed to have gained its sign from its convict licensee, William SMITH. Legend has it he was transported for poaching a white pheasant.

There were six Blacks—the 'Black Bull', two 'Black Horses', the 'Black Prince', the 'Black Snake' and the 'Black Swan'. There was just one Brown, the 'Brown Bear', and three Greens—two 'Green Mans', one in the city and one at Glenorchy, and the 'Green Gate'. Golden scored five, with two 'Golden Fleeces', the 'Golden Cross', and the 'Golden Gate'. As well as the 'Red Lion' there was a 'Red Rover'. These colours must have influenced the artists who painted their signs. And let's not forget the 'Spotted Cow'!

Some signs carry clues about their owners. Napoleon GILBERT baptised his first son William Beachcroft in 1830, and also signed his first hotel the 'Beachcroft' in 1832. Clearly the name

had some significance for him. Peregrine CLARKE had an affinity with the wheat sheaf, for he opened three of them. One wonders if the 'Nag's Head Inn', Melville Street, carried a pun in its sign. The first licensee was John Boys KNAGGS, although always known as John BOYS.

The 'English, French and American Hotel' was given its odd sign by Jesse MORRILL, who opened it in 1840. He was an American, so perhaps was making a statement about his own origins. It later became the 'Magpie and Stump', when Mark STUMP became licensee in 1864. Still later it was the 'Royal Artilleryman', and then the 'Prince Alfred'.

The 'Dorchester Butt' gains its sign from a cask for wine, beer or ale. The *Critic* columnist recorded:

Of course the pub had a sign which was a representation of an immense butt. The artist, who was one of the scene painters attached to the theatre, was given a carte blanche not to spare the colours and he carried out his instructions to the letter. The paint stood out so thick on the canvas that it was sufficient to keep a tidal wave at bay. One evening there was a disturbance outside the theatre, and the picture of the Butt suffered terribly. An enraged female charged it with road metal, and it is chronicled that its ghastly appearance caused its painter to go on a fortnight's drunk.

Probably the oddest sign in Hobart Town was the 'Help me through the World', on the corner of Liverpool and Barrack Streets. Samuel COLLINS licensed it in 1829, and we can only wonder whether he was making a personal plea or perhaps remembering a pub at home. According to the *Critic* it had its sign in the window showing a man scrambling over an impossible looking globe.

Another old favourite was the 'Labour in

Vain' opened in September 1832 by Patrick McCABE. Again, the *Critic* gives a hint of the sign that hung outside it. The columnist quoted an old-timer:

It was, as far as I can remember, a one storey weatherboard house, far up the street, with a signboard in front swinging on a pole, the subject being a large washing tub, wooden of course, with a black boy in it. Two or three women were holding him whilst others were industriously using a scrubbing brush to some purpose if one might judge from the boy's face and attitude.

The 'Mitre Tavern' opened in 1834 by George William BARBER on the Watchorn and Bathurst Street corner was named for a very famous house. There is still a 'Mitre Tavern' hidden down an alleyway in Hatton Garden, London, built in 1547 for the use of the palace servants of the Bishop of Ely, and technically it is still part of Cambridgeshire. It was rebuilt in 1772. Ben JONSON held another 'Mitre Tavern' in Mitre Court, London, in high esteem, and Samuel PEPYS frequently dined there. A mitre is the hat worn by a bishop, and so the original 'Mitre Tavern' referred to the coat of arms of the Bishops of Ely who owned it.

The original 'Tasmanian Inn' in Argyle Street predates the change of name of the colony from Van Diemen's Land by about twenty years. Perhaps it was a political statement by George William ROBINSON, the initial licensee, who was an American, born in Massachusetts. Even earlier was the 'Tasmanian Wine Vaults', licensed for just one year in 1832, and the 'Tasmanian Whaler' licensed for three years from 1832. Interestingly, no house ever carried the name of Van Diemen's Land. ◀



# RINGAROOMA: THE TOWN THAT MOVED

John O'Reilly (Member No.6355)

**R**INGAROOMA is unique in Tasmania—it is the only town which has been moved. It is also one of the few places within the state whose origin and meaning are still under debate.

It is not generally known that the name 'Ringarooma' was originally used for the settlement on the Tasmanian north coast where the Ringarooma River flows into Bass Strait, in Ringarooma Bay near Cape Portland, and where George BELL had discovered the first alluvial tin in the north-east in 1874.

In the 1850s, James SCOTT (after whom the town of Scottsdale, originally known as 'Scott's New Country', is named) surveyed a track from Launceston through the north-east. Settlers moved to the area to take up large blocks of prime farmland, and the subsequent discovery of gold and tin brought more people to the upper reaches of the Ringarooma River. The township which was formed in the heart of this area became known as Upper Ringarooma. Scott claimed land nearby and named his property *Legerwood* after his previous home in England.

For many years that area was known as 'Ringarooma Road'. In 1882, Christopher KRUSHKA, who owned land on the southern side of Upper Ringarooma's Main Road, had his land sub-divided into town lots. This was some six years after my grandfather Patrick DOHERTY (c.1837–1908) and his family had arrived from the Fingal district about 1876 and purchased some nearby farmland which he named 'Annadale'. Those town lots were sold at auction under the title of 'Krushka Town' and for several years many people used that name for the town.

On 12 November 1888, for reasons that seem never to have been recorded, the Governor of the state issued a proclamation changing the name of the coastal town then known as 'Ringarooma' to 'Boobyalla'. On the same day, by another proclamation, he also changed the name of the town of 'Krushka' to 'Ringarooma'. In the early 1900s the name of the nearby town then known as 'Ringarooma Road' was changed to 'Legerwood'

In 1988 the centenary of the renaming of Ringarooma was marked by the publication of two books. One, entitled *As the River Flows – Mount Victoria to Boobyalla*, is a history of the municipality and was published by the Ringarooma Council which had been created (as a separate municipality from the Portland Council) a mere eighty years earlier in 1908. The other, entitled *Ringarooma – One Hundred Years* was compiled by a group of locals and covers the whole century from 1888 in more detail.

On p.181 of *As The River Flows*, the authors state:

From whence came the name Ringarooma. Here are four [sic] possibilities:

- George Augustus Robinson in his book *Friendly Mission* (p.437) says that Ringarooma was an aboriginal word describing the area around Cape Portland.
- Mr Perryman, a former member of the Nomenclature Board, said it was the combination of two Maori words meaning the place of the departed spirits. This name was given following the wreck of the *Sally* in the area in 1826.

- Mr M B Targett, a local resident, believes that Ringer-Rooma was the name of an aborigine

Helen Stingel was one of the authors of both books. She has provided some additional information on possible meanings of the word 'Ringarooma', some of which complement the above.

Over many years, many meanings have been put forward and the debate is continuing.

- Ring-a-rumour Local wits?;
- Two rivers meeting (possibly aboriginal, local belief handed down);
- Happy hunting ground (Aboriginal belief);
- Mr Ring was a member of Scott's party (Scott named some landmarks after members of the party);
- Maori name? Mr Lloyd Cairns has done a lot of research into the name. He found that

in 1826 a boat *Sally* left Hobart with settlers for Cape Portland. The boat was wrecked near Waterhouse Island; 'Reinga' is a place name for departed spirits or where spirits took their final plunge. 'Roma' is a channel or current. Roma—Ringarooma. Because of his research Mr Cairns is confident the name is from the Maori language;

- N J B Plomley, author of *Friendly Mission*, a book taken from George Robinson's diary on the moving of the Tasmanian Aborigines from mainland Tasmania to the Furneaux islands, has recorded that Robinson spelt the name *Ring er roomer*. This name was used by the north east tribes to designate certain parts of Cape Portland, including the bay, a point and offshore islands; Ring er roomer meaning – a swift water point. This is also recorded in *Tasmanian Placenames – The Aboriginal Connection* by J A Taylor. ◀

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# OUTRAGE AT THE DEATH OF CONVICT JAMES PIKE MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER OR THE VISITATION OF GOD?

Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

**J**AMES PIKE (*Woodford* 2, 1828) died at Launceston on 7 August 1834.<sup>1</sup> He was 22 years of age.<sup>2</sup>

A coroner's inquest found that he had 'Died by the Visitation of God' but the jury, in handing down its verdict, had felt it incumbent upon them to express their regret 'that medical aid was not sooner obtained as the life of the deceased might probably have been prolonged'.<sup>3</sup>

Incensed by this strange and contradictory verdict, the *Launceston Advertiser* of 11 September (p.2) exclaimed:

... it was made clear [at the inquest] that had the deceased received proper treatment he might have lived; that, though dangerously ill, he received improper treatment ... We have called upon the Government to inform the Public – the British nation – who, or what part of the Convict System, has been the cause of James Pike's death? We can obtain no answer.

Vowing not to let the matter rest until its question was fully answered, the *Advertiser* repeated its editorial, *verbatim*, every week for another ten weeks.<sup>4</sup>

Adding to the feelings of disgust that this incident engendered in many was the fact that poor James Pike, at the time of his death, was serving a lengthy sentence in the road-party of the notorious Robert Melross NOTTMAN (sometimes seen as NOTMAN). A Scot, Nottman had arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a free settler at the age of forty in 1826 and had been made a superintendent of convict road-parties the following year. As such, he had quickly earned a reputation for callousness and cruelty.<sup>5</sup>

In the newspapers of the day there were frequent references to the harshness of the treatment he meted out to the men in his charge. In fact, editors often used Nottman's name in a grim but wryly humorous way. For instance, when reporting the case of a man brought before the courts for stealing cabbages, the *Colonial Times* of 16 April 1833 (p.2) noted that the offender had been sentenced 'to undergo the pleasure of Mr Nottman's company for six months'. In similar vein, the paper reported on 22 April 1834 (p.7) that a man convicted of vagrancy had been sentenced to a six month term with Mr Nottman's road-

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<sup>1</sup> *The Launceston Advertiser*, 14 August 1834, p.2

<sup>2</sup> Pike's convict indent: TAHO CON18/1/21

<sup>3</sup> As for Note 1, above

<sup>4</sup> *The Launceston Advertiser* repeated its 14 August 1834 (p.2) editorial on 21 August, 28 August, 4 September, 11 September,

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18 September, 25 September, 2 October, 9 October, 16 October and 23 October

<sup>5</sup> See 'Old Bobby Nutman', the story of Robert NOTTMAN, in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol.32, No. 3, Dec. 2011

party 'as an antidote for his drunkenness and laziness'.

It is also clear from contemporary reports that being sentenced to Nottman's road-party was seen as a harsher penalty than being sent to any other road-party. Thus, the *Colonial Times* of 15 April 1834 (p.7) noted that a convict who had absconded from a road-party working at Grass Tree Hill had, when recaptured, been sentenced 'to a further twelve months at Nottman's party'.

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James Pike was just sixteen years old when sentenced to seven years' transportation for stealing potatoes from his employer at Barking, Essex, England, in 1827. He had arrived at Hobart Town on 2 May 1828. A farm labourer and ploughman, he was 5 feet 6 inches (168 cms) tall, with brown hair, grey eyes and a swarthy complexion. He had a large scar on the right side of his nose and another on his right wrist. He might have been an orphan; he told the authorities that he had a brother, Henry, but made no mention of his parents.<sup>6</sup>

Although the offence for which Pike was transported seems to have been his first, he had probably had some kind of trouble with the law previously. His gaol report before transportation describes him as being of 'bad character'.<sup>7</sup>

At Hobart Town he was soon in trouble with the authorities again. By the time of his death he had been brought before a magistrate eleven times and punished harshly for offences that seem mostly trivial. He had been lashed on six separate occasions, receiving more than two hundred strokes in total. He had

been sentenced to prison terms twice, to be served with hard labour, for a total of eighteen months. His original sentence of seven years had been extended to ten years.<sup>8</sup>

On 3 June 1829 Pike had received 50 lashes for 'disrespectful behavior towards his master'. On 1 March 1833, he was given another 25 lashes for 'insolence and disrespect to a magistrate'. The very next day, 2 March 1833, he was charged with 'insubordination, insolence, abusive language and disobedience of orders' and ordered to serve six months' imprisonment with hard labour. On 8 October 1833, he was accused of 'idleness and disrespectful conduct' and ordered to be retained in a road-party for the remainder of his sentence.<sup>9</sup>

Not surprisingly, he absconded soon afterwards and, when apprehended on 20 December 1833, his original sentence of seven years was extended by another three years. On the same date, he was charged with insubordination towards the magistrates and sentenced to another year's imprisonment with hard labour. In handing down this penalty, the magistrate specifically recommended that the sentence be served in Nottman's gang.<sup>10</sup>

There, worse was to follow. On 24 January 1834, he was charged with 'making away with a knife, the property of the Government' and received 25 lashes. On 11 April 1834 he absconded again, and when apprehended he was subjected to a further 50 lashes. On 21 May 1834 he was charged with 'neglect of work' and given 25 more lashes. On 3 July 1834 he received another 35 lashes, this time for 'feigning illness'. On 25

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<sup>6</sup> As for Note 2, above

<sup>7</sup> Pike's conduct record: TAHO CON31/1/34, Image 174

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

July 1834, he was found guilty of ‘pilfering his fellow prisoners’ rations’ and sentenced to a month’s imprisonment with hard labour. Again, the magistrate recommended that this sentence be served in Nottman’s gang.<sup>11</sup>

Two weeks after the last offence listed here Pike was dead.

The *Launceston Advertiser* of 14 August 1834 (p.3) carried a report of the inquest into his death. A local resident, Mr BARTLEY, told the coroner that on the morning of 7 August he had been travelling to Launceston on business when he came across a cart in which Pike, in an ‘emaciated, wretched condition’, was being taken to hospital. Surprised to learn that the man was from Nottman’s road-party, Bartley resolved to make enquiries when he reached the town as to why the poor fellow was in such a state of neglect and why treatment had not been sought for him sooner. The next morning Bartley was told Pike had died before reaching hospital.

The next witness was a prisoner who had been locked up with Pike in a cell at Nottman’s camp. He testified that Pike had been gaoled for claiming that he was ill and refused to work. Every morning from 29 July to 6 August, this witness claimed, Pike had begged to be allowed to see a doctor but had been informed by the overseer that ‘he knew the rules; he must either go to work or stay in the cell’. When, on the morning of 6 August, however, Pike had been unable to walk from the cell without assistance, the Launceston surgeon, Dr GARRETT, had finally been called.

Garrett told the coroner that he had found Pike lying crouched on a mattress in the cell. His breathing was ‘short, hurried

and difficult’; his tongue was ‘dry and furred’; his pulse was ‘very quick and weak’, and Garrett ordered Pike’s immediate removal to hospital. The next morning, Garrett performed a post-mortem examination of the body. It had revealed, he said, that there had been an effusion of blood into the left lung which was adhering to the ribs. He considered that death was due to the obstruction of the passage of blood and air through the lungs and that the cause of this ‘disease’ was ‘exposure to cold and wet’.

It was on the basis of this information that the jury had handed down the ‘Visitation from God’ verdict that had so incensed the *Launceston Advertiser*.

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How could the coroner’s jury have concluded that death was due to a ‘Visitation of God’? ranted the *Advertiser* in its editorial. Surely, its use of this phrase meant that the jury believed that there had been no criminality, and that the only possible explanation for the death was that God had decided that it was time for Pike to die? But did not the jury then contradict itself, asked the *Advertiser*, by expressing regret ‘that medical aid was not sooner obtained, as the life of the deceased might probably have been prolonged’?<sup>12</sup>

Eventually, the *Advertiser’s* outcry produced a result—but not one that entirely pleased its editor.

On 28 August 1834 (p.2), the paper reported that government authorities at Hobart Town had ordered an investigation into Pike’s death. But, while applauding this fact, the editor expressed disappointment that the investigation would be closed to the press and the public. In particular, the *Advertiser*

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<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*

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<sup>12</sup> As for Note 4, above

regretted that no-one from its own office had been invited to attend:

... seeing that the focus of the case would have remained ... entirely screened from a wholesome publicity had it not been for the plain and authentic statement run in our columns.

However, we trust that secret as the investigation may be, its results will be marked by no trimming – no balancing of personal considerations against actual culpability.

The case is one that requires no rhapsodies to make it appalling; it is the death of a prisoner from neglect and mistreatment; and justice requires that the offending party, whoever he be ... shall meet the full punishment, judicial or otherwise, which his conduct may seem to merit.

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It was to be an unbelievably long time – almost five years, in fact—before the public became aware of the results of the investigation into Pike’s death.

Part of the reason for this—but not the whole reason—was that the *Launceston Advertiser*, having secured the investigation, decided to drop its campaign. On 30 October 1834 (p.2), it explained its reason for doing so:

Several friends having given us reason to think that the continued insertion of the paragraph which has for some time appeared in this portion of our paper relating to the deceased James Pike may do harm to the Colony ... we have decided to withdraw it. But on no earthly account shall we lose sight of the circumstances which gave rise to its insertion - of which we are now fully apprised.<sup>13</sup>

Inexplicably, however, the *Launceston Advertiser* does appear to have lost sight

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<sup>13</sup> This appears to have been *The Launceston Advertiser’s* final mention of the Pike case

of the case.<sup>14</sup> It was not until 1839 that the general public was told—by a rival newspaper—of the ‘atrocious’ circumstances of James Pike’s death.

On 16 March of that year, *The Cornwall Chronicle* informed its readers that, at Nottman’s camp in July 1834, Pike had come under the notice of a ticket-of-leave overseer by the name of Richard CLOAK who had ordered him to be severely flogged for some misdemeanour. While Pike was still strung up and writhing under the lash, Cloak had brought a new charge against him, accusing him of ‘insolence’.<sup>15</sup>

After being cut down Pike was ordered to the cells in which another prisoner was already being held. There, an altercation of some kind had taken place between the two men. Cloak, who was called to break up the fight, had attacked Pike in a ‘most brutal’ manner. Taking advantage of him being knocked down by the other prisoner, Cloak had jumped on him, kicking him severely about the head and body repeatedly until he was unable to stand again.<sup>16</sup>

Kept in the cell in the following days, he had repeatedly asked to see a doctor but to no avail. It was not until Dr Garrett had visited him that he was sent to hospital—but it was too late by then.

According to *The Cornwall Chronicle*, the coroner’s inquest had opened the eyes of the public to the ‘doings’ at Nottman’s camp but it was not until the subsequent government investigation—brought about by the *Launceston Advertiser’s* urging—

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<sup>14</sup> No explanation can be given for this except that contained in the editorial of 30 October 1834; see Note 13, above

<sup>15</sup> *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 16 March 1839, p.3

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*

that any action was taken against those in charge.

As a result of that investigation, the *Chronicle* continued, Lieutenant-Governor George ARTHUR had ordered the removal of both Nottman and Cloak from the north of the colony to the south, with strict orders that neither was ever to be employed in the north again. When, a year or two later, some magistrates in the north had requested that Nottman be allowed to return—on the grounds that he himself had done no wrong and that he was culpable only of allowing Cloak to exercise the brutal treatment—the request had been answered with ‘an indignant negative’ and Nottman had to remain in the south.

Paradoxically, Cloak was given permission to return to the north within a couple of years—as the superintendent of a chain-gang based at Perth Bridge, about fifteen miles (25 kms) south of Launceston. And, as might have been anticipated, troublesome incidents at that camp were soon being reported.

In early March 1839, the *Chronicle* said, a prisoner had been shot by a guard when attempting to escape from his work at a stone quarry. In another instance, a prisoner had struck an overseer with intent to kill. When questioned about his motives, he said that he had intended to kill Cloak—out of a desire for revenge for un-redressed injuries—but, enraged at being unable to find Cloak, the prisoner attacked one of his subordinates instead. Some time earlier, a prisoner *had* managed to get to Cloak and had been hanged for an attack on him.

The *Chronicle* concluded its article with the fervent hope that Sir John FRANKLIN, who had replaced George Arthur as Lieutenant-Governor in October 1836 and who was now on a visit

of inspection to the north of the colony, would meet with the unfortunate prisoners of the Perth road-party to listen to their grievances.

It was a melancholy reflection, thought the *Chronicle*, that the present alarming state of the chain-gangs and road-parties was, in great measure, the result of ill-treatment of the prisoners by the overseers who, for the most part, were ‘men of bad character’.<sup>17</sup>

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No further charges were ever brought against Nottman and Cloak in relation to the death of James Pike.

In the early 1840s, after a decade and a half as a tough and uncompromising superintendent of road parties, Nottman resigned his post, sailed away from Van Diemen’s Land and never returned.<sup>18</sup>

The decision to give up the life Nottman was living was undoubtedly influenced by his decision, late in life, to marry. On 9 May 1837, then in his mid-fifties, he married Harriet SHOOBRIDGE (née SHAW).<sup>19</sup> She was a 34-year old widow.

Although he remained in his job for the next two or three years, Nottman was clearly making plans to leave. By the late 1830s, he had disposed of his land and livestock. In November 1839 he announced by way of a notice in the *Colonial Times* that he was preparing ‘to quit the colony’ and called for the immediate payment of all monies owing to him.

When, and how, the Nottmans left Van Diemen’s Land is unclear. No record of

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<sup>17</sup> The preceding nine paragraphs summarise the report published in *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 16 March 1839, p.3

<sup>18</sup> As for Note 5, above

<sup>19</sup> Nottman’s marriage to Harriet Shoobridge: 3717/1837/36

departure has been found for either of them. A notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 25 April 1846 (p.2) listed a 'Mr and Mrs Nottman' as passengers aboard the barque *Midlothian* which had sailed for London the previous day. It is thought likely that this was Robert and Harriett. It is possible that they had spent some years in Sydney before returning to England. To date, efforts to discover what became of them after leaving Sydney have been unsuccessful.

Richard Cloak, on the other hand, died at Hobart at the age of 76 in 1885.<sup>20</sup> He had arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard *William Miles* in July 1828 after being convicted of highway robbery and sentenced to transportation for life at the Kent Assizes in August 1827. Single, he was 5 feet 2½ inches (159 cms) tall, and a farmer's labourer by trade. His age is shown as 21 but he might have been a little younger. In May 1833, he was granted a ticket-of-leave and appropriated by the Department of Public Works as a road-party supervisor. In May 1840 he was granted a conditional pardon.<sup>21</sup>

In September 1835 he had married Eliza ELLAR, a free woman.<sup>22</sup> It is not known when he left the service of the Department of Public Works but after doing so he settled at Honeywood Farm, near Old Beach north of Hobart, where he and Eliza raised eleven children.<sup>23</sup> There he seems to have lived quietly as a respected and useful member of the community. There is no evidence of him offending in any way again. ◀

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<sup>20</sup> Cloak: Death – 2377/1885/35

<sup>21</sup> Cloak's conduct record: TAHO CON31/1/6, Image 292

<sup>22</sup> Cloak's marriage to Eliza ELLAR: 2780/1835/36

<sup>23</sup> Children of Richard and Eliza Cloak: Public trees via 'Ancestry.com'

# Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc.

1788–1868

Any person who has convict ancestors, or who has an interest in convict life during the early history of European settlement in Australia, is welcome to join the above group.

Those interested may find out more about the group and receive an application form by writing to:

The Secretary  
Descendants of  
Convicts' Group  
PO Box 229  
COLDSTREAM  
Victoria 3770

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



# THE *CHAPMAN* (1), 1817: WELCOME TO CONVICT ARRIVALS

Anne McMahan (Member No.6463)

**E**XPECTATIONS of disorder, as well as the likelihood of mutiny on the voyages, were created by government officials from time to time on the arrival in Cork harbour of Irish prisoners for transportation who had been sent on brigs from Dublin. Such negative stereotypes could have unfortunate consequences for the prisoners during the passages to the colonies. A case in point was that of the voyage of the *Chapman* (1) during 1817.

The *Chapman* (1) lay at anchor in Cork harbour awaiting the arrival of her male prisoners from the Dublin gaols of Kilmainham and Newgate. The men were being shipped round the Irish coast in the brig *Atlas*, one of several two-masted vessels hired for the convict service from the war department. The prisoners were crowded into the hold on straw matting, spread over the ballast, which served as bedding by night and accommodation by day during the coastal journey of 30 to 40 hours.

As the 198 prisoners were prepared to be sent on board the prison ship, the master of the *Atlas* described the convicts as a set of turbulent, desperate and dangerous men. He warned they would need to be controlled with extreme care on the voyage.<sup>1</sup>

Both the Master of the *Chapman* (1), John DRAKE, and the Surgeon Superintendent, Alexander DEWAR, were undertaking their first voyage on a convict transport to Sydney. Both were

greatly alarmed by the warning of potential danger on board.

While the ship was in port awaiting the arrival of the warrants Master John Drake restricted the prisoners' access to the deck to twelve men at one time for one hour each. Previously the custom had been to send the prisoners on deck in large groups to allow fresh air and exercise. Upon leaving Cork harbour on 14 March 1817 John Drake continued to enforce his rule. He also resolved to keep the prisoners heavily ironed during the voyage. Only those engaged in the ship-board roles such as cooks and hospital attendants had their irons struck off.

One week after sailing an alarm was raised on 22 March by a sentry that the prisoners were attempting to pick the lock of the prison. Drake and Surgeon Dewar went below and found all in order. There was a second false alarm at midnight and a third on 17 April. Apprehension was spreading among the ships' officers.

Their fears were suddenly deepened when an informer, Michael COLLINS, told of a plot to seize the ship and sail her to America. As an additional precaution the master chained the covers on the hatches to close off the prison thus impeding ventilation. Panic seized the guard of the 46<sup>th</sup> regiment, led by Lieut Christopher BUSTEED, as well as the crew when, at 8pm on 17 April, a cry went up that a mutiny had begun. Soldiers and sailors fired into the prison which was not opened until the following morning when

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<sup>1</sup> AJCP PRO 3191, *Chapman* (1), 1817

three prisoners were found dead and twenty-two wounded.<sup>2</sup>

The alleged ringleaders were named by the informer Michael Collins and flogged to upwards of 4000 lashes but this was not the end of the panic. On 28 April a further alarm was sounded and firing was again directed into the prison with one man killed and four wounded. The master reacted by further constraining the movement of the prisoners. The anchor chain-cable was passed beside the prison on which 100 men were shackled throughout the night for up to 15 hours.

The *Chapman* (1) arrived at Port Jackson on 26 July 1817 without further incidents. A total of five prisoners had been fatally shot while seven of the twenty-two who had been wounded also died. Two prisoners had succumbed to dysentery. Two seamen had also died, either by being shot or of wounds.

A Court of Inquiry was instituted at Sydney comprising Judge-Advocate WYLDE, D'Arcy WENTWORTH, Colonial Surgeon and J T CAMPBELL, Governor MACQUARIE's secretary. The majority view was that the officers and guard of the *Chapman* (1) had been guilty merely of misdemeanour. J T Campbell, a man of high principle, disagreed. He judged the behaviour of the ships' officers to have been systematic cruelty. His recommendation was they should be brought to trial. As Governor Macquarie had no jurisdiction to try offences committed on the high seas he sent Drake, Dewar, Busteed, some crew, and several of the guard to London for trial, together with prisoners as witnesses.

The accused were tried at the Admiralty Sessions of the Old Bailey on 11 January 1819. The prisoners, however, were declared not competent to give evidence without a Free Pardon. Thirteen had to be set at large to be returned to Ireland.

All were acquitted without being called upon for the defence. The finding of the Court was:

The Conduct of the Convicts on board the *Chapman* was of a Nature to excite the Minds of the Officers and Crew such that an apprehension of danger, and could excuse at least, if not justify, the Several Acts of Homicide laid to their charge.<sup>3</sup>

Lord SIDMOUTH, Home Secretary, was annoyed by the inconvenience of the trials being held in London. He directed BATHURST to convey this view to Macquarie. In his despatch Lord Bathurst trusted that there would be no occurrence of a similar nature without a credible body of evidence. This was not forthcoming in this instance as the prisoner witnesses were not heard.

Until 1818, according to Commissioner John Thomas BIGGE in his report taken from the evidence of A W H HUMPHREY, Police Magistrate of Hobart Town, when the convict ships were ordered to proceed to Port Jackson, in the first instance, Sydney officials had the first pick of convict labour followed by 'a detachment of an inferior description' which was selected for Van Diemen's Land.<sup>4</sup>

When the *Chapman* (1) anchored in Sydney Harbour on 26 July 1817 Governor Macquarie directed that seventy able-bodied prisoners be transhipped to

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*. Sydney A H & A W Reed, 1874, pp. 203–206

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<sup>3</sup> HRA I, x, 1819, pp. 144–145.

<sup>4</sup> John Thomas Bigge, *Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry on the State of the Colony of New South Wales*. London, H C 1822, facsimile, 1966

Hobart Town. Macquarie had been impressed by Lieut Governor William SORELL during his sojourn in Sydney on his arrival on board the *Sir William Bensley* on 10 March 1817 to take up duty. Being mindful of Sorell's need to increase the supply of convict labour when free settlers were arriving in Van Diemen's Land in increasing numbers, Macquarie had concluded that 'it was of no use to send weak and infirm men thither'.<sup>5</sup>

The *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter* welcomed the prisoners to the colony.<sup>6</sup> A Government Order of 25 August 1817 expressed concern that settlers may have been prejudiced against the *Chapman* prisoners by an unfavourable report promulgated against them. Settlers were advised that 'the Charge had not been established against the prisoners'. Instead they had been treated with unjustifiable and unmerciful severity on their passage. The seventy men sent down on the *Jupiter* were most orderly. The colonists were assured they would bring great benefit to the colony as a welcome addition to the labour force. ◀

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p.19

<sup>6</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 30 August 1817, facsimile edition, 1965

## ***Church Records of Tasmania Vol. 1***



### ***Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Burials A–K***

### ***Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Burials L–Z***

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

Write to Resource Manager  
TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch  
PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018  
or  
email [library@tasfhs.org](mailto:library@tasfhs.org)

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

# GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

IF you have visited the LINC Tasmania site recently you might have noticed a lot of changes in the family history section. If however you haven't visited the site in ages then it's time to change. I've often been amazed by the number of people who claim to be researching Tasmanians and yet are not using the combined resources of the previously known State Library and Archives Office of Tasmania, both from within and out of the state. I have to admit to problems remembering the new official names for repositories that I once spent six hours a day perusing in person in a desperate (often indexless) search for ancestors but whether you're looking for the Archives or TAHO or a published work in the library they are now all available from the one central location. Interestingly, physically 'the Archives' are now very close to the location they held when I started researching in the mid 1980s. People who have entered into family research since the advent of *Who do you think you are* and sites such as *Ancestry* will probably have difficulty accepting that back then family historians were second class citizens. After climbing to the top of the State Library building (only the first few in the door at opening fitted in the lift and signed in and claimed a machine within seconds), we were often snubbed at the desk (admittedly by many but not all staff) while they gave preference to 'real historians.' The film readers had posted signs advising 30 minute limits if you were doing family history, and you were expected to relinquish them to anyone doing important 'real' historical research. Often several visits were required before

you could actually view the records you wanted.

The guides to records written in the years since then were uploaded to the website as LINC went online, but they weren't always very useful, referring to records held but not indicating how they could be accessed and let's be honest, the online records search interface is not the friendliest. Finally though, things have changed in a big way.

The new guides show what's available online, what else you can access, where to look for more (even outside LINC) with instructions on how to access some of the trickier records (and indicates when the content of a set is generally not useful, e.g. administrative not personal). To view the guides go to LINC's Tasmania's Heritage tab and select Family History for a wonderfully illustrated portal, or view all guides from a link on the right.

Not only is there more helpful information than ever about records online, but during business hours you can also chat with an archivist or librarian directly through the Online Chat button that appears all over the site.

New collections are turning up online every year and I'm told that a linked index to the Registrar General's birth, death and marriage records is well underway. Until then lots of people in genealogy groups for Tasmania are usually happy to do look ups of their *Tasmanian Pioneer Index*, or they can be accessed in many state libraries and of course in TFHS branch libraries.

Maybe it's time to revisit LINC, and rediscover the amazing amount of information available for access. ◀

# TASMANIAN MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

Maree Ring (Member No.552)

## CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

These records are held at TAHO LINC (Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office).

### GD 65/1/1 Prisoner Record Index

1890–1932 219 images...

<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-20800-23693-6?cc=1935075&wc=MJ2P-HZ7:1048366101,1048371001,1048371002#uri=https%3A%2F%2Ffamilysearch.org%2Frecapi%2Fsorted%2Fwaypoint%2FMJ2P-HZQ%3A1048366101%2C1048371001%3Fcc%3D1935075>

or <http://tinyurl.com/kpcrewg>

Also available through the TAHO LINC site

<http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=I&id=GD65/1/1>

Prisoners name, book number and page number. Record books numbered 1–22 alphabetically up to book 7. From book 8 entry is under the initial letter of the prisoner's surname in book page sequence. Records prisoners name, book number and page number.

At the very beginning of this volume is an index to medical notes that are written up in the volume before the index proper to the prisoners' record books begins.

Available to be viewed through their *MetaData* viewer with a better index of contents.

N.B. *MetaData* viewer is usually better viewed through *Mozilla Firefox* or other internet programmes than *Internet Explorer*!

## PRISONER RECORDS

GD 65/1/1 Prisoner Record Index above needs to be consulted before using these records.

<http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=GD63>

Books on this site are books 2 (1892–1894), 3 (1894–1897), 5 (1902–1908), 7 (1913–1921), 8 (1922–1928) and 9 (1928–1932).

These are also available online through the TAHO/LINC website in the GD 63 series.

<http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=GD63>

Physical descriptions and photographs, birth place & do, religion, education and marital status. There are details of offences and sentences including dates and places of sentences not served in Tasmania. Index to GD63. GD62 covers record books 1–22. Record books 1 and 4 are not held in Archives. GD64 contains references to books 5 (a few sentences only) to 23. Record book 23 is not held in the Archives.

The record books in GD63 were badly burnt in the fire which destroyed a number of Gaol records and no longer have the 'record book number' noted on them. With record books numbers 1 and 4 missing the numbering sequence begins with Record book number 2 as Series number GD63/1, continues with RBN 3 - SN GD 63/2, skips number four, resuming the sequence with RBN 5 - SN GD63/3, RBN 22 - GD 63/20, RBN 5 - SN GD63/3, RBN 6 SN GD63/4, 7 - GD63/5, 8 - GD63/6, 9 - GD63/7, 10 - GD 63/8, 11 - GD 63/9, 12 - GD 63/10, 13 - GD

63/11, 14 - GD 63/12, 15 GD 63/13, 16 GD 63/14, 17 - GD 63/15, 18 - GD 63/16, 19 - GD 63/17, 20 - GD 63/18, 21 - GD 63/19, 22 - GD 63/20. Later offences and sentences are also recorded as sometimes the offences committed within the Gaol.

Further records, online or otherwise, which are available for 'prisoners after transportation finished' are through the TAHO site and are described at <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage/search/guides/prison>

### **POL129—Register Of Prisoners Received In The Deloraine Gaol.**

Chronological order, no index

<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-1942-20800-23693-6?cc=1935075&wc=MJ2P-HZ7:1048366101,1048371001,1048371002#uri=https%3A%2F%2Ffamilysearch.org%2Frecapi%2Fsorted%2Fwaypoint%2FMJ2P-2NP%3A1048366101%2C1048371801%3Fcc%3D1935075>

or tinyurl <http://tinyurl.com/q7bcx5l> originally from TAHO and can be accessed.

<http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=I&id=POL129/1/2>

Digital images in this record series are available to view online by clicking on the item link POL129/1/2 above to get to the Item Details pages. Copies may be made for private research/study but any other use requires permission from the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.

### **HOSPITAL RECORDS (New Norfolk Patient Records 1843–1933)**

Patient Records, Admission Papers, Justices orders and medical certificates concerning the admission of patients. Occasional correspondence and clinical summaries. After c.1890 most forms

were placed on patient files (see HSD 284). There may be more than one admission for a given person and some papers are for admission to other institutions of patients subsequently transferred to New Norfolk.

<https://familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Ffamilysearch.org%2Frecapi%2Fsorted%2Fwaypoint%2FMJ2R-924%3A1048366801%2C1048366802%3Fcc%3D1935075>

or tiny url <http://tinyurl.com/lbadefe>

This index is not strictly alphabetically with Ah Chin found after Chilcott and Church! Some are indexed under aliases and the last eight are certainly out of order!

The listings with their file number is to be found at the TAHO site:

<http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=HSD285>

Each file is numbered only on the first page of the file on the top right hand corner ... some files are a few pages others twenty pages or more!

Only the files for HSD285/1 are available on-line at this time, though daily/monthly records were kept for patients microfilm and are readily available to be viewed. Other may be ordered and viewed in the search room. Files under 75 years are not available for access.

Other records for the hospital and patients are to be found at <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage/search/guide/s/rdh>

*Troubled asylum : the history of the Royal Derwent Hospital* by R W Gowlland. A history of the hospital, although written in 1981 was reprinted in 1996 and held by State Library of Tasmania, [LINC] includes a few copies that can be borrowed. ◀

# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No. 4093)

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

## **THE REGISTERS OF HIDLEY 1813–1841, HAIGH 1833–1841 AND ABRAM 1838–1842**

This hardback work of some 240pp was transcribed by K T Taylor for The Lancashire Parish Register Society and published by them in 2013 (as volume 178).

The registers of All Saints, Hidley; St David's, Haigh; and St John, Abram have been transcribed to present Baptisms, Marriages and Burials details.

The transcriptions are supported by alphabetical indexes of Names; Place names; Occupations; as well as general descriptions of the parishes and their early history.

## **ULVERSTONE CEMETERIES**

Monumental Inscriptions of Ulverstone District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania.

### **Book 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)**

This A4 book by Mersey Branch features the Ulverstone General Cemetery and replaces an earlier version. It was pub-

lished in 2014, includes many additional transcriptions, and has been updated to February 2014.

### **Book 2**

This A4 book was published in 2013 and replaces a number of earlier books on individual cemeteries. Mersey Branch has included many additional transcriptions as well as previously unpublished cemeteries and has been updated to April 2013.

Featured cemeteries:

**Sprent** Anglican;  
**Forth** Methodist;  
**Redbourne** Presbyterian;  
**Forth** Anglican (Pioneer);  
**Sprent** Methodist;  
**Ulverstone** Holy Trinity Anglican  
(Niche Walls);  
**McCulloch** Memorial;  
**Forth** Congregational;  
**North Motton** Anglican;  
**North Motton** Methodist;  
**Forth** Catholic (McKillop Hill);  
**Gunns Plains** Memorials;  
**Kindred** Methodist; and the  
**North-West Crematorium &  
Memorial Gardens.**

**NB:** Book 2 also contains a DVD featuring 613 images from the North-West Crematorium & Gardens. The alphabetical index in the book provides an image reference for each name listed at this location. ◀

# LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## HOBART BRANCH

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- Bissett, M&B; *The Weekly Courier: Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians; Vol. 13 1922–1923* [Q 929.38 BIS]
- \*Geographer's A-Z Map Co; *London A-Z* [912.421 LON]
- \*Geographer's A-Z Map Co; *Manchester A-Z Street Atlas, 7<sup>th</sup> edition* [912.4273 MAN]
- \*Gray, F; *Descendants of George Kearney and Mary Cook*
- \*Humphery-Smith, Cecil R; *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*
- \*Iwan, W; *Because of Their Beliefs: Emigration from Prussia to Australia*
- \*Kerrison, R; *William Ernest Kerrison*
- \*Kyle, N; *Citing Historical Sources for Family Historians* [929.1 KYL]
- \*Mahomet; *The Qur'an [Koran]; English translation* [297. QUR]
- \*Richardson, G; *Tin Mountain: European & Chinese history of the Blue Tier, Poimena & Weldborough* [Q 994.64 RIC]
- \*Taylor, K.T; *The Registers of the Parish of Hindley, 1813–1841* [929.3109427 TAY]
- \*TFHS Hobart; *Costumes & Uniforms, 1574–1914* [Q 391 COS]
- TFHS Launceston; *Index to Births, Deaths & Marriages from The Examiner: Vol. 17 1961–1965 Deaths* [Q 929.38 GENL.E]
- TFHS Mersey; *An Index to The Advocate—Personal Announcements 1980* [Q 929.38 IND]
- TFHS Mersey; *An Index to The Advocate—Personal Announcements 2009* [Q 929.38 IND]
- TFHS Mersey; *Ulverstone Cemeteries—Book 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)* [Q 929.32099465 INL]
- TFHS Mersey; *Ulverstone Cemeteries—Book 2* [Q 929.32099465 INL]

### ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

- \*TFHS Inc; *Members' Interests 1998–2014*
- \*TFHS Inc; *North-West Regional Crematorium & Memorial Gardens*
- \* Denotes complimentary or donated item

## MERSEY BRANCH

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp]; *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal Items of Interest to Family Historians Vol. 13 1922–1923*
- Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp]; *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal Items of Interest to Family Historians Vol. 15 1927–1929*
- \*Coss, Ros [Comp.]; *Notes and Photos on History of Claude Road*
- Gardam, Angela; *The Nook Book - A History of Nook - The Settlement and its Pioneers*



- \*Garrett, Colin; *The Family History of Richard Garrett and his Known Descendants 1804-1982*
- Heazlewood, Vere [Hodges, Ruth, & Heazlewood-Peck, Miriam with Heazlewood, Ivan]; *Tree of Hazel Wood [Revised Edition 2014]*
- \*Hookway, Eileen & Jennings, Jeff & Page Phil; *Scott's New Country - Reflections of Scottsdale from its Origins to the Present*
- \*Osbourne, Helen J.; *From Jerusalem to Colebrook - A History of Colebrook and Surrounding Area and its Pioneers*
- \*Pink, Kerry; *The West Coast Story*
- \*Sims, Peter C; *The Sims Family of England (Somerset) and Australia*
- TFHS Inc Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart Vol IV Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records, Part 4 – March 1950 - November 1955*
- TFHS Inc Launceston Branch; *Index to Births, Deaths, & Marriages Volume 17 1961–1965 Deaths*
- TFHS Inc Launceston Branch; *A New Combined Alphabetical Edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1900–1910 Volume 1*
- TFHS Inc Launceston Branch; *A New Combined Alphabetical Edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1911–1920 Volume 2*
- TFHS Inc Launceston Branch; *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol. 14 1934*
- \*TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *A Combined Index of Cemetery Publications A-J (Kentish Cemeteries, Deloraine Cemeteries, Latrobe Cemeteries, Devonport Cemeteries, Ulverstone Cemeteries)*
- \*TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *A Combined Index of Cemetery Publications K-Z (Kentish Cemeteries, Deloraine Cemeteries, Latrobe Cemeteries, Devonport Cemeteries, Ulverstone Cemeteries)*
- TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *Ulverstone District Cemeteries Book 2 - Sprent Anglican Cemetery, Forth Methodist Cemetery, Redbourne Presbyterian Cemetery, Forth Anglican (Pioneer) Cemetery, Sprent Methodist Cemetery, Ulverstone Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Niche Walls), McCulloch Memorial Cemetery, Forth Congregational Cemetery, North Motton Anglican Cemetery, North Motton Methodist Cemetery, Forth Catholic (McKillop Hill) Cemetery, Gunns Plains Memorials, Kindred Methodist Cemetery, N-W Crematorium & Memorial Gardens*
- TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2009*
- TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1980*
- TFHS Inc Mersey Branch; *Ulverstone Cemeteries Book 1 - Ulverstone General Cemetery – Second Edition*
- \*Thompson, John; *Probation in Paradise - The Story of Convict Probationers on Tasman's and Forestier's Peninsulars, Van Diemen's Land, 1841–1857*

## **ACCESSIONS–Computer Disks**

*Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Members' Interests 1998–2014*

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# BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

**BURNIE** Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103  
Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee  
Tuesday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Saturday 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway Cooee 10:30 a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, except January and December.  
Night Dinner Meetings are held in winter and end of year, check with Branch Librarian for details

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

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**HUON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6529  
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh  
Saturday 1:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required  
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, except January.  
Please check Branch Report for any changes.

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**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034  
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Monday to Friday by appointment only (03) 6344 4034  
Workshops Held on Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 17 September  
Check the Branch News and the website  
<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org> for locations and times.

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

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Membership of the TFHS Inc. is open to all individuals interested in genealogy and family history, whether or not resident in Tasmania. Assistance is given to help trace overseas ancestry as well as Tasmanian.

**Dues are payable annually by 1 April.** Membership Subscriptions for 2014–15:-

Individual member	\$40.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$50.00
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**Overseas:** Individual member: A\$40.00: Joint members: A\$50.00 (inc. airmail postage).

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

## Membership Entitlements:

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

## Application for Membership:

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

## Donations:

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

## Research Queries:

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

## Reciprocal Rights:

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## Advertising:

Advertising for *Tasmanian Ancestry* is accepted with pre-payment of \$27.50 per quarter page in one issue or \$82.50 for four issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the journal editor at PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018.

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