

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 36 Number 1—June 2015

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the editor

Writing the editorial is always my last step before sending the copy to the printer so it is now time to start thinking about the next one.

This has been a busy month as I inherited boxes of jumbled memorabilia, photographs and papers from a second cousin once removed. Although he was keenly interested in family history I am struggling to identify people as there are so many faces with scarcely a name attached. But I did have one breakthrough when I attended a talk at the local LINC by Marion Sargent who was able to identify a Launceston building. Thanks Marion.

The WWI article from Ray Hyland gives an account of the men from the Gunns Plains District who signed up. Ray published a book last year which is available at TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries.

Betty Jones' article on the early Cookery Schools brought back some happy memories of embroidering our aprons and cooking classes in the 1950s. My mother owned a copy of the *Central Cookery Book* which has long disappeared but I did run to look at my old copy to check on the Fricassee of Tripe!

It was also interesting to read Dianne Snowden's account of Robert Harris and to realize St Johns Church New Town and the Queens Orphan Schools have two connections with the print media. A member of the Packer family was buried in St Johns Churchyard.

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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:** Unknown lady—see *Help Wanted* p.33, c.2

Does anyone recognise her?

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**I**N preparing this article in early April for inclusion in the June journal, I am mindful that all branches will hold their AGMs towards the end of April.

We may see new or different office bearers representing your interests and hopefully, additional volunteers to share the workload.

New details of Branch Committee Members for the 2015–2016 year are contained in this issue.

The Society's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, incorporating our AGM, will be held on Saturday 20 June at Swansea; see the agenda notice elsewhere in this issue.

Each alternate Conference is 'hosted' as a one day event by the Executive Officers, at a central location (usually Ross), whilst a more substantive arrangement is conducted over a weekend for the intervening years. Hosting of the larger event is provided by the branches on a rotational basis.

This year the Conference will be hosted by Hobart Branch, with the support and assistance of our friends at the East Coast Heritage Museum and Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society.

Hobart's innovative programme will enable members to visit and experience one of the early 'pioneer areas' of Tasmania and 'showcase' our Society to the local communities.

Executive Officers of the Society will be elected at the AGM and there will be new office bearers, at least, in the positions of President and Vice President.

The constitution of our Society limits the holder of an Executive Officer position to no more than six consecutive years.

I certainly will have completed my six years at the end of the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM.

Co-incidentally, I will not be able to attend the forthcoming AGM and must tender my apologies for my absence.

I am about to re-locate to a small castle in Scotland at the beginning of June and will not be returning to Tasmania until at least September. ◀

**Maurice Appleyard**

## Index to **The Kelso Chronicle**

Index to BDM notices and personal items of interest to Family Historians which appeared in  
*The Kelso Chronicle*, Scotland  
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## NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Rule 14, that the  
**35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of the

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

**is to be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday 20 June 2015**  
**at the Swansea Town Hall, Franklin Street, Swansea**

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

### AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Presentation of the 2014 'Lilian Watson Family History Award'
4. Presentation of TFHS Inc. Meritorious Service Award
5. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2014 AGM
6. Treasurer's Report
7. **Notice of Motions to alter Constitution**  
(as endorsed by Society Executive)
  1. That Rule 7(c) be amended to read:
    - c) The Executive of the Society shall comprise
      1. The Officers of the Society (the standing committee)
        - President
          - Vice President
          - Treasurer
          - Secretary
  2. That Rule 8(c) be amended to read:
    - c) Each Branch Committee shall, at its first meeting after the branch AGM, appoint two (2) members to be Branch Delegates, plus one (1) Alternate Delegate. Names of new delegates must be advised to the Society Secretary prior to the Society's AGM for that year.
8. Election of Office Bearers and Endorsement of Branch Delegates
9. General Business
10. Next AGM Saturday 18 June 2016, at Town Hall, Ross.

Colleen Read Society Secretary

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

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

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

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

**PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320**

**email: petjud@bigpond.com**



Our first meeting for the year was well attended and we had many pleasing comments on our refurbished and painted library. Mairin

Campbell (Member No.6406) presented a most interesting talk about her recent 'Unlock the Past Cruise'. This was a ten night cruise around UK stopping at places such as Invergordon, Orkney Islands, Outer Hebrides, Isle of Mull, Isles of Sicily and Guernsey. Mairin spoke about the history and people of the places they visited. Her talk included some wonderful photos and two of her paintings. One of these paintings depicted the church where the funeral service for Hector, of *Monarch of the Glen* fame, was held.

Our first workshop for the year was once again computer related due to popular request. Some folk had experienced problems installing updates or service patches to software applications such as *Family Tree Maker*. We looked at two methods of installing this patch, either by automatic update or by manually downloading and then installing. New features of the latest service packs were examined. The workshop finished with a few general aspects of *Family Tree Maker* including use of the spell check and how to do a find and replace.

Next workshop will cover some of the basic features of laptops. Members will

be encouraged to bring their own computers to the workshop and we will cover some features such as finding files, where to save them, backing up, moving files, deleting and renaming files.

As well as the repainting of our library we have now moved the fridge and microwave etc into the loan room just inside the front door. This is now our tea room, where members can relax over a cuppa and have a good discussion without interrupting library patrons.

**Peter Cocker** Branch President

## Hobart

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

**President: Beverley Richardson**

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**Secretary: Howard Reeves**

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



The Branch has made an energetic start to the calendar year with its regular committee and general meetings and plenty of activity in the Branch Library.

As mentioned in the previous report, the Branch received a Tasmanian Community Fund grant in the last round of grants. The TCF money was supplemented by members' donations to purchase a new multi-purpose printer, photocopier scanner. Our thanks are extended to the members who contributed to the purchase of the equipment and to Dianne Snowden (Tasmanian Heritage Council), Colette McAlpine (Female Convicts Research Centre) and Andrew Cocker (Friends of St John's Orphanage) who provided supporting letters for the application.

The Branch Committee has been busy planning a series of Saturday workshops on issues relating to family history research, as well as planning for the Society AGM to be held at Swansea in June. Planning is also underway to offer excursions to members in the spring. In addition, the committee organised and conducted a successful fund-raising sausage sizzle at K&D's Hobart city store.

The Branch continues to offer members 'one on one' dedicated access to experienced researchers to assist them with breaking down family research 'brickwalls'. Members are invited to contact the Branch to describe the 'brickwall' and negotiate a suitable time.

### **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 John's Park Precinct in New Town. Two such meetings have already been held and a program of speakers is being assembled for the remainder of the year.

The guest speaker at the February meeting, our first for 2015, was Russ Ames, the volunteer curator of the Tasmanian Police Museum in Bathurst Street, Hobart.

Policing began in Van Diemen's Land in 1804 with a superintendent from Sydney and four petty constables at Port Dalrymple, but did not last long. By 1805 security became the responsibility of military patrols and civilians. By the mid-1820s convict constables were inducted into the mounted police. In the 1820s to 1830s, police had a traditional role under the supervision of an inspector of police appointed from Sydney. In the 1860–70 period there were two significant pieces of legislation—the Municipal

Police Act and the Territories Police Act. By 1898 the Tasmania Police Force was combined under the Police Regulation Act. Ex-convicts became police officers because it was not a popular job among free settlers. Problems arose because free settlers were reluctant to take instructions from ex-convicts. By 1899 the police force consisted of approximately 360 officers in 110 police stations. Initially many officers could not read or write and it is a legacy of the second commissioner, Commissioner Ward, that education among officers was promoted and pay and conditions were improved. Officers also received more intensive training. By the 1960s the police force had grown to 1000.

The first police woman was appointed in 1919 and by 1964 there were only fourteen women in the Force. Now 40% of the Force are women. The Tasmania Police Museum is open to the public on Tuesdays.

The March speaker was long-time member Maree Ring who spoke on the topic *Our grandfather's war diary*. Maree's grandfather Ernest Hawke was born at Gladstone in Tasmania's north east. After his schooling he became a student teacher at Glen Dhu Primary School and by the age of 18 was in charge of a single teacher school. He moved with his young family to New Zealand and it was here that he enlisted in the NZ Expeditionary Force as an infantryman in the Canterbury Regiment. The New Zealanders departed on 15 October 1914 for Hobart where they joined with the Tasmanian AIF contingent who remained waiting for their arrival at the mouth of the River Derwent. They all proceeded in one convoy to Albany WA, departing 15 November 1914 to join with the remainder of the Australians who made up that first Australian and New Zealand



contingent. From Western Australia they travelled to Ceylon, then to Aden (swotting for examinations on the way, resulting in his promotion to corporal in January 1915) and through the Suez Canal to Alexandria and disembarkation. From Alexandria to Cairo they travelled by train. He died at the age of 33 at Gallipoli on 1 or 2 May.

Maree read extracts from the diary as part of her presentation. The first hand descriptions of the conditions endured by the Anzacs during the trip (shortages of water on board the transports) and at Gallipoli present a picture of WW1 that is difficult to comprehend and is in stark contrast to present day conflicts.

### Speakers for 2015

To date the following speakers have been arranged for the 2015 General Meetings:

**June 16:** Roger McNeice 'Colonial Coinage'

**July 21:** John Short 'Hobart's Bank Arcade'

**August 18:** Robert Tanner 'The architect and the plasterer'

**Howard Reeves** Branch Secretary

## Launceston

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

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

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**secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com**



**Workshop:** held on Wednesday 18 March. The subject was 'Irish Research'. Again a lot of interest was generated, with thirteen

bookings. Thanks to Helen and Barrie for leading this group.

**Branch Annual General Meeting:** was held on Tuesday, 21 April at the Harry

Abbott Scout Hall. Thanks to member Marion Sargent, for her well researched talk on 'Old Cemeteries of Launceston'. Congratulations to Helen Stuart on being elected as President, and thanks to Russell Watson for his leadership in the Chair, and friendship over the past three years. Welcome to new committee member, Robyn Gibson. Anita Swan and Irene Taylor ably supervised the organisation of the library, for the last three years, but are not available to continue.

**Society Annual General Meeting:** will be held at Swansea on Saturday, 20 June. Check this edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry* for the Agenda and activities over Saturday and Sunday.

**Library:** Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. —phone (03) 6344 4034.

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

**Check the website** for more detail on 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  
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**Library (03) 6426 2257**

**PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307**

**email:**

**secretary@tfhsdev.com**



In February we held our annual BBQ, attendance was low, but those who did attend enjoyed themselves

with pleasant company and food in abundance.

On Saturday 14 March a small group of Mersey Branch Members travelled to Ross and despite the cold and blustery

weather, were treated to an exceptionally well narrated guided tour of the historic aspects of the town.

Just after Easter and before Anzac Day 25 April, the Mersey Branch will be holding their AGM, which will be on April 11 2015 at 1 p.m. All new and old members are invited to attend.

An afternoon tea is being planned for 2 May, with special invitations for new members.

Indexing of Birth, Deaths & Marriages from *The Advocate* newspaper is advancing with the completion of 2010 and 2011. We are in the process of indexing 2013 and 2014.

Latrobe Council is working with the Mersey Branch on ideas to restore and maintain historic graves, to preserve the heritage of the area.

Mersey Branch has documented and published three books which contain photographs and headstone transcriptions of all of the grave sites found in the Latrobe Council area. Much of the information they contain dates back for many decades and it is this data the Council hopes to utilise in its project to restore, in particular, those stones which have been subject to damage. Mayor Peter Fresney plans to present to the Council the information the Mersey Branch has available in book and CD form.

## Huon

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**Secretary: Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529**

**PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109**

**email: vsbtas@bigpond.com**

No report received

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.**

**Mersey Branch**

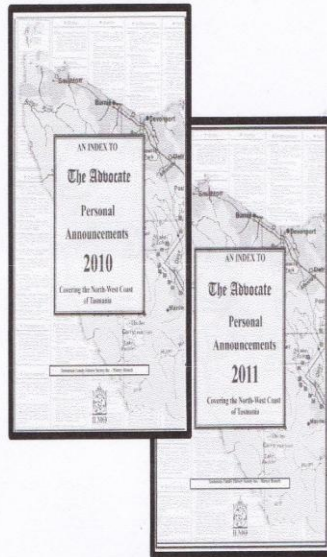
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# VALE

## LAUNCESTON BRANCH MEMBERS

JOSEPH GEORGE BSc. and  
JOAN SYLVIA STEPHENS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two of our former members, Joseph George BSc. and Joan Sylvia Stephens, who came from Wales to Launceston, via Queensland. Joe was former head of the Agricultural Department at the Mount Pleasant Laboratories. He passed away on 12 February after a long illness, and Joan on 11 March. Both were actively involved with the British Interest Group at the Launceston Branch from 1991 until 2009, and particularly during Joe's years of retirement. Joe served for one year as Branch President and on the Branch Committee for several years.



IVAN CLIFFORD HEAZLEWOOD AM was born on 26 June 1924 and lived all his life at *Melton Vale*, Whitmore. He passed away on 23 March 2015 in his 91<sup>st</sup> year, after a long and fulfilling life of service to the livestock and pastoral industry and many other organisations and societies.

In 1993 Ivan was awarded the Tasmanian Medal of Agriculture by the Australian Institute of Agriculture Science, particularly for his contribution to the Australian seed industry, and in 2014 was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant services to primary industry.

Although Ivan was not involved in the day to day running of the branch he contributed in many other ways including speaking at meetings, conducting a bus tour of the Whitmore-Hagley area speaking about

the original land grants, and contributing many resources to the Branch Library. He also wrote articles for *Tasmanian Ancestry* including a recent article in the December 2014 edition *Bunks in Barns*.

In the latter part of his life Ivan wrote a number of books including some on the history of the Whitmore area, others on the history of the sheep industry which included *Old Sheep for New Pastures*, the story of British sheep in the hands of colonial shepherds. He also contributed articles regularly to Newsletters on the topic including *The Muster*.

Ivan regularly visited the Branch Library while researching for the Heazlewood family book *Tree of Hazel Wood*, the Heazlewood family originating from Asfordby, Leicestershire, England. His cheery nature and wit will long be remembered and his willingness to pass on his extensive knowledge to members.

Recently Ivan joined other members of the Launceston Branch on an enjoyable bus tour of the Evandale District.

Ivan joined the Society 2 March 1999, Member No.5081. He will be sadly missed by members of the Launceston Branch, and other members of our Society.

# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

ROBERT HARRIS

## ‘AN OLD TASMANIAN RESIDENT’

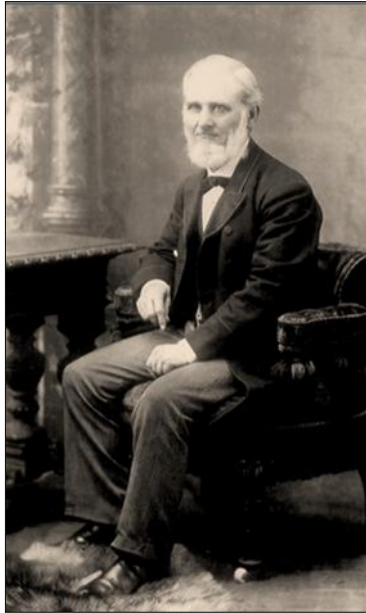
Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

**T**HE Friends of the Orphan Schools recently held its annual ‘Fox’s Feast’ event for descendants of orphans. Several descendants shared interesting and intriguing stories about their ancestors associated with the Orphan Schools. One of the most fascinating was told by Julie VASZOCZ, who has published her meticulously researched story about her ancestor Robert HARRIS on the Orphan School website.

Robert Harris arrived in Van Diemen’s Land with his mother Elizabeth Harris. Elizabeth, aged 25, was tried in October 1830 in the Old Bailey with two other women for stealing 40 yards of silk.<sup>1</sup> The silk was pawned and later recovered. All three women were found guilty and were sentenced to death.

Elizabeth’s sentence was later commuted to transportation for life. On arrival in the colony, Elizabeth’s occupation was recorded as ‘bookbinder’ and her ‘native place’, Bethnal Green. She was allegedly

married with two children; her husband William Harris was at Silver Street, Clerkenwell.<sup>2</sup> Only one child—Robert—appears to have come with her. Elizabeth and Robert sailed on the *America* in January 1831 and arrived four months later in May.



Robert Harris

Elizabeth had no colonial offices recorded on her conduct record. She was granted a Free Pardon in May 1843.

Initially, it seems that Robert stayed with his mother, probably at the Cascades Female Factory. He was not admitted to the Orphan School until September 1832, possibly when his mother was assigned. He was not quite three years old.

In May 1837, Elizabeth, a widow, married John DAY at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart. Witnesses were Ann NEWMAN and Amb-

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<sup>1</sup> [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org); reference t18301028-10 (accessed 1 April 2015)

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<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/5 No.161 Elizabeth Harris *America* 1830. See also CON27/1/1 No.161 Elizabeth Harris *America* 1830. See also TAHO, CSO1/1/1520 p.11322; TAHO, CON19/1/12 p.34. Julie has been unable to locate relevant records of marriage and baptism in London.

rose PARKER.<sup>3</sup> John was a convict who arrived on the *Argyle* in 1831.<sup>4</sup> John, from Spitalfields in London, was a letterpress printer—an important point in the Robert Harris story!<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth and John relocated to Launceston where John worked with Henry DOWLING, printer and publisher.

Robert remained at the Orphan School until he was nearly 12, when he was discharged to his mother.<sup>6</sup> In July 1841, he joined his mother and step-father in Launceston, and when he was 16, he was apprenticed to Henry Dowling.

In 1890, Robert founded the *Wellington Times* which later became the *Advocate*. The newspaper remained in the Harris family until December 2003 when it was acquired by Rural Press.

Robert Harris died in January 1904. One obituary reads:

Mr. Robert Harris, an old and respected resident, died here on Saturday evening. Deceased, who was 76 years of age, had been ailing for some time. He arrived in Tasmania from England when a lad, and served his apprenticeship to the printing trade in Launceston, and for half a century has been engaged in the business. While in the northern city he conducted a small paper for a time, and afterwards occupied the position of overseer on the 'Colac Reformer' and Melbourne 'Argus'. Some time after returning to this state he founded with his two sons, Messrs. C. J. and R. D. Harris, the 'Emu Bay Times'

and 'N.W. Advocate'. The late Mr. Harris married at Launceston in 1853, and leaves three daughters and one son, viz., Mr. C. J. Harris ...<sup>7</sup>

The *North Western Advocate* published a lengthy and detailed obituary:

## Death of Mr Robert Harris.

### AN OLD TASMANIAN RESIDENT.

Mr Robert Harris, who first landed in Tasmania about 70 years ago, died at his residence in Wilson street, Burnie, at seven o'clock on Saturday evening. Deceased was 74 years of age, but up to about seven months ago he retained a vigor and activity surprising in one of his years. Then, however, the strain of a hardworking life began to tell, and he has since gradually failed in health and strength. The end was not thought to be so near, but on Saturday evening Mr Harris passed away quietly and peacefully.

Deceased was born in England on November 29, 1829, and was therefore in his 75th year at the time of his death. He arrived in Tasmania in the thirties as a child, and landed at Launceston, where later he served his time at the printing business. Mr Harris had been at this work for practically half a century—for about ten years on the staff of the Melbourne "Argus" (during which time he was president of the Typographical Society), for two or three years at Colac (where he started the "Colac Reformer"), and for three years in New Zealand, but for the rest of the time in Tasmania. He had for years printing offices at Launceston (where he published the "Cornwall Chronicle") and at Latrobe, and later with his sons, Messrs C. J. and R. D. Harris, established the "Emu Bay Times" at Burnie. Then the firm founded the "North-Western Advocate"—the first daily paper on the North West Coast—at

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<sup>3</sup> TAHO, RGD36/1/3 Hobart 1837/3720 Elizabeth Harris and John Day; TAHO, CON21/1/1 p.34

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON31/1/10 No.690 John Day *Argyle* 1831. He was reconvicted in 1850 for administering 'a deleterious drug': TAHO, CON37/1/6 No.1877 John Day *Argyle* 1831.

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON18/1/3 p.27 *Argyle* 1831

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.3

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<sup>7</sup> *Examiner* (Launceston) 4 January 1904 p.6.

Devonport, where Mr Harris resided as its manager until a few months ago, failing health necessitated a rest from the labor which he had sought and loved so long. The deceased was not a man who sought prominence in public life, but he was universally liked and respected, and general regret will be felt at his demise, particularly in the north-western centres where he is best known—at Latrobe, Devonport and Burnie. The deceased gentleman was a life governor of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne—an honor which was conferred upon him in recognition of services rendered to the Typographical Society, especially in the direction of averting an extensive strike by his moderation in negotiation with the employers. He was also one of the promoters and shareholders of the Launceston and Western Railway.

Deceased was married at Launceston in 1853, and he leaves three daughters and one son—the latter being Mr C. J. Harris, managing proprietor of the “Advocate” and “Times.” One of his daughters, Miss E. Harris, is the manageress of the newsagency and general stationer’s shop established at Burnie by Mr Harris ... the funeral will take place this afternoon, leaving deceased’s residence at 4o’clock.8

Julie concluded her account of her Orphan School ancestor with the following words ‘How amazing that Orphan No.2400 at the Queen’s Orphan School founded one of the most nationally awarded regional newspapers in Australia, which remained in the Harris family for 113 years’.

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

<sup>8</sup> *North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times* 4 January 1904 p.2

**TWO NEW INDEXES**  
to add to the list of publications  
*compiled by Joyce Purtscher*

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# GUNNS PLAINS HONOUR ROLL

Ray Hyland (Member No.3697)

On Saturday afternoon a party of us wended our way to Gunn's Plains, to be present at a memorial tree planting ceremony to the memory of three soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice in the great war. The afternoon was fresh, bright and sunny, and the wattle along the river a wealth of golden bloom; and as my companions had never visited the Plains before, the trip had for them a peculiar charm and interest ...

The rector Rev. Salisbury addressed the gathering in earnest, eloquent and sympathetic language on the patriotism and zeal of the district, and said that occasion was scarcely one for sorrow, but rather of gladness—"gladness that we have men of the right breed who are capable and willing to go forth to battle to keep the old flag unsullied, men who have laid aside the crosscut, the wedges and maul, the axe and the scrub hook, who have shouldered the brown rifle and fought shoulder to shoulder with the finest troops in the world, and kept their end up, and are looked up to and admired, and have earned the highest accolades from the highest military authorities in the British and French armies. Surely that is something to be proud of!" The first tree was then planted by Mrs. Wing ... <sup>1</sup>

**I**T was 27 August 1917 and the soldiers being remembered were Robert WING, Jack JEFFREY and Walter JONES. Another ceremony was held the previous Saturday honouring Jack JOHNS and Joseph PARSONAGE. These two were among twelve soldiers from the Gunns Plains district who paid the supreme sacrifice.

World War 1 began for Australia on 4 August 1914 and within two weeks of war being declared three brave men from this district were on their way to Hobart to sign up, Walter Jones, George WING and John McPHERSON. They sailed from Hobart on the first boat to leave from Tasmania on the 20 October 1914.

These men were soon followed by George JOHNS and Raymond WING. In 1915 Clarence LAST, Joseph LAST, Roy WING, Leslie WELLARD, Robert WING, John JEFFREY, Alfred LAREDO, John DELANEY, Burns McPHERSON, James HAMILTON, Thomas HAMILTON and Robert JOHNS joined up and in 1916 John COLHOUN, Vincent COLHOUN, Ivo CLARKE, Joshua PARSONAGE, Henry WELLS, Ernest LAST, Leonard CHILCOTT, Jack JOHNS, Sidney JOHNS, Alan WING, Arthur CLARKE and John LAST left home to join the war effort.

In 1917 Roy **Wing** signed up, as did Alfred BLINDELL and Raymond **Wing**, all for the second time. Roy Wing was at Gallipoli in October 1915, suffered kidney disease and returned to Australia in June 1916. He rejoined in Adelaide in May 1917 and served in the Middle East until the end of the war. Alf Blindell and Raymond Wing both served on the Western Front for a short term before returning to Australia.

In all twenty-seven young men left this peaceful valley to sail half way around the world, to fight in a war they didn't really know much about, in places they had never heard of. Twelve of those men would never see Tasmania again, paying the supreme sacrifice. The eldest of our soldiers was John **Colhoun** at age 41 and

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<sup>1</sup> *The North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 29 August 1917, p.4

there were two 18 year-old lads, Ernest **Last** and Sidney **Johns**.

There were three families with a total of thirteen members who served; Robert, Alan and Raymond Wing; cousins Roy and George Wing from Preston; John (Jack), George, Robert and Sidney **Johns**; Clarence, Joseph, Ernest and John **Last**.

Robert **Wing** joined in June 1915 and was at Gallipoli in November before going to France in June 1916. He was killed in action at Pozieres two months later on 9 August.

Alan **Wing** joined 2 October 1916 and served in France where he was killed in action 13 October 1917 at Ypres.

After Robert and Alan Wing died their father Ebenezer Wing wrote a moving letter in an effort to get his remaining son home safely.

I am writing to ask if you can send my son No. 2404 Pte R. A.

Wing home as he is the only one left out of three. He has been in France since April 1917, one of his brothers was killed at Pozieres in August 1916 and another in Messines October 1917. I think we have done our share as there are families of five and seven sons around us who have not yet sent one and not intending to so perhaps if you cannot give him his discharge you can move him out of the firing line and give us a chance of getting one back home again. Hoping you can do

this for me, I remain Yours obediently E. J. Wing

George Argent **Wing** died in Egypt on 6 February 1915 from pneumonia and was the first Tasmanian to die in this war. He is buried in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.

John (Jack) **Johns** joined with his younger brother Sidney, serving together in France. Jack was killed in action at the Somme 15 April 1917 and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the

field. Sidney was wounded three weeks later and spent seven months in different hospitals before returning to Australia in February 1918. Brothers George and Robert both served until the war ended; George with the 3rd Light Horse, served for a short time at Gallipoli, the Middle East and then France. Robert was a driver with the 8th Field Co. Engineers.



Gunns Plains Roll of Honour 1930

Photograph: Ray Hyland

Joseph and Clarence **Last** served together at Gallipoli and were fighting side by side when Joseph was killed at Lone Pine 7 August 1915. Clarence went on to fight in France, suffered from pleurisy and later wounded in action. Brother Ernest served in France from September 1916, also wounded in action and suffered hearing loss, made worse through explosives during his time in the trenches. Their older brother John (Jack) joined up later and served in France from



August 1917. He was severely wounded by gunshot to the head in June 1918 and returned home in October that year.

There were several brothers, though not all served together. Ivo **Clarke** was working for the railway at Blayney, NSW, when he joined up in February 1916. He returned to Australia with his English bride in 1919. His brother Arthur joined in October 1916 and served in France without injury until suffering appendicitis before the war ended.

John and Vincent **Colhoun** signed up together in January 1916 but sailed overseas four months apart. John was a driver with the 3rd Div. Salvage Coy. while Vincent served in the 52nd Btn and was killed in action on 24 April 1918 at Amiens, France. James and Thomas **Hamilton** also joined together in January 1916. James suffered gunshot wounds and gas in France. Lance Cpl Thomas was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry under fire at Lagnicourt 18 April 1917, then a Bar to the MM in May 1917, before being killed in action, Belgium, 6 October 1917.

John Duncan **McPherson** signed up on 26 August 1914 and was among the first contingent to leave Tasmania. He was wounded on two occasions at Anzac Cove, then served in France where he was killed in action between 6–10 April 1917. Burns Thompson **McPherson** signed on 2 September 1915, serving in France from April 1916 until February 1919. He married in London in April 1919 and returned to Australia with his new bride in August of that year.

There were two soldiers who were not from the Gunns Plains area but obviously working there when they signed up. Driver Alfred **Blindell** was born in Hobart, to parents Joseph and Ellen (née Wells) Blindell and signed up 1 Septem-

ber 1914. After several months in Egypt he returned to Australia and rejoined 9 March 1916, having his medical in Ulverstone. Henry **Wells** (perhaps Alfred's cousin) was born at Pontville to Henry and Isabella (née MITCHELL) Wells and joined on 10 April 1916. After serving in France, wounded and gassed, Henry was killed in action 23 August 1918 at the Somme.

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of Pte Leslie **Wellard** after the war ended. Married just prior to leaving for overseas, Pte Wellard served at Gallipoli and France where he was wounded twice, then declared an illegal absentee in August 1918 after being AWL. He was then discharged from the AIF July 1920 and never returned to Australia. His wife had given birth to their daughter after he left for England but he didn't make any contact after the war.

Pte John **Jeffrey** trained in the Middle East before serving in France from June 1916. It was reported he died of wounds while a prisoner of war in Germany, later amended after a court of enquiry to killed in action 3 September 1916.

Pte Alfred **Laredo** served in France from October 1916 until suffering appendicitis in January 1918. He married in London in April, marched back into France in December before returning to Australia with his wife in April 1919.

Sailing together in August 1916 on the HMAT *Ballarat* were Pte Leonard **Chilcott** and Pte Joshua **Parsonage**. Leonard was wounded on three occasions before returning to Australia after the war in June 1919. Joshua was severely wounded on 3 January 1917 and died from his wounds three days later.

To mark the centenary of World War 1 a memorial bench seat was unveiled at Gunns Plains caves on 29 November 2014.

The Johns family along with the Gunns Plains Community Centre Association organised a Memorial Day and with the assistance of an Anzac Centenary grant produced a booklet on the soldiers listed on the Gunns Plains Honour Roll.

Sidney **Johns** was my grandfather. I never knew him as he died before I was born. I was especially pleased to find the following article as Mrs Johns was my great grandmother.

In spite of the inclement weather, a crowded congregation witnessed the unveiling of the honour roll of those who went to the war from the Gunn's Plains district. The rector, with the Warden (Cr. H. A. Nichols) and Mr. E. J. S. Delaney took part in the proceedings. Mr. Delaney conducted the prayers. After the lesson, the honour roll was unveiled by Mrs. Johns sen. The names of the 17 [sic 27] men were then read by Mr. Delaney, and one minute's silence being observed while the names of those who fell were remembered ...<sup>1</sup> ◀

All other information taken from Personnel Files from National Archives of Australia.

Further details available from the booklet  
*GUNNS PLAINS HONOUR ROLL*  
*WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY 1914–2014*  
Compiled by Raymond Hyland 2014

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<sup>1</sup> *Advocate* 16 September 1930, p.4

## AN INTERESTING COINCIDENCE

Greg Kent (Member No.7499)

**H**ENRY SMITH, my great grandfather, was appointed Overseer and Caretaker of the Cornelian Bay Cemetery on 17 February 1908 and lived with his wife Lucy and family in the Cemetery Cottage. They had nine children but only three survived into late adulthood.

The eldest, Mary Jane Smith (1872–1951), married Joshua Jennings WIGNALL who became the first Lord Mayor of Hobart with Mary Jane as the first Lady Mayoress of Hobart.

Their youngest son Arthur Alfred Smith, (1889–1911) was drowned whilst swimming in Cornelian Bay just two months before his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Their second eldest son, William Herbert Smith (1885–1956), one time Proprietor of 'The Tasmania Inn' and his wife Emilia, lost their only child at the age of three months and moved to Sydney in the 1920s.

On the 1 August 1916 Henry retired and his eldest surviving son, Thomas Comley (1875–1960) was appointed Superintendent of the Cemetery. Thomas had been living with Henry in the Cemetery cottage with his family and assisting with his duties after the death of Henry's wife Lucy in 1912.

Thomas, my grandfather and his wife Lavinia had seven children. Their second youngest, Stephen Arthur Smith (1915–1925), fell off the jetty in New Town Bay (site of the current rugby ground) whilst playing with his younger brother Norman, just three weeks before his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and almost fourteen years to the day from when his uncle drowned in Cornelian Bay. ◀

# THE EARLY COOKERY SCHOOLS

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



IN another article by this writer, details were given of the development of the Tasmanian Education Department's Woodwork Schools from 1907, describing a time when a need had been identified for an expansion of subjects offered for boys.<sup>1</sup> This contribution explores the parallel addition to the curriculum for girls: cookery classes, introduced in the same year.

From a modern view point it is easy to be critical of the Department's past practices and policies. However, an understanding of how those procedures actually mirrored societal expectations of the time, helps to keep matters in perspective. In 1907, the current concept of gender equity was neither evident widely, nor considered an issue. During that era there was public acceptance and expectation of separate roles played by men and women. The thought of girls doing woodwork and boys being taught cooking, for example, would have been unacceptable to most people.

A newspaper report as early as 1900 reflected a then current view lamenting the fact that young girls were not being taught how to cook by their mothers:

The charge has been laid against parents of the present day that while they will spend pounds on having their daughters taught to play the piano – an accomplishment which is often utterly neglected after marriage – they will not teach them how to cook a potato. Ruskin says that the wealthiest country is the one that has the largest numbers of healthy, happy people, and there is no greater enemy to health than badly cooked food. In how many cases can chronic indigestion, dyspepsia, and all the evils that flow therefrom be traced to pastry of the "solid" or "leaden" order to hard, tasteless meat and to unskillfully prepared food? The day is past when the daughter, brought up at home, was instructed in the housewife's art, or if she went out to service was also taken in hand by her mistress and taught the mysteries of the kitchen. Now as soon as many girls leave school they go to business. They are employed in a factory or behind a counter. What chance have these girls of

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<sup>1</sup> *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 35 Number 3  
December 2014, pp.139-44

learning how to cook or manage a household? We have all heard the story of the young wife who, having ordered a hind-quarter of lamb for dinner one day, thought she would vary the dish, and so ordered a hind quarter of beef the next; and while our average girl might avoid that mistake, yet, after growing up from girlhood to womanhood in a factory, she is sadly handicapped when she comes to keep house. Love in a cottage is a fascinating ideal, but it has no greater enemy than hard potatoes or burnt up chops.<sup>2</sup>

The above-mentioned article was part of an ever-increasing sentiment that public schools were the logical place to help do something about problems being faced by society.

Preparations for the introduction of Cookery Schools at Hobart and Launceston had been in place for some time. Since Mr William NEALE became Director of the Department in 1905, initiatives to modernise the Tasmanian education system had been undertaken. Cookery Schools had been operating in some other states for a number of years by then, with those in Victoria and the teaching of Miss Flora PELL (1874–1943), in particular, having gained much positive attention. It was from Miss Pell that two Tasmanian teachers received their special training at the Continuation School in Melbourne during 1906. Chosen by the Education Department, Miss Frances A STEVENSON and Miss Alice C IRVINE undertook a six months' course to help equip them for their new roles.

### **The Hobart Cookery School**

The new venture opened in May 1907 in a remodelled room fixed up at the Central School in Bathurst Street with the lighting, ventilation and colouring of one of the rooms completely altered. Next to the

Cookery School a classroom was converted into a dining-room. Miss Frances Stevenson was the instructress. Twenty girls aged over fourteen attended classes, the pupils drawn from the same schools as the boys in the woodwork classes. These included city, suburban and such country schools as could be reached by railway.<sup>3</sup>

The instruction was free with all materials provided, and the Department paid railway fares for girls living beyond two miles of the facility. The course took six months, and it was hoped that before leaving school every girl would go through the training. Class assembled at 9 o'clock with participants being taught how to choose and to buy food, especially meat and vegetables; how to prepare food for the table, and the reasons for the methods used; how to serve at table; how to clean; and how to keep domestic accounts. And the work was not merely theoretical or just watching demonstrations by the teacher. Every girl was required to go to the shops, purchase what was needed, and account for the money; each girl had her own table and cooking-stove, and each day she baked, boiled, steamed, grilled, or otherwise cooked what she prepared. There was to be no failure or waste. In the adjoining dining-room, dinner was served daily to a limited number of diners, or subscribers, for the sum of sixpence. The girls were trained to serve and wait. After the diners had gone, the pupils of the class could, if they pleased, have a hot dinner for three pence; but they were neither compelled nor expected to buy dinner at the school.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Launceston Cookery School**

This was opened in a purpose-built building on the Wellington Square State

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<sup>2</sup> *The Examiner*, 7 February 1900

<sup>3</sup> *The Mercury*, 4 May 1907

<sup>4</sup> *The Mercury*, 27 May 1907

School site in October 1907 with Miss Alice Irvine in charge. As described in a newspaper article of the time, the long bright kitchen was in admirable order—the rule to clear up as they went being strictly enforced. Not a girl was idle, some preparing vegetables, soup, pastry, and puddings, or attending to meat that was already cooking; others tidying up, or writing down rules in their rule books, having already laid the tables in the dining room, very tastefully in readiness for dinner, while Miss Irvine, as presiding genius of the place, was here, there, and everywhere, directing and explaining clearly, kindly, and without any hurry or fuss, the way out of difficulties to the little would-be cooks. There were eight or nine gas stoves. Beside each was a table fitted with a drawer and cupboards, with all utensils for her work for each girl, the stoves being of the latest and most improved kind, easily worked and cleaned. Perfectly arranged sinks, an automatic gas water heater and other kitchen necessities occupied the farther end of the room, while wide shelves laden with kitchen utensils, fitted with hooks, were ranged along one side. On the other end was a large cupboard for crockery, glass, kitchen towels, etc, and two big black-boards, whereon were written the rules, and some recipes for the day's menu, furnished the remaining wall. A well-fitted-up cloak-room was also in the building, and both dining room and kitchen were well ventilated, bright, and cool. Twenty girls



from each school within a radius of three miles of the city received one day's instruction per week at the Cookery School for six months.<sup>5</sup>

As was the practice in Hobart, the dining-room was available to the public, with good dinners of three courses being provided for sixpence per person with everything in connection with the meal undertaken by the pupils. Scrupulous cleanliness was insisted upon in dress and person, to say nothing of the utensils used. As to dress, a print frock was the preference, with big white apron, cuffs and collar, and the hair was to be worn tied carefully back or on top of the head.

### The Pioneers

**Miss Frances Amy Stevenson** (1867–1966) was born at Hobart, youngest daughter of William Stevenson and his wife Ann, (née HARVEY). She joined the Department in 1899, aged in her thirties, having previously been employed as a secretary and clerk. (TAHO:

ED2/1777; file 2022)

Before being chosen to undertake Cookery School training in Melbourne during 1906, Miss Stevenson held successful Head Teacher positions at Goshen, York Plains and Spreyton. In 1920, after thirteen years in charge of the Hobart Cookery School, she spent the year in Mel-

bourne for the purpose of completing her studies in connection with the Diploma of Domestic Science. Upon her return to Hobart in 1921, Miss Stevenson, BA, became Superintendent of Domestic

<sup>5</sup> *The Examiner*, 31 October 1907

Science. From September 1924 to 1925, she took leave to further her studies in Canada, where research work related to household science was undertaken at the University of Toronto. Her next appointment was as Senior Lecturer in Domestic Science at the new Domestic Science Training Centre in Adelaide, South Australia.<sup>6</sup> Miss Stevenson died at Hobart, aged 99 years.

**Miss Alice Christina Irvine** (1879–1940) was born at Mathinna, daughter of mine manager, Peter Irvine and his wife Flora, (née McLAURIN) attended Mangana State School and joined the Department in 1897.<sup>7</sup> Starting as a Monitor at Mathinna, Miss Irvine next worked at West Zeehan and Burnie State Schools. The Inspector's report on Burnie in February 1902 described Miss Irvine as 'masculine', very capable and energetic.<sup>8</sup> After completing her Cookery training at the Continuation School in Melbourne during 1906, she spent brief periods at Glen Dhu and Charles Street State Schools in Launceston before taking charge of the Launceston Cookery School. Apart from a two-year interlude at the Hobart Cookery School in 1914–1915, Miss Irvine was Head of the Wellington Square campus until May 1921. A change in Departmental policy then saw the school become part of Launceston High with Miss Irvine accepting the role of Mistress of Domestic Science there until 1925. In 1926 she had a year's leave to enhance her qualifications at the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Science in Melbourne, and in 1927 was Mistress of Domestic Arts at Hobart High School. From 1928 until her death in 1940, Miss

Irvine took charge of the Domestic Arts School that was housed in the old Central State School building, the original home of the Hobart Cookery School.

Miss Irvine became widely known following the publication of her "*Central*" *Cookery Book* in November 1930. Designed originally as a text for use in Tasmanian Domestic Science classes, the book was possessed by almost every girl who went through the State High School system from that time forward. By 1992 it was in its 17<sup>th</sup> edition, and is still available in bookstores today.

### **More Cookery Schools**

Following the success of the initiatives in Hobart and Launceston, more teachers were trained and similar classes in other centres across the state were gradually introduced.

Miss Madge McLAREN was placed in charge of Burnie and Devonport Cookery Classes from February to September 1911, having been involved in such teaching since 1908. The Devonport classes were held in the old Church of England building and the Burnie lessons took place in St George's Church of England Hall. After Miss McLaren resigned, those classes went into recess until 1913 when Miss Kathleen HENRY was appointed for that year.

Miss Kathleen Myra Henry (1889–1917) was born at Hobart, daughter of William Henry and his wife Elizabeth Fanny (née YEULETT). She entered the Training College in Hobart in July 1907, and after completing her original course, opted for a career in the teaching of Cookery. Miss Henry spent 1912 in charge of the new school at Zeehan,<sup>9</sup> and the next between Burnie and Devonport. In 1914 she

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<sup>6</sup> *The Advertiser*, 26 December 1925

<sup>7</sup> TAHO: ED2/1/1739; file 1983

<sup>8</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/5

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<sup>9</sup> *The Mercury*, 25 January 1912

returned to the Zeehan School and in 1915 her appointment was to Queenstown. From January to July 1916 she completed her career with the Department by sharing her expertise between the Ulverstone and Wynyard Cookery Schools. The Ulverstone classes were held in a building rented from A M Crawford.<sup>10</sup> Miss Henry died six months later at her parents' home at Birch's Bay.

In July 1912, a similar school conducted by Miss Lilian RICHARDSON was opened at Glenora for scholars attending the State Schools in the Derwent Valley. About eighty children attended from Glenora, Macquarie Plains, Fentonbury, Plenty, Uxbridge, and New Norfolk.<sup>11</sup>

Lilian Kate Richardson (1890–1968) was born at Walthamstow, Essex, daughter of Charles Ryder Richardson and his wife Katherine, (née HICKS). She commenced her teaching career in 1905 as a Monitor at Beaconsfield State School before attending the Training College between 1908 and 1911. In 1913 Miss Richardson took charge of the Cookery classes at Queenstown and in 1914 accepted a short appointment in a similar position at Deloraine/Latrobe before spending the next two years at the Launceston Cookery School. From 1916 to 1925, she undertook mainstream teaching duties. At the end of 1925, Miss Richardson married Algernon Hambly DUNCOMBE at Hobart.

Scottsdale and Derby classes were commenced in 1915 under Miss Bessie EDDY. A cookery certificate was award-

ed to girls who punctually attended no less than forty lessons during the year. It was signed by the teacher and the Inspector and stated that the course of instruction undertaken had included the nature of foods and the action of heat upon them, primary cooking, scullery work and table maid's work.<sup>12</sup>

Miss Elizabeth (Bessie) Harley EDDY (1892–1985) was born at Lefroy, daughter of engineer, Edward John Eddy and his wife Minnie, (née HOLLOW). She attended Beaconsfield State School, and from an early age sang at public concerts. After passing the Candidates' Examination in 1908 and proceeding to the Training College in Hobart the following year, by 1913

Miss Eddy had chosen her specialist field; the next two years were spent teaching at the Hobart and Launceston Cookery Schools. Between 1915 and 1920, Miss Eddy was placed in charge of country classes at Scottsdale/Derby (1915), Deloraine/Latrobe (1916), Sheffield (1917), Burnie/Devonport (1918) and then back to Deloraine/Latrobe (1919) and Sheffield (1920). She continued her

role in Cookery in Launceston, Hobart, and Devonport/Burnie up till 1928. Miss Eddy married Reginald Benjamin KINGSLAND at East Melbourne at the end of 1930 and died at Dandenong, Victoria.

Miss Eva Emily PORTER (1893–1984) was appointed to the Ulverstone/Wynyard Cookery School in July 1916 and held similar positions at New



<sup>10</sup> *North Western Advocate*, 8 December 1915

<sup>11</sup> *The Mercury*, 21 June 1912

<sup>12</sup> *The North Eastern Advertiser*, 17

November 1914

Norfolk/Glenora (1917), Derby/Scottsdale (1918), Ulverstone/Wynyard (1919) and Devonport/Burnie (1920). In 1925 she became Mistress of Domestic Science at Hobart High School. Born at Bothwell, she was the daughter of Edward Porter and his wife Elizabeth Matilda, (née RAMSAY). Miss Porter resigned from the Department at the end of 1925 and emigrated to New Zealand. She died there, aged 90 years.

Some other Cookery teachers up to 1925 included Miss Edna Grace CARNIE (Devonport/Burnie Cookery, 1922–1923); Miss J L FRASER (Hobart Cookery, 1920); Miss M LONG (Hobart Cookery, 1920); Miss Ella PALAMOUNTAIN (Launceston and Hobart Cookery, 1921); Huonville Cookery 1922); Miss Lucille K SAMPSON (Devonport/Burnie Cookery, 1921); Miss Edna Irene SMYTH (Battery Point Cookery, 1924–1925); Miss Myra Iona SPOTSWOOD (Beaconsfield, 1912), Miss Lucy STEVENS (Launceston Cookery, 1922–1925) and Miss Isabella M TROTTER (Hobart Cookery, 1923–1925).

### **A Century Later**

School cookery lessons have undergone considerable transformation over the last one hundred or so years with the preparation of novelty cakes, burritos and homemade pasta now replacing Tripe Fricassee, Scotch Collops and Rabbit Stew. Some readers will have mixed memories of classes in which they wore self-made white cooking aprons with their names hand-embroidered across the front; others will still have their well-thumbed copy of “*Central*” *Cookery Book*, possibly with its covers long disappeared and the tattered, grease-stained pages held together with sticky tape or string. The legacy left by Miss Stevenson and Miss Irvine, the pioneers of Tasmanian school cookery, lives on. ◀

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# JAMES MICKLEBURGH

## ALIAS BENJAMIN MACKINOLTY

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No.20)

THE reason for the selection of a particular alias sometimes remains a mystery. The choice of the alias later used by James MICKLEBURGH, who was sentenced to seven years' transportation and who arrived aboard the *St Vincent* on 26 May 1853—the last male convict ship to arrive in Van Diemen's Land—is one such puzzle.<sup>23</sup>

James was born on 4 July 1832 in the village of Dickleburgh, Norfolk. This is also where he was baptized on 19 February 1834.<sup>24</sup>

At the Norfolk Sessions of the Shirehall Crown Court before E H HOWES Esquire on 4 July 1850, 18 year-old James was charged with having, at Dickleburgh, stolen a fagot of wood, the property of William SMITH. Evidence was given that on 20 April the wood was 'taken from a plantation occupied by the prosecutor, and the prisoner was seen with it in his possession'. James was found guilty, and a previous conviction being proved, he was sentenced to 7 years' transportation.<sup>25</sup>

James, a Catholic, was 5'8½" tall with a light complexion, dark brown hair, he had no whiskers, his nose had been broken and he was not married, and according to

the surgeon on the *St Vincent*, he was 'very bad'. James' conduct record named his parents as John and Letitia and his brothers as John Charles and William Robert at his native place, Kettleburgh Norfolk.<sup>26</sup> Not named on this record were his other siblings Mary, George, Charles, Sarah and Elizabeth.<sup>27</sup>

Soon after arrival at the River Derwent James was sent to the Quarry Gang for one year and nine months, but just five months later, in October 1853 he was charged with insolence and sentenced to fourteen days' solitary confinement. Two months in heavy irons in the Quarry Gang at Port Arthur soon followed. This punishment was extended for another two months, with an added condition that he be released when his behaviour was 'reported satisfactory'.<sup>28</sup>

James did not learn from his early clashes with authority, and was charged many times. His conflicts included refusing to give up a pipe, attempting to strike an overseer, possessing a knife, and also having a flint and steel. James spent much of his sentence at Port Arthur, including six months in the separate prison from March 1854. He was also sentenced to Impression Bay in March 1855 and the Prisoners' Barracks in Hobart in August 1856.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> CON33/1/115 image 129; no connection has been found between James and my ancestor Robert Mickleburgh, also from Norfolk, who arrived in Launceston 1862

<sup>24</sup> Dickleburgh Bishop Transcripts 1831–34 information from descendant of Ellen McKinolty/Mackinolty) and husband John Noble; UK researcher 1989

<sup>25</sup> *Norfolk Chronicle* 6 July 1850

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<sup>26</sup> CON33/1/115 image 129; Convict Indent CON14/1/47 images 182–83

<sup>27</sup> 1841 Census Dickleburgh; 1851 Census Dickleburgh 42 Bridge Street

<sup>28</sup> CON33/1/115 image 129

<sup>29</sup> CON33/1/115 image 129

On 2 December 1856 he was granted his ticket of leave, but between 15 May 1857 and 26 May 1857 he absconded, so his ticket was revoked. No record has been found of the date it was restored.

Nor has any record been found of his whereabouts between May 1857 and 4 August 1863 when, using the alias of Benjamin MACKINOLTY, he married Ellen CONNELLY at Franklin.<sup>30</sup>

Ellen, from Ireland, arrived in Hobart Town in December 1852 aboard the *Australasia*. Aged 13, she 'Came to her Mother'.<sup>31</sup> It is possible that Ellen's mother was the convict Margaret Connolly from Clare, who was tried at Tipperary on 22 June 1843. Margaret was found guilty of larceny, sentenced to seven years' transportation and arrived on the *Greenlaw* on 2 July 1844. She received her Ticket of Leave in February 1848 and her Free Certificate in June 1850.<sup>32</sup> In Hobart Town on 12 June 1849 Margaret married convict John ROSE who had arrived in July 1830 on the *Sir Charles Forbes*.<sup>33</sup>

At least as early as 1863 Ellen was living in the Port Cygnet area, where, on 10 March 1853 she gave birth to a daughter, Emma. Emma's birth was registered at Port Cygnet as Emma MORRIS and her father as Henry Morris.<sup>34</sup> It was just five months later that Ellen and James (as

Benjamin Mackinolty) were married. Emma lived with her mother Ellen and Benjamin as one of the family.

By 1878 Benjamin and Ellen had eleven children: James, Elizabeth, Emma, Kathleen, Mary Ann, Caroline, John Thomas, Charles, George, Catherine and Ellen Jane. The surnames of those whose births were registered were recorded as Mackinolty, Mcinulty or McNalty at either Port Cygnet or Esperance.<sup>35</sup>

It seems that family life was relatively happy and financially satisfactory for the Mackinolty family, because on 28 August 1875 Benjamin 'of Police Point' purchased the 'well-known craft' *Morning Star* from G S CREACH for £110.<sup>36</sup> However any family contentment was soon to change.

Benjamin (James), at the age of 48, and his step-daughter Emma, who was 17, travelled to Green Ponds (Kempton) where they were married on 6 February 1880. Benjamin reverted to using his birth name, James Mickleburgh, and gave his age as 39, while Emma Morris used the name of her mother, Ellen Conolly and her age as 21.<sup>37</sup>

Time together for the newly married couple was brief, as on 23 September 1880 James was committed for trial for having committed bigamy at Franklin.<sup>38</sup>

As Benjamin McInolty he appeared in the Supreme Court in Campbell Street on 14 December 1880 charged with bigamy. It was portrayed that the prisoner had

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<sup>30</sup> RGD37 Franklin marriages 98/1863 Benjamin aged 31 and Ellen 24

<sup>31</sup> CB7/13/1/1, p.42 Nominal Register of immigrants' arrivals with details of age, marital state, literacy, native place, trade, employment and wages

<sup>32</sup> CON41/1/2 image 20 conduct record; CON19/1/4 image 54 description

<sup>33</sup> CON52/1/3, p.377 application to marry; RGD37 marriages 207/1849 Margaret aged 39, John 41

<sup>34</sup> RGD33 Port Cygnet births 1218/1863

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<sup>35</sup> RGD33 Port Cygnet and Esperance births; *Mercury*, 16 December 1880, p.3

<sup>36</sup> *Mercury* 28 August 1875, p.2

<sup>37</sup> RGD37 Green Ponds marriages 41/1880 Mickleburgh/Conolly

<sup>38</sup> CON33/1/115 image 129; *Mercury* 14 December 1880, p 3 and 16 December 1880, p.3

‘contracted a bigamous marriage with his step-daughter, who had been residing in the house’ with him and his wife Ellen, Emma’s mother. Benjamin pleaded guilty, and said that he ‘fully realized the serious position in which he had placed himself’. He was ‘thoroughly sorry’ for what he had done, and explained that he had committed the act while ‘suffering from the effects of drinking’ after ‘indulging to excess’ at New Year celebrations.<sup>39</sup>

His wife Ellen ‘had forgiven and become fully reconciled to him’. As there was a family of eleven children to support, and he had already spent three months in gaol, Benjamin hoped His Honor, Chief Justice, Sir Francis Smith, Knight would deal ‘leniently’ with him.<sup>40</sup>

His Honor was ‘shocked’ after reading the depositions in the case. Emma was ‘a child’ and the daughter of Benjamin’s wife and his own step-daughter, and had been like his ‘own child’. While Emma was only 17 years of age, Benjamin had ‘seduced’ her and taken her to Green Ponds, passed through the marriage ceremony and lived with her as his own wife. The prisoner was a ‘man upwards of 50 years of age; and she ... only 17 years of age’.<sup>41</sup>

His Honor could image ‘no worse case; and when the worst case of a class was committed, the full sentence provided by law should, as a rule, be passed’. However he did not pass the full sentence, which was seven years’ imprisonment because since the Act was passed the penal settlement had been broken up. A sentence of that term would be severer

now than when the person in prison might have been kept at the penal settlement. His Honor passed what he considered to be an equivalent sentence, imprisonment for four years.<sup>42</sup>

Benjamin was delivered to the Campbell Street Gaol on 21 December 1880, with a warrant number of 13700, where he remained until his release on 4 June 1883.<sup>43</sup>

Life for Benjamin was still not uneventful even after his release. On 14 May 1895 a Supreme Court of Tasmania notice of sale appeared in the press. This was for the title and interest of the defendant Benjamin Mackinolty’s 45 acres comprising 2 acres of bearing orchards, a house and water frontage onto the Huon River. There were also 49½ acres at Police Point bounded on the north by land owned by J. MACKELBOROUGH, on the south by land selected by NORRIS and BENSON, and on the east by land selected (respectively) by Norris and Macinolty and on the west was Crown land. All mentioned property was listed for sale on 4 June 1895 at the Dover Court House.<sup>44</sup>

It seems that Benjamin and Ellen’s son Charles, remained around the Esperance area, and did not marry. In 1897 he owned the vessel *Esperanza* which may have originally been the *Esperance Packet* built at Hobart Town in 1852. In May 1876 the *Esperanza* was owned by

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<sup>39</sup> *Mercury* 14 December 1880, p.3 and 16 December 1880, p.3; *Examiner* 15 December 1880, p.2

<sup>40</sup> *Mercury* 16 December 1880, p.3

<sup>41</sup> *Mercury* 16 December 1880, p.3

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<sup>42</sup> *Mercury* 16 December 1880, p.3.

<sup>43</sup> Benjamin Macinolty, alias Mickleburgh, age 48, arrived on *St Vincent*. Free settler. Sentenced 14/12/1880 for 4 yrs. Received from: Supreme Court Hobart. Labourer. Catholic. Read/Write: Discharge Date 4/6/1883, see Laurie Moody, ‘Campbell Street Gaol Inmates 1873–1890, (Johnson–Passmore)’, *Tasmanian Ancestry* 25:4 (Mar 2005), pp.222–30 and personal comm with Laurie; CON33/1/115 image 129.

<sup>44</sup> *Mercury* 14 May 1895, p.1

H B EVANS and the master was F G LOWE when it arrived in Hobart Town with 35,000 shingles.<sup>45</sup>

At the time of making his will in 1931 Charles owned two farms, two orchards and two houses at Police Point. These he left to Theodore DELANEY of Police Point on the proviso that Edward SYLVESTER retained possession of the house in which he lived, and after his death the house reverted to Delaney. Charles left his money to his niece Mary DAVIS and her daughter Ruby Davis.<sup>46</sup>

Ellen Mackinolty, wife of James (or Benjamin) died on 14 February 1892 in the Esperance district, aged 50, while Benjamin (James) lived until he was 87. He died at Police Point on 23 June 1916.<sup>47</sup> ◀

Known family names into which their ten surviving children married are:  
WINDOVER, SUTTON, TULK, WOODHOUSE, HINDS, CHURCHILL, Sylvester and Noble.

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<sup>45</sup> L Norman, *Pioneer Shipping*, pp.76, 132 for 'Esperanza'; Laurie Moody. 'Timber Deliveries to Hobart Town 1876', *Tasmanian Ancestry* 34:2 (Sept 2013), pp.80-82

<sup>46</sup> Charles' sister Mary Ann married a John Sylvester; AOT online Will No.18878 p.388 AD960/1/56

<sup>47</sup> RGD35 Esperance deaths 175/1892 Ellen Mackinolty; TPI Glendevie deaths 613/1916 Benjamin Mackinolty

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# BOOK REVIEWS

*Help! Historical and Genealogical truth: How do I separate fact from fiction?* Carol Baxter, 2015

A5, soft cover, 139 pp., has a bibliography, end notes, index and some diagrams included in the text. (ISBN 978-0-9807046-2-4)

Carol Baxter has written widely in the fields of history and genealogy, and edited early muster records, so is well-placed to write a 'How to book', which promotes working from original sources and evidence, rather than commonly held beliefs or secondary sources.

The text is divided into two sections—**Principles**—deals with the foundations of analysing evidence; and **Practice**, putting the learnt principles into practice via a series of case studies. There is a summary check list at the end which pulls together all the suggested strategies covered in the text. The intention is to show the research side, and the need to accurately interpret evidence so inaccuracies are not compounded.

The early chapters deal with working from the unknown to the known (proof), where to look for evidence, types of evidence, and the need to research exhaustively; the stone unturned may have the evidence you need. There is advice on consistent citation and the need to differentiate between primary and secondary sources; also reminders that an index or transcription is only as good as the transcriber, and that authored books or articles are secondary sources, and should be treated with caution. Where primary sources are concerned, the mother's information about her child's birth certificate is likely to be more accurate than her

information about its father, which is second hand. Recollections change over time; eyewitness evidence is better than circumstantial, and even negative evidence—i.e. nothing can be found—can in itself be valuable. The source nearest the event is likely to be the most accurate. We will never be 100% sure about our ancestors, but we can, and should, try to be as accurate as possible.

Once the evidence has been collected, it should be analysed carefully. The evidence should build the theory, not the reverse, and once a trend is discernible, other items may fall into place, or need to be discarded. The fact that a lot of people believe something does not make it true—it is a belief, not a truth. Sometimes it may be valuable to reverse engineer someone else's research—i.e. track back from the end point to the start—this can often reveal where there been misinterpretation. We should try to bridge gaps; the 500 years between 1066 and 1566 is a very big ask, and alarm bells should ring! The historical context is also important—if your ancestor left the army as a lowly private, it is not possible for him to re-join and become a captain—that is not how the promotion system worked at the time. Family stories are usually just that—stories. Other things should ring alarm bells—'All the records were lost', 'I was told,' dates which are inexact, a lot of nonsense in the information (may well all be nonsense) or a complete refusal to accept any facts which do not fit with beliefs.

The case studies which are very much a feature of the book are a valuable lesson in how poor research, interpretation and plain straight out refusal to accept facts

can lead to the broadcasting of completely erroneous information which soon gains a life of its own, becoming the accepted story, which then becomes very difficult to remove or correct. For example, a group which believes the bushranger Thunderbolt did not die after being shot (despite substantial evidence from several reliable sources) was prepared to make an application to the NSW Legislative Assembly to have documents re his death 'released,' despite the fact that these were readily available in the State Archives. Nothing supported this group's claim, so the reaction was—'Everybody lied'—not 'We misinterpreted the evidence, and believed someone who said, 'I was told'.'

This is an excellent book. It sets out, in both written and diagrammatic form clear guidelines for analysing and interpreting evidence. A particular strength is the use of case studies which clearly demonstrate how one initial error can lead on to many, how those with preconceived ideas will manipulate evidence to meet those ideas, and refuse to accept those truths which are inconvenient. It would be a valuable addition to the bookshelf of any family historian, and should be compulsory reading for those wishing to add their stories to any of the web sites which are publicly available to share one's family history.

Judith Mudaliar



*Notes from the Kingborough Police Magistrate Letterbooks 1855–1875 and 1873–1888 concerning charitable allowances, compiled by Joyce Purtscher (ISBN 987-0-646-92593-6, 24pp., A4)*

*Notes from the Hobart Benevolent Society 1858–1914, compiled by Joyce*

**Purtscher from Minute Books (ISBN 978-0-646-92592-9, 202pp., A4)**

Joyce Purtscher's dedication to research into orphaned and destitute people of Tasmania is well regarded. With her publication of *Notes from the Hobart Benevolent Society 1858–1914* and *Notes from the Kingborough Police Magistrate Letterbooks 1855–1875 and 1873–1888 concerning charitable allowances* she adds to her extensive body of work in this area.

Both books are extremely useful for anyone researching or interested in the poor in Tasmania in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Colette McAlpine has found *Notes from the Kingborough Police Magistrate Letterbooks* very helpful in her research for the Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database. She comments:

Joyce's book has enabled us to match convict women as it often names the ship that women arrived on. It also lists aliases, names children and gives their year of birth and often gives details about the status of the family and the condition of the land they are farming.

Sadly, there are women who begged to be allowed to stay in their own homes rather than be sent to the Invalid Depot.

Both books follow a similar format. An introduction provides contextual information for understanding the records, there is a list of abbreviations, and the notes are organised in alphabetical order by person's family name for each record set. This makes it easy to look up information on a person of interest.

If you want to find out just that little bit more about your ancestors, it would be worth your while investigating these two books.

Trudy Cowley

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ABBOTT Joseph	Hobart TAS AUS	1823–1865	7657
ABERNETHY Walter	Nowra NSW/Tellianora NSW AUS	1873–1954	7646
ADAMS William George	Ringarooma TAS AUS	1909+	7659
AGARS George Arthur	Kilham YKS ENG	1837–1900	7663
ALEXANDER John	Ramsbury WIL ENG	1812–1898	7637
ALEXANDER Joseph	Ramsbury WIL ENG	1806–1878	7637
ALEXANDER Mary Ann	Ramsbury WIL ENG	1829–1908	7637
ALEXANDER Matthias	Ramsbury WIL ENG	1810–1865	7637
AULICH Grace Margaret	Queenstown TAS AUS	1900s	7643
BAPTIST Edward	Marylebone UK	1850–?	7654
BARLOW Henry	Launceston TAS AUS	1839–1926	7626
BARNES John	Dublin IRL/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1844–1902	7665
BARNES Patrick	Dublin IRL/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1846–1906	7665
BARNES, Patrick Francis	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7665
BEATTIE Lewis Henry	Banton Cnr Kilsyth SCT	1916–1950	7666
BLYTH Robert John	Norwich NFK ENG/Launceston TAS AUS	1818–1898	7653
BOYD Ethel	Melbourne VIC/Cootamundra NSW AUS	c.1972	7660
BROWN Charles Henry	Lambeth SRY ENG	1885–1913	7638
BROWN George Deas 1	Pyengana TAS AUS	1830s–1916	7645
BROWN George Deas II	Launceston TAS AUS	1882–1941	7645
BUCQUET Alice Rosina	Lambeth SRY ENG	1852–1930?	7638
BUTTERS Sydney	Tasman TAS AUS	1900	7665
CAHILL Michael	County LEIX IRL	c.1828–1902	7628
CLIFFORD William	Sorell TAS AUS (originally Germany)	1855	7636
CLUNEY Henrietta	Sydney NSW AUS	c.1967	7660
COLCOTT James	HAM ENG	1813–1889	7663
CONNELL Martin	County LEIX IRL	c.1856–1939	7628
CULL Rebecca	Convict Hobart ? TAS AUS	Unknown	7640
CUSICK/CUSACK Patrick	ROS IRL/Spring Bay TAS AUS	1816–1875	7653
DALTON James	CUL ENG	1795	7631
DOUGLAS Maxwell	IOM UK	1813–1955	7654
DRAKE Samuel Michael	Hobart TAS AUS	1852–1918	7633
EASTON Robert Mitchel	Wingham NSW AUS	1878 1959	7646
EXCELL Annie Maria	QLD AUS	Any	7642
EXLEY Joseph	ENG ?	b.c.1820	7628
FINLAY Edward and ARUNDEL Jane	Dublin IRL/QLD AUS	Any	7641
FLETCHER James Arthur	ENG ?	c.1834–1893	7628
FLOOD John	Sydney Cove NSW AUS	1797–1854	7663
FREE Samuel	London ENG/Sandy Bay TAS AUS	1770–1819	7653
GORMAN Thomas Alexander	Castle Forbes Bay TAS AUS	1848–1905	7633
GOULD Thomas Henry	ENG ?	c.1814–1879	7628
GROVES Henry	Zeehan TAS AUS	1899–1925	7657
HANDLEY Maly	Fingal & Pyengana TAS AUS	1850s–1896	7645
HARVEY Alfred Henry	QLD AUS	Any	7642
HARVEY Joseph Alfred	b.QLD 10 Mar 1888	1888	7642
HILLS Henry	Any	1800–1870	7634

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
HOGAN Daniel (John)	Ballinamoe TIP IRL	1855–1891	7663
HOLMES John Thomas	Manning Valley NSW AUS	1835–1898	7646
HOLMES Mary Alice	Manning Valley NSW AUS	1884–1948	7646
HUMPHRIES Charles	Melbourne VIC/Temora NSW AUS	c.1930	7660
JARRETT Sarah Emily	Coolangatta NSW AUS	1853–1888	7646
JONES Ruth Wilena	Railton TAS AUS	1881+	7640
JORDAN Frederick George	Melbourne VIC/Cootamundra NSW AUS	prior 1976	7660
JORDAN Alfred George	Hobart TAS AUS	1900	7665
KEATING John	Spreyton TAS AUS	1900s	7643
KEATING Joseph Hervy	IRL & UK	1898–?	7654
KENNY John alias McKENZIE	Edinburgh SCT	1814–1886	7663
KING Laurel Louisa	Hobart TAS AUS	1900	7665
KINGSTON Charles William	Sorell District TAS AUS	1828	7636
MANSFIELD Burnie	Any	Any	7658
MANSFIELD Ruth	Any	Any	7658
McNEILL Joseph	SCT UK/Triabunna TAS AUS	1827–1910	7653
MOORE Edward	Any	c.1820–1884	7628
PATERSON John	Any	Any	7634
PATERSON William	Any	1820–1865	7634
RICKARDS/RICHARDS William H B	Aylesbury BKM ENG/Esperance TAS AUS	1814–1914	7653
ROBB Any	AYR SCT	1800+	7650
ROGERSON Catherine	Westmeath IRL	pre 1946	7648
SAUNDERS William	Any	1845–1900	7634
SAYER James Arthur	Latrobe TAS AUS	Unknown	7640
SCHMIDT Kathleen Georgina	b.Dublin ? IRL/QLD AUS/née FINLAY d.18 Oct 1912		7641
SCHOTT Any	Stuttgart GERMANY	1800+	7650
SHEPPARD John	Ranelagh TAS AUS	c.19th Century	7652
SHERWIN Henry John	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7632
SHERWIN Keziah	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7632
SMITH Henry	Sorell TAS	1828	7636
SPICER Zelma Caroline	Launceston TAS AUS	1920–1985	7659
SWAIN James	Castle Cary SOM ENG	1834–1896	7663
SWEETINGHAM Alexander	VIC AUS/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1827–1904	7633
TRIFFETT James	TAS AUS	1808–1853	7652
VASS Bertie	St Pancras London ENG/TAS AUS	1911–1976	7654
WALKER Any	ENG/Broadmarsh TAS AUS	1800+	7650
WATSON Timothy	Any	1815–1900	7634
WATTERS John Orr	Any	Any	7658
WATTERS Martha	Any	Any	7658
WHITE Thomas	Any	Any	7648
WILKINS Mary	Manning Valley NSW AUS	1834–1862	7646
WILLIAMSON William	VIC AUS/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1827–1904	7633
WOOLFORD Daniel	WIL ENG	1735	7631

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7626	BREWER Lynette	30 Amy Road lynette.brewer@bigpond.com	NEWSTEAD	TAS	7250
7627	MANN Mr Dennis	50 Bain Terrace camaden@netspace.net.au	LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
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7636	WARD Ms Kerry	6 Terrina Street	LAUDERDALE	TAS	7021
7637	BARHAM Mr Brian	23 Foundry Mews BbarhamFamily@gol.com	TAVISTOCK DEVON	UK	PL19 OBQ
7638	BROWN Ms Lee	10 Weld Street harlee@bigpond.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7639	GUNNE-THOMPSON Ms Dianne	21 Crown Road	GYMPIE	QLD	4570
7640	SAYER Mrs Lorna	PO Box 223 ljsayer@icloud.com	HURSTBRIDGE	VIC	3099
7641	MATHESON Ms Roselyn (Roz)	PO Box 148 sheffield789@live.com	SHEFFIELD	TAS	7306
7642	MATHESON Ms Tasha (Tash)	PO Box 148 sheffield789@live.com	SHEFFIELD	TAS	7306
7643	ALLEN Mrs Joselene	12 Bradshaw Street	LATROBE	TAS	7307
7644	TILDSLEY Mrs Deborah	88 Brooks Road deborah.tildsley@hotmail.com	LOWER BARRINGTON	TAS	7306
7645	BROWN Miss Edwina	PO Box 1924 e_j.brown@hotmail.com	LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
7646	MACKENZIE Ms Elsie	PO Box 16 lynemack@bigpond.com	MIDDLETON	TAS	7163
7647	SMITH Mr Michael	120 Reatta Road forhort@gmail.com	TREVALLYN	TAS	7250
7648	THOMAS Mr Ross	100 Gordons Hill Road roscoethomas@dodo.com.au	LINDISFARNE	TAS	7015
7649	POTTER Mrs Nora	Not for publication			
7650	RATCLIFF Mrs Janet	20 Alice Place janrat1960@gmail.com	BRIGHTON	TAS	7030

# NEW MEMBERS

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7653	VASS Mrs Felicity	176 Springfield Avenue felicitygf@netspace.net.au	WEST MOONAH	TAS	7009
7654	VASS Mr Mark	176 Springfield Avenue felicitygf@netspace.net.au	WEST MOONAH	TAS	7009
7655	SNOOKS Cheryl	3 Weston Place cherylwebster@iprimus.com.au	MONTROSE	TAS	7010
7656	BENNETT Mrs Bonnie	6/362 Sandy Bay Road	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
7657	ABBOTT Mrs Barbara	Not for publication			
7658	MANSFIELD Mr Peter	1/43 Sugarloaf Road mansy1@y7mail.com	RISDON VALE	TAS	7016
7659	JORDAN Mr David	24 Richings Drive sagis-1@bigponde.com	YOUNGTOWN	TAS	7249
7660	JORDAN A Alex.	24 Richings Drive sagis-1@bigpond.com	YOUNGTOWN	TAS	7249
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# HELP WANTED

## **FENNER, Joseph and Mary**

Information required about Joseph FENNER (1812–19 July 1857) and his wife Mary (née McDONALD c.1818–19 October 1858). Would like to know where these two came from and if they were free settlers or convicts. They had nine children: Bethshabee, Joseph Thomas, Josiah, Mary Ann, Mariam, unnamed female, Moses, Charlotte Lavinia and David Aaron. Patricia Stretten, C/o TFHS Inc. State Secretary, PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018

## **HERITAGE, PARTELL and MORGAN**

Help wanted with James HERITAGE, convict in Tasmania (Van Diemens Land) 1850s. Paola PARTELLE of the ‘Tasmanian Inn’ Hobart in the 1850s and Sarah MORGAN also at the ‘Tasmanian Inn’ in the 1850s.

Please contact Greg Clota at 74 Summerleas Road, Ferntree TAS 7054.

## **PALMER and ZUFALL**

Can anyone help with Richard PALMER who was in Tasmania from 1835–1846 and moved to South Australia in 1846. Also Ludwig ZUFALL of New South Wales from 1870–1878 and Christiana Zufall in New South Wales 1875–1900. Please contact Ian Byers, 39 Beddome Street Sandy Bay TAS 7005.

## **ROBINSON, John**

Seeking to establish contact with anyone researching John ROBINSON born in Bristol on 9 October 1799 and sentenced at Kent Assizes 1819 for forgery and sent to Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) on the *Dromedary*. After approximately ten years in Hobart John settled in Oatlands until he passed away in 1876. John married three times—to Hannah KELL-

OW, Marianne HIGGINS and Eliza CROSSIN. After some doubt on John’s place of birth have established it was Bristol and I am keen to establish contact with any fellow researcher who may have details about his parental family. I have significant information on John and his Tasmanian family descendants to exchange. Contact Tony Robinson [tonyrobinson6@bigpond.com](mailto:tonyrobinson6@bigpond.com)

## **ST MARY’S PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

Are there any surviving records for the hospital known as St Mary’s Private Hospital, Sunnyside Road, New Town in Tasmania which was operating between 1920–1950. I wish to find others than the correspondence letters between the hospital and the government in the Tasmanian Archives. The Hospital was run by a Sister Gray at 4 Sunnyside Road, New Town and was a ‘lying in Hospital’. Further records may be in a private collection somewhere. Please contact John Dare [jerad22@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jerad22@bigpond.net.au)

## **TATTERSALL or ELMORE?**

I am hoping to find the identity of the lady who features on the cover. She may be a descendant of John TATTERSALL

(1797–1879) and his wife Sarah (née WATERS) (1811–84) and their daughter Sarah Evans Tattersall (1842–1923) who married Joseph ELMORE. Sarah Elmore, who lived in Launceston for most of her life, cared for state wards, and the photo may be one of these wards. The original, kept with a photo of Sarah Evans Elmore (née



Tattersall), is believed to have been owned in the 1970s by Sarah's granddaughter Agatha Adeline GOODYER. All suggestions and help will be greatly appreciated. Leonie Mickleborough, 6 Wentworth Street South Hobart Tasmania 7004 [lemick@internode.on.net](mailto:lemick@internode.on.net)

#### WALSH/O'MEARA/CUMMING

I am seeking descendants of Thomas WALSH (a blacksmith) and his wife Julia Walsh (née O'MEARA) who lived in Goulburn Street Hobart in the 1840s. A daughter Margaret Judy was born about 1836 and married C H F de La VERN in Ballarat, Vic. in 1859. A son Thomas born in 1842 married Jane CUMMING at Deloraine in 1875. Another son William was born in 1849 but nothing further known of him or the family. Any information on this family and what became of them, particularly the daughter Margaret would be most welcome. Please contact Gerald Jenzen, email [gmjenzen@bigpond.com](mailto:gmjenzen@bigpond.com)

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

# ENGLISH NOVELIST ANNA MARIA WIGHT

## TRACING HER CONNECTION TO A REMARKABLE TASMANIAN FAMILY

Judith Carter and Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)

**A**S family historians we are exhorted to check and double-check the facts before claiming the relationship of one person to another. We are warned of the dangers of making assumptions. We are encouraged to look for solid documentary evidence in the form of birth, death and marriage certificates, church records, census data and so on—and, even then, to take great care because such documents can, and do, contain errors.<sup>48</sup>

For a variety of reasons, however, it is not always possible to find adequate documentary evidence. In such cases, less formal evidence is all that is available, but this kind of evidence—which might consist of naming patterns within a family, jottings in a family bible, names scribbled on the back of a photograph, keepsakes and artifacts handed down from one generation to the next and so forth—can be most convincing.

Establishing the connection between English novelist Anna Maria WIGHT and the remarkable COX family of Tasmania is a case in point.<sup>49</sup>

According to a website of the University of Tasmania's Library Open Repository (ePrints), Anna Maria Cox (née Wight) was 'the *mother* of Mary Ann Cox who ran the first horse-drawn coach service from Hobart to Launceston'.<sup>50</sup> But that cannot be true. 'Cox' was Mary Ann's married name; she was born Mary Ann HALLS.<sup>51</sup> So, what was the relationship between them? Is there evidence to prove any connection?

First, it will be necessary to look briefly at the life and career of Anna Maria Cox (née Wight).

Although her name will be unfamiliar to many today, her novels—dark, romantic and haunting—are frequently listed with those of such well-known writers of Gothic fiction as Emily BRONTE, Jane AUSTEN, Caroline LAMB and Mary SHELLEY.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Lists of 'Do's and Don'ts' for family historians are published frequently. See, for instance, 'Golden Rules of Genealogy' in *Australian Family Tree Connections*, June 2014, p.35.

<sup>49</sup> See 'John Edward Cox' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

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<sup>50</sup> <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/11221/>

<sup>51</sup> As for Note 2

<sup>52</sup> See, for instance, Sage, L., Greer, G. and Showalter, E. (eds.) 1999. *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; and Adam Matthew Publications: [http://www.ampltd.co.uk/digital\\_guides/gothic\\_fiction/biographies.aspx](http://www.ampltd.co.uk/digital_guides/gothic_fiction/biographies.aspx); and Loeber, A & M. (eds.). *A Guide to Irish Fiction* (electronic version) at <http://www.lgif.ie/authorDetails.action;jsessionid=282DEC5EC6CEA267E8F47E58391D27FD?authorId=1170>

Little is known of her upbringing. Born in 1744, she was the daughter of an Essex coal merchant. According to her brief biography in *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English* (1999), she received a sound but 'confined' education of the kind generally available to middle-class women of the day.<sup>53</sup>

The first event in her life that can be accurately confirmed was her marriage to John Cox at St Clement Danes, London, on 28 November 1763.<sup>54</sup> Marriage documents show her address as 'St Mary, Stratford Bow'.

On 9 May of the following year, a male child was baptized in the parish of Stratford-le-Bow (St Mary). The child's father is shown as 'John' and his mother as 'Anna Maria'. While there is no absolute proof of it, there can be little doubt that this was the child of John and Anna Maria (Wight) Cox.

After the birth of that child, John and Anna Maria Cox appear to have moved to the district of Seaton and Beers in Devon where, according to commentators, Anna

Maria gave birth to three more children. Evidence has been found of the births of her second and third children—daughters, Ann and Sarah, both baptized at Seaton and Beers, the former on 14 October 1764 and the latter on 23 March 1766.<sup>55</sup>

It is unfortunate, however, that no record of the birth of her fourth child has yet been located because it is *that* son (born around 1768) who is the critical link in Anna Maria's connection to the Cox family of Tasmania, as we shall see.

Anna Maria's husband passed away some time before 1783.<sup>56</sup> In

order to support the children, and out of a love for creative writing, she began to write novels. Her first, *Burton-Wood* (pictured), appeared in 1783.<sup>57</sup> In the form of letters, it tells the

## BURTON WOOD.

ELLEN BATEMAN to Miss STOCKLEY.

O maddim, wot a pore misfabel retch I ham. — my marfter as kil'd the cornel, and my misers has bin in fits evir fenfe.—Wilyem his destructed, and swares like a truper, and savs, if has how he now'd hu made my marfter gallows, he woude certanely kil him.—I beleves in my hart he respects me, for he has gloutede mortalely evir fenfe he hard me fa the cornel wos fond of my misers. Wel, I

<sup>53</sup> Anna Maria's birth date: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Great Britain, via Suffolk Family History Society. Education: see Sage, L et al. (eds.) *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*, (1999) pp.411–412.

<sup>54</sup> Anna Maria Wight's marriage to John Cox. 'Ancestry.com' - Select Marriages, England, 1538–1973; original data: England, Marriages 1538–1973. Salt Lake City, Utah: Family Search, 2013.

<sup>55</sup> As for Note 2. Ann and Sarah Cox: baptism dates from *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975*, via 'Ancestry.com', both FHL File No: 916932. There is some disparity in the dates of the children's baptisms as shown here but as we are not certain on the actual birth date of the first child, it's possible that there was a delay between his birth and his baptism.

<sup>56</sup> Based on date of publication of first novel, *Burton-Wood* in 1783

<sup>57</sup> In transcription (with spelling and punctuation corrected), the extract reads: 'Burton-Wood' – Ellen Bateman to Miss Stockley. 'O madam, what a poor miserable wretch I am. My master has killed the colonel, and my mistress has been in fits ever since. William is destructed and swares like a trooper, and

story of a young woman whose marriage is nearly destroyed by a bitter rival. Immediately popular, it was followed in the same year by a second novel, *Joseph*.

At St Margaret's, London, on 15 August 1785, Anna Maria married again.<sup>58</sup> Her second husband was John JOHNSON. Interestingly, a witness to the ceremony was a man by the name of Joseph Cox.<sup>59</sup> The identity of this man has not been established—but it is possible that it was Anna Maria's fourth child, the son born about 1768. He would have been about seventeen at the time.

After the marriage Anna Maria continued to write, but now as Anna Maria Johnson. Her novels under that name include *The Gamesters* (1786), *The Platonic Guardian, or The History of an Orphan* (1787), *Dusseldorf, or The Fratricide* (1789) and *Callista* (1790).<sup>60</sup>

But this marriage, too, was a short one. Within a couple of years, John Johnson had passed away and on 8 November 1789, at Stratford-le-Bow (St Mary), Anna Maria married for the third time. Her new husband was Archibald MACKENZIE.<sup>61</sup>

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says, if as how he knowed who made my master gallows, he would certainly kill him. I believe in my heart he respects me, for he has gloated mortally ever since he heard me say the colonel was fond of my mistress.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Second marriage: as per *findmypast* data, accessed (J Carter), 9 June 2014

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>60</sup> As for Note 6, above. See also Kasmer, L (2012). *Novel Histories: British Women Writing History, 1760–1830*. Madison, N J, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press

<sup>61</sup> Death of John based on date of third marriage; Third marriage: Guildhall, St Mary le Bow, Register of Marriages, 1754–94; with Banns, 1754–1831; p.69/MRY7/A/01/Ms4999

In the following year, as Anna Maria Mackenzie, she published *Monmouth*, regarded by many as her finest novel.<sup>62</sup> Set in the Restoration Period (1660–1670) in England, it is an historical romance based on fact. It was followed by *Slavery, or The Times* (1792), which tells the story of an African prince who was badly treated when sent to England by his father to be educated. Anna Maria used the story not only as a source of entertainment but as a vehicle for her commentary on racism and the social conditions of the day.

Because her novels were written under different names, it is difficult to find a complete list of them. It is thought, however, that at least sixteen Anna Maria Wight/Cox/Johnson/Mackenzie novels were published in all.<sup>63</sup> One, *The Neapolitan, or The Test of Integrity* (1796), was published under the pseudonym 'Ellen of Exeter'.<sup>64</sup>

Her last novel, *The Irish Guardian, or Errors of Eccentricity*, appeared in 1809.<sup>65</sup>

Anna Maria died at Earl Soham, Suffolk, in November 1819. Those who know of her today think of her as a strong, resilient and resourceful woman who, when left a widow with young children to rear, made the most of her talents and pursued her literary career with outstanding success.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> As for Note 6

<sup>63</sup> Sage et al, *op. cit*, pp.411–412

<sup>64</sup> As for Note 6. See also Norton, Rictor. (2012). *Gothic Readings: An Anthology* at <http://rictornorton.co.uk/gothic/mackenzi.htm>

<sup>65</sup> Loeber, A & M, *op. cit*

<sup>66</sup> Death: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Great Britain, via Suffolk Family History Society. Career: see 'A Pioneer

Very recently, a number of her novels have been re-published in new editions and are readily available.<sup>67</sup>



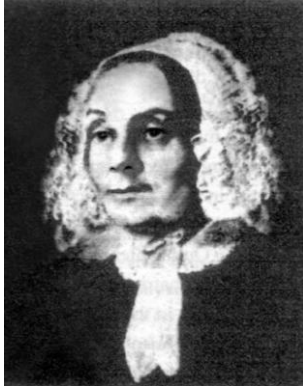
We can now return to the matter of the connection between Anna Maria Wight and the Cox family of Tasmania—and, especially, to her connection to Mary Ann Cox (pictured) of the first Hobart-to-Launceston coach-line fame.<sup>68</sup>

Mary Ann, too, was left with young children to raise—and is also greatly admired for her outstanding achievements after the death of her husband.<sup>69</sup>

However, Mary Ann Cox was *not* the daughter of Anna Maria Wight. It was Mary Ann's husband, John Edward Cox, who was her direct descendant. He was her grandson, in fact. And while the chain of *documentary* evidence to prove that relationship has not been found, the *less formal kind* of evidence is plentiful—and compelling!



Mary Ann Cox (née Halls) arrived in Van Diemen's Land with her husband, John Edward Cox (1791–1837) aboard the *Mariner* in November 1821. They had married at St James, Bristol, Gloucester, on 19 January of that year.<sup>70</sup>



John Edward Cox is believed to have been the son of Anna Maria Wight's youngest child whose name, as noted above, is thought to have been Joseph. An auctioneer by training, John Edward Cox had brought a letter of recommendation from the Colonial Office, London, and £1,660.00 in capital with him to VDL.<sup>71</sup>

Upon application, he was granted 1,200 acres (486 ha.) of land near Campbell

Town which he called 'Rendlesham', probably because of his family's connection with the town of that name in Suffolk. By 1822 he had built a home there, stocked his farm with cattle and secured a government contract for the supply of meat. In the same year, he established an auctioneering business in partnership with a wealthy

Hobart merchant, Richard LEWIS. By the next year Cox was also operating a ferry service, of great value to settlers, across the Derwent River at New Norfolk (or Elizabeth Town as it was then known).<sup>72</sup>

In 1824, however, a fire destroyed the house at Rendlesham.<sup>73</sup> At the same time, a lawsuit in England went against John Edward Cox and he suddenly found himself in financial difficulty. After spending some time at Rendlesham rebuilding the home, he returned to Hobart, but his auctioneering business failed and in 1828 he was declared

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Career Woman', *Woman's Day*, 21 August 1951

<sup>67</sup> For a full list of the titles recently republished see Barnes & Noble Booksellers at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/anna-maria-mackenzie>

<sup>68</sup> As for Note 2

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid*

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<sup>71</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>73</sup> Fire at Rendlesham: *Tasmanian and Port Dalrymple Advertiser* (Launceston), 12 January 1825, p.2



bankrupt. Forced to sell his land, he invested in hotels, successively purchasing the 'Macquarie Hotel' in Hobart, the 'York and Albany Hotel' at Oatlands and the 'Cornwall' at Launceston.<sup>74</sup>

The choice of these hotels was obviously strategic because, in 'a stroke of genius' according to one biographer, he set about establishing the first coaching service between Hobart and Launceston. Initially carrying only freight and passengers, he later secured a government contract to carry the mails.<sup>75</sup>

Unfortunately, however, the enterprise was not particularly profitable. George ARTHUR, Lieutenant-Governor of the colony from 1824 to 1836, is reported to have said: 'No undertaking had ever proved of greater utility to the public or, comparatively, so little remunerative to the proprietor'.<sup>76</sup>

But, the problems Cox had encountered, and the huge workload he had taken on, affected his health. At Launceston, on 24 October 1837, at the age of 46, he died, leaving his wife, Mary Ann, with big debts and eight children to support.<sup>77</sup> The eldest child was just fourteen.



Mary Ann Cox was born at Hundon, Suffolk, England, on 18 January 1800,

<sup>74</sup> As for Note 2

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>77</sup> TPI Digger shows John Edward Cox's burial at Launceston on 27 October 1837, Reg: 5114/1837/34; see also Note 18

the daughter of Thomas Halls and Martha SUMMERS.<sup>78</sup>

Her childhood might not have been easy. Her father died in the year she was born and her mother married George GREGORY, a surgeon, the following year. When he died in 1814 it is thought Martha married for the third time but evidence of this has not been found. Perhaps these changes in Mary Ann's youthful circumstances helped to make her the quick and practical woman she was later to become.<sup>79</sup>

Her journey to Van Diemen's Land on the *Mariner* was probably an uncomfortable one. She was pregnant and close to term upon arrival in November 1821. A

notice in *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* of 22 March 1822 (p.3) advised she had given birth to twins earlier that year.

Although there seems to be no record of it, both twins must have died at, or soon after, birth. The eight children left with Mary Ann when her husband died were: Agnes Berth Cox (baptized 1823); John Edward Cox (1824); Frances Amelia Cox (1826); Robert Mackenzie Cox (1828); Richard Cox (1830); George William Cox (1834); Alexander Temple Cox (1836); and Anna Maria Cox (1837) who was only eleven days old when her father passed away. A ninth child, Percival Johnson Cox (born

<sup>78</sup> 'England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975', via 'Ancestry.com', accessed 2 June 2014

<sup>79</sup> Public trees, via 'Ancestry.com'

1832), had died at the age of five, in July 1837, just a few months before his father's death.<sup>80</sup>

While the eldest son, John Edward, was undoubtedly named after his father, the names of some of the other children are a pointer to the link to their illustrious great grandmother. Two of the boys, Robert and Percival, obviously received their middle names in memory of Anna Maria's second and third husbands, John Johnson and Archibald Mackenzie. And, the name of the youngest child, Anna Maria Cox, speaks for itself.

After the death of her husband John, Mary Ann Cox carried on and extended his businesses, running them with flair, shrewdness, courage and determination. By 1840, she had repaid her husband's creditors in full. From her base at the 'Cornwall Hotel' (pictured) at Launceston, Mary Ann established a series of coaching stations along various routes to Hobart and, using her horses in relays, set record times for the journey.<sup>81</sup>

It was a difficult business for a young woman to run. The roads were bad, and there were wide rivers to cross, usually by punt. At various times, she was contracted by the authorities to convey female convicts between Hobart and Launceston and, as her husband had done, she won contracts to carry the mails. Dangerous bushrangers roamed the districts through which Mary Ann's coaches travelled and she had to employ armed guards to protect her property,

staff and passengers. On at least two occasions, she was forced to offer rewards for the apprehension of employees who had absconded with the fares they had collected.<sup>82</sup>

For the additional safety and comfort of passengers, Mary Ann had some of her coaches built in England to her own design.<sup>83</sup>

Nevertheless, accidents were inevitable and, increasingly, these began to cause her concern. In fact, it was a particularly bad accident in 1849 in which four passengers were seriously hurt that might have prompted her to sell the business. When, later that year, she received a satisfactory offer from one of a number of rivals who had been attracted to the



industry by her success, she sold the coach-line and retired to 'Ormley', a large estate which she purchased at Avoca, Tasmania.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Births of Cox children: see TPI Digger. No record of the death of the twins has been found.

<sup>81</sup> As for Note 18. Mary Ann as licensee of Cornwall Hotel, Launceston: *The Hobart Town Courier*, 19 October 1838, p.4.

<sup>82</sup> Difficult business: See Note 18. Carrying female convicts: *Cornwall Chronicle*, 14 October 1846, p.2. Employees absconding: *The Courier* (Hobart) 11 March 1842, p.2; *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston), 7 April 1849, p.492.

<sup>83</sup> As for Note 18

<sup>84</sup> Serious accident, four passengers hurt: [www.inprisys.net/hosted/holobooks/Tasmaniainitinerary23.pdf](http://www.inprisys.net/hosted/holobooks/Tasmaniainitinerary23.pdf); retirement to 'Ormley': see Note 18

There, universally admired for her kindness and generosity to those less fortunate than herself, and with the esteem of hundreds of friends, Mary Ann lived quietly until, just prior to her death in 1858, she went to live with her youngest daughter, Anna Maria, at Hobart.<sup>85</sup>

Mary Ann's children had attended leading schools in the colony.<sup>86</sup> Her three daughters married into colonial society, the youngest becoming the wife of Hobart merchant Neil LEWIS and the mother of Sir Neil Elliott Lewis, eminent lawyer and former premier of Tasmania. Three of her sons distinguished themselves as commissioned officers in the Indian Army: Richard, becoming a captain, George William a colonel and Alexander Temple a brigadier-general. Of the remaining sons, one, John Edward, settled as a merchant at Beechworth, Victoria in the early 1850s, where he was highly regarded as a businessman; the other, Robert Mackenzie, oversaw his mother's farming interests at 'Ormley'.<sup>87</sup>



Two more 'connections' confirm the link between Anna Maria Wight and the Cox family of Tasmania. The first of these is a family heirloom; the second takes the form of references to family members in a Will drawn up in England about 1837.

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<sup>85</sup> Death, Hobart, 3 November 1858. Reg: 1195/1858/35; see death notices: *The Courier* (Hobart), 5 November 1858, p.2; *The Hobart Town Daily*, 12 November 1858, p.2

<sup>86</sup> As for Note 18. See also biography of Alexander Temple COX in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

<sup>87</sup> After his mother sold 'Ormley', Robert Mackenzie COX went to New Zealand where he died at his station 'Ardlussa' at Invercargill in 1876. (*The Mercury*, Hobart, 16 March 1876, p.1).

First, the family heirloom ...

In July 1960, a Mrs Joan HARVEY (née Cox) of Elsternwick, Victoria, a grandchild of John Edward and Mary Ann Cox, presented a number of precious family keepsakes to the Royal Society. Among them was a valuable copy of the rarely-seen first edition of Anna Maria Cox (née Wight)'s first novel, *Burton-Wood*. Bound in leather by the original printer of the work, H M STEEL, as a gift for the author in 1783, this volume had been treasured and lovingly cared for by the family ever since.<sup>88</sup>

At some time in the past, Joan Harvey had written the words 'The author was my great grandmother' on the flyleaf of the book. She told the Royal Society the book had been passed on to her some years earlier by her cousin, Dora CLERKE (also seen as CLERK) of Malahide, Tasmania and that both were granddaughters of John Edward and Mary Ann (Halls) Cox. Dora, born 1858, was the daughter of Agnes Bertha Cox; Joan, born about 1884, was the daughter of Alexander Temple Cox.<sup>89</sup>

In acknowledging this valuable gift, the Royal Society wrote (in a note which is kept with the book):

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<sup>88</sup> Mrs Harvey's gift of *Burton-Wood*: <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/11221/> As the book is now in Tasmania, it is thought that the donation was made to the Royal Society of Tasmania.

<sup>89</sup> Malahide is/was a region of Tasmania near Fingal. There is no township there now but the name is perpetuated in the name of a major road in the region. The Malahide Golf Club is situated at Fingal. Dora Clerke: birth – Reg: 459/1858, Fingal. Joan Mary Temple Cox, daughter of Alexander Temple Cox, married Ronald Macpherson Harvey in the parish of St Peter, Cranley Gardens, London on 19 December 1916; see parish register.

Mrs. Harvey's identification of the author of the volume was based on family tradition although not confirmed ...<sup>90</sup>

Hence, in terms of 'solid' proof of a family connection between the novelist and the Cox family, the book might not be highly considered by some. However, in conjunction with the other 'evidence' already outlined, it is convincing.

And now, for the matter of the Will ...

In 1837, a man by the John Cox of Ipswich, Suffolk, England, an auctioneer by profession, drew up his Last Will and Testament. In it, he left the bulk of his estate to his wife, Frances, to enjoy for the term of her life—and thereafter to two of his nephews, John Edward Cox, then resident in Van Diemen's Land, and Richard Cox whose whereabouts at that time were unknown. He also left smaller sums of money to his cousin, a man by the name of Johnson.<sup>91</sup>

Again, there is no absolute proof but at least two references in the will strongly suggest this is the Will of the first-born son of John and Anna Maria (Wight) Cox, the one baptized on 9 May 1764 in the church of St Mary, Stratford Bow, England.

The first reference is to other names in the Will. Money is left to a nephew named John Edward Cox and a cousin named Johnson. Does this strengthen the connection we have set out to prove—or is it simply coincidence? Again, the best answer seems to be that it proves nothing in isolation, but it is one more piece of circumstantial evidence of a connection.

Second, the Will mentions that John Cox owned land at Clare, near Hundon, Suffolk. As Mary Ann HALLS lived at Hundon before her marriage to John Edward Cox in 1821, it is probable that John Cox knew her, and her family, before the marriage—and that surely strengthens the argument for a connection between the English novelist and the pioneering Cox family of VDL.<sup>92</sup>



So, to summarise ...

The authors of this article were attracted to the story of Mary Ann Cox after coming across the account of one of those many acts of kindness and generosity to people less fortunate than herself for which she was greatly admired. Around 1841, at the time Mary Ann was busily building up her coaching business, she went to the aid of an unfortunate young woman who was so badly affected by epilepsy that the woman's family members who had nursed her for years, were no longer able to manager. Despite their best efforts, the family had been unable to have the poor woman admitted to an institution where she could be cared receive adequate care. Hearing of their plight, Mary Ann Cox used her influence to have the sick woman admitted to the New Norfolk Asylum, where she received the required medical care until her death eleven years later.<sup>93</sup>

It soon became apparent to the authors that Mary Ann Cox could not have been the *daughter* of English novelist Anna Maria Wight/Johnson/Mackenzie as some

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<sup>90</sup> <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/11221/>

<sup>91</sup> John Cox's Will: England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, 1384–1858. Note that John Cox's wife was named Frances, and that one of the daughters of John Edward and Mary Ann Cox was named Frances—another link?

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<sup>92</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>93</sup> The sick woman was Julia Bromley, elder daughter of the disgraced Colonial Treasurer, Dr Edward Food Bromley (1776–1836), who had been forced to return to England in 1829 leaving his family poorly provided for.

were suggesting, but it was thought she might have been *the wife of her grandson*.

While documentary evidence of that relationship could not be found, the non-documentary evidence that has been unearthed is most compelling.

This non-documentary evidence consists of four strands:

- The connection through the family name (Cox) of Anna Maria's first husband.
- The perpetuation of the names of Anna Maria's second and third husbands (Johnson and Mackenzie) and of Anna Maria's own name in the names of Mary Ann's children.
- The careful preservation by Mary Ann's children and grandchildren of the treasured, leather-bound 1783 edition of Anna Maria (Wight) Cox's first novel, *Burton-Wood*, and its later donation as a priceless family heirloom to the Royal Society.
- The Last Will and Testament of a man by the name of John Cox of Ipswich, Suffolk, England. Bequeathing a sum of money to John Edward Cox, whom he names as his nephew in Van Diemen's Land. This man, it seems, could be none other than the eldest son of Anna Maria (Wight) Cox. The fact that both men were auctioneers adds greater significance; it is likely that John Edward Cox had been trained in that business by his uncle. ◀

Index to

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# THE *MINERVA I* (1), 1818: AN INAUSPICIOUS DEPARTURE

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

THE *Minerva I* (1) having embarked a guard of the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment sailed from Deptford on 5 September 1817 bound for Cork harbour to take Irish male prisoners on board for Sydney. Her Surgeon Superintendent was James HUNTER RN and the Master was John BELL, both undertaking their first voyage for the convict service of the British Admiralty.<sup>1</sup>

Following the arrival of the *Minerva I* (1) at Cork on 22 September the ship was detained in harbour to receive her quota of 160 male prisoners. They were to be despatched from Kilmainham and Newgate gaols to be shipped round the Irish coast from Dublin under a military guard on the brig *Atlas* in the charge of Captain H R DRAPER, agent for transports. Crowded in the hold of the small vessel the men sat on straw matting laid over the ballast. The journey was tedious as the sea was rough with the straw becoming sodden and fouled. No food was issued to the prisoners as it was scheduled to be a short passage. However, after four days the men arrived wet and uncomfortable, encumbered by their leg irons and showing symptoms of fever.

The Master John Bell received the provisions from Cork which were negotiated under contract by the agent of transports. Surgeon Hunter found that no rice had been sent nor any tins of Donkin's preserved meats for hospital patients. He reported that the soup sent on board in lieu of fresh beef was not fit

for human consumption. Medicines such as the purgative calomel and antimonial powder were unlikely to be sufficient for the voyage.

At anchor in Cork harbour a serious accident occurred on the *Minerva I* (1) before the convicts came on board. One of the ship's boats fell from the booms resulting in death and injury. A private of the guard was crushed against the edge of a cask on deck and was sent to the Military Hospital on shore, but died the following morning. A second private was severely bruised and conveyed to the hospital but died shortly after. Six others were injured including the wife of the Corporal of the guard who received a severe head wound.

Upon the loading of the prisoners from the brig fifteen were found to be afflicted with chronic leg ulcers caused by chafing of the irons. These had been neglected while they were in gaol, particularly in Kilmainham, where the inmates were left to dress their own injured legs. Under treatment by Surgeon Hunter the ulcers gradually healed.

The *Minerva I* (1) was delayed in harbour for three months which was likely to have incurred costly demurrage. On 1 January 1818 she was finally cleared to sail by the attending physician at Cork, Dr Robert HARDING. A prisoner assisting at the capstan to weigh anchor was struck on the right side and thrown against the bulwark. He was extensively bruised and contracted fever in the ship's hospital. Here he was joined by eleven others who had arrived weak and debilitated from the

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<sup>1</sup> AJP 3205, *Minerva I* (1), 1817-18

brig *Atlas*. To enable them to receive a more nourishing diet of arrowroot, gruel and wine, as well as to occupy comfortable beds they were hospitalised.

After quitting Cork harbour during the bleak Irish winter the *Minerva I* (1) encountered a gale which lasted for days. The motion of the ship was so great that every prisoner, passenger and many of the crew were seasick. The hatches being battened down, the men were confined in the prison with the sea flooding over the decks and seeping below.

On 5 January as the storm had subsided the messmates who shared the berth of a young prisoner found themselves stained with blood. The man who was depressed had cut his throat the previous evening. Although his trachea was divided the carotid artery had not been severed. His wound was sutured and fixed with adhesive strips. The victim lamented that he had not been successful at ending his life but recovered to complete the voyage.

While supervising the prisoners bathing in the tub on deck Surgeon Hunter observed eighty of the men to be infected with the itch (psora). This contagious complaint, characterised by constant itching, was not curable at the time but was treatable with sulphur ointment mixed with hog's lard rubbed on the skin which gave off an offensive odour. Isolation of those suffering was necessary but this was not feasible with so many men infected. More serious diseases such as dysentery and diarrhoea were also treated and one prisoner died of consumption.

On 30 April 1818, after a direct passage of 119 days, the *Minerva I* (1) anchored at Settlement Cove with 157 convicts. As one man became a patient at Sydney Hospital Surgeon Hunter went to the building which he found in dirty,

slovenly conditions and crowded with unkempt male and female patients.

The Sydney settlement was under pressure during 1817–18 due to the arrival of sixteen convict transports conveying 2950 English male prisoners to the colony; the *Minerva I* (1) being additional to these ships. Governor MACQUARIE faced impossible difficulties in housing, feeding, employing and supervising the new arrivals. He decided to forward the *Minerva I* (1) together with the *Lady Castlereagh*, which had anchored on the same day, to Van Diemen's Land. The latter ship disembarked thirty-nine English male convicts from her total of 300 and was instructed to transfer the remaining 261 to the southern colony. Macquarie hired both vessels at a rate of £2 per convict carried with victuals supplied by the government.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to her 157 convicts the *Minerva I* took on board two prisoners who were being returned to Hobart Town having previously escaped to Port Jackson. She also carried two men capitally convicted at the Sydney Criminal Court. They were George GREY of the 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment, sentenced to death for murder and a free settler, William TRIM, for sheep stealing from the property of Messrs TROYS and STYNES.<sup>3</sup>

As the Criminal Court sat in Sydney until 1821, persons from Van Diemen's Land charged with serious crimes were sent to the mainland for trial. If found guilty they were returned to Hobart Town for punishment. Lt-Governor SORELL had sought to use the Court in a selective way for examples to be set of convicted

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships*, p.202

<sup>3</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 June 1818; 20 June 1818

persons to be hanged to deter crime. His greatest concern was to use capital punishment to forestall sheep stealing. With her two prisoners destined for the hanging tree the *Minerva I* sailed into Sullivan's Cove on 8 June 1818. Rev. Robert Knopwood was at the gaol for the execution of the two men on 11 June 1818 which was attended by the officers of the regiment.<sup>4</sup>

At disembarkation on 20 June the convicts received an issue of clothing: a jacket, trousers, shirt, cap and a pair of shoes. Some men were assigned to settlers at Richmond, namely the Troys and Stynes' families. A prisoner on board had been Bryan BENNETT, Co Cavan, convicted of robbing the mail coach at Trim, Co Meath. He became the father of Catherine Bennett who married Thomas Francis MEAGHER, one of the Young Islanders during 1851. Her infant son rests at Richmond.<sup>5</sup>

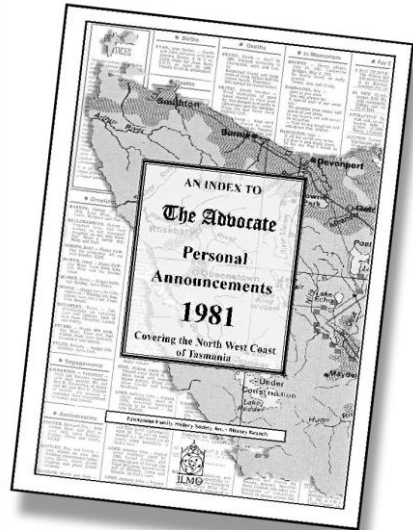
After a stay of two weeks at Hobart Town, which included a round of social engagements, the *Minerva I* sailed for Batavia on 25 June 1818. ◀

<sup>4</sup> Alex C Castles, *Lawless harvests or God save the judges*. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2007, p.85; *Robert Knopwood Diary 1803-1838*. (Mary Nicholls ed.). Hobart, THRA, 1997, pp.283-84.

<sup>5</sup> Peter MacFie, *Silent impact: the Irish inheritance in Richmond, Tasmania. Irish Australian Studies: eighth conference*. Hobart, 1995, p.489

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# THE GREATREX LEGACY

Marion Sargent (Member No.927)

**J**OHAN HENRY GREATREX, the fifth of ten children, was born on 4 April 1827 at Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. His father, Charles Butler Greatrex born in 1787, was a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Marines. He was reserved on half pay from 1 September 1814 and retired as a medical practitioner in 1845. John's mother was Mary Ann DITCHBURN from Gravesend, Kent. The family moved several times during John's childhood. It appears that he might have gone to sea from about the age of 14 and travelled to America.

John Henry Greaterix, aged 18, tried at Birmingham on 23 May 1845 for stealing money, was sentenced to seven years' transportation. He is listed in the NSW convict records as departing from London on 29 June 1846 on the *Maitland*. All the convicts on this ship were young men or boys who were recommended for Conditional Pardons before arrival. Six boys disembarked at Hobart Town and 291, including Greatrex, went to Port Phillip, arriving on 9 November 1846. An interesting snippet in *The Argus* on 6 August 1847 states that

Pentonvillians living in Flinders Lane were eating, drinking and making merry and not doing much work.

J H Greatrex took up acting just two months after arriving in Melbourne. He used the stage name of Mr Ditchburn, his mother's maiden name. Mr and Mrs Ditchburn first appeared on stage at the Queen's Theatre in Melbourne. There

were frequent advertisements for the variety show which included their act.<sup>1</sup>

Seven months later, on 20 August 1847 Mr and Mrs Ditchburn sailed from Port Phillip to Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, on the *Raven*.<sup>2</sup> He left two months before a letter arrived for him at the Melbourne Post Office.<sup>3</sup>

The Ditchburns performed in one show only, in the play *Inchcape Bell* on 23 August at the Royal Olympic Theatre, Launceston: Mr Ditchburn in the guise of the outcast Guy Ruthven and Mrs Ditchburn as Amelia. A review in the *Cornwall Chronicle* declared that

they will be useful performers ... but we must see them again before we form an opinion of their merits.<sup>4</sup>

The Royal Olympic Theatre was attached to the *London Tavern* on the corner of St John and Cameron streets, Launceston. It was established by ex-convict Benjamin HYRONS in 1842. Just over two weeks later Mr and Mrs Ditchburn appeared in the same play at the Royal Albert Theatre in Hobart.<sup>5</sup>

Mr Ditchburn remained in Hobart Town for two years, returning to Melbourne before 23 May 1849 when he was playing the character of Captain Killingly in *Catching an Heiress* at the Queen's Theatre, Melbourne. Mrs Ditchburn was there in another play two days later.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Melbourne Argus*, 19 January 1847, p.2

<sup>2</sup> *Colonial Times*, 20 August 1847

<sup>3</sup> *The Argus*, 8 October 1847, p.1

<sup>4</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 21 August 1847 & 25 August 1847, p.3

<sup>5</sup> *Colonial Times*, 7 September 1847

<sup>6</sup> *The Argus*, 22 May 1849 & 10 July 1849

Under the name of John Henry Ditchburn of St John's Tavern, a letter to the editor was published in *The Argus* regarding a dispute over a lecture given by S W GIBBONS.<sup>7</sup>

By September 1849 Greatrex was in Sydney appearing as Mr Ditchburn at the Royal Victoria Theatre.<sup>8</sup> Using the name Henry Ditchburn, Greatrex came before the courts for stealing, or fraudulently obtaining, a magic lantern, for which he was acquitted.<sup>9</sup>

On 26 March 1850 John Henry Greatrex was brought before Alderman EGAN for fraudulently obtaining goods by means of false representation from several suppliers to stock his grocer's shop in Market Street, Sydney. Greatrex paid the servants by cheque, but there were no funds in the bank with which to honour them.<sup>10</sup>

On the same day Edward LAWRENCE, in whose possession were found the goods obtained by Greatrex of John BAXTER and Alexander WADDELL, was apprehended on a charge of feloniously receiving goods, knowing that they had been obtained by means of false representations.<sup>11</sup>

On 11 June 1850 at the Central Criminal Court, Sydney, before His Honour the Chief Justice, John Henry Greatrex, alias DITCHBOURNE, was found guilty of stealing tobacco from Edward and Denis McENROE. Greatrex was sentenced to work on the roads for five years,

commencing on 10 July 1853. The effect of this sentence, in connection with the prisoner's former one, was to sentence him to a total of eight years' labour. There were two other charges of embezzlement against Greatrex.<sup>12</sup>

Edward Lawrence, Greatrex's accomplice, with a full knowledge of the fraud, was also found guilty of having received a quantity of goods fraudulently obtained by J H Greatrex. Lawrence was also sentenced to five years' hard labour on the roads.

Their prison sentences ended in July 1853 as Greatrex, alias J H RIVERS 'of the Sydney Theatre, in the character of Guy Ruthven' appeared for one night only, on 9 August 1853, and again on stage at the Royal Olympic Theatre in Launceston.<sup>13</sup>

After what appears to have been a whirlwind romance, on 6 September 1853 a double wedding according to the rites and ceremonies of the Presbyterian Church, took place at Mrs SERGEANT's house in Barrack Street, Hobart Town. John Henry Rivers, who gave his age as 26 and occupation as clerk, married a 24-year-old spinster Jannette MILLER. The other couple was Greatrex's accomplice in crime, Edward Lawrence HALL, a 27-year-old clerk, and Jannette's sister Ann Miller CHISHOLM, a 22-year-old spinster! The witnesses were J E Rivers and E WEMYSS, possibly Elizabeth who died six years later.<sup>14</sup>

Greatrex's wife, Jessie Miller was born about 1825–29 in Roxburghshire, Scotland. Her father was James Miller, a

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<sup>7</sup> *The Argus*, 7 August 1849

<sup>8</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 September 1849

<sup>9</sup> *Maitland Mercury*, 31 October 1849; *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer*, 15 June 1850, p.2

<sup>10</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 March 1850, p.3

<sup>11</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 March 1850, p.7; *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer*, 15 June 1850, p.2

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<sup>12</sup> *Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser*, 12 June 1850, p.2

<sup>13</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 August 1853, p.4

<sup>14</sup> TAHO RGD Marriage Record, 37/12 655 & 656/1853

roadsurfaceman, and her mother was Elizabeth.

Back in Launceston at the Royal Olympic Theatre, on 28 September, a new company consisting of Hall, Rivers and RIGNOLD presented their opening night of *The Terror of the Rhine* with J H Rivers playing Colonel Pandours and also *The Widow's Victim* with Rivers as Mr Twiter. Hall, Rivers and Rignold felt compelled to

intimate that they will not deceive the public by false representations, but will carry out what is advertised with credit and ability.<sup>15</sup>

Was the audience disappointed with their previous performance?

On 18 February 1854 Mr and Mrs Rivers and Mr and Mrs Hall were among the forty passengers who boarded the clipper iron steamer *Lady Bird* and sailed for Melbourne. Just over three weeks later, on 13 March 1854, the new, commodious and fast clipper mail ship *Neleus* left Hobsons Bay for England. The passenger list does not include J H Greatrex and his wife, but they certainly were on board as their first child Charles Arthur Greatrex was born on this ship at sea in the South Atlantic on 13 May 1854. A John FROST aged 27 and a Mrs Miller aged 24 were listed as passengers on the *Neleus*—perhaps these were really John H Greatrex and his wife Jessie, née Miller?<sup>16</sup>

David BRUCE, in his book *Greatrex: Forger and Photographer*, published by Renaissance Press, Edinburgh in 2013, has documented a detailed account of Greatrex' life and exploits in London, Glasgow, New York, Edinburgh and

beyond. Greatrex established himself as a photographer, but his experimentation in making and uttering forged one pound notes from the Union Bank of Scotland proved to be his undoing. He was pursued across Scotland, to London and America, until he was arrested and taken back to Edinburgh for his trial and imprisonment.

After a three-day trial, on 11 May 1867 Greatrex was sentenced to penal servitude for a period of twenty years. His two accomplices, Thomas and Sewell GRIMSHAW, were sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. Greatrex served time in the Calton Jail in Edinburgh, the Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight and finally in a special jail for 'Invalid Convicts' in Woking, Surrey. It was there on 16 October 1876, ten years after his conviction and half way through his sentence, that Greatrex died of 'natural causes—bronchitis and dropsy'. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Brookwood Cemetery in Woking. His wife Jessie and three surviving children were left destitute. After Jessie's death in 1878, the three siblings—Charles Arthur (1854–1938), Mary Elizabeth (1855–1942) and Lewis Edward (1859–?)—migrated to Sydney.

Charles married Mary Agnes JOHNSON in Sydney in 1885. They had two children: Lewis Henry (1887–1952) and Jessica Maude (1892–1980).

Jessica Maude married Robert WARDLAW on 16 January 1923 at St James' Church, King Street, Sydney. Robert was born at Avoca in Tasmania. He served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Light Horse NSW regiment in the First World War. He worked for a clothing firm in Sydney. The couple returned to Robert's home state and lived at *Mineral Banks* near Ringarooma, Tasmania. They did not

<sup>15</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 September 1853, p.6

<sup>16</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, 21 February 1854, p.2; POL 220/1/3 p.469

have any children. Jessica Wardlaw died at Legana on 16 December 1980.

In accordance with the wishes of Jessica Wardlaw, a generous donation from Miss A Wardlaw and Mrs P STEWART established the University of Tasmania medical prize in honour of Jessica's father, Charles Arthur Greatrex accountant, and her brother Lewis Henry Greatrex. Lewis was an electrician, did not marry and had no descendants. The C A and L H Greatrex Medical Prize is awarded to the most proficient Tasmanian first-year medical student.

Miss Alison Lesley Wardlaw, known by her second name, is a niece of Jessica Maude Wardlaw. Lesley Wardlaw was born in November 1926 and her sister Marianne (Mrs DICKENS) was born in October 1932. Their parents were Alan Lindsay Wardlaw and his wife Olive HART. Alan was Robert Wardlaw's older brother.

Patricia Stewart, born in October 1932, is Jessica's first cousin once removed. She is a daughter of Clarence Arthur LADE whose father, Arthur Tupper Lade, married Priscilla Helen JOHNSON in Ringarooma in 1888. Priscilla was a sister of Mary Agnes Johnson who married Charles Arthur Greatrex in Balmain, Sydney in 1885.

There are no direct Greatrex descendants in Tasmania, but the name itself lives on in the medical prize. Since John Henry Greatrex' father, Charles Butler Greatrex, was a medical practitioner, it is fitting. ◀

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# MACHINE BREAKERS

Miss Jill M. Chambers (UK Member)

Reprinted with permission from *Descent: The Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists* Vol. 19 Part 3 (September 1989), pp. 112–15.

ON 6 February 1831, the transport ship *Eliza* left Portsmouth for Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land, as it was then called. She was the first of three ships to sail for Australia carrying convicts who have come to be known as 'Machine Breakers' or 'Swing Rioters'. The other ships were the *Eleanor* bound for New South Wales and the *Proteus* for Tasmania. Sixteen men and two women were to follow in various ships over the next few years, bringing the total to over 480 people, the largest group to be transported as a result of what were possibly the worst disturbances in rural England. The majority of the men were farm labourers, like John NEWMEN from Hampshire and Charles SYMES from Dorset. John DANDRIDGE and Thomas BOWLES were papermakers, as were many of the other men from Buckinghamshire. There were also a few blacksmiths like John TONGS and George CARTER, both from Hampshire. More unusual occupations included James PUMPHREY, a road surveyor from Hampshire, and Thomas WHATLEY, a carpet weaver from Wiltshire. Another Wiltshire man was blacksmith Maurice POPE, who was also a prize fighter. In some cases more than one member of the same family was transported. On board the *Eleanor* alone were William SIMS and his two sons William and Daniel, four SHERGOLDS from Wiltshire, cousins George and Henry and brothers George and John. Other brothers were Joseph and Robert MASON, Charles and John BULPIT,

Isaac and James MANNs, all from Hampshire, and Adam and James THORNE, George and Henry ELKINS from Dorset. As well as those transported, 19 men were executed and over 600 sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The real trouble started in August 1830, when the first threshing machine was destroyed at Lower Hadres in Kent, but before this there had been several cases of arson reported and a threatening letter had been received at Mildenhall in Suffolk as early as February 1830. The trouble spread north and west from Kent and by December 1830 most counties south of a line from Norfolk in the east to Worcestershire in the west had been affected in one way or another. 'Swing' letters were, however, received as far west as Herefordshire, and incidents of arson occurred as far north as Carlisle.

The disturbances took a variety of forms. Threatening letters were sent to farmers and manufacturers, many of them signed by the mythical 'Captain Swing', stacks and barns were fired and there were riotous assemblies and demands were made for higher wages and reductions in the tithes. Attacks were made on workhouses and overseers, machines were destroyed, with some of the rioters demanding money, beer or food in return. Threshing machines, in particular, were attacked as these were seen by the farm labourer as taking away his winter employment.

The disturbances spread rapidly from one county to the next, taking less than a

week to reach Wiltshire from Sussex. The organisation of the movement was almost entirely on a local level, with leaders or ‘Captains’ being chosen from the community; men like ‘Captain’ Charles DAVIS, who led the mob that destroyed Robert PILE’s property at Alton Barnes in Wiltshire, and Oxfordshire man Thomas HOLLIS, known as ‘the King’, who led the rioters at Heythrop. At Kintbury in Berkshire the mob had three leaders, William OAKLEY and Francis NORRIS, who were both transported, and William WINTERBOURNE, who was executed. There were, however, some leaders who worked outside their own area, the most notorious being ‘Captain’ or ‘Lord Hunt’ (real name James Thomas COOPER), who led a number of riots in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset. He was executed at Winchester on 15 January 1831. In most instances, however, bands of men from one village travelled around the farms and hamlets in their area gathering men, destroying machinery and in some cases levying money, as they went. News of what was happening passed quickly from one village to the next, and it was not long before another bank of men with similar grievances were making their way around their area. In many counties the trouble was short-lived; for example, the riots reached Hampshire around 10 November 1830, and were virtually all over by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

It was the contagious aspect of the riots that alarmed the authorities, although they were rather slow to react at first. Some troops were dispatched to troubled areas, but the Government left it to the rural magistrates to deal with the problem as they saw fit. When the new Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, took office in November 1830, it was seen that this was not enough. The Yeomanry were

mobilised, special constables were sworn in and landowners organised their own forces made up of tenants and servants. By December 1830, almost 2,000 men and women had been rounded up and were awaiting trial. The Government considered that the magistrates in Kent, who had already tried some of the rioters, were being too lenient and a Special Commission was set up to deal with those in what were considered to be the worst affected counties—Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Dorset. The remainder were left to be dealt with at the Assize Courts or Quarter Sessions. The trials did not bring an immediate end to the disturbances. Riots and demonstrations continued into 1831, with several threshing machines being broken and, if anything, the number of cases of arson reported continued to grow after this time.

Almost before the trials were over, petitions were organised by the inhabitants of numerous towns, villages and individuals throughout the country in an attempt to save those sentenced to death and to plead for a reduction in the sentence of the others. Some were reprieved, but for more than 480 a sentence of transportation for either life, 14 or 7 years still hung over them.

Their exile began with the move from gaol to the prison hulks, for the majority of these men that meant a journey to Portsmouth and the hulk *York*. For most, the stay on the *York* was short. By 6 February 1831, 244 men were on board the *Eliza* bound for Van Diemen’s Land and by April 1831 the majority of the remaining prisoners were also on their way, either on the *Eleanor* or the *Proteus*, the voyage to Australia taking between 111 and 126 days.

The voyages of the ships that carried these men to Australia seem to have been

fairly routine but there is some indication that the prisoners were given limited privileges. It was normal practice for convicts to be handcuffed together and secured by leg irons while exercising on deck. Thomas LOGAN, the surgeon on the *Proteus*, notes in his journal that the prisoners in his charge had their irons removed.

Most of them were from the country, farm labourers, a few of them were artisans. Generally speaking they had the sturdy build of labouring men. Their awkwardness and stiffness were such that I became desirous of removing the embarrassment which their irons too evidently occasioned — not to speak of the danger of accidents to which they exposed them. They were accordingly all removed before leaving Portsmouth; nor did subsequent experience teach me that this act of consideration and beneficence had exceeded the limits of just prudence.<sup>1</sup>

On arrival in Australia, the men were kept on board until all their details had been taken. This having been done, they were then brought ashore. From a letter written by Robert MASON of Hampshire, on his arrival in Sydney, we learnt that the men of the *Eleanor* ‘were permitted to come on shore in [their] own clothes, a great indulgence and considered an extraordinary thing by the people’.<sup>2</sup> In the same letter we learn that the men from the *Eleanor* were taken to the barracks where they were inspected by the secretary

and then put into a backyard with orders not to correspond with those

who were sent here for CRIMES. The character that our Capt. and Doct. gave us excellent and the people of Sydney considered us downright honest men a valuable qualification here.<sup>3</sup>

In 1831 the assignment system was still in operation and, after being brought ashore, the men were assigned either to government service or to individual settlers.

More than half of the men transported were married with families at the time of the riots and after they had been in Australia a year or two a few of them applied to the Governor for permission to have their families brought out at government expense, others had their families brought out at their own expense after they were free and some, not all of them bachelors, married in Australia and made new lives for themselves. Peter WITHERS wrote several times to his wife in Wiltshire asking her to join him in Van Diemen’s Land. He heard nothing from her until 1844, by which time he had married again. In his reply, dated 20 October 1844, he tells her of this.

I now that for to eare that I am married is a hard trial for you to bare but it is no good to tell you a lye I sent a great many Leters Before i took a wife so not earing from you an i being a young man I thought it a Proper thing to Look a partner which would be a comfort to me in my Bondage ... so we must not think about coming together again.<sup>4</sup>

Even before the *Eliza* sailed, efforts were underway in Parliament to try and obtain freedom for the men, but it was to be three years before Lieutenant-Governor

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<sup>1</sup> PRO ADM101/62/6; Surgeon’s Journal, *Proteus*.

<sup>2</sup> Hants RO; A M Colson, *The Revolt of the Hampshire Agricultural Labourers and its Causes, 1812–1831*.

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<sup>3</sup> Hants RO; A M Colson, *The Revolt of the Hampshire Agricultural Labourers and its Causes, 1812–1831*.

<sup>4</sup> AOT: Withers Letters

Arthur was directed to release the first 'machine breaker'. This was John BOYES, who received a Free Pardon in June 1834. He has been a farmer at Owslebury in Hampshire at the time of the riots and, once pardoned, he returned there and continued to farm until his death in 1856. In August 1835, 264 'machine breakers' were pardoned and more were pardoned in the years that followed. By the mid 1840s the majority of the men had received their freedom, either by way of a Conditional or Absolute Pardon, or a Certificate of Freedom. The only ones excluded were those who had been convicted of colonial offences; men like Joseph ARNEY of Fordingbridge in Hampshire, who was transported to Norfolk Island for cattle stealing in 1836. On the whole the 'Swing' prisoners were fairly well behaved. The conduct records for the *Eliza* and *Proteus* men show only minor offences in the main, mostly relating to drunkenness or the neglect of duty. Although the offences appear minor, the punishments may seem rather harsh to us. Henry ELDRIDGE, another Hampshire man, who arrived on the *Eleanor*, was sentenced to a total of 125 lashes between March and June 1833. His crimes were absconding, neglect of duty, violent language and disobedience.

Those men who received a Certificate of Freedom on the expiry of their sentence or an Absolute Pardon, were free to return to England if they wished or could afford to and some did, as we have already seen in the case of John Boyes. Another Hampshire man, John TONGS, returned to his family in Michelmersh, but by 1842 he was back in Hobart Town, this time as a free migrant and accompanied by his family. For the vast majority of the men though, there was to be not return to England. Like Peter

Withers, most stayed on in Australia and made new lives for themselves, working as labourers, tradesmen, farmers and innkeepers. Some made their way to Victoria during the Gold Rush. Others, after much hard work, prospered—a prosperity they might not have achieved had they remained in England.

Perhaps the petition received by the Home office in 1847 shows that the passage of time had done little to ease the feeling of loss felt by the families at home. It was from Elizabeth CHEATER of Breamore in Hampshire, whose son William had been sentenced to transportation for life at the Special Assizes in Wiltshire in December 1830. She begs that her son be allowed to visit England in order that she can see him again before she dies. A negative answer was sent to this plea. ◀

### ***Memories of Melrose***

Mersey Branch Member  
Neville Bingham (No.6971) is  
compiling the history of  
Aberdeen, Melrose and  
Paloona

These Districts were settled by  
the early family of Denney in  
1853, followed by the Jeffrey  
and Rundle families

Early memories and original  
photos, to be scanned, would  
be appreciated

Please contact Neville at  
**npbing@iinet.net.au** or the  
TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch  
(03) 6426 2257



# MISSING AT SEA

Laurie Moody (Member No.5835)

WHILE reading *Tasmanian Shipwrecks* by Broxam and Nash I was interested to read about the fate of the fishing boat *Rubina*. Feeling the unfortunate loss of the skipper and his deckhand deserved further investigation I decide to see if I could add any more to the story.

Towards the end of November 1901 the Dunalley policeman Trooper STEPHENSON was informed by the owner of the fishing smack *Blanche*, one Oscar THOMPSON, that he had located a dinghy and part of a well-top belonging to the fishing boat *Rubina*. The well-top was picked up in the water inside of Green Island in Norfolk Bay and the dinghy on rocks outside the Narrows.

Oscar Thompson was positive from the appearance of the dinghy that the *Rubina* had foundered. It appeared the dinghy had been there for at least a week. In or around mid-November 1901, the *Rubina* had left Hobart to go fishing in Storm Bay. The owner master Percy RUSH was accompanied by William FORD. The pair was due back in Hobart towards the end of November but failed to return.

The *Rubina* was described by the press as being a first class fishing smack built around 1897. However, some doubt surrounds this suggestion as it could have been the 36ft cutter *Rubeena*, formerly owned by none other than Oscar Thompson when he competed in the Hobart Regatta of 1890.

Both Rush and Ford were married, the former living in South Street, presumably Battery Point and Ford in Warwick Street.

Percival Edward Rush was born in Hobart 13 April 1876. He was the son of Francis Rush and Rebecca MATCHES. Percy married Mary Ellen ROBERTS three years his senior at Hobart on 25 February 1897. Mary Ellen was born at Hobart 19 September 1873 her parents being Thomas David Roberts and Elizabeth ROWE. A son, Percival Herbert Rush was born to the couple 31 August 1899. *The Federation Index* failed to provide any further information on Percival Herbert Rush.

William James Ford was presumably born at Fingal 21 October 1878. He was the son of Henry Ford and Susan WALKER. William married Mary NICHOLS at Fingal 2 May 1900. The couple had a daughter Clarabel born Mt Nicholas 23 October 1900. As with Percival Herbert Rush, a search of the *Federation Index* failed to locate any further information on Clarabel.

However, in the case of Mary Ellen Rush information was found proving she remarried 30 June 1908 at Sandy Bay to John James ARKLEY. A son, George Herbert was 15 November 1909.

If any member can provide other information I would be interested to hear about it. ◀

## References:

Broxam and Nash, *Tasmanian Shipwrecks*  
Vol.2  
*The Mercury* 4 December 1901  
*Tasmanian Pioneer Index*  
*Federation Index*

# ELIZABETH SIMPSON AWARD ENTRY

**L**AST year we entered *Tasmanian Ancestry* Volume 34 Number 4—March 2014 in the ‘Elizabeth Simpson Award’ which is conducted annually by the Federation of Family History Societies.

The first meeting of the Federation was held in June 1974 when fifteen societies were present and by 1997 there were over 200 affiliated societies. Elizabeth Simpson was the first secretary and later became a vice president and then a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists.<sup>1</sup>

In 1996 a volume of *Tasmanian Ancestry* with Anne Bartlett as editor was entered, and was the Award runner-up.<sup>2</sup> The following year, 1997, when there fifty-three entries, we won the Award.<sup>3</sup>

In April I received an email from Eric A Jackson, Awards Officer FFHS, which included the judge’s comments for our March 2014 journal which I wish to share.

## Judge 1

Overall a high quality journal. This journal had a good mix of articles and would be appealing to a wide audience. It was one of the better journals in providing sources for articles. ‘What is that publication about?’ was particularly useful.

The journal is quite text heavy and might benefit from more photos/illustrations. Although the journal covers many branch

groups, it might provide signposts or highlight some branch meetings and provide more overall information on projects.

## Judge 2

Very nice professional design, good use of space on the page. Good index and footnotes. Editorial and President’s letters a bit over-concerned with Society admin. Excellent use of sources. Good reports from branches.

Good Society info. – officers, membership, meetings, how to contribute to NL [Newsletter] – not all societies cover all these.

Liked the little maps with Branch reports. Good listings of resources and projects. Very good detailed book reviews and reviews of Society Library material.

Liked the international aspect – items re Essex, Irish wills, Birmingham and other. Some very good articles especially Convict Edward Myers, Missing Fingers and Christopher Calvert – all well-researched and interestingly written.

This feels like a well-organised and active society.

## Judge 3

At 64 pages, this is the largest of the magazines submitted – and one of the higher-scoring offers. The only real criticism I have is that some of the articles are too long – one, at 9 ½ pages with only a single line drawing to relieve the text – might have been better split across two issues.

Thank you to all who contribute whether on a regular basis or only occasionally, and special thanks to my wonderful helpers. ◀

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<sup>1</sup> *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 18 Number 2—September 1997, p.126

<sup>2</sup> *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 18 Number 1—June 1997, p.5

<sup>3</sup> *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 19 Number 2—September 1998, p.71

# 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?**

## **KINDRED CONNECTIONS:**

A book in three sections covering the Dodge and McGuinness Families

This A4 book of 145pp. was published by Kath Lonergan in 2013.

### **1. Charlotte's Story**

The story of Charlotte SIMPSON/HALL, 1767–1828. Charlotte was the first female forebear in Australia of the Dodge/McGinnis/McGuinness families. Charlotte was convicted for stealing in 1787 and was transported to NSW on the *Lady Juliana*. Then sent to Norfolk Island with convict superintendent William DODGE in 1790 aboard the *Surprise*. Eventually, along with many others, Charlotte was resettled in VDL.

### **2. The Dodges of Dodges Ferry**

This section deals with the ancestry of William Thomas DODGE and his descendants through Ralph DODGE; the son of William and Charlotte. Ralph becoming the patriarch of the well-known family at Dodges Ferry, VDL

### **3. From Augnus to McGuinness**

Hugh MCGINNIS was also transported to Norfolk Island and around 1796 began

a relationship with Charlotte SIMPSON/HALL after William Dodges departure from Norfolk Island. Hugh and Charlotte were eventually relocated to VDL.

William Dodge's life was entwined with that of his McGuinness step-father and half siblings for most of his lifetime. The two families intermarried and many descendants have both families in their genealogy. Ralph had land at Clarence Plains close to Hugh McGinnis and also at Carlton.

## **THE FRENCH CONNECTION**

A5 paperback of 118pp. published by Pauline Y Buckby in December 2014.

The book is the history of three families who left the country of their birth and travelled across the world to settle in Tasmania, Australia.

**Charles de Jersey** left behind a long line of ancestors settled on the Channel Islands. His grandson Malcolm de Jersey served with the ANZACs in WW1 at Gallipoli and in France.

**John Golding** and his family came from Greenham, Berkshire, England.

**William Read** from Lessingham, Norfolk, England was sponsored to work on Lampton Farm.

This is the story of how the three families united and made a success of their lives in Tasmania.

## **OXFORDHIRE PARISH REGISTERS**

Six sets of microfiche published by the Oxfordshire FHS circa 1994.

**Adderbury:** Covers Burials 1598–1900; Baptisms 1813–1890; Marriages 1598–1900; Banns 1754–1900.

**Berrick Salome:** Covers Baptisms 1609–1978, Marriages 1609–1978; Burials 1609–1979.

**Benson:** Covers Baptisms 1565–1840; Marriages 1569–1837; Burials 1566–1840.

**Fritwell:** Covers Baptisms 1558–1951; Burials 1558–1951; Marriages 1558–1951; Banns 1759–1895.

**Newington:** Covers Baptisms 1648–1847; Marriages 1572–1869; Banns 1758–1853; Burials 1814–1844 & 1868–1869.

**Somerton:** Baptisms 1660–1977; Marriages 1661–1979; Burials 1627–1979. ◀



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Mail orders (including postage) should be forwarded to:  
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<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 26–30</i> (p&p \$4.80)** .....	\$25.00
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<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Vols 1–20</i> , [Jun 1980–Mar 2000] (p&p \$8.35)** .....	\$50.00
<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$8.35) ** .....	\$50.00

### Microfiche

<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$2.35) ** .....	\$50.00
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\*\* members discount applies

# LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## LAUNCESTON BRANCH

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- \*Deutsher, Keith M; *The Breweries of Australia – A History*
- Holmes, Michael; *Vanishing Towns – Tasmania's Ghost Towns and Settlements*
- Power, Ann, [Editor]; *Around the Block – A Photographic Journey with Local Photographer L George Webb*
- Purtscher, Joyce [Comp.]; *Notes from the Hobart Benevolent Society 1855–1914*
- Purtscher, Joyce [Comp.]; *Notes from the Kingborough Police Magistrate Letterbooks 1855–1875 and 1873–1888 concerning charitable allowances*
- \*Rieusset, Brian; *Inside Hobart Gaol 1882*
- \*Tasmania Police; *1803–1899 Tasmania Police from Force to Service*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *A new combined alphabetical edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1921–1925 Volume 3*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *A new combined alphabetical edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1926–1930, Volume 4*

## HOBART BRANCH

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- \*Buckby, P; *The French Connection*. [Q 929.2 DEJ]
- \*Butler, Rosemary & Peter; *Our Butler Book—A story of George and Sarah and their lives in Tasmania*.
- \*Butler, Rosemary; *Here and There—A story of the Gould Family in England and the Antipodes*.
- \*Emirali, R (comp); *Glossary of words & meanings from Shakespearian Times*. [413 GLO]
- \*Lonergan, K; *Kindred Connections—A book in three sections, covering the Dodge & McGuinness Families*. [Q 929.2 DEJ]
- \*McCallum, Ken; *Notes Regarding Richard Tims or Timbs, Convict & his family in Tasmania (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*
- \*McCallum, Ken; *Notes Regarding, the modern Honner Family in Tasmania*
- \*McCallum, Ken; *Notes Regarding Major Robert Honner & his family in Ireland, Ceylon, Tasmania, Portugal, France and England*.
- \*Rieusset, B (comp); *Inside Hobart Gaol 1882*. [Q 365.9946 RIE]

### ACCESSIONS—Microform

- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Adderbury*
- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Berrick Salome*
- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Benson*
- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Fritwell*
- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Newington*
- \*Oxfordshire FHS; *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Somerton*
- \*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

# MERSEY BRANCH

## ACCESSIONS—Books

Friend, Dawn & Lucas, Lorna; *Prescott Family*

Purtscher, Joyce [Comp.]; *Notes from the Kingborough Police Magistrate Letterbooks 1855–1875 and 1873–1888 Concerning Charitable Allowances*

Rieusset, Brian [Comp.]; *Inside Hobart Gaol 1882*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Advocate Personal Announcements – January 2013 – December 2013*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2010*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1981*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1982*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1983*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2007*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2008*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2011*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *A New Combined Alphabetical Edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1921–1925 Volume 3*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *A New Combined Alphabetical Edition of Index to The Examiner Births Deaths Marriages 1926–1930 Volume 4*

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# BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

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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 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

---

**HUON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6529  
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh  
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Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required  
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 p.m. on 1st Saturday of each month, except January.  
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Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
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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.

---

**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 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.  
Meetings Held on the 3rd Wednesday 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.

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## 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.

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John Dare 6424 7889

### Alternate Delegate

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## SOME FASCINATING INSCRIPTIONS ON OLD TOMBSTONES:

On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:  
Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102.  
Only the good die young.

In a London, England cemetery:  
Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old maid,  
but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

A lawyer's epitaph in England:  
Sir John Strange.  
Here lies an honest lawyer,  
and that is Strange.

John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne, England:  
Reader, if cash thou art in want of any,  
Dig 6 feet deep and thou wilt find a Penny.

In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England:  
On the 22nd of June,  
Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.

In a cemetery in England:  
Remember me, as you walk by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so shall you be,  
Remember this and follow me.

To which someone replied by writing on  
the tombstone:  
To follow you I'll not consent,  
Until I know which way you went.

Thanks to Cynthia O'Neill